

# The Tiger Times

A Student Publication of Cuyahoga Falls High School

Fall 2017

Volume 3, Issue 2

## Why are we called the Black Tigers? An investigation



Ever wonder why Cuyahoga Falls' mascot is not a tiger, but a black tiger? I was interested, too. I went digging to try and uncover the mystery. I have found no actual answer; however, many tips that have lead me to my final hypothesis. Throughout my week of searching, I think I have finally found an answer that puts my mind to ease.

During the week of Oct. 24, my colleagues and I searched through newspaper articles, old yearbooks and websites, digging up as much as we could on the topic. While searching through the yearbooks that dated back all the way to 1918, we found that we have always been called the Tigers. In 1951's yearbook, that changed with mention of the "Black Tiger football team." This was the first time the

school had been referred to as the Black Tigers. None of the yearbooks leading up to this one had any mention of the Black Tigers.

As we went on, year by year, we discovered something unusual. In 1956, Cuyahoga Falls High School was known as the "Big Chiefs" with the colors silver and red. Was this an attempt at a trend that failed, or is this just a coincidence? We didn't know what to believe. When we moved on from the yearbook, we figured out some interesting news from old archived newspapers.

When we looked through some of the newspapers from the 50's regarding the high school, we found no mention of the "Black Tigers" until 1950. In December, 1950, the name was mentioned in a news article about the school's basketball team. Another article found was from January of 1951, mentioning the name again. This time it was talking about the baseball team.

*Continued under TIGERS on Page 3*

## Interview with a champion: Jack Wilcoxson talks XC states



to be there," Wilcoxson, a sophomore, said. "I was extremely grateful I had the opportunity to be there." By the look in his eyes I could tell that he was truly grateful have had that chance.

However, it was not all easy and fun. "I was very nervous too," Wilcoxson continued. "It felt weird, and I didn't feel like myself because it was just me and I'm so used to my teammates being there with me, so it was different, but overall I had a blast. Throughout the race I fell twice and I cramped up really bad, but I still was really happy to be there," he replied with a smile on his face.

Wilcoxson has been running since he was very young. I asked what made him start running in the first place and if it was a person, a movie, or something else. "When I was around the age of seven, my

dad used to talk to me about how he used to run, and then I realized how fast I was playing soccer so I decided to give it a try and I ended up loving it," he answered. "My dad was always pushing me to do it and I'm glad he did because I like it a lot," Wilcoxson told me.

When running, Wilcoxson tries to focus on just that and nothing else. "I try to zone out and focus on the person ahead of me," he said, "If I start thinking then I lose focus and I start falling back. So my best bet is to zone out and not pay attention to anything other than who and what is in front of me."

Wilcoxson's fastest time was 16:18, and he plans to keep getting faster. He says that he will continue running through high school and college. "I'll see where it gets me from there," he stated.

During his running off-season, Wilcoxson plays for the CFHS basketball team. "I don't have a break, and when I do it's only for a short while," he reflected. "It's hard to balance running with friends and family because I love running so much and I just want to focus on that, but at the end of the day I try my hardest to make time for everything," he said.

Although he did not win at states this year, Jack hopes to return next year and bring CFHS a big win. ❁

*Amiah Blouir, '20  
Reporter*

## Once upon a time: CFHS homecoming dance a great time for all

Hairspray and shaving cream were flying in the air at the homes of Cuyahoga Falls students preparing for the annual homecoming dance on Sept. 30.

With just about 1,000 people attending, it was surely a success. The dance was held at the CFHS gymnasium from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for each person. Ticket sales were held at lunch, which was the only time to purchase a ticket. No tickets were sold at the door.

If you were bringing a guest from another school, you had to complete a guest form. The guest form had to be signed by your date's principal, as well as yours, with his or her name, age and school also on it.

Ensuring that the students were doing the

right thing and being safe, they had to breathe into a breathalyzer before entering dance.

The theme of this year's homecoming was "Once Upon a Time." The Tigerbackers, a student organization, was in charge of all of the amazing decorations provided at homecoming. The group's advisor, Mrs. Menegos, is an English teacher at CFHS and has been overseeing this club for four years now.

One of the decorations on display was a huge book that read "Once Upon a Time" that met you as soon as you walked in the Stow Street doors. This was made completely out of duct tape.

*Continued under DANCE on Page 3*

## Bringing Neverland to the Falls: Fall play Peter/Wendy is a big hit

This year, the school's fall play production, Peter/Wendy, had record breaking attendance the first two nights, Nov. 10 and Nov. 11. With hard work and effort from the cast members, the play has been a great success. The atmosphere of the fall play was overwhelming. I felt as if I was in Neverland myself with the decorations and, of course, the amazing acting. I would give this play a rating of five stars, and I would love to see it again. Peter/Wendy is a dramatic spin-off based on the well known story of Peter Pan.



*Continued under PLAY on Page 4*

## Marching band performs at Buckeye Invitational

The marching band was invited to perform at Ohio State University's band show on Saturday, Oct. 14. OSU invites many bands to perform in their stadium one day a year, and it is both nerve-racking and exciting.

The bands made sure to arrive hours before their performance to make sure they were ready. The Cuyahoga Falls High School marching band showed up and ate for a little bit before getting ready to practice. OSU provides a field for all of the bands to practice at before they perform. The directors took the band to the field and started them off with some warm ups. Warm ups are exercises that the members play so that they can be ready to play their songs. It helps better their playing and helps them to develop a good sound as a group. After warm ups, the band started to practice marching. They recently added a new visual to the upfield song and wanted to make sure

everyone remembered it.

The band was taken to a tunnel to get ready to perform. The band was put in a formation that made it convenient to get to their starting spots easily and in a way that looks very sharp.

The CFHS marching band performed "Born to be Wild" by Steppenwolf, "The Pretender" by Foo Fighters, "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap" by AC/DC, "Uprising" by Muse and "Rebel Yell" by Billy Idol.

After the performance, the group was out of breath and ready to relax. They were

*Continued under BAND on Page 4*

### In This Issue...

- Fall sports overview
- StuCo blood drive
- New water bottle policy
- Fall fashion trends
- "Stranger Things" 2 review
- Much, much more!

## Letter from the editor: Kagan Kopp



It's been a fast-paced year here at CFHS, with one holiday break already done and another fast approaching. We here at the Cuyahoga Falls High School newspaper would like to take this moment to thank you, our readers, for being here with us and supporting us. And as the editor of this newspaper, I would also like to extend my thanks to those who have also helped create our newspaper this semester: our writers.

Thanks to everyone who has helped us throughout the years, we as a newspaper

can continue to grow and share both school-wide and world-wide news with our readers and high school.

It's been almost two years since we've been able to have a print newspaper, and now we finally get to share the news with those who have waited patiently for it. So thank you to our sponsors who have helped fund our efforts, and to our readers, the people who continue to make the news we write every week. 🍀

Sincerely,  
*Kagan Kopp*  
Editor in Chief

## The roaring Black Tigers: Fall sports overview

"Go Tigers Go!" fans scream from the bleachers of the football stadium at Cuyahoga Fall High. As they rage on in support from the stands, their football team is working hard at play. Dirty cleats and helmets seem to be the main attraction for CFHS students every Friday night. Whether at their home stadium or at an away game, they're always there to support.

Football is one of the many sports offered at CFHS. There is also cross country, cheerleading, golf, bowling, tennis, baseball, swimming, gymnastics, wrestling, softball and volleyball. With almost every sport offering a boys and girls team.

I had the chance to interview a couple of CFHS students in various sports. Brian

Goga, a senior at CFHS, has been in Falls sports for three years. He has played basketball and been on the boys golf team. "The coaches were great and I liked playing the sport a lot," he stated when talking about his love for golf.

Alexis Wesolowski, a senior this year as well, has been on the girls golf team for four years. "I love the sport [because] it helps me relax. It's like a therapy," she said.

CFHS offers a wide variety of sports to get involved in, but they also provide different seasons you can play. Fall, winter and spring are all available. 🍀

*Myah White, '18*  
Reporter

## In the Halls: What are you grateful for?



"I am grateful to have a safe home and clothes to wear."

*Zoë Fisher, grade 9*



"I am grateful for technology and sports."

*TJ Johnson, grade 10*



"I'm grateful for my friend groups and my family."

*Nick Werstler, grade 11*



"I'm grateful for my friends!"

*Abby Femick, grade 12*



"I am grateful for my daughters and their silliness; they always keep me smiling!"

*Mr. Wirick, social studies teacher*

## OPINION: Should outside beverages & containers be allowed at CFHS?

### Bring back our coffee

The rule that bans all outside drinks has been enforced for a while here at Cuyahoga Falls High School, and many students are not happy about it.

This rule makes water the only allowed to be in classrooms. You are, however, allowed to drink other drinks, as long as it is kept in the cafeteria.

It is understandable why this rule was set in place. Students could spill the drinks on carpet or abuse their privileges. However, most students who do not do these things have to suffer the consequences of others' actions.

For instance, we are no longer able to bring coffee to school to help us stay awake. "Many older teens are busy until late into the night with homework, extracurricular activities, and part-time jobs. They go to bed late, then get up and rush off to school, too frantic to eat," says HealthyChildren.org. Students do not have time to stay at home and drink coffee to help them stay awake throughout the day.

That is why a lot of students like to have coffee at school so that they are not late and still have enough energy to stay

allowed inside classrooms though. This makes staying awake throughout the day very difficult, and it can also be detrimental to students' ability to learn.

"I don't like the no outside drinks policy at school because it's frustrating that if someone brings any drink other than a clear bottle with water to school, they're forced to throw or dump it out," says Madison Stone, a sophomore.

"I understand why the policy is in place, but I think that the people who are abusing the right to bring drinks should be punished, not everyone else," she continues.

This statement is the opinion of many other students as well.

Most students would like the ability to bring outside drinks because, like Stone said, it is not fair to the students who did not abuse their privilege before and are now being punished. 🍀

*Anya Hutchison, '18*  
Reporter

*Do you have an opinion to share? Tweet us at @CF\_TigerTimes, or send us an email with your thoughts at cf\_tigertimes@cfalls.org!*

### Clear water bottles aren't the enemy

CFHS is always full of opinions and debates, whether it's about listening to music in the hallways, or wearing hats, or most recently, why we can't bring in drinks other than water. While many are against this rule, ultimately it's good to have in place.

With this new rule, students are kept safe. Because many illegal liquid substances, for example, alcohol, are colored and not clear, it was easier for students to bring in these drinks and become intoxicated at school. This created an unsafe and unscholarly environment, with kids unable to think clearly, creating ruckus, and all in all preventing their own learning. Besides, no CFHS student is legally allowed to drink yet, so not only is it harmful, but it's also illegal. This rule helps eliminate the possibility to bring in toxic substances.

The rule also keeps kids safe in another way: by keeping them from skipping school. With the ban on outside drinks, such as Polar Pops, kids are less likely to skip school to try to get these items from a convenience store. Now students have one less incentive for leaving school without permission, and they can then be

accounted for throughout the school day. This rule also helps keep classrooms cleaner. Many students can be heard complaining about how the school is run-down or unclean. A water spill is much easier to clean than most other beverages you could find in the days when this rule wasn't in place.

Many students here are quick to blame those who are in charge for this rule, instead of the true bad guys: those who bring in the substance in the first place.

Assistant principal Mr. Vargyas states, "It helps get kids home safe. Our number one priority is safety, and we have a commitment to parents to make sure their children are in an environment where they can learn and be safe."

Mr Vargyas is right. Students can learn better in an environment without having to think of kids that are drunk, and they can trust the place they are in. Therefore, the new rule is important because it helps keep our students safe and learning in an educational environment. 🍀

*Kagan Kopp, '19*  
Editor in Chief

## Things are getting stranger: "Stranger Things" season 2 review



*Image from Wikimedia Commons*

"Stranger Things" made a breakthrough last year when this thrilling sci-fi series about three boys, Mike, Dustin and Lucas, who search for their missing friend and stumble upon a confused girl with amazing abilities instead. The boys and the girl, who they later name Eleven, continue the search for their friend when they find out he is in a place they would never have expected: a different dimension.

The show was left with a cliffhanger, but returned to Netflix on Oct. 27, 2017 with new characters, a new villain and a new plotline that resolves the unfinished business from season one.

A lot of shows with a very successful first season end up having trouble coming back with an equally successful second season. A lot of pressure is put on the producers because people expect it to be just as good, if not better. "Stranger Things" season 2 did not have that issue. The pressure was definitely on, but that did not stop the producers from making an amazing second season.

In season one, the focus for the boys is on finding their missing friend, Will. This made Will, played by actor Noah Schnapp, rarely appear in the show. Starting in the second season after they found him, he became one of the major characters and excelled in his role. Schnapp put a lot of effort into forming his role and made sure to keep viewers on edge with his skilled 'possession' scenes.

### Fall fashion

Fall is a very popular time of the year for basically warm anything. Warm drinks, warm food, warmer colors and warmer clothes. Summer is full of shorts, tank tops and sandals with bright colors in the sun and colder food and drinks to help with the heat. Fall is completely different.

One of the biggest fall clothing trends are sweaters. "My favorite thing about fall is sweaters," says Hanna Miller, a senior. "I like them because they are warm and cozy." Sweaters are great for fall because they keep you warm and they are very stylish. They are very popular amongst both men and women. They typically come in more muted colors.

Another fall fashion trend is boots. Boots are very popular for women in the fall, especially knee high boots. A lot of

Although viewers did not get a good look at Schnapp's acting skills until the second season, they certainly were not disappointed with the result.

Season 2 also gave some other characters besides Will justice with more screen time, like Dustin, played by Gaten Matarazzo, and Lucas, portrayed by Caleb McLaughlin, as well.

Speaking of justice, Barbara, a recurring character in the first season, got at least some of it. Barbara, or Barb, was killed by the monster of the Upside Down, the dimension that Will was trapped in. She never got her revenge, and that angered a lot of fans. The characters could not tell anyone about the Upside Down, so no one even knew if Barb was alive or not. In the second season, however, Nancy, her best friend and Mike's sister, was determined to get that justice. She asked her close friend, Jonathan, Will's brother, to help her, and he was more than willing. By the end of the season, Barb's family found out that she had died and had a funeral. Hopefully, this gave viewers some peace of mind and a resolution to Barb's story.

"Stranger Things" is a very unique show that really channels the 80s nostalgia. It has a unique plot with amazing character development. I fully recommend that everyone gives the world of Hawkins and the Upside Down a chance. 🍀

*Anya Hutchison, '18  
Reporter*

women like to wear them with leggings. "I like long sleeves, coats and boots because they look comfortable and stylish at the same time," says Honey Jane Monleon, another senior. Combat boots are also very popular for men and women this season.

Accessories during the fall include scarves, jackets, bandana scarves, darker lipstick colors, longer socks, fuzzy socks, crossbody purses, fedoras and watches. These are most popular in the fall but have been worn in other seasons. 🍀

*Anya Hutchison, '18  
Reporter*

### TIGERS - cont'd from page 1

The next theory we decided on is from one of the staff members at CFHS, Ms. Shannon. Ms. Shannon had heard a rumor and shared with us what she was told about the mascot. She said that she was not certain about whether or not this information was true; however, she gave us a rundown of what she was told.

She said, "One night, the Tiger football team was playing a game. It was very muddy and rainy. We used to wear all white uniforms, and by halftime they looked black from all of the mud. When the team ran off the field for half time, a reporter for the newspaper had called them, 'Black Tigers.'" She thinks that this could have been the starting point of our school mascot's name, and it was a nickname that just stuck.

No matter what the actual answer is or whatever people chose to believe, this case is one that will have to remain unsolved, so pick your own ending and maybe do some digging yourself. 🍀

*Carly Schneiders, '19  
Reporter*

### DANCE - cont'd from page 1

Other decorations included plastic vines around the hallways leading to the gym and beautiful chandeliers hanging from the ceiling.

Alexis Wesolowski, a member of the Tigerbackers, said she was very proud of their work, stating that they had been working and planning for homecoming since June.

Refreshments were also provided at the dance. Among them were ice cold cups of water and cups of flavored popcorn.

The music varied in style, with artists like Bruno Mars and Sir Mix-A-Lot on the playlist. A few slow songs were played, and the couples all joined and started swaying in the middle of the dance floor, pulling each other in close.

A photo booth was also provided for all the students with various props and signs to use in the photos. They were also given prints of their pictures no charge.

The homecoming queen and king elected were seniors Abby Semic and Sam Alvis.

Overall, as an attendee of the dance myself, it is safe to say that most of the people who went were not disappointed and all took their turns on the dance floor.

It was a fairytale evening to be remembered by all. 🍀

*Myah White, '18  
Reporter*

## It's a great day to save lives: Annual blood drive a great success

Many people want to get involved and help save lives, but do not know where to start. CFHS made this task easy for students. The annual blood drive was held in the little gym Thursday, Sept. 21 to raise blood for local hospitals.

Weeks prior to the drive, signups were held at lunch for anyone 16 years or older willing to donate. The company chosen for this year's drive was called LifeShare. Ms. Curtin, student council advisor says, "We decided after talking with LifeShare that we would go through their company because all of the blood donated stays local. None of the blood that is donated will go anywhere exceeding Northeast Ohio."

Bobby Read, student council president, said that about 61 people signed up to donate. However, of the 61 people, only 48 were able to donate.

Many precautions are taken in the process of giving blood. For example, it is essential to check iron and ferritin levels before blood is able to be given. Many people were not allowed to participate in the drive because they had low iron, either just that morning or chronically. This knocked out about 10 of the 61 people wanting to donate.

A second thing that was checked for was low ferritin, which is much like an iron deficiency. Ten girls were told they could



not give blood for up to a year because their ferritin levels were low. However, if a boy has low ferritin, he only has to wait 6 months to donate again.

Makenna Shook, student council parliamentarian, said, "Many people were very nervous and anxious before they gave blood and some were to scared to follow through." After giving blood, most people had a normal reaction of becoming dizzy, pale, hot and, in some rare cases, even passing out. Fortunately, only three people passed out this year.

Bobby Read would like to thank Pizza Fire, who is sponsoring all student council events this school year, for sponsoring their annual blood drive this year.

Overall, the drive was a major success and wouldn't have been possible without the council members, Pizza Fire, blood donors, LifeShare and all of the people who supported the cause. It was a great day to save lives, and the students of CFHS sure did their best to do just that. 🍀

*Carly Schneiders, '19  
Reporter*

*BAND - cont'd from page 1*

all given water and then were taken upstairs to talk to a member of the OSU marching band. After that, they were taken into a room to watch their performance. A representative of the OSU marching band talked to them about their show and, overall, had very positive things to say about it and the band in general. He also mentioned how good the majorettes were and how they were some of the best he had ever seen.

The band was taken back to the buses to take off their hats and gloves and leave their instruments. They returned to the stadium to watch the rest of the bands and wait for OSU's performance. The bands that were performing at this time were competing. CFHS did not compete but had fun watching the bands that did.

After a couple of hours, it was OSU's turn. They came out of the tunnel and started their performance. The show was based around a boxing tournament. Brutus, the OSU mascot, was sparring went against Michigan. A ring was set up in the middle of the field where the two competed, and the marching band formed two people that looked as though they were boxing. Michigan won the first round, but Brutus was not going to give up. The screen showed Brutus training for

the championship round against Michigan. Brutus was ready to win.

Brutus and Michigan were back at it again with the final round. It wasn't too long after the fight started that Brutus had won. The referee held Brutus' hand up in victory and the band had formed two people once again, one holding the other's hand up like the referee was holding Brutus'. The audience cheered, and then it was time for them to perform script Ohio.

When script Ohio was nearing its end and the tuba player, Drew Moore, dotted the "i," the band officers were getting ready for awards and to shake hands with OSU's director and drum major. They were given a participation plaque and score sheets.

After the show was over, the marching band went back to their buses and got ready for the long and tiring journey back home. Many people slept and others talked quietly or listened to music. The members were given snacks to eat as they headed home.

The band got home around 12:30 a.m. They hurried to put their uniforms away and went home. Overall, it was a great trip filled with many memories. 🌟

*Anya Hutchison, '18  
Reporter*

*PLAY - cont'd from page 1*

While Peter and Wendy go to Neverland, the audience encounters insight about who each of the characters really is, along with some dramatic irony. The dramatic irony in the play happens with the audience. Throughout the show, the audience knows things that the characters in the play do not particularly understand. The most insight the audience received about a character's personality was from Peter. Peter has always been portrayed as a nice and loving young boy; however, this show brings out his dark side, showing that he really isn't such a great guy. The cast did a very nice job grabbing the attention of the audience with the character twists throughout the show.

One of the lead roles, Wendy, was given to Hannah Metzler. I interviewed her on her thoughts about the play. She said, "I want to thank everyone who came to the show and made it so special. We worked really hard on it. The show and cast mean so much to us and we're happy we got to share it with all of you." While observing Hannah in the play, she did a very nice job taking on the part she was given. She made me really feel like I was looking at

As for the whole cast, I was amazed with how well this play came together. The show was absolutely amazing. The amount of dedication to the performance really shined through once they were doing it in live action.

One of the best things the cast members did was make the little theatre feel like Neverland. The show did not start until 7:00 p.m., but doors opened at 6:30 p.m.. While people were being seated, the cast members were interacting with the audience in character. This one-on-one attention from the cast was a great touch to the performance making you feel a part of the play as well.

Lastly, one of the things I loved seeing was how well the cast worked together and how close they are with each other to make the play flow so smoothly. Peter/Wendy was a big hit, as were the cast members and of course the director, Mrs. Mihalyov. 🌟

*Carly Schneiders, '19  
Reporter*

## Winter Word Search

Find the words in the search below and bring your completed search, with your name and homeroom on it, to room 506 to be entered into a raffle for a fun prize!

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| CHILLY     | ICE SKATING   | SNOWDAY      |
| DECEMBER   | ICY           | SNOWFLAKE    |
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