TimberLines

February 8th, 2018

Table Of Contents

4 XOXO, Love TimberLines

5 Songs to Cuddle or Cry to

8 New Year, New Lives

9 Leading the Pack

11 A Closer Look at Foreign Policy

16 A “Slap Shot” of the T-Braves

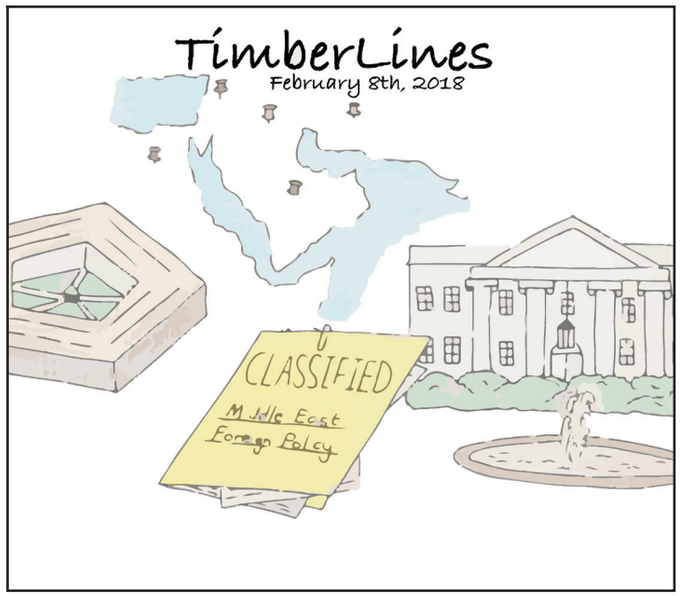
19 Puzzling Popularity

20 Gone Science Bowling

21 Bow Down to Disney

22 A Conspiracy For President’s Day

23 ɯǝǝɯs



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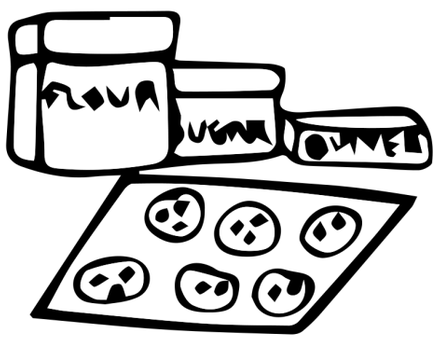
Valentine's Day Date Ideas

Activities to do with your boo on Valentine's Day

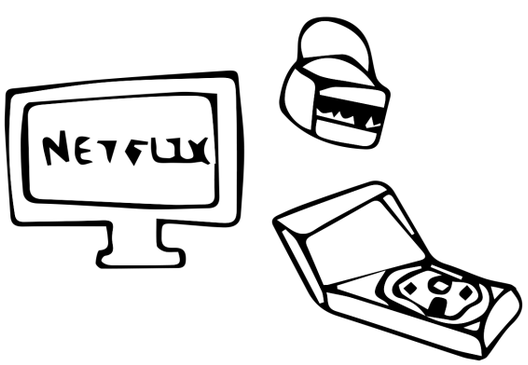
By: Sabrina Dobson

Illustrations by Talia Miller



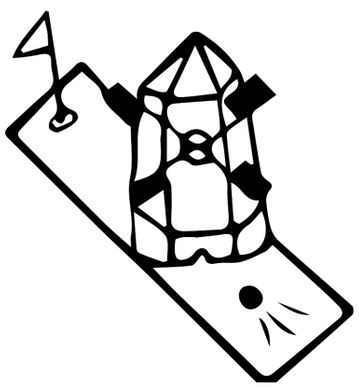
1. Sweet Treat- You and your boyfriend or girlfriend pick your favorite sweet treat, look up how to make it, and make it together.
PRICE- Varied

2. Netflix Dinner- Order pizza or Chinese food and watch your favorite movie or mini series. You can pig out and cuddle up. Dream come true?
PRICE- Pizza-medium $12, large $15.
Chinese Food-$16



3. Laser Tag- Go enjoy a game of laser tag with just you and your boyfriend or girlfriend or go with a group of friends.
PRICE- $5 for 2 players

4. Visit Downtown- Go Downtown and take some pictures, enjoy Freak Alley, the Capitol, and a view of Table Rock.
PRICE- FREE



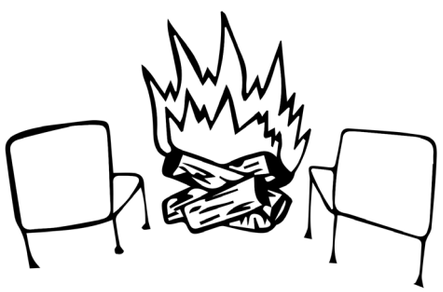
5. Play Mini Golf- Make your own course or go to Wahooz.
PRICE- 1 round is $8

6. Bonfire- Make a bonfire, maybe invite some friends and cuddle up next to a warm fire and make some S'mores.
PRICE- Marshmallows-$3, Graham Crackers-$3, Hershey's Bar-$4.39 for a package of 6

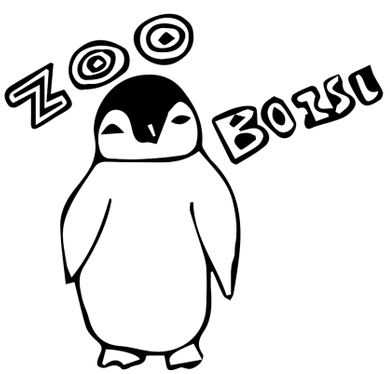
7. Be Adventurous- Go hiking, take a drive (with music), or go biking. You can go up to Idaho City and do all three.
PRICE-FREE

8. Go to the movies- See something you haven't seen yet. "Maze Runner," "The Greatest Showman," "Jumanji," and "Insidious 4" are out now.
PRICE- $5-$10

9. Catch a concert- check the local listings, and find a band with your favorite love song. Coming soon to the Knitting Factory: Hippie Sabotage Feb. 15, Black Veil Brides & Asking Alexandria Feb 22. Taco Bell Arena: The Rock & Worship Show March 8.



10. Go to the Zoo- Go enjoy some animal company, see the monkeys and lions and penguins.
PRICE- $10 for 2 people



Playlists
For Couples and Singles

Library
Playlist

I Will Always Love You - Whitney Houston

Love Don't Change - Jeremih

Closer - Chainsmokers feat. Halsey

Shape of You - Ed Sheeran

All of Me - John Legend

Crazy in Love - Beyoncé feat. Jay Z

Thousand Years - Christina Perri

Riptide - Vance Joy

Electric Love - Borns

Delicate - Taylor Swift

Library
Playlist

Single Ladies - Beyoncé

Love Myself - Hailee Steinfeld

Achy Breaky Heart - Billy Ray Cyrus

Fighter - Christina Aguilera

Jar of Hearts - Christina Perri

Rolling in the Deep- Adele

Shake It Off - Taylor Swift

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun - Cyndi Lauper

I Wanna Dance with Somebody - Whitney Houston

Stayin' Alive - Bee Gees

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What's Your Type?

We're here to help you find the best Valentine's chocolate

By: Summer Hedger and Mayze Kenney

Whether or not you're in a relationship, it's safe to say that Valentine's Day is a holiday dedicated to the candy. Let Blog Mom and her sidekick, Blog Mom in the Making, find you the perfect chocolate.

Godiva $9.99

Blog Mom in the Making: Godiva chocolate is definitely the highest quality of the three chocolates we reviewed. It was smooth on the inside, and crunchy on the outside. Considering that it was the same price as all of the other ones, this chocolate was by far the best. However, you are not getting as many treats for how much you're paying. 10 out of 10.

Blog Mom: This chocolate was probably the best chocolate I have ever consumed in my entire chocolate eating career. Even though there were only 9 chocolates, it was up on the top for taste and appearance. You could actually taste the chocolate on the outside while still tasting the filling on the inside. Solid 9 out of 10.

Russell Stover $9.98

Blog Mom in the Making: This whole box is very hit and miss. Some are tasty, with crunchy coconut and smooth fudge insides, while others are utterly disgusting, with fruit jelly that tastes old. There is also a strong distinction that they are cheap and not the best quality because they seem to just fall apart and crumble when you try to eat them. I'm not a huge fan of picking up a piece of chocolate and having to guess what the filling is. 5 out of 10.

Mayze Kenney- TimberLines Staff

Blog Mom: The packaging for this one was quite promising due to it being a pretty red heart. It was also convenient that inside the box it had a little cheat sheet for what you would pick to eat. The chocolate quality was not the best, but it was definitely nice to get a bunch of different chocolates. Even though the chocolate was not the best quality, I would still end up buying this one because there is something for everyone. I give this a 6 out of 10.

Ghirardelli $9.99

Blog Mom in the Making: Ever since I was a little kid, I had always loved these chocolates. They're great quality, where you can taste the cocoa and salted caramel, and it's a perfect balance of all of the different flavors. Each are individually wrapped, which is very convenient. For what you're paying, you're getting quite a bit of chocolate. There are four different types of chocolate, salted caramel, raspberry, mint, and regular caramel, so you won't get bored of just one. There are five of each type of chocolate. 9 out of 10.

Blog Mom: These little squares are something that I would never give up. The packaging makes me feel very proper as well. The second you bite into the chocolate square the mint, raspberry, or caramel insides slowly come out and it's heaven. I used to eat these when I was little, and it doesn't matter what flavor I choose to eat, it always blows my mind how good they are. Easily 8 out of 10.

Muddy Buddies Recipe

A perfect treat to eat

By: Talia Miller

Ingredients:
9 cups Rice Chex
1 cup chocolate chips
1/2 cup peanut butter
1/4 cup butter or margarine
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
Steps:
1. Pour the cereal into a large bowl.
2. In a microwave-safe bowl, microwave chocolate chips, peanut butter, and butter on high, for one minute and then stir.
3. Microwave until the mixture is melted and able to be stirred.
4. Stir the mixture until it's smooth and add vanilla.
5. Pour the mixture over the cereal. Cover every last one.
6. Transfer the goodies into a 2-gallon resealable plastic bag.
7. Add powdered sugar, seal the bag, and shake!
8. Pour into a bowl and share, or devour it all yourself.

Hot Chocolate Muddy Buddies: Needs marshmallows, hot chocolate mix, and Chocolate Chex cereal. Follow original recipe, but add in one hot chocolate packet with the chocolate chip/ butter mixture and pour over cereal. Then add two hot chocolate packets to the powdered sugar in the bag and shake to coat the cereal. Marshmallows can be added at the end.

Cookies & Cream Muddy Buddies: Needs Oreos, lots and lots of Oreos. Follow the original recipe, but also crush up as many Oreos as desired, add them to the powdered sugar in the bag, and shake with the cereal. At the end, more Oreos can be added.

Mayze Kenney- TimberLines Staff

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New Year, New Wolves

Goals for the Wolves

By: Katie Krowczyk

Every time New Year's Eve comes around the corner, people rush to find a new goal to set. The infamous New Year's resolution. Unfortunately, most will not likely achieve their goal as it is often too far-fetched.

In fact, StatisticBrain.com indicates that 42.4 percent of people in America feel like they never succeed, failing on their resolution every year. A lot of times people find themselves wanting a healthier lifestyle, or to save money, maybe to even spend more time doing things for themselves.

Hoping for the best, junior Nic Elkins, says that his number one priority is to be a better family member.

"Being with my family is becoming more of a priority; I don't have much time with them until I go to college," Elkins said.

He would like to make a better effort to be as close as possible with his family. He says he's on track to his goal, doing many activities such as having game nights with his parents and younger sister.

Senior Jasmine Haskins expresses that she would like to see more success in her school work. Haskins says that her main problem is procrastinating her work and studying for tests.

"Due tomorrow, do tomorrow," Haskins said, the ultimate motto for the typical high school student.

To fix this Haskins said that she has created a schedule to keep her more on track for things that are due in her classes. Haskins says although she hasn't totally gotten used to using the new schedule, she does see more success in the classroom and is looking to see more success in the second semester of her senior year.

Whether it's having a closer relationship with your family or having a successful last semester of high school, since it's the new year, it's also time to do what's best for you, something Haskins understands.

"2018 is a time to work on making yourself the best you can which is the ultimate goal."

Alex Howard - TimberLines Staff

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Making Connections

Answering the question: What is Wolf Connection?

By: Alex McFarland-Smith

It's a shared experience, for many students at Timberline, to have a person missing from their typical lunch group, wonder where they could be, and receive the unfulfilling answer of, "They have something for Wolf Connection."

Although this is a frequent occurrence, something that never entirely gets cleared up is simply what Wolf Connection is.

At the surface, it's an elective students can take for one year where they learn leadership skills, but even for its members, the definition for Wolf Connection is still somewhat abstract.

"It's super hard to define," said senior member Anna Gable. "Through our process we really grow within ourselves and within the community."

Ultimately, the goal of Wolf Connection is to improve the lives of their students by helping them improve the lives of others, and this is reflected through multiple aspects of the program.

Some of the class's work is done through Individual Leadership Projects (ILPs), where one student is assigned a large project, such as putting an event together, and the rest of the class is available and encouraged to assist them.

"My ILP is to induct next year's kids and run the interviews for that," Gable said. "There are a bunch of different ways that we do nominations, and it's a huge process, so it's really nice to be able to have everyone else involved."

The ILPs that students are given to work on are often noteworthy events that can be seen around the school, such as the Dance Marathon and student appreciation weeks.

Another event coming up that Wolf Connection puts together is the Senior prom, which gathers people from six different retirement homes at a formal dance.

This event is senior member Aubree Gonser's ILP, and it's set up through her organization and enlisting the help of other Wolf Connection students.

Gonser's responsibility lays heavily in making sure committees of other students handle their jobs, such as decorations and vending.

"It would be nearly impossible to do this within a month without their help," Gonser said.

Although preparation is taxing, the event is surely worthwhile.

"It's one of those rare events where you can see generations talking and getting along," Gonser said. "It's always one of the highlights of my year."

Katie Krowczyk-TimberLines Staff

Wolf Connection is significant around the community, touching the lives of people who aren't involved with it, but mostly, of course, it impacts its students.

"It really gives you better opportunity to expand yourself," said junior member Keaton Poe. "It helps guide you through a lot of self evaluation and how much control you have over your own life. It lets you better look at where you are in your life and make it more how you want it."

Early in the school year, each student makes a personal mission statement to help them rationalize their goals, which they continue to come back to as the year progresses.

"Before this year even started, I had my own things that I wanted to get better at, and it's a community that's given me more opportunities to get closer to my own goals," Poe said.

Although Wolf Connection students are only allowed to take it for one year, the time spent with the group is clearly used well. For Aubree Gonser, it's much more than just an elective.

"It is a leadership group, but I think most importantly it's a family."

Sandwich Extravaganza

Students weigh in on their favorite sandwiches and where to get them

By: Caleb Perkins and staff

Bailey Davenport ~ sophomore
BLT
Blimpie
"They have a large variety to choose from."

Chris Guldon ~ sophomore
BMT (not BLT)
Subway
"They have the cheapest subs and they are really fast."

Sam Bergesen ~ junior
Jersey Mike's
"A day with a sub from here completes my day."

Febe Higbee ~ junior
Anything
Zeppole
"Because I like the ciabatta bread."

Evan Atha ~ senior
Mancino's
Tuna and artichoke
"The tuna and artichoke from Mancino's is better than anything I've had."

Neely Ubaragua ~ senior
BLT
Jimmy John's
"If you don't like bacon you're wrong."

Mess-opotamia

The United States' role in the Middle East

By: Lukas Stein

In our world today, we hear constantly of unrest and violence in the Middle East. Today in Syria, many different insurgent groups, some backed by the U.S., fight against the loyalist forces of Bashar al Assad. Iran is currently attempting to expand their WMD program to hopefully become a nuclear state. All the while, Russia continues to extend its influence in the region. These crises have dramatic ramifications on the U.S. and the world at large. But how have these situations developed? To understand the state of the Middle East today, it is important to look backward.

Following the end of the Second World War, the United States began to look outward to extend its influence globally. The Middle East quickly emerged as a region of geopolitical significance bringing focus to its massive oil reserves and their significance for post-war economic growth.

Furthermore, the proximity of the region to the Soviet Union, the United States's eminent rival, also provided an incentive to exert influence on the nations in the Middle East. The U.S. engagement in the region has since faced significant challenges. Even well intentioned interventions further destabilize countries, and that is not to speak of the U.S.'s less charitable actions.

The United States has backed Israel since its creation in 1947, when it began to increasingly supply it with economic and military aid, according to the Anti Defamation League.

"The Jewish nation was recognized by the United States first, somewhat out of guilt after World War II with so many Jewish people being killed," history teacher Ross Schultz said. "We have done quite a bit for Israel."

Thanks to U.S. aid, Israel was able to defend its borders from very hostile neighbors.

The Soviet Union, despite having initially supported the creation of Israel, sought to create its own client states in the region to oppose U.S. influence. The countries that despised Israel and, by extension, the United States, were obvious candidates. The Soviet Union positioned itself closely alongside Egypt and Syria. According to a CIA special report,

over a billion dollars of military aid flowed into these countries.

The influence of the two superpowers on Israel, Egypt, and Syria bred further conflict in an already delicate situation. The weapons these countries received from the U.S. and the Soviet Union served to encourage further violence in the region and would be used repeatedly to initiate armed conflicts. Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union enabled these conflicts and ended up spurring more intolerance and violence within the region, especially between Jewish and Muslim populations.

Senior Inbar Milstein was born and lived in Israel. "There is a lot of hate between different groups. Religion plays a big part in how divided it is," she said.

The U.S. did not just ally with Israel, but began to try and influence the course of other countries in the region. The escalating volatility of Iranian internal affairs became a matter of increasing concern for the U.S., which feared the loss of Iranian oil resources, according to the New York Times.

The CIA concluded that the Iranian Premier Mossadegh had communist leanings and warned that Iran would become a Soviet ally. Fearing the expansion of Soviet influence, the United States decided to take action. The CIA collaborated with the Shah on a plot to unseat the Premier. The Iranian military joined with the CIA's planned coup. In 1953, the Iranian military, backed by street protesters organized and financed by the CIA, overthrew Mossadegh.

The Shah quickly took absolute power and just as quickly became one of the closest U.S. allies in the region. In return, the Shah signed a significant portion of Iran's oil reserve over to the United States. A sympathetic dictator was established and the U.S. benefited from Iranian oil, all while undercutting Soviet influence in the region. The coup had worked out perfectly for the U.S., or so it seemed.

As the Shah consolidated power, the United States helped establish the SAVAK, according to "Encyclopedia of Asian History." The SAVAK was one of the most brutal and repressive secret police and intelligence organizations in history. With the help of U.S. advisors the SAVAK crushed all dissent and opposition. While Iran as a state continued to collaborate with the U.S., the Iranian people became increasingly dissatisfied with the brutal reign of the Shah and his American allies.

The political conflict escalated in late 1978 when widespread demonstrations sparked a violent military response. Hundreds of protesters were killed in the streets by the Iranian military. Ultimately, the Shah's regime could not withstand the social pressure and collapsed with the Shah leaving into exile in 1979.

In 1979, Ruhollah Khomeini returned from exile in Paris and started the new Islamist government and became the Ayatollah. Iran, the former U.S. vassal, became the sworn enemy of the United States. The Ayatollah branded the U.S. as "The Great Satan."

Even today, Iran continues to be a theocracy actively opposing U.S. interests in the Middle East. Iran, like Syria, has positioned itself alongside Russia. Iran, however, can potentially present a much greater threat than Syria.

While Iran's nuclear program is not a threat currently, the thought of Iran becoming a nuclear state is certainly troubling. Iran has made its enmity towards the United States and its allies well known. The addition of nuclear weapons to this equation could be potentially disastrous.

"The part that scares me is that we don't know how far advanced they are with their nuclear weapons," Schultz said. "Quite frankly, the Iranians don't trust us, and we don't trust them."

1947 The Creation of Israel

1953 CIA Coup in Iran

1954 Soviets Aligned with Syria and Egypt

The Iranians are not the only group in the Middle East who do not trust the U.S. Whether it be through covert regime change or open war, the United States has had a dramatic impact in the region.

Democratic forms of government are largely absent because they have either not been promoted or deliberately compromised by the United States, and the locals are wise to this. For this reason, the U.S. is sometimes viewed as hypocritical, as it claims to value freedom but has directly undermined people's liberties through military and intelligence operations in the Middle East.

"I think that [the U.S.] is pushing themselves into the region more," senior and future servicewoman Ariel Rusk said. "I feel like if there are immediate threats, there should be military action, but I think we are way too involved and need to step back."

The current conflict in Syria will determine the next major U.S. action in the Middle East. At stake is not simply the defeat of the dictator Bashar al-Assad. Syria today is a flashpoint where the United States and Russia mainly engage in a war by proxy in a near failed state.

"Syria probably scares me more than any other problem right now, just because I'm more skeptical of Putin than Kim Jong-Un," Schultz said. "North Korea uses a lot of gesturing, but if Putin says he is going to do something, then he is probably going to do it."

While Russia has a longstanding relationship with Syria, U.S. allies in the Syrian war are not as easily identifiable nor are their strategic goals well understood. It stands to reason that they may not be aligned well for long-term cooperation, as previous allies have demonstrated. If this is the case, those who set their hopes on the United States only to be abandoned may end up being foes that we must defeat.

"There are literally hundreds of groups that are fighting in Syria, and they all have their own agenda. Some of it is religious, some of it is tribal," Schultz said. "The problem in Syria is probably the largest geopolitical problem that the United States faces right now."

U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East seems to suggest that any enemy of our enemy is good enough to be our friend. This premise ignores the motivations of groups with ambitions that don't align with U.S. interests in the long term. How long before uneasy allies become enemies?

"I hate any war that can leave American weapons in the hands of our enemies in the future," Schultz said. "We have not learned that lesson."

A continuation of the short-sighted strategies that have defined past U.S. involvement will breed resentment, despair, extremism, and violence. On the flip side, the U.S. does have the resources and ability to make the Middle East a better place.

"I think it is good that the U.S. gets involved," Milstein said, "I know a lot of people say that they just made it worse, but I feel like some sort of higher authority in the area is good."

So is peace even possible in the Middle East? It certainly seems to be a long way off. With a long history of failed interventions and general mistrust, what can the United States do today in the Middle East?

We could certainly continue what has not been working for the past 70 years. But perhaps it is time for a new mindset to prevail. Milstein suggests that change needs to start with how people are educated.

"Just the way people are taught about cultures and religion makes it harder to connect with the other side. People just need to not be so hateful, but it isn't that easy."

1979 Iran: Shah Exiled

2001 American War in Afghanistan

2003 "Operation Iraqi Freedom"

Sports

Kaitlyn DeBaugh - *TimberLines Staff*
Balling Up: Sophomore guard Nick Zenner blows past a Brave and goes up for a basket in the Jan. 11 game against Boise. While Zenner made the play, the team took a 10-point loss against their league-leading rivals, final score Braves 80, Wolves 70.

Kaitlyn DeBaugh - *TimberLines Staff*
The Dynamic Duo: Junior guard Elena McHargue and sophomore guard Ava Ranson race down the court for a score and a 49-33 win in their regular season finale Jan. 25 against Borah. The girls followed up with another strong performance in the district play-in game Jan. 30 as they knocked out Nampa 75-35; McHargue poured in 18 points in a mere 11 minutes.

Summer Hedger - *TimberLines Staff*
Wolves on Top: The varsity wrestling team, led by senior Jacob Marta, sets the stage for the next matches by pinning his opponent during the home match against Columbia on Jan. 24. He's currently 3-1 on the season in the 126-pound weight class as of press time.

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Wolves on Ice

The 2017-18 Timberline Hockey Team Is Skating Their Way to Victory

By: Cam Lumsden

Timberline is the youngest of the 5A schools in the Boise School District. We haven't had much time to establish a tradition regarding sports.

Are we a baseball school? Maybe, we definitely have a reputation of being one of the top teams in the state every single year. Are we a football school? We definitely have solid players walking our halls, but no rings yet. The same goes for basketball. We very well might be a lacrosse school, having won multiple state championships since the sport sprung up.

It's tough to pick out a sport that we think symbolizes Timberline High. We definitely have a lot of options. As a matter of fact, one of those options is hockey, and it might just be our sport.

Sure, it's relatively new. We don't even have enough players to form our own squad; it's actually a Timberline and Boise High combo team. I know what you're thinking: "On a team with the Braves? No way is that the sport that's the biggest part of Timberline culture!" And trust me, it might not be as of now, but just wait, the team is looking strong…

Led by junior captains Ed Osterberger (Center) and Young Jung (Left Defenseman), The "T-Braves" are off to a strong start with an 11-1 record, thanks to the team's seasoned veterans.

"This will be my tenth year playing hockey" Osterberger said, "I really want to make this season special, and I think we have the team to make that happen."

Osterberger has only played in 4 of the team's 12 games this season due to his other obligations (like being the football team's star running back), but he's managed to rack up 7 goals, averaging 1.75 per game.

Alongside Osterberger are the talents of players Jung, who is averaging 1.14 goals per game, junior Stone Mason, one of the team's star defensemen, and junior rough-houser Danny Orock, who leads the state in penalty box minutes.

Athough the Wolves don't have enough hockey players to create a full team, Jung thinks that's about to change.

"Over the past couple years that I've been playing hockey, the sport has gotten a ton bigger in our area," Jung explained. "At our junior highs, there are a ton of upcoming players, which will give us enough to make our own team."

The key to being a great hockey team, like most sports, is the team chemistry. Mason knows what makes the team work so well together.

Photo by Lisa Jordan
www.lisaseyeview.com

"We play really well together. We have grown up together playing hockey, and that's enabled us to know each other's play styles. We play hard, play fast, and play great defense, a key to winning games."

With offensive firepower coming from the young freshmen, left wing Cal Osterberger and center Jackson Howell, impeccable defense from Mason, and great leadership from Osterberger and Jung, the team is a forced to be reckoned with, recently winning the Centurylink Arena High School Tournament, earning them a first place ranking in the league standings.There's a lot to love about the T-Braves.

"Hockey is a great sport. It combines the physicality of football with the agile footwork and speed of skating" said Osterberger. "It's also a blast to watch, always going back and forth, never staying stagnant. We're building a dynasty in the sport here at Timberline, watch out for the Wolves."

All photos by Lisa Jordan
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WESTSIDE DRIVE IN

Tapping away from the Holidays and into a Musical

Encore preps for a February musical

By: Alyssa Timmermans

Walking through the cafeteria during fifth period, one hears singing voices ring out into the hall from the choir room. The songs sound like they're from a Broadway musical and the anticipation for their upcoming dinner show builds.

Timberline's 6 different choirs just finished up the holiday season with a show stopping holiday performance for the school on the day prior to winter break. The performers and directors feel it was successful and well received by the audience.

As the second semester starts up, choir is heading into preparation for their musical, "Anything Goes" by Cole Porter, which will be performed Feb. 21-24.

Sammi Van Ormer, a junior in Timberline's Encore choir, feels positive about what's coming up, especially after the more than satisfactory choir season and holiday performances they've done.

"It's been absolutely amazing," Van Ormer said. "It was so beautiful and just filled with so much joy and happiness."

This is to be expected from a choir that's been successfully growing, particularly over the past few years. Choir director Sean Kane estimates there were about 88 students two years ago and over 115 members this year. Thirty-four of those students are in Encore, which is essentially varsity choir.

"About half of the Encore students are new and they're doing great," Kane said "This is a very strong group of singers. There are both juniors and seniors, but the new students are mostly juniors."

Summer Hedger- TimberLines Staff

With an expanding choir, they are able to take on more ambitious projects. Their upcoming musical production of "Anything Goes," is considered a classic and takes place on a cruise voyaging from New York to England in the 1930s. Many parts must come into place as they get ready for the performance. Despite all the hard work that will be necessary, choir students in the production are excited.

"I expect it to be super fun and high energy," Van Ormer said.

A large amount of energy will be required, as the musical will feature a set piece that's going to be a 40-by-20 foot boat complete with two levels, on which performers will tap dance.

"We were practicing tap dance, actually when you saw us perform the Christmas concerts," Kane said. "Students had to buy tap shoes and practice over winter break."

"Anything Goes" will be different from the past two musicals, "Beauty and the Beast" last year and "The Addams Family" prior to that.

"The two musicals we've done have been pretty modern," Kane said. "They were both written in the past 20 years, but Anything Goes is like the classic musical."

Choir students are looking forward to performing, as they love a musical that has inspired many others. Another reason is that performers, like senior Jeremiah Acosta, find this musical less stressful.

"We now have to focus on looking really good in vintage costumes and putting that aesthetic out there," Acosta said. "It is really exciting to take in what previous generations have done with musicals, and how we can interpret it into what we're doing."

As their 7 total weeks of preparation fly by, the performance dates edge closer, and Acosta definitely feels it.

"A lot of times we're not paying attention to deadlines and stuck in the fun of dancing, the fun of acting, and 5 weeks goes by and you're already in costumes under the bright lights."

A Club for Cubers

The recently-created Rubik's Cube club gets students into the spirit of solving

By: Alex Howard

There are over forty-three quintillion ways to mix up a Rubik's Cube. But, if you have one, the Rubik's Cube club can teach you how to solve any of those permutations, and do it quickly.

Sophomore Thomas Ricks got back into solving Rubik's Cubes, or "cubing," through the club. "I was excited because I never knew so many other people liked it too," Ricks said. "It reignited a passion I had for solving them."

As an outsider looking in, solving a Rubik's Cube may seem like a daunting task that only the smartest people can accomplish. "Solving a Rubik's Cube has become a symbol of intelligence in America," Ricks said. "But, it's really not as complicated as people think."

The trick is to memorize algorithms, or set patterns of twists and turns of the cube, and recognizing when to use each algorithm. "The faster you can do that, the faster you can solve one," Ricks said.

Speedcubing, or solving a Rubik's Cube as quickly as possible, has become one of many ways for cubers to push themselves to the limit. "My fastest time solving a 3 by 3 was 14.38 seconds," Ricks said. "But that was really lucky."

Competitions for speedcubing are becoming more commonplace as the cubing community grows larger. "Recently, I was in Rexburg for a competition," Ricks said. "It was really fun. I did better than average, but there were some really expert solvers there."

If the traditional cubic shape is too boring for you, know that in recent years, an array of new shapes have been made to provide an added challenge to solve. "I have 53 puzzles at this point!" Ricks said. "A lot of them are cubes, but some of them are weird; I have one that's a tetrahedron, which is a pyramidal shape."

Co-president of the Rubik's Cube Club, junior Tanishq Khurana, noticed the rapid growth in the club's popularity over the past few months. "We usually don't have the same amount of people each meeting, but overall we have a lot of members right now," Khurana said.

The Rubik's Cube club works to help its members improve at solving. "People just come to share their passion for cubing," Khurana said. "We teach people how to cube too. It's just really laid back here."

It's become clear that Rubik's Cubes have gained popularity at Timberline. "I think that since some people have already done this in the past, they influence their friends to try it out too," Ricks said.

Khurana feels that the atmosphere of the club lends to its popularity as well. "It's a chill environment here, so no one judges anyone. Also, you don't need to know how to solve, and you can just hang out with us if you want."

Overall, Ricks hopes the recent growth in popularity of cubing will encourage more people to try it out.

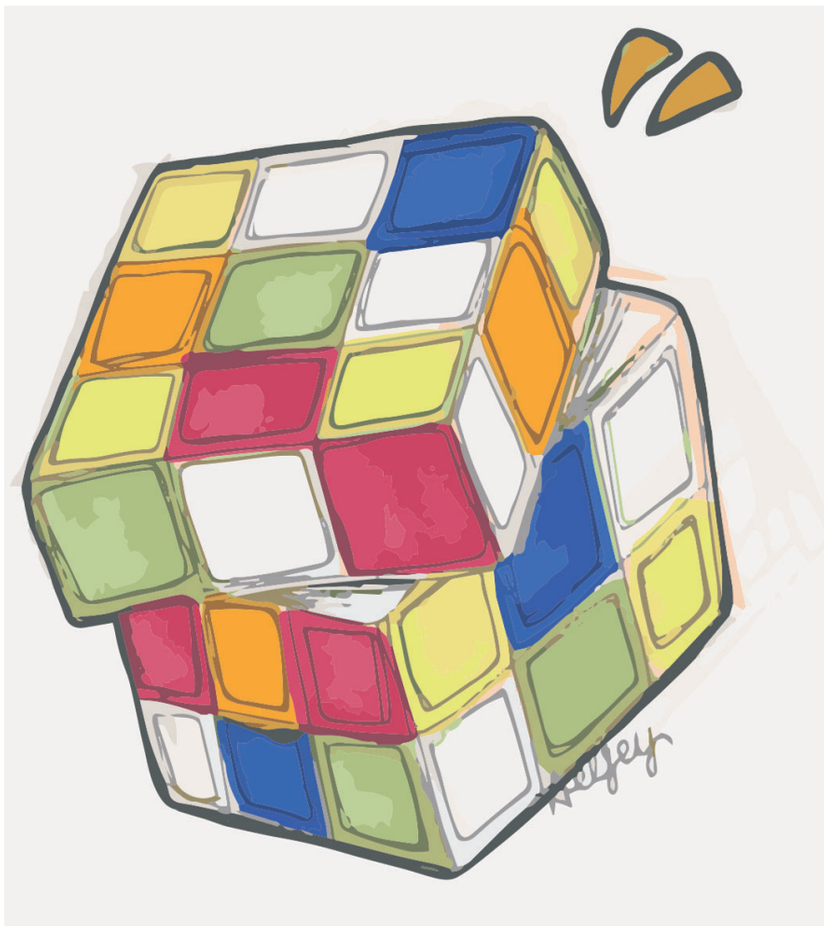


Illustration provided by: Kelsey Starman

"I like seeing other people who are interested in cubing. I like teaching them new things, making it more fun, and just making people more skilled at it."

Timberline's Science Bowl

Taking a look inside the Science Bowl

By: Kaitlyn DeBaugh

Standing up at the podium looking over the stage. Every parent and sibling sitting in the audience staring up at you. Your heart beating fast and adrenaline rushing. Ready to hit the buzzer first and get the question right. To get ready for this kind of pressure, you need hours of practice.

Being a part of the Science Bowl team can be pretty time consuming with practices every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, for a few hours each day in environmental science teacher Erin Stutzman's room 215.

"We prep by doing small practice rounds, and some people, we hope, will study outside of our practices," senior captain Hannah Lim said.

During the practices you can usually find the Science Bowl team practicing by quizzing each other and just hanging out and making inside jokes.

"I am team captain so I make small 10-minute lectures about science topics like autoimmune diseases, the photoelectric effect, etc.," Lim said.

Lim is joined by co-captain Megan Byres, and 5 seniors, 11 juniors and 5 sophomores.

It is crunch time for the team as the competition is only a few weeks away on Monday, Feb. 26 at Boise State University.

"All of the teams are there and it's cool to be with so many people who love science that much," Byres said.

In the mornings of the Science Bowl, there is a rotation of teams competing against each other, and then in the afternoon, it is an elimination bracket. The final competition is between the top two teams that go head to head.

"My favorite part is actually competing, because I love testing my knowledge and contributing to our team," Byres said.

Staying focused and getting questions right is always what is needed to make it to the final round. Not cracking under pressure is key, as Byres knows well.

"While I am competing, I am usually too focused on the questions to feel any stress or nerves. However, between rounds we relieve tension by joking and talking together."

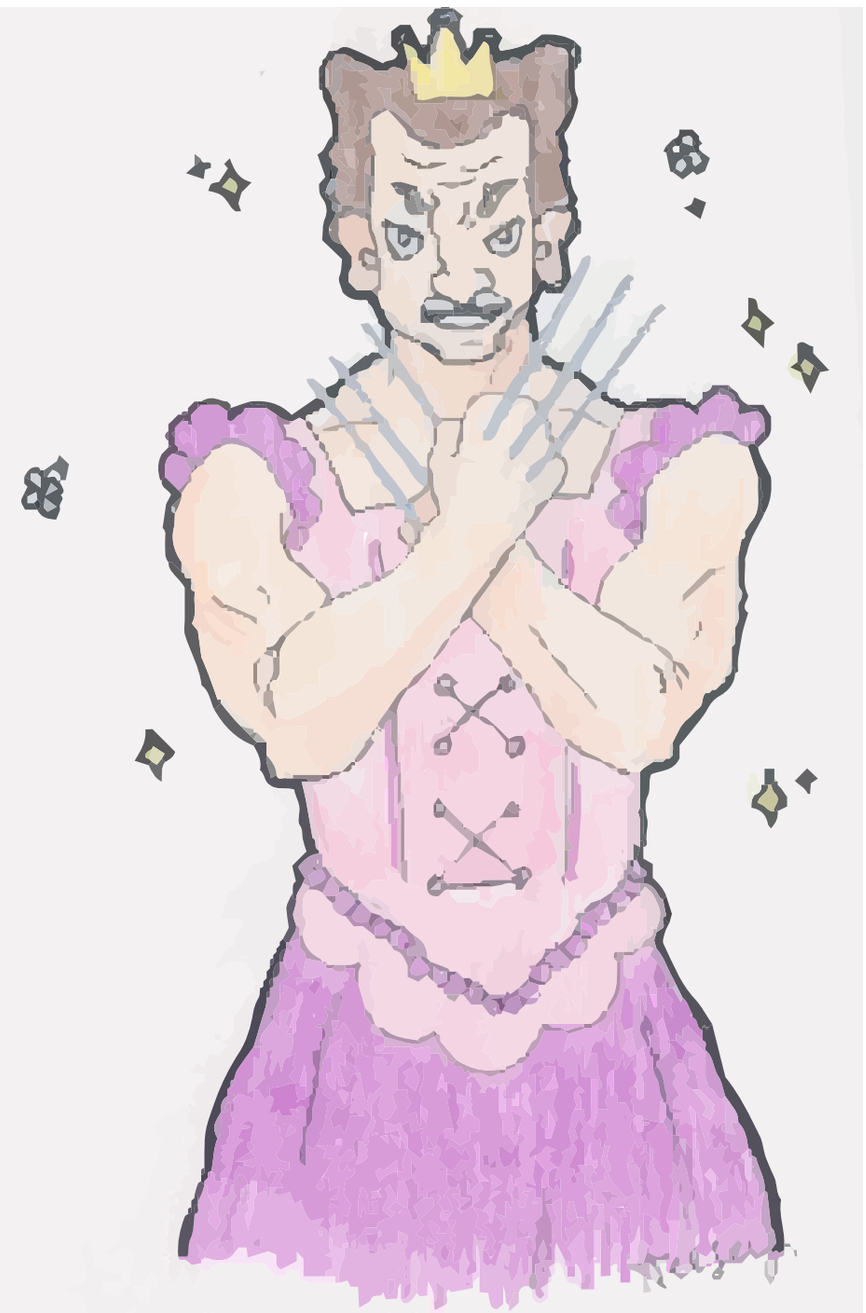
Disney Bought Fox

What are the dream crossovers?

By: Jarret Reade and Alex Howard

WALL-E and Captain America 28%

Jack-Jack "The Incredibles" and Magneto 23%



Illustation provided by Kelsey Starman

Belle and Wolverine 23%

Remy the Rat "Ratatouille" and Professor X 17%

Snow White and Ant Man 6%

The Curse of Tippecanoe

Seven died, two survived - who will be next?

By: Olivia Robison

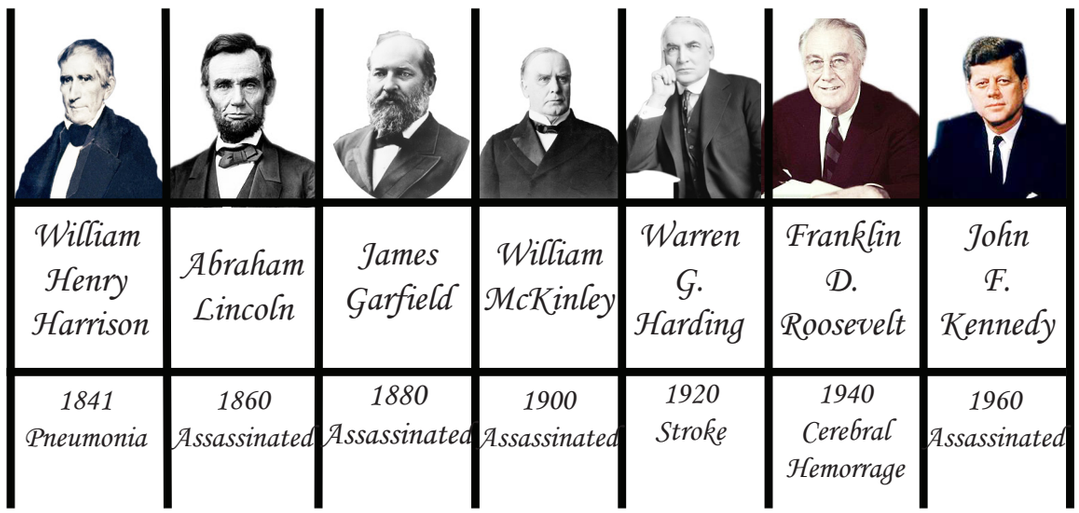
It was the cold and rainy day of March 4, 1841, and newly sworn in president and war hero William Henry Harrison was delivering his inaugural address, a record two hours long. At the age of 68, Old Tippecanoe wore no coat and travelled by horseback instead of the closed carriage offered to him, all to fight any negative publicity.

Three weeks later, Harrison fell ill with what was thought to be pneumonia from the event and subsequently died on April 4, only holding office for a month.

Ever since, from Harrison in 1840 to John F. Kennedy in 1960, every president elected in a year divisible by 20 died in office, either from illness or assassination. After Harrison, Abraham Lincoln (1860), James Garfield (1880), and William McKinley (1900) were assassinated, Warren G. Harding (1920) died of a stroke, and Franklin D. Roosevelt (1940) of a cerebral hemorrhage.

This "Curse of Tippecanoe" was first noted noted in a "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" book published in 1931, even before the curse had fully run its course.

Timberline's residential presidential expert and cardboard cutout collector, Dave Crisp, has caught wind of this conspiracy along the way from reading at least one biography for every president. "Only one other president outside of these years has died in office," U.S. history teacher Crisp explained. "Zachary Taylor, who was elected in 1848, died from eating cherries and milk at a Fourth of July picnic. They even dug up his remains to see if he had been poisoned."



Mayze Kenney- TimberLines Staff

But out of all of the supposedly cursed deaths, Crisp believes presidents Garfield and Harding's were the most interesting. "Garfield lingers on for several months after being shot, and actually dies more from the doctors than the injury," Crisp said. Unfortunately for Garfield, having doctors groping around in his wound for the bullet with unsterilized hands and instruments led to a slow demise, over two months later.

As for Harding, he ended up dying of natural causes, either from a heart attack or a stroke. "The smartest thing he ever did was drop dead in a hotel in San Francisco," Crisp said. Soon after, news broke out about his administration's wrongdoings, such as the infamous Teapot Dome scandal. Luckily, Harding wasn't there to face the consequences.

Over 100 years later, the curse finally died when president Ronald Reagan, elected in 1980, survived an assassination attempt in 1981. "Reagan was much closer to death then many people realized," Crisp said. "But he lived, so I wouldn't consider him included in this theory."

With the election of 2020 drawing closer, some may wonder if the Curse of Tippecanoe will awaken from its slumber. From potential challengers (Democrat and Republican alike) to incumbent Donald Trump, they might have a higher chance of dying in office just by following historical trends. But Crisp thinks otherwise. "Assuming Trump gets reelected, I do not think, as controversial as he is, he will be assassinated," he said.

In general, Crisp believes the curse isn't real. "It's a nice theory, but I don't believe it's destined in the stars." And even amongst other presidential conspiracies, such as the similarities between the assassinations of presidents Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, for him, it just doesn't measure up.

"I'd have to consult my Ouija board; there are lots of coincidences in life."

Top 10 Memes 2017

The cringiest piece of writing to meet TimberLines in years

By: Jarret Reade

5. Man's Not Hot

This year, Big Shaq released a song entitled, "Man's Not Hot," in which he spit about his addiction to wearing his jacket. In the song, he performed scat of the sounds of a gun firing, which was subject to remixes and ultimate catchiness.

4. Roll Safe

Roll Safe is an image of the character Roll Safe from internet web series, "Hood Documentary." Roll is pointing to his cranium with a big smile on his face as he dreams up all kinds of interesting logic. The image is associated with stupid ideas put in such an oddly logical way that they almost sound smart.

3. Distracted Boyfriend

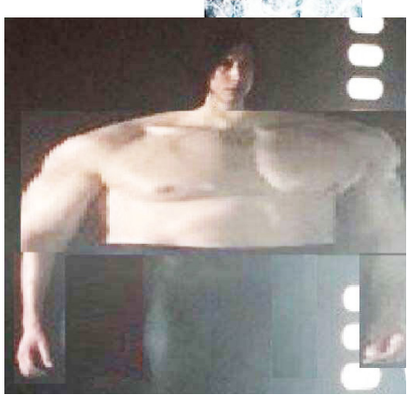
The Distracted Boyfriend is a stock photo of a man with his girlfriend, turning around to check out a girl walking by. The photo's popularity mainly stemmed from how easy it was to make your own variants, and the simplicity of the idea.

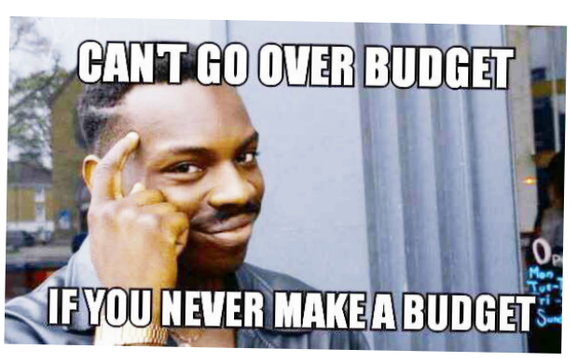
2. Ben Swolo

"Ben Swolo," or simply Kylo's abs, is just a still of the scene in "The Last Jedi" in which Kylo has his shirt off and his abs rocking. However, since his pants are pulled up much farther than they have any business being, little Benny looks a lot more stubby than he actually is. The main appeal of this meme came from distorting it or comparing it to other images.

1. Expanding Brain

The expanding brain comic strips are ideas or actions associated with a picture of a brain, with the brain growing larger or stronger as the ideas progress. This meme wasn't explosive or in your face, but it was present for all of 2017 and never declined in popularity. The modifications were both capable of being ironic or witty, and often were genuinely funny.





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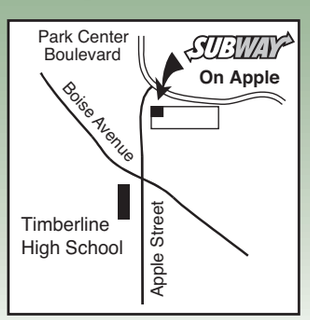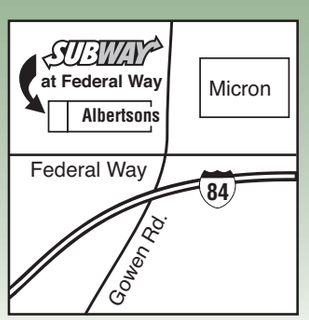
GO WOLVES!