

THE SPECTRUM

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“The Maroon and Gold in Black and White”

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Navigating philanthropy in the midst of busy schedules

Let's be real: with the holiday season comes a wonderfully packed agenda that occupies all schedules. Visiting family, purchasing gifts, finishing up work so you can enjoy the break without a wrecking ball of responsibility hanging over your head... Yes, the month of December is chock-full of things to attend to, but that doesn't excuse us from giving back to our community.



Livie Crimaldi

Avon Lake Community Resource Services (CRS) is a food bank that provides goods to families in need from Avon or Avon Lake. CRS is always accepting food donations, but you can also volunteer at their location and help answer phones, pack groceries, or stock goods. Visit <http://www.aalcrs.org/> for more information.

2. Spending time with the elderly- Independence Village in Avon Lake is an assisted living community where the elderly have access to any services they might need, as well as fun activities! Come help out with bingo nights, play games or give technology advice. They are always looking for volunteers! Visit their website or talk to the ALHS Key Club for more information.

3. Be a bell ringer- Come and ring the jingle bells outside of Giant Eagle or Walmart for the Salvation Army kettle. Each shift is just two hours, and it is an easy way to encourage other members of the community to donate! Sign

I understand the struggle of adding another thing to the lineup of to-dos, especially with the stress of midterms already on our plate (hours of studying for students, piles of grading for teachers). But volunteering just one hour of your time at any of these locations is a small sacrifice that will have a lasting impact on the lives of others. Here are a few options to consider this holiday season:

1. Donating or sorting food-

An organization most of us are already familiar with; the Avon/

ups are available on the CRS website mentioned prior, under the “What we do” tab>Seasonal Programs.

These are just a few examples of places in the community where you can help out, but there are hundreds of other options available. I recommend reading this year's December edition of Cleveland Magazine, where several volunteer options around the city are described, as well as inspirational stories from philanthropists in our community.

In the heart of the giving season, there is no better time to help those in need. Everybody deserves to have an enjoyable holiday, no matter how they celebrate, and you can contribute to that effort. Whatever you do for the holidays, I hope you enjoy the celebration with friends and family, but remember that a little time spent giving back can go a long way.

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The Friend Zone: questioning its impact and validity

As high schoolers in 2018, I'm sure all of you have heard of the much dreaded friend zone. The top urban dictionary result defines it as “A particularly aggravating metaphorical place that people, end up in when someone they are interested in only wants to be friends.” However, I'm here to tell you it doesn't exist.



Lauren Zeck

First, to address a pedantic argument that I've encountered in my life as well as seen on the internet- friend zone doesn't just mean a man and woman being friends, that's just called a friendship. The friend zone carries an undeniably negative connotation, as evident by the hoards of men on reddit lamenting the fact their female friend didn't want a relationship, not to mention articles published by once venera-

ble new sources like the Washington Post and Huffington Post instructing readers how they can escape the friend zone. Articles like “How to get out of the friend-zone” neglect to consider the woman's perspective. The use of the word “zone” implies that its a game. That if only you can make the right moves you can win the spot in the romantic zone to which you feel entitled despite multiple rebufs. These articles completely disregard the fact that a woman* has her own feelings and desires. And quit if you see romantic relationships as game and can't respect a woman's feelings you're not mature enough for a relationship.

Now, it is worth mentioning that there is nothing inherently wrong with having feelings towards a friend who doesn't reciprocate. But upon getting reject the guy has many choices. He can learn to accept this rejection and continue with a friendship because he likes the girl

and understands the value in friends. He can also say that he can't continue with a friendship if it is too painful for him. Despite the many respectable and practical solutions guys all too often guys proclaim that they're “stuck” in the friend zone.

This attitude not only makes the guy feel miserable and like he's lost his own agency it also makes the girl feel uncomfortable. I think that in order to remedy this we as a society must recognize the value in friendships between a straight man and a straight woman. We must also shouldn't view platonic relationships as being secondary to romantic relationships.

I'm assuming the situation is a guy feeling friendzoned by a girl because most often that's the case but I understand it can be the other way around but its too annoying to “say he or she” everytime

Thrifty Teen reviews local stores

I thrift shop a lot. So much so, it's become a part of my identity at this point. No, seriously, I wrote my common app essay on it. In the spirit of Christmas, I thought I should impart my knowledge on all 5 of my loyal readers. So here's my list of local thrift stores ranked by whatever metrics I saw fitting:



Lauren Zeck

4. Goodwill- I think my thoughts about Goodwill can be summarized with a simple "ehhhh". I'll give them points for proximity; however, there's not too much selection. Oh, and good luck getting a left off of 83 at anytime except 9 in the morning. We also probably shouldn't forget how shady they are as a company.

3. Salvation Army- While they have a wide selection, they tend to charge far more than they should. They do have 50% off everything every Wednesday, but I can only recommend them to the most experienced thrift shoppers. And I must take off points because they have very little jewelry, scarves, and belts. But hey, they do have an abundance of shady business practices and Christian rock music to spare!

2. Savers- It's like if Salvation Army was cleaner, better organized, and didn't play Christian music. While it is the most expensive thrift store on the list (meaning about \$8 for a pair of jeans and \$6 for a sweater) it's worth it. And sometimes they don't even know what they have; one time, I got a vintage Guess jean jacket for \$5. I'd definitely recommend Savers for beginners and people that don't like shopping because the store organizes clothes by size. There's not too much digging, and even on a Saturday, it's never too crowded.

1. Volunteers of America- I don't think I'll ever be able to articulate my love for this store into just a few sentences, but I'll try. First of all, it's absolutely huge. Second, it's dirt cheap. It's like \$3 for pants, sweaters, dresses and \$1 for shirts cheap. However, I must admit that this store is only for those that love the thrill of the chase. They don't organize by size, but by color so you're going to have to do some digging for your gold. I typically spend 2.5 hours in there between browsing and then trying clothes on. But, I've been able to find wool blazers for \$4 and cashmere sweaters for \$3. It's my happy place- even thinking about it now makes me want to drive the half an hour out there on a Tuesday night.

ALHS Key Club: what do they do?

By Josh Kener

Key club is a club whose main goal is to help people in need around the community.

"Key Club is a community service subgroup of Kiwanis. Key club actually means Kiwanis Educating Youth, so our group is focused on young leaderships. We do a bunch of events throughout the year. For example, we volunteer at food banks and animal shelters. We also ring the bell for the Salvation Army during Christmas time," explains Andy Gruber, the President of Key Club.

Many people in the community are in need of help, and Key Club works to provide them with the help they need. Their approximately one hundred members meet once a week on Tuesdays before school to plan out what

they're going to do to benefit the lives of the people in Avon Lake.

"Our club's goals are to help as many people as we can," Gruber says. "We are always open to doing more events."

One such event is working on a 9/11 mural, to honor the heroes on that tragic day. The mural is planned to be put up in the courtyard in spring.

Though key club is always helping with obstacles around the

community, sometimes they have their own to deal with. Occasionally, meeting attendance will decline, but adding more events fixes that quickly, and in the process, helps the community.

See Continuing on page 7



Key club receiving a donation from the ALPD

Principally Speaking:

X-Mas 2018



Mr. Mueller

Yes! Winter break time! I hope everyone has a great vacation, a great time with family and friends, and returns refreshed and refocused for our journey through the winter of 2019. Based on past experiences, we know we will get through winter - eventually. You ask, "but what about exams?" Answer: We got through the week. It's a great week! We have an open campus, fewer classes each day, and early release. And at the end of the year is complete. We're halfway home! For our Frosh of '22 - you are 1/8 of the way through high school. Do you feel as though you know that much? Keep working and learning, you are off to a good start. And our Seniors, '19, we're heading down the stretch. One last semester at our beloved Alma Mater. Happy (last) New Year at ALHS - enjoy it - and finish proud and strong. Everyone - Make GOOD choices!

So. What about the exams? What do we get from them? What is the takeaway? What do they mean? If the answers to these questions are grades, stress, and not much more - then we're missing the mark!

Educators have serious and passionate discussions about (semester) exams. There are many perspectives within and outside of our school about the purpose and meaning of these assessments. At ALHS, we are committed to meaningful assessment and grade reporting practices.

One of the stated reasons for exam week at ALHS is to prepare students for college. Traditionally, colleges have "exam weeks," during which students take finals that, traditionally, have determined their grade in that course (which would seem to explain why it might take 2 hours, or more). After all, if the final exam is an assessment of all of the content considered in a course, a student's exam score tells what they know and can do. Simple. If that's what our students will face in the future, let's get them ready, just like we do with English, Math, Science, Government, etc. The question here is how to deal with our attendance and assignment requirements, which are generally not the same as at the college level.

Another reason for our semester/final exams is the opportunity for students to demonstrate for the last time what they've learned. There are three viewpoints on this thought. First, by the end of the course, kids should have GBED! Second, if students know the material better at the end of the year, the school should report what they know, not what they didn't know at the beginning.

See Viewing on page 6

ALHS Teachers fail 2018 Internet Culture Assesment

Schofield

They did surgery on a(n) _____

- a.) apple
- b.) ant
- c.) grape
- d.) bedbug

Arra:

That's so sad. Alexa play _____

- a.) No tears left to cry
- b.) Despacito
- c.) Rolling in the Deep
- d.) Celine Dion

Leblanc:

Weird flex but

- a.) whatever you say
- b.) alright
- c.) cool
- d.) okay

Smylie:

In the words of PETA bring home the

- a.) bagels
- b.) bananas
- c.) beans
- d.) beagles

Schofield:

This ain't it

- a.) bud
- b.) chief
- c.) homie
- d.) sir

Leblanc:

What sound cloud rapper recently went to jail?

Snoop Dog

Smylie:

What sound cloud rapper recently went to jail?

XXXten something



Smylie:

What's his name?
Gritz



Schofield:

What's the baby's name?
Baby Shark



Leblanc:

Caption this:
I don't think so

Scores:

- 1. Arra: 9/14
- Smylie: 8/14
- Schofield: 4/114
- Leblanc: 2/14

If you want to quiz your relatives
this break we have a link to the
full quiz on our instagram:
@al.spectrum

Best Gift You've Recieved or You Would Want



Mallory Menz-
A Barbie Dream House



Gannon Wackan- An
X-Box



Lucas Marconi- A
Lambo



CJ Brausch- Xbox



Maddie Gibel- Wii



Amelia VonGlahn- 7
Dogs



Nasya Cooper- Okla-
homa t-shirt subscrip-
tion



Alyssa Richard- A Laptop



Brendan Opalecky- Kylie
Cosmetics



Nick Bockelman- A Puppy



Casey Whalen- A Big,
Fluffy, Pink Pony



Liz Thieken- "I've always
wanted happiness, but
alas"

Cynic and hopeless romantic debate Hallmark movies

Dear Maggie,

Where do I begin? First of all, I haven't lent my writing to The Spectrum — outside of some headlines and house-ads — since I was a senior myself eons ago. This, however, is the topic that moves me to finally to talk. First of all, my feeling about the Holiday season has softened over the years thank to having children of my own, so I am, in no way, meaning to diminish the season's magic. Yet the increasing prevalence of the terrible-ness of Hallmark, Lifetime, and now even Netflix and Amazon Prime Christmas movies has helped mitigate any rise in my holiday cheer. Since when did "Peace on earth, good will toward men" have to include vapid depictions of boyfriendless women pretending not to pine over washboard abs and impressive manes of hair, realizing what they really need is not the depth of being measured by their own accomplishments, but instead a man to cure their loneliness. Is that the true meaning of the season: all women are missing in their lives is a man to cut down a Christmas tree with?

Go ahead, change my mind!

Sincerely,

Mr. Arra

Dear Mr. Arra,

It is not that women need men during the holiday season but it is not a crime to want a relationship during the "most wonderful time of the year". Holiday movies demonstrate the hope and miracles that happen during the Christmas season and it gives viewers hope that something magical will happen to them. Also the movies always end with a happily ever after which is a nice distraction for two hours compared to the messed up world we have come to know as normal.

Maggie

Dear Maggie,

It is relatively normal for people to want to couple up, but I don't see how the unrealistic expectations of a Hallmark Christmas movie help draw anyone closer to a healthy relationship. You might think I'm a little cynical, but I think to hope for a miracle as it pertains to personal relationships is naive. I feel like a lot of these things go like this: an otherwise capable, physically attractive female is at a place in her life where she is going "to find herself." Santa Clause then has different plans. It's not herself she needs to find! It's a shirtless prince charming comes over to fix her leaky sink or whatever. It's a Christmas miracle! She doesn't really need to learn to value herself as an independent and strong woman! All she needs is Prince Six-Pack! This isn't healthy at all. First of all, being alone during the holidays is normal, whether you're single or you're sustaining a loveless romantic relationship to avoid being alone during the holidays (both most of us will do at some point and are essentially the same thing). Secondly, to all you ladies looking for man for the holidays, the man you wind up with isn't going to have a six-pack under his shirt ever or for long. Finally, a cold splash of reality at Christmas doesn't ruin the holidays (and no, Love Actually, is not the realists version of a Hallmark movie. It's the same garbage masquerading as real life). The two-hour distraction we need is a good laugh at ourselves (watch Christmas Vacation or Home Alone), not a reminder that the seat next to us on the coach at the end of the movie is empty.

Still not buying what you're selling:

Mr. Arra

Mr. Arra,

Obviously women are completely capable of doing things on their own however it is nice to have someone to help you. Hallmark movies aren't meant to be masterpieces but every once in a while there are a few good ones that capture the spirit of Christmas and it so happens to include love. The "most wonderful time of the year" can often be clouded by holiday shopping and trying to make everything perfect but most hallmark movies focus on relationships during the holiday season. These movies serve as a reminder that there is more to the holiday season than merely trying to be more materialistic than your neighbor. While I agree Hallmark movies can sometimes make it seem like there is a need for people to constantly be in relationships, but more importantly they focus on family and friends. That was always supposed to be the focus of the holiday season but with stores open on Christmas, holidays have become a materialistic battle.

Maggie Brion

Dear Maggie,

So, what I don't understand is that despite being a strong, independent person, one can still crave stories that paint people as sentimental saps. God-forbid that I demand a little plot and substance to my television watching experiences. I think there might be more substance in a game of CandyCrush than these low-budget Christmas soap operas. I just can't do it. I can't watch one minute of that stuff.

Anyway, Merry Christmas!

Mr. Arra

Mr. Arra,

The substance is two people falling in love, what could be better than that? If you are knocking love than you must dislike all romance movies because they are all the same. Not every movie can have the same dramatic plot as Marvel or Star Wars movies. Sometimes less is more. Plus Hallmark movies weren't meant to be cinematic masterpieces, they are meant to bring joy during the holidays.

Maggie

ALHS senior writes grouchy letter to Ohio Democratic Party

Where Democrats nationwide managed to flip 43 House seats, Democrats in Ohio managed to flip none. Where Democrats nationwide managed to flip seven governor mansions, Democrats in Ohio lost the state's top office again, and all the state offices below as well. Yes, that's right, for the next four years



Kyle Burr

Ohio will have a completely Republican executive with vast Republican majorities in the legislature. Considering the census to take place after 2020, Republicans have only bolstered their chances in the future through the gerrymandering of Ohio's political districts, unless their conscience, or more likely the courts, don't allow them. In a night that looked like a Republican sweep (save a few nonpartisan Supreme Court seats) there was one exclusion to

the rule: Sherrod Brown. In a state Donald Trump won by eight points and Mike DeWine won by seven, Brown won by six. It's not a fluke either. This is his third election to the Senate in an increasingly conservative state.

Sherrod Brown is a populist, but not in the Trumpian sense. Don't get me wrong, they agree on several issues. Brown is a staunch supporter of Trump's protectionist policies against China. He and Trump were outspoken critics of General Motors plan to move thousands of Midwest jobs to Mexico (eight years after the taxpayers bailed them out). But Brown's persona is fundamentally different. Messy hair, wrinkled suits, and a baritone gravelly voice accumulate to a Midwestern charm that voters identify with, much unlike Trump's boisterous, extravagant New York style. Where Trump says he was against the Iraq War, Brown actually voted against it. Where Trump says he's for workers, Brown has written 45-page manifesto about "working too

hard for too little", just no one has ever given him the chance to do anything. But that could be changing. Brown has openly considered running for President in a wide and flooded Democratic field. His chances are slight, but the potential is huge. Cory Booker and Kamala Harris won't take back the working-class voters Democrats lost to Trump. They'll double-down on the destruction. Sherrod Brown is a different story.

The National Democratic Party is now abandoning Ohio and it's candidates, claiming Ohio is too white, too working class, and too rural for them to win, but that explanation is the very reason they lost. Democrats are too identitarian, elitist, and urban-reliant to win in Ohio. Where Democrats nationally are trending toward colored, urban, and more educated populations, they are leaving behind the very people they need to win. Ohio Democrats, detached from the very people they're supposed to represent, are shooting

See Critique of Dems pg 10

This just in: plastic spoons, straws, anything cancelled

Ok so America is super fat and lazy. We all know this. But, our laziness is starting to get out of fricken control it's absolutely ridiculous.

I work at Marcs and way too many people use too many plastic bags. Most people go home and just throw them in the garbage when they can buy a reusable shopping bag for less than a dollar.



John D'Acunzo

The real issue is how uninformed everyone is. We could be all using reusable bags and biodegradable bags for dog poop. We are so lazy as a community and always seem to do the easy thing not the right thing.

Plastic bags are canceled. Plastic spoons are canceled. Plastic straws are canceled. Everyone can bring their own silverware to school or we could just have a set of REAL silverware to use at school so we don't have 400 bags of trash.

Another major issue is the north pacific garbage patch, an island that is essentially made of garbage. They may as well give it its own zip code because that's where all the felons should have to move.

The really big issue with this is the plastic breaks down into the water and fish/birds consume those little pieces of plastic which then get stuck in their stomachs and it eventually kills them. This occurs because they feel full but in reality they may not have eaten in days or weeks.

So we must all come together educate yourselves and do the small things that we can in order to save our planet!

Viewing midterm exams as an opportunity to GBED

Continued from page 2

Third, if a student has mastered things during the year, what happens if they have a bad test day?

Of the many other exam discussions, a traditional one seems to be the most common: exams give students the opportunity to earn more points to boost and pad their grade. Therefore, are exams needed after 90 days of learning/attending? At what point do we know what a student knows, and what have we done about it? As mentioned above, what happens if a student's exam score is totally different than what has been observed/recorded for

90 days? It shouldn't, but sometimes does, happen.

Our goal is to prepare you for life after ALHS. Your performance on OST/ACT/SAT exams help you access post-high school opportunities, and all of our courses, tests and reports give us information about how you should expect to do on these assessments, as well as your potential for success.

We expect your best effort on EVERY test, quiz, unit exam; on every classroom assessment and during exam week. Your futures depend on it!

We will continue to review your

exam results and share the evidence of learning you provide with the faculty, district and your families. The school receives data of your learning. You receive a report for the learning you have done (YOGOWY-PI - You Only Get Out What You Put In!).

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

GBED and give YBED(Your Best Every Day)!

Peace

Holiday Season - Senior Spotlight

Ava Jeurgens



When do you think it's acceptable to start decorating and listening to xmas music? I think it's good to start decorating after Thanksgiving, but I think that you can listen to Christmas music anytime of the year. I was listening to Christmas music in August

Favorite xmas movie? Elf

Favorite xmas song? Either

Santa's Coming for Us or Snowman: both by Sia. Her Christmas album is very underrated

Best holiday memory? Laughing my butt off with my cousins

Best gift you've ever received? gift cards for food!

Worst gift you've ever received? I can't really think of a bad gift on its own. But one time I took a nice gift (a red sled) and turned it into a bad one by riding it down the stairs. It did not go well.

Best holiday food? Any brunch food

Any exciting winter break plans? Hopefully ice skating!

Any favorite holiday traditions? Sleeping over at my aunt's house with my cousins on Christmas night

Favorite part of xmas overall? The people I share it with!

John D'Acunzo



When do you think it's acceptable to start decorating and listening to xmas music? The day after Thanksgiving

Favorite xmas movie? Elf

Favorite xmas song? Underneath the Tree

Best holiday memory? My favorite holiday memory was opening presents with my 2 year old cousin

Best gift you've ever received?

a razor drifter cart

Worst gift you've ever received? A gift card to Spencer's gifts

Best holiday food? pork tenderloin

Any exciting winter break plans? I just wanna get the heck outta here. Florida here I come

Any favorite holiday traditions? celebrating Christmas eve at my grandmas house

Favorite part of Xmas overall? Seeing my little cousin and playing with her

Continuing a tradition of service

From ALHS Key Club on page 2

Gruber's favorite part about being in Key Club is seeing how people react to you giving your time to make their lives a little happier, because making people's lives better is what Key Club is all about.

Key Club has had many successes, and hopes to have many more, Gruber stating "As a whole we have been able to reach and affect the lives of a lot of people for the better, whether it's serving food at a soup kitchen or raising money for veterans."

The work that key club devotes to our community really makes Avon Lake a better place, and we're all grateful for what they do. For anyone interested in joining Key Club, meetings are in room 114 every Tuesday morning at 7:15.



Key club bell ringing at Giant Eagle

DO you like to write? It doesn't matter the topic, The Spectrum would love to have you on staff!

Email
 avonlakespectrum@
 alstudent.org
 for details!

Spectrum editors recommend shows to binge this break

For the CONSPIRACY NUT: THE X-FILES



Livie Crimaldi

The X-Files is a timeless 11-season classic (available on Hulu) perfect for anyone who is convinced the government is hiding the discovery of aliens or watching us through our cable boxes. Join partners Dana Scully and Fox Mulder as they tackle supernatural encounters and government conspiracy theories, all the while trading sassy quips between their contrasting personalities. The first and last episodes of each season develop the continuous plotline of alien abduction, but the other episodes are stand alone, each with a completely new X-File for Scully and Mulder to investigate. I recommend starting from season one in 1993 to understand all the inside jokes and fully appreciate the amazing 90's fashion, but if you don't have time to make it through 11 seasons, skipping to the more recent episodes will give you some more modern storylines. A fair warning to anyone who skips ahead: there are several spoilers in the latest season. A couple solid old episodes include *Pusher* (S3E17) and *Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose* (S3E4). You really can't go wrong; just make sure you pick a season with both Mulder and Scully, because some seasons lack one of them and don't give the full experience. Happy watching! And trust no one.

For the HORROR/THRILLER FAN: AMERICAN HORROR STORY



Elena Stojanovski

American Horror Story is the perfect show for anyone who likes a good scare, but also a good storyline. Each season has a different plot, which makes things interesting and keeps them from being drawn out too long. The same amazing actors appear in each season, but they play different characters. The actors are all super talented (unlike in some other TV shows) and you can see their talent by watching them play completely different people throughout the seasons. Although the show is named *American Horror Story*, I think it's more of a thriller than a horror show. The only super horror-ish season was season one, but you can always just skip that season. It wouldn't be a big deal because each season has different characters and a different plot. If you're nervous to watch *American Horror Story* because you're not the biggest horror fan, I say give it a try! That's what I did, and now it's my favorite. show!

For the PERSON WHO WISHES it WAS STILL HALLOWEEN: SABRINA



Caroline Jantz

As a child and into my preteen years, I was a major *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* fan. I remember watching the thousands of reruns held on ABC Family and other networks on Sunday mornings. Now at the age of 18, those reruns are practically nonexistent and the lack of Salem the Cat content I got was starting to hit me. I was scrolling through twitter one day when I saw it; a trailer for *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*. I immediately clicked on it as I watched *Sabrina*, Salem, Harvey, and all the other characters come back to me, just this time it was in a different way. *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* is a Netflix show starring Kiernan Shipka as Sabrina Spellman, a 15 year old half-witch human dealing with two different worlds. This dark twist on an old classic gives someone that nostalgic feel while bringing something new into the witchy world. Throughout the episodes Sabrina learns more about her life in the Witch world while dealing with the drama of the teenage years. If you are one who enjoys the supernatural, drama and adorable black cats named Salem, then *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* is the show for you.

For the PERSON THAT WANTS a LAUGH: BOJACK HORSEMAN



Lauren Zeck

Ah, the show that I scrolled past in my "Recommended for Lauren" for months. I thought of myself as being much too sophisticated to watch an adult comedy cartoon. However, one day this summer I finally caved. Once I started watching, I couldn't stop; I binged all 5 seasons in a span of 3 months. Not only is it genuinely laugh out loud funny, between its endless puns and fascinatingly odd premises, it tackles serious issues in ways that I've seen few pieces of media do, certainly not any comedy shows. While I'm no middle aged horse who starred in a hit sitcom in the 90's I find myself relating to the title character, Bojack. This show was able to depict depression and mental health without being dismissive and nihilistic for the sake of comedy but also without being overly sappy or gimmicky for the sake of plot. You may be skeptical, but trust me: this brightly colored, seemingly ludacris comedy is a show that will stick with you long after you've finished it. But if you're still not sold on a cartoon, check out Brooklyn 99.

Spectrum gives holiday advice for confused boys

Dear Whomever,

So, I think I've really screwed this up. I really like this girl, so I started Snapping her a couple months ago and I thought I was in when there was a smirking emoji next to her name. Anyway, I don't have much experience actually talking to girls, so I thought I could break the ice with a great Christmas present. So, I got her a diamond necklace like the ones you see on the commercials. It cost \$500. Her response wasn't at all what I expected. She made an awkward face and didn't even say a word. She turned around, walked away, and hasn't responded to any of my messages. Not only am I not getting the girl, I'm out every last penny I had to my name. What should I do?

Sincerely,

Trying Too Hard?

Silly-

Sounds like a big oopsie doopsie. If you shell out 500 for a smirking emoji I can't imagine the amount of money you'll spend for your actually girlfriend. Going forward I think you need to shrug it off, move forward, it's all in the past now. All you can focus on

now is making back that money and may I suggest asking someone else for their opinion before you spend more than \$100.

Sassy-

You absolute idiot. You're so dumb. Needless to say you shouldn't have spent \$500 on a girl you're not even dating, but you did. I think the only way to go on is block her. Actually, don't stop there. You need to block everyone you know because surely she's told all of her friends. I would tell you to pick up and move to another town but clearly that isn't fiscally possible for you, although for just fractions you can walk around with a bag over your head.

Sincere-

Well you sure got yourself into pickle now didn't ya? While I don't know if there's a solution to solve all of your issues, but if I were you I would politely ask for the necklace back. While you might not be able to return to get your money back you could save it to give it to a girl that likes you back. I'd suggest waiting until your wife.

Jim Carrey Christmas Movie Showdown

A Christmas Carol

Throughout the years there have been over 10 adaptations of the timeless tale, A Christmas Carol, written by Charles Dickens. Each movie has their own unique twist to the classic story, and even The Muppets have their own version. The first movie was released in 1938, and the most recent was released in 2009. Generations upon generations each have their own to love and grow up with, ours being the 2009 Jim Carrey adaptation. This Disney version is a 3D animated motion-capture film with the brilliant Jim Carrey behind the voice of Scrooge. During the movie you are brought along on an adventure by 3 ghosts as they try and teach Ebenezer the true meaning of Christmas, and the inevitable consequences of your actions. I cannot help but notice similarities between A Christmas Carol and Dr. Seuss's The Grinch. Both are about an individual who hates Christmas and does not believe in the spirit of it. Along the way they are helped by others who teach them how to be a better person, and in the end both the Grinch and Scrooge become overly happy, giddy, Christmas lovers. The difference is, the original A Christmas Carol was published in 1843, and How The Grinch Stole Christmas was published in 1957, over 100 years later. Am I accusing Dr. Seuss of copying the ideas told in Charles Dickens's classic movie? Maybe. But we will never know for sure.



How The Grinch Stole Christmas

A Christmas Carol might have 10 adaptations, but that just means it's overused and a tired story. How The Grinch Stole Christmas only has three movies, all of which are amazing and entertaining! The heartwarming story of the Grinch finding the Christmas spirit and his heart growing three sizes is a wonderful tale for all audiences. It's such a relevant story that it had a new adaptation come out this year with some of the biggest actors in Hollywood in it! However, my favorite version is the live action movie with Jim Carrey as the Grinch. Jim Carrey adds so much character to the already spunky Grinch and to the movie as a whole. The Grinch is already a funny movie, but Jim Carrey transforms the live action version from funny to hilarious. All of his jokes and facial expressions, as well as the way he interpreted the Grinch's personality, really take the movie to the next level. Also, the special effects makeup, movie props, and the sets make How The Grinch Stole Christmas an even more magical movie. Although the Grinch and A Christmas Carol might have similar plots, the Grinch executes the plot better and is much more entertaining to watch than A Christmas Carol. Next time you're thinking of watching a Christmas movie with a heartwarming story, you should watch the obvious best choice AKA How The Grinch Stole Christmas.



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Hang in there, Aries- things are about to get interesting. Stick with what you know and don't be afraid to accept the kindness of others. People look to you for guidance, but just this once, allow yourself a step back from everything. Whatever you do, don't tread on sidewalk cracks.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Taurus, lately you have been wrapped up in your own ambitions. It is understandable and completely okay to want to be the best, but a word of advice: don't let yourself get in the way of the true and wonderful relationships you have. The people who are there for you matter more than anything.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini, try to relax. Midterms have you quite high-strung (though some of you are so stressed you've completely given up). Just remember that a grade does not define you, and never will. You are what you make of yourself, and with your mind, you're going places. Also, wear more of the color green.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Cancer, as I heard on the radio just now, you are too lit to quit. You may need the things you are considering throwing away, so keep on hoarding them until the next time you evaluate their personal worth to you. This might irk your family, but you never know when you'll need a large pile of miscellaneous objects.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Leo, you recently had a burst of confidence! Remember, whenever you're feeling down, that people do genuinely care. You are never as alone as you think. And for the love of candy canes, PLEASE finish your Christmas shopping. You've been woefully late on that.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Lately things have been rocky for you, Virgo. Try to keep your head up, and always remember you can restart your day whenever you choose to. Good times are coming- stick with it to

see them arrive.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Libra, it's important to remember that everything happens for a reason. Look inside your heart to find the strength you need. Also, keep in mind that you are braver than you think. Don't let your insecurities get the best of you this month.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Scorpio, have patience with your relatives. The holidays are a time to celebrate and grow closer, not to fight and gossip about each other. Your aunt can prove to be especially irksome, but she really does mean well. Even if she keeps asking if you're dating anyone.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Sagittarius, I know you're denying it, but you really, truly, desperately need a haircut. Take the time off of school to clean up your act, and maybe you can start the new year on a good foot. Possibly.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, try something new. Life is too short to stay within your comfort zone all the time. Also, take the time to appreciate mundane things in your life. Sometimes the greatest joy is in the small stuff. Or, in the words of a wise man, "Don't sweat the technique."

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Aquarius, you're killing it! Let your creative side guide you this time around, and you won't be disappointed. The people around you are there to support you, however winding your path may be this month.

Pisces (February 19-March 19)

Pisces, pay attention to the people closest to you. Some of them may be battling issues you don't know about, and you have the emotional capacity to help them right now. Don't let that go to waste.

SHORE-OSCOPES
FROM OUR MYSTERIOUS

SPECTRUM PROGNOSTZCATOR



Critique of Ohio democrats

from Open letter pg 6 themselves

in the foot by backing a party that's leaving them behind.

Ohio Democrats had it easy. Republicans in state government were mired in scandal and bad government (the Speaker resigned after being implicated in a FBI investigation). They had dedicated volunteers and grassroots fervor. They outraised Republicans considerably. They had energetic and young candidates. When it came down to it though, election night was an absolute failure. The proprietor of this political catastrophe, Ohio Democratic Chair-

man David Pepper, still hasn't resigned.

The Ohio Democratic Party is failing because they are pushing the same identitarian, anti-Trump message as the national party. It's not what Ohio voters want to hear. Emotional appeals may work in seaside California or urban New England, but they don't work in Ohio. Rust-belt rugged with a hardened middle-class, Ohio wants proof of prosperity. Well-paying jobs, good benefits, and money in their pockets, that's what voters are looking for. Until statewide Democrats offer that vision, not much is going to change.

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The Spectrum Sports



Avon Lake boys basketball has high hopes for an SWC win

By Marcy Allen

The Spectrum Sports Writer

As the victorious football season comes to close, the Avon Lake Shoremen Basketball program commences with pride.

With an exciting victory underneath their belt against the North Olmsted Eagles (an ambitious score of 47-44), and impressive athletic talent, there's plenty of potential for the Avon Lake varsity boys basketball team.

Only being the dawn of the season, the varsity squad has already set a triumphant agenda.

"As a team we expect to compete every game and play at a high level. We also want to make a run at an SWC championship," vocalizes Junior captain, Nate Sidloski.

The varsity team credits their high hopes to their dynamic athleticism, as well as their special team comitery, formulated from the recently successful football season.

"Having many football players on the team adds to the team's chemistry because we are used to playing with each other. The success of the football team will carry over to basketball season due to winning being contagious," explains Sidloski.

The Shoremen varsity football team placed first in the

SWCs this 2018-19 season and favorably enough the basketball squad holds seven, dominant, football athletes (juniors, Nick Marsh, Creed Bologna, Nathan Sidloski, Christian Perry, and Colin Burchett, as well as seniors Cole Schraff and Matt Sanders).



Photo from Avon Lake sports
Twitter

The Shoremen will also will be relying on their competitive strength to be celebratory force on the basketball court.

"We are a very fast and talented team. Every player is well rounded and can contribute in many ways," tells senior, Dylan Marsh.

The varsity basketball team has an exciting road ahead.

Students can be sure to

support

the boys with upcoming January home games versus Normandy (January 2nd), Steele (January 9th), Berea-Midpark (January 12th), Midview (January 19th), and Westlake (January 30th).

With bright potential and dominate players, the Boys Varsity Basketball Team's 2018- 2019 season holds encouraging hopes.

The Shoregals basketball team starts the season off strong

By Caroline Jantz

The Spectrum Sports Editor

The Avon Lake girls varsity basketball squad is looking better than ever this year. With seniors Amber Achladis,

our best win so far was against Berea-Midpark. It was our season opener and we not only won in overtime, but we broke the ongoing 6 year losing streak to this team."

This team is comprised of individuals who all know the game well, and Ariana Negron and Grace Dean earned high praise from their teammates for having a wonderful season.

Negron, a junior on the team, has been one of the stat leaders and leading scorer throughout the season.

"Grace has had a wonderful season because despite her shoulder continuously popping in and out of place during a game,

she always fights through the pain and will rebound, post up, score, and do whatever the team needs her to do." stated Murdock about her younger teammate.

The talent this team holds is clear, as they have not only defeated long-

time conference champions Berea-Midpark, but they bested rival, the Avon Eagles, 52-36. With speaking captain Amber Achladis there to lead them, the players have been able to work together well in order to secure these victories.

"We have a very good team dynamic this year, both on and off the court," said Achladis, "We are a team who works well together and we work hard at every practice, which shows on the court."

"Off the court we all laugh together, dance or sing before games and stand up and cheer on the benches for those who are in," added Murdock on the dynamic, "We may not all be bestfriends outside of the season, but when on the court or in the gym we are a family."

Come out and support the basketball team at their next game as they seek their next victory against Lorain on December 22nd at 1:30 at Lorain High School.



Photo from Avon Lake sports
Twitter

Allie Heschel, Liz Murdock, and Kelsey Simmerly leading the team, they have high hopes for the season.

"We currently have a record of 6-2, but those losses will hopefully be redeemed when we face those teams again," said senior captain Liz Murdock, "I think

The Avon Lake hockey team looks to uphold their reputation

By Sarah Pruzan

The Spectrum Sports Writer

What better sport is there to enjoy in the freezing winter than sitting in a cold ice rink with pucks slamming off the boards? Despite the conditions fans have to endure to enjoy this sport, the athletes on the hockey team are absolutely dedicated. These men practice during the week, not arriving home until past midnight at the latest, and then wake up for school the next morning.

Previously in the 2017-2018 season, the Avon Lake varsity hockey team won the Baron Cup III, went undefeated in division play, won the blue north division, set the school record for wins (27) and goals (205) in a season, as well as moved up to the white division from the blue. That is one tough reputation to uphold; however, the Shoremen have maintained a record of 2-4-1 this season!

Hitting the ice back in November, the Shoremen hockey team are back. New this year is senior Michael Mandel (#6, winger), freshman Austin Spishak (#27, goalie), freshman Renee Roberge (#31, goalie) and sophomore Gavin Westover (#55, winger). With Patrick Graney and Jared Aslaksen now freshmen in college, the opportunity opened for senior Timothy Lubertozzi (#13, winger) to claim captain as well as junior Nick Ospelt (#9, winger) and sophomore Isaac Young (#77, defense) to claim alternate captain positions.

Alternate captain Nick Ospelt stated, "I think that the team is doing okay at the moment. We graduated most of our

scoring from last year, so it's been difficult to kind of find our footing this season. After a big win over Avon (6-0) I think that we might be onto something. I have the confidence that we are ready to flip the script of this season." There is nothing better than having a captain so optimistic as to give the team hope.

Since the season has started, the Shoremen have won a league game against Chagrin Falls (6-1) as well as a non-league home opener versus Lakewood (6-2); however, sadly the Shoremen lost all three games in the Rocky River Thanksgiving Tournament. Although the games were lost, they were against red teams and the Shoremen put up an amazing fight.

So far in the season, goal standings are as is: #9 Nick Ospelt (10), #7 Thomas Kacmarcik (7), #14 Justin Share (6), #42 Brian Walasinski (3), #58 Jacob Schaltenbrand (3), #19 Luke Farthing (3), #16 Adam Kelly (2), #6 Michael Mandel (2), #17 Murphy Mohar (1), #13 Timothy Lubertozzi (1). The assists

standings are: #9 Nick Ospelt (5), #14 Justin Share (5), #21 Hunter Hall (5), #7 Tommy Kacmarcik (4), #13 Tim Lubertozzi (3), #71 Colin Reynolds (3), #42 Brian Walasinski (3), #4 Devin Elliott (1), #11 Brady Starck (1), #19 Luke Farthing (1), #23 Matt Van Cleave (1). Meanwhile at the net junior Dillon Aslaksen (#20) has a total of 190 saves and freshman Renee Roberge (#31) has 22 saves.

Wish the Shoremen hockey team luck as they finish out their season. They are doing well but maybe a little student section would be nice? Next home game is December 22nd at 4:15 pm at the Rocky River Recreation Center! Come and support!

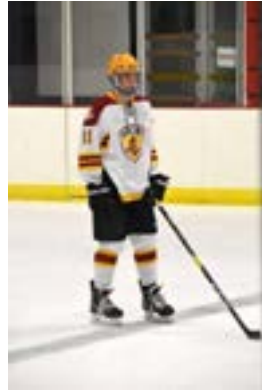


Photo from Avon Lake sports

Twitter(5)

Avon Lake Bowling

By Marguerite Smith

The Spectrum Sports Writer

Avon Lake's girls and boys bowling teams are off to a great start in their season. So far, the boys have a record of 4-2 and the girls have a record of 3-3 after the recent forfeit of Elyria's bowling team.

First year player Amber Warthman remarks, "I think our team is looking pretty stellar. Everyone's improving and giving all of their effort." The girls JV team is undefeated thus far.

Girls varsity bowling is lead by top scores from Rayana Meyers, Lexi Cline, and Madison Reimuller.

"Our team goal is to place and score high at SWC's," says Meyers. She has been an influential part of the girls varsity team for two years now and has the highest average on the team.

Junior Claire Lopez also has high hopes for the rest of the season, "We have a lots of Sunday tournaments we hope to place in and hopefully JV or varsity can make it decently into SWC's."

The future looks bright for the Avon Lake bowling program as they look to place in SWC's once again this year.

Wrestling team starts season with wins

By Marcy Allen

The Spectrum Sports Writer

On your mark, get set, Wrestle! The Avon Lake wrestling program has officially begun.

The Avon Lake wrestling squad has high hopes for the 2018-2019 season, in spawn of their meticulous discipline and effective attitudes.

"Practice doesn't make perfect,



Photo frm previous edition

perfect practice makes perfect. We make sure our moves are performed to the best of our abilities at practice. Outside of practice, we do our best to remain disciplined and eat right to maintain our

weight class", informs senior captain, Adham Abushukur.

The contending sport requires a substantial amount of willpower. "Good wrestlers keep a positive attitude through everything they do, from practice, to warming up before a match, to simply keeping weight in check, everything counts," tells Adham Abushukur.

Greatly enough, the wrestling team's hard work is paying off. Senior, Abud Salem, won the 160-pound championship in the Cobos Insurance Classic. Juniors John Perry and Ty Taggart and Seniors, Ethan Shepard and Alec Negron, all placed in the top five.

At the most recent meet, the Hudson Holiday Invitational, John Perry and Alec Negron triumphed into the finals for first place. There was also solid performances from Ethan Shepard, snatching a third-place victory and Ty Taggart, receiving an award for sixth place.

Be sure to support the boys wrestling program at their upcoming, home meet on January 5th, against the Midview Middies.