



The Falcon Post

November & December 2024 | Issue #4

Jordan High School's student-run news source

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A Note from the Editors

We at Falcon Post hope to bring the holiday spirit to you with our November/December issue! As always, we've brought you information about what's happening around the school, with articles like Katie Taylor's on the Duke wrestling match at Jordan. We have plenty of holiday content coming your way this month, too, like "Mythbusters: Hanukkah" by Phoebe Artin. And be sure to check out our holiday playlist, featuring some favorites of Falcon Post members. We wish you all a happy holiday season, and hope you enjoy this issue!

Happy reading,
Ainsley Buzby and Ruby Gentithes
Editors-in-Chief

School News

Holiday Concerts Preview

by Ruby Gentithes, senior

Jordan's winter concert season is upon us, and it's a great opportunity to support your friends in the arts and see some inspiring performances! Tickets for all of the concerts are \$5 or five falcon feathers.

Arts



Photo from Instagram, @jhstheatrearts

Official Review of Jordan's Fall Play: Read to Find Out Who Dunit

by Sydney Sarver, sophomore

Jordan's fall production, *Clue*, was a booming success. The play was enjoyed by the audience, receiving many laughs all three nights it was onstage. *Clue* is a murder mystery where six guests are given aliases and invited to a dinner party, where they realize they are all being blackmailed by a mysterious man. The drama starts when the host is killed, and the guests are left to figure out who did it as a series of murders occurs by an unknown killer...

The cast had several weeks of after school rehearsal leading up to the show, allowing them to be well-prepared by opening night on Thursday, November 21st. Besides minor mistakes, including issues with the microphones and other small tech problems, the show went smoothly. The set was unique, an intricate mansion with five rooms that slid onstage.

Danica Laan, the senior who played Yvette, and Edmund Pattishall, the junior who played Wadsworth, are both experienced Jordan actors whose performances were entertaining, as expected.

Sophomore Gabe Campos played Mr. Green, and although it was his debut on the Jordan stage, he was a crowd favorite, keeping the audience engaged with his comedic timing.

Students and other audience members enjoyed the show. "Seeing *Clue* was the highlight of my week," said Olivia Ko, a Jordan sophomore. "The twist at the end was so surprising and fun and executed wonderfully!"

Jordan students who enjoyed *Clue* should stay tuned for the musical *Big Fish*, which will be onstage the last two weekends in March.

Creative Writing Column

What Would I Find?

by Nora Gordon, senior

What would I find?
What would I find if I opened you up?
A half-stomached sandwich? An organ? Some schmuck?
Maybe some leftover glitter you poured
The kind that you can't seem to fully clean up
That clings to all surfaces, never really unstuck
Maybe a watermelon seed from when you were five
(Your dad said don't swallow them, or else they might flower, and you'd die)

Maybe that one stuffed animal you slept with every night
(and maybe still do, just maybe, you might)
That used to be a creamy and clear pretty blue
But has faded to the color of odd grayish goo
So loved that it's missing one of its eyes
And gained a few holes
And walked a few miles

What would I find if I opened you up?
That song you can't seem to get out of your head?
That runs circles on your ceiling every night before bed?
Maybe the fingerprints of your favorite person?
Leaving marks on your heart, on your innards, your organs?

Whatever I find, I'll put carefully back.
Being sure to repair any keepsakes I cracked
I'll treasure every odd and gross thing that I find
(especially what's in your weird wacky mind)

Sports

Jordan High hosts Duke University wrestling match

by Katie Taylor, freshman



Photo by Sam Janicki

On November 22, Jordan High School hosted the Duke University wrestling team in its main gymnasium, due to an accidental double-booking of Duke University's gymnasium, Cameron Indoor Stadium.

The University of Michigan's wrestling team, ranked 5th in the Big Ten conference, and 8th nationally, beat Duke University, ranked 7th in the ACC, 35-11. The results of the match were not unexpected, with Michigan being a higher-ranked team.

In college wrestling, points are awarded for actions and moves. Individual wrestlers can earn between one and four points for a given move, including takedowns, falls, escapes, and more. According to the NCAA, "The wrestler with the most points at the end of seven minutes can earn between three and six bonus points for his team."

The University of Michigan's team scored bonus points in all seven of its individual matches. Michigan won 5 of their matches by technical falls, one major decision, and one pin, when Joseph Walker pinned Gaetano Console down, ultimately winning the match. Duke University won their points by winning three matches, two by major decisions, and one by a minor (regular) decision.

Sources:

- 1) "How a college wrestling match is scored," NCAA
- 2) "2024-25 Wrestling Standings," ACC
- 3) "Wrestling Standings," Big Ten
- 4) "Duke Falls to No. 8 Michigan, 35-11," GoDuke

World/US News

Falcon Post Holiday Movie List

by Sydney Sarver, sophomore and Eloise Schultz, freshman

Now that the holiday season is here, Falcon Post encourages you to get in the holiday spirit by watching some much-loved winter movies. Take a look at our list of favorites for this year.

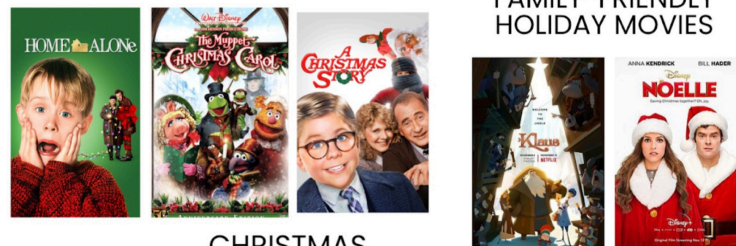
There are many choices when it comes to holiday movies. They range from *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, a classic 90s Christmas comedy, to *Klaus*, a Santa Claus origin story taking place in a fictional, troubled town called Smeerenburg where a spoiled young postman learns that a simple act of kindness always sparks another. Additionally, although *Die Hard* was excluded from our list due to controversy over whether it can be considered a Christmas movie, it's another classic pick you may enjoy, and join in the debate.

No matter what you have planned for the holiday season, seasonal movies are a great way to celebrate winter. See our picks by category below.

HOLIDAY CLASSICS



FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY MOVIES



CHRISTMAS COMEDIES



Spotify Wrapped 2024

by Katie Taylor, freshman

It's that time of the year! On December 4th, 2024, over 626 million people across the globe, including many Jordan High School students, received their Spotify Wrapped. Spotify Wrapped is an annual tradition where Spotify gives their listeners a chance to look back at their listening history, including top songs, artists, and many more.

Spotify Wrapped allows listeners to compare listening history with friends and family and makes it easy for influencers and social media users to post their Spotify Wrapped for others to see. This is not only fun for creators and their followers, but it also helps Spotify advertise.

Spotify sends each user a specialized Spotify Wrapped, but they also post an overall global Spotify Wrapped for all users. The results from this year's global Spotify Wrapped were similar to last year's (2023). Both this year and last year had the same top 4 artists globally, just in different orders: Taylor Swift, Bad Bunny, The Weeknd, and Drake. Further down on the list of top 10 artists, both 2023 and 2024 had Travis Scott, Feid, and Peso Pluma in common.

When it comes down to specific songs, though, there is a large difference between this year and previous years. Typically, more recently released songs are trending; however, "Cruel Summer" by Taylor Swift was in Spotify's top ten in both 2023 and 2024.

This year the top five most streamed songs globally were "Espresso" by Sabrina Carpenter, "Beautiful Things" by Benson Boone, "BIRDS OF A FEATHER" by Billie Eilish, "Gata Only" by FloyyMenor and Chris Mj, and "Lose Control" by Teddy Swims. All these songs were released in 2024, as expected, except for "Lose Control" by Teddy Swims, which was released in 2023.

Another popular section of Spotify Wrapped is the most viral songs. The top five songs were "Die With A Smile" by Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga, "BIRDS OF A FEATHER" by Billie Eilish, "Beautiful Things" by Benson Boone, "Lose Control" by Teddy Swims, and finally "Good Luck, Babe!" by Chappell Roan.

Photo from
Spotify
Newsroom



Music is the most popular part of Spotify Wrapped, but it also includes audiobooks and podcasts. The top three most-listened-to audiobooks include "A Court of Thorns and Roses" by Sarah J. Maas, "The Fellowship of the Ring" by J. R. R. Tolkien, and "I'm Glad My Mom Died" by Jennette McCurdy. The top three most-listened-to podcasts are "The Joe Rogan Experience," "Call Her Daddy," and "This Past Weekend w/ Theo Von."

If you are interested in any of these podcasts, take a look at Spotify's "For the Record" webpage for more information.

Trump's Cabinet Picks

by Emilia Magwene Muñiz, freshman

President-elect Donald Trump has started to assemble candidates for his second presidential administration. He has announced who he wants in most key roles. This article will examine 7 of the many cabinet nominees.

Secretary of State

Marco Rubio, a Republican Senator for the state of Florida, has been nominated for Secretary of State. Rubio is a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations and has stated that the United States is entering "an era of pragmatic foreign policies." In April, Marco Rubio voted against an aid package of 61 billion dollars for Ukraine.

Treasury Secretary

President-elect Donald Trump announced hedge fund owner Scott Bessent as his pick for Treasury. Secretary Bessent's largest managerial responsibility was when he previously worked as the chief investment officer for the Soros Fund Management, overseeing 320 employees. If confirmed as Treasury Secretary, he would be overseeing over 100,000 employees. Despite many economists warning tariffs will boost prices, Bessent claimed that tariffs are not inflationary.

Health and Human Services Secretary

Robert F. Kennedy Junior (RFK), the nephew of former President John F. Kennedy, was nominated by Trump for the Health and Human Services Secretary position. Kennedy is the founder of the Children's Health Defense, an organization that has questioned the value of vaccines.

His health stances have also long been in the spotlight for their controversial and inaccurate nature. The former commissioner of the FDA Dr. Scott Gottlieb says that “if RFK follows through on his intentions, and I believe he will, and I believe he can, it will cost lives in this country.”

Labor Secretary

Lori Chavez-DeRemer is a Republican representative from Oregon who Trump nominated for the Labor Secretary. Unlike many House Republicans, she supports major pro-union legislation such as the PRO Act. Chavez-DeRemer promoted legislation to protect workers with government pension benefits from losing their Social Security benefits and legislation to make unionizing easier on federal levels.

Commerce Secretary

Howard Lutnick, the head of Cantor Fitzgerald, a prominent financial services firm, is Donald Trump’s nominee for Commerce Secretary. Lutnick has expressed large amounts of vocal support for Trump’s economic policies, especially the tariffs and tax cuts central to Trump’s campaign.

Homeland Security Secretary

Kristi Noem is the South Dakota Governor and Trump’s nominee for the Secretary of Homeland Security. As a governor, Kristi Noem had tried to pass state laws where demonstrations were targeted, like ones in North Dakota that plagued the Dakota Access oil pipeline, in which, according to AP News, Native Americans played a large part.

Education Secretary

Linda McMahon, Trump’s nominee for Education Secretary, is the former CEO and executive of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE). She holds a teaching certificate but has never worked in a classroom. She served one year on the Connecticut Board of Education in 2009 before quitting.

Read more about these cabinet nominees and see cited sources on the Falcon Post website or at the QR code below.



Native American Heritage Month: A Quick History

by Ainsley Buzby, senior

November marks Native American Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the contributions of Native Americans and reconcile complicated relationships. November is also a time to be thankful for the people who came before us, which starts with understanding their impact and history.

Native American tribes have lived in the North Carolina region since the Paleoindian Period, around 10,000 BCE. Artifacts such as baskets, spears, and other hunting tools have been found that date back to as early as 9500-8500 BCE. By the time Europeans came to the Americas, Native Americans had settlements and grew squash, corn, beans, and other crops.

Following the introduction of European settlers, Native American tribes in the Americas experienced drastic population declines due to diseases, conflict with Europeans, and conflicts with other tribes. Since then, they have faced loss of land and population decline, but their rich culture has lived on.

Native Americans invented many everyday technologies and items we rely upon. They are responsible for a multitude of innovations such as baby bottles, kayaks, genetically modified food, and certain medications. They also are known for their vibrant art and music. Native American music is closely tied to nature and meaningful events.

In addition to their history, this month is also a time to celebrate current Native American work and culture. Influential Native Americans today include Marine Colonel Nicole Mann, the first Native American to travel to space, Deb Haaland, the first Indigenous cabinet member, and Cheri Madsen, a 4-time Paralympian with 10 medals. They and many other Native Americans are breaking barriers and contributing to Native American history.

Although November is over, it’s still important to take time to appreciate the culture and history of Native Americans, as well as the accomplishments they continue to make today.

Sources:

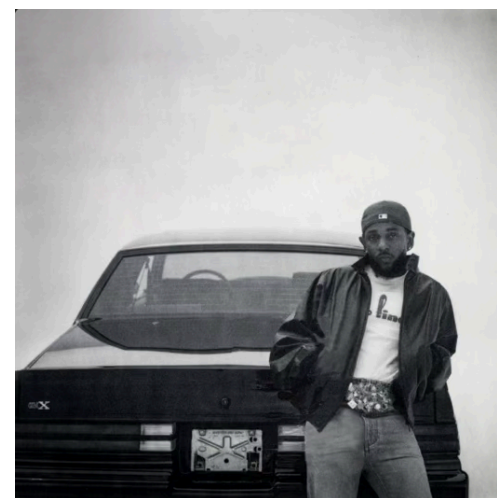
- 1) nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov
- 2) “Native American Heritage Month,” NYC Public Schools
- 3) “A history of Native Americans in North Carolina,” Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
- 4) “25 Famous Native Americans to Pay Homage to This November and Beyond,” Country Living
- 5) “10 Native American Inventions Commonly Used Today,” History.com
- 6) “Appreciating Native American Music,” Library of Congress

GNX | Kendrick Lamar An Album Review

by Noah Dillon, sophomore

Kendrick fans and music lovers alike were all shocked to see a new Kendrick Lamar album on a random Friday. But if it had an announcement, or any hype at all, it definitely would have lived up to it. Immediately, *GNX* starts off with a long build up of “wacced out murals,” then a West Coast banger with “squabble up.” Next, Kendrick changes it up with a SZA-featured full R&B track “luther.” The odd thing about this album that sets it apart from any other Kendrick Lamar project is that it doesn’t take the structure of a concept album, compared to every other one of his works. It varies heavily from song to song and has very little consistent ideas or themes. A lot of the album feels like a victory lap from the Drake beef earlier this year, with many hard hitting songs that don’t necessarily have much deeper meaning. He also reclaims his song and continues “The Heart Pt. ___” series. Drake released his own “The Heart Part 6” during the beef as a diss, so it was only right for Kendrick to reclaim it, and even subtly diss Drake again, while not referencing him once in the song.

He also heavily dipped into his bag of slower R&B songs. Two songs with SZA, along with tracks like “dodger blue,” truly switch up the vibes throughout a listen. Many of the best songs in this album, as well as throughout Kendrick’s entire career, are the longer, deeper, more conceptual songs. What makes these so great on *GNX* is how not only the storytelling is amazing but how he makes them into genuinely enjoyable listens. Songs like “wacced out murals” and “man at the garden” are great, but what I personally believe is by far the best track on the album is the high tempo banger “reincarnated.”



“reincarnated” consists of three verses. With the first two, Kendrick puts himself into the lives of two legendary musicians he feels connected to. He starts with the highly influential guitarist John Lee Hooker, and then goes on to tell the story of Billie Holiday, one of the most famous jazz musicians ever. While both artists were extremely influential and successful, they both faced issues, one with gluttony, the other with addiction. The song ends with a verse about Kendrick’s present life and his own struggles and issues. It heavily reminds me of his well known but unreleased song “Prayer,” with a very similar concept and structure. Overall, *GNX* is messy, but it comes together in an amazing way. It provides many different sides of Kendrick and simply some great songs; top three Kendrick for me, personally.

OVERALL RATING: 9.2/10

Best Song: reincarnated

Worst Song: peekaboo (still great; it had strong competition)

Mythbusters: Hanukkah

by Phoebe Artin, junior

Hanukkah. It’s one of the many holidays that happen in December (usually) and people think they know a lot about it. Let’s see how much you actually know with some common myths and misconceptions about Hanukkah, explained.

Myth #1: Hanukkah is the most important Jewish holiday.

BUSTED - Hanukkah is actually the least important Jewish holiday and isn’t even mentioned in the Torah, Judaism’s guiding text.

Myth #2: There is only one spelling of Hanukkah.

BUSTED - Hanukkah is transliterated from the Hebrew word חנוכה and can be written in many ways. (Chanukah is the most common besides Hanukkah.)

Myth #3: Hanukkah is just a Jewish version of Christmas.

BUSTED - Hanukkah is not just Christmas for Jews. Getting presents on Hanukkah is a fairly recent addition to the holiday and is not the reason it is celebrated. The tradition emerged in the last century as a way for parents to give their children presents, not related to the story of Hanukkah at all.

Myth #4: Hanukkah is always on the same date.

BUSTED - Hanukkah is an eight day holiday and does not fall on the same dates every year. The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar as opposed to our solar calendar, meaning that Jewish holidays happen at different times every year. This year, Hanukkah begins on the evening of December 25, but last year it started on December 7!

Photo from KOMO News



Myth #5: Hanukkah candles are lit at night.

TRUE - Most Jewish holidays begin and end at sundown. Candles are lit for Hanukkah after sundown each of the eight nights. Fun fact - Hanukkah candles are never blown out, it is required that you let them burn all the way down instead.

Myth #6: Fried foods are an important part of celebrating Hanukkah.

TRUE - Hanukkah celebrates miracles, specifically the miracle of light. In the story, an amount of oil burned for 8 days, much longer than expected. Because of this, many Jews eat fried foods on Hanukkah, most commonly sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and latkes (fried potato pancakes).

Myth #7: Dreidel is just a game and has no other significance.

BUSTED - The act of playing dreidel doesn't have much significance and the origins are debated. However, the letters on the dreidel are significant to the story of Hanukkah. In the diaspora (everywhere except Israel), the letters on the dreidel are nun, gimel, hey, and shin. This is an acronym for "nes gadol haya sham" which means "a great miracle happened there." In Israel, the shin is replaced with a pay, making "po" which means "here."

Myth #8: You only need 36 candles (1 for the first night, etc.) for the menorah.

BUSTED - You actually need 45 candles! Counterintuitively, 2 candles are lit on the first night of Hanukkah - the shamash and the candle for the first night. Each night, one candle is added in addition to the shamash. The shamash lights all the other candles and is usually set higher on the hanukkiah than the other candles. Also, you don't use a menorah (7 candles) for Hanukkah! Instead, a hanukkiah (9 candles) is used.

Upcoming Holiday Events in the Triangle

by Chloe Boyer, freshman

December is upon us and with it comes a variety of exciting holiday events! Here's a look at some of the best in the Triangle this holiday season.

Christmas Plugged

Rose of Sharon Baptist Church is once again holding its annual Christmas Plugged event, returning for a ninth season. The event features a synchronized light show and is free for anyone to enjoy from their cars. The church will be running this event every night until January 5th, from dusk to midnight, at 4109 Guess Road in Durham. You can listen to the music by tuning your car radio to 90.1 FM. Go enjoy the show!

NC Chinese Lantern Festival

Another returning event, the North Carolina Chinese Lantern Festival in Cary, is back at the Koka Booth Amphitheatre, 8003 Regency Parkway! The festival is a wondrous light show experience and runs until January 12th (with the exception of December 25th). Ticket prices vary depending on the night, ticket type, and discounts, so make sure to check for yourself at the Amphitheatre's website, boothamphitheatre.com. Make sure you don't miss this spectacular show.

Durham Holiday Parade

Finally, the classic Durham Holiday Parade will be held on Saturday, December 14th, at 10 am, rain or shine. The event is free, and spectators are encouraged to bring their own seating as they cheer on bands, floats, and mascots. Head to Main Street in Downtown Durham to participate in this fun-for-all holiday special.

We hope you take a look at some of these awesome events this holiday season, and have a great break!



Photo from boothamphitheatre.com

Ring in the New Year: Traditions

by Ruby Gentithes, senior

The holidays are approaching fast and approaching even faster is 2025! Want to ring in the new year and ensure you'll have 365 days filled with good luck? Maybe you should try some of these traditions...

1) Watch the ball drop in Times Square

This is a classic way to start the new year- Americans have been watching the ball drop since 1907! There are lots of dropping objects around the country on New Year's, but the ball drop in New York City is the most famous

2) Eat 12 grapes

A Spanish tradition is to eat 12 grapes for each stroke of midnight. You'd better eat fast, or it's a full year of bad luck!

3) Smash a plate

Inspired by the Danish, you can smash plates on the doorsteps of your friends and family. The bigger the mess, the more luck they'll receive.

4) Decorate your door (with onions?)

Invite good luck for the new year into your home by hanging bundles of onions outside your door. Onions symbolize prosperity, according to the Greeks.

5) Eat a traditional food

Many different cultures have foods that are best for ringing in the new year. To maximize your luck, try them all! They include black eyed peas, lentil soup, long noodles, ham hocks, collard greens, cabbage, round fruits, whole fish with the head and tail, pomegranates, cornbread, and pork with sauerkraut.

6) Leap into the New Year, literally

Start 2025 strong by jumping into it! Hop on the nearest chair, couch, or table and jump off as the clock strikes midnight.

7) Sing "Auld Lang Syne"

Sick of Christmas songs? Sing the classic New Year's song, "Auld Lang Syne," instead. It'll give you a final chance to reminisce on the past year and appreciate the good times.

Source: "35 Popular New Year's Eve Traditions to Start 2025 Off on the Right Foot," Good Housekeeping

FP's Holiday Playlist

Falcon Post 52 minutes
Holiday Favorites Playlist

- Jingle Bell Rock - Bobby Helms - 2:10
- Sleigh Ride - The Ronettes - 3:01
- Christmas (Baby Please Come Home) - Mariah Carey - 2:32
- Oh Hanukkah - Jack Black - 1:54
- Christmas Tree Farm - Taylor Swift - 3:47
- Christmas All Over Again - Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers - 4:13
- All I Want for Christmas is You - Mariah Carey - 3:59
- buy me presents - Sabrina Carpenter - 2:57
- Blue Christmas - Elvis Presley - 2:08
- Last Christmas - Wham! - 4:22
- Santa Baby - Eartha Kitt - 3:26
- It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas - Michael Bublé - 3:26
- Mistletoe - Justin Bieber - 3:02
- White Christmas - Bing Crosby - 3:03
- Puppy for Hanukkah - Daveed Diggs - 3:47

Please Come Home for Christmas - Eagles

Scan the QR code to listen on Spotify!