



Buffalo Chronicle



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Winter Activities

By: Julianne Lavanty

Winter is a season beloved by many but keeping occupied can be difficult in the harsh weather. Many activities take place within households during these brutal months including playing board games or sitting down with a riveting book. Also, winter sports including snowboarding, skiing and ice skating are adored by many. In the following articles, an array of useful information will be offered. There will be recommended books, the history of many snow sports, and a list of amusing board games to pass the time. Despite the cold weather, winter can be an enjoyable season to all.

Skiing

By: Rachel Sachs

Skiing is any sport that uses skis to travel over snow. There are many different types of skiing including: alpine, cross-country and telemark. Skiing is a fun recreational sport as well as a competitive sport. Competitive skiing is broken into two categories: freestyle and racing. Freestyle includes events such as half-pipes, moguls and aeriels. Half pipes are ramps that can either be dug out of the ground or made of piled up snow. Moguls are bumps on the ground made of mounds of snow. Aerial skiing involves going off of jumps and performing multiple flips and twists. Racing involves quickly skiing and making fast turns through gates to get to the end of the race course.

Skiing began more than 7,000 years ago. It was invented by the Nordic people and Samis, who used it to assist them in hunting, military maneuvers and transportation. The earliest signs of skiing are carvings from about 5000 B.C. in Norway and Sweden. The word ski comes from the Old Norse word "skio" meaning a split piece of wood or firewood. The first skis were simply long pieces of flat wood. Skis have evolved a tremendous amount during the last 7,000 years. They are now made of materials such as glass fiber, Kevlar and titanium.

One type of skiing is called alpine skiing. Alpine skiing involves going down-hill. Another type of skiing is cross-country skiing, which involves going across snow-covered terrain on skis. Telemarking is also a type of skiing. It is also known as "free heel skiing," because the telemark skis only connect to the boots at the toes.

There are many places to ski, with slopes ranging from beginner to advanced. Some of the ski resorts in or near Ohio include Boston Mills, Peak n' Peak, Holiday Valley and Seven Springs. At the resorts you can either bring your own ski equipment or you can rent it. For extra safety, it is a good idea to rent a helmet. When skiing, most people like to use poles which help them to steer. Skis are worn with boots that connect to the skis with bindings.

At most ski resorts there are also terrain parks in addition to the slopes. Terrain parks are areas where skiers can do tricks. The first terrain park was built in 1990 at a Vail resort. There are many different types of fixtures in terrain parks, including rails and boxes. Terrain parks all vary in their degree of difficulty.



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History of Snowboarding

By: Nate Hanna

Snowboarding originated around the 1950s, but it really didn't hit the market until around the 1960s. The first snowboards were created for people who had an interest in both skiing and surfing, and were made of a handmade board with a rope attached. Even, when it was first created, the sport was called Snurfing! When the board first hit the market, it came under the name of "Sherman Poppen's Snurfing." They seemed like a weird crossover between a plywood sled and a skateboard deck. After 59 years, the snowboard has changed a lot. It has evolved from the old fashioned wooden boards to advanced boards made out of fiberglass and foam cores. Also, special equipment placed on the boards connects to the snowboarder's boots, locking them into the board. Now, weight is used to maneuver the snowboard. Around 1998, the sport became part of the Olympics, and a popular sport for all.

In northeast Ohio, there are many resorts that allow a whole day of snowboarding excitement. Some more local places, for example, would be Boston Mills Ski Resort. This lodge is located in Peninsula Ohio. There is a \$40 entry fee, giving access to its eight exciting trails with two terrain parks, where you can practice tricks such as Butters, Backside 720s, Ollies, Air to Fakies, and many others. Another enthralling and exciting resort would be Brandywine Ski Resort, owned by Boston Mills. This chalet is located in Sagamore Hills, Ohio, with an entry fee of \$40. It has a total of nine exhilarating trails with two full terrain parks, insuring a full day snowy fun.

Also, for big time snowboarders, there are many options for intense and exhilarating snowboarding. Located in Seven Springs, Pennsylvania, is Seven Springs Resort. It has a great variety of trails, with levels varying between beginner and double black and five terrain parks for a price of \$45 every day. Overall, snowboarding is a fun experience with many opportunities in your area!

Snowmobiling

By: Rachel Sachs

Snowmobiling is a sport that involves using a snowmobile as a vehicle to travel over snow or ice. Snowmobiles use tracks made of either rubber or Kevlar to travel over the terrain, and they do not require a road or trail. They are powered by gasoline engines. Sometimes snowmobiles are used in the summer to travel over grass, asphalt, and across water.

Snowmobiling began before 1900, when snowmobiles were known as "snowbuggies." They were very different from today's snowmobiles, running on skis and powered by propellers. The first U.S. patent on a snowmobile was issued on June 27, 1916. The inventor was Ray H. Muscott. This snowmobile was popular for mail delivery in rural areas. These snowmobiles were meant for multiple passengers, but people began to get ideas for personal snowmobiles. The first two-seater "motor-bob" snowmobile was created by O.M Erikson and Art Olsen in 1914. It was made out of an Indian motorcycle.

The technology used to make snowmobiles has improved considerably since 1914. Today, snowmobiles can reach speeds of more than 150 mph. When snowmobiles were first invented they only had five horsepower engines; today, their engines produce more than 150 horsepower. They are mainly used for travel in the arctic, but are also used for recreational purposes.

Snowmobiles have acquired new purposes, such as racing. One of the biggest races is the Northeast SnoX Challenge held in early January in Malone, New York. The longest snowmobile race is the 1971 mile long "Iron Dog" in Alaska. There are also snowmobile races in the summer, which use grass tracks. The largest summer snowmobiling race is Hay Days, held in Lino Lakes, Minnesota.





History of Ice Skating

By: Nate Hanna

Approximately 1,000 years ago, in the areas of Scandinavia and the Netherlands, a new sport was born. Through many years, the sport evolved from simple animal bones laced to boots used to glide across frozen lakes and rivers, into a sport of fancy jumps twists and turns, becoming one of the most popular and renowned winter sport in the world. The first all iron skates were created in 1592 by a Scotsman, but they would improve. In the early 1600's, ice skating became a huge hit for the Dutch, and became a mode of transportation for them, to skate through the frozen waterways and canals from town-to-town.

In 1642, the first skating club was created — the Skating Club of Edinburgh. Not too long later, a new form of skating was created, speed skating. The first organized race was held in 1763 in the Fens of England. In 1850, a huge advancement for skaters took place; the all-steel skates. Finally, in 1889, the first world championship in ice skating occurred in Holland, where skaters covered four distances of 500m, 1500m, 5000m, and 10000m. Skating has evolved greatly to its current state.

There are many ice skating rinks in northeast Ohio which are fun for all ages to learn the ancient sport. One of these is Winterhurst Arena, also known as Serpentine Arena at Winterhurst, located at 14740 Lakewood Hts. Blvd, Lakewood, Ohio. There is an entry fee of \$6, with a skate rental fee of \$2, insuring a full day of excitement on the ice. There is also the KSU ice arena, located on Loop Road Kent, OH 44242, which provides excitement for a day of skating.

Overall, ice-skating has been a popular sport that has been around for more than 1,000 years!



Top Winter Board Games

By: Nate Hanna

On those snowy winter days, board games are an exciting activity to do with the family. The top three board games of all time are Monopoly, Chess, and Risk. These games have been loved through many generations.

Chess, the first of these board games, originated in the late 15th century in Europe. The game was originally based on a much older game created in India. In the 16th century, the first organized competitive chess game was held, and the first world championship was held in 1886. The game is played on a board, consisting of 64 squares on an eight-by-eight grid. Each side contains 16 pieces: a king, a queen, two knights, two bishops, two castles and eight pawns. The game is renowned around the world.

Risk, is the second of these games. Risk was created in 1957, by the French film director Albert Lamorisse, under the name of *La Conquête du Monde*, or The Conquest of the World. It is played on a Napoleonic-era map, consisting of 42 territories located on seven continents. The object of the game is to take over every single territory on the map or achieve world domination. The game is full of strategy.



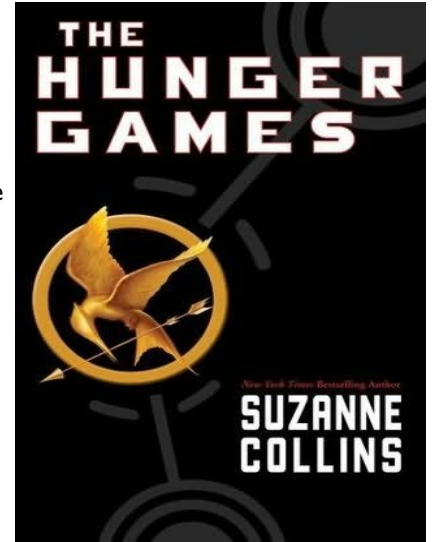
Monopoly is considered one of the most popular games of all time, and a great game for the entire family. The creator of Monopoly has always been disputed, but most commonly, Elizabeth Magie was the creator in 1904. It was patented by Charles Darrow, who was introduced to the game by friends, and sold to Parker Brothers in 1935. It is played on a mat with properties, and the first person to own all the properties wins the game. All these games are a great way to spend a snowy afternoon.



The Hunger Games

By: Julianne Lavanty

Have you ever contemplated what life will be like in the future? Wondered, what will become of North America long after this generation is gone? Susan Collins, author of the *Hunger Games*, offers an intense, adventurous novel depicting a new North America. This new land was originally split into 13 districts by the ultimate ruler of this new nation, the Capitol. Unfortunately, rebellion stormed through the 13 Districts, and the Capitol brutally destroyed District 13 to stop the rebellion. Therefore, as a reminder of the destruction of District 13 and the citizens' wrong doings, there is an annual event called the Hunger Games. This takes place each year and one boy and one girl from each district are chosen to participate in a fight to the death. The protagonist of this enthralling novel is Katniss Everdeen, an average teenage girl from District 12. However, due to a catastrophic chain of events, Katniss Everdeen is thrown into the arena and forced to kill, for only one person can survive. That person, at all costs, must be Katniss.



North of Beautiful: Justina Chen Headley

By: Salam Osman

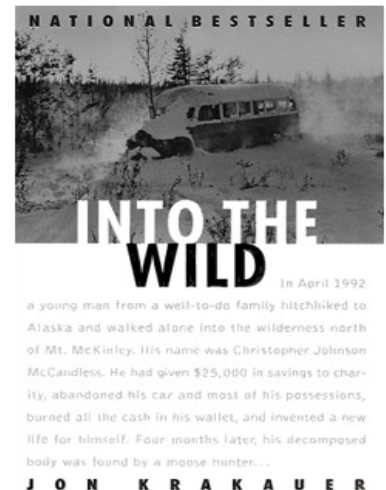


North of Beautiful is a fascinating book written by Justina Chen Headley and deals with honesty among family and friends. Terra Rose Cooper is ready to vanish from the unbearable, small Washington town where everyone recognizes Terra's face. Terra was born with a port-wine stain blemish on her cheek, which causes her embarrassment. With her clueless parents, family life for Terra isn't so great either. Although Terra's life isn't what she dreamed it would be, she often enjoys art and plans to escape to an east coast college, thinking that is her true path. When her father intercepts her acceptance, she is forced to confront her deepest, darkest insecurities. After an ironic car accident, Terra meets with a cute, Goth Chinese boy named Jacob, who was adopted from China when he was a toddler. Jacob immediately understands Terra's conflict with being different, because he faced some problems of his own. When Terra's older brother merrily invites her to Shanghai, Jacob and his mother are invited to come along on the journey. On the journey, not only do Jacob and Terra confront the truth about themselves, but later discover their true, inner beauty.

Into the Wild by: Jon Krakauer

By: Julianne Lavanty

Into the Wild is a non-fiction story about a man by the name of Chris McCandless. McCandless was raised as most Americans were and was taught the common principles that most parents teach their children. These were to live by the rules and lead a respectful, responsible life. However, he did not want to live by these seemingly hum-drum, cliché principles. Instead, McCandless made a bold move after graduating from Emory University; he burns his possessions and ventures into the wild with little gear and food. This story documents McCandless's risky venture into the Alaskan wilderness. It highlights the people he encountered along his journey, those who warned him of his foolish ways and those who he befriended. From kayaking down to the Gulf of Mexico, to ending up living in an old abandoned bus, these ridiculous predicaments appear perpetual, until his mistakes added up, proving again that humans cannot defeat nature.

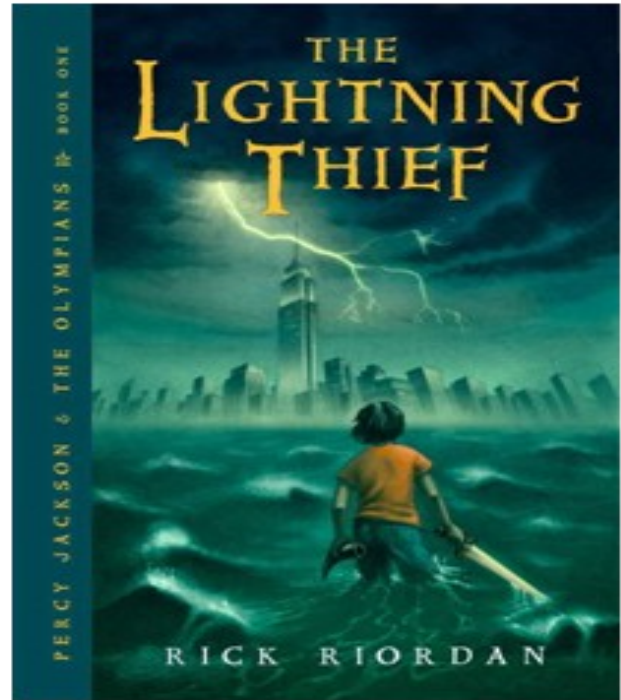




The Lightning Thief Review

By: Julianne Lavanty

Greek gods and centaurs are well known mythical creatures among both the young and old. There are the traditional, well known stories about Titans and Olympians, but this story takes an odd turn on the well known Greek fables. *The Lightning Thief* is a book composed by Rick Riordan and its protagonist is 12-year-old Percy Jackson, a boy diagnosed with ADHD who can't seem to stay away from trouble. This trouble beckons him everywhere and makes no sense whatsoever until his mother sends him off to Camp Halfblood, where Percy soon discovers he is a Halfblood, his father being none other than Poseidon. Obviously, Percy is shocked. However, this is not the only twist of events. On top of it, he is blamed for Zeus's lightning bolts mysterious disappearance. Therefore, Percy is given 10 days and no more to return the lightning bolts or face a brutal punishment. Yet, towards the end there is another twist keeping the reader on edge; so if you would like to find out what happens, you will have to read the book.



Dairy Queen

By: Salam Osman



The magnificent book, *Dairy Queen*, written by Catherine Murdock deals with human nature. When you don't talk, there is a lot of stuff ending up not said. D.J., her real name Darlene Joyce, attends Red Bend high school and works constantly on her family's dairy farm since her father seriously injured his hip from overworking. In order for the Schwenk family to survive, D.J.'s mother was compelled to take an extra job, to provide food, clothing and shelter for the family. Darlene Joyce also has two older brothers, who are currently attending a college away from home, in hopes they would become professional football players. In a way, this disappoints D.J. because her brothers have not said a word since last Christmas. The Schwenk family has a major dilemma they cannot seem to overcome, and that is socializing. Whether it is at the dinner table, or at school, the family never seems to talk. Running the farm with the help of her quiet little brother irritates D.J. and has been difficult for her because she is overwhelmed with all of the family's responsibilities and tasks. But there is one thing D.J. feels enthusiastic about and that is football, because she had been watching her older brothers play throughout the years. Unexpectedly, a boy, Brian, from a high school near Red Bend is obligated to work on D.J.'s farm, to build up his strength for football. Darlene Joyce feels pressured through this tough time because Brian turns out to be a big jerk because he often calls D.J. a peasant. Will D.J. speak her mind and share all her thoughts to the world and become a "Dairy Queen?"