

The Observer

Weekly

Cloverleaf Inside and Out

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Swerve: Driving Dangers for New Drivers

By Candace DuBetz

It's very common for teens to get into car accidents their first years of driving. People between the ages of 16 and 20 have a higher chance of being injured or killed in a car accident.

"My accident was very scary and it made me drive more carefully after it happened," said junior Courtney Anandel.

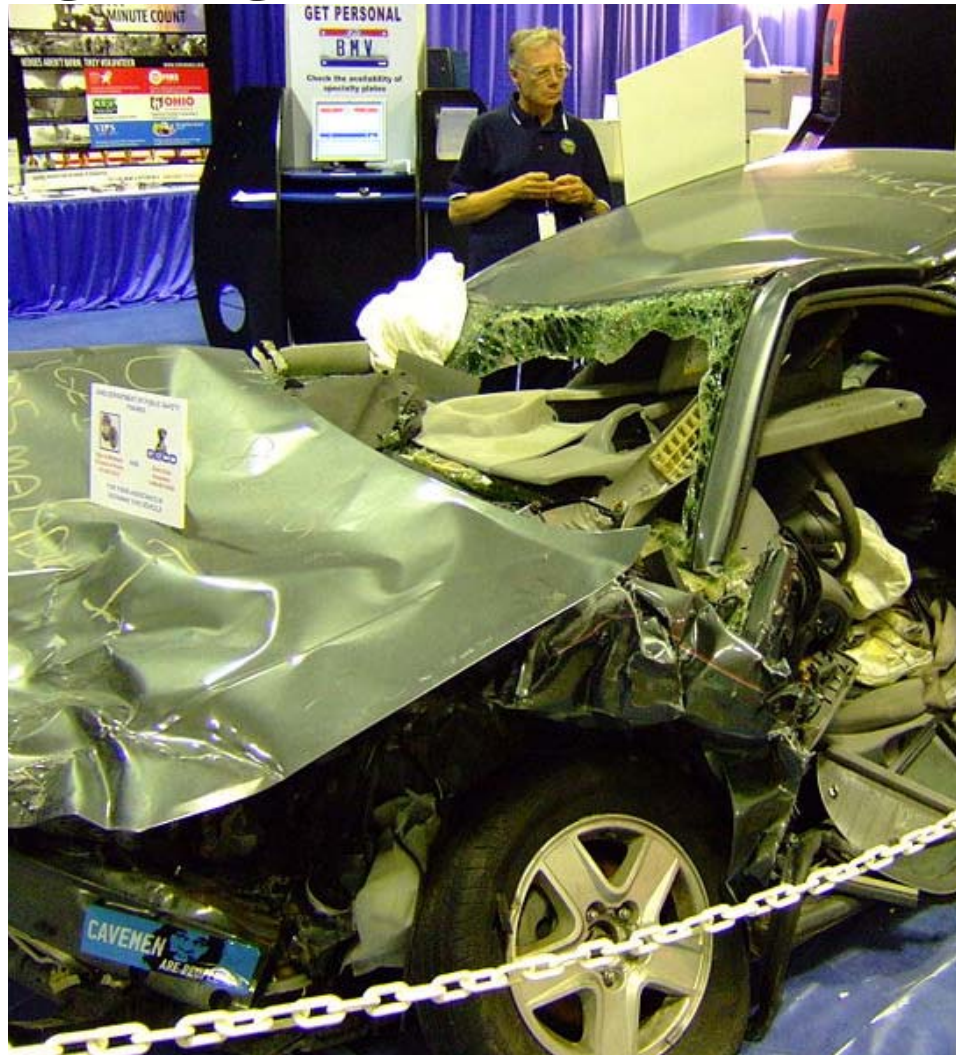
Sports cars and hatchbacks are more accident prone than any other vehicle, along with vehicles with bigger engines. Male drivers are proven to cause twice as many accidents as female drivers.

"Well, if you show off, the bumper comes off too," said junior Tyler Beery. "I just accidentally rolled into him. I hit my brakes and still rolled into him... it was weird."

Accidents often occur within five miles of a person's home. This is how my own accident occurred. I wasn't paying attention and rear-ended someone at a complete stop right by my own house.

About 40 percent of crashes that are fatal involve alcohol. From midnight to 3 a.m., the risks increases to 75 percent. Another thing that increases risk while driving is talking on a cell phone. If you are not focused and are using your cell phone, your risk of an accident goes up 400 percent.

Over 300,000 teenagers get in car accidents a year. Over 5,000



A 2005 Chevy Malibu that was involved in a rollover accident. *Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons*

people die a year from car accidents, which is about fourteen people per day. Head on collisions, rollovers, rear-enders, suicides, and side impacts are many of the different types of car accidents with rollovers as the most deadly.

"I don't exactly remember my accident, so in a way, it doesn't

feel real. With all the pain meds I was on for my jaw, I was out of it and forgetful. I was scared to drive for a long time, but I started driving again when my jaw healed," said senior Chelsey Vicker.

Bad weather is just around the corner, so a word to the wise, drive very carefully!

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

By Shannon Mohney

If you are a fan of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy then this is the movie for you.

Peter Jackson's film comes out in theaters all across the United States on Friday, Dec. 14 at midnight. Many are very excited for the premiere of this movie while some could care less about the opening.

"I am so excited to go see *The Hobbit*! I love all three *Lord of the Rings* movies, and since *The Hobbit* is the beginning of all of those movies, I expect it to be really good," says sophomore Connor Ploucha.

Jackson has won many awards from his previous movies including things like best costume designs and best make-up artists.

"I'm not too thrilled about the movie; I don't expect to go and see it anytime soon. The little creature,

Gollum, freaked me out when I was little," explains Emily Civittolo.

As the movie was being created, Jackson was keeping video diaries showing some behind the scenes footage and footage of the set to upload on *YouTube* for fans around the world to view.

While Ploucha and Civittolo have two totally different views, Brian Easterling is favoring Ploucha's side more.

"Over the weekend, I watched the third *Lord of the Rings* video getting ready for the premiere of *The Hobbit*. I'm so pumped to go see it!" says the junior.

As the movie release approaches, presale tickets are now available at online ticket booths.

"I already have my tickets and am going to watch the movie the night it

comes out after my basketball game on Friday," continues Ploucha.

The Hobbit is based on the beginning of the *Lord of the Rings*. This movie will involve characters like Bilbo Baggins, instead of Frodo, who was played by Elijah Wood, and hit character Gandalf will be returning to help finish out the Jackson movie.

In the movie, Bilbo will find the ring, which is the center of all of Jackson films. Throughout the journey, he will have to protect it at his best and keep it safe.

As some students at Cloverleaf are very excited about the new release, others have never even heard of the movie. The movie is expected to be a hit all around the world. So if you have no plans, go check out *The Hobbit* opening on Dec. 14 in a theater near you.

Costs During the Holiday Season

By Sara Fairbairn

With the holiday season approaching quickly, many people are going to be traveling out of town and emptying their bank accounts to buy their families, or that special someone, a gift. The cost of the Christmas season has risen over the years and it is getting to be too much for some to pay.

Cloverleaf junior Kayleigh Strickler is traveling to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida over Christmas break.

"We are going to Disney World," Strickler said. "We are driving because my whole family is going and to buy plane tickets for all of us would be too expensive."

"I am going to Utah to see my brother, Grey, and I am flying by myself," said junior Kendal Wilde. "It is going to be pretty expensive because

it is far away and because of the price of tickets during the holiday season."

Some people are unable to travel during this time of the year and choose to celebrate the holidays closer to home.

"I go to my grandma's house on my dad's side on Christmas Eve. Then on Christmas morning, I open my presents at home and then go to my grandma's on my mom's side for dinner," said senior Lindsey Hansen.

Junior Charlie Rice said, "We have people over to our house for Christmas because it is too much money for my whole family to travel to see my aunt that lives out of state."

Many students are "breaking their banks" to buy their families and friends a gift that they can really appreciate. The cost of buying presents goes up every year due to new technology and the latest fashion trends that everyone "must-have."

"When I was little, I would spend only about \$20 at the Santa Shop that was offered at school to buy my whole family their presents, and now that I am older, I am spending over \$100. I hate spending the money, but it feels good to give the gifts," said junior Freddy Wells.

Unlike some students who are spending an abundance of money for their friends and family, some students are unable to do so.

"I don't have a job, which means no money; which means no presents this year. I just give them my heart," said junior Shannon Mohney.

The holiday season gets more and more expensive each year, but families find ways to be together under the circumstances and people will continue to "break their banks" to give the best gifts possible.

Quiz & Quotes

What Current TV Show Are You Obsessed With and Why?



Mason Frary (12) - *"Ink Master"*—because tattoos are cool."



Tori Meece (10) - *"Catfish"*—because you get to see creepers on the internet."



Anthony Kozma (9) - *"Duck Dynasty"*—because it's awesome."



Mrs. Marylee Wooley (Staff)- *"Homeland"*—because it is very exciting and you don't know what to expect."

Make Your Own Break

By Kelsen Lewarchick

Winter break begins on Dec. 24 and goes until Jan. 7. Many students are already excited for the upcoming break and have tons of plans. Some people go on vacation while others just spend time at home.

"I want to go sledding and have a snowball fight with Ryan," said junior Collin Zuk.

Although some people just stay around home throughout the break, winter sports still continue. Basketball, wrestling, swimming, and cheerleading still go on throughout the break.

"I still have to go to coach basketball every day, but I want to go skiing or snowboarding. I would also like to go tubing or sledding, and attend an ugly sweater party or two," said CHS teacher Chris Lantz.

Over the long break, people spend time with friends and family. Some people may go on vacation at the beach or even somewhere cold to spend time with family members from out of state.

"Over the break, I am going to Virginia with my family. We are going to the cabin and going hunting. Hopefully, I shoot a buck or a doe," said sophomore Cody Walther.

For break, people spend time putting up decorations to get them into the Christmas mood. They also tend to listen to Christmas music and might even go caroling to spread cheer.

Most students are really excited for the break for several different reasons, but there are always some outcasts in society.

"I'm super excited for Christmas and seeing all of my family. It's the most wonderful time of the year!" said sophomore Hallee Smith.

"I am not excited for Christmas. I hate sleeping in, seeing my family, and eating tons of food. I also only get coal from Santa and he never eats my cookies I leave him. He also farts in my stocking; he is an overall jerk," said sophomore Brandee Bell.

The break may consist of people running around and being extremely busy, but it is also a time for people to catch up on sleep.

Some activities you can do while being on break include going sledding, tubing, skiing, snowboarding, building a snowman, having snowball fights, playing sports, hanging out with friends and family, and much more.

Christmas break is a time for people to show their love for other people. Giving gifts for Christmas is a great thing no matter what you get. It shows that people care for you, and makes you feel good about yourself when you give to others.

Students and staff should all have fun over break, but remember to stay safe!



Sledding is a favorite activity of the winter months and holiday break.

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

Hot Gifts for 2013: “All I Want for Christmas”

By Carragan Deeks

It's that time of year again! Christmas is rapidly approaching and will be here before you know it. Have you thought about the Christmas gifts that you will be buying for your friends and family this year?

There are many popular Christmas gifts on the market. Many new electronics are on the top of the list for most people this year.

One of the hottest Christmas gifts this year are tablets, such as the I-Pad, Kindle HD, and the Samsung Galaxy Note.

“I really want an I-Pad for Christmas,” stated junior Kenzie Packard. “I think they are really cool.”

Another hot Christmas gift this year is the I-Phone 5. Most people already have the I-Phone 4s, but want to make the upgrade to the I-Phone 5.

“I already have the I-Phone 4, but I really want the I-Phone 5 because it

has a lot of different features on it,” said sophomore Ashley Zwingelberg.

Although most people like to buy store bought gifts because it's easier, some people are even starting to make their own gifts because it is cheaper.

A popular source for these gift ideas are on a website called Pinterest. Pinterest is a website that allows people to share and organize all the things you find on the web.

Pinterest is organized into categorized pinboards that let you search your areas of interest.

“I am making a lot of Pinterest gifts this year because I think they have more meaning and are cheaper than buying extravagant gifts,” explained sophomore Becky Laughlin.

Another hot gift this Christmas season are Beats by Dr. Dre. Beats are a type of headphones that have great sound quality.

“I want Beats so I can have more fun listening to my music. The sound is so good,” stated sophomore Nicole Cooke.

There are also some top books to give as Christmas gifts for your friends and family that are book-worms.

One of the hottest books right now is the book by Gabi Douglas, an Olympic gold medalist. Douglas's book is called “Grace, Gold, and Glory: My Leap of Faith.”

Another great book to give as a Christmas gift is the “Divergent” series by Veronica Roth.

“The Divergent series is a great gift to give as a Christmas gift,” said senior Leigha Beliveau. “The books are phenomenal.”

As you can see, there is a wide variety of different Christmas gifts you can give to your friends and family this holiday season. Happy Holidays and happy shopping!

Season of Giving Brings Joy

By Emily Civittolo

December has arrived which means Christmas is just around the corner. Along with Christmas time and the holiday season comes unpredictable Ohio winter weather, and people feeling and doing many different things.

One thing people look forward to at the end of the year is cold weather. Sophomore Carragan Deeks cannot wait until it starts to snow.

“I love the cold weather,” Deeks said. “I like it much more than summer.”

She may be excited, but Shannon Mohny, a junior at Cloverleaf, has different ideas.

“I hate the cold weather, but I love playing in the snow and finding different ways to have fun.”

Snow often reminds people of Christmas and the season of giving. For most people, the holidays represent a time to be with family, and

catch up with old friends while relaxing and enjoying their time off.

Deeks and Mohny both agree that spending time with their families is at the top of their priority list during the holidays.

“I go places with my family and we spend a lot of time together. We continue our family traditions and always have a good time,” Deeks said.

“Spending time with my family is the best!” said Mohny.

Meredith Illig, a junior, also agrees with this, and has her own take on what Christmas time means to her.

“I spend time with my family a lot. I try to be thankful for what I have and remember that I am very lucky. I think the holidays are a time to give back and help others in need.”

Along with Christmas comes cheerful holiday music. Most people love listening to the music and it gets them in the spirit.

Illig is a holiday music fanatic and could listen to it at any time of the year.

“I love Christmas music! I listen to it all the time. From Thanksgiving day, all the way to Christmas Day, it's all I listen to,” Illig said.

Although she can't choose just one favorite song, Mohny has a definite favorite.

“The Trans Siberian Orchestra is my all time favorite Christmas music. It is very catchy and I don't get bored listening to it.”

The arrival of the holiday season brings happiness and joy to the people around you and the opportunity to involve yourself in many different activities. The winter season is a diverse time of the year to feel and do your favorite things. It is a time to be thankful for what you have and help those in need.