

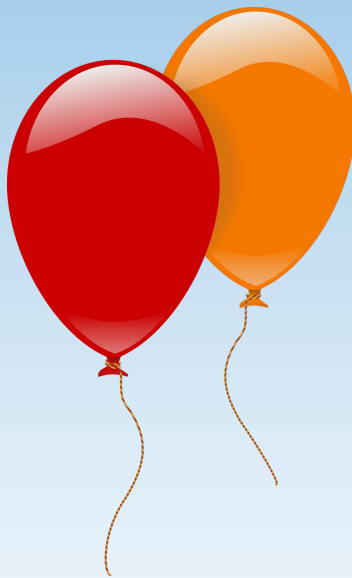
February 4, 2016
Volume 5 Issue 4



Observer

Bringing News Close to Home

Thank you, counselors!



Alfred-Almond students show
appreciation for Mr. McAneney
and Mrs. Decker.

Pages 18 and 19





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Letter from the Photo Editor

Dear Readers of the *Observer*,

On behalf of the *Observer* staff, we would like to dedicate the February edition to our wonderful Alfred - Almond counselors, Mrs. Decker and Mr. McAneney.

Our amazing counselors have helped many students throughout their years in high school, and have made the experience much easier and more enjoyable.

The seniors behind the *Observer* would like to say a HUGE thank you to Mrs. Decker for helping us to complete our college applications and prepare for our future.

Make sure to go out and show your gratitude to Mrs. Decker and Mr. McAneney, and wish them a Happy National School Counseling week!

Hannah Henderson

Have an idea for the paper?

Contact the *Observer* staff:

foxt@aacssapps.com
kenyonj@aacssapps.com
mayerj@aacssapps.com
mbacker@aacssapps.com

Mission & Vision

Bringing News Close to Home

Our mission as *The Alfred-Almond Observer* is to become a high quality source of informative and entertaining news that relates to the members of the Alfred-Almond community. The goal for the paper is to expand the knowledge of our readers and to contribute to the development of a more informed community.

Observer Staff

Editor-in-Chief	Tayler Fox
Editor-in-Chief Lites	Joe Kenyon
	Mathew Mayes
Copy Editors	Bailey Comer
	Caitlin Cook
	Kylie Faulkner
	Priya Rao
	Gracen VanDyke
Photo Editors	Levi Bayus
	Kelsey Cline
	Hannah Henderson
Public Relations Managers	Brooke Jefferds
	Levi Lawrence
Marketing Managers	Dylan Thayer
	Darnell Watson
Technology Advisors	Dylan Dirlam
	Noah Holmok
Staff Writers	Elizabeth Allen
	Michelle Feenaughty
	Paige Schmidt
	Tyler Vecchio
Advisors	Mrs. Backer
	Mrs. Turner



Announcements

By: Kylie Faulkner- Copy Editor

Spelling Bee Recap!

Congratulations to the winner of the Spelling Bee, Shannon H. from grade 8! The runner-up was her sister, Sydney H., from grade 7. Both are qualified to compete at the Regional Spelling bee at Campbell-Savona Central School on March 10, 2016 at 5:00pm. Bob Woughter and Craig Mix coordinated the event, and Benjamin Link was the pronouncer for the event. There were 35 entrants from grades 1-8. There were 12 finalists; finalists from grade 1-2 were Anna A, Sam B, Micah M, and Kenda S. Finalists from grades 3-4 were Ali W, Jennifer B, Katie C, and Olivia F., and from grade 5-8 were Aiden K, Sydney H, Shannon H, and Lauren K.



Shannon and Sydney
Spelling Bee Winner and Runner-up
Photo courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss



International Night

International Night was on January 14, 2016. The Secondary School Improvement Team (SIT) Committee organized the event. There were many different countries that were represented, such as Bolivia, Spain, France, Italy, Thailand, Ethiopia, Mexico, The Philippines, India, Scandinavia, Kazakhstan, and some others. It was a very successful event. The SIT Committee plans on making this an annual event, so look for it next year! Contact Mrs. Backer/Mrs. Bain-Lucey if you would like to participate, set up a display, or cook!



International Night
Flags made by
elementary
students.
Photo courtesy of
Mrs. Backer



Upcoming Events

Bump-a-palooza

The fourth annual Bump-a-palooza volleyball tournament is on February 27 in the High School gym. Students and teachers will create their own volleyball teams, team name, and shirts. The teams will compete in a head-to-head tournament, and the winning team becomes the champion. All proceeds from this event will go to the Ronald McDonald House.



Winter Recess

Winter Recess is February 15-19. The Varsity boys and girls will be having sectional games over winter break. You can find information on these games at: <http://www.sectionv.org/index.php/site>. The Spanish Club is going on their week long trip to Costa Rica as well that week. Have fun and be safe!

Fun Night

Fun Night is on February 26 from 4-6. Anyone in Participation in Government that would like community service hours should see Mrs. Booman at any time before the event to sign up for times you would like to work.



Spirit Week 2k16

Spirit Week Themes

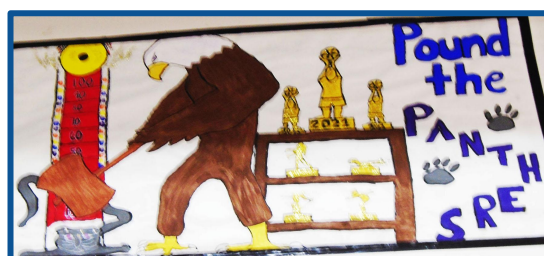
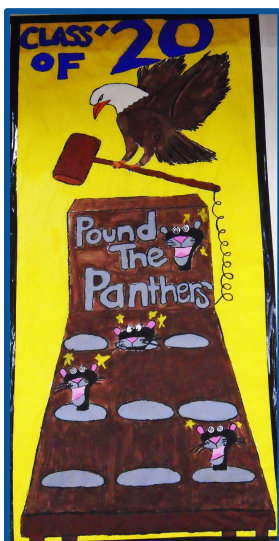
'Merica Monday
Tropical Tuesday
All White Wednesday
Throwback Thursday
Blue & Gold Friday

By: Darnell Love Watson
Marketing Manager



Spirit Week Class Posters

*Photos courtesy of Darnell Love
Watson*



Spirit Week King and Queen



Photo courtesy of Alcen

Princes and Princesses

2017 - Brendan F. & Amni K

2018 - Anuar T. & Vianna K.

2019 - Noah B. & Amya S.

Spirit week is a week of fun and school pride. Students and faculty dress up according to the day's theme. Students in each graduating class make a poster in order to support athletic teams. After being hung up they are then judged for the best looking poster. At the end of the week, there is a pep rally in which a competition is held. This year's competition was a Tug o' War. There is a team for each graduating class. There is also a loudest class chant contest (whole class yells the year they graduate). The senior graduating class won the chant contest. For Tug of War, the teachers won a hard battle against the seniors. The winners of the poster contest were the class of 2020 (Sr. High Division) and the class of 2019 (Jr. High Division).

Tug o' War Pictures



Photos courtesy of Alcen



♥ Love Found Locally ♥

By: Elizabeth Allen
Staff Writer

Looking for Valentine's Day Dinner and Gifts? Check out some local businesses!

L'Italia Wellsville

Open until 10 p.m.
Secret special menu.
L'Italia's staff is highly
recommending
reserving a table for
Valentine's Day.

(585)-593-2223



Paddy's Pub & Grill Hornell

Open from 12-8 p.m.
Special menu coming
soon along with a
special drink menu.

(607)-324-1960

Italian Villa Hornell

Open from 4-10 p.m.
special Valentine's
menu all through
February.

(607)-324-6063

Club 57 Hornell

Open until 10 p.m.
Check out their
Facebook page to see
how you can win a free
dinner for two this
Valentine's Day!

(607)-324-1143



Marino's Hornell

Open from 4-10 p.m.
Special menu coming
soon.
Marino's staff is highly
recommending making
a reservation for this
Valentine's Day.

(607)-324-5896

Way-To-Gro

Bouquets and gifts for your
special someone.
6292 Shaw Road, Alfred
Station, NY (607)-587-8866

Berry Vine Creations

Gorgeous bouquets and
affordable gifts for this
Valentine's Day!
16 Main St, Arkport, NY
(607)-295-9900

Bathrick's Florist and Gifts

Free deliveries and special gifts
including bears and other animals!
86 Thacher Street, Hornell, NY
(607)-324-2531

Doug's Flower Shop

Prices starting at \$45
Check out their website, <http://www.dougsfloralshop.com/>
for more information about their Deal of the Day!
162 Main Street, Hornell, NY
(607)-324-1400

Canacadea Country Store

Antique gifts perfect for
Valentine's Day!
599 State Route 244, Alfred
Station, NY
(607)-587-8634



Departing Senior Athletes: An Interview

By: **Dylan Thayer** - Marketing Manager

What did it feel like to score your first basket, win a race, or win your first match?

"It felt great because my coach was so proud of me after four years of not swimming."
- Kylie F.

"I felt pretty good about myself." - Levi B.

"It felt reassuring knowing I could do it again for the team."
- Noah H.

"It felt like I was finally part of the team." - Erin S.

"A huge sense of relief, in that I could wrestle at the Varsity Level." - Logan C.

"I felt like I had broken a barrier and it would only get easier from there." - Alec G.

"I felt that I was more important to the team."
- Lily C

"It was relieving making my first basket with all eyes on me." - Jarid B

What is your most memorable experience while being on the team?

"When coach makes us tread water while holding a brick."
- Kylie F.

"Getting pulled up to varsity in 10th grade."
- Levi B.

"Getting 4th in counties last year."
- Noah H.

"Last year's sectional loss. Yes, we were mad about losing, but also sad about parts of the team graduating. We were unified in that moment and proud of the overall memories."
- Erin S.

"Winning Team Sectionals my freshman year."
- Logan C.

"Beating Arkport my 9th grade year when I was pulled up for a game."
- Alec G.

"Forgetting my shoes at Hammondsport and using shoes I found in the locker room." - Lily C

"When I scored my first point!"
- Jarid B

What is your advice for future athletes coming up?

"Work as hard as possible. Keep your head up and try harder and harder every race you are in." - Kylie F.

"Work hard. Make it fun."
- Levi B.

"Never be lazy because you'll regret it in the future."
- Noah H.

"Push through the pain no matter how many times you fall." - Erin S.

"Don't put so much pressure on yourself. Just Wrestle."
- Logan C.

"With hard work comes reward." - Alec G.

"Keep practicing and be confident when you're out there!" - Lily C

"Keep practicing - it's the only way." - Jarid B

Who would you like to make a shout out to? Ex. Coaches, Teammates, Family, Friends...

"I want to give a shoutout to Coach Flaitz for always pushing me harder even when I do not want to." - Kylie F

"My family has helped me a lot with learning the game." - Levi B

"My dad because he's taught me almost everything I know about basketball." - Noah H

"Mrs. Turner for being stern when we needed it and being caring and understanding when we needed it." - Erin S

"I would like to give a shout out to Coach Cook for giving me confidence that I could win when I had none. And confidence in general." - Logan C

"I would like to thank my family for pushing me to be better and coming to a lot of my games over the years." - Alec G

"I would like to thank my family and Coach Turner and Coach Jackson for their support in basketball and in my schooling." - Lily C

"Shoutout to my fans at the games (Mom and Dad)." - Jarid B



Celebrating Super Bowl 50

By: Noah Holmok -Technology Advisor

Welcome to the page of Super Bowl 50, where you'll get all the info you need on the championship game, as well as the predictions of your fellow classmates and teachers.

This year's Super Bowl is between the NFC champions, the Carolina Panthers, and the AFC champions, the Denver Broncos. This memorable bowl is taking place on February 7 at 6:30 pm ET, in Levi's stadium, the home of the San Francisco 49ers.

The last time the Broncos won a Super Bowl was 1999, but they are looking for redemption after an embarrassing defeat to the Seahawks in 2014. The Panthers,

on the other hand, have never won a Super Bowl, and have only made one appearance in 2004.

Most people who have been asked to predict the winners have said that they think that the Panthers will win, but they want the Broncos to win because they're the underdogs (since the Panthers have looked dominating all season), or because Peyton Manning is the quarterback and they want him to win one more Super Bowl since it's suspected that he will retire soon and may not have another chance. Be sure to catch the commercials and the halftime show with Coldplay, Beyonce, and Bruno Mars.

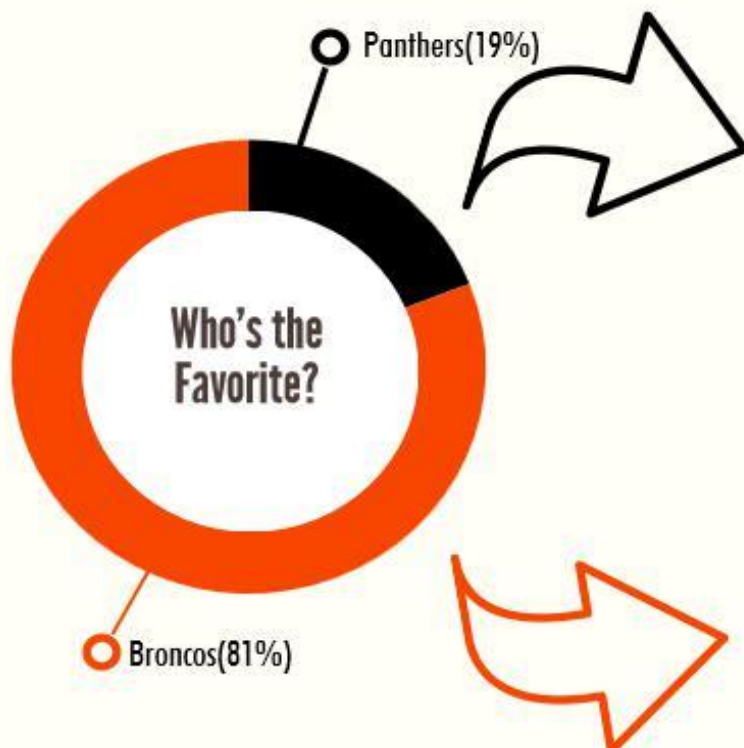


Carolina Panthers *Looking for their first trophy.*
Photo from wallpapercave.com



Denver Broncos *Can Manning get one more?*
Photo from 7-themes.com

Super Bowl 50 Poll



Quarterback: Cam Newton

Head Coach: Ron Rivera

Record: (17-1)

Quarterback: Peyton Manning

Head Coach: Gary Kubiak

Record: (14-4)

Stock Market Takes a Plunge

By
Gracen VanDyke
Copy Editor

Those of you who are unfamiliar with economics may be wondering what the Stock Market is. The Stock Market is a collection of countless transactions. There are a lot of programs people invest into, and a couple of mistakes or down days, when the prices of stock have declined from a previous point, can result in a crash.

On January 7, 2016, the prediction was that the Dow, which involves 30 different companies, would drop 50%; the markets are expected to replay the Stock Market Crash of 1929, 2000, and 2008.

Both the Dow and Nasdaq, a computerized system for trading in securities mostly being "techy" ideas, officially closed on Thursday, January 7, 2016.

Due to this downfall in the Stock Market, economic stability is leaving many countries in jeopardy.

As the world's largest source of oil, Russia is in a depression not only because of the economic hardship, but also because of the recent drop in oil prices. For every dollar the price goes down for a barrel of oil, Russia loses nearly \$2 billion dollars. The Prime Minister of Russia states that "Frankly, we, strictly speaking, have not fully recovered from the crisis of 2008."

On Friday, January 16, 2016, the price of crude oil dipped below \$30 a barrel on concerns of China. The index has fallen 30% since its December high. If the economic weakness in China leads to a sharp fall in demand of crude oil, there will have to be an even larger discount in the price.

You may be asking yourself, "Will the stocks ever recover?" or, "Are the gas prices going to stay relatively low?" The answer to both of these questions is, "Yes."

Stocks are expected to recover eventually. We have already seen some significant progress. According to Stock Market advisors, there may be a period of hardship for affected areas, but stocks will recover after many improvements are made, and recovery techniques are exercised.

Gas prices are also expected to stay relatively low. This is good to know for all of us drivers, who aren't fans of high gas prices. There will be periods of price fluctuations per usual, but oil will stand at a very low price compared to what it has been in the past years.



Stock Market NASDAQ in NYC.
Photo from zh.wikipedia.com



Stock Market Dow Jones NYSEG in NYC.
Photo from williamsonsource.com



Liberal... Democrat...

Conservative... Republican...



THE PRESIDENT



By Tayler Fox - Editor in Chief

...WHO WILL IT BE?

Liberal



Bernie Sanders

8.5



Martin O'Malley

6.9



Hillary Clinton

6.5



Donald Trump

4.9

Conservative



Marco Rubio

6.5



Ted Cruz

9.6

On a scale of 0-10
crowdpac.com rated the
candidates from most to least
liberal and conservative.

Highly Debated Issues:

Defense & Foreign
Policy



Taxes



Abortion

Immigration



Energy &
Environment



Healthcare

Economy

Gender
Equality



Guns



Gay
Rights



Education

Budget



Unions &
Workers

I would vote for Hillary Clinton.

She is the least objectionable
candidate in a bad selection.

We need a president who is going to
work for the people, pursue
beneficial policies, keep us out of
wars, build a good economy, and keep
peace with congress.

I am a Democrat due to the far right
swing of the Republican party in
recent years.

-Mr. Hall

History Teachers' Stance

I would vote for Chris Christie.

He is a middle of the road guy, and has proven
he can work with both parties during his time as
governor of New Jersey.

We need a president who is going to work with
both parties and not favor one party over
another. We need another president like Ronald
Reagan or Bill Clinton.

I am part of the Independence party.

-Mr. Donlon

If I had to vote right now I would
vote for Bernie Sanders, but for
the November election, I don't
know who I would vote for.

He is a Socialist, and I agree with
his views.

We need a president who has a
vision.

I am a registered Republican, but
my views most closely align with
a Socialist.

-Mr. Turner



Historic Elections in Saudi Arabia

By: Priya Rao - Copy Editor



In Saudi Arabia's third ever election on December 12, 2015, Saudi women were allowed, for the first time, to vote as well as to stand as candidates for public office. As a result, 21 women were elected. The elections were for municipal councils with few powers, such as advising local government and helping oversee local budgets.

However, this was a milestone in a deeply conservative country where women are not allowed to drive and are subject to male guardianship laws and other forms of discrimination. The decision to let women take part was made by late King Abdullah. The polling stations were segregated and female candidates had to speak behind a partition while campaigning. In addition, there were complex registration barriers that hindered the participation of women. Nevertheless, many women were able to vote, and social media helped women launch successful campaigns.

The voter turnout of women in this election was higher than expected. 80% of the 100,000 women who were registered participated in the voting process. This election is extremely important because it means voters, the majority of whom were men, see women as capable of carrying out the duties of the elected office. Fatima al-Juraysi, a voter, stated "This isn't just a step for Saudi women. It's a giant step. Let's now hope it isn't the last."

Moreover, Saudi women now have the ability to change many discriminatory rules that deal with women.

Some are not so optimistic, believing that the elections were just to show the West that reforms are occurring in Saudi Arabia. On the whole, though, most women believe that though it may be only a small victory, it is a crucial one.

“ This isn't just a step for Saudi women. It's a giant step. Let's now hope it isn't the last. ”
-Fatima al-Juraysi
(voter)



Amal Faisal
@Lulu_Faisal



I just voted for the 1st time in my life! It feels amazing to know that I have a voice, & it matters! 🙌👍

#saudiwomenvote

#saudielection

8:16 AM - 12 Dec 2015



12



21

Amal Faisal/Twitter

A Voter's Reaction A woman from Saudi Arabia tweets about her experience.

Photo from [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)



Women's roles changing Saudi women cast their first votes.

Photo from [globalmomchallenge.org](http://www.globalmomchallenge.org)



Parasitic Twin Found in Young Boy's Stomach

By: Levi Bayus - Photo Editor

From a young age, Narendra Kumar had been suffering from stomach pains, weight loss, and vomiting. Narendra's family, in Allahabad, India, did not know what was making him ill. So they decided to take him to Narayan Swaroop Hospital in Uttar Pradesh, a province in northern India, after many years of suffering. After an ultrasound and a CT scan, the doctors found a mass of bone, hair and teeth inside of Narendra's abdomen.

The mass was a 5.5 pound parasitic twin that had been feeding off Narendra, using an umbilical cord-like structure to get nutrients from his bloodstream. From this metabolic activity, the fetus was technically alive and growing. According to Narendra's doctor, the parasitic twin was 7.8 inches long, with hair, teeth, a malformed head, chest and spine structure, and lots of yellow sacs filled with amniotic fluid. After a three hour surgery, Narendra's parasitic twin was removed.



Brotherly Love Narendra Kumar lying next to his parasitic twin after surgery. *Photo from dailymail.com*



*Warning Graphic content.
Photo from wpclipart.com*

Narendra's father says he felt relieved because his son could now go back to school and lead a healthy life.

This rare condition is called Fetus in Fetu, and affects only one in five million live births. The condition occurs, (in the early stages of pregnancy with twins) when one fetus is absorbed into the other. Fetus in Fetu is thought to result from an unequal division of totipotent inner cells, which is the mass of cells that is the ancestral precursor to all cells in the body. This unequal division can result in a conjoined or parasitic twin, while in the host twin, the fetus acts as if it is a parasite, living off of its sibling for survival. The mass poses a risk to the host twin because it continually grows, causing hemorrhaging in the host twin. The mass, when grown to a reasonable size, can also put pressure on the diaphragm, causing the host twin shortness of breath and potential suffocation. This condition is rare; there have only been 200 instances ever

reported, and in 80 percent of the cases, the absorbed twin is in the abdomen. In even more rare cases, the mass is in the skull of its host twin. There have been more reports of this condition in the past couple of years than in the past because technology has improved to the point where doctors can easily detect a mass. Doctors are able to notify the parents of infants with this condition and encourage them to have the mass surgically removed to improve the quality of life for the host twin.

Fetus in Fetu was first described by German anatomist Johann Friedrich Meckel in the late 18th century. Meckel focused on malformation in embryological development. This focus led him to develop concepts about Fetus in Fetu and other abnormal fetus developments. All of Meckel's discoveries have influenced the field of medicine and embryology in the nineteenth and the twentieth century.



Close up Narendra Kumar's parasitic twin. *Photo from dailymail.com*



Delivery Drones

By: **Mathew Mayes**
Editor in Chief Lite

Ever since Amazon Air's unveiling back in 2013, Amazon drones have been the source of numerous news articles, predictions, criticisms, and parodies. The drones are part of Amazon's plan to allow for 30 minute delivery from the moment the customer presses the order button, with the intention of having your products shipped directly to your yard.

Don't get too excited, though. Amazon has claimed the drones will have a radius of 10 miles, which would only allow delivery by drone to people who are within this distance of an Amazon facility. The nearest such facility is in New York City! So, this technology won't be coming to Alfred or Almond anytime soon.

However, would this technology even be practical in the areas where it *is* available? Many flaws in the plan have already been pointed out. One of these is that Amazon facilities tend to be much farther than 10 miles from major cities. San Francisco's nearest facility, for example, is 60 miles outside of the city. Unless the radiuses of the drones are improved, drones would only be available to a relatively small population living on the far outskirts of these population centers.

Amazon also has to find a way to make this system profitable. The typical delivery truck can carry up to 120 packages, while each drone could only carry one.



Flying Grill? *One of Amazon's drone designs being tested. Photo from Amazon.com*

This means that the delivery by drone would either be extremely expensive for the customer, or extremely unprofitable for Amazon. Unless the drones are made more efficient, this is a huge problem for Amazon.

The system does come with many potential benefits however. Drones would release less carbon emissions than the army of delivery trucks currently used by Amazon. Having fewer trucks active would also clear up road ways and reduce traffic in urban areas. Also, for all those moments when we need a product quickly, drones would supply a solution.



The Heavy Lifter *Another model being tested, this one is much larger; for bigger packages. Photo From Amazon.com*

It is still unknown if the drones would even be possible, Amazon has yet to reach a deal with the federal government regarding airspace. The Government fears that drones could pose a danger to both small and large aircraft. Amazon's solution to this would be to create an air space at a certain altitude meant entirely for drones, preventing potential collisions. If an agreement is made, it will still likely be a while before you see the sky filled with drones. After Amazon works out the current problems the drones will likely be put to the test in a few cities before nationwide coverage is available.

One thing is for sure though, Amazon benefitted majorly through media attention with the unveiling of drones. The company received intense media coverage and numerous articles have been written regarding the decision. It is entirely possible that the whole thing is a clever advertising plan meant to drum up attention. There is no doubt that drones will begin to play a bigger role in our lives. With the increased popularity of privately owned drones, lawmakers are beginning to discuss how to regulate these airborne vehicles. People suddenly have the power to fly their own small aircraft and it might be some time before we see the real impacts.





Kale and Crossfit

How does kale affect my life?

By
Levi Lawrence
Public Relations
Manager

What exactly is CrossFit?

What's the first food that comes to mind when someone asks you about eating healthy? You would probably answer something like carrots, maybe fruit, or even a big juicy cheeseburger. Turns out that none of these foods are nearly as healthy as that ambiguous green leaf we know as kale! We all know that kale alone doesn't taste that great, but I hope after reading this article you can look at it from a different perspective.

Kale comes from the vegetable family. Coming from such heritage, there are numerous benefits to eating it. For starters, kale contains almost every vitamin you can imagine, such as A, B6, K, and a large amount of C as well. It also contains essential minerals, including Potassium, Calcium, Manganese, Magnesium, and Copper, all of which are essential for growth and development. And last but not least, kale is full of antioxidants, which lower the risk of getting different kinds of cancer, and, it is very low in cholesterol, helping to fight against heart disease. Kale pretty much contains everything that one would need to live a healthy lifestyle! Keep reading to find out different ways to prepare kale.

Kale Soup: In a pot, saute 1 chopped onion, then add 1 cup each chopped carrots and celery until soft. Add 6 cups water, 1 tbsp low-sodium soup base, and 1 cup black beans. Simmer uncovered. Stir occasionally until beans cook. Add 1 bunch chopped kale and cook until tender.

Kale Smoothie: Blend 1 cup, chopped kale, 1 frozen banana chopped, 1/3 avocado, 1 cup low-fat kefir, and 1 stevia leaf until desired texture is reached.

Kale Chips: pull apart 1 bunch kale and tear into bite-size pieces. Spread kale over baking sheet and distribute 2 tbsp olive oil and 1 tsp salt throughout the pan, coating the kale. Bake at 350 for 25 minutes, rotating the chips after 10 minutes.



Photo from
keepcalmandcarryon.com

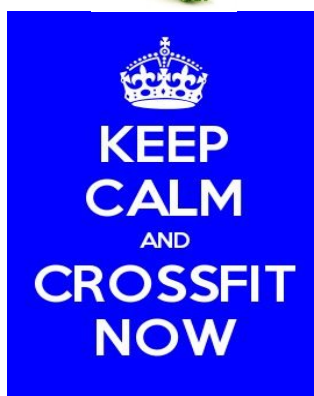


Photo from
keepcalmandcarryon.com

CrossFit Links

[-http://www.crossfit.com/](http://www.crossfit.com/)

[-https://www.crossfit.com/exercisedemos/](https://www.crossfit.com/exercisedemos/)

[-http://dailyburn.com/life/fitness/best-crossfit-workouts/](http://dailyburn.com/life/fitness/best-crossfit-workouts/)

CrossFit is currently the most popular strength and conditioning program for many police academies and tactical operations teams, military special operations units, champion martial artists, and hundreds of other elite and professional athletes worldwide. The concept of "crossfitting" is not just designated for specialized individuals or people who can afford to go to a gym every day. It is a very diverse program that can be carried out by any individual at any age. It is considered to be an "elite" system of fitness, but the workouts done in crossfit can be conducted by anyone, not just those who have fitness experience. It is a system that has proved to be very successful with the correct execution. It has become a popular practice because the people that commit to using the fitness program have seen the results for themselves, and it is a big step toward creating a healthy life for oneself. The actual routines are very simple. They attempt to work multiple muscle groups simultaneously for a short period of time by doing a single intense movement or exercise. A typical crossfit workout should last around 30-40 minutes on average. Results can be seen for crossfit beginners in the first few weeks! Check out links below to get an idea of average crossfit workouts.



Getting huge A big man pulling his weight.
Photo from skypointcrossfit.com



Hilarious Hudson

By: Joe Kenyon
Editor in Chief Lite

Comedy, the art of bringing joy to people and making them laugh. A lot of people are funny, but you have to be more than funny to be a stand-up comedian.

On December 5, 2015 at Alfred University's "Knight Club," local Alfred-Almond tenth grader, Hudson Laprade, officially started his stand-up comedy career. Hudson started writing comedy in the seventh grade, and has always enjoyed making people laugh, but he really got into stand-up after his friend, Kyler Kress, showed him that he was able to listen to stand-up on Pandora.

After Hudson got more and more into stand-up, he started going to shows. One of his favorite shows he watched was with his buddy "Santi" Guevera - Lemeland, and it featured John Mulaney. During the show Hudson ended up mic'd up to have a conversation with Mulaney. They both talked back and forth and Hudson had an amazing time. After the show Mulaney shook Hudson's hand, and that's when he knew stand-up would be his career path.

Hudson has been in two stand-up acts, one in Alfred in December of 2015, and another in Manhattan earlier this year, at the "Klimat." The Klimat was an

open mic, so most of the artist consisted of comedians, one of the biggest critics for another comedian. Although Hudson may have been nervous, he didn't show it, he got on stage and did his act. He made the crowd giggle, grin, and roar. After his performance, he received a lot of tips and tricks from other comedians. to help perform his act. I asked Hudson what he liked most about being a comedian, and he replied, "They've been laughing, which is always good."

Hudson is incredibly funny, it's hard to not grin.

Photo courtesy of Chase Angier



HAHAHAHA
SEMESTER
ENFELD

CEMBER 5
NT CLUB
NIVERSITY
OPENERS
ICA BRODKIN
ND HUDSON LAPRADE
FREE NACHO BAR

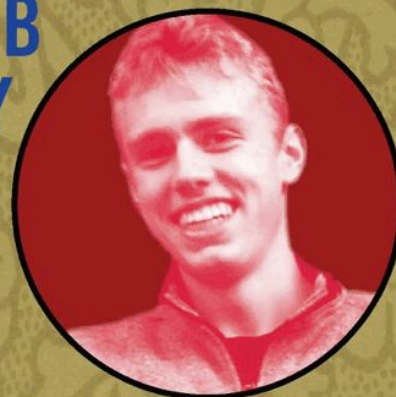


Photo courtesy of Dan Napolitano



ALEX THE PROGRAMMER

By: **Dylan Dirlam** - Technology Advisor

If you've ever played a videogame or used an application on a computer or phone, you may have asked yourself, "How did they make this?" Well, the answer is quite simple: they were coded by a programmer. At Alfred-Almond, there may be more programmers than you would think.

Alex Degraff is a Junior at Alfred-Almond and is also a computer programmer. He has taught himself how to code since he was in seventh grade. At the time, a lot of his energy was spent on Minecraft with friends, but he wanted to do something more than just play the game; he wanted to control it. Alex set out to recreate a platform game similar to Super Mario inside of Minecraft. Back in 2012, there weren't many characters or enemies in the game, so Alex had to make them himself. This really helped to increase his interest and kickstart his coding hobby.

Over the past few years, Alex's coding skills have grown and allowed him to create his own original games and applications. His favorite creation was a 3D Particle Flocker he created in the summer preceding his tenth grade year. The program generated a particle that travelled in a random direction and had hundreds of other particles surrounding the original particle. The particles are constantly in motion but never touch each other. It creates an effect that worked similar to how birds flock, hence

where the term particle "flocking" came from.

Alex's main focus has always been on video game development. Over the years, he has created eight finished games and applications and has also created countless more unfinished projects.

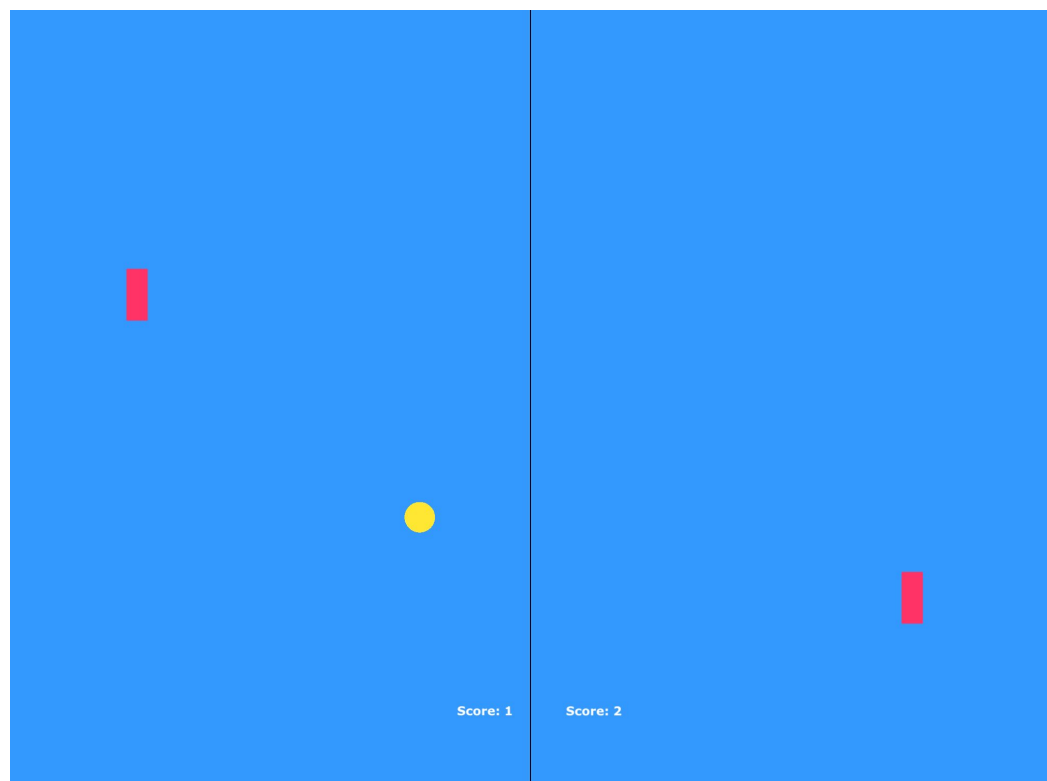
Most of his games are developed using programs such as Unity, Unreal Engine 4, and XCode. These programs help him to create and test his games whether they're designed for a computer, console, or mobile device.

Many people do not understand how coding can be fun and entertaining, but Alex finds his interest in overcoming the

problems that arise and finding the solutions. His favorite part of coding is when the project that has been planned out is fully completed and every problem is solved.

Alex plans to make more games over the winter and hopes to release a game on Apple's AppStore by the end of the summer. His dream is to have a game published on a large platform such as Valve's Steam Client for computers, or Xbox Live.

After high school, Alex intends to go to college for computer science and pursue his love for coding. After college, his dream job is to become a software developer.



Air Pong! A screenshot taken from Alex's recreation of the classic game Pong.
Photo courtesy of Alex Degraff

Advice

What is the ideal
restaurant for
Valentine's Day?

By
Brooke Jefferds
Public Relations Manager

For more dining suggestions check out page 5!

It truly depends on where you're willing to travel. It can be as easy as reserving a table at Marino's in Hornell and sharing a chocolate cake for two or, if you want to get out of town, I recommend the Melting Pot in Rochester. According to Nation's Restaurant News, it is the number one casual restaurant in the U.S. It has also won the Open Table Diners' Choice Awards for top 100 romantic restaurants in America. It is pricey, so if you're on a budget, I would avoid the whole restaurant arena on this special night and cook your date a nice dinner. Sometimes a restaurant doesn't have everything your significant other loves. The restaurant decision can be a tough one, but your significant other's favorite restaurant is always a go!



Top Ten Places on Your Bucket List



Bora Bora



Rome, Italy



Bangkok, Thailand



Cartagena, Colombia



London, United Kingdom



Barcelona, Spain



Isle of Man



Paris, France



Crete, Greece



Cape Town, South Africa



Photo Courtesy of Bailey Comer

Senior 2016 Profiles

By: Bailey Comer -
Copy Editor



Photo Courtesy of Bailey Comer

Questions:

February
Levi. L

Since there is only one senior with a February birthday, we will take the time to acknowledge a September birthday that was not previously recognized in the *Observer*.

1. What do you plan on doing for Valentine's Day?
2. What career do you plan to pursue after college?
3. What do you enjoy most about your senior year?
4. (If you're leaving town) What will you miss the most about Alfred/ Almond?
5. Favorite Gym unit?



Photo courtesy of Bailey Comer

“

1. Probably eating chocolate
2. Criminal Justice
3. Playing ping pong after school with the teachers in the cage
4. Mr. Donlon and Mr. Turner
5. Volleyball

”

September
Erin S.

“

1. Spending time with my family and my close friends
2. I hope to run my own business and coach an equestrian team.
3. I enjoy being a strong leader on my riding team as well as the anticipation of starting a new chapter in college
4. Being so close to my family and knowing exactly where I am
5. Floor hockey because no one is really overly good at it so everyone is on a mostly even playing field

”



Photo Courtesy of Bailey Comer



Thank You, Counselors!

By:

Michelle Feenaughty
Staff Writer

It's National School Counseling week, where we thank our Alfred - Almond counselors. Mrs. Decker and Mr. Mac have been counselors at A-A for over fifteen years. They help provide schedules, solve conflicts between students, and guide us through high school as we look to our future. Mrs. Decker focuses much of her time helping seniors as we struggle with the stress of looking for careers and applying for college. We can always look to Mr. Mac to put us in a good mood when we are having a rough day. Mr. Mac even has a guitar in his office that he lets students play at times. We can also always count on both counselors to cheer us up every morning. We dedicate this issue of the *Observer* to our counselors. Thank you Mr. Mac and Mrs. Decker for all that you do!

Thanks for all the help with college applications!
Priya Rao

Thank you for all that you do!
-Becky (Bailey)

Thank you all
-Noah, N

Thank you!
-Kerstyn Sage-

Thank You! Grace Yancy Castle

Thank you for the support you give students and resources you make available to us.

Thank you - Abigail Fancher
-Emily Campbell

Thanks

Thank you Alexis Watson

Lucas Wyatt

Thank you - Kyle Mageson

Thank you

Thank you so much

-Chris Galusha

I really appreciate how passionate and supportive you are of us students! Taylor Fox

Thanks for handling my mental breakdowns
-Caitlin Cook

Thank you so much!

Haillyn <3 Stebbins

Thank you!!

-Jake Schultze

Thanks for everything that you both have done it has made a huge impact

-Darnell/Love Watson

Thank you for all the college search help!
-Dylan Dirlam

Thank you for every thing that you do!
-Will Tommy

Thank you! Anne Lloyd

Thanks y'all
-sidney

Thanks for help!!!
-Dylan

Thanks!
-Ben Deutsch

Thank you for all that you do!
-Jesse

Thank you Paul

Thank you for all that you do to help us - max

Thank you!
- Alyssa W.



B-C
12345678910

Duncan

THANK
YOU - Kyle
Brody Nagle

Thanks For all!

Thank
you

Jonathan
Thank
you so much!
- Abby Hendrix

Gavin
Porter
Ty

Thank
you
- Drady Holmott

The best
Mrs Decker

Thank you for
dressing up last
week!

Thank
you for your
help - Kellie
Galusha

Thank
you
- Sullad

Thank you
- Renee
Mezarshi

Thank you!

Thanks
- Lindsay

Thank you!
- Celeste
Badeau

Thank you!

Thank you!
- Zach
Patterson

Thank you for
everything!
- Logan
Brown - Kelsey
Pine

Thanks Mr. Mac
- Cole

Gracia's
- Althea Cushing

Thank
you
- Rori

Thanks Mr. Mac

- Cameron

Thank
you!
- Meghan

Thank
you!
- Wendy

Thank you
- Shannon
Heinig

Thank
you!
- Kylie

Thank
you!
- Corey
Patterson

Thank
you!

Thank
you
- Dylan
Gibbs

Thank
you
- Janu
Dylana

Thank
you!
- Eden
Roe

Thank
you
- Bella
Howell



Interesting Career Paths

FLIGHT ATTENDANT



Education: At least a high school diploma, but degrees in hospitality are preferred

Workload: Flight attendants fly 75 to 90 hours per month and have around 50 hours of duties at the airport.

Salary: Starting salary for a flight attendant is around \$23k but can go up to \$72k

EVENT PLANNER



Education: A bachelors degree in hospitality, marketing, public relations, communication, or business is preferred.

Workload: Organization and desk work is needed to plan events. You need to be available every day of the year, even holidays if your clients choose that day

Salary: to start, event planners make \$46k

CRUISE DIRECTOR



Education: A degree in hospitality is preferred, but generally Cruise Directors start out as regular staff on a cruise and work their way up.

Workload: Cruise directors are responsible for directing all the entertainment and associated activities throughout the vessel.

Salary: starts from \$3,000 to \$7,000 a month.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to **Conner Griffin and Mariah Hann** for helping the ALCEN Staff with page design and taking pictures.

-Mrs. Valentine

Thank you **Joe** for all that you have done for the Spirit Week poster!

-Class Of 2016

Thank you **Mrs. Shinebarger and Mrs. Gemmell** for everything that you do for the kids.

-Dan Johnson

Thanks **Big Dan** for cleaning the school!

-Dylan Thayer and Joe Kenyon

Thank you to the **Semi Formal Planning Committee** for all your time and efforts in organizing the dance.

-Mr. McAneney and Mrs. Bain-Lucey

Thank you to **all of those who took part in International Night - presenters, volunteers, and visitors** for making this event a success! All of the hard work really paid off with a fun-filled night of food, music, culture, family, friends, and a great sense of community. We look forward to next year! Thanks again!

-Secondary SIT Committee

Thank you **Mrs. Palmer** for all the new art smocks!

-Mrs. Booman

I would like to thank **Mrs. Booman** for all the support she has given artists in and out of school. She encourages students to stay positive and gives them constructive criticism. I am definitely going to miss her smiles and hellos in the halls when I leave next year!

-Tayler Fox

If you wish to acknowledge anyone, go to this link

<http://goo.gl/forms/deFL9sO5Sy>

By: Kelsey Cline - Photo Editor



Valentine Puzzles



By: Paige Schmidt, Staff Writer

Corny pick up lines
for Valentine's day!!



Connect the dots to
create the picture!

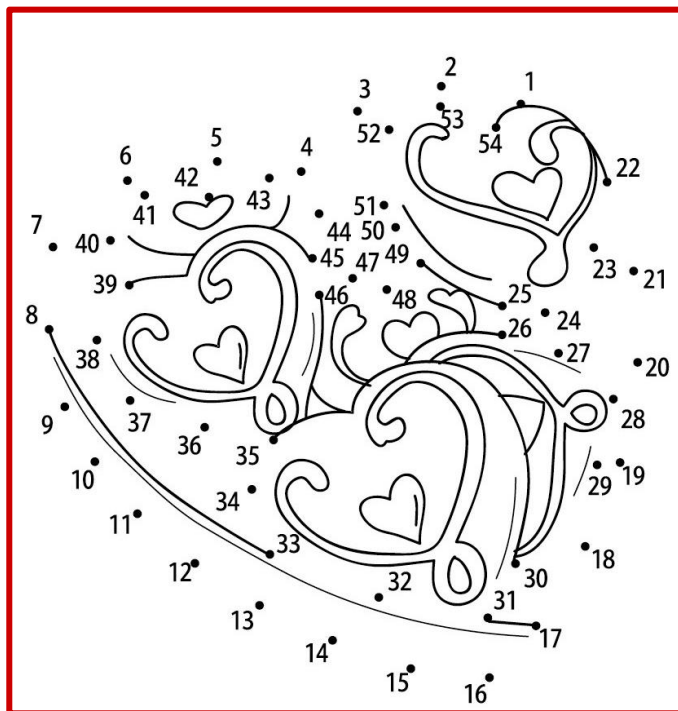
How much does a
polar bear weigh?
Enough to break the
ice.

Whale you be my
Valentine?

Happy
Valentines
Day

Are you from
Tennessee? Cause
you're the only ten
I see.

You must be a
keyboard
because you're
just my type.



Sudoku

			9	7		6		
	9		8		3	1	5	
2	5				6			
	8	2		5			7	1
4			7		1			2
6	1			3		4	9	
			5				1	8
	7	4	1		9		3	
		8		6	7			

