

The Loveland Roar

Reading in Age of Internet

By Adelia Smith
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LOOK INSIDE

Holiday Fun



Pages 2-4, 8-11
Embrace the winter season with various holiday debate articles and opinion pieces.

Sports



Page 5
Discover recaps and overviews of popular and upcoming sports events and teams over the latest months.

Centerfold



Pages 6-7
Recap the events taking place in and around Loveland over the last months of Fall and beginning of Winter.

Fun and Games



Page 12
Spend some time reading satire articles and solving a special new crossword puzzle.

Walking into any bookstore, you are almost guaranteed to be greeted with a display labeled “Booktok.” The display sits front and center - an array of covers with pastel, vaguely detailed men and women standing side by side to indicate romance, or dramatic font against a flower and sword to indicate fantasy. Names like Colleen Hoover, Ali Hazelwood, or Emily Henry appear often, with the occasional appearance of Donna Tart or Sally Rooney. These displays remain nearly identical to each other throughout all bookstores. We live in an age ruled by the internet, and like almost every other aspect of our lives, reading has been adapted to a social media-centered world. How has this change affected the internet’s, and therefore society’s, relationship with reading as a whole, for better or for worse?

For the past decade, reading has been on a downward trend, with only 653 million printed books sold in 2015. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, society turned to reading as a source of entertainment and escapism. 2020 presented a jump in book sales to 757 million. With this rise in reading also came an increase in

the online community of readers. Amidst the modern popularity of Tiktok and Instagram, many new-found bookworms flocked to social media platforms to find book recommendations, share their opinions on what they read, and overall, find a community for their interest.

While the roots of online communities for reading are positive, many downsides have risen from this new culture around literacy, namely, performative reading. A mass movement of buying and reading books without any true attention, depth, or understanding of the work itself has emerged. These readers cycle through whatever books are popular on a platform, or, alternatively, especially niche books, not for true enjoyment or learning but merely to say that they have read it. As a result of this audience, many books are being released without any attempt at depth and instead check boxes for popular tropes, repeating a formula rather than engaging in the art of creating a story.

By taking critical thought, connection, and personal identity out of reading, literacy as a whole is threatened. This act of performative overconsumption defeats the

purpose of reading entirely. Bookshelves may be color-coded and overflowing, but curators themselves are empty of the mental and emotional nourishment reading provides. At its core, reading is meant to provide insight into the human condition, yet it has been reduced to an accessory by many prominent online spaces.

While social media poses dangers to society’s relationship with reading, it also brings some unique benefits. Reading is also at its core about community and human connection, and online platforms give direct access to community which is often otherwise unobtainable. Many conversations about books are diverse and thoughtful. These online platforms promoting books additionally draw more people into reading itself, which, in an age when online media is prioritized, is amazing.

The internet has transformed reading in both positive and negative ways. The next time you’re on Tiktok, search “Booktok” and form your own view of the community. For now, no one can say exactly how social media will affect reading in society in the long term, but we should do our best to read mindfully and plentifully.

Christmas In Loveland 2024

By Summer Gray
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Loveland, Ohio has always been known for the community and culture present throughout the holiday season. This year, Loveland continued its annual Christmas traditions while housing some of the most festive activities found throughout the county!

Starting off in Downtown Loveland, The Little Miami Chamber Alliance announced that they would be transforming the area into a winter wonderland to celebrate Christmas on December 14th, from 4pm to 8pm. Not only was a large variety of beverages and tastings provided, but numerous forms of entertainment such as carriage rides and crafts set the mood for a fun and festive Christmas season!

Also on December 7th, the City of Loveland and the Loveland-Symmes Firefighters Association hosted the annual Tree Lighting festival. From 4pm to 8pm downtown was filled with live entertainment, a holiday market, kids activities, photo ops, Christmas tree and gingerbread house contests, a drone lights show, and of course the tree lighting ceremony with Santa!

In previous years, the trees lining walkways were strung with lights, a large, eye-

catching Christmas tree was placed near the railroad station, and numerous local businesses implemented their own festivities through sales and business-owned decorations.

This year, look forward to seeing how Downtown Loveland is decorated for the season! Even though the weather has been increasingly dropping in temperature, just having a few decorations can bring about a sort of excitement that gives our community enough warmth to stay positive!

Alongside the main Christmas event in Downtown Loveland, numerous events have been spread throughout the town to fully prepare the community for the holiday season! There are plenty of unique activities to participate in On December 6th through the 8th, the 23rd Annual Living Nativity walk took place at 10975 S. Lebanon Road. On the 6th and 7th the event started at 6pm, but on the 8th it began at 4pm. This event was free for all!

On December 7th, a crafty ornament painting took place from 11am to 5pm at the Whistle Stop Clay Works: 119 Harrison Avenue. For \$28, attendees got to pick three ornaments from a variety of 6 shapes.

Also on the 7th, Santa Land was open from 12pm to 4pm at 368 Loveland-Madei-

ra Rd. in the Loveland Plaza. More similar to an actual festival than any of these other events, there was a visitation with the Clauses, a Christmas train ride, caricature artists, face painting, and an alpine slide!

Even after countless activities, Loveland will still be bustling for the rest of the season with countless shops and restaurants to check out for a winter wonderland experience.



Photo Courtesy of Veronica Dallas

Join Journalism 2025!

By Claire Mirkowski-Purdy
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As we approach the second semester, we have to start thinking about what classes and electives we should take next year. Allow me to recommend Journalism! It’s an impressive extracurricular with fun aspects!

Journalism is perfect for everyone to focus on their writing skills. It allows you to express yourself in a way that a traditional English class doesn’t offer. Students can choose from various genres of articles like News, Opinion, Sports, and many more to write. The year-long course is not rigorous; students have to write just two articles per month.

The environment in Journalism is unlike any other class I’ve taken at Loveland

High School. Everyone’s opinion is always treated with respect. Journalism is my daily boost of dopamine.

(Un)arguably one of the best aspects of Journalism is COOKIE FRIDAY!!! Each Friday, someone is picked to bring cookies for the class. It is a way to celebrate a great week’s work and brighten everyone’s day. When we publish an issue, everyone brings in foods like bagels and donuts or we order pizza to celebrate!

As an important note, Journalism wouldn’t be what it is without **Mr. Hutzel!** No teacher in this building is so generous to all of his students. If you’ve had him in a different class, you must take Journalism to see another great side of him. He always gives great advice and encourages his students to achieve their goals and aspirations.

Overall, Journalism is a great class to choose from all of the elective choices for next year. If you enjoy writing, eating cookies and bagels, and learning about your community, then Journalism is for you!



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

Timberwind Tree Farm

By Ali Jones
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Are you or someone you know in need of a Christmas tree this holiday season? While there are various options, the Timberwind Tree Farm is a choice. The Timberwind Tree Farm is a Christmas tree farm in Lebanon, located at 1566 W. Pekin Rd, Lebanon, OHIO. The date and times the farm is open are Friday 11/29, Saturday 11/30, Sunday 12/1, and Saturday 12/7, all from 9 am-5 pm, as well as Sunday 12/8 from 11 am-5 pm. It may not be in the Loveland area, but it is a great place for a family trip to buy a Christmas tree.



Photos Courtesy of Pxhere.com

The Timberwind Tree Farm has been running their business for many years. Timberwind has always been warm and welcoming to families looking for holiday Christmas trees. They are a family business that contributes to spreading the Christmas cheer.

At the farm, you have the opportunity to buy pre-cut trees or cut your own tree down. Pre-cut trees cost \$75 and up, for Fraser Fir Christmas trees. To cut your own tree, that would be \$50, and trees vary from 5 to 8 feet tall. There is a large selection of pre-cut Fraser fir trees from 6 to 12 feet tall and multiple varieties, including Concolor, Scotch/Shite pine, Norway spruce, and Canaan fir, which are 6-8' and also available for you to cut down on your own.

Along with that, you get your tree shaken and bagged after it is cut down for free. There are no reservations needed, but it is better to come early for the best selection. Other than selecting the tree of your choice, there are other activities as well.

These include a tractor ride on a hay wagon, on which you get to ride around the farm. There is hot chocolate with toppings included. After you buy your tree, it is tradition to stand on the wagon with your tree and hold up the Timberwind sign with the year it is on it with your family.

The Timberwood Tree Farm donates all profits from Christmas tree sales to charity. Just last year in 2023, more than \$12,000 was donated to charities, including the following: \$3,000 to "Good Shepherd Ministries Dayton, \$2,000 to Back2Back Ministries, \$2,000 to A Child's Hope Intl, \$1,500 to St. Zachary's Haven, \$1,500 to Hope House



Photos Courtesy of WallpaperCave.com

Mission, \$1,000 to Esperanza for Honduras, and \$1,000 to St Francis Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner." Overall, the Timberwind Tree Farm is surrounded by kindness and care for the holiday season, so if you need a tree and a good time, visit the Timberwind Tree Farm.

Senior Deadlines 2024-2025

By Summer Gray
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While the winter season progresses, Loveland High School's seniors are preparing for the future and the next steps in their careers. It can be challenging for teenagers to organize their lives, but luckily, with the right information this process can be simple! Here are some of the most important deadlines coming up in the school year of 2024-2025.



Photo Courtesy of Pexels.com

This past Dec. 1st yearbook quotes and senior pictures were due. The Yearbook Club is no longer accepting form submissions. Yearbooks can be purchased on the <https://www.jostens.com/> website.

As a reminder, all senior pictures should be in color, vertical, solo, high-quality, and at least 4x5 in size as a JPEG image. Also, senior quotes need to be

comprehensible, less than 150 characters, and give attribution to the original person or character who created the quote. Both need to be school appropriate.

On Dec. 2nd, prices for caps and gowns began to be increased! You can purchase caps and gowns for seniors (around \$49.99 before Dec. 2nd) at <https://highschool.herffjones.com/secom/school/OH/Loveland%2BHigh%2BSchool/34003720000/0210/packages?gradYear=2025>, or you can fill out an order form (provided in the main office). This is a required payment for seniors, so make sure you get it before the price increases even higher!

Throughout the spring, seniors will finally begin to prepare for graduation! On May 6th, caps and gowns will be distributed in the cafeteria. Lastly, graduation will be on May 18th at 8pm in the Cintas Center. Seniors will be provided with more information as Loveland nears closer to the end of the school year.

Congratulations seniors and keep up the good work! We are almost there!



Photo Courtesy of Shutterstock.com

Social Media and Impact

By Aren Dullaert
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Today, social media is as common as raindrops in a storm. Most people have an account on at least one platform, others have multiple accounts on multiple platforms. This prevalence, however, is what makes social media so dangerous. Sure, we know about the mental health side effects of social media. The constant comparison and often negative posts can lead to severe mental health problems. There is plenty of science to back this up as well. But now, a bigger problem is beginning to surface. Its roots are in the same soil as the mental health issues, but it's sprouting a totally different tree.

The algorithms that social media uses are designed to keep you engaged for as long as possible. This means constant positive feedback cycles. Think about it, when was the last time you went on social media and saw something you genuinely disliked? It's rarer than rare. This creates an echo chamber that makes people always feel like their opinions are right, and the opinions of those around them are entirely false. To put this more simply, social media is an echo chamber. You only see what you want to see. But what is this really doing to us? Well, it goes pretty deep.

Social media is the most divisive tool we have. Politicians, companies, influencers, etc. are constantly weaponizing it for their gain. And the scariest part is that most people don't realize this. Take sports for example. If your feed is entirely filled with a narrative pushing how good a football player is, you will probably believe it after some time. And you start defending this player despite his performance. Sure it's not a perfect example, as football has statistics that can classify a player as objectively good or bad. But this is also an inconsequential example of the topic. Today it is incredibly hard to change someone's mind, in large part thanks to social media. Platforms like Instagram or TikTok will flood your mind with everything you need to know about one side of an argument, simply because that's what you engage with. Now, you think you know everything about a topic when you only know 100% of half the story. This exists everywhere. It creates a cultural divide.

Another important aspect of social media is the anonymity of everybody. An account could look like a valid, government-sponsored page. When in reality, it's a third-party page that is trying to trick you into believing parts of an agenda. Add in



Photo Courtesy of Freepik.com

the civil discourse of it all, and you get people lying, saying things they'd never say out loud, and people being downright cruel. The more you punch someone, the less they'll like you, thus creating a deeper divide.

Yes, social media has its benefits. And sure, it also has other problems. But without a doubt, the issue people are most blind to is this social divide. Social media should be a place of unity, not a place of fragmentation and spitefulness.

Mrs. Koch Interview

By Zane Shrewsberry
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We’ve all been there, sitting in a seventh-grade classroom thinking about what language we want to learn in eighth grade and high school. For most of us, this essentially random decision influences our class selection for years and perhaps even our career choices. Teaching a world language to hundreds of teenagers sounds daunting, but it is the epitome of a dream job for some.

Meet **Mrs. Koch (World Language)**, a Spanish teacher who teaches classes from Spanish II to AP Spanish. Although it may seem like a lot, she deeply enjoys what she does. Specifically, she enjoys planning new lessons, making Spanish more accessible, talking to students, and learning interesting things in the process.

After working with an organization in Dayton that helped children with early education, Koch decided that teaching was her ideal career choice, and received degrees from both Ohio State and the University of Dayton (retaining a liking for Ohio State athletics). She studied Spanish in Argentina, which aligns with her advice that one of the best ways to learn a language is to move to where it is spoken and fully immerse yourself in it, meeting new people and making connections.

But Spanish isn’t the only language that Koch is interested in. She is also learning German for fun, admitting that her German streak on the language-learning app DuoLingo is over 160 days. If it wasn’t already clear, learning world languages is a critical part of Koch’s life. She shares that “languages are powerful,” but that she feels that learning

a language has become somewhat disconnected from what it used to be via internet translators (for example, Google Translate).

One thing that jumped out at me for the entirety of our conversation was Koch’s emphasis on making Spanish more accessible to everyone who wants to learn it. She works hard to make sure that no one feels lost or left behind, and uses nearly every possible method to do so, incorporating everything from coloring and crafts to Spanish literature and music into her classes. She wants people to know that learning Spanish is much more than “just conjugating verbs,” although she humorously admitted that doing so was important. Koch tells me that there are “just so many things that go with a language,” many of which are often ignored. That is why if she had to switch teaching subjects, she would choose to be a history teacher and emphasize Latin American history.

Transitioning away from Spanish, I asked Koch about her thoughts on artificial intelligence (AI). She feels that AI has a place in the classroom when used properly and can be a wonderful tool for self-improvement. Her son was recently able to aid himself in understanding a chemistry unit through an AI application, which she cites as an example of AI being used as a reinforcement tool.

When I asked her about her least favorite aspect of teaching, she laughed and had to think for a few seconds. “Paperwork,” she finally replied. Overall, it is clear that Koch deeply cares about language learning and will continue to ensure the accessibility and growth of Spanish at Loveland High School.



Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Koch

Winter Holiday Celebrations

By Josie Shaffer
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When the words “winter break” are said, most students think of snow, rest, and a time to be with their families. Students all through Loveland High School are starting to look forward to the quickly approaching winter break, as well as the holiday celebrations that come with it. Different traditions and celebrations make this break very special, with a variety of students celebrating different holidays; these differences in holidays are one of the many reasons Loveland’s atmosphere is so special during the holiday season. Whether



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, we can all agree that the time spent celebrating is very special.

Approximately 92% of Americans celebrate Christmas, but everyone’s traditions make this holiday all the more important. When asked if she had any special traditions during the holiday season, **Annie Gehler (9)** explained how every Christmas she looked forward to

having “a nice Christmas brunch with my family and playing Secret Santa.” She also went on to highlight the ‘Elf on the Shelf’ tradition and the fun that comes with that (her elf’s name is Chip), as well as her favorite gift she ever received, a record player.

Gehler isn’t the only student who has special celebrations. **Gianna Griffiths (10)** also celebrates Christmas, where she has a few different traditions. Griffiths and her family partake in a “manger walk where (they) take the Jesus out by a candle and play the song “Silent Night”. Griffiths also explained that she thinks of herself as more of a giver than receiver.

Christmas is not the only holiday celebrated, with approximately 5% of Americans celebrating Hanukkah. **Charlie Dewitt (10)**, who celebrates both Hanukkah and Christmas, explained that he loves celebrating Hanukkah because “it’s a lot of fun celebrating Hanukkah because I get to spend time celebrating a different holiday than just Christmas and being different.” When asked if he was more of a giver or receiver, Dewitt said that he is more of a receiver, but is trying to become a giver. This remark highlights the holiday spirit and how it can bring out the best in people.

In addition to Dewitt, many other students, such as **Hanna Marcus (9)**, partake in the celebration of Hanukkah. When asked what her favorite part of Hanukkah is, Marcus explained that she loves “lighting the menorah and getting presents.” She also expressed her love for the Jewish food she eats during Hanukkah, such as latkes and gelt. Hanna also said, “I like getting gifts for the people I care about and I like receiving them because it makes me feel loved,” which really sums up the importance of the holiday spirit.

Although students may celebrate different holidays, a similar trend is having fun traditions and exchanging gifts, no matter what religion they have. The holiday season is a great time to see how similar people are to each other, even though there are some differences. During winter break, it is important to enjoy your time with family and celebrate the holidays. So, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy Holidays!

Times Square NYC Ball Drop

By Summer Gray
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Every year, people around the globe ring in the new year with different traditions. In Spain, some eat a grape for every bell strike before midnight, while in Nigeria families come together to create traditional feasts with large varieties of dishes! While in the United States, we tend to incorporate these other cultures into our own, we also celebrate with our own traditions!

The most popular and glamorized celebration throughout the United States has to be the New Year’s Eve ball drops. In particular, one city tops them all with the most striking performance- New York City.

Although many cities present the U.S. with their own striking versions of this celebration, NYC is the most heavily viewed, and not surprisingly the most breathtaking. Even though those who have actually gone to NYC to see the ball drop have exclaimed that the hours of waiting in cold weather were well worth the unsurpassed experience!

Beginning on December 31st at 6pm,



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

crowds will line the streets in Times Square to finish their festive celebrations for the year. As the time nears closer to midnight, numerous live events take place including parades, live performances, and, of course, many rooftop parties! Almost every street in the city of New York is going to have families gathered outside just to see the ball drop.

Finally at midnight, the magnificent

ball drop starts! Lights sparkle, the entire population of New York chants toward the end of the year, and finally the ball drops! Couples pair together to ring in their love for one more year together, and the community rejoices!



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

More locally, Cincinnati also performs its own New Year’s Eve celebrations for those who want to physically go participate in one of these memorable traditions. On December 31st, there will be parties scattered throughout the city at numerous venues and bars. For younger audiences, there will be numerous activities such as the Velocity Esports’s celebration in Newport and the Goldfish Swim School’s balloon drop. For more information, visit www.eventbrite.com/d/oh--cincinnati/new-years-eve-ball-drop/!

There are many, many different activities surrounding our community. Everyone celebrates their own traditions in unique ways whether or not they want to watch the New Year’s ball drops or simply stay in with loved ones. The end of each year is something that has been honored as a special marking toward the future, and as a symbol that distinguishes one generation from another.

This year, get ready for 2025 with a bang! From yearly goals to family festivities, there is something for everyone to think about as the year comes to an end. Even without special tickets to see a spectacular display in person, the last day of your 2024 can be something to remember!

Classic Christmas Movies

By Andrew Sichak
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As Christmas approaches closer, a classic family pastime reignites in many households. Christmas movies are a staple of the holiday season, and some never leave the spotlight.

1990’s *Home Alone* is a classic movie that has been enjoyed for decades by many. The film has been praised for its lighthearted yet heartwarming plot, but also for its appeal to people of all ages. Writer John Hughes emphasized the importance of family throughout this film and ended up creating a cult classic that will be enjoyed for ages to come

Another iconic Christmas movie, *Elf*, was released in 2003 to much appraise. The film stars Will Ferrell, who used this role as his breakout feature in Hollywood. Ferrell rose to immense popularity after the release of *Elf* and went on to star in his iconic *Anchorman* films. *Elf* follows Buddy the elf, as he tries to navigate away from his home to find his father.

National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation is another classic Christmas comedy, starring Chevy Chase as Clark Griswold. The film follows the Griswold family’s Christmas and how it turns into a hilarious disaster. Also written by John Hughes, the film has been loved by many since its release due to its charming characters and entertaining scenes.

A popular animated Christmas movie classic has to be *The Polar Express*. Released in 2004, the movie stars Tom Hanks as the leading voice actor for “Hero Boy.” A cool fact about the movie is that only two characters’ names

are featured: the main character’s sister Sarah, and Billy. The nameless characters add to the mystery of *The Polar Express*, as it helps create more mystery around the train and the rest of the movie. The main theme of the movie is to “Believe,” and believe what cannot be seen.

Often considered a Halloween movie, *The Nightmare Before Christmas* is a beautiful stop motion animated movie about the intersection of Halloween and Christmas. Although the film revolves around Halloween, there is still enough to enjoy during the Christmas season. There is much to enjoy and learn as the main themes of the movie



Photos Courtesy of Unsplash

revolve around self-identity, self-discovery, and isolation. It follows Jack Skellington, the king of Halloween Town, as he discovers a Christmas town, and how his

desire to become someone else destroys his identity and relationships with those around him. Writer Tim Burton is famous for his eerie-themed movies and this is no exception as much of the film is dark and toned.

As the Christmas season is in full swing, it’s important to not forget how film can be a medium to find comfort and warmth. These are just a few examples of fantastic Christmas movies as there are hundreds of films that are worth your time.



Photos Courtesy of Touchstone Pic

New Winter Books Releases

By Chelsea Addo
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In the hunt for interesting modern books, a teen can start to feel a bit lost or even intimidated. This article seeks to provide some direction by compiling a list of books that interest high school students, with many of these titles embodying the relatable, revolutionary, and truthful stories that are essential to the coming of age for any young person.

In the fantasy genre there are quite a few anticipated reads on the horizon, with the biggest being *Onyx Storm* by Rebecca Yarros; the sequel to *Fourth Wing* and *Iron Flame*. The series is set in a classic fantasy



Photo Courtesy of Xiran Jay Zhao

world but with Yarros’s “romantasy” spin, featuring a headstrong protagonist, dragons, and tension-filled romance. The newest addition, *Onyx Storm*, comes out on January 21st.

Another intense fantasy sequel to watch out for is *Heavenly Tyrant* by Xiran Jay Zhao, with a December 24th release date. This YA fantasy series has a radically feminist protagonist in her growing power, relationships, and persistent fight for equality- inspired by China’s real-life only female emperor. In *Heavenly Tyrant*, she has to grapple with the power she worked so desperately to gain and deal with its political and societal impact.

Also, be on the lookout for another intense read: *Mechanize My Hands to War* by Erin K. Wagner coming out December

17th. This sci-fi book takes place in the not-so-distant future and has a frightening imagining of AI and political extremism in rural Appalachia. The plot jumps between different years and characters allowing for refreshing empathy and nuance for a sci-fi novel

In the realm of realistic fiction, *The Glass Girl* by Kathleen Glasgow comes out January 14th, and it is perfect for teen readers craving a story that deals with mature issues that involve empathy and honesty. The 15-year-old main character has turned to alcohol to cope with the chaos of her life- dealing with the aftermath of a breakup, her parent’s difficult divorce, and the death of her grandmother. In this novel, she is forced to begin the road to healing after waking up alone in a hospital with no memory of how she got there.

For something a little lighter, read *Holiday Claus* by Ann Einterson on December 24th. This is a sweet classic Christmas story about a girl who falls in love with her old high school crush when she comes home for the holidays by an author practiced in cozy holiday romance novels.

I hope the books on the list help you find something to read as we head into winter break!



Photo Courtesy of Vecteezy

Fruitcake - Sabrina Carpenter

By Sammie Mason
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Last Christmas, pop icon Sabrina Carpenter released a Christmas-themed EP titled *fruitcake*, and it is safe to say it destroyed the holiday charts. Upon the release, many critics applauded Carpenter for writing original material and not relying on previous Christmas songs for this album. The EP also ranked at number 19 on Billboard’s “Top Holiday Albums” for 2023. In 2024, Carpenter announced a Christmas special that will be released on Netflix following the release of her recent studio album *Short n’ Sweet*. So to celebrate that, let’s review her previous Christmas special.

The EP opens with “A Nonsense Christmas,” a holiday remix of her viral song “Nonsense.” Carpenter changed the lyrics to be Christmas-themed. She makes puns about Charles Dickens, Christmas tree trimmings, and the North Pole, classic Christmas staples cleverly interwoven into this holiday bop. The song’s goofy and unserious lyrics stay true to the original, opening the EP with a lightheartedness perfect for the holiday season.

The next song is “buy me presents.” This song follows with similar Christmas wordplay, and can only be described as a bouncy and bright love song. Carpenter features a saxophone solo, which stands out in this smooth production. The song is the ultimate Hallmark movie track.

The tone of the EP takes a turn with the following track “santa doesn’t know you like i do,” a ballad about an unrequited love that is hurting Carpenter’s heart during this season. While the track does continue using holiday lingo and puns, it is almost looked over because of Carpenter’s melancholic lyrical delivery, a change from the first two tracks. The track is filled with snare drums and a gentle production, reminiscent of other Christmas hits. A spoken word bridge stands out against the almost upbeat rhythms, creating a nice juxtaposition between the snappy music and melancholic lyrics, overall shifting the EP to a more somber tone.

On “cindy lou who” Carpenter fully shifts the album’s tone to slow and heartbreaking. Carpenter once again utilizes clever wordplay, but instead of highlighting her humorous side, the track

gives insight into the singer’s vulnerable side. She sings to a girl who her love left her for, expressing her feelings of betrayal and



Photo Courtesy of Sabrinacarpenter.com

wonders what it is about her that makes her a better match. The devastating lyrics and slow, muted production is a stark contrast to the beginning of the album, showing the decline in holiday cheer the artist may be experiencing as the season progresses.

The album does a full turnaround on the track “is it new years yet?” While the lyrics are a bit cynical, the upbeat and snappy rhythms paired with holiday bells and jingles make this the perfect track to bounce back from the previous track’s vibe killer. The lyrics once again display Carpenter’s amazing lyrical abilities, while drawing back to her goofy and fun side, which is much needed at this point in the album.

Finally, the album ends on a cover of Irving Berlin’s “White Christmas” and is dubbed “white xmas.” Carpenter’s vocals shine through on this track and feel more like an outro for the album rather than a full song. The song features a snippet from the holiday classic “Jingle Bells,” creating this holiday mash/banger.

All in all, it will be exciting to see what Sabrina will bring us this year.

Boys Basketball Preview

By Sean Clore
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Winter sports are starting up again, winter sports are often extremely fun events to attend on a cold winter day when people just want to get out and go do something. Basketball is consistently the main attraction of winter sports and is often one of the most popular sports for people to attend and have a great time enjoying the game. This year's basketball season involves competition versus very good opponents and many highly anticipated games.

Preseason predictions: The Loveland basketball team gets about 20 guaranteed regular season games. First, let's see what some seniors think about the team. **Andrew Sichak (12)** predicts that the team will go 14-6. **Kole Dahlke (12)** predicts that the team will have a record of 16-4. **Aren Dullaert (12)** has the team going 11-9. Dullaert is excited about this basketball season because he has long anticipated watching his good buddy **Calvin Lorek (11)** play varsity basketball. Dahlke has also been on the same page as Dullaert, in terms of watching their good friend Lorek play basketball and be great on the court.

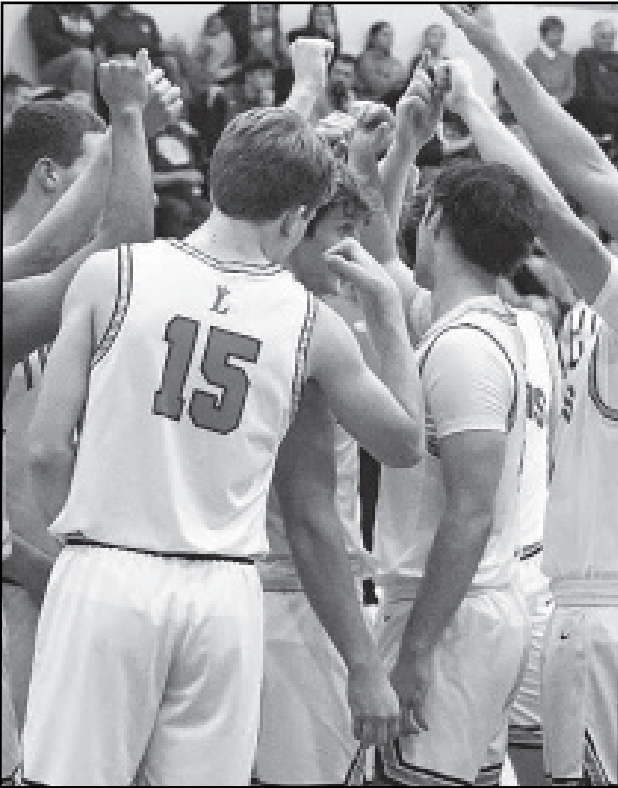
A variety of things make people excited for basketball season and games. Things such as the extremely overpriced concessions and the exciting buzzer-beater shots, along with the social aspect of being with friends and enjoying a good and thrilling game. The anticipation could never be better this year. The basketball season is being hyped up by many and is an extremely amazing thing for everyone to enjoy.

Last year's team went 12-11 in a 23-game season. Unfortunately, many important seniors from last year such as Jack Sauer and Andrew Breeze were lost, and now the entire team looks to the up-and-coming junior and senior classes. The senior class specifically only having a few players seems to be one of the smallest groups of seniors in recent memory. This leaves the Juniors with a large load to carry. Fortunately for the Loveland program, the junior class has an artillery of phenomenal athletes and basketball players. The Junior Class, being led by **Chase Martin (11)** and **Jewel Vorbroker (11)**, will be called upon many times this season and all of Loveland is hoping it will be a phenomenal showing this year.

This junior class has many dual sport athletes who have versatile basketball games. Vorbroker plays football and track along with basketball, while Martin and Lorek are also amazing football players who play both basketball and football. Many other notable juniors play multiple sports such as soccer and volleyball.

Now for the senior class, having only a few seniors is a tough turn but they are ready for greatness, at the end of the day, they can only work with the numbers they have. The Senior class is returning **Will Bertoli (12)**, **Will Bertke (12)**, and **Benjamin Tibbs (12)**. These seniors will be bombarded with pressure to perform due to such a lack of players, but the Loveland basketball team and community believe in this class of seniors to play as hard as they can and to bring the program success. So If you

want to go support Loveland basketball, go to as many games as possible and show your Loveland spirit!



Photos Courtesy of Harrison

Girls Basketball Preview

By Sean Clore
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Basketball is well known around the Loveland community for being one of the most fun sporting events to attend. Often large groups of students and parents show up to cheer on their peers in competitive sports. These games are extremely intense, which causes many fans to get very invested in the games by showing their extreme Loveland spirit. Fans of the Loveland Girls' Basketball Team are hoping for an amazing season this year under new head coach Jon Unruh.

The Girls Basketball season consists of 19 regular season games. So far, Loveland is 2-1, losing the season opener, but since then going 2 and 0. A few questions



Photo Courtesy of David Lorek

were asked to some of the players on the team about their opinions on what is still to come this season and what a record prediction would be in a span of 19 games. **Aunna Dancy (10)** says, "I think our season will go great as long as we play as a team," Dancy also thinks that the team will end the season with an approximate 10-9 record in a 19-game span. **Bella Rogers (10)** states, "I feel confident in our team as the season progresses. We have good talent and our chemistry is strong, and I think this

will help us win games and improve on last season's record." This year our team is optimistic for an amazing upcoming season!

Even if the team is ready for a great season, what does the student body think about the girl's upcoming season? We asked a few students about their hopes for the upcoming season. **Ryan Saletta (9)**, who is representing the freshman class, predicts a 12-7 record. **Tyler Mccaleb (11)** representing the juniors, predicts that the team will go 15-4. **Josh Blalock (12)**, representing our senior body, states, "I'm confident in our female tigers, I think they're going to show out with at least 15 wins. Go tygas!"

Last season the Girls' Basketball team had a record of 8-15, and this year they are looking to top that! They hope to go above and beyond all expectations and set new standards for achieving greatness within the program. This year the team looks stronger than ever and is ready for a dominant season and lots of success ahead of them. With the team having so many young players there is an extremely bright future while they have the opportunity to contribute on varsity and build extreme skill and chemistry as the season progresses. With a new coach and extremely talented players, the team has a high chance of a deep playoff run this year.

If you are interested in contributing to our Girls' Basketball Team, then make sure to go to lovelandtigers.org! Select girls basketball 2024-2025, then check out the schedule and see what games you wish to attend. From there make sure to SHOW UP and go support the Girls' Basketball team and cheer them on to success! This team is going to achieve great things this season!



LHSMB Season Review

By Aren Dullaert
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Outside of a trip to Chicago, where the band will participate in the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Parade, the season is over. The season saw the band continue their success from last year, which was one of the most successful seasons the program has ever had. The competitive season started in Lebanon on a rainy day, which saw the band win their class and come in second place to fellow ECC school West Clermont. In addition, the band beat West Clermont in the Percussion caption and came close in a few others. This would just be the start of the LHSMB.

The following week, the band hosted their only competition of the season. "Drums Along The Little Miami" was a success, with band director Mr. Miller saying that it was the smoothest Drums he has ever been a part of. The competition has a long history, dating back over 20 years. This year, around 10 bands competed at the Midstates competition. The band concluded the day with their show, which is always an exciting way to conclude a fun day of marching band.

The following week saw the Marching Band head over to Wilmington High School, where they would see their only chance to qualify for the OMEA State Finals Competition. Going in with high hopes, they were certainly not crushed as they not only qualified for state, they won best percussion along with a few other captions. And finally, of course, they did qualify for the State Finals, getting a score of 1, which is Superior and the highest possible score.

Three weeks later, the band was back in action at Piqua High School, where they looked to earn yet another Superior rating at state. After a good morning rehearsal, the band went on their way. In the end, it was close, but the LHSMB ultimately came out with a Superior rating despite a few hiccups in the show. The competitive season was down to just six days, and the final competition was a big one.

The Midstates Class AAAA Championships at Kings High School was the year's final performance. Despite giving it their all, the band came in 8th place. Despite not getting the finish they wanted, the season will always be looked

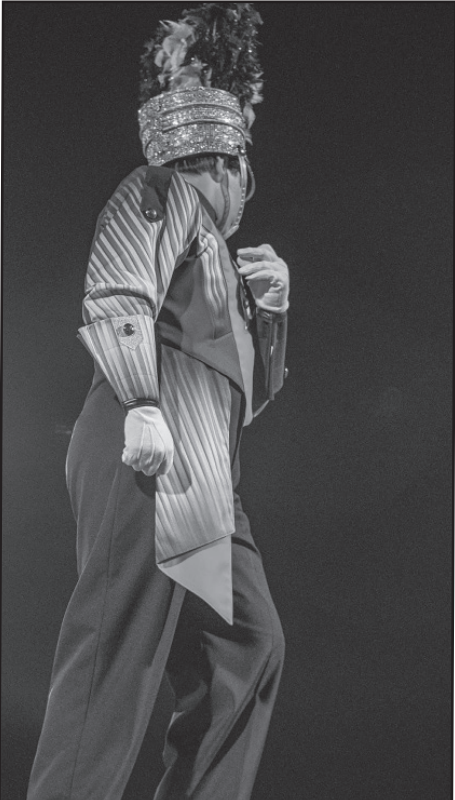


Photo Courtesy of Luke Jacobs at by everyone as a success.

This show was certainly one of the best Loveland has ever produced. From the musical energy to the unique and fun choreography, this show certainly left a crater in the field with their sound wherever they performed. A big thank you to all of the staff, parent volunteers, members of the leadership team, and especially the seniors for making this show happen. The band will look to continue their success over into 2025, as the band should only improve year after year.



Photo Courtesy of Bryan Craddock



October 12th



Photo Courtesy of Adelia Smith
HOT DAMN! It's The Loveland Frog! is a fun and creative play about a peculiar sighting of the Loveland Frogman. Everyone in Loveland knew the tale of the Frogman, but this play truly brought the experience to life through a variety of characters, such as an ashamed policeman, outcast siblings, and an oddball grandpa. Overall, this play was a great watch.

November 2nd



Photo Courtesy of Luke Jacobs
The girls' volleyball team has an excellent season this fall, resulting in a record of 15-3 in the conference, and 22-5 overall. In the conference their winning percentage was .833, and overall a winning percentage of .815, which resulted in them being second place in the ECC. They had a long tournament run, resulting in a regional loss against the Saint Ursula.

November 18th



Photo Courtesy of Brandon Corona
Esports team's season officially starts, with their first practice on November 18th. Lots of people wondered what this team did, and the answer to that question was they have fun challenging their video game abilities by playing games such as *Fortnite* and *Overwatch 2* with one another. Not only was there playing for fun, there was also a competitive part.

November 21st



Photo Courtesy of Loveland Band
The band attends a trip to Chicago to play in a parade, and enjoy a number of excursions during this trip. With over 1 million people viewing this parade, the pressure was on our Loveland Marching Band to put on a great show, which they did. Some of the excursions they took included visiting museums, and taking on The Tilt at the John Hancock Museum.

November 22nd



Photo Courtesy of David Lorek
The girls' basketball team's season has officially begun. Kicking off the season with three wins overall, these lady tigers were looking strong. Their most recent game on December 9th (as of December 10th) resulted in a 66-49 win for Loveland, with players such as **Katy Wilbur (11)** and **Anna Proano-Raps (11)** leading the team, each with 15 points that game.

November 24th



Photo Courtesy of Loveland YoungLife
The weekend before Thanksgiving break (November 22nd-24th) some of the students at Loveland High School take a trip with Loveland Younglife to Camp Kern for Fall Weekend. During this trip, students got a chance to bond with other students from Loveland and other schools, and to deepen their religious views on Christianity. Overall, Fall Weekend was a great event to attend to have fun with friends, whether you're religious or not.



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

Thanksgiving happens on November 28th, and it is a time of celebration. Many gathered with friends and family to share a meal while also sharing what they were thankful for.



Photo Courtesy of Loveland Magazine

On December 3rd, three of our own Loveland athletes officially take the next step in their athletic careers. **Sawyer Muchmore (12)** signed to the University of Dayton, **Claire Neiger (12)** signed to Anderson University, and **Sophia Loomis (12)** signed to Wright State University.



Photo Courtesy of Maddy Spencer

On December 4th, **Kate Crener (11)** and **Isabelle Fordos (10)** from the Loveland Academic Quiz Team discuss how they want to approach the next problem. The Tigers took on the Anderson Raptors.



Photo Courtesy of David Lorek

On December 9th, the Loveland Girls basketball defeated Western Brown Broncos in a 66-49 win. **Bella Rogers (10)** came off the bench with 10 points and 12 rebounds. She also won Ohio big-school girls basketball player of the week of December 1st.



Photo Courtesy of Andrew Sichak

On December 10th, the Loveland Boys Basketball team beat Western Brown in a 72-41 blowout win. **Chase Martin (11)** led the Tigers with 25 points and 6 assists. The Tigers are looking forward to how the rest of the season will play out.



Photo Courtesy of Andrew Sichak

On December 11th, both the String Orchestra and Symphonic Band performed their biannual full orchestra concert. This years concert was centered around the holiday season and both ensembles were conducted by **Mrs. Bierkan (Fine Arts)** and **Mr. Miller (Fine Arts)**.

Veronica's Guide To Loving Winter

By Veronica Dallas
@lovelandroar | Co-Editor-In-Chief

Unfortunately for a lot of people, the advent of winter means seasonal depression and gloomy days approaching. Fortunately for me, however, winter means the most enjoyable and magical time of the year. Of course, with colder temperatures upon us, we naturally start to miss summer and what its heat had to offer. Hopefully, in this article, I can inspire you to enjoy the holiday season as much as I do.

Christmas music is not for everyone for a myriad of reasons. But, it is one way to stay jolly during the changing seasons. The debate about whether holiday music should be played before or after Thanksgiving is a big one, but it should not play a factor in when it feels right to listen to it. Even if the case is that there are too many overplayed songs, it is perfectly reasonable to listen to Christmas music whenever you want.

Another way to get into the holiday spirit is gift-giving. Spending money is never required for the holidays. However, gift shopping is one way to stay occupied while temperatures drop. Many people find it hard to buy or plan gifts for people but one of the true meanings of the holidays is that the thought is what counts. Spreading love and kindness is what we naturally need, and keeping that feeling strong in the winter is crucial for our own happiness and sanity.

Straying away from the holidays, change is one of the biggest factors that play into having a good winter. After

a while, cold weather starts to feel suffocating, and it may begin to leave people feeling burnt out, whether that's socially or academically. That is why it is so important to put some balance in your life and to incorporate change in any way you can. Some ways I recommend doing this include redecorating your room or making a mood board for the new year.

Hanging out with friends may also feel a bit more difficult in the winter, as it might seem like options are limited. However, Perfect North and many other locations allow you to try new things like skiing or snowboarding, which is a great way to go out with friends. There are also countless other ways to hang out indoors or in the warmth, like movie nights or driving around to look at Christmas lights.

Finally, another way to stay occupied this winter is to explore what makes you happy. Isolation is an amazing opportunity to discover new hobbies like reading, writing, or journaling. All of these are easy to pick up and don't take too much time, so there is a widespread selection of things to try out. Painting, cooking, or baking are all good ways to stay occupied and they even allow for more of a learning curve. Some people might pick these up right off the bat, however, there are always new things to paint or new recipes to try. No matter what it is you pick up or try out this winter, there will always be something new waiting for you.

Although it may seem isolating or boring, winter opens up so many new doors that are waiting to be opened and it truly comes down to the way you view it that decides the



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

When Should We Play Christmas Music?

By Kole Dahlke
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Christmas is just around the corner... or is it? There has been a century-long debate as to when the Christmas season starts, specifically when it's appropriate to start playing Christmas music. Some believe that as soon as Halloween ends, it is appropriate to start playing Christmas music. At the same time, others must wait until December begins. The most prominent divider used to determine when Christmas music should start taking over stores and households is Thanksgiving. I researched and asked Loveland students whether Christmas music should start being played before or after Thanksgiving. Here's what I found.

According to an article written by Kayleigh Dray, "64% of people insist that Christmas music should never be played before December 1st" (Dray). Now, although this may seem like the majority of people, the statistics

are unreliable and should be taken with a grain of salt. So, to get a more accurate representation of the number of people who prefer Christmas music before and after Thanksgiving, I surveyed the students at Loveland High School. The results are surprising.

Before we get into the specifics, here's what some students had to say. First **Sammie Mason (12)** stated, "Christmas music is annoying and it gets stuck in your head and no one remakes Christmas music, and it's the same over and over again." In response, **Veronica Dallas (12)** declared, "Anyone that says Christmas music is overplayed and that there isn't any good music they enjoy is a LIAR because they're just trying to find a reason to hate on Christmas." Both had strong arguments, so I asked some more students for their thoughts on the situation.

Tommy Martin (12) had this to say, "Thanksgiving is an important enough holiday to be celebrated before

Christmas because it takes place before. Thanksgiving should be appreciated before Christmas because it is such an important holiday." On the other side of the argument, **Jude Foreman (10)** stated, "It's close enough to start getting into the Christmas spirit and playing Christmas music before Thanksgiving. But you still have to respect Thanksgiving and shouldn't play Christmas music during Thanksgiving." Both gave great arguments for both sides. a few more supporters.

Finally, the results of the survey showed that 59% of people prefer Christmas music after Thanksgiving and 41% prefer it before. A total of 27 people were surveyed, 16 of which voted after and 11 voted before.

Ultimately, Loveland High School students have decided that Christmas music should be listened to after Thanksgiving.



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

Thanksgiving Cafeteria Lunch Review

By Claire Mirkowski-Purdy
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

As we all get older, it becomes more apparent that there is nothing as nostalgic as the annual Thanksgiving lunch that Loveland offers. It is something we savor in a time of



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

giving our thanks. Once Thanksgiving is over, the meal is something we reminisce about, reminding us of our early years, eating the long-awaited Thanksgiving lunch.

There was not much to complain about when it came to this year's Thanksgiving lunch. Everything the lunch ladies made by scratch was met with smiles. The entree, turkey, exceeded all expectations. It was juicy, tender and better than anything I could imagine to come from a high school cafeteria. It was a step up from the turkey the school has given us in the past, and I could not be happier for the improvement.

Alongside the extraordinary turkey given to us, the Thanksgiving lunch also offered a wide variety of sides, including mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, salad, sweet potatoes, fruit, stuffing, and whole grain rolls. The pumpkin pie enhanced everyone's lunch trays, giving students and teachers the perfect sweet treat to an amazing meal. When I entered the cafeteria, there were two lines forming from across the entire cafeteria full of students and teachers. Everyone was eager to get their Thanksgiving lunch, and rightfully so. It was delicious.

Once lunch was over, the Thanksgiving lunch was all students spoke about. **Ian Dellinger (11)** commented that "the Thanksgiving lunch was surprisingly *really* good, and the mashed potatoes were especially delicious." With

the various foods offered at the Thanksgiving lunch, it is evident that there was something for everyone. Picky eaters and non-picky eaters alike could enjoy the Thanksgiving meal our school offered.

It goes without saying that eating the Thanksgiving lunch with all of your friends is an indescribable experience. There is nothing better than waiting eagerly in line with your friends to dig into a tasty meal. We do it every year, yet it never gets turns mundane. The Thanksgiving meal brings us back to earlier years of eating previous Thanksgiving lunches while also allowing us to create new memories.

None of this would be possible if it were not for the hard work our lunch ladies put into our meals. **Mr. Herbert (Social Studies)** said, "it was fantastic that they could prepare a meal for everyone from scratch for around 1200 people." The lunch ladies deserve recognition for the amazing meal they served everyone. Eating the Thanksgiving lunch is going to be something we look back on down the line with smiles on our faces, thanks to our lunch ladies.

Overall, the Thanksgiving meal was outstanding, not only handing us delicious food but also memories that will last a lifetime.

LHSDramaElf: Musical Review

By Sohani Gauniyal
@lovelandroar | Co-Editor-In-Chief

I have to be honest: I am not a fan of Elf (2003). There’s something about it that makes me unable to stand it. I was, however, a fan of LHS Drama’s production of Elf: The Musical. I liked it so much that I ended up seeing it twice: once by myself, and again because I insisted my parents see it (they also liked it!). Maybe it’s the lack of Will Ferrell that made it more palatable to me. Or maybe it was getting to see Mr. Miller (Fine Arts) running around in a Santa costume.

Besides that, there were a lot of other things that made this show so enjoyable. One of the biggest things that stood out to me was the comedic timing. Pretty much every joke had perfect timing to back it up, whether it was by letting it breathe or breezing past it nonchalantly. One joke where this stood out was right at the end, when Buddy (Ethan Shepherd (12) somewhat awkwardly announces that he has a kid now. There was this pause right after it that just really let the joke set in, and it turns out it wasn’t even supposed to be there! A few of my friends who were in the pit orchestra (which I’ll be getting to later) told me that in the sheet music, there’s no pause and that they added that in. I personally think that was a great decision. The audience, both times I saw the show, really started laughing during the pause. Without it, I don’t think it would have been nearly as funny. The entire show was like this, with

pretty much every line having perfect delivery. This even extended to the songs as well.

The ensemble was also amazing. At times I would find myself slightly tuning out whatever the main character(s) were doing on stage to focus on everyone in the background. From writers, to skaters, to employees, to elves, to a particularly harried souvlaki vendor, everyone in the background was such an integral part of the show. They really did such a good job of making the scenes come alive. My absolute favorite was the two writers desperately trying to piece together individual shreds of the Chris Smith manuscript that Buddy shredded while everyone else was off arguing in the other corner. That, or Charlie (Aaron Frazier (10) hitting the syrup real hard in the final scene in a call back to an earlier joke.

The pit orchestra sounded great as well! Even though I’m not the biggest fan of Christmas-y music, a lot of the little jingles they played managed to get stuck in my head anyway. Again, they also had great timing, and (at least to my untrained ears) never seemed to drag or rush compared to what happened on stage. They also did a great job dealing with all the small slip-ups throughout the show.

I have so much more I’d love to praise this show for, but unfortunately, this article can only be so long. I’m incredibly excited for whatever LHS Drama puts on next, as I’m sure it’s going to be as good (if not better) than Elf: The Musical.



Photos Courtesy of Cass McKnight

Hot Chocolate Review

By Sammie Mason
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

The holiday season is right around the corner, and with that people are going inside, cozying up with a nice TV show and a nice warm hot chocolate. But what is the best holiday drink? Which hot chocolate is worth your time and money? Well, I’m going to give my unasked-for and unqualified opinion on the matter.

Starting off, there is the classic store-brand hot chocolate. If we follow the directions on the can exactly as instructed, this is a low-ranking beverage. The flavor is just lacking and it is said to be made with hot water, which dilutes the mixture. However, local mother Emily Mason has found an inexpensive way to make this mediocre mix, gourmet. Mrs. Mason substitutes water with milk and adds chocolate chips while heating it on the stove. The milk adds another layer to the flavor and the additional chocolate chips enhance the beverage, really making this once water-downed drink a creamy, chocolatey heaven.

Next up is SwissMiss, a classic, traditional hot chocolate brand. I tried the Marshmallow Lovers, and I was quite satisfied. It’s creamy, rich in cocoa, and drowning in marshmallows. It comes with two separate packages: the cocoa mix, and a marshmallow package, allowing the customer to customize the drink however they see fit. When serving a family or a large

number of people, this is handy. It’s also very affordable and accessible, making this a cornerstone in the hot chocolate market.

I will be honest I was a little disappointed with Godiva’s Signature Hot Chocolate. Mainly because it was one of the pricier out of the bunch, and it didn’t stand out to me. The brand praises itself for using luxurious Belgian-style chocolate, but I couldn’t taste the difference between this brand and SwissMiss, which is odd because this flavor was supposed to have a rich, chocolate flavor, but instead tasted like SwissMiss’ creamier variation of hot chocolate.

However, I did try one more hot chocolate brand that was on the pricier side and was worth my money. Lake Champlain Chocolates is a small chocolate brand based in Vermont and focuses on small-batch manufacturing and fair trade practices. The flavor is rich and natural, making this hot chocolate the most comforting out of the four brands. I bought two flavors from this brand, the Traditional Hot Chocolate, and the Spicy Aztec Hot Chocolate. Both were incredible, but I especially liked the Spicy Aztec Hot Chocolate. With notes of cinnamon and cayenne pepper combined with the deep cocoa flavor really brings home the cozy and warm feeling hot chocolate is known for.

All in all, there are many hot chocolate brands out there on the market, but my extensive research has led me to finding that a higher price tag does not equate to higher quality. It’s all about the feeling the customer gets while drinking the hot chocolate; it should be an experience. So, no matter what brand you choose to drink, make sure you are enjoying it with those you love most this holiday season for the best hot chocolate experience.



Photo Courtesy of Deposit Photos



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

Hallmark Movies: Good or Bad?

By Summer Gray
@lovelandroar | Co-Editor-In-Chief

Christmas comes with many different activities, but sometimes it’s too cold to go outside or you happen to catch something. Luckily, there’s a solution that everybody falls to-Christmas movies. Whether you prefer the comedy or the romance, Hallmark movies make it to the top of the list

On the other hand, some Hallmark movies are genuinely just downright bad. Every company releases something that becomes their least favorite product, but Hallmark has made more than a few embarrassing films. Depending on who you ask, there are more bad movies than good ones, some of which absolutely tank the public view of Hallmark movies.

Some movies like A Cheerful Christmas are hated for their bad acting, while others like A Gingerbread Romance are known for poor editing and overall structure. Despite a lack of detail that the stories definitely could use, I truly don’t believe that these movies are all that bad. Even if they are a little embarrassing to watch, that’s partially what makes it so entertaining.

Overall, I think that Hallmark movies are hated a little too much. Even if they seem to be low-budget, somewhat over-produced, these movies bring about a very American tradition during the Christmas season that truly isn’t comparable. There is something so unique about Hallmark movies that is unstoppably captivating.

This winter season, snuggle up with your dog or a blanket, grab some hot chocolate and a snack, and try watching one of these movies for yourself. Maybe they aren’t all that bad, and maybe you might even laugh a little. That is what the holiday spirit is all about, after all.



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay without fail.

Even if you aren’t interested in romantic comedies, there is something about Hallmark movies that truly is eye-catching. Some say it may be too “cheesy,” or even just overall bad, but ultimately there’s a reason that Hallmark movies stick around every Winter: they are just so terrible that it’s funny!

Some say that they watch them for the “hope” or simplicity that they provide, but for me personally, I could never relate one of these situations to my own life! Even if they are entirely unrealistic and incredibly predictable, there is something addicting about watching the end of a Hallmark movie- it is almost rewarding to watch.

Besides, not all Hallmark movies are even that bad! Some can be very genuine and family-oriented, even if the plot isn’t exactly about the most exciting twist of events. Certain movies like The Lost Valentine and The Beach House have audiences rewatching them over and over again. Even though I may not like Hallmark movies that much, I must admit I don’t mind watching them every once in a while.



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

Frankenstein

By Sohani Guaniyal
@lovelansroar | Co-Editor

I was lucky enough to see Cincinnati Shakespeare Company’s production of Frankenstein, and there’s just so much about this show I could rave about. Literally everything was amazing-from the lights, to the actors, and the set. And the set was especially great. Going into the show, I had no idea what to expect: I’ve obviously read the book, so I figured everything would be pretty doom-and-gloom, but I never had been to a Cincinnati Stage Company production before. When I walked in, I did not expect the stage to literally be touching the audience. Nor did I expect the ornate rugs, guttering candles and chandeliers, or the genuine haze filling the theater. I actually gasped when I walked into the theater because the atmosphere was so perfect. Everything about the set was amazing. Slight spoiler warning, but later on in the play, when people start dying (or un-dying), they would open up the trapdoor on stage, and smoke and eerie light would pour out of it as the deceased marched solemnly down. It was breathtaking.

The actors were also amazing-especially because there were just five of them! Jasmine Bouldin (playing Mary Shelley and Elizabeth Lavenza), Alexis Bronkovic (playing Claire Clairmont and some others), Billy Chace (playing Dr. John. Polidori, Henry, and some others), John Patrick Hayden (playing Percy Bysshe Shelley and Victor Frankenstein), and Jay Wade (playing Lord Byron, The Creature, and some others). Each actor played at least two characters, and all of them did such an amazing job separating and bringing each one to life. I particularly remember Jay Wade playing Lord Byron at one point, but

being in The Creature’s costume and makeup. You could tell it was Lord Byron from his body movement and voice alone.

The story was told in three frames: the first, a ghost story competition where Mary Shelley told the story of Victor Frankenstein who, in the second frame, recounted it to a ship captain who rescued him in the Arctic. The third frame was the story itself. Each frame was switched between both constantly and seamlessly.

Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein main difference from the book is that it weaves in Mary Shelley’s personal life alongside her famous story. This ranges from humorous, like Percy, who in-character is playing Victor, asking Mary if drowning is what she sees in his future (the-real life Percy drowned), to heartbreaking (Mary and The Creature mirroring each other on stage as they both contemplate just how alone they are). To facilitate this, costume changes were mostly done on-stage, and many of the props were improvised (such as a round cushion for a boat’s helm) or pantomimed, and of course, each actor played many characters. The switches in frame were often abrupt, but worked perfectly every single time. The actors did such a good job, it’s honestly hard to explain in words. You have to see it to get the full effect.

I’m running out of words to talk about how amazing this play is. Everything about it is so good. One article really cannot do it justice. I didn’t even get to talk about the lighting and sound! If you can, you should absolutely go see CSC’s Mary Shelly’s Frankenstein. You definitely won’t regret it (unlike Victor).

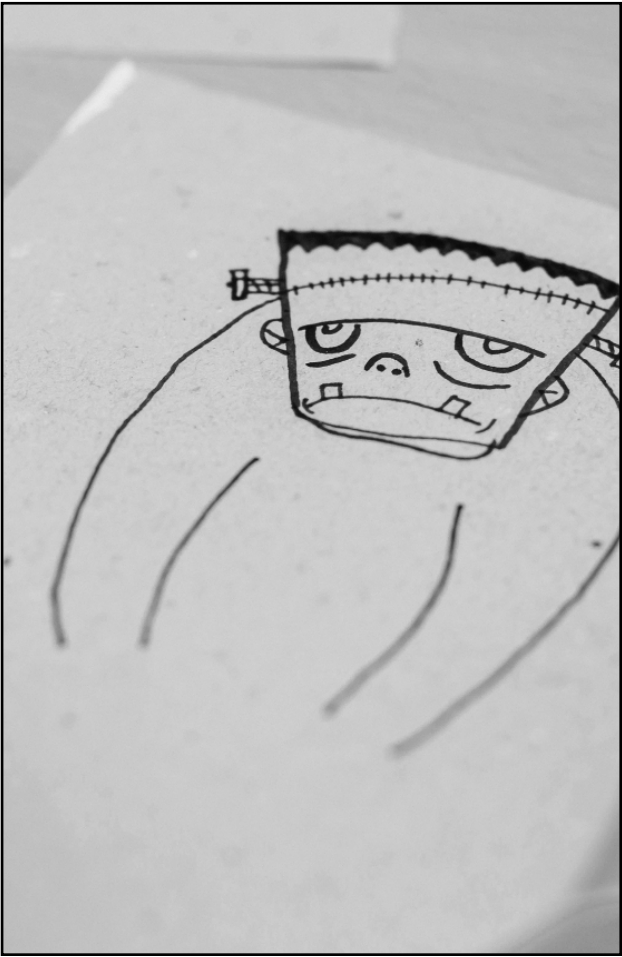


Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

Crumbl Cookie Is Overrated

By Sammie Mason
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

One of the most popular dessert places in The United States, Crumbl Cookie, has skyrocketed in today’s culture. With six new flavors every week for all to enjoy, alongside the giant-sized cookie, it’s easy to see why Crumbl is so popular. However, there is a slight problem with how the cookies are priced. Oh-and quality control. And let’s not forget about the Crumbl controversy involving child labor laws. One major impact on the company is a recently huge trend on TikTok that is rating each week’s flavors. Someone sits down and rates every individual flavor that week



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

has to offer. Cool, right? You see your favorite internet stars eating and loving every cookie, so you think you might as well go try one yourself. But then you get to the store and a box of six cookies is \$23.49. Okay, you don’t need to try every flavor, let’s just get one. That individual cookie is \$4.49.

The steep prices of these cookies are often overlooked-thanks to the brand’s marketing team. Crumbl utilizes social media to promote it’s weekly flavors, making it seem like there is a sense of urgency to try the new flavors. That excitement overshadows the reality that you just spent \$25 bucks on cookies. It only gets even more disappointing when you bite into your cookie and it’s raw.

Crumbl has recently been under fire for undercooked cookies. Customers often leave reviews saying their cookies were raw in the middle and overly crispy on the edges, due to its large size. And it’s not just at a few locations, it’s a recurring problem for the brand. TikTok users have posted videos about the quality control, with one user stating how she used to love Crumbl, but then noticed that for the past four weeks her kids’ cookies had been raw.

Soon many others turned to TikTok recounting similar experiences with the store. This sparked a controversy because it’s not safe to eat raw cookie dough, and Crumbl’s main target audience is children. The brand quickly put out a statement saying the cookies were supposed to be “doughy” in the center. Instead of issuing an apology and reforming their protocols, they buckled down on poor quality.

Adding on, Crumbl was recently under fire when the U.S. Department of Labor found that Crumbl had violated regulations in six states, affecting 46 working minors. Again, the brand continues to show that in the world of business, there is no such place for caring about anyone or anything, except the week’s profit.

To conclude, the family-friendly brand is slowly seeing its empire fall due to the company’s inability to put real value into its consumers, time and time again. Are the overpriced, raw cookies made by mistreated workers worth your time and money?

Rating Christmas Trees

By Veronica Dallas
@lovelandroar | Co-Editor

Winter is approaching, and all the popular holiday traditions we are all familiar with are as well. One of the most prominent traditions is tree lighting. These are found all over the globe from New York City to London, and range from expensive to effortless. Here is a ranking of my top 5 Christmas trees from around the world.

5. New Taipei City, Taiwan
Featuring a star-focused theme, the New Taipei City Christmas tree stands at about 20 meters tall in the center of their Nordic winter wonderland celebration. At the top of the tree starts a draping of lights that reach the ledge surrounding it, creating a canopy of Christmas lights. The creativity is what lands it on my list, however, the different themes are what make it a staple. In 2023, they had a Pokémon theme, where each ornament on the tree was a different Pokémon.

4. Sydney, Australia
Moving South, Sydney’s Christmas tree is only 5 meters taller than New Taipei City’s. Completely unbiased, this tree is one of my all-time favorites as it is located in Martin Place, Sydney, and features a six-point star and color-changing lights. One of the ways to win me over for a Christmas tree is how colorful and thoughtful it is, and this one definitely meets the mark.

3. Loveland, Ohio
This opinion might be more biased. However, it is no lie that our Loveland Christmas tree is abundant with creativity and color. Saturday, December 7th was this year’s annual lighting and Loveland featured countless events downtown from a Loveland High School jazz band performance to various food trucks and restaurant specials.

2. New York City, New York
Of course, New York City’s Christmas tree is highly anticipated every single year. It is well-known around the globe and one of the most famous tree lightings. Located in Rockefeller Center, this tree has been featured in countless Christmas movies like Home Alone 2: Lost in New York and Elf. This tree is tied with my first-place option because it seems impossible to rank it lower than number one. From its 75-foot height to its 50,000 lights, this tree is

nothing short of showstopping.
1. Strasbourg, France
Tied with the Rockefeller Center’s tree, Strasbourg’s Christmas tree is set in Place Kléber, where many tree sellers famously gathered every winter. This is also the



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

tallest tree mentioned on my list, sitting at 30 meters tall, which makes it the tallest decorated tree in Europe. From its colorful ornaments to its classy lights, this tree takes the cake on my list. Strasbourg also features countless tree light shows that sync up to popular Christmas music. Although it is tied with the New York tree, this one is still my favorite by a long shot as it is not only creative but also classy and truly Christmasy.

It is no lie that each of these trees is absolutely beautiful. However, there are also some notable trees that didn’t make my top five like Rio De Janeiro, Vilnius, and Madrid. Although there are various other trees, these are just some of the ones that take my breath away.

Global Holiday History

By Adelia Smith

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In America, Christmas is undeniably sacred to our winter culture. For at least a month, the influence of the holiday can be found in nearly every aspect of our lives, from the music playing on our radios to the food we eat, even to the clothes we wear. Roughly 85% of Americans celebrate Christmas culturally or religiously - but what about the rest of the world? And how did this beloved holiday even begin?

To understand Christmas’s impact across the globe, we first need to go back to the origins of the holiday. The winter solstice is synonymous with Christmas with its celebration on December 21st-23rd. It marks the longest day of the year and has been celebrated as early as the Neolithic period, around 10,200 B.C. One of the first distinct holiday celebrations that arose from the winter solstice is Yule, which originated in ancient Norse culture roughly around the year 5,000. While Yule is a pagan holiday rather than Christian, it is considered the original prominent winter celebration and is still celebrated by some today on the winter solstice by burning logs on one’s hearth, gift exchanging, and feasting

From Scandinavia’s neighbor, Germany, comes another crucial part in the origins of Christmas celebrations - the pagan god Oden, who also often appeared in Yule, was honored in a mid-winter celebration. Out of fear and respect for the god, known for making flights over the land to judge the goodness of Germans, citizens would stay inside and feast in reverence to him. Many modern Christmas celebrations were born from these early-

European traditions which were combined over time.

Christmas itself was first celebrated by the church of Rome in the early 4th century. Pope Julius I chose December 25th as the date to honor Christmas, close to other winter solstice celebrations to increase the popularity of the holiday. Christmas was originally closer to a party holiday than our modern perception of it, but as other winter solstice celebrations faded in prominence and Christmas only solidified itself in European culture, it began to more closely resemble the cozy, family-oriented Christmas we have today.

In America, Christmas was only declared a holiday in 1870! The English separatists, or the pilgrims, who settled in America, were devout Puritans and did not consider Christmas a holiday. In fact, it was deemed illegal to celebrate it in Boston. However, in some settlements, it was joyously celebrated, and eventually, the Puritan virtues faded out of distinction. After the American Revolution, Christmas lost popularity in America for about 100 years until it was declared a federal holiday in June 1870. Since then, the holiday has grown in popularity, and in those roughly 150 years, Christmas has become an essential and iconic part of American culture.

While Christmas is a Christian holiday, it’s also prevalent in other parts of the world as a result of Christian colonization. In Mexico, Christmas is celebrated by many families traveling to the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Here, people worship the Virgin Mary and then celebrate with parades, fireworks, and performances in the streets. On Christmas Eve, many families attend a midnight mass followed by a feast. In India, Christmas is

also celebrated by some. While it is a significantly less popular holiday, Indians celebrate Christmas with similar traditions, including a family dinner and midnight mass.

Christmas is one of the most sacred times of the year for millions of people across the world - it brings families together, invites gift-giving, and promises yummy food. Amidst the hustle and bustle of everyday life, the holidays give us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the good of our lives. Across the globe, despite all barriers and differences, we are all connected, from ancient Scandinavia to here in Loveland, Ohio.



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

Winter Folklore: Gävlebocken

By Sohani Gauniyal

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I have to admit, the Gävlebocken isn’t quite Christmas folklore; it’s definitely inspired by some, but the tradition itself is just that: tradition, more so than anything else. However, the Gävlebocken is just too amusing to not write an article about. Who can resist its tales of hardship, perseverance, and a little bit of arson?

But what is the Gävlebocken? The Gävlebocken, or Gävle Goat as it’s known in English, is, fittingly enough, a giant straw Yule goat built annually in Gävle, Sweden, as part of Christmas celebrations. Each year it is built at the beginning of Advent.



Photo Courtesy of Deposit Photos

The Yule goat is a Yule/Christmas figure common to Scandinavia and Northern Europe. Common beliefs about it include it being an invisible spirit that comes by to make sure Yule preparations go well, or a rowdy figure that scares children. It has a number of traditions associated with it, such as wassailing customs like the pan-Nordic Julebukking and Finnish Joulupukki. However, the former is unfortunately dying out to a degree, and the latter’s modern form is instead a gift-bearer very similar to Santa Claus. The Yule goat survives in the modern era mainly as a Christmas ornament, typically made of straw and bound with red ribbon. This same ornament is what inspired the Gävlebocken.

The Gävlebocken has been a frequent target of arson attacks, spanning all the way back to its very first appearance in

1966, when it was burned down on New Year’s Eve. As of December 2023, a staggering 42 out of 58 Gävlebockens have been damaged in some way, with around 31 of them meeting their end by fire, with the most recent burning being in 2021. This number is a bit hard to count, as sometimes the Gävlebocken is rebuilt but then is immolated once again. To further complicate things, there are actually two Gävlebockens: the tradesmen’s, and the Natural Science Society of Vasaskolan’s (NSSV). The tradesmen’s is the original goat, but in 1971 they grew sick of burnt bockarna and quit making the Gävlebocken altogether. In their place, the NSSV stepped in, erecting a much smaller goat that was unfortunately smashed into much smaller pieces, and continued to build the Gävlebocken in the following years. Thankfully, in 1986, the tradesmen had a change of heart and returned to their noble goat-building duties. Since then, two Gävlebockens have graced Gävle each holiday season.

As of 9:30 PM, December 2nd, 2024, the 2024 Gävlebocken is still standing. If you’re curious to see if it survives, <https://www.visitgavle.se/en/gavle-goat> has a 24/7 livestream of the Gävlebocken for your viewing pleasure. This site has a wealth of other information on the Gävlebocken as well, from the fate of each goat (some of which are incredibly funny, such as the poor goat in 1972 who “imploded due to sabotage”), to facts about the construction of the Gävlebocken. So no matter whether you’re rooting for its fiery downfall or its continued existence, the Gävlebocken is no doubt a very history-rich and entertaining Christmas tradition.



Photo Courtesy of Deposit Photos

2024 Holiday Gift Guide

By Veronica Dallas

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With the holidays approaching, many people are frantically searching for the “perfect gift” for their loved ones. It is no lie that gift-giving is difficult for many people, so this is my personal guide to finding the perfect gift for someone.

There are various categories where I could place certain people or gifts. However, the first is a more broad look at a few popular gifts that people are in the market for. Water bottles have stormed social media in the last couple of years, so researching and finding the best one for you is a 5-minute task that doesn’t take too much thought. From Owala to Yeti, there is a water bottle for everyone. Reading has also gotten popular recently and you cannot go wrong with a book of any genre. Along with these, something even more simple can work as a stocking stuffer or a smaller gift in general. This could include a sample perfume or cologne, lip balm, gift card, or chocolate.

For a more practical person or someone you can’t seem to find something for,



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

something simple like hygiene products, candles, or soap could be an easy, but thoughtful, gift. To make it even more personal, finding a scent you think they will like is a great way to add time and effort without an overwhelming hassle. Shoes are also a practical gift as they can be gen-

eralized or specific to anyone.

Something for music lovers could be a record or CD player, as well as vinyl records or CDs. This could be music they already know and love or an album or playlist of music you think they might like.

For any age, something interactive is a good way to keep them entertained and occupied in the colder months. Something like LEGO sets can be personalized and thought out, with a wide variety of LEGO flowers or any build from any collection like Disney Princesses or Star Wars.



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

Subscription boxes are an amazing way to keep the holiday spirit alive through the winter as well. From makeup to art, to book boxes, there are always some special and specific subscriptions to get.

Another great way to give gifts is to check out a local gift or angel tree. There are always families that don’t often get the privilege to give or receive any of their own gifts, this is an amazing way to spread love and cheer with friends or family while keeping the holiday fun in the air.

If finding a gift in stores is still too hard, gifting something handmade is one of the best ways to show your love and appreciation for someone. Writing a letter or gifting a picture can easily show someone your effort and care.

No matter how much time or money you put into finding the perfect gift, coming from the heart is all that matters.

SATIRE: New Element Found By Chem. Dept.

By Zane Shrewsberry
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In a stunning announcement this week, the Loveland High School science department publicized the discovery of a new element, synthesized jointly by chemistry teacher **Kelly Partridge (Science)** and student **James Young (10)**. The new element, called Lovelandium, has atomic number 125, is highly radioactive, and uses the chemical symbol Lv.

The discovery was made when a small sample of a mysterious mix of chemicals accidentally brewed by Young was sent through the large particle accelerator underneath the cafeteria.

“I’m honestly glad there wasn’t a catastrophic explosion. It’s a miracle there wasn’t one!” Mrs. Partridge said.

After an expedited approval by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), Lovelandium is expected to send shockwaves through the scientific community. Although the steps to making Lovelandium are desperately wanted by chemists globally, it seems that all attempts to recreate it have failed spectacularly. One operation in Geneva, Switzerland ended with hundreds

dead and thousands more suffering from serious injuries. Another attempt in Uzbekistan led to the evaporation of the Aral Sea’s remnants. Despite the pleading of international human rights organizations to halt all production attempts, it seems that the world will not be satisfied until Lovelandium is manufactured at scale.

Despite the excitement surrounding the discovery, some experts remain skeptical. Mark Verwiki of chatgptchemistryexperts.com feels that Lovelandium might be a hoax, commenting that “star charts and earthquakes” have led him to conclude that Lovelandium might actually be copper covered in green paint. He sent a follow-up email that the editors refused to allow into this article, but it did contain a theory regarding Freemasons and the Illuminati. Professor Grant Carlson of Southwestern Rhode Island State College announced his theory that Lovelandium’s number of protons has been counted incorrectly and that it contains just 92 of the positively charged subatomic particles. However, Professor Carlson’s credibility has been questioned due to being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigations for allegedly stealing a dozen donuts from a car dealership

in Newport, Rhode Island, and bragging about it on the social media site Reddit.

Young has received hundreds of emails daily asking for the blend of chemicals he used to acquire Lovelandium but has yet to recover his formula. “I just put a bunch of stuff together and things started happening. First, there was smoke, then there were mini lightning strikes. A dark energy filled the room, and the birds outside stopped chirping” he said.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Partridge has grand plans for the small amount of Lovelandium currently stored underneath the stands in the main gym. “I recently read an inspirational book from the 1800s that got me thinking, if I could resurrect the dead, that would be cool. So I think I’ll have one of my anatomy classes test things out with a small sample of Lovelandium and some dissected frogs. We’ll find the best parts of a couple and combine them into one [unintelligible laughing]... my creation shall roam this Earth” she said, “even if many people consider my work to be an abomination.”

SATIRE: Santa Quits Loveland, Cites Fear of Frogman

By Sohani Gauniyal
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In a shocking twist of events, many Lovelanders’ holiday cheer may be cut short as Santa Claus recently announced he will no longer be coming to Loveland. The announcement may have been missed by some, as, rather than getting any awaited gifts or coal, many woke up to find that any stockings they had set out early in preparation for Christmas instead held a letter from Santa explaining his reasons for skipping. Presumably, this was to ensure only those with “Christmas Spirit” were able to hear the news, possibly causing some strife between the historically secular Mr. Claus and local non-Christmas-celebrating demographics. But, as we here at the Roar are uncertain if mythical beings are capable of filing libel suits, nor wish to end up on the naughty list [Editor’s Note: does that really matter anymore?], this is purely up to speculation.

The letter itself is both rather short, yet incredibly long; seemingly in an attempt to imitate his famous lists, Mr. Claus elected to make the letter three inches by one foot long, despite its small word count. Many recipients

reported torn edges and fragments of names on the back, many of which seemed to be Lovelanders’. This could hint that these letters’ odd format may have been more than just an attempt to spread one last bit of Christmas cheer. Some have proposed that the letters were actually torn from the sections of Mr. Claus’ lists containing Lovelanders’ names and wishes. Others even ended up receiving fragments of their own spot on the lists, with one recipient taking to Facebook to lament that their “[wife] is very upset with me. She wasn’t supposed to know I wished for a divorce, but she saw the back of the letter while I was reading it and now she won’t talk to me.”

In his letter, Mr. Claus apologized for no longer coming to Loveland, calling it a “lovely town” with “great charm.” However, it is in fact one of Loveland’s charms that seems to be the cause for Mr. Claus quitting. Mr. Claus cited concerns that the Loveland Frogman is an “occupational hazard,” having frequently “hopped into the sleigh while it was parked, stressing out both [Mr. Claus] and the reindeer,” and repeatedly attempting to “follow [Mr. Claus] down chimneys, almost getting [them] both

discovered by some kid,” even despite multiple threats of naughty listing and physical violence. Mr. Claus claimed he is “tired” of being “harassed” by, as he puts it, “some toddler-sized amphibious varmint,” and even suggested that “if [Frogman] wants to follow me around so badly, why doesn’t it deliver gifts from now on?” Mr. Claus, in a change of character, went on to air many more grievances and suggest many more things, but they are unfortunately unpublishable. If you wish to see the full letter, a good place to ask is anyone who put their Christmas tree up in November.

The *Roar* attempted to reach out to Frogman for comment, but only received a chilling trill shockingly similar to that of a Fowler’s toad, which instilled such a deep fear into our hearts that we had to leave the area immediately.

Update: After listening more to the echoes that will not leave our minds, the *Roar* is now able to report a new development in the situation: Frogman has agreed to take over for Mr. Claus.

ACROSS

- 4. A child’s favorite winter projectile.
- 6. Jack, a lesser-known painter.
- 8. Just a (business) week away!
- 9. Musical papyrus.
- 11. Sometimes called nuclear.
- 12. Bells and commercials have this in common

DOWN

- 1. Worn by trees and jesters alike.
- 2. A green Christmas hangs over this Arthurian knight like an axe.
- 3. A freezing fractal; Koch’s muse.
- 5. A thing you give and get.
- 7. He’s only around ‘til spring.
- 10. Winter’s point.