



The Wildcat Crier



Fall Issue 2017

Country Road, Take TJ Home!

by Trevor Ulichnie



A lot of great athletes have come and gone in the past here at East Allegheny but none quite like the 6'5, 260 pound tight end TJ Banks.

Banks had an amazing 17 scholarship offers from different colleges and universities.

On October 19, 2017 at 6:00 PM TJ Banks proudly announced that he would commit to Division I West Virginia University.

Going from high school ball to college is a big step up. When asked on what would be the biggest obstacle he would face TJ said "better players and time management"

TJ said he would have to eat healthier, and arrange his sleep schedule for college. Considering all of that TJ says that on day one of training he will be ready to compete. Coach Loya said TJ's greatest strengths on the field are "his wide, vast football knowledge and obviously his size and strength."

Loya even went as far to say that if Banks lives up to his full potential he can even go further than college football. So could we possibly see Mr. Banks playing someday on NFL Sunday redzone? Only time will tell for the young 17 year old tight end.

Banks though should have nothing to worry about, greatness runs in the family as his father once also played D1 college football as a linebacker for the University of Pittsburgh. TJ Banks will certainly have the whole NCAA on their heels!

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#HootyHoo for Amani!

by Abby Delisi and Madi Jarnot

Amani Johnson has committed to playing Division I basketball at Kennesaw State on a full athletic scholarship. Amani received offers from over 10 different schools! She ultimately chose Kennesaw because of the coaches, the location, and the vision of the basketball program.

Long before being a point guard for college basketball, Amani loved participating in dribbling clinics at the YMCA. In 3rd grade, she joined her first team. Since then, she has improved greatly, averaging 30 points per game last season and scoring over 1500 points total on the team here at EA. Amani also plays for the AAU Western PA Bruins, which is how many colleges found her.

Ms. Sippey recalls seeing a game where Amani was knocked down and still threw the ball into the hoop. That not only takes skills, but also dedication. Amani says "if you want to be good, you have to put in the time" and have dedication to the game. She is equally as dedicated to school and has a 4.0 GPA. She is also 2nd ranked in her class.

Amani balances her school work and basketball by having good time management skills, prioritizing school, and lots of "long nights." Ms. Sippey says that Amani's "competitive nature shines through both on the court and in the classroom."

Amani has won many awards for both her athletics and academics, such as the Extra Effort award, Unsung Hero, and Semper Fi award, and there is no doubt that she will continue to succeed at Kennesaw State.



Congratulations TJ and Amani!

East Allegheny Band Wins Regional Championships (Again) with Help of Senior Rookie

by Madi Jarnot

Staring out into the crowd, she pushes her piano along the track. She's made it through nearly her entire rookie season, but she still shakes when the beat begins. She stares up at the drum major, waiting for a cue. Her palms are clammy and her legs rattle beneath her, but the show is beginning. This is it. Hundreds of people are waiting in the stands. Everyone is watching, but there isn't time to worry. As she hears the melody begin behind her, the notes flow from her fingertips. Music relieves the anxiety and all she can hear are the harmonies she and her friends are creating along the field.

This is senior Brooke Bannister's first and last Regional Championship.

Brooke joined band with the encouragement of her friends during her senior year of high school. "We needed a piano player, so we kind of guilted her because she was too sweet of a person to decline," said Brooke's best friend and drum major, Jessica Stevenson. Brooke has played piano for many years now, but hasn't ever played in a band or a group.

"It was really uncomfortable, like a big adjustment from just playing on my own," she said. Not only was Brooke new, but she was among the best of the best. The band has won Regional Championships here in western Pennsylvania for the past four consecutive seasons. On October 21st, the marching band took home their fourth win with a score of 90.79 points.

Brooke is well-known among classmates for having a positive, go-getter attitude, so it's no surprise she would be willing to try something new. When asked why she joined in her senior year, Brooke said "I didn't want to miss an opportunity that could've been great....In my mind, I'm honestly just like... 'let's go for it!'" She is always excited and hopeful about the opportunities she sees in life, and no matter what, she knows that "even if things don't work out, I will still be okay, even if it isn't ideal."

Jessica Stevenson told The Wildcat Crier "[Brooke's] heart is so good and she follows [it]." Even though she's a drum major, Jessica loved having a friend who was a rookie because "she's a good leader and a role model for the younger kids." And, of course, Brooke lived up to every expectation set for her.

Although it was challenging, band brought together music, friendship, and new learning experiences for Brooke. "It was out of my comfort zone, but I've learned to love being uncomfortable....As you learn new things, you get to make friends with people who teach you....I wish I [knew] how much it was going to be worth it," she said.

Brooke may have been nervous about band, but she has earned a championship title with some of her best friends. "The moment when they announced our band winning the competition made all the cold, long nights worth every single second. Best. Moment. Ever."



L-R: Seth Fuller, Katie Peddicord, Brooke Bannister, and Jessica Stevenson. The band scored a total of 90.79 points at TOB Regional Championships on October 21st, 2017, taking home a first place title. This October was their fourth consecutive win! At Atlantic Coast Championships, they took home a second place win with a total of 91.885 points.

Photo courtesy of Brooke Bannister.



L-R: Brooke Bannister, Seth Fuller, and Katie Peddicord (featuring a Fathead of Jessica Stevenson!).

Photo courtesy of Brooke Bannister.

English Teacher Travels Across the World!

by Haley D. Novak

Traveling might seem intimidating to the average person, but 9th grade English teacher, Mrs. Gaskell is no average person. Mrs. Gaskell has years of travel experience, and can get around any unfamiliar city or country. However, on June 25-July 6, Mrs. Gaskell will be going somewhere she has never been before.

Mrs. Gaskell and her travel club are going to the exciting country of Japan. Although, Mrs. Gaskell is very excited to go there, she is nervous that there will be difficulty in communication due to the language barrier. Mrs. Gaskell plans on starting a YouTube channel giving travel tips to help with those little inconveniences and highlighting all the unique places in Japan.

She will have the opportunity to take many pictures when she visits the cities of Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, and going to many temples within those cities. Tokyo is the largest city in Japan and is known for being a representation of Japanese subcultures. There are many themed cafes, shopping centers, and people. Hakone is located at the bottom of Mt. Fuji, the highest mountain in Japan, and is known as the place that most accurately embodies the beauty of Japan. Kyoto is known for showing the traditional Japanese architecture and the rich culture behind Japan.

The group will also be visiting the historical cities of Hiroshima where on August 6, 1945 nuclear bombs were dropped by the United States killing approximately 150,000 people. Mrs. Gaskell says that she feels it will be similar to visiting concentration camps because they will give her a “deeper understanding of what really happened.”

Mrs. Gaskell welcomes all to come and “geek out” with her, and she wants to remind everyone that it is not too late to sign up for the Japan Trip!

Japan Fun Facts

1. Wasabi Kit-Kats are a common choice of candy. “Strange” candy flavors such as wasabi and soy sauce are incredibly popular.
2. It is impolite to blow your nose in public. However, yelling is just fine and is often done at restaurants. It is even acceptable to yell at your waiter/waitress to get their attention.
3. Japanese schools do not have janitors. This is so that students can learn to clean up after themselves. Your school, your responsibility.
4. Crooked teeth are desired and considered cute. Some people even get surgeries to get fangs or layered rows of teeth.
5. Burping and slurping when eating is acceptable. While it is not okay for people to blow their noses, burping and slurping are signs of enjoying a meal.



Kaitlyn Madden's diverse sock collection includes these adorable animal socks and many tie-dye socks, like these pink and purple ones.

Healthy Obsessions- Are They Real?

There are constantly new articles coming out everywhere about how having healthy obsessions can make you a “better person” or “improve your life!” But what is a healthy obsession?

An obsession is defined as “a persistent disturbing preoccupation with an often unreasonable idea or feeling.” Obsessions are most commonly associated with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, or OCD. Most obsessions are from this disorder, but not all. These obsessions are unhealthy because they impact the day to day life of the people who have them.

While that is the dictionary definition of an obsession, society has a different idea of what obsessions are. An obsession, according to society, is simply something that people like a lot, such as travel and socks. Because socks can't damage someone's health, it is a healthy obsession, and the same goes for travel. While these two aren't unhealthy, are they *really* obsessions? Can these people survive if they can't travel for a few months or if they have to throw away an old pair of socks? The answer is most likely yes. These “obsessions” don't impact their day to day lives, so they aren't *really* obsessions.

A “healthy obsession” is either not really an obsession or not really healthy. Society needs to end its unhealthy obsession with saying healthy obsessions are real.

The Collection That Will Knock Your Socks Off

by Abby Delisi

It's fall, which means people's loves for scarves, socks, flannels, and yes, Pumpkin Spice Lattes are coming out. But what about the rest of the year? Do these borderline obsessions just go away?

Not for sophomore Kaitlyn Madden. Not when it comes to her socks.

Kaitlyn says her love for socks began “as soon as my mom put my first pair of socks on me.” This borderline obsession isn't going away anytime soon. *She has around seventy-five pairs of socks.* Of those seventy-five, fifty of them are weird pairs with designs that she proudly has memorized.

Because she has so many socks, she has to use her brother's dresser to store some! Kaitlyn *loves* her socks, especially her light and dark green tie-dye socks. “They're really cool,” she says, “everyone should have a pair.”

Although some people dread getting socks for holidays, Kaitlyn thinks they are the perfect opportunities to get even more socks. Her favorite holiday to buy socks for is Halloween! In fact, her definition of an “ideal” fall sock would either be Halloween socks or “socks with leaves, duh!” However, her overall ideal sock that she'd LOVE to have would be “knee high socks with a pirate ship and two stars” that say “Neverland” on them.

“There's something that makes each of us special, and I guess that's just hers,” says sophomore Falco Teti.

Kaitlyn doesn't have any plans on halting her sock collection, even if she has to get clear shoes to show off her socks! Nothing can get in the way of Kaitlyn and her socks, especially not shoes, because she finds them “overrated anyway!”

D1 Double Trouble: Who Said It?

By Haley Novak and Trevor Ulichnie

Find out everything everyone always wanted to know about D1 athletes Amani and TJ. Match the answer to each fun fact with who answered it!

1. What is your shoe size? 13
2. What is your shoe size? 8.5
3. Favorite cereal? Coco Puffs
4. Favorite cereal? Count Chocula
5. Favorite dance move? The whip
6. Favorite clothing brand? Nike and Adidas
7. Favorite UFC fighter? Rhonda Rousey
8. Favorite superhero? Deadpool
9. Favorite musical artist? Drake
10. Favorite Oreo flavor? Double Stuffed
11. Favorite Kardashian sister? Kim
12. Favorite Kardashian sister? Kendall
13. Favorite fast food place? McDonalds
14. GetGo or Sheetz? Sheetz
15. Favorite video game? Just Dance
16. Favorite Ball brother? Lamelo
17. Favorite cartoon character? Spiderman
18. Favorite movie? Hairspray
19. Favorite WWE star? John Cena
20. Favorite Scooby Doo character? Scooby Doo

- Answer Key
1. TJ
 2. Amani
 3. TJ
 4. Amani
 5. Amani
 6. Amani
 7. Amani
 8. TJ
 9. Amani
 10. TJ
 11. TJ
 12. Amani
 13. Amani
 14. Amani
 15. Amani
 16. TJ
 17. TJ
 18. Amani
 19. TJ
 20. Both



Amani and TJ have been star athletes since primary school. In eighth grade, they both won the “Most Athletic” superlative. Look at them now!

Photo courtesy of Amani Johnson.



Thanksgiving Horoscopes



by Tyler Getsy and Riley Nedz

Aries: You know you have the energy, so hit the malls early on Black Friday or else you might get stepped on.

Taurus: If you don't get your goodnight sleep before Thanksgiving dinner, you might be a grumpy turkey!

Gemini: Make sure you don't bring up the wrong conversation at the dinner table, or it might end up like a rock concert.

Cancer: Don't let the crazy family members get you down, or you'll end up crazy like them.

Leo: If you show up late to Thanksgiving dinner, you could end up with a very cold and soggy turkey. No one wants a soggy turkey!

Virgo: Don't resist cleaning up, because when everyone leaves, you'll have a very ugly mess.

Libra: Make sure you make the right choices. Don't eat too much, or you might end up stuffed like stuffing.

Scorpio: Don't start a family fight, or it may never end.

Sagittarius: Don't get too mad when there is no food left. After all, you're the one that ate it all!

Capricorn: Control your ambitions or the dinner table could turn into a field of angry turkeys.

Aquarius: Don't stay to yourself, it's Thanksgiving! Talk to the family members you haven't seen for a while! They may have some good news.

Pisces: Be careful at the dinner table, and don't play with your food. You're not one of the little turkeys anymore!