

The Observer

Weekly

Cloverleaf Inside and Out

February 15, 2012

Wild Winter Weather Continues in NE Ohio

By Taylor Detwiler

The winter weather for the season of 2011-2012 just does not want to act like it is really winter. This winter has been a very unusual season.

One day it will finally snow, but then the next day all the snow has already melted away. This always happens on the weekends too.

This past weekend was probably the longest period of snow that we have had this year. It may have started on Friday and ended on Sunday, but at least there is still some snow on the ground to make it look like winter.

Some students are getting very upset by the fact that there is a very slim chance of getting a snow day or even a delay. That is what most of the students look forward to in the winter season.

"I would really like at least a delay this year to be able to sleep in," said senior Claire Turner. "But if we do not get one, then that is okay too."

Other students are glad there has not been much snow because they would rather have the nice, warm weather to make it more like the spring.

Whether there will be any big unexpected snowstorms this year, we will eventually find out. The weather has been so weird this whole year that no one will ever know what to expect with it anymore.

Last spring was probably the coldest spring we have had in a



The weather has been far from the norm in Ohio this winter and the temps have varied.

Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

while. It also rained just about every day.

Also, this winter we have had the most rain for a winter season in a long time. Most people would rather have snow for the winter season than rain.

One good thing about this winter is you have not had to worry about driving too much. It may still be a little icy, but the roads have been clear of snow for the most part.

Every time it starts to snow on a Friday, just about every student hopes it will last through the weekend and make it to Monday to at least give them a delay so they could sleep in. But this is never the case.

For some reason, the snow has

been able to avoid the weekdays and diminishes the chances of getting a snow day.

Some people think that maybe it is because we had so much snow last year, when Cloverleaf had six snow days and had to make up a day at the end of the year.

Snow days make it hard on the second tri teachers because they have to plan every day like there is going to be a snow day. They know they may have to push all their lesson plans back.

Most teachers are happy for the lack of snow days because they can stay on track, but some still want the snow days because they could take the day off too.

Super Bowl Measles Outbreak

By Haley Daugherty

Well, the biggest game of the entire NFL season took place last week, but people are still talking about the Super Bowl. Why is this so?

There has been talk of a potential measles outbreak in Central Indiana where the football festivities were held.

Currently, the Indiana State Department of Health is investigating two confirmed cases and two probable cases of measles.

One of the infected people is believed to have started the chain of sickness and is reported to have been in the Super Bowl Village.

Many people are concerned about the possible outbreak of the sickness.

"If the sick person was at the Super Bowl, it'd be pretty hard to contain an outbreak," says senior Russell Flanagan.

Others are not making a big deal about it.

"I think everybody is freaking out over nothing," says senior Cameron Copley.

Even though health officials have

repeatedly assured people that most people are protected either through natural immunity or vaccination, measles is no illness to be taken lightly.

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus. People who get measles usually experience a fever, cough, runny nose, a rash all over the body, and sometimes even severe pneumonia. Even a simple sneeze can spread measles like wildfire.

When initially reported, this potential outbreak was not something of high concern because it is an illness that is not talked about much anymore.

However, even before this Super Bowl scare, health officials at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention released an official health advisory in June of 2011 about an increase in the number of cases of measles in the U.S.

The increased appearance of measles at this time was said to be due to international travel.

With the increasing number of

these cases in the U.S., it is not surprising that an infected person would turn up at the Super Bowl.

There is some concern more cases could be reported in the next few days because it takes up to a week for symptoms to appear.

Officials want people to be aware that the measles may start as an upper respiratory infection, but then the real illness kicks in and many experience body temperatures as high as 105 degrees Fahrenheit.

If more and more cases begin appearing in people who have attended this year's Super Bowl festivities, there could be a mass outbreak of measles declared.

Health officials are advising people in Indiana, and in the states surrounding Indiana, that now is a good time to make sure family members are updated on vaccinations for measles even if no one was in Super Bowl Village last week.

Measles are making a comeback in the U.S. so it is always better to be safe than sorry.

Chronicle Worth the Price of Admission

By Dominic Payerchin

Chronicle was recently released in theatres and it is a must see event. If you are interested in watching a great movie, this is said to be a good one. It came out on Feb. 3, and is rated PG13.

The main story behind this movie is that three high school students make an incredible discovery leading to them developing uncanny powers beyond their understanding.

As they learn to control their abilities and use them to their advantage, their lives begin to spin out of con-

trol, and the darker side starts to take over.

Many Cloverleaf students are waiting patiently for there to go and see this thriller with their friends.

"I can't wait to go see this movie, because it looks so good," says junior Jake Cavalier.

Going with your friends seems like a fun activity to do for this weekend.

"I plan on going to see *Chronicle*; I am very excited about the movie," says sophomore Collin Zuk.

This flick is a greatly anticipated movie, and is supposed to be really

good and interesting as a fantasy teen drama.

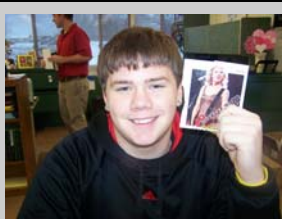
"*Chronicle* looks like a really sweet movie to go and watch with my friends this weekend," says junior Noah Berg.

Chronicle combines action, fantasy, and teen drama all in one neat package. It has all of the basic genres all wrapped up into one single movie. This weekend is a good time to go catch the movie while you can.

Teens can relate and the hit is sure to keep you entertained and focused throughout.

Quiz & Quotes

Who is one of your favorite artists?



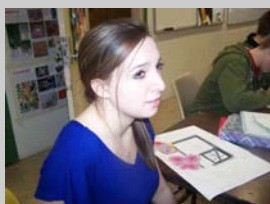
Austin Vaughn (12):
“Without a doubt Taylor Swift; she is my woman.”



Teryn LeFevre (11):
“Cierra Comett.”



Josh Woodell (10):
“Ms. Torma...She just doesn't know it yet.”



Kate Ols (12):
“Mac Miller...Because he is Mac Miller, duh!”

Whitney Dies and So Do Hearts

By *Dominic Payerchin* and *Karissa Kelling*

It seems unexplainable that one of the best pop stars has died at the age of 48. As in other professions, when a female artist is successful, she is often accused of being demanding and diva-like even when all she seeks is the same respect or artistic license that men of their stature received.

Whitney was one of the best in the music business and a role model for many other great musicians. As with many famous people, the celebrity she achieved came with public attention beyond imagination -- and some of it wasn't always very kind.

“I am very very sad about Whitney's death; she was amazing,” said sophomore Allison Reed.

Whitney won multiple grammy awards for her great music, and was a major legend.

She was criticized after her first two albums for not being “black enough.”

Her ballads were attacked for lacking

rhythm. Clive Davis, her mentor and executive producer, was accused of trying to keep her “white.” It was all nonsense of course, but still it was very painful most likely at times.

At the same time, the adulation of her fans around the world was huge. Expectations for her were very high. As an African-American global superstar, she made a real difference in so many important causes.

“She was one of the greatest pop stars of all time and I am really sad that she is dead,” says freshman Camille Hughes. “Whitney was an inspiration to all.”

Although she was a great singer and pop star, she suffered from an addiction to drugs.

Of course, you don't know what drove her to drugs in the beginning, but drowning out the intensity around her was surely one of the side effects she came to depend upon. And of course, then there is addiction.

Regardless, a legend and voice for the ages has passed.



Whitney performing with her daughter on *Good Morning America* in 2009.
Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

Energy Drinks Hazardous to the Consumer?



Energy drinks are very popular these days in all kinds of varieties. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

By Hayley Demeter

The clock hits 7:00 p.m. and you prepare to hit the movies with your friends. Driving down your street, you hold back a yawn and decide you need a good pick-me-up. But maybe you should think twice before chugging down that Monster.

Monster, Red Bull, Rockstar, and Full Throttle. With names like these and cans so eye-catching, it's hard to see energy drinks as harmful rather than helpful.

At a recent Cloverleaf Middle School *Chatter* meeting, a poll was taken involving energy drinks. When asked if anyone drinks the sugary beverage at least once a day, two people raised their hands. Since the room had about 40 people in it, think about how many people do so in the entire school!

You may have heard talk about how "bad for you" energy drinks are, but didn't get any reason as to why. Therefore you might continue drinking the beverage that could potentially stunt healthy growth.

"I don't really like energy drinks. They're nasty and bad for you," explained Cloverleaf junior Brandt Buckholz.

The main three ingredients you'll

see on your choice energy drink can are Taurine, glucuronolactone, and, of course, caffeine. Taurine and glucuronolactone are amino acids that occur naturally in the body. They are believed to detoxify and cleanse the body of harmful substances, but adding too much to your body is a bad idea.

Caffeine is an addictive substance that gets your blood pumping and gives you that speed-like boost. It acts on the central nervous system to speed up the messages to and from the brain so you feel more active and aware.

Unfortunately, your favorite guilty pleasure drink, with all of the caffeine in it, could affect your sleeping or lead to an increased or irregular heart rate. There are 160 mg of caffeine in Monster, which is a lot more than an 8 oz cup of coffee.

Junior Lindsey Hansen said of energy drinks, "They make my stomach hurt and they only give me energy for like 15 minutes."

If they are not drunk properly, energy drinks could lower your immune system and increase overall anxiety. Is the temporary pick me up every worth potential prob-

lems in your future?

"I hate energy drinks," firmly stated junior Erica Kost. "They're too sugary and they make my heart beat super fast. When I drink Red Bull, it just makes me shake."

If you are interested in finding out just how much energy drink you'd have to consume to die, you could go on *energy-fiend.com*. All you have to do is enter your weight and drink of choice.

"I'd only have to drink 55 cans of Monster at one time to die!" junior Amanda Hammond said.

Not only are energy drinks bad for you, but most teenagers would say that they don't taste the greatest either.

Senior Jackson Keller explained that energy drinks "don't taste good at all" and "don't even work" on him.

So there you have it. Energy drinks can be fun to drink every once-in-a-while, but maybe some time you should consider trading your Full Throttle for a Pepsi Bottle.