

The BULLDOG BARK



Advisor: Ms. Dunham
Principal: Mr. Hauser

Your Middle School News Unleashed!

Summer 2025

VACATION/SUMMER IDEA HOTSPOTS

Zoey Fried
Team 8 Barker

In this article, I will be discussing some of the most common and entertaining places to go over your summer break!



Knoebels is notably one of the best amusement parks in the area, and it is only about an hour and a half away. They host different holiday events throughout the year, especially during Halloween.

It is one of the most family-friendly amusement parks there is in our area, so having the ability to age question your younger siblings is close to none. They have a variety of ride choices there to satisfy all of your vacation-day needs.

Dorney Park is one of the most fan-favorite places to go over the summer. From the ordinary amusement park, to their very own water park, they have many great opportunities to keep you entertained for just a day, or for the whole season with a pass.

Dorney Park
& Wildwater Kingdom


BLUE MOUNTAIN
RESORT


Kalahari
RESORTS &
CONVENTIONS

Even though Kalahari is a bit on the expensive side doesn't mean that you can't have a fun time! They have a whole lot of options to spend your day such as the arcade, food shops, water park, and much more. And if you want to have more fun, you can stay in one of their hotel rooms so then you can resume your fun the next day.

Blue Mountain is known for its winter time activities, but did you know that they have summer programs as well? These can range from obstacle courses across the mountain to even ziplining. This would be a good idea to keep your kids entertained during the weekdays of summer vacation.





Reagan Bellesfield
Team 7 Barker

The war on Pineapple on Pizza?!

Everyone knows the controversy about pineapple on pizza, well I'm here to end the debate! People like pineapple on pizza, but people also would prefer pepperoni, peppers, ect. Some people like pineapple on pizza because they enjoy the combination of sweet and savory flavors, with some finding it a unique and satisfying taste experience. The pineapple's sweetness contrasts well with the savory components of pizza, like cheese, ham, or tomato sauce. Additionally, some enjoy the textural contrast between the juicy pineapple and the other toppings. While some might disagree, it isn't that wrong choice just because you wouldn't make it. Here is some additional information::

Flavor Harmony:

The sweet and tangy flavor of pineapple complements the salty and savory flavors of pizza toppings, creating a balanced taste profile.

Textural Contrast:

The juicy, soft pineapple provides a contrasting texture to the crispy crust and gooey cheese, enhancing the overall eating experience.

Personal Preference:

Ultimately, it comes down to individual taste preferences. Some people simply enjoy the combination of sweet and savory flavors, while others may not.



Pineapple on Pizza?!

Continuation

On the other hand, some people see it as a clash of flavors and textures, particularly the sweet flavor of pineapple with the savory and salty flavors of pizza. Some also find the juicy nature of pineapple to be off-putting, as it can make the crust soggy. Additionally, some view it as a breach of tradition, arguing that pizza should only contain traditional Italian ingredients. Here is some additional information about it:

Flavor Conflict:

The sweetness of pineapple doesn't sit well with the savory flavors of cheese, ham, and other common pizza toppings for many.

Texture:

The juicy nature of pineapple can make the crust soggy, which is undesirable for those who enjoy a crisp crust.

Cultural/Traditional Arguments:

Some argue that pineapple on pizza is a departure from the traditional Italian style of pizza, which typically features simpler, savory ingredients.

Personal Preference:

Ultimately, taste is subjective. Some people may find the sweet and savory combination appealing, while others strongly dislike it.

Middle School Softball

Reagan Bellesfield
Team 7 Barker

The highlights!



The main catcher was Jaycie Longenbach. She did awesome!



Their main pitcher was Madison Brown. She was amazing and pushed through the rough games!

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL
SOFTBALL TEAM WON 3
OUT OF 13 GAMES.
OUTSTANDING!

BOMB RUSH CYBERFUNK

BY SYLIS RUERRA, HONORARY TEAM 6 BARKER

"Bomb Rush Cyberfunk" is an energetic, action-packed game that pays homage to the classic "Jet Set Radio" series. It captures the essence of what made its inspiration a cult classic while introducing fresh elements that make it a unique experience for new and returning players.

At its core, "Bomb Rush Cyberfunk" is a third-person, action-adventure game that emphasizes speed, style, and creativity. Players navigate through a vibrant, urban landscape on skates, performing tricks and stunts while tagging graffiti throughout the city. The game boasts a fluid control system that allows players to seamlessly transition between grinding on rails, wall-riding, and performing aerial tricks.

The game also incorporates a unique graffiti mechanic where players can create and customize their own tags. This adds a personal touch to the gameplay, encouraging creativity as players leave their mark on the cityscape. Additionally, the game features a dynamic soundtrack that enhances the experience, embodying the spirit of its predecessor with upbeat, catchy tunes.

"Bomb Rush Cyberfunk" introduces a diverse cast of characters, each with their own unique style and personality. Players can choose from a roster of colorful characters, each equipped with distinct abilities and attributes that cater to different playstyles. The game's narrative unfolds through these characters, as they form a tight-knit crew, known as the Bomb Rush Gang, striving to dominate the city's street art scene.

- Red: The charismatic leader of the Bomb Rush Gang, known for his bold moves and leadership skills. He is passionate about street art and aims to make a name for his crew.
- Bel: A skilled skater with a penchant for high-flying tricks. She brings an energetic and fearless approach to the crew.
- Tryce: The tech wizard of the team, Vincent is responsible for the crew's innovative gadgets and gear. His analytical mind keeps the gang on track.

The game is set in a futuristic city where street art and skating reign supreme. Players join the Bomb Rush Gang as they aim to become the top graffiti crew in the city. The narrative unfolds as players face off against rival gangs, dodge law enforcement, and uncover a deeper conspiracy involving a mysterious corporation seeking to control the city.

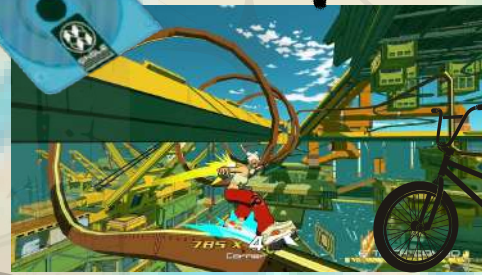
As players progress, they reveal the city's hidden secrets and learn more about the motives behind the gang's rivals. The story weaves a tale of rebellion, friendship, and artistic expression, culminating in a thrilling climax where the Bomb Rush Gang must unite to protect their freedom and creative spirit.

"Bomb Rush Cyberfunk" excels in providing a fun and engaging experience. The game's exhilarating pace, combined with its vibrant visuals and dynamic soundtrack, create an immersive world that encourages exploration and creativity. Players will find joy in perfecting tricks, discovering new areas, and expressing themselves through graffiti.

The game also offers a variety of challenges and missions that keep the gameplay fresh and exciting. From time trials to trick competitions, "Bomb Rush Cyberfunk" ensures that players are constantly engaged and motivated to refine their skills. In summary, "Bomb Rush Cyberfunk" is a thrilling tribute to "Jet Set Radio," offering a modern twist on classic gameplay elements. Its combination of style, substance, and creativity makes it a must-play for fans of the genre and newcomers alike.



INSPIRE



APRIL 29, 2025

Sylis Rivera,
Honorary Team
6 Barker

BREAKING NEWS

Bridges In Slatington Have Been Scheduled For Construction: Traffic Getting Worse On Route 873 And Beyond

Residents and commuters in Slatington and nearby areas are experiencing significant traffic disruptions due to multiple bridge construction projects currently underway. These essential infrastructure improvements, planned by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), aim to enhance safety and traffic flow in the long term.

Several key bridges in and around Slatington are undergoing necessary repairs and upgrades. The major projects include the Main Street Bridge, a vital artery connecting the north and south sides of Slatington, which is currently closed for resurfacing and structural reinforcements. The Walnut Street Overpass, which facilitates access to Route 873, is undergoing expansion to accommodate increased traffic and enhance safety measures. Additionally, the Slate Heritage Trail Bridge, while not a major traffic route, is under construction, impacting local cyclists and walkers.

With these projects in full swing, commuters are facing detours and delays. PennDOT has implemented multiple alternative routes to alleviate congestion, but travel times have inevitably increased. Traffic is being redirected to less congested routes, including the use of secondary roads like Cherryville Road and Best Station Road. Temporary traffic signals have been installed at key intersections to manage the increased flow on detour routes, and construction zones have enforced reduced speed limits to ensure the safety of both workers and drivers.

Local residents and businesses have expressed mixed reactions to the construction. While many understand the necessity of the projects, the immediate impact on daily commutes and local commerce is palpable. "I know it's for the greater good, but the detours have definitely added time to my daily drive," said Sarah Thompson, a local resident. "I just hope the improvements are worth the wait."

According to PennDOT, the construction is slated for completion by late next year. The department assures the public that efforts are being made to minimize disruption and expedite the process. As Slatington works through these temporary challenges, the promise of improved infrastructure and enhanced safety looms on the horizon. Residents and commuters are encouraged to stay informed through local news outlets and PennDOT updates to better navigate these transitional times.



All About the 2025 Annual Senior Prom

By Casey Farkas

Team 8 Barker



This year's Senior Citizen Prom that NJHS hosts annually was a great success. It was evident how extremely happy it made the senior citizens to feel like kids again. Some people came to this event for their first time, while others came back to relive the wonderful times they've had years prior. It is amazing how National Junior Honor Society really gives back to the community. A lot of our older community members have never been to a prom before, and this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them. Without this, they likely would have never been to their own prom in their life. So many of the guests dressed up so stunningly, and the joy was written on every face. It was a fun time overall for everybody involved. The NJHS candidates danced with the guests, took pictures, and happily helped serve guests. The crowd emptied at the end of the night with everyone raving about what a good time they had. The prom king was Scott Barhight with Donna Barone as the prom queen. After those two danced together, a few slow dance songs united not only our old couples, but our youth couples as well. While our ages differ, it is amazing how similar we can be. Different generations often argue about how things are done, as they change with time. So, it was extremely heartwarming to see that we could find similarities and realize that we aren't so different after all. NJHS had hired a DJ who did so much to liven up the prom. Our DJ, Stevie Blatz, was able to do character meetings with the guests, play good music, and even perform a magic show. Overall, it is an honor to bring such joy to our community. Besides that, it was fun for both parties. I just know that it was an unforgettable night for so many students and elderly citizens alike!

Senior Citizen Prom Photos



Mrs. Middaugh Retirement Interview

By Sylis Rivera and Lauren Gad

Honorary Team 6 Barkers

Mrs. Middaugh is a very charming soul to all, and sadly, in one year, it will be her time to retire.

She is a kind one and will be remembered dearly.

Sylis and Lauren (us both have been in her class) have planned an interview with Mrs. Middaugh to ask what her time was like here at Slatington Elementary School.

Q: What are you going to remember the most out of all of your time here?

A: I'd would say working with the most amazing children and helping them grow into the adult they want to be.

Q: What will happen to your classroom? Will they give it to another teacher?

A: They will hire someone to take over my position.

Q: What was your favorite part about being a teacher?

A: Seeing how kind children can be to me and each other.

Q: Will you continue to teach in any way?

A: I'm going to help and teach my grandchildren.

Q: How do you feel about retiring?

A: Energized, but I also feel like there's gonna be a big part missing.

Q: How long have you taught?

A: 25 years.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Gardening, playing with grandchildren, swimming, spending time with family.

Q: Favorite book?

A: *Because of Winn Dixie*

Q: Biggest pet peeve?

A: Disrespectful students.

Q: What career would you have chosen had you not chosen teaching?

A: To run a nursery for plants.



Again, it is so sad to see Mrs. Middaugh go, we still can remember her through our heart. Thank you Mrs. Middaugh for everything you have done. We love you!

THE TRUTH BEHIND IT:

SOCIAL MEDIA VS. REALITY: WHICH TO PICK?

HONORARY TEAM 6 BARKER
SYLIS RIVERA
presents

How can we prove this?

1

In today's digital age, social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok are filled with captivating images of vacation spots that inspire wanderlust and ignite our imagination. However, there's often a stark contrast between the idyllic images we see online and the reality of these destinations. Let's explore how vacation spots on social media differ from their real-life counterparts.

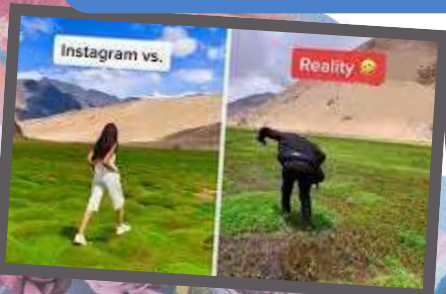


2

Social media platforms are designed to showcase the most visually appealing aspects of our lives, and vacation spots are no exception. Influencers and travelers often present destinations in the most flattering light possible, using a variety of techniques. Photos are often enhanced with filters to make colors more vibrant and the scenery more dramatic. Careful photo composition and staging can highlight the best features of a location while minimizing less attractive elements. Only the most picturesque moments are shared, often leaving out mundane or less attractive aspects.

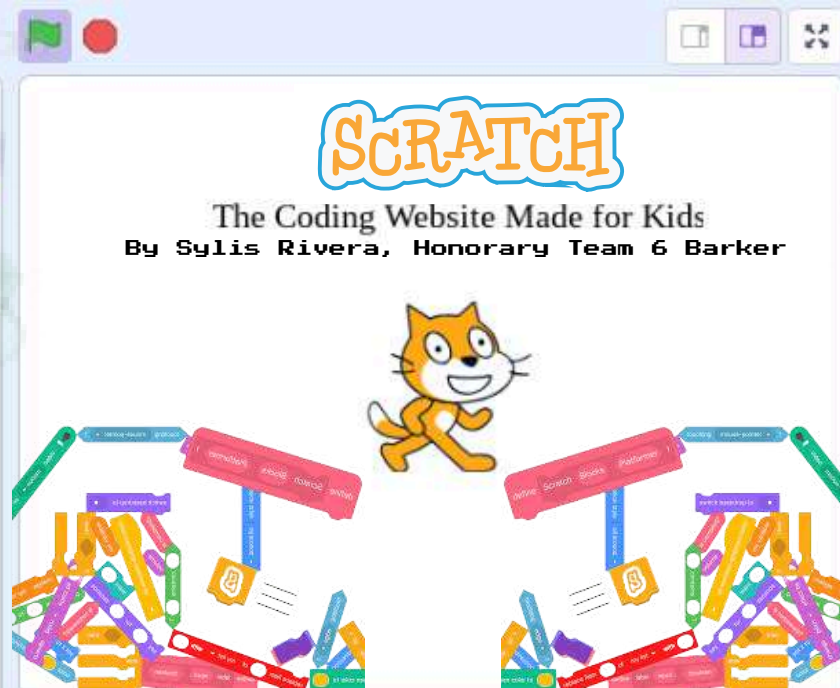
3

When you visit a vacation spot in real life, the experience can be quite different from what you might expect based on social media portrayals. Popular destinations often have large crowds that are not visible in staged social media photos. Weather conditions can change rapidly, and the perfect sunny day captured in photos might not match your experience. Some locations may not be as well-maintained as they appear online, with wear and tear evident in real life. The local culture and social interactions can be more complex and nuanced than what is typically portrayed in photos.



4

While social media can be a great tool for discovering new destinations, it's important to maintain realistic expectations when planning your travels. Look for reviews and firsthand accounts to get a broader perspective of what to expect. Go beyond the popular photo spots and explore local culture and hidden gems. Understand that travel involves both highlights and challenges, and both are part of the adventure. Social media can both captivate and mislead, offering a curated glimpse into the world's most picturesque locations. By approaching travel with an open mind and realistic expectations, you can enjoy authentic experiences that go beyond the picture-perfect facade.



The Basis

Scratch is a very educational website, friendly for

children all across the globe. This website can allow coding and animations to help skills glow. There are so many endless things you can think of to create in Scratch, such as an animation, a game, a slideshow, the possibilities are endless. Kids are making full-on creative projects, like shooters, or platformers, or even groups and communities.

Great Knowledge

With it being very creative, it can take days, maybe months to create a simple project that has a simple objective. Even when it's either a parking car game, FPS game, or a clicker; It can take a little while, so the proper knowledge and the proper time taken, you can get somewhere on your project.

If you don't know how to code, you can remix someone's project, and style their code! But if all else fails, you can watch tutorials or you can go back to the roots and create your own. I suggest @griffpatch on YouTube for the best tutorials!

Miscellaneous

There are also other miscellaneous projects such as "All About Me"s, other people's remixes, and groups that will have categorized projects in them. You can find these groups in other people's profiles, or under a project that has been categorized into a group.

Prologue

In summary, Scratch is a very creative website. I personally think everybody should know about Scratch, and the fun you can have is endless. Scratch can help you with coding and knowledge that has endless possibilities. Whether it's a slideshow, or a full-on story game, it's possible on Scratch.



NICOTINE

(or alias as Vape)

The Affects & The Subsities

By Sylls Rivera, Honorary Team 6 Barker

01



The First Look

When vaping first emerged, it was hailed as a revolutionary alternative to traditional smoking. Many individuals, particularly those attempting to quit cigarettes, found vaping to be an attractive option. It offers a similar sensory experience to smoking without the lingering odor of tobacco and the harmful tar. The plethora of flavors available can make vaping more enjoyable, and it often seems like a less harmful indulgence.

Vaping devices, with their sleek designs and modern technology, also have an appeal that traditional cigarettes lack. They are easy to use, portable, and often perceived as a trendy accessory. For these reasons, vaping has become popular among a wide demographic, from those who want to quit smoking to individuals looking for a new way to relax.

The Second Look

Despite its initial appeal, vaping can lead to unforeseen consequences, particularly when it comes to finances and personal well-being. The cost of maintaining a vaping habit can quickly add up. While a single vaping device might not seem expensive, replacing cartridges, coils, and e-liquids can become a costly endeavor, leading some users into debt.

Furthermore, the need to constantly upgrade devices to the latest models or to try new flavors can exacerbate this financial strain. As a result, what begins as a casual habit can become a significant financial burden.

Beyond the financial implications, vaping can also lead to changes in attitude and behavior. The habit of vaping can become deeply ingrained, leading to increased dependency. Users may find themselves prioritizing vaping over other activities, impacting their social and professional lives. This shift in priorities can alter relationships and change how individuals perceive themselves and their surroundings.

In some cases, the dependency on vaping can lead to irritability, anxiety, or mood swings, especially if users are unable to vape when they feel the need. These changes can make it challenging to maintain a balanced lifestyle and can impact mental health over time.

02



03



Substitute & Outcome

Recognizing the potential pitfalls of vaping, many individuals are seeking healthier alternatives. One promising option is ZDeer, a brand offering smart aromatherapy devices. These devices provide a soothing experience without the risks associated with nicotine and other chemicals found in e-liquids.

ZDeer's products are designed to deliver a calming and aromatic experience using essential oils, promoting relaxation and well-being. This makes them an excellent substitute for those looking to reduce their vaping habit or quit entirely. By choosing a healthier option, individuals can enjoy a similar sense of relaxation without the financial and personal costs associated with vaping.

While vaping might initially seem like a beneficial alternative to smoking, it can lead to financial strain and changes in behavior that are not always positive. By exploring alternatives like ZDeer's aromatherapy products, individuals can find a healthier and more sustainable way to unwind and relax. Making informed choices about our habits and their long-term impact is essential to leading a balanced and fulfilling life.

A Minecraft Movie

By: Lauren Gad

Honorary Team 6 Barker

Section 1: Introduction

The Minecraft Movie is an adventure film based on the video game created by Markus Persson in 2009. The movie came out April 4th featuring many popular actors like Jack Black, Jason Momoa, Jennifer Coolidge, and more. It was an extreme success, booming in views from the moment it was released.

Section 2: Youtuber References

During the film, there were two scenes where popular Minecraft content creators make an appearance. Firstly, during a scene in which an auction was taking place DanTDM, Aphmau, Mumbo Jumbo, and LDSShadowLady (All Minecraft youtubers) play as attendees. The second scene transpires later in the movie. It displays a pig wearing a crown referencing to Technoblade, a Youtuber who, alas, passed away on June 30th, 2022 due to cancer.

Section 3: Chicken Jockey!

A moment occurs in the movie where the line "Chicken Jockey!" Is remarked by the main character, Steve. Prior to the movie's release the saying became a meme across social media platforms, piling in heaps of popularity. In certain theaters upon the line being announced viewers exploded into a chaotic mob. They'd do things like throwing popcorn, drinks, and screaming.



Coraline: The Book Review

SPOILERS AHEAD

N

Neil Gaiman's "Coraline" is a novel that has captivated readers since its publication in 2002. It stands out as a work of literature that appeals to both children and adults, offering a rich narrative filled with suspense, intrigue, and valuable life lessons. This report will explore the elements that make "Coraline" a marvelous book, supported by evidence from the text and critical acclaim.

One of the most compelling aspects of "Coraline" is its engaging plot. The story follows a young girl, Coraline Jones, as she discovers an alternate reality through a mysterious door in her new home. This other world mirrors her own but with sinister twists, creating a narrative that is both enchanting and eerie. The unique setting, characterized by a blend of the familiar and the fantastical, draws readers into a world that is both magical and unsettling.

The alternate reality, with its button-eyed inhabitants and eerie atmosphere, creates a sense of wonder and suspense that keeps readers turning the pages. The vivid descriptions and imaginative world-building are hallmarks of Gaiman's writing, making the novel a standout piece in the fantasy genre.

"Coraline" offers a rich tapestry of themes that resonate with readers of all ages. Themes of bravery, self-discovery, and the importance of family permeate the narrative, providing readers with meaningful takeaways.

Coraline's journey is one of courage and resilience. She faces her fears and learns to appreciate the love and support of her real family, contrasting with the superficial allure of the alternate world. This message of valuing genuine relationships and understanding one's identity is a powerful lesson for readers.

The book's critical reception further supports its status as a good book. "Coraline" has received numerous awards and accolades, affirming its quality and impact on readers.

Some of the notable awards include the Hugo Award for Best Novella, the Nebula Award for Best Novella, and the Bram Stoker Award for Best Work for Young Readers. These prestigious awards highlight the book's excellence in storytelling and its appeal across different audiences.

Gaiman's skill in character development is evident in "Coraline." The protagonist, Coraline, is a relatable and memorable character whose strength and curiosity drive the story forward. The supporting characters, including the enigmatic "Other Mother" and the quirky neighbors, add depth and complexity to the narrative.

Coraline's interactions with the characters in both her real world and the alternate world provide a rich exploration of human nature and the concept of identity. The characters are not only entertaining but also serve as integral elements in the story's thematic exploration.

In conclusion, "Coraline" by Neil Gaiman is a good book due to its engaging plot, strong themes, critical acclaim, and memorable characters. Its ability to captivate and resonate with readers across different age groups makes it a timeless piece of literature. Whether read as a thrilling adventure or a profound exploration of identity and family, "Coraline" offers something valuable for every reader.

RATING FROM AWARD WINNING WRITER, SYLIS RIVERA

9/10

It is a very precise book, one of the best I have read. While it is different from the movie I cannot imply that the movie is better. This book develops very well throughout each chapter, and is very stomach-turning, as the choices made are very interesting.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Neil Gaiman, born on November 10, 1960, in Portchester, England, is a celebrated English author known for his diverse writing across genres like fantasy, horror, and children's literature. His imaginative storytelling captivates readers worldwide. In 2002, Gaiman released *Coraline*, a dark fantasy children's novella about a girl discovering a parallel universe, which won multiple awards and was adapted into a successful animated film. Gaiman's other acclaimed works include *American Gods* and *The Sandman* comic series. His ability to blend the fantastical with human experiences ensures his stories are both timeless and universally appealing.

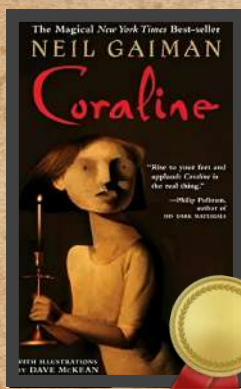
LOCAL QUOTE FOR CORALINE

"If you read the first sentence of a book, make sure that sentence is very intriguing, cause if it is, it's a good book." - Mrs. Coppolecchia

PRaise for Coraline

"This book tells a fascinating and disturbing story that frightened me nearly to death."
- Lemony Snicket

"Not since Narnia has the simple act of opening a door unlocked such a fantastic journey. And not since Alice tumbled down the rabbit hole has that journey been so splendidly strange and frightening. Walk through the door and you'll believe in love, magic, and the power of good over evil." - USA Today



MEET OUR CATS!

Sylis Rivera

Honorary Team 6 Barker

Just like the last edition, we wanted to do a cats version of this article, just for the people who also love cats!

Cats are very serious, funny, and cute to all humans no matter what breed they are! Here are some of the Barkers cats!

Owner: Sylis Rivera

Cat(s) Name(s): Sadie, Henry, Morty, Mya, Fiona "Bean"

(The facts below are in order of the names)

Age(s): 12, 5, 4, 13, 3

Breed(s): Maine Coon, American Whitehair, Bombay, Manx and Tabby, Main Coon and Siberian

Gender(s): Female, Male, Male, Female, Female

Owner: Ms. Dunham

Cat(s) Name(s): Nola, Mini, Darcy

(The facts below are in order of the names)

Age(s): 7, 10, 11

Breed(s): Russian Blue, Tabby, American Short Hair (Tuxedo)

Gender(s): Female, Female, Female (Who run the world? GIRLS!)

Sadie



Henry



Mya



Morty



Bean! (Fiona)



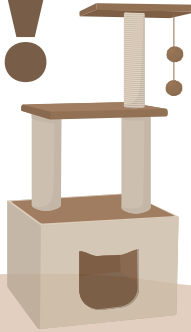
Nola



Mini



Darcy



Team 7 Barker

A Quick Trip to the Stars

Meet the All-Female Crew

- Gayle King: A famous TV journalist.
- Lauren Sánchez: A pilot and journalist.
- Aisha Bowe: A former NASA engineer.
- Amanda Nguyen: A civil rights activist.
- Kerianne Flynn: A film producer.

A Special Tribute

Katy's Response

16



By Syllis Rivera, Honorary Team 6 Barker

Apple Intelligence

Apple Intelligence refers to a suite of advanced technologies and features integrated into Apple's ecosystem. These are designed to enhance user experience, streamline tasks, and provide seamless interaction across Apple devices. Below is an overview of its key features, how they work, and the benefits they offer.

Siri is Apple's voice-activated virtual assistant, designed to perform tasks using natural language processing and machine learning. It can set reminders, send messages, play music, and answer queries, among other tasks. Siri learns from user interactions to improve its accuracy and relevance over time, creating a more immersed experience.

Apple utilizes on-device machine learning to personalize user experience while maintaining privacy. These models enable features like facial recognition for security, photo categorization, and predictive text input. CoreML is Apple's machine learning framework that allows developers to integrate machine learning models into their apps. This enables apps to provide intelligent functionalities, such as image recognition, natural language processing, and more. Apple's NLP capabilities allow applications to understand and process human language. This is evident in features like autocorrect, smart replies in messages, and language translation.

With ARKit, Apple devices can blend digital content with the real world, creating immersive experiences. This technology is used in apps for education, gaming, and navigation, providing interactive and engaging experiences.

Apple Intelligence operates by employing a combination of hardware and software innovations. The Neural Engine, a dedicated processor within Apple's devices, is designed to handle AI and machine learning tasks efficiently. This hardware, combined with sophisticated algorithms and software frameworks like CoreML, enables real-time processing of data without compromising user privacy. Apple ensures that much of the data processing occurs on-device, minimizing the need for cloud dependency and enhancing security.



Apple Intelligence significantly enhances the user experience by providing personalized and intuitive interactions. Features such as predictive text and smart photo categorization make everyday tasks smoother and more efficient. Apple is committed to user privacy, implementing features that process data on-device rather than in the cloud. This ensures that personal information remains secure and private. With tools like Siri and machine learning-powered apps, users can perform tasks more efficiently. Whether it's scheduling appointments, navigating routes, or automating tasks, Apple Intelligence boosts productivity. Developers can leverage Apple's machine learning frameworks to create innovative applications. This opens up possibilities for creative solutions in various fields, from healthcare to entertainment. Apple Intelligence includes accessibility features that cater to users with disabilities. VoiceOver, Magnifier, and other tools use AI to adapt to user needs, making technology more inclusive. In conclusion, Apple Intelligence is a comprehensive suite of technologies that revolutionizes the way users interact with their devices. With a focus on privacy, efficiency, and innovation, it continues to set a standard for intelligent technology in the digital age.

doghouse fiction

mention of blood



STOP. DON'T MOVE.

By: Syllis Rivera

Honorary Team 6 Barker

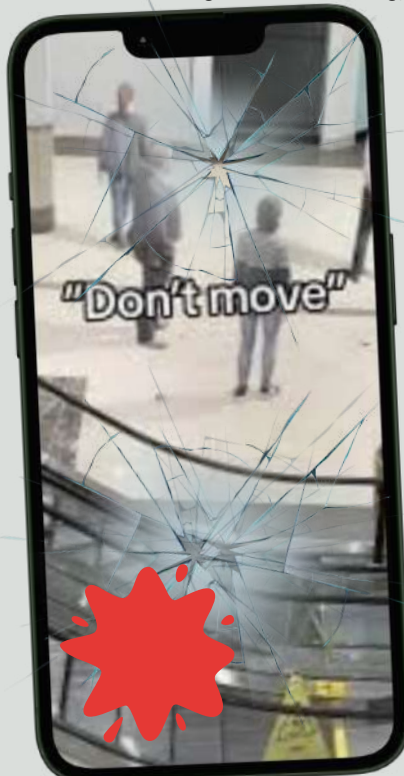
"This is getting creepy," I said, scared out of my pants. Little did I know, I have just made the spookiest move of my life, and it got weirder from there.

Hi. My name is Grayson, and I was the one person that was dared and brave enough to explore the abandoned mall down the street from my neighborhood, and let me tell you, don't try to be that person. Cause what I found in there might be weirder than you think.

Okay, where do I begin? Oh, right, It started at my house, about an hour before I went into the mall. Me and my friend Andrew were both outside playing catch with my football, but my backyard isn't that big, so we went down the street to the football field, which was the big field across the road from the mall. About 30 minutes later, we take a break and sit down on the bench at the side of the field. But then Andrew looks up from his phone, and says "Grayson, I dare you to go into the mall!". I looked at him in a weird way, but then I said the word, the word that would change my life forever. "Yea sure, why not?" I said, not knowing my words will have consequences. I headed down to the mall with Andrew, and he said he had to leave, and was late for dinner. So I said goodbye, and went into the mall. I first didn't think it could get worse, but it did. I went further in, and the more I explored the more I got confused. And all the escalators were broken, but the electricity was still on. I was trying to find my way out of here, and I ended up going in circles. This was really triggering me, and I thought that there was no way to get out of here. But then I thought to myself, "Think positively, you can get out of here!". I was finally more stimulated to look for an exit, thankfully. But then I heard some glitching on the intercom, and it says "STOP. DON'T MOVE." And I was shocked. I thought this was abandoned! I look down on the first floor, and I see people who look 3d printed. I pulled out my phone and immediately started recording. I tried to send it to my mom, but then I dropped my phone, and I was too scared to get it. I was stressing out, and every second a clock would tick, and it would echo for miles on end. It's like it was an empty storage room with no shelves, and if you clapped, it would make the same kind of echo you would hear in the mall. About an hour or two later, I was very tired and thirsty. But then the clock ticking FINALLY stops, and then the intercom says "MOVE. DON'T STOP." in a more, higher quality voice, and it sounded very heinous, too. I want no part of this. All of the fake people would teleport in front of me, and different parts of the mall and tick their heads left, like they had no neck whatsoever. This made me extremely uncomfortable, and I wanted out of here. The intercom then said something in the same voice: "If you keep moving continuously, you will get a 25% discount on all stores! If caught not participating, there will be consequences." My heart was pumping. I went down the stairs to find my phone, but turns out it was

busted for good. I was getting super tired, so I went to a bench and sat down. and then the clock ticks finally stopped. for real this time. I was relieved. It was getting pretty annoying. But then all of the fake people teleported around me, with bright white smiles and bright white eyes. They slowly moved toward me as the intercom says: "Graaaysonnn, why don't you want to participate? Remember what I said about CONSEQUENCE-E-S-Ssss?" as the fake people jump towards me. The intercom glitched out real bad. I ran forward as fast as I can, trying to maneuver them as much as I could. I start sweating, like in my football games. I start thinking about how I can retrace my steps, but no luck. So I try and find the mob's weakness. And apparently it's the words "No discount", since I was saying it to the mob to be funny, but one of it's heads blew up! It was super disgusting! But I didn't really care, as the mob was still chasing me and I needed to find the exit, fast. Luckily, there was an instruction board, and the mob slowed down, so I looked at it for a split second, and saw the exit was down the hall, to the left. Then the board quickly changed to the text "SUFFER YOUR CONSEQUENCES GRAYSON". I ran down the hall to the left, but then the mob teleported in front of me! I had no choice but to run the other way. I started to memorize where I was, since that was the door I came in from. I remember I saw a door earlier when I was on the second floor but there were no stairs. So I made the same directions that I did when I went in the mall, and I then said "No discount" again, and the mob stopped, regaining consciousness, so I booted it. I ran to the exit and saw there was a lock on it. And the mob was coming quickly, so I panicked. But, then, I see a sticky note fall, saying the numbers "5195" with an underline. I open the door from the code and I run outside, to see the blood from the exploded heads go away, and my phone reappear in my pocket, no cracks. Then the mob comes up to the door and each fake person bangs their heads and explodes, making the door bloody red. I am so happy to have the chance to run home and tell my mother what happened. She said I was gone for only 45 minutes or so, but my phone said hours passed. I'm not too worried about it, but whats really important is sleep and water. I am very careful with my actions and words now, to make sure that doesn't happen again. Point is, don't go into an abandoned place. Ever.

The end.




@roberttolppi on tiktok

Worth It

By Casey Farkas

Team 8 Barker



It's 2 in the morning, but I'm not asleep
I'm laying in my bed, eyes glued to the glowing
rectangle in my hand.
I'll regret it in the morning, yet I don't care in the
moment

And I can't help but think, is it worth it?

I scroll mindlessly day in and day out
Every second of time that could be used
productively, wasted

It entertains me, makes me stop thinking
But, that leaves a feeling all the more numb in its
place.

Girls in bikinis with perfect bodies laugh at the
beach with their boyfriends
Uneducated people explain why what I am doing is
wrong-why everything I am doing is wrong
Comment sections flood with hate
People outwardly insult others

I close out these apps to do something more
worthwhile,

Only to log right back in
I feel numb watching these videos
But I feel empty without them

They have taken up a part of my life I never
wanted to allow them to
Comparing myself unrealistically becoming a daily
occurrence

Spending 6 hours or more on my phone a day
becoming a daily occurrence
Every day spent the same, over too fast because I
didn't spend it to its full potential



Worth It (Continued)

By Casey Farkas



LUNCH TIMES ARE PLAGUED WITH SILENCE
NO ONE CARES ABOUT THE OTHERS AS MUCH AS THEY CARE ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE CELEBRITY IS POSTING
SLEEPOVER, HANGOUTS, SOCIAL EVENTS,
ALL THE SAME

LIFE HAS SEEMED TO LOSE ITS COLOR
THE LAUGHTER, SMILES, AND JOY, THEY'VE ALL TURNED TO SILENT SCROLLING
HOBBIES AND PASSIONS HAVE BEEN LOST
AS EVERYONE'S WORLD REVOLVES AROUND A SCREEN

MONEY THAT PEOPLE HAVE SPENT ON FICTIONAL ITEMS IN A FICTIONAL WORLD
TO SHOW THAT THEY ARE BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE
TOO MUCH MONEY SPENT IN THE REAL WORLD,
BECAUSE CONSUMERS SPEND EVERY SCROLL ON AN ADD UNAWARE

I BECOME EASILY INFLUENCED BY DUMB TRENDS
OR WHAT PEOPLE SAY IS RIGHT
I BECOME OVERLY SENSITIVE
AND SCARED

MY SENSE OF SELF IS GONE
AS I SPEND MORE TIME IN A VIRTUAL WORLD INSTEAD OF THE ONE IN FRONT OF ME
MAYBE IF I WOULD SPEND MORE TIME IN THIS WORLD,
I WOULDN'T BE SO DISAPPOINTED ABOUT MY REALLY NICE LIFE

MY SENSE OF SELF DETERIORATES EVERY DAY
BUT I ALWAYS GO BACK
IN THE END I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER,
IS IT WORTH IT?



20



nico's nextbots is an adrenaline-pumping game on the popular online gaming platform roblox. it combines elements of survival and horror, providing players with an exhilarating experience as they navigate through various challenging environments. the game has garnered a dedicated fanbase due to its unique gameplay mechanics and immersive world.

in nico's nextbots, players are thrust into a world where they must evade and survive against formidable foes known as "nextbots." nextbots come from a familiar game called "garry's mod", which is a sandbox based game that include mods, such as the nextbots. these nextbots are ai-driven characters (or otherwise known as pngs) that pursue players relentlessly across different maps. the objective is simple yet challenging: survive for as long as possible while avoiding capture by these relentless adversaries. the game was created by a talented developer known as "nico," who is well-regarded in the roblox community for their innovative game designs. nico's experience and creativity shine through in nextbots, offering players a game that is both engaging and challenging. the developer's dedication to updating and improving the game has kept the player community active and enthusiastic.

nico's nextbots features a variety of maps, each designed to provide unique challenges and environments for players to explore. these maps range from dimly lit abandoned buildings to sprawling urban landscapes, each with its own set of hiding spots and escape routes. the diversity in map design keeps the gameplay fresh and exciting, as players must adapt their strategies to the different terrains and layouts. as players progress through nico's nextbots, they can earn a variety of badges and achievements that showcase their skills and accomplishments. these achievements serve as a testament to a player's prowess in evading the nextbots and surviving the game's challenges. some common badges players can earn include the survivor badge for surviving a set amount of time without being caught by a nextbot, the master evader given to players who successfully evade capture multiple times within a single game session, the explorer badge earned by discovering hidden areas or secrets within the game's maps, and the ultimate survivor, a prestigious badge awarded to players who achieve exceptional survival times against the nextbots. these badges not only provide a sense of achievement but also encourage players to continue honing their skills and exploring the game's intricacies.

nico's nextbots is a captivating roblox game that challenges players to use their wits and reflexes to survive against intelligent adversaries. with its diverse maps, engaging gameplay, and rewarding badges, it stands out as a unique and thrilling experience on the roblox platform. whether you're a seasoned player or new to the game, nico's nextbots promises hours of excitement and adventure.

gallery

fanart/game cover



nextbots in "garry's mod" map, gm_mall



gm_mall, one of the game's maps



Letter from the Advisor

Dear Bulldog Bark Readers,

As we wrap up another vibrant year at Northern Lehigh, I'm filled with gratitude for our talented writers and artists who have brought each issue of The Bulldog Bark to life. Their dedication and creativity have made every edition special, and it's been a pleasure to witness their growth.

This year, our team embraced Canva for layout design, giving each Bulldog Barker the chance to craft their own pages. The collaborative spirit and fresh perspectives have added a dynamic touch to our publication, and I am proud of our progress together.

The *Bulldog Bark* has always existed to amplify the voices of Northern Lehigh students, and I encourage anyone interested in contributing—whether through writing or art—to join the team. Your ideas and talents are what make this publication thrive.

I'm especially grateful for the many years I've spent working on the Bark, and for the partnerships and creativity we've shared. As I look forward to new adventures, I will always cherish the memories and the community we've built together.

Congratulations to the amazing 2024–2025 Bulldog Bark team:

Reagan Bellesfield, Casey Farkas, Zoey Fried, Lauren Gad, Kristiana Kallaby, Anna Karetsky, Adalyn Knecht, Syllis Rivera, Storm Van Norman, and Kasey Deprill.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The earth laughs in flowers." May this summer bring you inspiration, growth, and plenty of opportunities to create.

Wishing you all a joyful, creative, and restful summer!

-Ms. Dunham