


What's Inside?

Talk of the new “Wonka” movie, a new Pinkpantheress album, & more!



ON PAGES
4 AND 5



THE CD INSIDER

EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Optimism for this year's varsity basketball team and new opportunities with the new wellness club.

SPORTS NEWS

on PAGE 6



Get to know Principal Dodig!

By Mackenzie Meacher

“I think we just have to stay open-minded,” says principal Catherine Dodig. CDHS has seen its fair share of principals over the last few years. And Ms. Dodig is exactly right. We will remain open minded as we welcome Ms. Catherine Dodig who’s starting off her first year here at CDHS.

On November 1st, first thing in the morning. I had the opportunity to sit down and learn a lot about our new Principal, Ms. Dodig. Going into her office was slightly nerving. I was ready for a serious and stern interview. It wasn’t like that at all. I was welcomed into her office, hit with a waft of a fall-like scent, a mix of coffee and brown sugar. She had a side table with comfortable cushioned spinny chairs. As she sat me down I introduced myself and what I was doing and why she was getting interviewed. She seemed stoked and ready for any question I went at her with.

When we sat down, the first thing I noticed was that she was much calmer than when I see her around halls or during town meetings. She was almost intimidating before I had sat down with her and I was able to pick up her sense of morning calm. It was nice and we were able to laugh and enjoy the interaction and interview honestly. She was sitting back drinking her morning cup of whatever she chose to have that morning. And ready to take it away.

At first I followed a question sheet I had prepared, but I quickly was able to divert from that and build questions based on her replies. The first set of questions were about how she found this current position, where she worked prior, and where she was from. As we moved on, it was more about where she wishes to travel, what her favorite movies were and what she does outside of school. In between, I asked her about

how she goes about differentiation of opinions with certain school controversies.

Nearing the middle of the interview, we talked about how she deals with different opinions and voices about matters. She said some things which were my favorite part of the interview. She mentioned being open-minded and she mentioned that all of our opinions matter no matter what she thinks even if we don’t particularly agree with what she says or does. “Everyone who comes to you with an opinion, has a genuine feeling about that opinion and that’s the beauty of what makes our world. It’s that we are all entitled to believe what we want to believe,” Dodig says.

Asking my first set of questions about where she worked prior she explained that she worked at the Catskill Middle School “I taught mainly eighth grade, some seventh grade but it was a really nice nine years.” She also said, “I will look back on my teaching and smile about it, because it was a lot of fun!” She had lots of prior teaching experience before her current principal position, “it was very different than what i’m doing now, in a good way. And I’m glad that I had that chunk of my career to really work intimately with my students at the classroom level.” It was a coworker who brought it to Dodig’s attention that CDHS had been looking for a new principal. Dodig looked into the spot and landed it. (Continued on page 4).



Principal Catherine Dodig

Seniors! Senior Trip

By James Dorpfeld

For most students, senior year is the best and most exciting year out of the four. This year should not disappoint. A sit down with the senior advisors reveals plans for graduation, the senior trip, and many more fun things coming to CDHS. The seniors have been working very hard alongside the class advisors to make sure their senior year is as exciting as possible. But being in charge of overseeing the class can be difficult. For the duration of Junior year, Mrs. Bratton ran the operations by herself. This year Mrs. Savoia has joined in on the fun! “Co-advising is a lot better than doing it on your own,” said Bratton.

The seniors are going to Orlando, Florida this year for their senior trip and will be staying at the Universal Resort. The seniors will leave Thursday May 30th, and catch a flight at Albany Airport. After their flight the class will check in to their rooms at Dockside Inn, which is located a mere walking distance from the theme park. Over the span of Two days the students will be able to explore the parks and the city walk. They will arrive back home on Sunday June 2nd, after having hours of fun in the sun on the beach.

Although the trip may seem costly at \$715 per student, if all seniors partake in the fundraisers throughout the year that price could drop drastically. The seniors have finished their first fundraiser of Krispy Kreme Donuts and coffee and have many more fundraisers planned for the year, such as customizable Christmas ornaments made by the guidance office’s one and only Mrs. Bailey, at no cost.



Seen Here: Ashley Beck, James Dorpfeld, Isabella Ortiz, Tatyanna Young, Skyley Kelly, Abigail Bradow, Alex Gouza, Comin MacGiffert, Zachary Russell, Kennedy Bleau, Brendan Feeney, Kaylee VanWagner, Natalie McGuire, Tashana James, Charles smith. (Photo Credits: Drew McCabe)

Graduation may seem far away but it’s right around the corner. Mrs. Savoia and Mrs. Bratton have been working around the clock to make sure graduation is on track to be a blast. When asked about the event Mrs. Savoia claimed that graduation is the biggest event of the school year by far. We have begun working on flowers, and have started thinking about possible guest speakers.

So if you’re a senior looking for information about the senior trip, fundraisers, or graduation, please don’t hesitate to email the class advisors with your questions and concerns.

New lunch model sparks schoolwide controversy

By Zoë Vogel

“One decision won’t work for everyone; there is no one size fits all,” said Evan Klauber, Assistant Principal, in an interview regarding the new lunch model in October 2023. The highschool’s new lunch study hall model has upset lots of students, and even some parents, although there are many unseen positive effects coming from this.

Compared to our old 20-minute eat time, 20-minute recess time lunch model, the new study hall model and added phone restrictions are extremely different. Many are upset with it due to how big of a change was made, as the new lunch model is far more confining. But we can’t just change back to how it was; there’s a great deal of logistics to take into consideration. This includes the sharing of the cafeteria, and availability of the gyms, considering that there is a gym class every period, every day. These constant gym classes add tons of flexibility to our schedules though, which is highly valued in a small school like Cairo-Durham. “The decision to change the model was never a single person’s decision to begin with,” said Klauber, adding that there was a large scheduling committee to make this model, including staff and teachers. Principal Catherine Dodig noted that “It’s only natural to be upset,” as it’s hard for students to see the administrators’ side of this new lunch model.

Furthermore, this new lunch model has many unseen positive effects. Assistant Principal Klauber said that people should be looking at the bigger picture, especially the fact that discipline referrals mainly came from recess, and now that there is no recess, these referrals have decreased greatly. The data was ‘eye-opening,’ said Dodig, going on to say that it’s important for the students to see the other side of things. Along with this, last year, within the first 10 weeks, there were 708 referrals, and this year there were 518. That’s 27% (190) less referrals, only in the first quarter. In regards to fighting referrals, last year there were 11 in the first quarter, and this year there were only 2. That’s an 82% decrease. (Continued on page 2).

SCHOOL NEWS

PAGE 2

MARCH 2024

CD enforces a “new” phone policy

By Emelia Biondolillo

Students laughing, socializing, focusing on study, heading to the next class without distraction - a time where cell phones didn't exist. Now, hallways and classrooms are filled with the glow of Iphone screens, skippers and drama. This year, Cairo Durham is enforcing a “new” cell phone policy: its goal is to go back to the past, where there was no such thing as phones. I had a sit-down interview with Ms. Catherine Dodig to discuss the phone policy and it's fate for the future years at Cairo Durham.

The phone policy is being enforced this year at Cairo Durham High School. This policy prohibits the usage of cell phones in classrooms, study halls, lunch study halls and the hallways. This policy is a restrictive procedure set by the School Board to lessen distractions, keep students focused, improve grades and the overall tone of the building. This ban is not state or nation wide; it's a policy that varies district to district. In the previous years at Cairo Durham, this “new” policy, according to Mrs. Dodig, has been a policy for many years, she's just simply abiding by it. The new policy requires that students place their phones in a sleeve hanging on the wall in each classroom instead of keeping them on their persons or in their backpacks. Although it's a policy for the overall benefit for students and faculty, there is a lot of pushback on this ban on technology. But, Mrs. Dodig wants us to “develop an understanding and appreciation for why the use of technology is limited in the building”.

The phone policy has affect-

ed many here at CDHS including students, teachers, monitors, and aides. According to Mrs. Dodig, “cell phone infractions are down, student conflict and physical student interactions have decreased and I know teachers have reported that they see a noticeable difference in students in the classroom.” But the policy is also creating conflict among teachers, admin and students. Many teachers do not agree with the policy and find it difficult to enforce a policy that they don't agree with. In addition, some have complained that the wall pockets are not sturdy enough to hold the phones and are falling off walls. Tension has grown among students who are unwilling to let go of their belongings, especially something as valuable as a cell phone. Moreover, some students feel resentment toward the student government who helped implement this policy.

When asked how they felt about this new policy on cell phones, teachers and students varied their responses. A teacher at Cairo Durham, who chose to remain anonymous, stated, “I like the idea that students are more focused without having their phones in class.” On the contrary, students feel as if they are in a prison, locked away with no contact and no rights. According to the same teacher, “It makes me sad that students feel as if they are in a prison and I've heard that many times, I think school should be a place where students want to come, not to want to leave.” Principal Dodig further explained, “No policy is cemented forever. I don't see it changing drastically,

there is a need for the policy which is why we have it. Education is an ever-changing field and it's our responsibility to ensure that our students have zero distraction and this is one of the ways we can provide that.”

The policy's main goal was to improve focus in the classrooms so it's proven to be effective in it's primary purpose. Although many complaints and changes are being

discussed it's an overall beneficial policy according to the faculty and the principal. It's a policy that's likely to stay at Cairo Durham for the foreseeable future. “I think if students don't agree with the phone policy, students need to collect together and speak out to the admin and in board meetings...take action,” a teacher stated.



Photo credit: PxHere

New lunch model sparks schoolwide controversy

(continued from page 1)
In addition, there could obviously be other things affecting this substantial decrease, but the only major thing that has changed in the district is the lunch model. There are also significantly less students failing one or more classes compared to last year. Quite a few parents have reached out to principal Dodig, saying that their student enjoys the lunch study halls and is benefiting from them. Though there are still students that are struggling and need more help, support, or time, which the study halls offer them.

Although we can't change back to the old lunch model, and it's somewhat proven that that changing back would not benefit us, there are compromises willing to be made. There are meetings involving class presidents and vice presidents going on, which will be available to other students as well. A survey was sent out that gave lots of good ideas for any changes that we could make this year. Principal Dodig announced the decision to make headphones available in lunch study halls, though there are still rules around headphone usage. “It's important to have that open dialogue between the adults and the students in the building,” said Dodig, emphasizing the importance of these meetings and hearing everyone's opinion when a big change like this is made.

“There's lots of room for student input and giving things back, but it all comes down to the logistics,” said Klauber. Administrators want to offer less restrictive things to the students that are doing better, whilst still holding the academic standards high. There are plenty of students exceeding expectations that don't necessarily need or use these study halls, and if there is a way to make things easier for them, that wouldn't only be nicer, but it could also provide an incentive for the lower performing students to do better. Dodig also said that in order for changes to be made, students need to follow the basic policy first, this way students can hopefully meet halfway with the administration. There is hope for those that are completely against the model, Dodig said that “nothing is permanent, it's a work in progress,” alluding to the fact that changes and improvements will be made.

This new lunch model is a big change for students compared to last year, and it has shown many positive effects for the district. Despite the fact that we can't go back to how it was, this is a process, and changes will be made to try and make everyone happy with this lunch model. Principal Dodig said, “It's baby steps at this point”.

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Journalism Class Pd 1, Rm D1

SCHOOL NEWS

MARCH 2024

PAGE 3

CD 'seizes the day' with *Newsies*!

By Breanna Colon

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Cairo Durham brings *Newsies* to stage! From learning how to tap dance to perfecting a New York accent, what truly goes into the production of our school musical? That question was answered after speaking with Mrs. Clermont, one of our music directors, choreographers, and producers, along with Mr. Fisher, our artistic director and scenic designer.

Newsies is based on the Newsboys' strike of 1899, and the story follows Jack Kelly. Jack Kelly, along with the other *Newsies*, go on strike after Pulitzer and Hearst raise the prices of their newspapers. However, the *Newsies* couldn't have done it without the help of a female reporter, Katherine Plumber.

The first part of musical production is selecting a musical that is compatible with the students' interests. To select a musical that is most adaptable to our group of students, many things have to be considered. Mrs. Clermont states, "We also take a look at our voices, and see if we are primarily tenors, sopranos, altos." With that being said, vocal ranges throughout the group have to be considered, along with what our actors and actresses have the best time doing, and how strong our dances are. The genre is chosen by what our students prefer, or what fits their capabilities best.

The next step of production is the audition process, the day most theater kids dread. Most students try to add a unique trait to their audition for it to stand out from the others. However, one of our casting directors, Mr. Fisher, says, "I'm impressed by individuals with natural



The cast of Newsies rehearsing on Wednesday, February 7, 2024

talent, but mostly I'm looking for a strong commitment to refining performance skills, which becomes evident during the audition process." Another important skill for an actor or actress to have is the ability to take notes or constructive criticism on their work, and be open-minded to improve.

One of the most tedious jobs for the musical is set preparation. Set building starts as soon as possible, and can finish the weekend before opening night. Throughout that time, many different contributions are made. Set builders, or crewmates in general tend to bring props in from home to elevate the production. For this year's set our scenic designer, Mr. Fisher, has high expectations, stating, "Newsies will feature a more abstract design, highlighting a distinct color palette and unique design elements."

Usually, every year 10-20 people get cut from the musical, but that does not

mean you still cannot involve yourself in production. There are still many ways to help without being in the cast. You could help with the concession stands, costumes, and music or makeup. However, if you're not into stuff like that, having extra hands backstage is always a plus, and Mrs. Clermont explained, "They can help with the tech side of things, doing lights and sounds."

Our hopes for this year's musical is to create memories for not just the audience, but also the students and crew involved, as well as bring more appreciation to the arts of musical theater. We want to provide a unique experience for the audience with our stunning performances.

Newsies will occur on March 1st, 2024 at 7 pm, March 2nd, 2024, at 7 pm, and March 3rd, 2024 at 2 pm. Please come support your peers and enjoy the show!

All-County concert stuns with outstanding performance

By Aiden Choinsky

How could it be possible that students are able to perform a set list of complicated music with only a month of preparation? Most people would assume that it isn't. Well, the musicians playing in the All-County Concert have accomplished this feat, with nothing short of a remarkable performance.

Picture this: On the night of Friday, November 3rd, the Catskill High School auditorium was alive with the fantastic notes of Greene County's best young musicians. The All-County Concert brought together students from seven districts: Cairo-Durham, Catskill, Coxsackie-Athens, Greenville, Hunter-Tannersville, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, and Windham-Ashland-Jewett.

The concert featured four different ensembles, each showing off a different side of musical talent. From the tunes of the Senior High Jazz Band to the voices of the Elementary Chorus, and the rhythm of both the Junior Band and Senior High Chorus, the night was an amazing display of talent.

Cairo-Durham brought together five students in the Senior High Jazz Band, twelve students in the Elementary Chorus, ten students in the Junior Band, and twelve students in the Senior High Chorus, according to seventh - twelfth grade band educator, Mrs. Trembacz.

The All-County Concert isn't just a display of musical talent, but also a testament to the hard work, dedication, effort, and love for music these musicians have. The students did an amazing job at making different complex pieces sound easy after practicing for only a limited amount of time. As the last notes rang out, the All-County Concert left everyone amazed by the musical talent in Greene County. These students worked hard, and proved it to everyone. Now, as we wrap up this year's All-County Concert, we can't wait for what comes next. The awesome music, talent, and all-around good vibes of the night have us super excited to see what musical magic next year will bring. Bring it on!

and adding any little additions to ensure everyone's safety is how we lower the awful incident statistics we constantly see on the news.

If there's anything to take from this it's the importance and value we have on our lives. And taking those little steps to make things run smoother without damage done, is immensely beneficial to the community. The Cairo Durham district is a prideful one that's constantly improving and wouldn't suffer from any new safety regulations.

Safety on the Road

By Ayrissa Butta

The 2:15 bell rings. Kids, adults and teachers spill out into the hallways quickly making their way outside. Hundreds of students are screaming with joy that school is over. Buses are being loaded up with dozens of students thrilled to get home. Students and teachers are speed-walking to their cars, and a long line of parents are impatiently waiting for their kids to get in the car so they can beat the buses and traffic on 145. Despite the excitement, everyone knows the chaos of leaving at the same time. There is always the possibility of someone getting hurt in the middle of the chaos. So what can we do to avoid this problem?

Route 145 has a speed limit of 55, but in a school zone it's 45. Route 145 is the main road through Cairo and Durham so thousands of people are driving on it everyday and no one goes 45 mph. When the 2:15 bell rings the school parking lot is flooded with cars and buses trying to leave as well as kids running around getting on their buses and in cars. Students stand in the parking lot talking to each other before rushing to their cars to beat the traffic that awaits them down

on the hill. At the start of every school year the school goes over safety measures to ensure all students are being released safely. When speaking with the Transportation Department Mr. Maassmann said, "Mr. Klauber does a drivers safety course with all student drivers." The driving seminar goes over state laws, how to properly operate a motor vehicle, and driving safety to ensure all students are safe while driving.

The school takes safety very seriously according to the transportation department. Mr. Maassmann Head of Transportation states "We always have two people directing people and stopping traffic to make sure everyone makes it out of the school parking lot safely without any accidents." The protocols they've taken have proved to be highly effective and beneficial. However, there is always more to be done in regards to the safety of students and staff. The school is consistently implementing new programs/regulations in order to run a sufficient and safe school, and with some minor adjustments getting out of the parking lot and back home won't be such a hassle. These adjustments could include separate scheduled departures, an

after school traffic volunteer program, or stricter enforcement on lingering in groups to chat.

Separate departure times may be more of a slight inconvenience time wise but if different parts of the school were released even a minute after each other it would significantly decrease person/car traffic. Another possibility is offering an after school program to direct the schools' traffic for community service hours. It would not only be beneficial for the students safety but also to their college applications, offering a great incentive. There is so much more we could do to protect and prevent any possible harm.

One argument that has been prominent in our community is lowering the speed limit in a school zone. At the Cairo Durham Elementary school, the speed limit is 20mph. Why shouldn't the same limit be placed outside of middle/high school? Hundreds of accidents have happened on Route 145 and to not lower it outside of the schools' driveway is risky and harmful. Keeping up with traffic and getting home as fast as possible to the dogs isn't worth the pain it can cause,

The desolate wonders of *Wonka*



Poster image of the 'Wonka' movie found on printerval.com, designed and sold by 'Boar China Saesee Tiin'.

By Zoë Vogel

Paul King's 'Wonka' was absolutely magical, but it left some viewers looking for a prequel to this prequel. This new movie explores the early life of icon Willy Wonka, delving into his origins and events that shaped him into the eccentric chocolatier that he is. Viewers are taken on a whimsical journey, revealing some inspirations behind Wonka's world-famous chocolate factory and the unique people he encounters on the way. Willy, played by Timothée Chalamet, arrives in a no-name capital city with twelve sovereigns in his pocket, which isn't much. Looking for an inexpensive hotel, he meets a very strange hotel owner, Mrs. Scrubbit. When agreeing to pay later for the hotel services, Willy essentially signs his life away, being forced to work in a dungeon-like space in the hotel with others who made the same mistake. Wonka uses his mysterious engineering skills to build a machine to do the work he and the others have to do, so they can sneak out and sell chocolates.

One thing that the filmmakers completely nailed, though, is the visual aspects. There was an extremely pleasing pop of color on the big screen, along with the use of many unique film methods such as memories in a flipbook and animated blueprints. Not to mention the very quirky music numbers, incorporating some classics like 'Oompa Loompa' and 'Pure Imagination', along with some very catchy new songs written by Neil Hannon. Writers Paul King and Simon Farnaby add a multitude of new and interesting characters to the narrative, a group of them being the 'chocolate cartel'. Mrs. Scrubbit, the hotel owner and kidnapper who is played by Olivia Colman adds a very Madame Thénardier of Les Misérables vibe to her character, which was absolutely delightful to act. Along with this, the end of the movie reveals a deep message about kindness, which is very important to the wide range of children and families watching this movie. Wonka's relationship with Noodle, a young girl who is also captive in the hotel, shows that life is special to the people that you share it with, not your status.

Though there were plenty of simple pleasures in this movie, there were much deeper aspects that just weren't there for me. The plot was very intricate, but there were many holes within it, for example Willy is illiterate, which is very key in the plot, but he is also an exemplary engineer. Where did his skills come from? With what time and materials

does he build an entire magical chocolate store? These seemingly empty plot points render "anything possible and nothing meaningful," Richard Brody of The New Yorker remarked. Perhaps the writers thought that the building and details to these mechanisms would be boring to watch for children, but kids are always fascinated by things like this. Wonka also has interactions with an Oompa Loompa that he encountered while traveling the world and making it to Loompa Land, which is very vaguely mentioned in the story. The movie was supposed to be a backstory, but it only provides background details to a certain extent. The star, a young and rising actor, Timothée Chalamet, was certainly not up to his full potential either. His pure skill represented in his touching roles in 'Call Me By Your Name' and 'Beautiful Boy' was far from his performance in Wonka. Though we don't know what to blame this on; if it's because this is a different style than what he normally sticks to, or if it was the filmmaker's fault. The New Yorker wrote "Unfortunately, the filmmaker's incuriosity about Willy as a character is matched by their incuriosity about the stars' range and depth". This also goes for Keegan-Michael Key's performance as the chief police officer, as there were many forced and unfunny fat jokes written for his character.

Rating: 3.5 stars.

Not what I expected

By Joseph Kahle

The Hunger Games has been a series since the first movie was created in 2012. A new movie recently came out called, The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes. The movie was not what I thought it would be. It was supposed to be the prequel to the Hunger Games Trilogy and take place 60 years before the origin of the Hunger Games.

The movie showed a confusing backstory of President Snow, who was the leader of the Hunger Games. He mentored a girl named Lucy Gray, who he fell in love with and who ended up leaving him in the end. I don't know why she left him. It made no sense because he saved her life and helped her win the hunger games.

Corio Snow also betrayed his best friend, Sejanus in order to climb back up the social ladder. Corio cheated and had his best friend killed. That was confusing too, because he was supposed to be a peacekeeper. There was minimal fighting and survival because the arena was so small. The movie itself

seemed unrealistic. It was set back in the olden days, but they had new technology like tablets and drones, which didn't make sense.

According to a review by Sean Means of The Movie Cricket, "There's a lot of time spent on what feels like foreshadowing." He also states, "The Hunger Games has a decent number of exciting, breathtaking moments, as the games play themselves out. But, they can't sustain that intensity for the full movie, which finds itself borrowing from the past. The odds, alas, are not in this movie's favor." (November 16th 2023)

A review from the Los Angeles Times by Katie Walsh states that the characters are in "different psychological mindsets." "As a book adaptation, it makes sense, but as a film storytelling, it does not work, and it's unfortunate that these aren't two different movies and that it's all been crammed into one overly-long film." Both reviewers and I thought that this movie was way too long. I even fell asleep a couple times. (November 17th 2023)

In conclusion, I would not recommend this movie.

Rating: 2.5/5 stars



Poster for 'The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes', found on printerval.com, and sold by Tienmuoide-sign.

Incredible adaptation of the *FNAF* horror game smashes box office records

By Aiden Choinsky

It was announced back in 2015 that Five Nights at Freddy's would be making its way into horror films. The film adaptation of the popular video game was released in October 2023, making it a standout in the horror movie genre. The film's success can be credited to its captivating storyline, filled with hidden lore, bringing the eerie world of animatronics to reality.

Although many professionals have attributed the film as below standard, the movie's positive perception among audiences, especially its dedicated fanbase from the popular game series, plays a crucial role in its success. Seen by some as an entry point into the horror genre, "Five Nights at Freddy's" is being commended for its subtle intensity, making it appealing to a broader audience.

The movie's visual appeal is noteworthy, earning praise for its practical effects in creating terrifying animatronics, and bringing them

to life. In an article by Paul Tassi titled "A 'Five Nights At Freddy's' Review From A Total Series Outsider" from Forbes, the writer comments that the lead actor, Josh Hutcherson perfectly portrayed the role of Mike Schmidt, helping engage with the terrifying storyline of the missing kids. While not necessarily deemed terrifying by more in depth horror enthusiasts, the movie effectively resonates with a younger audience.

As a film coming from the horror gaming industry, it made an excellent gateway, giving references to all the already known lore from the games, with proper respect to its timeline, and referencing bits and pieces from the original 'Five Nights at Freddy's' game.

Beyond being a hit, Five Nights at Freddy's leads the way into furthering its series, leaving a lasting impression on the horror genre. The opinions from some critical reviews don't correctly depict its unique position in

the world of film. As the movie continues to captivate its audience, it solidifies its status as a major success, paving the way for further movies in the future.

Rating: 3.5/5 stars.



Poster for the Five Nights at Freddy's Movie, found on printerval.com, sold and designed by 'Basilisk Che-wa Cyan'.

MUSIC REVIEWS

MARCH 2024

PAGE 5

Twenty songs for twenty years

By Jaide Wolf

After twenty years, The Killers have decided to commemorate the time they've spent on the scene by compiling twenty songs from all of their previous albums into one collection - Rebel Diamonds. It has at least one song from every album. For some, this album may be nostalgic; for others, the name "The Killers" doesn't even ring a bell... That's why this album is perfect for all listeners.

Rebel Diamonds was released on December 8th, 2023, and was The Killers' fourth compilation album. The album features 19 previously released songs and one new release, "Spirit" all in chronological order. "The album starts with four songs from the band's 2004 debut, Hot Fuss, followed by two Sam's Town tracks, three hits from 2008's Day & Age, two more from Battle Born, one Wonderful Wonderful song, three Imploding the Mirage songs, and two tracks from 2021's Pressure Machine. The album ends off with the band's recent singles "Boy" and "Your Side of Town," as well as their new song "Spirit." According to Matthew Strauss in "The Killers Announce Greatest Hits Album Featuring New Song 'Spirit'"

The lyrics in every song create a story. Each one is unique in its own way. For example, in "Mr Brightside", Brandon Flowers says, "It started out with a kiss. How did it end up like this? It was only a kiss, it was only a kiss. Now I'm falling asleep And she's calling a cab." . The most notable aspect of the tracks are the instrumental ones. "Mr Brightside" envisions this by using a train track of melodies to build up with the lyrics. The Killers have phenomenal drumming and extremely catchy background music that entangles with the lyrics excruciatingly well.

Some songs that I thought were pleasant were "Your Side of Town" because it added much-needed uniqueness to the album, differentiating from the rest by adding a fast-paced, upbeat, and electronic feel. "Jenny Was A Friend Of Mine" caught my attention because of the vocals, the darkness of them, the accompaniment, and the thought-provoking murder and betrayal references. The tracks on the album have a very video-gamey, envy-filled, and distraught feel



Brandon Flowers of "The Killers". From Wikimedia Commons

In the end, I give this album 3/5 stars. I think this album may not be for everyone as the lyrics may have been a little cringy, but they fit. They're perfect for what the band tries to accomplish with their music, especially background music. It's gut-wrenchingly catchy, which is a weird but perfect way to describe it.

Pinkpantheress releases her debut album 'Capable of Love'

By James Dorpfeld

Victoria Beverly Walker, aka Pinkpantheress, is a British drum and bass singer from Bath, England. She first rose to popularity with her 2021 mixtape titled To Hell With It. It boasted multiple songs with hundreds of millions of listens on Spotify. In late 2022 she released her first EP titled 'Take Me Home', which was not as well received. In late 2023 she released her first full-length album Capable of Love.

This album is outstanding in so many ways. Not only do we see Pinkpantheress start using more traditional hip hop beats. We also see a change in the way she writes her music. Departing from her desperate sounding lyrics and exchanging them for more happy and contemporary ones. In the song "Nice To Meet You" she sings, "I pray that I'll die before my baby, I'll take a risk if anyone tries to touch my baby. That's my love, love. I have secrets and, yes, I know you know too many. I'll stay at your house, where I'll hope that you'll protect me. You're my love, love." This album contains more traditional pop tones. Some songs that really highlight this are "Bury Me (featuring Kela)" and "Nice To Meet You" (Featuring Central Cee). These songs were also co-produced by outside producers, something rarely seen in her earlier music. Getting help from BNYX and Ca\$h.



Image from Printerval

Overall, this album doesn't have many downfalls. It's pretty solid. It has many creative beats that really bring out the atmosphere of the project. This is what Ones To Watch had to say, "The single chronicles her attachment to someone who isn't as invested, though it's difficult to imagine someone immune to PinkPantheress' allure". Basically saying most people can relate to Pinkpantheress lyrics and themes. "Boy's a Liar" was the most popular song on the album by far being the lead single. It received over 762,408,672 streams on Spotify. After hearing this album I am very excited to see what Pinkpantheress does with this next part of her career. I am hoping to see more cross over features, as they seem to be the most energetic and really are the backbone of the album.

OTHER REVIEWS

You'll want to linger at Lindsay's... An amazing breakfast spot!

By Ayrissa Butta

Do you go out to eat with high expectations? Fresh coffee, fluffy pancakes, crispy bacon and a happy waitress. When going out for breakfast you ideally want fresh hot food served in a quaint restaurant with all around seasonal decorations and a helpful staff. This is all offered at Lindsay's Diner located in Leeds, New York. Lindsay's offers inexpensive high quality food whether it's a packed restaurant or an empty one, you're ensured a delightful experience.

The restaurant is open six days a week 7am-2pm and has been for over 60 years, just don't go on a Wednesday! It's rated 4.5 stars on Restaurantji.com. One raving review included "Five stars all around...!"



Image from Lindsay's Facebook

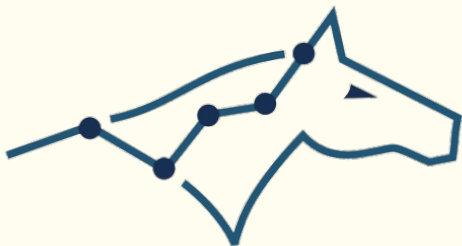
Super clean retro vibe eating joint with simple menu with daily specials, will customize your plate if asked, food and service is top notch. The waitresses are great, prices are very fair, and the atmosphere is super family friendly. I recommend the chicken fried steak for breakfast.. EAT THERE...!! YUM...!!" says John Carrilgo in his review of his experience.

One thing nearly all of the reviews share is a respect for the cleanliness of the restaurant. When visiting the restaurant, the bathrooms, booths, and floors are notably clean showing how much work and effort the staff put into a quality dining experience. The staff all seem to love their job, creating such a welcoming environment. Another aspect diners seem to appreciate about Lindsay's are the cheap prices. The typical breakfast meal per person is \$5-\$20, they offer breakfast sandwiches, pancakes, an array of breakfast juices, fresh coffee, freshly cut fruit, and they are willing to specialize your meal to your liking.

When experiencing the restaurant for myself I wasn't feeling that good or hungry until I saw the menu. I ordered one blueberry pancake, one chocolate pancake, and a bowl of fresh fruit. The pancakes were really thick and fluffy with a nice golden brown glaze. One of the best pancakes I've had in the area. My food came to me in less than fifteen minutes, and it was gone in five

-(it was too good to put down). The waitress was lovely and very on top of things. She refilled my drinks without me having to ask, had all the silverware and napkins prepped and ready, she even was the reason I tried the fresh fruit which was well sliced and nice and cold. It's always nice to go out and meet friendly people and that's what everyone dining at Lindsay's is about. They have a crowd of regulars who are very familiar with the staff, some even stopping in just for a coffee everyday. They've created a clean and welcoming environment with a great wide range menu, holiday decorations, and attentive staff.

Overall, Lindsay's Diner is a remarkable place that I would highly recommend to anyone who loves breakfast and lunch. The high quality food and service mixed with the low prices, it's understandable as to why so many people have left excellent reviews in regards to their experience, and why so many become regulars at the restaurant. If you're ever in Leeds, NY make sure to stop at Lindsay's Diner and refuel with a fresh hot meal.



Home is where the ball is!

By Joseph Kahle

With a 6-14 season last year, the Cairo Durham Varsity basketball team has a lot to improve upon in the 2023-24 season. Coach Keith Phillips is ready to get his new varsity team working hard. With four starting seniors leaving, Coach Phillips has his work cut out for him.

Coach Phillips wants a competitive and respectful team. I asked him his expecta-

tions for the team and he said, "To respect the game and fellow teammates and to be competitive." I expect the same things Coach Phillips does on a team. Even though there's more to a team than respect, that's a great place to start. Commitment and dedication will also lead to a successful season.

Coach Phillips has 6 sophomores, 3 seniors and 1 junior on his team and is putting them to work. The players are going to be well disciplined this season. According to Coach Phillips, "Discipline teaches respect." Not just between the players and the coach, but also a respect for the game of basketball. He likes hard working players who will commit to the team.

Coach Phillips states that he's looking for players that, "Just respect (him) and respect themselves and others and to play as hard as they can." He is "looking forward to having a team that wants to be competitive." He states that, "I can only



Top Row: Coach Phillips, Terrell Simmons, Jacob Young, Anthony Roeber
Bottom Row: Ryan Clow, Nicolo Martines, Zachary Russell, Joseph Kahle

lead the team to success if the players want success." Coach Phillips says that his biggest struggle has been players' lack of effort. He is hoping to turn that around this season.

To prepare for the season, Coach Phillips will run, "Lots of drills, practice and (have) conversations (between himself and players)". Communication is key to succeeding.

Coach Phillips wants success through commitment. He is committed to bringing the team to sectionals, which is one of his goals this year. Coach Phillips states, "I'd be happy if we had a 500 season!" He sees a lot of strengths and potential in the team and is optimistic for the coming year.



CD encourages wellness with this new opportunity!

By Jaide Wolf

If you're looking to better yourself or searching for something to do after school, there are many options available. However, one of the best ways to improve yourself is by working out. But, many people don't have the equipment to work out at home. In this case, joining the wellness club can be the perfect solution. The Wellness Club provides you with a community to work with and motivate yourself further. By joining the Wellness Club, you can connect with like-minded students who can help

motivate you to achieve your goals. The wellness club is run by Mr. Agostinoni and is located where the old middle school cafeteria was, across from the transportation office. The wellness room has a lot of things to offer such as treadmills, ellipticals, weights, machines, and more. Whatever you think you need to work on, they have it. Mr. Agostinoni helps students curate plans and guides students to succeed with what they need. He's extremely approachable, so if you need help with whatever you need to do, don't worry. Mr. Agostinoni doesn't monitor what you wear, but it's suggested that you wear athletic attire for your own benefit and mobility.

The most obvious benefits of joining the club are the benefits to your health overall. Whether you're just building muscle or working on cardio, working out regularly helps with your cardiovascular health, bone and muscle strength, and overall ability to do everyday tasks. It can also help with feeling more energized. It's super important to set goals for yourself while working out because it provides some-

thing to work towards, and improves your motivation to work out. "The most rewarding part of the group is definitely watching the students grow," said Mr. Agostinoni.

Working out not only caters to your body but also your mind. Many people use working out as a stress reliever, or a way to unwind. It allows you to clear your mind and focus on yourself while also being productive and working out releases endorphins, which improve your mood and lead to better sleep. It also helps with self-esteem and overall satisfaction with oneself.

Overall, joining wellness and working out is incredibly beneficial for you both mentally and physically. It is a great aspect of Cairo-Durham High School and will help many current and future students immensely. The wellness club meets across from the transportation office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. All you have to do is pass your classes, and the school provides a 3:30 late bus so don't worry about transportation.



Wellness Club Members in the new gym!

Getting to know Principal Dodig (cont'd from p.1)

Along with working as a past middle school math teacher, she also did a side of coaching as well. She coached softball at Columbia Greene for a season. Then she coached softball and soccer for Catskill. She coached for a very long time and it left little freetime for her to actually do anything much at home. She is also currently coaching a little league team. She likes getting out to breathe fresh air every once in a while.

While asking the proper questions to get to know a little bit of her background I looked around the room and realized although she had a very beige-greenery aesthetic I found that there was one thing that particularly stood out. She had a Lego Yoda on her shelves behind her desk chair. I asked if she liked Legos and she told me she wasn't particularly a fan but her partner was. He is a fan of building and making his own creations as she just likes to sit and read a book or binge a show in her free time. Dodig is a big fan of Harry Potter and has read all the books. She also mentioned that she was a fan of the movies.

Along with movies and novels, she also loves cooking. Some of her favorite dishes are homemade mac and cheese, enchiladas and homemade custard because her father likes it a lot. She just likes to make people happy and cooking is a way to show love and provide happiness. She says she makes a really great chicken parm but it's not her go to or her favorite. Baking on the other hand is more tough, in her opinion. She loves baked goods but she can't always reach those visions of pretty perfect baked goods for herself.

There is always that nerve of getting to know someone and hoping they are like-able one on one, in all realness. When I walked in and sat down I felt those nerves calm quite quickly. I felt confident and I was ready to converse with her. Although interviewing and having one-on-one conversations with new people don't always flow naturally, I would personally say that there was nothing awkward about our conversation and it didn't feel like an interview.

"Each kind of chapter of that life served its purpose," said Dodig, A lovely human who is starting a new chapter in being our principal. This is a new chapter of starting new rules and new found respect.