

# THE MESSENGER

March 2018

## Trey Pullen: A Shining Star

**By Kaitlyn Craig and Kenzie Crane**

Messenger Reporter

If you are looking for someone with positivity, flair, and a good head on their shoulders, Trey Pullen is definitely a good individual to look to. From being on stage, to in the classroom, he always lights up the room with his unique and fun personality. Trey's favorite quote says it all. "You cannot spell extraordinary without extra." He explained that though he is "extra" as in he does the most, he is also extra as in works extra hard and is extra nice. Trey Pullen has been a part of the theatre department here at MCHS for all four years of his high school career, but it didn't start there. "It was always a hobby as a child, but I didn't really delve into it until I joined Mainstage School of Performing Arts and the MCHS Theatre Department I learned that I had a passion for this and something I see myself doing for the rest of my life." Trey relayed when asked about his theatrical beginnings. He has even decided to make his passion for performing into a career. In the future, he says that his main career goal is to just make an artistic impact in whatever way possible. "Because of the way the world is now, art is one of the most important things, and specifically the way I want to make my impact is just to be performing in some capacity and influencing an audience in some way." Trey also eventually wants to teach children in the arts and pay it forward to all of the teachers who have had

an impact on him throughout his life. In college, he will be pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. This program is a very hard one to get into, especially at the schools known for their theatre departments. "Auditioning for college musical theatre programs is a crazy stressful time, but it is so rewarding and worth it. I was also very lucky to have my friends right alongside me, because it can be a tough time." Trey added. Trey has not chosen a school to attend yet, but he is sure to do fantastic wherever he ends up. "Wherever I end up is where I know I am meant to be."

Trey has not become the person he is today all by himself. He has had a lot of wonderful teachers and role models along the way. When asked who a teacher is who has had an impact on him, Trey quickly answered, "Wheeler Hughes has been one of the most influential people that I've ever encountered in my life. She's an amazing artistic role model and she has taught me to believe in myself and to persevere through tough situations. She inspires me everyday, she is so strong." Trey also mentioned some other mentors who have had a big impact on him personally. These people include Mary Bowden, Carly Zimmerman, Megan Hughes.

When asked about what advice he

Please see **PULLEN** #2



*Trey Pullen (Courtesy of Matt Hernandez Creative)*

PULLEN

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would give his freshman self, Trey responded, “I would say be fearlessly and unapologetically yourself. And don’t be the one to keep someone else from being that way. Surround yourself with people who have a positive impact on you, not a negative one.” Trey has definitely grown and matured a lot throughout his high school career, and we

Upcoming Events

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March 22-24: Hello, Dolly!

April 2-6: Spring Break

April 28: MCHS Prom

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OPINION

History or Hoax

Topic 7: Citezen’s Arrest

By Caroline Dew  
Editor-in-Chief

Many people, while driving, find themselves stepping on their brakes a bit when they pass a police car, even if they aren’t necessarily doing anything wrong. People generally become more aware of their behaviors when they are around officers. Around a group of friends, however, it’s usually the opposite. People don’t really think twice about speeding on an empty back road with their friends, or ordering a water at McDonalds but filling the cup up at the machine with Coke. The threat of being arrested isn’t really there. Well, at least, it doesn’t seem like it’s there. According to some interpretations of a federal law, anyone can perform a citizen arrest in the right circumstances (According to common sense though, a citizen’s arrest really isn’t a great idea). The state laws regarding citizen’s arrest vary from state to state. To define a citizen’s arrest, Duhaime.org states that a citizen’s arrest is “Detainment of a person suspected of having committed a crime, by a person other than a police officer...” According to this definition, then it seems like anyone can commit a citizen’s arrest for any crime in any situation. This definition is simply a broad one, and citizen’s arrest is much more complicated than just tackling someone because you saw them take a piece of candy. The federal “law” relating to citizens arrest doesn’t explic-

itly state “citizen’s arrest”, but Title 18, Section 2236, talks about arrests and when they are warranted. It seems, at the beginning, that the section is talking about law enforcement officers only. But later in the statement, they become more vague, referring to “any persons” making arrests. This is interpreted by some as referring to citizens arrest.

Citizen’s arrest in state laws are cookie-cutter compared to the federal “law” regarding citizen arrest. Some state laws require a felony to occur before a citizen can do anything. It’s important that the citizen sees the felony occurring, however. If the citizen makes an arrest and the felony didn’t actually occur, the citizen making the arrest could become subject to legal charges. Different states have different laws about use of force during citizen’s arrest. Some states allow for use of reasonable force, while others specifically prohibit the use of deadly force unless the citizen making an arrest is attempting to protect himself or others from being harmed.

Making a citizen’s arrest comes with lots of risks. If someone came up to you and said that they were placing you under citizen’s arrest, you’d probably laugh. If they persisted, you may get angry. This is often times the case. According to the Stuff You Should Know podcast, four men attempted to arrest a purse snatcher, when an ally of the snatcher came up and started stabbing the men. Citizen’s arrest can be extremely dangerous.



# A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers



Dew

This letter is really for upperclassmen, but it's good for lowerclassmen to understand this stuff too.

As the end of your high school career closes, a

lot of times, you can slack off when it come to grades. Senioritis - yikes. It's okay, I can feel it's symptoms all too well. Just because you're almost done with high school, however, doesn't mean that your grades don't matter. Colleges will still ask for your first semester senior year transcripts, and you still won't be able to

graduate if you don't have adequate credits. Slacking off can also become a bad habit that carries on to college, and that's the last thing you want. Work hard, be nice!

**Caroline Dew**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

## College Spotlight: Brescia University

**By Lauren Wildoner**

Artwork & Photography Coordinator

*Brescia University is the only Catholic University in Western Kentucky. BU is located in Owensboro. If you are looking for a small-campus feel, BU is the place for you with about 688 students, 481 full time, 207 part time.*

*BU has a 48% acceptance rate and tuition can average to about \$20,500 per year.*

*"The academics are wonderful, as are the athletics. The campus is beautiful. Everything you need is within walking distance." -www.cappex.com*

*Brescia has a range of*

*majors from Biomedical Sciences to Visual and Performing Arts. "Brescia University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees." -www.brescia.edu*



# March Playlist

**By Caleb Buford**  
Messenger Reporter

**Meant to Be - Bebe Rexha (feat. Florida Georgia Line),**  
**This is Me - Kelia Settle & The Greatest Showman Ensemble, The Greatest Showman**  
**Genesis - Dua Lipa**  
**Black & White - Todrick Hall**  
**If I Could Tell Her - Ben Platt & Laura Dreyfuss, Dear Evan Hansen**  
**Starving - Hailee Steinfeld**  
**Glorious - Macklemore (feat. Skylar Grey)**  
**Galway Girl - Ed Sheeran**  
**Learn to Let Go - Kesha**  
**Love So Soft - Kelly Clarkson**  
**Just Like Fire - P!nk**  
**Mama Will Provide - Alex Newell, Once on This Island (2017)**  
**3am - Meghan Trainor**  
**Doin' What You Want - Asta**  
**Fools Gold - Fitz & The Tantrums**  
**Hey Ya! - Walk Off The Earth**

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# Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Forney-Hantle

**By Tristan Cates**

Messenger Reporter

South of Broad by Pat Conroy

March's teacher spotlight focuses on Mrs. Judith Forney-Hantle. She has been in the field for 34 years and began her career after being guided by several motivational individuals in her life, including her uncle and several others in the education field during her time as a student. Her expertise and experiences in teaching are often expressed through her countless stories and anecdotes. Not a day goes by without you feeling as if you have learned a new life lesson because of Mrs. Forney-Hantle's insightful and caring nature. House 4 wouldn't be the same if it weren't for the spirit that she resonates each and every day and for that she is our teacher spotlight recipient.

***To read more about Mrs. Forney-Hantle's interests and thoughts check out the interview below!***

**Did you have any jobs before teaching?**

I worked at a local ice cream store called Lloyd's Ice Cream that is now Lic's Ice Cream. I worked retail and sold shoes throughout college. I taught exercise classes and was an assistant manager at a women's spa.

**Favorite Movie?**

The Sons of Katie Elder

**Favorite Book?**

**Who or what inspires you?**

The beauty and power of God's creation. There is so much to see, do, learn, and love in the world and it is our role to make the world in which we live better today and for the future.

**Why did you choose your teaching concentration?**

I enjoy the story of how we got to the present and what the past can teach us about other people and times. People have changed lives through their actions.

**Where did you go to high school?**

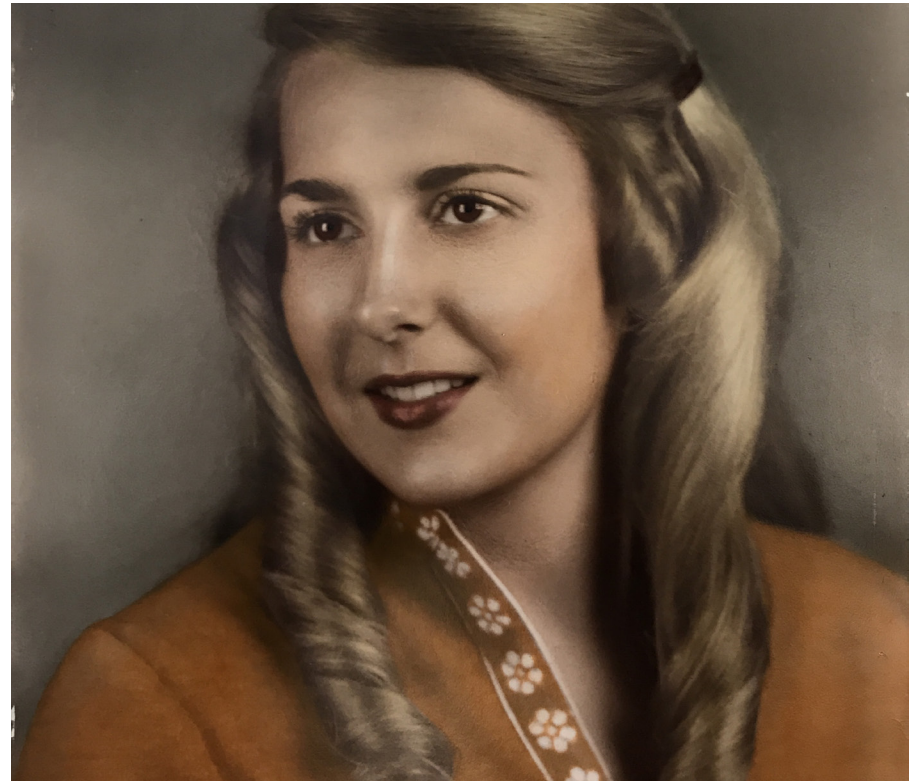
William Henry Harrison High School Evansville, IN.

**What is your favorite thing about teaching at MCHS?**

The students and my colleagues. MCHS has provided a larger number of both.

**What is one thing that you wish your students knew about high school?**

Many of the things you learn in high school will not seem relevant until much later in life and all the things that make you feel small or unhappy won't matter much in the future. It is four years that shape the next journey but to quote Dr. Seuss "Oh the Places You Go" will be endure longer than these 4 short years.



Mrs. Forney- Hantle



Raney

# Monthly Horoscopes

## Aries (3/21-4/19)

This month will be a pivotal time to wrap up any unfinished project or business. If you feel as if you have been slacking a bit towards the beginning of the month, don't leave everything in a messy place! It will only leave you feeling as if you haven't put in your best efforts. This can be a hurtful feeling for you, Aries, because your actions tend to be ruled by determination and independence, and getting the job done successfully.

## Taurus (4/20-5/20)

Your leadership qualities will shine this month, Taurus. You may be afraid of seeming too "bossy" or headstrong, but you will realize that sometimes, you just need to take charge in certain situations. Whether it be a group project, a new goal, or even learning to take control over parts of your life that you have finally worked up the courage to do. Treat yourself!

## Gemini (5/21-6/20)

You are likely to find a spring in your step soon, Gemini. This is a time for joy and positive energy! You may feel more active than usual, and have the urge to stay busy and productive. You are not one to enjoy wasting valuable time, Gemini, and you will find that the increase in productivity will help you get more things accomplished this month than you did the last.

## Cancer (6/21-7/22)

It is never too late to start looking for a new and stable routine, Cancer. You, too, should have a spike in energy and determination this month and use it in a responsible

way. You're usually a spontaneous type of person, but a set routine in the morning or afternoon could really help you feel more put-together. Try having a set time for homework or study.

## Leo (7/23-8/22)

Personal success will be an important priority for you this month, Leo. This is likely a very busy time for you, and you have been needing to make decisions about keeping your life in balance. What is most important to you? Could it be relationships and your social life, or is it your work or school life? This month is perfect to get a routine set in place, and to get organized.

## Virgo (8/23-9/22)

This month forecasts many fantastic surprises concerning love and personal relationships. Surround yourself with people that have positive and friendly attitudes, and you will feel an extreme amount of happiness. It will be a switch from the stress you've been experiencing lately, and you just might find that joy will show up at your door!

## Libra (9/23-10/22)

Though some things soon may be rather challenging, Libra, don't let your focus shy away from treating others well. Kindness and gratitude will be your best friends this month, and your horoscope foretells that it may be time to concentrate on the emotional aspects of your life.

## Scorpio (10/23-11/21)

This is a month filled with plenty of excitement, Scorpio. You may feel your creativity spark and fun plans

fill your schedule. You may want to express yourself artistically, and you can do this in a number of ways. Try writing, painting, or drawing to end your days on a relaxing note.

## Sagittarius (11/22-12/21)

You will find a burst of confidence this month, Sagittarius. You may want to engage in social situations that involve large groups of people or any sort of energetic activity. As the weather grows warmer, you will feel the great need to get outside and soak up some Vitamin D! Walking or hiking is also a great way to clear your head.

## Capricorn (12/22-1/19)

It's time to clear your mind of all things stressful, Capricorn. Make sure to find ways to keep yourself motivated and get your work done so that you can embrace all of the positive and fun things that come with the season. You also may feel extra generous. You are one to take care of your friends and loved ones.

## Aquarius (1/20-2/18)

You may spend quite a lot of time thinking of the past this month, Aquarius. Each time you find yourself wrapped up in something that happened long ago, remember that the present is far more important and your future is bright. Don't let anyone's negative attitudes or your own conflicting emotions affect you! Embrace your strength.

## Pisces (2/19-3/20)

Don't let yourself get lazy this month, Pisces! Though things may be winding down, your work ethic should not! Daydreaming isn't ever anything you should avoid doing, but make sure to balance your responsibilities and fun.



# Spring Break in Paducah

**By Jaden Raney**

Messenger Reporter

If you've lived in Paducah for a considerable amount of time, you understand that it's very easy to become bored quickly. If you're one of the lucky ones that get to pack up the car and travel over spring vacation, this article probably won't be much help to you. This is for

those, like myself, that are going to be stuck in the same town all nine days. There are a few places you can go, but there are also ways to beat the boredom

in your own home. Not to mention, they're all inexpensive!

## Get together with friends, and walk the Greenway Trail.

A great way to get some exercise and be surrounded by nature and fresh air.

Bake! Even if you aren't the best at this, it's a way to bond with family members or friends! If your treats don't quite turn out delicious, it can be a funny experience.

## Go to the park, and pack a picnic lunch.

We don't talk about picnics enough. Perfect opportunity to enjoy the weather and your favorite foods. If you invite your friends along, what better time to take some photos?

## Have a movie marathon on rainy days, or go out to the movie theater.

This could turn into number seven.

## Visit garage sales or thrift stores.

You'd be surprised at the great finds, and maybe find some spring pieces to add to your

wardrobe.

Send a handwritten letter to someone. You could always send a text, but others can keep handwritten letters and read over them when they feel down or in need of some positivity!

## Take a nap.

We all need one. Take a stroll downtown. There are many neat sights, stores, and restaurants for you to pass the time.



**Go for a drive; windows down!** Turn up your favorite song and live life!

## Discover new music.

If you're desperately in need of some new tunes, Spotify playlist or give an unknown artist a chance.

## Take your dog to the dog park.

Your dog will enjoy the day as much as you do, and possibly make some new doggy friends. And who doesn't want to pet lots of dogs?

## Go on a bike ride.

A great way to get some exercise. You could even treat yourself to ice cream afterwards!

## Fill up on sweets at Candy Craze.

An underrated activity.

## Coffee date!

Some of the best conversations occur over warm beverages.

## See a stage show.

There are always shows going on, wherever you look! If you're someone that enjoys stage productions, you'll probably be doing this anyway at some point. If you aren't, go see a show!

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# Lauren Ervin

**By Kaitlyn Craig**

Human Interest Coordinator

If you are looking for a person who keeps a smile on their face no matter what negativity gets thrown at them, Lauren Ervin is definitely one of those people. Lauren is one of those people, where if you are having a bad day and you need some cheering up, she can lift your mood in minutes with her infectious smile and positive spirit. When asked what her life motto is, Lauren answered, "Be a Sunshine! So many people feel suppressed to show their true character around others. Being a genuine light to someone's life is truly a goal to follow everyday for me. In fact, I even have a cute sunshine engraving on my glasses!"

Lauren is a sophomore here at McCracken County High School, where she plays french horn in the concert band and the marching band. "In fifth grade, there was a 5th grade band night where we were supposed to try out these different instruments and decide what we would like to play in the following years. I was completely against

joining band until 30 minutes before the event even began! My sister really urged me to try band out, just for a year. That day was when I found my true passion for music and for the french horn." Lauren has other hobbies as well. When asked what they were, Lauren responded, "I love thrifting, sleeping, playing The Sims, and making memories with my buds."

When asked who her personal inspiration is, she

said, "Heather Corley is undoubtedly one of the most inspiring people I know. Meeting last year through marching band, Heather has always been resilient from the negativity around her and constantly radiates sunshine and happiness. She has encouraged me so much to follow my intuition and long-term dreams." With Lauren being at the point of beginning to plan her future and looking ahead to after high school opportunities, I asked her what advice she would give her 10 year old self, and she responded, "I would most likely tell my 10-year-old self to loosen up. Enjoy life while you can. At that time, it's hard for so many to express themselves. It got to a point, in my case, where I would try to live a utopian life, which is totally impossible."

Lauren is definitely a gem here at MCHS. We should all strive to be a little bit more like Lauren and be nicer to everyone else around you, and be more compassionate and aware of the situations around you.



# The Power of the Chain

**By Connor Scholl**

Messenger Reporter

Ever since I began running, I've wondered what separates the great runners from the adequate. Initially, I thought that a runner's skill was directly related to the amount of effort and practice they put forth, which I've determined to be at least partly true. However, in my quest to pinpoint the most prominent determiner of a runner's skill, I found that one simple accessory plays a very large, if not the largest, role in a runner's skill level: a chain. It took me a while to come to this conclusion, but I can proclaim with almost complete certainty that a runner wearing a chain will produce the best results. I once thought, as I'm sure you are currently thinking, that the presence of a chain had no influence on a runner's performance. After all, it is neither logical nor scientific that a runner should rapidly improve and perform well when wearing a chain. However, in this case, logic simply

fails, and the evidence in support of my case is staggering.

The first piece of evidence comes from the 2016 Olympics. In the 100m dash, Usain Bolt, Justin Gatlin, and Andre De-Grasse won the gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively. Furthermore, all 3 of those winning times were under 10 seconds, which is a feat only a select few have achieved. In the midst of these glorious times, however, everyone neglected to notice one distinguishing feature among the three athletes: all three wore a chain.

In tandem with the Olympics, two local athletes have recently boasted improvements at least partly because of their chains. Two McCracken County High School runners achieved new personal records at a recent meet with impressive times, but I found it interesting that both of these runners wore chains when they achieved their new records. Moreover, one of these athletes was

wearing his chain for the first time during his race, and he managed to further improve his already admirable time (most likely from the strength he gained from his chain). From this evidence, I have concluded that a chain is the distinguishing feature that separates elite and adequate runners. With my claim being attested by such conclusive evidence, I can safely and solemnly testify to the power of the chain.



# Disney Pin Trading

**By Tristan Cates**

Messenger Reporter

Walt Disney World is referred to as the happiest place on Earth because of its immersive experience that caters to all ages. Disney is notorious for hiding entire adventures within their parks and this is the case for

their pin trading system. When walking around the park, you can see cast members with small boards containing a variety of Disney themed enamel pins. This is the secretive and interactive pin trading system, a tradition dating back to the 1990's. When visiting the park you can buy any Disney pin from the gift shops

or other vendors, starting your adventure into the fun scavenger hunt that spans across the entirety of Disneyland, Disney World, and all affiliated resorts. Once you have pins to trade away, you can approach

any employee with a lanyard or pin board and ask to trade with them. The cast member will never say no as long as you have an authentic Disney pin to trade with them. You can search for certain pins with your favorite Disney characters or ones that represent classic symbols or events of the franchise. Disney also takes it a step further by releasing special pins to only the employees so that pin traders can collect limited edition pins that can't be bought within stores. One major selection of these specialty pins is called the Hidden Mickey pins, they are marked by a small Mickey shape of the front of the pin. Disney also uses their expansive history to create fun and heartwarming pins out of less

recognizable characters like Oswald or Figment. Pins are released in collections often by year or by event, at the time of my most recent visit Disney was celebrating the International Festival of the Arts and featured pins depicted famous works of art with a Disney twist. These pins are a rarity and represent a special part of your Disney experience. The hunt for your favorite designs can be fun for the families with children who may not get to ride the thrillers but are still looking for an adventure within the park, or for those who enjoying collecting novelty items in general. Overall, the Disney Pin Trading System is a fun activity for those who want to experience the parks beyond the rides.





# Rachel Bell: Life With A Disability

**By Olivia Vick**

Messenger Reporter

Everyone has a story, and Rachel Bell's is exceptionally inspiring. Though I know her as the smart, hard working, kind girl that wrote poems with me Freshman year, there's a lot more to her than that - and her story is worth telling. Rachel is a senior at McCracken County High School, and has a mild form of cerebral palsy, called hemiparesis. This affects the right side of her body, weakening it, but not paralyzing it. This majorly limits the use of that half of her body. While it isn't entirely certain, the doctor's believe this was caused by a stroke in her left hemisphere while still in the womb, due to an insufficient intake of oxygen. Her mom noticed this very early on, because any time put anything in Rachel's right hand, she would immediately move it to her left. Knowing that babies don't form hand preferences that early, she called the doctor. He acknowledged her concern, and so he called her in. The doctor told Rachel's mother she wouldn't walk until she was three years old, but her mother was determined to prove them wrong, she practiced walking with Rachel like crazy, helping her hold onto furniture just like you would with

any other baby. Then one night, when Rachel was thirteen months old, Rachel and her mother were in the living room when her dad came home from work, and she ran to him. Those were her first steps. When she was a little older, it became more obvious that Rachel was walking on her toes instead of walking heel-toe, as would be expected. She had two surgeries; one at two years old and one at six years old, on her hamstring and Achilles' tendon. Because of this, she started first grade with her leg in a cast. But she didn't slow down. Though Rachel never lets her disability stop her, she states, "it affects everything." Basically, she must use one hand for everything she does. Some things, she's figured out a way to do on her own, but other times, she needs help. Her parents are a big help and support in her life, and one important thing they do is practice certain tasks with one hand with her so she can see how to do it. Other times, Rachel just has to be innovative and figure it out on her own. And she does, sometimes to the astonishment of others, even those closest to her. She added, "I'm slowly becoming more independent in preparation for college, but I'm taking baby steps. Learning to do things that most

people learn before the age of ten can be embarrassing, but I'm proud of my progress and people are generally really supportive." Rachel also talked about how, someOne interesting thing about Rachel's individual situation, is that she's never minded talking about it. She expressed

that she wants to help educate people about her disability, and how disability isn't a bad word. "I don't want people to be afraid of offending me...And I'm always open to questions. I've always been open about it," she elaborated. When asked about why disability is considered such a taboo in our society, she mentioned that she wants to be a part of the end to the stigma surrounding disability. She is not ashamed, "People see disability as some sort of tragedy. It's not like that at all," Rachel

explained, and she wants to change this view by starting a conversation about it. People are curious, and usually courteous, and Rachel has the ambition to change the view of disability.

Some people only see Rachel for her disability, or try to categorize her (on very rare occasion) as the "girl with a limp" but she has never let this define her. She is able to manage her disability very well, because she never let's it stop her from doing things. At times, people are even able to forget she has a disability because this is not something they associate her with. However, it has affected who she is as a person. Rachel is optimistic, positive, and grateful in a way most people are not able to be, always able to find a silver lining. Rachel stated, "I'm grateful for being alive, because I know what a stroke can do to a person. I think the world is a beautiful, lovely place because I know how lucky I am to be here." While she added her disability is a part of her, it's one part of many. "I'm a writer, I volunteer in my free time, I have a disability. There are so many parts that make a whole." One point Rachel made that a lot of people don't think about is how



much it bothers her when people use individuals with disabilities accomplishments to shame others. "There are all those pictures of people with disabilities, like, running a marathon or something with the caption 'What's your excuse?' That's one thing I'm against. I want everyone to be proud of their accomplishments, disability or not. I don't want have any part of putting people down for not doing something, especially if it's something as awesome and difficult as running a marathon. That's a high standard for someone to hold themselves to." Rachel explained. Rachel has a beautiful future to look forward to. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and been accepted to college, as well as working towards that increased independence she would need in that setting. In the way of jobs, she currently volunteers in her spare time and has an internship at City Hall. While she acknowledges she does face some limitations, she knows what she can and can't do. Though she admitted that the vast unemployment rate of individuals who are disabled could be intimidating, she professed "I hope future employers see my work ethic, not my bent hand."





# Staying Motivated

**By Jaden Raney**  
Messenger Reporter

No one really wants to talk about studying. It's something that we tend to avoid as much as we neglect hitting the books during our own time. However, in the season of many tests and nearing the end of the school year, it is highly important to stay motivated so that you don't fall behind. Even if you're a senior, you need to focus on keeping your grades that you've worked hard all year for in a good place. It is not too late! Some things that you can do so that the next few months end on a great note, is find your time to study, do some spring cleaning, and keep a healthy balance between school and leisure!

The first thing that you will need to do is clear your workspace of anything unimportant. Now, for most, an actual workplace or study-space is actually just your bed or the couch. Since you likely ditch the books for a nap, reserve your study materials for a quiet area that has a desk or a table. This could be an area in your own home, a public or school library, or your favorite coffee shop. Wherever you can focus in a distraction-free zone!

Personally, I create bullet-lists. On a journal page or a post-it, I list all of the things that I have to complete on that day. I may not be the most organized person, but it is so satisfying to mark tasks off when I'm finished! This is especially useful if you're a forgetful person, and only takes seconds. If making lists isn't your thing, create an order for things that you do. Such as, doing the tedious homework before something that is only going to take fifteen minutes of your time. If you feel as if you don't quite have the time to get everything done because of extracurriculars or social events, make quick flashcards the night



before containing information that you need to memorize, or even record a voice memo of you reading the study guide or notes out loud. (It works!) You most likely always have your phone on you, so why not grab some earbuds and listen to the things that will help you?

A bit of organization or "spring cleaning" in somewhere that doesn't necessarily include your study place can go a long way as well. Try clearing out anything in your bedroom or backpack that you don't need and replace it with things that will make you feel neat and refreshed. You'd be surprised what a difference this makes! Everyone knows getting lots of work done isn't thrilling, but a way to make it more tolerable is playing some of your favorite tunes or lighting a sweet-smelling candle to keep you relaxed and focused.

Though it is now the final nine weeks of the school year, there is never anything wrong with discovering tips and tricks that will benefit you! Not only are these helpful academically and methodologically, but if you use time wisely, you will have more of that time for the much needed leisure as this year gradually comes to an end. Complete your school year strong!

# Wedding Survival Guide

**By Olivia Vick**  
Messenger Reporter

Whether we like it or not, weddings are an unavoidable part of our culture. They make us laugh, make us cry, make us undoubtedly question our relationship (or lack thereof) and are a very emotional time for everyone involved. Some items are crucial for surviving this time.

**Tissues:** You think you'll be fine, you think you won't need them, but let me tell you that you are probably wrong. If you don't end up needing them, someone around you might. And nothing kills the romantic vibe more than mascara and snot being all over your face. Whether this is caused by a touching moment or your depression of being alone, take a packet (or whole box) of tissues.

**Mints/Candies:** While this may seem a little more far fetched, it always takes the wedding party longer to return to the reception than expected. There will be delicious food and a big, beautiful cake and you're not allowed to eat any of it. You will be glad you have something to munch on and a way to divert your attention from all of the people around you that you don't know. But don't worry, the bride and groom will be back soon. Or eventually.

**Comfortable Shoes:** If you're thinking about wearing those cute six inch heels you paid \$60 for and only wore once, let me stop you now. There will be walking more than entering and exiting the building and you will regret wearing shoes that pinch your

toes or kill your ankles. Also, there is a high chance that there will be dancing after the meal. Knowing that, why would you intentionally wear shoes that will leave you planted in your seat, full and bored? Or bleeding onto a pretty dance floor? Don't do this to yourself!

**Your gift:** This may seem obvious, but let me tell you this is often forgotten. Maybe you forgot to buy a wedding present, maybe you put it off and didn't get up early enough to buy one the day of, or maybe you remembered everything. You bought it off of the registry like a responsible person, you wrapped it in pretty, white paper, put a bow on it, and pretty tag and attached a card. Then left it at your house. Yes, you can give them the gift later or mail it to them, but you will be distracted for the whole wedding because of this. Don't forget!





# Donut of the Day

## *Dunkin' Donuts: The Jelly Donut*

**By Connor Scholl**

Messenger Reporter

For the past week and a half, I've been scouring Paducah for another donut shop worthy of reviewing. As mentioned in an earlier edition, the amount of places from which I can obtain donuts has been dwindling to nothing, so this quest proved to be especially difficult. However, after days of searching, my pursuit led me to a donut shop so obvious, so apparent that I was amazed at having not seen it earlier: Dunkin' Donuts.

Before I even went to Dunkin' Donuts for this review, I held the notion that Dunkin' was a subpar donut shop. I had been there only once before, and the donuts I ate on that previous visit were extremely dry and unsatisfactory. Moreover, an individual donut cost \$0.99, which was too high a value for the quality of the donuts. Despite my past experience with Dunkin', this visit was ultimately satisfying and delicious.

For this visit, I decided to order a jelly donut, per usual. As I ordered, I couldn't help but recall my prior disappointment with Dunkin', and seeing the price of \$0.99 per donut further weakened my excitement. However, after the first bite, my negative thoughts immediately fled from my mind. The flavors filled my mouth with glee, and I was beyond

ecstatic. I devoured the rest as quickly as humanly possible and, being as pleasantly surprised as I was, took a moment to admire how delicious it tasted.

Although this isn't the subject of this article, I also ordered Dunkin's new mint brownie donut, and it was equally satisfying. In fact, its flavors were far more unique than the jelly donut's, and it tasted extremely refreshing.

Overall, the Dunkin' jelly donut was very satisfying. It's price was slightly higher than I would expect for a donut of its caliber, but I would highly recommend it nonetheless. Additionally, if ever you do decide to try the Dunkin' jelly donut, I would encourage you to also try their mint brownie donut, as it was equal to, if not better than, the jelly donut.



# Theatre Etiquette

**By Caleb Buford**

Business

One of the most aggravating things I experience when I go see the show are people not following the basic rules of theatre etiquette. But, then, I remind myself that it's probably the first time that they've been in a theatre or that no one has told them how to act during a show. So, in response to better educate society here are the top 5 theatre etiquette rules that you need to know before you go to see a show.

### **Turn off your phone.**

This is one of the biggest issues that I have ran into at theatre events everywhere. Phones do not belong in the theatre during the performance. Not only do they take away from the piece of work and art being presented to you, but it's distracting to your fellow audience members and even the actors on stage.

### **Unwrap your candies before the show begins.**

One of the queens of Broadway, Patti LuPone, called out an audience member once for trying to slowly unwrap their candy during the show. Let me tell you now; it doesn't matter how slow you open that candy wrapper, we ALL hear it in it's crinkling glory.

**Do not sing along.** Unless at the beginning of the show they state that they encourage the audience to sing along, or they shine lights or project the lyrics on the audience during a song and cast encourages you to sing, do not sing along. I paid \$70 to hear those on stage who are professionals sing, not your amature voice behind me.

**Follow the pre-production announcements.** No photography of any kind, no



videography, silence your cellphones (even better, turn it off), and unwrap your candies before the show. Sadly, the latter announcement is true for a variety of productions. These rules help to ensure the production is distraction free. It is also illegal to record a copyrighted work, so pretty much any play or musical your attend. As sung in Catch Me If You Can, the musical, "Don't break the rules!"

### **Do NOT get up in the middle of a scene.**

Unless you have an absolute emergency, please, please do not get up from your seat. It's distracting to everyone around you. If you just absolutely have to get up, leave when there is a break for applause or a blackout, that way it doesn't hinder from the experience of others.

Most of the etiquette rules for a theatrical production are about being considerate to those around you and those on stage. We all paid big bucks to see these productions and we want to enjoy it without the distractions of the real world.



# Lunchtime Lads: The Qdoba Experience

By Connor Scholl and Rodney Perry

Messenger Reporters

***Hitherto, the Lunchtime Lads have tried to review restaurants of varying ethnicities. They've eaten mexican, american, oriental, and many other types of foods to ensure that no one culture is left behind. However, with the opening of so many new restaurants in Paducah, the Lunchtime Lads decided to break their streak and revisit their old friend, the burrito, and what better place to do so***

***than at a new restaurant: Qdoba.***

**Connor's Review** - Before eating at the new Qdoba, I had eaten at several others in several different cities, and every time I tried it, each meal somehow seemed tastier than the last. It was these past experiences that gave me high expectations for this Qdoba, and I expected nothing less than excellence. However, my expectations were not met, and I was fairly disappointed with my experience. Upon entering, one of the first things I noticed was the price of the burritos. For a chicken burrito,

the cost was somewhere around \$8.00, which is highway robbery. At Burrito Shack, I could order a large burrito for \$6.75, and I think that the Burrito Shack burrito is larger than the Qdoba burrito to begin with. This was only the first disappointment. As I chose what I wanted on my burrito, the employee scooped out microscopic portions of each food so that the end result was a burrito that consisted of more tortilla than actual fillings. Finally, the burrito itself tasted extremely adequate and left me largely unsatisfied. While I realize that this Qdoba was

extremely new when I ate there, it still seemed to be especially unsatisfying for a Qdoba. I would rank it a 5 out of 10, but would still recommend that you try it because it wasn't bad, but also wasn't amazing.

**Rodney review-** The news of Qdoba excited the whole community of McCracken. The idea of a new southwestern grill to replace the sad ruins of Pancheros became great news. We had already reviewed burrito shack so it was only natural that we review Qdoba. As I entered the establishment the venue was reminiscent of the old southwest. I was greeted by the smell of grilled chicken and different ingredients. The restaurant was full of hungry customers looking for a meal. I walked towards the line to order my burrito. The choices for the meats were mediocre but expected. I ordered the chicken burrito with brown rice. The first thing noticed as I received the burrito was the odd folding of the burrito. Despite that I began to eat my burrito. Unlike burrito shack my mouth wasn't met with the explosion of flavors but was crowded with the taste of rice but not a mix of all the ingredients. The use of the meats was minimal there was little meat I tasted. It felt like I was cheated out of a burrito. The ingredients were not as full as burrito shack and felt dull. Combined with the small use of meat made it lackluster. The burrito was below average, despite the excellent service and great environment Qdoba received a 4 out of 10.



## One for the Books

**By Kaitlyn Craig**

Human Interest Coordinator

This month's "One for the Books" selection is the complete opposite of the book I covered in the February edition, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close". Where that book was very deep and had very sad and tragic themes, this book, "We Should Hang Out Sometime" is very funny and lighthearted. It is actually a nonfiction book, but it reads like any normal fiction novel.

This book is a memoir that Josh Sundquist wrote about his relationship experience, or lack thereof. Josh is now a paralympic ski racer and YouTube star, but he had his fair share of awkward teenage experiences. Maybe even more than most given the fact he only has one leg due to a battle with cancer.

# We Should Hang Out Sometime

The premise of this book is that when Josh was twenty-five years old, he realized that he had never had a girlfriend. When this came to his attention, he was actually under the impression that he was in a relationship, so this was a shocking realization. So he decides to go back and look at each of his previous crushes and almost girlfriends, and review the situation, create a hypothesis, and then contact them to ask them what went wrong.

The special thing about this book is that the author could have taken the woah is me route and just constantly look down on himself and write it in a very hostile manner. But instead he wrote it in a very self humorous manner and continually makes jokes about the situation and about his awkwardness. This is what I loved about the book most. I was laughing throughout the whole



Craig



thing, which I really enjoyed because most of the books I have read lately have been really heavy and overall just really sad. It was very lighthearted, which was refreshing. It also involves a lot of normal teenage situations, some of which not even involving the relationship aspect of the book that are super relatable to someone who has completed the majority of their high school career. This was also a very quick read, I read it in just over a week,

and that was with all of my other homework and commitments.

This book isn't one that would change any lives, or inspire anyone to go become president or something like that, but it was definitely a very enjoyable read. It was nice to read something easy and simple, that wasn't an emotional roller coaster. I would give this book a definite 3.5/5.



# 2018 Concert Festival

By Olivia Vick

Messenger Reporter

March is certainly a time of madness, and this is especially true for the McCracken County High School band program. After missing school for what seemed like hundreds of field trips, Road to Rupp, and all of the other crazy events the band has outside of school hours, comes Concert Festival. This is what the band spends the majority of the Spring practicing for, and it took place at Tilghman High School, though many years in the past it has taken place at the Lovett Auditorium at Murray State University.

The Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Orchestra all performed. The Symphonic Band performed *Into the Clouds* by Zach Sobiech and *American Riversongs* by Pierre La Plante (directed by John Lovell), and *Earth Song* by Frank Ticheli (directed by Kelley Ray). Wind Ensemble, which is McCracken's higher level band, performed *Dusk* by Steven Bryant and *Apollo Unleashed* by Frank Ticheli, both under the direction of John Lovell. Orchestra performed *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by J.S. Bach and *An English Suite* by Henry Purcell, directed by Melissa Bogle.

For Concert Festival, each of these songs are scored by

a panel of professional judges who offer the schools feedback in order to improve for future performances. The bands did very well and played pieces that are challenging but well prepared for, and each band earned a distinguished rating. After these pieces were performed, each band moved on to a scored, "sight reading" which is when the band plays a piece they have never seen before, and this is scored as well. The bands are given a few minutes to look over the piece individually - McCracken's band uses a technique called STARS (signatures, time, articulations, rhythms, and symbols) - a few minutes to get instruction from the director, then a few minutes to practice tricky parts of the piece. Then the scored performance begins.

Concert Festival happens every spring, and it is a wonderful concert to consider attending in future years. Show support for McCracken's band, and good job everyone!



# Would You Eat This?

## Topic 7: Bird Nest Soup

By Rodney Perry

Messenger Reporter

The next dish might be one of the more bizarre dishes I've spoken about. Bird Nest soup is a soup created from the nest of swiftlets that are common to southeast Asia and dwell in caves. The nest is taken from the caves and boiled then the soup is drained and eaten. This dish is most popular in Southeastern Asia in countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines. The nests are actually made out of bird saliva, which has dried and hardened and the soup is mostly used medicinally believed to aid digestion. To make the soup, climber scale high cliffs to find the nest of the swiftlets.

The climbers collect the nest and soak it in cool water overnight. The next day the nest is stewed in chicken stock and cornstarch. The demand for the soup has caused concern for the swiftlet species. The population of this bird has declined but there has been little effort to conserve the birds due to their delicacy in Southeastern Asia. The soup is said to taste like an ordinary chicken noodle soup with various ingredients. Its popularity might affect the future for the small bird species though.

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# Spring into Fashion

**By Jaden Raney**  
Messenger Reporter

The sun is shining and everything is slowly blooming yet again! That means It's finally time to put your winter coats away and bring out your pastel tops! (And the dreaded spring cleaning.) I don't know about any of you, but spring fashion is my personal favorite. Embracing colorful patterns and warmth are just a few of a reasons that this season is so grand. As the fashion month of February comes to a close, we are able to see lots of the hottest upcoming trends that these next few months will consist of.

Say hello to fringe, once again! What has recently gone out of style after a brief period of being on-trend, fringe is coming back! It made quite the splash during New York Fashion Week, and appears as if it's here to stay. If you are someone who is afraid to wear fringe, or simply wants to try it out in a more subtle way, anything solid colored with this textured accent on the bottom can turn a plain outfit into something bold! Jewelry with tassel, as well, can be a great addition to any outfit. Surprisingly, ruffles have returned to the trend as well, making an interesting accent to shirts and dresses.

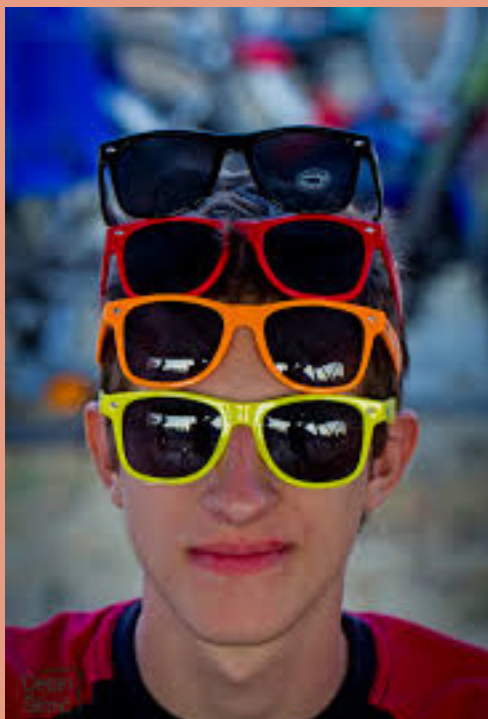
Vertical stripes will be a big hit this year. The vertical stripe has become more prominent with both women and menswear recently, and will follow us into the springtime. One striped piece per outfit is just fine, (Don't overdo the patterns!) and looks great when worn with cuffed joggers or bomber / denim jackets. If you want to go for a more classic look with the stripe, then opt for a T-shirt.

Yet another pattern that we will be seeing a lot of soon is checkered print. Checkered print has, of course, been around for a

long time. However, this classic print will be trendy with a modern twist. Checkered skirts, jackets, and shoes remain aesthetically pleasing and can be a daring but great choice to any wardrobe.

Colors, colors, colors! Both pastels and saturated bolds have been on every runway this season so far. Don't shy away from anything vibrant! You can keep your pastel sweaters around for the spring days that are on the chilly side, but it's nearly time to store them away and trade them for short sleeves or lightweight, airy shirts or dresses! Yellow, pastel pink, orange, and green will be staple colors.

These were just a handful of the many trends and styles that you will be seeing this spring. Switching up your wardrobe a bit is always something that helps us feel refreshed and confident, and there are so many ways that you can use your style to feel empowered and ready to conquer everyday life!



## Man Sues After Finding Cage in His Cage-Free Egg

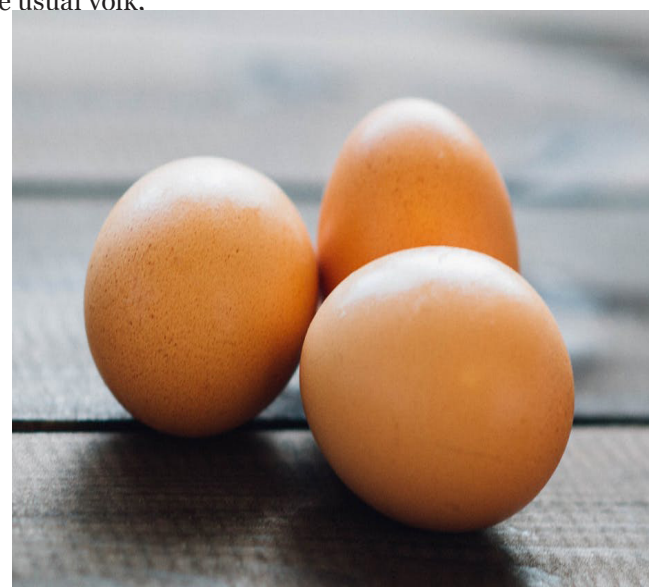
**By Clark English**  
Messenger Reporter

**Ballard** - What was supposed to be a hearty breakfast turned into a cage match between Francisco Huevo and "Big Dairy". Mr. Huevo, a pillar of the local community, recognized for his green thumb and love of the land, has been buying cage free eggs for his entire consumer life. When Mr. Huevo decided to make breakfast one morning, it turned out his plans weren't all they were cracked up to be. As he cracked his egg on his counter, instead of the usual volk, a miniature scale replica cage fell out in its' stead. Mr. Huevo scrambled toward his phone to call his lawyer, Mark Benedict, a practitioner in the study of foul law.

When asked for a quote from a representative of Big Dairy, they said that, "These claims are ridiculous, a chicken embryo is simply not capable of forming a solid steel, welded, metal cage. I assure you that the

charges are fabricated and we will nail Mr. Huevo to the wall within the full extent of the law. This court battle will not over easy". It seems safe to assume that the law firm representing Big Dairy has hatched a solid plan.

Are these merely attempts from corporate America to silence the common man, or is this just another hard boiled plan to make a quick buck. Regardless, someone will be coming out of the courtroom with egg on their face.



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# Find Your Future with Cappex.

By Lauren Wildoner  
Messenger Reporter

Whether you're a senior that knows where you are going, a junior who needs to get a head start on college endeavors, or somewhere in between, cappex.com is the site you need to be making your way to.

This website can help you find colleges, careers, and scholarships wherever you may be in your college journey, and it is very simple and easy to sign up for. Once you do, fill out information about you and the site automatically finds scholarships that fit your academic standing, sends your profile to schools in your area and in your price budget, and gets a lot of the hard part of college searching done for you. You can easily narrow down schools, find out which colleges

you can afford, and if you aren't sure where to even begin, there is a "Majors" tab where you can take a free quiz that will aid you in finding your future!

Not only that, Cappex can help you schedule visits with colleges you have matched with and are interested in and gives you your own personal inbox where the colleges you have found can send their emails right to your profile on the website. The site as a whole is organized and can help you keep up with anything and everything that has to do with your personal college experience.

Within the website, Cappex also has a general application you can fill out that will be sent to over 120 colleges in one click, getting your foot in the door and creating options for you at many schools. This is similar to the Common App, which is another very useful



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college tool and one I would recommend using.

This website is packed full of articles with advice on college and its prep from professionals around the country. Many teachers

require you sign up for Cappex, and if you have, login and give it another try! It's never too early to get started on your future, and if you're a little late it never hurts to see what's still in store for you.

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# Entertainment

## The Spring Musical Experience

By Daniel Cruse

Messenger Reporter

I am a fairly new addition to the McCracken County theatre department and I've been involved in the production of the musical "Hello, Dolly!" that our school has put on this year and it has been an experience that I will never forget. My role on the tech crew is running lights, which is admittedly a pretty simple task but showing up after school for the past few weeks to help put the set together, getting to know members of tech crew and work with members of the cast in a more professional setting has been very interesting. My only regret is that I waited until senior year to get involved in this department because working with all of the students, Mrs. Bowden, and the technical director, Alex Dycus, has been a very fulfilling experience for me and I would've loved to have been a part of it for my whole high school career.

Getting to sit in on a few rehearsals has opened my eyes to how much work goes into any live theatrical production, the director, the technical work, and the cast all come together to create something so complex and well thought out. I had not considered how many different people and things had to work in such detailed ways to make the show turn out as good as it does and it has caused me

to appreciate every live production I have seen even more than I already had.

The general atmosphere from my experience has been very enthusiastic and positive and working with the cast and crew in the afternoons is something that I have looked forward to during the school day for the past few weeks. The show coming to a close is bittersweet as I know that I will have more free time but I will miss the fast paced, high energy environment on set. If you are in any way curious or interested in being a part of the theatre department, or really any department in our school, do not hesitate to sign up for things and put yourself out there because you can discover new hobbies and talents, and begin new friendships that may last a lifetime. Waiting until my last year of high school to involve myself in activities that interest me was a mistake that I regret and anyone, especially underclassmen, who want to try something, be ambitious and don't be afraid to involve yourself because you may find something that you really love to do.





# Upcoming Films

2018-2019

By Tristan Cates

Messenger Reporter

2017 was a big year for film, giving way to high hopes for the upcoming year. With masterpieces like *Darkest Hour*, *the Shape of Water*, and *Call Me By Your Name* all coming from a single Oscar season 2018 has big shoes to fill. So far this year has given us one powerful blockbuster with *Black Panther* but that may only be the beginning of another great year for the industry. Below is a list of films that are already gaining traction as movies to see in 2018, from Russian spies to Disney classic this year surely can't disappoint.

## Red Sparrow

Jennifer Lawrence plays a Russian woman who is drafted into a secret spy organization and taught how to subtly and sensually infiltrate high level corporations in this up and coming film set to release on March 2nd.

## Love, Simon

In light of the inclusive films of 2017 comes this coming of age story about a young boy who hides his sexuality behind an online screen name. Adapted from the novel *Simon vs. the Homo sapien Agenda*, this movie is bound to be a success. The film will be in theaters starting March 16th.

## The Incredibles 2

Disney has every teenage kid on the edge of their seat in anticipation for this sequel.

Many young adults grew up on the first *Incredibles* movie, securing their tickets for the debut of the next installment of a childhood classic. This movie will be released on June 15th, 2018!

## Avengers: Infinity War

The next film comes out April 27th and is probably the most talked about film on this list. The *Avengers* movie scored big at the box office and the next installment is set to do the same because of the star cast of Marvel characters. This film features a mashup of everyone's favorite superheroes uniting to, yet again, save the world from a great force.

## Beautiful Boy

The final film on this list is hitting theaters later in the year but has already gained traction because of its leading star. Timothee Chalamet was the talk of the 2017 Oscars because of his performance in *Call Me By Your Name*, creating buzz for his next film. In this work he plays a struggling meth addict whose paternal relationship is on the line because of this crippling addiction.

# Netflix Recommendations

By Luke Resser

Messenger Reporter



Our Rating: 4 / 5

## Moon

This film tells the story of an astronaut at a mine on the moon played by Sam Rockwell. *Moon* stands out when compared to other sci-fi films for its blending of sci-fi, thriller, and mystery. It is also the directorial debut for Duncan Jones. Fans of sci-fi will love *Moon*.

## Ghostbusters

This iconic film has been cemented into pop culture. With a cast of all stars including Harold Ramis, Dan Aykroyd, Sigourney Weaver, and Bill Murray, there isn't much that needs to be said about this film. Anyone who enjoys classic comedies will love *Ghostbusters*.



Our Rating: 4 / 5

## 300

Maybe Zack Snyder's only decent film, *300* tells the story of an army of Spartans in ancient Greek Times. With Zack Snyder's typical use of stylized violence you know exactly what to expect from this movie.



Our Rating: 4.5 / 5

*Do you have any recommendations for next month's Netflix recommendations? Send us a DM on Twitter @MCHSMessenger!*



Our Rating: 3 / 5

## Casino

Martin Scorsese's 1994 stars Robert de Niro, Sharon Stone, and Joe Pesci. The film features Scorsese's typical mix of violence, mobsters, and tense moments. If you enjoy gangster movies, don't miss this film.



# Celebrity, Author, or Both?

By Kaitlyn Craig

*Every celebrity has something that they are known for. Some are known for specific movies, others a popular tv show, and many other things. But sometimes, celebrities decide to expand their horizons and try other things. Many of them do this by writing books, and most people don't even know that these celebrities had done so. So here are some celebrities you probably didn't realize have some written works to their names as well.*

## Anna Kendrick

Most well known for her role as Becca in the Pitch Perfect series, and for many other roles, Anna Kendrick is one of the most popular celebrities of our generation. Everyone already knows that she is super talented, with her acting ability, her dancing, her singing, and her musical theatre background. What most people don't know is that she has written an autobiography about her life entitled, "Scrappy Little Nobody" about going from being a small "nobody" to having the success and awesome career she has today.

## Chris Colfer

Chris Colfer is most known for his role in the hit series "Glee" where he played the fabulous character of Kurt Hummel. Chris has done several smaller projects for the screen, but he has also had a lot of success in the youth fiction field. Chris has written an eight part series called, "The Land of Stories". These books follow the story of two twins named Alex and

Connor. Through the power of a book of stories, they leave their world and land in a place full of wonder and magic where they encounter first-hand the fairy tale characters that they grew up with.

## Julianne Moore

This award winning actress has a lot of fantastic credits under her belt. But she also has a successful children's book under her belt! The book is entitled "Freckleface Strawberry" and it follows the story of a young girl and her journey to accepting herself, freckles and all.

## Britney Spears

Britney Spears is one of the most popular pop stars of all time. Her songs are played literally everywhere and people just can't help but to dance or sing along when her songs come on. But she also has a literary side. In 2003, Britney and her mother wrote the book, "A Mother's Gift" about a young girl from Mississippi who receives a scholarship to an East Coast performing arts school. This book was eventually made into a tv movie.

## Jimmy Fallon

The late night television host has recently tried his hand at authoring a children's book as well. Jimmy Fallon recently wrote the child's book "Everything is Mama" and another one entitled "Snowball Fight" and both have been very well received. "Everything is Mama" is inspired by his own daughter and her early years, more specifically her first words.

# Vikings

By Clark English

Messenger Reporter

After going on a sci-fi spree and becoming incredibly burnt out of the genre I needed something to watch that was a bit closer to its roots. This was the original reason to watch Vikings. Instead of a cheesy action show about some dudes hitting each other with axes, I got a multigenerational epic about the late 900s Europe.

The story follows Ragnar Lothbrok, a farmer from a small kingdom in Norway. After encountering a traveling Christian mercenary, Ragnar discovers a new way to traverse the open sea. The Norwegian Jarl for the past decade has been monotonously raiding settlements east of Scandinavia each summer, Ragnar challenges his choice and gives him the option to change his mind. The Jarl decides that they will travel east regardless. Ragnar in rebellion gathers a band of Vikings and sets sail west to the rumored land of England. Once ashore on England the Vikings encounter a christian monastery, an entire city that is unguarded and filled with precious golds and silvers. Once the vikings clean house and take some monks home as slaves. Now that the entire Scandinavian Peninsula is aware of rich lands to the west, the course of European history is about to be

changed for the worst.

I can sing a lot of praises to this show. Authentic Scandinavian actors, language barriers portrayed well, excellent storytelling, actual medieval rituals, un-cheesy writing for character deaths. This is a show that does its research and successfully transitions it into a visual medium. The show Vikings, is worth a watch if you just want a simpler show that can keep you engaged



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# My Reaction to the Oscars

**By Daniel Cruse**  
Business Manager

The 90th Academy Awards ceremony has come and went and it was a night with a few surprises, no major upsets, and some incredibly talented actors and filmmakers getting recognition for their work. I was satisfied with the winners of most of the major awards and pleasantly surprised to see a few others take home Oscars that were well deserved but not expected.

The award for Best Actor went to Gary Oldman, which seemed to be the popular choice out of the bunch, although admittedly, I have not seen *The Darkest Hour* yet and I was rooting either for Timothee Chalamet or Daniel Day-Lewis to take the award but Oldman is an incredible actor and I believe his ability to transform and immerse himself so intensely into a role is something that has been overlooked for too long.

The awards for technical filmmaking were all pretty fair in my opinion, with Roger Deakins finally winning for Best Cinematography for *Blade Runner 2049*, after 13 previous nominations and zero wins until this year. Alexandre Desplat's *The Shape of Water* score took home that award and it was well earned with a very melodic and aesthetically pleasing score that I've listened to again and again since seeing the film.

Francis McDormand got the Best Actress award for her portrayal as Mildred in *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* and it was well deserved. Her character was heartfelt and incredibly grounded and genuine and

sometimes you could not agree at all with what she was doing but you couldn't help but root for her anyway. McDormand's performance was incredible and I'm happy to see it get recognition.

The awards for writing went to two of my favorite films of the year, with *Call Me By Your Name* winning Best Adapted Screenplay, based on a 2007 novel. The dialogue and story portrayed in the film feels very literary in nature and it was a faithful and well written adaptation of the source material. The biggest surprise for me was *Get Out* taking the Best Original Screenplay award, and this is a decision I was very happy with as it was a very well constructed story and one that I felt was very fresh

and original and relevant to today's political climate without being too preachy. Genre films, especially horror and sci-fi rarely do well at awards season and it is refreshing to see *Get Out* receiving so much praise and standing up against the biggest films of the year.

The Best Picture race was a toss up between *The Shape of Water* and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* and although both films are incredibly immersive, beautiful, heartfelt, and entertaining, only one can win and I am satisfied with *The Shape of Water* taking the award, along with best score, best production design, and best direction. It is a beautiful fantasy story intertwined with a gritty cold war drama, and with an important message about

oppressed people standing up for themselves and finding their voices, it is a film that I believe is really impactful and significant today and I hope it will find a wider audience now that has gained so much attention at the Academy Awards.

The Oscars were somewhat predictable this year and there were no major incidents like last year's Best Picture mishap, but it was a satisfying evening for movie lovers like myself who were excited to see some of 2017's best films getting the credit they deserve. There were a lot of culturally important and touching films this past year and I hope they can outdo that in 2018 but this will be a hard group to beat.



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