

Billtop: March Madness Edition

Bracket Challenge Pages 7&8!

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Shaffer Wrestles Way to Regional Medal

By: Hannah Shaffer



8th Grader Nathan Shaffer poses at Phillipsburg - Osceola High School wearing his 3rd place regional wrestling tournament medal.

On Sunday February 28th, Nathan Shaffer wrestled in the Regionals Competition at Phillipsburg-Osceola High School. Nathan placed 3rd overall in the tournament in his weight class of 112 pounds. His first match he won 13-3. Although his second match was a loss 5-0, he bounced back and won his third match 15-3 and his fourth match 3-0 (in double overtime). With his finish, he advanced to the state tournament to represent Area II of Pennsylvania.

This year the state tournament was held in Johnstown at the Cambria County War Memorial. In the state tournament, the top 8 wrestlers from each bracket placed. Nathan wrestled young men from all over the state. He worked very hard to make it this far in his wrestling career from long practices, workouts, staying fit, and mental preparation.

“Every day at practice you need to give 100 percent of your effort to get better every day to achieve your goals,” said Shaffer. He also went on to give his opinion on the state tournament itself by saying, “States is going to be tough; I don’t know what to expect, but I am going to go out there and do the best that I can. The competition is going to be tough, but I am going to compete with them and try to win.”

Nathan would like to thank Coach Douglas, Coach Fox, and Coach Lutz for pushing him through the season and helping him to achieve this goal. He would also like to thank his teammates for being there as support and helping him practice through the season. He appreciates all the support from the school, classmates, friends, and family for this tournament. However, Nathan’s biggest supporter would have to be his dad. He has helped Nathan by supporting him through the years.

“My dad watches a lot of wrestling tapes to show me a lot of moves and techniques that I use when I wrestle now. Thank you dad for perfecting my skills, driving me to practices, and persuading me to improve myself each wrestling season.”

Anyone who watched Nathan compete at states was very appreciated. All Jr. High wrestlers were welcome to go and support Nathan, and their admission was provided by the wrestling boosters.

Sumer's Cinema Reviews: My "Choice"

By: Sumer Slobodnick

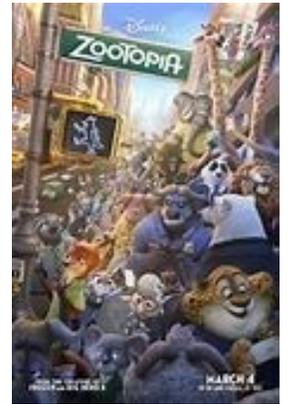
March 4th brought several new movies to the box office and according to rottentomatoes.com, here are the top three movies from that weekend along with my review of a movie I had recently seen.

The number three spot for this past weekend belonged to *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot* (R). Starring Tina Fey, this movie, a comedy/ war film, is about a cable news producer, Kim Barker, that decides to take a daring news assignment in Kabul, Afghanistan. While there, she finds herself in the middle of an out-of-control war zone. Luckily she meets a fellow journalist, Tanya Vanderpool, who takes Kim under her wing. While in Afghanistan, Kim discovers the key to becoming a successful correspondent.

Ranked as number two was *London Has Fallen* (R). Starring Morgan Freeman, *London Has Fallen*, a crime/thriller film, is about the world's most powerful leaders gathering in London to pay their respects to the British prime minister after his death. Without warning, terrorists unleash a devastating attack that leaves the city in chaos and ruins. Secret Service agent Mike Banning springs into action to bring U.S. President Benjamin Asher to safety. When President Asher falls into the hands of the sinister organization, it is up to Banning to save his commander in chief from a horrible fate.

Finally, at number one was *Zootopia* (PG). This action/adventure comedy stars Shakira as the voice of Gazelle. It is about the city of *Zootopia*, a mammal metropolis where various animals live and thrive. Judy Hopps (voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin) becomes the first rabbit to join the police force. She quickly learns how tough it is to enforce the law. Determined to prove herself, she jumps at the opportunity to solve a mysterious case. Unfortunately, that means working with Nick Wilde, a sneaky fox who makes her job even harder.

The movie that I had gone to see this past weekend was *The Choice* (PG-13). This drama/romance movie was about Travis and Gabby who first meet as neighbors in a small town that wind up in a relationship that is tested by life's most defining events. Overall, this movie was good; it made you laugh and cry and then laugh again. The only thing that I didn't really like about this movie was that it was very predictable. I knew exactly what was going to happen at the end.



Mustang Wrestling Comes to an End

By: Katie Nolan



On Friday March 4th, 2016 and Saturday March 5th, 2016 three Portage Area wrestlers traveled to Canon-McMillan High School in Washington County, Pennsylvania. The three wrestlers that advanced to the Regional wrestling tournament on Friday and Saturday were Senior Brady Ratosky, Sophomore Logan Shaffer, and Freshman Cole Sossong.

Brady Ratosky placed 5th in the 152 weight class to advance into the Regional competition. Logan Shaffer also placed 5th in the 120 weight class to advance into the Regional competition and Cole Sossong placed 4th in the 126 weight class to advance into the Regional competition. Going into the Regional wrestling tournament Brady Ratosky was 23-6, Logan Shaffer was 24-6 and Cole

Sossong was 28-5. For the first round matches at the Regional wrestling tournament Brady Ratosky faced a 2nd seeded wrestler in the 152 weight bracket, Logan Shaffer had the 3rd seeded wrestler in the 120 weight bracket and Cole Sossong had the 4th seeded wrestler in the 126 weight bracket. The Regional wrestling tournament started weigh ins at 11:00 and wrestling at 2:00 on Friday.

Senior Brady Ratosky lost his first match on Friday putting him in the first round consolation match which he also lost. Brady's two losses on Friday knocked him out of the Regional wrestling tournament. Brady ended his senior wrestling career 23-8.

The two underclassmen fared a bit better. Sophomore Logan Shaffer lost his first match on Friday also putting him in the first round consolation match which he won, beating a wrestler he never beat in his wrestling career (a long time rival since their respective youth). Logan's win in the consolation match advanced him into the second day of the Regional wrestling tournament. Freshman Cole Sossong lost his first match Friday as well putting him in the first round consolation match which he won. Cole battled hard and came out with a 2-1 win advancing him into the second day of the Regional wrestling tournament.

Logan Shaffer and Cole Sossong both wrestled at 10:00 on Saturday morning and both suffered tough losses which knocked them out of the Regional wrestling tournament. Shaffer ended the season 25-8, while Sossong ended the season 29-7. This brought an end to the Mustangs wrestling season but left them in high hopes for next year. Congratulations to Brady, Logan, and Cole on their great run at the Regional wrestling tournament and congratulations on a great wrestling career to senior Brady Ratosky.

Huschak Brings History of Portage to Life

By: Braedon StClair

Mrs. Irene Huschak visited the Portage Area High School Monday, February 29th during the school day to talk to teacher Mr. Josh Burkett's history classes. This is the 4th consecutive year she has been coming to talk to his classes, but she has been doing presentations like this for the young community for over a decade.

Mrs. Huschak is a retired teacher of Portage Area High School. She stays very involved with the community of Portage and loves to teach people about the history of our town in any way she can. She runs the Portage Historical Society on Lee Street. When she visited on Monday, she taught the students about America after WWI. She brought in pictures of Portage from that time period that she has collected over the years. Mrs. Huschak also brought in clothes from that time that people would wear and allowed some students dress up in them. She taught about the way people lived back then and all of the hard times and good times they went through. She explained the lifestyle of most people who lived in Portage during this time period.

Over the years, along with her attires, she has collected many photos. Whether it's someone donating them to her or her researching and finding them her collection has grown immensely. She also has newspaper clippings and other items of memorabilia.

Mrs. Huschak is also very knowledgeable about all of the railroads and anything to do with them in Portage. Anyone can go to the Portage Historical Museum to see a beautiful replica of our town. Along with this you can also see a lot more that has to do with the town we call home. She enjoys teaching the youth about the history, so I'm sure if you have any questions or interests, she would be happy if you called down to the museum to ask her anytime. Portage has a lot of history, and she is one person who knows a great deal of it. If she doesn't know the answer right away, she will try to locate someone who would know the answer.

Andrew's Automotive Assesment 2017 Abarth Fiat Spider

By: Andrew Koval



The brand new first year model of the 2017 Fiat Abarth Spider was released to the public last week. It is made to compete with Mazda's 2016 Miata. Both of these cars are both aimed for comfort rather than big beefy performance. The car has a 1.4Liter 170 horsepower engine. The car gets approximately 30 - 40mpg. It can go 0-60 in 6.8 seconds and has a top speed of 143 MPH. But the main reason this car was produced was for its comfort and driving performance.

The car is a hard top convertible which basically means it has an actual roof on it instead of a cloth top that is seen on most convertible cars. The wheels are carbon fiber wheels which is 5 times stronger than steel. Since the Fiat is an Italian vehicle, it also has the Italian flag strategically placed all throughout the car, holding on to its Italian roots. The car is actually placed at a pretty decent price (about \$33,000 base price), so it can compete with the Mazda Miata in performance and cost.

The Spider is also highly appreciated due to its very comfortable drivability. The roadster sits lower thanks to a revised suspension system. Surprisingly, there are no Abarth stripes which is standard on all Abarth models that Fiat produces. On the back of the car, there is a quad-exhaust layout and a more aggressive diffuser. Just like the front hood, the trunk lid was painted matte black. Needless to say, the rear end looks pretty sporty along with the front end of the car. This car is set to be seen on American streets in mid - 2017. As for the new and improved Mazda Miata, it sure does seem that it finally has a competitor in the "Sunday Drive" car world.

By: Alexis Richardson

Richardson's Reflections

Mrs. Dividock

Q: If you could sing one song on American Idol, what would it be?

A: *Songbird* by Eva Cassidy

Q: Do you believe in Bigfoot?

A: Yeah. There is something about it I feel

Q: What's your favorite thing to order from Red Lobster? Why?

A: Shrimp Scampi. Well, it's yummy!

Q: What is the scariest thing about being a nurse?

A: I guess maybe not having full disclosure sometimes from patients...But, nothing really just have to look to "Triage." Use my education, work with the situation from education, work the situation from head to toe.

Q: Who's the funniest person you know?

A: M- Mr. Tim Price

F- Ms. Mary Kenny- seriously she is

Ms. Hunt

Q: What do you think about capital punishment?

A: Ben Franklin stated, "It is better to let 9 guilty men go free than to kill 1 innocent man."

Q: What is your happiest memory?

A: When my son was born

Q: If all those psychics know the winning lottery numbers, why are they still working?

A: Because they are using their powers for good

Q: If a pin drops in a noisy classroom does anyone hear it hit the floor?

A: Yes because teachers hear everything

Q: What impact are you wanting to leave on the world?

A: That I made a difference with my students and school. I hope people will remember me when I am gone

Vassas's View: Super Tuesday March 1st

By: Elliott Vassas

Super Tuesday was held on March 1st. "Super Tuesday" refers to a day when a large amount of states hold their nominating contests for the years presidential election. The states involved were the following: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia. They hold contests for both Democrats and Republicans to vote. Voting occurs throughout the day with some polls closing at 7pm and others closing at 8pm. To sum up the results quickly, Donald Trump won seven states, Ted Cruz won three states, and Marco Rubio won one state on the Republican side. On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton won seven states, and Bernie Sanders won four states. Donald Trump claimed victories in Georgia, Alabama, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Virginia, and Arkansas. Ted Cruz had a successful night with winning in his home state of Texas and also in Oklahoma. Marco Rubio was expected to win the votes in Virginia since it has a high population of well educated and wealthy Republicans. However, he was unable to pull out the lead in this state like everyone had predicted. Bernie Sanders had a victory in Vermont. Later results showed that he also won several more states including Minnesota and Colorado. Sanders lost to Hillary Clinton in Massachusetts. Hillary Clinton did not get the victory she wanted in Vermont, but she did win across the South including the states Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Texas.

This was not the only presidential event occurring on Tuesday. On this same day elsewhere, American Samoa held Democratic caucuses and Hillary Clinton won. Also, democrats abroad began a week long primary. Democratic voters living overseas send twelve delegates pledged to candidates to the national convention. This voting ended on March 8th.

Donald Trump remains in the lead for the Republican presidential nomination. He had 34 percent among the others and 252 delegates. Ted Cruz was second with 25 percent and 202 delegates.

Hillary Clinton took the lead above Bernie Sanders with 49 percent to 42 percent among registered Democratic voters. On March 8th, the second Super Tuesday began with high predictions of Donald Trump taking the lead again. Results can be found at <http://www.cnn.com/specials/politics/super-tuesday-2016>.



Why Do We Have a Leap Year?

By: Emily Niper

Did you ever wonder on why we have a leap year? Why does February have 28 days in it and not 30 or 31 like the other months? Leap year is also known as *intercalary* year or a *bissextile* year. A leap year is a year with one more day added to the calendar year with the astronomical or seasonal year. By inserting an additional day or month into the year, the time issue, or “drift” can be corrected. A year that is not a leap year is called a common year. The name comes from the fact that while a fixed day in the Gregorian (modern day) calendar normally advances one day of the week from one year to the next, the day of the week in the 12 months following the leap day will advance two days due to the extra day. The same type of problem occurs between the day and number of seconds in the day. As leap years are used to correct calendar drift, the resulting drift in measuring the diurnal cycle is corrected by the use of leap seconds. Leap day takes place on February 29th resulting in an extra day in February. The Earth doesn’t orbit the sun every 365 days exactly. If we didn’t add the extra day in February every four years, we would end up with summer when it is supposed to be winter and winter when it is supposed to be summer. When adding this day to the year, you actually have 366 days instead of 365.

Do you know someone that has a birthday on leap day? Most of the time people will celebrate their birthday a day early or a day later. Most people celebrate on March 1st because it is the following day. Even though their birthday is on February 29th, and it only happens every four years, they will celebrate each year as if they were born on any other day. For example, if someone is born on February 29th, they only have a birthday celebration every 4 years, leaving them actually turn a year older every four years. Although they are realistically a year older each year, they only celebrate it every 4th year. Others, however, will celebrate every year and turn a year older every year instead of every four years. They treat it like a normal birthday but celebrate on a different day.

By: Taylor McCloskey

Saint Patrick's Day

Just what exactly is Saint Patrick’s Day? When you’re little, many think that it is just associated with Leprechauns and pots of gold. But if that’s not what it’s about, then what is it? Saint Patrick’s Day or the Feast of Saint Patrick is a religious celebration on the seventeenth of March. March 17th is the traditional date of the death of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It was made officially a Christian feast day in the 17th century. It is observed by the Catholic Church, Anglican Communion, Eastern Orthodox Church, and Lutheran Church. This day celebrates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity that reached Ireland. Saint Patrick was a 5th-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Christians also attend church services on this day and the Lenten restrictions on eating are lifted for the holiday.

So what do you do for Saint Patrick’s Day? On this date, it is customary to wear shamrocks or just the color green. Why are shamrocks significant to this date? It has been said that Saint Patrick had used a three-leaved plant to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish.

The leprechaun that is associated with Saint Patrick’s Day is said to be an Irish fairy. He dresses like a shoemaker and wears a leather apron. They are supposed to be unfriendly little men who live alone in a forest, spending time making shoes and guarding their treasures that they hold. And if someone catches a leprechaun, he is forced to tell where he hides all of his pots of gold. However, the leprechaun must be watched at all times because if his captor looks away, the leprechaun will vanish along with his treasure. This holiday is celebrated in Ireland, Great Britain, Canada, the United States, Argentina, New Zealand, and many other countries.

Fun Facts:

Some people wear green and eat corned beef and cabbage in the United States.

Many say St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland.

Three is Ireland’s magic number.

Saint Patrick wasn’t Irish

Saint Patrick was a slave.

Saint Patrick’s color is actually blue.

There are actually more Irish people in the United States than in Ireland.



(Information and facts from www.Wikipedia.com)

By: Courtland Corrente

Free E-Book Program for All

The Portage Area School District is now a participant in a project called *Open E-Books*. This project allows the distribution of free E-Books to the students in the high school. The project was announced by President Obama at an event that was held at a library in Washington, DC, and is made possible by the Digital Public Library of America, First Book, and the New York Public Library.

In order for students to take advantage of this program, they need to have a device on which they can download a free *Open E-Books* app. (*It will not work on a computer*). Students interested should also see Mr. Shuck in the library for more instructions and a passcode which is needed to use the application. For those of you wondering what type of books are being offered, Mr. Shuck has your answer.

“Unfortunately we cannot download a list of the available books. You have to go into the app and look for yourself, but I’ve used the app, and I can say that there are a number of popular titles as well as lesser known ones. The organization divides the collections by grade level, making it easier to search for the books you want. Plus everything is free, so what do you have to lose?”

With the requirement of reading for graduation, this is a great way for the student body to get a book that may not be available at the school library, or one that is often checked out and unavailable due to popularity.

While using the *Open E-Books* app, you can download up to 10 books at a time and can read all of your chosen books without having to go through a check-out process or a holding process. The main goal of the project is to encourage the love of reading and serve as a gateway for children to be reading even more often, whether in school, at libraries, or through other E-Book reading apps.



By: Max Gossard

Portage Palate Gossard's Grub

Ingredients:

2 cups of your choice of milk (I prefer whole)
 ½ cup of white granulated sugar
 3 tablespoons of cornstarch
 ¼ teaspoon of salt
 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
 1 tablespoon butter

Homemade Pudding

Directions:

1. In a medium sized sauce pan, pour your 2 cups of milk and place on low heat
2. Heat the milk until bubbles form on the outside edges only
3. Into a separate bowl combine the following: ½ cup white granulated sugar, 3 tablespoons of corn starch, and ¼ teaspoon of salt
4. Mix the dry ingredients thoroughly
5. Begin to dump the dry ingredients in small amounts into the hot milk stirring until the mixture is dissolved
6. Repeat the process until all the dry ingredients are used
7. Continue to cook over medium heat until mixture thickens and is able to coat the back of a metal spoon. **It is very important that you do not boil the mixture!**
8. Remove from heat entirely, stir in the 1 teaspoon of vanilla and 1 tablespoon of butter
9. Pour into serving dishes, cover and place into the refrigerator 30 minutes to 1 hour

Enjoy!, best served extremely cold.

Comments:

This is a great easy recipe if you don't have any instant mixes at home, and it also tastes great. It is good for a snack or even a pie filling if you so desire. It is also a very quick recipe that you can use to pass the time or just make a lot of it to save for later.