



The Northern Bark

Issue 7 Volume 2

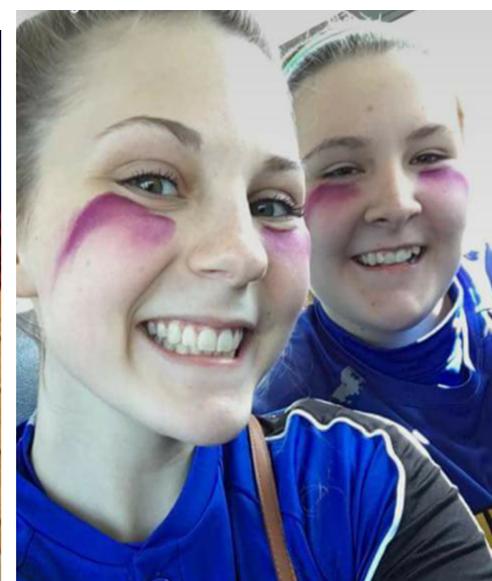
NHS School Newspaper

April 10, 2017

A Look Through the Lens: Proud of Our Huskies

By Olivia Bennett

This year has been excellent for our sports teams so far. The Lady Husky Softball team has a winning record of 3-1 right now, and we can't wait for what is next for their season. The wrestling team also had a very successful season, which they celebrated at their season banquet last week. A lot of awards were given out and all the wrestlers should be proud of the great season they had. *(Pictured Lower Left: Back row left to right: Stephanie Bryner, Cheyenne Bagley, Mikaila Wilt, Tatum Clevenger, Hannah Lowdermilk, and Emma Broadwater, front row: Cassidy Uphold, Torri Bittinger, Carly Rodeheaver, Morgan Rush, Kyndal Rayner, and McKenna Houser), (Pictured Upper Right: Kyliana Sisler and Emma Broadwater), (Pictured Upper Left: Back row left to right: Riley Brick, Brian Tiemersma and Tyler Thomas, front row: Devin Wilhelm, Luke Lowery, Steven Yutzy and Jordan Day)*



Social Commentary Syria Gas Attack

By Megan Smith

World leaders expressed shock and outrage last Tuesday at reports of a chemical attack in northwestern Syria that killed many civilians, with one UK official suggesting the incident amounted to a war crime. According to *cnn.com*, activists are saying the Syrian regime was responsible for the killings of at least 70 people, with at least 10 children among the dead. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's military denied using chemical weapons and blamed rebels for the carnage. Russia, Syria's strong ally, said it had no warplanes in the vicinity. But from Washington to London to Jerusalem, leaders denounced the reported airstrike, which if proven true would be one of the deadliest chemical attacks in Syria in years. *(continued on page 4)*

Science Now: Does DNA Affect Depression?

By Nathan Ashley

For decades, scientists have been searching for ways to link DNA and genes to the hormones that regulate mood, but new studies are changing the way we look at depression. Over the course of the past decade or so, research done by the Washington University of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri on more than 40,000 people has shown that there is no link

between a gene that is connected to the hormone serotonin and depression. Serotonin is a hormone secreted by the stomach and intestines that regulates one's mood. When the levels of the hormone are out of balance, the person can experience mild to violent mood swings, and any amount of depression, anxiety, or paranoia. The study mentioned above has proven that there is, in fact a strand of DNA linked to *(continued on page 2)*

In Sports: Lady Huskies Knock the Score Out of the Park

By Alanna Kinney

The Lady Huskies take a homerun hit with thier victory over our rival Southern Lady Rams on Wednesday, April 5th. With the final score of 19-3, it was a great game making their overall record 3-1 now. The top players were Morgan Rush with a double, three RBIs(runs batted in), and three runs. Torri Bittinger had five RBIs; two being *(continued on page 4)*

Science Now

(continued)

serotonin, though it is not connected to how the hormone can create or cure depression. According to a story done by *Science Daily*, the original paper, published in *Science Magazine*, indicated the presence of a link between depression and the gene, but the study has been debunked. *Science Daily* discusses the original paper and says, "...that original paper has been cited by other researchers more than 4,000 times... Such conclusions were widely accepted, mainly because antidepressant drugs called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) help relieve depression for a significant percentage of clinically depressed individuals, so many researchers thought it logical that differences in a gene affecting serotonin might be linked to depression risk." They also say that the new study has found no link and has determined the previous theory to be inaccurate. "...the Washington University researchers looked again at data from the many studies that delved into the issue since the original publication in 2003, analyzing information from more than 40,000 people, and found that the previously reported connection between the serotonin gene, depression and stress wasn't evident." Experts have argued over this for years, and because it was backed by many of the world's leading scientists, the theory gave many depressed people a reason: because their ancestors were too. Now, many people with depression from unknown sources will

need to look elsewhere for a reason, and the study may actually help some people to look deeper into their condition.

The study's first author, Robert C. Culverhouse, PhD states, "...ultimately the question has to be not what the experts think but what the evidence tells us. We're convinced the evidence finally has given us an answer. This serotonin gene does not have a substantial impact on depression, either directly or by modifying the relationship between stress and depression."

Phil on Food Mash My Head Into This Bowl

By Phil Checkes

Thanks to a certain someone, I have been placed on a cheese ban. What exactly is a cheese ban you may ask? Let's just say, things won't be as cheesy for awhile. I know, it's very saddening, but we all have rules to follow. Well, sorta. I might break this rule sooner rather than later. Just you wait.

Anyways, I would like to review one of my alltime favorite fast-food meals: KFC's Mashed Potato Bowl. Sadly, I do not remember my origin story with discovering this amazing fast-food meal, but I can promise you that it must've been a good one, because I am and forever will be hooked on this delicious bowl of mixed-up food. In summary, the Mashed Potato Bowl is a bowl filled up with mashed potatoes (obviously), popcorn chicken bites, corn, a shredded

assortment of cheese, and is finally topped off with brown gravy. The mashed potatoes are usually extremely fluffy, having a good mixture of taste and texture. The chicken is usually crunchy on the outside, chewy on the inside, and is filled with flavor. The corn and cheese are mixed together in the meal, usually adding more of a taste to the bowl, and the gravy tops it all off by mixing everything together and maximizing the flavor potential, making me want to buy another one after the first one.

I recommend this meal item completely. It is extremely unique and holds up to its own. Its only downfall is the fact that it is filled with calories, 710 to be precise, so weight-watchers might want to avoid this delicious fast-food meal. Nonetheless, I cannot wait for the next time that I can stuff my face with the wide assortment of foods mixed together in a bowl of mashed potatoes. Woohoo!



Life Hacks

Peeping Pants Problem?

By Madison Dolchan

Nothing is more embarrassing than standing up and hearing someone say "Your zipper is down", but with this simple life hack you will never have to worry about this again. This scenario has happened to everyone at least once, and if they say otherwise they are probably lying. Nobody wants

to get caught with their fly down, yet sometimes it seems unavoidable. I did come digging online and found a crafty, affordable, and easy way to solve the zipper dilemma. According to *whowhatwear.com* there are only three steps.

1. Attach a small key ring to your zipper "Look for a key ring the size of a penny" (*wikihow.com*)
2. Put on your pants, once you zip up the zipper loop the key ring around the button
3. Fasten the button, this will conceal the key ring that holds up your zipper

This life hack has proven to be incredibly useful. I went to other sites like *wikihow.com* and *Lifehacker.com*, as well as a few others all claiming that the key ring tactic is the most efficient way of fixing a zipper that just won't stay up. A few even gave the alternative of using a rubber band as a flexible substitute. All articles gave excellent information you can use when fixing your pants. "Remember to be careful when going to the bathroom, as you will need to remove the top button and then the key ring to take off your clothing". Check out these websites and try this life hack to never have to worry about getting up and facing a room with your zipper down again!



Entertainment

What Shows

Should You Watch?

By Olivia Bennett

So, this week I decided to try something different, and instead of reviewing a show, I have gotten options from other people around NHS on what to watch. In case you are wondering what show you should start next, here are a few options that others find intriguing. I talked to Phil Checkes, a senior at NHS and he recommended me to watch the show *Leverage*. He says "It's extremely comedic and unique. It's about criminals coming together to work against other criminals in order to protect innocent people. Plus the characters of Hardison and Parker are a great combination." *Rotten Tomatoes*, says *Leverage* has a, "twisty, exciting plot". I also spoke to Holly Schlossnagle, a junior at NHS, and she recommended the series *Lost*. She says it is suspenseful and she can't stop herself from watching multiple episodes at a time. There are multiple seasons of this show, but according to *fandom.com* season six would have to be the worst season for its "HUGE plot holes and weak character developments."

Another student I spoke to was Cassidy Andris, a freshman at NHS, and she recommended the tv series, *New Girl*. She says it is a really funny show, and that the episodes are short so they are convenient to watch anytime. I have actually watched a couple episodes of *New Girl* before, but never got quite into it, as others have,

but I am probably going to give it another try sometime soon! Bailey Brewer, a senior at NHS recommended *Jane the Virgin* for it's absolutely hilarious plotline. She says, "The show is created in a telenovela style, but also has elements of the modern American television show." While researching I saw that *Jane the Virgin* scored a perfect 100% on *Rotten Tomatoes* and that it, "stays true to its over-the-top telenovela roots while layering in more humor and increasingly complex storytelling." That is something I will definitely consider when I'm looking for a show to watch next. Lastly, while speaking to Mrs. Virts, the theater, creative writing and journalism teacher at NHS, she recommended the show *Orphan Black*. She says "The main actress is amazing because she has to play about 10 different characters, with different accents, and it has a cool sci fi twist that I really like." All of these shows sound like great possibilities for people with different interests.

In History

Of Nazis and World Peace

By Nathan Ashley

We all know Adolf Hitler for his crimes against humanity: the Holocaust, the attack on Europe, and the formation of the Axis powers in World War II. What was his purpose for such actions though? His primary purpose was - believe it or not -

world peace. Hitler dreamed of a fully Aryan world - a world full of blonde-haired, blue-eyed white people with none of the "lesser races" remaining. That would mean the end of any non-Germanic people like Black, Asian, Arab, and Jewish races. It all comes down to how one interprets world peace.

Born in Austria in 1889, Hitler served Germany in World War I because he disapproved of Austro-Hungary's policies. In the trenches, he saw the terrors of the war and afterwards watched as Germany's economy was destroyed with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. When his younger brother died at an early age, he became an introvert and a nationalist for Germany. After his mother's death, he started creating artwork with watercolor paints and applied to the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts twice, both times being rejected. Between World War I and his rise to political power, he served 9 months in prison for high treason, and during this he dictated most of his book, *Mein Kampf* or "My Struggle". The book was a fictional story about how Hitler struggled in the Great War (to an extreme level of exaggeration) and how he planned to reform Germany into a new Reich (empire) based on race. Throughout history, there had been two German Empires when Germany ruled the majority of Europe. This inspired Hitler to bring the once-great kingdom back to full power in the Third Reich.

Biography.com talks about the beginning of Hitler's nationalist feelings saying, "Hitler became embittered

over the collapse of the war effort. The experience reinforced his passionate German patriotism, and he was shocked by Germany's surrender in 1918. Like other German nationalists, he purportedly believed that the German army had been betrayed by civilian leaders and Marxists. He found the Treaty of Versailles degrading, particularly the demilitarization of the Rhineland and the stipulation that Germany accept responsibility for starting the war."

He went into politics and later formed the National Socialist German Workers Party, which, in German, forms the acronym: NAZI. He began as a respected leader who looked out for the common working man, but quickly declined to a genocidal tyrant. His policies of Aryan purity and anti-semitism created what became known as the "Final Solution" and was the mass killing of roughly 9 million people in the Nazi concentration camps before and during World War II.

The Nazi's goal was world peace, though far too many of them took it too far. Some even enjoyed the killing and torturing of the victims of the 3rd Reich and some Nazis actually scared Hitler with their depravity. So, even though world peace actually never happened and national relations were only made worse in World War II, the war was one of the largest factors in America getting out of the Great Depression and helped to reset and modernize some of the other European nations. It also led to the creation of the United Nations, which still stands today. Thus, Hitler did not do nearly as much permanent damage as he might have hoped, even though the temporary damage and loss of lives was unspeakable.

Eye For Art: Mouse-Monet

By Bailey Brewer

As we all know, art can take all forms- painting, theater, music, but how many digital artists do you know? If you know Emily James, then you know at least one! Of course digital art is not the only platform Emily uses, but it is definitely something that has impacted her artistic career along the years.

Emily told aspiring artists, "Don't steal the work of others, don't compare your artistic skills to the artistic skills of others, and above all, you have got to practice. Art is difficult, and there are no shortcuts." Unlike the copy and paste functions of a computer, digital art is the artist's possession unless told otherwise. She added, "I'm still an amateur artist and I've been drawing for about ten years. If you want to improve, you have to be willing to practice as often as you can and heed the advice of more skilled artists." Emily's practice is quite evident in her art, as you can see in the picture [below].



Emily's long running artistic career will not end along with high school, thankfully. She states, "I don't know about attending an official art school or anything like that, but art is my passion and I plan to keep going with it." While art school can be helpful, so can the raw artistic talent an artist is born with, like Emily has displayed. One of her favorite pieces, the first pictured piece is something in particular that Emily is quite proud of and took two days to finish. She states, "It's meaning is a little too personal to share entirely, but it basically represents a particular struggle that I have dealt with for a long time. So, for that reason, this drawing means a lot to me." The deep meaning behind this piece is very evident to me, as I hope it will be to readers as well. The second piece pictured is an example of Emily's digital art. Emily began making digital art with just a mouse! I don't know about readers, but the extent of my digital art career was using Microsoft Paint to illustrate my name in bubble letters, and it was atrocious. Emily stated, "This is a digital drawing that I made using my Wacom Cintiq tablet and a digital art program called PaintTool SAI. I'm pretty fond of this drawing because it was a challenge. I had limited my palette to five main colors, and I drew something I don't normally draw: scenic backgrounds. This was completed in only a few hours, but it still holds a place in my heart because of the effort I put into it." So thank you Emily for bringing light to an art does not always get the appreciation it deserves, while also displaying talent on classic paper. We can't wait to see what's next for you!

In Sports (continued)

homeruns. Carly Rodeheaver had four runs with two singles. Mikayla Wilt had three RBIs. Cassidy Upole and Cheyenne Bagley had two singles, two RBI's, and two runs. The ladies have had a very successful season so far and are sure to continue their winning streak. Good luck to them with their next game on Monday, April 10th against Keyser at home!



Social Commentary (continued)

"Today's chemical attack in Syria against innocent people, including women and children, is reprehensible and cannot be ignored by the civilized world," US President Donald Trump said, adding that he thinks the attacks were a consequence of the past administration's weakness and irresolution. "President Obama said in 2012 that he would establish a 'red line' against the use of chemical weapons and then did nothing." Shortly after the gas attack, warplanes struck the Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun early Saturday, battering residents still reeling from the deadly gas attack. The fresh airstrike killed one woman and wounded her son and at least two others, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. The new assault's toll was low likely because Khan Sheikhoun had already been reduced to a virtual ghost town by Tuesday's sarin-gas attack, which killed 87 people, including 31 children and 20 women, according to the Observatory. President Trump, outraged by

what he described as the deaths of "beautiful babies," had responded to the chemical attack by bombing Syria's Shayrat military airfield, from which he said Assad dispatched the planes that carried the toxic payloads. Survivors hoped in vain that the US airstrikes, which landed early Friday and were said to have destroyed 20 Syrian war jets, would bring some respite. But Saturday's bombings, not yet officially ascribed to either the Syrian military or its Russian backers, rained new damage over the town's freshly dug graves. Residents are deathly afraid of their own leader and state that he is trying to wipe them out and that they see death everywhere at every minute. When I asked NHS student Drew Talbott what he thought about everything going on, he said, "I think what happened was messed up but I'm honestly really glad Trump is finally doing something about all of this." I also asked SHS student Alex Cosner and he states, "I hope a war doesn't start because of this but I'm glad Trump did what he did and is finally getting things straight. Killing your own citizens is crazy bad. I'm still shocked over it." Hopefully we will hear more about what will happen to Bashar al-Assad and the town.

Student Spotlight Robot's Rule Abby's World

By Madison Dolchan

Abby Burdock a senior here at NGHS is well rounded when it comes to school activities- soccer, cross country, track, unified bocce, Relay for Life, and student council are only a few. With a hard working and inventive mind it's not surprising that she is also hugely involved with Robotics. Abby has been a member of the Garrett County Robotics team for all four years of her high school career. Working hard with her team she build robots to complete certain tasks. During her interview she explained that the competitions are two day events that are exciting and energetic much like Abby's personality. "The Robot usually competes in about twenty matches throughout the weekend", these high energy competitions enthuse the different teams and the people watching them. Though the Robotics team makes it look effortless, a great deal of work goes into ensuring it's a flawless performance. Abby stated that it was challenging and difficult to come up with the best possible robot, but it was rewarding and fun. "We have a six week build period so we have six weeks to put the robot together." Even under time restraints Abby and the rest of the team gets a great deal done, working three to four times a week. During the interview it was clear by Abby's voice and facial expressions that she is very fond of the work she does. "I like teaching STEM lessons to



Pictured left are Abby Burdock along with her mother, several members and leaders of last year's robotics team, and Dr. Lowery, the former superintendent of Maryland Public Schools.

children across the county through the program". With all of the positive things there was to say about the team Abby also stated that she wished the school knew more about how successful the team was, "We've gone to the world championship almost every year". As she gets ready to move forward in her life Abby is hopeful that the Robotics team prospers and grows. With all of the time and work that she has put into the Robotics team, Abby hopes to pass her passions on to the next generation of inventive students. She ended her interview with a bit of advice for future robotics members, "Get involved with the outreach part of things. In the long run this will have the greatest impact". Thank you Abby for sharing your passions with us and good luck stepping into the next chapter of your life.

Got Advice By Phil Checkes

How do I manage the time in my life the best that I can?
-Anonymous

In my personal experience, it's very important to consider the following when thinking about

this, in no necessary order.

1. What are my needs?
2. What are my wants?
3. What will make me happier overall?

Naturally, your needs should be prioritized first. It helps to ask yourself at the start of every day, "What do I need to get done today, and what will make me feel most accomplished after doing it?" That sense of accomplishment afterwards will most-likely drive yourself into achieving what you need to get done, and trust me, that sense of accomplishment is a really great feeling.

However, you can't just focus on your needs alone. As a human, you have to look at your wants from time to time. Not doing so can result in an overabundance of stress and noticeable performance loss on your required tasks at hand. Your wants are exactly what they sound like, what you want. This can range anywhere from playing your favorite video game to buying a brand new car (if affordable, of course.)

It's important to understand that the opposite is also true. You can't just focus on your needs alone, of course, but you also can't focus on wants alone either. Your needs, once again: what they sound like, are what you need to get done. Ranging anywhere from

eating a balanced breakfast to completing a take home exam essay, your needs are what progress you through life both physically and mentally, and helps keep yourself stable. A good mixture of your wants and needs are necessary in order to spend your time wisely and accomplish the most, but it's also important to consider what will make you the happiest. Some days, you might want to prioritize your wants over your needs, and that's okay, so long as you don't continuously push your needs behind. The same goes for the opposite. Overall, a healthy balance between your wants and your needs is essential to manage your time with, as well as making yourself as happy as you can. After getting into this habit, you will soon come to realize that your days feel a whole lot better and you start appreciating how well you spend your time.

Strange Happenings **Muggles Pull Off a Wizard Wedding**

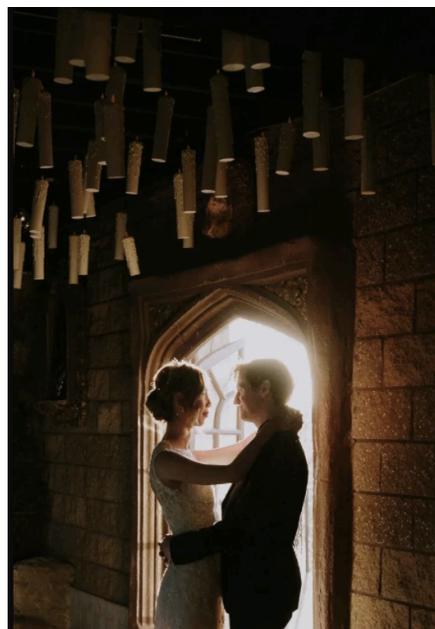
By Bailey Brewer

For Cindy and Matt's wedding day on February 20, 2017, they wanted everything to be perfect- a castle in Hollywood Hills, beautiful lights and canopies, but also a Harry Potter theme. That's right, their wedding took place in a castle (sadly not Hogwarts) with floating candles, wands, and even invitations resembling Marauder's Map (designed, produced, and printed by Cindy herself).

The idea behind Cindy and Matt's special day was not based on the happiest aspects of the books, but the "dark, moody nature of the films," the couple told *Martha Stewart Weddings* (*Huffington Post*). Nevertheless, the day was as happy as can be. The guests were asked to attend in wizard attire, so even distant cousins could contribute to the couple's wishes for their special day. The detailing for this day was so exquisite that beside each row sat a pile of books with candles on them. Even the floor was "Harry Potter esque". The place markers on the table were old Harry Potter books with numbers placed on them, which makes some wonder if anyone decided to sneak a peek at the book to understand missed references.

Even the send off for Cindy and Matt from their 97 guests (and dog Millie) was Harry Potter themed, with the waving of the wands in the couple's honor (*Martha Stewart Weddings*). Cindy's 10 month effort for her special day was truly worth it, as her wedding was remarkably beautiful, as readers can tell

from the pictures below. This couple definitely 'swished and flicked' their way to happiness.



Travel On: **Lights, Camera, Action!** **By Alanna Kinney**

Los Angeles, California, better known as the City of Angels is home to the capital of the film

industry: Hollywood. According to *californiaexploration.com*, "...Hollywood is home to the most famous nightclubs, hotels, attractions, and shopping! It has been dubbed as the most exciting and mythical city in the world, where millions of visitors flock every year to meet the stars, to become a star, or to simply gaze at the stars! Whether you are a tourist planning a trip or a local just looking for useful information, this section will navigate you through the best that Hollywood has to offer! Come and explore the fascinating past, present and future of this world-renowned city that we call HOLLYWOOD!" If you want to learn more about the places you can see, keep reading.

The iconic statement of this city everyone knows, the giant HOLLYWOOD sign. It has been standing since 1923 at a grand total of 50 feet high constructed out of 3x9 panels painted white with 4,000 lightbulbs to illuminate it! Originally, it was only suppose to be up for one and a half years, but it became a trademark to the West Coast and it remained standing. It got reconstructed in 1978 to honor Hollywood's 75th Anniversary on a live television broadcast of 60 million worldwide. You can see it anywhere in the city located on beautiful Mount Lee. For more information, visit hollywoodsign.org. Want to see the stars honoring your favorite celebrities? Then come to the Hollywood Walk of Fame located on Grower Street to La Brea Avenue. The best part about this, it is completely free and open 24/7 365 days a year.

(continued on page 7)

Made Perfect: **Pictures Are A Snap With Polaroid**

By Megan Smith

Have you ever wanted a polaroid camera but would like the polaroid pictures smaller than usual? If so, you should definitely check out the Polaroid Snap Camera! The polaroid snap camera has many amazing features. One, is just the fact that it prints out polaroid pictures. But these just aren't normal polaroid pictures. They also turn into stickers! You can change the color of the picture to normal, black and white, and vintage sepia tone. The micro SD card digitally saves your shots as well as prints them. You can get the camera itself in black, white, blue or red. You can choose to have the classic polaroid border around your picture or no border at all. There is also a photobooth mode that can take six quick, good quality pictures in ten seconds. I got this camera for \$99.99 at Walmart for Christmas. You can also purchase this camera on their website, <http://www.polaroid.com/snap-camera>. I have used this camera for many occasions. I took beautiful pictures of the Bahamas which I will get to keep forever because of this camera. I have cute pictures with my friends and stickers of them on the back of my phone cases. The camera comes with 15 film sheets to use when you first get it, but after that you have to go and buy more which can be cheap depending where you buy it from, but at Walmart, it is not. Personally, I love this camera. I thought the polaroid pictures were cute, good (continued on page 7)

Made Perfect

(continued)

quality, and the camera is easy to carry with you and easy for quick pictures. I asked Hannah Fuller, who used the camera to take a picture with me, what she thought of this camera and she says, "It's adorable. I love how quick it is to have a picture right as soon as you take it and how small it is."

I also asked Chloe Strubin, who owns a camera of her own and she says, "It was hard to figure out because I lost the directions but once you figure it out, it's a fun camera."

This camera isn't for everyone but for it is for certain people and if you're interested, you should definitely check it out!

Travel On

(continued)

You and family or friends can enjoy this famous sidewalk.

According to *walkoffame.com*, "The man credited with the idea for creating a Walk of Fame, was E. M. Stuart, who served in 1953 as the volunteer president of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. In that year, according to a Chamber press release he proposed the Walk as a means to "maintain the glory of a community whose name means glamour and excitement in the four corners of the world." This year it celebrates 63 years and a variety of new stars are being added according to *fox5atlanta.com* in the categories of film, TV and music, including Amy Adams, Jason Bateman, Goldie Hawn, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Tyra Banks, Lee Daniels, Hugh Laurie, Eva Longoria, Hall & Oates, Ice Cube, John Legend, *NSYNC, New Edition and Selena Quintanilla.

(posthumous). Lastly, Grauman's Chinese Theatre known as the TLC Chinese Theatre is a spectacular place. Opening on May 18th, 1927, it celebrates its 90th year of performances. It first started off having two shows daily; a matinee and evening. Their performances first had 100 cast members and 65 orchestra members. According to *losangelestheatres.blogspot.com*, "The first talkie to play the Chinese was "White Shadows in the South Seas" (MGM) which opened August 3, 1928. Motion Picture News reviewed it in their August 11 issue and was not enthusiastic about either the film or the Grauman prologue. Another early talkie premiere was Warner's *Noah's Arc* on November 1, 1928. It got 5 pages of ads and photos in the November 3 issue of *Motion Picture News*. " There are a variety of movies you can see and are current with what is aired nation wide.

So if you want to enjoy a little celebrity life, book your trip to Hollywood today!

Breaking News Senate Changes Rules- Case Closed

By Megan Smith

The Senate confirmed Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court on Friday, filling the critical ninth seat that has been vacant for over a year and capping a tumultuous debate that saw Republicans overhaul the way the chamber operates in order to overcome what they described as an unprecedented Democratic filibuster. According to *foxnews.com*, the 54-45 vote, in which three Democrats crossed party lines to support the appeals court justice, is expected to restore a 5-4 conservative tilt on the bench. Once sworn in, Gorsuch will join the court and begin to hear cases, in the seat once held by the late Justice Antonin Scalia, who died in

in February 2016.

"He's going to make the American people proud," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said.

Partisan tensions exploded on the Senate floor this week, as Democrats mounted a filibuster against Gorsuch, prompting Republicans to use what's known as the "nuclear option" Thursday to force a final vote. Each party blamed the other for the escalation, accusing the other side of damaging long-standing institutions.

"Damage was done to our democracy," Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said Friday. "Raw political power has been exercised to break the rules and norms of this body."

But McConnell claimed that Republicans only triggered the nuclear option to "restore norms" that Democrats had defied.

Republicans pursued that course after Democrats blocked the nominee on Thursday, denying him the 60 votes needed to proceed to a final roll call. McConnell in turn executed a series of parliamentary maneuvers that resulted in the threshold being lowered to 51 votes. With that standard, Gorsuch easily advanced to the final vote on Friday. All Republicans present voted yes on Friday; Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., struggling with health issues, did not vote. Vice President Pence presided. The three Democrats who voted for Gorsuch were North Dakota's Heidi Heitkamp, West Virginia's Joe Manchin and Indiana's Joe Donnelly -- all moderate Democrats facing challenging reelection bids

next year in red states.

Gorsuch is expected to take the oath on Monday.

I asked NHS Government teacher Mr. Opel what he thought and he said, "Everybody is making a big deal out of nothing. It shouldn't have taken this long to get him confirmed." I also asked NHS student Kc Rounds and she said, "It doesn't affect me personally but I'm glad someone is filling in the spot."

Hopefully the right decision was made in voting for Gorsuch!

Snow Was In The Air

Garrett County saw April showers of the wrong kind on Friday, April 7, as the county experienced a late season snow storm.



