The Badger Pause

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Exploring TRAPPIST-1

by Alexis Caponi, BP Staff Asst. Editor

You've probably heard of the seven newly discovered planets by NASA's Kepler Telescope. TRAPPIST-1 is the planet system that was discovered February 22, 2017. The Earth-sized seven planets orbit around one star, similar to our own system. Three of these planets are in a habitable zone, which is the area around the parent star where planets are most likely to have liquid water. TRAPPIST-1 is 40 light years away, which is a whopping 235 trillion miles. Most of the planets are rocky, making them more habitable than if they were gaseous planets. It is believed that the seventh planet, the farthest from the star, has a snowball like composition. Michael Gillon, lead principal investigator of the TRAPPIST survey at the University of Liege, Belgium says that "The seven wonders of TRAPPIST-1 are the first Earth-size planets that have been found orbiting this kind of star. It is also the best target yet for studying the atmospheres of potentially habitable, Earth-size worlds."

In contrast to our own sun, the TRAPPIST-1 star is an ultra-cool dwarf. It is so cool, compared to our sun, that planets orbiting close to the star can still hold liquid water. All seven of the TRAPPIST-1 planets orbit closer to their star than Mercury is to the sun. The innermost planet completes a full orbit around the star in a day and a half, while the outermost planet's full orbit is around 20 days. This means that their planets are also closer to each other. So close that you could stand on one planet and see the geographical features or clouds of a neighboring planet.

It is theorized that the planets are tidally locked to the host star. Tidally locked planets take the same amount of time to orbit a sun, as they take to make one full rotation on their axis. This means that one side of the planet is always day and the other side is always night, creating weather patterns very unlike the weather here on Earth.

Of course, the big question: Are we alone anymore? It is still undetermined if any of the planets in TRAPPIST-1 host any form of life. The first thing NASA would need to determine to find out, would be if any of the planets has an adequate atmosphere. The atmosphere would need to retain heat to support life, but block out killer high-energy radiation that the host star gives off. So far, NASA doesn't have a telescope in space that can measure that. However NASA will be sending the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) next year, which looks at the universe in infrared light. JWST can also detect the "chemical fingerprints of water, methane, oxygen, ozone, and other components of a planet's atmosphere." By sending the JWST to TRAPPIST-1, scientists will be able to see the amount of infrared light, undetectable by the human eye, that reaches these planets surfaces. This will bring us one step closer in determining if life is sustainable in this planetary system.

Check out page 2 for ideas on how to make your spring break worthwhile and a blast!

Flip to page 3 for your very own Berkshire Badgers' softball and baseball lineups.

Weighed down with bad luck? Page 7 has tips and tricks just for you!

Stop the maddness and chow down!

by Julia Losasso, BP Staff Editor

School lunches are often a point of contention for students and adults alike. In recent history, they have been infamous for their lack of flavor, cardboard-like texture, and gloomy appearance. At Berkshire specifically, this past year has been one of much needed change and, seemingly, a solution to the contention of years past. However there is one problem which has not been solved: the problem of school lunch waste.

According to usda.gov, "Americans waste enough food every day to fill a 90,000 seat football stadium. Approximately one-third of all food is wasted at the retail and consumer levels." The numbers are astounding, and even more so is the fact that they will continue to be similar unless the tradition of wastefulness is not passed down to a future generation. This problem starts at home, but is continued and reinforced at school with school lunches, which sometimes contain food children find unsavory or just don't feel like eating. The ease of simply throwing something they don't like away with no repercussions is, at this point in society, greater than the fact that there are thousands of children without lunch every single day within just miles.

Often times food that gets thrown away is only half-eaten, or with only a single bite out of it. At this point it is not possible, and quite frankly not appetizing, to salvage this food. However, that does not mean it cannot be composted, or disposed of in some other environmentally friendly way. At Chesterbrook Elementary School in McClean, Virginia, these disposal methods have been put into action, and each student is responsible for sorting their waste and disposing of it properly. This is especially manageable on a relatively small scale such as an elementary school, but could also easily be enacted on a larger scale. Furthermore, this implements the ideas of recycling and responsibly using resources in children for their entire lives to come, reducing the over-arching issue.

On the other side of the issue, and far more eye opening, is the amount of food that gets thrown away untouched. There are multiple solutions to this issue, perhaps one of the most suitable is named "share tables." According to the Huffington Post, "'Share tables' can help to solve this: students can swap unwanted school meal items like milk cartons, whole fruits, or bags of baby carrots." This sounds perfect, as students can drop off what they don't want, and perhaps trade it for something more palatable for them. There would have to be limitations however, according to the Huffington Post: "Share tables are not only safe and legal, they are also strongly encouraged by the USDA." Additionally, excess food not consumed could be donated to local food pantries, shelters, or soup kitchens.

There are a number of emerging solutions to this long unanswered problem catching on all over the United States. The best part is that often times, these solutions are contrived entirely by students. Now that there is a basis for these solutions, others are sure to follow. Whether it be (ideally) actual actions, or simply an increased understanding and caring for those lacking the same abundance of food many have today, hopefully the overabundance of waste will slow with each coming generation.

SPRING BREAK: Good for the soul!!

by Stuart Horvath, BP Staff Writer

Berkshire's school year is split into four quarters, making up two semesters. The 3rd quarter can be very difficult. It has very little to offer. It's the longest of the four quarters, and we have very little vacation time during the 3rd quarter. We do have one break though: we get spring break. One week in March we get off for the coming of spring. Many people start planning things, some may go on vacation, some may take the week off to relax but what many do not know is what other students around the U.S. do on Spring Break, and of the most popular spring break locations in the U.S. is Florida. Thousands of college students prepare for a week of nothing but partying. Daytona Beach is an extremely popular beach. One of the largest parties all year round. In the movie 22 Jump Street there are scenes involving the beach. Daytona is one of many locations set for Spring Break. Another great location in the U.S. to spend your break is Panama beach also located in Florida. The beach is so significant with the warm summer salt water. This area is surrounded by large beautiful hotels with pools and other amazing places to go.



The bahamas are a beautiful escape prfect for spring vaction.

Outside of America there are some very beautiful and popular islands to visit on your spring break. The Bahamas is the most visited spring break location in the world. With multiple islands to visit and temperatures high as 95 degrees with the sun beating down. Another location in the U.S that is a great spring break destination is Miami Florida. Miami Florida is very popular because of its location. It is in the perfect area. Miami is more of a family friendly location. While college students attend surrounding beaches. Florida is a very popular state. It has millions of visitors every year. Known for its nickname the sunshine state attracted in the year 2016: 105 million tourists.

Unfortunately we only get a week of school off. We used to receive two weeks of school off, but that was dropped when we would have larger amounts of snow days, waver days and required more school hours. Spring Break overall is about getting a break in the 3rd quarter. This is the longest quarter so to be able to get that week off is a huge stress reliever. Some people like to stay home, and have a more relaxing type of Spring Break, but me, I'm the opposite. I'm going to Daytona for my spring break. Spring break gives us our break so go somewhere awesome, do something awesome. After spring break we do not really have anymore long vacations. So spend this break well. Maybe one day in the future we will even get a little bit of a longer break.

The new season introduces new life

by Claire Milano, BP Staff Asst. Editor

Now that we're in the third month of 2017, spring has just begun. Warmer weather brings forward beautiful plants and animals we haven't seen since early autumn. Along with those animals come their newborns. From beautiful leopards to adorable hippos, here's everything you ever wanted to know about new 2017 babies.

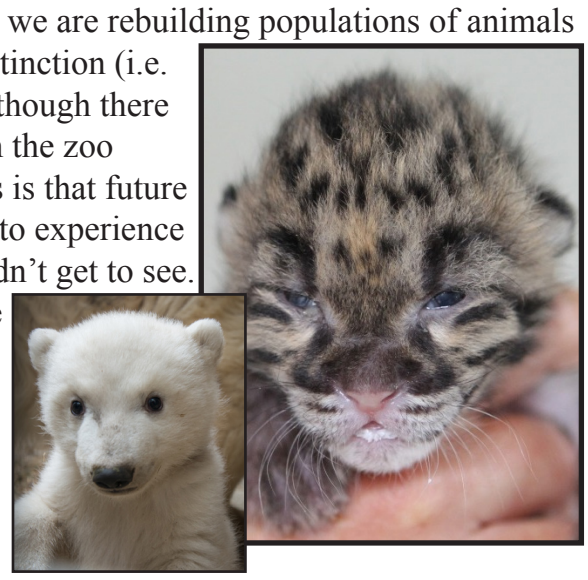
To start off, since January 1st there have been almost 26 million births for humans alone, according to worldometers.info. This website offers a live feed of the world population, number of births, and sadly the number of deaths. If you're up for it, you can watch the numbers increase/decrease at a constant rate. Currently our world population is approximately 7.5 billion people.

On a happier note, an aardvark named Lotte gave birth to a cub in Poland on February 2. This cutie can be found at the Wroclaw Zoo. On February 27, a.k.a. International Polar Bear Day, we were introduced to a trio of polar bear cousins! These majestic cubs were born to a pair of sisters named Anana and Aurora in early November. They were finally brought into the spotlight by the zoo in February, as they had been too young to be exposed to humans. The two polar bear sisters live at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

Another polar bear cub was born recently, also. After 14 weeks of snuggling with her mom Giovanna, the baby emerged to explore the world outside the birthing den at Munich Zoo Hellabrunn on March 4. With each passing day, the unnamed cub learns more about life and its many perks. Also, on February 27th, the Zoo de Granby in Canada celebrated the birth of its 17th hippopotamus since 1973. The Zoo de Granby is very proud to be a large producer of the "vulnerable" hippo. Hippos are labeled this because they are close to becoming endangered.

The Nashville Zoo and the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute declared the birth of a male clouded leopard on March 1st. Clouded leopards are the world's most rare breed of cat, and those kept in captivity are not self-sustainable. This cub was brought into existence by using artificial insemination (AI). In fact, the Nashville Zoo has been working with other conservationists to save the Clouded Leopard breed. The first successful case of AI was performed at the Nashville Zoo in 1992. Hopefully, when this cub grows up he will be introduced to a mate and they will be able to reproduce on their own.

There are differing views on animal captivity, but the most important is the fact that we are rebuilding populations of animals thought to be close to extinction (i.e. the clouded leopard). Although there are obvious faults within the zoo system, one of the goods is that future generations will be able to experience animals we ourselves didn't get to see. They can learn about the sensitivity of life and how fragile the world actually is. In the future, this could benefit the way animals are treated in both the wild and in captivity.



These cute little guys will make your day a little brighter!

Boys Varsity Baseball looking strong

By Rachel Brenckenridge, BP Staff writer





Boys Varsity Baseball is ready for another successful year. With many returning players, a new head coach, and some new faces the team is ready for another stellar regular season and postseason.

The Badgers were previously coached by Steve Smetana, who lead the team to regionals last year. Athletic Director, Brian Hiscox, takes the helm of head coach for the 2017 season. Hiscox had a great high school career playing at Berkshire, setting multiple records and heading to play college baseball at Otterbein. He mentions his excitement to be the head coach and is also excited to give back to the program: "I'm excited about being the new head coach. It's a program I enjoyed playing for when I was a student here. It did a lot of things for me, and I'm excited to have that opportunity now to run the program and give those same opportunities to our players."

There are many talented upperclassmen that have experience at the varsity level, as well as many young and motivated underclassmen. Coach Hiscox has high expectations for the team considering all the team has to bring to the table: "As a team, our goal is to win the CVC, and definitely be competitive at the district level. I feel that we can be a regional team, year in and year out, we just need to continue to develop and believe in ourselves that we can compete at that high level yearly."

The Seniors on the team include: Aaron Pawlak, Anthony Granny, Brian Malkus Miles Chapman, Brandon Jones, Josh Espinosa, Nick Guarnera, and Nick Blaszczak. Most of these Seniors have had multiple years of varsity experience to guide the team into another great season.

The Badgers host a doubleheader for their season opener on March 28th. Garfield Heights arrives first at 12:00 pm and Newbury at 3:00 pm. With a new head coach and a talented group of players, the Badgers are ready for another standout season.





Girls Varsity Softball team: ready to win



By Rachel Brenckenridge, BP Staff writer

Berkshire Varsity Softball is poised for another successful season in the CVC. The program has many returning varsity players, as well as a great sized program with 26 players. Like the boys Varsity Baseball team, the team is under new coaching staff.

The Girls Varsity Softball team is coached by Brittany Bakalar, who doubles as a the guidance counselor at BHS. She played softball at Crestwood High School and achieved a great amount of success and received a scholarship to The Ohio State University.

Coach Bakalar is looking forward to the opportunity to coach the team: "I am very excited to work with the girls, and give them the chance to become better softball players and support them in becoming young ladies. I am very excited for this new role, I have a great coaching staff to help me including Coach Dave List and Coach Shannon Moore. I can't wait for the season to begin." The team had plenty of success last year, coming in second place in the CVC. The team has strong seniors: Gabby Skolaris, Anne Ritts, Cheyanne Polverine, Malia Miller, Kylie Scott, Brianna Kleckner and Makahla Ricci. The team is under great leadership, plenty of experience and a new coaching staff. Coach Bakalar is exited and has high aspirations for the team: "I would like to have an appearance in districts and regionals this year, and to win our conference. For each girl on the team to show up to practice and to learn something new from the game of softball. For everyone to become united and work together as a team, but most importantly to have fun." The team is poised for another great season and with many returning players, the team is looking at an even stronger season than the last. The badgers open up the season away at Kirtland High School on April 5th at 4:30 pm.

> "[I would like] For everyone to become united and work together as a team, but most importantly, to have fun."
> *Coach Brittany Bakalar*

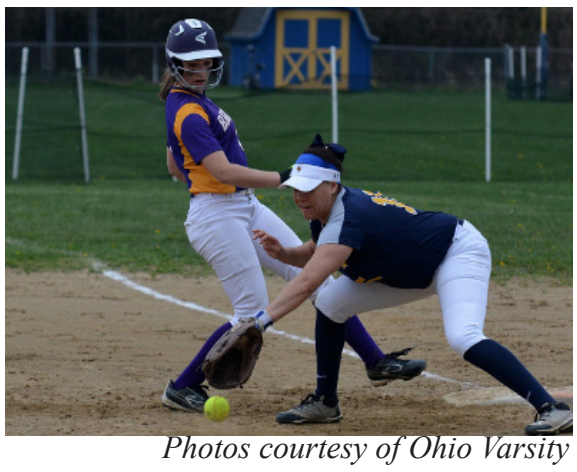












Photos courtesy of Ohio Varsity

Global warming: Convenience vs Conservation

by Abby Carlson, BP Staff Editor

The truth that humans are bringing about the downfall of Earth is a difficult responsibility to swallow, but convincingly accurate. Although the majority of the human race doesn't wake up in the morning plotting how best to destroy the planet, the facts cannot be ignored: Earth is deteriorating due to laziness and a need for convenience, and relatively quickly.

Everyone likes/loves/appreciates coffee, if not then you most likely aren't human (sounds like a personal issue). With the Keurig on the market, the amount of trash thrown into landfills has skyrocketed, leaving a massive human footprint in time. The Keurig, a quick and easy method to having your morning cup of joe piping hot in just minutes has put a raging storm cloud on the horizon for the efforts to cut back on trash and reduce the impact humans leave on Earth.



Global warming is a serious problem that affects everyone, not just humans.

The most differentiating factor between the Keurig and other coffee makers is the handy-dandy K-cups that allow for a quick and easy morning, supplying the perfect amount of coffee to accompany its convenience. The K-cups consist of multiple types of plastics, nearly all of which are not recyclable, a detriment to "going green" everywhere.

According to James Hamblin, a writer for The Atlantic, "Keurig Green Mountain is secretive about how many K-Cups the company actually puts into the world every year. The best estimates say the Keurig pods buried in 2014 would actually circle the Earth not 10.5 times, but more than 12."

John Sylvan, a co-founder of Keurig has claimed that at times, he wishes he had never invented the game-changing coffee maker because it produces such an immense amount of waste and often feels guilty for creating such a worldwide problem.

Although a major luxury item, K-cups are increasingly detrimental towards "green" efforts, especially with Keurig's monetary motivation focused on making the company more profitable. In fact, with the new Keurig machine recently released, the old K-cups no longer work with the new machines, forcing consumers to either look elsewhere or purchase all new Keurig items (inevitably tossing their old products). Although this is an applaudable business move, it severely damages and limits progressive efforts.

Sadly, humans seem to be hard wired to choose ease over conservation and blindly turn their backs towards all of the warnings against environmentally damaging items such as K-cups. After all, the effects of blowing through K-cups aren't going to hit the population right away, but that cup of coffee has a foreseeable outcome, and a tasty one at that.

Hand-in-hand with the highly environmentally harmful K-cup comes the plastic grocery bag. About as common in the United States as fish in the ocean, according to the Center for Biological Diversity, "Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year, which require 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture."

Not only is the plastic bag harmful to manufacture, it also poses a huge threat to the Earth's environment and its wildlife. Although plastic bags are recyclable, a fact most are unaware of, they are hardly ever disposed of properly. Sadly, the majority of plastic bags end up in landfills. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, "It takes 500 (or more) years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill. Unfortunately the bags don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment."

For some reason, people misconstrue recycling as an activity that requires more time and energy on their behalf, a major turnoff for most folks. Because of this misconception, people tend to take the "easy-route" and simply toss the plastic bags in the trash without a second thought. However, the plastic bag doesn't simply disappear once it's out of sight, it either travels to a landfill to photo-degrade or it finds itself in some animal's
habitat.

As reported by the Center for Biological Diversity, "100,000 marine animals are killed by plastic bags annually."
A devastating fact to consider, but perhaps puts the use of plastic bags into perspective. So, is the convenience really worth all the trouble plastic bags cause? Sure it's nice to walk into a store without the worry of item transportation weighing on the mind, but a material bag is just as easy to use and could potentially save hundreds of thousands of animal's lives each year. Perhaps it's not as convenient at that moment in time, but boycotting plastic bags will pay off eventually for everyone.

It seems that a reliably controversial topic nowadays is whether or not Global Warming exists, or if it's simply an elaborate government hoax. It seems people are willing to turn a blind eye to scientific facts because acknowledging that a problem exists means life might become a little less "easy," and people will have to work together to reach a solution.

According to Eartheasy Solutions for Sustainable Living "The Union of Concerned Scientists, a group of over two thousand scientists, has concluded that global warming is beyond dispute, and already changing our climate. The last 30 years have seen the warmest surface temperatures in recorded history, and the past several years have been among the warmest on record. Scientists have concluded that human activity, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, is the major driving factor in global warming."

In fact, global warming is no joke and far from an elaborate hoax. As stated by National Geographic News, "Industrialization, deforestation, and pollution have greatly increased atmospheric concentrations of water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, all greenhouse gases that help trap heat near Earth's surface."

Because of actions taken by people such as those mentioned above, millions of species face extinction from changing ecosystems, acidifying oceans and disappearing habitat. The animals aren't the only ones affected by global warming however, for hurricanes, droughts, wildfires, heat waves and other natural disasters will become common all over the world, terrorizing the human race just as much as the animals.

According to NASA, global warming will cause "sea levels to rise, global temperatures to rise, warming oceans, shrinking ice sheets, declining arctic sea ice, glacial retreat, extreme events, ocean acidification, and a decrease in snow cover."

Obviously global warming is a prominent issue, so why aren't people doing more to bring it to an end? Simple: convenience. Some don't recognize it as an issue, and some do, yet refuse to do anything about it. Slowing and eventually stopping global warming isn't going to happen just because it is recognized as a threatening problem, action needs to be taken to terminate it. However, reversing such a momentous event is going to take massive amounts of energy, willpower, and motivation, things people aren't willing to spare on an event that might not even affect them in their own lifetimes.

There are such simple and easy ways to help decrease global warming, that even the laziest of us all can pull it off. Although they may not be the most luxurious or convenient life-choices, the outcome outweighs the means. According to Eartheasy Solutions for Sustainable Living, global warming can be fought when people "Switch to energy-efficient lighting, improve the efficiency of home appliances, reduce energy needed for heating, reduce energy needed for cooling, practice fuel-efficient driving, buy a fuel-efficient car, drive less, recycle whenever possible, eat locally produced food, and choose clean energy options."

No, walking isn't as easy as driving, and remembering to bring cloth bags into the store instead of relying on the provided plastic bags isn't nearly as convenient, but the future of Earth relies on what actions are taken today, and using 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture plastic bags in the U.S alone just isn't going to cut it.

Hiking is cool

by Jacob Wichert, BP Staff Writer

The great outdoors- home to quicksand, blood-sucking mosquitos, and giant man-eating bears. Considering all the dangers, one might ask why humans are so drawn to this vast expanse, devoid of the comforts we've grown so used to. Why would anybody abandon his or her life of comfort and safety in order to temporarily brave the hardships of the wilderness? As somebody who has personal experience in doing so, I can answer this question, at least, from my point of view.

Flashback to the summer of my 7th grade year. I found myself sitting in the darkness of the cave that was my room, wasting daylight for the unpteenth time that summer. I knew that September was rapidly approaching, but lacked the motivation or creativity to do anything about it. Every day was a recurring cycle of monotony and ceaseless lethargy, and I knew I had to do something to remedy my situation. Long story short, I never actually did anything to save my summer, and the beginning of school was met with great disdain.

I did however, heed my own advice the next summer, and made the arguably rash decision to throw myself into the unfamiliar terrain of the Appalachian Trail to hike for three weeks. At the time, it seemed like the perfect way to get myself outside, far from the comforts of home. But, to my surprise, it turned out to be much more challenging than it appeared on the surface. My first week was spent evading rattlesnakes during the day (which appeared way more than I thought they would) and sleeping through pouring rain in a leaking tent at night. I was miserable and wished I had never decided to set foot on that god-forsaken trail in the first place.

It wasn't long however, before my decision had begun to pay off. I can't describe the sense of accomplishment that accompanied reaching the peak of an enormous mountain, and looking down at previous places you've been. It was also during those three weeks that I crossed paths with some of the most… colorful people I've ever interacted with, ranging from hippies to probable convicts. I've seen a bear up close in the wild, and slept with snakes (which arguably wasn't a fun experience, but it makes a good story). All the small experiences put together resulted in one of the most memorable experiences of my life to date.

While my excursion on the Appalachian Trail was by no means a comfortable one, the trail itself is still home to some of my fondest memories, and I would highly suggest others in my situation to consider having their own adventure outside. And hey, even if you don't particularly enjoy it, you can use the hardships you've endured as a justification to revert to being lazy once you return home.

Give it a try... youmightlikeit!

Go plant shopping.
Every room could use some green! It's fun to watch things grow, and it's almost better to go to a greenhouse and pick out a small flower that can eventually sprout into a bunch.

Plan a road trip.
Nothing planned for break? No big deal. Road trips are always a bunch of fun with a group of friends and are a relatively cheap thing to do depending on where you go and how long you'll be.

Go on a picnic.
Pack a basket (or cooler) with food, grab a blanket, and find a nice field or park to start chowing down.

Compliment someone.
Not only will this make someone else's day, but you'll feel really good afterwards.

Rugby.
It's like football but with blind side hits.

NBA D-league.
It's funny watching undrafted.players struggle to shoot a decent shot.

Be bold.
Wear something bold and foreign inspired by a culture other than your own, embrace the diversity!

Expand your vocabulary.
Learn a new word or phrase each day from a language that isn't your own (no, sí in spanish doesn't count).

Chill.
You can't just be a straight up savage all the time, give your friends some rest, fam.

Think before you speak.
Ask yourself twice if your question is smart before you say it. If you know it's dumb, make sure people know you're joking.

Go on a really tall roller coaster.
An example of this would be The Top Thrill Dragster at Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, OH.

Go zip-lining
This one is definitely on my bucket list.

Go beachcombing!
Check out lake county metro park, Erie View, for a great beachcombing spot when the weather may or may not be warm enough to swim.

Try a new flavor of ice cream!
Check and see if your favorite shop has a free cone day coming up, or simply go somewhere new! (I would highly recommend Ben and Jerry's for a store bought delicacy, or go to Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams shop in Chagrin for both classic and adventurous favors.

Having a conversation with your cat or dog.
Sometimes you just really need to get a rant out, or maybe you need some life advice. Whatever it is, you'll be pleasantly surprised by how good of listeners they are.

Homemade guac and tortilla chips.
Everyone loves guac, but there's nothing quite so rewarding as dipping a nice warm tortilla chip into fresh guac that you worked so hard to make yourself.

Try trying.
Putting little to no effort towards something is bad for you, always try!

Try to focus.
As a generation we're constantly distracted by all types of technology, so try and get more focused.

THE LEGEND OF ZELDA®

GAME REVEIW

by Aiden Burkley, BP Staff Writer



This spring the flowers are blooming, the birds are chirping, and none of that matters because Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild has been released, and you're probably sitting inside playing it all day without a care for nice weather.

For many, a game from Nintendo's The Legend of Zelda series was one of the first, or at least one of the most memorable games they have ever played. The storyline being reborn into a new, open landscape made everyone anticipate for the spring to come and now that it has finally released, all the fans are full of excitement, whether they've liked it from the start or just got into it.

This happens to be a really big first for the game series. It's not so much the beautiful, well improved graphics, but the size of the map and the characters built from the story. Former games had always centered around gameplay, and not so much tying the games' stories together in a timeline. As someone who's grown up with these games always around, it has been something I had hoped they'd improve on.

Legend of Zelda was the game series that first introduced the mechanics of an open world game, meaning it brought the ideas of Skyrim and Grand Theft Auto. As all of the games continued to uphold this type of gameplay, Breath of the Wild brings crafting, cooking, and countless items and side quests to focus on.

So, it seems naturally a fan of this game would adore it for it's ability to be reborn time and time again so eloquently and without age. It seems with every game there is something new to appreciate about it, and Breath of the Wild brings plenty of new things to love.

The game has quickly grown in the ranks and many renowned websites such as Metacritic have ranked it second, of course only being behind one of the original games in the same series: Ocarina of Time. According to GameSpot's Peter Brown "Breath of the Wild is a defining moment for The Legend of Zelda series and the most impressive game Nintendo has ever created." Even IGN, who generally has a distaste for Nintendo games thought highly of this new addition, naming it, "An evocative and exhilarating open-world adventure game."

CJ Andriessen, in his own review of the game, and as an average fan of the series wrote, "The topography of Hyrule is so thoughtfully littered with points of interest, its siren song seducing me to each tower, to each shrine, to each interesting rock formation that actually turned out to be a puzzle. The sense of discovery here is like nothing I've felt in a long, long time."

The game launched with Nintendo's new console, the Switch, which might have been the most clever idea Nintendo could have had, knowing that fans would jump at the chance to play the game. Even from the countless trailers and teasers, there was a significant amount of anticipation from even before hearing of it.

I've personally found little time to write this article because of my investment in it, and I'm incredibly thankful to have a game that continues to take my breath away no matter how old I am or how many years it grows to be.



LOGAN: A worthy succesor?

by Isaac Bryant, BP Staff Writer

Logan is really James Howlett, and James Howlett dies at the end of Logan. That is the point of the movie.

Logan is the last Wolverine movie meant to close out the legacy of Hugh Jackman's wolverine. The movie is based in 2029, six years after the conclusion of X-Men Days of Future Past. The old X-Men have mysteriously died with only subtle clues at what happened dropped throughout the film. Charles Xavier's mind has begun deteriorating forcing the government to list his mind as a weapon of mass destruction for very good reason. Logan is currently dying as well due to the effects of the weapon X project he was subjected to. Logan been trying save enough money to buy a boat so that he and Charles can live on the ocean until they finally resign to most likely killing themselves… but these plans are changed when the revers come looking for Logan and any info he has on the escaped X-23. He of course denies this until he actually comes across X-23 and Charles more or less convinces him to help her out. They begin their long journey to the fictional Eden which is filled with many problems everywhere from Laura(X-23) shoplifting a minimart to Charles Xavier's telepathic seizures almost killing an entire city or X-24 killing said Prof. X. After burying his old friend Charles Logan finally gets Laura to Eden. Taking multiple days to heal and rest Logan is ready to leave but runs to the aid of Laura and the other children of Eden trying to get across the border to Canada while being hunted by the revers. Logan shoots up with a steroid from the camp and goes on a final rampage to save the children until he comes across X-24 who completely decimates Logan. With help from the kids he's able to hold him off long enough for them to get to safety but X-24 still manages to beat Logan back and has him stuck between a monster and a sharp place. X-24 is then finally taken down by Laura but it is too late and Logan must say his final goodbye as the Era of the old X-men came to a tear jerking Close.

Advice

How to avoid that bad juju

by Sam Martinjacko, BP Staff Writer

We've all had our days when it seems like the world as a whole is acting against us, Where we haven't done anything particularly wrong in order to incite karmic justice from the world, yet we were feeling the full force of her rage. Good days go bad and bad days somehow end up even worse. How is this even possible? Well my friend, you, as well as me and everyone else, are under the influence of luck. Some claim that luck doesn't exist, that it's just an excuse. In the end, believing in luck may seem foolish to some, but to others, it's the only way to play.

Luck is an uncontrollable force comparable to fate or destiny. Your fate and luck simply just exist and you have to live out your pre-determined life as you were always destined to do. However, to quote Cassius from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars / But in ourselves, that we are underlings." Luck is a much more believable and agreeable force than fate, because when it comes down to it, a coin flip indeed is a 50/50 chance. It's not destined to land on one side or the other, but it is simply random luck that it will land on the side you call. Some people appear to be born naturally more lucky than others. Perhaps they were born into money, or they have a nice face and body, or maybe they have a genius level IQ. Any way, these people seem quite fortunate to an average Joe, like they didn't even have to try to obtain this luck. People with average or poor luck may seek to change their fortune, and luckily for them, there are a few different ways. If you don't believe in superstition, then I suppose you can just remain hopeful that one day your luck will turn around by itself.

To fit with the season, a common symbol of good luck is the four-leaf clover. Considering most clovers you find have three leaves, there is at least a decent basis to note this as a sign of good fortune. I myself have never found one, but they definitely exist. Many connections exist between this small plant and luck, including a connection to Christianity, where it is believed that Eve held one after being banished from Paradise. In medieval times, holding one of these clovers was thought to grant one the ability to see magical creatures. In contrast, in parts of Asia, the number four is considered to be very unlucky. Much like how sometimes the number thirteen will be skipped here, the number four may be skipped in parts of Asia. Proceed with caution with your oddly shaped grass, but you should be fine here in America. However, if you do find yourself in need of luck in an Asian country, some lucky bamboo should do the trick.

If plant life isn't exactly working out for you, you could also just try buying a good luck charm. A very common one here in America is the horseshoe. All you need to do is hang it up somewhere and bam, good luck. Though, depending on who you ask, you might be told to hang it up in different ways. Hanging it with the points facing upwards is probably the best option, but hanging it with the points down is also valid. Just don't hang it sideways and you'll be fine. You could also hang a dream-catcher to bring good good luck, just be aware that the colors all have their own meanings. If you especially want good luck from your dream-catcher, make sure that it has a turquoise stone somewhere on the webbing. If you are religious, wearing a symbol of your faith, such as a cross or a Star of David could also bring you good luck. If you're not religious, just wear as many of these as you can and maybe one of the gods will do a brother a solid.

Animals can also be a source of good fortune. If you don't mind having an animal killed for the sake of your luck, a rabbit's foot is a definite sign of good luck. If you do mind, then just make sure to keep your eyes open. Be on the lookout for wildlife such as frogs and cranes, both of which symbolize good fortune (unless you live by a body of water and have to hear the frogs constantly, then they're just plain bad luck). Turtles are a sign of luck and longevity, and tortoises may be even luckier. Both ladybugs and dragonflies are extremely lucky creatures, so keep an eye out for them now that it's spring. Cats can bring both fortune and misfortune, as Asian money cats are definitely lucky but coming across a black cat is bad luck.

When looking for these symbols, just remember that your mindset is what will make your luck turn around. You have to believe that these symbols are lucky for them to work. Personally, my room is full of lucky omens. I have a money toad which brings me wealth, multiple dream catchers for a good night's sleep and general luck, a small Buddha (though it may not be as effective since I'm not Buddhist), a couple turtles, a frog, and much more. I won't lie and say that I'm always lucky since I have all of these positive symbols, but I will say as much that I feel like I'm luckier than an average person.

Advice from a fashion expert

by Kody West, BP Staff Writer

Okay guys, I'm a fashion expert, you can call me Fashion Master. Fashion Master will tell you what to wear this spring. You will wear what Fashion Master tells you to wear if you want to be fashionable. We will go through what is "in" this spring. It is in because I say it is in, I AM FASHION.

T-shirts- that's right, t-shirts. T-shirts are so in this year. I'm talking green, I'm talking blue, I'm talking yellow, and I'm talking purple! All these colors are great and should be worn. Never wear a yellow t-shirt. T-shirts are your friend this season, they have your back and your front.

Pants- Pants are so great. You wear them when it's too cold to wear shorts. They consist of two fabric tubes that go around your legs and then open up into a central compartment for your waist. Any pants are good, except corduroys.

Dresses- Dresses are so in, and boys, I'm not just talking to the girls, you can get in on the freedom of wearing a dress too. Now I'm not saying you should dig your mom's old wedding dress out of the closet, but what I am saying is take that cute sundress that you haven't worn in ages out for a jaunt around the park.

Hats (not fedoras)- This spring compliment that rad t-shirt with a cool sun shield. These head socks won't just keep the sun out of your eyes, they will keep you looking fly while doing it. This spring is all about the clash, so if you are wearing a blue shirt, for example, a pink hat would clash nicely with that. The goal here is to look as much like an Easter egg as you possibly can.



Check out this fabulous hat (notice it's not a fedora) and what an amazingly stylish shirt.

Photography





