

the
PURPLE CLARION

Volume 93, Issue 4 333 W. College St. Harrisburg High School Harrisburg, IL 62946 Dec. 18, 2018



Photos by Elle Behnke.

(Left) Students work on decorating Christmas cookie. Senior White Hats officers Angela Colby and Savannah Hubbs were head over the cookie decorating station.

(Top right) Junior Savanna Haney helps a student decorate an ornament.

(Bottom right) Junior Cassidy Bennett writes cards for students.

White Hats throw holiday party for after-school care students

Elle Behnke, feature editor

The White Hats club headed to West Side Primary school to celebrate the winter season with a party Dec. 13.

The club has volunteered to do this for many years.

The party is for West Side students who participate in the after school program. At the Christmas Party, high school students helped the children make ornaments, cards for family and Christmas goodie bags. Sugar cookie decorating also took place.

"We try to do one party per semester," club sponsor and English teacher Elizabeth Dawe said.

Dawe, math teacher Mallory Wilson and English teacher Lana Bell, who are the other club sponsors, have high hopes for parties like this. According to the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), having high school students interact and with primary age students helps younger students feel needed and helps high schoolers feel successful.

"It is important for younger students to have a positive interaction with teenagers and see the value of community service," Dawe said.

Additionally, the Association for Supervision reports that having high school students volunteer and interact with younger students teaches the older students responsibility and support for others.

Senior and club officer Cierra Barnes has been in the club all four of her years at school and has attended the Christmas party every year she has been able.

"I benefit from doing this [by] getting to see all the happy kids having a good time with us," Barnes said. "Going and interacting with the kids is so much fun. They always love the little parties we have for them."

Barnes has enjoyed her involvement with the club and likes having parties like these with the younger students.

"We try to have a party for them each semester," Barnes said. "I believe that by going and interacting with them, it shows them social skills and helps them come out of their shells."

The club, along with some of Mrs. Dawe's English students, also stood outside Walmart Dec. 15, ringing bells and collecting donations for the Salvation Army.

"I saw on channel three news that Saline county was looking for volunteers to ring the bells," Dawe said. "It was at that time I decided it was a valuable way to give back to our community. A teacher from Eldorado, Kacie Patterson, sent a link to our school district with ways to sign up in Harrisburg for bell ringers."

According to a Facebook post by Patterson, a graduate of HHS, all the money raised by bell-ringing at Walmart and Kroger's is used by the Salvation Army to provide rent and utility assistance for Saline Country citizens.


"My Interact Club at EHS began volunteering for this service project last year and helped many families by doing so," Patterson said. "I think it's a great teaching opportunity for our students and children to see us volunteering and helping our community."


The project will be ongoing through late December.



Elementary age students are notorious for giving their honest opinions on things, so here are some thoughts from West Side students on the subject of favorite Christmas movies.

"Definitely Christmas Vacation," Jarrett said. 

 "Mine is Power Rangers Samurai Christmas," Hayden said.

"It's a toss up between The Grinch and Santa Clause," Jaycie said. 

Infographic by Elle Behnke/Canva

Scholar bowl team begins season, senior members return

Kaylee Robinson, feature editor

The season for scholar bowl began on Dec. 4 with a match in Benton. The junior varsity team won their match and the varsity team lost. Both levels of the team are coached by history teacher Heather Cox.

"We started practice a few weeks ago," senior Paige Gulley said. "I joined the team because I felt that it would be a good experience to have again."

In a match, a trivia question will be asked and as soon as someone knows the answer, they buzz in. If they get it right, they get a bonus question. If they get it wrong, it goes to the other team and if they get it right, they get a bonus question. If they get that wrong, it goes to the next question for either team to answer, and the cycle begins again.

"I chose to do scholar bowl because my dad did it in high school, and it looks wonderful on college applications," junior Madeleine DeNeal said.

There are many new members on the team this year. While some are competing for the first time on the high school team, others have

competed in middle school or are returning members, who are returning to the team after a year off.

"I was on the team sophomore year," Gulley said. "I did not do it junior year, and I joined again this year."

The team still anticipates numerous matches this year. Locations for future matches include West Frankfort, Herrin and Murphysboro. Matches are either held at HHS or at other schools.

"I am excited to face new schools," sophomore Jonah McGuire said. "I enjoyed doing scholar bowl in middle school."

The season will end with a varsity match on Feb. 19. Members on the varsity team include juniors Marisa Miller, Andy Ryner, DeNeal and Dahzia Locke and seniors Savannah Hubbs, Angela Colby and Gulley. According to Gulley, the team gives her both personal, social and professional reasons to compete.

"I get to spend time with people in the school that I would not otherwise hang out with, and it gives me a challenge to look forward to," Gulley said.



Photo provided by Angela Colby.

(Left to right) Sophomores Jonah McGuire, Peyton Arnold, freshmen Ashton Hall, sophomore Brandon Butler and freshman Rachel Hutchinson take a break during a scholar bowl meet. All pictured are members of the JV team this year. Senior Paige Gulley, member of the varsity team, is timing during the JV meet. The match was held in the Harrisburg High School library.



Photo illustration provided by Hilary Ford.

Student council members and sponsors took their annual trip to Evansville Dec. 11. The club goes to the mall every year in order to do Christmas shopping for those in need around the holiday season. Before the students split up into groups to shop, they pose for a photo with Santa. After the trip, the students got together and wrapped the gifts they had gotten over the trip.

Band changes traditions for annual holiday concert, moves to middle school

Maddi Kennedy, staff writer

As winter break approaches, the band and choir prepare for their annual winter concert.

This year the high school will join the middle school in the gym to perform. The middle school will start the night off at 6 p.m. The high school will follow at 7:15 p.m. with their concert and jazz band and choir.

"We had to have a concert at the middle school because of all the other conflicts that are happening this month in Davenport," freshman Chloe Williams said.

The band began working on their concert pieces about three weeks prior to the scheduled concert date, and continue to prepare and perfect their music. Some of their selections include Carol of the Bells, Cowboy Christmas and Sleigh Ride.

"We all have to make sure we do our part, and practice the songs given to us until we are confident that we can always play them right," Potts said. "Once we all have our parts down it's just a matter of practicing together to make sure we

sound the best we can."

For some freshman, the transition from middle school band presents an enjoyable challenge.

"It is fun to have more difficult music," Williams said. "It also gives us more of a selection."

Some band students believe combining the two musical performances provides an advantage.

"Since the concert is at the middle school, it gives members of the community an opportunity to hear both our high school and middle school bands play," sophomore Hailey Potts said.

The jazz ensemble rehearses in the upstairs storage room near Davenport, and junior Landon Gates is leading the practices. Location and different leadership are not the only differences this year.

"At this concert we are playing music that is more difficult than what we played at our winter concert last year," Potts said. "Also, we have a much larger band this year, so we sound really good as well."



**Bring this in*
for 10% off!**

800 W. Poplar Street
Harrisburg, IL 62946

[/greenbootsllc](https://www.facebook.com/greenbootsllc)

[/thegreenbootsboutique](https://www.instagram.com/thegreenbootsboutique)

*in-store discount only

KENNEDY Plumbing

- Water Heater Installation & Repair
- Residential Plumbing
- Gas Line Installation

**FOR ALL YOUR
PLUMBING NEEDS**

109 W. Robinson
Harrisburg, IL 62946

618 252-2059

618 926-0564

License # 058-175712

**FREE
ESTIMATES**

Speech rehearsals pay off for team members, sweepstakes

Anthony Cortes, staff writer

Speech members already have four tournaments under their belt, including the mock tournament.

The most successful tournament was at Chatham where multiple speech members won their event in both varsity and JV.

A total of nine speech members won first place in their respective events. Among them is freshman Rachel Hutchinson who took first in Dramatic Interpretation at the JV level.

"Before Chatham, I hadn't broken finals at all, so I wasn't very hopeful for the season for myself," Hutchinson said. "But when I finally broke finals at Chatham and got first in JV for my event, my hopes shot up, and I'm very excited for future tournaments. As for the team as a whole, we have some phenomenal people on the team, and I think because of the overall great attitude of the people on speech team, that it encourages us to be our best. That can have a strong influence on our performance."

Chatham was an overnight trip in which the whole team went to compete. This has been the first time that the According to sophomore Jonah McGuire, the team is doing well in spite of absence of last year's seniors, and he hopes that the speech team will soon be the top-scoring school at a tournament.

"There are some areas we were really strong in last year that we are lacking in this year, but then there are others that are just the opposite," McGuire said. "A lot of people thought there were some mistakes in judging at Chatham, but people always think that at tournaments. We did really well at the Chatham tournament as a team so I wouldn't really change much about it, but we could always work harder."

The next tournament will be at Mt. Vernon,

and this tournament will offer an improv duet that members could sign up for as a third event.

"You usually only have two events so [freshman] Kirsten Eversmann and I have signed up for it and are pretty excited for the third event," Hutchinson said. "I think, especially for freshman, after you get the hang of how tournaments work and everything, that they become easier. I also believe that looking at critiques and improving the way you perform based on them can make you feel more confident in your performance."

Senior Callie Oxford placed second and third at Chatham with her events in Original Oratory and Special Occasion Speaking, respectively. She also hopes to be able to compete with SIC as a member of their speech team.

"I started speech my freshman year and fell in love with it," Oxford said. "I had a lot of conflicts as well as starting a job sophomore year, and I decided to take a year off. Last year I came back, and this being my senior year, I'm ready to see how the rest of the season goes. It's bittersweet knowing that I won't get to see some of the people I only see at tournaments, but all good things come to an end."

The overnight top team tournament was held at Olympia Dec. 14 and 15. According to Hutchinson, the top team can be very lively as well as helpful.

"I think our team has a great vibe to it, and our warm ups are very energetic and bring us all together," Hutchinson said. "Overall the people in speech are so supportive. Although some of my friends are in the same category so it can be strange to compete against them, but it's still a lot of fun. I've already made a few friends from other tournaments and it's a lot of fun to meet new people."

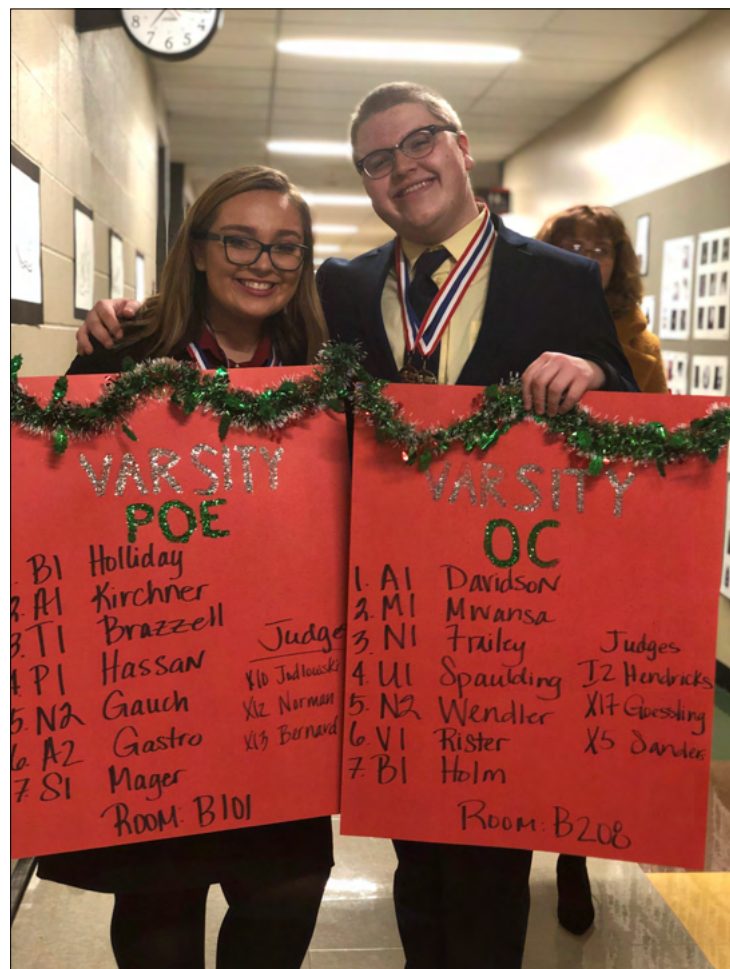


Photo illustration provided.

Sophomore Ravyn Gauch and senior Bradley Frailey hold their posters after winning in Poetry and Original Comedy. The Team took home 3rd place overall at the Mt. Vernon tournament on Dec. 8. The Mt. Vernon tournament marks the halfway point in the 2018-2019 speech season. Both members are were satisfied with their placing and the teams season overall.



(Left) Exchanged students from Marion and Harrisburg stand outside the bus after a day of experiencing the two schools. The individual student councils from both schools sponsored this event.

(Right) The group from Harrisburg take their exchange students to lunch at Kentucky Fried Chicken. The students from Marion do not have open campus lunch. Some students from Marion commented on the relaxed, spirited nature at Harrisburg.

Photo illustrations provided by Hilary Ford.

Jim Hays Inc.

Where people, products and price keep people coming back

2130 U.S. 45 N • Harrisburg • 618-252-8611

Steam Café

10 Cherry Street, Suite 3
Harrisburg, IL

-On the corner of Poplar and Cherry-
-side entrance-

618-926-5477

facebook.com/steamcoffeehouse

Harrisburg District Library

come check us out!

contact us!

618-253-7455

2 w walnut st, harrisburg, il
www.harrisburglibrary.org
fb - harrisburg district library
ig - @harrisburgdistrictlibrary

Key Club participants carol throughout community

Madison McCluskey, staff writer

Key Club set out on a caroling trip on Dec. 10 this year. The club pinpointed different locations in the community.

This year some of the club members went to places such as Holly Brook and Brookstone nursing homes and restaurants Morellos and Wooded Hills, spreading smiles and songs hoping to spread some Christmas spirit for the holidays.

"We go caroling to bring joy to others," sophomore Makenna Markham said. "It is also a lot of fun for us, and it gives us a chance to all have fun together."

Caroling is enjoyable experience, because you get to see people happy and smiling according to Markham.

"Although it was cold, I liked going caroling," Markham said. "Seeing the people that we sang for smile and sing along with us made me feel happy. I love doing things that make other people happy."

Some people had places that were their favorite, one person specifically had family in a nursing home, making it an even more enjoyable experience.

"People from Brookstone and Holly Brook came out of there apartment to thank us and watch," said sophomore

Lilli Ford. "Brookstone was especially my favorite because I was able to see my grandma that lives there."

Ford believes it is important to go caroling because of how good it makes members of the club and others feel.

"Spreading smiles and happiness is important," Ford said. "No one knows what others are going through."

Junior Victoria Thai explains the reasoning behind going and spreading Christmas cheer to the nursing homes, commenting that some of the residents might not have many other exciting holiday opportunities.

"We do this by caroling at the nursing homes because it is a way to spread Christmas cheer," Thai said. "Sometimes they have family that can't always make it for the holidays, so we are there to warm their hearts and brighten their days."

Thai believes it is important to spread smiles and happiness, even to those people you do not know well or at all.

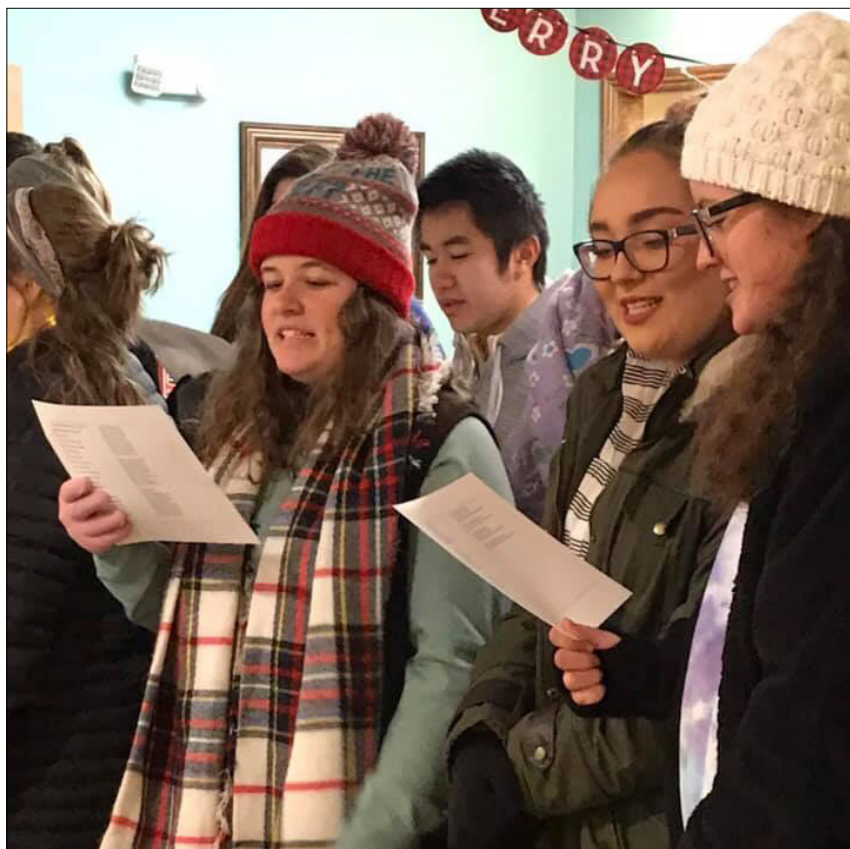
"It's important to spread happiness to others, even to people you don't know," Thai said "Christmas is all about giving to others, and even if we don't know someone we should spread happiness to all. Everyone deserves to be happy on the holidays."

(Top) Juniors Victoria Thai and Marisol Walle eat holiday snacks after caroling around town. The group traveled around town in a trailer pulled by a truck. The carolers visited two nursing homes and the town square. The Key Club sponsors, science teacher Janet Hughes and English teacher Cathy Wall, hosted a small holiday party at the high school. Both students and teachers commented that the event was successful.

(Middle) Students warm themselves up and decorate cookies at the table in Wall's room. To reward students, there was an assortment of shaped cookies, icing and sprinkles.

(Bottom Left) Senior Kaylee Robinson, sophomores Ravyn Gauch and Alyssa Irvin sing carols off their lyrics sheets for on-lookers.

(Bottom Right) Seniors Bradley Frailey, Jack Gulley and Elle Behnke carol in their winter coats after entering the building.





Cinema Cynic

Disney attempts to recreate magic

Jack Gulley, news editor

The iconic phrase "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is kind of fitting for this time in film. I often wonder, if that is the one thing imprinted in the minds of Disney's creative team at the moment. Sure, many companies are making remakes, but Disney is leading the pack.

The fact of the matter is not that Disney has written classics that will never "break," but the problem is Disney is not even looking for new equipment. I fully support seeing the movies from my childhood being reimaged. However, I worry that those same beloved masterpieces could begin to feel monotonous.

The first few films I recall being remade personally are Alice in Wonderland and Maleficent. I poured over rumors online, trying to figure out which animated movie would be remade next. Now, I can hardly keep up with the adaptations that are being cranked out so rapidly.

Disney definitely knows how to appeal to the masses, and with this series of throwbacks, the company is appealing to something everyone has: nostalgia. When walking into the see the upcoming live action Aladdin, starring Will Smith as Genie, one is sure to see both two year olds as well as 22 year olds.

No matter what, no one can argue that if anyone can pull off realistic talking animals and creatures, it is Disney. I have seen countless other films that are imagined in the same light, but none have the same quality of execution. The expertise and professionalism gives it the technical brilliance, offset by the imagination and creativity that still trademarks each live action remake so far.

Personally, I feel like these films are a joy to watch. It is fun to see my favorite characters reimaged and played by different actors, directed by other directors. The simple solution for those who are against these remakes is to not see them. Unfortunately, people drag down those who want to watch the movies by being negative. This only makes the mood around the abundance of films worse.

Do I think the magic of an original can ever be reproduced? Of course not. No one is going to make my heart sing like Robin Williams' Genie, and no matter what the budget, some of the animation that wows the audience will never be recreated. Here is to a new year of circuses, CGI and Circles of Life.



Artist's Paw Print

Student pursues music after high school

Anthony Cortes, staff writer

Senior Reese Emery is recognized locally for her flute playing skills.

"Ever since my freshman year, I've tried to participate in everything," Emery said. "I auditioned for IMEA [Illinois Music Education Association] which is the first big honor band I've ever been a part of. I didn't make it my freshman year, but I did every other one, including this year. The next one was Bi-State and I made it into that one, then River-to-River all four years."

Outside of school, Emery has been in the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (EPYO) for her whole high school career. They meet every Wednesday and practice for nearly three hours every time. Emery has been playing flute for almost eight years now.

"I started in fifth grade, and I haven't learned any other instruments, but I've definitely played different ones like the oboe, although I'm not good at it, and the saxophone which was tragic," Emery said. "I also play piccolo which is a variation of a flute but not my favorite instrument. I like flute the most because I've always played it, and I am good at it."

Throughout her music career, Emery has went through a multitude of auditions, but the most recent audition is her college audition for the University of Evansville.

"In January, I'm going to be auditioning for the major audition, and then I'm going to go from there," Emery said. "I've already earned a scholarship in academics to the University of Evansville, but once I audition, they're going to supply me with a packet of everything they're going to provide me with and how I can earn more towards my scholarship."

Emery is interested in nursing as a double major, but is also confident that she could make music a possible future career.

Apart from learning from other students, Emery also goes to and learns from



Artist Profile

Pentatonix "sleighs" again

Sara Wangler, staff writer

Pentatonix is back with a full Christmas album this season. The record breaking and Grammy award-winning acapella group released 12 tracks on October 26, called "Christmas is Here." The new release showcases the amazing vocal control and harmonies the group is so famous for. Featuring guest appearances by Kelly Clarkson and Maren Morris, the album blends different artists with different styles of music. Pentatonix was formed in Arlington Texas by three friends who loved to sing. After adding two members, the group auditioned for Sing Off in 2011, won and were signed to Sony Music.

Lead singer Kirstin Maldonado has amazing control over her voice ranging B2-B7. Her sky-grazing high notes leave listeners in chills and the emotional quality of her voice never disappoints.

Mitch Grassi provide high notes and bass notes respectively to give the songs more depth. Grassi is capable of some of extremely high notes, ranging E2-F6 his capabilities have only gotten better through the years.

Hoying on the other hand is the frontman of Pentatonix. He has a universal talent. In every song, Hoying's versatility shines through. Hoying possesses a C2-C6 vocal range, he takes the position of baritone but his unique rich timbre separates him from the rest of the group.

The most impressive factor in Pentatonix is the fact that they are an acapella group. Meaning there are no instruments present in their songs. This is all courtesy of Kevin Olusola and Matt Sallee. Olusola has been a member for as long as the group has been together, Olusola was discovered from his cover of Mark Summers "Julie-O", the video went viral and got him noticed by Maldonado, Grassi and Hoying.

Matt Sallee was introduced last year as the bass vocalist, taking the place of Avi Kaplan. Sallee originated from San Antonio, Texas near where the group was originally formed. Sallee's first album is A Pentatonix Christmas Deluxe, although he was only featured on two songs.

Out of all the Christmas albums the group has produced, this one is my favorite. The album includes covers of classic Christmas songs, along with songs that have a wintery vibe. Each song is very unique. Pentatonix has become a Christmas tradition to look forward to.



music teachers who have years of experience themselves.

"Kathy Hanrahan and Alex Carpenter, from Carbondale, are my two music teachers," Emery said. "Personally, I have taught music lessons myself to beginning flutes and teaching them has shown me how to not just play, but also to practice because I've always learned from my mistakes. I think that's how I've developed as a flutist."

The EPYO participates in two concerts, one fall concert in November, and a spring concert in April. Before Emery performs, she works herself up.

"I get super nervous before I perform, but that actually helps me a lot in my audition," Emery said. "Honestly, I really like faster music because it's crazy, fun and spunky, and that's what I'm trying to be more with my music playing. I was so used to playing pretty, and flutes aren't just pretty, there is so much more to it and a lot of people misunderstand that."



Photo by Kaylee Robinson.

Emery is seen rehearsing music for an upcoming college audition. Emery has been playing flute since fifth grade and piccolo since her sophomore year of high school. She rehearses concert music, scales and solo pieces every day. "I love playing the flute," Emery said. "It is a big part of who I am."

Wait, What? The Senior Sequel

Feeling guilty never felt so good

Bradley Frailey, CPS editor



It's my favorite time of year, where I receive the greatest gift of them all-time.

Now with this time I could be doing productive things like studying or finishing my now late college applications, but those can all wait for the true star of the show- reality television. Some call it guilty pleasure, but I just call it a necessity. Life is serious, sure, but everyone needs some time to kick back and watch a bunch of people fight about who should be evicted from the household.

While I know that these reality shows are ultimately just for entertainment, we need guilty pleasure media to help us relax from everyday stress, view other perspectives on life and develop passions for things we enjoy.

The famous drag queen Latrice Royale once said, "Good god girl, get a grip," and boy, I felt that. Sometimes I feel bad for spending my rare freetime tuning into see who gets that iconic rose or which Kardashians gets pregnant and/or naked that week, but I remember that I need time to relax and escape the harsh realities of my own life.

While reality television might mimic real life, many shows are somewhat scripted or have production and editing teams to push a story along that is fun for viewers to watch. Watching these reflections and exaggerations on normal everyday situations can help me escape real life scenarios and have a much needed laugh (or sob) while I have the chance.

Looking at any reality show or competition, it is clear to see that somethings

are heavily edited or entirely scripted. On the other hand, though, these shows do cause real situations, like when the kid on Masterchef Junior messed up his mashed potatoes. Again, I definitely felt that one.

These scenarios shown on reality television can make people take a look at the world around them and reflect on society as a whole. This can be a good thing or if you look to see a girl attempting the Kylie Jenner lip challenge even though it's nearly 2019.

Some reality programming may cause controversies, but some also spark many discussions on our culture. These shows can force many to do what other forms of media can't- they force people to look in the mirror to their own lives and actions.

While I was reflecting on our culture, I found some friends who enjoyed a lot of the same shows I do.

Television shows and movies have always had a tendency to gain large groups of followers that support the media, and reality programs amass thriving communities while on air. To many, these shows become a part of their schedule, and finding others to talk and theorize about the previous and upcoming episode(s) can give them a sense of belonging. Talking to my friends about Rupaul's Drag Race never fails to brighten up my day or my mug, and having these communities with similar interests makes it easier for me and many others to talk to strangers.

Soon, I'll be revving my engine to watch a new season of my favorite reality television show that might not exactly be about fast cars, but sure has a lot to do with men in wigs. If anyone tries to dismiss guilty pleasures, I'll remind them that a nice break never hurt anyone, except maybe Project Runway competitors that were on a time limit.

These programs help many wind down and cool out, reflect on themselves, and build like-minded communities. These shows offer something that other shows can't offer- a look behind the scenes of real people's lives. Sure, a lot of reality shows are somewhat scripted or pre-planned, but these shows display real people's stories. So, while others act like I'm dumb for watching reality television, I'll show them the only dumb one is a Family Feud contestant who answered "Orange" when they asked for a yellow fruit.

Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat or a Republican?

- "Republican because of my religious beliefs and my parents," junior Haley Goolsby said.
- "Democrat because to me Democrats seem to stand for the things I care about like LGBTQ+ rights and so on," senior Annabella Robinson said.
- "I would say I side with the Republican side because my dad is a coal miner and I want him to continue to be able to have a job," junior Savanna Haney said

Infographic by Kaylee Robinson, Savannah Hubbs, Elle Behnke/Canva.

Thoroughly Modern Maddi

Holly not-so-jolly Christmas

Maddi Kennedy, staff writer



Ah, the holiday season. A time of joy, hot beverages, freezing weather and empty wallets. This is supposed to be the hap-happiest season of all, yet there are many who would disagree.

According to Psychology Today, Seasonal Affective Disorder, with its coincidental acronym SAD, is a recurrent major depressive disorder in which depressive episodes occur during specific times of the year. The most common pattern is symptoms starting in the fall or winter, then diminishing in the spring. This can make the holiday season especially hard for some.

The cause of SAD is still unclear, but there are a few theories. One being that the longer nights trigger the brain to produce melatonin, which regulates sleep. This causes people to feel sleepy and sluggish. The other theories are that people with SAD have trouble regulating their levels of serotonin or may have a Vitamin D deficiency.

In a way, victims of this disorder could be compared to seasonal plants. The longer evening hours and cold weather causes some to not get the sufficient amount of sunlight needed, causing a chemical imbalance in their brain.

Victims of SAD are not the only people that do not feel all "holly jolly" during the holiday season. For some the loss of a loved one becomes more distinct; others experience a major increase in stress. Though these are less troubling than SAD, a major depressive disorder, it is still a real phenomenon referred to as the "Holiday Blues."

How do we help? Spread some holiday cheer. Buying someone's coffee, a card, or even a simple "I'm here," is enough to make someone's day a little more jolly. Many people feel stressed when trying to find the right gift for their loved ones, but studies show that random acts of kindness can go farther than material gifts. Therefore, there are benefits for both sides. The giver does not need to stress about gifts, and the receiver appreciates the generous act. Studies reveal that these generous acts can increase joy and emotional well-being. They can also bring friendships closer together.

If someone is struggling during the holidays be patient and most importantly, be there for them. The holidays are a stressful time for almost everyone, so spreading some cheer is only going to make life a little less negative. It is honestly like the scene in "Elf" where everyone starts singing to keep Santa from crashing and ruining Christmas. The positive atmosphere people provide during the holidays can really keep someone from having a deadly sleigh accident.

The Aggressive Progressive

For Democrats, Hindsight is 2020

Kole Phelps, staff writer



The end of 2018 brings us closer to the end of President Trump's second year in office. While there are still two years to go, many with an interest in politics are already talking about possible 2020 candidates and who could actually beat him.

I've been a fan of Sen. Bernie Sanders (D) ever since 2016, when I was too young to vote. I dreamed of going to the polls and voting for Sanders to become the next president of the United States. I would still love to see Sanders become president, but only if the time is right.

As a Democrat, I worry about what it's going to take to defeat President Trump in the 2020 presidential election. In our current political climate, the right candidate in 2020 could be the difference between another Trump term or a turn of the tables.

While some argue that candidates such as Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton could make a comeback in 2020 and win the presidency, I disagree. Most people will be familiar with the standard argument of, "But her emails!" Though this is an argument I've grown to loath, it is an important aspect of her candidacy. Many do not trust Clinton, and her reputation has grown stale amongst many voters. While I still love Sanders, I believe that his time to become president is running out.

Many felt as if they could not vote for Hillary Clinton in 2016 because of some of the controversies surrounding her. No matter, she still took the Democratic nomination for president. With this nomination, Sanders supporters felt as if their voices had been ignored. Many Sanders supporters said they would vote for Clinton in the election, but

others turned to third party candidates such as Jill Stein.

The loss of the presidency to Donald Trump is still fresh in every Democrats' minds, and it should be. Democrats need to think critically about who we choose next as our presidential candidate

While I think there are many great potential candidates out there, I should start off by saying who I think should not run in 2020. Similarly Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D) has been suggested a run in 2020. But, Warren did not do as well as projected in her Massachusetts. An Article from CNN by Harry Enten explained, "A full 89% of Massachusetts Democrats are not behind her at this point." When 89 percent of Democrats from her home state don't support her, How can she expect support from Nationwide Democrats?

While I've focused mainly on the negative impacts of certain candidates for 2020 I'll move onto more positive candidates who I think would make great candidates for 2020.

Mayor of New Orleans Mitch Landrieu is one of my top picks for 2020. Landrieu helped take down Confederate statues in New Orleans and has been a great southern liberal. A traditional southern liberal may be what America needs to transition away from the current President. My number one pick for a 2020 presidential candidate is Beto O'Rourke. O'Rourke lost the 2018 senate race to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz (R), but he has made a lasting impression on Democrats. O'Rourke didn't take any money from PACs in his race and ran with a liberal platform that many young Democrats have come to love. O'Rourke brings to the table a fresh face, great ideas and strong support.

The Clarion Call

What do you think?

What is the benefit of a school exchange program?

"I believe it gives the students a chance to experience new things outside of their comfort zone."

-Breanna Beal, sophomore

"I think it gives students a chance to see how other schools work and how they are different."

-Brittany McCluskey, junior

"It gives students the perspective of another school, but I do not think it benefits much of anything at all."

-Hannah Hancock, junior

"Students have an opportunity to experience what it is like in other school environments to better their knowledge and themselves."

-Nikendra Webber, junior

"I think it is beneficial for students to see how a different school runs and how they have different classes and times."

-Riley Wright, sophomore

Student exchange helps strangers connect

When the words "student exchange" are brought up, many think of students travelling overseas to indulge in cultures and languages that are far away from their hometown lives. But, these exchanges don't have to be across the ocean as new and educational experiences are waiting nearby.

Local student swaps provide students with a new outlook on their own schools, towns, and communities and a chance to learn valuable life lessons. These exchange programs can help students appreciate what they have at their own school and take down borders between communities, preparing them for the day when they will likely work with people from diverse backgrounds.

Constantly being in the same environment can make criticizing one's surroundings easy, but going to a different school for a day can provide a fresh look on a student's own school and help them think of ways to improve the atmosphere rather than simply reiterating the flaws.

"I was immediately placed in a more serious environment," Sep'Tisha Riley said after attending a St. Louis Post-Dispatch school swap during which she visited a school in a more prosperous area than her own. "Kirkwood possesses a lot of classes that I never knew existed in high school...one of the teachers even mentioned their privilege: If they need something, they get it."

Being able to see the differences in atmosphere, budget, and academics between communities can give insights on how a student could work for a better environment in their own school with their own resources.

"It is plain that one of the biggest barriers to reducing inequity in (an) area is a lack of personal interaction between people of different races and backgrounds," Justin Murphy explained in a Democrat and Chronicle article.

School rivals and community feuds can seem harmless, but the stereotypes they create often create negative ideas in students' minds about those not in their immediate vicinity and become a plague

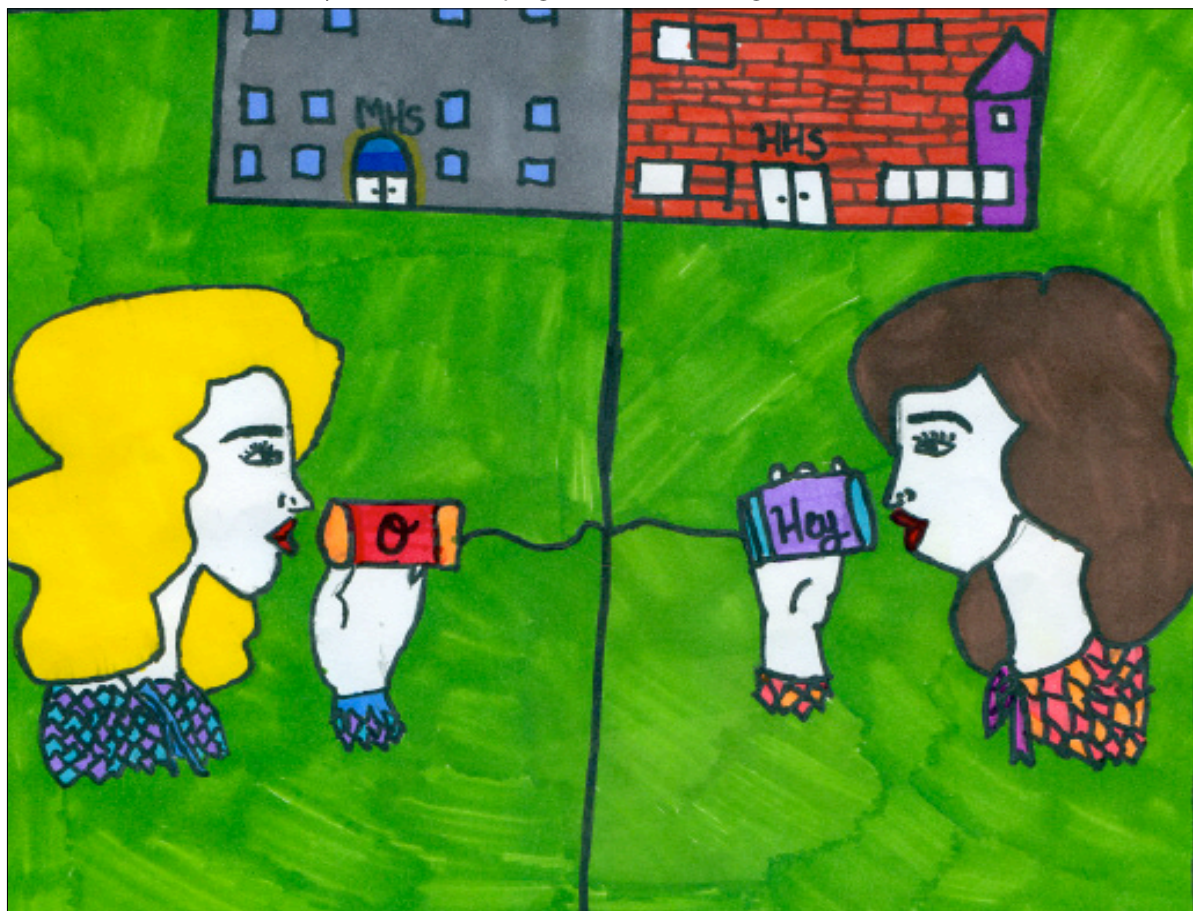
on the community. "No matter what the schools' press releases say, students, faculty and alumni feel as if they're in competition with one another," Jay Mathews said in a Newsweek article.

Participating in a school exchange and being escorted by a guide from another town can give teenagers a push to ask questions about their guide's local community and prompt them to get to know the school and its students on a personal level, instead of simply seeing them as the people that must be defeated in a football game or speech tournament.

Being in a new environment with new people and surroundings can be tough, but is a reality that most will face in their lifetimes. Many students are forced to switch school multiple times throughout their time as a student, forcing them into a new place with new faces many times. Students that participate in a swap can experience the feeling of being the "new kid" in a school, and this feeling can make teenagers much more empathetic to others.

"This past year has taught me a plethora of skills, most of them social in nature rather than academic,"

Valerie Hsieh said in her Huffington Post article on how being a new student affected her. "I have battled my way through countless bouts of loneliness, awkward situations and my fair share of sleepless nights as a result of social anxiety and academic pressures, and at the end of it all, I have emerged as a stronger person." Though foreign exchange programs can immerse students in cultures they could not experience locally, area student swaps can help students understand teenagers from nearby and see how other communities live on a day to day basis. Continuing to organize ways for students from different communities to come together and learn from each other helps them not only appreciate what their hometown has and how to improve their own surroundings, but it helps them tear down walls between communities. Whether an exchange is 5,000 miles away for a five-mile drive, students can take away many important lessons from any school willing to share their facilities with a visitor.



How is the weather over there?

Cartoon by Selina Wang.

The Purple Clarion • Harrisburg High School • 333 W. College St. • Harrisburg, Illinois 62946

The Purple Clarion is an unbiased, student-produced news, sports, feature and opinion publication dedicated to accurately reporting event that interest and impact HHS students. The Clarion is a proud member of the Southern Illinois Scholastic Press Association and a multi-year winner of the Blue Banner Award for excellence in scholastic journalism.

Editorial Board

Jack Gulley, news editor; Kaylee Robinson, opinion editor; Bradley Frailey, CPS editor, Savannah Hubbs, sports editor; Elle Behnke, feature editor; Kole Phelps, copy editor

Staff Writers

Nicholas Beckham, Anthony Cortes-Sanchez, Nolan Davidson, Maddi Kennedy, Madison McClusky, Haley Sullivan, Kirsten Travelstead, Selina Wang, Sara Wangler

Letters to the Editor

Letters should be signed and submitted in person to faculty adviser Cathy Wall within the first two weeks of the month. All submissions are subject to editing for length at the discretion of the opinion editor and once submitted, become the property of the paper. All letters should be in good taste, omitting profane language and libelous content. Content in published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Purple Clarion staff.

January

new year's resolutions begin

February

36 percent of resolutions fail

June

only 46 percent of resolutions are left

Calendar

New Years Resolutions

Traditions continue as people look for a fresh start

Nick Beckham, staff writer

New Year's Resolutions have been practiced since the ancient Babylonians, making them almost 4000 years old. They became popular in the United States in the 1950s. According to the American Medical Association, roughly half of all Americans adults made New Year's resolutions in the 1990s. Popular resolutions include losing weight, working out, and quitting smoking.

Lifestyle changes are typically viewed as practical and something that can be easily changed. However, statistics prove otherwise. US News reports that 80% of Americans do not fulfill their resolutions set for the new year.

There are reasons that humanity in general fails to complete self-assigned tasks.

Dr. Janet Polivy explains this in her research paper The false hope syndrome: unrealistic expectations of self-change.

"People appear to behave paradoxically, by persisting in repeated self-change attempts despite previous failures. It is argued, though, that self-change attempts provide some initial rewards even when unsuccessful. Feelings of control and optimism often accompany the early stages of self-modification efforts. In addition, unrealistic expectations concerning the ease, speed, likely degree of change, and presumed benefits of changing may overwhelm the knowledge of one's prior failures. It is thus important to learn to distinguish between potentially feasible and impossible self-change goals in order to avoid overconfidence and false hopes leading to eventual failure and distress."

One of the causes of failure lies within the goal itself. Many people set unrealistic goals that are unreasonable if not impossible to accomplish. Many people claim to be "pessimistic" or "skeptics", but the reality is all humans are prone to wishful thinking. False hope is the root cause of these unrealistic expectations. Consequently, when these impossible goals aren't fulfilled, people become disappointed. This often ceases the desire to set new goals. When new goals are set, less effort is made to achieve them. Unfortunately, millions of people fall into this trap. The only way to solve this is to stop pursuing unrealistic ambitions. This requires that us as humans change our natural mindset and understand our limits just as well

as our potential. This amount of self-discipline is lacking in many people, however. Another cause of failure lies in the absence of self-discipline. The reason so many New Year's resolutions are short lived is because they end with the introduction of a challenge.

This is also caused by false hope. People refuse to believe that their goals are anything more than slightly difficult. Once they realize they were wrong, they make themselves upset. This new association with their challenge often leads them to quit. With the more challenges they face, they are more likely to give up.

There are two steps to counteract this.

People must learn to expect challenge. Understanding this will stop initial failure. To stop long term failure, people must become for self-disciplined. That is, the must be more hard working and have better self-control. Self-discipline will not only make goals possible to achieve, it will also allow people to create a better mindset for themselves.

This is a problem that can't simply be blamed as society's or culture's fault. This is something that is in the human mind. Individual effort must be made for each individual. All responsibility for one person, lies in that one person. This reveals the final cause of failure, responsibility. Rather people are conscious of it or not, humans tend to very dependent on each other. Many simply don't realize that their own problems must be solved by themselves.

This isn't present in everyone. Those with a history of strenuous work tend not to have it. Still, it is present enough to acknowledge. False hope, as it's been shown, is very problematic to humans. However, genuine hope is important. Once realist goals are set that an individual can reasonably achieve, the old mindset of faith can finally return. Becoming more realistic and honest doesn't disallow hope. If individuals understand their psychology and make an effort to change their lifestyle, the old stereotype of unfilled New Years Resolution might finally change, though that may just be a false hope.

of the 22 students interviewed,

17 students

kept a resolution each New Year

Infographic by Bradley Frailey/Canva

9 students kept resolutions for 1 week to 3 months

"My resolution is always the same. Be kind to others who aren't kind in return"

-freshman Halle Lane

4 students keep resolutions year round

Infographic by Bradley Frailey/Canva

Lady Dogs kick off season

Elle Behnke, feature editor

Lady Dogs basketball season kicked off with a win in the Harrisburg Preview Tournament against five other teams from the area. As of Dec. 5, the lady Bulldogs are the "...number one team in the Illinois Class 2A Girls Basketball Poll" according to the Associated Press.

This year's team captains are seniors Karsyn Davis, Madeline Rider, Alli Ferrell, Tatum Fitzpatrick and Ivy Brown.

Davis was chosen for WSIL News 3's player of the week Nov. 26-30. With many students and faculty rushing to vote for her, Davis felt thankful for her community's support.

"It was a really big honor, and it means a lot," Davis said. "I'm really thankful for everyone supporting me and voting."

According to Davis, becoming a good player is not the only focus for these women. Performing well as a team is helpful to improve a team's chances.

"Being good as a team is the most important thing in basketball," Davis said. "It creates so many opportunities for each player individually to get more shots and it also helps you get open while running the play."

Talk about how the team dynamic helped them to set a new record for three point shots. They posted something about it on Facebook.

Junior varsity and varsity teams both practice at the same time which benefits both teams.

"It has been a successful system for us," Lady Dogs coach Stephanie Ferrell said. "The J.V. players get to learn the varsity system as soon as they start their freshman year, and they practice against the varsity. The tough competition strengthens the J.V. players. The varsity helps to teach the J.V. and the J.V. pushes the varsity to be better every practice. It's amazing to see the same girls grow from new freshman players to seasoned confident varsity players in only a few years."

Starting the season with a tournament win was a huge accomplishment for the Lady Dogs.

"Having that win was a big deal to my coach and the whole team," sophomore and team member Maya Robinson said. "It was great having another win, making it the fourth year in a row. No other team has done that in the Harrisburg Preview Tournament."

Robinson hopes that this win will set the team up for a successful season.

"I just hope we're as good as last year's team, if not better," Robinson said. "We have a lot of expectations to live up to, but if we stick together, I have no doubt we



Photo by Elle Behnke.

Senior Brooke Meylor looks for a pass. They won 49-37 against the Benton Rangerettes. This was their 10 straight win.

can reach all of our goals."

Additionally, having a teammate be chosen for Player of the Week boosts the team's confidence.

"It's amazing," Robinson said. "Last year we had a bunch of players of the week. But starting off the season with a senior as Player of the Week so early in the season shows how the community sees us as a team and that they have faith in us to go far."

Ferrell has high hopes for the teams and their ability to work together.

"Every player brings a unique quality to the team," Ferrell said. "That's what makes our team so great. Everyone brings those different qualities together and builds on them. I hope by working as a team now the girls will be able to use those qualities later, as adults."

Five Facts About Bowling

- The first indoor bowling alley was built in New York in 1840 and is called "Knickerbockers."
- Bowling was originally a 9-pin game and later changed to a 10-pin game because 9 pins is now associated with drinking and gambling.
- There is no minimum weight requirement for a bowling ball, but it cannot exceed 16 lbs.



Infographic by Haley Sullivan/Canva.
Information by Super Bowl and Bowling.com

Bowling team gains new players

Haley Sullivan, staff writer

Numbers on the bowling team have increased this season, including four new members on the boys' team and 14 for the girls' team.

The girls' team is currently holding a 2-0 record, and the boys' team has a record of 5-1.

"There are a lot of new people that are on the team this year, including myself," sophomore Vivian Fuerback said. "We are all getting better as the season progresses. Since bowling is a new sport to me, my main focus for this season is to adapt to it and to try my hardest to get better."

These new additions to the team are easing into ranks but are making great progress according to senior Chaela Sparks, who led the girls' team in a win over Carbondale Dec. 5.

Sparks went on to discuss how transitioning into a new sport for some people can be nerve racking for some.

"A lot of the girls are are still really nervous, but they will grow out of that," Sparks said. "We never get upset. We always try to keep everyone in a good spirit."

The camaraderie among the team members is one of the greatest benefits according to junior Addie Hanks.

"I always have a great time bowling with all

of my new teammates," Hanks said. "I especially enjoy seeing them slowly learning and getting better."

Hanks is having a good season so far, giving the best performance of her career at the Triad Invitational in Collinsville last month.

According to sophomore Riley Wright, the team's season is off to a great start.

"We placed fifth out of 20 teams at our first tournament at Collinsville," Wright said. "We are all working to play as hard as we can and to become a better team together."

Wright and Sparks agreed that the team's ability to lift one another up has been one of their strongest features so far this season, and the boys are doing their parts to benefit the team as well.

"The boys are probably the strongest aspect of our team," Fuerback said. "They get better each and every day."

The team is pushing themselves and striving for improvement so they can reach their goals.

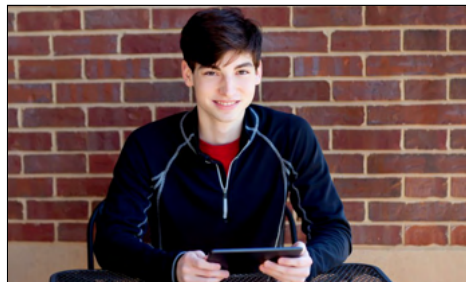
"The team's biggest focus is to do better and improve so we can move onto Regionals, Sectionals, and hopefully even State," Sparks said. "This has been my main personal focus as well. My main goal is to improve my scores and just have fun."

Eldorado Holiday Tournament game times

Harrisburg plays Gallatin Co. Dec. 27 8:30.

Consultaion championship game is Dec. 29 3:00.

Championship game is Dec. 29 9:00.



BANKING THAT'S AS MOBILE AS YOU ARE...

...with Banterra's Digital Banking.

We make banking easy! With our mobile app, you can view account balances, deposit checks and more.

520 E. POPLAR ST. | 395 COMMERCIAL ST.
HARRISBURG | ILLINOIS | 618-253-6000

 Banterra®
MEMBER FDIC
BANTERRA.COM

PIZZAPIZZAPIZZAPIZZAPIZZAPIZZAPIZZA

"A taste you love since 1972"

Mackie's Pizza

502 E. Poplar
Harrisburg, IL 62946

(618) 252-6368
(menu)



Boys' basketball hopes to bounce back

Nolan Davidson, staff writer

The varsity boys basketball season began with the Thanksgiving tournament.

Although the season might not have started off as well as some had hoped, the team has time to get into its rhythm.

"We have to get more skilled and we have to play harder than our opponent every night I feel to win," junior point guard Will Gibbs said. "We also will have to learn to match the physicality that our conference plays with."

The boys' team has won two out of their first six games so far.

"So far the season isn't going as bad as many predicted, although we still have plenty of time for improvement," senior forward Will Sanders said.

The team is still hopeful, there are many more games in the season to be played.

"I think the season has started out a little rough but we've gotten better in these few games," Hayes said.

The players are looking at ways to improve their game.

"We need to make more shots for sure and just play harder," Hayes said.

Offense, defense and other fundamentals seem to be what the players are focusing on sharpening.

"What I think we need to focus on mostly is patience on offense and defending better," Sanders said.

All of this hard work and dedication has helped the morale of the team to increase and according to Sanders, has set personal goals for those on the team.

"[My] biggest goals for the rest of the season is to help my younger teammate improve and set the example of how hard you have to play," Sanders said.



Photo by Nolan Davidson.

Sophomore Andrew Bittle dribbles the ball during practice.

The Eldorado Holiday Tournament will start Dec. 26. The games now are important for the teams placement in the tournament.

"To start we need to win the rest of our games so we can get a good seed, then just prepare for whoever we are playing that day," Hayes said

The Eldorado Holiday Tournament draws large crowds and brings local competition to a peak.

"Picking up the intensity in practice for sure [will help to prepare for the tournament]. We're going to have to build up more chemistry and be prepared for just about anything," Sanders said.

Bullpup Athletes

Freshman dresses varsity



Nolan Davidson, staff writer

Freshman basketball player Drew Hawkins has been moved up and is dressing for varsity. Hawkins is considered by some to be an outstanding freshman athlete and that is attributed to many different things.

"Well for one being 6'3 helps the cause," Hawkins said. "I would say that being a hard worker and wanting to win are some big factors."

Although Hawkins dresses on varsity, he does not get much playing time.

"I hope to be starting on the JV team this year," Hawkins said.

Hawkins has potential for his future years in highschool.

"We keep players on an APA basis, attitude, potential, and ability" junior varsity coach Richard Dwyer said. "[Hawkins] has good attitude, he has potential, and ability."

Hawkins works in the offseason to develop his skills.

"Working hard in the offseason is really what makes you a better ball player," Hawkins said. "You can't just be good, you really have to work on it all the time."

Hawkins works during combined JV and varsity practices held almost every day after school.

"It is a lot different than practicing with the freshman because you get pushed a lot harder," Hawkins said.

Practicing at home is another important discipline.

"I practice a lot in my driveway, working on ball handling and working on my shot," Hawkins said.

As in most sports, strength is important.

"I try to work out three days a week in the offseason, but I am starting to work out during the basketball season as well," Hawkins said.

His early promotion has not made him complacent. "I work my hardest to make sure I keep my spot," Hawkins said.

"We keep players on an APA basis, attitude, potential, and ability" junior varsity coach Richard Dwyer said. "[Hawkins] has good attitude, he has potential, and ability."

Cheer qualifies for ICCA state competition

Haley Sullivan, staff writer

The cheer squad performed at their first competition of the season at the ICCA Pinckneyville competition and placed second out of twelve teams Dec. 9. There, they qualified for the ICCA state championship in Springfield in January.

"We placed second and I think we did really well," sophomore Lilli Ford said. "We definitely have some room for improvement for upcoming competitions, but I am very proud of us for doing the best we possibly could have done for our first competition."

Preparing for competitions requires a different type of practice.

"Competition cheer is a lot more work so it consists of longer practices so this time of year, we spend most of our time working only with competition routines," junior Kara Futch said. "In competition cheer, we have dance routines and cheers that we wouldn't typically use during basketball or football season. In addition, we also have different uniforms that we wear for competitions."

There are also many aspects of basketball cheer that differentiate it from football cheer.

"The games are typically quite a bit shorter, and they are indoors so there is less room," freshman Jersey Willis said. "The referees are always close to the basket as well, so we have to be conscious of them so we can shuffle around and keep out of their way, where in football that is not a concern, and we did not have to move for them. We have to learn several new things for basketball as well, like new floor cheers, sideline chants and things like that."

Cheering for team sports is very different from competi-



Photo provided.

The cheer squad tumbles during their performance at Pinkneyville.

tion cheer, according to senior Hailey Short.

"During basketball and football cheer we have to memorize a list of chants as well as their motions so we can call them out depending on what the boys are doing at the time," Short said. "It is also very important that we pay attention to the game because if we are calling off a defense cheer, and we switch to offense, everyone on the sideline has to know the cheer is over."

Competition cheer is a completely different concept," Short continued. "We spend months preparing a routine that lasts less than three minutes with a cheer that takes about a minute and a half to perform. The routine involves stunting that is judged on difficulty and execution. My favorite of the two is competition cheer because I get this feeling of adrenaline and excitement when I am performing with the girls on the mat, and everyone is watching. I also love that we can do more difficult stunts because IHSA requires us to have a mat under us when doing some things."

Congratulations



Senior Madeline Rider has signed to play softball at Western Kentucky University.



Senior Karsyn Davis has signed to play softball at Southeast Missouri State University.



Senior Devin Butler has signed to play soccer at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.





Swing and miss

Athletes should have equal options

Savannah Hubbs, sports editor

When it comes time for me to get new cleats, I typically have a small selection to choose from in the women's department. When I look at the men's cleats, not only do they have more to pick from, but they also have different styles that are not available to women. This has led me to purchase men's shoes on multiple occasions.

According to Livestrong, "the primary difference between men and women's running shoes is the width of the shoe. Compared to the corresponding men's shoe, women's shoes are built wider in the forefoot and toe area and narrower in the heel."

The difference in hip sizes and body mass also has an effect on the design of the shoe, but sometimes men's shoes work best for women and women's shoes works best for men. It all depends on the person.

Recently, 9-year-old Riley Morrison wrote a letter to Golden State Warriors' player Stephen Curry asking him to make his new Curry 5's available for girls because they were only available in boys.

Curry was quick to respond and fix the problem, but it should not have been a problem in the first place. I want to know why the smaller sizes happened to be automatically placed under boys rather than girls to begin with.

I do not think that the only problem in this situation was that the shoes were not available under girls shoes; another problem was that a young girl did not purchase a pair of shoes because they were labeled boys.

While looking at the Under Armour website, which sells the Curry 5, I can not identify a single difference between the shoes for the men, women, boys or girls. The details of the shoe are even the same in each description. The only thing separating the different shoes is which gender they are under.

The gender should not stop us from buying what we want because once the shoes are on our feet, there is nothing that identifies them as men or women or boys or girls.

I have worn both men and women's shoes and apparel, and I do not see much of a difference between the two. More and more people are ignoring the gender apparel is designated under, so we should not be worried about what others think if we are wearing men or women's clothing. We should just wear what we want and not think about others' opinions.

Wrestling hopes to improve, advance to state

Madison McClusky, staff writer

According to wrestling coach Greg Langley, this year's wrestling team has had their ups and downs thus far into the season. Some issues have been noticed that may be dragging them down as a team, but they are also improving.

There are currently 3 wrestlers out for the season due to injuries, seniors Ronnie Giscombe, Jimmy Hicks and Kyle Cavender. With the decrease of experienced wrestlers, less experienced wrestlers are being counted on more.

"Overall inexperience in our lineup is our biggest struggle currently, with the fact that we have some of our experienced guys still out of the lineup with injuries," Langley said. "I hope that all changes by the end of the season."

With the decrease of experienced wrestlers, less experienced wrestlers are being counted on more. While not affecting the team majorly it will affect the team some.

"It always hurts some, you lose leadership and experience in the lineup and people that our younger guys can learn from," Langley said.

According to Giscombe he will not be participating in wrestling at all this season due to a hyperextended MCL and a torn meniscus.

"It definitely not fun having to sit on the side watching my teammates get to do what I can't," Giscombe said. "Being a senior and being injured is even worse because it was my last chance to go out and show how hard I've worked."

For freshman, wrestling is a learning experience.

"They improve each day," Langley said. "It takes time to work on the skills necessary to be a good wrestler, no different than any other sport. This is something most of them have never done."

The first meet of the season was said to go better than the match on Dec. 4, as the team is not as aggressive as they were at the beginning.

"I do not feel we wrestled with as much intensity," said Langley "We came out flat and did not create much offense. We are young and inexperienced."

Wrestling for your last year of high school can put you in



Photo by Jack Gulley.

Senior Landon Hicks wrestles his opponent.

a mind set to push yourself harder than ever before, for one senior it has done just that.

"This is my last year, I have been telling myself to push my limits and go harder than I ever have," senior JT Stone said. "I hope to go to state as an individual for my last year of high school."

The last time our team qualified for state was In 1992 for the Elite 8, Langley hopes they will make it to state as a team this year, but he believes some have a chance to make it as individuals.

"I feel we have individuals that could qualify for the State tournament, but we will have to see how we improve throughout the season for qualifying for team state," Langley said.

Improving is something that comes with sticking with it and time according to Langley.

"They continue to make strides in practice and in matches," Langley said. "They will get better with time."

More players using softball protective gear

Savannah Hubbs, sports editor

Softball players in the infield have very little time to react after a ball is hit. This can, and has, lead to many injuries.

To help prevent these injuries, more and more softball players are using face masks.

"I wear a face mask because it makes me feel a bit more protected," junior Lydia Miller said.

In high school fastpitch softball, the pitcher is 40 feet away which is 20 feet less than how far baseball is from home plate. This leaves the pitcher with a reaction rate of about four tenths of a second according to The Dug-Out Manager.

"I think the pitcher, first base and third base [should wear a mask] since they are the closest to the batter," Miller said. "Generally when the ball comes off the bat, it's going faster than 60 miles per hour. I don't think anyone wants that to hit their face."

The lack of use of a face mask has caused injuries for junior Hannah Reid.

"I got a concussion catching without a face mask on and broke my nose freshman year," Reid said.

Although having been hurt without them, Reid still does not wear face masks.

"I don't wear a face mask because I feel like it gets in the way and prevents the trusting of yourself to get the ball," Reid said.

Although some may play worse with a face mask, others perform better.

"I don't think it inhibits my playing at all," Miller said. "When I don't have it, I think I actually play timidly."

According to a Forbes article by Bob Cook, many young

players decide not to wear face masks because they do not want college recruiters to think they are too scared to play the field.

"The safety device [was] once [ridiculed] by [Munster coach Beth] Thornburg and her colleagues as an unnecessary precaution favored by players who either lacked the confidence or the ability to field their position safely," Hillary Smith said in an article for The Times of Northwest Indiana.

The most common injury in softball is to the head/face by a batted ball.

"The National High School Sports-Relation Injury Surveillance Study reports that 34.8 percent of softball injuries suffered during competition in the 2013-14 academic year were to the head or face, and 24.4 percent were the result of fielding a batted ball," according to an article by Hillary Smith for The Times of Northwest Indiana. "In baseball, those numbers are just 18.7 and 11.2 percent, respectively."

No matter if they use the face mask or not, both Miller and Reid agree that the pitchers, third basemen and first basemen should wear them.

"My belief is that pitchers and the corners should be more open-minded to face masks because they're closer to the batter and plate, and middle infield has the advantage of being further back for more movement and time to react," Reid said.

In 2017, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association announced they would be the first state to require pitchers, first basemen and third basemen to wear face masks.

"People complain that face masks are annoying, but like anything, you have to use them for you to get used to them," Miller said.

Face mask rules by state

Missouri

In the state of Missouri, it is required for pitches to wear face masks, but it is not a requirement for any other infielder, according to an article for Springfield

News-Leader by Rance Burger.

Infographic by Haley Sullivan/Canva.

Illinois

In the state of Illinois, it is not required for softball players to wear face masks, although it is recommended for corners and pitchers to wear them, according to the IHSA rulebook.

Kentucky

In the state of Kentucky, it is required for all pitchers and corner infielders to wear face masks, according to an article for WTVQ by

Veronica Jean Seltzer.

New Years traditions for different countries, cultures

Sara Wangler, staff writer

There are many different ways to celebrate the New Year, whether it is watching the ball drop in New York City, going out for dinner and a movie, or having a party with friends. All around the world there are yearly celebrations to welcome the new year.

The United States is known for Dick Clark Productions annual special, broadcast from Times Square in New York City. More recently there have been festivities in three of four time zones, including New York, New Orleans, and Los Angeles.

"My favorite part of New Years is the last 20 seconds when everyone is screaming and cheering," junior Nikendra Webber said.

According to Classroom, some Americans eat certain foods either at New Year's Eve parties or on New Year's Day to bring good luck. New Englanders often choose cabbage to go with their pork as a symbol of prosperity.

Another dish for prosperity is Hoppin' John, a southern dish made of black-eyed peas. Not only do the "eyes" on the black-eyed peas resemble a circle for the completed year, but they also represent abundance, symbolizing the hope for a similar amount of money.

Locally, people tend to eat white beans and cornbread as a traditional New Year's Day dish.

"My family doesn't do the traditional beans and cornbread," sophomore Breanna Beal said. "We pig out on nachos and pizza."

According to Oyster New Year's Eve is actually a three-day celebration in Scotland's capital and across the country. On Dec. 30, 8,000 revelers holding torches create a "river of fire" that winds down through Old Town's streets, from Parliament Square to Calton Hill. To top off the procession, pipers and drums walk in step. On New Year's Eve itself, people often join a ceilidh, a social gathering with Scottish music and traditional dancing.

According to Oyster, Spain's tradition for the New Year is eating 12 grapes, one for each stroke of midnight. The tradition says those who do this will have a year of prosperity. It's harder than it sounds (people even practice for it). The place to do it is in the Puerta del Sol in Madrid for Nochevieja (or New Year's Eve).

"I don't celebrate much, but my family has eaten grapes several times," said junior Marisol Walle.

In most places it's predominantly cold and harsh during the time of the New Year, but according to Oyster, that's not the case in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. To welcome the New Year, people jump seven waves to guarantee good luck in the coming year. Many also wear white while doing so and bring a bouquet to throw into the ocean.

In Chinese culture, the New Year falls on Feb. 5, 2019. According to Scholastic, the celebration includes a parade led by a giant silk dragon, the Chinese symbol of strength. The legend states that the dragon hibernates most of the year so people throw firecrackers to keep the dragon awake. This year is the year of the Pig (Boar), signifying prosperity and wealth.

"My siblings and I get pocket money. It means we get a year older. The money is to be used for future emergencies," junior Selina Wang said.

According to Japan-Guide, crowds participate in hatsumode, the year's first visit to a shrine or temple. Hatsumode festivities are held at practically every shrine and temple across Japan during the first few days of the year, especially on Jan. 1.

At popular shrines and temples participants can experience a festive atmosphere with food stands, a prayer at the main hall, purchasing lucky charms for a fortunate new year and disposing their lucky charms of the past year. Most atmospheric is a visit to a temple around midnight on New Year's Eve, when the temple's bell is rung repeatedly.

The Jewish tradition celebrates the new year in the fall. In September or October, Jews believe that God opens the Book of Life for 10 days, starting with Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and ending with Yom Kippur according to Scholastic. During these days, the holiest in the Jewish year, Jews try to atone for any wrongdoing and to forgive others. A ram's horn trumpet, known as the shofar, is blown before and during Rosh Hashanah and at the conclusion of Yom Kippur.

In Denmark they save all of their unused dishes and plates until the 31st of December when they affectionately shatter them against the doors of all their friends and family. It's a measure of popularity to find a heap of broken china on the doorstep at midnight - according to the tradition, this brings good luck, so the more smashed plates, the more you'll get. "I have heard of smashing plates as a Greek tradition, but

Fun Foods For the Holidays

Argentina-
(beans)



Italy-
(pork
sausage)



Germany-
(pastry)

Whales-
(apples)



France-
(poultry)



Sweden-
(rice
pudding)



Many of these foods are eaten in hopes for a more prosperous new year.

Information from Daily Meal. Infographic by Elle Behnke/Canva

New Years Around the World

In Spain, it is customary to eat 12 grapes – one at each stroke of the clock at midnight on New Year's Eve. Each grape represents good luck for one month of the coming year.



Residents of Denmark greet the New Year by throwing old plates and glasses against the doors of family and friends to banish bad spirits.



An onion is traditionally hung on the front door of homes on New Year's in Greece as a symbol of rebirth in the New Year. That morning, parents wake their children by tapping them on the head with the onion.



Information from World Strides. Infographic by Elle Behnke/Canva

300 Small St., Ste. D
Harrisburg, IL 62946



Phone: (618) 252-1725

Fax: (618) 252-5437

Jammie K. Stricklin, D.M.D

Barnes Lumber
Company

318 W. Lincoln Ave.
Harrisburg 253-7679

Find us on Facebook
<https://m.facebook.com/Barneslumberco/>

EST.
1898

Building Harrisburg Bulldog strong since 1898

Local community provides holiday activities

Jack Gulley, news editor

While some holiday activities in Southern Illinois are expected every year, like the annual Lights Parade and Candy Cane Lane, there are some more recent additions to the holiday ballot this season. These events and activities involve local community members and their families as well as locations.

Junior Olivia Wilson happens to have a connection to one of these new attractions, a vintage truck that serves as a photo backdrop. Her grandparents are opening up something meaningful to them in hopes others will enjoy the site.

"My grandma has always liked to do things for others, and every year she decorates it and puts it in the yard for Christmas," Wilson said. "People have approached her before and asked if they could take their pictures with it, and she has always been more than welcome for them to."

Wilson's grandparents, Julie and Harold Wilson, have owned the truck for a few years. Other than occasionally letting people use it for photos, the vintage truck has mostly been used for personal interests of the family, including seasonal decorations.

"My grandpa got it for my grandma as a surprise for her birthday because she always thought they were neat, but since then we have taken pictures with it as a family," O. Wilson said.

The family decided to announce this year their decision to open the truck up publicly for pictures during the holiday season. According to O. Wilson, the truck has already seen a few visitors. O. Wilson attributes this choice to her grandmother's kind attitude.

"My grandma has always liked to do things for others," O. Wilson said. "It makes a super cool backdrop for Christmas pictures, and she just wanted to share something it with the community."

People taking pictures by the truck are not asked to pay any fee, but they are encouraged to donate to local charities, like Karing for Kids.

"Karing for Kids is a program run by the First Methodist Church that provides bags of food to kids in need that might not otherwise get food throughout our school system to take home on the weekend," O. Wilson.

However, photo opportunities are not the only things community members can take part in. The Harrisburg District Library hosted a Holiday House Tour. This tour was once a tradition that was revived for this upcoming season.

"I have always been interested in it, but I never thought I would host a tour," Kelly Phelps said. "When I became a member of the library board, I thought I should pitch in and offer my home for the tour."

According to Phelps, the tour has been something she has been interested in for years. The tour consists of ticket buyers traveling from house to house on the route. Each house displayed decorations and lights for the crowd to examine on their trip. The library had 143 attendees along for the tour, which included five houses.

"The 'tourists' were so nice," Phelps said. "Everyone was so complimentary and

gracious, so it was a fun day."

Along with the fun of the tour, Phelps commented on the fundraising aspect of the event.

"My favorite part is that we had a great turnout and raised some money for the Friends of the Library," Phelps said.

Other activities coinciding with the holiday can be found farther away. The Polar Express Train Ride, produced by Rail Events Inc., is an interactive experiences for children and adults around the holidays.

"I went with my mom, sister, her boyfriend, and his seven year old daughter," Collins Lambert said.

This experience, located in places like St. Louis, Missouri and French Lick, Indiana, is an extension of the Christmas film *The Polar Express*. While the event might not be considered local, people from around the area take their children to this attraction, where they can board the train and experience the same things the characters do. According to Lambert, who went for the first time this year, the activity is a perfect outing for the holidays.

"Going to Polar Express was just what I needed to kick off the holiday and get in the Christmas spirit," Lambert said.



Photo provided

Pictured is Julie and Harold Wilson's vintage truck adorned with their names and graduation year in honor of the homecoming season. The truck has been a staple of the Wilson family for years and they hope to keep it that way for many years to come.

Governor elect visits southern Illinois, discusses education

Kole Phelps, copy editor

Gov. Elect J.B. Pritzker visited Marion Dec. 9. In an interview with WSIL he talked with locals about and his plan for southern Illinois. Originally coming from the northern region he explained that he did have a plan for the local region when he takes office Jan. 12, 2019.

"We've talked about lifting up working families across the state," Pritzker said. "It's so important that we create jobs and also prepare our young people for the jobs that are available today and the jobs of the future."

Lt. Gov. elect Juliana Stratton also commented on the future jobs she and Pritzker plan to bring to southern Illinois.

"This [event] is an important pathway for so many young people and a way to make sure they get the skills and education they need to lead some very good paying jobs," Stratton said.

The visit to Marion was Pritzker's first trip to the southern Illinois region since his election Nov. 6. Pritzker spoke with students and families from the area about jobs, and the future of education for students in elementary and high school, as well as continuing education at universities.

Locals have discussed their thoughts, concerns and hopes for the new governor.

"I hope that the new governor works in a financially responsible way to get our state out of debt," Said Harrisburg High School government teacher Dan Craig said.

Being a teacher himself, Craig also discussed his hopes for Pritzker and the future of education in Illinois.

I hope [Pritzker] and the general assembly can work something out to help fix the teacher and substitute teacher shortage," Craig said. "I think It's very detrimental to the education of our students."

While Craig spoke from a teacher's perspective, Saline County democrat vice chair Michelle Gribble spoke about her perspective on the new governor as someone who works daily with democrats.

"I'm very excited, having spoke with Mr. Pritz-

ker before, that he has a lot of good ideas for the state of Illinois," Gribble said. "He's big into networking and big in cooperation."

Gribble also described the transition and her hopes for Pritzker.

"He's proven that with all the appointments he's had in his transition committees that he is going to reach across the aisle," Gribble said.

Although local residents have some concerns and hopes, Pritzker has promised new things for Illinois. In an interview with ABC News on Nov. 6, Pritzker described the transition into the position of governor,

"I'm going work across the aisle with everybody. We've got to make sure we're addressing these challenges together," Pritzker said. "The partisan rancor is over in Springfield. I'm not going to allow it in my administration. I hope the republicans will work with me."

Pritzker went on to describe his plan of action as the new governor of Illinois and what he plans for in the future.

"I'm going to start with listening to the legislature and making sure we're putting their concerns up front and most of all I've set out principles, as you know that the middle class and those striving to get to the middle class get a tax break," Pritzker said.

Pritzker's new Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton(D), also commented on the transition of the governor in, particularly focusing in on what she thinks makes the new change exciting.

"So when you look at the co-chairs of our transition team, it's an example of the type of administration we want to have and the type of leadership we'll provide," Stratton said.

In his victory speech, Pritzker discussed his excitement and his admiration for the support he received in Illinois.

"Voting is an act of optimism, that the levers of democracy still work," Pritzker said. "You embody that optimism. You light the beacon fire on the hill of history that signals from one generation to another, that these are the things we stand and fight for."



Photo provided

At a Sept. 9 event, Kelly Phelps speaks with Governor Elect J.B. Pritzker at a campaign event held at the Phelps residence. Phelps is a lifelong democrat who said he was excited to see what Pritzker can do for the state of Illinois



Photo illustration by Sara Wangler and Elle Behnke.

Subscription boxes can make self care more readily available, provide a fun way to discover new products.

Bradley Frailey, CPS editor

As online shopping has grown in popularity, consumers have found the opportunity to purchase goods that would not have been available to them and access new items in innovative ways. Subscription boxes have become a front runner in the digital marketplace, and consumers are embracing the trend.

“Fifteen percent of online shoppers have signed up for one or more subscriptions to receive products on a recurring basis, frequently through monthly boxes,” a McKinsey and Company February article stated. Subscriptions boxes are helping customers find goods in niche communities, pushing self-care to mainstream audiences and giving people unique experiences while helping them find new products that cater to their interests.

One of the most appealing parts of subscription boxes to consumers seems to be the endless categories of boxes available according to Zachary Grayson in an Odyssey article.

“There are over 1,500 boxes that we have listed on our site. There’s really something for everyone,” said Liz Cadman, the founder of My Subscription Addiction, in an interview with CBS News. “If you have a vegan friend, there are vegan-specific boxes, and there are book-lovers boxes.”

Opening the boxes on video has also become something of a trend with users opening and reviewing their monthly surprises on social media networks.

According to CBS, creating a “memorable unboxing experience” motivated GlossyBox, to rethink their packaging.

“We invest a lot in the experience,” Carlos Soares Moreira, the head of business development said. “We changed the box, so that it takes 0.8 more seconds to open. So, to open GlossyBox, you have to take the lid of the box, then untie the ribbon, then take the seal off and take the tissue off.”

My Subscription Addiction gives awards for the best subscription boxes. FabFitFun took the top prize in May with the site naming “ the hottest seasonal items, such as beauty goodies, cute accessories, and fun wellness items with a total retail value of at least \$200” as reasons why.

Other top finishers included Ipsy, Causebox, Birchbox and POPSUGAR Must Have Box.

One question that subscribers frequently ask is will they receive enough in the box product to justify the subscription price. According to Cadman, food boxes are the least likely to give good value for the dollar, largely due to the difficulties associated with shipping food. From her perspective, the real value of food subscription boxes is trying a sample of something before investing in a full-size product.

The ability to create packages that can appeal to a target group makes the subscription boxes appealing to a particular community, Grayson explains. These companies often have large followings who share their own boxes and compare, giving them another community of friends with whom they can talk and interact.

Subscription box companies also allow a type of convenience that cannot be rivaled by in-store purchases, and this easy to access self-care is helping some consumers begin to schedule more time for themselves.

Taylor Sterling saw her self-care routine become easier and more enjoyable when she ordered a “Bombay & Cedar” subscription.

“My hope is that by having this box delivered to my house each month, it will help encourage and aid me in taking more time for self-care,” Sterling said.

Whether a box comes with skin-care, art-supplies, fresh food or toys for a pet, these packages can help people to remember that investing time in things they enjoy and care about is important in a healthy routine.

Subscription boxes can act as a fun surprise that can lead to customers finding products that fit their lifestyles.

“Subscription boxes are specialized to help you get that certain someone the perfect gift,” Grayson explains. “People enjoy surprises and the sensation of not knowing what they are about to get.”

Many companies allow users to give input into their orders and products, and so the longer that they are subscribed, the more personalized the items become.

And if a personalized gift isn’t enough, “every time they get it, they think of you,” Cadman added.

The Most Subscribed Subscription Boxes of 2018

Ipsy \$120 million in annual sales.	Barkbox \$40 million in sales.
Birchbox \$96 Million in annual sales.	Dollar Shave Club \$200M in annual sales.
Freedom Japanese Market \$120 million in annual sales.	
FabFitFun \$41.8 million in annual sales.	Try The World \$2.3 million in annual sales.

Subscription Bags/Boxes To Try Out According to Forbes

Sparkle, Hustle, Grow The monthly box contains four to six items including books, office supplies and accessories curated to boost a persons productivity and career.	Hygge Filled with an assortment of items including a hardcover book, tea, scented candles, artisanal treats and other handmade goodies for comfort and coziness.
London Tea Club Each month you get a new tea carefully packed in a glass vial. The box also includes a detailed note about the tea, tea estate where it was grown and the brewing instructions.	PawPost You can choose from the Cat Box, Dog Box and the Dog Treat Box. Each box contains a carefully curated selection of eco-friendly toys, natural, grain free food and treats.

Local Christmas light shows bring students, families from all over

Kirsten Travelstead, staff writer

Candy Cane Lane in West Frankfort Il has been in operation for over 30 years. It has become a holiday attraction tradition for many people around the area. The city of West Frankfort states that for four weeks in December the area is open for families from all over the area come to see the displays.

Candy Cane Lane has also received some national attention. The Great Christmas Light Fight on ABC network is a competitive Christmas light show where many different location across the country compete against each other. Candy Cane Lane will appear on the show next year. Candy Cane Lane has come along way since its beginning.

"As with most things it started off small with a few houses putting up some impressive light displays," The City of West Frankfort said.

The once small attraction that began with a few light displays at various homes, has grown to be over five blocks long.

"A stretch of decorated homes is transformed into a dazzling display of more than 500 plywood and Styrofoam characters, 20,000 to 30,000 lights and 400 electrical cords and cables," The City of West Frankfort said.

Candy Cane Lane uses characters from Disney, Nickelodeon, and many different classic Christmas characters to help pull off all the display.

"My favorite part about the display was probably the characters," freshmen Kailyn Moss said. "There were many different ones from my childhood."

All the characters help bring even more magic and special memories to all the children who go to experience it.

"It is all done on a volunteer basis and there is no commercial or municipal sponsorship of any kind," The City of West Frankfort said.

This year decorations started going up even earlier than usual. The taping of the Great Christmas Light Fight was Nov. 18. This required the volunteers to put the lights even before Thanksgiving.

"My favorite part of the display they had towards the end of Candy Cane Lane," senior Brooke Meylor said. "They went all out for it and did a great job."

The end of Candy Cane Lane featured numerous different characters and displays. The display also featured a giant white castle with many different characters created by lights.

"They went all out and had a lot more lights and other things than previous years," Meylor said.

Candy Cane Lane isn't the only light display to receive national attention in the area. Patti's 1880 Settlement in Grand Rivers Ky was just on a recent episode of the Great Christmas Light Fight. The episode aired Dec. 3.

Allgedely there are over 1.3 million lights on display at Patti's, according to WSIL News 3.

Patti's not only lights up the outside of their buildings and hang lights in the trees, but they also have found a way to light up their famous water wheel mill.

Patti's did not win the Great Christmas Light Fight, but they were still happy to be apart of the show. Especially since the attraction caught fire in early February of this year.

"We won because we were able to show people that even though the restaurant is gone we are still Patti's and we are still going strong," Patti's director of Marketing Ann Martin said.

CANDY CANE LANE



"I've been going ever since I was a kid. I've always liked seeing the colorful lights and unique displays, and the Christmas music light shows, it's a tradition to go every year, and I love it so much! I definitely recommend it!"

sophomore **Zoe Holbrook**

"I love seeing Bright lights lighting my way as we go down the road, and all the lights and the music going along are amazing"

sophomore **Vivian Fuerback**

"Seeing all of the displays is really cool to me. It was even more fun because I hadn't been since I was little"

sophomore **Alli Woodruff**



**Get Paid to Work on
the Toys You Love!**



**PowerSports
TECHNOLOGY**

WWW.SIC.EDU/POWERSPORTS

More information: Contact: 618-252-5400 ext. 2245
or email recruiters@sic.edu

