

The Northern Bark

Final Issue- Special Edition

NHS School Newspaper

June 1, 2017

A Look Through the Lens:

A Year in Review

There were so many wonderful events at NHS this year, but here are some of our favorite pictures. [Top left] The marching band in the Autumn Glory Parade, [top right] our cheer team enjoying homecoming, [middle left] FFA members and parents at the pancake breakfast, [middle right] members of the Mock Trial team, [bottom] and the JROTC cadets with veterans attending their Veteran's Day celebration.



Phil on Food The Notorious Treat By Phil Checkes

As a Garrett County regular, "Katie's Ice Cream" is a very well known ice cream stand, located in both Grantsville and McHenry. Their ice cream is unique, tasting different than most ice cream while still tasting very similar to other soft-serve. To those of you who still have not tried out this notorious Garrett County treat, I would like to review for you my

all-time favorite order from there: the Blueberry Flavorburst. I wanted to be witty and add in an actual definition for flavorburst, but it turns out that one doesn't even exist. Just my luck, right? So in my own words, a flavorburst is essentially a certain flavored syrup mixed in with vanilla soft-serve ice cream, ranging in a variety of different flavors. My personal favorite happens to be blueberry, as I have always been obsessed with (continued on page 2)

Science Now: Have Scientists Found a Cure for Cancer?

By Nathan Ashley

C&en Magazine has discussed a new treatment method being developed by scientists for rare diseases and terminal cancers like sickle cell disease, pancreatic cancer, and HIV in their latest issue. The treatment is called CRISPR, which stands for "Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats," and is a DNA-editing compound that can (continued page 2)

Breaking News

from 12-23-16

Aleppo Update By Heritage Hamp

To recap, Aleppo is one of Syria's largest cities and houses millions of people. Currently, there is a war going on between rebel forces and the Assad Regime. On December 19, an ambassador from Russia, Turkey, Iran, and France were supposed to meet together in Turkey to discuss the events happening in Aleppo, and try to find a solution to the war. During a photo exhibition in the Museum of Modern Art in Ankara, Turkey, an off-duty police officer by the name of Mevlut Mert Altintas mortally shot and killed the Russian Ambassador Andrey Karlov. There are real videos and photos of the shooting as it happened. According to *CNN*, "After firing multiple rounds, the gunman shouted: "Allahu akbar (God is greatest). Do not forget Aleppo! Do not forget Syria! Do not forget Aleppo! Do not forget Syria! Only death will remove me from here. Everyone who has taken part in this oppression will one by one pay for it," he said." There has also been another three people who were injured in the shooting. It has been stated that Turkey was giving support to the rebel forces, but this extreme event is (continued page 2)

Phil on Food

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blueberry flavored treats since I came out of the womb (not much as cheese flavored snacks though, trust me).

Katie's Ice Cream does it right, providing the perfect mixture of ice cream and syrup.

Neither of the flavors overlap the other, allowing for an intensified tastebud

experience. It's not just the taste that gets me either; the scent alone after receiving your cone/bowl is enough to smash your face right into it then and there (not that I would totally ever do that...ahaha).

As perfect as the ice cream tastes, Katie's has a few downsides. They're only open during the warm season, so you can't rely on them when you get your mid-winter ice cream cravings (you know exactly what I'm talking about, ice cream just tastes better when it's cold outside), as well as the overall price. Katie's tends to be extremely pricey when it comes to some of their signature treats, so eating their frequently is the equivalent of throwing your wallet down a sewage gate.

Every good experience has its pros and its cons, and Katie's is no exception sadly, and while that might seem to be a bad thing at times, it certainly is a good thing overall. Another downside happens to be seeing people you know there every single time you go, and if you're like me, you probably end up looking like roadkill that wasn't killed whenever you leave your house for a random ice cream craving. Oh well, I'd make a comment saying that if you don't wanna see me at my worst, then you don't deserve

to see me at my best, but honestly, the roadkill look is my best. Changing the subject, other flavorburst flavors include Green Apple, Orange Creamsicle, Cotton Candy, Blackberry, and many more. There's a flavor for everyone, so get out there and treat your self!

Breaking News

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not a Turkish action. Russian President Putin has stated that this action's motivation was, "provocation designed to spoil" Russian and Turkish relations. This murder was from the lone officer who had radical ideas, and does not represent Turkey as a country. His family is currently being detained and his house is being searched for terrorist evidence.

There has been news that Altintas has been killed in a shootout with the Turkish police. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said: "We regard this as a terrorist act.

Terrorism will not win and we will fight against it decisively." The Russian and Turkish governments have decided that they will come together even closer to keep events like these from happening again, and will be doing a joint investigation on this case.

Just please keep in mind; Altintas is not a representation of Turkey or its people. He was a terrorist who murdered an ambassador who just wanted to help make peace.

Science Now

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be easily modified to remove mutations from genetic

diseases, train the body's cells to ignore diseased cells, and destroy pathogens more efficiently than the body's immune system. It is as of yet unfinished, as scientists are struggling to find ways to get it into the body, though its potential is unequaled among medicines and treatments.

C&en Magazine states, "...CRISPR has radically changed the face and pace of biological research." The gene-editing compound uses a guide enzyme called Cas9 to show it where to go in the DNA, and then will cut the double helix at the precise spot, so as to remove the unwanted DNA. Scientists in California working with CRISPR in preclinical trials have already successfully altered some people's genes to be what they believe is HIV resistant. However, as mentioned before, the delivery system is faulty. The scientists had to do the procedure surgically, by removing a sequence of DNA from a stem cell (which is a kind of cell that can morph into any kind of body cell when needed), altering it, and replacing it in the body. As cells reproduce to replace dead ones, they will reproduce this altered DNA until there is none of the old remaining. The problem with the delivery system is its size. The CRISPR compound is a very large, bulky molecule that will need to get past all of the body's defenses, past cell walls, and into the nucleus of a cell that is well protected. How will the scientists do this? There are several theories that have arisen: they could make the cell smaller, although this would lower the efficiency and increase its chances of getting

caught before it gets to its destination; they could make it "invisible" to the body's defenses in some way; or they could come up with a system to maneuver the compound past the defenses more quickly. *Yourgenome.org* comments on the subject, "It [CRISPR] is faster, cheaper and more accurate than previous techniques of editing DNA and has a wide range of potential applications." Once the delivery is perfected, the procedure would be cheap and efficient, as the only thing that would need to be altered is the Cas9 enzyme so that it can know where to guide the cutting tool.

Life Hacks

Become a Dairy Queen (or King)

By Madison Dolchan

Delicious homemade chocolate ice cream cups are a great way to kick summer sundaes into gear. With three easy ingredients you can be the dairy queen of summer time snacks! According to *divascancook.com* all you need to make a chocolate-y bowl for ice cream is Chocolate chips, shortening, and balloons. This hack is perfect for cute summer pool parties when one can pair it with ice cream, or for an even more elegant occasion, where one can fill it with berries and whipped cream.

Ingredients:

-1 cup of semi-sweet chocolate chips (or any chocolate of your choice)

-1 tablespoon of shortening

- And Balloons

So first thing that needs to be done is to blow the balloons to

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Life Hacks

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roughly the size of oranges. Then add chocolate and and shortening into a bowl and microwave it for 40 seconds or until the chocolate has melted into a liquid. Be sure to let the chocolate cool down a little before you dip the balloon in a “twist and dip” motion until the bottom half of the balloon is covered. After that the balloons need to be placed on a sheet of wax paper and put into the freezer, so the chocolate can harden, once it has hardened you can remove it from the paper. Lastly, poke a small hole into the top of the balloon and gently let the air seep out, and peel the balloon off of the chocolate walls. If there are still holes in the bowl divascancook.com states to fill in the holes with more chocolate and let that freeze. Finally, fill it with the delicious treat of your choice and show off to your friends what an amazing cook you are!

Travel On Big Apple Adventure

By Alanna Kinney

Skyscrapers, city lights, taxi's, Central Park, and Broadway. What all do these have in common? They're all located in the city that never sleeps; New York, New York! Located in the heart of the state, it has many things to offer with a diversity of cultures, foods, stores, landmarks, and performances. If you want to learn more about this lively place, then keep reading.

I have been to New York City three times now, and the experiences get better each visit. There is so much to see and do, so you never get bored and there's always something new for you to explore. With this being said, I have done many things and recommend several places to visit.

If you love musicals, then it is a must that if you get the chance to go watch a Broadway production. I have seen three which include *Newsies*, *Wicked*, and *Aladdin*. They are truly spectacular and definitely something you will not forget. Along with plays, I toured the Radio City Music Hall which host the famous Rockettes. You get to go around and see all of the theatre itself including the costume room where you sometimes get to meet a Rockette, which I got the privilege to do. It was really cool being able to see a place that a lot of famous people have performed at and been around for so long.

Almost everyone is familiar with NBC broadcasting . If you love tv and want to see how the media works, then you should consider going here. You get an inside view the newsrooms, go through the underground tunnel, do a green screen live report, and even go inside the *Saturday Night Live* studio! For more information , visit thetouratnbcstudios.com on how to book your tour today. Want to hang out with celebrities and get as many selfies with them as you like? Then Madame Tussaud's wax museum should be another stop on your visit. According to madametussauds.com , it was rated 4.5 stars. They look

so real, your friends will even believe you met Leonardo Dicaprio on your Instagram post. So stop by, pose, and smile for the camera.

Besides all these great places, you can take a stroll through the beautiful Central Park.

There are many things to see and it gives you a breath of fresh air from the city life.

There are a ton of landmarks that you can visit there that have even been in movies such as the boat pond from *Stuart Little* and Belvedere Castle from *Enchanted*.

Finally , The Statute of Liberty which symbolizes our freedom. Located on Ellis Island, you can take a ferry boat over to experience her in real life. Standing at a grand total of 305 feet tall!

According to statuecruises.com, people have done several reviews and they were satisfied. “The dreams and hopes of many individuals with this view can only be imagined.” , and “An unforgettable experience each day with Lady Liberty.”

So get ready for the city life with an Empire State of mind and book your trip today.

Made Perfect Date Night With Mr. Right

By Megan Smith

If you are looking to have the perfect little makeup kit and a nice little bag to keep it in, you should definitely check out the Date Night With Mr. Right Sexy Makeup Kit by Benefits Cosmetics. I ordered the kit from sephora.com for \$32.00. The kit comes with a benefit gold beauty bag, mini Rockateur blush in Rose Gold,

mini Watt's up! Cream-To-Powder Highlighter in Champagne, mini They're Real! Double the Lip in Lusty Rose, and mini They're Real! Lengthening and Volumizing Mascara in Beyond Black. The blush is such a beautiful color. I have been getting into blushes a lot more recently and this color was perfect. The blush was very soft and very easy to apply. It blends really well and doesn't look too bold. It's perfect for a natural look.

The same goes with the champagne highlighter. This highlighter is not for a bold look. This highlighter goes perfect with a subtle makeup style. It's a beautiful color and it also blends really nice. It's a very natural toned highlighter.

It was very soft to apply as well.

The lip color, I was not a fan of at all. It was very soft to apply and easy to work with but the color just threw me off. It has a darker shade towards the end and then it becomes a very rosy pink, which does not match my complexion very well. This color would suit someone going to a very formal event but I just don't think the color was right for me.

And finally, the mascara. I fell in love with the mascara! They made my lashes very dark and very long. They did clump together just a little bit, but not by much. They make my lashes stand out and very noticeable even from afar. I think the mascara was the thing I was the most excited about and enjoy the most out of this whole pack!

An online purchaser, who leaves a 5 star rating, comments, “This package is super cute. The colors all go very well together and creates such a charming look!” Another purchaser who left a 5 star rating comments, “I adore this kit. I will definitely be
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Made Perfect

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ordering more of them!" Overall, this package was great!

The only thing I would change is being able to choose the lip color. But besides that, I definitely think this was worth the money and would definitely recommend this product!

Entertainment Revenge Can Be Such A Fun Thing By Olivia Bennett

The romantic comedy film *Revenge of the Bridesmaids* stars Raven Symone and JoAnna Garcia as undercover bridesmaids with a mission to break up a wedding. The movie scored a solid 90% on the *Rotten Tomato* critics website, and according to *Common Sense Media* it is, "a laugh-out-loud journey towards a sweet victory for true love." The movie starts with a friend group of four girls, the shy girl Rachel, the motivational one Parker (Garcia), the sassy, funny one Abigail (Symone), and the rich one Caitlyn. From a young age, Rachel, Parker and Abigail were friends with Caitlyn, but they were more in the background, and everything had to go Caitlyn's way. As they grew up, Parker and Abigail moved from Louisiana to New York City to follow their dreams while Rachel and Caitlyn stayed in Louisiana. In the friends time apart, Rachel got a new boyfriend named Tony, and later when Parker and Abigail go back to Louisiana over the summer they find out Caitlyn is now

pregnant and engaged, (because of pregnancy), to Tony, Rachel's former boyfriend. Rachel is, of course, heartbroken and confused because of her still alive feelings for Tony. When Caitlyn invites the three girls to be bridesmaids in her wedding, Parker and Abigail take matters into their own hands to break up the wedding and to prove if Caitlyn is actually pregnant. They know Caitlyn is just trying to steal something good from naive Rachel. Emily James a senior at NHS says, "The movie had its ups and downs, and had my attention the whole time." The movie is a great one to watch at a sleepover with a group of friends. *Common Sense Media* also says though, "Taken out of context, the character's actions might give young teenagers a misleading impression of the real-life consequences of breaking the law." The movie has a deeper meaning behind it than some might think and readers should try checking it out.

Tech Now Self-Driving Cars Are No Longer a Dream but a Reality By Kristen Kight

By now everyone has heard the news that multiple companies are working hard to put a self-driving car on the road. Multiple companies already have a few of these cars on the road. Self-driving vehicles are able to make getting from one place to another safer by taking out human error when driving. People that may be too old to drive or have bad eyesight would still be able to (continued on page 5)

A Look Through the Lens: Entertainment Edition

Here are some pics from some of the most entertaining moments of this year.



Pictured [top left] NHS graduate Saylor Wampler with four pieces of pizza in his mouth! Pictured [top right] are cast members of *Bye Bye Birdie*. Pictured [below] AP Art Seniors take twin day to the next level! Welcome Bob Ross!



Pictured [bottom left] Steven Yutzy is super excited to be helping clean up in honor of Earth Day! Pictured [bottom right] Ava Roberts winning one of the top prizes at this year's Poetry Slam.



Tech Now

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have the freedom to get around easily.

Google started their autonomous car project back in 2009 and has been making extreme progress ever since. With one of their cars already having two-million public miles on it, most of them being highway miles. In 2014 the cars were sent out into the city, where they had to fight for space with cyclists, pedestrians, and other obstacles. Most of the people and the journalist that have had the opportunity to ride in the modified Lexus RX450h said, that the ride was smooth and relaxing. All in all, Google is driving in the right direction with the self-driving cars.

Volvo, being one of the many in the race for consumer ready autonomous cars, has self-driving vehicles cruising through the city of Pittsburgh, under the Uber driving company. This is one of the only companies that have put themselves out there for consumer use at this point. Uber's Pittsburgh fleet, which is under the supervision of people who are in the driver's seat, consists of specially modified Volvo XC90 sport-utility vehicles. They have already run into a few problems, such as driving the wrong way on a one way street. This has some people questioning the safety of these types of cars.

Google and Volvo are only two of the many companies to get their cars on the road and for the most part the future of not having to drive ourselves is getting closer and closer. The future of driving is looking safer than ever with human error being taken out of the

equation. Does this mean that we are getting lazy and rely on technology too much or is this our way of making the roads safer?

Got Advice?

"How do I deal with my first year of College?"

By Madison Dolchan

Moving on with a new chapter of one's life is difficult for anyone. You have spent the last, at least four years, with the people around you getting closer and acclimating yourself to what is expected in a high school setting. After graduation everything changes, and though the departure is a bittersweet one, the change is for the better. I know it can be tough to say goodbye to all of your friends and to start over in a new place, but goodbye doesn't have to be goodbye. If you are attending a local college, or the same college as your friends then you will be able to easily find time to see them. However, if you are like me, and you are planning to go away for college there are a few ways of keeping in touch. Though you can see what they are up to through social media that is a very superficial way of doing things. I talked to Ms. Samantha Roller and she suggested inviting your high school friends to a special event that may be held at your college, even if that event is a marathon of your favorite movies. "I also encourage you to visit your friend's campuses as well- it's a nice change of scenery". Even though it is important to keep in contact with old friends, don't let this limit you when it comes to making new ones. College is a vast world full of culturally diverse people who may just have a lasting impact on your

life.

Sadly, college isn't all about the friend making. When it comes to picking classes try to make sure you pick the courses that will count towards whatever degree you are seeking to obtain. "It's no fun getting close to the end of your studies and realizing you need so many credits in a certain discipline," Roller stated. When selecting your classes talk to those who have taken it before, see if they liked the class and if the professor was good to work with. Utilize the Student Services – career center, guidance advocates, and academic advisors – these resources cost regular people tons of money, but it costs the students nothing!

Lastly, get out and be proactive. We have all heard of the "Freshman 15", to avoid this take advantage of the free gym. Also invest in something other than your studies that will force you to be in social situations, join organizations and meet new people. It is really important to think about your own wellness. Locate the wellness center at your campus as well as the local hospital. Make sure you use these facilities when you need to, even if you think you can tough it out. This is one of the only times in your life where you will be able to receive health care with no questions asked.

Enjoy the rest of high school, but don't dwell on the fact that a chapter is ending, this is simply a chapter at the beginning of your book, you still have many chapters to write. While you will always cherish the memories you have made, it isn't goodbye forever and more adventures than you could possibly imagine are waiting for you!

In History

The Loss of Lennon

By Kristen Kight

For this weeks history I have chosen to cover the life and death of famed singer and songwriter John Lennon. On December 8, 1980 Lennon was shot by a crazed fan. John Lennon was beloved by many and is still known for being the Co-Founder of The Beatles and a social activist.

Lennon had always had a taste for music. His mother, Julia, taught him how to play banjo, piano, and eventually bought him his first guitar. He was in a band called The Quarrymen before forming The Beatles in 1960 (*bio.com*). Lennon met Paul McCartney in 1957 and the two created a very successful songwriting team. From there the other two members, George Harrison, Ringo Starr, were introduced and the group wrote their first hit single, "Love Me Do", under their new record deal. "In 1964, the Beatles became the first British band to break out big in the United States" (*Bio.com*). The Beatles returned to Britain to film their first film, *A Hard Day's Night* in 1964. Their second film, *Help!*, was released a year later. "That June, Queen Elizabeth II of England announced that the Beatles would be named 'A Member of the Order of the British Empire'" (*johnlennon.com*).

Lennon left the Beatles in September 1969. Throughout his life he had been married twice. His first marriage was in 1962 to Cynthia Powell and they had one son together, Julian. She and Lennon divorced in 1968. He remarried the following year to Japanese artist Yoko Ono, who he had

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In History

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met in November 1966. Together Lennon and Ono formed a musical partnership. Not long after the Beatles broke up, in 1970, Lennon released his debut solo album, *John Lennon/Plastic Ono Band*. He followed that project with 1971's *Imagine*, the most successful of all Lennon's post-Beatles efforts. "The title track was later named No. 3 on *Rolling Stone Magazine's* "All-Time Best Songs" list." (*Bio.com*).

Lennon and Ono moved to the United States in September 1971, but were threatened with deportation because of his 1968 marijuana conviction in Britain. His immigration battle took a toll on Lennon's marriage, and in the fall of 1973, he and Ono separated. During the separation Lennon collaborated with David Bowie and Elton John. Lennon and Ono reconciled in 1974, and she gave birth to their only son named Sean. On Lennon's 35th birthday he decided to leave the music business to focus on being a father and husband. John Lennon returned to music world in 1980 with the album *Double Fantasy*. Tragically, just a few weeks after the album's release a crazed fan, Mark David Chapman, shot Lennon four times in the back outside his apartment complex in New York City. Lennon, pronounced dead at the hospital, died at the age of 40. His wife Yoko Ono decided to have her husband cremated and to have no funeral service.

John Lennon's assassination had a huge impact on pop culture. Lennon who always talked of peace was shot in an

act of violence. "Lennon's untimely death still evokes deep sadness around the globe today, as he continues to be admired by new generations of fans." Lennon was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1987, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994 (*johnlennon.com*).

Offhand Opinions

A Walk In The PARCC: Are The Expectations Too High?

By Emily James

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, better known by its acronym of PARCC, is a test designed to set the standard for K-12 assessments per the Common Core State Standards. New Jersey has already decided that passing the PARCC exams are a graduation requirement, and more states may be soon to follow. Are our students or our state prepared for this exam? After taking a look at Maryland's PARCC scores, it is safe to disagree. The average of students who have failed the PARCC exams during practice runs, is rising gradually from elementary school to high school. In Maryland schools, 62% of children in Grades 3-8 failed the English PARCC, while 68% of children in Grades 3-8 failed the Math PARCC. This is an exceptionally high failure rate, and unfortunately, these percentages are no different for Maryland's high schools. In English 11, 63% of high school students failed the exam. In Algebra II, this percentage rose to 73%. If roughly two-thirds of the entire state's population of kids in Maryland cannot pass these exams, we have proven that we are setting unreasonable expectations much too soon. This is a ridiculous expectation to be placing on

students, who come to school in order to learn the skills and processes they need in order to be successful in life, not to be taught how to pass an assessment.

The exam's failure is primarily rooted in its design and execution. Northern High School teacher Mrs. Deem expressed that PARCC is a "very challenging test and requires students to think outside the box, not just in simple computations". It is true that complex thinking is a very important trait for students to learn and possess. The questions students are subjected to through the PARCC tests are often trick questions with convoluted answers, however, and when coupled with the issues concerning the execution of the exam, it makes the test unfair. Students haven't been properly prepared to search for these answers. Northern High School student Kristen Kight expressed her frustration over this lack of preparation. "The content on the [math] test was not what we have been taught in class," she says. "And on the English exam, multiple answers seemed appropriate." Both students and teachers have acknowledged the extensive gap between what students are being tested on versus what is taught in the classroom. "We have a ways to go," Deem adds. "It requires a change, and until we do [the test] for a few years, we wouldn't have had these changes". This brings me to my next topic, being the validity of the exam. The test has not yet been officially qualified, and yet, it is still being administered to students as a means of assessing how well they have acquired skills, or to track progress. The question that

students, parents, and teachers are asking is why? A test should not be allowed to have any effect on any student if it has not yet been validated in its final format. The test and its corresponding requirements have changed multiple times, and are still the subject of confusion. A commonly expressed argument is that the test is in its early stages of development, and is prone to changes that will make passing an easier and more realistic goal. This statement is easily one of, if not the only, support that the PARCC has seen from Maryland. If this is true, then these test runs should be solely experimental, and used only to tweak the exam. It should not be allowed to have any effect on the graduation of students, or on the jobs of teachers. The PARCC does not accurately reflect anything to do with the student's or teacher's abilities, because what is expected from both parties in order to prepare and pass the exam is completely outrageous at this time. If the exam is to be simplified and changed, then it should be administered for experimental purposes only. Nothing more, nothing less.

The opposition extends higher, much higher than Maryland's high schools as well. Frederick County delegate David Vogt encourages students to opt out of the exam, which he calls "a policy failure that reduces students to test scores and wastes valuable

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Offhand Opinions

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classroom time". The Maryland delegate sent a strongly-worded message to parents, advising they opt their kids out of the exam, "while you still can". If even lawmakers are opposing this assessment, that is a clear indication that PARCC is lacking in multiple fields. It has become an incompetent waste of time. The abilities of students and teachers are defined by more than the grades that appear on a standardized test. Reducing both parties to nothing more than a number is as dehumanizing as it is senseless. As a student myself, I can only hope that this failed, forced experiment comes to an end, for both the sake of my peers, as well as elementary students whose futures may eventually be affected.

Read All About It *The Girl on the Train*

By Abby Burdock

The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins, has developed a large readership and held a spot on the best-seller list for what seems like ages. The book has been described countless times as the new *Gone Girl*, even earning itself a film adaptation hitting theaters on October 7th, 2016. Although the plot lines are similar, characters are unreliable, and the narration style is similar, *The Girl on the Train* is miles behind Gillian Flynn's best-selling *Gone Girl*. Although the plots

are very similar, *The Girl on the Train* is not as cleverly written and does not have as much depth.

The Girl on the Train is about the story of Rachel, an alcoholic who loses her job but still takes her train to "work" everyday. Rachel watches the house she used to live in with her ex-husband everyday. She watches the young couple that lives down the street from her old home everyday, feeling like she knows them and their perfect life. One day she sees something out of the ordinary at the house and the woman who lives at the house goes missing. Rachel, an unreliable witness, tries to understand what she saw and solve the mystery of the woman's disappearance.

The story is told through the eyes of characters Rachel (the girl on the train), Megan (the woman Rachel watches out the train's window), and Anna (Rachel's ex-husband's new wife). None of the narrators are reliable or even likeable. Rachel is an alcoholic who has been talking to her ex-husband and his ex-wife. She is drunk for nearly all of the book, and it makes a reader question whether or not she can be trusted. Megan, at first an innocent character, is actually leading a much darker life. Anna is a boring character who is actually a little proud of the affair she had with Rachel's husband before marrying him. The reader does not know who to trust or what the truth is throughout most of the novel. This adds to the suspense and pulls readers to the edges of their chairs. This also makes it hard for readers to figure out who is the protagonist and to root for any of the characters. However, the plot was

irresistible. It was a creative take on the tired "girl goes missing" storyline. The fact that the whole story relies on a woman who is drunk and does not know what she saw makes solving the mystery seem impossible. Readers are hooked from the beginning because they do not know if they can trust anyone in the story. *The Girl on the Train* leaves the reader feeling slightly unsettled.

This novel is worth the read but don't expect it to surpass Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*.

Strange Happenings: *HOIA BACIU FOREST*

By Karen Beiler

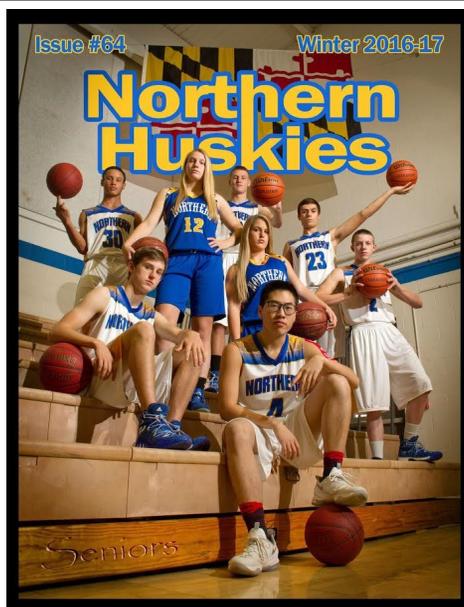
This strange happening is a frightening, spooky one, and for those who like things like this you'll love this story. Personally, I would love to go visit this place, it's a forest that most people who live near it are afraid of, but not me.

The Hoia Baci Forest is known to be the world's most haunted forest and it is located near Cluj Napoca. The forest has a reputation of intense paranormal activity and unexplained events. Reports have included ghostly sightings, unexplained apparitions, and faces appearing in photos that aren't visible to the naked eye. People who visit the forest report intense feelings of anxiety and the feeling of being constantly watched. The forest was named after a shepherd who disappeared in the area with his flock of sheep of about 200. People are afraid to go anywhere near the forest because of the rumors and stories being told. They believe that whoever goes near or enters the forest will never be seen again. Many who have dared to

go complained of physical harm, including rashes, nausea, vomiting, and other unusual sensations. There are many stories explaining why the forest is the way it is, for example, one person claims it was because of a shepherd who got lost with his sheep, while another account is that the forest is haunted by the roman soldiers that were murdered there. It is said that the forest is beginning to compete more and more with the Dracula legend in *Hotel Transylvania* because of its unexplained phenomena. Hoia Baci forest is a very interesting place with its own personality that strikes fear in the local people. When you go out places or on adventures you want to feel good and happy not scared or afraid, you also want to see sights that are breathtaking and memorable but this forest won't provide either of those sights. What Hoian Baci has to offer is far more sinister, and that leads to the stories being told about it.



The Northern Bark Staff: [top picture] Abby Burdock, Hailey Yommer, Emily James, Karen Beiler, Kristen Kight and Heritage Hamp, [bottom picture] Megan Smith, Bailey Brewer, Olivia Bennett, Phil Checkes, Madison Dolchan, Nathan Ashley and Alanna Kinney.



A Look Through the Lens: Sports Edition

Here are some of the best sports shots from this year. [Right] Senior members of both the boy's and girl's basketball teams for the 2016/2017 season.



[Above] Students Josh Beitzel, Collin Fratz, Jordan Day, and Jeremy Ashby have fun hanging out with friends while watching the home wrestling match with Hampshire.



[Above] Jacob Terry 'drives his invisible car', as he jumps at a track meet this year.

[Below] Members of the Girls Powderpuff Team pose before their charity game.



In Sports: Winter Sports Return By Hailey Yommer

The Winter sports season is finally here! Practices began on November 15th, so the teams are already 2 weeks into practice. Scrimmages have already begun and official games start next week for some sports.

Last night Northern held a meet the squad event in order to kick off the winter season and introduce our athletes. Athletes from Girls and Boys Basketball, Bocce, Wrestling, and Cheerleading attended. It featured returning players from the sports, competitive games, and an introduction of the teams and players.

Boys Basketball season had started with 3 scrimmages so far this year. The boys won their first 2 scrimmages against Berlin and Forthill. Austin Evans and Calyb King led the scoring in the Berlin game while Colton Houser and Jimmy Spear led against Fort Hill. Their scrimmage against Turkeyfoot on Wednesday night was a 43-35 loss. Despite being only 2 weeks into their season, senior Austin Evans says, "With all the hard work we have been putting in, I think we will get the results". The boys kick off the season with their first official game against Bishop Walsh next week. The game will be at home with JV playing at 6 and the varsity game beginning at 7:30.

Bocce will attend their first scrimmage next Thursday away at Southern at 4pm. Our Bocce team won the state tournament in 2014, and this year they have a good shot at making it to states again. Senior Abby Burdock says, "We have a great team this year. Practices are a lot of fun and I think we have a good shot at states again".

The wrestling team attended their first scrimmage last Friday. Teams from Meyersdale, Southern, North

Star, and Berlin attended. While the match was not officially scored, Northern still performed quite well against the other teams. Their first match will be an away match at Mountain Ridge on December 7th, beginning at 7pm.

Girls basketball won their first scrimmage on Wednesday night. Faith Parandhamaia and Morgan Rush led the scoring for the team. Varsity player Jenna Yommer says, "We did a good job last night. We still have a lot to work on, but I think we will have a good season". The girls official games begin next week, kicking it off with an away game at Hancock. The game will begin at 5:30.

The season has just begun, so there is still plenty of time to come out and support our winter teams!

Strange Happenings Shamrock Shakes Shaking Up the Fast Food Game

By Bailey Brewer

St. Patrick's Day is an exciting day of the year, in theory. The most significance that this holiday bears on a teenager is the fact that if a person does not wear green, he or she will be pinched, no 'buts'. Sure there's the history aspect of this Irish holiday, but who really knows the reasoning behind why exactly we celebrate this day? (Some guy named Saint Patrick died approximately one thousand, five-hundred and fifty-six years ago. Who knew?)

Nevertheless, the question forms, why should a teenager care about St. Patrick's Day? If a teenager can't go to a pub and doesn't even like green, what good comes from this day? Well the answer to that is (continued on page 9)

Strange Happenings

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simple, St. Patrick's Day themed fast food beverages! And not just the same old ones you have seen for years on end, this year McDonald's decided to bring a whole new line into the fast food game.

Introducing not one, not two, but five Shamrock flavored drinks, McDonald's has rolled out new menu choices for March. Fans of the original Shamrock Shake were more than enthused for the new selections to choose from. Hailey Yommer, a local student from NHS, states, "I love mochas; I love Shamrock Shakes. The Shamrock Mocha is perfect for me, and it tastes amazing."

The Shamrock Mocha is one of the four brand new additions, along with the Shamrock Frappe, Chocolate Shamrock Shake, and Shamrock Hot Chocolate (*NY Post*). These mint flavored dreams can be found only at select McDonald's, but luckily for NHS students, the McDonald's only miles away from NHS features all of these amazing flavors. Employee at the Keyser's Ridge McDonald's, Corey Durst, states, "I've been working at this McDonald's for a while, and I have seen a lot of new promotions added, but I can honestly say the promotion I look forward to most every year is the Shamrock Shake. I was so excited to hear that there would be an entire line of drinks in honor of the shake." Corey added, "The Chocolate Shamrock Shake is even better than the original." So in honor of St. Patrick's Day this year, why not try something other than pinching your friend for not wearing green? A whole world

full of new St. Patrick's Day promotions awaits just 4.3 miles from Northern High School! Are you going to embrace new traditions or drink something of nutritional value? The choice is up to you.

Northern Spotlight: Ana Runs Away With the Gold

By Abby Burdock

If you think girls can't be fast, you obviously have not met Ana Rhoten. Although Ana is only a sophomore, she is killing it in one of the hardest sports Northern has to offer: cross country. In this sport Ana excels! Cross country is a challenging sport that requires athletes to be both physically and mentally strong. Ana is currently Northern's number one runner, meaning she is consistently running the fastest times for the Northern girls' team. This year alone she has won three first place finishes in the area, leaving her competition in the dust. On October 15, at the Frank Keyser Invitational, Rhoten set a new school record in a three mile cross country race with an incredible time of 19:34. She broke a record that had been set almost twenty years ago by over a minute! Hailey Yommer, captain of the girls team says, "Ana is one of the most talented runners I have ever seen. She is very selfless and always makes sure she congratulates all of the girls on the team no matter what. I can't wait to see what she does next year. She has incredible potential." Ana is currently ranked third in the state, only twenty seconds behind the number one ranked girl. Ana has made incredible progress since last year. With hard work and dedication to the sport, she

shaved two minutes and fifteen seconds off of her three mile time, and one minute and forty nine seconds off of her five thousand kilometer time. Ana not only excels in cross country she is also a great track athlete. She holds a personal record of 12:44.87 in the 3200 kilometer race from her freshmen year. This is a very competitive time, especially for a freshman. Ana has the potential to individually qualify for the state meet this year in the event. Although she is only a sophomore, Ana is owning every cross country course she sets foot on. She has two more years to win a state title, which she is quite capable of. Ana is an amazing athlete, teammate, and person. We can't wait to see how she finishes this season!

Pictured [below] is Ana Rhoten with her cross country teammates after she won the state championship for cross country, not too long after this article was written.



Social Commentary: Discrimination Against LGBT Youth in U.S. Schools

By Megan Smith

Outside the home, schools are the primary vehicles for educating, socializing, and providing services to young people in the United States. Schools can be difficult environments for students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity,

but they are often especially unwelcoming for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth. A lack of policies and practices that affirm and support LGBT youth and a failure to implement protections that do exist, means that LGBT students nationwide continue to face bullying, exclusion, and discrimination in school, putting them at physical and psychological risk and limiting their education. In 2001, Human Rights Watch published "Hatred in the Hallways: Violence and Discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Students in US Schools". The report documented rampant bullying and discrimination against LGBT students in schools across the country, and urged policymakers and school officials to take concrete steps to respect and protect the rights of LGBT youth. Over the last 15 years, lawmakers and school administrators have increasingly recognized that LGBT youth are a vulnerable population in school settings, and many have implemented policies designed to ensure all students feel safe and welcome at school.

Yet progress is uneven. In many states and school districts, LGBT students and teachers lack protections from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. In others, protections that do exist are inadequate or unenforced. As transgender and gender non-conforming students have become more visible, too, many states and school districts have ignored their needs and failed to ensure they enjoy the same
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Social Commentary

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academic and extracurricular benefits as their non-transgender peers. This undermines a number of fundamental human rights, including LGBT students' rights to education, personal security, freedom from discrimination, access to information, free expression, association and privacy. Based on interviews seen online, with over 500 students, teachers, administrators, parents, service providers, and advocates in Alabama, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah, this focuses on four main issues that LGBT people continue to experience in school environments in the United States.

Areas of concern include bullying and harassment, exclusion from school curricula and resources, restrictions on LGBT student groups, and other forms of discrimination and bigotry against students and staff based on sexual orientation and gender identity. While not exhaustive, these broad issues offer a starting point for policymakers and administrators to ensure that LGBT people's rights are respected and protected in schools.

Eye for Art: Undeniable Talent In Our Halls

By Bailey Brewer

The artistic talent in our school is undeniable, though most are not aware of the artists or the art specifically. After sitting down with Jenna Ruggiero, it became clear that art is important to the lives of our students, no matter what form.

Jenna states, "I try to do art based off of something that has been consuming me. Like music or things in my life that have been affecting me."

As a naive reporter, I asked Jenna whether or not she wanted to pursue art as a career, and her response surprised me, "I'm definitely going to take art classes, and I would love to pursue art as a career, but I don't think that becoming a professional matters because you can integrate art into everything you do. I think that's where you find happiness, finding art in everything you do."

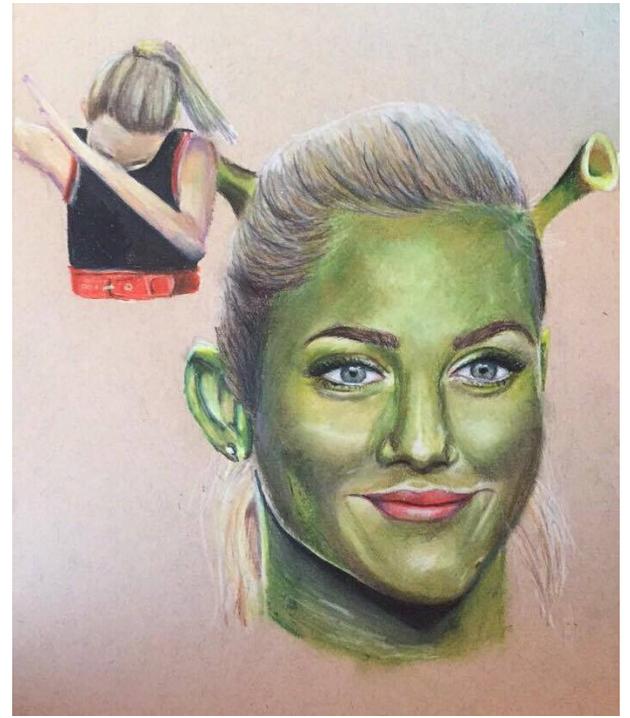
Jenna's work is not by any means cliché. The intense lines of her work, illustrate not a clean take on life, but perhaps the rough reality that is life. Her work is no doubt something to be admired, and Jenna gave her advice to young, aspiring artists, "Don't listen to anyone. Be yourself; do whatever the heck you want to do. That's what art is."

If you are looking to follow Jenna in her artistic career, just find her in the hallways and I am certain she will have her sketchbook with her. Like the dedicated, talented, and ingenious artist she is, I can assure you that she will always have something new she is working on. If that's not enough, follow her instagram @ibecamethesea.

Hopefully, in the near future, Jenna will expand her work for the masses. She states, "I really want to make comic books, but I haven't had the time to sit down and start something yet." I think I speak for the masses that if Jenna were to start her career as a comic artist, we would all be waiting in line at the local comic shops just to see her work. Keep it up Jenna!

A Look Through the Lens: Art Edition

We had some amazing artists featured in the paper this year, here are a few stand out pieces.



Pictured [above] is Cassidy Mark's tribute to Lili Reinhart, and *Shrek*, pictured [below] is Hailey Yommer's lighthouse.



Pictured [below] is Jenna Ruggiero's "Where do we belong? Anywhere but here".



