

THE BLUESTREAK

Volume 42, Issue 4, January 2024



The Official News Publication of the Andover High School Student Body

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Photo by Gabby Kanagy

Cover photo by Emile Rivero



Secret Santa

Why Secret Santa is Overrated

Now that the holiday frenzy has disappeared and we are all anxiously awaiting for spring to arrive, I have a confession to make. I hate Secret Santa! I mean, I've never gotten the appeal! It's quite possibly the **WORST** gift giving activity. Secret Santa is unfun! At least in other games, like "White Elephant", there are competitive incentives to win. You can't win Secret Santa—you only lose! Honestly, I fear we need to quit playing Secret Santa.

The worst part of Secret Santa is undoubtedly the gift giving. Tell me why I always get the one person I know nothing about? Most secret santa games rely on you simply knowing the person. Thankfully, sometimes there's a shared wishlist for everyone to see; however, if there's no wishlist, you're out of luck. Even when you do know what someone wants, it's always the worst thing ever. So, let me get this straight...you want a vintage "Louis Vuitton" purse...with a 15 dollar budget...? Don't even get me started on budgets. Either it's 15 dollars or 15 thousand dollars. Why can't we, as a society, set a standard budget for Secret Santa?

And even when gift giving is okay, the gift getting has to be just as bad. If I put on my wishlist that I like skincare, tell me why you got me WALMART BRAND face wash? You couldn't even drop the 3 extra dollars for CeraVe? That's just disrespectful. And the worst part of having a Secret Santa is them not even getting you something off your wishlist. Then, they get mad at me for not being excited for my gift. Give me 3 reasons why I should be excited for...a scentless Harry Styles candle...

In conclusion, Secret Santa is overrated. Let's leave the gift giving to Santa—and all the good gifts, to ourselves.

And that's hot,

Sean Mansoor and Airryn Powell



THE BLUESTREAK

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.....Letter From the Editor.....

Hey AHS!

I hope you all had a very happy holidays and a great New Year! This issue spans from December to January, and we are so excited for you all to read this fantastic publication. Despite Christmas being over, many families are still in need during the winter months so look at page 27 for ways to give back to our community. Maybe you are hoping to see what occurs in 2025 and so do we! Check out pages 20-21 to see our predictions for the New Year. Alongside predictions, we also wanted to see what Andover students' New Years resolutions are and how long they think they will last!

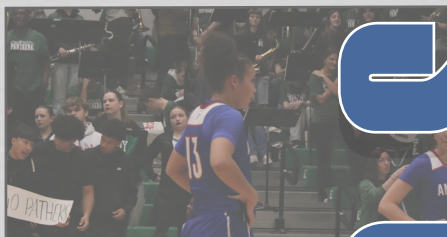
Your Bluestreak staff has worked incredibly hard to give the student body an excellent issue, and we hope you enjoy!

Peace out, AHS!

Addi Wissman



Photos by Emile Rivero, Gabby Kanagy,
and Avery Hurt



BOYS

57-55 Loss vs Derby

62-44 Loss vs McPherson

70-35 Win vs Eisenhower

81-55 Win vs Goddard

63-33 Win vs Newton

68-57 Win vs Southeast

As for the boys varsity team, they are sitting at a record of 4 wins and 3 losses. Coach Martin Sheltar says, "Our season got off to a tough start with two losses, but the team has really stepped up since then, winning four straight. We're getting better every day and starting to figure out our identity as a team. The growth and determination from these players have been exciting to watch."

What is your pre-game ritual?

"I pray and listen to music before every game." -Bella Bouddhara

GIRLS

57-54 Win vs Derby

68-19 Win vs McPherson

58-23 Win vs Eisenhower

64-32 Win vs Goddard

61-11 Win vs Newton

57-49 Loss vs Heights

The 2024-2025 basketball season has taken off with an exciting start. So far in the season, the girls varsity team has done an exceptional job, winning all but one of their games. With many more games to come, sophomore Bella Bouddhara says that she is looking forward to "long drives before and after the games because jamming out to music and talking with the team is so fun."

What is your pre-game ritual?

"I warm up and when I warm up, I do the basic, fundamental elements to make sure I feel good." -Baul Lee

SWIMMING

457 Win at Newton Invitational

422 Win at Maize Boys Invitational

355 Win at Andover Central

Boys Invitational

400 Win North Invitational

What is your pre-game ritual?

"My pre-game routine is to always pray twice and make sure I stretch to reduce injuries." -Josh Kim

The 2024-2025 Andover boys swim team has had an incredible season so far, winning every meet they have traveled to. Junior Baul Lee says, "Something unique about this season is that although there are a lot of people, there are a lot of underclassmen participating and bringing a lot of youthful energy."

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Photos by Emile Rivero

Dance and Cheer Photos by Emile Rivero

ANDOVER WINTER SPORTS

*CHEER, DANCE,
& BOWLING*

Bowling Photos by Rylie Nance



JORJA SCHWANKE

How long have you been dancing?

"I have been dancing for 10 years."

Who's your biggest inspiration?

"My biggest inspiration is my grandma because she is always supportive of me and incredibly selfless."

What's your favorite style of dance?

"My favorite style of dance is pom!"



LANDON LIGHT

How long have you been bowling?

"I have been bowling since I was in 6th grade."

Who's your biggest inspiration?

"My biggest inspiration is my cousins."

What's your favorite part about bowling?

"I just like the sound it makes sometimes."



AVERY VOGT

How long have you been cheering?

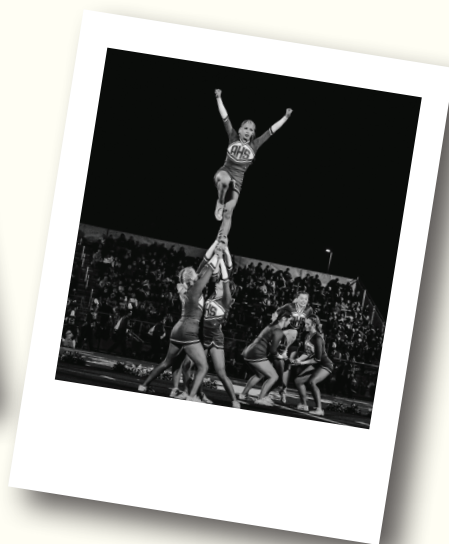
"Since I was in 4th grade. I have done both competitive and school cheer."

Who's your biggest inspiration?

"My mom because she has taught me skills that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. She has showed me how to become a strong, determined woman and to persevere and to achieve big things."

What's your favorite part about cheerleading?

"Creating and performing routines with stunts and dances."



KING'S DREAM

Rememberence of Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Baptist minister, activist, and political philosopher who was an important leader in the civil rights movement in the 1960s. Born in 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, King's heavy influence was his father. As a church pastor, King was exposed to the fight against segregation at an early age. Later on, King's father led a march of African Americans to Atlanta's city hall in order to protest voting rights discrimination. Throughout the duration of high school, his reputation consisted of his extraordinary public speaking skills, extensive vocabulary, and deep voice. These characteristics spurred from his time on the school's debate team. At the ripe age of 15, he entered Atlanta's Morehouse College, an all-male historically Black university. Morehouse College was attended by both his father and grandfather. After a few years, King graduated with the class of 1948 and took with him a bachelor's degree in sociology. After graduating, King made the decision to follow his father's steps and enroll in a seminary, located in Pennsylvania, before claiming a doctorate in theology at Boston University. While in Boston, he met Coretta Scott, who later became his wife.

Soon after becoming a pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks made history. Parks refused to give up her seat for a white passenger while on a Montgomery bus. Surrounded by the fight for equality, King played a predominant leadership role in organizing the bus boycott. Due to his influence throughout the protest, he was later arrested and imprisoned. This act pushed King onto the big leagues as a lead figure in the Civil Rights Movement.

During the duration of the Civil Rights Movement, King was involved in a vast amount of protests, including the Birmingham Campaign, the Selma to Montgomery marches, and the March on Washington. These protests contributed to the ending of segregation and equal rights for all Americans. However, representing the Christian faith, every protest he organized was peaceful. His "I Have A Dream" speech left the world shaking. Delivered on August 28, 1963, his speech sequenced words to illustrate the dream of an end to racism in the United States. One of his most famous lines spoke, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of character. I have a dream today."

Thursday, April 4th, 1968, at 6:05 marked MLK's death at the age of 39 on a balcony located outside of his second-floor room at the Lorraine Motel. Later discovered, that James Earl Ray, a 40-year-old convict, was the one held responsible for the death of Luther. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, occurring Monday, January 20, is a day to remember and reflect on Luther's impact on society.



Spotify Wrapped '24

Top Artists

Andover Students

1. Taylor Swift
2. Tyler, the Creator
3. Frank Ocean
4. Arana Grande
5. Lana Del Ray

Top Songs

in the U.S.

1. "Espresso"
Sabrina Carpenter
2. "Not Like Us"
Kendrick Lamar
3. "A Bar Song (Tipsy)"
Shaboozey
4. "I Had Some Help (feat.
Morgan Wallen)"
Post Malone
5. "MILLION DOLLAR BABY"
Tommy Richman
6. "Good Luck, Babe!"
Chappell Roan
7. "Beautiful Things"
Benson Boone
8. "BIRDS OF A FEATHER"
Billie Eilish
9. "I Remember Everything (feat.
Kacey Musgraves)"
Zach Bryan
10. "Stick Season"
Noah Kahan

Top Genres

Andover Students

1. Hip-hop/Rap
2. Types of Pop
3. Rock
4. Alternative
5. Indie

Average Minutes

51,049

out of 11 students

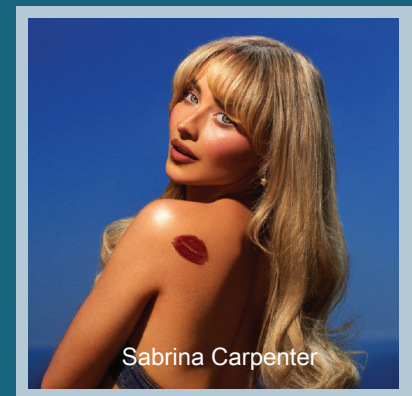
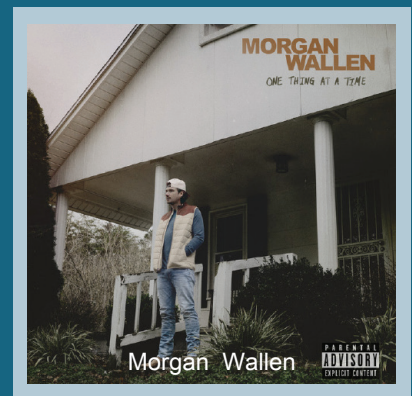
Top Artists

in the U.S.

1. Taylor Swift
2. Drake
3. Zach Bryan
4. Morgan Wallen
5. Kanye West
6. Future
7. Kendrick Lamar
8. Travis Scott
9. The Weeknd
10. Metro Boomin

Statistics from namechk.com and crossrivertherapy.com

Top 3 ALBUMS



Spotify Fun Facts

1. The most streamed artist on Spotify is Drake with over 100 billion total streams as of June 18, 2024
2. The most played song on Spotify is "Shape of You" by Ed Sheeran, which has 3.7 billion streams as of February 19, 2024
3. On average, users listen to 40 unique artists per week

Holidays Around the World

December is full of many holidays; however, the average American knows very little. Three of the biggest holidays during December are Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Both Christmas and Hanukkah are religious festivals; although, Kwanzaa serves as a way to celebrate African American culture. Many Americans celebrate both Christmas and Kwanzaa.

Hanukkah is an eight day festival celebrated by the Jewish community. This year, the festival spanned from the evening of December 25 through January 2. One of the highlights of Hanukkah is the lighting of eight candles on the Menorah. The festival marks the rededication of the temple of Jerusalem around 200 BC and the miracle of oil. According to Jewish teaching, a man named Judas Maccabeus entered the temple and found a small jar of oil. The oil was only enough to light a candle for one day, however, the candle burned for eight days. At sundown, each night of the festival, families light a special candelabra known as a Menorah. The candles are placed from right to left, but they are lit from left to right. Jewish followers also offer a blessing while the candle burns. Additionally, daily scripture is read.

Also stemming from religious tradition, Christmas is a day in which Christians recognize the birth of their savior, Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus is the son of God and died for the sins of humanity. The day has been modernized to include Christmas trees, candy canes, Santa Claus and many more cherished traditions. Lots of families have traditions such as going to church, giving gifts and leaving out cookies for Saint Nick. It is celebrated on December 25 every year.

Kwanzaa, a week-long festival, originated in the 1960s. The holiday centers around seven principles and the honoring of African American culture. It is celebrated between December 26 and January 1 every year. Many traditional gifts are exchanged such as mkekas, woven mats placed on tables. The holiday also includes the lighting of seven candles with three representing the past, one the present, and three the future. The week is full of even more festivities and practices.



cross

symbolizes the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the redeeming benefits of his Passion and death. The cross is thus a sign both of Christ himself and of the faith of Christians.



present

symbolizes the practice of giving gifts during Christmas, according to Christian tradition, is symbolic of the presentation of the gifts by the Three Wise Men to the infant Jesus.



hanukkah

symbolizes the nine-branched candelabra which is lit each night. Hanukkah celebrations are centred around lighting the hanukkah, and families will gather to light the candles



Star of David

symbolizes the connection between God, Israel, and the Torah. It can also symbolize the relationship between God and people or the seven virtues.



kinara

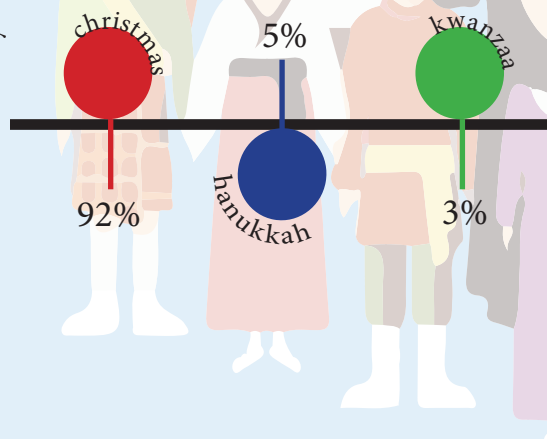
symbolizes the seven principles that are the foundation of Kwanzaa. One candle is lit each day of the week long celebration.



unity cup

symbolizes the sixth day of Kwanzaa when the libation ritual is performed to honor the ancestors. Every family member and guest will take a drink together as a sign of unity and remembrance.

Percent of people who celebrate each holiday



Interview with Lane Vincent (10)

Q: How is Hanukkah and Christmas different from each other?
A: "Hanukkah is celebrated for 8 days and you open a present each night. Christmas is celebrated for 1 day and you open presents in the morning."

Q: What are family celebrations like?

A: "For Christmas we eat traditional food, but for Hanukkah we eat Israeli food like matzah."

Q: What is each day like during the celebration?

A: "When celebrating Hanukkah, everything is normal until the evening when we eat as a family and light the menorah. When celebrating Christmas we open stockings, eat breakfast, open presents, and then hang out with family for the rest of the day."

To be featured in the next issue of The Bluestreak, please fill out the Google Form in the Trojan Bluestreak Instagram bio or contact:

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Everyone Has a Story

Special people can impact one's life, even at a young age. Sophomore Kennedy Geyer does just that. As a kindergarten small group leader at Newspring church, her role impacts not just the children but also the staff, families, and volunteers. Her position is unique in that it is strictly volunteer work. "I get one hour a week with my kiddos," says Kennedy Geyer. "Newspring is a mega church welcoming hundreds of kids each weekend...it doesn't feel like a mega church, it feels like one big family."

Kennedy started volunteering at Newspring at just 9 years old. In her 6th year, her journey began on the Praise Team in Adventure Avenue, preschool and kindergarten grade levels, and then moved onto the Praise Team for 1st and 3rd graders. After spending time on the Praise Team, Geyer found her way back to the kindergarten grade as an assistant small group leader. "After becoming an assistant small group leader, in the Spring of 2024, I officially got my own kindergarten group."



During the duration of Church, Kennedy begins with volunteering every Sunday, at the 9:15 am service. First, she welcomes the kids into the FunZone, where they get to play and hang out with their friends. "I love being in the FunZone because it is a time when I get to hang out with the kids and that is where most of the relationships start." Next, herself and the kids head into the theatre where Bible stories, worship time, and the playing of games occur. Geyer proclaims, "It is such a fun experience, and I love seeing how they understand the stories in the Bible. To wrap up the morning, the activities move into small groups. Explaining small groups. Geyer says, "I normally have 5-10 kids in my group each weekend. We do an icebreaker, review the Bible story, usually by playing "repeat my beat," and, then, we play games correlating to the previous Bible Story. Small groups gives Geyer an opportunity to build relationships with the same children each weekend. Additionally, she is able to teach them the love of Jesus Christ, and how to spread His Word, and good, to others. Geyer says, "I get to make an impact on their lives, big or small."

Church volunteering has brought a variety of lessons and ordeals into Geyer's life. According to Geyer, "Being a small group leader has been one of the greatest things. Not only am I making an impact on the kids' lives, but they are making an impact of my life; it brings me so much joy." Through this act of service, it has brought babysitting jobs to her door. Interacting with kids on the regular has taught Geyer a vast amount of things. "One, God gives people special gifts and talents that we can use to spread the Gospel. I am naturally drawn towards younger kids and I truly believe the reason my group is so successful is because of the talents and gifts God gave to me in order to make an impact on these kids' lives. Two, A familiar face matters the most. Kids are going to gravitate towards the people they see often. I love it when kids come up to me to give me hugs, greet me, or just want to tell me a story. It shows they care and are comfortable. The kids know I am there to love on them and pour into them. Furthermore, this leaves me very honored to be called "Miss. Kennedy."

Throughout her experience, Miss Kennedy has constructed advice. "My advice to anyone is to use the gifts and talents God gave you. That has so much power. Big or small, you can change lives by using your gifts, because the power, strength and confidence needed directly come from God. One of my favorite verses is 1 Peter 4:10: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."

The NFL MVP Debate: Most Valuable vs. Best Player



Written by Emile Rivero

At the end of every season in every sport, trophies are handed out to honor the best players. These awards spark controversy year after year, particularly when it comes to the NFL's Most Valuable Player (MVP). As an avid football fan, I often wonder: is the MVP truly the most valuable player, or just the best player on a team with a prestigious record?

It's no secret that the MVP is primarily a quarterback's award—and not just any quarterback, but one leading a team with championship aspirations. The last ten MVPs, all quarterbacks, have averaged 13 wins per season. This pattern reveals a problem with how voters define “value.” Instead of recognizing a player's indispensable contribution to their team, the MVP often defaults to the best player on the best team.

Take this season as an example, specifically the case of Joe Burrow and the Cincinnati Bengals. Burrow posted incredible numbers, outperforming players like Lamar Jackson and Josh Allen in several statistical categories. Yet, because the Bengals finished 9-8 and missed the playoffs, Burrow is barely in the MVP conversation.

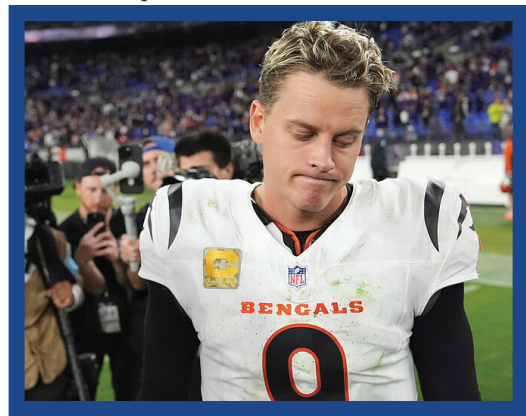
This dismissal feels misguided. Burrow's value to the Bengals is immense, even if the team's record doesn't reflect it. If a few moments had gone differently—such as a controversial defensive pass interference call against Kansas City in Week 2, or the defense making crucial stops in losses to Baltimore, Washington, and Pittsburgh—the Bengals could have been 13-4 and firmly in playoff contention. Would Burrow suddenly be deemed more “valuable” if these team-dependent factors had shifted?

The reality is that football is a team sport. A quarterback has no control over defensive stands, referee decisions, or special teams' execution. Yet, the MVP voting process unfairly penalizes players whose teams fail to meet arbitrary win totals, even when those players are performing at an elite level.

This dilemma is not new. The award frequently blurs the line between the “most valuable” and the “best player.” When Patrick Mahomes won MVP in 2018, it was a clear case of honoring the best player in the league. His 50-touchdown, 5,000-yard season was spectacular, and his Chiefs team was one of the NFL's best. Similarly, LaDainian Tomlinson in 2006 and Lamar Jackson in 2019 earned their awards by dominating statistically and

elevating their teams to the league's elite tier. Still, despite these winners clearly posting up incredible stats, proving themselves to fall into the “best player” category, their teams also had strong regular seasons.

But what about Peyton Manning in 2008 or Aaron Rodgers in 2014? In those cases, the award felt more like a testament to how essential these quarterbacks were to their teams' success. Without them, the Colts and Packers likely wouldn't have been playoff teams. These are examples, in my opinion, of MVP winners who embodied true “value” by making their average rosters competitive.



If the MVP award is supposed to recognize the most valuable player, then the current voting system needs to change. Record should matter less, and the emphasis should shift toward how much worse a team would be without that player. Joe Burrow's 2023 season is a perfect example: despite his team's struggles, his value to the Bengals was undeniable. Yet the MVP conversation will exclude him simply because his defense and special teams let him down too often. Football is unique in that 22 players perform 22 different roles. A quarterback can't play defense, block field goals, or influence penalties. To truly honor the most valuable player, voters need to account for this complexity and recognize contributions beyond a team's win-loss record. As fans, we should challenge ourselves to look beyond the surface when discussing the MVP race. By redefining what we mean by “value,” we can move closer to awarding the players who truly shape the game, not just the ones whose teams meet an arbitrary threshold of success. Only then will the MVP truly live up to its name.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Photo by Scarlett Nguyen, Jr.



GIRLS' GOLF

LEAGUE CHAMPS

00, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11
13, 14, 17, 18, 19

REGIONAL CHAMPS

00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 06, 07, 08
09, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19

STATE RUNNER UP

08, 17, 18

STATE CHAMPIONS

06, 07

FOOTBALL

LEAGUE CHAMPS

79, 82, 85, 93, 96, 8, 13, 14

DISTRICT CHAMPS

79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 91, 94, 98

99, 01, 08, 09, 13

DI DISTRICT CHAMPS

84, 91, 93, 95, 04, 08, 09

REGIONAL CHAMPS

84, 94, 01, 12

SUB STATE CHAMPS

04

STATE CHAMPIONS

04

BOYS' SOCCER

LEAGUE CHAMPS

02, 04, 05, 12, 15

REGIONAL CHAMPS

96, 98, 00, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06

07, 14, 15

FINAL FOUR

98, 02, 03, 06, 14, 15

STATE CHAMPIONS

03

VOLLEYBALL

LEAGUE CHAMPS

80, 82, 86, 91, 01, 07, 14, 16

18

REGIONAL CHAMPS

73

SUB STATE CHAMPS

84, 85, 97, 98, 99, 01, 04, 07

13, 17, 18, 19

NAL CHAMPS

STATE CHAMPIONS

GIRL

LEA

98, 06, 07,

REGIONAL

13, 14, 15,

STATE

13, 14, 15

TOR



The NCAA volleyball tournament is a single-elimination bracket with 64 teams. 31 teams got automatic selection into the tournament which was determined by a conference tournament occurring at the end of the regular season for select teams. The remaining 33 spots in the tournament are at-larges that are selected by the Division I Women's Volleyball Committee.

There are a total of 5 rounds in the tournament that occurred throughout the month of December. It started on December 5th where the first and second rounds were competed, finishing on December 7th. This brought the number of teams to 16.

Regionals occurred on December 12th–December 15th, bringing the total to 4 teams. Semifinals happened on December 19th, and the finals occurred on the 22nd. Both the semifinals and finals were in Louisville, Kentucky.

Stanford	3
Sacramento State	0
Washington	2
LMU	3
Florida	3
NC State	0
Kansas	3
Colgate	0
Purdue	3
Western Michigan	0
BYU	0
Loyola Chicago	3
UNI	3
Illinois	1
Chicago State	0
Louisville	3

Stanford
LMU

Florida
Kansas

Purdue
Loyola Chicago

UNI
Louisville

NCAA VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Pittsburgh 3
Morehead State 0

UTEP 2
Oklahoma 3

TCU 3
Hawaii 0

High Point 0
Oregon 3

Kentucky 3
Cleveland State 0

Western Ky. 1
Minnesota 3

Missouri 3
Texas State 0

Wichita State 0
SMU 3

Pittsburgh 3
Oklahoma 0

TCU 1
Oregon 3

Kentucky 3
Minnesota 1

Missouri 3
SMU 1

Penn State 3
Nebraska 2

Pittsburgh 3
Oregon 0

Pittsburgh 3
Kentucky 0

Kentucky 3
Missouri 1

Penn State 3
Marquette 1

Penn State 3
Creighton 2

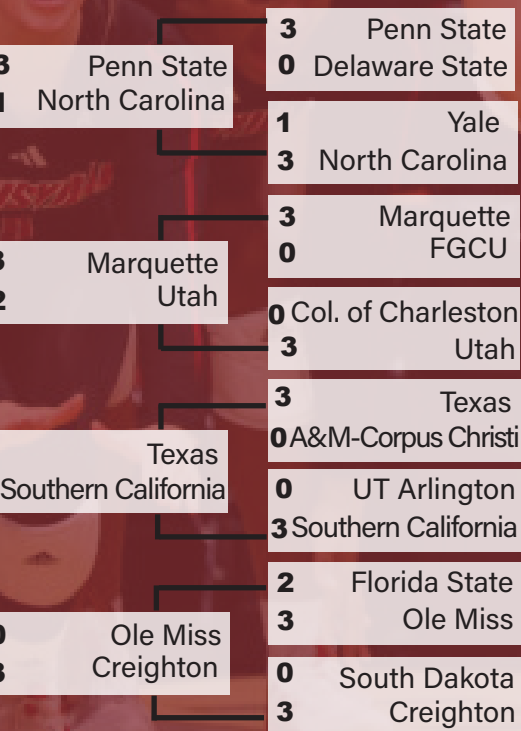
Texas 1
Creighton 3



Photos from Penn State, Texas, Pittsburghh, Creighton, and Nebraska

Photo from Just Women's Sports

Penn State is the 2024 NCAA D1 Volleyball Champion, winning 3 out of 4 sets played.



Last year the University of Texas won the NCAA D1 women's volleyball tournament. They are the reigning two time national champions, but going into NCAAAs this year they are ranked 13th. They played extremely well for most of the season as they won nine consecutive matches with good stats. They then lost 3 straight 5-set matches against Texas A&M, OU and Mizzou, however, they won their final regular season match.



POP CULTURE



Wicked: Something Bad or Popular



Olivia Doremus (12)
“I really liked it! I wasn’t expecting it to be as good as it was because some adaptations are iffy, but it was amazing and I’m definitely going to see part 2!”



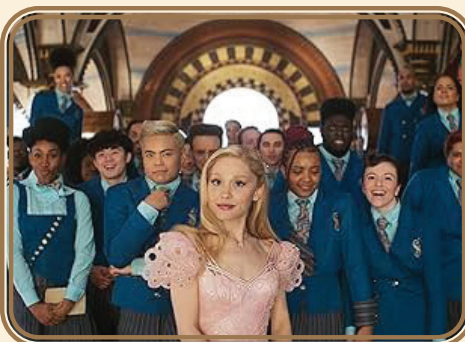
Kinsley Chacko (9)
“It was fine, but for the amount of money that was put into it and the fact that it was only one half, it was kinda underwhelming in my opinion. Ari and Cynthia were good, though.”



Rylee Schmidt-Stapleton (10)
“I hate Wicked. I could barely watch it as Sean Mansoor kept wrongly singing the lyrics during the 4 times we watched it together during opening week.”

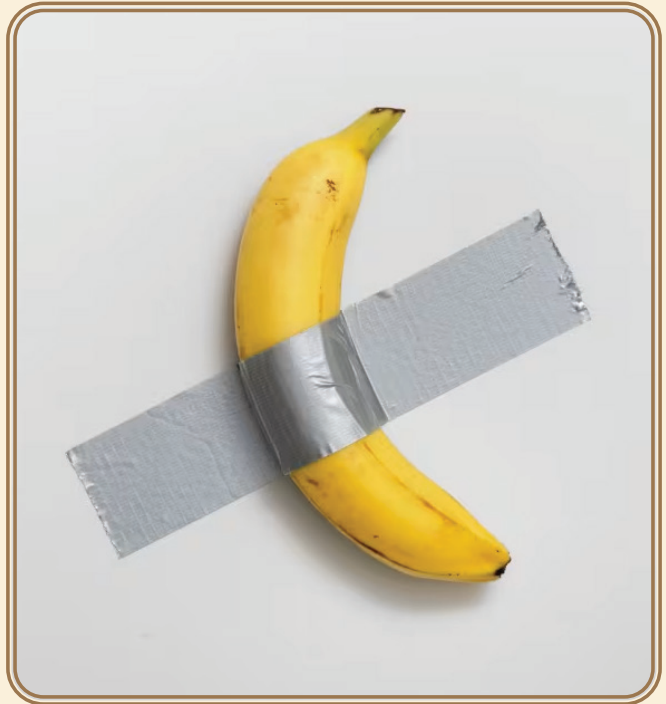


Emile Rivero (10)
“Best movie of the year, but I wish it didn’t end on a cliffhanger.”



Banana Boy

Justin Sun, founder of cryptocurrency TRON, purchased a piece of artwork. Shockingly, the art piece in question was a banana duct taped to a wall. The banana went for a whopping 6.2 million dollars. To the disdain of many online, Sun ate the coveted banana; he later moved to social media to brag about it. Most rational people are probably wondering how and why the banana went for that much. The sale took place via auction, so the fierce competition led to the value increase. Who's to say Sun's actions weren't a taunt to his competitors?



Photos acquired courtesy of GenAdmission.com, IMDB, Cosmopolitan, People.Com, KMBC, Vanity Fair, Wall Street Journal, NPR, and Sean Mansoor

Please Please Please

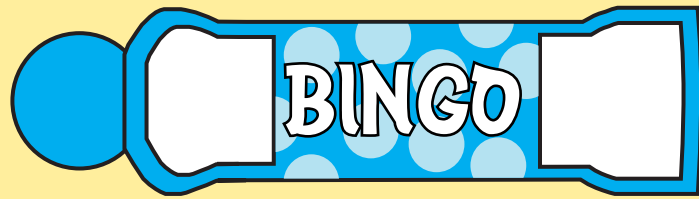
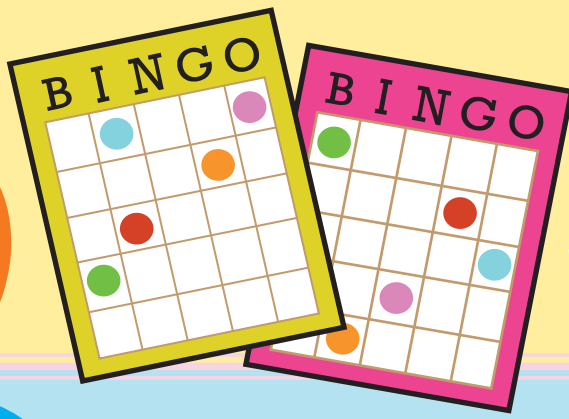
Sabrina Carpenter, the 25 year old singer, has been on the rise, becoming a household name. Over the past year, she dated 32 year old Barry Keoghan. In an unexpected twist, the couple has allegedly split up, and cheating allegations are being thrown toward Keoghan. Some sources claim they are still together while others say they broke it off for career reasons. Whatever the case is, it's impossible to miss the irony of Carpenter casting Keoghan in her music video "Please, Please, Please" in which she sings about taking a chance on Keoghan and hoping he doesn't embarrass her; unfortunately, it seems the song has come full circle.



Artist of the Year

On December 6, Billboard named Beyoncé the greatest pop star of the 21st century. This victory, arising at the same time as the Diddy controversy, has sparked a trend of "thanking Beyoncé" in order to stay safe.

20



Predicting The Future One



To start the year off with a bang, in the very first month of 2025, Barron Trump will announce that his New Year's resolution is to create his own suitcase brand. He will partner with Louis Vuitton to construct compact and portable suitcases for every occasion. Not only will they be versatile and beneficial, but they will also be stylish and appealing to the eye. The new suitcases will have everyone saying, "I like my suitcase!"

The Super Bowl will be an animal showdown as the Lions and Rams battle it out for the trophy in February. They will each bring a live mascot, fully trained, that will get its own box to watch the game. Kendrick Lamar, the halftime show performer, will begin his show by riding in on a ram, sending both crowds into a frenzy.



Throughout the month of March, TikTok fans and followers will watch as a charming young man heartbreakingly shifts from a Costco idol to a felon. The Rizzler will get arrested for fraud and stealing Double Chocolate Chunk Cookies from Costco in bulk. Drake will come to the Rizzler's offense, stand by his side in court, and finally announce a new album in his honor.

In April, a busy month for all students, Chat GPT will be taken to the next level when the first Robot arrives in the White House. Taking the job of a human, the robot will be named Titus and will be responsible for sorting through letters and writing in return to those who seek answers.



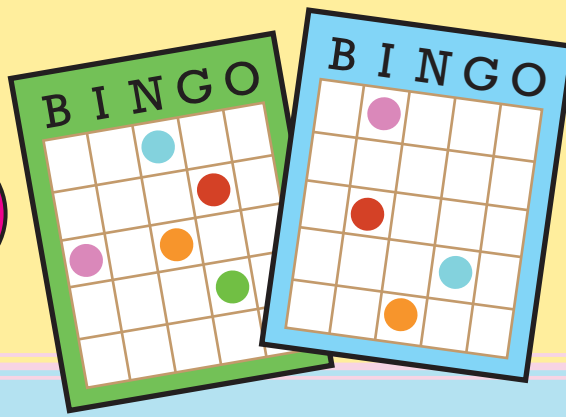
Throughout the month of May, exciting things will happen. Pitch Perfect 4 will be announced to the public and Anna Kendrick will post a picture with Taylor Swift hinting at the Reputation (Taylor's Version) release date. The Reunion will not have all cast members, but they will be excited for most to be back together again.

Sabrina Carpenter and Olivia Rodrigo will collaborate on a song that will hit the Billboard charts in June. They will confess that their beef was all a pyramid scheme, and the song will be about forgiveness after heartbreak. Also, Tom and Zendaya will get privately marry this month.



Jackpot At A Time!

CARD



25

7

July

While Americans watch their dazzling fireworks on July 4th, a suspicious rock will fall from the sky after being hit by a firework. Scientists will take it into the lab and at the end of the month will announce it was not just a rock. The discovery will be a tiny alien spaceship with three baby aliens inside. They will be harmless, but intriguing. The rest is fate.

Musical.ly will be rebooted in August, right in time for school to begin. Although the app was originally replaced by TikTok, both apps will thrive side by side from then on. The lip-syncing hotspot will be an overnight sensation once again. The celebrity lineup for Season 34 of Dancing With The Stars will be announced and Trisha Paytas, Jonathan Bailey, Alix Earle and more will prepare to put on their dancing shoes.

8

August

9

September

An entirely new Disneyland, located in Texas, will be announced in September. This giant project will be projected to be opened in 2027. Not only will this be great for Midwesterners to finally have their own Disney Park, but it will also conveniently be in the middle of the US, making it the most popular Disneyland yet as the years go on.

As the leaves change into fall, Fortnite will make a huge comeback in the month of October. Although the game never truly lost popularity, it will have a refreshed fanbase and will be more popular than ever as it collaborates with celebrities such as Mike Tyson, Ice Spice, and Glo Rilla.

10

October

11

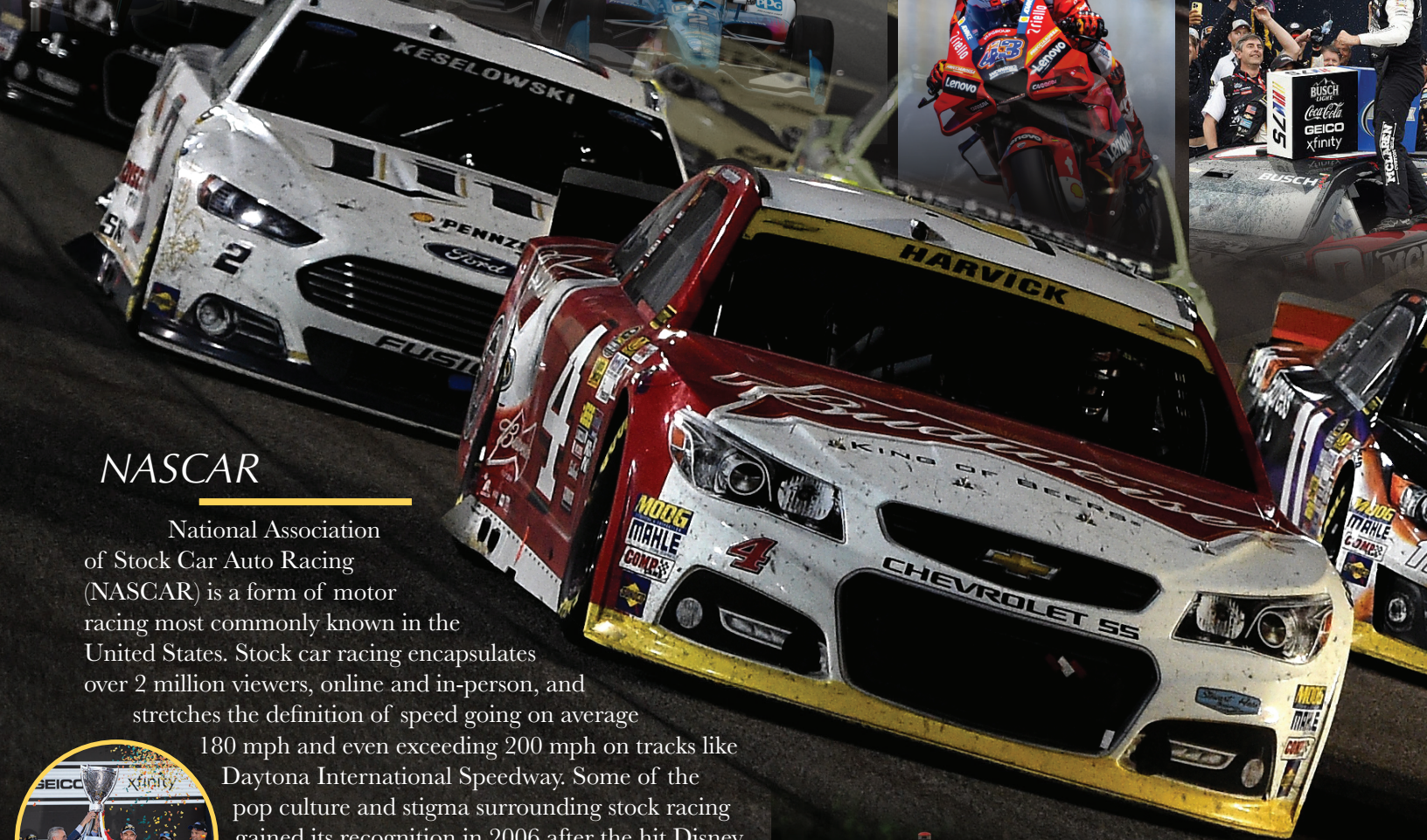
November

In November, Wicked (Part 2) will break the internet once again, but will have many strings attached. Ariana Grande will announce at the premiere that she is opening a donut company starting in NYC and LA (but hoping to expand nationwide.) Cynthia Erivo will be in the middle of constructing an album while Johnathan Bailey dances in the Dancing With The Stars Finale.

Finally, in the last month of the year, Travis Kelce will propose to Taylor Swift on her birthday, December 13th. The entire Kelce family will be there along with all of Taylor's friends. That same day, she will announce a new album, inspired by her love for Travis, that will be released on Valentine's Day of 2026.

12

December



NASCAR

National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) is a form of motor racing most commonly known in the United States. Stock car racing encapsulates over 2 million viewers, online and in-person, and stretches the definition of speed going on average

180 mph and even exceeding 200 mph on tracks like Daytona International Speedway. Some of the pop culture and stigma surrounding stock racing gained its recognition in 2006 after the hit Disney movie, Cars, highlighted NASCAR's Generation 4 stock cars. Gen4 stock cars were used for more than 30 years of racing and became the standard of the NASCAR Cup Series. The Cup Series is a part of three subsections of stock racing, being the highest level followed by the Xfinity Series and the Craftsman Truck Series.

Ford driver Joey Logano won the 2024 Cup Series Championship, his third total, with 5040 points, 4 Race Wins, and 7 Top Five Finishes. The winner of the final race and the 2024 Championship narrowed down to a 20 lap battle that ended in Logano upsetting the previous year's winner, Ryan Blaney, by merely 0.3 seconds.



FORMULA 1

Formula 1 (F1), an international form of motor racing, is the highest class of single seat, open wheel racing. The massive span of F1 races reaches the Australian Grand Prix, the Japanese Suzuka Circuit, and all the way to the iconic Great Britain Grand Prix—or commonly referred to as Silverstone. These expansive tracks are critical in what Formula 1 is known for, reeling in 1.2 million viewers on streaming services and on average 300,000 in attendance in the Grandstands. A pivotal part of F1 racing is the competition itself, with 10 teams and 20 drivers, the level is extreme reaching on average 200 mph with an all time high of 246.91mph. Historical drivers like Ayrton Senna or Micheal Shumacher have set the standard for racing while current



drivers such as Lewis Hamilton continue to astound viewers with his 7 World Drivers Championships.

This 2024 season was remarkable with Oracle Red Bull Driver and season winner Max Verstappen winning the championship with 437 points. Verstappen had nine pole positions and 14 podiums to complete his career's fourth World Drivers Championship.

INDYCAR

Stationed in North America, Indycar is the highest level of open-wheel car racing on the continent. The Indycar season starts off at the premier Indianapolis 500, which was first held in 1911. In fact, it wasn't always known as IndyCar. Historically, Tony George created the Indy Racing

League in 1996 in competition with Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART) in order to build his own motorsport. In consequence, both organizations declined in popularity eventually calling for the merger of both motorsports in 2008 into what is called today, Indycar. The popularity has increased since then with over one million viewers per race. The Indycar itself reaches up to 236 mph going on average 170 mph allowing for intense racing and unlimited competition.

Driving for Chip Ganassi Racing, Álex Palou won 2024's Driver Championship with a total of 533 points, winning three races and placing top five in 14 out of the 18 races. Palau surpassed the runner up by a total of 31 points to successfully achieve his third overall championship.



MOTOGP

MotoGP, Grand Prix Motorcycle Racing, is an international motorsport and the highest level of motorcycle road racing. MotoGP reels in nearly three million viewers across all platforms, crossing over 18 countries and 5 continents. The motorcycle itself accelerates from 0-60 mph in less than three seconds, reaching speeds exceeding 220 mph.

In 1949, the first race took place with a race speed average of only 84.922 mph, the highest speed recorded being 139.887 mph. The race was held in the Isle of Man and declared Harold Daniell the winner of the very first MotoGP race. Over 50 years later in 2001, Italian Valentino Rossi would win his first of 9 Grand Prix World Champions, the most out of any racer in MotoGP history.

Driving for Aprilia Racing, Jorge Martin was declared the winner of the 2024 season, accumulating a total of 508 points. Throughout the season, he won 3 three races and was on the podium a record-breaking 16 times.



Photos Courtesy of Patrick Smith, John Locher, Butch Dill, Robert Laberge, Racecare Engineering, Chevy Racing and Motorsports, Motorsports, Mark Humphrey, Road Trips, Red Bull Content Pool, Driven, Joe Rivera, Amanda Perobelli, Topgolf Thailand, KTM, Autosport, Gold and Goose, and Circuit of Americas

MOTORSPORTS

ONE ACTS

Kansas Thespian Festival

One Acts are a long held tradition during the wintertime at AHS. This year, auditions were held on December 3rd and 4th for spots in the four one acts being directed this winter. Seniors: Morgan Cavanaugh, Gabby Walker, Jason Denning and Vio Vequist are each directing a one act this year, working hard this winter to produce shows. The one acts will premiere on January 18th in the auditorium.

An Absolutely True Story (As Told by a Bunch of Lying Liars), written by Ian McWethy and directed by Vio Vequist, details the tumultuous story of a suspenseful crime. Several suspects that are involved share their accounts of what really happened. Eventually, the surprising truth reveals itself.

Directed by Gabby Walker, *Country-Ella* written by Wes Cannon is a country spin on the classic Cinderella tale. Ella visits her uncle, evil cousins and stepmother in the country. She is visited by a godmother who lets her visit the Hoedown. She gets to find out what it's like to be a real country girl.

One Act photos by Sean Mansoor
KTF photos taken by Mrs. Upton-Tyner



How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery, written by Don Zolidis and directed by Morgan Cavanaugh, features suspects in a murder who go through different scenarios, taking turns killing a victim. Meanwhile, the narrators explain different ways to get away with the murder, but in the end, no one gets away with it

Written by Aaron Weatherbie and directed by Jason Denning, *Another Puppet* tells the story of Gepetto and his puppets before Pinocchio. Gepetto conceives an idea for Pinocchio, and it is sent to his niece's house.

AHS acting is impacting! AHS theatre students and teachers traveled to Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Wichita to participate in the Kansas Thespian Festival. KTF took place on January 9th-11th and was open to theatre students, teachers, guest artists and colleges to attend. Based on information from Kansas Thespians in 2023, more than 1600 students were projected to attend with 40 colleges present as well. Over 50 workshops from national presenters, local artists, teachers, and professors were available at the festival.

Students at AHS participated in individual events to qualify for the International Thespian Festival held in June. AHS brought 8 IEs. 7 of them received excellent ratings. Senior Jason Denning qualified for nationals with a superior rating. Additionally, the Thespian Troupe was awarded Gold Troupe status because of its productions, community service, and student participation.

Senior Morgan Cavanaugh stated, "This was my first time attending, and I'm sad that I had not taken this opportunity sooner. It was a great way to experience live theatre."

All in all, AHS Theatre represented Andover well and look forward to attending KTFnext year.



How To Stay Committed

According to CBS news, only about 25% of people actually stay committed to their New Years resolutions. After only 30 days, less than 10% accomplish their goals. Meeting your new years resolution, whether it's a goal or a lifestyle change can improve happiness and boost feelings of self efficiency. Staying committed can be hard, especially through the cold winter months which can be stressful and mentally draining; however, the results can be worth it. Firstly, goals should be reachable. There are two types of goals: long term and short term. Short term goals can be accomplished in the time span from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, while longer term goals can take years. When making long terms goals, check points should be put in place to keep motivation and to make the process easier. Making an unobtainable goal can consequence in frustration and a sense of failure. It's okay to set smaller goals and take it slow. Go easy and be kind to yourself. Once you set your goal you're already half way there!

New Years Resolutions

19%

To eat healthier

9%

People who keep their resolution through the year

14%

To Spend More Time With Family/Friends

17%

Exercise More

43%

Don't make a resolution

21%

Save More Money



GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

USD385:

Andover/Wichita Community:

FOOD DRIVES

Andover High School holds food drives every year. Students can contribute by bringing in canned food, hygiene products, and more. Each class sets a goal for the amount of food they will bring in, and if that goal is met, they are rewarded with things such as freedays, extra credit and other prizes.

LIGHT THE NIGHT

Light the night, an event hosted by Andover National Honors Society, will be held March 1st. This year, the main event of the night is a 5k "glow" run- where all participants are encouraged to dress in a neon or glow-in-the-dark attire The 5k has a \$25 admission fee, which includes a t-shirt, glow sticks, cookie, and coupons. In addition, raffles from businesses in the area will be available to be won. All proceeds raised by this event will go to the leukemia society.

GIVE BACK NIGHTS

Sports and clubs hold give back nights partnering with companies such as Freddy's, Chipotle, Kendra Scott and more, to raise money for school activities.

BLOOD DRIVE

Every year Andover High holds two separate blood drives. One held by STUCO, the other held by NHS. Each one is an opportunity for students who meet the requirements to get their blood drawn for people who need it.

HUMANE SOCIETY

The Kansas Humane Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the well-being of animals in the Wichita area. The society provides many services including adoption, medical care, spay/neuter programs, and even educational programs to promote responsible pet ownership and humane treatment of animals. With the help of their staff and volunteers, the Kansas Humane Society aims to give each pet a second chance at life and an opportunity to have a happy home.

NURSING HOMES

Visiting nursing homes can be very rewarding for both the visitor and the residents. During the holidays many residents do not have family members to come and visit them. They rely on Christmas carolers and nurses for company. By visiting nursing homes, it gives a chance to offer support and love to elderly people who might feel lonely. Talking, playing games, or even just sharing a smile can brighten their day.

FOOD BANKS

The Andover and Wichita food banks play a important role in supporting the local community of families in need. They collect food donations from all kinds of sources, including local businesses, grocery stores, and community members. Then, they give this food to families and individuals who need it. The food bank also teaches people about good nutrition and healthy eating. With the help of volunteers and donors, they work hard to make sure no one in the community goes hungry.

Jellycat Dreaming

Jellycat, a stuffed animal brand with a large variety of animals and characters, has become the newest cuddly craze. The plush toys are not only adorable, fluffy and customizable, but they are a perfect multigenerational gift to give someone for any occasion. They have gained significant popularity within the last few years through their tasteful marketing on social media, but have been an established brand since 1999. Founded by brothers who wanted to spread joy, Jellycat wasn't an overnight sensation and took many years to grow. Their headquarters, located in London, UK, now ships countless Jellycats worldwide to meet millions of friends. With stores in over 77 countries today, it is easy to see that the joyful company has grown significantly over time.

These plushies, no matter how beloved, do have a flaw: Jellycats are expensive and hard to find due to the selective stores they can be sold in. This has caused them to recently become a controversial purchase. Is the cost worth it for a stuffed animal? What is the hype about? I guess you will have to buy one and decide that for yourself.



As a result of the recent influx of buyers, the Jellycat Diner was born in New York City in 2023. The experience consists of choosing your imaginary meal, which is actually food in fluffy jellycat form. Visitors can have their meals "cooked" or "grilled" and then wrapped in a to-go bag.

