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# BARRACUDA NEWS REPORT

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January 17, 2017

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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### Promising Alzheimer's Treatment in Development

By Lauren Cazell

Alzheimer's is a disease that causes progressive mental deterioration normally in older age and impacts families around the world. Until recently, there has been little advancement in the treatment of this grievous disease. A study conducted by British and Chinese universities found a drug developed for Type 2 Diabetes that significantly improves memory. This drug not only has potential for treating Alzheimer's, but also other neurodegenerative diseases. Independent academics reported a reduction in nerve-cell-killing protein molecules, which could eventually lead to a drug to combat dementia. Not only was one diabetes drug found to treat Alzheimer's, but also an older drug, liraglutide, had successful results in clinical trials on humans that are currently under-way. Since Type 2 Diabetes is a risk factor for Alzheimer's and linked to brain degeneration, solutions may alleviate health problems arising from both of these diseases.

According to Independent Health, "There are currently half a million people living with Alzheimer's disease in the UK and more than five million people with diabetes." However, these statistics are projected to drop in the near future. The studies tested mice with daily injections of a combination of GLP-1, GIP, and glucagon. After just two months, these mice significantly improved in a maze that tested memory. Also, these mice exhibited lower levels

### The Value of Bitcoin

By Sarah Hartsell

Since the value of Bitcoin spiked sharply in November, the digital currency has become a major part of the global financial dialogue. Bitcoin is a decentralized payment network that allows money to be transferred electronically after it is "mined" through computer programs. It removes traditional "middlemen" from online payments and does not require users to work with a bank or even give their name. This anonymity first attracted criminals who feared being traced, but now, as cryptocurrency becomes more mainstream, legitimate investors have begun pouring money into the concept.

Venture capitalists now recognize that Bitcoin and similar digital currencies (Ethereum, Ripple, Litecoin) could breed significant improvements in international transfers of money, payment security, and broken banking systems in low-income countries. Ameer Rosic, founder of an online innovation hub, writes that "a Bitcoin address is more secure than Fort Knox." Some experts argue that this security and the world of opportunity in cryptocurrency could revolutionize the financial system across the globe. This optimism has driven the value of one Bitcoin to 13.880 USD, and Arthur Hayes, CEO of Bitmax in Hong Kong, has estimated that its worth could spike to \$50,000 by the end of 2018.



of dangerous clumping proteins in the brain, a lower rate of nerve cell deterioration, and lower levels of nerve inflammation. The Alzheimer's Society, a charity that funded this notable study, is an organization devoted to helping combat this disease. There are countless other ongoing studies and tests searching for a dependable treatment for Alzheimer's. To help the countless families that have loved ones who are suffering from Alzheimer's, consider donating to the Alzheimer's Society. Even a few dollars would contribute toward the ultimate goal, a cure.

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### **Update on the Mayoral Election**

**By Nina Zhuo**

The mayoral election late last year resulted in a 51.69% vote in favor of Hank Guess, a two-term city councilman and a retired police lieutenant. Will Locke was understandably "disappointed in the result," believing that it was "a missed opportunity for new vision for growth in Hickory." Still, he congratulated Guess via phone call, stating that there are still "many possibilities for my future."



Pictured: Guess is sworn into office.

### **Student Spotlight: Pedro Nunes**

**By Cole Pilgrim**

The newest arrival at UCHS is Pedro Nunes. He decided to come here after searching for a small, Christian high school. During his search, his family and he learned about Hickory and decided that UCHS would be a great fit. Though he misses Brazil's warm weather in which he swam and played soccer and baseball, he embraces the change. He says that Hickory has everything you could need, and pretty much everything you could want. In the colder weather, Pedro has discovered new hobbies: spending time with his mom, cooking, and studying. He is also extracurricularly involved in Music Club and the Foreign Language Competition team. In school, Pedro loves his speech class. With his courage to come here and motivation to excel in classes and extracurricular activities, Pedro will make a wonderful addition to the UCHS family. Let's make sure his welcome to Hickory is as warm as Brazil's weather.

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*Have a student you would like to suggest for student spotlight?*

- *Contact **Caroline Walker** or **Brock Pate***
- [carolinewalker@uchigh.com](mailto:carolinewalker@uchigh.com)
- [brockpate@uchigh.com](mailto:brockpate@uchigh.com)

*See you next week on student spotlight!*

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# BARRACUDA CULTURE

*Your Source for UCHS Sports and Entertainment*

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## SPORTS

**By Alex Morrow**

**Men's Basketball:** The boys are back and better than ever! Varsity dunks into this winter season with an overall record of 4-4. JV, with their wonderful coaches and determined spirit, have proven themselves capable of playing multiple challenging games with smiles on their faces and victory in their hearts. Each player has contributed to the records. Keep making us proud!

**Women's Basketball:** What a stunning start! Our Barracudas hold a current record of 5-3 (2-1 conference.) With the support of Coach Congro and nifty manager Hayden Morrow, their determination and confidence during every single game is remarkable. Facing some of the hardest rivals in their conference, both wins and losses have been learning experiences. UCHS looks forward to more exciting games and watching our girls grow stronger and smarter with each one.

**Swimming:** With a big splash, the Barracuda swim team is coming back stronger than last year, locked and loaded to claim their victory in conference and states! Without past captain Sadie Texer, the girls have big shoes to fill. However, with all the hard work they put in, it won't be a problem. The team recently competed in the County Championships, performing especially well against many public schools. Then came another public and private school meet where our swimmers left other teams eating their bubbles! We hope to see our teams get stronger and faster along their journey to state finals.



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***Don't see your name?***

We're looking for your highlights! If you are a student athlete and would like to see one of your greatest moments in the paper, email me at [alexandriamorrow@uchigh.com](mailto:alexandriamorrow@uchigh.com).

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Hickory Music Factory Hosts Annual Tribute Concert**

**By Mary Caroline Glaze**

This past Sunday afternoon, The Hickory Music Factory hosted its annual Tribute Concert honoring local musicians in the SALT Block Drendel Auditorium. This year honored in particular The Harris Brothers, Byron Bean, and Patrick and Kay Crouch, all of which have been involved in influencing local music (and beyond) for decades. The Hickory Jazz Orchestra, HMF Youth Big Band, and honorees played traditional and modern jazz arrangements in addition to original songs. In between songs, community members reminisced and shared stories of how these special performers touched their lives.

The Harris Brothers were born and raised by a musical family in Western North Carolina. Spending time in many different bands including blues/rock group Black Market, they trace their musical roots to rock & roll, jazz, blues, Appalachian mountain music, bluegrass, and vintage country. Performing as a duo act, The Harris Brothers book shows across the U.S. and internationally.

Byron Bean has been involved in Hickory's culture and music scene for decades, currently curating for and playing trombone with the Hickory Jazz Orchestra.

Patrick and Kay Crouch have an acoustic trio called Strictly Clean & Decent. They present modern folk songs by a variety of songwriters; songs of home life and family in traditional and contemporary bluegrass settings. They also play jazz, swing, and classic country music.

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***Hickory Community Theatre Presents New Comedy***

**By Mary Caroline Glaze**

*Lend Me a Tenor* is a comedy set in the 1930s that involves Ohio opera lovers and their encounter with Tito Merelli, Italian superstar tenor. The characters have yet to discover how crazy Merelli really is in a set of crazy circumstances, mistaken identities, and tranquilizers.

- Onstage **Thursdays-Sundays until Jan. 28.**
- Tickets (Youth and Students): **\$10**
  - Adult: **\$14-18**
- For more information including showtimes, visit [hickorytheatre.org](http://hickorytheatre.org)

