

The Daily Drool

Lace School, Friday, March 06, 2026

Featured News



From left to right, Addison, Nile, Ms. Renata, and Mr. Oscar.

Lunchroom Heroes

by Addison Heald & Nile Lowrey

Lace School, March 3, 2026 Do you know who cleans up after you, gets the lunchroom ready for you, or picks up the trash you leave? Those people are the custodians, and they do all that—and more—because they care about making a safe place for you and your peers. Our main custodians are Ms. Renata, Ms. Maribel, Mr. Oscar, and Mr. Tao. It might be their job, but that doesn't mean they don't like what they do. When you wake up in the morning, do you want to clean all day? Probably not. That is how the custodians might feel every day — think about that.

School work may be exhausting, but cleaning is a whole different level of hard work. So next time you leave a wrapper on the floor, think about this article and the time Ms. Renata spends picking up all those little wrappers, and the time wasted when she could be doing something more important for the school. Thank you. Lace custodians!



The Hylander: The mountains in Milano used for the 2026 Winter Olympics. Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

The Gold Medal Game

by Juliana Shuman

Brrrrr! Do you feel that? The Winter Olympics are here, and everybody is ready to wave their nation's flag — especially Team USA. From snowboarding to hockey, these Olympians are ready to show off their hard work and win a gold medal for their countries. *Continues on page 14*

Around the World in Three Traditions

A Kid's Guide to Poland, Greece, and Hispanic Culture

by Nikolas Ramirez & Victoria Lapczynski

Every culture and tradition is important to different countries. For example, Poland has many traditions, such as Wigilia and Śmigus Dyngus. You're probably wondering, "What is Wigilia?" Wigilia is a Polish tradition celebrated on the day before Christmas, December 24th. It begins with a twelve-dish, meat-free meal and the sharing of opłatek (a wafer) with wishes of love and support for the coming year. *Continues on page 8*



The Flare Market (Sunday flea market) in Krakow, Bazar Staroci Na Kole in Warsaw, and the Krupówki street.

Index

- Pg. 1** Front Page
- Pg. 2** Featured News
- Pg. 3** General, Local, & Global News
- Pg. 5** Editorial/Opinion
- Pg. 7** Home & Culture
- Pg. 9** Travel & Tourism
- Pg. 11** Business & Finance
- Pg. 13** Sports
- Pg. 15** Entertainment

Featured News



Kids enjoy watching a film at their local theater.

Movies by Charmaine Liu

Did you know that movies can take one to three years to make? The first movie ever made, "Roundhay Garden Scene," was filmed on October 14, 1888. Those are some cool facts about movies.

In my opinion, I like to watch movies. I personally go to the cinema because there are many choices to pick from. *Continues on page 5*

Gas Prices on the Rise



By Hannah Abraham
Gas prices are increasing, and it is a big deal for many people and families. Families must spend more money to fill up their cars. One reason gas prices are high is that the government helps set some fuel taxes and fees. Governments raise revenue for large projects and to repair highways, roads, and other infrastructure. Gas is refined from oil, and crude oil is not produced in large quantities in some states like Illinois, so it must be brought in from other places. When oil costs more, gasoline costs more. When gas prices rise, the cost of goods at stores can also increase because transportation and production become more expensive. Gas prices affect many people and families every day. For example, if someone plans a long road trip with a fixed budget, higher gas prices will reduce how much they can spend elsewhere. Therefore, gas prices are important to many people.

STRANGER THINGS

By Nile Lowrey
Stranger Things is going wild! Everyone is watching. Stranger Things is a five-season TV show with eight or nine 50-minute episodes in each season. The series has improved a lot since it premiered in July 2016. Believe it or not, it wasn't really popular until three years ago. People like to watch it on a big TV with the lights turned off. Do yourself a favor and don't watch it at night because it is very suspenseful. Also, a fan favorite is actor Joe Keery, who steals the spotlight as Steve Harrington. It is rated PG-13, so make sure you get your parents' permission before watching it. You can find it exclusively on Netflix.

Walt Disney World

A Magical Place To Be
By Jia Kaur

Florida, known as the Sunshine State, is a popular destination for travelers who enjoy hot weather. For visitors who prefer cooler temperatures, December is often a comfortable time to visit. One of Florida's biggest attractions is Walt Disney World, which opened in 1971 and continues to draw millions of guests each year. *Continues on page 10*

POETRY SPOTLIGHT

You Got This

A poem by Lucas Flounders

You got this
You're struggling on a test
you got this

You're struggling on homework
you got this

You're struggling on a math problem
you got this

You're struggling on a MAP reading test
you got this

You're struggling on some ELA questions
you got this

This is all just to say
you will have hard moments
throughout your life
But just remember
you always got this.

General, Local, & Foreign

St. Gertrude Day

By Addison Heald and Nile Lowrey

I bet you don't know anything about St. Gertrude. St. Gertrude, or Catrick's Day, is a holiday about cats celebrated on March 17th — the same day as St. Patrick's Day. On November 16th there was a feast after Gertrude's death where people ate potato soup, potato pancakes (also known as latkes), soft pretzels, bratwurst with sauerkraut, and apple strudel. Gertrude (626–659 AD) is remembered today; people celebrate this holiday by giving extra treats, toys, and love to their cats. Although she was known for her fondness for cats, she is also known to (according to some accounts) protect from pests and help with mental illness.

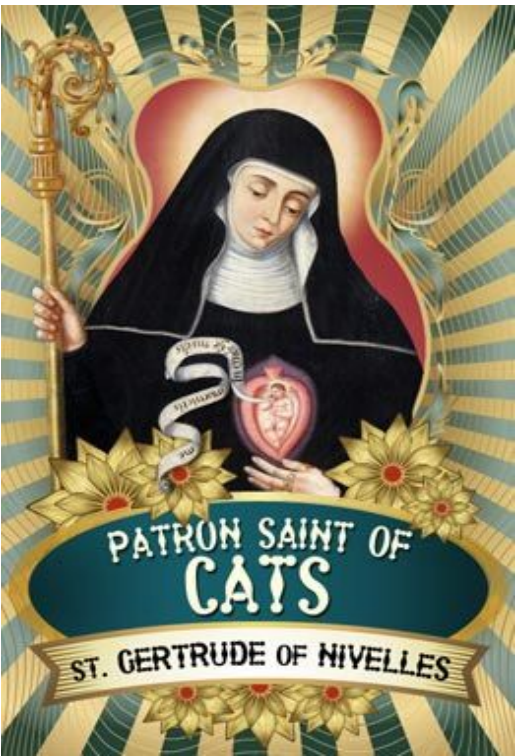


Image of St. Gertrude

Watch The Winter Olympics!

How did the International Event Start?

By Samantha Knytych



Winter Olympics, 2026, Kailis24

The Winter Olympics are in Milan this year, and everyone knows the Olympics — but do you know the history? In 1924 the IOC held the first Winter Olympics, which took place in France. Now that you know a little about the first Winter Olympics, I'm going back to the first-ever Olympics in Ancient Greece, held to honor the gods, specifically Zeus, the king of the gods. Let's travel from Ancient Greece to Milan, because this is the first time in Winter Olympic history that the torch will be lit in both Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo. Incredibly, there will be events in both places! Now that you know more about the Winter Olympics, go watch them and root for your country!

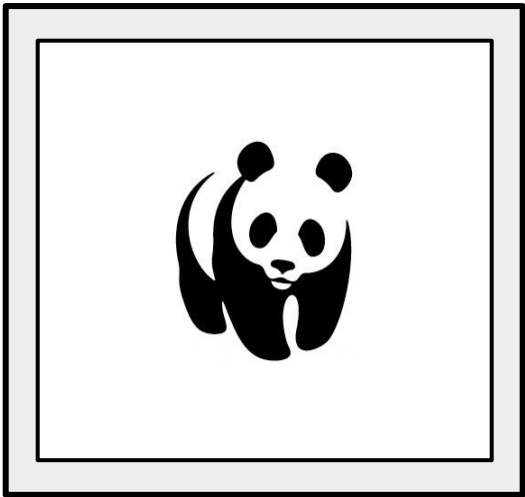
A dense collage of various small, colorful objects and items, including tools, food, and household items, used for a "spy" game.

List Items You Spy Here!

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

General, Local, & Foreign

Community-First Conservation: Empowering Locals to Protect Wildlife



WWF - The World Wildlife Federation logo.

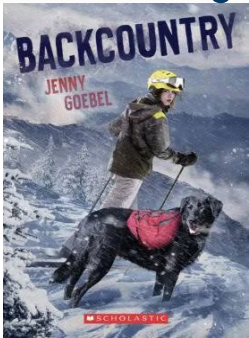
Save the Endangered Species!

By Samantha Knytych

From a rare antelope that lives in the Sahara called the addax to a North American bird called the whooping crane — both are examples of endangered species. Many other animals are endangered as well. It doesn't matter what they are called; what matters is that you support efforts to save them. Even small actions can make a difference. For example, when you leave for school, a club, or a sport, turn off any electronics that are still running: the TV, lamps, reading lights, ceiling fans — anything you can safely switch off. Turning off lights helps endangered animals by reducing light pollution, which confuses nocturnal species, causes fatal bird collisions, and disrupts sea turtle nesting. Another way to support endangered species is by raising awareness: put up posters or spread the word to friends. Finally, pick up litter when you can. I remember picking up trash once with my friends — it felt good to help the environment. Any of these small actions could make a big difference!

Looking for a fun, interesting book? You should read

Backcountry!



Backcountry follows Emily, a teenage girl whose life takes a turn for the worse during her volleyball season. For only \$8.99, you can get your hands on this book and see how compelling it is. If you're unsure whether you'll like it, check the book out from our school library. In my opinion, Backcountry is underrated and not getting the attention it deserves.

If you still aren't sure about Backcountry, explore Jenny Goebel's other books, such as Mission Hurricane, Fortune Falls, Alpaca My Bags, and Pigtire Perfect. You might then ask yourself, "Do I really need more books?" — trust me, it's worth it. You can never have too many books. Buy them for yourself or give them as birthday or Christmas gifts. Buy Backcountry now and add it to your collection!

Briana Mehmeti

Editorial/Opinion

Super bowl LX



By Miles Louthan

I wanted the Seahawks to win the Super Bowl this year. It was an exciting game, and in the end, the Seahawks made us proud. In addition, the Patriots never scored until the fourth quarter! Now that I think of it, it was really hard to score.

If you want to see more, go to this link: [Super Bowl LX - Wikipedia](#); it's a site I found interesting. Another thing I thought was cool is that this is the second Super Bowl hosted at Levi's Stadium. Just so you know, LX stands for 60.



Did you know?

The tickets for the Super Bowl cost an insane amount of money. They cost an average of \$9,000! The Super Bowl was hosted at Levi's Stadium, which was very loud and held 70,000 people. A 30-second ad costs millions—that's shocking!

Editorial/Opinion

From page 2 I enjoy watching movies at the theater. Here’s why. I find movies fun to watch, and they include parts that viewers enjoy. For example, people might like scenes that are funny, sad, or exciting. I go to the cinema because there are many choices to pick from. Movies are wonderful for all ages, and it depends on your taste and what you like to watch. Some people love movies, while others do not. I personally enjoy watching films. Movies can be fun, though some people feel the opposite. Films offer many different options depending on what you want to see, and there are different kinds of movies for different ages. If you don’t like long films, you can watch short movies instead. That is why I have a delightful time watching movies.



PACKERS

By: Daniel Pahomovs

The Green Bay Packers are a better football team than the Chicago Bears because of their dominant, long-term success in the rivalry, superior quarterback play, and consistent ability to win crucial games. Founded on August 11, 1919, by Curly Lambeau and George Calhoun, and joining the NFL in 1921, the Packers are the third-oldest franchise in the league and the only community-owned, non-profit team in American professional sports. The Packers have won the most championships in NFL history (13 total), including Super Bowls I, II, XXXI, and XLV. The team is publicly owned by more than 500,000 shareholders. For these reasons, they are better than the Chicago Bears.



Greenbay Packers 1919



Home & Culture



House Exterior with a beautiful landscape

More Than Just Shelter: Transforming Your Space into a Haven of Joy

By Victoria Lapczynski and Yasmine Mahfoudi

Your home plays an important role in your life. For example, your home can influence how you think and how you feel about certain things. That is why people from different places enjoy and are accustomed to different things, including food.

People from around the world also decorate their homes differently according to their culture or religion. When you think about decorating your home, consider decorations inspired by different cultures!



House interior with simple decor.

Simple Ways to Find Joy

Some people prefer the comfort of familiar foods, while others like to try new and exciting dishes. So consider trying new foods from around the world that you have never tasted before. In Poland, homes are beautifully decorated in many different ways. People around the world have unique crafts and decorations. For example, in Poland there are many religious decorations. You can also make your own crafts or follow a fun tutorial, or make a paper airplane or a paper kite. Finally, you can do any fun activity at home, like playing outside. I hope you have fun!



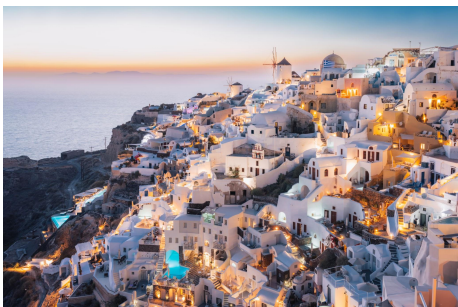
Fun egg decorating craft.

Don't Be a Summer Bummer

When you're bored at home during the summer, here are some fun things you can do:

- Invite friends or neighbors over, host a bonfire, and make food like s'mores, hot dogs, or sausages.
- Host a party or have friends over to play in front of your house, jump rope, or draw with chalk.
- Have a popsicle party with your friends.
- Put on the sprinklers and run through them, or inflate a pump-up pool and host a pool party.

Home & Culture



Santorini Thira Known for its iconic whitewashed buildings, blue-domed churches, and sunset views over a flooded volcanic caldera.

From page 1 Greek people celebrate a vibrant blend of ancient traditions and modern life, centered on strong family ties, deep-rooted hospitality, and a profound sense of honor. Many also observe an extended fast before Easter: during Lent they typically avoid meat and dairy, and some also abstain from fish.

Hispanic cultures prioritize strong family bonds and celebrate with vibrant festivals such as Día de los Muertos. Other important traditions include quinceañeras, posadas, and mariachi music. For example, Mexican communities gather for Las Posadas during Christmas and use piñatas in celebrations. Social etiquette emphasizes respect for elders, warm greetings, and strong communal ties.



Temple of Kukulcán (or *El Castillo*)



SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT!

1st Place Spiritwear has Lace School shirts in any size you need, plus many colors, including red, black, gray, and tie-dye.

Shirts range from \$20 to \$70 each.

The shop also sells water bottles and backpacks that come with lunch boxes. Can you believe that? There are many other accessories available, and they are high quality.

These items are great for supporting the school and for spirit days. You can also buy items as gifts for your teachers and staff.

Woof - Woof!

<https://1stplacespiritwear.com/schools/IL/Darien/Lace>

Travel & Tourism

Plane vs. Cruise Ship: Which Travel Style Suits You?

By Gabriel Gale

Welcome to Travel and Tourism, where you will be inspired to plan your next vacation and enjoy the time of your life in paradise. Before you start planning, you should pick where you would like to go. After you choose a destination, decide how you want to get there. Most people prefer a pleasant plane ride where you can relax and feel secure. The top three airlines rated best for safety and price with tickets ranging from \$300 to \$500 are Global, U.S. Pacific, and some long-haul brands, like Emirates. The more tickets you purchase, the more money you save. If you prefer to travel by boat instead of by plane, try booking a cruise vacation. Many cruiselines like Norwegian, Carnival, and Royal Carribean offer affordable packages. Visit any of their websites and book your trip online. Otherwise, have a great trip! So, where will you go and how will you get there? Whatever you do, always remember to travel with style.

From page 2 Visitors to Disney World can choose from many different nearby resorts and hotels. One of the most luxurious hotels near the parks is the Four Seasons Resort Orlando, or you could stay at the Disney hotels. Standard rooms there often cost several hundred dollars per night and can exceed \$1,000 depending on the season, while large suites can cost thousands of dollars per night. Travelers looking for more affordable options may consider hotels such as the Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista or the Drury Plaza Hotel Orlando. Standard rooms at these hotels often start around \$200 per night, though prices vary by date and availability.



Disney Princess Castle at Magic Kingdom, Florida.

Disney World is known for its wide variety of rides and attractions. Popular rides include Astro Orbiter, The Barnstormer, Dumbo the Flying Elephant, The Haunted Mansion, It's a Small World, Jungle Cruise, Mad Tea Party, The Magic Carpets of Aladdin, and The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh. The Walt Disney World Railroad, the evening parade, and the fireworks are also major attractions and are world famous. Daily park tickets typically range from about \$119 to \$209 per day. A Lightning Lane (paid skip-the-line) option costs extra.

Food is also a major part of the Disney experience. Guests often enjoy treats such as Dole Whip, Mickey pretzels, churros, and the park's famous turkey legs. Other popular snacks include cheeseburger spring rolls, fresh fruit, and Nutella waffles. Corn dog nuggets, warm cinnamon rolls, lobster rolls, the Cheshire Cat Tail pastry, Mickey-shaped snacks, and premium ice cream bars are also favorites found throughout the parks.

Visitors planning a trip should pack essential items such as a portable phone charger, comfortable walking shoes, ponchos, sunscreen, a reusable water bottle, and portable fans. Many guests also bring snacks, autograph books, small backpacks for convenience, and cameras to take pictures with their favorite Disney characters. Lockers are available to store belongings during the visit, but they are an added cost. Experts recommend downloading the My Disney Experience app to check maps, wait times, Genie+, and mobile food ordering.

When packing, travelers should avoid bringing bulky items; selfie sticks are not allowed, and excessive amounts of cash are discouraged.

With careful planning and the right supplies, a trip to Disney World can be a fun and memorable experience for visitors of all ages.

Travel & Tourism

Winter In New York City By Emma Ramos



Skyline, New York City, New York

Lights glow as the ice reflects the beautiful lights of the giant Christmas tree. If you want a cold winter getaway, I highly recommend New York City (NYC). Some things that are special in NYC during the winter/Christmas season are the giant Christmas tree located in Rockefeller Center, which is up from December through mid-January. Another famous attraction at Rockefeller Center is the ice rink, which is open from October through March; it costs about \$20 to \$50 to skate. Also at Rockefeller Center is the Top of the Rock observation deck. You take an elevator that displays visuals on screens inside; before you enter the elevator you learn a bit about its history. When you reach the roof there are two levels with city views. The roof is safe because it has large glass windows, so you cannot fall. Tickets cost about \$50.

In downtown NYC you can find many skyscrapers and crowds. If you travel there without a car, there are many taxis in different shapes and sizes. Typical taxi rides usually cost about \$19.62. Hotels near or in Times Square cost around \$300 per night. A highly recommended hotel is the New York Marriott Marquis. I recommend you bring comfortable walking shoes and a bag that is hard to pickpocket. Also bring chargers and changes of warm clothes. Keep in mind that NYC is very expensive.

A super famous place away from the bustling city is Central Park. Central Park is green and very pretty. They offer horse-drawn carriage rides that typically cost about \$120. Many Christmas movies, such as *Elf* and *Home Alone*, have been filmed in the park. There are also many excellent museums in NYC. One outstanding museum is the American Museum of Natural History; it has fossils, animal replicas, and much more. The movie “Night at the Museum” was filmed there. Near Times Square there are additional museums, including a wax museum with realistic wax replicas of famous people, and the Museum of Broadway, which displays props, costumes, and other items from famous plays. Broadway is the street where many famous shows perform; notable productions include *Hamilton*, *Beetlejuice*, *Wicked*, *Aladdin*, *The Lion King*, and *The Outsiders*. Tickets usually cost between \$50 and \$250.

A very famous landmark is the Statue of Liberty. A boat tour can take you to Liberty Island or just circle the island; tickets cost about \$40 to \$50. The Empire State Building is another popular attraction. There is also the World Trade Center, with memorial fountains marking where the Twin Towers once stood; the fountains include the names of those who were lost on 9/11. There are many great and fun places to eat, and there are Broadway restaurants where the waitstaff sing and dance. Come visit NYC!

Business & Finance



People checking prices and getting groceries at stores.

Tax bills are rising for several reasons. One reason is that owners of larger houses typically pay higher property taxes than owners of smaller homes. Another reason is government budget changes, including responses to tax cuts and shifts in employment. In Chicago, property taxes for middle-class homes can range from about \$4,500 to \$6,000 a year. In Illinois more broadly, taxes are around 2,600 per year on average. In Darien, taxes on a typical house are roughly \$6,500 per year. For a condo in Chicago, taxes are roughly \$10,950 per year. Exact amounts depend on home size and other factors, which can significantly affect household finances.

Taxes and Food Prices

By Hannah Abraham

So you know how food prices are rising; it is a big concern for large families. No matter how big or small a family is, food remains important to everyone. Corporate executives are responsible for setting price strategies at large companies. Manufacturers package food and deliver it to stores. Retailers sell those products at the stores families visit. Food-price increases affect people around the world. In short, food prices can change a lot.



Family sized home

Business & Finance



Do you want fun school games?

Ask your teacher for a Koosh ball!

Here are some classroom games you can play with a Koosh ball:

- Silent Ball
- Around the World
- Hot Potato.

How to play Silent Hot Potato

Silent Hot Potato combines Silent Ball and Hot Potato.

- Set a timer for the desired length.
- While the timer runs, pass the Koosh ball quickly and quietly.
- If the timer goes off while a student is holding the ball, that student is out.

There are many variations of Silent Ball and other classroom games, but Silent Ball is recommended for many classes.

Have fun playing!

Baylee Cartwright



Blue Nintendo 3Ds

Back In Stock! Nintendo 3Ds

BY KONSTANTIN POPOSKI

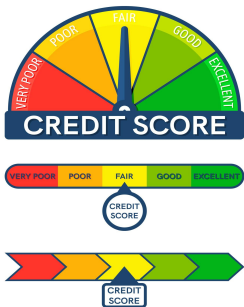
Everybody who’s a Nintendo fan needs to know this: the Nintendo 3DS is back in stock. For older people who had one when they were kids, this is probably exciting news. It may be exciting for younger people too, because they can experience playing older Nintendo products. The price of a Nintendo 3DS ranges from \$150 to \$300, and the 3DS XL is between \$200 and \$300.

Is It Too Soon?

Why Some Parents Are Starting to Build Credit for Their Children Early

by Konstantin Poposki

For all you grown-ups reading this, there’s a way to help raise your kids' credit scores at an early age.



Here’s how: ask your bank to add your child as an authorized (secondary) user on your account. They don't even have to spend—simply being a secondary user can help them build credit. When they get older, that credit history may help them qualify for loans. A credit score is something lenders, landlords, and insurers use to determine whether you are trustworthy.

Sports

Bears Football

So Close, Yet So Far: Bears Drop Super Bowl Thriller

by Kingston Shepherd

After a miraculous turnaround season and an NFC North title, Chicago's Super Bowl dreams vanish on a 42-yard overtime field goal.



by Bill Sherman: The Bears Quarterback Caleb Williams makes a jawdropping fade away throw to go into OT that traveled 51.2 yards in the air which was the longest completed pass into the redzone since 2016

**"It's a frustration;
it's a fire," he said.
"Obviously not
happy about the
outcome," he added.
"We beat ourselves."
— Caleb Williams**



Caleb Williams Throws a dime to Rome Odunze to get a first down against the rams.

The Bears quarterback, Caleb Williams, made a jaw-dropping fade-away throw to Cole Kmet to send the game into overtime. They unfortunately couldn't pull off the win and lost on a field goal. After the devastating loss, Caleb said, “It's frustration. It's a fire... Obviously not happy about the outcome.” He also added, “We beat ourselves.” He said he was disappointed that they lost but called the season a “fairy-tale” or “magical” run.

Williams has admitted that he's itching to get back to practice more, even though he should get some rest. The Bears have a very promising chance to do great next season. On another note, for a city that saw its team go from 5–12 to 11–6 in just one year, the overtime loss felt less like a failure and more like a promise interrupted. The magic of the 2025 season finally ran out in the freezing Chicago air, leaving fans with heavy hearts but heads full of unforgettable memories.

Sports

From page 1. Now let's take a look at the U.S. women's hockey team this year. On Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 1:10 p.m., two of the biggest rivals — two of the greatest teams in the world — met on the ice. But there could be only one winner and one gold medal. USA and Canada both fought hard for their countries. Hilary Knight and Alex Carpenter helped lead their team to gold. Laila Edwards also made a big impact in the game last Thursday. Laila is the first Black woman to play on the U.S. women's Olympic hockey team. These key players can do it all. Now let's skate our way over to the gold-medal game. It was a brutal battle between the two, but in the end the USA came away with an overtime win. The opening period went very smoothly, and nobody scored.



By The Detroit News: The USA womens hockey team with their gold medals.

In the second period, Kristin O'Neill (for Canada) scored on a shorthanded breakaway. The USA became very desperate for a goal. With 2:04 left in the second period, the USA pulled its goalie for an extra attacker. Then, within seconds, captain Hilary Knight scored to tie the game on an assist from Laila Edwards. After a 15-minute intermission, USA and Canada went into overtime, playing 3-on-3. Just 7 seconds into overtime, Megan Keller picked up a great pass from behind the goal. From there she was one-on-one with a Canadian defender. She toe-dragged the defender and went to the net. Her backhand shot slipped just over the goalie's leg pad — and it was in. The crowd went wild; helmets, gloves, and sticks flew into the air. The gold was theirs. Now it was time to celebrate and go home as gold-medal Olympians.



Remembering the "Miracle on Ice"

by Jonathan Zalabak

“Great moments are born from great opportunities, and that is what you have tonight, boys — that is what you’ve earned here tonight: one game. If we play ten times they might win nine, but not tonight. We stay with them because we can! And we shut them down because we can! Go out and take it from them.”

That is what Herb Brooks said before the game in Lake Placid before the 1980 Winter Olympic gold medal game. Against the Soviet Union, they called it a miracle because they beat them 4–3. They had not won a gold medal since 1960 in Squaw Valley. Until 2026, it was 46 years exactly to the day when the U.S. won against Canada. Jack Hughes scored the golden goal in overtime. He traded four teeth for a gold medal. The MVP is probably Connor Hellebuyck or Matt Boldy. Even knowing that the game was at 7:00 in the morning, it was worth it to see the USA win gold, because we as Americans do not get to play for gold every year.

Entertainment

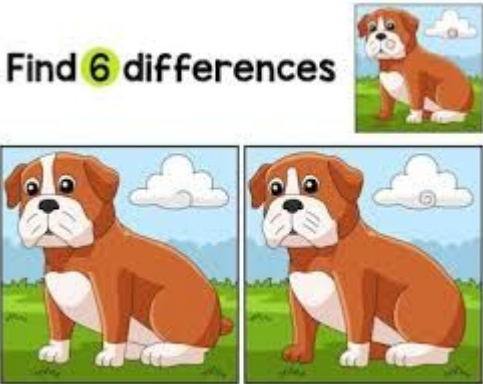


Dabbing is a traditional funny dance.

Bruno Mars

By Nile lowrey

Do you want to dance? Bruno Mars released a new album on Feb. 27, 2026. The album is called The Romantic. Bruno Mars is a very famous musical artist from Honolulu, Hawaii. He has won 15 Grammy Awards and was born in 1985. He performs in several genres, including pop, R&B, and funk. His two most popular songs are "APT" and "Uptown Funk."



SCHOOL CROSSWORD PUZZLE

WORD BANK
bus
school
pencil
backpack
student
crayons
chalkboard
book
lunchbox
teacher
glue
desk

ACROSS
2. Pencil
4. Student
5. Chalkboard
8. Backpack
9. Crayons
12. School

DOWN
1. Teacher
3. Lunchbox
6. Backpack
7. Desk
10. Book
11. Glue

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Social Skills

Word Search

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



