

EYE OF THE GALE

2019 - 2020

Volume 2



Education for Life

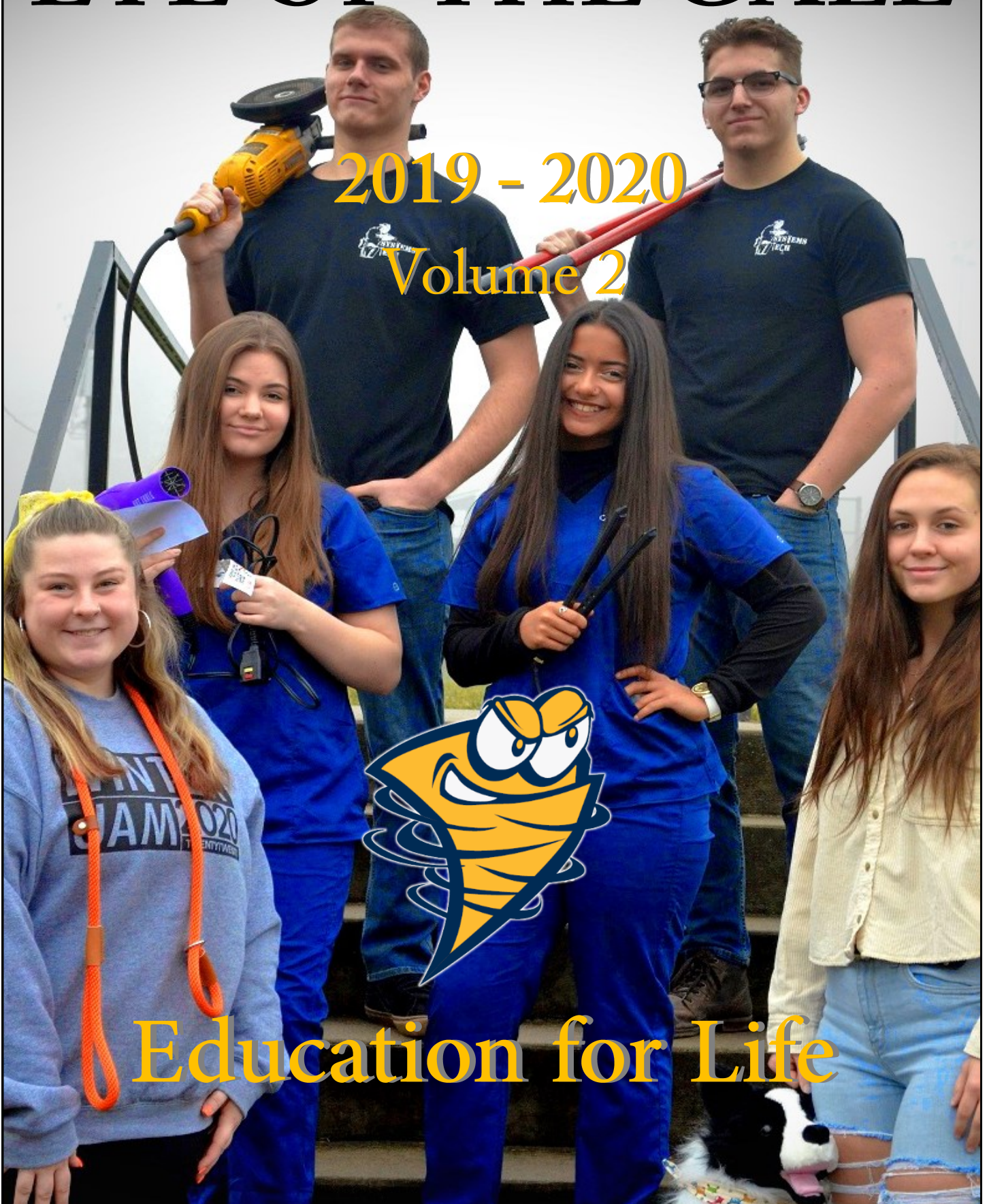


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Training for the Modern World *CTE no longer boomers' vocational school*

By M. Murray, Art Editor



Bryce Roush and Adam Nebergall, both seniors, are part of the LHS Systems Tech program.



Brooklyn Holiday and Taylor Koch, both juniors, are part of the LHS Cosmetology program.



Sean Brentlinger and Simon Voight, are part of the LHS Carpentry and Mechanical Electrical Plumbing programs, respectively.

Today's career technical education programs in America are not the vocational schools back in the day. In fact, CTE is one of the most important components of the modern American education system.

"CT programs exist because they offer endless possibilities through hands-on education," said Anthony Knickerbocker, Associate Principal of Lancaster High School's Career Tech program.

Statistics show that 95% of CTE students graduate from high school which is 10% higher than the national average. According to Applied Educational Systems, one of the reasons for the high graduation rate is that CTE helps prevent students who don't do well in traditional classrooms from falling through the cracks.

This is not to say that CTE students are lazy, unmotivated, or not smart enough for college. On the contrary, statistics show that 91% of all high school graduates who earned two or three CTE credits then went on to post-secondary education (AES 2019). Knickerbocker agreed.

"The truth is our curriculum and what we teach aligns so well with colleges, every program at the high school level offers college credit," he said.

One misconception about CTE is that this pathway leads to careers with low paying wages. This is false, according to Jamie Engel, executive director of career and technical education for the Ingham Intermediate School District in Michigan. Engel told the Lansing State Journal,

"If you look at many of the high-demand, high-wage jobs that are

going unfilled, you will see positions in information technology, health care, business and manufacturing," said Engel.

CTE programs put students on an accelerated path to earn their degree or credentials so that they begin working sooner.

Going Pro.com which lists potential income for plumbers at \$65,000 and Web developers with a projected income of \$61,000, for example.

In the past, CTE programs struggled with the misnomer that "CTE students were *the dumb kids* by their peers and ill-informed educational pundits" as reported by Chris Zook, in the 2019 article, *Why Is Career & Technical Education So Important?* Zook reports that 70% of CTE students say that their program helped them earn better grades.

"With 76 million students enrolled in American schools, that means 11.3% say CTE helped them academically," writes Zook.

"... that's an enormous percentage. That means the traditional education experience doesn't work in some way for 11.3% of students who go through the system."

All things considered, for today's students, one size does not fit all when it comes to a high school education. CTE programs are a necessary and desired component in a modern world.

"CT programs provide a pathway to internships, employment, 2-year schools, and 4-year schools. We exist because the opportunities we provide are endless," said Knickerbocker.

CTE is part of what modern education looks like in a progressing world.

Laura Overby - Lights, Camera, Action! *Lancaster High School's own Broadway Baby*

By D. Bui, *Editor in Chief* and E. Lundy, *Sports Editor*

At the recent Lancaster High School Choir concert, petite freshman, Laura Overby wowed the crowd with her giant singing voice. Her overall performance was paradox of a young, fresh-faced girl demonstrating the persona of a Broadway performer.

At only 14, Overby has an impressive resume. In 5th grade, she won the Judges' Choice Award in the Lancaster Idol competition. Later in 8th grade, she performed on stage singing a solo in the musical, Chaplin. This performance caught the eye of local media who featured her on live television and called her a "viral sensation."

"Good Day Columbus has got to be one of the best and coolest experiences I've ever had! The people are so sweet and very understanding and intrigued about my stories. It was a day I will never forget," she said.



LHS 9th grader, Laura Overby, on the set of Good Day Columbus. Photo courtesy of Overby.

Overby appeared on stage in a production of Legally Blonde with the Ohio University theater and is also a member of the LHS drama club. The petite powerhouse

is involved in several extracurricular activities that support her desire for a future career in theatre.

"I decided to pursue theatre when people started telling me that I absolutely shined on stage," said Overby.

"I felt like I could do theatre 24/7 without getting tired or sick of it. It was a calling that I found and now I don't know what I would do without it," said.

Overby plans for the future are entirely scripted and beginning to play out.

"My absolute dream is to go to college on a scholarship in the arts, get a degree in musicals theatre, and pursue a professional career on Broadway."

Now fast forward into the future. If and when Overby should find herself accepting a Tony Award for Best Performing Actress or something of equal esteem, she already has a litany of people she would want to thank.

"Definitely my peers in theatre, Mr. Mathias, my OUL-Lancaster Theatre Director Victor Jones, my high school choir teacher, Mrs. McCoy, my middle school choir teacher, Mrs. Layne, and my lovely vocal coach, Harriet Rawlins Hill,"



LHS freshman, Laura Overby.
Photo courtesy of Overby.

Overby listed.

Overby's mother, one of her strongest supporters, describes her pride in her daughter.

"I am so proud of her success and accomplishments in something she loves! Seeing her light up on stage is the most fulfilling thing a mother could ever see," said Reony Overby.

The young performer had some wise advice for anyone who wants to achieve greatness in their lifetime.

"Never stop at what you're working at because, if you hit a wall and you overcome that obstacle, there may be something on the other side that is worth all of that effort you just put in," she said.

"I promise that the bright side will be in front of you!"



Overby in OUL's production of Legally Blond. Photo courtesy of Overby.

Hair Pulling Disorder

A personal account of a mental compulsive disorder

By I. Stoica, *Gales Tales* Editor

For some of us, it can be difficult to discuss our personal traumas and disorders. We're afraid that we're alone or that no one can understand. In this article, I had the opportunity to discuss my childhood experiences and how they manifested into a mental health issue known as Trichotillomania, pronounced *trik-o-til-o-MAY-nee-uh*, otherwise known as the hair pulling disorder.

Before I was even born, there were a lot of family issues that were very problematic on both sides of the family. My mom got pregnant with her first child, my oldest brother Aidan, while still in high school. Coming from a religious family, others looked down on her.

At the same time, our father moved from his home country of Romania to America. He struggled to learn how to communicate in English and adapt to the unfamiliar culture.

When they came together, my parent's relationship was volatile. My dad, was overly possessive, manipulative, and emotionally destructive with my mom. My mom was mentally unstable, felt trapped in her young life, and attempted suicide. There were custody battles in the courts and we rarely spent quality



Izzy Stoica, a senior at LHS, shares her personal struggle with Trichotillomania, known as the hair pulling disorder. Photos courtesy of Stoica.

time with our parents.

Almost my entire childhood was filled with traumatic experiences. My blood siblings and I felt caught in the middle between my parents and their divorce. Our two grandmothers often took turns taking care of us. They came from very different backgrounds, cultures, and had different morals and virtues. It was very confusing for us. Eventually we spent a year in a foster home.

At about eight years old, I started experiencing anxiety and began over-thinking the simplest of things. I was in constant conflict with my family. I was scared and confused. It was at about that time that I started to pull out my eyebrows. At 10 years old, the missing facial hair on my eyebrows and

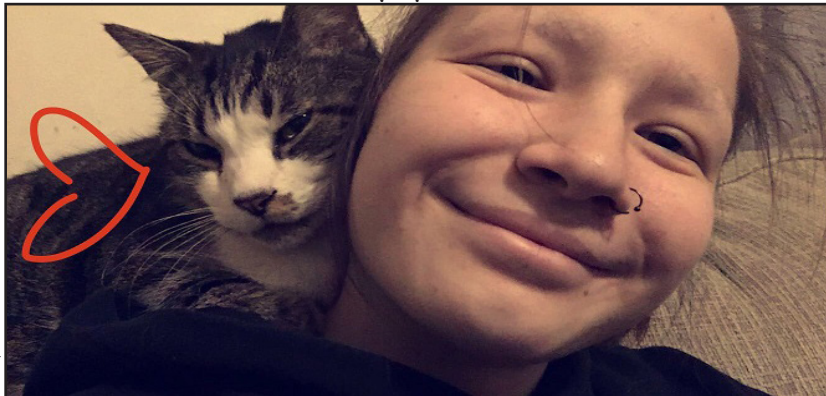
eyelashes started to become noticeable. The reactions I received from my family ranged from complete unawareness to inquisitiveness. Some made even made fun of me.

Personally, I was extremely self-conscious and had no idea why I was pulling out my eye brows. My mom tried to be caring and loving, while my dad was impatient with me. No one, it seemed, could help me. I felt alone.

But two years ago, I discovered through research that the condition I was suffering had a name. Trichotillomania is a mental compulsive disorder that causes a strong urge to pull hair from the scalp, eyebrows and eyelashes. Surprisingly, it is common with over 200,000 diagnosed cases every year. It falls under OCD and is often associated with trauma and is considered a stress reliever.

Through counseling, I have realized that it takes time to heal. I have

learned that a hopeful mindset and trust in professional counseling leads to recovery. I hope that my story will help someone else who is hurting and that others will be conscience of what someone else may be feeling and remember to always be kind.



Stoica, and her family cat, George. Stoica said learning to trust the process of counseling has helped her deal with childhood trauma.

There's More Than Meets the Eye

An inside look at the lives of LHS teachers

By C. Schoonover, *Online Editor*

This may come as a shock to students, but teachers are real people with active lives outside school who explore and experience the world. LHS social studies teacher, Thomas Stedman is a case in point. Stedman competed in the Tour de France, the infamous bicycle race which draws competitors from all over the world.

"With over 15,000 people there, we started in waves so it wouldn't be crowded while we biked around France."

The famous race began in Paris and stopped in Lyon, Marseille, Bordeaux, and Nantes before returning to Paris.

Stages went through the night and finished the next afternoon, with "rest days" in between, before riders set off again. Stedman got to experience the exhilarating event and spend 12 days in France for the event.

The Tour de France consists of 23 days and is split into 21 segments. Stedman competed in one of the segments for seven and a half hours.

"The best part is riding up big mountains, seeing the beauty of nature," he said.

"I was so high up the mountain, that I saw snow on the tops of mountains, in all I biked a total of 19 mile and you can not even train for the event."

"The overall experience was exciting with music blaring in the streets, meeting other people, there



LHS teacher, Thomas Stedman rode in the famous Tour de France.

is no traffic because they shut down the streets," Stedman said.

On the topic of great experiences, LHS Marketing Education teacher, Jennifer Blanchard has held over twenty five jobs and has earned three different degrees including a bachelors in Marketing



LHS teacher Jennifer Blanchard utilizes her real world experience in teaching Marketing.

and Advertising, and a master's degree in Education.

She began her long litany of job titles in the seventh grade when she worked as a janitor.

"I wanted financial independence," she said.

"I told myself that if I made money, no one could tell me what to do."

In the years leading up to becoming a teacher, Blanchard gained life experience selling agricultural equipment in Ankara, Turkey.

"It was the equivalent of John Deere in America," she said.

Her career experience also includes being a ski lift operator and a pedicab operator. She repossessed cars and sold insurance, investments, and advertising. Blanchard sold ads on city buses, sold fire extinguishers, processed loans at a bank, and worked at a marketing firm for eight years.

"At first, I thought the variety of jobs would give me the independence I've always wanted, but truly the people I worked with was the true value," said Blanchard.

"Learning from the people I've worked with and the different walks of life they led really made me more effective in teaching Marketing, and learning about the needs and wants of people."

Blanchard said teaching students and seeing them make career choices in Marketing is truly the most rewarding experience she has

Changing the Parenting Game

Lancaster students disclose the joys that are their kids

By E. Lundy, *Sports Editor*

Wake up. Brush teeth. Get dressed. Feed and diaper the baby. This scenario is not the typical day in the life of a teenager, but for teenage parents, it is the norm.

Teen parenting has always been sort of a taboo topic and the rate of teen pregnancy in the United States is substantially higher than in other developed countries. But two Lancaster High School students who have recently become new parents say their sense of joy helps them navigate the challenges of adulting at a young age.

Elijah Beatty, a sophomore, said that his role as a young father to his newborn son has already had a positive effect on his life.

"I would say that having him impacted me in a good way. I used to not have motivation or lose it," said Beatty.

"But with him, I found purpose and a reason to be good and do good."

According to One World Education, "teenagers who can barely provide for themselves or make informed decisions about their futures are making the risky decision of engaging in sexual activities and making babies."

Teenage pregnancy is associated with numerous social issues: poverty, low education levels, and the lack of awareness about sex and pregnancy prevention. Three million teens get a sexually transmitted disease/infection every year due to having unprotected sex (OWE 2019).



Elijah Beatty with his infant son.

Photo courtesy Beatty.

Interestingly, the number of teenage pregnancies in the United States has declined in recent years. But parenthood is also the leading reason why teen girls drop out of school. Less than half of teen moms

even graduate from high-school and fewer than 27% earn a college degree. About one fourth of teen moms have a second child within 24 months of the first birth. Eight out of 10 teen fathers don't marry the mother, or contribute to raising the child (OWE, 2019).

In addition to an uncertain future, teenage parents have to juggle their school work with their parental responsibilities. Jasmine Heisa, a sophomore at LHS recently gave birth to a baby girl. She says she is ready to take on the struggle of balancing her responsibilities.

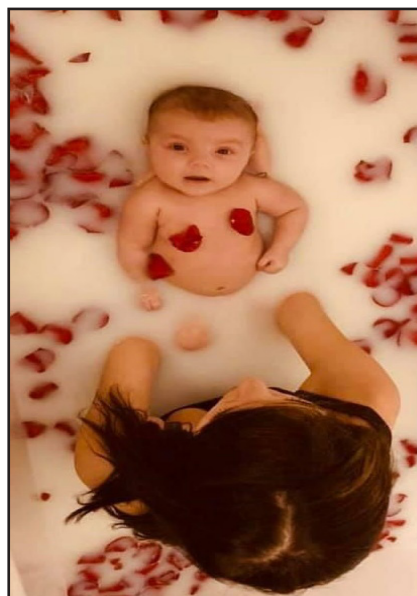
"A struggle would be having to give up going out and doing whatever you want," said Heisa.

"I have to put another human being's needs above mine and having to rearrange my whole life, but I wouldn't change it for the world she's worth it."

Often, teen parents do not have the life skills and problem-solving abilities that prepare them to deal appropriately with challenges in adulthood.

"Despite all the sex on teen TV shows, and the hand-wringing over Tinder and 'hookup culture,' teenagers are actually having less sex than they were in earlier decades," according to How Do We Reduce Teen Pregnancy in the U.S.?, an article by Julie Beck for The Atlantic in 2016.

"And when they do have sex, it's most likely to be voluntary, with a steady partner, and using contraception" (Beck, 2016).



Jasmine Heisa with her infant daughter posing in bubbles and rose petals. Photo courtesy Heisa.

Teachers in Training

LHS hosts two new student-teachers

By C. Schoonover, *Online Editor*

Lancaster High School is providing educational experiences for not only students attending the school, but also college students who are studying to become licensed teachers. Matthew Blum and Rachel Palmer, both college students at Ohio University-Lancaster are teachers in training.

Student teaching is a requirement for anyone who wants to become a public school teacher. Mr. Blum has been assigned to study under Beth Albanese in U.S. History.

Mrs. Albanese enjoys working with new teachers in training and Blum is the tenth student-teacher she has supervised.

"Mr. Blum and I have conferences together, so I can go over his lesson plans for the week," said Albanese. "He is very organized and it was really easy for me to transition my power to him, so he could teach my classes."

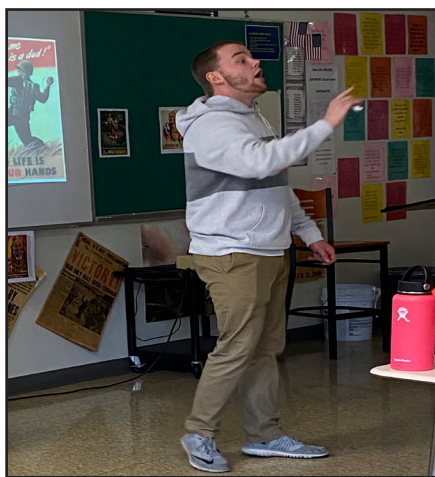
Jada Sharp says she likes the way Blum teaches.

"Blum is very good at being super interactive with all of the stu-



Jada Sharp likes the positive energy that Blum brings to the classroom.

dents and keeping them under control when they get out of hand," said Sharp. "He is really good at making



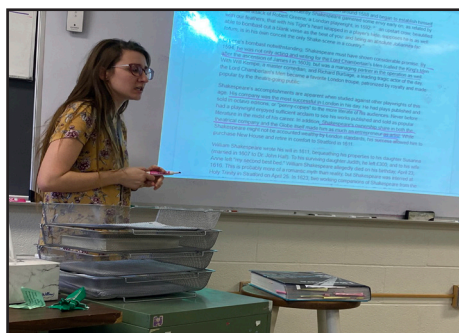
Student-Teacher Matthew Blum teaching US history.

the class interesting to those who aren't interested in US history."

At first, Blum said, he struggled when speaking in front of students, and it took time to get comfortable teaching in front of them. Now, months later, he says he feels more confident.

"My advice for anyone going into education is just to go straight into it with no preconceived thoughts," he said.

Another student teacher, Rachel Palmer is training in Laura Specht's English classroom.



Student-Teacher Rachel Palmer teaching an English assignment.

"I think that the biggest challenge I have had so far is just lesson planning. In college you don't get the same experience of building daily lesson plans as you do in the classroom. You kind of have to just learn as you go," said Palmer.

Mrs. Specht said she is enjoying hosting a student-teacher but said letting go is difficult.

"Since it is my first student teacher, it is hard to give up control to someone else," she said.

"Yet, it is fun to show the hidden aspects of teaching." "It is also fun to help someone have an environment to learn, even, I still struggle with lessons and I've been teaching for 13 years overall and 6 years at LHS."

LHS sophomore, Sophia Reindall, said it's inter-



Sophia Reindall likes Palmer's enthusiasm while teaching.

esting to watch a new teacher learn the ropes of a challenging career field.

"Her teaching is great and it's inspiring that she is trying to control the classroom," she said.

"She also is trying to teach us the same way as our actual teacher would, which is great."

Both Blum and Palmer plan to graduate from OUL in May this year.

Boch Displays Kingly Attitude *Coming Home Dance 2020*

By B. Munroe, *Entertainment Editor*

The Coming Home Dance at Lancaster High School this year was met with the regular naysayers who complained about the music, but one person stood out who put a positive spin on the traditional event. Zach Boch was named the Coming Home king. His crown is something he wears daily; a can-do, go-get 'em attitude.

"It felt really great being on the court for my senior year. I've never been a part of the court and I wanted to do something this year to make an impact and leave my legacy at Lancaster High School," he said.

Boch is very humble about his victory that night and praised his competitors.

"It felt really good winning the title of king. There were so many candidates that deserved to be king just as I wanted to and it was great running against them," said Boch.



LHS senior, Zach Boch, is crowned 2020 Coming Home king.

"Everyone who voted for either me, Tanner, or Bryce, had their reasons for why they wanted one of us to be king. I really don't know the reasons people voted for me as king, but I'm glad that people decided to vote for me."

Studies on youth development show that while parents are usually the number one influence over their children before the age of 18, ones peers are likely second. If you ask teenagers, they will likely say their friends or school peers are the number one influence in their lives (Youth Today, 2019).

"It really comes down to how the students see you for who you are and what you have done. If you are loyal to yourself and other students, then

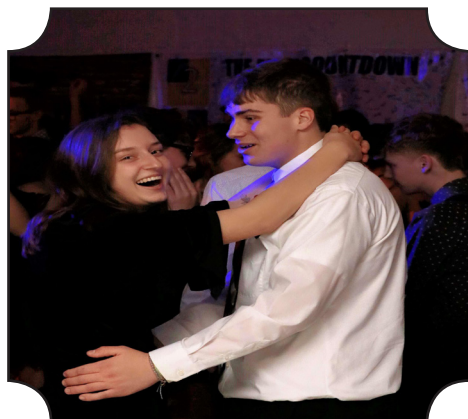
you'll be treated the same way," said Boch.

"That's why they vote for you. It's not a popularity contest, but more of how much the students respect and see you."

But most people remember high school with an emotional mixture of longing, regret, joy, and embarrassment.

"Even the music from those years gets imprinted on the brain like nothing that comes later," said Frank T. McAndrew, Cornelia H. Dudley Professor of Psychology, Knox College.

Research on memory shows that the strongest memories come from things that happened to be between the ages of 10 and 30. If the research is accurate, in the future, Boch will have every reason to look back at his high school experience as the good old days.



Grace Jones and Cameron Black at the Coming Home dance. Photo courtesy of the LHS Yearbook Club.



LHS 2020 Coming Home Court. Photo courtesy of the LHS Yearbook Club.

Selfies - A Cry for Attention?

Students share their reasons for posting selfies

By E. Lundy, *Sports Editor*

There is a certain stigma about taking photos and uploading them to social media platforms. Is it all in innocent fun or is it a cry for attention? Although selfies are sometimes associated with narcissism, not all experts agree.

"When someone is like, 'Here is my cancer selfie,' you are feeling vulnerable right now. You need that social support. That is not saying you are a narcissist for putting it out on social media," said Jesse Fox, an associate professor of communication at Ohio State University in an interview with The New York Times.

Lancaster High School senior, Josi Sparks said taking selfies is an effective means of self-expression.

"A selfie can do a lot. If I am tak-

ing a selfie that means I'm feeling good about myself and in that moment I want to document it."

LHS junior Adam Beam says that posting too many selfies could be to help fill a void but he doesn't think selfies are a cry for attention.

"I don't take too many pictures of myself, but if I have a picture I like of myself, I may or may not post it. It just depends on the mood I'm in. Some pictures I keep to myself or maybe send to one other person. Then there's the occasional thought 'Oh, that looks nice. I may post that on Instagram.' I then get the pictures together and post them," said Beam.

According to Psychology Today, taking selfies may increase the self-confidence of those who

engage in this behavior.

Senior Kennedy Crook says selfies express individuality.

"I feel like it's a fun way to express individuality and there are many different kinds of selfies, they can be super filtered and beautiful and they can be silly depending on who's seeing them."

Sparks said that she posts selfies for the feedback.

"Nobody wants to admit it but when you are feeling good about yourself and post that moment, people are commenting and you feel good about yourself," she said.

"Of course, I'm all about self love and not needing other people's attention to feel good but sometimes reassurance that the selfie you just took is attentive feels nice to know."



LHS senior, Josi Sparks says she takes selfies when she feels good about herself.
Photo courtesy of Sparks.



LHS junior, Adam Beam says he doesn't believe selfies aren't necessarily a cry for attention, but they may fill a void.



LHS senior, Kennedy Crook believes selfies express individuality.
Photo courtesy of Crook.

LHS Ecology Club Growing Like a Weed

Having fun while helping heal the environment

By B.Munroe, *Entertainment Editor*

Worldwide, teenagers, like Greta Thunberg, the famous teen climate activist, have been turning their attention to the serious issues that affect the environment. Here at LHS, attendance at the Ecology Club meetings suddenly grew like dandelions in the spring. Last year, the Ecology Club had about 15-20 members; this year the membership has quadrupled. The question remains whether the popular student club attracted new members based on increased interest in the environment or for social interaction.

"I think there is a good combination of both," said club sponsor, Clay Hartzler.

"If students aren't having a good time socially then they aren't likely to return. If they are half in for social reasons then at least they are half in for the environment instead of all out because of both."

Chandler Donahey, the Ecology Club Vice President, said the club's sudden membership growth is due to the nature of the club.



LHS junior, Chandler Donahey is the Vice President of the Ecology Club.



The LHS Ecology Club maintains the greenhouses in the high school and sells plants as a fund raiser.

"I believe that the Ecology Club's rapid expansion is in large part due to how attractive the club is," he said.

"We have many volunteer and community service activities, and we are a very hands-on and engaging club. This helps to attract new members," said Donahey.

The LHS Ecology Club cultivates area cleanups in and around the school, they collect recycling bins and maintain the greenhouses at the high school. Members take time out of their lunch periods and study hall periods to collect recycling bins from all of the school classrooms, and other members almost daily water the various plants in the greenhouses. The club members also participate in activities throughout the school year and during the summer break.

"We will have a park clean-up, campus cleanup, Envirothon (an ecology related competition), and a canoe trip. Over the summer we typically have at least one greenhouse cleaning event," said Hartzler.

A few of the members compete in the Envirothon; an academic competition sponsored by the National Conservation Foundation that tests the knowledge of students on a number elements of the outdoor environment.

"Envirothon is similar to Science Olympiad, but for ecology," explains Donahey.

"Each school can take three teams of five. They compete in test taking at a park in hopes of moving on to the state competition."

Teams are tested in the categories of Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatics, Soils, and Current Events. This year's Envirothon is scheduled to be held at Slate Run Park in Canal Winchester, May 5, 2020.



Ecology Club Canoe Trip
Photo courtesy of Hartzler.

Coronavirus Impacts Lancaster Community

Side affects of the world-wide pandemic

By S. Rivas, *Photography Editor*

As the Coronavirus changes almost minute by minute, *Eye of the Gale* has gathered a few examples of the far-reaching affects the disease had up until the time this edition was sent to the printer. The greatest impact to the Lancaster community was the state order by Governor DeWine to close the K-12 schools.

Students and teachers left school on March 13, 2020 with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. Some teacher wondered how effective online education would be during the three-week break from their classrooms.

"I think everything will be okay if everyone does his/her own part. I will certainly miss seeing everyone, and talking to everyone throughout the day," said LHS English teacher, Kelli Marvin.

"My classes will be having online discussions through Padlet when I post questions and I'm looking



LHS English teacher, Kelli Marvin is optimistic about the online education now put in place due to the school shut down.

forward to seeing responses on this format. I think it's an interesting adventure! Go forth and prosper!" said Marvin.

A few students told *Eye of the Gale* that they were not happy about the school closures because it has interfered with their lives. LHS freshman, Sarah Garlinger, who was scheduled to appear in the theater production of *The Enchanted Bookshop* at Ohio University-Lancaster, said the production was shut down.



LHS freshman, Sarah Garlinger, says the Coronavirus caused the shut down of her theatre production.

"I was disappointed, but I know it was important they canceled it because they did not want anything to happen," said Garlinger.

LHS graduates attending area colleges were also impacted by the governor's order to close colleges and universities. Felesha Wright, now a freshman at the Ohio State University experienced a range of emotions.



LHS graduates, Hannah Miller, Felesha Wright, and Anna Hartig, now freshmen at OSU wonder about how online learning will affect their grades in college.

"My first reaction was very happy because I get to stay home, but the more I thought about it, the more nervous I got," said Wright.

Like most students who are not familiar with online learning, and whose class curriculum is designed for face to face instruction, Wright began to question the process.

"Thoughts came in my head like What if online is harder? Will I still learn well online? What will tests look like?" she said.

College students like Wright left their dormitories and began to tackle the online instruction as the governor's mandatory three-week shut down started to play out.

"Everyone I have talked to is just

totally shocked and cannot believe this is happening. We are all nervous for our classes and grades, but hoping everything will turn out okay,” said Wright.

“I do think the university has all of our best interests in mind and that gives me a little more peace of mind,” she said.

Eye of the Gale reached out to an American student who was studying abroad in South Korea when news of the Coronavirus initially broke in Asia.

“I never had any idea of an epidemic happen while I was going to study abroad,” said Loren Macon, a student at Saint Louis University St. Louis, Missouri.

“This was something I had been planning since my senior year of high school. It was the experience I looked forward to the most during the past year and a half.”

Macon, who majors in Anthropology and in Studio Art, said most people she saw in Seoul, South Korea were adapting to the life chang-

es required to protect themselves from the disease.

“Most people were scrambling for mask and wearing them,” she said.

Macron has since returned to the United States without suffering any symptoms of the Coronavirus.

As the pandemic plays out in the coming weeks and months, *Eye of the Gale* will continue coverage of the affects of the virus on the Lancaster Community in the next edition.

Community

Suicide in America

Rate has increased steadily for more than a decade

By N. Villa, *print editor*

Although difficult to talk about, the complex issue of suicide in America needs to be discussed as the number of victims has increased each year in the last thirteen years. In 2010 the Department of Health and Human Services set a goal to reduce the suicide rate from 12.1 to 10.2 per 100,000 population by 2020. Instead of falling, the rate increased (The Economist, 2020).

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reported that more than 48,000 Americans took their own lives in 2018. Suicide is the tenth-largest cause of death in the United States; deadlier than traffic accidents and homicide.

“I feel there are several reasons that are contributing factors for the increase, such as a lack of prevention and education, lack of affordable treatment options, and



the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide,” said Jeannette Curtis, the Executive Director of Fairfield County 2-1-1.

Some situations that can lead to a suicidal ideation are a breakup or divorce, a sudden or unexpected move or relocation, a death of a friend or loved one, diagnosis of an illness, fights or disagreements with friends and family, loss of a job, trauma or bullying.

“Other risk factors include

substance abuse, depression, serious mental illness and serious physical health conditions, unemployment, financial crisis, and historical factors such as previous suicide attempts, family history of suicide, history of childhood abuse or trauma,” said Toni Ash-ton, Prevention Coordinator for the Fairfield County ADAMH Board.

Colin Smith, a freshman at LHS reflected back on the suicide of his friend, Tyler, a few years ago.

“I was devastated and went into this depressive phase for a few weeks. Then I got really mad and had to stay out of school for a couple days,” said Smith.

“So in honor of Tyler, if there is anything I can do to help other people, I do it, even if it’s just simply giving them a smile or even a pencil.”

(continued)

Experts say the key to prevention begins with listening to someone who may exhibit feelings of suicide and take any suicidal talk or behavior seriously. Almost everyone who attempts suicide has given some clue or warning.

"This experience has changed me in lots of ways," said Smith.

"Some of the big ones are that I hate bullying and I hate it when kids joke about stuff that could be serious to other people."

There is a nationwide suicide crisis line that anyone can call. That number is 1-800-273-8255.

Closer to home, however, there is help in Fairfield County for anyone who may need help for themselves or someone they know. The local 24 hour crisis line for Fairfield county is answered by a live operator. The number is (740) 687-TALK. There is also a text option. Just text HOPE to 741741.

The mission of the Suicide Prevention Coalition is to reduce the incidence of suicide in Fairfield County by increasing awareness, improving access, and supporting survivors.

"We strive to increase awareness

that suicide is a public health and mental health problem in order to reduce stigma and increase ability to seek help," said Curtis.

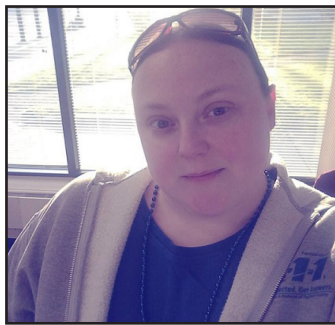
Here at LHS, guidance counselors say they are always available to talk with anyone who is struggling with thoughts of suicide.

"I find students have opinions about us teachers without actually talking with us," said Noah Kelley.

"Give us a chance to catch you or help you. If you're afraid to talk to us, and don't know how to feel, just give us a chance," he said.



Toni Ashton, MSED, LSW,
OCPC, Fairfield County
ADAMH Board.



Jeannette Curtis, Executive
Director, Fairfield County
2-1-1.



Colin Smith, LHS student
lost his friend to suicide.



The crisis hotline is answered 24
hours a day.

Suicide Warning Signs

These signs may mean someone is at risk for suicide. Risk is greater if a behavior is new or has increased and if it seems related to a painful event, loss, or change.

- ❖ Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself.
- ❖ Looking for a way to kill oneself, such as searching online or buying a gun.
- ❖ Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.
- ❖ Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- ❖ Talking about being a burden to others.
- ❖ Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.
- ❖ Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly.
- ❖ Sleeping too little or too much.
- ❖ Withdrawing or feeling isolated.
- ❖ Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- ❖ Displaying extreme mood swings.

NATIONAL

SUICIDE
PREVENTION

LIFELINE™

I-800-273-TALK
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Hometown Hero's 200th Birthday

Admirers near and far celebrate in Lancaster

By C. Dunn, *Editorial Editor*

History buffs from as far away as Utah and Canada came to Lancaster recently to celebrate the 200th birthday of the city's favorite son, General William T. Sherman. Ohio Senator Tim Schaffer opened the event by presenting a proclamation by the state of Ohio.

"If you go down South, still to this day, and you say you're from Lancaster, Ohio they won be happy with you. They are still salty about Sherman's march to the South," said Schaffer.

"Sherman is an important figure to this community and deserves to be recognized for all his efforts for the Union."

William Tecumseh Sherman was a Union general during the Civil War, playing a crucial role in the victory over the Confederate States and becoming one of the most famous military leaders in U.S. history.

The celebration at the Mill Event Center included live actors depicting Generals Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant, Civil War costume contests, silent auctions, Civil War

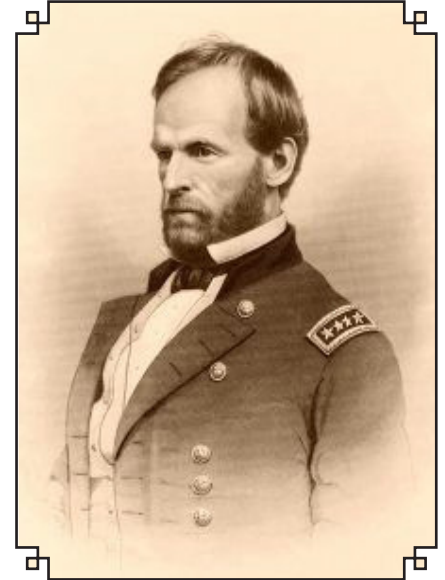
music. The money raised benefited the Fairfield County Association.

"The Fairfield County Association doesn't receive money from tax dollars. Instead, we get the money from donors and by throwing events like this one," said Kay Helm, a member of the Fairfield Heritage Association.

The event included a Sherman look-alike contest and costume contest. Dee Ann Leitnaker won first place in the costume contest. Kris Gunvalson won first place in the Sherman look-alike contest.

There was a Civil War re-enactment of a conversation between General Grant played by Derek Maxfield and General Sherman played by Tracy Ford.

"We are shining a light on 19th century Lancaster and Fairfield



General William T. Sherman
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

County, when a frontier town quickly developed into a political powerhouse," Mary Lawrence, Marketing Director for the Fairfield County Heritage Association told the Lancaster Eagle Gazette.

"It goes far beyond William Tecumseh Sherman and his extraordinary, controversial career . . . to learning more about this amazing community."

"Sherman is one of Lancaster's most famous sons. He was a great general who saved the Union," said Tammy Drobina.

The Sherman House museum is open year round.



Dee Ann Leitnaker, won first place for women's costume contest. Photo by Cora Dunn.



Randy Grofe, won third place in the costume contest, Judy Grofe, won second place in the women's costume contest.



Tammy Drobina, dressed in Civil War period clothing. Photo by Cora Dunn.

Federal REAL ID Compliance Gaining Speed

Without it, travel plans may be throttled down the road

By E. Schleich, *Photography Crew*

This year the new Federal REAL identification law goes into effect October 1st this year and Ohio drivers must get their new IDs if they want to fly on an airplane this fall. Dubbed the star card, the new ID will be required for anyone who wants to fly commercially in the United States or abroad. Also known as the DL-ID, the new identification card has a white star on a black disk in the upper right-hand corner.

In order to get the new ID, more documents are needed to show proof of citizenship than those required for a standard Ohio driver's license. Some Lancaster residents say their plans to apply for the DL-ID hit the brakes at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

"Knowing what to bring in seemed to be a problem for several people," said Holly Lavender, a Science teacher at Lancaster High School.

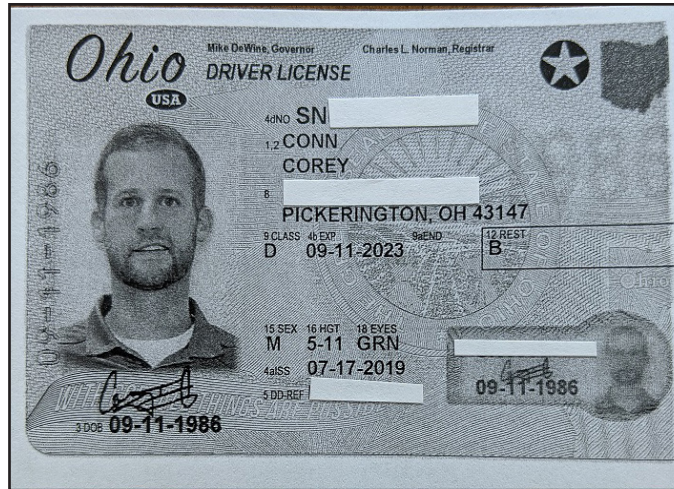
"I did, but misunderstood one piece so I had to go back home and get it," she said.

"Then I had to return to the line after already waiting in line for over an hour."

Lavender



Holly Lavender,
LHS Science Teacher



Example of the new federal REAL ID driver's license required for air travel beginning in October 2020.



said she an elderly couple was frustrated when they showed up to get the new ID but had to shift gears when they didn't have the required documents.

"(They) had been waiting (in line) forever, and when they finally got to the counter, they didn't have what they needed and were turned away," she said.

Pam Gardner, the account clerk at Lancaster High School, said she too experienced an issue with the needed paperwork.

"I had to take my birth certificate, social security card, and marriage license," she said.

"I had a marriage certificate and had to go to the



Pam Gardner,
LHS Payroll Clerk

auditor's office to obtain a certified copy of our marriage license."

Corey Conn, a Government teacher said that long lines or documentation wasn't such a big deal but rather, "it was more time consuming on the front end gathering all of the documents you need to take in."

Anyone who doesn't have the Real ID-compliant driver's license, state-issued

enhanced driver's license, or other acceptable forms of identification, such as a valid passport or U.S. military ID, won't be able to fly within the United States. International travel still requires a passport (Dayton Daily News).

Ohio has joined more than 28 states whose driver's licenses and IDs are already compliant with the new federal regulations that will be implemented in October 2020. According to the Department of Homeland Security, the REAL ID Act "establishes minimum security

standards for license issuance and production" and results from the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the government set higher standards for issuing IDs.

Gales Wrestlers Go To The Mattresses!

Win OCC for 8th time and heading to state

By M. Wright, *Community Editor*

Four Lancaster High School Golden Gales wrestler will go into state competition this year. The wrestling team ended its successful season with dual meets standing at 10-2 as OCC Champions for the eighth time out of ten years.

Coach Dugan Bently recalled some of the highlights of the 2019 - 2020 season.

“Beating Division 3 State Runner Ups Waynedale (in a dual) and Logan Agin winning the Brecksville Tournament,” he said.

Despite their overall success, Bently said there were some improvements they could have made.

“Challenging ourselves to get better and taking advantage of all the opportunities to improve.”

LHS senior Logan Agin said the team overcame challenges at the onset of the season.

“Wrestling two tough teams early on in the season was a good challenge we had this year,” he said.

LHS junior, Jacob Reed wrestling agreed with Agin and said they had other obstacles they had



Gales Wrestling 2019 - 2020 OCC Champs

to overcome.

“We have had a few injuries and some skin funk going around causing people to miss some meets, but most people have recovered fine.”

Despite the ups and downs, LHS sophomore, Ajay Locke predicted victory even before the season ended.

“The season has been very successful for the wrestling team this

year. So far we are 4-0 as a team in duels in the OCC and looking at a chance at repeating last year of being OCC champs and state dual qualifiers again,” he said.

The team dynamics are something that the wrestlers said help them accomplish their goals.

“Our wrestling team gets along very well. There is not a lot of tension or negative peer pressure within the team. We motivate each other very well. It’s basically a brotherhood where we all make sacrifices and push to our limits together,” said Locke.

The sport of wrestling is one of the most difficult sports because each wrestler has to take on the opponent individually.

“It is important for them (the wrestlers) to learn discipline and regiment themselves, which can help them when they need to do so later in life,” he said.

Many sports competitions, including the State Wrestling Championships have been postponed due to the Coronavirus epidemic.



LHS Swim Team Sends Hensley to State

Team says hard work makes team a family

By C. Dunn, *Editorial Editor*

Lancaster High School sophomore, Mia Hensley qualified to represent the LHS Swim team at state competition this year. This is just one of the achievements the team experienced this season.

"There have been many successes so far this season from many of the swimmers," says Joel Kasik a senior at LHS.

"Many of the newcomers have been doing great in regards to improving their form while swimming and making substantial progress in getting faster times at races. To be honest, everyone has made a lot of progress with getting faster times and we are all proud of that."

The team's progress this season has especially been exceptional considering the fact that over the past few years the team has lost many graduating seniors.

"With the loss of 15 seniors over the past 3 years," says Coach Axel Birnbrich, "it has been a rebuilding process the two years I have been coaching this High School."

"The challenges are finding meets that are competitive for our stronger swimmers but also gives our newer swimmers the opportunity to compete and to learn more about this sport," said Birnbrich.

"There were many great moments and achievements, seeing a four-year senior obtain a 22.89 in 50 Free; seeing a freshman make his first District champs; and seeing



2019 - 2020 LHS Swim Team
Sophomore Mia Hensley (back row far left) qualified for state competition.
Photo courtesy of Josh Murdock.

our first Top 16 swimmer at States in a few years," continued Birnbrich.

"Regarding OCC Champs, most teams like ours use this meet as a stepping stone for our young swimmers to perform and to get mentally ready for the Sectionals and beyond meets."

The team has also been very welcoming to those newcomers to the sport and incoming freshman as well.

"This is my first year of swimming and I really love it so far! The dynamic of our team is amazing. We are constantly encouraging and cheering each other on," said Gracie Stuart.

"We have a tight bond and we are all very close. If one person from the team is racing, you can almost always see, or more likely

hear, the rest of the team screaming our heads off for them. I truly love this team and the people that are on it," continued Stuart.

"They are all amazing and very inclusive towards me even though it's my first year swimming and me being a freshman!"

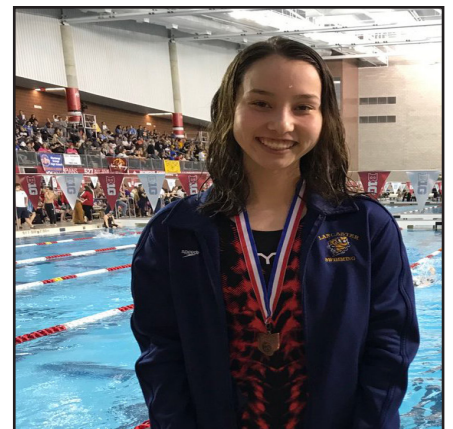
The team's support for one another is one of the things which makes the

team so special.

"The challenges are the same as most sports, keeping a hard work ethic and pushing yourself each day," said Josh Murdock.

"When it comes to the team itself we are a family. We all work together and push each other to be the best we can be," he said.

"We love to joke around and put smiles on each other's faces. Our team always does the most they can for each other."



LHS Sophomore, Mia Hensley.
Photo courtesy Twitter.

Lady Gales Basketball Never Say Die

Team honors favorite manager

By M. Wright, *Community Editor*

The Lancaster High School Girls Basketball team ended their season with 10-12 record. After a disappointing five game losing streak, the teammates put their heads together to improve their season and gain wins. Coaches and players spoke out about the overall experience on the court this past season.

Coach Dusty Miller gave his take on what needed to be improved this past season.

"We needed to play better on the road with our road record being 3-8 for the year compared to our home record which was 7-4," he said.

Even with a disappointing streak, coach Miller still had faith in his players and recounted the highlights of the season.

"One of the biggest highlights of the season was our Cleveland trip which we played at the Cleveland Cavalier Arena at the beginning of the year," he said.

"Unfortunately we lost to Logan. Also the comeback victory against Hilliard Davidson. The third thing is winning our last 6 of our last 10 games for the season."

The senior athletes on the team gave similar opinions about their last high school basketball season. Senior, Savannah Dryden said

"The season was not as successful as we would have wanted but we made many positive improvements to our program," She said

"I play three sports, and basketball is by far the hardest sport I have played. But it is the sport

that has taught me the most about working hard and working together."

Another team player, Halle Spangler had a similar opinion.

"Unlike in years past we were able to overcome many challenges and grow from them, becoming a better team and closer friends," she stated.

The inconsistent season was like a roller coaster of ups and downs.

"A difficult challenge we faced was losing by a large deficit to Newark, and then we also went on a losing streak, but came back and went on a five game winning streak."

Spangler continued to say that she will always remember how the players connected and supported each other through the good and bad.

"The team is super fun and we all have a great bond with one another, there is lots of positive energy and we are always having a good time."

Perhaps one of the most touching and memorable highlights of the season featured team's manager.

"The highlight of the season was Maizie starting and scoring against Pickerington Central. Senior Maizie Rigsby scored her first ever basket in a real Varsity game against Pickerington Central."



Savannah Dryden blocking a pass.
Photo courtesy of Savannah Dryden.



Seniors gather at Senior night.
Photo courtesy of Coach Miller.



Senior Maizie Rigsby shooting her shot.
Photo courtesy of Lady Gales Twitter.

Staying In The Lanes

Lancaster High School's bowling gets more recognition

By D. Bui, *Editor in Chief*

Lancaster High School's bowling team has been receiving more recognition by students and staff members. Bowling is a sport that anyone can play throughout their lives. This year's team has had a good season with many highlights and a few challenges.

Senior Victoria Kirby describes one of the events the senior athletes look forward to each season.

"Senior night at bowling is a special time to send off the seniors and make their night enjoyable," she said.

"It was a great time with a lot of emotions because everyone is like a family, although people leaving is always a sad time," Kirby said.

Recently, the bowling team went to sectionals and sophomore bowler Bryce Kale explained how they work.

"Sectionals is where all 47 teams of Ohio bowl together and the highest 16 teams advance," Kale said.

According to statistics from the Ohio High School Athletic Administra-

tion, the LHS boys bowling section placed 7th, whilst the LHS girls placed in 10th in districts. The boys team scored 2,637 points throughout the total of three games and the girls scored 2,113 points. Individu-

one and it's an amazing atmosphere to be in, like nothing else," Kempton said.

Kempton went on to praise the bowling team coach.

"We have a great coach, Wendy Russel, that works hard and is overall a wonderful person that has taught me and many others to believe in ourselves and do our best."

As with every season, the both the boys and girls bowling teams encountered challenges.

"Challenges that the team faced this season include new members to the

team, learning how the team works, and everyone learning to get along as a team and keeping our spirits up throughout games, while winning and losing," Kirby said.

Kempton said the strong team dynamics also helped the athletes deal with difficulties during the season.

"Challenges come up a lot but we work at them as a team, we go against some challenging teams and do our best to put up a hard fight against them," Kempton said.



LHS senior,
Victoria Kirby



LHS sophomore,
Bryce Kale.



LHS sophomore,
Jack Kempton.

Photo courtesy of Kirby.

ally, Kale scored 622 points, Kempton scored 179 points, Kirby scored 471 points.

Kempton described the highlights of being on the bowling team.

"The friendships you make along the way... It is genuinely like a family. Everyone is supporting every-



A group shot of the boys section of
LHS's bowling team.

Photo courtesy of Kale.



A group shot of the girls section of
LHS's bowling team.

Photo courtesy of Kirby.

Gales Basketball Boxed Out

Senior player discuss highlights

By M. Wright, *Community Editor*

The Lancaster High School Boys Basketball team ended their tough season with 6-16 record. Even though their season took a wrong turn, the players and coaches had positive feedback about the overall season experience.

Coach Kent Riggs gave his opinion about the overall season and what needs to be improved.

"Reducing our turnovers per game would have made the season more successful," said Riggs.

"A very challenging schedule including top teams in the area Gahanna, Pickerington North, Pickerington Central, Newark was the major challenge of the season."

Despite the challenges, the coach said there were definite highlights during the season.

"Beating Grove City and exciting win at Athens," he said.

Senior players closed out their final high school basketball season putting points on the scoreboard.

Leading scorer Senior Tanner Roush averaged 10 points per game; leading rebounders Tanner Roush and Jacob Davenport 4.8 per game; leading assists per game senior Devin Savage 2.4; leading free throw shooter, senior Owen Snyder 84%.

The seniors on the team gave strong but similar opinions about the way their season ended. Senior, Jacob Davenport gave heartwarming words about his last season of high school basketball.

"We definitely expected more wins and happier days but I would

not change it for the world, having so much fun playing with my family," he said

"I would change the outcomes and the way we handle our leads in the 4th quarter and the game! Many guys take it seriously like me, but you gotta have fun a little and enjoy the game; you only live once and you only play at basketball."

Another senior Cameron Roudabush gave in depth words about the season in his opinion.

"The one thing that has made my past two seasons great has been the positive attitudes from my teammates and coaches, he said.

"I have always felt that I have a good relationship with everyone in the locker room, and that is very important because those relationships transition onto the court. So just continuing to keep a positive attitude with one another, win or lose, is the key to making a great season."

Riggs gave last words about his team and how they played.

"This year's team worked hard and were a very enjoyable group of young men to coach."

"Teamwork, discipline, and working for a common goal are reasons it is important for students to participate in athletics."



LHS Varsity Basketball players break huddle.
Photo Hallie Ritchie.



Cameron Roudabush planning out a pass.
Courtesy of Hallie Ritchie.



Coach Leitnaker talking to his players.
Courtesy of Hallie Ritchie.



Davenport Talking to coach Riggs.
Courtesy of Jacob Davenport.

Fans Approve Sonic the Hedgehog Redesign

Former Creepy Sonic - up... over... and gone!

By B. Munroe, *Entertainment Editor*

The new Sonic the Hedgehog movie currently showing in theaters has received better reviews since fans forced Paramount Pictures to redesign the popular animated character last year following the release of the film's trailer last year. Fans vehemently rejected the first design of Sonic because it looked too disturbing.

"Among the *cris de coeur* against the CGI Sega character: that Sonic was 'creepy' and 'up-setting' and that his eyes were too un-conjoined, his features too dissimilar to those of his video-game counterpart. And singled out for most withering critique: that the blue blur's teeth were "too big" and "terrifyingly human," (Vulture, 2020).

The first Sonic exemplified the uncanny valley phenomenon that repelled fans. The uncanny valley is a concept first introduced in the 1970s by Masahiro Mori, then a professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. Mori coined the term



Comparison between the final Sonic animated character with the first. Photo courtesy of Google images.

"uncanny valley" to describe his observation that as robots appear more humanlike, they become more appealing—but only up to a certain point (IEEE Spectrum, 2020).

"I don't agree with the small amount of radical insults but it is good that the company listened and changed it for the majority," said LHS junior, Zach Walker.

"After all, they're trying to persuade their loyal fans to watch it (the movie)," he said.

LHS junior, Murray Robertson agrees that Paramount not only reacted to fan backlash, but also considered the cash grab when the movie hit the box office.

"It's simple supply and demand," said Robertson.

"The consumers demanded something else and the company changed it to make a profit. It's peak capitalism," he said.

One feature that fans did like from the original production

last year was the look of Dr. Robotnik, Sonic's nemesis, played by Jim Carey.

"I loved how Jim Carey played his character," said LHS junior, Clayton Mohler.

"It's almost like he had a lot of fun trying to find out how much his character can get away with."

The 2020 movie version tells the story of the blue anthropomorphic hedgehog from another world who is chased down by the government and Dr. Robotnik for his super sonic speed. Sonic teams up with a human named Tom Wachowski. Together they join forces to prevent the evil Dr. Robotnik from capturing Sonic and using his powers for world domination.

The movie reportedly grossed \$306 million worldwide by mid-March, making it the second-highest-grossing film of 2020, and set the record for the biggest opening weekend by a video game-based film in the US and Canada.



Jim Carey playing Dr. Robotnik in the new film. Courtesy of Google.



LHS junior, Clayton Mohler, enjoyed the Sonic movie, especially Jim Carey's role.

Star Wars Fan Base is a Growing Force Diversity in characters may be key

By C. Dunn, *Editorial Editor*

Star Wars is a series that has as many fans as are stars in the sky. Forgive the hyperbole. In recent years, with the new trilogy, it seems as though the fan base is still growing. One reason for this may be the diversity in the characters.

Diversity in the series has increased with the new trilogy as with it's first leading female Asian-American in *The Last Jedi*.

"I think that the newer movies have better diversity than the older ones just because we've progressed," said Julia Fyie, a junior at Lancaster High School.

"We live in a different time than we did in the late 1970s when the first *Star Wars* movie came out. I think they could definitely be more diverse as the years go on., she said.

"I find the *Star Wars* movies to be significantly diverse," says Daniel Schleicht.

"In the fact that humans, aliens, and robots all interact with no more and no less hate, love, or discrimination than we see between

people today."

"Diversity may as well be one of the main topics of the series," says Zach Kette a sophomore at LHS. "With all the different races cooperating in the Galactic Senate, and all the different races within the Jedi Order, it shows that whoever you are, whatever your skin color, whether you are like a Kamonian or a Rodian, everyone is equal, has equally weighted opinions, and



Zach Kette, *Star Wars* fan.
Courtesy of Cora Dunn.

steady fanbase of those of the original trilogy.

"Star Wars was important to me because it was one of the first movie series that I watched with my dad," says Schleichert,

"We bonded over it when I was a kid. It will always have a special meaning to me."

Some fans think the franchise is growing too large and may end up in a black hole.

"Honestly I feel like the franchise needs to stop while they are ahead. The amount of spin-offs and side stories they are trying to milk the franchise as a cash cow who will soon run dry," says Schliechert.

"Somethings are meant to be left unexplained or open to interpretation/speculation and the fact that the franchise is trying to answer every fan's questions will be a never-ending effort," he said.

"There is such a thing as too much of a good thing."



Julia Fyie in her *Star Wars* attire.
Courtesy of Cora Dunn.

equal abilities."

With the new additions to the *Star Wars* universe, new fans are coming into the franchise.

"I am actually quite new to the *Star Wars* franchise," says Fyie.

"The *Star Wars* franchise became important to me because I really enjoyed *The Force Awakens* and it made me want to start getting into the older movies again."

As the franchise continues to grow, it also manages to keep a



Daniel Schleicht, *Star Wars* fan.
Courtesy of Schleicht.

Teens Ditch Traditional News Sources

Instead fall for fake news from influencers and celebrities

By M. Murray, Art Editor

When is the last time a teenager casually picked up a credible newspaper to read about current events? Well, it's likely they haven't. Not only are the majority of teens turning away from newspapers, but also their online versions of these tried and true news organizations. To learn about current events, teens now turn to social media sites like YouTube, and online influencers and celebrities (Common Sense Media, 2019).

"I use my phone all the time. It's something that's always with me, so I always want to look at what's going on," said Caitlyn Dennis, an LHS sophomore.

"I've kinda known that some news stories are more opinionated and sorta fake, but usually I just avoid those websites if I know they're untrustworthy."

According to recent surveys, teens' news habits reflect the diversity of the modern media landscape. While most news organizations maintain accounts on social media and other platforms, they are competing for attention with corporate brands, celebrities, influencers, and personal connections.

Of those teens who get their news from YouTube, six in 10 say they are more likely to get it from celebrities, influencers, and personalities rather than from news



Photo courtesy of Google Images.

organizations utilizing the platform (Common Sense Media, 2019).

Reading a newspaper is just inconvenient. A study by US Today shows that 89% of teens have access to smartphones, so why would they pick up the newspaper to read? Well, teens clearly prefer a visual medium for learning about the news.

64% say that "seeing pictures and video showing what happened" gives them the best understanding of major news events, while just 36% say they'd

prefer to read or hear the facts about what happened.

"It's sad that we spend more time on our phones, and that we spend less time with newspapers, but it makes sense. I know people who'd rather read something on a paper, but for me? I'd rather read online," said Ariane Penix, a Lancaster High School senior.

"We have phones to watch and read the news on, so most people won't read a newspaper unless they don't have the resources."

A study by the West Virginia Education Association finds that the average American teen spends nine hours a day on their electronic devices. One of the caveats of technology replacing traditional news papers and online sources is that many people don't know where information is originating.

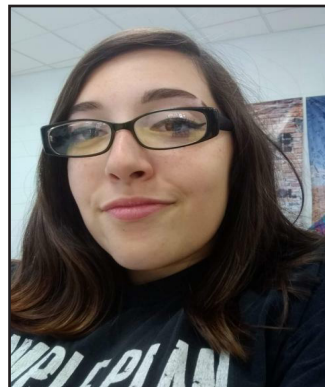
Fake news stories are prevalent on social media platforms. There are almost no repercussions to posting a story with disinformation online. Traditional news sources have to adhere to FCC rules and are bound by ethics in the industry to present the most accurate information possible.

Unfortunately for people that gather news off of websites like Instagram, Youtube, or Twitter, the line between truth and fake news is often blurry.



Caitlyn Dennis, a sophomore scrutinizes what she reads on news websites.

Photo courtesy Dennis.



LHS senior, Ariane Penix, seeks news online over newspapers

Photo courtesy Penix

LGBT+ Representation in the Media

Supporters rally for more diversity on television

By S. Rivas, *Photography Editor*

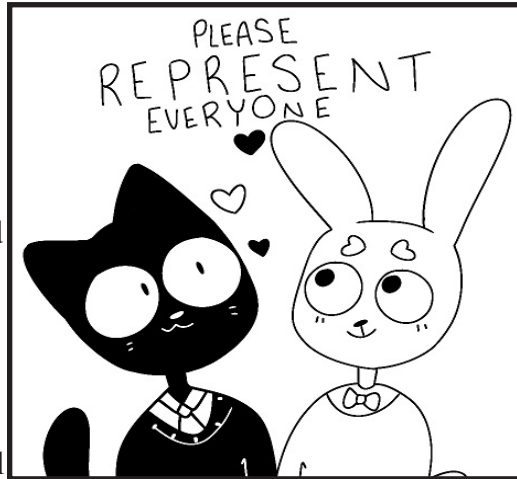
Although more than one in ten prime-time scripted characters on television in 2019 were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, supporters for more diversity on TV suggest that a higher representation of the LGBT+ population is needed (Bloomberg.com 2019).

Glaad, formerly known as the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, is pushing the TV industry to more than double the percentage by 2025 the record level set this year, said Mathew Lasky, director of communications for Glaad. In opposition, conservative groups like One Million Moms, are working to stop the exploitation of children by entertainment media.

Matt Romine, a senior at Lancaster High School and a member of the LGBT+ community, said television should reflect real life.

"It's harmful, in all honesty. We live in a heterosexual world and that is shown everyday, but there is lack of any proper portrayal of LGBT+ in the community," he said.

Some television companies tend to steer away from the topic altogether, either afraid of dealing with the backlash, or because they are unsupportive of alternative lifestyles that go against their conservative views. For example, the Hallmark Channel received backlash in December of 2019 when



Editorial cartoon by Mykenzi Murray,
Art Editor, *Eye of the Gale*.

they pulled a same-sex commercial that showed two women kissing at the wedding alter.

In response to pulling the commercial, celebrities like Ellen Degeneres, called out the company and tweeted their outrage.

"Isn't it almost 2020? What are you thinking? Please explain. We're all ears," tweeted Degeneres.

Supporters of showing the realities of the growing LGTB+ com-

munity in television is a necessary step toward tolerance in a modern society. However, the conservative culture in society is afraid that showing LGTB+ characters on TV will influence children who might not otherwise make a connection or identify with alternative sexual life-styles on their own.

Mackenzie Depouw, is a junior at LHS and a co-leader of Lancaster High School's Gender Sexuality Alliance Club.

"The representation wasn't there when I was younger, so I did not even know it was an option, until I was around 14," she said.

"That caused so much internalized homophobia because things like this were happening when I was younger."

Depouw said depicting the gay population in a negative light to children, can cause additional problems for those that later identify as gay.

"When you show people, it is negative be gay or it is negative for gay people to have kids, children grow up with that idea and if they are, in the future, gay, it causes this fear and self doubt. It's exhausting fighting this battle, that should not have to be fought."



LHS senior, Matt Romine and junior, Mackenzie Depouw both weigh in on the controversy over the fair representation of the LGTB+ community in the television medium.



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