

The Spotlight

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Machines, Noise, and Parking, Oh My! A Construction Update

Ellie Goetz

At one point, everyone has probably wondered, "What is going on with the construction?" and there are some answers. Phil Polito, the construction manager of our school, and Mrs. Schafer answered some questions about the construction going on right now.

The current landscape can be difficult to make sense of to anyone without a construction background. The big project right now is underground storm water piping and relocating pipes around new additions. There are also six workers in total. Three of the six workers are laborers that handle all of the material, dig pipes, and check the elevation. The other three are operators, who drive and handle the equipment and get to do all of the 'fun stuff.' When it's below ten degrees the workers do not work, as there is a tremendous risk for frostbite. It is also difficult for them to get work done when it is so frigid outside because the water can freeze inside of the pipes, making them more difficult to work with. For the first whole week in January, the construction workers were unable to work because of the weather.

On another note, there are three different phases for the process of the construction. Phase one consists of all the piping and underground work that will be done at the end of the month. Phase two is when the outside structure is built. Lastly, phase three is the internal building process, which will be done next fall

Mrs. Schafer is overall pleased with how both those in and out of the school are handling the construction: "I'm really excited. I'm also very proud of everyone's patience and for keeping on task in class; I know seeing all of the machines outside can be really distracting." The thing she is most excited for is the new learning environment for the students and staff. The space is designed to be user friendly and will have things like different sized tables, charging stations and much more. However there are both positives and negatives regarding the project. One pro is that when the construction is done, it is done for good. The school is getting all of the different projects done at once, so it will only be in construction for one year. A con includes finding a secondary plan for classes that will later be in the new classrooms. At the beginning of next school year, there is a strong chance that not all of the soon to be updated classrooms will be completed. One of these sections consists of music classes, including band and choir. Since those classrooms may not be done yet, there will need to be another place for the classes to practice. As of right now, Mrs. Schafer advises that as progress is made, it should be remembered that construction timelines often change. The administration will continue to advise the student body and community of any updates.



Freshman Shreya Desai thinks, "The traffic caused from the construction can be annoying, but I know it will all be worth it when the school is finished." The construction is really coming along and all Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors should be overjoyed for what next school year has to offer.

Fun Times for a Good Cause

Olivia Benton

January 26th, after the basketball game, Bulldogs showed up in their snazzy and classy clothes to jam out to incredible music on the dance floor. Formal made for a fun, fresh start to the new year of 2018. Key Club president Dan Doherty had a few things to say about the formal dance: "Formal was better than ever! It was a huge turn-out. We had the same DJ from last year and we gave him a list of songs to play and the music was on-point."

Formal is a time to enjoy dancing and singing with your friends to make memorable moments. Doherty explained, "The great thing about formal is where it is placed in the year. No one likes going back to school after a nice winter break, so having formal in January was a great way to start the new semester. Plus, who doesn't like cheering on the basketball team and celebrating

afterwards by breaking out some dance moves in the gym?" Formal is a much less structured dance than homecoming or prom, with no set theme or court. Another difference is that formal is a 'Sadie-Hawkins dance,' meaning girls ask their dates to the dance. Key Club organized this fun event, created a rockin' playlist, and presented a great dance to us Bulldogs.

But what makes this night unique is the lasting impact it has after the night ends. Formal acts as Key Club's main fundraiser to give back to their members by using the money raised for scholarships. The members participate in service events all year, as Key Club's mission is to give back to the community and develop high school students into strong leaders. Some of these service events include babysitting at PTA meetings, staffing the forensics tournament, raking leaves for community members, and serving at the annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. Key Club is one of the largest clubs at OFHS, which means many students are learning the value of service and giving back to a community that



has supported them.

Additionally, Key Club is sponsored by the Olmsted Falls chapter of Kiwanis, which provides members a special opportunity to interact with community members they otherwise never may have known.

New members are always welcome and any interested student should see Mr. May or any of the student officers: Dan Doherty, Audrey O'Brien, Bill Wendling, Joe Bertrand, and Claudia Schuh.

Top Dawg

Ainsley Allen



Freshman
Casey Schmidt



Sophomore
Ryan Mustafa



Junior
Jill Scott



Senior
Meredith Gardner



Mrs.
DiLoreto-Smith

Are eyebrows considered facial hair?

Casey: Sure, because they are on your face and they are hair

Ryan: No, because you develop them at the beginning of your life which doesn't classify as facial hair.

Jill: Yes, because people judge you if they're not groomed

Meredith: Yes, I consider eyebrows facial hair because it's hair on your face, duh!

Mrs. DiLoreto Smith: Yes, because it's hair on your face

What is a picture of a thousand words worth?

Casey: I wouldn't really want to read all those words, so like \$2.00

Ryan: \$1,000,000

Jill: It's worth trust

Meredith: It depends who painted it

Mrs. DiLoreto Smith: Well, it's worth a thousand words.

Why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only "a penny for your thoughts," Where does the extra penny go?

Casey: It falls in the crack of the sidewalk.

Ryan: Charity

Jill: I don't know, man, it just kinda disappears I guess

Meredith: It goes in my college savings account

Mrs. DiLoreto Smith: I put it in my piggy bank.

If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest have to drown too?

Casey: Ooooo that would be funny, they should.

Ryan: Hahah yes

Jill: Yes, I mean we're all in this together.

Meredith: Well, you are putting on a show, aren't you?

Mrs. DiLoreto Smith: No, because they're not the same person.

When Dresses Mean More

Lauren Gumeny

The 75th Golden Globe Awards were held at The Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California on Sunday, January 7. Normally, the Golden Globes are a large gathering where the best actors and actresses of the past year are recognized for their success. However, this year the Golden Globes turned from a star-studded event to a powerful protest. Actors and actresses alike stood in solidarity by wearing black on the red carpet to launch a movement against sexual misconduct in the entertainment industry and beyond. The #MeToo movement began with the numerous sexual assault allegations against famous movie producer Harvey Weinstein. Multiple women in the entertainment industry

came forward about Weinstein's history of molestation. This inspired women from all walks of life to tell their stories and put an end to the sexual harassment epidemic. The tremendous strength of these women made serious waves and inspired similar efforts in other industries.

Since the Golden Globes red carpet is watched all around the world, it was the perfect platform for well-known and respected figures to take a stand against sexual harassment. The protest was organized by Time's Up, a new initiative putting an end to sexual harassment and gender inequality in the workplace. The Time's Up movement was supported by over 300 women in the entertainment industry, including big names

like Shonda Rhimes, Reese Witherspoon, and Meryl Streep. The blackout spread all over the world, its impact even reaching Olmsted Falls High School. Junior Marie Roager is a huge supporter of the Time's Up movement: "I believe it is truly admirable that role models like actors and other celebrities attend events with such high media coverage and choose to support the movements for women who have been assaulted. I am happy we can live in a world where women can finally come forth with their secrets with no shame and only support." There are numerous ways to raise awareness, and it is impressive that Hollywood's biggest stars are using their platform to spark significant change.

Cleveland Football: Demise or Rebirth?

Emma Andrus

This season, Cleveland Browns fans were forced to endure another lengthy season of losses. It has been such a long time since the team last won a game that it's difficult to remember what it feels like to actually have a win in the world of Cleveland football. There have been games where it almost appeared as if the team might actually pull off a win; unfortunately, the Browns always seemed to change the narrative of the game and drop the ball, both figuratively and literally.

In general, football as a whole has experienced its own simultaneous decline. NFL viewership and ratings reached an excessively low-point during the 2017 season. It's not necessarily clear whether this can be attributed to the controversy around players kneeling during the National Anthem, the growing concern over game-related concussions, or the fact that the quality of football just isn't as strong as it has been in years past. Whatever the reasoning may be, the Cleveland Browns haven't had a strong showing themselves within the past few seasons.

After facing a completely winless season, Browns fans decided that they had experienced enough disappointment with the coaching staff and the organization as a whole. On January 6th, fans organized the "Perfect Season Parade," where they turned their frustration into something positive by raising over \$17,000 for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Despite the positive outcome of this event, the alarming 0-16 season has raised serious concern about the state and future of football in Cleveland.

Senior Nicole Egel, a Browns season ticket holder, described the hope that many Cleveland football fans still have for the future: "I think the Browns are nearing a turning point. Cleveland football hasn't been notoriously good in the past few years, but when you're at rock bottom, the only way to go is up. Cleveland may be the joke now, but they won't be forever. That's the thing about underdogs: they have the most heart."

In reference to the parade that took place in the beginning of January, Egel said, "It was really funny that Excedrin sponsored the parade because the Browns gave people so many headaches."

Although the future of Cleveland football doesn't appear promising, fans across Northeast Ohio can always look forward to the excellence that is Olmsted Falls football next fall. Or, as always, fans could utilize the phrase that has resonated with Clevelanders for years: "There's always next year."

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The Winter Olympics: What and Who to Watch

Rhiannon Lloyd and Kelley Shiltz

In 1924, the first Winter Olympics were held in Chamonix, France, with 16 nations participating and 258 athletes competing. 94 years later, the 2018 Winter Olympics will be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea from February 9-25th. In 1988 South Korea hosted the Summer Olympics, but this is the first time the country has ever hosted a winter games. As a tradition, every Summer and Winter Olympic games has a mascot. This year is no different; the mascot is named "Soohorang", "sooho" meaning protection, and "rang" meaning tiger in Korean. Events to look forward to in the games include alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, freestyle skiing, nordic combined, ski jumping, snowboarding, curling, bobsled, figure skating, hockey, luge, short track, skeleton, and speed skating.

Not surprisingly, this year's ticket sales have been at a low because of the security fears brought on by a series of nuclear weapons tests by neighboring North Korea. However, North Korea has announced that they are going to send multiple athletes to the games, and an orchestra, including a pop girls band called the "Moranbong Band." Recently, North and South Korea have announced that they will march and unite under one flag, which may symbolize an ease of tensions between the two countries, which they, and the international community, see as representative of the spirit of the Games. The flag will feature the Korean peninsula with a blue background. To take precautions with security and anti-terror acts, South Korea is conducting multiple security drills to mimic situations of bombings at the games and what to do if one actually happens. South Korea's defense ministry plans to have over 5,000 armed security forces and a company specializing in cyber security to prevent any hacking from North Korea and to protect spectators, coaches, personnel, and athletes.

Athletes participating in the Winter Olympics this year have trained their whole lives for these two weeks and all of them hope to win the gold. During the games, there are always

many top athletes to watch for. This year there will be both new athletes and familiar faces in the Games. One of these new athletes is Nathan Chen, an 18 year figure skater from Utah. Chen was recently the 2017 Grand Prix Champion, Four Continents Champion, and a 2 time U.S. Champion. Chen recently spoke to People Magazine about his Olympic hopes and how he prepares to come out on top of the competition: "My biggest goal is to be on that podium for the Olympics, and every single day when I wake up, I know that's my goal and what I'm working for — I've worked my entire life for this moment and I'm not just going to give it up that easy."

A familiar face in the Olympics will be Lindsey Vonn, an Olympic skier who has been to four winter Olympics, making her one of the oldest athletes competing this year. Despite being one of the most successful skiers in America and a two-time Olympic medalist, Vonn has been through many major injuries throughout her career, but they won't stop her from competing in her fifth games. Some of these injuries include a fractured bone in her arm, fractured ankle, hairline knee fracture, partially torn ACL, multiple torn ligaments, and a concussion, and many more. Vonn is determined to win gold this year and has been preparing for the past eight years after missing the 2014 Sochi games. In an interview with People Magazine, Vonn stated, "I wasn't able to go to Sochi so I know these coming Games are going to be really important for me." "I've paid enough but now I feel fit and ready for it. I know I will be self-confident at the start." Also declaring gold to be her favorite color, the 33 year old skier will definitely be giving it all this year.

One of the countries to be on the watch for this year is Germany, especially in the sport of Luge. Felix Loch, an Olympic luger, is one of Germany's top athletes after winning gold medals in the 2014 and the 2010 Olympics. Winning his first gold medal in 2010, at age 20, made Loch the youngest Olympic luge champion. In women's luge, Germany's Natalie

Geisenberger looks to sweep the gold again. At the 2014 Sochi Olympics Geisenberger won gold in singles and mixed team, while also winning bronze in singles during the 2010 Olympics. In order for the United States to win gold in the Olympics, the team will have to give it their all.

The U.S is known for winning many medals at both the summer and winter Olympics and thus has historically strong performances in many sports. But one sport especially in the winter Games is both a medal haven and a fan favorite: Snowboarding. The team has won 24 medals since the sport was added to the Olympics in 1998, and is expected to bring home more in February. The U.S team looks promising this year, with many former medal winners and competitors qualifying for the tough-to-beat team. The main team consists of Jamie Anderson, Kelly Clark, Brandon Davis, Ben Ferguson, Chloe Kim, Julia Marino, and Ryan Stassel, all of whom have won top world competitions before qualifying for the Olympic team. Another promising athlete making it to South Korea this year is Shaun White. Since making his Olympic debut in 2006 at Turin, he has come to hold the highest scores for halfpipe in Olympic history. He was in a snowboarding accident just months before qualifying in 2017, resulting in 62 face stitches, yet he still qualified for the upcoming games. He explains to news reporters after the accident, "I've always lived my life by pushing the limits. Winning is great, but it's the tough times that truly define you." No country has been able to top the U.S's gold medal count for the sport, but the teams of Norway, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, and Finland come a close second in the tough fight for the gold medal. There are 10 snowboarding events in the 2018 Olympics with slopestyle, halfpipe, snowboard cross and big air seeming to be the team's forte, with promising results expected from these events. Soon, teams from all across the world will pack up and head to South Korea after many years of training to be ready for the Game's opening ceremonies on February 9th at 6 AM EST.

A Valentine's Day Guide for Couples, Singles, and Everyone In-Between

Sara Tonissen

Every year there is one main problem that couples go through to find the perfect gift and plan the perfect date on Valentine's Day. No matter how well a couple knows each other, the pressure to make the most out of this romantic holiday can make things very difficult and stressful this time of year. Preparations need to be made ahead of time to make everything go smoothly. To keep everyone in the spirit of love, here are some tips on gift ideas, dates, and plans for singles that still love Valentine's Day.

Romantic dinners are generally the go-to date for Valentine's Day, but there are many activities that couples can do to make their night more interesting. Money is a large problem with many teenagers, but there are many different dates that can be cost effective while still being romantic. Taking a walk together or a drive around town is a special date that will only cost time and/or gas. Staying in and cooking a meal together is another personal date that would not require elaborate plans to create. Going to the movies is another way that a couple can spend their time together on Valentine's Day, but pairing it with dinner is what many couples do. Finally, if a couple is more active, Sky Zone or Swings-N-Things are easy places to have fun while still spending quality time together.

These are just a few date ideas, but it would be wise for both people to plan the night together. Senior Joy Jacobs explains what her perfect date would be: "It sounds cheesy, but my idea of a perfect date is ordering Chipotle online and then going to the beach to watch the sunset on a blanket." Cheesy or not, creativity, simplicity, and company can make any activity romantic.

Valentine's Day can be good or bad depending on who is asked. Many singles do not like the holiday because they have no one to celebrate it with, but there are many ways to keep up the spirit. Spending time with other single friends is a good way to do this. Stay in with a group of friends, take-out food, and an endless supply of comedy movies to keep up the loving spirit. For singles who love Valentine's Day, watching romantic movies can maintain the spirit. The date ideas mentioned above are also good to do with friends but to avoid couples, stay at home. Senior Autumn Knierim says, "For me, Valentine's Day is so much more than just spending time with a boyfriend or girlfriend. This day is about spreading love to friends and family and everyone else who is in your life!" Spreading love can mean just as much when it is spread to more than one person.

Besides coming up with date ideas, couples can have trouble coming up with gift ideas. The perfect gift does not necessarily mean that it is the most mainstream one, so try to be creative in choosing a gift. There are endless possibilities for matching couple gifts like keychains or bracelets, but gifts do not need to match to be special. The ideas below are meant to give general direction, and adding personal touches will make them unique. Junior Ally McKinney says, "Being together on Valentine's Day and putting thoughts into gifts is the best thing to do. The gift doesn't have to be expensive or even bought; making something or putting a lot of thought into a gift can make it a great one."

Gift Ideas for Her: Jewelry, flowers and chocolate, make up, giant teddy bears, Spotify playlist, photo album

Gift Ideas for Him: Watch, favorite candy, favorite team merchandise, sports equipment, photo album

Morgan's Sports Report

Morgan Ciolek

Boys Basketball:

The 2017-2018 varsity basketball team is off to a roaring start as they lead the conference 7-0. The Bulldogs have proven themselves on the court as they clench victory after victory with a strong defense that dominates the SWC. Over winter break, the team traveled to Phoenix, Arizona to attend the Cactus Jam. The team went 2-1 at the tournament, losing only once to Eastside Catholic, a team from Washington state. Junior Braden Galaska hit a 15 foot buzzer beater against California's Alameda High School, clenching their first win of the tournament. The varsity team finished third in the highest division at the tournament, and junior Eric Hanna was honored as a member of the Cactus Jam tournament team. While in Arizona, the boys also got the opportunity to travel to the Grand Canyon and attend a Phoenix Suns game. The Bulldogs continued their conference season with several memorable games including a last second 71-69 win over Avon on Saturday, January 6th. The teams fought long and hard with the Bulldogs outscoring the Eagles in the second quarter 18-1, followed by Avon sealing a 23-13 margin in the third quarter. In the end, junior Gavin Dietrich hit a shot with 2 seconds left, cementing the victory for the Dogs. Junior Eric Hanna is looking forward to the rest of the season. Hanna stated, "Our goal in the end is to win the SWC and districts, and if we keep playing like we are and putting in the work I have hope that we'll do just that." The

varsity team will play their rival Berea-Midpark on February 9th.

Girls Basketball:

The Olmsted Falls girls basketball team is proving themselves yet again as a force to be reckoned with in the SWC. Sophomore Danielle Stevens says, "Our goal is to always play together and believe in our abilities. We hope to get back to districts and move forward from there." The Bulldogs currently have a conference record of 7-3 and are continuing to make their mark on each team they play. The girls started their season strong with three consecutive wins, eventually falling to the Avon Eagles due to a last minute buzzer beater on their part, but then going on yet another three game winning streak. Despite the Bulldogs' two losses in a row to tough competitors, Amherst and Berea-Midpark, they continued to work hard and ended up defeating Avon Lake in a close 31-30 match on January 17th. The strong defensive effort held back the Shoregals during the four back-and-forth quarters, helping them to keep Avon Lake alert and on their toes. Junior Clare Kelly joined senior Sarah Balfour in the 1000 point club after the successful victory on Wednesday night. The varsity team will play again at home on Monday, February 10th, against Berea-Midpark.

Gymnastics:

The Olmsted Falls gymnastics team is performing exceptionally well this season, especially with their

newest addition of five freshmen. The team hosted a meet this season that went extremely well. Captain Abby LaRosa and freshman Lindsey Lapinta had great showings at the meet and represented Olmsted Falls well. Lapinta is pleased with her first season so far. She states, "High school gymnastics is a blast and super stress free for anyone looking to join. Right now we have five freshmen and three juniors, and with such a young team there's a promising three years to look forward to. Sectionals are coming up, and we are hoping that all members on our team can earn a spot competing for a regional or state title."

Swimming:

The Olmsted Falls Swim & Dive team has had an eventful and successful season thus far. Sophomore Hannah Kho states, "The thing I love most about the team is how close everyone is with each other. No matter what you will always see people cheering for each other!" The team has faced opponents such as North Olmsted, Westlake, Avon Lake, Fairview Park and Lakewood throughout the months of December and January. Despite some tough losses, both the boys and girls teams have pulled out first place finishes in the meets. Against Fairview Park, the boys Swim & Dive team beat the Warriors 97-73. First place finishes included junior Connor White with 50 free, sophomore Luke Trupo with 100 free and backstroke, junior Mason Collins with 500 free, and the men's 200 free relay

(White, senior Alex Bolton, sophomore Jack Surtman, Trupo). The ladies faced a tough match against a difficult Warriors team and lost the meet 86-90. However, the women's 200 free relay (sophomore Arianna Ponticelli, freshman Caroline Lockhart, junior Morgan White, senior Natalie Moore) clenched the first place victory.

Bowling:

The 2017-2018 bowling teams have had an amazing season so far. Both teams have proven themselves to be tough competitors out on the lanes and have clenched multiple victories each. On January 11th, the boys faced North Olmsted in a battle to win the Kegel Pin. The Bulldogs prevailed with a win of 2456-2354, and took home the pin! Juniors Christopher Burkhart and Travis Green led the team with 456 and 453. Green says, "We've been doing what we have aimed for mainly so far this season, and we are hoping to keep improving and to take that into sectionals, and eventually farther." The ladies did not end up winning the Kegel Pin, but they showed great team effort and had some fun too! Junior Krislynn Katona led the team with a two-game series of 322, followed by junior Ashley Clark with a 268 series.

Wrestling:

The reigning SWC wrestling champions have continued with yet another great season. Senior captains Michael Shaw, Jihad Salti, Josh Jaeckin, and Jaden Mendeluk have led the varsity team this year,

proving the Bulldogs are worthy of their attempt to capture their third straight SWC win. The team is getting stronger each day and even managed to clinch the win against undefeated Berea-Midpark. With the showing the Bulldogs are having this year, they are sure to send wrestlers to states for the second year in a row. Junior Caiden Fetterman states, "The hard work we put in as a team will help us face the challenge of winning the SWC conference for the third year in a row." The team also faced Lakewood in a dual meet on January 18th, winning the meet and putting them in a tie for first in SWC standings.

Hockey:

The Olmsted Falls hockey team has had yet another year of impressive showings on the ice. Thanks to some great leadership from captains, juniors Dom Conte and Jacob Kerkay, and senior Angelo Hanson, the Bulldogs have shown teamwork and strength that has helped them to clench multiple victories. The team played the Amherst Comets in the SWC championship on January 17th and unfortunately lost 9-2. However, the Bulldogs were crowned SWC runners up, something they are proud of. Sophomore Colin Wilson says, "We finished strong. We have three more league games and one scrimmage against a solid Strongsville team, and then the Baron Cup. It'll be tough, but we have to put the work in to repeat."

Dream Date

Dylan Briggs

