Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk
By N. Levie

The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk is one of the biggest tourist spots in California. It is the number 1 boardwalk amusement park in the United States. The Boardwalk is one of the reasons why so many people come to Santa Cruz on vacation. Its prime location on the Central Coast is the gathering place of about 1 million people per year. The history of the boardwalk, the rides, and the location of the boardwalk are all things that make the Santa Cruz Boardwalk a must when going on vacation.

Before all the rides, the boardwalk just had the casino. The casino had restaurants, a bar, and a huge pool. Sadly, in 1906, a fire erupted in the kitchen of the restaurant, burning down the entire casino. Shortly after, they began to rebuild a bigger, and better casino and boardwalk. This contained a mini golf course, massive rides, arcade, and a bowling alley. Some of the original rides were the Looff merry-go-round, built in 1911, and the Giant Dipper, built in 1924. Both of these are California National Landmarks. Many major motion pictures have also been filmed at the boardwalk such as “Lost Boys”, “The Sting II”, the prequel to “transformers” called “Bumblebee”, and Clint Eastwood directed movie “Sudden Impact.” With all of these amazing productions, arcade, mini golf, and huge rides, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk is definitely a place to visit.

The rides at the Boardwalk are another must see when visiting Santa Cruz. From thrill seeking roller coasters, to beginner rides, to family rides, there's definitely something for everyone. The Giant Dipper, a two-minute roller coaster that leaves butterflies in your stomach is, definitely a visitor’s favorite. The ride climbs up almost 70 feet, and then speeds down to ground level at 55 miles per hour. Even though back in 1924 it costs 15 cents, it has jumped to $7.00 today. The new Typhoon is also something you need to check out. This thriller swings in a series of upside down turns, going back and forth like two hammers swaying past each other. The Cave Train is a slow pace, family ride that enters a mountain with mind tricks, and cave men doing their everyday things. With so many rides to enjoy, the Boardwalk is a must to visit.

The location is another amazing thing that makes the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk unique. Located on a golden strip of the beautiful California Central Coast, the boardwalk is placed on million-dollar land with direct access to the beach, wharf, and the San Lorenzo River Walk. The Boardwalk is positioned about 32 miles away from San Jose, and 74 miles away from San Francisco. This makes it a popular destination for tourists from San Jose and Santa Clara County to escape from the bustling cities of Silicon Valley to the sunny beaches of Santa Cruz. I honestly don’t think the location of the boardwalk could be better.

In Conclusion, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk is definitely a destination to visit.


It's best to visit for many reasons such as the amazing history, the rides and roller coasters, and the prime location plus many, many more. If you ever want a thrilling, fun, and lively day, just stop by the Boardwalk. If you have never been to the Boardwalk, I extremely recommend it. You simply cannot fully take in the Santa Cruz experience without going to the Boardwalk.

**Legalizing Marijuana**

*By G. Diaz*

On January 1st of this year, marijuana became legal for recreational, as well as for medical use. This will make minors think it is “okay” to use it when, in reality, it is not. Making marijuana legal is not good because it may become more available to underage individuals, has inherent health issues, and can cause emotional distress. All of these can lead to an unhealthy life. But, there are some health benefits and smoking marijuana isn't all bad for a small minority of individuals.

While there are some limited health benefits to smoking marijuana for cancer patients, marijuana can cause physical and psychological addiction. Teens can become addicted after a few uses of it. According to Health and Human Services (HHS), 12% of 12 years olds and older, also referred as minors, are smoking marijuana because it’s an “escape.” These teens can have their lives taken away from them at such a young age.

Regular marijuana use leads to a higher risk of anxiety and depression, which is bad for people's health. According to DrugFacts.com, smoking marijuana causes altered senses, altered sense of time, changes in mood, impaired body movement, difficulty with thinking, problem solving, and delusions. It can also cause lung cancer or harm to others through second hand smoking. Harming yourself is very bad, but hurting other innocent people is definitely not right. In addition, marijuana use alters the development of the brain in persons under 25 years of age – during the most important time for students.

In addition, marijuana can control behavior. There is a higher risk of getting a stroke while smoking marijuana. According to CBS News, millions of U.S. medical records suggest that marijuana raises an adult's risk of a stroke or heart failure. Why risk your life for something so small?

On the flip side, marijuana can help treat glaucoma, which is a health issue that can cause you to go blind, help with epileptic seizures. Marijuana can maybe decrease pain or anxiety according to the news source Business Insider. Smoking weed can help with nausea in cancer patients during chemotherapy. The active ingredient, called cannabinoids, can help regulate a number of biological functions in many organisms. Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is a cannabinoid that produces a “high” feeling that many users attribute to marijuana, but it can also be beneficial for many side effects of cancer and its treatments. Cancer Care has stated that marijuana also helps with cancer symptoms, marijuana relieves cancer related pain, nausea, vomiting, neuropathy, anorexia, and cachexia. Neuropathy is damage in nerves, and anorexia is loss of appetite, marijuana will make you hungry, and cachexia is weight loss. However, to be clear, marijuana does not cure cancer. It also has been reported that it helps eliminate nightmares in patients suffering from extreme trauma. While marijuana is not all bad, in the correct doses, it has limited use for specific patients.

January 1st, was when shops selling recreational marijuana opened all around California according to *New York Times*. The shops, many that formerly sold recreational marijuana, are starting to open in the Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay area. There are about one-thousand shops in California right now. While minors aren’t able to take advantage of recreational use shops, they will be able to obtain a more readily available product – much like they are able to obtain alcohol from “alternative” sources. In conclusion, while marijuana has some benefits, the downsides of marijuana – especially to minors – should keep recreational use illegal.

**Ivory trading**

*By M. Picone*

Ivory has been used and hunted for hundreds of years, but these animals such as elk, elephants, and various whales haven’t been close to extinction for the past few centuries. In East Africa, a country called Kenya burned over 110 tons of ivory which cost around 105 million dollars. Kenya’s bold move helped change some people’s thought about poaching these endangered animals. The reason why ivory is so expensive is that it is pretty rare to get legally, and you usually have to kill the animal before collecting the ivory. You might ask what people make with so much ivory. People commonly make piano keys, buttons, and a wide range of ornamental items. Ivory is frequently traded in China according to BBC News. China mostly uses it for ornaments, jewelry,
and traditional Chinese medicine. It’s estimated that 30,000 elephants die every year because of ivory hunting, this is saying a lot because there aren’t many elephants as there were in the previous centuries. Luckily China’s government said they want to ban ivory sales entirely.

China’s citizens have been arguing about the 1989 ban on ivory poaching and that it should remain where it’s at to protect the elephants. Personally, I think the ban should still be used, but just because there is a ban it doesn’t mean people aren’t going to kill the elephants illegally.

A study found by the National Academy of Sciences said that from 2010 through 2012 one hundred thousand elephants were slaughtered. Since then 30 percent of elephants have died mostly from poaching. One hundred years ago, 5 million elephants roamed Africa. Today, 400,000 remain. On average, an elephant is killed every 15 minutes according to the National Education Association. If elephants continue getting slaughtered like this, it is likely they might be at risk to be entirely extinct.

The nations that are guilty of being major trading hubs are Toga, Qatar, and Vietnam, as Conservation Action claims. However, it’s not just in Asia or Africa, but also many European countries like Belgium and Austria are also guilty of contributing to the illegal trade that has seen almost a third of Africa’s population wiped out in just seven years.

**Minimum Wage**

By K. Rasmussen

Should the minimum wage of the United States be increased, decreased, or should it stay the same? As of July 2016, the federal government mandated a nationwide minimum wage of $7.25 per hour. What if we were to increase the minimum wage, how would this make things better or worse? The Economic Policy Institute stated that a minimum wage increase from $7.25 to $10.10 per hour would create about 85,000 new jobs over a three-year time period. Isn’t that a good thing? Yes, it could be, but then again, the Congressional Budget Office projected that a minimum wage increase from $7.25 to $10.10 per hour would result in a loss of 500,000 jobs. Now isn't that a bad thing? Well there are two sides to this topic.

If we did increase the minimum wage there would be many more jobs, but then again there could be some downsides to this such as few employees due to the higher amount of money that must be paid to a single person per hour. So, this would mean employers would decrease hiring.

“Minimum wages increase the proportion of families that are poor or near-poor,” explained George Reisman, a professor at Pepperdine University. The higher the costs of production are, the higher prices are. The higher prices are, the smaller the quantities of goods and services demanded, and the number of workers employed in producing them. When raising the minimum wage, young adults and teenagers may be shut out of the workforce according to the Pew Research Center. 16 to 24 year olds make 50.4% of minimum wage earners. 24% of workers are teenagers. An increase to the federal minimum wage could have a devastating impact on teenagers. Firms will not pay many teenagers with no or low experience more than they are paying now. The teenage employment rate fell heavily after the minimum wage increase of 2009. It fell of about 8% in three months, while the previous drop of 8% took over a year.

A minimum wage increase would help reduce race and gender inequality. Women make up 63% of minimum wage workers and African Americans make up 17.7% of minimum wage earners. 16% of the labor force is Hispanic and they represent 21.5% of minimum wage workers. African Americans represent 12% of workforce in the U.S. Increasing the minimum wage would increase the equality of African Americans with Caucasians and Women with Men. In the U.S the equality of Men and Women has been dramatically changing.

According to a 2013 study by Boston economists, raising the minimum wage would not reduce crime. Unemployment would be reduced, but it would slightly increase in the use of drugs, theft, and violent crime. As the minimum wage increases (if it does), crime will increase by 1.9% among 14 to 30 year olds. Between 1977 and 2012 increases in the minimum wage resulted in no dramatic changes in the rates of violent crimes or property crimes.

Raising the minimum wage would not only open more job opportunities, but it would result in higher wages for up to 35 million workers who make up the minimum wage workforce. Researchers found out that an increase to $10.10 an hour would raise wages for 28 million Americans (about nine million of those due to the ripple effect). The ripple effect raises the income of people who make slightly above the minimum wage.

After seeing both sides to this topic, I agree that increasing the minimum
wage would be a great change to our economy - then again, it would negatively affect many people and their lives. While keeping the minimum wage the same, and not increasing or decreasing it, could also be a good thing. It could also create lots of dramatic changes, including the loss of many workers. Either side of this story is reasonable. In 2000 the minimum was raised from $5.15 to $5.85 in 2007. Even though not all states and countries have the same minimum wage they are all similar.

**Net Neutrality**  
By P. Lintzen

What is net neutrality? Why should I care? Better still, why should I care now? These are some of the questions that might be going through your head. A very simplified definition of net neutrality is the principle that Internet service providers should enable access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites. Right now, President Trump’s FCC (Federal Communications Commission) chairman, Ajit Pai, is working to destroy net neutrality for good. If his law is passed internet service providers (AT&T, Comcast, Xfinity, Verizon, etc.) will be able to give their own entertainment platform maximum speeds while setting Netflix way down to maximize their customers. Smaller companies and startups that can’t afford high-speed bandwidth will fail. Basically, the smaller your company the more money you will lose.

Speak out now and we can still save the internet! Go to links below to vote and learn more:

https://www.savetheinternet.com/net-neutrality-what-you-need-know-now
https://www.savetheinternet.com/sti-home
http://adage.com/article/opinion/end-net-neutrality-good-advertisers/311399/

**Update:**
The FCC has passed Pai’s proposal to end net neutrality. There is still a chance that the FCC repeals this decision but for now net neutrality as we know it is gone. The net neutrality rules that have now been repealed were only put in place in 2015 under the Obama Administration and didn’t even last 3 years. To anyone who regularly uses the internet this is change is disastrous. We can expect to see Internet Service Providers to start offering packages with different speeds of internet. In the end, this will simply force us to pay for what we used to have for free.

**Self-Help**  
By N. Krull

Self-help. It’s much easier said than done. You could need help for anything, no matter how insignificant it may seem now, but it can lead to dangerous situations in the future. Self-help may be about body image, your sexual orientation, being sexually harassed, a death in the family, depression or thoughts of suicide, or many other things. You may not be comfortable seeking professional help, and that’s fine, as long as you know where you can get help if needed. You may only need to talk to your friends or people in chat rooms. But please, if it is threatening to your health and/or safety, seek help. If a friend of yours is in danger, don’t wait for them to help themselves or ask for help. That may sound rude, but if their safety, or life, is in danger, they’ll thank you for it later.

Body image – it’s a very big part of today's society. You’re too fat, you’re too thin, your chest is too small, your butt’s too big, or maybe you don’t have a thigh gap. The thing is, it’s not
only how you eat and exercise. It’s also the way your body’s made, and you may have less control over this than you think. Some people are naturally curvier, skinnier, bigger - everyone’s fat is distributed differently, which gives everyone different bodies. Now, about thigh gaps. Some horrible people say “Oh, guys only like girls with thigh gaps, if you don’t have one, you’re fat.” Some people’s bone structure makes it physically impossible to have a thigh gap - and that’s perfectly fine.

“There’s nothing wrong with having a thigh gap. There is, however, something wrong with over exercising, ruthlessly dieting to the point of being malnourished, and generally making yourself mentally and physically unhealthy in effort to reach a goal that is literally not possible for your body.” (Fitness Blender website on thigh gaps). As long as you’re healthy, your body type is perfect for you, and should be perfect for anyone who truly likes who you are.

Now, your sexual orientation. Whoever you’re sexually attracted to, romantically attracted to, the gender you identify as, whatever it is, you are perfect. If anyone tells you otherwise, politely tell them to run into a wall. Actually don’t, just inform them of the truth or disassociate from them, someone who tells you who you are is wrong is poisonous and not good for others, but they have your best interest at heart. Even if you don’t tell a certain teacher due to them being mean, you have others. If not one of your teachers, tell Mr. Wright. Really, he’s nice! Or Mr. Broadhurst, he’s nice too! And that would be more direct, not having to pass from multiple people to get to him.

If there’s a death in the family, or someone you care about, anyone, just know that everyone deals with death differently. There is no right or wrong way to grieve. Here are some things that can help you, according to the Huffington Post. You need to know that everyone experiences loss at some point in their life. You’re not alone, and you shouldn’t be. You should talk about it, to friends or family, but don’t feel pressured to. Only talk when you’re ready, don’t let others make you talk. Also let yourself be vulnerable. Don’t block everyone out and don’t hold it in. Let your friends to be there for you, let them help. Do something that you love. Don’t be scared to let yourself forget about the sadness for a while. You won’t forget your departed one forever. Having fun won’t spoil their memory. You may hear this a lot, but they wouldn’t want you to grieve them forever. They wouldn’t want to be remembered with sadness. Remember them for who they were when they were alive. If someone committed suicide, know it’s never your fault. No matter what you did or could’ve done, it’s always their choice. Don’t burn your insides up with thinking that it was your fault.

About Depression, you can help lessen it yourself, but seeking help from others, professional or not, is always beneficial, and should be done. According to WebMD, on depression, 10 of the natural depression treatments you can do yourself. 1. Get a routine. Ian A. Cook, a psychiatrist, says if you’re depressed, you need a routine. Depression can take away the structure in your life, making one day just slide into the next. Having a routine can bring that structure back to your life. 2. Set goals. Being depressed can cause you to feel as if you can’t do anything, thus making yourself feel worse. "Start very small," Cook says. "Make your goal something that you can succeed at, like doing the dishes every other day." 3. Exercise. It temporarily boosts endorphins, which help you feel good. Regular exercise seems to encourage the brain to rewire itself in positive ways, Cook says. 4. Eat healthy. No exact diet fixes depression of course, but eating healthy and watching what you eat is always good for depression and could help you avoid over or under eating. Although nothing is definitive, Cook says there’s evidence that foods with omega-3 fatty acids (such as salmon and tuna) and folic acid (such as spinach and avocado) could help ease depression. 5. Get enough sleep. Too little sleep can make depression worse. According to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, in 2016 over 12,860 sex-based harassment charges were filed, and 6,758 sexual harassment charges. In school (middle school), serious cases are less common, due to still being kids. Even if you think “Naw, it’s good, no one was hurt, I’m fine.” If something happened, to you or a friend of yours, you need to tell someone Be it a teacher, supervisor, or principal. If you’re scared of the grownums at NBMS, just, don’t be, please. Some may seem meaner than others, but they have your best interest at heart. Everyone experiences loss at some point in their life. You’re not alone, and you shouldn’t be. You should talk about it, to friends or family, but don’t feel pressured to. Only talk when you’re ready, don’t let others make you talk. Also let yourself be vulnerable. Don’t block everyone out and don’t hold it in. Let your friends to be there for you, let them help. Do something that you love. Don’t be scared to let yourself forget about the sadness for a while. You won’t forget your departed one forever. Having fun won’t spoil their memory. You may hear this a lot, but they wouldn’t want you to grieve them forever. They wouldn’t want to be remembered with sadness. Remember them for who they were when they were alive. If someone committed suicide, know it’s never your fault. No matter what you did or could’ve done, it’s always their choice. Don’t burn your insides up with thinking that it was your fault.
worse. Make changes to your lifestyle, go to and get up from bed at the same time each day. Try not to nap. Take all the distractions out of your room - TVs and computers. 6. Take on responsibilities. When you’re depressed, you might want to pull back from your life and give up on your responsibilities. Staying involved and having daily responsibilities can help you maintain a lifestyle that can help counter depression. They ground you and give you a sense of accomplishment. If you’re not up to full-time school or work - that’s fine. Think about part-time. If that seems like too much, consider volunteer work. 7. Challenge negative thoughts. Battling depression is mostly mental, and a way to help it is changing the way you think - from negative to positive. Use logic as a natural treatment. You might feel like no one likes you, but is there any real evidence for that? You might feel like the most worthless person on the planet, but is that really likely? It takes practice, but in time you can beat back those negative thoughts before they take control. 8. Check with your doctor before taking supplements. "There's promising evidence for certain supplements for depression," Cook says. Those include fish oil, folic acid, and SAMe. But more research needs to be done before we'll know for sure. Always check with your doctor before starting any supplement, especially if you’re already taking medications. 9. Do something new. When you’re depressed, you’re in a rut. Push yourself to do something different. Go volunteer at an animal shelter. Go to a park and read. Take a language class. "When we challenge ourselves to do something different, there are chemical changes in the brain," Cook says. "Trying something new alters the levels of dopamine (a chemical in the brain), which is associated with pleasure, enjoyment, and learning." 10. Have fun! If you’re depressed, make time for things you enjoy. What if nothing seems fun anymore? "That's just a symptom of depression," Cook says. Just keep trying! As strange as it might sound, you have to work at having fun. Plan things you used to enjoy, even if they feel like a chore. When you're depressed, you can lose the knack for enjoying life, Cook says. You have to relearn how to do it. In time, fun things really will feel fun again. All of these are on WebMD (10 Natural Depression Treatments.)

Not-So-Private Private Conversations
By S. Salsberry

Technology is getting better and better. Phone companies keep coming up with new phones with cool new features. Big companies have created, what are called, robotic assistants? For example, Google Home and Amazon Echo. They are so useful! Just saying, “Hey Google, start timer” will start a timer! But the microphone is always on. That means that someone somewhere is probably listening to you talk. Not that there is someone literally listening to you 24/7, but recording you. Tech companies only record bits of your conversations, but that’s still a big deal. Companies say that they only send recordings to the servers when you use the “wake word” (Ex: Hey Google, Alexa, etc.). The thing is, they don’t tell us what they are doing with the data they collect - really makes you want to throw out that old Echo you got for your birthday, doesn’t it? Same goes for smart phones with assistants (Apple iPhone, Samsung Galaxy Note 8, etc.). Also, smart speakers can be hacked. Hackers could be recording and listening to your conversations and not just when you activate the speaker, but ALL THE TIME. Pretty scary. Overall, I do not recommend getting a smart speaker.

Source: “Don’t Buy Anyone An Echo” by Adam Clark Estes. Gizmodo.com

How Is Art Beneficial?
By N. Krull

Now, there are many myths about art. To name a few, some people think you have to create paintings or sculptures to be a real artist. This is so untrue, art can be anything – digital, traditional, music, dance – all of the things are forms of visual art. Visual art internet definition: the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power. But, in this sense, I’m mostly talking about the drawing side of art. Another myth is that one is born with talent or isn’t. Art is like anything – the more you do it, the better you are. The thing is, people are different. Some people are more inclined to do art, some sports, some academics – it’s just your personality. So because of this, people think if you’re bad at art, you will never improve, and therefore they don’t try to. If you’re just starting out, yeah, your art won’t be that good. Every artist has been dejected about their original pieces. You just have to continue trying to improve and better

While some people start art for the fun of it, making art can relieve stress. Art gives the mind a break; you can relax into it, often going into what is called “the zone”. Basically, pushing
away your worries, forget about your stress. Creating art increases the neurotransmitter dopamine (the feel-good stuff, sometimes known as the “motivation molecule”). Dopamine boosts your drive, focus, and concentration. Knitting, quilting, sewing, photography, woodworking, gardening, painting, and sculpting all increase dopamine, ward off depression and protects your brain from aging.

Art can increase empathy, tolerance, and the feeling of love. Students who visited an art museum showed increased critical thinking, expressed greater empathy towards people who lived in the past, and showed greater tolerance towards people different than themselves (Be Brain Fit - The mental health benefits of art are for everyone). Also, studies have shown kids with musical training do better in math, language, and reading (Be Brain Fit - The mental health benefits of art are for everyone). Learning music enhances brain plasticity - or enhances the ability to grow connections and increases blood flow to the brain.

Art even improves life quality for dementia patients. Dementia is not a specific disease, but instead a broader term for symptoms associated with a decline in memory or other thinking skills severe enough to reduce a person's ability to perform everyday activities. Alzheimer's disease accounts for 60 to 80 percent of cases. Vascular dementia, which occurs after a stroke, is the second most common dementia type. But there are many other conditions that can cause symptoms of dementia, including some that are reversible, such as thyroid problems and vitamin deficiencies. Dementia patients who create art clearly derive pleasure from it, and it improves their social behavior, self-esteem, and reduces their psychiatric symptoms (Be Brain Fit - The mental health benefits of art are for everyone). Drawing or painting increases the patient's connectivity between their right and left-brain (Be Brain Fit - The mental health benefits of art are for everyone).

Art can also help with chronic health conditions. Art helps patients forget about their illness for a while, letting them focus on positive things. It also reduces stress by lowering levels of the hormone cortisol (Be Brain Fit - The mental health benefits of art are for everyone). Also, with art therapy you really don’t need to seek help unless you...

- Have a high-stress occupation
- A mental health disorder
- A learning disability
- A chronic illness
- A brain injury
- (recommended) students who have personal problems in school

Art therapy can also help with anxiety, depression, addictions, PTSD, chronic pain, high blood pressure, and as stated earlier, dementia.

Art can be very beneficial. Whether you need it for a medical reason or not, art can be a safe space for you. You don’t need to be great, you don’t need to draw, you just need the motivation to pursue an art form and the perseverance to continue it.

Music, dance, painting, and sewing are all forms of art. Don’t let anyone say something you do isn’t real art; they’re just being narrow-minded and unhealthy.

Christmas vs. Dia De Los 3 Reyes
By D. Delgado

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, commonly gifts are given and received on this day. The night between Dec. 25 and 24 was the night Jesus was born. In Mexico it is the same celebration but at 12 between Dec. 24 and 25 the baby Jesus is put to sleep. Note that in Parts of Mexico gifts are not given on the 25 of December but rather, the 6th of January is special because it is the day that the 3 Wise Men visited New born Jesus, that day celebrators wake Jesus up. Typically, this day there is a big piece of bread, with crystallized candy strip named Rosca.

In these Rosca there is a figurine which is baby Jesus. Whoever randomly gets the baby Jesus figurine in their slice typically has to pay for the get together or throw a get together on Feb 2 or Candlemas day. Leading up to Christmas Eve there are Posadas in which people sing to God and to his Holy birth there are 9 posadas for the nine months Jesus was in Mary’s womb. in December there are also Barrios in which a neighborhood gets chosen to make festival on their street these can include small rides for the children and games the look is completed with...
papel picado. Typical foods at this time are Pozole, Tamales, and Atole. On Jan 5 kids put out their shoes so the 3 Wise men know how many gifts to give to children. In the city I visit, there is a parade in the 3 Wise Men’s honor an hour and a half long full of different character that kids love, and scenes of the Bible, some of these scenes are the Nativity scene, Noah’s Ark, and many more. as the parade is concluding boys and girls get their lists of wanted items and tie them to the string of balloons, when told to, everyone releases their balloons into the air. The next day(Jan.6) their wishes have been granted. Also on Jan.6 people also wake up baby Jesus since on Dec.24 they had put him to sleep.

**Pentagon Puts Off Ban on Cluster Bombs**

By R. Parham

You may or may not know that the Pentagon has put off the ban on cluster bombs. A cluster bomb is a case shaped bomb that opens in mid air allowing many smaller bombs to disperse in the air. cluster bombs were first used during the Vietnam war. According to Wikipedia, cluster bombs are used for bombing large areas. For example, if soldiers can't exactly pinpoint the enemy, cluster bombs can spread over large areas. Cluster bombs are primarily launched from jets or aircraft and also can can be shot from mobile artillery or mortars. Cluster bombs should be banned because of their failure rate, which is estimated to be up to 20% according to the Washington Post.

The reason it is important to stop these from being used is because unexploded bombs are buried in the ground and can explode when disrupted – often by children according to the webpage mineaction.org

Debatepedia.idebate explores both sides of this topic, such as, the fact that cluster bombs need to exist due to their importance to the U.S. military. It also explores the side of the argument that talks about how they should be banned. The problem is that cluster bombs shouldn’t be used until they find a way to stop some of the munitions from accidentally detonating and harming civilians. Because cluster bombs are important to the military, they should keep them, but not until the fix the failure rate and can insure innocent civilians are not harmed. Currently the pentagon is working on fixing that. They said that there going to have it fix somewhere in 2018

**Trending Entertainment on YouTube**

By M. Shanks

YouTube was released on February 14, 2005, and the first video was uploaded April 23, 2005. It was made for people to record short videos and upload them to a website to connect with other people. Nowadays, YouTube has created unique jobs, from vlogging, sketch comedy, gaming, tutorials, and music. The most subscribed YouTuber is Felix Kjellberg, better known by his screen name, Pewdiepie. Pewdiepie first became popular when he began making gaming videos, or “let's plays.” He now makes gaming videos, recordings of his reactions to popular videos, and challenges that are trending on the internet. He is known for his over the top reactions and talking before thinking as well as being the most subscribed YouTuber with over 58 million subscribers. About a year ago, he paid two men on a website called Fiverr to hold up a sign that read ‘Death to Jews’ which he tried to make sound like a joke, as well as paying a man dressed as Jesus to say, ‘Hitler did nothing wrong.’

The internet exploded at this and Felix ended up with his YouTube Red show ‘Scare Pewdiepie’ canceled and his ties with Disney being cut. He was also not included in 2017’s YouTube Rewind, which is a compilation of the years popular trends and popular creators. Felix later wrote on his Tumblr, “I am in no way supporting any kind of hateful attitudes, I think of the content that I create as entertainment, and not a place for any serious political commentary. I know my audience understand that and that is why they come to my channel. Though this was not my intention, I understand that these jokes were ultimately offensive.” Imlying that if he brings up anything of that subject, it should be taken as a joke. In the end, Felix apologized and knew he had made a huge mistake.

Next, we have Jake Paul, who started on Vine around the same time as his older brother Logan Paul and became popular before Vine shut down. He moved over to YouTube along with many other popular Viners and started making videos. Most of his videos are vlogs with clickbait thumbnails, as well as raps making fun of his brother and promoting himself. However, he is not the most caring person in the world. He has his address publicly displayed, so his street is constantly flooded with his fans, mostly teenage girls. Not only that, every once in a while, his videos include pranks that give him views and money, but disturb his neighbors. "We used to be a really nice, quiet street and now we're just this, like, war zone," neighbor Maytal Dahan told KTLA. "We're families here, and
we're more than happy to have them live here if they're respectful of their neighbors, but they're not." Jake turned his neighborhood into a circus, and his neighbors didn’t appreciate it. In defence, Jake said, “Yeah, it is. I mean, but people like going to circuses, right?” When people started to care about his actions, he tweeted saying that there are “bigger fish to fry, innocent people are getting shot every day.” He honestly doesn’t care how much drama and chaos he causes, as long as he gets money and fame.

Lastly, we have Daniel Howell, formerly known as danisnotonfire, who uses YouTube to tell stories about his life, with series like ‘Reasons why Dan’s a Fail,” and the “Internet Support Group”. He is partnered with Phil Lester or AmazingPhil, and together they have published two books, performed a stage show and made a movie together, and will soon go on tour again. One of his more recent videos was a huge step for him and got tons of support. He made a video talking about his experiences with depression, and how he deals with it. This video was very different from his other videos because of the serious mood.

Hopefully, this will inform you about some popular people on YouTube, as well as teach you not to insult other people, even if it is supposed to be a joke. There is a fine line between what is funny and harmless and what is offensive and aggravating. I’m not going to sugarcoat it, it is absolutely unacceptable to purposefully attack other people, just because they follow another religion or are different than you. You should really think about everything you put on the internet, because once it’s out there, it will never disappear. You should also be aware of your actions and how they affect other people, it could, very likely, come back and hit you later in your life.

- Gaming and Phone – Reviews

Apple vs. Samsung Phones
By N. Levie

There are many things that differentiate Apple phones from Samsung phones. There are many pros and cons to both. Apple was the first to have the idea of a touch screen phone, but Samsung has made their phones sleeker and more up to date. Some say Apple is so much easier to understand. Others say that the camera on a Samsung phone is better than a camera on an Apple phone. All feelings aside, here are some things that you might want to consider before buying a new phone: the simplicity, camera, and cost of an Apple or Samsung phone.

The simplicity is really based upon your experience with the technology that is used in the phone. But, if you are a newcomer to both, Apple is the best choice. On a Samsung phone it could be hard to learn all the buttons or apps. On the other hand, Apple phones are easier to navigate, with not as many random icons that guide the user to another set of apps. According to Debate.org the majority of people recommend Apple because of the simplicity over Samsung. In my opinion, as well as the popular opinion, Apple is the better choice.

The camera on both the Samsung and Apple are not great. If you want to take a quality picture you might just want to get a professional camera. However, having experience with both, Samsung has a better camera than the iPhone. The camera on an Apple phone is shakier and the lens is unable to zoom in or enlarge photos a
great degree and, when you try to zoom it in to make it correct, it just gets pixely or pastel-like. On the other hand, the newer Samsung lenses are not as poor as the Apple phones and take better quality photos. According to cnet.com, the Samsung camera is all around a better camera with a better zoom and better-quality photos. Both the Apple phone and Samsung phones are awesome, but when it comes to camera quality, Samsung is the one you might want to choose.

Last, but not least, cost is probably the biggest thing to consider when it comes to buying a new phone. The latest version of the Apple and Samsung phones are very expensive and, in my opinion, cost far too much. The newest iPhone X is $999.00 and the Samsung Galaxy Note 8 is $960.00, making Samsung a bit cheaper - but, not by much. In the past, Apple has been more expensive with the iPhone 7 being $649.00 and the Samsung Galaxy S6 being $584.99. The reason for the new iPhone being about $1000 might be because iPhone X has some very noteworthy advancements. Some of the newest iPhone upgrades are facial recognition and animated emojis. You may get a gif and animated emoji mixed up. An animated emoji is where the emoji can actually talk and say whatever you want it to say. Whereas a gif is a short, speed up video on replay, which both Apple and Samsung phones have. It is not up to me on what you should buy, but the iPhone X in my opinion is well worth the money.

In conclusion, I think both of these phones are great. They both have some pros and cons, making the decision a very hard one. The simplicity, camera, and cost make them different in many ways. If I had to choose, I would pick an iPhone over a Samsung phone. This is because I use an iPhone and know how it works. Others might disagree, but I hope this helps you make your decision on what phone to get next.

**Xbox 1 or PS4?**

*By A. Drumm*

Even though not the newest consoles they are still in high demand. These consoles are the Xbox 1 and Ps4. Microsoft released the first Xbox 1 on November 22, 2013, and the final Xbox 1 was sold in November 2014. As for the PS4, the first release was on November 15, 2013, in, America and Canada but further released in Europe and Asia at the near end of 2013. There are many people on either side of the spectrum going from hard Xbox fans to hard PS4 fans, to even people who don’t care. I asked some close friends to get results, and I had a lot of disagreements. James says, “PS4 is better because it runs smoothly and gives you no interruptions, it works well, and the controls are easy to be used. Overall, I have just always been more of a PlayStation fan.”

The average cost of an Xbox one is $278.60, and as for the PS4, $241.25, now a $37.35 is not a lot, so really, they are the same range of price, even though, depending on how much money you have, the PlayStation would be easier to buy. There are many PS4 games and many Xbox 1 games, but sometimes not the same games can be played on different consoles. Some of the most prominent or most selling games for PS4 are GTA5, Overwatch, Battlefield 1, Injustice 2, Destiny, Destiny 2, Uncharted 4, Call of Duty WWII, Fifa 17, etc. As for the Xbox 1: Battlefield 1, Star Wars Battlefront, Injustice 2, Pixel Gun 3D, Roblox, Minecraft, etc. as you can see, there are much of the same games but also many different ones for each console. The Xbox 1 has overall 4.5/5 stars on the ratings, and as for Ps4, also 4.5/5 stars. So really, they are ‘tied’ and whatever you want to get is your choice even though Microsoft is coming out with the new Xbox 1S, so you might just wanna get that instead.

**Call of Duty WWII Review**

*By A. Koontz*

Call of Duty WWII is a popular first-person shooter released for Xbox One, PlayStation 4, and PC on November 3, 2017. It is the 14th entry in the main Call of Duty franchise.

**Gameplay**

The Call of Duty (CoD) WWII gameplay, unlike most other games in the series, offers no automatic health generation. Instead, the player must scour the maps for health packs. Health packs restore half your health each time they are used. Another effect that has changed is how players can no longer slide, so in its place they can jump to the ground to “hit the deck.” Also, the player has the ability to request services from other squad mates like mortar strikes from Aiello or highlighting enemies from Pierson. The controls are the same as previous CoD games excluding the new effects previously mentioned. There are 25 primary weapons, the rifles are: The M1 Garand, M1941, BAR, STG 44, M1A1 Carbine, FG 42, and the SVT-40. The submachine guns are: the M1928, Grease Gun, PPSH-41, MP-40, Type 100, and the Waffe 28. The light machine guns are: The Lewis, MG15, Bren, and the MG-42. The sniper rifles are: The M1903, Kar98k, Karabin, and the Lee
Enfield. Finally, the shotguns are: the Combat Shotgun, M30 Luftwaffe Drilling, Sawed-Off Shotgun, and the Toggle Action. There are also various secondary weapons, they are: the 1911, P-08, Machine Pistol, Bazooka, Panzerschreck, and the US Shovel.

**Campaign**

In the CoD WWII Campaign, you play as Ronald “Red” Daniels, an American private first class from Longview, Texas. There are 12 epic missions in the game that are all set in the European theatre of World War 2, more specifically Northern France and West central Germany. That can be played in 4 difficulties; they are recruit, regular, hardened, and the hardest to play in is veteran. You play with 5 people in your platoon: private first-class Robert Zussman, private Drew Stiles, technician fifth grade Frank Aiello, an ill-tempered William Pierson, and your platoon leader Joseph Turner.

**Online Multiplayer**

The CoD WWII multiplayer is the first Call of Duty game to offer 5 divisions with individual advantages which include: The Infantry, The Airborne, The Armored, Mountain, and Expeditionary. Each of these classes offer exclusive benefits: The Infantry have bayonets attached to their guns, The Airborne can move quietly and attach suppressors to their SMGs, The Armored can set up bipods on MGs, The Mountain Sniper class has more accurate rifle shots, and finally The Expeditionary class allows players to fire incendiary shotgun shells. In addition, instead of a final killcam, there is a “Bronze star” where the kill deemed most impressive. There is also a new mode called “War.” In this mode, the player is attacking an enemy stronghold. At halftime, after one side has captured the base or failed to take it over, the sides switch and the Axis will become Allies and the Allies will become the Axis. The zombies mode features 2 different maps, each are more difficult than some other game’s maps.

**Controversy**

As with many games, CoD WWII has had its share of controversy, for example its loot crate system is biased towards the rich, it is expensive to buy these, which contain clothes, emblems, or weapon skins that boost your XP. Also, there is a controversy with how a map called “Gustav Cannon” is incredibly unbalanced and gives anyone at the south end of the map an unfair advantage; it has been banned from contests everywhere.

I would recommend this to anyone who likes non-futuristic first-person shooters and would like to return to the style of the first CoD games. For anyone who likes WWII or finds it interesting, this is a great game.

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**PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds**

*By P. Lintzen*

PlayerUnknown’s Battlegrounds, also known as PUBG, is a multiplayer online battle royale game. Battle Royale is a quite new concept and it refers to a battle where many players are fighting at once until only one remains. Published by PUBG Corporation, a subsidiary of Korean publisher Bluehole, over 28 million copies have been sold in only 9 months. Available on Steam - an online game platform - and Xbox 1, PUBG has grown to the most popular game on Steam, with millions of players playing daily.

When you first land you have no weapons and your primary objective is to find weapons, ammo, attachments, health items, armor, and backpacks. You have 2 slots for any guns, 1 slot for a melee weapon, and 1 slot for a pistol. There are also grenades, which you have one slot for, but you can keep spares in your backpack and quickly refill. In addition to this, you have inventory space for everything else you need, and you can increase it by finding vests and backpacks. The number of...
weapon slots however, will stay the same. After you have looted the items you want you must escape from a large blue circle/forcefield by getting inside a much smaller white circle. This forces all players to slowly come together and fight to the death. The last man or team standing wins. There are many strategies to win or have fun in this game and it is up to you to find one that suits your play style.

Everything that has been explained so far is describing the main game or “Public Match.” Interestingly, along with this main part of the game there is a second part called “Custom Match” where streamers and other players with the needed permissions have the ability to create a match where they can choose the rarity of items, vehicles and more. You can join these servers if you know the password or they are open to everyone. These “Custom Matches” are mainly the same as the “Public Matches” but another huge option the creator of one of these mini-servers has is to create a match on “Zombie Mode”. Basically, the creator can choose a team of up to 10 players to be humans and make the rest of the other players zombies whose only goal is to kill the humans. Here’s the catch: zombies can’t hold any items or drive vehicles… humans can. This makes for a funny game of up to 99 unarmed players trying to punch a group of up to 10 armed players to death while the armed players try to survive in any way they can.

The maps have many different locations such as towns, cities, storage facilities, military bases, woodland areas, deserts and features of any battlefield game. There are also many different types of vehicles you can use to travel around the map. The game has recently reached its final release point and is officially out of Early Access. There are currently two maps, and another is soon to come. The first map is named Erangel and is situated in a forest landscape in Russia. The second map is named Miramar and it is a sand or desert map and is situated in Central America. Miramar came out along with the final release of the game on December 21st, 2017 when the game came out of early access after 9 months. PlayerUnknown’s Battlegrounds first became available in late March of 2017 and has since experienced many improvements. Not much is known about the third map, which is currently under development, but it is said to be a snow or winter themed map located on an Adriatic island.

This game is extremely fun, and I recommend it to anyone and everyone who owns a computer. The game does require a powerful system to run it so I recommend going to: https://www.systemrequirementslab.com/cyri or testing your computer in another way to make sure your PC can run the game as it is $30 and you don’t want to waste that amount of money on a game you can’t run. If your PC can run it, I would say that PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds is worth every last penny of that $29.99. There is really not much to this game, and yet, it is the most popular game on Steam. Finally, let’s discuss the title. While the name of this amazing game might seem random or to have no purpose, it does in fact have a meaning behind it. “PlayerUnknown” is Brendan Greene, who is one of the main creators of the whole battle royale genre and worked with Bluehole to develop this amazing game.
have to be really good to be accepted into one of these teams.

There are a variety of weapons to choose from when playing. When you spawn, you can either buy weapons with the B button on your keyboard, or you could hit F3 to give you a random weapon until you disable it again. Here are weapons I recommend for starters:

• P90
• Dualies (Dual Berettas)
• M4A1-S
• SCAR-20 and GS3G1
• Any grenades, flash grenades work well too

These weapons are good, and fun to use. Just remember that accuracy is critical when playing, which brings us to our next part; aiming. While aiming, you may wonder why you always die so much. You need to keep moving so you don’t get hit, but when you fire back, you take hits. You need to learn how to multitask both of these at the same time. Here’s another tip:

**While shooting, keep alternating A and D to strafe back and forth, occasionally mixing up the pattern so the enemy can’t figure it out. When you need to reload, switch to your secondary or strafe into cover. If the cover is short, you can crouch behind it to reduce the chance of being killed.**

Now that you know some basic moves, it is always good to mix up your strategies. Strafing won’t always work, and it is pretty predictable. Here are some moves that are sure to get you good kills and a good K/D ratio.

**THE BHOP**

This move is probably the most complicated moves in the list.

**FUCHSIA’S CROUCH-JUMP**

To perform this move, you need to master crouch-jumping (see below), and you need to have remarkably good reflexes. On maps like Dust, there might be crates next to a doorway. This move is great for ambushing unaware enemies. First, predict your throw and throw a flashbang over the crate. Then, run up to the crate, and crouch-jump over it. Have your weapon ready, and open fire. This move may be patched, so use it to your advantage while you still can.

**SMOKE-CLOAK**

This works best for diffusing or planting the bomb in the Demolition game mode. First throw a smoke grenade that cover the site of the planted bomb, or bomb that need to be planted. Do your business, and win. That’s all.

After knowing all these moves, practicing them is important. You can play offline mode with bots to help you do so. This will not affect your account in any way, other than sharpening your skills.

The most sought out thing in this game is rare gun skins. The current rarest in the game is an M4A4 skin, called “Howl”. It is impossible to obtain it in a case, and the most expensively priced version of it is 1,850 real life US dollars. You can also obtain gloves for your character to wear on either team. They are all equally as rare and are hard to get. Knives other than the default are also possible, 10 kinds in total. These are their names:

• Bayonet
• M9 Bayonet
• Karambit
• Flip Knife
• Falchion Knife
• Shadow Daggers
• Gut Knife
• Huntsman Knife
• Bowie Knife
• Butterfly Knife

None of them are better or worse, but they each have their own “inspect” animation. You can bind a key that isn’t used to inspect. Here is a knife that I have now, the Flip Knife “Black Pearl,” one of the many stages of the Doppler skin:

There are many ways to obtain these skins. The most common (and difficult) way is the case. There are different kinds of cases that are available from the Steam market at certain times of the year. When you open them, a roulette spins, and the skin or item the dial lands on is what you get. This has become an outrage, because knives are exceedingly hard to obtain. If you do get one, you’re envied greatly for the rare occurrence. These are a pair of gloves I have:

Besides skins and knives, you can get two additional items: stickers and sprays. Stickers are items you get from opening things called Sticker Capsules, which contain stickers that you can stick on parts of your gun. Sprays are obtained in similar ways. You can also earn these in battle. You bind a key on your keyboard, go to...
your nearest wall, ceiling, or floor, and press that key to insert your spray into the map.

Also, besides your overpowered guns, your knife may just be your best friend. On a player with no armor, knives kill in two hits- if you can get close enough. Knives can be countered by any weapon, except the Glock 18 (it does 1 damage of health per hit, unless you get a headshot!) This can prove to be good in certain situations, you can run faster while holding it, and you can downright humiliate players with it. Just one stab from behind on an unsuspecting AWPer and you get yourself a fun chat argument.

Another thing is to not get in arguments online. Stay out of currently ongoing fights, and you should have an enjoyable game. Being mad ruins the fun, especially when you take it out on your teammates. Take it out on the game by playing and making mincemeat out of those who talk trash about you on the opposite team. Love your enemy, especially when they are nice. When they say “gg”, say it back. Never give out your password, and never gamble on CS:GO gambling sites. It is considered illegal in the gaming community, and you will be shunned upon for doing so. Just have fun and make do with what you have. This game doesn’t require the use of any money, other than buying the game itself, of course.

That’s pretty much all there is to this game. You can figure out tricks, or strategies, and remember to have fun. Tell me about skins you’ve gotten, record replays of tricks and more. I will put them on my YouTube channel. Find me on Steam: Tundra | CSOFFER.ME YouTube: Beans

- Movie Review -

Murder on the Orient Express
By A. Drumm

2017 Movie
Murder on the Orient Express is one of the most famous books, written by Agatha Christie; it has gone through the ages with her original book on the first day of the first month in 1934. So far, it has had four movies, with the 2017 film as the franchise’s 5th movie. The director of the 2017 movie, Kenneth Branagh, was the one to snatch the movie idea after 20th Century Fox™ pitched the plan in 2013. Kenneth Branagh decided to be in the film in some way, so he played the main character – Hercule Poirot.

Both the new and the original Murder on the Orient Express took place in the ’30s, more distinctly, 1934. Michelle Pfeiffer, who played Mrs. Hubbard in the newest Murder on the Orient Express, claims that it was a lot harder than other movies that she’s been in due to the era and the language.

Penélope Cruz, who plays Pilar Estravados in the movie, portrayed a completely made up character for the new film. The role is based on a different person from a different Agatha Christie book and, in the original text, the figure that she is supposed to be is really from Swedish heritage, but in the movie, she is French instead.

One of the actors in the movie actually rode on the Orient Express - yes, it is a real train.

Kenneth Branagh actually built a real train for the movie to shoot on instead of making it all C.G.I. C.G.I stands for computer-generated imagery, this would be like filming an entire movie on your laptop in a small room with a green screen and then adding a background. Most directors decide not to do it this way because sometimes you can tell if things are fake and, if there is too much, you wouldn’t want an incredibly fascinating scene to look computer generated. For most of the movie, you see the train go through Yugoslavia - although it’s really not Yugoslavia.

Original Book
The Armstrong case, a fictional court case from both the book and the movie, was actually based on a true kidnapping in 1932 known as the Lindbergh kidnapping. A child (little boy) was taken at night and was not found for a very long time. The police found enough evidence to discover that the child was murdered, just like in the book. The only noticeable differences are the names of the people and how they took place in different years and continents; it happened in New Jersey one year before it was portrayed in the book. The Lindbergh case was so shocking that it has been known throughout history. Much like the Titanic, it was known all around the world for quite a while, mainly in the United States. Charles Lindbergh, the child’s father, was a famous aviator. His child was abducted on May 12, 1932.

The author of the book, Agatha Christie, actually rode on the train herself about five years before the book. In 1929 there really was a blizzard which really stopped the train. She got the idea for the book while waiting on the train to be freed from the snow. She even wrote a letter to her husband that the people that were on the train with her gave...
her inspiration for the characters in the book; this means that real people fill the roles of the characters.

**Overall**
Overall, the movie and the book are similar, except for a couple of flaws in the characters -if we can even call them flaws - they are more like added figures. The movie is great, you really get a feel for the characters. You get a bit jumpy for the catching scenes such as the actual murder scene and the chase scene which takes place below the tracks of the train bridge. It really grabs you and makes you feel as if you were in the movie, but the characters don’t notice you. Kenneth Branagh did a great job. It takes place after the train stops because of an avalanche, there is no talk until morning when the gangster is found lying dead with 11 knife wounds in his stomach, the murderer (Or, murderers) are on the train with them. I love how instead of only one person being the murderer, it’s every single person on the train except the detective and conductor, the movie slowly winds you up into a ball of thread and then the director pulls the string and leaves you without a breath. You should get your tickets before they run out, the train’s leaving the station soon, so you better hurry up.

**The Clauses:**
**By D. Delgado**