

## Hilltop: New Years Edition

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# Lady Mustangs: Same Old Spirit

By: Katie Nolan



On Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> 2016, the Portage Area Lady Mustangs took on the Blacklick Valley Lady Vikings at the Len Chappell Gymnasium at 7:00. The Lady Mustang starters on Monday were seniors, Katie Nolan, Kacie Baker, and Lexi Wozniak and juniors, Abby Chobany and Lauren McCabe. The Lady Mustangs were in control from the start of the game with

Lauren McCabe winning the tip off and then getting the dish from Katie Nolan to get an easy layup, putting 2 points on the board. At the half, it was all Lady Mustangs as they were commanding the game with a 38 -6 lead. The Lady Mustangs had the lead the entire game, never letting up. Every Lady Mustang got to see some playing time, each chipping in and doing their part to continually extend the lead. The Lady Mustangs ended the game by a lopsided win 79-21. Lexi Wozniak led the team with 15 points while Kacie Baker added 13 points and Katie Nolan 10 points.

On Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Portage Area Lady Mustangs took on the Conemaugh Valley Lady Blue Jays once again at Len Chappell Gymnasium at 7:00. The starters for Wednesday night's game were also seniors, Katie Nolan, Kacie Baker, and Lexi Wozniak and juniors, Abby Chobany and Lauren McCabe. Going into the game the Lady Mustangs were 8-1 while the Lady Blue Jays were 6-3. The Lady Mustangs had control of the game from the start with Lauren McCabe winning the jump. The Lady Mustangs went to the locker room at the half with a 12 point lead leaving the score 28-16. To add to the Lady Mustang's spark, Lexi Wozniak hit her 175th 3-pointer, breaking the school record with 1:43 left to go in the game. The Lady Mustangs closed the game with a 55-39 win, advancing their record to 9-1.



Junior Abby Chobany rises up for a Jumper over Blacklick Valley defenders

# New Year, New Goals

By: Hannah Shaffer

New Year's resolutions are promises to ourselves to practice the act of self-improvement, but when did we start to practice this? It originates from the Babylonians; they made promises to their god at the start of each year. Therefore, they did not celebrate the New Year in January, but in March. They promised to do things like to return objects and to pay off debts.

Other religions participate as well. During Judaism's New Year, they reflect on their wrongdoings and seek forgiveness. Similarly, Christians practice this during lent, but it is more focused on sacrifice and responsibility. Today, we still make New Year's Resolutions because we feel as though there is always room for improvement.

The most popular resolutions include working toward a better physical or mental well-being, improving on finances, improving our careers, volunteering more, losing weight, quitting smoking, vacationing more, spending more time with family and friends, becoming more involved in activities, and improving religious faith.

However, there is one big question that always remains: will we actually meet our resolutions? The number of people who make unrealistic goals is about 35 percent while 33 percent do not keep track of their progress. A study was conducted at the University of Bristol in 2007 where they studied 3,000 people. From that study it was concluded that 88 percent of individual's resolutions fail, and only 52 percent of participants believe they will be successful. It was found that men achieve their goal 22 percent of the time, while women only succeed at the 10 percent mark. Why do most Americans make goals they cannot go through with? It is a very interesting question that is often discussed, but not answered too often.

# 2015 News Recap

By: Sumer Slobodnick

As 2016 begins, a new year for plenty more news stories begins as well. But, before we look ahead, we should look back at 2015. Especially at the biggest news stories of that year. Here are the top five news stories of 2015.

From start to finish, many of this year's biggest news stories were centered around violence, terror threats or a general sense of fear itself. There were also some historic and life changing stories.

The number five news story of 2015 was Pope Francis visiting the United States. One of the biggest moments of national excitement was when Pope Francis made his inaugural visit to the U.S. His visit started in Washington D.C. and ended in Philadelphia

The number four top news story was the European refugee crisis. Tens of thousands of people fled from Syria as they were in war. Some countries actually began to close some of their borders and put up fences to prevent people from coming in.

The number three news story (Group of stories) of 2015 was the major murder trials. Four of the most major trials of the year resulted in guilty verdicts and one with a death sentence.

The number two biggest news story in 2015 was the on-air shooting in Virginia. Claimed to have been the racism of the Charleston church shooting earlier that year that led to the shooting, Vester Lee Flannagan shot two of his former colleagues while they were on air.

Finally, the number one news story of 2015 was the mass shootings in both Paris and San Bernardino. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, shooters targeted a soccer stadium, restaurants, and a concert venue killing a total of 130 people. Less than a month later, a married couple opened fire during at the Department of Public Health Conference in San Bernardino on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

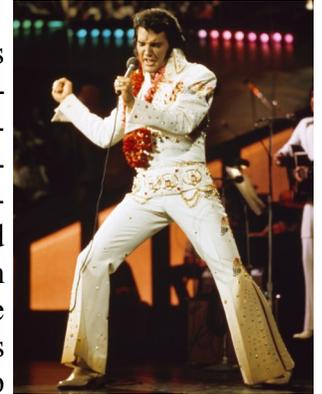
Overall, 2015 was an eventful year with many tragedies and even some stories that gave people new hope. Here's to 2016 giving us even more hope for many more years to come.



# The King of Rock and Roll!

By: Taylor McCloskey

Elvis Aaron Presley, referred to as the “King of Rock and Roll” or just as “The King”, was born on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1935 in Tupelo, Mississippi. Elvis is a twin-less twin, meaning he had a twin who had died. Elvis rose from courteous circumstances to launch the rock and roll revolution with his compelling voice and appealing stage presence. He grew up being surrounded by gospel music in the Pentecostal church. In 1948 when he was thirteen years old, he and his family had relocated to Memphis, Tennessee. In Memphis, he heard the music genres blues and jazz on Beale Street. After Elvis graduated high school at L.C. Humes High School, at age eighteen he went to the Memphis Recording Service, Sun Records, to record his voice. The owner Sam Phillips was amazed by his vocals and he then was paired up with a guitarist Scotty Moore and a bassist Bill Black. After five groundbreaking singles, Elvis’s contract was sold to RCA Records (Radio Corporation of America) and his music career quickly took off. His career was interrupted by a two-year military stint in Germany where he met his future wife, Priscilla. In the fifties he was devoted to Rock and Roll. Most of the sixties Elvis occupied himself with making movies and recording soundtracks. The seventies was when he toured constantly, performing for crowds around the country.



However, toward the end of the decade, he died in his Memphis mansion in Graceland on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1977 at forty-two years old. Elvis holds records for the most Top 40 hits, (104), Top 10 hits, (38), and weeks at Number One, (80). Elvis is a cultural icon, and his legacy continues to grow even in death.

## Andrew's Automotive Assessment



By: Andrew Koval

### 1985 Chevrolet Camaro IROC-Z

The 1986 Chevrolet Camaro IROC-Z was the starting point for Chevy to be back on track from its early 80's when there were fuel consumption regulations and economy regulations. Chevy did this by adding an (International Race of Champions) IROC-Z package onto the Camaro which came with a 4 speed automatic transmission, a 5.7 L fuel injected 350cu in. small block that produced 220 Horsepower and 320 lbs. of torque. This Engine made the car go from 0-60 in 6.5 seconds, and it had a top speed of 146 mph. Gas mileage for this engine at the time was 17 mpg. This engine was also the best engine that Chevy ever made, but sadly it was discontinued in 2001 and hasn't come back since then.

The engine itself on average would last about 200,000-250,000 miles till it basically broke down. But of course these engines don't last that long being that everyone that owns one uses it for its power and beats the motor until it eventually dies around 170,000 miles. If one was to take care of the engine, then it'll take care of you and your wallet. Now not only did the IROC-Z come with a nice engine, but it also came with a performance suspension package for better feel on the road. It was also a hatchback, so it had a lot more storage space in the back than a regular trunk. The hatch also had a self-locking mechanism because people that bought the car in the early 80's would close the hatch so hard that it would shatter the windshield, so GM (General Motors) put a latch on it so when you close the hatch it catches it and pulls the hatch in so no one had to worry about breaking anything or their rear windshield shattering.

In conclusion the Camaro at this time made a great comeback and would go on improving for years to come, Still available today.

# Richardson's Reflection

By: Alexis Richardson

## Mr. Smithmyer

- Q: Why did you add rice krispie treats to the breakfast grab and go bags?

A: Because a survey was done and we tried to meet the demand of the survey and the students wanted them

- Q: Do students like the fruit flavored raisins better than the raisins?

A: Yes. We were trying to find a fruit to put in the bags. They're new; they've been out since last year

- Q: Why did you want to do smoothies this year? What's the most popular flavor?

A: Strawberry. Effort to add another lunch option for those who don't eat traditional "lunch."

- Q: What's the most popular entrée?

A: Puff Pastry

- Q: What made you go all out this year?

A: So we can be free. We can carry it on for four years

# Boy's Basketball

By: Nathan Teno

The boys basketball team has been playing exceptionally well this season. The team had a hot start that came to an end, losing a 3 point heartbreaker to Shanksville on the road. The leading scorers of the team, Braedon St. Clair, Ryan Myher, and Jake Swank have been averaging double digits all season. The team recently took first place at their inaugural holiday tournament over the Christmas break. They first played United and beat them soundly 63-33 which moved them on to the championship game a day later. They played Penns Manor in that contest the next day, who had also won their first round game against Hope for Hyndman. Penns Manor kept it close with the Mustangs the whole game, but the boys kept the lead till the end winning by three points with a final score of 53-50. After the game, the award ceremony was held where the All-Tournament Team was announced. Two players from the Mustangs made the team; Jake Swank and Braedon St. Clair.

Senior captains Evan Gruss and Luke Dividock accepted the championship trophy for the team. The team has a tough week ahead of them coming out of break playing 3 games with two of the three being conference games. The first game, played against Conemaugh Valley was yet again another victory for the Mustangs by a score of 73-62. Four of the players recorded double digits in points with Ryan Myher and Jake Swank both scoring 18, Braedon St. Clair scoring 17, and Evan Gruss scoring 11.

# Emilia Earheart

By: Braedon St. Clair

Emilia Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas on July 24<sup>th</sup> 1897. She was born Amelia Mary Earhart. On January 11<sup>th</sup> 1935, Earhart became the first person to fly solo from Honolulu, Hawaii to Oakland, California. Although this transoceanic flight had been attempted by many others, most notably by the unfortunate participants in the 1927 Dole Air Race which had reversed the route, her trailblazing flight had been mainly routine, with no mechanical breakdowns. In her final hours, she even relaxed and listened to "the broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera from New York." That year, once more flying her faithful Vega which Earhart had tagged "old Bessie, the fire horse," she soloed from Los Angeles to Mexico City on April 19. The next record attempt was a nonstop flight from Mexico City to New York. Setting off on May 8, her flight was uneventful although the large crowds that greeted her at Newark, New Jersey, were a concern as she had to be careful not to taxi into the masses.

Earhart had an amazing career and really helped women of that time realize that they could do whatever they wanted with their lives. She continued her great flying career and set many flying records until she set out on a journey to fly across the world. Her trek started out very well, but almost half way through the travel, her plane went missing. After many search efforts they declared her dead. Emilia had a very terrific and accomplished flying career and life, one that is still recognized, honored, and studied to this day.

# Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By: Emily Niper

Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>, is the day we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. day for 2016. Each year the date varies but it is always on the third Monday of January. Next year, 2017, it'll be held on Monday January 16<sup>th</sup>. This holiday is a federal holiday. Pennsylvania refers to this day as Martin Luther King Jr. day but depending on what state you are in depends on the name of the holiday. Most businesses and government departments are closed. Some schools and colleges close but others might stay open to teach their students about the importance of Martin Luther King. We recognize this as a holiday because he was an important civil rights activist. He was a leader in the movement to end racial segregation in the United States. His famous words "I have a dream" still hold an important part in American history. He was an advocate of non-violent protests and became the youngest man to be awarded the Noble Peace Prize. Unfortunately, he was assassinated in 1968. A campaign was started for this birthday to become a holiday to honor him. Trade unions lead the campaign for the federal holiday. Federal legislation had encouraged Americans to give some of their time on this day as volunteers in citizen action groups. This day celebrates the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr. an influential American civil rights leader. He is most well-known for his campaigns to end racial segregation on public transport and for racial equality in the United States.



# Vassas's View: Donald Trump

By: Elliott Vassas

Everyone knows, whether you like it or not, that Donald Trump is currently leading most preliminary voting polls. He speaks his mind freely and is not afraid to cause an uproar. Of course some Americans are very angry with the directions things are heading. Donald Trump answers everyone's questions. He is on our side. He wants to take everything Barack Obama did and change it for the better. Many people think Trump is a joke and a manipulator. "He puts on a good show that catches a lot of people's attention. He is entertaining but would never really become the president", some say.



Our next president will be chosen for many reasons. Foreign policy and defense is a major factor contributing to America's anger. Trump wants to fix issues involving taxes and economy as well. We will not be able to afford any kind of defense without fixing the economy first. Trump captures the feelings of many people and makes us feel that he will really make a difference. He makes crucial valid points that ease our minds when it comes to who should be our next president. We must continue to demand the changes we want. Americas issues will never be resolved unless we continue to speak up and eventually take action. Trump mentions many changes that he will make that many want done. By the looks of it now, Trump will continue leading in the polls. We must keep demanding changes we want to see in the world, or we will continue getting the same old routine. This routine needs changed, and Trump is the man to do it.

# Mustang (Financial) Matters

By: Elona Krcihsta

For assistance to the Portage Area School District students, the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown's Financial Aid Office will be holding a Financial Aid Night that is planned to inform families on the financial aid process and everything it's about. The workshops are free and available to anyone who is worried about meeting the costs of postsecondary education. Professionals will talk about the financial aid application and the types and amounts of financial aid that is offered, and the staff will be able to address individual concerns and to be there to answer any questions that the family might have regarding the financial aid process.

Please note that the information presented is a general financial aid overlook, so families considering colleges and universities other than Pitt are still very able to attend. Families with high school seniors and juniors will advance from this information presented.

The Financial Aid Night will be held on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall which is located in Pitt-Johnstown's Living and Learning Center. Reservations for this event are not required.

In addition to the financial aid workshops they will also host two FAFSA Completion Days to promote students and their families with completing the FAFSA Completion Day. They will begin accepting reservations on a first-come, first-served basis by calling the number 814.269.7045 or 800.881.5544 beginning January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. If there are any further questions about this event and regarding the workshops, please feel free to contact their office at 814.269.7045, toll free at 1.800.881.5544 or email [upjaid@pitt.edu](mailto:upjaid@pitt.edu). This is not only a great way for families to interact with these people and everyone who arrives but to also get a better feel about what financial aid has to offer these families especially.



By: Max Gossard

## Poor Man's Steak

### Ingredients:

3 ½ lbs of ground beef

½ onion

2 cans cream of chicken soup (cream of mushroom if preferred)

1 cup flour

Salt to taste

Pepper to taste

2 table spoons of vegetable oil

### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375
- Chop onion finely
- Mix onion with ground beef and salt and pepper and flatten in a 10x10 pan
- Cover with plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator for 1 ½ hours (overnight is best)
- To a medium size frying pan add the vegetable oil and heat
- Add salt and pepper to flour and mix together
- Cut beef into squares and remove from pan
- Bread in flour and place into the hot frying pan
- Lightly fry all pieces and drain on rack or paper towel
- Add one can of soup to the bottom of the pan
- Place beef you pulled out of the refrigerator back into the pan
- Add second can of soup to the top off the beef
- Cover with aluminum foil and place into the oven for an hour and 30 minutes.



**Portage Palate**  
**Gossard's Grub**

# Evolution of the iPhone

By: Courtland Corrente

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, a product that may be considered the most popular of its kind was announced. Thousands and thousands of people waited outside of stores on June 29<sup>th</sup> of the same year to get their hands on the device that revolutionized the world of cell phones known as the iPhone. Last Friday was the anniversary of this hugely popular smartphone, and over the past 8 years it has greatly evolved from being a simple touch screen smartphone to a very high tech hand held computer.

**The First iPhone:** When the first phone launched in 2007, it was priced at \$499-\$599 and the biggest hype about it was that it had sensors that changed the orientation of the phone and that it had a multi-touch screen. The camera resolution was only 2 megapixels and nobody even thought about a finger print scanner. It also had a total of ZERO applications to download at launch.

**The iPhone 3G:** This phone was released on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This is the phone where Apple introduced assisted GPS and 3G connection. Along with these features came the App Store which stayed very popular even with the newest versions of smartphones.

**The iPhone 3Gs:** Released on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 this version of the iPhone was not much of an upgrade. All that was new was a better camera that could capture 480p videos and it had support for voice controls.

**The iPhone 4:** The next iPhone came out just over a year later on June 10<sup>th</sup> and had many upgrades. These included a front facing camera, a high resolution “Retina Display”, and the camera resolution was increased to 5 megapixels. This phone was the thinnest smartphone in the world at the time.

**The iPhone 4s:** Released on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the iPhones finally got Siri. Apple also introduced iCloud, iMessage, Notification Center, and Reminders. The camera was upgraded once again to 8 megapixels. The iPhone 4s was the first iPhone released after Steve Job’s death.

**The iPhone 5:** This phone was released on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. It featured an increased size of display up to 4 inches, and was the first iPhone to feature LTE support.

**The iPhone 5c:** Released on the same date as the iPhone 5s on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, this iPhone was very identical to the iPhone 5 other than it was made out of colorful polycarbonate rather than aluminum.

**The iPhone 5s:** Also released on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, this version introduced the fingerprint scanner and was a lot faster than the previous iPhones. It was also the first iPhone to include the motion when you move your phone.

**The iPhone 6/6 Plus:** The only major difference between the iPhone 6/6 Plus and the iPhone 5s was that the iPhone 6 was had a larger display and was significantly faster. These versions of the phone were released on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**The iPhone 6s/6s Plus:** Released on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the newest iPhone was not much different than the previous. The main difference was that the new iPhone included new 3D touch which senses how hard you press on the screen.

Comparing the last 4 releases of the iPhones, there are only a few upgrades that took place. These upgrades really only made the phone faster, bigger, and added a fingerprint scanner. Let’s hope they aren’t running out of ideas, because many customers now want something more spectacular and hope that Apple does not disappoint them.

