

The Lions' Den Monthly

Vol. 1, No. 1 • Nov. 2025



Varsity student athletes gave testimonials to Rep. Elizabeth Fielder at the gym dedication, Nov. 7. PHOTO: NOLAN BURKE & FINN MCCARRIE/THE LIONS' DEN MONTHLY

New OLOH gym unveiled

A donation from Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler helped redo the gym from the 1960s

BY: NOLAN BURKE & FINN MCCARRIE

Co-Athletic Directors Jennifer McCarrie and Fredrick Burke worked together to renovate the Our Lady of Hope gymnasium over the summer.

Last school year, Pennsylvania state representative Elizabeth Fiedler gave OLOH a check for \$150,000 to redo the gym, which was originally from the 1960s.

The main changes made

were a new gym floor, new basketball hoops and backboards, as well as a new paint job, a new ceiling and scoreboard, and stage renovations.

“The biggest change for basketball is the three point line. I love the look of the colors and the glass backboard,” Burke said.

Burke and McCarrie think it will help the athletes as well, because the players will be more confident to

play in a new and improved space.

“I think that it’s something for the school and, more importantly, the kids to be proud of,” Burke said. “They can play in a gym that everybody respects when they come in.”

McCarrie’s favorite thing is the new floor and the colors.

“I think it will give them confidence knowing they have this nice gym to play in,” McCarrie said.

“When you have nice things, you feel better about yourself.”

The athletic directors believe this is just the beginning of making this space great. Burke and McCarrie want to keep going. McCarrie wants to add bleachers and Burke wants to keep beautifying the space.

“I want to add some logos on center court and along the baseline,” Burke said. “And a few things on the walls.”

New teacher Q&A

Meet the new fifth grade teacher, Ms. Fagley

PAGE 2

‘How To:’ Thanksgiving

The best way to decorate your table for the holiday

PAGE 3

Annual Pumpkin Contest

Our favorites from the school’s contest

PAGE 6

CYO basketball preview

Four teams prepare for a new season

PAGE 8

NEWS

OLOH participates in 'Boot Up Philly' for October service project

School collected close to 1,000 socks

BY: NYLA MEADOWS

For the October service project, Our Lady of Hope participated in collecting socks for "Boot Up Philly," presented by Saint John's Hospice.

Mrs. Taylor DiPasquale, the third grade teacher in her first year at Our Lady of Hope, organized the service project.

She said she was inspired to organize this "Socktober" drive service project by seeing how something as simple as socks can bring comfort and dignity to people in need.

"I wanted my students to

experience the joy of giving and helping others," Mrs. DiPasquale said.

She wanted OLOH students to be able to take something away from the experience of donating to others in the first monthly service project of the year.

"I hope they learned empathy, teamwork, and how small acts of kindness can make a big difference," Mrs. DiPasquale said.

As for setting up the service project, it took Mrs. DiPasquale a while to get everything organized on all ends.

"[It] took a few weeks between reaching out to organizers, collecting materials, and spreading the word at school," Mrs. DiPasquale said.

Ultimately, her goal was to reach 1000 socks. She reached 997, which she was still very proud of.

"My goal was to get students excited about helping others while reminding them that faith in action starts with kindness," Mrs. DiPasquale said.



Mrs. Messina, Ms. Cody, and Mrs. DiPasquale at the Boots Up Philly event, Oct. 25
PHOTO COURTESY OF MRS. MESSINA

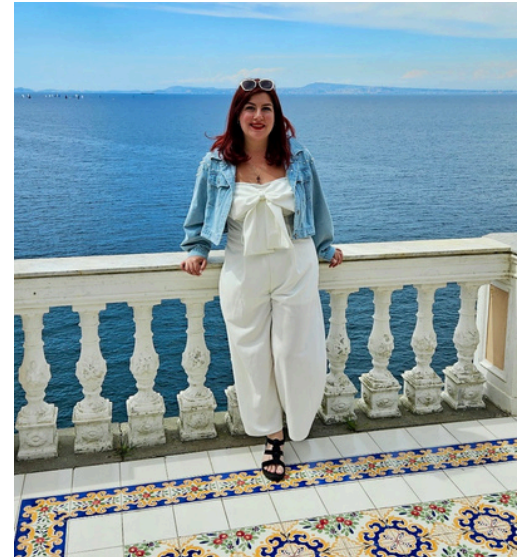


PHOTO COURTESY OF MS. FAGLEY

FEATURES

New Teacher Q&A: Get to know Ms. Fagley

BY: CARMELA CANE & EMMA WALL

Ms. Alexandria Fagley is the fifth grade teacher, in her first year teaching at Our Lady of Hope. She teaches ELA and science to the fifth grade, and grew up in South Philly. The Lions' Den Monthly sat down to ask her a few questions:

Why did you come to OLOH?

I saw the opportunity and liked that it was a Catholic school because I enjoyed attending Catholic school from Pre-K to eighth grade.

Where did you go to elementary school?

Sacred Heart, and Mrs. Testa was my Pre-K teacher.

Where did you go to high school?

Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

Where did you go to college?

I started at community college and transferred to Temple [University].

What is your favorite sports team?

The Phillies

Do you have any siblings?

I have one younger brother.

Did you play any sports growing up?

I played basketball, volleyball, and softball. My basketball team won [the] CYO [Championship] twice.

What is your favorite holiday?

Christmas, because I like giving gifts and spending time with my family.

What is your favorite color?

Purple

What do you like to do in your free time?

Read and write

What is your favorite subject to teach?

ELA

How do you like OLOH so far?

Everyone has been very kind and welcoming and I am enjoying myself and having a great time.

LIFESTYLE

Family feast tunes

The dinner playlist you need for Thanksgiving

BY: GIOVANNA BARBERA, FIONA HOANG,
& HILLARY TAN

Thanksgiving is just a few days away and you might be looking for some background music for your dinner. Here are some of our fall song recommendations.

“Art Deco”-Lana Del Rey:

The tempo of “Art Deco” is very slow and calm which is perfect for the cozy feeling of fall. Lana Del Rey’s music also gives an “old school” emotion.

“Cardigan”-Taylor Swift:

The song’s name, “Cardigan” resembles the piece of clothing worn during autumn. The lyrics are about a boy discarding a girl like a cardigan she gave him during the summer.

“.”-girl in red:

It sounds a little bit like her hit song “we fell in love in october” because of its fall vibes just like “.”, which is why it’s a good song for fall

“Paper Bag”-Fiona Apple:

It’s a fall song about love and falling in love. It is a good song because it resembles love for anyone in your life.

“American Pie”-Don McLean:

It is an old traditional song that many parents should know around the table. The song encourage them to remember their lost ones.



An example of a table decorated for Thanksgiving with some crafts for kids.
PHOTO: HUNTER HERNANDEZ & ELISA SOLORZANO/THE LIONS DEN MONTHLY

LIFESTYLE

How to decorate the table for Thanksgiving

BY: HUNTER HERNANDEZ & ELISA SOLORZANO

Thanksgiving is a few days away and if you want to help your family, setting the table is a great way to go about it.

First, you get a table cloth. A white one is recommended so you can add the decorations in color. You can then use burlap or table cloth as a runner.

Next, add a nice centerpiece like a flower bouquet with fall colors, or a variety of pumpkins with different shapes and sizes. You can also spread it out across the table. Some examples of items you could use are candles, fake or real leaves, candle stands, flowers, and pumpkins. These things can vary in size, color, and structure. That is how you make it look awesome and bright. You can put some real or fake pumpkins, or gourds. But make sure that you throw them away after use so they don’t rot. We learned this last Thanksgiving.

Now, for the utensils, napkins, and plates, you may think that they have

to be simple, however, they don’t have to. You can use the utensils that you have at home, but if you do, use a decoration for the napkins to make the utensils look better. For the napkins, there are different ways you could fold them or wrap them. You could fold them so there’s a little pocket to put the knife and the fork. We usually do it like that for parties and holidays.

For the plates, you can put a charger. A charger in this case is a bigger gold or silver plate that goes under the other plates. It makes the plates pop. Otherwise, you don’t have to touch the plates.

Finally, for the younger grades you can put some crafts on the table. Something you can do on the kids table is, instead of the table runner, put a long brown paper, called butcher paper, so kids can color and draw on it. They can draw things like pumpkins, hand turkeys, or colorful leaves.

OPINION

Christmas Classics

The best Christmas movies to watch this season

BY: PADDY DALIN, ROSALYN EDDY, & ETHAN PICANO

Christmas season is officially upon us, and one of the ways to get in the spirit is to watch some holiday films. Here are some of the best and most popular to get you in the Christmas spirit.

“Elf”

The elf, Buddy, leaves the North Pole and goes to New York City. It is a very funny movie and it is able to make anyone smile.

“Home Alone”

A boy, Kevin McCallister, is left home alone while his family is on vacation. Then robbers come to his house. It's a classic movie and very funny.

“Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer”

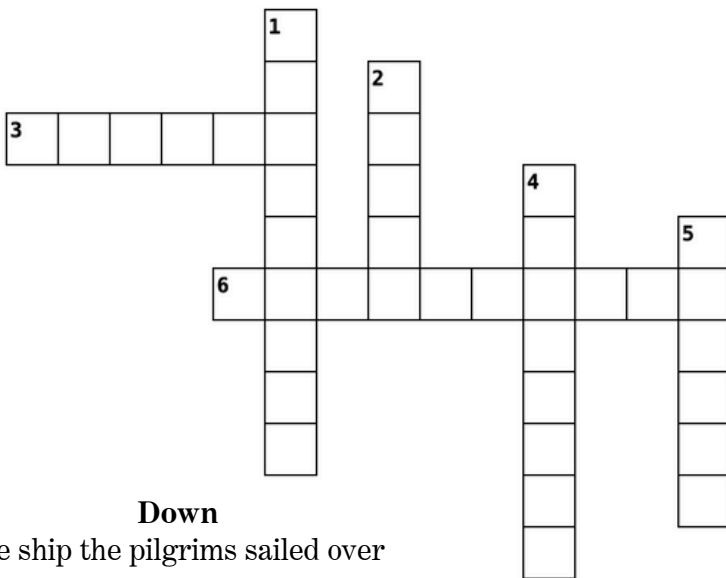
A reindeer was made fun of for his red nose before Santa brings him on his sleigh. It's a very cute kids movie.

“How the Grinch Stole Christmas”

The Grinch hates Christmas and eventually tries to steal it from the Whos in Whoville. This is a very funny movie.

“The Santa Clause”

Scott Calvin, accidentally pushes Santa off his roof. After taking his jacket he turns into Santa Claus. It's a very entertaining movie.



Down

- 1. The ship the pilgrims sailed over on
- 2. A popular symbol for fall, often associated with squirrels
- 4. A sport always associated with Thanksgiving
- 5. The department store that hosts the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York

Across

- 3. Usually the main dish served at Thanksgiving
- 6. A horn-shaped centerpiece filled with fruit

LIFESTYLE

‘Tis the season

A Christmas bucket list to get you in the holiday spirit

BY: TESSA RUNOWSKI

Since Thanksgiving is coming to an end, the Christmas season is starting. Here are some things to do during Christmas time to celebrate:

1. Go ice skating
2. Do angel tree shopping
3. Get hot chocolate and yummy treats
4. Play in the snow
5. Give and open gifts
6. Listen to a Christmas playlist
7. Go to Christmas day or Christmas Eve mass
8. Go sledding
9. Go see Dickens Village
10. Go to or watch the Jingle Ball concert
11. Bake cookies
12. See Santa
13. See the Rockettes in New York
14. Go see Christmas lights
15. Go Christmas caroling
16. Host a fun Christmas party
17. Donate to shelters
18. Decorate your house or your tree



OPINION

Ranking the best Harry Potter movies

BY: GABRIEL ANDRADE, MAISY GIOVANETTI, MICHAEL SULLIVAN, & BILLY PAWLEY

Fall and Winter are the perfect seasons for a Harry Potter rewatch. Most of the movies take place during these seasons and the vibes of the films fit with the vibes of these seasons. So, if you're preparing for your next Harry Potter rewatch or are watching the series for the first time, here are our ratings of each of the movies:

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

An orphan living in the human world, Harry Potter, learns his parents were wizards and that he is a wizard too. Then, he goes to a magic school called Hogwarts for his first year of magic schooling.

7/10: It's a good first movie but still not the best one in the series.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Harry Potter is getting ready to return for his

second year at Hogwarts when a house elf named Dobby warns him not to go back to Hogwarts because it is dangerous there. Then, the Chamber of Secrets is opened causing strange things to happen.

8/10: The series starts getting better at this point.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

In this movie, Harry Potter and his friends are running from the escaped prisoner Sirius Black who used to be friends with Harry's parents.

7/10: The one thing we love about it is there is a lot of them running from Sirius Black which makes it fun to watch.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Harry Potter competes in a tournament to crown the best wizard, called the Triwizard Tournament.

He competes against wizards and witches from schools all over the world.

10/10: This is 100% the best movie of the franchise to watch.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

The ministry of magic does not believe Harry's claim that Voldemort has returned, so Harry and his friends revive a group to prepare to fight against Voldemort and the Death Eaters.

8.5/10: The movie is awesome and a little sad.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Harry learns about Voldemort's past and uses it to prepare for a final battle against him. The series takes a darker turn at this point.

8.6/10: It is nice to see Voldemort's past but the movie also has a sad part.

It's a good movie but not the best of the series.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part One

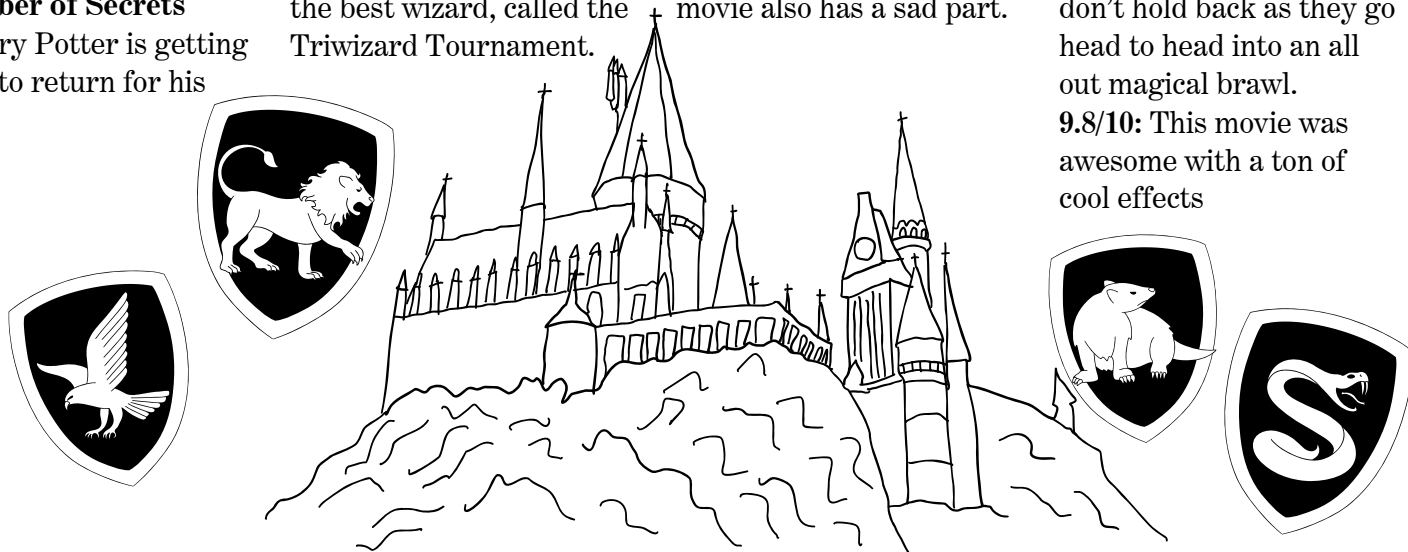
With Voldemort on the loose, the Death Eaters are committing mass killings of muggles and infiltrating the Ministry of Magic, while the Order of the Phoenix fights back. Harry, Ron, and Hermione set out to complete a quest that Dumbledore gave them by going out to destroy all of Voldemort's Horcruxes.

8.7/10: The movie has good story but is very very long.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part Two

This is the final movie. It is the final fight between good and bad. Voldemort and Harry don't hold back as they go head to head into an all out magical brawl.

9.8/10: This movie was awesome with a ton of cool effects



OPINION

School hosts annual Pumpkin Contest

Here are some of our favorites

BY: ADELINA COLETTI, MIA FOSCHINI, & KEIRA PAWLEY

The Pumpkin Contest is an event that Our Lady of Hope hosts every year leading up to Halloween, where families can decorate a pumpkin and bring it in for the school to vote on.

Students then vote during lunch using coins, to place their votes. The pumpkin with the most change wins the contest.

This year, the "Mason 67" pumpkin won the contest.

It was made by eighth graders Reese Kelly and Kennedy LaBrier.

We compiled a list of our favorite pumpkins from the 2025 OLOH Pumpkin Contest.

E.T.:

The E.T. Pumpkin was painted brown with E.T.'s face painted on it. It was placed in a basket with a blanket and a tri-fold moon background to resemble the famous scene in E.T. where the alien is in the

basket of a bicycle. We liked the E.T. pumpkin because it's based on an 80s movie that we enjoy.

Gary the Snail:

The Gary the Snail pumpkin was painted to look like Gary's shell, and was then placed on a piece of foam to look like his body. It was complete with Gary's eyes. We liked the Gary pumpkin because he is from Spongebob, a very popular TV show.

Rumi:

The Rumi pumpkin was painted to resemble Rumi's face, with yarn for hair and a body assembled from what looks to be a bucket, complete with a bowl of Rumi flavored ramen. We liked the Rumi pumpkin because KPop Demon Hunters is the top movie on Netflix.



The ET pumpkin recreated a famous movie scene.



The Gary the Snail pumpkin was modeled after a beloved TV show character.



The Rumi pumpkin is based on a character from the number one movie on Netflix.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MRS. MESSINA

SPORTS

NFL power rankings through Week 11

BY: JOSEPH CARBERRY & MICHAEL MICCICHE

Three quarters of the way through the NFL season, playoffs are quickly approaching. We looked at all of the team's records for weeks one through 11 to create our power rankings for the top seven teams at this point in the season.



7. Kansas City Chiefs The Chiefs have star players like quarterback Patrick Mahomes, tight end Travis Kelce, running back Isaiah Pacheco, wide receivers Xavier Worthy and Rashee Rice, defensive tackle Chris Jones, and cornerback Trent McDuffie. The Chiefs are 5-5 going into week 12 and have a notable win against the Detroit Lions. The Chiefs can still make the playoffs.



6. Green Bay Packers The Green Bay Packers have stars including running back Josh Jacobs, quarterback Jordan Love, tight end Tucker Kraft, wide receiver Romeo Doubs, safety Xavier McKinney, linebacker Quay Walker, and defensive end Rashan Gary. The Packers are 6-3-1 as of week 11 and won against the Detroit Lions and the Pittsburgh Steelers. They look like a playoff team.

**5. Los Angeles Rams**

The Rams have star players like quarterback Matthew Stafford, running back Kyren Williams, wide receivers Puka Nacua and Davante Adams, outside linebackers Byron Young and Jared Verse, and defensive tackle Kobie Turner. The Rams are 8-2 and won against the Indianapolis Colts, the San Francisco 49ers, and the Seattle Seahawks and with how many wins this team has the Rams have a good chance of making the playoffs.

**4. Detroit Lions**

The Lions have stars like quarterback Jared Goff, running backs Jahmyr Gibbs and David Montgomery, wide receiver Amon-Ra Saint Brown, tight end Sam LaPorta, and offensive tackle Penei Sewell. The Lions are 6-4 and won against the Chicago Bears and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and will likely make the playoffs.

**3. Buffalo Bills**

The Bills have stars like last season's MVP, quarterback Josh Allen, running back James Cook, wide receiver Khalil Shakir, offensive tackle Dion Dawkins, defensive end Joey Bosa, and linebacker Matt Milano. The Bills are

7-3 and won against the Kansas City Chiefs and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. We think that the Bills will get back to the playoffs.

**2. Philadelphia Eagles**

The Eagles have star players like quarterback Jalen Hurts, running back Saquon Barkley, wide receivers A.J. Brown and DeVonta Smith, offensive tackle Lane Johnson, defensive tackle Jalen Carter, linebacker Zach Baun, cornerback Quinyon Mitchell, and defensive back Cooper DeJean. The Eagles are 8-2 and won against the Kansas City Chiefs, the Los Angeles Rams, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the Green Bay Packers, and the Detroit Lions. The Eagles look ready for another Super Bowl run.



1. Indianapolis Colts The Colts have stars including quarterback Daniel Jones, running back Johnathan Taylor, wide receiver Micheal Pitman Jr., and tight end Tyler Warren. The Colts are 8-2 as of week 11 and won against the Miami Dolphins, Denver Broncos, Arizona Cardinals, Los Angeles Chargers. The Colts are expected to make the playoffs.

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SPORTS

CYO basketball preview

BY: PATRICK CARBERRY & ROMAN HINES

With November coming to an end, CYO basketball season has begun for Our Lady of Hope's boys and girls junior varsity and varsity teams.

The teams have only had practices so far but they have felt very good about their practices and are very excited for their upcoming season. Their first games will likely start early December. The schedule has not yet been released. All of the teams feel excited and ready.

The boys varsity basketball team last year had a great season and are excited for another season. They are also excited for the Christmas tournament.

Eighth grader Freddie Burke is looking forward to the start of the season

"I am very excited for my first game and have enjoyed our practices so far," Burke said.

Eighth grader Stella Runowski, a member of the girls varsity basketball team, said she has several different emotions entering her last year of CYO sports at Our Lady of Hope.

"I am sad and excited at the same time," Runowski said.

Fifth grader Nicky Simon, a member of the jv boys basketball team, is excited for his games and thinks the team is getting better.

"Practices are great

and the practices have been getting better," Simon said. "I think the team is getting better and hope we go all the way to the championship."

Jenna Burke, a sixth grader on the junior varsity girls team is excited and looking forward to their games and to be playing with each other. This is both grades' first year because last year girls jv did not have a team.

"There wasn't a girls jv team last year, but I am excited that a lot of girls signed up this year and have enjoyed our practices so far," Burke said.

All the teams are excited and looking forward to playing in the new gym. With a new scoreboard and floor and want to welcome the teams they play and welcome new teammates. They are very thankful for the new court and have loved playing on it so far.

"I think the gym is really fun to play in. The basketball hoops are really good, and I really like the colors of the floors," said Joseph Carberry, a sixth grader on the boy's jv team.

REVIEW

Taylor Swift releases 12th studio album

BY: SERAFINA BALDINO & HARPER BIEDENBENDER

Taylor Swift released her 12th studio album, *The Life of a Showgirl*, through Republic Records, on Oct. 3.

There were mixed opinions on the album, but despite that, it managed to take up 12 spots on the Billboard Top 100. Many Swifties think that most of the songs on the album are about her fiancé Travis Kelce. Some popular songs on the album are: "The Fate of Ophelia," "Elizabeth Taylor," and "Opalite."

"I like "Wi\$h Li\$t", but my favorite song is "Actually Romantic," said Mrs. Chelsea Monaghan the Swiftly first grade teacher.

There are a lot of easter eggs and references on this album, including ones hinting at her relationship with Kelce. Some other easter eggs connect Swift to other artists, including Charli XCX. Some of her references in the lead track, "The Fate of Ophelia," include references to Ophelia from William Shakespeare's "Hamlet," in the lyric "might've drowned in a melancholy."

In the same track, the line "I heard you calling, on the megaphone," references Kelce on the "New Heights" podcast, calling out Swift on one

of the episodes. Another lyric says: "I swore my loyalty to me, myself, and I, right before you lit my sky up." This references when Swift was fresh out of a breakup with Matty Healy, and referred to herself as an "independant girlie" until she met Kelce.

In her song, "Elizabeth Taylor" there are also a few easter eggs. These include her lyric "That view of Portofino was on my mind," which is a reference to Taylor's love of the Italian village where Richard Burton proposed to her in 1964. Another lyric, "when you called me at the

Plaza Athénée," was a reference to where Taylor stayed with Burton. In her lyric "I'd cry my eyes violet," is a reference to Taylor's violet eyes which was an iconic part of her fame, and it was also the name of one of her perfumes. Another lyric, "I would trade the Cartier for someone to trust," which was a reference to Taylor's jewelry collection, which she had a lot of.

Despite the mixed reviews, Swift's reference-filled album broke many records, including the modern-era record for the most albums sold in a single week in the U.S. with over 3.4 million sales.