

Gas prices take dramatic plunge

By Hannah Fischer
Staff Writer

In the past six months, gas prices have decreased by more than 40%, causing gas prices to drop under \$2.00 a gallon. The reason for such drastic changes in the gas prices... the answer is not that simple.

According to The Economist Group, there have been great changes in the supply and demand for gas throughout the world. Europe, who is in economic ruins, has caused the demand of oil to decrease, allowing gas prices to lower. Demand has also lowered due to the switch away from oil to other fuels. The US has revolutionized its oil-drilling technology, allowing for oil to be more easily accessed. States such as Oklahoma, North Dakota, and Texas have doubled their oil production over the past six years.

According to Fox News, The

world market sent the prices tumbling when they failed to reach an agreement on the production curbs. OPEC's decisions on the supply can also effect the prices, if they decide to change supply then the prices could rise drastically. New fields in Texas and North Dakota have just been discovered of their abundant oil, and could supply oil hundreds of years. The Arabs are also supplying the world with oil, which is driving the oil prices lower. The energy boom is not to be short term; this surplus of oil could make gas cheaper for many decades to come. The possibilities to increase the oil revolution are endless as new pipelines could be built. Drilling on public land in Texas and Oklahoma is an option which could allow the revolution of oil to increase. Over the past four years, gas prices have been rising at a constant rate, however the new technology has

enabled gas prices to go tumbling down.

According to the Energy Department, gas prices are predicted to stay under \$3 a gallon in 2015. Although fuel prices cannot be determined defiantly in advance, it is predicted that gas prices should stay low for many years to come. Fuel prices are updated daily at www.FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com.

With a good side a bad side is bound to follow. The lower gas prices affect the oil producers business and port businesses. US shale producers, who hold high levels of US debt, are hurt by these reduced price because their production profitability decreases. OPEC members are also affected by this decrease in gas prices because they must increase state expenses in order to function as oil booming revenue.

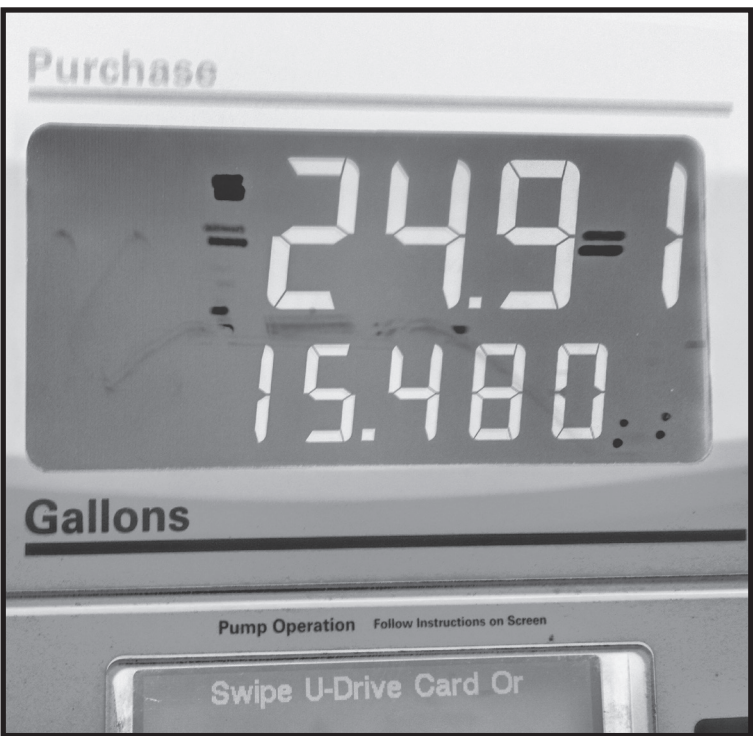


Photo courtesy of Rhonda Overbeeke
A tank of gas cost less than it has in years. Costs are predicted to stay under \$3 a gallon in 2015 according to the Energy Department.

Plans to move school forward: Hilliker proposes Chromebook lease program

By Emily Dougherty
Features Editor

On January 14, 2015, **Mr. Chad Hilliker** (Superintendent) presented the State of the School address in the LMS auditorium to share his vision for going forward.

Evolution in Education, the mantra for the school district's planned transformation, encompasses improved access to technology and additional course offerings.

Mr. Hilliker said that he believes that it is important for the school to give every student the best opportunities.

"What we have to do in the classroom – is we really have to enhance it (instruction) where students are becoming the best problem solvers they can be," Mr. Hilliker said.

He further explained that education needs to provide students with tools to become discerning consumers of information, especially in light of the immense amount of global information available

today.

The speech revealed that last year's school levy provided funds that will enable the district to implement improvements for several years and to develop a more comprehensive instructional technology plan. One such example of the evolving district technology strategy is Tiger One-To-World, a program than encompasses a three-year-lease-to-own option for Chromebooks.

Ms. Heather Higdon (Chief information Officer) said, "Under this proposal, which is still in the development stage, the laptops will be offered to high school students beginning next year at a rate of \$100 per year. After three years of leasing, the Chromebook would then be owned by the student."

During the lease, the school will service the Chromebooks and offer a loaner program for those students who lose or break their computers.

"The program's purpose is to expand the learning potential of each and every student and provide

teachers the opportunity to create and implement an individualized and differentiated classroom," Ms. Higdon said.

Access to technology is only one phase of the Evolution of Education plan. Project Lead the Way, a program that exposes students to

aspects of engineering, is currently being proposed. The program would begin in 7th grade and continue through the high school years if adopted.

Mr. Hilliker explained how important it is for the school to prepare students for the jobs that

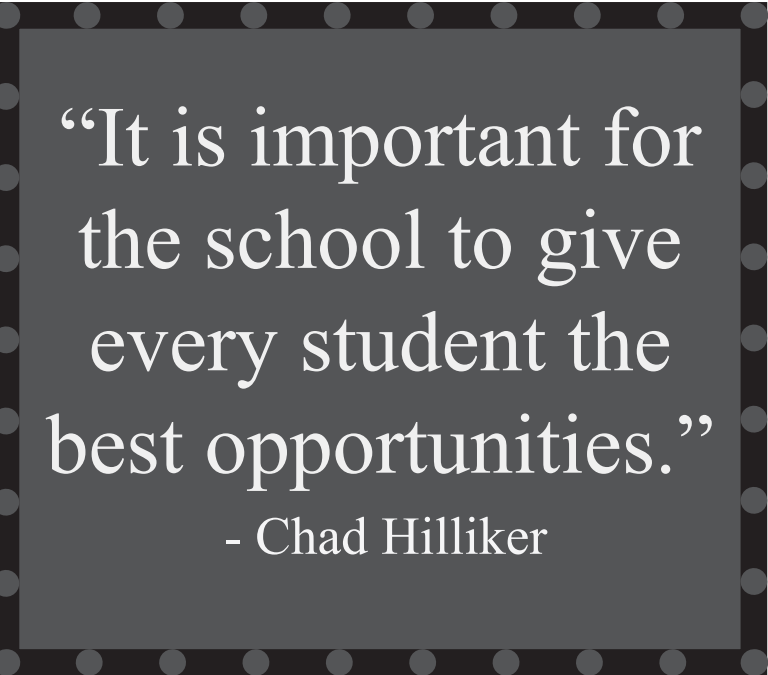
will actually be there when they graduate, but to also understand how the economy and technological advances will change those future jobs.

He said, "I'm always thinking ahead. One of the things we have to do is – we really have to plan for what our school is going to look like."

Planning ahead is the purpose for a new partnership the school corporation has activated with the University of Cincinnati Economics Center. The university will conduct a demographic study on the Loveland community to ensure that changes to the school district reflect the changes in the community.

In closing, Mr. Hilliker expressed how excited he is for the future and for all the students of Loveland.

For more information on these new programs or to watch Mr. Hilliker's speech, check the school district's website.



Staff Policy

The Roar is the official student newspaper of Loveland High School. *The Roar* is produced by students in Journalism.

Editorials reflect the staff’s opinion but do not reflect the opinions of LHS administration or Loveland City Schools.

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As a forum for students, letters to the editor are welcome, but are subject to editing for length, libel, and clarity. Letters to the editor may be dropped off in room 108 uploaded to our website blog (thelovelandroar.wix.com/the-roar).

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Awards

* International Second Place Award, 2014. Awards for School News Media (Quill & Scroll Honorary Society)

* International First Place Award, 2013. Awards for School News Media (Quill & Scroll Honorary Society)

* George H. Gallup Award (top prize), 2011 Awards for School News Media (Quill & Scroll International Honorary Society)

* Second Place (Overall Publications), 2011 and 2012 Ohio Scholastic Media Awards

* 17 more individual awards, 2012 Ohio Scholastic Media Awards

Seniors enter second semester

By Kevin O’Hara

Entertainment editor

Senior year is a year to remember. From the start, everything seems to have a magical quality. The stress of junior year melts off like warmed butter and everyone comes into school on that final first day with smiles on their sun-kissed faces. Enemies become friends, best friends become best friends *forever*, and even that couple that wasn’t really a couple, but, like totally *was* a couple actually becomes a couple. Besides the not-so-hard aspect of applying for college, senior year is a breeze. Everyone is happy, no one complains, and literally nothing goes wrong. In fact, the entire senior class tends to break out in song every couple days, just like our East High friends from *High School Musical*. I mean, it is literally so perfect that even... Wait... Whoa, whoa, whoa. I’m going to need you to rewind and scratch that.

First and foremost, senior year is *not* like the movies. After living through a semester of it, I can tell you for sure that Gabriella Montez and Troy Bolton aren’t dancing down the hallways in search of their diploma. I can also tell you that not every senior miraculously gets into their dream school without seemingly touching one application. Lastly, I assure you that senior year isn’t made up of little happily-ever-after’s one right after the other. Would we like it to be? Uh, yeah! *Disney* makes senior year look like a celebratory buffet of endless confetti and heartfelt moments. In reality, senior year is a lot of work.

First semester is filled with nothing but applying for college, applying for college, and, oh yeah, applying for college. The countless hours that you spend in front of a computer typing information about yourself,

checking boxes, and practically selling your soul to the Application Gods is ridiculous. Depending on how many schools you apply to, essay after essay comes flying at you like birds in that one Alfred Hitchcock movie. Then, when you think you’re done, your English teacher edits your essays and makes you do them again (By the way, thanks, Mrs. Bosse!). And then on top of all of that? The classwork you would have gotten any other year in school. Yeah, that’s right, every show you’ve ever seen totally lied to you about that no work part of senior year. Yet, in the end, when all applications are sent in and the Common Application no longer keeps you up at night, the waiting game begins.

Along with waiting for acceptance letters comes the oh-so-fun reality check that you and your friends are basically waiting for the letter that determines your future... away from one another. There are tears, freak-outs, panic attacks, celebrations, and everything in between. Don’t worry too much, because it all works out, but that doesn’t make it any easier.

Towards the end of first semester, everything cools down a bit. Most seniors have an idea of where they are going, people relax, and the days become a countdown to graduation. Yet how do seniors feel about beginning the home stretch? Is there any excitement or anxiety for second semester? Or is everyone ready to grab their cap and gown and hit the road?

“I’m not too worried about second semester,” **Shelby Smith** (12) said. “I picked fun classes for my second semester, but I’m kind of looking forward to finishing up and going to college. I’ll definitely miss my friends and show choir, but college is going to be great.”

Senior **Peter Hoffman** shares somewhat

of the same sentiment. “Yeah, second semester will be fine, and I think college is going to be awesome, but I’ll miss being at the top of the food chain,” He said, laughing. “Plus, it will stink not being with **Claire Edison** (10) every day.”

“I just don’t want to take any of the time left for granted,” **Daniel Kiley** (12) said. “I’m looking forward to enjoying second semester and the end of the year. It has gone by so quickly.”

In conclusion, senior year is in no way a cakewalk. Life doesn’t get any easier, people don’t always change, and senioritis is (this is a proven fact) 125% real. Yet, with all that said, the important thing to remember is that, even though senior year may not necessarily be what *Disney* told you it would be, that doesn’t mean it isn’t perfectly imperfect. Every time you think of those Friday night football games, the dances where you turned into a madman, or even the smaller moments at lunch in which your entire table burst into laughter for no apparent reason, it is important to cherish every second. Sure, you want to experience the world, grow into yourself, and be treated like adults, but shouldn’t we be young, wild, and free while you still have the chance?

No matter how you feel, the clock is ticking and second semester is upon each and every one of us. Fight through the urge to leave, work hard, have fun, and never forget that these are the times you will have to look back on, so why not make them good? It is true that you’ll always be a tiger, but that doesn’t change the fact that you’ll have to leave the jungle. So grab your friends, bear your stripes, and remember to enjoy every single moment of your final semester, seniors!

GUEST COLUMN

Responsibility: Thoughts of famed government teacher Chuck Warden



By Mr. Chuck Warden

Guest columnist

When asked to write a guest editorial for Loveland’s school newspaper I reflected on several different topics or themes that would be of interest not only to me but to the students of Loveland High School. Considering such questions led me to the only conclusion that was right for me given my background. Write about something that is meaningful to me and let the readers determine if it has any value or application for them

Coming in at the top of the list for me is being a responsible American. In today’s world of 24/7 365 media coverage you hear a lot about “rights” of Americans. Things like the ‘right to remain silent’, the ‘right to free speech’, the ‘right to equal protection’ and the ‘right to due process’ to name a few of the fundamental ones. Prohibiting someone from doing something they want to do and they will likely come back to you with, “Hey, it’s a free country, I can do that if I want.”

That is all completely predictable, but you know what you don’t hear a lot anymore?

Responsibilities.

The flip side of rights is responsibilities. The fact that we enjoy the rights we do is largely due to those that make sure responsibilities are fulfilled. In fact, if I could poll the students of Loveland High School asking them what their responsibilities are I would estimate more vacant stares than meaningful statements. Maybe a response about paying taxes or respecting private property would be given and that would be a good start.

So what would my response be to that same question?

It’s your responsibility to pay your own way.

Life is not fair and nobody owes you a living. Markets determine value based on performance. Create and execute a plan that will use

markets to your advantage. Make decisions about your income and your levels of spending in a meaningful and accountable manner.

It’s your responsibility to educate yourself.

Public education is one of the great advantages given to every American. The amount of resources devoted to you as an individual and targeted towards academic achievement are hard to quantify in exact terms. Don’t think for one minute anyone else is responsible for this endeavor than you. Learn how you learn and teach yourself. Be you own advocate.

It’s your responsibility to take care of your family.

This is largely instinctive and most people understand this responsibility at the most basic level of human psychology. However, some people still don’t get it and rely on others to provide, protect, and improve their quality of life.

It’s your responsibility to take care of future generations of Americans.

We all have a sacred duty to preserve that which is great about this country for future generations. No matter what you may think of the current state of political affairs or economic conditions how shameful would it be for your children or my grandchildren to grow up in an America that is not extraordinary.

You have a responsibility to be an informed voter.

This responsibility is at the top of the list for Americans. Take the time to engage in advanced citizenship and inform yourself about the issues facing this country. No one is asking you to become a policy wonk or political junky. Voting does matter and who wins elections matters even more.

You have a responsibility to support and defend the Constitution.

All of the safeguards against absolutism, tyranny and oppression are contained in this charter of freedom. It is the model for free people everywhere. Protecting the ideals, rules and values contained in this document is of the highest order. This responsibility falls on everyone.

You have the responsibility to be a good person.

Integrity, honesty, being trustworthy, forgiving, kind, accountable, humble, and giving to others willfully are some of the values that make people good. How does this list fit you? We all can improve in this area. Strive to be good. If our nation plans to be great, we have to be good first.

Staff Editorial



By Halle Russo

Editor-in-Chief

Halle's Helpful Hints New Year, New Clothes

The first few days back from Winter Break in January are always filled with students sporting their new clothes. It seems as if every student is just waiting for the opportunity to show off some of their favorite gifts from the holidays. However, this proves to be quite discouraging as a few short days later, you are back to square one and find yourself staring into the deep, dark depths of your closet with nothing to wear. However, January proves extremely exciting in the world of fashion as many stores have “after-Christmas” sales, which allow you to find awesome deals on the best brands. That said, I am simply sharing a few of my favorite brands this month, which are sure to solve any kind of wardrobe stress. After all, if you are like me, then you still have money left over from Christmas and just cannot wait to find the perfect item to purchase.

1. Patagonia

Comfortable and versatile this brand can be tailored to fit any style. This is especially important during the cold winters of Cincinnati when the walk of about 100 yards from your car into the school can prove to be virtually unbearable. Originally made for outdoor sports such as skiing, climbing, surfing, and snowboarding, Patagonia has become increasingly prominent in everyday clothes. The company’s mission statement reflects the outdoor nature of the brand, as they strive to “build the best product, cause no unnecessary harm, use business to inspire and implement solutions to the environmental process.” While the clothes are a little pricy, the expense is worth it as they are extremely durable, fashionable, and will be sure to last for many years. Patagonia also has a plethora of clearance items at this time, making it simple to find what you want for a rather inexpensive price. A few of my favorite products include, the Women’s Re-Tool Snap-T Pullover, the Women’s Better Sweater Quarter Zip, and the Women’s Better Sweater Vest. Each of these can be paired with leggings for a comfortable, yet cute look.

2. Southern Shirt Company

This brand presents the perfect blend of classy and casual in the form of short and long sleeve t-shirts

for both men and women. Thus, these shirts can be worn practically all year long. In addition, they can be dressed up by layering them over a button-up and by wearing them with jeans, or they can be dressed down by wearing them with leggings and a scarf. Some of the products on my Southern Shirt Company wish-list include the Cotton Club Pullover, the Crewneck Jersey Pullover, and the Seaside Logo Tee. The Southern Shirt Company is offering free shipping right now if you purchase items with a value of 75 dollars or more, which makes it a great time to treat yourself and splurge a little. Another thing that is unique about this company is that you can sign up and receive free stickers and decals for either your car or your laptop, and who doesn’t love that.

3. Lilly Pulitzer

Known for colorful, preppy dresses, this brand is centered on the motto, “anything is possible with sunshine and a little pink.” Not only is Lilly my favorite brand because of the clothes, but also because of the story behind the company. Lilly Pulitzer originally ran a juice stand in sunny Florida, but after she found that this left her clothes covered in juice stains, she thought to design colorful shift dresses to reflect said patterns created by the juice stains. Before long, these dresses became a hit in resort towns and in the wardrobes of fashion icons such as Jackie Kennedy. Thus, Lilly serves as an inspiration to women everywhere who strive to be entrepreneurs. While it is hard for me to pick my favorite Lilly items, I just love the Camille Top in Solar Blue Night Swimming, the Janice Knit Shift Dress, and the Rylee Silk Shift Dress. There are also many clearance items available online, at the Lilly Pulitzer store in Kenwood, and at Dillard’s in Kenwood Mall. In addition, Lilly Pulitzer releases the Spring 2015 collection on February 1st, which makes for a great opportunity to put yourself and your wardrobe ahead of the crowd.

In addition to all of that, any of these brands make for the perfect gifts. Thus, the next time you find yourself troubled over what to buy, try checking out Patagonia, the Southern Shirt Company, or Lilly Pulitzer.



TOUGH ON THE FIELD, NOT AT HOME

Domestic violence policy creates problems for NFL

By Paige Smith

News Editor

Out of the four major sports leagues- the NFL, NBA, MLB and NHL- the NFL is the only league to have a domestic violence policy. However, this code lacks consistency, and usually does not lead to justice for the victim.

Domestic violence has become a problem in pro sports, and teams continue to employ the athletes charged with assaults. In 2012, 21 out of 32 NFL teams continued to employ a player with either domestic violence or sexual assault on their record. There have been 87 domestic violence arrests involving 80 players since 2000, and of these, 84 of them resulted in the player being suspended for no more than one game.

As it stands now, all people associated with the NFL are required to avoid “conduct detrimental to the integrity of and public confidence in the National Football League”. The policy says that “discipline may take the form of fines, suspension, or banishment from the League and may include a probationary period and conditions that must be satisfied prior to or following reinstatement. The specifics of the disciplinary response will be based on the nature of the incident, the actual or threatened risk to the participant and others, any prior or additional misconduct (whether or not criminal charges were filed), and other relevant factors”.

This policy is not specific enough. Certain punishments need to be defined to avoid issues of discipline, and lawyers agree.

“There needs to be better defined codes of conduct that players and owners know beforehand: what are the expectations, what are the codes they have to follow, and if they violate one of these codes, what are the punishments, what are the fixes,” said Michael Buckner, a sports attorney at Buckner Sports Law.

If the policy were clearer, there wouldn’t be so much confusion and anger over suspensions and sentences. Ray Rice was indicted on third-degree aggravated assault (charges were later dropped in exchange for Rice receiving counseling) and the Ravens terminated his contract. Originally, he was suspended from the NFL indefinitely, but that was later overturned. However, as of September 2014, there were 12 NFL players with a domestic violence arrest still playing. It would be much more straightforward if there were levels of punishment with standards to be met for each one.

Roger Goodell, NFL commissioner, announced in August that violations of the Personal Conduct Policy would result in a six game suspension, which was previously the punishment for players who cheated on a test for performance-enhancing drugs. This punishment would be four times longer than the average one for domestic violence in the past.

So while the NFL has attempted to modify their policy, it continues to be vague, confusing and not well organized. As a result, the punishments have not been accurate or severe enough, and the victims have suffered and a good example is not being set.

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The Interview threatens freedom of speech

By Willie Lutz
Editor-in-chief

Sony Pictures recent decision to cancel the release of a provocative motion picture, *The Interview*, has been met with much controversy throughout the country. After “Guardians of Peace,” the same group of hackers behind the recent leaks of Sony Pictures’ movies and executives’ e-mails, threatened retaliation against American movie goers if Sony released *The Interview* on the scheduled date, December 25th, or if the film was ever released at all.

The controversial topic of the film was the assassination of the third North Korean dictator, Kim Jong-un. Stars James Franco and Seth Rogen were slated to perform the assassination on the screen, but following the hacking of Sony’s networks, the company decided to stop the release.

Sony’s decision came after five major theater chains, including AMC Entertainment and Regal Entertainment, proclaimed they would not show the film. Both Sony and the theatre chains made a huge mistake. They have allowed a terrorist threat to interfere with what our founding fathers promised all citizens in the Bill of Rights.

During the drafting of the Constitution, many

signers stated that they would not agree to its passing without a Bill of Rights; it was believed that there was not enough documentation to protect the people. After narrowing a list of 39 proposed amendments down to ten, Freedom of Speech was established in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution in 1791, along with freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and the right to assemble.

The right of freedom of speech is very important to the American people, 70% (according to *DoSomething.org*) of Americans agreed that people should have the right to free speech, even if their words are highly offensive. This feeling was rekindled when on December 17th, 2014, Sony cancelled the release of the comedy film, *The Interview* with many supporters taking to social media as an outlet for frustration.

This decision to cancel the release of the film caused outcry from all platforms, especially from social media, as many fans were upset over Sony’s fear over the release the film. After all, this country had laid a brick foundation dedicated to freedom of speech. The film deserved to be seen as a rite of passage to the people.

The fire of the film’s release was reignited after the leader of the free world, President Barack Obama, and many celebrities, released statements saying that the film exemplifies the United States right of free speech. “I think [Sony] made a mistake,” Obama said. “We cannot have a society where some dictator someplace can start imposing censorship here in the United States.”

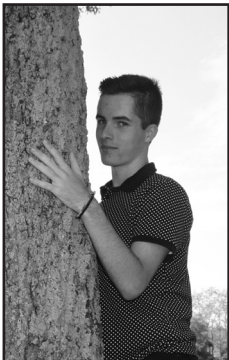
American film director, Judd Apatow, director of *The 40-Year-Old*

Virgin and *Funny People* (both films Seth Rogen starred in), tweeted “I think it is disgraceful that these theaters are not showing *The Interview*. Will they pull any movie that gets an anonymous threat now?”

Host of *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, Jimmy Kimmel responded to the tweet, commenting “@JuddApatow, I agree wholeheartedly. An un-American act of cowardice that validates terrorist actions and sets a terrifying precedent.”

The statement had a clear impact on Sony, as the company would eventually change their decision and release the film. One day prior to its scheduled release, on December 24th, 2014, *The Interview*, was released on many formats (including Xbox video and YouTube) for the price of \$6.

This was a huge win for American free speech. While there were threats of terror on the American people, the film, which exemplifies the right, was shown to anyone who wanted to see it. Now, with intensified discussions of its release for the monthly service, Netflix, the film can be seen by even more viewers. This will once again, allow freedom of speech to prevail.



Ryan Mangan

CONTRA

Battle of the talk shows hosts: Stephen Colbert or Jimmy Fallon?



Willie Lutz

Stephen Colbert

In the past year there have been some substantial switches in the Late Night television lineup with Jimmy Fallon taking over Jay Leno’s spot on *The Tonight Show*, and Seth Meyers taking over the *Late Night Show*. However the biggest switch of all is coming this year, when The Stephen Colbert takes over David Letterman’s spot on *Letterman Tonight* starting September 8th. September 8th will be the night when Stephen Colbert brings back what late night television is about.

Colbert was extremely honored to be considered for the show. “Simply being a guest on David Letterman’s show has been a highlight of my career,” Colbert said in a statement. “I never dreamed that I would follow in his footsteps, though everyone in late night follows Dave’s lead.”

Colbert, who currently helms Comedy Central’s “Colbert Report” as a faux conservative, will leave the character behind when he takes over “Late Show.”

“I won’t be doing the new show in character, so we’ll all get to find out how much of him was me,” Colbert said. “I’m looking forward to it.”

Colbert is known for being able to score big interviews; he also has a reputation as being one of the funniest personalities in television. Just this past year Colbert had President Barack Obama himself on his show for a very humorous, amusing, and in-depth interview. Also, Colbert is critically acclaimed for impersonating Bill O’Reilly every night on his show and never breaking character.

Colbert started his late night television career on *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, which is the now the most viewed show in late television. Colbert then moved up from there by creating his own Emmy Award winning show on Comedy Central: *The Colbert Report*. Colbert’s show ranks second in late night television behind Jon Stewart’s *Daily Show* where Colbert served correspondent on from 1997-2005.

Jimmy Fallon is going to be Colbert’s biggest competition in the late night television realm; Colbert will be sure to bring in higher ratings though. Fallon is known for coming out of character and laugh during skits frequently, Fallon is famous for ruining skits like the “cowbell skit” broadcast on SNL April 8th, of 2000. By laughing during the middle of it during on live television.

With Stephen Colbert’s acting capabilities, ability to score big interviews, and The Letterman Band directed by Paul Shaffer that he’ll be using, Colbert will be sure to be the biggest name in late night television over Jimmy Fallon.

Jimmy Fallon

The Saturday Night Live cast member turned Late Night host Jimmy Fallon owns television talk shows. Fallon took over for Jay Leno in early 2014 and has since dominated the circuit.

While many hosts have struggled to completely absorb an audience, Fallon rocks all moments of his hour-long program. Fallon opens each and every show with a seamless monologue, which sets the pace for the rest of the show. Jokes like “fifteen states have gas prices under \$2. It’s now cheaper to buy a gallon of liquefied dinosaurs than a cup of coffee at Starbucks,” click with the audience.

Perhaps one of Fallon’s greatest aspects is his love to play games with guests on his show. It’s hard to find anywhere else where you can see a host arm wrestle Liam Neeson and play CatchPhrase with Michael Cera in the course of a week.

The host of NBC’s *Tonight Show* also does a fantastic job expanding his role as an entertainer. On November 18th, 2014, U2 was forced to cancel their appearance on the program, but that didn’t stop their music from being played on the show. That night, Fallon and his house band, the Roots, took to the stage and performed the U2 song, “Desire.” Fallon, who played guitar and sung, received heavy praise for the bold leap to make U2’s music heard.

Following the departure of Jay Leno, who was seeming to drag on and lose his magic, it was important that a higher energy character take over. Many worried that Fallon would only appeal to younger crowds, but the talented host has been able to adapt in order to appeal to all ages. Fallon is currently the best talk show host on television and will likely be for years to come.

Stephen Colbert has the potential to be a fantastic host, but he has more a risk factor when it comes to older crowds. A lot of Colbert’s satirical humor used on his Comedy Central show, *the Colbert Report*, won’t appeal to older demographics, as these crowds tend to be displeased with anything too raunchy.

Where Colbert has his shortcoming, Fallon has proved his merit. The older demographic has taken to liking Fallon due to his many similarities in style to late night television legend, Johnny Carson.

Colbert may lead a revolution of late night television, as he has a large following from younger viewers. In fact, about 60% of adults have heard of *the Colbert Report* and 10% site it as a news source. However, with an older community still intent on the golden days of late night talk shows, Jimmy Fallon takes the prize of best host.



Willie Talks Sports: Top Contenders in College Hoops



By Willie Lutz
Editor-in-Chief

It's about this time every year that the murky water surrounding college basketball settles and the championship contenders begin to clear. While the NCAA tournament is unpredictable, it's only

natural to speculate the teams that could be cutting down the nets at the end of the bracket.

Kentucky Wildcats

"If you take their first and second teams and split them up, they'd probably have the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the nation," Southern Methodist head coach Larry Brown said of the Kentucky Wildcats 2014-2015 squad. "(Kentucky head coach) John (Calipari) should go 45-0 with that talent."

It's no question that Kentucky has the most talent on the court this season. Many of Calipari's Wildcats will be heading to the NBA following the season and will receive many first round draftees.

The Wildcats emerge as the obvious threat to the throne. The team lost to Connecticut last season in the championship game, but has reloaded with even more talent.

Duke Blue Devils

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski, or more commonly known as Coach K, is the winningest coach in the history of college basketball. In fact, earlier this month, he became the first coach to ever reach 1000 wins. Coach K has instilled his coaching genius to the tune of four NCAA Mens' Basketball Championships, including most recently in 2010. Coach K has a tremendous weapon on his side in future NBA superstar, Jahlil

Okafor. The freshman is averaging 18.6 points and 8.9 rebounds per contest. The freshman stand-out has helped Duke regenerate its post offense and defense.

Wisconsin Badgers

The Badgers might not get things done pretty, but the squad is arguably the grittiest team in the NCAA. Led by senior big man, Frank Kaminsky, the Badgers play tremendous defense. They force opposing teams into low-percentage shots and disrupt the flow of any offense. The team lacks a key victory up to this point, but they have strong tournament experience. The Badgers made it all the way

to the Final Four last season before being eliminated by Kentucky.

Louisville Cardinals

Another Kentucky team, this one located just north of Lexington, is looking for its second title in three years. Coached by Rick Pitino, the Cardinals have some short comings to overcome. The Achilles heel of this flock of birds is their character. The team seems to constantly be on TV following a scuffle involving one of its players. The team has lost to Duke and Kentucky this year in games where they looked flat. If the Cardinals can fix their character issue, they could end up a deadly threat to any team in this year's bracket.

Young athletes unopposed to early college recruiting

By Claire Ruben
Staff writer

While most sixth graders planned play dates, **Katie McElveen** (10) already planned to play college lacrosse at a big time university. Before Katie reached junior high, coaches of the nation's top-tier athletic universities contacted her. More looks came in middle school and McElveen received her first official offer during sophomore year. Now just a few months before her second varsity lacrosse season, she has verbally committed to Ohio State University, where she will enroll in 2017.

Though Katie's situation may seem unique, the truth is that many young athletes are recruited by some of the country's largest and most competitive universities years before they play their first varsity match. Accord-

ing to the University of Virginia's student newspaper, *The Cavalier Daily*, college coaches worry that rival schools will snatch up the best athletes, and in turn, recruits worry that waiting to commit may mean missing out on the best scholarship offers.

Due to the increase in popularity

from directly calling prospective athletes until their junior year in many sports, universities continue to offer scholarships to top-level prospects. *The New York Times* reported that players and coaches have found loopholes in NCAA rules allowing for commits to accept verbal offers years before official contact periods begin.

Opponents of the recent trend in early recruitment argue that asking freshman and middle schoolers to make decisions about college is unrealistic. Few re-

heart over the next four years.

"I put in a lot of research to ensure that OSU was truly what I wanted athletically and academically in a school," McElveen said. "I did all the work that college-bound seniors would, just earlier, and now I can focus on lacrosse and academics."

Many argue that there is too much pressure put on young players to commit quickly and early when they should be focusing on the transition to high school academics and honing their sport skills.

"The environment creates a lot of pressure to already have colleges looking at you," McElveen said.

Molly Cummins

(11) recently verbally committed to play volleyball at Villanova University, and began hearing from coaches during her eighth grade year.

"Some schools put me on a time line, and I didn't like being rushed at all," Cummins said. "It tended to cause a loss of interest in that school."

Additionally, some sports seem

to put recruits on a more expedited time line than others. In general, female sports tend to offer scholarships to recruits earlier than males. A 2014 article in *The New York Times* attributes this to the earlier maturation of the female's body. Women's soccer, volleyball, softball, and lacrosse are just some of the front runners in the early recruiting game; however, this does not mean that men's sports are far behind. In fact, baseball standout **Cal Conley** (9) has yet to hit the varsity dirt but has already received an offer from the University of Louisville.

"I started hearing from coaches over the summer," Conley said. In an interview with Prep Baseball Report Conley stated that he was not in a hurry to commit.

Externally it may seem as though the recruiting game is pushed upon the student athlete before they are truly ready to handle the college decision making process. However, if managed correctly, student athletes can avoid being pressured into their decisions.

"You have to take the recruiting process at your own pace and put yourself in your own world," McElveen said. "It's the only way to really keep it personal."



Photo Courtesy of Katie McElveen

Katie McElveen(10) smiles with her dog after verbally committing to Ohio State. Katie will be playing lacrosse for the Buckeyes.



Photo Courtesy of Molly Cummins

Molly Cummins (11) holds her pumpkin after verbally committing to Villanova University. Molly will be playing volleyball for the Wild Cats.

cruits know what they would like to major in, let alone where they want to study. Even those who do may have a change in

ECC Bowling Championship Taylor Hayden wins title

By Catie Shipp
Staff writer

The varsity bowling teams travelled to Northwest Lanes Saturday, January 10 where they took part in the ECC/SWOC Championship. **Taylor Hayden** (11) placed first out of both the male and female participants with an average of 248 for three games. Her performance broke her personal best as well as the previous school record for a three game series.

"It was a really memorable experience, and it was nice to have my family and friends there to watch me bowl my best game," Hayden (11) said.

Taylor began the first game of the

championship on a strong foot by scoring a 255, beating her personal best of 247 from freshman year.

"After the success I had in the first game, I knew I could beat my personal best again," Hayden said.

Taylor then started off the second game with seven strikes in a row, followed by spares and strikes the rest of the match. This success continued through the third game where Taylor was able to score a 224. Her overall series was a 746 with a record average of 248 per game.

Taylor's final score gave her a win in this championship conference, and ranked her as number one in the ECC.



By Bronson Lakes
Sports Editors

Luke Waddell (10) leads the Eastern Cincinnati Conference in basketball with assists per game with 4.9 and also leads the team with steals per game with 3.1. **Drew Plitt** (11) leads the team with points per game with 13.6.

Like Waddell, **Colleen Swift** (9) leads the girl's team with assists per game with 2.4 and leads the team with steals with 2.9. She also leads the team in

scoring with 8.6 points per game.

Jordan Paul (11) is first in the ECC in his weight class of 170 pounds with a record of 16 wins, 3 losses and he has 9 pins. **Connor Homan** (11) leads the weight class of 160 pounds with a record of 16 wins, 6 losses and he has 10 pins. **Brandon Tucker** (12) in the weight class of 138 pounds leads the ECC with a record of 21 wins, 4 losses and has 12 pins.

Bobby Oberholzer (12) leads the team in the 200 yard freestyle with a time of 2:05.51.

Kailyn Despotakis (12) is second in the ECC for one meter diving with a total score of 178.40.

Courtney Mennen (10) is second in the ECC for 100 yard backstroke with a time of 1:03.82.

Chris McDowell (11) leads the team with an average score of 177.2 and right behind him is **Aaron Autin** (10) with an average score of 162.6.

Taylor Hayden (11) is second in the league and first on her team with an average score of 195.2. **Kassie Naughton** (12) is in 5th place in the conference with a score of 182.5.

The Academic team starts up the month of February on the 4th against Milford and then a match against Anderson on the 11th.

Sports briefs with Bron

The most shocking sports upsets of 2014

By Andrea Gomez

Staff writer

Germany vs. Brazil

There’s not much worse than losing a game on home soil, especially when that ends up being known as a national humiliation. This embarrassing result is exactly what happened in the World Cup’s semi-finals when Brazil lost to Germany by a score of 7-1. Only twenty-nine minutes into the game, Brazil was already down 5-0. Four of these goals were scored in a time span of six minutes, leaving fans in complete shock.

This defeat was Brazil’s first defeat on home soil after 12 years of victory. After the sixth goal was scored, Brazilian fans began to cheer for the opposing side in an effort to show their discontent with their national team. Head Brazil Soccer Coach Felipe Scolari described the loss as the worst day of his life and claimed responsibility for the loss. “I will be remembered as the coach to lose 7-1 but I knew that risk when I took the job,” Scolari said.

Although Germany did end up winning the World Cup and the loss could be blamed on the absence of goal-scoring presence Neymar, and captain defender Thiago Silva, Brazil as a nation was shattered and humiliated by such a great loss that will be remembered for decades to come.

Kei Nishikori (No. 10) defeats Novak Djokovic (No. 1)

It’s not every day a number

ten seed is able to beat a player like Novak Djokovic who is an iron-willed number one player with a reputation of outworking his opponents. In the U.S. Open Semi-finals however, Kei Nishikori became the first Asian tennis player to reach a grand slam final after beating his opponent 6-4 1-6 7-6(4) 6-3. On this hot September day when the temperature was reaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit, Nishikori was able to keep his cool and the Serbian player, Novak Djokovic, out of his comfort zone. His backhand helped him win several breaking points and after four sets proved victorious over Djokovic. Nishikori was excited about his win and spoke to ESPN television after the match “I think it’s going to be big news in Japan,” Nishikori said.

Shaun White

Who could forget Shaun White flopping at the Winter Olympics held in Sochi? After withdrawing from the slope-style competition in hopes of winning a third straight gold medal, White unexpectedly fell while attempting the famous trick named YOLO. His fall resulted in a fourth place finish in the Olympic half-pipe and a loss to a competitor nicknamed I-Pod. He lost, scoring only 90.25 points, but hugged I-Pod to congratulate him on his win. “I’m disappointed,” White said, “I hate the fact I nailed it in practice, but it happens.”

Seattle Seahawks vs. Denver Broncos

The Seattle Seahawks managed to pull off a massive win against the Denver Broncos in the 2014 Super Bowl. The strong defense Seattle portrayed in the game eventually led to the final score of 43-8. The strong pressure the defense had on Peyton Manning, former Super Bowl MVP, led to several interceptions and a total of four turnovers. Seattle’s defense was made up of a bunch of underrated players who proved to be more than worthy of being in the game. Their play led to comparisons to the Pittsburgh Steelers’ “Steel Curtain” defense, the 1985 Chicago Bears, and the Ray Lewis-led team of 2000, the Baltimore Ravens. “A bunch of misfits, that’s what they called us,” defensive end Red Bryant said. “A bunch of nobodies. Inexperienced. Ain’t never been there. You see what misfits get you. You see what over-achievers get you.”

University of Kentucky vs. Wichita State

This was arguably one of the most suspenseful games in March Madness in 2014. The momentum went back and forth throughout most of the game until UK took a 73-71 lead with less than two minutes to go. As the game neared its end two free throws acquired Wichita State to a deficit of 78-76 with 9.8 seconds left. All hearts stopped as fans watched VanVleet try to sink a three to win the game and as the ball hit the rim and bounced out, the Wildcats took the court in a massive celebration. The win advanced UK to the

sweet sixteen and left Wichita State slumped in their seats, their faces buried in their jerseys. Head Coach John Calipari was pleased with the result. “I feel for their team and I feel for their coach,” Calipari said. “I’m happy we won. I’m happy for our guys. And I’m disappointed, because they had a heck of a run.”

NJIT vs. Michigan

Michigan was stunned after the 72-70 defeat to New Jersey Institute of Technology. This letdown became known as the biggest basketball upset of the year. NJIT’s sophomore point guard, Damon Lynn, had six 3-pointers and a total of 20 points for the highlanders. Two other NJIT players, Willis Winfield and Ky Howard had 17 points each, helping to seal the win. Towards the end of the game, Michigan purposely missed a free throw in order to try and gain two points instead of one off of the rebound but failed and resulted in an NJIT triumph.

Head Coach Jim Engles was ecstatic with the victory. “I’m really happy with the attention our guys are getting from the media as well as from our students and alumni,” said Engles, “There has been an outpouring of attention and affection for the team and it’s been humbling to see how many people follow our program. It was an amazing win for the team and for the university.”

The Ohio State University

Who could have predicted such a successful run for the buckeyes in the NCAA Division I playoffs

this year? After an average beginning to their season, the Buckeyes upset Alabama in the Sugar 42-35. Alabama was seeded number one going into the game against the number four-seeded Ohio State and the win for OSU fell nothing short of outstanding. Ohio State was supposed to be done when their starting quarterback, Braxton Miller, was out for the season due to injury. They were supposed to be done when their second-string quarterback, J.T. Barrett was out for injury too. They were supposed to have given up when they lost to Virginia Tech at home, but they definitely proved all of their doubters wrong.

Third-string quarterback Cardale Jones and running back sophomore Ezekiel Elliot led the Buckeyes, not only to an All-State Sugar Bowl Championship, but a national championship as well. They defeated the favored Oregon ducks 42-20 even with four Ohio State turnovers. Heismann trophy winner, Marcus Mariota, was constantly put under pressure and was nullified by the Buckeye defense. On offense, Ezekiel Elliot ran for 246 yards and four touchdowns on a career high of 36 carries. Cardale Jones passed for 242 yards and a touchdown in his third career start. Ohio State wasn’t supposed to be National Champions but even with a lot of setbacks, they persevered. Cardale Jones’ tweet after the game could not have been any more fitting: “All I gotta say is.... Hi Haters.”

Best looking uniforms in sports

By Bronson Lakes

Spors Editor

Wearing athletes jerseys is now a very common part of American casual fashion. Whether at the stadium or in the classroom, a jersey is a great wear. However, among all jerseys, there are the best of the best,

Many argue the New York Yankees pinstriped road grays are the best uniform in sports, but the famous pinstripes are all business, and the interlocking NY logo was lifted from a Tiffany and Co. design of the 1870s.

No uniform summarized the ABA era of basketball better than the New Jersey Nets’ stars and stripes look of the ‘70s and ‘80s. It even matched the ball and no one wore it better than Dr. J.

The University of Oregon Ducks have 512 possible combinations between their various jerseys, pants, helmets, socks, and shoes, but Oregon never looks better than when they’re decked out in their all whites.

From 1973 to 1985 The Chicago Bulls are better known for the block-lettered uniforms they wore during each of their six championship seasons, but the cursive Chicago road jerseys, which Jordan wore during his rookie campaign, are the most stylish of the past era. The Chicago Blackhawks home red jerseys are not the most politically correct jersey out there, but it’s still

one the most universally beloved this side of the Yankees and red, black, and white is as about as strong and as vibrant a combination as you can get in sports.

Few teams have dared to be as bold as the rainbow era Houston Astros, which is why their multi stripe jerseys are one of the most polarizing uniforms in history. Despite personal feelings, nothing more essentially captured sports in the ‘70s.

There have been plenty of clothing designs during the last twenty years of Team USA soccer, most notably the AYSO rip-offs in ‘94. But in addition to finally fitting the players this time around, the 2010 sash design was actually a handsome nod to the 1950s team that defeated the heavily-favored English in that year’s World Cup.

The Oakland Raiders’ is simple, classic, and there isn’t a more intimidating uniform in sports than the silver and black jerseys.

The Dallas Cowboys famous star was originally worn on the shoulder during the 1960-63 seasons, but this sharp throwback has become an annual staple of Dallas’s Thanksgiving Day Game. New York Rangers, Statue of Liberty Alternates are a classic with the Lady Liberty emblem, set against a dark navy backdrop, is an all-time fan favorite.

Men’s volleyball team ready for new season

By Kevin Sieg

Staff writer

The men’s volleyball team is looking forward to the start of their 2015 season. The team is has begun preparing for the season, and tryouts for the team will be held in March. Their season starts around the end of Spring Break and goes through May.

“We have a lot of seniors returning that will play a big part in leading the team this year,” **Mrs. Teresa Swensen** (Math) and head volleyball coach said.

Returning players that are slated to lead the team include **Michael Viox** (12), **Blaine Hamilton** (12), and **Joel Spencer** (12).

The team’s most notable game so far comes on May 5th, and they will be facing off against their rival, the Milford Eagles, at home on Senior Night. Milford is the only other team from the ECC that the volleyball team plays. The men’s volleyball team is not an Ohio sanctioned team, and is therefore not in the ECC. A majority of the team’s schedule is against schools from the Greater Miami Conference, or the GMC. Since they play so many schools from the GMC, it emphasizes the importance of the matches against Milford.

Members of the team are excited for the new season to start as well, and the team hopes to have support from the students at their games.

Josh Carovillano (11) said, “The volleyball team is a really good way to stay active. It’s also great because it teaches teamwork and working together.”



Photos Courtesy of Wikipedia

Wizarding world of Harry Potter emerges



Top: Chase Grafflin (12), Heidi Zimmer (12), Kasia Fisher (12), and Michael Viox (12) Bottom: Kelly Powers (12), Emily Michelfelder (11), Julia Dillhoff (10), Lauren Schroer (12), and Madison Stanley (12). Harry Potter Club poses for a picture for the yearbook.

By Emily Dougherty
Features Editor

Accio Harry Potter fans, there is a new club at the high school dedicated to “The Boy Who Lived himself. Wait, what? When did this happen?

One of the club co-founders, **Chase Grafflin** (12) said, “It started in October when Becca Trate, Michael Viox and I were at the Starbucks talking about Harry Potter, and we thought it would be fun to have a book club solely for Harry Potter. Later that night, we changed it to just Harry Potter Appreciation Club.”

The club, which currently has fifteen members, reads each Harry Potter book in sequential order and then meets once per

month to discuss theories and ideas from the book.

The club is open to witches, wizards, mudbloods and squibs alike, according to its members. I like that I get to meet people from the school who have the same quirkiness about Harry Potter that I do, said **Claire Ruben** (11).

“We also have a Twitter account with updates on times and locations. The username is @lhsHPclub,” Grafflin said.

For anyone who might be interested in attending, the next meeting will be held on January 30, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Loveland Starbucks on Loveland Madeira Road. The topic of the discussion will be book number three, ‘The Prisoner of Azkaban’.

Here’s to keeping the magic and the books alive.

Announcements

National Letter of Intent Signing Day
Our next Signing Day for student-athletes that are committing to play their respective sport at the next level is Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015 at 2:30pm here in the Center. All students and faculty are invited.

Congratulations to the Debate and Speech team for a successful tournament this past weekend at Mason HS. The team did well in the student congress , with senior **Zakary Kadish** finishing 2nd overall in the category. Good luck at sectionals!

Winter Homecoming: This year’s theme is «Winter Wonderland». The homecoming court will be recognized during half-time at the boy’s basketball game on Feb. 6. The dance will begin immediately after the game in the cafeteria

and end at midnight.

Dance Tickets will be sold Tuesday Feb. 3-Friday, Feb. 6 during lunch. Cost is \$12 on Tuesday and Wednesday, and \$15 if you procrastinate and purchase your ticket on Thursday or Friday. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door. Your consent to be tested for alcohol must be on file prior to purchasing a ticket

Applications for the Spring 2015 Driver Education class are now available in the rack outside the main office. The Tuesday/Thursday class starts on March 3rd and the Saturday class on March 7th.

Yearbooks are still on sale. The price has now increased to \$75. Order yours soon before the next price increase at jostensyearbooks.com

Choosing right phone made easier



Photo Courtesy of Andrea Gomez

Variety of phones are displayed from different brands and companies.

Consumer Reports reviews electronic devices, cars, appliances, and pretty much any item on the market. They also provide advice about how to choose a product. Recently, *Consumer Reports* released an online video with suggestions about how to choose a cell phone that fits an individual’s needs.

1. Check to see how much data is actually used before choosing a provider’s plan. Purchasing a plan with too little data available can become very expensive in the long run.
2. Find out which provider in your area has the best reception.
3. Don’t discount the small, startup cell providers. They may offer excellent service in your area.
4. When choosing a phone size (4.5 to 7.6), larger screens make it easier to view apps and videos, but the larger phones are more difficult to carry and use for other purposes. It is best if you can hold and use the phone in one hand.
5. It is not necessary to purchase the new ultra high definition (UHD) screen since most people who have them report that they do not notice a difference from the regular high definition screen (HD).
6. When choosing a screen, HD is necessary, and it should have 720p or 300 pixels per inch.
7. When it comes to battery life, 12 hours should be the minimum.
8. Is purchasing an insurance warranty worth it? No. Only one in five people every need to replace a lost or broken phone. Just save your old phone in case you need it.

Showband rocks competition



Photo Courtesy of Yearbook

Drew Lowry (12) plays the guitar during the Show Choir preview night.

By Jared Frees
Staff Writer

Show band is the band that plays with all three of the show choir groups at their competitions. The band has a variety of instruments, including a horn section with trumpets, saxophones, and trombone, two guitar players, a series of percussion instruments, and a bass player.

Show band has been a part of three contests (two high school and one middle school) and have helped the groups to achieve the highest award, “Best in Show”

in all three contests. The band also received three “best band” awards (one middle and two high school) in competition.

Drew Austin (11) said, “The competitions are super fun. When we perform, it’s really exhilarating and when we aren’t we are just chilling and making new friends.”

High points for the band come during “Higher Ground” and “Hard to Handle,” as the group hits their high points in groove.

Jacob Ponchot (11) said, “It’s really neat to mix with the show choir groups because we don’t get to play with them the rest of the school year.”

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Dania Gutierrez and Ashley Owens pose at Beyoncé’s *On the Run Tour*. The concert was hosted at Great American Ballpark on Saturday, June 28th.

Popular tracks top Billboard charts

By Catie Shipp
Staff writer

From constant complaints about the overplaying of songs on the radio to paying \$1.29 for a single on iTunes, music from the previous year impacted us daily. Selected from Billboard’s top 100 of 2014, these hits will be remembered well into the new year.

“Happy” - Pharrell Williams

In a culture of tracks filled with ill messages and excessive expletives, thank Pharrell Williams for this upbeat tune making people of all ages want to get on their feet.

“I like the song because I only like happy things-happy talk, happy endings, no negativity,” **Mrs. Dara Hudson** (French, Spanish) said.

Williams’ album *Girl* is up for album of the year and his live performance of “Happy” could win the already seven-time Grammy winner another for best solo pop performance. The tune is catchy beyond belief, and was labeled as “dazzlingly executed song craft” by online British journal *The Guardian*.

“All of Me”- John Legend

John Legend has been melting the hearts of listeners for the past decade, yet his most recent work “All of Me” may be his best yet. Legend’s emotional lyrics depict what it truly means to be head over heels in love.

“It’s nice that he wrote it for his wife,” **Karl Mueller** (11) said, “but the remix was kind of an insult to Legend’s style.”

Raw vocals and piano are featured, adding to the songwriter’s distinct sound. “All of Me (Live)” could win Legend his tenth Grammy, this one for best solo pop performance.

“Shake It Off”- Taylor Swift

2014 made it official: T-Swift went pop! Though many

were frustrated by the once-country star’s genre shift, it is hard to deny the success of Swift’s most recent album, *1989*. “Shake It Off” is a feel good track that shows Swift’s free-spirited attitude despite any recent opposition.

“Makes me wanna shake shake shake shake shake, while the haters hate” **Becca Trate** (12) said.

All “haters” should be wary of the single’s recent Grammy nomination for record of the year.

“Anaconda”- Nicki Minaj

Up for rap song of the year, Nicki Minaj’s remix of Sir Mix-A-lot’s “Baby Got Back” rebirthed the 90’s classic style of original rap and brought Minaj to a newfound level of stardom. Despite questionable lyrics, Minaj’s beats once again make her one of the best female rappers in the business. “Anaconda” may have even sparked the “hind side” obsession that dominated the latter half of 2014.

“I like the music video,” **Zach Winoker** (11) said.

If only one thing, Minaj’s hit has been influential.

“Drunk in Love” - Beyoncé ft. Jay Z

Beyoncé shocked the world with the surprise release of her self-titled seventh album; yet no publicity was needed for «Drunk in Love» to become one of the hottest songs of the year.

“It’s inspirational,” **Kayla Hartzler** (10) said.

Though controversial lyrics may have disgruntled older crowds, this club hit has such a smooth beat and belt-it out chorus that the nomination for album of the year should come as no surprise. Yoncé’s half-rap of the second verse exposes an edgier feel that is only intensified in the following verse which is rapped by Jay Z. “Drunk in Love” could give Beyoncé the edge for album of the year.

Social media trends k

By Catie Shipp
Staff writer

This past year was big for the world of social media. Whether through a trending video on Instagram for a great cause, or a simple vine that brought a smile to one’s face, 2014 brought a variety of individuals across the globe together through laughs and similar interests. Here is a recap of some of this past year’s best moments from the perspective of social media users everywhere.

Vine - “21”

This vine of the young Habeeb Cisse became a hit for Vine users everywhere as the world adored his response to the question, “What’s 9+10?” with his reply of “21”. This simple, six-second video quickly gained national attention as thousands of Vine users across the globe played the video over and over again.

“I can’t say 21 normally without

thinking of that vine,” **Olivia Henderson** (11) said.

Vine – “In My Mum’s Car”

This six-second video, by the now Vine-famous Trish Simmonds, was subject to remixes and replays by Vine users everywhere. In this clip, Trish sits in her mom’s car and imitates its sounds by saying, “broom broom”. Her mom then enters the clip and tells Trish to “get out me car”, with Trish’s reply of, “aww”. This adored vine is yet another example of the simplistic humor of Vine being enjoyed by all.

“The vine was really funny and I loved all of the remixes, especially “Broom Broom Pow,” **Jarrett Albin** (10) said.

Twitter- Chloe from Vine

Shortly after the video of two-year-old Chloe Clem’s reaction to her parents’ surprise trip to Disneyland went viral, the Twitter scene exploded as Chloe’s unimpressed glance was

BEST
OF 2

Year’s blockbusters keep cine

By Jazmyn Browning
Staff writer

The year of 2014 was a year of change. From Miley Cyrus’ looks to society’s inexplicable obsession with rear-ends, the world underwent a major metamorphosis. The movie industry was no stranger to this transformation as the nation saw an incredibly impressive array of films this year. Selected from Rotten Tomatoes, a website dedicated to film reviews and news, these are some of the premier releases of 2014.

The Lego Movie

On the surface, *The Lego Movie* appears to be any other fluffy film packed with cringe-inducing attempts of humor that is geared toward booger-infested ten-year-olds. However, further inspection reveals it is much more than a bland movie about plastic bricks. Raking in over \$69 million during its weekend box office back in February, according to Box Office Mojo, the surprisingly charming story about Emmett’s, a Lego figurine’s, entertaining venture to save the world proved to charm audiences across the nation. Clever jokes, vivid and imaginative animation, and a superb voice cast allows

this film to captivate the attention of both the youngest and oldest movie-goer. Everything (about this movie) is awesome.

“*The Lego Movie* has a great storyline that leads to an even greater big picture,” **Ashton Barger** (10) said.

The Grand Budapest Hotel

Although Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) stars in a leading role of this movie, it does not detract from this quirky tale of the adventures of hotel concierge Monsieur Gustave and lobby boy Zero Moustafa. Directed by Wes Anderson, the captivatingly beautiful and breathtaking atmosphere of *The Grand Budapest Hotel* extends from the ornate setting to the series of intricate stories laced together. With vibrant visuals, stunning performances, and comedic ingenuity, this movie earned its nine Academy Award nominations, a direct reflection of the film’s amazing production.

“*The Grand Budapest Hotel* is an amazing movie -- one of Wes Anderson’s best movies to date,” **Katie Parks** (11) said.

Guardians of the Galaxy

Considering this movie stars a gun-toting raccoon with

a knack for quick witticisms, it’s no wonder *Guardians of the Galaxy* is one of the most beloved hits to hit the big screen in 2014. Besides the treasure, this movie gives other fantasy action films a run for their money. In this feel-good flick, space adventurer Peter Quill teams up with four miscreants to save the universe from the destruction of the villain Ronan. Unlike the Marvel franchise, this movie offers delectable humor, visual excellence, and light-heartedness for the whole family. Not to mention, the killer soundtrack makes this movie all the more enjoyable.

“*Guardians of the Galaxy* is a well-thought-out movie that had a little bit of everything. It was a great mix of connected with Marvel stories and it’s great for a change,” **Alejandra Bonnet** (9) said.

Boyhood

Growing up is a journey, and *Boyhood* captures the essence of life’s highs and lows. Over a span of 12 years, the film follows Mason T. Gentry from childhood to the difficult teenage years. One of the most magical aspects of this film is the ability it provides to watch the maturation of the cast, which creates an i



deep viewers laughing

connected to many aspects of the twitter users’ daily life. A photo of Chloe’s reaction was commonly associated with annoying or irrelevant subjects that were mentioned on Twitter, and it was a way to bring laughs to users everywhere.

“The Chloe tweets were probably in the top five memes of 2014,” **Jessica Griffiths** (9) said.

Twitter- Starter Packs
This twitter trend became popular towards the end of 2014 and users loved to take part. Through the starter packs, users gave advice or ideas on what one needed to survive a particular situation, person, or event. Users expressed their thoughts on a variety of different things which provided many funny tweets that quickly filled up the Twitter timeline.

“I loved the starter packs. My favorite was the Teacher on a

Friday starter pack because of the floral shirts, jeans, and white New Balances,” **Ashlyn Taylor** (11) said.

Instagram- The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

This trend filled the timelines of all Instagram users in the summer of 2014 and was a way for social media to help spread awareness to a great cause. The ALS foundation designed this challenge so that one could feel, only for a few seconds, what it felt like to live with ALS. ALS is a disease of the nerve cells and the spinal cord that controls voluntary muscle movement. If one was nominated to take the challenge, they had twenty-four hours to dump a bucket of ice water on their head, or they had to donate \$100 to the ALS Foundation.

“I’m really glad that I got to participate in the ALS Challenge because it was for a cause that benefited millions of people,” **Ashley Owens** (11) said.



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able and emotional film that encompasses both the joy and the pain of growing up. The movie’s depiction of life’s simplest moments like birthday parties and road trips reveals just how beautiful life can be.

“*Boyhood* was an interesting twist to the typical coming-of-age sort of story,” **Courtney Spicer** (11) said.

Nightcrawler
Are you searching for a movie that will keep you on the edge of your seat and make your heart pound? If so, *Nightcrawler* is the perfect thriller flick. There’s no denying that actor Jake Gyllenhaal is talented actor that artfully assumes every character he plays, but Gyllenhaal’s portrayal of Lou Bloom is arguably one of his most gripping roles ever. Struggling to find a job in Los Angeles, Lou discovers a competitive career in shooting videos of crimes across the city and selling the footage to local news stations. The suspense of Lou’s increasingly risky endeavors coupled with a convincingly and disturbingly eerie performance from Gyllenhaal makes this the must-see film of 2014.

“*Nightcrawler* freaked me out, but in a good way. Jake Gyllenhaal is the man,” **Ashley Mays** (11) said.

TV series captivate audiences

By Andrea Gomez

Staff writer



Grey’s Anatomy

In season 1, this show begins in Seattle Grace Hospital. The hospital is the epicenter of a drama that surrounds the lives of a group of surgeons on their life journeys. The show focuses on Meredith Grey, played by Ellen Pompeo, and her life as a residential surgeon working in the same hospital as her husband Derek Shepherd, who is the head neurosurgeon of Seattle Grace Hospital. It also dives into the relationships between various other surgeons and their personal dramas, contributing to the engrossing aspect of the series. From endless plot twists to intensifying scenes, this show has the ability to keep you glued to your screen and ignore your responsibilities.

“Grey’s Anatomy is my life, I sleep, eat and breathe it. It literally is the best show ever and I don’t care what anyone says,” **Hannah Wallis** (11) said.

“This show has a good story line and it’s cool that all of the medical cases they have in the show actually happened. They also throw in different situations like shootings and plane crashes that keep it interesting,” **Amanda Sugrue** (11) said.



The Americans

If undercover stories interest you, the Americans might be your show. It consists of deep-cover Soviet spies, Philip and Elizabeth Jennings, who parade around resembling a typical couple in Washington D.C. Their friends, neighbors, coworkers, and even their children remain unaware about their true identity. They’re just every-day parents to their children, they’re average travel agents at work, but at night they converse with confidants, lovers, dupes, and historical figures from the Reagen-era Cold War. The show strategically places plot twists that impact viewers in a way that they begin to overthink the true meaning of an undeclared war and if history was done right or not. It questions the times past and brings a new perspective on these events. Matthew Rhys plays Philip Jennings and Keri Russell plays his wife, Elizabeth Jennings.

Top critic on Rotten Tomatoes, Tom Conroy, offers his views on the developing show. “The show keeps its tongue out of its cheek and actually creates decent suspense, along with some chewy moral dilemmas to keep the brain stimulated if not taxed,” Conroy said.

One Tree Hill

Beginning in season 1, this series follows the lives of a number of high school kids who live in Tree Hill, a small town in North Carolina. In this town, the biggest success stories come from the high school basketball team, The Ravens. Nathan Scott and his half-brother Lu-

cas form a relationship on the team although they are constantly competing for controlling the court and Nathan’s girlfriend’s heart. Nathan Scott is played by 29-year-old James Lafferty and Lucas is played by Chad Michael Murray. With likeable characters and relatable events that occur in this series, it’s no surprise that people like **Maddy Ribeiro** (11) can’t keep their eyes off the screen.

“This show is my addiction and I couldn’t live without Lucas or Nathan Scott in my life. It’s my show man,” Ribeiro said.

All nine seasons of One Tree Hill can be found on Netflix.



The Walking Dead

After waking up from a coma in season 1, Rick Grimes, a former sheriff discovers that the world has been taken over by zombies. His family and a several other survivors struggle to fend off the zombies and try to do everything to stay alive. Rick Grimes is played by Andrew Lincoln and other key actors include Norman Reedus, Lauren Cohan, and Steven Yeun. This series has a tendency to attach its viewers to the characters and even at times provoke tears of emotion. It follows multiple story lines that keeps it interesting and prevents it from becoming a predictable show. The Walking Dead can be watched on AMC TV or MNT and seasons 1-4 are available on Netflix.

Matt Roush from TV Guide critiqued the series. “We actually root for many of the people we find living among The Walking Dead, which packs a raw, emotional punch while delivering the creepy and queasy thrills all genre fans truly crave,” Roush said.



New Girl

Have you ever wondered who *that* girl is? Well, if you’re referring to new girl, that girl is Jess. Jessica Day, played by Zooey Deschanel, is a bubbly teacher, who is known for suddenly bursting into song, randomly falling while standing, and being a great roommate. After breaking up with her cheating boyfriend in season 1, she moves into a loft with three other guys: Schmidt, Winston and Nick Miller. Schmidt is played by Max Greenfield, Winston is played by Lamome Morris, and Nick Miller is played by Jake Johnson. This story follows the lives of these four characters and how their relationships develop as they go through different experiences together. New Girl is known for keeping a smile on its viewer’s faces even though it doesn’t have the typical deep story line that most shows have.

“New Girl is the funniest show I have ever seen and Jess can make me laugh no matter what mood I’m in. Everyone should definitely watch this show,” **Alejandra Bonnet** (9) said.

Seasons 1-3 can be found on Netflix and it is also aired on FOX.

Passion awakes amidst tragedy at French satirical magazine

By Ryan Mangan
Staff Writer

On January 7, at 11:28am the employees at the French satirical magazine, *Charlie Hebdo*, were attacked by three trained gunman. This was reportedly an attempt to massacre the editorial section of the magazine for their recent post on twitter along with the release of their latest magazine cover. *Charlie Hebdo* posted a picture of ISIS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi with the caption, “best wishes and good health.” Just minutes after the tweet had been posted three masked and armed gunmen entered the building. Cartoonist Corinne Rey reported that she had just arrived from dropping her daughter off at the nursery when she ar-

rived at the building to find two of the masked men demanding to be let into the office. They spoke fluent French, but told the office that they were associated with the Islamist terrorist organization Al-Qaeda. After entering the building, they opened fire and killed ten staff members and two policemen who arrived at the scene at the beginning of the attack. Two of the gunmen hijacked a black car and were reportedly headed towards the Republic Square. Later that night, thousands of people went to the vigil in Paris holding “Je Suis Charlie” signs in support of the Twitter trend for the magazine. Following the vigil, President Hollande addressed the nation saying, “Today the whole republic has been attacked. The republic represents freedom

of expression, the republic is culture, is creation, is pluralism, is democracy, and that was what was being threatened by the assassins.” A few days after the attack a march was organized in honor of the victims who were killed. The march in Paris included French ambassador to the United States Jane Hartley, Germany’s Angela Merkel, Britain’s David Cameron, Italy’s Matteo Renzi, Spain’s Mariano Rajoy, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko, European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and Jordan’s King Abdullah II and Queen Rania. There were 40 world leaders present

and 1.6 million people in total. The march was led by President Hollande of France. In fact, it is recorded as one of the largest marches in Paris since the city was liberated from the Nazis in 1945 after World War II. In the wake of the attack many artists have shown their support by drawing pictures and writing articles in support of the magazine and freedom of speech. People have also started to spread awareness of the situation by starting the twitter trend *Je Suis Charlie*. Cherif and Said Kouachi, the brothers identified as the shooters at *Charlie Hebdo*, were later killed by police, and another man, Amedy Coulibaly, linked to the attacks, was also killed after he took hostages at the Paris kosher grocery store.

Mathnasium offers unique tutoring experience



Photo courtesy of Robert Johnson

The Mathnasium building on Loveland Maderia Road enrolls students grades 2-12. There are over 500 centers across America and Canda that utilize the mathnasium method.

By Halle Russo
Editor-in-chief

On Loveland Madeira Road, Mathnasium, a math learning center, recently opened under the ownership of Mr. Robert Johnson. The facility is dedicated to developing a deeper understanding of math and instilling math-related confidence in students from grades two to 12, according to Mathnasium.com. As reported on the facility’s website, over 500 of the centers across the U.S. and Canada utilize a system known as the Mathnasium Method that was originally developed by Larry Martinek, the Mathnasium Chief Instructional Officer. The method is comprised of three major parts including assessments, learning plans tailor-made for each child, and instructors. First, students receive an assessment that serves to identify the areas in which additional help is necessary so instructors recognize where they will need to begin with the student. Throughout the child’s period of instruction at Mathnasium, these assessments are given periodically to confirm that the student’s mathematical progress is advancing and material is being committed to memory, according to the website. Following the assessment, a learning plan is customized according to the identified needs of the student in order teach concepts with which they may be struggling. “Mathnasium also stands out because we generate individualized learning plans that are special and unique to each kid. So if we had 100 kids coming in, each one of them would have a different learning plan that is fit specifically for them,” Mr. Johnson said. Finally, the trained instructors at

Mathnasium put the learning plan into action and practice the material with each student. Instead of using electronic equipment, each student is assisted by one instructor. This pairing is designed to provide individual focus and a more comfortable environment. Each student’s learning is facilitated by hands-on manipulatives that are designed to deliver and enhance the understanding of the content. The goal is to build math confidence to the point where students are eventually able to recognize that they are capable of working and solving problems independently, as explained by Mr. Johnson. According to Mathnasium’s survey of parents whose children have participated in their centers for six months or longer, 82% report that their children have an increasingly positive attitude toward math, 85% report that both their children’s math skills and understanding have advanced, and 88% report that their children’s math grades have noticeably improved. “There isn’t one specific thing that makes Mathnasium a more premiere learning centers than others. First off, we are one of the few math-only center that specializes and focuses just on math, as opposed to other centers that cover several other subjects, which gives us an edge. We also operate as a drop-in center, so kids can come in during any window of opportunity without a rigid scheduling system,” Mr. Johnson said. Mathnasium is currently looking for high school students that have completed either Honors or AP-level Calculus that are able to work during the week after school. For more information on the Mathnasium of Loveland, visit <http://www.mathnasium.com/loveland>.

Malaysia Airways flight MH370 causes much mystery

By Halle Russo
Editor-in-chief

On March 8th, 2014, a frightening mixture of tragedy and mystery occurred in the form of a Boeing 777 airplane, flight number MH370. There were 239 passengers aboard this Malaysia Airways commercial flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing that reportedly flew for hours with its communications systems disabled before seemingly disappearing off the face of the Earth. Australian aircraft investigators have also revealed that the aircraft suffered a mysterious power outage during the early stages of its flight. This occurred at approximately the same time as an attempted log on request to a satellite less than 90 minutes into the flight. In fact, it could have been part of an attempt to avoid radar detection as the aircraft had already veered slightly off course at this point. Statements by Edward Snowden, a former National Security Agency subcontractor, with regards to the extent of global surveillance by the NSA, suggests that in today’s world an aircraft cannot just disappear. In addition to that, there is extremely limited evidence pertaining to the entire situation, which has caused a variety of conspiracy theories to arise. “It is very rare to be able to proffer no convincing answer for an event,” David Aaronovitch, a *Times* columnist, said. In fact, virtually the only evidence officials have found with regards to the whereabouts of the aircraft were “pings” sent to a satellite from the aircraft’s “black box,” which suggest that the missing plane is somewhere west of Australia in the southern Indian Ocean. Thus, many individuals and corporations have taken it upon themselves to create an explanation to solve the mystery of MH370. Such explanations have only been fueled by the subsequent crash of Malaysia Airways flight MH17. This aircraft was shot down over eastern Ukraine a few months

after the disappearance of MH370. Additionally, the fact that relatives of some of the passengers aboard MH370 are offering up to three million dollar rewards for anyone who finds their loved ones has caused said explanations to spread quite rapidly. “The incongruity of those two things has led people to think something was going on,” Jovan Byfod, author of *Conspiracy Theories: A Critical Introduction*, said. One of the conspiracy theories surrounding MH370 involves China and Edward Snowden. According to *The Week*, some believe that since the place was carrying about 20 employees of *Freescall Semiconductor*, a company that worked with the NSA to develop surveillance technology to conduct spy operations, the Chinese intelligence community could have some interest, and therefore conspired to cause the aircraft to disappear. *The Week* describes another theory, which states that the plane was hijacked by Afghans and flown to a remote village in Afghanistan where they are currently being held captive. Yet another theory claims that the wreck in the Ukraine was actually MH370, as photos show that the configuration of the windows and the placement of the Malaysian flag on the aircraft was more similar to that of the MH370 and not the MH17. Since October, ships have reportedly searched over 12,000 square kilometers of the sea floor in the southern Indian Ocean where the missing aircraft is supposedly located. Due to the rough terrain of the sea floor in this area, search efforts have produced limited benefits. However, according to the Australian Government, a new ship, the “*Fugro Supporter*” is equipped with more advanced technology than previous search vessels and joined the search on January 15th. According to *The New York Times*, the search is expected to end around mid-May if no further evidence is found. Until then, the entire world is left to merely theorize about the whereabouts of the missing aircraft.



Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia

Flight MH370 was scheduled to fly from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

O'Reviews: American Sniper



By Kevin Ohara
Entertainment Editor

What is it that defines a hero? Is it the way that they act in times of danger? Is it the way that they change in order to overcome challenges and fight for what they believe in? Or is it how brightly their armor glints in the moonlight as they ride on to save the damsel in distress? Maybe all of the above? Either way, there is no denying that the story of Chris Kyle is the story of an American hero who was willing to lay down his life to serve and protect his home and family. It is for that reason that Clint Eastwood decided to direct the harrowing film *American Sniper*.

Adapted from the novel entitled *American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History* by Scott McEwen, Jim DeFelice, and Chris Kyle, Clint Eastwood’s silver-screen masterpiece is one you will never forget. Centered on the life and times of Christopher Scott Kyle, audiences watch intently as Kyle transforms from an all-American Texan into a gun-toting Navy Seal that is deployed to Iraq after the events of September 11, 2001. What follows is a brutal, heart wrenching, and insightful story of how war affects all who are involved. In fact, scenes like the one of an Iranian boy and his mother attempting to kill a squadron of U.S. soldiers or another

in which a young, inexperienced boy debates whether or not to pick up a gun will stay with you long after the movie ends. With haunting performances by Sienna Miller as Kyle’s wife, Taya, Bradley Cooper in the leading role, and the ever-famous Eastwood behind the camera, it is no surprise that *American Sniper* has become something that everyone is talking about.

In an interview with *Military Times*, Taya Kyle was quoted as saying, “Cooper kept his promise to get it [the movie] right... So many of Chris’s friends who have seen the movie have said they didn’t feel like they were even watching an actor.” If that doesn’t prove to you how well this movie was put together and how true it stayed to Chris Kyle’s life, I don’t know what will.

“What we wanted to do, as filmmakers, is make a movie that people can relate to if they’re soldiers, and if they aren’t, see it [in] a way that they never did before,” Cooper said in an interview with the *Navy Times*.

Created with an immense amount of dedication to the original story and stocked with various lessons to be learned, *American Sniper* is the kind of movie that only comes around every once in a while, promising exquisite performances and stories to last a lifetime. Honored with two Academy Award nominations including Best Picture and Best Actor for Bradley Cooper, it would be a mistake to not experience all that this movie has to offer. After all, it is important to never forget those who fought for our freedom and allow their own stories to live on through us, and believe me when I say that Chris Kyle’s story is most definitely one that deserves to be told.

Venue this year is
Epiphany
United Methodist Church
in Loveland

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7:30 PM

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\$1,000

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Painting by Bethany Casey Poster Design by David Miller/Loveland Magazine

Plaid Room Records opens soon in Loveland

Photo courtesy of Ryan Mangan

The record store prepares for their opening day.

By Ryan Mangan
Staff Writer

On Saturday, February 14th “Plaid Room Records” is opening at 120 Karl Brown Way behind Montgomery Cyclery in downtown Loveland. Plaid Room Records is a record store, a recording studio, and a live venue. This name originated when Terry Cole, the owner, realized how much plaid he and his friends wore.

Cole is a science teacher at Middletown High School who grew up listening to vinyl and paid his way through college at Miami University. He accomplished this by selling 72 rpm vinyl and recording bands at his label “Colemine Record”.

After becoming frustrated with his teaching job at Middletown High School, Terry decided to open a record store. “Opening a record store would allow me to have a shop and label full time, and hopefully be profitable enough for one income after this year,” Terry Cole said.

The idea first surfaced when, Terry and his brother had to find a place to open shop.

“I come down here to canoe and ride on the bike trail in the summer time, so I’ve seen the amount of traffic that comes through here in the summer. I’ve kind of seen this downtown is growing in size and popularity, so I figured Loveland has a growing community and good music program, so we opened here.” Cole said.

The shop will be based around almost all vinyl and a few cds, “We will have half new vinyl and half used, and we can special order anything for vinyl or cd if somebody really wants something too,” Cole said. Cole later explained that he prefers listening to records, because it really forces you to sit down and listen to an album in full, while he loves the convenience of his computer or iPod, he prefers the idea of a tangible product. Plaid Room Records, can be reached at their website, plaidroomrecords.com.

Willie talks T-Swift: “The Apology”

By Willie Lutz
Editor in chief

It’s very hard to admit when you’re wrong. It’s not fun. With that being said, Taylor Swift, I was wrong in every sense of the word about your masterpiece of an album, 1989, and the work that went into it. Hopefully you didn’t read my last review while being welcomed to New York. In early December, I took your album, your song writing, and your professionalism into little consideration as I inked slander into thou-

sands of copies of *the Roar*. Right now, I wish that place in the paper would’ve just been a blank space. About two weeks after writing that article, I was driving though Loveland in my truck, listening to my phone on shuffle as I always do. That’s just my personal style. Then, out of all 1,934 songs on my phone, one song came on and changed everything. All the sudden, I was moving my head and tapping along to “Bad Blood.” I had about 25 minutes left in my drive, so I went ahead and put your album on

shuffle. At the end of my drive, I knew I had made a huge mistake. Taylor, I was wrong about you. I didn’t get it, because I think deep down, I didn’t want to like it. I skimmed through the album without letting the words and music fully develop in my mind. The album was brilliant and one of a kind. To change genres and release something that amazing right away; I mean who could’ve known. You are arguably the one of the most artistic pop musicians in the game right now and I didn’t realize that until my second time

through the album. I understand what you mean now. I’m sorry. I know this apology won’t get me out of the woods, but hopefully it will help me down the road. All you had to do is stay country, which would’ve been the easiest route. Instead, you decided to “shake it off” and try pop. I wish you would just forgive me, but I know there will always be bad blood after such ignorant comments. I mean, who in their wildest dreams would’ve thought you would explain how you get the girl and help us understand

this love. I know places all around the country where your music is being appreciated. For some, it’s even helped clean their soul. For some, it’s created a wonderland of new entertainment. When you know you are in love with an album, you need to let people know. This album is fantastic. Its genius song writing is helping to create an era of new romantics. Taylor Swift, I’m sorry. I got you all wrong.

Meet the Vamps showcase high-energy, new talent

By Catie Shipp
Staff Writer



The debut album from the British boy band the Vamps, entitled *Meet the Vamps*, showcases the group’s high-energy mix of melodic pop and dance music. Although their lyrics do seem to be heavily influenced by the standards of the current boy-bands, such as One Direction, this group takes on a more mature musical sound, and the album overall proves to be a great way for the band to showcase its talent. The band’s first single released from their debut album, “Can We Dance”, earned the number two spot on the UK Singles Chart and held on to the cheesy, boy-band lyrics commonly found in the music of all popular bands today. However, the Vamps were able to stand out with their first single since they are not simply a vocalist group, but an actual band with a vocalist, guitarist, bassist, and

drummer. Therefore, the Vamps should be given credit for their use of actual music as opposed to the manufactured pop that is so common today. The Vamps again made a name for themselves with the release of the lyrically heartfelt single, “Somebody to You” featuring Demi Lovato. This single quickly reached the top four spot on the UK Singles Chart with a new sound that proved to their listeners that they were not a group to be ignored. With the release of their full album in April of 2014, The Vamps struck a balance between the acoustic-driven sound of Ed Sheeran, with tracks such as “Risk It All”, and the more pop/rock sounds of 5 Seconds of Summer, with tracks such as “Last Night”. The Vamps also include tracks with a nonchalant, sing-along chorus such as “Move My Way” or “Hurricane”. With this blend of music styles, The Vamps create an original sound and one that will be adored by girls everywhere with its typical boy-band lyrics expected with nearly all artists who enter the pop music scene.



Photo courtesy of Moxey.

Students reveal celebrity crushes

By Megan Phelan
Editor in chief

Whether it’s a distant interest or an extreme obsession, everyone admires a celebrity at some point in their life. Crushes keep the celebrities famous by keeping them in the media and relevant. They wouldn’t be successful without the love given to them by their fans. Here are some teachers and students Celebrity crushes. “Mine is Taylor Swift because she’s a good singer.” **Gunner Michaelfelder (9)** said. “Morgan Freeman. He has an awesome voice.” **Zach Richards (9)** said. “My celebrity crush is Rachel Carson-look her up,” **Ms. Tracy Burge** said. “Leonardo DeCaprio is mine because I feel bad because he hasn’t won an Oscar.” **Ian Rice (12)** said.

“I’d say Pope Francis. Have you seen him in that hat?” **DJ Worley (12)** said. “Mark Wahlberg because he is ripped,” **Trace Dunning (11)** said. ”Zoey Deschanel is my celebrity crush. She is quirky as heck,” **Mr. James Barrett** said. “Mine is Dave Franco because he is a good actor and is good looking,” **Katy Heath (11)** said. “Miley Cyrus-she has luscious hair,” **Sam Kepler (12)** said. “My celebrity crush is Scarlett Johansson. She has pretty eyes and a big heart,” **Joe Distler (11)** said.

O’Riddles By Kevin O’Hara

I come from my creator, their mind a climactic plot
Check me out or sell me, I also can be bought.
My mouth tends to open, my teeth a fluttering white,
Place my tongue between them and shut me up tight.
I can ramble on and be boring or tell a fantastic tale,
I am also a best seller or an epic fail.
My thoughts are obvious, I am easy to read,
Unless I am from long ago, then I can be hard to understand,
indeed.
Ranging from stories of animal’s Barnes and Noble knights,
I can also tell of boys running after kites.
Yet when I am done, please put me to bed,
For what more could I say that hasn’t been said?
So I take my place on the shelf, hopefully something learned,
Waiting on the day you desire for a new page to be turned.

What am I? Answer: A Book

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ACT/SAT tips, tricks to help boost scores

By Jared Frees

Staff Writer

Preparation for the test should begin weeks before the test date. Everyone knows that preparation is the key to a good score on the SAT or ACT. Doing so well in advance of the actual test date is a good idea. However, choosing the best method of preparation is a matter of personal choice and available funds.

SAT and ACT test prep courses can range in cost from free to upwards up \$7000. The cheapest method of studying is to utilize free, online practice tests and test questions on actstudent.org or sat.collegeboard.org, the official sites of the ACT and SAT. There is a free 64-page preparation booklet with test information, complete practice tests with scoring keys, and a writing prompt at actstudent.org/testprep. The College Board

also offers free SAT practice tests and sample practice questions at sat.collegeboard.org/practice.

A more expensive option would be to purchase a simple online course or an ACT and SAT prep book. There is an online course for about \$70 at sat.collegeboard.org for the SAT. There is also an online course for the ACT at actstudent.org for \$24.95. On the same website, ACT, Inc sells their official prep book, The Real ACT Prep Guide, for \$30.95.

Another popular book, the Kaplan ACT prep book, comes with taking the College Study Skills course here at the high school, but it can be purchased for \$15 from online bookstores for people that don't take that class. More expensive online courses can go into the thousands of dollars. Kaplan of-

fers classroom instruction ranging from \$700 to \$1200. The sign up for these classes is at kaptest.com.

The Princeton Review offers more extensive and expensive classroom courses. The most expensive course it offers is twenty-four hours of private, in-person, 1-on-1 tutoring costing \$7200 for



the SAT prep and \$6600 for the ACT. Their courses can be found at princetonreview.com.

The cost of these courses can clearly be a heavy burden on par-

ents; however, these courses could pay off because of guarantees companies make. On their website, the Princeton Review says that "if, after taking our program, your score doesn't improve, you may receive a tuition refund." Kaplan has a simpler guarantee. Their website, kaptest.com, says, "Higher score guaranteed or your money back."

Clearly, there are a lot of choices to prepare for the ACT and SAT. But, different students have different needs and ways that they learn, so every student needs to find the kind of instruction that would assist them the best.

After thoroughly preparing, the test day will eventually come. Make sure to bring at least two number 2 pencils, a calculator

(graphing calculator preferred), a water bottle, a snack to eat at break, ID, and the test day ticket. Make sure to know how to get to the test center before leaving the morning of the test and aim to get there at 7:40. Upon arriving, look for signs that tell what room to go to for testing depending on last name, and wait for directions from the proctors.

To sign up for the ACT, visit www.actstudent.org. The next available test date is April 18, 2015 and the registration deadline is March 13, 2015. The last test date of the school year is June 13, 2015 and the registration deadline is May 8, 2015. The ACT with no optional writing test costs \$38 and with the writing it is \$54.50. The late registration fee is an additional \$24. The SAT costs \$52.50 to sign up and SAT Subject Tests cost \$26. The late registration fee is an additional \$28.

Kids say the darndest things: Especially kindergarteners

By Rachel Froberg

Photo Editor

Of the six school buildings in the Loveland school district, the Loveland Early Childhood Center (LECC) is home to the smallest tigers including preschool, kindergarten and first grade. Though they may be small, they have a lot to say.

If you could have any super-power what would it be?
"Firepower because you can melt ice" – Sophie
"To lift things up" – Will
"Strongness because I want to be strong" – Logan
"Ice power because I like ice" – Teague
"Fireballs because I like them" – Alex
"Ice power so I could freeze water" – Evelina

What is the biggest thing in the world?
"Water towers" – Will
"Lakes" – Aubrey
"The state" – Alejandro
"A house or a giant, but giants are not real" – Alex
"Eiffel Tower" – Teague
"The school" – Evelina

If you could be any animal what would you be?
"A horse because horses are my favorite animal" – Sophie
"An elephant because their trunks can reach everything" – Will
"A tiger because it starts with a T" – Teague
"Snake because I want to scare my mom" – Logan
"A seahorse because I like them" – Alejandro

What do you think teachers do

on the weekend?
"Go to Costco" – Will
"Have dates" – Sophie
"Go shopping" – Teague
"Play with their kids" – Evelina
"Stay home and do laundry" – Logan

What do you want to be when you grow up?
"A teacher because I like teachers" – Sophie
"Police man because I want to stop people" – Will
"A hair stylist because I like to cut hair" – Evelina
"A really good basketball player" – Alex
"Engineer because that is what my Pop is and I want to be just like him" – Cooper

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A New Year with New Resolutions

By Riley Boucher

Staff Writer

Riley BoucherMany people have New Year resolutions. Some stereotypical resolutions are to lose weight, to exercise more, to eat healthier, and things similar to health and activity. These resolutions can be about anything though. Some students were willing to share their resolutions.

“To be like Sam Walther,” **Kyle Butts** (11) said.
“Live in the moment instead of

wishing things to be over with,” **Kaylee Michael** (9) said.
“To stop using boring and bland words and increase my vocabulary,” **Chloe ten Brink** (11) said.
“To be just like my brother, Eric Popp,” **Drew Steinrunner** (11) said.
“To be more outgoing,” **Paige Miller** (9) said.
“Learn more about Fluorine, Uranium, Carbon, and Potassium,” **Dominic Distasio** (11) said.
“Successfully eat one of **Mr. James Dorsey’s** donuts,” **Todd**

Payne (11) said.
“Stop making ugly faces at people while I drive,” **Michael Clepper** (11) said.
“Increase my collection of aquatic hats,” **Austin Bota** (11) said.
“Get in the newspaper,” **Jake Ferrell** (11) said.
“To stay caught up in all my classes and get all my homework done right as I get it so I can be with my boyfriend before he goes to college,” **Zoie Smith** (11) said.
“To get my own cat,” **Trent**

Spikes (11) said.
“Stop drinking soda,” **Gabe Harden** (9) said.
“To lose weight,” **Hayden Bily** (11) said.
“To be more courageous and adventurous, take more chances, but stay true to my standard,” **Katie Fackler** (10) said.
“Gain 200 pounds,” **Michael Peters** (11) said.
“Hang out with Trent more,” **Jason Ratterman** (11) said.
“To get straight A’s in my classes and to become a better

performer and person,” **Lucy Rawson** (10) said.
“To be more like Sam Walther and get to know his siblings,” **Cooper Scanlon** (11) said.
“To be more like Sam Walther and to get to know his step-sisters,” **Blake Schlesner** (11) said.
New Year resolutions can be about anything. They can be about helping yourself, helping others, or just doing something to do it. No matter what it is about, New Year resolutions are everywhere.

Students, staff explain meaning behind tattoos

By Colton Lakes

Staff Writer

Johnny Depp once said “My body is my journal and my tattoos are my story.” Tattooing has been around since the 4th century, is considered to be an art form by some, but an eyesore by others.
“Getting inked” as some call it, has increased in popularity over the past 10 to 15 years. In fact, a survey conducted by Random History Facts showed that 36% of people between the ages of 18 and 25 and 40% of people between the age of 25 and 40 have at least one tattoo.
The top 10 most popular spots for tattoos are the lower back, wrist, foot, ankle, armband, back-piece, arm, chest, breast, and neck. **Kelsey Sublett** (12)

has one on her back.
“I got my tattoo of a Cardinal for my grandma. Every time I would drive down her driveway there would be tons of Cardinals” said Sublett.
Kelsey said, “It represents her and all of my sisters and some other family members have a Cardinal tattoo as well. In a way, it connects us all together.”
Mr. Laughman (Physical Education) is another person at the school with tattoos. Mr. Laughman has five tattoos on his body.
“I love them” said Laughman.
Laughman said, “I believe if someone wants one, they should make sure it means something to them.”
For example, Mr. Laughman has a tattoo of a sailor on his ankle that represents his grand-



The cardinal tattoo on the back right of Kelsey Sublett's back. It is a red cardinal on a branch.

Photo Courtesy of Kelsey Sublett

father who was in the Navy.
Devin Lally (12) also has a tattoo. Devin has a tattoo of roses and a lighthouse.
Devin said, “I got my tattoo because I love tattoos, whether they mean something or not. My sister has a lot of tattoos so it has always been a goal of mine to get one once I turned 18. It’s a lighthouse with waves and roses because it is representative of when my family used to go to Maine every year. The roses below match my sisters shoulder rose piece. I made sure to go to the same artist so that the roses would be identical.”
There are numerous students who have acquired tattoos in High School. Many people’s tattoos represent and tell a story about them.



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Early exams scheduled to improve emphasis

By Drew Paschal

Business and Ad Manager

Final exams not only demonstrate what a student has learned, but it also gives teachers the chance to assess how much their students have learned. This school year is the first time that final exams have moved from before Winter Break to after. The final decision to make the switch was made by Mr. Chris Kloesz (Principal). The reasons behind the change were to make the school schedule better for everyone, as well as giving out quality exams. Teachers have had problems with grading exams in the past because exams would usually be taken right before a three day weekend. So, the

teachers would not have that much time to complete their critiquing. With exams scheduled before Winter Break, teachers have a longer time to grade exams. Thus, the more time spent on grading, the more effective exams will be. Mr. Kloesz said, "It is never favorable for a student to go two weeks without learning and then take an exam because all previous learned knowledge could be difficult retain. Moreover, the schedule change is more beneficial to the students because all the learned material is still fresh in their minds." Mrs. Julie Powers (Math) said, "I prefer earlier exams because the grades were much better. It helps the school create a more

fundamentally sound schedule, and that is the main point of attending school in the first place." Coach Alex Wanstrath (College Study Skills) said, "I am not sure if it is good or bad; it is just different. I think as we get into next year, we, as teachers, will have a better idea of how to work it in to the schedule better." Mrs. Beth Wexler (Creative Living) said, "I definitely prefer earlier exams. Although, I would like it even more if the semester would end in December." Mr. Kevin Bowdler (Math) said, "I think it was a great idea and I hope one day we can have the semesters end right before Winter Break."

Austin Nuncio (10) said, "I appreciated the change because it gives us the opportunity to boost our grades up after Winter Break if we did not do well on the exams." Grace Fjelstul (10) said, "I think it was a good idea to have exams before Winter Break because we did not have to stress about them during our time off." Tarah Wagner (10) said, "I liked having exams before break because it took off a lot of stress. I enjoyed my Christmas break a lot more since I did not have to worry about studying." Tylor Griffin (12) said, "It was a great idea to have exams before Winter Break because if the exams were after, I

would have forgotten everything." Most all students and staff members agreed to the change that taking exams before Winter Break was more beneficial than taking them after. According to Mr. Kloesz, this could be step in moving the end of the first semester to before Winter Break. "It makes common sense to move the end of the semester to before Winter Break, but the district calendar does not align with our current exam schedule. This movement will serve as a benchmark for future modifications," said Mr. Kloesz.

Day in the life of Mr. Lopez

By Megan Phelan

Staff Writer

Mr. Bernardo Lopez seems to be a huge inspiration within the music department. He can play many instruments including the clarinet, upright bass, electric bass, the keyboard and drums. Mr. Lopez has an interactive teaching style that works well with his students. He says that sharing his knowledge with his students and having that returned is something he loves. Q: Which is your favorite instrument to play? A: It depends on what I'm trying to say. Sometimes I want to express myself through guitar, sometimes through the saxophone, etcetera. Q: Outside of school, what else do you partake in musically? What have you done in the past? A: I play out, meaning I have different gigs. I have a regular gospel gig. I play all genres. I have an occasional jazz gig or reggae. I'm called for many different instruments. Before I was a teacher, I was a part of a hip hop and R&B band for three years. Q: If you were stranded on an island and could bring 5 albums, which would you bring? A: Live at Carnegie Hall by Bill Withers, Soul Station by Hank Mobley, Where the Light Is: John Mayer Live in Los Angeles by John Mayer, The Beatles (White Album) by The Beatles and Coleccion Romantica by Juan Luis. Q: Where did you grow up? A: In a lot of places. I was born in Mexico and I lived there for five years. Then, I moved to LA and

lived there for three years. After that, I moved to Columbus and lived there most of my life before moving to Cincinnati for school at CCM. Q: What are your favorite books? A: The Music Lesson by Victor L. Wooten and Nurtured by Love by Shin'ichi Suzuki. Q: Who is your hero? A: My mom and dad. Q: What is the best thing you have ever done? A: This interview. Q: What is an interesting thing most people don't know about you? A: I love to dance. Not professionally, but I used to pop and lock on the streets of LA. Q: What is your favorite childhood memory? A: My family used to get together once a week and do a mini show and tell but it would all have to do with art or music. Q: If you were an animal, what would you be? A: A blend between a rhino and a hippopotamus. Q: What was your very first job? A: I used to go door-to-door selling my dad's artwork. Q: If you had a piece of advice to give to students, what would it be? A: This is hard because I think that everybody needs to hear something different, but I would probably say what I needed to hear: you will discover who you are throughout time. You will not always know who you want to be, but you need to be true to that process.

Early graduation jumpstarts students into the 'real world'

By Terra Brulport

Staff Writer

Each year, many seniors opt to graduate early. Some choose option this to continue on to college for the spring semester while others decide to work. They may have similar reasons for making this decision, but they all have different hopes and goals for their futures. Continuously, all seniors that are graduating are still allowed to participate in senior activities such as prom, senior superlatives, and walking at graduation. The Loveland School District Board of Education says on their website that, "The Board of Education acknowledges that some students seek to pursue educational goals that include graduation from high school at an earlier date than their designated class." The docu-

ment later goes on to say, "Application for early high school graduation must be submitted to the high school principal. The principal may honor this request if all conditions for high school graduation are met and the student fulfills the high school graduation requirements" Kira Gibson (12) said, "I chose to do early graduation because I have two jobs and I enjoy working. I'm also going to be starting classes in the spring to get a head start". Something that Kira said that she won't miss "is waking up early". However, Kira will miss "being able to help out at the other schools through the ambassador's program." One student had a solid plan for her early. Haleigh Goedde (12) said she graduated early "so that I could get a full-time nanny job and save money for college next fall."



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DK Dews (12) and **Sophie Greenberg (12)** both pose in an egg shaped chair at the Contemporary Art Museum in downtown Cincinnati. Dews and Greenberg went on seperate occasions.

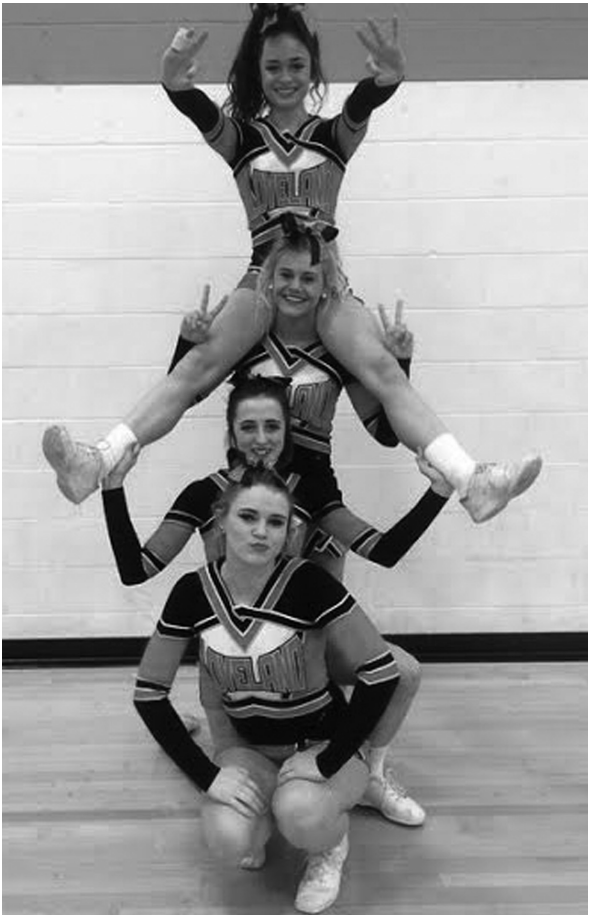


Colin Flanagan (9) and girlfriend **Lauren Parker (9)** take a picture with their superhero gear on at a friend's quincenera.

Best friends **Rachel Blumberg (10)** and **Maggie Dowd (10)** hug before going to a basketball game. "From fifth grade to tenth grade we have always been supporting the Tigers together. Through thick and thin, nothing can bring Maggie and I apart," said Blumberg.



Emma Cavano (11) and **Heidi Zimmer (12)** take a selfie on the slopes while at Perfect North Ski Resort in Indiana. "I always have a great time being outside skiing. Perfect North is a great place for both skiers and snowboarders of any level," said Zimmer.



Senior cheerleaders **Kat Kemner**, **Savannah Bailey**, **Tara Norton** and **Kelsey Sublett** pose for a picture before the varsity basketball game in the gym. "We love to have fun and goof around together," said Bailey.



Katie Locasto (11), **Emily Michaelfelder (11)**, **Ashley Day (11)** and **Katie Russ (11)** snuggle with their towels and blankets inbetween events at a swim meet. "We are all very close" said Michaelfelder. "Waking up early doesn't stop us," said Locasto.

Michael Viox (12), **Tim Kim (11)**, **Maddie Porczak (11)**, **Nathan Prost (12)** and **Melanie Reindall (12)** dance and sing during one of their show choir competitions. Last week, Loveland came in first place at the Marysville competition.

