



Holly Ridge Middle School **HORNET HEADLINES**

Inside this issue:

GLOBAL NEWS	Pgs. 2
Founding of the FDA	3
JFK Files Released	4
New Discoveries:	5
Giza and Vantablack	6

HORNET NEWS	Pgs. 7
HS Chamber Educator of Month	
Career Fair	8
Science Fair	9
Winter Concert Chorus	10

SPORTS	Pgs. 11-12
---------------	-------------------

HORNET SPORTS	Pg. 13
----------------------	---------------

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	Pgs. 14-17
---------------------------------	-------------------

FEATURES:	Pgs. 18
Holidays and Parades	-25

EDITORIALS	Pgs. 26-28
-------------------	-------------------

The First American Woman to win the NYC Marathon

By Katelin Craven

For the first time since 1977, Shalane Flanagan becomes the first United States woman to win the New York City Marathon. Flanagan was running her heart out and never gave up. She said "this might just be my last competitive 26.2-mile race", and she finished strong because of her perseverance and hard work.

Flanagan is a very humble runner who embraces her teammate's accomplishments instead of being threatened by them.

On Sunday, November 5, millions of people attended the NYC Marathon hoping to have a winning time, but it turned out to be a lucky day for 36-year-old Shalane Flanagan (www.nytimes.com). Flanagan won with a winning time of 2 hours, 26 minutes and 53 seconds. The last woman to win the NYC Marathon was in 1976 and 1977 when Japanese marathoner, Miki Gorman won twice. Gorman also won the Boston Marathon in 1977. Forty years later, with 3 miles to go in the race, Shalane Flanagan pulls ahead of Kenya's Mary Keitany to win.

Flanagan is a four-time Olympian. She competed in the 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympics. She is a Massachusetts native and a former UNC Athlete, where she won National Cross Country titles in 2002 and 2003 (traininginthebay.com). With those titles, she also made Tar Heel history being the first individual champion in that Cross Country. After her

victory on that Sunday she stated, "My coaches told me that it was possible - the training I put in was the best I've ever put in." A former professional runner, Lauren Fleshman says, "Shalane has pioneered a new



brand of 'team mom' to these young up-and-comers, with the confidence not to tear others down to protect her place in her hierarchy."

Flanagan showed anything is possible. Flanagan elevates other women by encouraging them and helping them train. She believes that elevating other women is a self-interest and it is not so lonely at the top if you bring others along. The sky is the limit and no one can stop you from living your dream! Be you!

The Ridge
Conquering the Ridge...One Peak at a Time

Buy your yearbook today!

Just go to
www.yearbookordercenter.com
and input our school code. Our
school code is:

2730

The cost is \$35 and tax.
2017-18 Yearbooks for sale now!

Terror in New York

By Izzy Sachs

On November 2, 2017, at little after 3:00 p.m., a male driver drove a rental truck down the bike path, along the West Side Highway in Lower Manhattan, police officials say. The truck was going at high speed for about a mile down the bike path, then collided with a school bus near Stuyvesant High School. Six people died right at the scene and two more died later at a nearby hospital. Five of the people were friends from Argentina, celebrating a graduation anniversary. Another was an unnamed Belgian woman who died immediately, the last two victims remain unidentified.



The suspect is a 29 year old man named Sayfullo Saipov. He is an immigrant who legally moved from Uzbekistan to America in 2010. “It appears that Mr. Saipov had been planning this for a number of weeks — he did this in the name of ISIS,” stated John Miller, the New York Deputy Police Commissioner for intelligence and counterterrorism.

“He appears to have followed, almost exactly to a T, the instructions that ISIS has put out in its social media channels before with instructions to their followers on how to carry out such an attack.” He was then shot in the abdomen by a New York City police officer at the scene, and is now recovering at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan. (www.cnn.com)

Saipov left a note in his car pledging allegiance to ISIS, it said in Arabic, “The Islamic State will endure forever.” He later blamed the attack on immigration policies promoted by Democrats, going on to say that he thought they were too generous. Investigators were told that he got inspiration to carry out an attack in the United States after watching ISIS videos. Saipov told investigators that that he began to plan the attack a year ago. CNN reported his goal was to “kill as many people as he could.” (www.washingtonpost.com)

Puerto Rico STILL in Need

Kate Riggsbee

Months after the devastating hurricanes hit, Puerto Rico still needs assistance. Puerto Rico’s residents are still in dire need of help from the United States government. The US government is still giving financial aid to the citizens, but not as much as they truly need.

Some Puerto Ricans are barely getting by. Many have been put out of work after their office or work places were destroyed in the hurricanes. The majority of houses and remaining buildings aren’t predicted to have power again for another four months.

“I am not sure how they expect us to be out of work for this long. I don’t know how long I can keep this up” said a woman in Puerto Rico who is estimated to be out of work for five months.

Hurricane Irma was a category 5, and destroyed over half of Puerto Rico’s buildings, and killing 134 people. Hurricane Maria was also a category five. It destroyed a third of Puerto Rico’s remaining buildings and killed sixty-six people. Both storms put three million people out of power; and some still don’t have power. (www.cnn.com)



(www.theweatherchannel.org)

Many people stood in long lines for hours for a very small meal of processed snacks. The residents that were affected were outraged.

Hurricane Irma hit Puerto Rico and devastated its residents on September 6, 2017, while Hurricane Maria hit on October 4, 2017. Since both of the storms were back to back, the island didn’t have time to recover after the first hurricane. Most of the resident’s houses were destroyed by Hurricane Irma, and they were forced to stay in emergency shelters while Hurricane Maria was raging.

Survival at Sea

By Grace Carter

Two women and their dogs were supposedly lost at sea for more than five months. While sailing to Tahiti, they somehow ended up nine hundred miles south of Japan, thousands of miles off course (latimes.com).



Jennifer Appel, Tasha Fuiava, and their dogs Zeus and Valentine left Hawaii on May 3, 2017 sailing a fifty foot sailboat to Tahiti (Nypost.com), but on the first day at sea Appel's cellphone went overboard and sank in the ocean. Subsequently, about a month into their trip, their engine lost power in a force 11 storm near Hawaii (latimes.com), however, the history of storms near Hawaii showed only a small thunderstorm (Nypost.com). They were stuck in the ocean drifting and said "they had sent out distress calls to passing boats but nobody heard them" (latimes.com).

But the weird thing is, they had an emergency beacon that was never used or turned on. Appel claims that "the beacon should only be used in absolute danger scenario, like when you're going to die in the next 24 hours" (Dpost.com). They were in fact in danger of dying and if they used the emergency beacon, a direct signal would have been sent to other boats. Also, as they were drifting out into the sea, their water purifier stopped working and when Appel finally fixed the purifier they were down to their last gallon of water. Luckily they had a year's worth of food (latimes.com). As they were drifting out to sea for more than five months a Taiwanese fishing vessel saw them and called the U.S navy (latimes.com). Appel and Fuiava did not know they had traveled from Hawaii all the way to the coast of Japan.

The police are still trying to find the truth, and hopefully they will soon.

Poisons in Food?

By Zion Abebe

Did you know that before the FDA was formed people put poisons in their food to keep it fresh? The FDA stands for Food and Drug Administration, it was founded on June 30, 1906. The original name for the FDA was The Poison Supper Club founded by Dr. Harvey W. Wiley. Before this club was founded, poisons and toxins were being added to foods. The toxins that were usually added in foods were formaldehyde, borax, and copper sulfate. Dr. Harvey W Wiley, a chemist, founded the poison supper club to document the effects of the toxins on the human body.



Poison

The poisons and toxins were put in foods because they were thought to keep them fresh. Dr. Wiley did not think it was right to put toxins and poisons in foods so he called volunteers to help him prove that it was wrong. The volunteers ate food that contained poison for months and Dr. Wiley consistently tracked their well-being. The effects on the bodies were significant and Dr. Wiley noticed that a lot of the volunteers had kidney failure. Recently a new study found that baby food and infant formula contained a poison called arsenic. The nonprofit group that tested the baby products is called The Clean Label Project. They tested a variety of baby food and infant formula and found that 65 percent of the baby food and infant formula contained arsenic, lead, cadmium, and acrylamide! These poisons and toxins are very dangerous because they jeopardize babies' body development and brain development.

The FDA's quotes, "At FDA, our mission is to promote and protect the health of the public". This has been their mission for years and hopefully will be for years to come. The FDA is a huge part of food marketing and helps a lot with inspecting food and making sure that they are safe to eat. Dr. Harvey Wiley helped found the FDA and without him we would not have safe food to eat. Who knows maybe we'd still be eating poison!

JFK Assassination Files Released

By Victoria Kring



The federal government has released thousands of documents related to John F. Kennedy's assassination. In compliance with a 1992 law, thousands of files were posted online by the National Archives. According to NY Times, the White House said that it would need more time to process and release more files. The White House set a deadline for the unreleased files and it is in late April of 2018.

These released files are about the assassination of the United States' 35th president, John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The postpone of the rest of the files will most likely lead to suspicions over the whole subject. The files were released online by the National Archives, but the law itself was compromised. Quite a large sum of files are still being held from the public view, and many people want more information on the subject.

President Donald Trump faced pressure from the FBI and CIA, but there are others that are interacting over the controversy. For example, scholars & conspiracy theorists hope the records might bring new plots to light. J.F.K.'s Assassination is considered one of the 20th century's most shocking events. According to LA Times, in total more than 3,000 documents were released, but an estimated 18,000 are being held back. Ultimately, all the files will be given public sight, but for now, different reasons are making that very difficult. It was on November 22, 1963, when the 35th president of the United States was shot in the head.

President Donald Trump stated, "The American public expects - and deserves its government to provide as much access as possible to the President John F.K. Assassination Records so that the people may finally be fully informed about all aspects of this pivotal event."

While the controversy lies on the fact that not all files were released, getting some information from the files that were given to us is critical. When all of this clears up, the public will hopefully be able to go to rest over the subject.

Sources:

The LA Times The NY Times

Photo Credit: NBC News Media

Texas Church Shooting

By Owen Andersen

The unraveling of the horrible event of the Texas church shooting on November 5, 2017, left many questions needing answers, including the motives of the shooter. The shooter was Devin Patrick Kelley, who was mentally ill and had family problems with his former mother-in-law. Kelley assumed that she would be attending church on that date. He walked into the church and started firing at the people inside with a Ruger AR rifle.

Twenty six people were killed at the Baptist First Church in rural Sutherland Springs, Texas, authorities said. The shooter fled and was chased by a resident and the police, but the shooter was found dead after running his car off the road. Kelley was court-martialed in 2012 on two charges of assaulting his spouse and their child, a U.S. Air Force spokeswoman confirmed. He was confined for a year, reduced in rank to airman basic E-1 and given a bad conduct discharge in 2014 (CNN.com).

Many people attended the funerals of the victims of this event. This was the first shooting in a long time for Texas. "He seemed to have a troubled past even before he enlisted," Abbott said. The victims were brutally shot and most died. Even people that didn't get shot or injured felt it in their own way. A lot of people were affected by this event. This was a sad day for America.

The Great Pyramid of Giza

By Grace McDermott

The Great Pyramid of Giza is Egypt's largest pyramid. Egyptologist Yukinori Kawae was the first to witness the greatness of the secret tunnel of the Giza Pyramid. The space's dimensions resemble those of the pyramid's Grand Gallery, the 153-foot-long, corridor that leads to the burial chamber of Khufu, the pharaoh for whom the pyramid was built. Previously, Scan Pyramids had announced the detection of some intriguing voids and anomalies, which didn't come necessarily as a surprise. While that might seem impressive, it falls short of the stringent five-sigma level that high-energy physicists traditionally require for an official discovery. Five sigma means there is less than one in a million probability that a finding is there, due to the chance that the pyramids' interiors are far more pock-marked and rubbly than people usually imagine. (National Geographic).



New discovery comes out of the Scan Pyramids Project, an international mission under the authority of Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities. Launched in October 2015, the project aims to non-invasively peer into Egypt's largest pyramids using a battery of technologies. The Great Pyramid contains three previously discovered rooms: the King's chamber, a smaller Queen's chamber and a passageway called the Grand Gallery (Ancient-Egypt-technology). This marks the first discovery of a major space inside the ancient structure since the 19th century, the journal says. The scientists work with Scan Pyramids, a mission under the French Heritage, Innovation and Preservation Institute, the Faculty of Engineering of Cairo, and the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities (CNN News).

Disneyland Cooling Towers

By Brenda Mendez-Morales

"Is it the happiest place on earth?" The family friendly place called Disneyland had gone face to face with a hazardous problem affecting many people. Disney discovered that two cooling towers had elevated levels of legionella bacteria. The visitors were contaminated with a disease called Legionnaires and it was caused by the cooling towers. The towers are in a backstage area near the New Orleans Square Train Station, each more than 100 feet from areas accessible to guests.



The towers contained contaminated water and mist. Legionnaires' is a severe lung infection caused by exposure to bacteria. The disease was spread throughout time but was later identified. They remain down until test results verify they are free from *Legionella* contamination. Some symptoms that are caused by the disease are headaches, muscle pain, chills, shortness of breath, and chest pain. The gastrointestinal symptoms of Legionnaires disease are nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

There were numerous amounts of innocent people who were affected by the disease, including men, and women. Those who were affected ranged in age from 52 to 94. The number of cases of people contaminated was 10, who were hospitalized and one person "with additional health issues" died.

Legionnaire's disease is a severe form of pneumonia. The disease usually clears on its own, but untreated can be fatal. The treatment usually lasts about a week, but may continue up to three weeks. There have been many changes and mistakes corrected since the date October 27, which was the day it was discovered.

The Discovery of Vantablack

By Andrew Brown

Vantablack is a dark substance that is so black, it makes objects look 2-Dimensional. Scientists are finding new ways to use Vantablack every day.

It is made of carbon tubes that trap light. Imagine walking through one thousand feet tall grass, no light gets to you. When you look at Vantablack, 99.965% of light gets absorbed by it, creating a “schism in space”. It doesn’t allow any light to reach you, the viewer. The author and design journalist, Kassia St. Clair said that “It’s so black, it looks like a mistake.” Vantablack is more expensive per weight than diamonds or gold (CNN 10).

Although it might look like paint, it is actually made up of microscopic carbon nanotubes, which are grown in a lab just outside of London. Ben Jensen, CTO of Surrey Nanosystems says, “So black that it changes the dimensionality of an object. It’s not a color. It’s the absence of color.” Vantablack is the darkest material made by man (MentalFloss.com). The surface area of one Centimeter squared contains around one million nanotubes.

When you touch Vantablack, it feels like a smooth surface because the nanotubes are too small to feel them. They collapse when you apply any pressure to them, so it feels smooth. As a fun fact, carbon has more chemical combinations than any other element in the periodic table of elements.

An artist plans to cover a building in it for the Winter Olympics. He’s going to cover it in lights to make it look like the night sky, but you will be seeing it in broad daylight. Someday, Vantablack may be used in telescopes and other areas that are part of daily life.

Collection of Pigments

By Hanan Nadeem

The Harvard Art Museums are collecting pigments from outside objects! The scientists pick up objects from outside inspecting the color to make different pigments. Pigments are substances that can be mixed with any liquid, such as paint or ink. The museum has more than 2,500 pigment samples! The colors can vary from many different shades.



Narayan Khandekar, the senior conservation scientist at Harvard Art Museums, has a whole collection of the pigments that come from different objects from nature. For instance one of the pigments was inspired by the color of cow poo. Yuck! These colors get collected for making paint and for almost anything. The paintings for the museum are made using them.

These pigments came to mind over a hundred years ago when a museum director noticed that his old paintings were beginning to deteriorate and was passionate about how those paintings were made. So he began a phenomenal collection of pigments and more paintings as well.

PTA Reflections Contest Winners

By Katelin Craven

Judging results for the PTA Reflections Contest entries that were submitted at the end of October are in at the schoolwide level. For the six categories: photography, dance choreography, film production, literature, visual arts, and music composition, there were a dozen entries that will advance. Of the 12, five students from Holly Ridge Middle School won at the county level, however the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entries will not be announced until January 1st. Kira Geniesse

was recognized for the category of dance. For the category of music composition it is Josephine Rustay; film production recognized Anniston Morgan, and in literature, Allyson Weitz, Brooke Mahany, and Holden Dowless. Julia Janosko, Allyson Weitz, and Kalynn Steele were recognized in the visual arts category and Brenda Mendez-Morales was recognized for photography. Congratulations to the dozen and to all who submitted entries! On January 31, 2018 from 8:30 until 9:00 a.m. there will be a small schoolwide reception to recognize all students who participated.

Babysitting Lessons with Mrs. Murdock

By Nu-Jiyuh Shields

The American Red Cross (ARC) is the nation's leading organization in babysitting classes and child care training – and will prepare you to be the best sitter in your neighborhood. In fact, according to ARC, 8 in 10 surveyed parents said they would pay more for a trained babysitter who holds Red Cross babysitter certifications. Start your babysitting business on the right foot and learn how to be a safe, professional and reliable sitter. You can also opt to get certified in First Aid and CPR/AED (automated external defibrillator). With online and class options for all ages, the American Red Cross offers child care education that's not only convenient, but valuable to you, and the families you care for.



Mrs. Murdock's FAC Child and Nutrition classes take advantage of this experience, and she decided to include them in this course; they also learned a lot of information about babysitting. On Wednesday, October 12, her third period class watched and then followed Mrs. Murdock's example on how to change the diaper on a baby doll. Students practiced diaper changing using the silicone baby dolls, and continued the process for about five minutes. After the five minute practice, they started to feed the babies. The class seemed to enjoy the practice, as they talked with their fellow classmates while playing with the dolls.

If you happen to have a hard time as a babysitter with diaper changing, here are some tips to use: choose a good location, be prepared, wipe carefully, roll up the diaper carefully, and also make sure to double check, so that you know if you have left something behind in the diaper! The lessons learned throughout the activities are helpful to kids that really want to babysit as a hobby, or just for fun as a summer job to make money. Of course, this is not about the 'kid dream' of the babysitter who

just gives out candy all day, but rather the importance in considering the child's preferences. After all, the children are the ones who will be spending the most time with the babysitter. If parents ask their child for their opinions about their caregiver, it will help children feel like they are a part of the process, and get excited about their new caregiver. They'll find it easier to make a connection and ultimately have an enjoyable experience.

HS Chamber recognizes Ms. Miller

By Kristin McNally

Ms. Brittany Miller feels honored and appreciated to receive the Educator of the Month awarded by the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce on November 6, 2017. She says, "It's nice to be recognized for doing a good job." The educator of the month award is an award given to a nominated teacher in Holly Springs by the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Miller received a plaque with her name on it, a basket full of goodies, and a gift card to the Mason Jar.



This award is from working hard and being good at your job. Ms. Miller received this award because she has worked really hard to help kids understand and improve their math skills. Math can be hard and confusing at times, so it's good to have a teacher that is really good at explaining and helping.

Ms. Miller has been teaching for five years. She became a teacher with a little inspiration from her high school chemistry teacher. "She was not only a teacher, but a mentor," said Ms. Miller, who loves building relationships and showing her students that math doesn't have to be hard. Ms. Miller believes that "being recognized as an educator of the month has assured me that I am doing the job that I was meant to do in life." Now, she is eligible for the Chamber's Educator of the Year award. Congratulations and good luck to you, Ms. Miller!

Original Character Contest

By Rowen Bruscia

Mrs. Ashley Bettini's art classes for pottery and sculpture watched a documentary on Dave Pilkey, the author of the *Captain Underpants Series* of books that was the inspiration for the recent *Captain Underpants Movie*. The new movie brought attention to the famed author and was followed by an interview, which is why Bettini's classes watched the documentary. This prompted the 'Original Character Contest' for her students. There were many entries and creative names, but only one of the entries from each class will win a spot in the finals. The top eight entries are on display in the media center for voting and the winner to be announced on December 15, 2017, will receive a small prize.



In the documentary interview, Dave Pilkey said that his high school teachers never believed in him, but all of his friends believed that he would be an author and that he would be successful in art and literature. Despite all of the negative things his teachers said, he kept drawing and never gave up on himself. His readers and the fans of the movie, know all of his characters, especially the two kids in the story who were both of his original characters, George Beard and Harold Hutchins. The famed author has other books including *Dog Man*, *The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby*, and *The Adventures of Ook and Gluk*.

Don't forget to vote for your favorite original characters and to keep drawing your own characters, because you never know what might happen when it comes to writing and drawing.

Exploring Future Opportunities

By Kaylee Waltz



Once again this year, eighth grade counselor Mrs. Heather Gilberry hosted the Career Fair for eighth graders so they could gain insight about what they might want to become and the necessary studies to achieve that career or occupation when they become older. This year representatives from the following organizations volunteered their time to attend: the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Vice President, Medical Writing INC Research/Inventive Health, Andrea Meyers, Commander US Navy retired David Kapfhammer, FBI agent Michael Greer, Enterprise cars, Assistant Manager Terri Wilson, School Psychologists Wake Co. Public Schools Mrs. Leigh Goble and intern Ms. Catherine Edwards, and many others from the community. The career fair took place in the gymnasium, in the auditorium, and in several classrooms on Friday, December 8.

The career day groups were according to the eighth graders' fifth period class. They stayed with their class the whole time. The career fair was during second, third, and fourth periods. There were four parts of the career day: one in the auditorium, for high schoolers to talk to the students and give advice to them. Another session was in the gym, where there were many different companies set up to talk with students about their jobs and to give them ideas on what to study as they grow older. They also gave out small toys and pens to promote their companies.

The third and fourth parts of the career fair involved guest speakers in different classrooms where they talked about their careers and what you should do if you want to have a job like them when you are older. A question and answer session followed within the classrooms, and you could decide what values you like or dislike.

Honor Roll Celebrations

By Brittany Allen

Many students at Holly Ridge Middle School received honor roll mention for the first quarter on November 7, 2017. Students who received A's and B's for the first quarter were invited to attend a recognition in the gymnasium, led by the eighth grade assistant principal Mr. James Cole, where they received a popsicle and played basketball on the gym court or sat in the bleachers and socialized with their peers.

Attending the honor roll celebrations were 323 sixth graders, 322 seventh graders and 318 eighth graders. In total there were 903 students being recognized for their academic achievements, which adds up to 69% out of the 1,350 students enrolled at Holly Ridge Middle School during the first quarter. Teachers attended as well, assisting with the distribution of popsicles. The timing of the 6th grade celebration ran from 8:30 to 8:55 AM during first period. The seventh grade attended from 9:30 to 9:55 AM, and was followed by the eighth graders from 11:15 to 11:40 AM during fourth period.

Many students received honor roll recognition for an all A honor roll or an A/B honor roll. Even if a student receives one C during the quarter, they can still qualify for this prestigious recognition. This quarter, parents were not invited to attend a ceremony, but their children received certificates that were distributed with the report cards and sent home.

The Science Fair

By Ashlyn McMillan

Have you ever heard of the Science Fair? It is an annual event that is not optional at the Ridge and all seventh-grade students have to participate. The Science Fair will be held this year on Tuesday, December 12, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Science Fair counts as a project grade for science. Thanks to the PTA membership and the seventh grade science teachers for all of their hard work in setting up the Science Fair and judging the entries, so there can be a yearly Science Fair to showcase student scientific ideas and innovations.

All students had time to work on their project from the middle of September to November 21 therefore all students have to follow some simple rules about how to do their experiment and poster board. When students are doing their experiment, they have to follow the scientific method. Once they do this, students then have to display that they followed the scientific method on a poster board. To make the Science Fair project less stressful, students are able to work with up to two partners. Also, students and their partners are only to work on their projects at home and not at school.



[Photo courtesy of Twitter feed]

During the actual Science Fair, students will bring their poster board and present it to on-lookers. Both you and your partner have to be there. If you

are in seventh grade and you are not going to attend, you will have to complete an alternate assignment. Depending on how much work you did and the opinion of the community judges, you could advance to the Regional fairs. Regional fairs is where students from every school in North Carolina are judged on their projects and compete with other science projects. The science fair may seem scary, but if you think about it, it's just one big project, and if you are participating, good luck! Announcements of students advancing to Regionals will be included in the next issue of *Hornet Headlines*.

**ORDER an 8th grade Recognition AD
TODAY!**

It's easy to create your ad, simply log on to
our secure website to select
Buy A Yearbook Ad.

**www.yearbookordercenter.com
School Code 2730**

Don't forget to order the yearbook!

Checkmating in Chess Club

By Ayoub Idtaleb

“The pawns are the soul of chess,” says Philidor, a famous composer and chess player.

The Chess Club at Holly Ridge Middle School is again offered and hosted by seventh grade language arts teacher Mr. George Preiss. The club meets in Mr. Preiss’s room #411 on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. and is open to any students who can attend. The chess club is a great opportunity for players to relax, have fun, to compete and to learn how to play chess, as well as to meet new friends after school.

This year there have been several interesting competitions: the best player is currently Andrew St Pierre in first place, then Samantha Adamczeski is in second place and in third place is Noah Tello. The ranks are always changing. There are many participants who attend this club, including seventh grade social studies teacher Mr. Bobby Fulghum, Justin Blackburn, Skye Shelton, Daniel Ly, and Ella Daniels, to name a few. The next scheduled time they meet is December 13, 2017, but if you can’t make it then, you can come to the next one in January. You can join at any time.



The game of Chess is very strategic and competitive. Chess can be a very fun game to practice and help improve your skills. Sometimes, the risky moves make the best choices, and other times playing it safe is the way to go. Justin Blackburn believes that “Chess is not a game, but a way to test you mind in a game.”

Winter Concert Chorus

By Kiley Hukill

Holly Ridge Middle School is well-known for their extracurricular activities, such as clubs, and sports. The Fine Arts Department offers many elective classes for students to learn how to dance, sing, create artwork, learn to speak Spanish, and even play an instrument. These experiences help students find themselves and their talents within and perform for the school. This year the Concert Chorus performed a winter concert themed *A Winter Wonderland* on December 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The purpose was to make the audience think about spending time with one another around the holidays. For the past three months, the Concert Chorus class has been rehearsing many different songs for the concert: “That’s Christmas to Me”, “Carol of the Bells”, “Sleigh ride”, “Favorite Things”, “Jambo”, and the mash-up song “Blank Space/Style.”



The class assembled at 6:00 p.m. to rehearse before the concert began. Many of the girls wore navy blue dresses with a pearl choker, while the boys wore white button down shirts with a black tie and navy blue vest. This year they have decided to do small groups, the class divided into groups of six or eight. They rehearsed for two days, then performed for the class, and a vote was taken to determine who would participate in the concert. Only one small group was chosen for the concert and the group will be singing “Blank Space/Style” by Taylor Swift. The members in this group are Bevin Adams, Trinity Brennan, Fatima Carmona-Melecio, Emma Crawford, Alex Duffy, Ella Haynes, Kiley Hukill, Grace McDermott, Hallie Morgan, Olivia Rudd, and Emily Spies. Groups usually only sing acapella, but this year’s group decided instead on the accompaniment of guitar.

Thank you everyone who attended the winter concert. The spring concert will be in May.

Premier League Season to Remember

By Tommy Hannegan

This 2017-2018 season in The English Premier League has been a great one but is still not over. Lots of games have been played and many great victories and losses have been performed. Here are some of the scores. October 28 Man united beat Tottenham 1-0, Arsenal beat Swansea 2-1, Crystal palace tied West Ham 2-2, Liverpool beat Huddersfield 3-0, Stoke City beat Watford 1-0, Manchester City beat West Bormwich 3-2, and Chelsea beat Bournemouth 1-0.

October 29 Southampton and Brighton tied 1-1, and Lester City beat Everton 2-0, Stoke City tied Lester City 2-2, Huddersfield Town beat West Bormwich 1-0,

October 30 Bournemouth beat New Castle 1-0, Burnley beat Southampton 1-0, Brighton beat Swansea 1-0, and Liverpool beat West Ham 4-1.



One of the coaches, Mr. Mauricio Pochettino, Tottenham's coach says, "Mr. Jose Mourinho, Manchester United's coach has had worse squads than this Manchester United squad and have won major silverware." There has been quite a few injuries this season. Manchester United's Mr. Michael Carrick has a heart condition and Manchester City's Mr. Phil Jones has a calf strain. Mr.



Benjamin Mendy has a knee injury and Mr. John Stones has a thigh injury. Chelsea's Mr. Charly Musonda has a knee injury as does Mr. David Luiz. Moreira Marinho.

Manchester United needs to pull together a few more wins before the end of the season, then they could be in 1st. Chelsea is close behind though and they could pull ahead into 2nd place considering they did win the league championship last season. The way Manchester City has been playing though they could have 1st place secure but it's anyone's guess. There are still plenty of games left to play so the table could shift a lot but for now it looks like not much could change.

Placements of the teams:

- 1st Manchester City (England)
- 2nd Manchester United (England)
- 3rd Chelsea (England)
- 4th Tottenham (England)
- 5th Liverpool (England)
- 6th Arsenal (England)
- 7th Burnley (England)
- 8th Brighton (England)
- 9th Watford (England)
- 10th Huddersfield Town (England)
- 11th New Castle (England)
- 12th Leicester City (England)
- 13th Southampton (England)
- 14th Stoke City (England)
- 15th Everton (England)
- 16th West Bournemouth (England)
- 17th AFC Bournemouth (England)
- 18th West Ham United (England)
- 19th Swansea City (England)

World Series Baseball

By Denny Liebler

The winner of the 2017 World Series this year was the Houston Astros. The World Series concluded after a full 7 games with the Astros winning the final game in L.A. against the L.A. Dodgers. This was the first World Series win for the Astros franchise.

The Astros won the World Series after seven tough games against the Dodgers. Games one and two took place in Dodger Stadium in L.A. Games three, four and five took place in Minute Maid Stadium in Houston, which is where the Astros play. The final two games took place in Dodger Stadium again. The seven games took place over 8 days with the first game played on October 24 and game seven being played on November 1 with travel on the 26th.

The Dodgers started the series with a win in game one and then the Astros won game two to tie it. The Astros won the next game taking the lead and then the Dodgers won the next game tying it again. Then the same thing happens for games five and six, but in the final game, the Astros won for their first World Series Title.



The Dodgers were predicted to win the series, but the Astros won, which surprised a lot of people. A player on the Astros was threatened with a suspension for racist comments against an opposing pitcher, but in the end, he wasn't suspended. Many of the games had very high run totals with game five ending with 25 total runs scored. Most of the games were close with the victor winning by one or two runs, but game seven was a blow out with the Astros winning 5-1. Many of the games had both teams going deep into their bullpens to finish the games. Game two went to 11 innings with the Astros winning 7-6 and game five went ten innings with the Astros winning 13-12.

There were a lot of cool highlights during the World Series. In the third inning of game two, the centerfielder for the Dodgers dove for a ball, but it bounced and hit the bill of his hat, knocking it off without injuring him. In game two the dodgers tied the game with a play at the plate after the runner dove and beat the throw from right field. During another play an Astros player dove into home in game three. There were a lot of home runs during the World Series. There were 24 total hit by fourteen different players.

Disney World Girls Soccer

By Alyssa Dahm

The Disney Soccer Showcase event is held this year on Thanksgiving, November 23, 2017 through November 26 at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Kissimmee, Florida. This



soccer tournament and showcase provides an opportunity for girls' soccer teams to experience. The soccer showcase is a chance for U-15, fifteen years of age and older through U-

19, nineteen years and younger, to have college coaches come look at them and their teams. The soccer tournament is a chance for U-11, eleven years of age and younger, and through U-14, fourteen years and younger to have an amazing experience while having fun time with their teams.

The Disney Girls Soccer Tournament and Showcase, sponsored by Puma, AT&T, and dr. cool, includes professionally maintained fields, a minimum 3-game guarantee, certified referees, presence of athletic trainers provided by South Lake Hospital at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, ice water at each field, game balls, awards presented for the 1st- 4th place teams for groups or more teams, and 1st & 2nd for groups of 6 or fewer teams.

The soccer teams are traveling from thirty-one states in the United States and Canada to participate in this showcase and tournament. All of the states that are going are North Carolina, Virginia, California, Pennsylvania, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Texas, Louisiana, Ohio, South Carolina, Nebraska, Alabama, New Jersey, Mississippi, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee, Massachusetts, Kansas, Wisconsin, Maine, Kentucky, Connecticut, Minnesota, Washington, Arkansas, and Colorado.

Holly Ridge Battles Apex MS

By Jamyah Garland

The first quarter of the game when the Hornets faced Apex Middle School, they were getting ready before the game practicing and all the players felt well prepared. The first quarter was about to start; all the starting lineup of eighth graders were ready. A lone seventh grader named Reid Sauls was starting in the first quarter. Holly Ridge made a touchdown during the middle of the first quarter, then 2 points were scored by Apex Middle during the first quarter of the game.

Unfortunately, the fifth quarter of the game started off rough, and even though it doesn't count toward the game, it does set the momentum of the game, which was challenging, because all the seventh graders were going against the other team's biggest players. Hannah Mitchell, the only female on the team, was one of the seventh grade players in the 5th quarter. By the middle of the game, when one of the opponent's players ran the play to make a touchdown, was when Hannah Mitchell was chasing after him and she was so close, but when she attempted to tackle him, he went on by and was lost.

When asked about the best part of the season, Hannah Mitchell said it was tackling people for the ball. Mitchell was the first girl in seventh grade to try out for football this year and she demonstrated bravery on the field. This year's football season proved to be challenging, and even though the Hornets won only one game, 44 to 0, they hustled on the field as Hornets do when conquering those difficult moments. They dominated during many of the games, but their opponents caught up to them.

"Conquering the Ridge" means standing up, facing adversity, and going head strong until the end, even if it doesn't go in your favor!" That is what is called a WIN-WIN situation! Everyone benefits from the experience of pushing themselves to the limit and working as a team to get the job done.

Way to GO HORNETS!



Football Season Highlights

By Andrew Rustay

The Holly Ridge Hornets football team tried their hardest this season. They played 8 football games. They played home at Holly Ridge and away at other middle schools. The season took place in the fall from September 28 through November 9. Our team played to win and some players just played for the fun of it. They had tryouts and cuts to find out who was good enough to make the team.

This year, the football team's record was 1-7. The team tried as hard as they could and was better than their record showed. As the season progressed, they had some mishaps, but then recovered. There were some close losses; some by only 6 points. Others, our team did not play as well, losing by up to 27 points. We lost our first game 21-8 to Salem. We then won our first and only game of the season, a blowout 44-0 against Davis Drive. The next 4 games were pretty similar, losses coming in at 8-35, 8-35, 8-36, and 8-36 against West Lake, Holly Grove, Fuquay and Apex. Our closest loss was against Lufkin, losing by a margin of 6, with the score being 14-20.

Team vs	Score Us	Score Them	Winner
Salem	8	21	Them
Davis Drive	44	0	Us
Mills Park	0	22	Them
West Lake	8	35	Them
Holly Grove	8	35	Them
Fuquay	8	36	Them
Apex	8	36	Them
Lufkin	14	20	Them

Knightscope Security Guard Robots

By Bruno Rosa

Knightscope is making security robots, but how could they help us? These 300 lb. security guards are now roaming the campuses of some major tech companies based in California. You might not expect them to do much, but many large companies are already trusting them. The company behind this is called Knightscope, and like other big companies, they are based in California. These robot security guards are cheaper, and more advanced/protective than other robot guards or even human guards.

This is also happening because of new technology, a set of wheels, and complicated software. While this company started this project a couple months ago, the actual accomplishments are actually happening right now. The K5 also uses a set of lasers, a heat camera (thermal), and sound recognizing technology. By using GPS to move around, the K5 can be rented from Knightscope for about \$7 an hour.



The robots have already done quite a decent amount of protecting for big tech companies such as Microsoft and Uber. While the robots can do a lot more, they have already stopped a drunk man from causing trouble. While stalling the man, the robots called for human security to come help. While not being able to do all of the work, these programmed guards are still helping stop troublemakers. "Don't mess with a K5," Li says. Dean Stephens states, "The robot did what it was supposed to do in an emergency." This is not even close to the full potential of the security guards.

Knightscope is already changing the way we see security technology. This could be the future of how companies, or maybe even people protect themselves. While they don't know how everyone will respond, they do know that small steps like these are the only way they will achieve their ultimate goal.

Google's Self-Driving Trucks

By Wesley Parker

Technology is taking over the world! Transportation, for instance, has been booming. Since as long as man can remember, transportation has been constantly improving. First, there were horses, then carriages, then automobiles and now Google's self-driving semi-trucks. Since 2009, Google has been constantly working on its self-driving semi-truck. Google, also known as Waymo, has much competition. Other companies like Tesla, Uber, Peloton, and Daimler/Mercedes are also developing self-driving semi-trucks. Some companies are helping each other out, like Peloton, Volvo, and UPS. Volvo is not only teaming up, it is also building trucks with specific purposes for their own profit.



However, Google already has experience in this area of self-driving vehicles. They are very well known for their self-driving cars. From the pictures below and above you can tell that Google appears to be using a Peterbilt 579, probably equipped with an automatic transmission. The equipment appears to be mounted on the roof on a rack, which probably is a central LIDAR dome. It also has four ultrasonic sensors, two on each side, that appear to cover the front. Also, a radar emitter appears in the middle of the front bumper. It is possible that there are more sensors on the sides and rear of the truck, but it cannot be confirmed from this picture.

Many truck drivers are threatened by the idea of these self-driving google semi-trucks. They fear this may put them out of business and could potentially leave many people without jobs. However, this is not always the case. It is possible that someone will be required to ride passenger to maintain and supervise the truck. So this change may not be at all that bad. In fact, this could and probably improve the trucking business a lot. "Self-driving technology can transport people and things much more safely than we do today and reduce the thousands of truck related deaths each year," said Waymo. Packages and shipments could arrive a lot earlier due to not having to stop for rest, food and bathroom breaks. This could be more useful than people think. The future is here and the future is now!

Changes of Net Neutrality

By Bruno Rosa

Net neutrality rules are changing, but what has it accomplished, and why the need to change it now? Net neutrality is currently part of a big debate of internet freedom. If you didn't know already, net neutrality is a series of rules stating that internet providers will provide equal speeds and authorize all websites on their network. For example, companies like Comcast can slow down their user's connection to Netflix, in hopes of boosting their own media. It seems like a new topic, but its history stretches more than a decade. The FCC has been dealing with the possibility of net neutrality since the term was coined in 2003. Now, Trump appointed FCC Chairman, Ajit Pai, is planning to change the current rules. Many want to keep net neutrality, but Pai doesn't want the government to keep micromanaging the internet (beta.latimes.com, money.cnn.com, and www.sutori.com).

In 2005, the FCC released the four principles of the internet, that being that the consumer had the right to: access the lawful content of their choice, run applications and services of their choice, connect their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network, and to have competition among network, application and content providers. This, along with the 2010 FCC open internet order, gave users an extended amount of freedom. In contrast, in 2015, the FCC released the revised net neutrality rules which limited internet providers. And finally, now in 2017, Pai is trying to overturn those rules for what he believes is the benefit of the consumer. Ajit Pai states, "Under my proposal, the federal government will stop micromanaging the government." While Pai thinks only positive things will come from the change, many do not agree with Pai. Most who disagree with Pai argue that many companies will take advantage of the new rules.

Net neutrality has been a changing subject for quite some time now, but a lot big changes are happening now. While the meeting over the subject of net neutrality will take place on December 14th, the effects may take time to appear. Only time will tell if net neutrality changes were a good idea. If net neutrality is repealed on the 14th, but it ends up being a bad idea, it's likely that new rules will be put in place later.



Uber teams up with NASA

By Kaleb Carlquist

Uber and NASA have paired up to build flying or hovering cars that use propellers instead of wheels to get from one place to another. These flying taxis will be released as demos for the public during 2020 to Los Angeles (CNN Tech). This new system will be called Uber-air, these aircrafts will be unmanned, or without a pilot, which has been described as safe and efficient, because the aircrafts fly at low speeds and altitudes to accommodate the passenger's safety and comfort.

Although as advanced this tech vehicle is the cost is the same price as Uber X which uses cars to transport. The aircrafts at Uber-air don't use fossil fuels like most vehicles do; instead, they use a much healthier approach that some car companies are taking. They use electricity, which would result in a certain amount of battery power being drained after every flight. However, Uber and NASA, not only developed chargers for it, but also made the aircrafts to use barely any energy from their batteries when taking off, flying and even landing.



[Photo Credit CNNTech.Com]

NASA and Uber didn't develop a trafficking system for when there is a great amount of aircrafts in a small radius, but for this they may develop something like what a school bus has which would be a stop sign attached to the side. Uber and NASA have thought ahead with safety protocols like those on a flight in a plane, which means in case of emergency there are gas mask or oxygen masks, parachutes, flares, and seatbelts. Most people would like to know how this technology will play out for Uber and NASA and how much they will profit from a well-executed idea to avoid rush hour on the streets with charging a few dollars more than Uber X which is by car.

Nintendo Switch

By Jack Knight

Do you think Nintendo is old news? Well look again. The Nintendo Switch was announced in October last year, and was set to release in March 2017. The Switch had potential with its portable design. The Switch resembled the Wii U's gamepad controller, except now the console WAS the gamepad/controller. It's about the size of a tablet, with detachable "Joycon" controllers. One large selling point of the unit was the new launch title: *The Legend of Zelda, Breath of the Wild*. This game is part of the very popular, action, adventure series, The Legend of Zelda. It had a very large following, earning the console millions of pre-orders.

Another selling point of the Switch, is its 3rd party support. This means that other companies like Sega, Capcom, Namco, EA, Bethesda, Konami, Activision, Ubisoft, and others, can make games, and release them on the Switch. Not only will these games release on the Switch, but some will be changed to make the games feel less out of place. For example, Bethesda's *The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim*, just came to the Switch, but with new amiibo support. Amiibo can enhance a game, and it does this by allowing special gear to be unlocked by scanning any amiibo. When you scan a Legend of Zelda related amiibo, a familiar Zelda themed chest appears, and will conceal the Master Sword, Hylian Shield, and the Champions Tunic, directly pulled from *The Legend of Zelda, Breath of the Wild*. This makes the game all that much better, and makes *Skyrim* on the Switch feel right in place. This makes for more of a variety of games, from other people, and their ideas.

The games were not on discs like usual, they were now on cartridges, (small video tape like game) about the size of an SD card. When the Console released, it immediately sold millions of units, along with copies of the new Zelda title. Recently, the switch had a large selling spike, because of *Super Mario Odyssey*. This red and blue, Italian Plumber, has been one of Nintendo's biggest characters, and is the mascot of the company. Mario, and his brother Luigi have been starring in over 200 video games, and there is no sign of them stopping. Just this past month, *Super Mario Odyssey* was released for the Nintendo Switch. It features new characters, mechanics, and ideas. The game has been very popular, and made the Nintendo Switch worth buying for some people. The Switch is a very good example of why Nintendo is, and always has been, the most successful video game company of all time, but where did this all start?



Nintendo is a video game based company that has been around since the late 1980's. The company sold card games in Japan, until their big break in the early 1980's. They produced many classic arcade titles, like *Mario Brothers*, and *Donkey Kong*. They gained even more popularity, with the Nintendo Entertainment System, or NES. The NES brought even more beloved titles, like *Super Mario Brothers*, *Metroid*, *Contra*, *Duck Hunt*, and many others. It seemed like Nintendo was unstoppable until 1991, when SEGA came into the picture. Sega was established in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1960. Sega competed with Nintendo's "Super Nintendo (SNES)", with their console, the Sega Genesis. They even had their own mascot to compare to Mario: *Sonic the Hedgehog*. This period of video games has been named: 'The Console War'. This event continued through the 1990s, until Sega stopped making consoles, and made their games for Nintendo's systems. In the late 90's, and early 2000's, Sony teamed up with Nintendo to make the ultimate video gaming console, until Nintendo dropped from the project. Sony went on to create their own console, The PlayStation. Nintendo continued to dominate the market with their portable consoles, like the Gameboy, Gameboy Color, and Gameboy Advance, along with their new home console, The Nintendo GameCube. Nintendo was bigger than ever when they released the Wii. This console introduced motion controls, and a new library of games. It seemed like Nintendo was never going to fail, until Nintendo released the Wii U. This console included a controller with a small screen that allowed gameplay without use of a television. This idea was not executed well, as it sold much less units than the Wii did. This caused a downfall in Nintendo's popularity, allowing the other popular consoles to dominate the market, like Microsoft's Xbox One, and Sony's PlayStation 4. Nintendo still lingered with other products, like Amiibo. These were small figurines that could enhance video games by introducing new in-game content.

The Nintendo Switch is starting to compete with the other consoles, by releasing the same games, but allowing them to be played on the go. For example, you can play *NBA 2K16* at home on a PS4 or XBOX one, or you can play it on the Switch, in the car, bus, plane, boat, school (if your allowed), work, at a friend's house, the park, etc. The choice is pretty obvious right? The Switch has a bright future ahead, with Christmas, and an expansion of its video game library. There will definitely be some good games to look forward to, making Christmas the perfect time to get your hands on a Nintendo Switch. Are you getting one this Holiday?

Bitcoin Digital Currency

By Trinity Cummins

Bitcoin is an online financial network that people use to send payments from one person to another. There are no physical “coins” like dimes, nickels and quarters. Bitcoin was created by an unknown person in 2009 under the alias of ‘Satoshi Nakamoto’. Bitcoin, like other cryptocurrencies, exists on the Internet. There were 1,324 cryptocurrencies listed on CoinMarketCap.com. The price has gone crazy Supply and demand. People are buying up bitcoin, driving up the price of the 16.7 million coins in circulation to a total value of \$189 billion. In May of 2013, Bitcoin’s price briefly rose above \$250, before falling by about 80% (bitcoin.com).



Many use caution, despite its impressive price increase in 2017. Bitcoin is a highly speculative, experimental new type of digital asset. Therefore, there is substantial uncertainty around its future evolution and potential. As of Jan. 1, the cryptocurrency was trading at \$960.79 per coin. Around 4 p.m. Monday, it was selling in the \$11,500 range. They increase more times throughout the year. The Nasdaq Stock Market will start a bitcoin futures site on its commodities trading platform in 2018. Financial firms including Cantor Fitzgerald and Goldman Sachs are discussing the trading possibilities around bitcoin, which has a market value larger in size than British Petroleum giant BP (bitcoin.com).

Bitcoin is one of the fastest way to transfer money when comparing to Western Union and MoneyGram. Some people even say they received their money within a day or few hours. Your bitcoin worth adds up over time and becomes more valuable.

Browsing with Virtual Reality Shopping

By Kendall Breckenridge

Soon, people will not only be able to shop from the comfort of their own home, but will also be able to look at 3D renders of objects via virtual reality.

Virtual Reality is older technology than what everyone thinks. The earliest form of virtual reality was invented in 1957 and patented in 1962. This device was called the ‘Sensorama’. Virtual reality is a building block for new technology. One of the most famous virtual reality headsets, Google Cardboard, has been shipped over ten million times. Clothing companies, like ObsessVR, have got in on this, too. Obsess is not for one brand exactly. It’s for any clothing brand that wants “Immersive shopping experiences” (obsessvr.com). Obsess has three experience types: shoppable 360° scenes, spaces, and videos. With this program, you can see 3D renders of clothing. Obsess is used by Walmart and was featured at the New York Fashion Week in 2017. A variation of virtual reality shopping is Amazon Prime outfit compare and Echo Look. The Amazon outfit compare is a free feature for all prime members. It’s available on the Amazon app. To use this feature, you simply take a picture of two outfits and Amazon will compare the two and tell you which it prefers. It takes one to five minutes for your results to come in. There is also the Echo Look, which has the same main function, but, also connects to Alexa. (www.amazon.com).

This can completely change the shopping industry. You could shop and browse fully online from your couch. The Amazon Look is almost like a personal stylist. Some examples of virtual reality changing the world is how it changed the gaming industry. Gaming companies from Sega to PlayStation made their own headsets. Places opened where you could play games in virtual reality, such as Carrboro Virtual in Carrboro, North Carolina. It has 24 games and you can choose your level of difficulty and physical activity (carrborovirtual.com).



[Photo credit: <https://www.telenews.pk/>]

Black Friday Shopping

By Aesha Mehta

Deals, Deals, and More Deals! Black Friday is right around the corner and the deals are catching everyone's eye.

The day after Thanksgiving, November 24, is known as Black Friday. We celebrate Black Friday to mark the official beginning of the Christmas shopping season. Stores begin to turn a profit for the year and on Black Friday, shoppers shop until they drop. Canada, United Kingdom, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Russia, India, Pakistan, and the USA all celebrate Black Friday on their own day and in their own way. Amazon and eBay, online shopping websites, tend to be the most used for Black Friday shopping, and also for Cyber Monday. Cyber Monday is the day after Black Friday and on Cyber Monday, the deals for electronics and gadgets are through the roof.



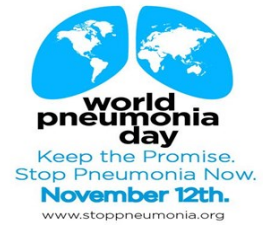
According to Amy Bell, reporter journalist for Investopedia, the most popular stores on Black Friday are JCPenney, Macy's, Sears, Target, and Kohl's. If you do plan on going to one of these stores, arrive early at the stores to beat the lines and snag the best deals. Some shoppers even camp out the day before Black Friday in front of the stores to be the first or at the beginning of the gigantic lines. Some tips for maximizing the deals are to get to the stores early, do your research on what you are interested in buying, and come to the stores that have what you want to buy first, and last, but not least, be prepared to get run over by people. Some people like to think that getting the deals are more important than being loyal customers.

Black Friday is a tradition for some, and a silly holiday for others. Black Friday originated in 1961 and people have kept the tradition going for over fifty-five years. Some shoppers go all out to take advantage of the deals, while others just enjoy the day after Thanksgiving with family and friends.

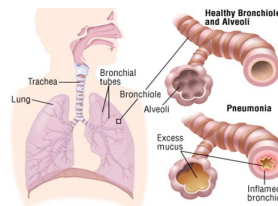
World Pneumonia Day

By Melanie Konin

Have you ever had Pneumonia? Or even had relatives who suffered of it? Well, the month of November is World Pneumonia month. This is to celebrate awareness of people who have this illness. This is a very common disease and more than 3 million cases are diagnosed per year! Luckily, this disease resolves within a couple of days to weeks and has a cure.



Pneumonia is caused by chest psychotherapy lung infections from bacteria. This makes it very hard for patients to breathe and intake oxygen. Pneumonia is an infection that inflames air sacs in one or both lungs, which may fill up with fluid. Lab test are needed in order to be diagnosed. Also, when doctors use a stethoscope, your lungs



will create a crackling sound. Many people have suffered from this. Tommy Hannagan had Pneumonia in 2nd grade.

This month people celebrate World Pneumonia day. This was first celebrated on November 12, 2009 and has been a tradition ever since. World Pneumonia Day supports all efforts made to protect and treat people against Pneumonia. Many people help by voluntary work, participating in education programs, and even contributing donations. Hospitals, websites, funding programs and even public places will accept donations for the cause! Pneumonia is the number 1 leading cause of deaths in children under five years old worldwide.

Pneumonia luckily has a cure, and is very preventable. There are many vaccines, in fact it is probably in your flu shots. Some medications for this are antibiotics and penicillin antibiotics. Make sure you stay sanitized kids and adults! The people most affected are people over the age of 65. So watch out for your loved ones and help us celebrate worldwide.

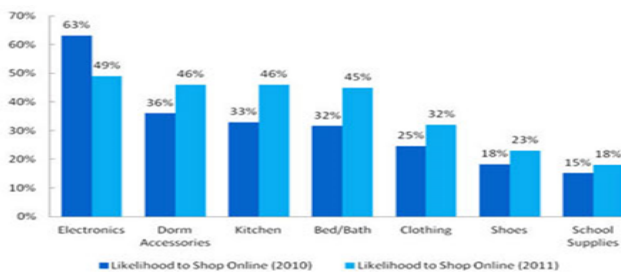
Online or in store shopping Dilemma

By Gavin Schmiedl

You do remember that time when you went to your mom and she said, “We will buy it on Amazon.” Why don’t you just go to the store? This is because online shopping has become “the normal.” Now you don’t have to go to the store when you can just go online and buy it at a cheaper cost. Why would you waste gas money to go to the store when you can buy online at a less expensive cost and you don’t have to leave your house?

Online shopping

Some of the goods for online shopping is better because of the better selection of items online. Sometimes you go into the store and the shoe that you like is not available in your size, but you like the shoes so much that you just get that shoe in the size too big. Also, when you are online shopping you don’t have to move at all; you can just sit at your house. Sometimes, you can get better deals when you are online shopping. Sometimes when you are online shopping there will be free shipping so it is not that much more for buying stuff online. Some of the bad things of online shopping is that it takes some time to get it shipped to you. Like if you ordered some socks that you need they may not come until the end of the week. So if you need something for a project you will not get it until it ships to your home. So it will take longer. Also, it will cost a little more for next day shipping.



In Store Shopping

When you drive to the store to get the stuff that you need it can be a little hard to find what you are looking for in that store. A good thing that comes with in store shopping is that it can be cheaper because you do not have to pay for shipping and in some states taxes are not included, so it will be cheaper for people living there. Also when you shop in store you will get the thing that you need immediately instead of waiting until the end of the week

to get what you want. Some of the drawbacks include you have to leave your house to get the thing that you need and when you go to these stores, you also have to pay for the gas to get to the store. Also, sometimes when you go to that store, they run out of your size or the color that you want. Some people don’t like to leave their house. Also sometimes you don’t live close to any stores near you so then it is just easier to then order something online.

Some people believe that ordering online is easier than driving to the store. Sometimes the convenience of ordering online is beneficial and other times, when you need something quick, you can just go to the nearest store if it is available in stock. It doesn’t matter that much, as long as you can purchase what you want when you need it (www.business.com).

It’s A Matter of Fact...Pollution in India

By Vinay Moorthy

In New Delhi, the capital of India, there is a growing problem with the pollution in the air passing into the highly populated streets of New Delhi. The air quality is of great concern to the residents and help is needed to improve this condition.

India has to deal with a lot of air pollution which causes people to wear face masks to protect themselves from the effects of breathing in polluted air. The pollution is caused by the amount of gas and oil used by the people driving. The air is reported to smell like 40 to 50 cigarettes every single day, and is termed as living like in a ‘gas chamber’. People are experiencing respiratory health issues and lung problems. Flights have even been canceled, as people struggle with the effects. The Costa Rican ambassador to India, Mariela Cruz Alvarez states, “I’m a living proof that our planet is dying today, coughing as I write with my Indian bronchitis.” (<https://www.washingtonpost.com>). Masks are sold to protect residents and those visiting from other countries from the polluted air.

Nations, including the US, are trying to solve this serious problem and help the poor people in New Delhi. The levels of air pollution is detected by devices and each one of them says that the level of polluted air in New Delhi is extremely dangerous. The US is trying to help change the amount of air by offering the use of vacuums to suck up the air and replace it with cleaner, healthier air to reduce the level of pollution in New Delhi. This situation can be resolved with help so they can be safe and breathe cleaner air in the future.

Veterans Day

By Jaiden Dorsainvil

Veterans Day is a holiday celebrated on November 11 in honor of the people who are military veterans. For 98 years, Americans have remembered those who served our country in uniform on this day, first as Armistice Day, and then since 1954, as Veterans Day.

On November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson sent a message to his countryman on the first Armistice Day. The United States adopted a resolution on June 4, 1926, requesting that Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States, issue annual proclamations calling for the observance of November 11 with ceremonies (<http://www.history.com/>).



World War I veteran, Joseph Ambrose, attended the dedication parade for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. In one picture he is shown holding an American flag around a casket with his dead son in it. He was K.I.A or Killed in Action during the Korean War on February 14, 1951. Ambrose died on May 1, 1988

(www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/).

Another example is a teacher at Holly Ridge Middle School. Coach Keith Porter was in the army and served our country from 1971-1973 in Ft Sill, Oklahoma, and Ft Dix, New Jersey. He was a fire direction officer, a basic training officer, and worked on the artillery.

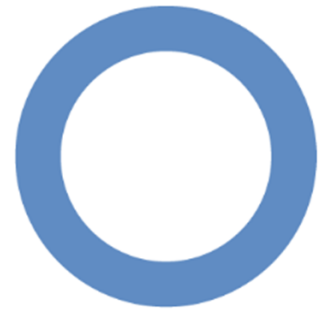
Since it is a federal holiday, some American workers and many students have Veterans Day off from work or school. When Veterans Day falls on a Saturday then either Saturday or the preceding Friday may be designated as the holiday; if it falls on a Sunday, it is typically observed on the following Monday.

National Diabetes Day

Madelyn Melton

Diabetes. What is it? Diabetes is when one consumes too much sugar, or too little. Diabetes is a disease that forms when your blood sugar goes way too high, or dangerously low. National diabetes day is on November 14, and many associations raise awareness through charities and fundraisers, as well as events.

The people who get affected by diabetes can either have type 1 diabetes or type 2 diabetes. Type 1 is when your body produces too little or no insulin at all. Insulin is what balances your blood sugar. Type 2 diabetes is when the body resists insulin. But don't worry, people with diabetes can still function. Some symptoms they may suffer from are, excessive thirst and increased urination, fatigue, weight loss, blurred vision, slow healing sores, tingling hands and feet, and red swollen, tender gums.



Having diabetes can be hard to handle.

Most people that deal with diabetes must prick their finger or wear a sticker-like patch on their skin. This patch is called a smart patch. The smart patch automatically delivers insulin into the blood. Here are some fascinating facts you might not have known about diabetes. About 422 million people worldwide have diabetes. Diabetes is one of the leading causes to death in the world, so preventing diabetes is good for many reasons! To be prevented, make sure to eat lots of healthy foods, like fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

What you really may have not known is that a well-known pop-star, Nick Jonas, was diagnosed with diabetes ten years ago. Jonas says "I was shocked at first. And my family was just as panicked. But the real scare was I had to quickly learn so much. It was completely overwhelming." Nick Jonas also has a foundation where you can donate to help kids and adults with type 1 diabetes. It is called "beyond type 1" go check it out!

Thanksgiving in October

Marli Steers

Thanksgiving is a time of coming together and being thankful. Many Americans celebrate Thanksgiving near the end of November, but what most people don't know is that the first Thanksgiving was actually in October. The background and history of Thanksgiving goes far back and started with the very first Thanksgiving in 1621, almost 400 years ago.

In the beginning of October, the Native Americans and pilgrims came together over a huge feast to celebrate a good hunting and harvest season. The first Thanksgiving lasted three days, but what really happened was four Englishmen, called pilgrims, were sent to hunt for food for the harvest celebration. The Native Americans heard the gunshots and thought the pilgrims were preparing for war. The Indians figured out that they were not preparing for a war, but rather for a feast, so the Native Americans brought food and joined the pilgrims.



We celebrate Thanksgiving because it is a tradition. It happened so long ago and is still celebrated today. If the pilgrims and the Native Americans had never come together for a feast, we wouldn't have a special holiday today when friends and family come together to celebrate what we are thankful for. George Bush recently stated, "All across America, we gather this week with the people we love and give thanks to God for the blessings in our lives." Oprah Winfrey is also remembered for saying, "Be thankful for what you have you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you'll never have enough." Especially at this time of year, it is important for everyone to be reflective of their blessings and reach out to those less fortunate.

Macy's Day Parades On

By Peri Leeds

The first Macy's Day Parade was aired on November 23, 1924. The Macy's Parade is the most popular and expensive holiday parade in America, and has been a huge tradition in the 'Big Apple', New York City. Every year, 3.5 million Americans make their way down to NYC to watch all of the floats, dancers, and balloons go by, while the other 50 million people watch from home. Each helium filled balloon measuring 14,000 cubic feet wide costs around \$190,000 and approximately \$90,000 for a character, or to reserve a spot in the parade. The parade actually did not begin with Macy's, but was originally started by Philadelphia's Gimbel brothers' department store, which at the time, the parade only consisted of a few fire men and others.



In the original parade, elephants, tigers and other animals from the Central Park Zoo walked the procession during the years of 1924 through 1926, but it was not for everybody. This ended when many children were screaming with fear, but now it has started back up again, only with fewer animals. Animals lost their parade marching rights in 1927. Macy's has been fortunate to have Tony Sarg to design the massive balloons. Inspired by the idea of upside down marionettes, Sarg teamed up with Goodyear Tire and Rubber Plant Company to make the Parade's first set, air-filled characters that were propped up on sticks.

Throughout the years, the Macy's Day Parade has changed. According to history.com, the parade quickly became a New York holiday tradition to the joy of nearly all, with the exception of the zoo animals, who did not revel in the six-mile journey, and the marchers treading carefully in their wake. The roars and growls from the tired animals frightened young spectators, so they were replaced by less-sultry and more-obedient character balloons, which quickly became the parade's signature attractions after the debut of a helium-filled Felix the Cat, designed by Sarg.

Holly Springs Christmas Day Parade

By Elisha Puckett

The Holly Springs Christmas Parade came to Holly Springs in 2006 and has become a well-known tradition ever since. The parade takes place in the center of the Holly Springs Community at the Holly Springs Cultural Arts Center located on 300 W Ballantine Street. Participants march through downtown Holly Springs. This year the parade was again on Saturday, December 9 at 11 a.m. and the Holly Ridge Middle School Band led by Mr. Grimes also returned to participate. Due to the weather the wood winds could not play, and almost half the parade dropped out. Most of the floats did not have people on them.



The Holly Springs Wake Football Club was also in the parade this year, and the Holly Springs High School Band and their cheerleaders as well. The Holly Ridge Middle School cheerleaders (photo above) were also in the parade. Sunrise Church had their first float, the ugly Christmas sweater float. The Oak View Elementary School held a competition for the fifth graders. The project was for their assigned state and capital. They made a float about their state and capital and the fifth grader who wins goes and is part of the Christmas Parade. In the rear, is finally SANTA CLAUS, which is who all of the little children have been looking forward to seeing. Following behind Santa, is the Holly Springs Police and Fire Department for security.

The Fuquay-Varina Christmas Parade

By Laisha Maldonado-Arredondo

Every year, on the first Sunday in December, the Fuquay-Varina Christmas Parade takes place. This year, the Fuquay-Varina parade was on Sunday, December 3, 2017 from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. The route starts at the intersection of North Main Street and Woodrow Street. The purpose of the Christmas Parade is to bring the town's residents *en masse* lining the streets with tons of residents and visitors to Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina. The first Fuquay-Varina Christmas Parade started on December 4, 2011, at the same place and at the same time.



[Photo credit: Fuquay-varina.com]

The Fuquay-Varina Christmas Parade is one of the biggest Fuquay-Varina events on their calendar. Over 500 people attended the Fuquay-Varina Christmas Parade and there were over twenty floats in the parade, including the Fuquay-Varina High School Band and their sports teams. Children saw Santa Claus riding on his float. The Parade is sponsored by CVS Pharmacy of Fuquay-Varina. Parents and children enjoy this annual parade and next year's Christmas Parade is already scheduled for December 2, 2018, so if you missed it this year, be sure to attend next year.

Celebrating Kwanzaa

By Candace Hiruy

Kwanzaa is a week-long holiday honoring the culture and traditions of African American people and their descendants worldwide. The celebration begins on December 26 and lasts for seven days until January 1. Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966 by an African American teacher named Dr. Maulana Karenga. Dr. Karenga started the holiday so that African American people could learn about their African history and customs.



[ABC.news.com]

When Dr. Karenga began planning this celebration for African Americans, he looked at their history. He learned that the ancestors of many African Americans came from the western part of Africa. Many of the ethnic groups or tribes that African Americans descended from have their own languages and ways of communicating. Dr. Karenga searched for an African language that represented all Africans to explain his holiday.

Karenga chose the word "Kwanzaa" from the Swahili language, which is an east African language that is not tied to any specific ethnic group or tribe. The word Kwanzaa means 'first fruits of the harvest' and refers to the gathering of fruits and vegetables during the rainy season. It is a custom in Africa to celebrate the harvest before the beginning of the dry season. Kwanzaa was also created as a way for African Americans to create their own customs. Most customs begin because family and friends spend time together. Kwanzaa is a way for people to welcome each other into their homes, and to learn about Africa and the history of African Americans. Kwanzaa is also a time to celebrate; family and friends gather during Kwanzaa to share food and exchange presents. In this way, Kwanzaa celebrates unity, or the

coming together as they learn about their shared history. One candle is lit each day. The black is placed in the middle of the three red and three green candles in the Kinara, a candleholder that is lit during the time of Kwanzaa. It marks the commencement of this festive season.

Kwanzaa has been celebrated for more than fifty years. A handful of Kwanzaa crafts and other decorations should be created according to your own taste. During Kwanzaa, many people celebrate by decorating their home in African art as well as the traditional Kwanzaa colors, black, green, and red. They may even wear traditional African clothing.

There are seven principles of Kwanzaa. These principles explain why Kwanzaa takes place, and why Kwanzaa means so much to African American people. In Swahili, these seven principles are called Nguzo Saba. African Americans try to keep the Nguzo Saba in their hearts all year round, but especially during Kwanzaa.

Principle#1 - Umoja stands for Unity. Umoji means helping each other stay together as families, communities, a nation, and a race.

Principle#2 - Kujichagulia stands for Self-Determination. This is the right to decide who you are, what our names will be, what we will become, and what we will create for ourselves. We will not let others do these things for us.

Principle #3 - Ujima means Collective Work and Responsibility. This means we should build and take care of our communities. We should work together to solve our problems.

Principles #4 - Ujamaa Cooperative Economics. This means that we should build and maintain our own stores, shops, and business. We should profit from them together.

Principle #5 - Nia stands for Purpose. Our purpose should be to make our people and communities as great as they can be. We can do this by taking care of our homes and communities and developing the skills and knowledge of all our people

Principle #6 - Kuumba means Creativity. As African American people, we should do as much as we can, in our unique way, to make our homes and communities more successful and beautiful.

Principle #7 - Imani stands for Faith. We strive to believe with all our hearts in the worth of African Americans. We believe in the struggle and victory of our people.

Of Rhythm and Feeling; History of Rock

By Tristan Leckie

Everyone can agree that music changes over time. Each genre of music has developed and transformed over the years. It's hard to believe there was even a time that my beloved Rock music didn't exist. Technically, Rock music started with Little Richard in the 1950's and was a combination of Rhythm and Blues, Jazz, and Folk; however, my personal opinion is that Rock music started with Classic Rock of the 1960s and 1970s, with influential bands, such as Led Zeppelin, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Their inspiration carries over into treasured rock bands today.

In the 1980s, Hair Metal and Glam Metal bands took over the rock music scene with bands such as Motely Crew and Metallica. Glam Metal was a subgenre of Heavy Metal, but was influenced more by pop music, while Heavy Metal vocals ranged from melodic singing to screaming.

The 90s were home to my personal favorite style of music; Alternative Rock which included music from bands such as Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Smashing Pumpkins. According to Wikipedia, Alternative Rock is "a style of rock music that emerged from the independent music underground of the 1980s and became widely popular in the 1990s. In this instance, the work 'alternative' refers to the genre's distinction from mainstream rock music." Nirvana is credited with bringing Alternative Rock to mainstream audiences. They specifically played Grunge music, which was a type of Alternative Rock that started in Seattle, WA. Alternative Rock led into pop-punk, which became popular in the mid-90s with bands like Green Day leading the way with their first album.

During the mid-2000s, a unique blend of sound took over the scene with one of my all-time favorite bands, My Chemical Romance, as well as The Used. These bands have pop-punk characteristics while having a darker tone. Due to this, the popularity of Alternative Rock began to fall.

Since 2010, Independent (Indie) Rock has been growing more and more popular but many disagree on what is Indie music. Some believe it is not a genre but instead is music not produced by a major record label. Others feel this is a genre in its own right that includes styles derived from Folk, Punk and Post Punk and include music from Imagine Dragon and Arctic Monkeys. Whatever is your preferred feeling, Indie music is a

large part of the last decade of music and doesn't seem to be going anywhere anytime soon.

"Paint it Black" by the Rolling Stones was originally released in 1966. The song has numerous popular remakes, including the most recent version done by Ciara in 2015; that is 49 years after the original, which just proves that music changes over time and creates its own subgenres, but one thing always remains the same. Great music that makes you feel emotion never goes out of style!



Hanukkah Traditions

By Abdou Hamami

When December comes along, a lot of people think that it's Christmas time, but there are a lot of other religious holidays surrounding the month. One of which is Hanukkah, and sometimes referred to as Chanukah. Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday celebrated every year for the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem during a revolt against the Seleucid Empire. Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and nights, according to the Hebrew calendar, beginning on the 25th day of Kislev. It may occur anytime from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar.

This holiday is celebrated by lighting a candelabrum, which is an eight-branched menorah. Each night of the holiday, one additional light is placed and burned in the menorah. On the final night, the eighth branch is lighted. For Chanukah, there are nine candles. The name Hanukkah comes from the Hebrew word 'rededication', because the Jews won the control of Jerusalem, and rededicated the temple. The Jews stopped fighting on the 25th day of Kislev, which is why the holiday begins on this day of the Hebrew calendar.

The festivities start with the lighting of one candle each night, and is followed by other activities. Those celebrating Hanukkah play with dreidels, which are spinning tops. They also eat Latkes, which are potato pancakes, and they read the story of Hanukkah, which is a book on how Hanukkah became a holiday. Gifts are exchanged, which is a bit like the celebration of Christmas. A special treat is eating 'Gelt', gold foil wrapped chocolate coins, because it is the Hebrew word for gold and they represent wealth.

Mini Targets Popping Up all Over the Country

Wesley Parker

Target is a major department shopping store known for their huge stores in more rural and suburban places, but what about the people who live in the city? Who in the city has the time to drive out of town to go shopping? Most people probably don't have the time to do this. Most people in the city don't even own a car. This is mainly because they never have to drive anywhere. In the city everything is within walking distance. You can't expect people in the city to walk who knows how many miles out of town, to come to your store. It's just inconvenient and plain rude. This is where the new mini Targets come in.



According to my sources there are currently at least 28 mini targets in the U.S. Usually these smaller Target stores are about 6 times smaller than regular Target stores. One

store in particular will be used as a reference to most other Target stores. The store, located on Hillsborough St. in Raleigh, NC is approximately 23,000 feet. Although that is small in size compared to a regular sized Target, the shelves are stocked with many useful and resourceful goods. The new mini Target on Hillsboro Street consists of some grab and go groceries, men's and women's apparel, apartment furnishings, portable tech devices, and many other useful Target necessities.

Since this new target is located near NC States campus the store sees this as an opportunity to gain many new and young costumers, and for this reason the store consists of NC State apparel plus many other useful goods for college students, new or old. That's only half of it, the store also has its own parking deck with 36 spaces for 30 minutes. Not only that, the store will soon include a Starbucks and CVS pharmacy inside. Although this store has many interesting features, each mini Target has its own unique taste and style.

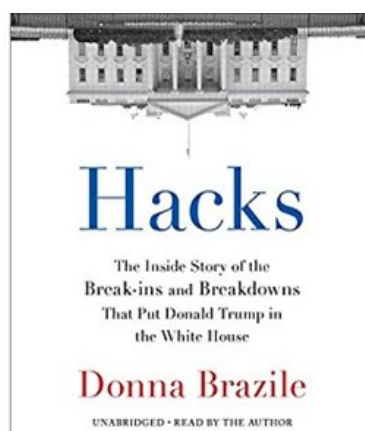
There is no doubt that these mini Targets are a revolutionary breakthrough and could help the urban market industry grow. Targets in the country may also follow the same schedule: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Sundays, 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturdays.

Donna Brazile's *Hacks*

By Haywood Lane

Ms. Donna Brazile, who was a chairwoman for the Democratic National Committee (DNC), has recently wrote a new book called *Hacks*. This book is about the 2016 presidential election and how the DNC went bankrupt because the DNC was handed over to Hillary Clinton during her campaign with Bernie Sanders still in the race, and how Clinton rigged the election in her favor.

Brazile was an interim chairperson for the DNC and took the role again in July of 2016 until February of 2017. Her new book came out on November 7, 2017, which was the anniversary of Donald Trump's win in the presidential election. The book mainly took place in the DNC and the democratic party. The book describes the events, such as how Clinton was fed the answers to the first presidential debate of the 2016 election, that took place during the election and that led to Donald Trump winning.



This book points out what the DNC does with their power and money. The book also explains the events and reasons that led Donald Trump into the White House in depth. The book was also written so that Brazile could let

the public know what Hillary did behind their back. "Even the Hacker House team (a group of hackers that provide insight on how to protect your networks against modern threats) sensed the low mood of the DNC and wanted to do what they could to boost it. They wanted the staff to feel safer in their daily lives."

Brazile had seen and knew a lot about what was going on in the DNC and figured it was time to let the public know what was going on. She said in an interview that she should have filed a lawsuit. Brazile resigned from the DNC in February of this year because she didn't want to be a part or associated with such a dishonest group.

Amber Alerts

By Gina Grimm

The Amber Alert System began in 1996 when Dallas-Fort Worth teamed up with local police to improve ways to help find abducted children. Amber stands for America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response. It was created as a legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Texas and was murdered. Other states and communities soon set up their own amber alerts as the idea spread through the nation. When law enforcement has determined that a child has been abducted and the abduction meets Amber Alert criteria, law enforcement notifies broadcasters and state transportation officials. Amber Alerts interrupt regular programming and are broadcast on radio and television and even some highway signs. They can also be re-disseminated through lottery, digital billboards, Internet Ad exchanges, Internet Service Providers, Internet search engines, as well as wireless devices, such as mobile phones.

Amber alerts have saved many families. Without them the number of missing kids would be a lot higher and kidnappers would think they could get away with stealing them. There are tons of successful amber alert stories throughout the years. One amber alert recently happened on November 11, 2017 (according to the article *Missing kids Success Stories*) after an altercation with their mother, a man took two siblings, ages 8 and 3, in a stolen vehicle. The abductor was the father of one of the children and not the other, and his history and the nature of the abduction led law enforcement to believe the children were in grave danger. An amber alert was activated and seen by someone who knew the abductor. Another successful amber alert story was on February 27, 2017 (according to the article *Missing Kids Success Stories*) a 5-year-old girl was abducted from a yard by a man who then fled on foot. Multiple law enforcement agencies came together for a search and rescue effort and an amber Alert was activated. Law enforcement received information about the abductor's location from tips generated by the amber alert, leading to his apprehension. The child was not with the abductor, but the abductor later confessed to where he had left the child. The child was located alive and rescued. This person was able to obtain a location and work with law enforcement to safely are

locate and rescue the children. The abductor was arrested. Without amber alerts nobody would've known who or what this person was doing this and these kids might've never been found.

Without amber alerts who knows what would've happened to these kids and many others? By getting these amber alerts, more families and lives are saved. Before the new technology, pictures saved. Before the new technology, pictures of missing children were posted around towns, police stations, in newspapers, advertising flyers and even on milk cartons. Nobody was alerted that there was a kid missing. It was mostly spread by other people or by reading the signs. In the article *Child Abduction Facts* it states "In 1998 over 800,000 kids were getting kidnapped a year." Also noted in the same article that "In 2001, 740,279 people (adults and children) were reported missing to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC)." These details prove that as technology has advanced, the number of missing children has decreased.



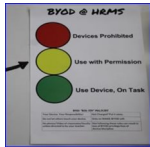
Trump Visits China

By Charlie Butts

Why are President Trump and China's leader Xi Jinping making more business deals than trade pacts? Was this their main reason for meeting up?

The main reason Trump went to Beijing, China on November 7, 2017 was to improve trade relations, but he became distracted and was pursuing other business deals. China's trade relationship with the U.S. is important because most of our goods come from China. Trump and Xi Jinping are the leaders who are settling these pacts. Trump has not been handling trade relations as promised, and it doesn't seem like he is going to change.

Trump visited numerous Asian countries in the past month. The main country he visited was China, because of its neighboring North Korea's missile testing. President Trump is concerned more about business and making money. He spent huge amounts of money in China. Some companies didn't want to attend because they strongly represent Trump. President Trump's reasoning for his visit was to help fix the trade system. We'll have to wait and see the effects of his meeting in the future.



What's BYOD?

By Kedar West

BYOD stands for 'bring your own device' and allows students to bring their own phone, iPad, tablet or computer to school. BYOD began in 2011, and gained recognition when Wake County Public School System endorsed BYOD for the benefits the policy provides. Holly Ridge Middle School became official after a pilot year and believes that the BYOD initiative presents an opportunity for students to use devices that can facilitate productive, meaningful, 21st century learning.

BYOD is communicated within learning areas through the use of a poster that has three circles like a traffic light: red means that you can't use BYOD, yellow means you may be able to use your device with permission if kept on your desk, and green means that you can use your device, as long as you are on task. BYOD is basically a system that allows the use of your own device brought from home, if both student and parent have signed the contract form.

There are many benefits to using your own device at school, especially if technology in the classroom is 3:1, or for every three students, there is one device available. Teachers allow student use for taking online tests, Kahoot, or Quizlet and to work on big projects. Students are allowed to check grades, student email, and Google Classroom or Edmodo for assignments, but there are students who do not follow the rules and have their devices confiscated. Students, it's your job to follow the rules!

Dogs are better than Cats

By Marc Pardo

Dogs are much better house pets than cats. Dogs will tilt their head when you talk to them and try to understand what you are saying but cats will not and commonly go do other activities. You cannot take a cat on a walk or do other outside activities so you will not get any exercise. On the other hand, you will exercise more when you own a dog. When you come home from work or school your dog will greet you and be very happy to see you unlike a cat will just look at you and walk away.

Owning a dog can bring happiness into your life, and make you live longer. Dogs can help you meet new people because dogs are friendly and like to play with other dogs and that can lead you to meet new people. Have you ever seen a Police Cat? No! Dogs can be used for many different jobs.

Dogs are used as police dogs to help them sniff out drugs, bombs and also missing people. Another job that dogs are used for is in the army. Many branches use the highly trainable Labrador retriever. The elite US Navy SEALs use the Belgian Malinois, a breed similar to the German Shepherd, but smaller. Some dogs are used for hunting because of their very good sense of smell. The last job that dogs are used for is to help disabled people. Sometimes people who are blind have a dog to help them walk and get to places.



Duke Basketball, top on list

By Jake Fields

Duke is my favorite college basketball team. My favorite players on their basketball team are Grayson Allen, and Marvin Bagley. I like these two players because Marvin Bagley is a really good center and also a freshman. He came into the rookie season at Duke early. He graduated from high school in his junior year and went to college early. Marvin can almost do it all on the court. He can dunk, shoot, dribble, pass, rebound, steal the ball, and block the ball. I think he will go to the pros after his first year at Duke as a number 1 draft pick. The other player I like is Grayson Allen. My goal is to take my own basketball

skills to his level and beyond. Allen can jump high and dunk, shoot from deep, dribble and handle the basketball. He can drive to the

lane if you need him to and draw a foul. He has one of the highest free throw percentages in the ACC. Grayson plays pressure defense and steals the ball and goes down the court and scores.

Duke Basketball has always had a legacy of winning and turning good basketball players into Great ones such as JJ Redick, Kyrie Irving, Mason Plumlee, Austin Rivers and I am sure that Marvin Bagley and Grayson Allen will be on the list of the great ones that have played at Duke.

Hopefully, one day my name will be on a list as one of the greats that played the game of basketball.

Net Neutrality

By Tyler Forte

Have you ever had a problem with using one site, but another one is faster? Some companies are speeding up their websites and slowing down their competition's. This is not okay and shouldn't be happening, but the companies don't care. Recently, the Trump administration has started undoing Obama's rule of net neutrality which means that all data is equal. Now any internet company can slow down the access of one of its competition's websites and speed up the access of its own websites for any consumer.



WORK
UTRALITY [Google Images]

Many people are not okay with this and many are going against it. The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) is taking away any way to allow someone to start an online business. The FCC plans to vote on December 14th to remove all protections on our internet. There are people that are going to end up paying more money for the same services they originally had.

President Trump has assigned a man named Ajit Pai, who is a defense attorney, to remove net neutrality rules. Ajit Pai has been removing it from Verizon and other major wireless networks. The net neutrality ambassadors are desperate and are losing. A community of YouTubers, video creators on a social media platform known as YouTube, has opposed the FCC and the fight against net neutrality. Their jobs are affected if net neutrality is abolished and they may lose a lot of money. Also, other jobs that deal with technology like a Facebook worker or a Netflix worker may lose money or their job. (battleforthenet.com).

Join the fight for net neutrality and don't let Internet executives make you pay more money for the same internet. Help small businesses that can't afford to fight net neutrality to be able to make money.

Opioid Crisis

By Kyla Cummings

Recently, President Trump declared opioids as a public health emergency. More than 64,000 people have died in 2016 because of this issue, and deaths are rising at a faster rate this year in 2017. At least 90 people die each day because of the Opioid problem and Donald Trump has released it as a public health issue (www.cnn.com).

On October 26, Trump referred to opioids as a health problem and is using money from the Federal Disaster Relief Fund to tackle this issue. Pain specialists are quoted saying, "If you are a caring, enlightened physician, you will be different from those stingy puritanical doctors of the past who will let people suffer needlessly." Trump adds, "As Americans we should not let this continue." President Trump wants this generation to be the generation that stops the opioid problem. The United States disease control says that we have spent 78.5 billion a year on drug misuse including the cost of health care, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement. How this started is most likely because of prescriptions. 21% to 29% of patients get prescribed opioids for chronic pain then misuse them, causing an addiction. People who use Opioids often transition from Opioids to Heroin and then tend to misuse this drug. Women are getting addicted during pregnancy which are causing deformed babies.

As people of this nation, this is not okay. People are taking lives because of a drug addiction that cannot be controlled. We shall come together as a nation to stop the crisis of the Opioids. Help out our country in this problem, people could potentially die and are potentially dying, people are also birthing deformed babies. This crisis can increase if not treated quickly.



[Photo credit: <https://www.istockphoto.com/>]