

The Observer

Weekly

Cloverleaf Inside and Out

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It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By Tyler Mayfield

With Christmas quickly approaching, some of us may be sitting at home wondering what to do to get into the Christmas spirit.

There are a number of places around the area, such as The Holiday Lights drive thru at the fairgrounds in Medina, or the square is always decorated for Christmas, with lights outlining every building and even a Christmas tree in the gazebo in the middle of the square.

"To get into the Christmas spirit, we go to the mall, drive around to see lights, and always go to church. I always decorate the house up too," said science teacher Pam Waltenbaugh.

There are many other attractions around, as well, if you're willing to go for a bit of a drive.

The famed Christmas Story house in Cleveland, from the movie *A Christmas Story*, is a can't miss attraction, especially around the holidays.

Everything in the house is set as it was when the movie was shot, and portrays a 1940's home. The contents of the home, although, are not the actual props used in the movie, give a good idea on how the house was set up. Much detail was put in the house to relate it to the movie, right down to the red soap on the bathroom sink.

For a bit of a further drive, Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, West Virginia, offers an annual holiday lights show. With more than 300 acres on over a six-mile drive through the resort, Oglebay's Christmas light displays is one of the greatest.

According to AOL Travel, The



LED lights are illuminated in a Denmark street for the holiday season.

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

Winter Festival of Lights at Oglebay was voted one of the ten best light displays in the country. A trip to Oglebay is a Christmas tradition for many.

On that note, traditions are part of what makes this time of year so special to many. The traditions may include putting up the Christmas tree, attending church services, having a special dinner, and so on.

For junior Morgan Garner, her traditions are very special to her.

"I go to my grandma's on Christmas and stay at my mom's on Christmas Eve."

For Waltenbaugh, Christmas traditions are very special to her as well.

"We usually go see *A Christmas Carol* at one of the theaters downtown (Cleveland), we always go to church events, and this year, I want to take my girls to a food bank to show them how good they have it."

Some of our ancestor's past traditions may show up even today in our traditions, as well. This holds true for English teacher Rebecca

Sovchik.

"We always open gifts on Christmas Eve - that was my grandfather's way from Switzerland."

Although Christmas is a very special time of year, it can also be a very hectic one.

Senior Tricia Rice says, "On Christmas Eve, we're usually running around getting last-minute Christmas presents, then we wrap presents and watch Christmas movies."

Santa Claus is a large part of the season as well. He's the one responsible for getting everyone their gifts on Christmas Day (*cough cough*).

For French Teacher Jacque Neidig, unfortunately, Santa has never come to her kids in Ohio, it's always been in Pennsylvania.

"We go to Pennsylvania. Santa comes there for my kids, not Ohio. We hang stockings and have shrimp cocktail on Christmas Day."

No matter what you do, Christmas truly is a very special time of year.

Driving Safe in the Winter

By Courtney Andel

With the winter season coming slowly, but surely, you must learn to take caution with the road. Young high school students need to understand the dangers of what can happen when driving recklessly during the snowy season.

In the winter, there are many dangerous driving conditions, such as falling snow, icy roads, and snow-covered roads. As students are driving in these weather conditions, they do not realize the danger they are put into.

“In the winter, I still rush to school, but try to pay more attention to the road,” says junior Nate Watkins.

Students will still rush to school even in the snowy winter seasons. Instead of getting into that car crash, follow these helpful tips to stay safe.

Before you began driving your car, try to turn on the defrosters 10-15 minutes before you take off. When doing this, not only do you have a warm car, but also some ice will melt off the windshields. Also, be-

fore getting into your car, use a window scraper to get all the access snow off of each window. The cleaner the windows, the safer everyone is.

Now, as a driver, drive as slow as needed to make it safe and sound to the destination. When coming up to different turns, take your time. Do not get nervous or worried in these weather conditions, just take it slow and everything will be okay.

Not only is the snow nerve-racking to drive in, but also watching out for ice is very important. Ice is water freezing up on the road and driveway, which can also be ‘black ice.’ Black ice is very hard to spot and that is why taking it slow on the road is necessary.

“Sometimes I worry about snow, when it is deep. When it comes to black ice, I don’t worry about it. I just drive over it,” said senior Dean Charek.

Students need to take driving more seriously in the winter. Everyone says that kids will be kids, but they

could take their own lives or someone else’s because of their reckless driving in the winter.

The United States feels as if a kid is ready to be licensed at the age of 16, but do kids take their responsibility seriously?

“I feel as if students do not understand the danger they are putting themselves in. If the United States says they are mature enough to drive, they need to show it more. Slowing down in the winter needs to be taught better to our students,” states Cloverleaf High School teacher Tiffany Packard.

Is texting, loud radios, and talking to friends worth slipping on ice and crashing into piles of snow? Student drivers need to put down their cell phone, turn down the radio, and pay attention to the dangerous, snowy, and icy roads before it is too late. Many people say that it is better safe than sorry. Students must take this seriously and apply it to the road before their or another person’s life is in danger.

Bus Cuts Will Bring Change

By Ashley Bogan

As you know, after we all get back from the holiday break, high school students will not be allowed to ride the bus anymore due to bus cuts.

This poses a problem for many students, especially freshmen and sophomores that are not able to get their licenses yet. They will be the most affected, along with some juniors and seniors that have taken their time to get a drivers license..

It’s going to be hard for some students to find a ride to and from school because most parents work and won’t be able to take them.

One ironic situation is that if you have a sibling in the middle school, the bus can pick them up, but not

you. Also, if a bus drives past your house on its route, it can’t pick you up either.

Sophomore Sydney Heil is one of the students that will have to rely on family and friends for a ride.

“It’s a bad thing because I’m not always going to have a ride and I’ll have to depend on others for one.”

This is true. Many students are going to have to depend on others for rides to and from school and granted, while some can carpool, it’ll be a hassle to pick up other students and drop them off.

Several students don’t think it is fair. It is especially hard for some because the district is in the country and there are no sidewalks. There are

also many students that live far away from the school.

“It’s a hassle for parents to have to take us and pick us up every day. It’s ridiculous,” said sophomore Sarah Evans.

It’s good that they’re letting sophomores get parking passes now because some will be able to just drive to school. Even though these extra students are able to get parking passes, not everybody has a car that they can drive to school.

“I can’t wait to get my license because then I won’t have to depend on others to give me a ride,” said Sophomore Briona Burgos.

Quiz & Quotes

What are you looking forward to this holiday break?



Steven Dunkel (9) - "Food, presents, family, and my birthday is also coming up."



Sierra Jarrell (9) - "Sleeping in, no school, and hanging out with family and friends."



Sarah Oakes (9) - "I'm looking forward to getting all of my presents."



Vinny Garbonick (9)- "Getting my new bow."

Looking Ahead to Next One

By Jessie Lindemeyer

Light the Knight is the winter dance in February. This formal is much different than the first dance, Homecoming, in many ways.

First of all, instead of the boys asking the girls, the girls will ask the boys as their guests for the evening.

Senior Brittany Piper says, "I have a ton of great ideas of how to ask my date this year!"

Also, this dance is not as formal as Homecoming. Kids usually don't get corsages or boutineers for their dates.

"I like that Light the Knight is not as formal as Homecoming," says junior Freddy Wells. "I think it's way more fun too!"

The outfits for Light the Knight are also different than Homecoming. The beautiful and elegant poofy and jeweled dresses from Homecoming change to a more clubbing kind of dress.

"For Homecoming, I had a very classy and elegant dress," said junior Emily Peterson, "but for Light the Knight I'm getting a casual party dress."

For the boys, instead of wearing dress pants, a dress shirt and a tie, they can also dress more casual.

"For Light the Knight last year, I wore khakis and a v-neck," said junior Marc Heidelman. "I like that I don't have to wear dress clothes; it's way easier to dance."

For most of the girls' hair, instead of going to a place and getting their hair done in pretty curly updos and styled, most girls will do their hair themselves and most straighten theirs.

"For Homecoming, I got my hair done at a salon," said junior Mackenzie King. "For Light the Knight, I think I am just going to do it myself and straighten it. I have to save my money to get my hair done for Prom!"

Light the Knight also does not have a specific theme. It is always just a kind of clubbing theme. There is much to look forward to in February for the Light the Knight dance! So ladies, start thinking of ways to ask your man and get ready for the lights.

Season of Change for Boys' BB

By Ryan O'Callaghan

After struggling last year with an overall record of 1-20, the Colts are ready to move on and start to make Cloverleaf a dominant program once again.

This year's team is much different from last year's. It is Marty Ryan's first season as Varsity Head Coach and five seniors graduated from last year, including two starters.

Even with the big roster change, Ryan still has much confidence in his team. He believes that what makes this team different from years past is "solid work ethic," and "the desire to change the direction of the program."

There were not only changes made to the Varsity squad this year, but also to the Junior Varsity. Another first time

coach will be head of the JV team, Adam Michel. When asked if he wanted to help out with the team, Michel took the opportunity with much excitement.

"Being able to coach basketball has been great for me. I really enjoy teaching kids the game that I know best," Michel said.



Getting Ready for the Future

By Rebecca Baker

With the first trimester of Cloverleaf High School ending not to long ago, and the second trimester just beginning, it seems as if the year is going by too fast.

For the senior class, they are already experiencing their “lasts” in high school, while the juniors are busy thinking of what is to come their senior year.

Your senior year is the most important year of your high school experience. It’s a time where you turn in college applications and start truly preparing for the start of the rest of your life.

Your senior year also is the time when students are living life to the fullest. They are hanging out, going to all the school football games, sports banquets, and really just anything having to do

with spending time with your friends and being a part of the school.

Most students don’t want to leave the school without standing out, making a difference, or being known. The junior class is spending their time planning how they are going to spend their very special senior year.

“It seems so close to our graduating year, even though second tri (of junior year) has just started. I can’t wait until we’re in charge and rule the school,” said junior classmate Allie Reed.

Some are focused on the fun times, while other are focused on school preparing for college.

“I’m failing chemistry, and now no college is gonna want me. I only have one year left to get my grades up so I

can get accepted into the college of my dreams,” said a very anxious Kendal Wilde.

Another topic most students spend time on is how they are going to be known.

“I can’t believe last week people were voting for the most athletic senior, class clown, best hair, and best dressed of the senior class. I’m going to be spending my senior year making something of myself,” said Emily Peterson.

So while most people think the only class that is anxious and excited is the senior class, the class of 2014 feels the heat just as much as the seniors. Whether it’s weird to see their friends graduating this year, or just the pressure of the school, the class of 2014 is planning their senior year already.

Heisman Race Too Close to Call This Year

[Editor’s Note: This was written last week before Johnny Manziel was announced the winner on Dec. 8]

By Freddy Wells

On December 3, three finalists were invited to The Best Buy Theater in Times Square for the selection of the most prestigious award in college football, the Heisman trophy. The winner of the award will be announced Dec. 8 on ESPN at 8 p.m. The three finalists include Texas A&M freshman quarterback Johnny Manziel, Notre Dame senior linebacker Manti Te’o, and Kansas State senior quarterback Collin Klein.

This is the first year since 2008, when Sam Bradford beat Tim Tebow and Colt McCoy by a slim margin, where there have been only three candidates.

Some fans were surprised that there were only three players invited, especially Ohio State fans who thought Braxton Miller was a legitimate Heisman candidate. Even though many Ohio State fans thought that Miller should have been invited, few thought he would actually win the award. The Heisman race was realistically between the three players invited to the ceremony.

Avid Buckeyes’ football fan and Cloverleaf junior Matt Geig was upset when he heard that Miller was not invited to be a Heisman candidate.

“I really think that Miller should have been invited, but I don’t think Braxton

was as outstanding this season as the three players chosen.”

Miller only has 3,310 total yards and 28 touchdowns compared to Collin Klein’s 3,380 total yards and 37 touchdowns while Johnny Manziel has 4,599 total yards and 43 touchdowns.

Of the three outstanding players invited, Manziel is the front runner at this point to win the award while Te’o and Klein are close behind the freshman from Texas A&M.

This year’s Heisman is very close and every person seems to have a different opinion on who should win the award.

Cloverleaf junior, and Notre Dame fan, Matt Vespucci thinks Te’o is the obvious choice for the Heisman trophy.

“Te’o has led the best defense and team in college football to the National Championship by making outstanding plays all year; he is the no doubt best player in college football.”

Four out of the last six Heisman trophy winners have played in the BCS National Championship game. This should increase Te’o’s chances of winning the award. But only one defensive player has ever won the Heisman trophy, Charles Woodson in 1997, former cornerback for that team up north.

Having a perfect season really helps a player when it comes to winning the Heisman, something Klein came so

close to doing but lost a close game to Baylor late in the season.

“This year, it is really tough to say who is going to win, but I think Collin Klein is going to just barely win the Heisman,” said junior Adam Podolak.

Klein was the front runner for the trophy until his team, Kansas State, lost to Baylor, something that could cost him the Heisman trophy.

Right when Klein’s Heisman chances decreased, the Texas A&M freshman quarterback emerged from the shadows with an impressive win over number one ranked Alabama - making him a Heisman frontrunner.

No freshman has ever won the Heisman trophy, but Manziel is definitely making his case to make history.

“Johnny Manziel is the most outstanding player in college football, and even though he is a freshman, he has amazing stats and he knocked off Alabama,” said freshman Gregg Briggs.

Manziel, without a doubt, has the best statistics, but his team, Texas A&M has two losses. This is what makes these players so close and the Heisman race very interesting.

I don’t think anyone knows for sure who is going to win the Heisman trophy this year, but what people do know is that it is going to be a very close race between these three outstanding players.