

BLUEJAY BEAT

Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington High School

March Edition 2017

Heart-Breaking March

By: Johannah Fisher

It's March, and I should be extremely happy about spring time rolling around, and all the flowers that should be blooming here soon. But when I think of March, my mind does not focus on the beautiful weather or the gorgeous flowers, instead my mind sets on the memories of the day my Aunt Brandi passed away.

On March 17, 2015 a life was lost. Not just any life. But the life of a thirty-two year old beautiful mother of five children. In this case, this woman is my Aunt Brandi. In October of 2014, Brandi was diagnosed with stomach cancer. All kinds of hearts were broken, including mine. Why would something so horrible happen to someone who deserved no negativity? I asked God every single day to cure her, and to make her strong again. But, God did not answer my prayers. Everyday I watched her grow weaker and weaker. I watched a mother who would do anything for her children, not be able to hardly walk and attend so many doctors appointments. Through it all, however, Brandi stayed strong. She stayed positive and supportive of everyone around her till the day she died. She never missed a sporting event for her children, or any other type of family event.

On March 17th, I do become very upset. Many hours of the day are spent crying, and mourning over the loss of my aunt. I also try to stay happy, and remember all of the memories of her. I think of the times she wasn't sick, the times she was happy and healthy. I choose to remember these times because that is what she would want me to do. She would not want everyone to cry over her death, she would want everyone to be happy and reminisce their memories together. On this day, I celebrate Brandi's life, and that I got to know her for the short amount of time she was on this Earth. I thank her for leaving me with five amazing cousins whom I think of as sisters and brothers. Brandi was so strong and I will always remember her. There is not a day that goes by that I do not think of her. I almost cry, but other times I smile. Right now, I know she is smiling down on us from heaven every day, and she is so proud of our family for being strong. I love and miss you always Aunt Brandi. I hope that you are dancing in the sky.

Editors:

Johannah Fisher

Austin Spiller

Elizabeth Campbell



Advisor:

Mrs. Patty Ream

Staff:

Joshua Deaton

Ryan Blanford

Shelby Smith

March

WISLCU

By: Austin Spiller

Hearing the word “March” is very strange, it doesn’t seem like it should be here already. Didn’t February just begin? The rate of how fast time is going by is ridiculous, if I could choose what time of the year it would be that feels right, it would be around November of 2016.

As the new year quickly goes along, I begin to realize that my senior year is already more than halfway over, and I can’t believe it. Although this year has started off fast, a lot has happened. I’ve been accepted into colleges that I’m interested in, which is great! Doing all of this college preparation and research, in a way, makes the fact that I’m graduating feel more real. While I am not completely sure where I will go, I’ll be in some college around here. I remember freshman year when people asked me where I was going to go I had no idea, I didn’t even know what I wanted to do; I even laughed to myself at times because I thought college was far away. Far away came pretty quick, considering I’ve applied at multiple colleges. I remember in elementary and early middle school how slow time went, it felt like school was going to never end. When high school came along time was too fast, I wanted it so slow down, but all it did was get faster. I especially realize this now, since it’s already March of 2017. I mean, didn’t this year just start?



My Final Season

By: Elizabeth Campbell

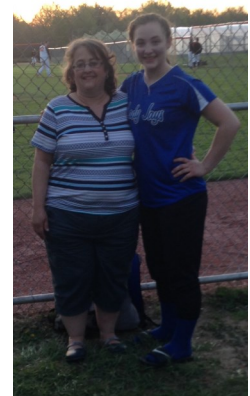
As winter ends and spring begins, it is time for softball season to start. This year, softball will be bittersweet due to it being my last season. I have played softball since I was five years old; it is my passion.

Softball is very special to me because it is where I met my best friend, Payton Whitt. We have played together every year since we started. Her mom and my dad coached us until we were in the fifth grade. We joined an older team that year, but my dad still helped. I made many great friends because of softball, and I will forever be grateful for that.

My family and I have always been close because of softball. My father has coached me since I started playing, and he has made me into the player I am today. My mom doesn't miss a game, and my brother is always trying to help me become a better player. My granny is also there for me. She took me to practices before I could drive, and she brings me food before the bus leaves for a game if I don't have time to go get something. They have always been there for me, and I know they always will be. Softball has created a special bond amongst my family.

Softball is a sport that I can use to express myself. I play when I am angry, and I play when I am sad. It allows me to share my happiness with my teammates, and if I am sad or upset, I can focus on playing my hardest to win the game. My dad always told me I hit better when I am mad, and he is correct. I always work hard, but I always work even harder when I am mad. This sport allows me to express my emotions without even saying a word, and that is what makes it the perfect sport for me.

I have so many amazing memories because of softball, and I will greatly miss playing this special sport. It has connected me with outstanding people, brought together my family, and allowed me to express myself. Softball made some of the best times of my life, and I'll cherish that forever.



Upcoming Events in March

By: Joshua Deaton

- March 3rd, Leukemia Lymphoma Assembly
- March 4-5, Artifact Show
- March 10th, Kona Ice
- March 17th, Kona ice
- March 20th-22nd, Cheerleading practice for tryouts
- March 24th, No School- Staff Inservice
- March 24th, Cheerleading Tryouts
- March 25th, Baseball/Softball @ New Richmond
- March 28th, Baseball/Softball @ Fayetteville
- March 30th, Baseball/Softball VS North Adams
- March 31st, Report cards issued
- March 31st, Spring Musical

Jovial Jacob

By: Shelby Smith

March's Student of the month has been awarded to Jacob Macleod. Jacob was surprised to be student of the month because he didn't know that was an award given at the high school.

Jacob is a Freshman at Ripley High School. This year, he is currently taking Advanced English 9, Geometry, Marketing Principles, School of Rock, Physical Education, Physical Science, Environmental Science and World Studies. Jacob said that Advanced English 9 is his favorite class because, "Mr. Scanlan keeps us busy and most of my friends are in that class." Jacob focuses on his schoolwork but still makes the time to participate in band as a percussionist.

In preparation for the future, in the summer, he takes college classes. Jacob has big plans for his future. In response to his plans for the future, Jacob said he plans to, "Work on computers and develop video games." The main goal is to make it to the point that developing them can be his career rather than a hobby. Jacob's role model is Satoru Iwata, former president of Nintendo because he had many great achievements. This is someone Jacob aspires to be like.

Jacob has a lot of motivation to keep doing great things. He said that his motivation stems from, "a better future, not just for me but a better future for everyone. Doing good in school could help me help others in the future." With motivation like this, he will continue to accomplish anything he sets his mind to.

"Do not miss school and if you do stay caught up with your work," is advice that Jacob gives to current eighth graders, becoming freshman next year. Great advice Jacob, and congratulations on being March's student of the month.



Scintillating Superstar Seth

By: Elizabeth Campbell

March's student of the month goes to Seth Darnell. Seth is a sophomore here at Ripley High School, and he is a hard working, determined young man. Seth has shown his hard work in a large way. On Friday, January 20, 2017, Seth was put in the Junior Varsity basketball game against Peebles High School, and he made his very first basket in a high school game. When asked how it felt to be chosen as student of the month, Seth said, "Being student of the month feels good because I worked hard." Seth believes he received the student of the month award because of basketball and his hard work in school. Jason Thompson said, "Seth is an outstanding young man. His competitive nature, along with his hard work makes him a winner. Seth has a genuine passion to help others. He has strong leadership qualities. Those qualities make him a joy to be around. Seth's work ethic is second to none. He will be very successful with whatever he chooses to do, for many years to come."

Seth's goal was to make a basket at the end of a high school basketball game; he has always wanted to do this. He said, "It feels great being a part of the team. I'm thankful for Coach Adams, Coach Woodward, and Coach Ellis." he enjoys being on a team with players who support him and push him to do his best. He said, "They are like my brothers." His teammates have all been very supportive and have tried to help him achieve his goals as much as they can. Seth has served as team manager for most of the season, and he practiced everyday and worked extremely hard to achieve his goal. Seth said, "It felt good when everyone cheered me on because I'm a superstar."

Seth has always been passionate about basketball, and his advice to other students who want to achieve their goals is, "Always follow your dreams and work hard." His role models are Jason Thompson and Mr. Woodward because they have made it possible for him to follow his dreams. In the future, Seth plans to eat, sleep, and play basketball. Congratulations Seth on being March's sophomore student of the month, and for making your dreams come true; you are an inspiration to all!



Well-Rounded Quinton

By: Johannah Fisher

It's March which means that the staff of Ripley High School has been on the lookout for a student to represent each grade as student of the month. As the staff was looking, they found Quinton Thomas and decided he would represent the Junior class as student of the month.

Quinton is a junior student here in Ripley, and has been taking classes all year round. These classes include: Painting and Drawing taught by Mr. Gilk, English taught by Mrs. Fannin, Choir taught by Mr. Brown, Algebra II taught by Mr. Jones, American Government taught by Mr. Bowery, and Environmental Science taught by Mrs. Schelling. When I ask him what his favorite class was out of all these he replied with, "Choir because I like to sing."

Quinton was very surprised that he received student of the month, but he is so happy that he received it. He describes his student image as, "good." Mr. Bowery, the teacher who nominated Quinton said, "Quinton always gives one hundred percent effort on every assignment that he does in my class to prove that he can do well."

He loves to participate in the school plays, and outside of school he likes to play video games. Quinton says that his friends are the ones who motivate him to do his very best in school. His number one role model is his dad. In the future, Quinton wants to become a writer, and also a welder.

When asked to give his advice to underclassmen Quinton says, "Make friends and have fun." Quinton is a very well-rounded student which is a reason he was chosen to represent March's student of the month. Congratulations Quinton Thomas for receiving junior student of the month.



Sincere Sam

By: Austin Spiller

Sam Titus has been nominated for March's student of the month, and for good reason. Sam worked hard his senior year, graduating after the first semester ended. Now, Sam is on a road that will change his life. On February 14th, Sam left Ripley and went into the Army. Looking ahead into the future in about five or six years, Sam hopes to have a good career in the Army, "I would hope to be an E5 to E6 with a fancy car and a nice house." In order to get to this stage Sam has his goals set, "Not to injure or set myself into trouble while in the Army."

When asking Sam why he thinks that he was nominated he said, "I've done what I needed to do, I also think that all the teachers like me and support me." Before Sam graduated early his favorite classes were band and ROTC, "This is because band is what I love to do, and I enjoy the people in there. My other favorite class is ROTC because I enjoy to PT." Sam said that his favorite class was science and music, and that he likes to know random information that others don't know. Out of all the classes Sam had taken during high school, English 9 was where he struggled, "English 9 because there is a lot of work and I didn't try as hard as I could have." Sam is currently doing what he wants to be doing, far away from home. Make sure that Sam and his family are in your thoughts and prayers, as he and his family are going through a lot of changes. Sam will be back here in Ripley to visit in December of this year!



Staff of the Month

By: Elizabeth Campbell

March's Staff of the Month goes to Tammy Pfeffer. Mrs. Pfeffer is married and has a daughter who lives in Kentucky. She is also raising her four year old grandson, Carter. In her spare time, Mrs. Pfeffer enjoys riding horses and camping. She just really enjoys being outdoors.

Mrs. Pfeffer began working here at Ripley High School in 2012. She has been here for five years. Mrs. Pfeffer hadn't always dreamt of being a teacher. She worked in business for over twenty-six years before she decided to become a teacher. Once she decided to be a teacher, she attended Northern Kentucky University and studied education. She said, "I wanted to help students get good jobs by knowing what would be expected from their employers. I would teach them the things needed to be successful." She taught a kindergarten class at Georgetown Elementary School for a year before she came to Ripley High School. She really enjoys getting to know each and every student, and she loves her co-workers. She said, "It's small enough that you get to know everyone."

Mrs. Pfeffer chose Ripley because she lives in the community and she enjoys being a part of this community. The worst part about being a teacher is state testing. It doesn't allow teachers to teach what they want. She decided to become a teacher because she sees how people struggle because they are different and she wants to help them. Her advice to students who want to succeed is, "It's all about following directions. Can you show your future employer that you can be assigned a task, follow directions, and complete it with a good product?" Congratulations Mrs. Pfeffer on being March's Staff of the Month!



Love All Around

By: Johannah Fisher



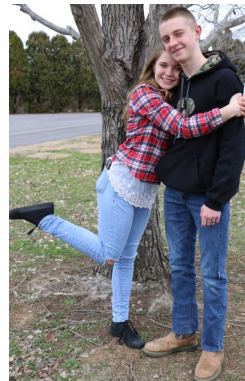
Love is in the air this March, and many relationships are being formed around Ripley High School. One relationship that really sticks out to me is Kailee Fisher and Dalton Applegate. Kailee is a freshman, and Dalton is a sophomore here at Ripley. The couple has been dating for one year and nine months.

Kailee and Dalton both said that they met each other at Ripley's middle school, where their relationship began. Dalton describes his first impression of Kailee as, "My first impression of Kailee was that she was very quiet." While Kailee's first impression of Dalton was, "He is very sweet and has gorgeous blue eyes." On May 24, 2015 Kailee and Dalton started dating, and they even say that since they have fallen in love. When I asked them about what love is, Kailee described love by saying, "Love means caring for someone, but also being able to be around someone." Dalton described it by saying, "Love to me means that you can be yourself around the other person." They both say that they are truly in love with each other. They want to spend every second of everyday with each other, and both say there is no way they could not be in love.

Going to school does not affect their relationship at school they both say. In fact, Kailee even said that school is good for them because it allows them to see each other more, and allows them to support each other through school. Kailee describes Dalton by using the words, "silly, caring, and loving." She says, "He makes me laugh, but still can be loving and caring." Dalton describes Kailee by using the word, "charming." He says, "Because she always finds a way to make me smile."

According to Dalton, Kailee is special in his eyes in many ways. One way he says is, "One thing that makes Kailee special in my eyes is that she no matter what is always on my mind. The reason why this makes her special is because her being the only one on my mind makes me realize how special she is to me." Kailee, also, feels that Dalton is special in many different ways. One way she says is, "His big heart, he cares for everyone and helps anyone in need." Her favorite thing about Dalton is that he is fun to be around and he also has the biggest heart. Dalton on the other hand says, "My favorite thing about Kailee is a very hard question to answer but if I had to choose one thing it would have to be how different she is. The reason for this is because to me the way I know her, she is very different (I mean it in the best way)."

In the future, they both see each other living happily on their own together. They both want to be happily married, and also working at their dream jobs. Congratulations Dalton and Kailee, for being selected as March's couple of the month.



Creative and Unique Johannah

By: Elizabeth Campbell

March's girl fashion of the month goes to Johannah Fisher. Johannah is a senior here at Ripley High School, and she is always being complimented on her unique sense of style. Johannah was asked a series of questions, so we can find out the secrets behind her creative style.

Johannah finds herself shopping a few times a month at Gabriel Brothers, Marshalls, Victoria Secret, Hot Topic, and TJ Maxx. Out of those stores, her favorite is Hot Topic because she gets all of her Harry Potter clothing there. Johannah said she doesn't really have a set limit on how much she spends each month on clothes, but if she had to guess it would be around \$200. Johannah, like most people, likes to shop in store because she is able to look at the outfits together, and decide if she likes them.

Most people have a favorite outfit, one that they constantly wear, but not Johannah. She doesn't have a favorite outfit because she loves every outfit she wears. She loves wearing bracelets. She said, "I usually wear my 13 Alex + Ani bracelets." She also loves wearing earrings and necklaces. Almost everyone has "lazy days," but Johannah said, "I don't really have lazy days. I love to always dress up." Johannah always looks great because she is always wearing something nice.

Fashion of the month is awarded to an individual who stands out for his or her sense of style, and Johannah definitely stands out. She said, "My look is different from everyone else's. I wear anything noticeable or flashy that other people would be embarrassed of." Johannah loves how her look is unique and different. When asked if she felt that her personality was reflected by her sense of styles, Johannah responded with, "I do. I am a bright, happy, colorful, and unique person. My outfits are all of these." Johannah is correct. Her clothes also show her braveness because she doesn't care what people might say about her outfit.

Johannah is a leader not a follower. She doesn't really follow anyone's fashion. She said, "I am myself, and I dress how I like." She mentioned that she does ask her mom if her outfits look alright, and that her mother buy her many outfits because she understands what Johannah likes. When asked what her advice to anyone who looks up to her for her sense of style, she responded, "I would tell them to be themselves. Dress how you want to. If someone laughs at you, who cares, you're being yourself." Good advice Johannah, and congratulations on being March's fashion of the month!



Fashion-Friendly Josh

By: Johannah Fisher

March's fashion of the month boy goes out to Josh Deaton. Josh is a senior here at Ripley high school, and he sticks out for his fashion forward outfits. Josh dresses both very sporty and casual which makes him a very fashionable person. Josh typically goes shopping about two to three times before each new season rolls around. On these shopping trips Josh does not spend very much money. When he does, the main stores that he usually shops at includes: Finish Line, HandM, Urban Outfitters, and Adidas. When it comes to shopping online or in a store, Josh prefers to shop online. He says, "I like to shop online because you have way more choices and you can find better deals."

Everyone in the world has their most favorite things to wear, including Josh. When I asked Josh what his favorite outfit was he replied with, "Hoodie and sweat-pants because school starts early so I feel being comfy helps me feel better each morning." However, he does not have an actual favorite part. He feels that each piece needs to look good together to form a good outfit. On his lazy days Josh likes to wear a baggy long sleeve shirt with soft pajamas.

When asked to explain his look Josh said, "A sporty/friendly look, like a cross between sport fashion, and street fashion." He also feels that the way he dresses reflects his personality. This is because he is sporty looking most of the time, but he also cleans up nicely. Josh does not receive fashion advice from anyone. He wears whatever looks good on him. Josh is a very fashionable person, and has earned boy fashion of the month for March.



Musical Update

By: Shelby Smith

This year the high school and middle school choir as well as student volunteers will be performing Little Mermaid the musical from Friday, March 31st through Sunday, April 2nd. The musical will be performed at the middle school. Little mermaid is a story about a young mermaid who is overprotected by her father. All this girl wants to do is explore the world. Prompting her to make a deal with a sea witch, Ursula to turn her human for three days to give her a chance to be with her love, Prince Eric.

This year the main roles will be played by Carlee Daulton as Ariel, Jacob Castle as Prince Eric, Chaze Gully as King Triton, Jaki Royal as Sebastian, and Taylor Sandlin as Ursula. There will be multiple people as cooks, fish, mermaids, etc. This year some of the participants will be flying for specific scenes.

When asked how musical practice is going, The director, Mr. Brown, said that, "The kids are doing great. There are a lot of rookies this year and around 60 total performers." He also said that this is a very popular show, rated the number one show performed by high schools this year. He believes that the turnout will be much greater this year than last.

We urge you to come watch the show. The students are hard at work and will be for the entire month of March. Make sure to bring the little ones too, Saturday before the show, there will be a princess and pirate party for kids to get to meet the cast. This year's musical will be a treat to watch. As Jacob Castle says, "If you come it will be an experience that you will never forget."



Bluejay's Basketball Coming to an End

By: Joshua Deaton

The Bluejay's are putting the finishing touches on their basketball seasons. The Ripley boys varsity finished the season with a record of 10-12. Their schedule was not an easy one, especially closing out the season as they lost four of their last five. The Bluejays closed the season on a positive note however, by beating league champion Lynchburg-Clay 59-50. The varsity Lady jays also finished with a 10-12 record, however they lost to Bethel-tate in the first round of District Tournaments, 25-29, with senior Kacy Gilkerson scoring 13 of the 25.

The varsity boys play Blanchester in the first round of the District Tournament, which they lost to by nine earlier in the season. The Bluejays match up well in talent versus Blanchester and all the players feel that if they bring their A game then they have a good shot at winning. Seniors Josh Deaton and Jordan Griffith look to lead the way coming off of double digit performances in the most recent matchup versus Lynchburg-Clay. If the Bluejays advance they will play the number one ranked team in Ohio Division III Basketball, Summit Country Day.

The Bluejays have played well this year and both squads have played fairly difficult schedules and ended up with decent records. The boys team even upped their win total by six wins compared to last season. As the season closes it's been a year of improvement for both squads. The boys are likely to get better however the girls may struggle next year without three of their core as they're graduating this year, Kacy Gilkerson, Kassey Arnett and Kursten Prater were all big pieces of the puzzle this year. Both teams have potential however, and are going to give 100%, Go Jays!



School Survey

By: Ryan Blanford

Now that everyone is used to the classes they have this semester, I asked them a few questions about school. Here are the results:

1. Has your 2017 so far been good?

Yes- 57

No- 13



2. Has your school year been good?

Yes- 51

No- 19

3. Did you play any sports or do any extracurricular activities?

Yes- 37

No- 33

4. What was your favorite class this year and why was it your favorite?

Lunch- 2

None- 7

Spanish- 3

Any FFA/Ag- 11

P.E.- 5

History- 2

Choir- 5

Art- 3

ACT Prep-1

ROTC- 6

Career Math- 3

Digital Journalism- 2

Psychology- 2

Geometry-2

Business-1

All Classes-1

Homeroom-1

Health-1

Government- 1

English- 3

Science- 3

Office Aid- 1



Senior College Survey

By: Austin Spiller

With college right around the corner for some seniors, a survey was sent out asking seniors where they were planning on going.

Out of 19 responses received, these are the results.

Are you planning on attending college?

Yes- 14

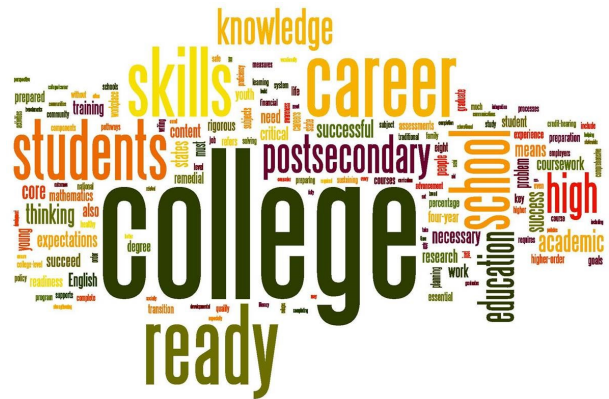
Maybe- 2

No- 3

Are you going to a community college or university?

University- 11

Community college- 5



What college are you planning to attend?

NKU- 1

Morehead- 6

Maysville Community and Technical College- 1

Shawnee State University- 1

Southern State Community College- 2

Wright State University- 2

UC Clermont- 1

University of Kentucky- 1



March Birthdays

By: Shelby Smith

3/02 Jasmine Myrick

3/03 Austin Armacost

3/05 Jalen Carter

3/08 James Johnson

3/15 Destini Stewart

3/19 Zachary Ginn

3/20 Chyann Croswait

3/20 Cody Morgan

3/21 Zoey Black

3/22 Nick Wilson



3/25 Ross Hamm

3/25 Alysha Hines

3/26 Tabitha Hensel

3/27 Ethan Phillips

3/28 Kyle McGue

3/28 Kenzie McMillion

3/29 Josh Deaton

3/29 Seth Darnell

3/30 Rebecca Presley

3/30 Jon Smith



Prince's Music Coming to Spotify

By: Ryan Blanford

The music streaming giant, Spotify, has announced that during the Grammy's this Sunday Prince's music catalog will be available to streamers. All of his best work such as his albums "1999," "Purple Rain," and "Dirty Mind." It won't just be on Spotify, but it will be on Apple Music, and it is already on Tidal when Jay-Z got exclusive rights to his album "Hit N Run: Phase One." Separately, Universal Music Group announced Thursday that it had gained exclusive licensing rights to Prince's post-1995 works, as well as his unreleased music, after striking a deal with his estate. Spotify has hinted at the Prince music catalog coming to Spotify with a purple billboard campaign held in New York and London.

Sadly Prince died in April of 2016 from an overdose of the opioid fentanyl. Prince left behind a large amount of unreleased music which is worth tens of millions of dollars. Prince will have a tribute done for him at the Grammy's for the great things he did for music. He is truly a legend in his own right who inspired a lot of people during his life. Rest in Peace.



New England Patriots Make A Comeback

By: Shelby Smith

Superbowl 51 ended with a comeback that will go down in history. Super bowl LI was a showdown between the Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots. The Falcons were dominating the first three quarters with a 28-9 lead. However, quarterback Tom Brady and the Patriots made that last quarter count, pulling out a final score of 34-28.

The game begun with a coin toss by former President George H. W. Bush. The Falcons called heads, and indeed heads it was. The first quarter was fairly uneventful. Both teams had a decent defense. By the end of the quarter, the score remained 0-0.

The second quarter is where the Falcons game started coming together. Within the first four minutes, the Falcons had scored their first touchdown. With the patriots defense appearing to be lacking, they proceeded to score two more. With two minutes left in the first half, Gostkowski kicks a good field goal for the Patriots. Making the halftime score 21-3.

After an amazing performance by the one and only Lady Gaga, the game was back on with comeback in mind. The quarter started with the Falcons in possession of the ball. The Falcons made their last touchdown of the night in the middle of the third quarter, shortly after the Patriots earned their first touchdown.

By the fourth quarter, Patriot fans were beginning to lose hope. The Falcons had a 21 point lead. This was something almost unheard of, but then they score a touchdown, and then another, and then another to tie the game. It was official that the game would go into overtime for the first time in history of the Patriot's superbows. Finally, an end that no one expected, the Patriot's scored a final touchdown that won the game for them.



Are the Rumors True?

By: Austin Spiller

It's March, which means Samsung is due to release their next series of Galaxy phones. This month, the Samsung Galaxy S8 and S8 Plus are rumored to be released on the 29th. The Galaxy S8 is expected to include some new features that its predecessor, the S7 doesn't have. More security is being added, with an Iris scanner. The Iris scanner will allow the phone to be unlocked by scanning someone's eye. This feature originally debuted on the Galaxy Note 7, but we all know what happened there... A better screen is also rumored to be on the S8, this time the screen might cover the entire front of the phone, leaving the fingerprint scanner on the back of the phone. Desktop Mode is another new feature that is expected to be revealed. This feature allows the phone to be connected to a monitor along with peripherals that could turn the phone into a desktop computer. When playing games that require a lot of resources we all know what can happen, it lags. Beast mode is a feature that's rumored to be on the S8, this allows the phone to use all of its resources at maximum performance, taking away the days of when games lagged due to an underpowered CPU. Then, there's one "feature" that the S8 will have that the iPhone 7 doesn't. A headphone jack. On March 29th we'll have to see if these rumors come true.

In other news, Verizon has introduced a new unlimited data plan that we thought we would never see again. While the word unlimited is pleasing to the ear, it isn't pleasing to anyone's wallet. This plan would run a family of four around \$180 a month, and that's without taxes, fees, and phone installments. All Verizon is doing with this plan is playing catch up with its competitors.

T-Mobile announced a plan very similar to Verizon's in November of 2016. T-Mobile is making huge changes in the wireless industry, such as announcing T-Mobile ONE. Since T-Mobile has made drastic improvements to their network over the past couple years, they're catching up very quickly with Verizon and AT&T's coverage. Due to this, Verizon and AT&T have had to actually compete with T-Mobile, offering new plans that customers want. The main difference between Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile is pricing. T-Mobile has by far the cheapest unlimited plan. AT&T has an unlimited plan as well, but it's very expensive. Then there's Sprint, which is a joke. It will be interesting to see how much more the wireless industry will change in the future, thanks to T-Mobile.



March Madness

By: Joshua Deaton

March is an important month for basketball, as the NBA season is coming to a close and teams are getting ready for the playoffs. However, the marquee story in March for basketball is the Men's Division 1 basketball tournament, also known as “March Madness”, or “The Big Dance”.

The tournament was created in 1939 and the idea came from the Ohio State coach Harold Olsen. The tournament is a single elimination tournament with sixty-four teams in which they are seeded one through sixteen. The tournament is where teams come to shock the world and often times people and teams write their name in history by making a run in this tournament.

When teams make runs in the tournament that are unexpected, it's often called a “Cinderella Story”. This is often times what makes the tournament so special, and people are in love with the fact that these teams come out of nowhere and shock this top ranked powerhouse schools. Most recently Syracuse made it to the Final Four last year as a ten seed. One of the more popular stories is when Stephen Curry rose to stardom taking mid-major school Davidson to the Elite Eight as a ten seed. We saw the now two-time NBA MVP carry his team to the Elite Eight, beating seven seeded Gonzaga, two seeded Georgetown, and three seeded Wisconsin. These stories are what makes March Madness great, so let's hope to see it this year.



History of St. Patrick's Day

By: Shelby Smith

Saint Patrick's Day is approaching. To most of us, this means plan our outfit out in advance. We wear our green shirts, pants, maybe even green socks. The lingering question is what does this day mean to others?

Every year, Saint Patrick's day is on March 17th. This is the day that St. Patrick died. Saint Patrick, originally named Maewyn Succat, was a saint that set out on a quest to spread the teachings of Christianity. He traveled to different countries converting and baptizing as many people as he could. Ultimately, St. Patrick's Day is a celebration of the baptism of Ireland.

Today, "Paddy's Day" has lost its association with religion. Now we think of the color green, leprechauns, pinching and three leaf clovers. Each of these things have slowly become tradition. Saint Patrick used the shamrock to explain the concept of the Trinity; which refers to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Legends say that this was one of his major teaching tools, causing it to be a major symbol of Saint Patrick's Day. Blue was originally the color associated with St. Patrick's Day. However, in the 15th century, the color was replaced with green, a color on the Irish Flag.

Pinching on St. Patrick's day is an American made tradition. When you wear green, you are invisible to leprechauns. Leprechauns are fairy creatures that would pinch anyone they see. Therefore, people began pinching those not wearing green as a reminder that a leprechaun would sneak up on you. However you choose to spend March 17th, don't forget the green!



Music Review

By: Ryan Blanford

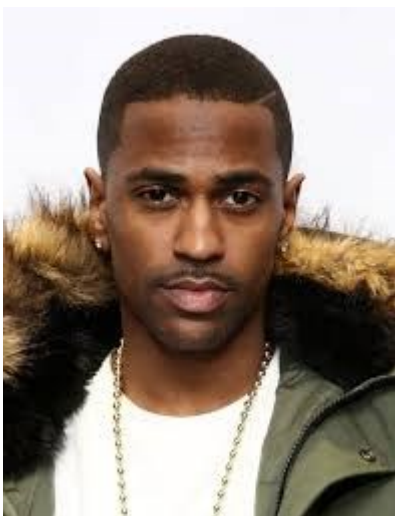
As February is winding down, one album that dropped on February 3 that is making an impact in the music world is I Decided by Big Sean. It has its lead single Bounce Back which is currently on the top 10 of the Billboard top 100 songs. This album is built off as a concept album that revolves around the idea of rebirth. In January 2017, during an episode of The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, Big Sean confirmed that both men on the album cover are him—a present-day version to the left and an older version of himself to the right.

Speaking to Zane Lowe about I Decided, Sean explained the title of the project: "I Decided means so many things. I feel like life is all about the decisions you make. This is what I decided. That's why I put a period on the end of it—because this is definitive." He also cited Kanye West as an inspiration to his creative process behind the album in an interview with *Fact*: *"He helped me learn how to make albums", and although West is absent from the record, the Detroit-based rapper exclusively told Capital XTRA that he was very influential in the project – helping to shape many songs.* West is also credited as one of the album's executive producers.

The promotion he did for this album was his three singles "Bounce Back", "Moves", and "Halfway Off The Balcony." "Bounce Back" and "Moves" are both on the top 50 of the Billboard top 100. Big Sean's performances for the album were "Bounce Back" and "Sunday Morning Jetpack" on Saturday Night Live.

The album's commercial performance I Decided debuted at number 1 of the Billboard top 200 albums, that is Big Sean's second number 1 album with the album Dark Sky Paradise.

My favorite songs from the album that you should at least listen to are Light feat Jeremih, Bounce Back, Jump Out The Window, Moves, Halfway Off The Balcony, Sunday Morning Jetpack feat The-Dream, and Bigger Than Me feat Flint Chozen Choir & Starrah. I would give this album 9/10 I recommendation. You should listen to the whole album because it definitely has some great stuff and I think that you will be adding this one to your music collections.



Top 10 - March

By: Ryan Blanford

Songs:

1. Shape Of You By Ed Sheeran
2. Bad and Boujee By Migos Featuring Lil Uzi Vert
3. I Don't Wanna Live Forever By Zayn and Taylor Swift
4. Million Reasons By Lady Gaga
5. Bad Things By Machine Gun Kelly x Camila Cabello
6. Bounce Back By Big Sean
7. Closer By The Chainsmokers Featuring Halsey
8. Scars To Your Beautiful By Alessia Cara
9. Don't Wanna Know by Maroon 5 feat. Kendrick Lamar
10. Paris By Chainsmokers



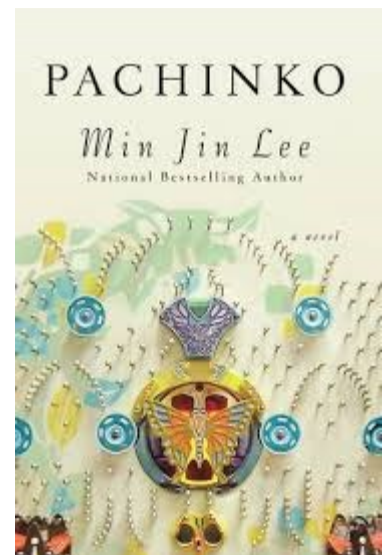
Movies:

1. A Cure for Wellness
2. Love Song
3. The Lego Batman Movie
4. John Wick: Chapter 2
5. Kedi
6. I Am Not Your Negro
7. Silence
8. Oklahoma City
9. The Red Turtle
10. Toni Erdman



Books:

1. Pachinko By Min Jin Lee
2. Swimming Lessons By Claire Fuller
3. Norse Mythology By Neil Gaiman
4. Lincoln in the Bardo: A Novel By George Saunders
5. Insomniac City: New York, Oliver, and Me By Bill Hayes
6. Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow By Yuval Noah Harari
7. The Upstarts: How Uber, Airbnb, and the Killer Companies of the New Silicon Valley Are Changing the World By Brad Stone
8. Universal Harvester: A Novel By John Darnielle
9. The Impossible Fortress: A Novel By Jason Rekulak
10. 4 3 2 1: A Novel By Paul Auster



Those Are Holidays?

By: Ryan Blanford

3/1- National Pig Day

3/2-Old Stuff Day

3/3- National Anthem Day

3/4-Holy Experiment Day

3/5- Multiple Personality Day

3/6-National Dentist Day

3/7-National Crown Roast Of Pork Day

3/8- International Women's Day

3/9- Panic day

3/10- Middle Name Pride Day

3/11-Worship Of Tools Day

3/12-Girl Scouts Day

3/13- Jewel Day

3/14-National Potato Chip Day

3/15-Everything You Think Is Wrong Day

3/16-Everything You Do Is Right Day



3/17-Saint Patrick's Day

3/18- National Quilting Day

3/19- Poultry Day

3/20-International Earth Day

3/21- National Agriculture Day

3/22- National Goof Off Day

3/23- National Puppy Day

3/24-National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day

3/25-Waffle Day

3/26-Make Up Your Own Holiday Day

3/27-National "Joe" Day

3/28-Something On A Stick Day

3/29-Smoke And Mirrors Day

3/30-National Doctor's Day

3/31-World Backup Day



Where in the World?

By: Joshua Deaton

1. This drink has fueled athletes since 1965.
2. Its original flavor was released in 'Lemon-Lime'.
3. You can see it being indorsed by star athletes such as Dwyane Wade.
4. This is located where Dwyane Wade plays professional basketball.
5. It's located in the 'Windy City'.
6. And it is home to the Cubs, Bulls, White Sox, and Bear.



Answer: Gatorade HQ, Chicago, IL

Jokes and Riddles

By: Joshua Deaton

Question: What is a ghost's favorite fruit?

Answer: Booberries

Question: Why was Dracula put in jail?

Answer: He tried to rob a blood bank

Question: What kind of place should you never take your dog?

Answer: A flea market

Question: Why did the millionaire refuse to move to Alaska?

Answer: He did not want to freeze his assets

Question: What country is the slipperiest?

Answer: Greece

Question: Where do pirates love to eat?

Answer: ARRby's

Question: What kind of flower grows between your nose and your lips?

Answer: Two lips

Question: What has four eyes but can't see?

Answer: Mississippi

Question: What can you catch but not throw?

Answer: A cold

Question: What is at the end of rainbow?

Answer: The letter W



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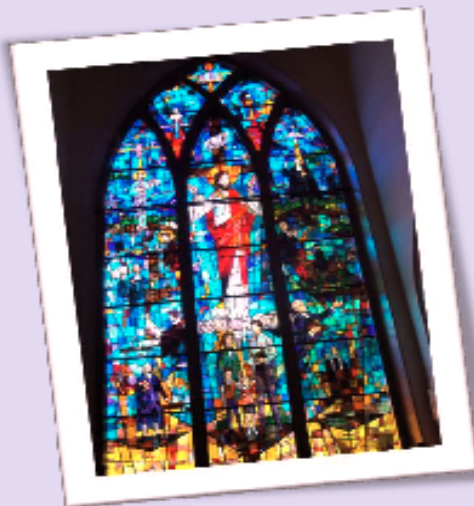
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GOD, BLESS OUR STUDENTS! 😊



Remember When:

- Community VBS in the summer and Community Fellowship Dinners, since 2005, sponsored by the Ripley Ministerial Association held on the LAST Thursday of each month (every Thursday in January and February, and November and December adjusted for Holidays)
- Finally, a newly remodeled kitchen in Nov. 2016!
- New Catholic Charities "Food for All" Mobile Food Pantry distribution mission every 3rd Wednesday (11:00-1:00) for all Brown County began here in April, 2016, and is still growing! Students and Volunteers from almost all area churches helped with this mission.

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