

# BLUEJAY BEAT

Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington High School

February 2017 Edition

## Lovin' Him was Red

By: Elizabeth Campbell

What is love? As Valentine's Day rolls around, I ask myself this question. To me, love is a feeling you get when you find someone you would do anything for. It's when you would do anything to protect that person, and care for them no matter what obstacles you face. Love is unconditional and has no limits. Love never ends; it only grows stronger. I've been lucky enough to experience love, and it is the best feeling. Love is a feeling that is hard to come by, but once you find it, you are changed forever. I found love about one year and six months ago. My boyfriend's name is Timothy, and he is my best friend. He has helped me understand what love truly is. We care about each other, and we put each other first. When you are in a relationship, you have to consider how your actions affect the other person. We enjoy our time together because every minute is precious.

Relationships aren't perfect, but if it's love, you work for it. Not everything is perfect though. Sometimes there are arguments, but they never come to the point where we question our love for one another. Our love is unconditional. We don't isolate ourselves from the world like some couples do. We enjoy our time with each other, but we make time for our friends as well. We have the best times together; we're constantly laughing and joking around with each other.

We are unique as a couple, and we like do things our way. Loving him is confusing in a good way. It makes you question everything about what you think you know, but then in a different I feel like I know more about myself now. When we are apart, we miss each like crazy, but it makes our time together that much better.

Love is the best feeling. It isn't always easy, but it is definitely worth the effort. Each and every relationship is special in its' own way. Some find love early, and others may find it later in life, but everyone should experience love. With it being February, and Valentine's Day just around the corner, I encourage you to have some fun, and find love. You won't regret it. Falling in love is the best thing I ever did.

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# Being Myself

By: Johannah Fisher

February has rolled around with its infamous holiday, Valentine's Day. Everyone is excited to spend this day with their significant other, while exchanging gifts of stuffed animals, chocolates, and flowers. For me, Valentine's Day is just another day. For me February is about working on becoming myself and being more independent.

February is another month closer to graduation day. In order to prepare for graduation day I have to do a lot of work. I need to submit my applications to colleges, and be on the search for scholarships so I can earn as much money as possible to help pay for my college. As of right now I have been accepted to two colleges: Wright State University and Morehead State University. For Morehead I have received a \$6,000 scholarship, and for Wright State I was accepted into the honors program, where only ten percent of freshmen are admitted into the program. It's an honor knowing that all of my hard work in school is paying off, and that I am getting one step closer to entering college, and being able to study for my dream job.

Also this month I am going to be working on being me. Sometimes I get afraid to talk to people, or make speeches, but now I feel like I can do anything. High school has made me realize it's okay to be different from everyone else. It's okay to wear what I want to school, and to be able to stick out. It's okay to make speeches in front of others, and if you make a mistake it's okay. I love being my unique self, and being able to stick out in the crowd.

To some people February is about love, and hanging out with their significant others. But to me, February is another month closer to graduating high school, and creating a pathway to my future to pursue an amazing career. Now that I'm learning it's okay to make mistakes in front of people, I feel that my life will be easier.



# Where is Winter?

By: Austin Spiller

New Year's Day has already come and gone, and now it's February. I like winter, especially from November-December because of the holidays. In February we normally get a good amount of snow, but this year so far, we haven't been so lucky, and I'm hoping that changes in February. There's nothing wrong with the month of February, if you live in a place like California. However, living in Ohio is a lot different strictly due to the weather.

When I think of winter I think of a lot of snow and it being very cold, along with snow days, of course. Sometimes that's exactly how it is, too. Unfortunately this year hasn't been like that yet. Instead, it's been raining. Raining literally almost everyday, and when it's not raining, the sun still doesn't come out. I think I'm beginning to forget what sunlight is. If there is any positive to this, it would be that it's been unusually warm lately, making it feel like early spring. Who knows, maybe one week we'll have all the seasons, one day it being winter, then spring, summer if it gets hot enough, and then cool fall temperatures. I wouldn't be shocked if this were to happen. Since it's my senior year, I would like to go through a blizzard, not only to have school closed, but so it could be a story I could tell, and an event that I would never forget. For now, all I can do is hope that winter weather actually comes in February, because this past January sure hasn't felt like it.



# What Going on in February?

By: Joshua Deaton

- Thursday, February 2, HS Girls BB vs Eastern, 6:00 P.M
- Saturday, February 4, HS Girls BB vs Augusta, Time TBA
- Saturday, February 4, JH BB @ Manchester, 10:00 A.M
- Tuesday, February 7, JV/V Boys BB vs Amelia, 6:00 P.M
- Wednesday, February 8, JH BB vs West Union, 5:30 P.M
- Thursday, February 9, District Leadership Team, 9:00 A.M
- Thursday, February 9, HS Girls BB @ North Adams, 6:00 P.M
- Friday, February 10, JV/V Boys BB vs Fairfield, 6:00 P.M
- Monday, February 13, F/JV/V Boys BB vs Batavia, 4:30 P.M
- Tuesday, February 14, JV/V Boys BB vs Bethel, 6:00 P.M
- Friday, February 17, Interim Reports Due
- Friday, February 17, JV/V Boys BB @ Lynchburg, 6:00 P.M
- Monday, February 20, No School: Presidents Day
- Tuesday, February 21, HS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00 P.M
- Wednesday, February 22, Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00 P.M
- Thursday, February 23, Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00 P.M



# Varsity Jays Finding a Rhythm

By: Joshua Deaton

The Ripley Bluejays Varsity squads are both starting to find a rhythm as both the girls and boys teams are about halfway through the season. The boys sit at a 7-6 record and are 4-3 in league play and are in contention for a league title. The boys are a well-rounded team and all ten players have the potential to have a heavy impact on the outcome of the game. Many may find the boys' success this year surprising as they only won four games all year last year and have already surpassed this not even halfway through the season. The Varsity Jays' next game is January 20, versus Peebles. This also happens to be homecoming night, so come out and support your Bluejays!

As for the Lady Jays, they are 6-7 so far this year. The Lady Jays are led by seniors Kassey Arnett and Kacy Gilkerson and sophomores Cailey Kirk and Carlee Daulton. The Lady jays base their offense around this core of four girls and they have meshed well with each other. These girls usually play most of the game and on occasion do get to sit out a minute or two. The Lady jays have struggled versus higher ranked teams this year and that has shown to be the Achilles heel for them. They look to get their winning percentage back to .500 tonight, (January 19) as they play White Oak at home.



# Freshman Student of the Month

By: Austin Spiller

February's freshman student of the month goes to Danielle Bennington. Danielle's favorite class is P.E. because she enjoys the exercise. Danielle also plays school sports, she plays softball, basketball, and soccer. Not only does she thrive in sports, but Danielle excels in English. Danielle says even though she is doing well in her Advanced English 9 class, it is the hardest class she's taken, along with Physical Science. Both of these classes require a lot of effort.

When asking Danielle about what it's like to transition to a freshman she said, "Being a freshman means you have a lot of responsibilities and have to work hard to be successful." Danielle is on the right track, some freshmen are still in "middle school mode" when they enter high school, not caring and failing their classes. After high school, Danielle does plan on going to college and getting a scholarship out of the sports she plays. Currently, Danielle isn't quite sure where she wants to go to college or what she wants to become but she has made a great start to her high school career by being freshman student of the month. Congratulations Danielle!



# Tremendous Travis

By: Elizabeth Campbell

Student of the month is an award that many love to receive; it is an honor to receive the student of the month award because it shows so much about oneself. February's student of the month is Travis Flannery. Travis has the right to be proud of himself for the accomplishments he has made by showing his teachers what a student of the month should act like.

Travis is a sophomore here at Ripley High School, and this year he has taken ROTC, American History, Creative Writing, Spanish 1, Biology, Advanced English 10, and Algebra 2. He plans on graduating early, so he wants to get the harder classes out of the way. Travis is a good student; he usually receives straight A's in his classes. Mrs. Green, one of Travis's teachers, said, "Travis is a gifted writer who always gives 100% in the classroom. He is just an all-around great student." He was asked how much he studies, and he responded saying, "I only study if I struggle in the topic, otherwise it is pretty easy for me to remember what I learn." Travis may not play any sports but he is active in the school's band, which sound terrific! After he graduates, Travis plans to attend college and become a mechatronics engineer. Travis has big plans for his future, and that is why he is working so hard in high school.

Travis is student of the month for more than one reason. Travis is hard working and respectful. Travis said, "I think I got student of the month because I do well in school and try my best at what I do." He said it feels pretty good to be a student of the month even though there are other who were deserving as well. Travis works hard for his grades, and he deserves student of the month just as much as the next person.

Most people think the student of the month award is based solely on high grades, but they are wrong. Student of the month is based on leadership and motivation. A student of the month is a leader in the classroom, whether they know they are or not. When asked if he felt like a leader in the classroom, Travis said, "No, I don't feel like a leader because I don't like leading." Everyone has motivation to do something. Travis's future and family motivate him to be the best version of himself because both make him strive to do his best. Most people have role models during high school, but Travis says he doesn't because he wants to grow up to be a better person for himself.

Everyone knows that with hard work and dedication, you can do anything you set your mind to. Travis is dedicated to his school work and his future. He works very hard at everything he does, therefore, he will achieve great things in his life. His advice to other students is, "You shouldn't be afraid to ask for help in class and do what you are asked to do." Great advice Travis, and congratulations on being February's sophomore student of the month.





# Marvelous Madisyn

By: Johannah Fisher

Teachers were once again on the search for the perfect student to represent each grade's February's student of the month. This month teachers choose Madisyn Blackburn. Madisyn is a junior here at Ripley High School, and she was chosen as the junior classes student of the month.

This year Madisyn has already taken four classes year including: Psychology, Trigonometry, DC English Literature, and Drawing. Now that the new semester has started Madisyn has four new classes which includes: Chemistry, Government, Choir, and she is also an office aid. Out of all these classes, Madisyn's favorite is, Choir. When I asked her why this is her favorite she replied with, "My favorite class is choir because I enjoy spending time working on the play and it's a new class to me." Madisyn plans to attend college, get a job in the medical field, and become successful.

Madisyn was surprised to get student of the month, and she said this is because she has not received this award in awhile. She, however, says that she always tries to do her very best. When it comes to describing her student image, Madisyn says she is hard-working as long as she puts herself to do it. Mrs. Osman, the teacher who nominated Madisyn, said, "She donated three totes full of clothes and shoes to the pantry. She is a selfless and caring young woman." Hanging out with her friends, meeting new people, and working at Country Inn is the extra-curricular activities that Madisyn participates in. Outside of school she likes to shop, go out to eat, and watch Netflix. Madisyn has had many people who have motivated her in her life, and when I asked her who or what motivates her to do her best in school she replied with, "My parents motivate me to do my best by supporting me to work, play sports, strive for all A's, and still have a social life. Thankfully they allow me to do all of this, and push me to do my best while I'm doing these things." Her number one role model is her grandma, because she always keeps a positive mind, and pushes her to do her best.

"Always be yourself and never be intimidated by upperclassmen, we're really not that bad." is the advice that Madisyn gives to underclassmen. Congratulations to Madisyn Blackburn for receiving February junior student of the month.



# Hardworking Justin

By: Austin Spiller

Justin Garrison has been nominated for February's senior student of the month. Justin believes that he has been nominated for his good behavior, and attitude toward the staff. Justin's hobbies consist of hanging out with family, "Family is important." Justin is currently taking classes that may tie into what he wants to do after his high school career, "My favorite classes are ROTC and forensics because of the relativity to my future goals." Since it's his senior year, he says it feels great about how all this work is about to pay off. Out of all the classes Justin has taken in high school, he says that English is most difficult for him, "English classes are most difficult for me because of all the different responsibilities."

After high school Justin is going to do one of three things, either go to the Marines, become a machinist, or become a police officer "I plan on either Marines or going straight into the workforce in the family business of machining. I want to be a machinist like my grandpa or possibly a police officer because of the service they provide." After Justin obtains his high school diploma he hopes that he will have a steady job, whether it be in the Marines, machining, or being a police officer. Justin has more than one plan to get him there to make sure that he will be successful.





# Staff of the Month

By: Joshua Deaton

Everywhere you go there are certain people in businesses and organizations that are performing at a high level and deserve recognition. Here at RULH, we feel the same way about our staff members and it's gratifying when someone notices your hard work. Lately at RULH High School, Mrs. Green has been working hard in the English Department, and she is a little newer here than most others. Mrs. Green is working at our high school for her second year now, and she now feels that God led her here as one of her former students recommended her to Principal Mrs. Skinner.

Here at RULH, Mrs. Green has found that in the small town environment that it is easy to develop relationships with her students and staff members. When it comes to other staff members, she is just as qualified to teach here at RULH as anyone else. Mrs. Green graduated from Eastern High School, and has attended Southern State, Wilmington, Florida Gulf Coast and Saint Leo University.

Mrs. Green is a hard worker, and is always looking to improve how she teaches her students and that is always her main focus, to get better. She plans to keep teaching, and eventually she hopes to pursue a greater leadership role in which she can effect more and more people's' lives everyday.



# Love is in the Air

By: Elizabeth Campbell

As all of you know, February is the month we celebrate love since Valentine's Day is on the fourteenth of the month. This time of year all we want is a great relationship with a great person, so we can spend Valentine's Day together. Well, Brianna Phillips and Austin Scott have just that.

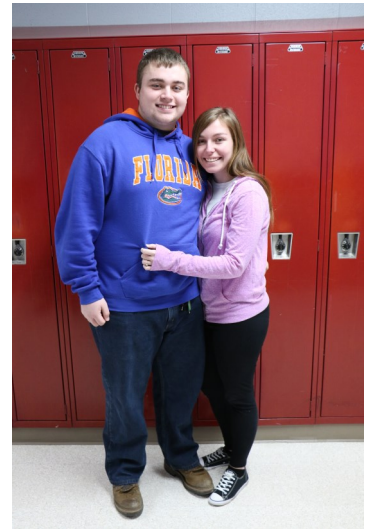
Brianna and Austin were chosen as February's Couple of the Month. Brianna is a senior at Ripley High School, and Austin is a junior. When asked if going to school together impacted their relationship, they both agreed that it's nice seeing each other, but someone is always stirring up trouble trying to separate them. They started dating on September 21, 2015, and have been together for one year and four months.

They haven't always known each other; they met five years ago in Aberdeen on Halloween night. Her first impression of him was that he was "so sweet," and his first impression of her was, "Woah, she's beautiful!" They have been dating on and off for the past five years. I asked them where they see themselves in five years as a couple, and Brianna said, "I see us getting ready to graduate college, Austin owning his own business, and me becoming a special needs teacher. Hopefully we will be living together." Austin answered that question by saying, "Going to college and hopefully living on our own. All I know is I'm just ready to spend my life with her."

Everyone looks for something different in a relationship, when asked to describe each other in three words, Austin said, "Beautiful, caring, amazing. I mean, have you seen her?" Brianna responded with, "Outgoing, hilarious, caring. He's always talking to someone, he never fails to make me laugh, and he always cares about how I feel about things." Brianna said that Austin is special in her eyes because, "Whenever I feel like giving up, he's always pushing me forward. He never judges me. No matter how my day is going he always tries to make it better. He never lets anyone bother me." Austin says they were just made for each other.

Love means so much to different people, and sometimes the meaning of love changes. Brianna thinks love brings out the best of you. They are always pushing you on to do better. It's love when it's with someone you are comfortable with and can be yourself around. Austin says he can't explain love, but you'll know when you are in love, and he is very much in love. Brianna says she is also in love. After dating on and off for five years, they always come back to each other.

Finally, they both were asked if they had advice for other couples, and Brianna's advice is, "Have trust. There can't be a relationship without it. Yes there is going to be fights, but if you truly care about someone no matter what happens you'll find a way to work it out." Austin's advice is, "Honestly, just don't worry what people think. If you love each other then go 100% with the relationship. There's going to be fights but ask yourself, is your love worth it? If so, then push through! If not, then you aren't in love!" Great advice! Congratulations on being February's Couple of the Month.



# Apparel Loving Andrea

By: Johannah Fisher



Ripley High School is home to very many fashion-friendly people who love to show off their one-of-a-kind creative outfits. One girl who really sticks out in the hallways for her fashionable outfits is Andrea Preston. Andrea Preston is a junior here at Ripley High School, and she was chosen to represent February's girl fashion of the month.

Andrea is one who you can most of the time find wearing cute vogue outfits, and she always has her makeup on, and winged eyeliner perfectly. One thing I notice about Andrea is how almost every single day she dresses up, and makes casual look appealing. Andrea does feel that her outfits reflect her personality. She likes to wear neutral fall colors, which she sees as calm colors. She feels this reflects her personality because she is a calm person. She got her fashion advice from her mom, and she has always remembered when her mom told her. "Wear what you like, nothing else and no one else's opinion matters."

Andrea goes shopping once or twice a month, because it is hard for her to find time to go shopping. When she does go she typically spends \$100-\$200 on clothes a month. She typically likes to shop at: Victorias Secret, Charlotte Russe, American Eagle, Marshalls, Rue 21, and Forever 21. When it comes to going to school, Andrea likes to wear a cute shirt, leggings, and boots because she finds these outfits very comfortable. Her favorite part about her outfits are how cute they are and how comfortable they are. On lazy days Andrea loves to wear Ripley sweat pants, and a hoodie.

"I usually have makeup on, hair down, cute, shirt, skinny jeans, and black boots." is how Andrea describes her ideal look. She also likes to wear many accessories that include necklaces and bracelets. She says, "I like to wear accessories that match my outfit that day." Andrea likes to go shopping to the actual stores rather than online so she can try the clothes on and be able to see herself in the outfits to see if she likes it or not.

Andrea is a very fashionable and unique person when it comes to her fashion senses. She loves to wear clothes that reflect her personality, and clothes that make her feel comfortable, calm, and happy. Congratulations to Andrea Preston for becoming February's girl fashion of the month.



# Edgy Ellis

By: Joshua Deaton

Fashion is one of the premier topics in the media today, and that does not change at all here at RULH High School. Everyday, kids wear their favorite outfits and try to impress others in how well they dress. One student stands out from the rest for the guys though, and that would be Quincy Ellis.

Quincy is a freshman here at RULH and he has not wasted any time trying to impress people with his fashion. I was curious where he gets his style from, and how he found out what he liked, he says “Ryan Blanford has really helped me find who I am when it comes to fashion, he has taught me everything I know.” He says his favorite brands to wear are Jordan and Polo, and when he is on a budget he shops at Rue 21.

I picked Quincy for fashion of the month because of the athletic and yet trendy clothes he wears. What sets Quincy apart is how he can look good and give someone else credit for why he looks good. This shows that Quincy is not only boys fashion of the month on the outside, but on the inside as well.



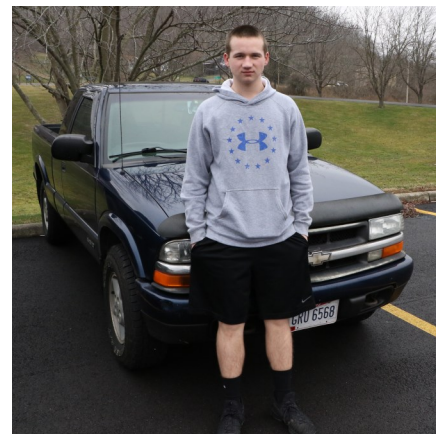


# Car of the Month

By: Joshua Deaton

At RULH High School, we have many students here that drive interesting cars and many of the cars we see in our parking lot are student's first cars. This month, we look at sophomore Alex King's first vehicle. Alex drives a 2002 Chevy S10 that he has had for about a year. When asked what he likes best about his car, he says "it gets me from point A to point B". This is often the case for many student's first cars, they are just to get you where you need to go, and isn't anything super nice. However, Alex does go on to talk about how his sound system in his car does make his a little different from most first cars.

Alex says he does wish his engine was a little stronger but goes on to say that as long as it's running then you will not see him complaining about his vehicle. He says that his next vehicle he wants is a newer Chevy Silverado because he likes the design of the truck. This month's car of the month is not about luxury or nice cars, it's about enjoying the simplicity. That is also why Alex was chosen, the fact that he is accepting of the simplicity of his car.





# February Birthdays

By Ryan Blanford

Jerran Johnson 2/1

Charles Morton 2/2

Hannah Sharp 2/5

Kamri Beth Offutt 2/7

Charity York 2/8/2017

Madeline Moran 2/9/2017

Victoria Bolton 2/9/2017

Roger Copple 2/11/2017

Ryan Mason/ 2/11/2017

Chasen Young 2/11/2017

Douglas Emmons 2/12/2017

Maranda Thompson 2/13/2017

Tira Henderson 2/15/2017

Payton Nickell 2/15/2017

Kayla Jones 2/16/2017

Luke Berry 2/18/2017

Derick Jones 2/19/2017

Erick Souder 2/19/2017

Scottie Ott 2/20/2017

Taylor Sandlin 2/21/2017

Sarah Bolar 2/25/2017

Amanda Lee Proctor 2/26/2017

Travis Flannery 2/26/2017

Hailey Workman 2/27/2017

Ashley Turner 2/28/2017



# Another Year, Another iPhone

By: Austin Spiller

This past September Apple once again, released another version of the iPhone. Unsurprisingly, Apple stuck with their normal routine, naming it the iPhone 7, making the iPhone 6s its predecessor.

The iPhone 7 is more of a minor upgrade from the iPhone 6s. However, the iPhone 7 still has some new features that are very neat! On the 4.7” model the camera is now equipped with OIS (Optical Image Stabilization). OIS helps remove the “shakiness” out of a video, such as when someone is taking video while walking, or in a car. It also ships with Live Photos, this feature was introduced on the iPhone 6s, when taking a photo a small three second video clip is made. When using 3D Touch, the photo will turn into a video. If you don’t know what 3D Touch is, when applying minor pressure on an app or menu button, more options will appear. For specs, the 4.7” iPhone has a twelve megapixel rear camera, which records 1080p at 30 or 60fps, and 4K video at 30fps. The camera also features slow motion like the previous iPhone models. Apple has also implemented their new A10 Fusion chip, along with their Embedded M10 motion coprocessor, it also accompanies 2GB of RAM.

The iPhone 7 Plus has a few things that are different compared to the 4.7” model. The main differences between the two is that the plus model has 3GB of RAM, a higher resolution display, and most significantly a dual-lens camera. The biggest difference can be told just by looking, the camera. The dual-lens camera on the plus model has significant advantages. The wide angle camera is the same as the 4.7” model, but it’s the telephoto camera that makes it great. The telephoto camera allows 2x optical zoom, meaning no image quality is lost at 2x. Having more optical zoom also allows for more software zoom, now instead of only being able to zoom 5x, it is now possible to go all the way up to 10x zoom. Something that both of the iPhone 7 models have that is new is a color. Jet Black. This color is very sleek looking, it’s very shiny and is very smooth as well. The only downside to the new color is that it scratches very easily. As for the other colors, there is the new matte black as well, and then the normal rose gold, silver, and gold. So easily that Apple even suggests to get a case, which says something. In the end, is it worth upgrading to? If you’re someone who has an iPhone 6 or below, then it’s worth the upgrade. For someone who owns an iPhone 6s, it’s a less of a need.



# Trump's 100 Day Plan

By: Shelby Smith

President Donald Trump announces his plan for the first 100 days of his presidency, and he has outlined his priorities in the quest of “Put America First” by listing four main things that he hopes to accomplish within the first 100 days. The first of these plans is to further guard against cyber-attacks. We are exposing ourselves to too much risk on the internet. To prevent any major conflict, President Trump plans to establish a cyber-review team composed of military specialists as well as law enforcement.

President Trump has been very open about his plans to end illegal immigration. While the building of a wall has not been planned this early in his presidency, he has vowed to “investigate all abuses of visa programs that undercut the American worker.” This plan includes punishing those found of fraud by 2-10 years in federal prison.

Another main area President Trump is wanting to focus on is to cut regulations on business. He has said that he would like to formulate a “rule that says for every one new regulation, two old regulations must be eliminated”. A final plan of President Trump’s for the first 100 days, is to cancel environmental restrictions. Trump has said that he plans to "Cancel job-killing restrictions on the production of American energy, including shale energy and clean coal" and create "many millions of high-paying jobs."

While the mystery of how the next four years of our country will go, there is one thing we do know, we will be finding out shortly and according to the President, possibly within the next couple months.



# Deadly Storms Heading North After Battering South-East

By: Ryan Blanford

Deadly storms that have been beating on the Southeast are heading North. These storms have caused a lot of structural damage. They also started tornadoes, and this weekend it caused nineteen deaths; that's more tornado related deaths than all of last year which yielded seventeen. Then, there were four other weather related deaths this weekend from these storms, so the East Coast is going to take a beating. Inland is going to get hit as well; they say the storms could cause up to ten inches of snow for some inland states. The East would be affected the most by this storm. There was around fifty tornadoes this weekend due to these storms. The storms are not quite finished in the Southeast, they're still going on right now, but they are moving up North. They have caused some coastal flooding for beach neighboring towns or cities. Ohio should also expect some the storm to hit, but it could be either snow or rain. For the time being you should pay more attention to the weather forecast this week and the upcoming week for any bad weather coming your way.





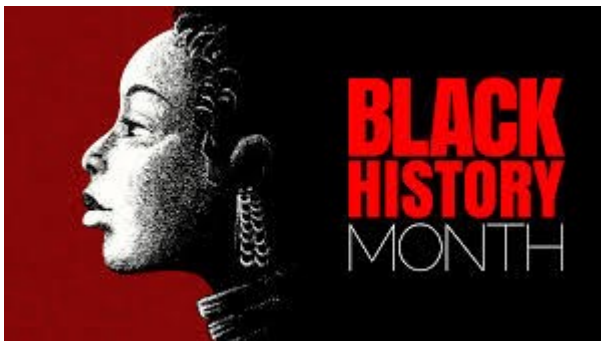
# Getting to the Heart of Black History Month

By: Elizabeth Campbell

Everyone knows that February is the month we celebrate love considering Valentine's Day is on the 14th of the month, but February is also the month we celebrate African Americans who have impacted history in the United States. Black History Month is also called National African American History Month.

Black History Month started out as "Negro History Week," in 1926. Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week to honor the contributions made to society by African Americans. He wanted to honor them because African Americans and their accomplishments weren't as important in the educational curricula of that time. Woodson also founded the Association for the Study of Life and History. He wanted to help educate Americans about African Americans and their accomplishments.

In 1976, Negro History week became Black History Month. Presidents have designated February to celebrate Black History Month. They chose the month of February for Black History Month because it coincides with Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass's birthdays. Black History Month is a time to honor the lives of African Americans who have made history in the United States, and what they accomplished during their lives.





# Ronald Brown

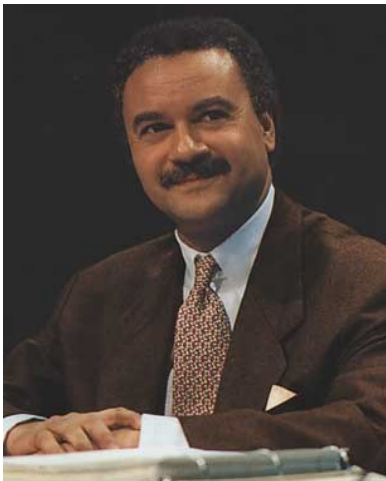
By: Shelby Smith

Ron or Ronald Brown made history as the first African American to play a major role in American politics. He served as the first African American chairman of a U.S. political party and later the first African American Secretary of Commerce.

Brown was born into a well-educated and successful family and he was taught that the sky was the limit. Something he planned to prove. He attended private primary and secondary schools before attending Middlebury College in Vermont. After college, he enrolled in the reserved officers training corps. Upon return, Brown attended law school and moved to Washington D.C. to work for the Urban League and became active in the Democratic Party.

In 1982, Brown was elected chairman of the Democratic National Convention. While serving as the chief strategist for the presidential campaign of Jesse Jackson, Brown was given the job of managing the DNC. He then won the position of chairman of the DNC. At this he was able to demonstrate his fundraising and strategic skills. Following the election of President Bill Clinton, Brown was chosen as the Secretary of Commerce of the United States.

On April 3, 1996, a plane going to Croatia that carried U.S. business leaders including Brown, went down. Ronald Brown was an inspiration to many in politics. He knew what he wanted to achieve and nothing was going to stop him. Throughout his career, he made people see him as a skilled politician, and nothing but that. Ron Brown made politics a game of skill set rather than focusing on race.



# Kendrick Lamar

By: Ryan Blandford

Kendrick Lamar Duckworth was born on June 17, 1989 in Compton, California. He was a son of a couple that was from Chicago, Illinois. They left Chicago because of the growing violence in their area and made their way to California. However, it was still a time when inner city neighborhoods were bad. When Kendrick Lamar was 8 his dad took him to see his idols Tupac and Dr.Dre for the shooting of “California Love” which caused a big change in Kendrick Lamar's life.

In 2004, Kendrick dropped his first mixtape under the name K-Dot. It got him a lot of local recognition, and then he signed with the label that he is still with now, “Top-Dawg Entertainment” at the time a new indie label based in Carson, California. He released another mixtape called training day in 2005 and he worked with up and comer rappers at the time Jay Rock and Ya Boy. He was also an opening act for “The Game”. In 2009 he got a co-sign by Lil Wayne and released another mixtape called “C4” .

In 2010 he released a mixtape called “Overly Dedicated” featuring the top song called “Ignorance is Bliss” which caught the eye of Dr. Dre. Dr. Dre signed Kendrick to his label called “AfterMath Records”. In 2011 he released his first album called “Section 80” which included leading song called “HiiiPower” produced by J cole. He sold 5,300 copies in the first week without radio or television help. It had other leading songs such as “A.D.H.D” and “Ronald Reagan Era”.

In 2012 a song called “Cartoons and Cereal” was leaked online. It was supposedly from his upcoming album, and it was recognized as one of the best rap songs of that year. On October 22, 2012 he released his major label debut “good kid mAAD City” A joint album between Top-Dawg Entertainment, AfterMath Records, and Then Interscope Records. It debuted as number 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 and sold 242,100 copies in the first week. Nine months later the album was officially released and became officially platinum with leading songs such as “Swimming Pools”, “Backseat Freestyle”, and “Maad City”.

On March 16, 2015 he released his album “How To Pimp a Butterfly”. Which eventually became platinum and got Kendrick eleven Grammy nominations; the most for any rapper ever and the most since Michael Jackson's twelve grammys. Kendrick only left with two grammys in his own rap category and didn't win in any of the mainstream categories like Album of the Year, Song of the Year, and Visual of the Year stuff. The leading songs on this album were “Alright”, “I”, and “King Kunta”.

In early 2016 Kendrick dropped an album called “Untitled Unmastered” with eight leftover songs from “How to Pimp a Butterfly”. This year Kendrick has not dropped a lot of solo work but he has been featured on a great number of songs so hopefully in 2017 he will drop an album or hint at an album with some singles or drop a collab album with J Cole this year because there are people that have been waiting for one since 2013.

Kendrick Lamar did perform at the last years Grammys. He performed 2 songs “Alright”, and “The Blacker The Berry”. I picked Kendrick Lamar for this biography because February is Black History Month and Kendrick Lamar is trying to help the world today so society can stop hating each other over race and he is trying bringing peace in the inner cities and to America.



# What's Behind the Flowers, Chocolates, and Stuffed Animals

By: Johannah Fisher

February 14th marks a day full of flowers, love, crafts, stuffed animals, and chocolates. Couples go out and celebrate the day by buying each other many different things. This is how Valentine's Day is celebrated now and everyone knows the traditions, but do they know how Valentine's Day got started, the history of it, and how it got to the point of a day full of expressing your love?

The true history of Valentine's Day is sort of a mystery. Historians do not know every detail on how Valentine's Day got started, but they do have many different theories on possibilities. The catholic church recognizes three saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of them which was killed for their religious beliefs. One of these legends says that Valentine was a priest who served in Rome during the third century. During that time Emperor Claudius II decided that marriage for young men was to be outlawed. This was because he felt that single men made better soldiers than married men with families. Valentine felt this wasn't right so he married young lovers secretly. Once the Emperor found out about Valentine, he ordered him to be put to death. Another legend says that Valentine sent the first "valentine" while he was in jail to his young love, which happened to be the jailer's daughter who came to visit him. Before his death he wrote a letter to this girl that said, "From Your Valentine" which is a widely used signature in present time.

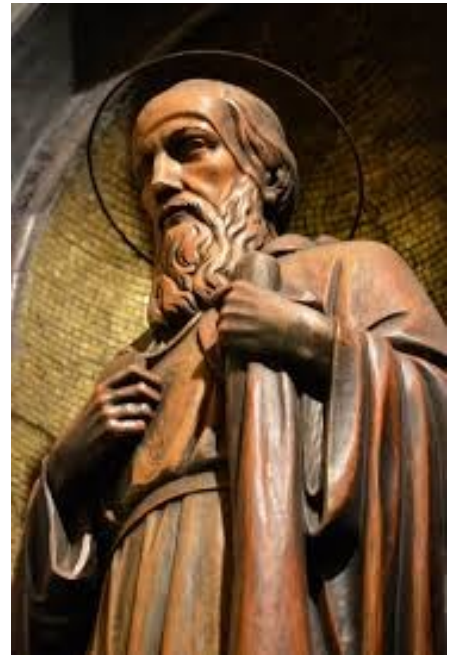
Some people believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in mid February to mark Valentine's death. Other people believe that the Christian church put Valentine's day in the middle of February to "Christianize" Lupercalia, a pagan celebration. Lupercalia was a fertility festival for Fanus, the Roman God of agriculture, and to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. The festival began with members of Luperci, an order of Roman priests, gathering in a cave where the infants Romulus and Remus was said to have been born, and cared for by she-wolf and lupa. These priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, a dog, for purification. They would strip the goat's hide into strips, then dip them into the sacrificed blood. Then they would take it into the streets and slap woman and crop fields. Roman woman welcomed the goat fur because it was said to be fertile. Later in the day, woman would put their names in a big urn, and and then the city's bachelors would chose a name and then they would paired with that woman for a year. Most couples ended up getting married. Soon Lupercalia was outlawed, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as Saint Valentine's Day.



# What's Behind the Flowers, Chocolates, and Stuffed Animals

Continued...

Valentines greetings go back as far as the middle ages, but written ones didn't appear till 1400. The oldest valentine is still known today. This valentine was a poem written by Charles, Duke of Ireland, addressed to his wife while he was imprisoned. Now Valentine's day is celebrated in the United States, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, France, and Australia. One billion Valentine's Day card are sent, making it the largest card sending holiday.



# Valentine's Day Survey

By: Shelby Smith

With Valentine's Day coming up, we sent a survey out to the students at our school to see how they will be spending Valentine's Day. Sixty-five students responded to the survey and the questions and answers were as follows:

Do you have a valentine?

Yes- 29

No-36

Are you excited for Valentine's Day?

Very Excited! I can't wait! - 11

It'll be fun- 18

It's just another day- 36

What are you most looking forward to?

Spending the day with him/her- 23

Candy and flowers- 5

A date with my TV, the sofa, and a bag of chips- 37

What do you want for Valentine's Day?

Most answered food and candy. The third most popular answer was a giant teddy bear. One person responded that they would like "to watch sappy love stories and cry".





# Top 10 Valentine's Day Gifts

By: Rebecka Volk

## For Girls

1. Roses
2. Chocolates
3. Teddy Bear
4. Jewelry
5. Perfume
6. Body care (Body wash/lotion)
7. Books
8. Music
9. A card
10. Candy



## For Boys

1. Dinner
2. Cologne
3. Sweets
4. Music
5. Books
6. Movie Tickets
7. Video Game
8. Team Jersey
9. Mug
10. A card

# Valentine's Day Crafts

By: Shelby

## Zip Tie Garland

### Supplies:

- Neon Zip Ties (the more you use the longer the garland)

### Instructions:

1. Close a zip tie so that the tail is on the inside.
2. Pinch the bottom to make the point for the heart.
3. When starting the next one, overlap with the previous one and again close that the tail is on the inside.
4. Continue until you reach your desired length.



## Blooming Cupcake Liners

### Supplies:

- Cupcake liners
- Pipe cleaners
- Craft glue
- Knife

### Instructions:

1. Pile five or six cupcake liners on top of one another. Using a knife, poke a hole through the center of them.
2. Take one pipe cleaner and apply a dab of hot glue on the end. Then secure one liner to this glue. Set aside to dry.
3. Once the liner has dried, scrunch the liner closed to create the look of a flower bud.
4. Repeat step two with the remaining liner, sliding onto the same pipe cleaner, securing with glue, and scrunching together.
5. Wrap the pipe cleaner around the base around the base of the bloom, and bend the pipe cleaner to create a leaf-shape.



# Those Are Holidays?

By: Shelby Smith

2/1 Change Your Password Day

2/16 National Almond Day

2/2 World Play Your Ukulele Day

2/17 Cow Milked While Flying In an  
Airplane Day

2/3 Wear Red Day



2/18 World Whale Day

2/4 Ice Cream For Breakfast Day

2/19 Best Friends Day

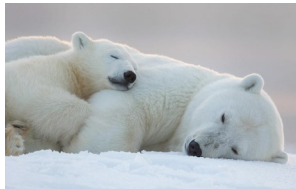
2/5 World Nutella Day

2/20 Love Your Pet Day

2/6 Canadian Maple Syrup Day

2/21 International Mother Language  
Day

2/7 National Periodic Table Day



2/8 Laugh and Get Rich Day

2/22 World Thinking Day

2/9 National Pizza Day

2/23 National Dog Biscuit Day

2/10 All the News That's Fit to Print

2/24 Forget Me Not Day

2/11 Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk  
Day

2/25 EDSA Revolution Anniversary

2/12 Safety Pup Day

2/26 National Personal Chef's Day

2/13 Get a Different Name  
Day



2/27 International Polar Bear Day

2/14 Batman Sticker Day

2/28 International Pancake Day

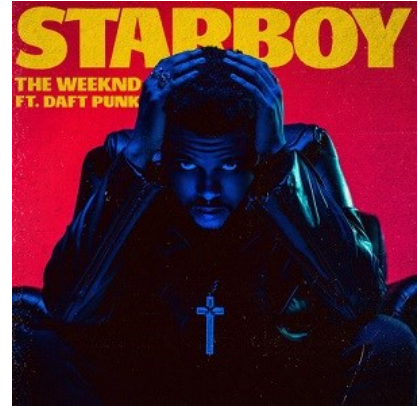
2/15 Random Acts of Kindness Day

# Top 10

By: Ryan Blanford

## Songs:

1. Shape of you by Ed Sheeran
2. Bad and Boujee by Migos feat. Lil Uzi Vert
3. Black Beatles by Rae Sremmurd feat. Gucci Mane
4. Starboy by The Weeknd feat. Daft Punk
5. Closer by The Chainsmokers feat. Halsey
6. Castle on the hill by Ed Sheeran
7. 24k Magic by Bruno Mars
8. Don't wanna know by Maroon 5 feat. Kendrick Lamar
9. Side to Side by Ariana Grande feat. Nicki Minaj
10. Bad things by Machine Gun Kelly and Camila Cabello

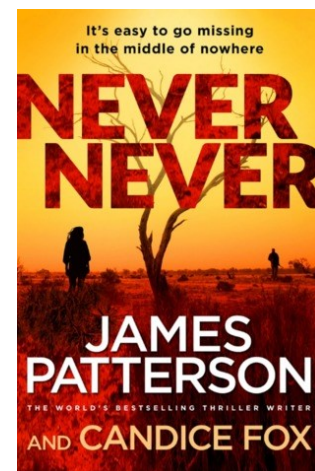


## Movies:

1. Moonlight
2. Manchester by the sea
3. The Handmaiden
4. Certain Women
5. Loving
6. Arrival
7. Aquarius
8. Doctor Strange
9. Peter and the farm
10. Hacksaw Ridge

## Books:

1. Never Never by James Patterson
2. Milk and Honey by Rupi Kaur
3. Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly
4. Carve The Mark by Veronica Roth
5. Women Who Work by Ivanka Trump
6. Strength Finders 2.0 by Tom Rath
7. A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron
8. A Man Called Ove by Fredrick Backman
9. The Cut Throat by Clive Cussler
10. Complete Wreck Books by Lemony Snicket





# Where in the world?

By: Ryan Blanford

1. Home of the nations Film and entertainment industry.
2. Musicians such as Kendrick Lamar, Adam Levine, Dr Dre and Metallica call this place home.
3. It is located on the west coast of the United States.
4. Home of sport teams such as The Rams, Chargers, Lakers, Clippers, Kings, Dodgers.
5. Is the city that holds The Grammy's every year and other award shows like the Oscars.
6. They call this place the city of Angels.



Answer: Los Angeles, California

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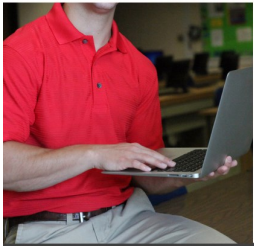
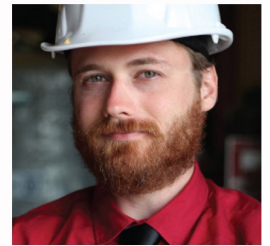
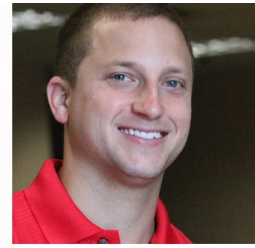
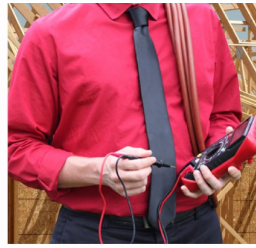
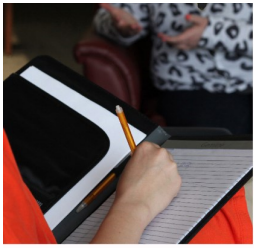
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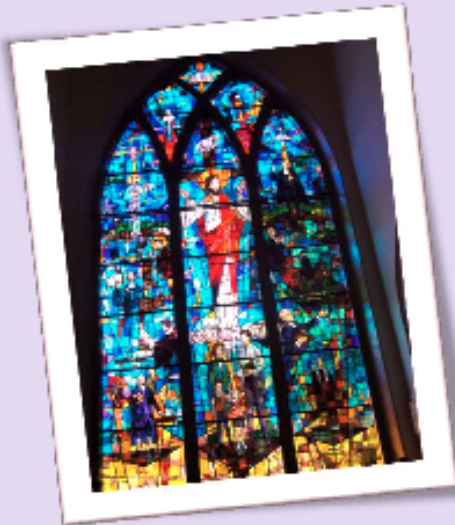
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