



The Falcon Post

Jordan High School's student-run news source

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A Note from the Editors

Dear reader,

Congrats, you've found our second issue of the Falcon Post! We're super happy you're here. We are your Editors-in-Chief, Ainsley Buzby and Ruby Gentithes. We'd love to introduce ourselves and tell you what to look out for with regard to FP.

Ainsley loves to write about sports and arts events at the school, and Ruby enjoys telling you about school news/policies that have significance in the Jordan community. Some of our goals this year are to expand our social media presence, increase viewership on our website, and see our lovely paper in your hands!

In this issue, we highlighted big events from October, including world and pop culture news. We also look forward to November, previewing events like the Theatre Haunted House. Seniors, be sure to check out our article on post-grad feelings/plans and the creative writing spotlight piece. If you need a break from reading, relax with a fall-themed word search!

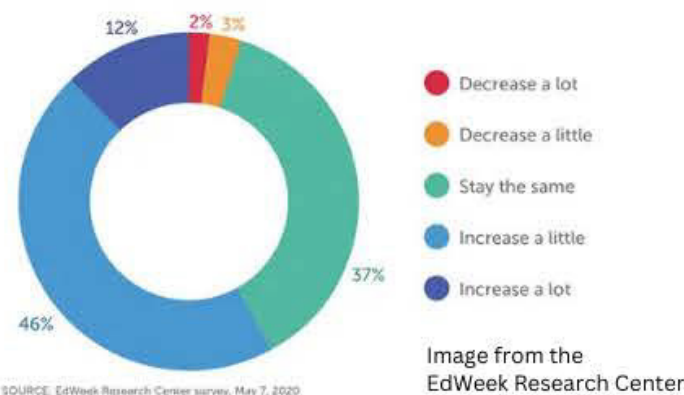
Happy reading,
Ainsley and Ruby
Editors-in-Chief

School News

AI In The Classroom

by Lidia Hutter, sophomore

Figure 1. Predictions from teachers and district leaders on the role artificial intelligence will play in their school districts after 2020



As we are seeing an increase in AI throughout the world, the same is happening in classrooms at Jordan. In order to find out how JHS students are using AI, I shared a survey with a couple questions on my social media stories, asking JHS students to fill it out. The survey asked how likely students were to use AI on a scale from one to ten and to further describe if they did. I received twelve responses from students who all shared that they use AI at school. AI sources such as Grammarly, ChatGPT, and Gauth Math are all systems JHS students have admitted to using.

When students were asked what forms of AI they use and how, the leading responses were using Grammarly for grammar/spelling, using AI checkers to assist with research such as finding sources and summarizing articles, and using ChatGPT to find ideas for writing assignments.

The survey also consisted of asking students how often they use AI with a scale of one through ten, ten being most likely. Two received the highest score, which shows that AI is used occasionally by students but not all the time. Does AI have more negative than positive effects? According to the survey, a couple students shared that they never use AI because they don't want to risk using it in a way that could get them in trouble. According to the other responses, AI is extremely useful for schoolwork in terms of fixing errors and improving research.

AI can be helpful for students who are unsure of grammar and spelling rules. In classes such as AP Seminar and AP Research, which require students to research topics for projects, AI can be especially useful in helping students find sources and starting points for research. Whether AI has positive or negative effects on schoolwork all depends on how we, as students, use it.

Source: "AI and the Future of Teaching and Learning: Defining Artificial Intelligence," Medium

Literature, Magic, Cookies, & More: Try It All!

by Emmy Grigoni, senior

The 2024-2025 school year has brought with it a plethora of new, up-and-coming student organizations! Read ahead to explore some new clubs at Jordan, and perhaps find the group for you.

If you're in search of enriching discussions about great books, The Brown Girl Book Club offers a safe space for community building, nourishing intellectual curiosity, and sisterhood. Members gather every Friday at 8:15am in Room 404 for discussions about the week's reading (currently *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi). The club talks through the book's concepts and themes, and members are encouraged to come with quotes or ideas that have resonated with them. The club also incorporates other forms of literature and media like poems, music, and art. Follow their Instagram, @jhsbrowngirlbookclub, and join their Remind with the code @jhsbro!

If you want to jump into the world of card tricks but don't know where to start, Mahjong and Magic Club might be the answer.

Championing the belief that anyone can learn to master the art of illusion through the power of friendship, Mahjong and Magic offers members a fun way to get to know each other while strengthening their sleight of hand. Meetings begin with a card trick members will learn throughout the meeting and end with a game of Mahjong, an ancient Chinese tile game. M&M meets every Wednesday at 8:30am in Room 110. Follow them at @mahjongandmagicclub on Instagram.

If you're interested in increasing and learning about female representation in STEM fields, the Women in STEM Club is for you. Members assemble every other Monday in Room 154 at 8:30am to collaborate on experiments and learn about women who have made contributions to the world through scientific advancements. Meetings typically include an experiment or informational activity, the highlighting of a specific female scientist, and time for members to hang out and get help with schoolwork if needed. Follow @jhsweistem on Instagram or text @jhsweistem to 81010 to join their Remind!

Who doesn't love cookies? Few people can say that they don't, making the Crumbl Cookie Club (CCC) a universally great option. Every other Monday at 8:30am, Crumbl lovers unite in Room 110. Members enjoy tasting, discussing, and rating a variety of cookie flavors to determine the Cookie of the Week. The CCC provides members with a fun and easy way to bond with others in the comfort of delectable desserts. Follow @jhs_crumblcookieclub on Instagram to get involved in these delicious undertakings.

Seniors' Post-Grad Feelings and Plans

by Lidia Hutter, sophomore

Senior year is full of bittersweet feelings, and this year's graduating class is no exception. With early application deadlines approaching, seniors have been feeling excited about the next chapter in their lives but also want to savor their last moments of high school. In the past, Jordan has seen most graduates head to schools such as NC State, App State, and various schools in the UNC system. The pattern continues with this year's seniors; when asked which schools they were applying to, most listed schools that were in state.

When asked about their feelings regarding being in their last year of high school and graduating this year, there were mixed responses. Some really enjoy being a senior, especially with lots of fun activities to do and having a relaxed year, while others are feeling nervous about college applications. Applications have caused seniors to consider the next chapter of their lives and with graduation approaching, seniors are feeling both sad and excited to finish high school.

Class of 2025

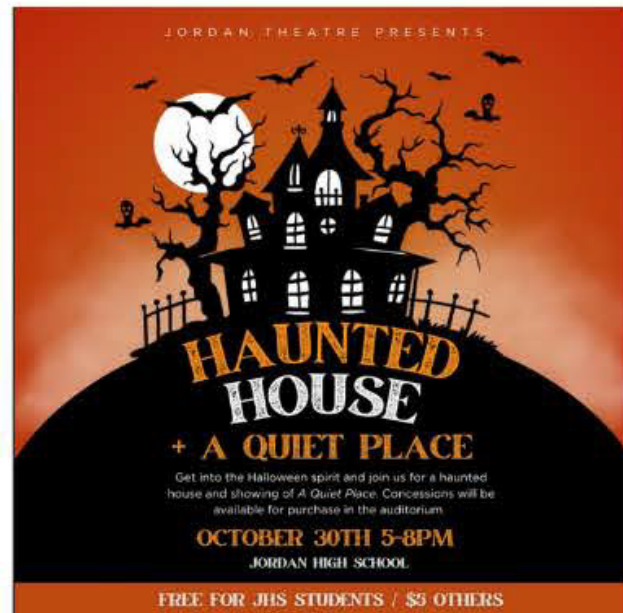
Seniors were also asked what they would miss about high school. The majority of seniors said they would miss friends; however, a few others mentioned that they would miss all the clubs unique to Jordan and hope to find similar activities at college. Another senior expressed that they would miss being together with the class they spent the last three years with. Overall, senior year is full of mixed feelings, but everyone is excited for the class of 2025 and all that they will accomplish!

Arts

Theater's Haunted House Preview

by Chloe Boyer, freshman

Jordan Theatre is hosting a Haunted House event this week! In addition to the Haunted House, there will also be a showing of A Quiet Place and concessions. Admission is free if you are a Jordan student and \$5 otherwise. Come show your support for Jordan Theatre and get into the Halloween spirit this Wednesday, October 30th from 5-8 PM!



Creative Writing Column

Fingers

by Nora Gordon, senior

My fingers are tired:
Tired of typing away at the same computer,
Tired of gripping the steering wheel harder and harder,
Tired of the same nail polish color I reapply week after week,
Tired of holding the same mug every morning,

My fingers are bored:
Bored of trying to create essays that define me for rich schools to read,
As if it's possible to cram a person into 500 words.
Bored of drumming against each other,
Bored of scrolling through the same phone screen,
Bored of being picked at by the same dirty fingernails.

You know what?
I pity my poor fingers
I wish I could rip them off and throw them to the wind
Maybe they would have more fun decomposing in someone's garden
An appetizer for the worms and ants
Or maybe they could attach to someone else
Who knows
I could be the girl with nubs for hands
The girl who doesn't have to do her homework
And the girl whose fingers are never bored.

Sports

The Third Annual All-American Women's Baseball Classic

by Claudia Berzofsky, freshman



Image from American Girls Baseball

The Third Annual All-American Women's Baseball Classic came to the Durham Bulls Athletic Park this past weekend, October 11-13.

In this event, the greatest women's baseball talent is brought from all over the world, with players ranging in age from 15-50. The team's rosters include current and former members of the American, Australian, Puerto Rican, Canadian, and Mexican national teams. The purpose of this tournament is to celebrate the legacy of the pioneers from the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL). The AAGPBL was established in 1943 to keep baseball in the public eye when men were away fighting in World War 2.

The four teams playing in this tournament represent the four original teams from 1943: The Rockford Peaches, the Racine Belles, the South Bend Blue Sox, and the Kenosha Comets. The event highlights women in all aspects of sports, from coaches to umpires and production crew to broadcasters. The format was a pool play tournament, with two games on Friday, four games on Saturday, and two games, including the championship, on Sunday.

On the first day of the tournament, the Comets beat the Belles 8-5, after being down 5-0 at the end of the third inning. During the second game on Friday, the Peaches came out ready to play, crushing the Blue Sox 10-0.

On the second day of the tournament, the Comets and Blue Sox had slow starts in the first game of the day, but the Comets ended up winning 2-1. After losing two consecutive games, the Blue Sox won 11-6 against the Belles. After a close 7 innings, the Peaches ended up taking the win against the Comets 4-3.

On the third and final day of the tournament, the Belles and Blue Sox started the day off competing for third place. It was a close game, but by the end of 7 innings the Belles won 4-1. The final game of the tournament was intense, with the Peaches and the Comets competing for the first place title! The Comets came out strong with a 5-1 lead by the top of the 5th inning. By the bottom of the 7th inning, the Peaches came back, tying the game 5-5. The Comets got their lead back to end the game 8-5 and received the first place title for the Third Annual All-American Women's Baseball Classic.

Welcome to the W: Finals Recap

by Curtis Berzofsky, junior

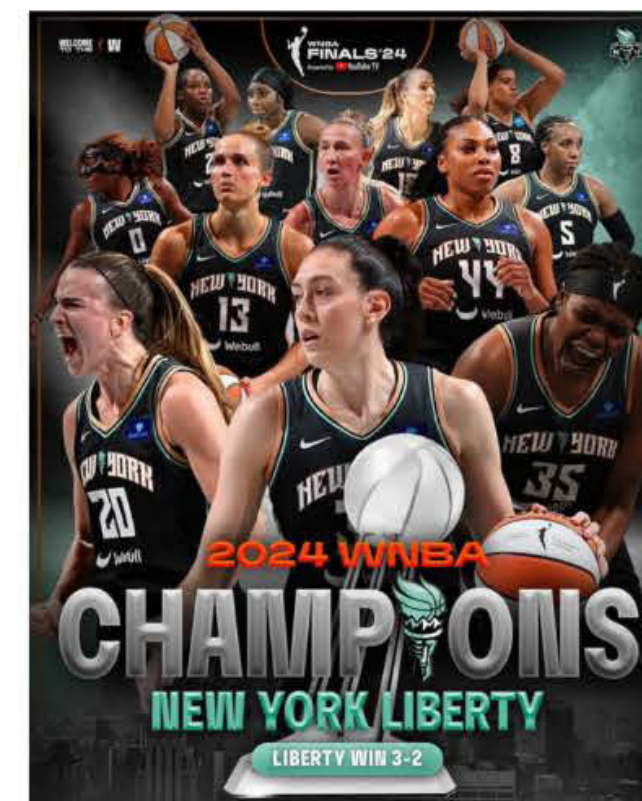


Image from @wnba

The 28th season of the WNBA has come to a close, with the New York Liberty barely taking down the Minnesota Lynx for the championship title. This was the first-ever championship for the Liberty, one of the last three remaining teams from the formation of the league. The Finals MVP award was given to Jonquel Jones, who averaged 17.8 points per game and 7.6 rebounds per game throughout the series.

Free Leadership Opportunity for All Juniors

Sponsored by:
the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy



Attention all juniors: build your college applications by attending a FREE weekend retreat April 4-6, 2025, for student leaders. Apply today to come to RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Academy). Spend an incredible weekend with other high school juniors from the Triangle area doing leadership and team-building activities.

RYLA is sponsored by Rotary clubs in District 7710, so it doesn't cost you anything to attend, and transportation to the retreat site is provided. Apply today! **Deadline is Nov. 15, 2024.**

Get the application at bit.ly/DurhamRYLA or by scanning the QR code to the left.

This was her second season on the Liberty, having played six seasons on the Connecticut Sun earlier in her career.

In the five game series, two games went to overtime, making it the first ever WNBA Finals series to have multiple games go into overtime.

Recap of the Finals:

- Game 1: New York took a lead of 18 points halfway through the second quarter, but they were not able to keep it. Minnesota came storming back, capped off by Courtney Williams' and-one three point shot and Breanna Stewart's missed second free throw shot. The Lynx were able to pull out a close win on the road, 95-93.
- Game 2: The Liberty never gave up their lead, easily handling the Lynx. This was led by Breanna Stewart's 21 points and Betnijah Laney-Hamilton's 20 points. New York closed out an easy win, 80-66.

- Game 3: Minnesota seemed to be in full control throughout the first three quarters, even taking a 15 point lead early in the game. Behind Breanna Stewart's 30 point performance, the Liberty were able to close the game and make it tight. Sabrina Ionescu's wild 28-foot three point shot with one second left sealed the road win for New York, 80-77.
- Game 4: This was the first game with real back-and-forth between the two teams. The largest lead of the game was the Liberty up by 6 points midway through the third quarter. Minnesota escaped elimination with two late free throws by Bridget Carleton. The Lynx won to force a game five back in Brooklyn, 82-80.
- Game 5: Minnesota took an early lead against a struggling Breanna Stewart (shot 4-15) and Sabrina Ionescu (shot 1-19). The game was saved for the Liberty by Jonquel Jones' 17 point performance. And after missing a pair just minutes before, Stewart made two free throws with five seconds left to send the game to overtime. New York took a quick 5 point lead in overtime to seal the win, 67-62.

This has been a historic year for the WNBA that many people will not forget. The WNBA Draft lottery will take place on November 17, 2024, and the draft will take place on April 14, 2025. The 2025 season will introduce a new team to the league, the Golden State Valkyries. Continue to keep up with the W.

Games

Word search by
Ani Mohan, freshman

U	R	G	E	U	R	B	H	R	M	S	V	C	R
E	A	N	Y	L	I	M	A	F	A	N	S	O	T
I	K	I	E	I	W	S	L	L	P	I	E	R	B
E	E	V	L	H	O	W	L	N	L	K	P	T	L
Z	E	I	L	A	R	E	O	O	E	P	T	N	A
A	T	G	O	Y	C	A	W	V	S	M	E	O	C
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N	E	K	S	I	R	E	E	M	R	P	B	T	F
R	A	N	C	D	A	R	N	B	U	P	E	A	R
O	V	A	A	E	C	P	I	E	P	E	R	R	I
C	E	H	R	R	S	S	N	R	O	C	A	G	D
G	S	T	F	W	A	T	U	R	K	E	Y	I	A
S	E	I	R	R	E	B	N	A	R	C	E	M	Y
R	E	H	T	A	E	W	R	E	L	O	O	C	E

- YELLOW
- TURKEY
- CRANBERRIES
- LEAVES
- PIE
- SCARECROW
- MAPLE SYRUP
- PUMPKINS
- BLACK FRIDAY
- NOVEMBER
- COOLER WEATHER
- MIGRATION
- HAYRIDE
- CORN MAZE
- SEPTEMBER
- THANKSGIVING
- SWEATER
- HALLOWEEN
- RAKE
- FAMILY
- ACORNS
- SCARF

World/US News

Make Your Voice Heard by Phoebe Artin, junior

The 2024 Presidential Election is fast approaching! Even faster approaching are the voter registration deadlines. If you are 18, you are eligible to vote in this year's presidential election. If you are not yet registered, however, you cannot make your voice heard. There are two ways to register this close to the election:

- Register online or in-person at the DMV (must be filled out by Friday, October 11, if online)
- Submit a registration application by mail (must be sent by Friday, October 11)
- **You can also register in person at any voting sites during the early voting period (October 17 - November 2)**



There are many races happening this year, not just for Presidential office, but for other positions state and nationwide. It is important to do your research and pay attention to races down the ballot as they may have a larger impact on you and your family. You can get familiar with the candidates by viewing sample ballots, available now in your Voter Search profile.

Please make sure to register and vote if you are able! Be an informed voter, and don't forget to bring your Photo ID with you to the polls.

Sources:

- 1) ncsbe.gov
- 2) ncdot.gov
- 3) vote.gov

Once you are registered, you are able to vote. There are three ways to do so:

- Absentee ballot
 - Deadline to request is October 29
 - Deadline to return is November 5
- Election Day
 - Tuesday, November 5
- Early voting
 - October 17 - November 2

Felon on the Dance Floor

by Danica Laan, senior



Image from EW

Every Tuesday night at 8pm EST, episodes for ABC's reality competition show Dancing with the Stars (DWTS) air live for the public to watch and vote. Celebrities across sports, entertainment, and pop culture are paired with professional dancers to compete in partner ballroom dancing. Through feedback from a panel of judges and the public's vote, the dancers compete to win the Mirrorball Trophy. Sixteen pairs start the show and by the end of the competition, through votes and judge eliminations, the top five couples of the season compete in the final. This season, celebrities ranged from Stephen Nedoroscik, US Men's Gymnastics Olympian, to Jenn Tran, the most recent Bachelorette. Dancing with the Stars has always been known for having one controversial celebrity pick each season, like Paula Dean (Season 21) or Carole Baskin (season 29). For season 33, they shocked the media and paired first season pro Ezra Sosa with Anna Delvey.

Anna Delvey is known for posing as a wealthy heiress who found many ways to swindle the New York upper class art and social scenes. Delvey starred in her own Netflix documentary, *Inventing Anna*, which depicted her life as a con artist. In February 2022, the miniseries aired and sparked even more discussion around her motives and criminal activity. In behind-the-scenes clips of the first episodes of the current DWTS season, viewers watched Delvey learn a Cha Cha to "Espresso" by Sabrina Carpenter for premiere night. On Oscar night, episode two, after all the couples performed their pieces and Delvey danced a Quickstep to "Suddenly I See" from the movie *The Devil Wears Prada*, it came down to the first eliminations of the season. Anna and her partner Ezra were eliminated, alongside Tori Spelling and her partner Pasha Pashkov. While the credits rolled, host Julianne Hough panned to Delvey and asked her what she would take out of her experience on Dancing with the Stars, to which Delvey replied, "nothing."

Viewers of DWTS took to Tiktok and Instagram to discuss the response from Delvey, some saying she was rude and should have never been allowed on the show, others saying she provided entertainment that had been missing from recent seasons. Was Dancing with the Stars wrong for casting Anna Delvey? Or was it a smart move on their part? All that can be said is that for the first time in DWTS history, audiences watched a contestant dance ballroom in a bedazzled ankle monitor. She really was a felon on the dance floor.

Hurricane Oscar: Record Power Outages and Civil Unrest in Cuba

by Nora Clark, sophomore

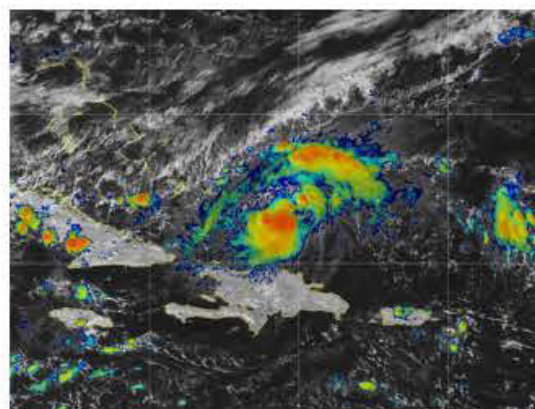


Image from the National Hurricane Center

Hurricane Information

Hurricane Oscar first landed on Great Inagua Island in the Bahamas Sunday, October 20. On Sunday evening, it made landfall in eastern Cuba, specifically in the coastal city of Baracoa, in the province of Guantanamo. It landed as a Category 1 hurricane, with sustained winds of 75 mph and has since weakened into a tropical storm. There have been six known casualties so far, and the rainfall has surpassed 15 inches in some areas. The severe rainfall has led to flooding and mudslides, which has damaged homes and crop fields. The mudslides have been concentrated mostly in the Sierra Maestra mountain range.

Power Outages and Civil Unrest

On October 17, Cuba's nationwide power grid experienced its longest total outage in history. This was due to the failure of one of Cuba's major power plants, the Antonio Guiteras plant. The initial collapse left 10 million residents without power. The following Saturday, October 19, the plant went offline, subsequently causing Cuba's power grid to fail again. Reportedly, the grid had already collapsed 4 times before Hurricane Oscar made its landfall on Sunday.

The hurricane has exacerbated the issues caused by the power outages, creating food, fuel, and medicine scarcity. This has led to unrest in the Cuban population. Cuba's communist government has caused a broad economic decline for the country, and many Cuban citizens are fed up. After the blackouts and the hurricane, there have been protests across the nation. The most notable have been in Havana, where citizens have taken to the street with pots and pans to chant, expressing frustration about the power outages. The president of Cuba has addressed the nation, asking citizens to express their frustrations in a peaceful manner and warning against vandalism. He maintained the government's dedication to restoring power and public order.

Sources:

- 1) "Tropical Storm Oscar is making Cuba's nationwide power outage even worse," The Verge
- 2) "Havana, Cuban provinces see power restored; Tropical Storm Oscar leaves six dead," Reuters
- 3) "Oscar brings winds, heavy rains to eastern Cuba after striking the Bahamas," AP News
- 4) "In Havana's still dark corners, a protest erupts," Reuters

Electronic Device Explosions in Lebanon

by Emmy Grigoni, senior

On September 17th and 18th, 2024, the Israeli government carried out a series of unexpected attacks on Lebanese political and military group Hezbollah through hidden explosives in pagers and walkie-talkies. A total of 32 people were killed and thousands were injured across the two days of attacks, many of them Lebanese citizens.

On September 17th around 3:30pm, thousands of hand-held pager devices carried by Hezbollah members exploded simultaneously, throwing citizens of Lebanon and Syria into a nationwide panic.

At least 12 people were killed, including 2 children, and nearly 3,000 were injured. Many sustained wounds to the face and hands, some suffering maimed limbs.

When Hezbollah declared its solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip after the October 7th attacks, combat between Israel and Hezbollah escalated along the Israel-Lebanon border.

Hezbollah began using pagers to communicate after leader Hassan Nasrallah banned the use of cellphones to avoid tracking by the Israeli government. When triggered by Israeli intelligence, the hundreds of pagers, which were hand-held and often carried in pockets, beeped at the same time, signaling an incoming message.

People with pagers attached or near them turned toward their pagers and were caught off-guard by the exploding devices.

Hezbollah ordered the pagers from the Taiwanese company Gold Apollo, but the devices were manipulated before reaching Lebanon. Israel implanted small amounts of explosive material into the batteries of the pagers, weaponizing the seemingly-harmless devices.

An investigation by the New York Times found that Hungarian company BAC Consulting was involved in a contract with Gold Apollo that allowed them to produce and sell the pagers to Hezbollah. BAC Consulting is suspected to be an Israeli intelligence front that would've allowed them to intercept the devices before they were delivered. Through BAC Consulting, Israeli intelligence would've been able to implant explosive materials into the pagers. Once delivered, the pagers were bombs ready to be activated.

On September 18th, just a day after the pager attacks, more explosions, this time through walkie-talkies, occurred across Lebanon, beginning in the capital, Beirut. At a funeral for 3 Hezbollah members and a child killed in the attacks the day before, walkie-talkies belonging to Hezbollah members detonated. The funeral erupted into a confused panic as mourners frantically searched for the source of the violence. Across Lebanon, the walkie-talkies killed at least 20 people and injured another 450.

The hysteria at the funeral reflected the chaos overwhelming the entirety of Lebanon.

The second surprise attack spread mass confusion and widespread fear, as citizens were left wondering which everyday objects were safe and which could be turned into weapons for another potential attack. Israel's device explosions inflicted a different kind of warfare on Hezbollah and Lebanese citizens: psychological, as well as physical.

Sources:

- 1) "How Israel Built a Modern-Day Trojan Horse: Exploding Pagers," New York Times
- 2) "What we know about the Hezbollah device explosions," BBC
- 3) "Israel says it killed senior Hezbollah figures in strike on Beirut," BBC
- 4) "Lebanon is rocked again by exploding devices as Israel declares a new phase of war," Associated Press
- 5) "'New era' of war beginning, Israel says, as more Hezbollah devices explode across Lebanon," CNN
- 6) "Lebanon: Establish international investigation into deadly attacks using exploding portable devices," Amnesty International