

# THE CRUISER



## 200 years in MISSISSIPPI

BY TAYLOR PERKINS

December 10, 1817 Mississippi was officially recognized as the 20th state in the United States of America. It has seen a lot of history and culture throughout the years. It has had its highs and lows, but either way it has been able to go through the good times and the bad times.

The thought of Mississippi is not very good, but it is a common misconception. MS has had many achievements throughout the 200 years. There are many things that people would probably not even guess happened in MS

For instance, Coca-Cola was first put into bottles in Vicksburg in 1894, which was the first coke ever bottled. Four years later in 1898, Barq's Root Beer

was invented in Biloxi by Edward Adolf Barq, Sr, which is now a worldwide soda product.

Then on a more global note, in 1963, the University of Mississippi Medical Center accomplished the world's first human lung transplant and, on January 23, 1964, Dr. James D. Hardy performed the world's first heart transplant surgery. This was a scientific breakthrough not only for MS but for the whole world.

Still have your first teddy bear? Thank President Theodore Roosevelt. On a hunting expedition in 1902 in Sharkey County, MS President Roosevelt refused to shoot a captured bear, an act which resulted in the creation of the teddy bear. Roosevelt's assistants, led by Holt Collier, a born slave

and former Confederate cavalryman, cornered and tied a black bear to a willow tree. They summoned Roosevelt and suggested that he shoot it. Viewing this as extremely un-sportsmanlike, Roosevelt refused to shoot the bear. A quote that resonates with a lot of mississippians is by William Faulkner, "To understand the world you must understand a place like Mississippi." Faulkner is one of many famous authors from Mississippi, and many mississippians know this quote quite well, because most public places in MS have a picture of the quote on a wall or on a desk etc..

Mississippi has had many celebrities come out of it. Some of these being Oprah Winfrey, Elvis Presley and Medgar Evers. Most people know

the name Oprah as she is known as the "most famous talk show host of all time." according to the New York Times Elvis Presley he was the King and even though it's pretty well-known that he was born in Tupelo, no list of famous Mississippians would be complete without him. Medgar Evers was very active in the Civil Rights Movement as he was also the state's field secretary of the NAACP. Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was one of the earliest and most influential civil rights organization in the United States. It was designed to confront the critical civil rights issues of the day.

MS has generated many nicknames over the years,

one of the most accurate would be the, "Hospitality state" or the "Magnolia State"

Mississippi has celebrated 200 years and although there have been some highs and lows, MS always finds a way.



2018 MARKS 200 YEARS IN MISSISSIPPI

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. remembered on holiday

BY KATIE SHOFFNER



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speaking. (Photo by Julian Wasser/Time Life Pictures/Getty Images)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day is much more than a school holiday, as it is a day to commemorate the birth of a man who one could say changed history forever. It was on Monday, Jan. 15, this year that the day was celebrated. King's history is well-known information, as it is talked about frequently within schools. However, it is still important to discuss his accomplishments and his impact on both the Civil Rights Movement and the world as a whole.

Dr. King was actually born as Michael King Jr., not Martin.

His father later became inspired by Protestant Reformation leader Martin Luther, and he changed both his name and his son's to Martin Luther. Martin Luther King Jr. was also imprisoned 29 times in his life, mostly for 'acts of civil disobedience.' King advocated for peaceful protest and didn't believe in violence. One of his most famous quotes showcases this belief in a rather poetic way.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that," Luther said.

He organized marches, spoke publicly about his beliefs and became a figurehead of the Civil Rights Movement. King's goal was legal equality for African-Americans, which he made more progress in achieving than any other activist in the previous 350 years, according to thekingcenter.org. He drew inspiration from his faith in God and the teachings of Gandhi for his speeches and his writings, many of which became hugely popular.

On January 13, Off Square Books in Oxford held a reading of "Letter from Birmingham

Jail." Teenagers from the area were invited to read passages from the letter, as they are part of "King's envisioned future" according to a Facebook post by Square Books Jr. The event was kicked off by a story from a man who had met Martin Luther King, Jr. before and then the reading began.

One teen who read a passage was junior Caleb Lafferty, who believes Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of the more important people in American history. Ms. Daisy Bullard told him they weren't going to have enough readers unless

some volunteered on short notice, so he decided to participate.

"It's kind of cool that he wrote that letter from jail for defending other's rights and trying to get some for himself," Lafferty said, "It's a very powerful message, that he was able to write that in a jail cell." Lafferty says the event went well and people enjoyed it. There was quite a crowd, so the stakes were high, but it seemed as though it didn't truly get to anyone.

"I practiced in front of a mirror a lot," Lafferty said. Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr. is a figure that is celebrated not only on his federal holiday, but he is celebrated every day by those who benefit from his courage and admire his tenacity. The city of Oxford and the community within have an opportunity to come together and show that they are passionate about civil rights and prominent leaders in the movement, like they did at the Square Books reading. Dr. King will most likely be forever remembered by countless people for all his incredible work.

# LHS students enjoys snow days out

BY MARYKATE NEWMAN

On Friday January 12th, students were informed that school would be let out due to weather conditions. This led to a four day weekend for students, which any one would be happy about. It doesn't snow often in Mississippi so this came as a surprise as snow fell about one and a half inches and froze over the roads. With these conditions, Lafayette County Schools had to cancel school for a couple of days because of the dangerous conditions.

This weather caused a "seven day weekend" as students referred to it. Many students enjoyed this unexpected break to play in the snow while some spent the time indoors binge watching Netflix. Amanda Fortner, a sophomore, spent time indoors and in the snow. Fortner even made snow cream, which is made with snow, milk, vanilla and sugar.

"Over the snow days I went sledding with my puppy. I also built a snowman but it didn't work out as I wanted it to. After, we made snow cream and stayed home in the warm," Fortner said.

Since sledding is not common in this state, most do not even own a sled. Some students had the idea to makeshift their own devices to slide down hills just like a sled. Karlie Anderson and Gracie Tidwell, both juniors, both found ways to enjoy the activity of sledding without sleds. Tidwell pulled her brother on a four wheeler attached to a wagon gate. Anderson tried to sled first with a kiddie pool to slide down the hill but this did not work. But, she had another idea that actually worked.

"We got a piece of carpet out of one of the shoot houses and cut a hole on it and tied it to the four wheeler and my dad pulled us all over the place," Anderson said.

The roads were considered not safe to drive on but some went anyway. Cabin fever can set in and cause people to go stir crazy when stuck inside for days. This can cause people to go on the roads even in the unsafe conditions. Summer Gray, a junior, decided to do this just to get away from the family for a while to do some shopping. "I actually went shopping for valentine presents because I would rather be out on the roads then stuck in the house with family all day," Gray said.

When January 18th had began to come to an end, students waited to see whether school would canceled once again leading to a whole week out. But, at 2:25 p.m a tweet was sent out by Lafayette Schools that stated, "All Lafayette Schools will be open tomorrow, Friday January 19th." Some were happy to get out of the house and go back but others wished to wait until Monday to start back.



Amanda Fortner, a sophomore, enjoying the snow days by playing in the snow.

PC: Amanda Fortner



Karlie Anderson, a junior, spent time with family while sledding around.



Gracie Tidwell, junior, poses with her brother Hunter Tidwell.

PC: Gracie Tidwell

# A Wrinkle in Time: a classic that deserves the title

BY KATIE SHOFFNER

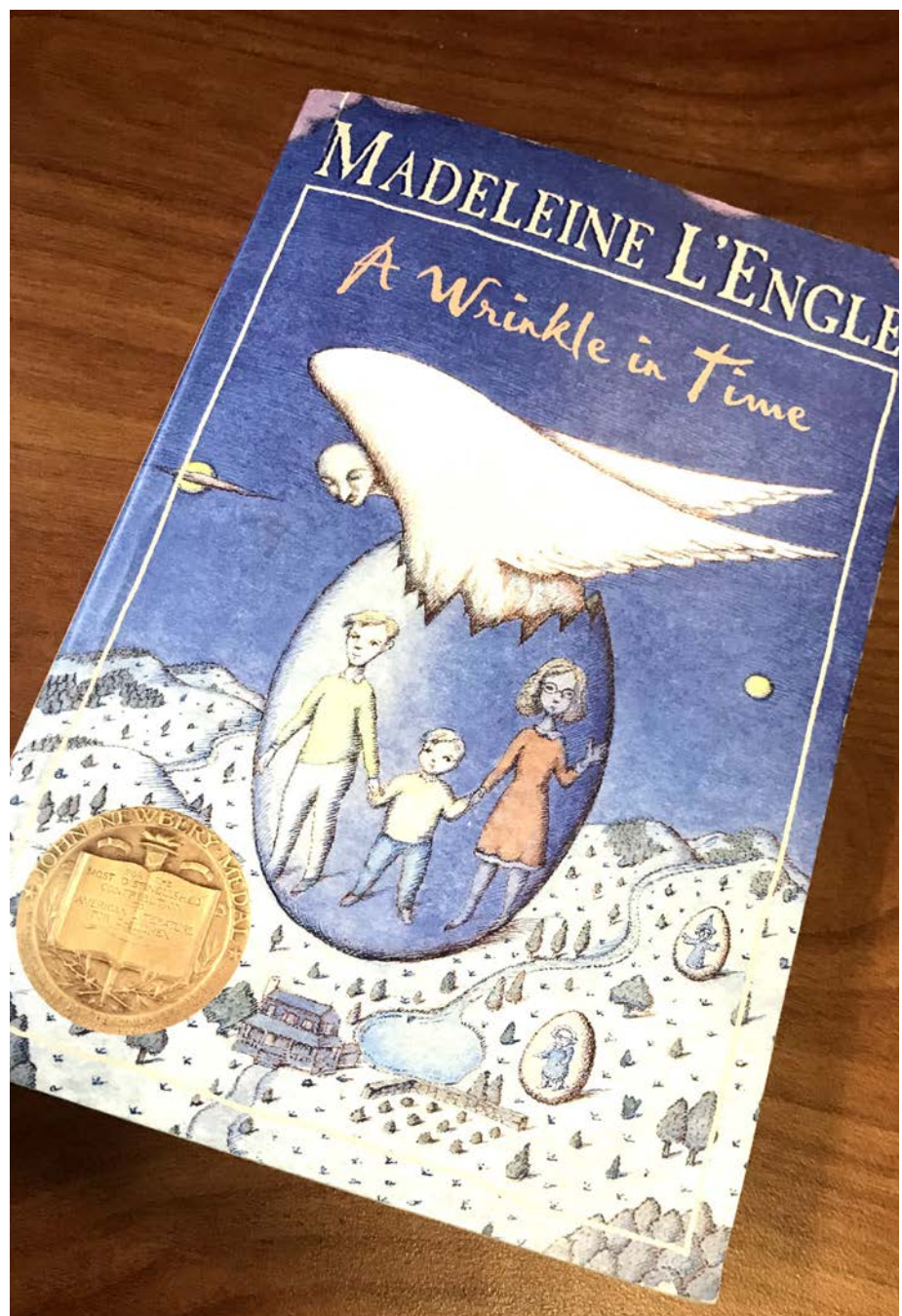
A Wrinkle in Time is a novel by Madeleine L'Engle written in 1962, which most students were forced to read at some time in their academic career. It is part of the series "The Time Quintet" as well as being the first of five books following the same characters. Recently, it has come back into focus because on March 9, 2018, a film adaptation of it will be released starring current popular actors like Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, and Chris Pine. While it will contain the bones of the original book, it is sure to include some differences if only because it was written so long ago. It is considered a classic and is widely known as a 'must-read.'

The protagonist is Meg Murry, who is burdened by the concern she has for her missing father who has been gone for a year. She is a bit of an oddball and is considered to be a problem child by her teachers. Charles Wallace is the youngest of the Murry family and seems to be the brightest. The first night readers are introduced to these characters, a celestial being disguised as an old lady named Mrs. Whatsit shows up on the Murry's doorstep during a storm. Charles already met her during a walk with the family dog, but Meg and

Mrs. Murry are struck by how strange she is. After eating a sandwich and drinking some cocoa, Mrs. Whatsit mentions the concept of tesseract. This causes Mrs. Murry to get upset and make the children wonder about what it is. The next day, when they're going to the house Mrs. Whatsit inhabits with her two friends, they run into fourteen year old called Calvin O'Keefe, who is a junior in high school. After some questioning, Charles decides to trust him, and they take him along to the house. The trio then meet Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which, also otherworldly beings. They learn that tesseract is a kind of 'wrinkle' in time that one can travel through. Later on, they all meet back up and tesser to the planet of Uriel, which is filled with centaur-like creatures. Mrs. Whatsit is revealed to be one of them. Eventually, they travel to Camazotz, which has been taken over by what is called 'The Black Thing' which is evil personified. Meg's father is trapped on the planet, and the only person who seems to know his whereabouts is a man who can control minds that resides in the central headquarters. Charles Wallace allows him to take over his mind so he can lead the group to Mr. Murry. Mr. Murry refuses to succumb

to the mind control so he is imprisoned with the other 'rebels'. After he is rescued, they find that everything is controlled by a giant pulsating brain called IT. Mr. Murry manages to tesser Meg and Calvin away, but he leaves Charles under IT's influence. From there, Meg and the readers discover the true power of love as she is forced to return and save him as the only one with a strong enough bond with him.

The director of the A Wrinkle in Time movie is Ava Duvernay, who will be the first female African-American to head a movie with a budget over 100 million dollars. It is set to be one of the most important films of the year, as it will include multiple aspects of color and is one of the only classic novel to film adaptations to do so. It is a 1963 Newbery Medal Winner and has printed over 10 million copies from 1918-2007, so it is safe to say it is a popular book. It is easy to understand and paint a clear image of the different planets. It also has a heart-warming lesson that teaches that sometimes love really can conquer all.



A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle is a children's classic novel beloved by many. Credit: Katie Shoffner



Samantha Rayburn

# Star Wars: The Last Jedi

BY SAMANTHA RAYBURN

Star Wars is a widely known franchise across the entire world. George Lucas, the creator of the franchise, has had eight out of nine movie made and released. The Last Jedi being the most recent one. This was a highly anticipated movie as the last one, *The Force Awakens*, left many watchers craving for more as so many questions went unanswered.

Walking into the movie, almost every single seat was filled with fans of all ages raging with excitement they were barely able to contain. The previews felt like they went on for ages while people kept chatting amongst themselves about what they thought was going to happen but the second the movie started, you could hear a pen drop. Starting off, the movie was okay. The first scene didn't pick up where the last one ended as many people thought it would. Though, the action in the first scene did help set the mood and get people pumped up for the rest of the movie. It also foreshadowed something that would be useful later in the movie, a necklace.

Later, you are shown Rey and Luke Skywalker on the island of Ahch-To where the last scene of the last movie was taking place. As they soon started to progress with Rey trying to convince Skywalker to train her, it became a little boring. They were on the island for quite longer than hoped but it's understood as to why they were. Rian Johnson, the director of the movie, created a strong bond between Rey and Kylo Ren, also known as Ben Solo. Rey was on a completely different planet but had such a strong force with Kylo that they were able to see each other and speak as if they were in the same room.

Some fans have gone as far as to speculate that there will be a romantic relationship between Rey and Kylo. In one scene, Supreme Leader Snoke is hurting Rey but Kylo, Snoke's apprentice, comes to her rescue to kill his teacher. This sparked many theories that Kylo did this because he loved her. As well as the speculation that the force between them was so intimate that it had to be romance.

Many previously believed facts were shown to be untrue in this movie as well. For example, it was always believed that when Kylo was training at the Jedi Temple, he was slowly being pulled to the dark side which made him randomly terrorize the temple killing all but Skywalker. This was soon put to rest as the actual truth came out. This truth being that Skywalker noticed the darkness in Kylo and snuck into his room to murder him one night. Just as Skywalker was about to take the saber to Kylo's body, he decided not to but was too late as Kylo awoke from his slumber and defended himself. Then, he went berserk and killed his fellow jedis in training. This was a huge surprise in the movie as everyone always blamed Kylo. Yes, it was Kylo's fault that all the other jedis are dead but it was new finding out that Skywalker kicked the boulder off the cliff to push him to go that far.

On a completely different note, Finn is introduced to a girl named Rose. She is the foreshadowed character in the

beginning as she has the other half of the previously mentioned necklace. Rose is a character I'm not quite sure about. She didn't seem to add anything important to the plot of the movie. Every scene involving her just seemed more like a filler to make the movie longer rather than a mandatory character. She and Finn had gone to a planet called Canto Bight to find a hacker to help save The Resistance from The First Order which was very important but could have been portrayed a little differently as the entire casino idea was kind of useless. Adding to Rose, she fell in love with Finn after spending about one day with him. *Romeo and Juliet* much? But regardless, it is quite obvious that Finn fancies Rey. These feelings towards him weren't exactly important to the plot but did make her do something drastic. She stopped Finn from killing himself to save others. Personally, I wasn't very happy she did that. Finn was about to be a hero and sacrifice his life but alas, she had to get in the way and ruin the heroic moment.

Going into the movie I was almost certain that they were going to kill Leia as Carrie Fisher, the actor for Leia, died in 2016. Surprisingly, Leia did not. However, Skywalker did, what you call, disappear. Before he did, he showed up on Crait to face Kylo. Though, it wasn't actually him. He wasn't physically there as he had no way of getting off the island of Ahch-To due to the fact that the you see his X-wing sunken below the water earlier in the movie. You are also told that he isn't actually there as while everyone left red footprints on Crait, Skywalker did not. He also changed his style to shorter hair and a darker beard so he looks like he did when Kylo last saw him. This was to get into his head, which worked. Later, you see Skywalker sitting on a rock before he suddenly disappears. Do keep in mind that a Jedi death is a bit more complicated than normal death. He can still come back as a force ghost so its to debate if he is really dead or not. I understood why they did this to Skywalker but not Leia? Yes,

it would be so sad to have her die but what are they going to do in the next movie?

Then, we get to the very end. A little boy on the planet of Canto Bight is shown using the force. Let me repeat that. Using the force. I believe this boy has the same story as Rey. Rey's parents were nobodies who sold her for drinking money on Jakku. This boy is an orphan who is able to use the force just as she is. This boy may be showing that there are more out there. That the power of the Jedi lives on. It was a good movie overall but not nearly as exciting as *The Force Awakens*. Though, personally, my favorite Star Wars movie is *The Return of the Jedi*. Regardless, some things in the movie could have done without or used a more effective way to add them to the plot. The effects were amazing, however, but the story plot not as much.

# The Greatest Showman

BY NOAH BOONE

*The Greatest Showman*—starring talents such as Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, and Zendaya—paints a picture inspired by the metaphorical tightrope P.T. Barnum walked on as the showman of the Barnum & Bailey Circus. The project was first announced in 2009, with Jackman already listed as the title role, although the circus the musical drama focuses on closed in May of 2017 due to weakening attendance and high operating costs after 146 years.

With exuberant performances and a remarkable original soundtrack, the film does not delve into the uglier aspects and reality of Barnum's life and rather takes loose and selective inspiration from them. The film draws in its audience with promises of a dramatic retelling of Barnum's story, though the soundtrack is in many ways the main selling-point of the film.

The film can be appreciated as a flashy, visually stunning film with eye-catching performances from an undoubtedly talented cast. However, the plot is unevenly paced and rushes through the buildup of Barnum's love story, as well as the creation of the circus, even sugarcoating 19th century New York to the point that it's barely recognizable as Manhattan. The antagonists of the film didn't quite feel like antagonists due to the pacing, outside of the clear hostility between Barnum and his in-laws.

The soundtrack, however, is the film's saving grace. Featuring catchy original songs by Benji Pasek and Justin Paul, the award-winning lyricists for *La La Land* and the Tony-winning Broadway sensation *Dear Evan Hansen*, the soundtrack is breathtaking. The songs stay in your head long after the credits have rolled and are by far the most memorable pieces of the film.

*The Greatest Showman* is at best a film with awe-inspiring cinematography, costume design and musical performances. At worst, it is a dramatic montage sequence that occasionally turns into a musical.



# LHS Most Beautiful Pageant tradition continues

BY KATIE SHOFFNER

The LHS Most Beautiful pageant is one of the biggest events put on by the school, which was held on Jan. 13 at the Ford Center. The very first year the pageant was put on was actually the first year of Lafayette High School in 1966, so it is a time-honored tradition at this school.

The yearbook staff sponsors and raises all the money for the pageant. Yearbook adviser Loidha Bautista is the pageant director and has been for seven years. She organizes the production and prepares one or two months ahead, depending on how quickly things get done. Bautista and the girls in the pageant—38 this year—practiced 3 days before the event. On Saturday morning they practiced at the Ford Center instead of the middle school stage and got everything as perfect as they could.

“I really do enjoy it. It’s stressful. I mean you are putting on a show and a lot of things can go

wrong,” Bautista said, “but you just go with it.”

There was a first round, a second round, then the finals. After the first round, the Top 15 were chosen, and then the Top 5 were named. The winner received a crown and a sash, as well as bragging rights. The crown is donated by Lammon’s Fine Jewelry and the sash, which also happens to come from the same company as the Miss America one, is donated by the yearbook.

“The really awesome thing is that so many community businesses sponsor it,” Bautista said, “and we’re lucky to have a 100 percent funded pageant.”

This year the winner was senior Lilly McElreath. First Alternate was junior Cylie Robertson. Second, Third, and Fourth Alternates were freshmen Emma Hayes Roberts, Reese Carwile, and Ally Withrow, respectively. Most Photogenic was senior Alexis McLarty. McElreath, two weeks

later, is still pretty excited about her win. She’s competed in pageants before but didn’t place until her junior year when she got top five. She managed to pick one as her contestant number.

“I was like I’m the first one, everyone’s gonna forget me,” McElreath said. “I wasn’t upset but it made me uneasy about the whole situation.” Prior to winning, she had a few girls picked out that she figured had won. When her number was called, she immediately knew she won because no other number started with a one. She emphasized how surprised she truly was, as well as excited.

“I was like woah, just like very shocked,” McElreath said. “I definitely just stood there for 30 seconds, I think someone pushed me after they called my name.” She is a member of the yearbook staff, so she had a few more things to be stressed out about than the average competitor.

“It was a little

stressful because the crown had to come in and things had fallen through,” McElreath said, “but it turned out great, there was nothing to be worried about.”

The entertainment this year was overall a hit but perhaps the most memorable performance was by choir director Hannah Gadd. She sung “Proud Mary” by Tina Turner with backup from the choir, complete with hair-flipping and attitude. “It was amazing,” McElreath said. “I was in the front and got to see everything.”

Overall, it can be said that the pageant was a success. There was an audience of around 500 people, adding to the nerve-wracking atmosphere most pageants have. Despite this, contestants did well and had a lot of fun doing it. This event is one that will hopefully continue at Lafayette for years to come.



Lilly McElreath after being crowned LHS Most Beautiful. Credit: Logan Bay

# The Way I Used to Feel about You

BY SAMANTHA RAYBURN

*A huge aspect of being a teenager is the inevitability of romance and with Valentines Day Coming up, romance is in the air. Almost everytime, feelings get hurt as it is a part of life. This blog post is from the point of view of Samantha Rayburn as she writes about her experience with a crush as it appeared on The Sunflower Blog.*

Every time I lay eyes on you, I forget how to breathe. I’ve never met someone so effortlessly beautiful in my entire sixteen years of living on this earth. When you speak to me, my heart beats out of my chest. I’m always so scared that I am going to say something stupid in your presence so I try my hardest to keep my mouth shut but every time your eyes meet mine and you smile, I can’t help but smile back. You give me these butterflies in the pit of my stomach by simply being in my presence and I don’t know how to suppress them. You are so funny, smart, spiritual, and all around amazing.

I once told you how I felt about you, and

you rejected me. It hurt. A lot. From then on, my feelings for you just continued to grow until they were almost unbearable. But no, I will never make the mistake of telling you how I feel again. Not ever. You don’t feel the same, and even though it kills me inside, I have come to terms with it.

Or have I? I keep trying to tell myself that you’re not thinking about me. That you don’t get the butterflies I do when we are around each other. But still, there is a tiny bit of hope inside the depths of my heart telling me that maybe, just maybe, you could feel the same. It’s impossible. Impeccably impossible. Yet, I still wonder.

We were so close for a period of time. You were the first person I told things to. I felt as though I could tell you anything without fear of judgement. I told you how I felt about myself and you told me about your past. I felt on top of the world with you placing trust in me. I felt like I was somebody to you. Then all of the sudden, we stopped talking. I felt so abandoned. I was

used to it with my other friends but I would have never believed you would.

The day you insulted a huge insecurity of mine was the day I felt like my whole world stopped. You may have meant it as a joke, but I did not take it as a joke. When I confronted you about it, you laughed at me. I went home and cried that night. The fact that someone so special to me could say something like that to me hurt. I really valued your opinion to the point that I believe you. I believe everything you tell me. I just don’t believe someone as beautiful as you could have the capability of lying. I’ve tried so hard to get your words out of my head but I can’t. Not one day goes by that I don’t think about that moment. It crushed me. It still does

Still, even after what you said, I can’t get you out of my head. I can’t get your smile out of my head. I’m trying so hard. I’m trying so freaking hard. My friends keep telling me I don’t deserve to be treated this way but if it means being with you, I’d be able to bear it.

I feel like  
a nobody  
to you now  
and  
it's killing me

Taken from The Sunflower Blog.

# Lafayette welcomes new Wolff to the pack

BY ZYA KELLY

America for him would be the music, the people, the roads and the food. Although, while he thinks American food is still good, he prefers Colombian food.

“American food has a lot of chemicals and I have a lot of stomach,” Wolff said.

Weather is something that differs in every country. Especially between North America and South America. According to Wolff, the lowest they usually get is seven degrees celsius which is around 44

degrees fahrenheit. Naturally, e prefers Colombian weather to weather here in Mississippi.

Even though Wolff has never traveled on his own, he doesn’t miss his parents as much as he originally thought. He’s come to America before on a trip to Disneyworld with his family, but now he has more freedom, which any teenager would love to have. Being in a house without much time to travel gets boring.

“I’ve been in my house with my parents for

18 years, so I don’t really miss them,” Wolff said.

Living in a new country for the first time would be nerve wracking for anyone, but Wolff is enjoying his time here in Mississippi and making the best out of new places and new opportunities.



Wolff poses for a picture in his new high school.

PC: ZYA KELLY

# President Trump's first year in office

BY KATIE SHOFFNER

On January 20th, 2017 Donald Trump took office as the President of the United States of America. His presidency has been a very controversial topic as it seems most democrats, and even some republicans, believe he is not fit to run the country. Whether or not this is true, President Trump has made some moves in the economy, for better or worse.

On the better front, President Trump has allowed the U.S. to be on much better terms with Russia, even though he sent troops to Poland to defend against them. He also recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, something previous presidents have promised to do but never delivered. The president has also made strides regarding energy development, from opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement, which will make U.S. emissions decrease. Another good thing is that post Trump's election, the stock market made a jump that was

it's the fourth largest since 1936, according to Investopedia.

Everything President Trump has done hasn't been positive. One of his biggest flaws is that he has seemingly no filter, as he says exactly what he thinks, a quality many praise him for. However, he has made many enemies this way because he's not only Twitter is a platform he takes to frequently in order to announce orders or make promises, which to many seems juvenile and unprofessional.

One of the biggest promises President Trump made during his presidential campaign was to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

There hasn't been any real progress towards making it happen, as Democrats refuse to approve it and Mexico's leaders say they won't pay for it. Even without it though, since taking office the number of people illegally crossing the border dropped forty percent according to Homeland Security Secretary John

Kelly.

On January 25, Trump's administration proposed a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million undocumented immigrants— those who came to America when they were children—and asked for \$25 billion dollars to support border control.

This includes money for the wall. Regarding immigration as a whole, early on in his presidency, the president signed an order restricting immigration from seven predominantly Muslim countries, which received harsh backlash.

There are countless opinions on Donald's Trump presidency, but the fact that he has done some good and some bad remains. It has been a kind of roller coaster year for politics, and it doesn't seem like anyone is getting off the ride anytime soon. Despite this, the Trump administration celebrated a full first year of presidency and will continue to make a difference in some way.



# The fight over the net continues

BY SEAN BOONEY

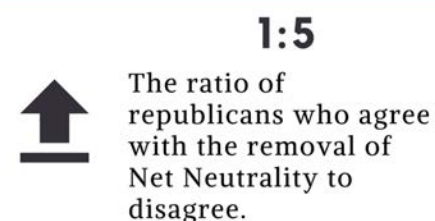
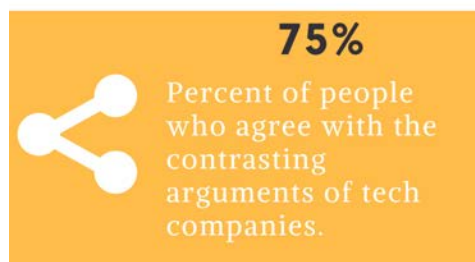
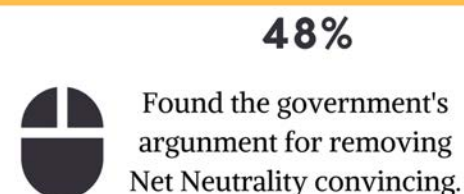
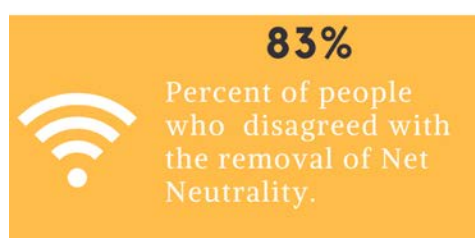
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted on December 14th to repeal Net Neutrality and, as most people expected, the vote went through. For now, this means very little as the FCC is being sued left and right by state attorneys who claim this change is a direct attack to freedom of speech and kills innovation in the internet world. The attorney general of New York, Eric Schneiderman, was the first to speak of suing the FCC for their decision and, as of late December, he has been followed by sixteen more states including California, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Oregon, Washington and Mississippi. Six of those states have already introduced bills that would forbid internet providers from blocking

access to websites or putting up pay walls. This is going to substantially slow down the process of removing Net Neutrality. So, major changes to how the internet is used and accessed is most likely quite a long time away. However, many of these bills are likely to be voted down or even scrapped by their states. California is one of the states who has already drafted a bill. There is a possibility that this could influence other states to take action against Net Neutrality. For example, when California passed their auto emission standards, several legislatures followed by creating laws that were very similar to California's. With how much pull California holds politically, a similar situation happening with Net Neutrality is very possible.

Public response to the FCC's decision has been largely negative. A study conducted before the vote to remove Net Neutrality by the University of Maryland found that 83 percent of Americans oppose the FCC's proposal. Additionally, highschool students across America have been protesting the removal. Some citizens in Washington even set up in front of Verizon stores with chairs and picket signs. The result of the Net Neutrality vote has caused a whirlwind of political fights and protests, as well as very vocal and strong opinions from the public. The future of Net Neutrality is very unclear as of right now, but, until the dust settles, the future of the internet will remain unclear.

## Net Neutrality Public Opinion

ACCORDING TO A MARYLAND UNIVERSITY STUDY



# Blood drive held on behalf of former LMS principal

BY KATIE SHOFFNER

A blood drive is a way to save other people and help them through their issues so they can continue living. This blood drive took place on January 30th at LHS for former middle school principal Eddie Murphree. He had a major surgery to remove a tumor and was in need of blood, so people came together to help out and donate in his name. His surgery was also going to use up a lot of blood that was in the bank, so people needed to give in order to replenish it. This surgery went well and he is in recovery now.

The supervisor of the MS Blood Drive is Jennifer Hudson. She has been at the organization for 11 years, and she went from being a stay-at-home mom to trying to get back

into the workforce. She came across an interview for the MS Blood Services, and went on the interview. She didn't think anything of it, but obviously it turned out well. "I thought that would really interesting to get to work to save lives everyday," Hudson said. When Hudson first started out, the drive was on a much smaller scale than it is now. There was only one team of four people, but now there are two teams with 12-15 people on each. "We began to really reach out to more people," Hudson said. "We have teams in Oxford and Grenada now." Company wide, every time they hold a drive they need 300 people to donate. On average,

anywhere from 50 to 75 people donate per drive, meaning that many lives are saved each time. Hudson said that currently the blood shortage is the worst she has seen in her time being employed at the blood services, so donations are needed more than ever. "Every time you donate you are making a choice to save a life," Hudson said. "You could even be saving your own life."



Left: Mr. Murphree in 2010 as principal of Lafayette Middle School.

Below: Mississippi Blood Services motor donation buses parked outside LHS during the blood drive. (Photo by: Noah Boone)



# FULL BLOOM

SPRING 2018

**32**  
WAYS TO  
UPDATE  
YOUR LOOK  
THIS SEASON

FINDING THE  
PERFECT STYLE  
FOR YOU

**FEATURING: OFF  
THE SHOULDER TOP**

ONE OF THE MOST  
FAVORITES

## SPRING TRENDS

YOU SHOULD  
CHECK OUT

FULLBLOOMMAG.CO

# Fashion in LHS

BY AMANDA FARROW AND NEVAEH WALLS

As the days continue to count down to the season of Spring, people start to wonder exactly what to wear. Since weather is getting warmer, it's time to put the long sleeves away and pull out a little more weather appropriate clothing. Some Lafayette students are interested in the dressy looks when coming to school, while others prefer the more casual laid back trends. This is the time where students begin to wear more bright and lighter colors as so called "fashion rules" call for it. The most popular colors are pastels. For

example, coral blush, mal-lard green, persimmon, mauve mist, baby blue, anise flower and warm apricot are few of many on a list of specific shades worn by many, many people. When it comes to shoes, girls go crazy over Birken-stocks or any kind of sandal. However, the second most common choice are ankle boots. For the boys at Lafayette, they like to bring out their loafers as most are not that interest-ed in the look of the shoes on their feet. Finally, the weather will be warm enough to wear off the shoulder tops, flowy blouses and tank tops with cardigans without having

to bring a jacket every-where girls go. Instead of wearing the first t-shirt that is seen, dirty or not, boys find enough time in the morning to find a but-ton-up or polo to wear. Spring is a more flexible time of year. Students are able to dress up because they no longer have to wear layers of clothes that will keep them from getting cold and having to wear jackets all day.



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# full bloom

SPRING 2018

## PETALS & PASTELS

SPRING  
FASHION  
●  
TEEN  
CULTRUE

Here  
comes  
the  
sun

### THE CRUISER STAFF 2017-2018

SEAN BONEY

NOAH BOONE

AMANDA FARROW

ZYA KELLY

MARYKATE NEWMAN

LAKEIRRA OWENS

TAYLOR PERKINS

KATIE SHOFFNER

NEVAEH WALLS

SAMANTHA RAYBURN

## SPRING

2  
0  
1  
8

NEWEST  
COLOR  
TRENDS

**WORKING THE  
DRESS**  
SUN'S OUT  
SHOULDERS OUT

FASHION  
FORWARD

NO MORE  
LONG  
SLEEVES!

# FULL BLOOM



# Baseball Team Prepares for Upcoming Season

BY ZYA KELLY

Lafayette's baseball team has undergone a large change as they prepare for the new season. That change being a new head coach named John Walker, former head coach of New Albany's baseball team.

Walker's plans for this year are to simply win ball games since that is why they play. He also wants to compete and try to improve week from week as well as trying to play the game the right way. Walker believes that his team is a little more geared towards some of the running games and stealing bases. He also stated that there is a little bit more depth at Lafayette than at the previous schools he has coached for.

"To me there is only one way to play baseball, the right way and the wrong way," Walker said.

The coaching staff has high expectations in their players and everything that they do in

the classroom, community and on the field. Walker believes having high expectations are required to be able to carry the baseball program to the level they want it to be at.

"We're going to hold each other to a high standard and I hope they have high expectations for me too," Walker said. Walker says the team will never be fully prepared for a game or a season. "If I ever get to where I think we're prepared, I need to find something else to do. We want to always try to improve and be better than we were yesterday," Walker said.

Logan Russell, senior on the baseball team this year, says his biggest hopes for this season is a state championship. He says their main focus right now is just to get a little better everyday.

"If we can each do that, individually and as

a team, we've got a great chance at being one of the best teams in the state," Russell says.

Staying in the weight room and getting as many reps as he can at practice is a personal preference for Logan as he prepares for the season. His missing all of last year encourages him to stay in the best shape he can be for when the time comes to start playing in February.

Russell soon comes to say to never take this time for granted. Through all the games, practices and workouts, you won't be able to play this game forever, so take advantage of everyday you have with it.



Coach John Walker, January 25, 2018.

ZYA KELLY

# Soccer ends short of the playoffs

BY SEAN BOONEY



The varsity starting eleven prepare for a game. Credit: Garrett Carter

The Lafayette soccer team finished their season on Tuesday in a 2-0 loss to Saltillo. In order for them to move on to the playoffs, winning the game was paramount, as a loss would mean that they dropped out of the

top two. As a result of the game, Saltillo and Grenada will be moving on to the playoffs.

On January 19th, Lafayette came away with a hard-fought win against Grenada, who had previously beaten the Commo-

dores. Lafayette struck first, with a goal by junior Alex Fikes late into the first half. Unfortunately, in the middle of the second half, Thomas Jenkins, also junior, scored a fluke own-goal while trying to get the ball out of bounds, bring-

ing the score 1-1. The two teams went into a twenty-minute overtime, where no goals were scored on either side, leaving it up to penalty kicks. Lafayette and Grenada went back and forth, both teams scoring their PKs. Grena-

da missed their fourth PK, so if Lafayette could score their fourth, the game would end. Jonathan Page, senior, stepped up to take the fourth and final pk and scored. Lafayette took the win with a final score of 4-3.

Lafayette's season wasn't as successful as it was last year, but the coaches and players are focused on individual growth as well as growing as a team.



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# THE ANCHOR

## Q & A

TEACHER



Mr. Hipp

FRESHMAN



Alana Mccammon

SOPHOMORE



Collin Keel

JUNIOR



Brook Savage

SENIOR



Logan Russell

**What's your new year resolution?**

Keeping up with all the resolutions I made last year.

To be a better person and not cause any drama.

Better grades

To focus more on myself.

Making sure I have everything set for graduation and getting ready for college.

**What's one thing from 2017 you wish you could redo?**

Keeping my eyes open a little more.

I wish i could go back and fix all the stupid things I did to hurt the ones I love.

Getting my permit on time

Giving people so many chances

A little less partying, a lot more AP calculus homework.

**What is the best thing that happened this past year?**

Moving to Oxford.

Even though I lost a few I gained many new friends that I trust.

I found out who my real friends are.

Traveling to the Grand Canyon, got a great tan.

Riley Courser.

**What's three words that describe this past year?**

Oh my gosh.

Crazy, fun and wild.

Rough, boring and work.

Glad. Its. Over.

Uhh, it's complicated.

**What's one word to describe what you feel 2018 is going to be like?**

Hopeful.

Awesome.

A gamble.

Long!

Memorable.



# Origin Bank

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## OF

## LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL

# GO COMMODORES!