

HB

#WhosHB

The Hoofbeat

J.W. Mitchell High School's Student Newspaper
2323 Little Road, New Port Richey, FL 34655
Volume No. 13 | Issue 3 | December 2014



Photo by Amanda Garcia

DECK THE HALLS WITH LIGHTS AND GARLAND

Amanda Garcia
Staff Reporter

With Christmas right around the corner, families get into the holiday spirit by baking cookies, giving gifts, and decorating their homes and yards. Some families pride themselves by going to the extreme, spending hundreds of dollars on lights, greenery, artificial snow, and other decorations.

Two students from separate neighborhoods feel confident that their home rates highest when compared to others.

"On a scale of one-to-ten I would say that my house

is a nine because my dad goes all out. We have lights everywhere: the top of the roof, the middle of the roof, lower on the gate, even on the porch. We incorporate wreaths and Christmas trees as well," Trevor Smith ('18) said.

Sydney Steele's ('17) family decorates not with the goal of impressing the neighborhood, but with the intention of making the family feel special.

"We don't have inflatables but we have over one thousand lights and we have five snowman in the yard,

and twelve snowflake lights. We also put fake frost on the windows. We go all out every year because my family normally hosts dinner," Sydney said.

Major preparation is needed for a home to look as decorative as Trevor's.

"We reuse the lights we had from previous years, and it probably takes around half a day to finish our whole house. We started Sunday morning and got done around 9p.m. In my family we all have to help out with decorating," Trevor said.

Sydney's family concentrates on the exterior of their home when preparing for the Christmas holidays.

"The outside takes a long time because all of the lights. This whole process takes around two weeks for us to complete," Sydney said.

Trevor's move to his new larger home gave his family motivation to decorate to the extreme.

"When we got a bigger house about six years ago we started going all out. My dad always says we aren't

going to go all out this year, and an hour later we have all the lights on our house," Trevor said.

Although Sydney and Trevor live in separate neighborhoods, both families enjoy going all out with the Christmas decorations so their homes can look spectacular for the upcoming Christmas holiday.

Christmas comes to town

Alyssa Magilligan
Staff Reporter

As the fall season comes to an end and the winter season rolls in theme parks begin to plan events to celebrate the beloved Christmas holiday. The popular theme park known as Busch Gardens hosts an elaborate celebration for the Christmas season. To glisten and bring holiday cheer, more than six million lights hang throughout the park in preparation for Christmas Town. Busch Gardens' Christmas Town began on November 28th and continues until December 31st. This year, park officials plan to deck out Pantopia, the newest area of the park. Pantopia's

decorations include brand new jewel-toned lantern stars and a gigantic LED light star to bring Christmas joy to visitors. In addition, Egypt introduces ancient Christmas traditions to help celebrate the season. Park officials plan on morphing the area into the town of Bethlehem to take part in telling the story of the Three Kings. "I think it's awesome that they have something new and entertaining for visitors instead of the same thing every year," Emily Reed ('18) said. A distinctive reason why normal attendees go to Christmas Town includes the

tradition of fifteen thousand square feet of artificial snow. However, the park plans on breaking the tradition and removing the manufactured snow from the list of activities this year. "I personally think Busch Gardens should keep the snow. It is the closest thing Florida will ever get to snow. They might be losing money though," said Delaney Georgantas ('18). Besides the visual changes to Christmas Town, Busch Gardens made one welcomed change, also. For the past several years, visitors needed a separate ticket purchased in order to attend the

festivities. This year, annual pass members may attend by using their pass for admission without purchasing a single thing. "I think it's good that they're starting to put passes to good use. I think Busch Gardens is losing customers so that could be another reason why they're letting annual pass members use their pass to get in," said Reed. The joy of looking at Christmas lights, drinking hot chocolate, and spending time with loved ones still remain on the list for Christmas Town visitors. Despite the changes Busch Gardens made to the annual event, millions of

lights and catchy carols still entertain park goers, but in a completely different way.



Photo provided by Busch Gardens. More information on Christmas Town can be found on their website.

A mist today keeps the doctor away

Sarah Nagy
Staff Reporter

Influenza remains an issue throughout America, causing 36,000 fatalities each year. To prevent the spread of the flu, Healthy Schools LLC provided local schools with complimentary vaccinations for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Instead of the typical flu shot, Healthy Schools administered a nasal mist that serves the same purpose. The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County instituted the program, called "Teach Flu a Lesson." This timely solution made it easier for parents financially, and Healthy

Schools offered the vaccinations for free. The vaccinations occurred on November 13th. The process for obtaining the vaccination was rather straightforward, consisting of just a consent form with a parent signature, and then returned to a teacher. The nasal mist, known as the FluMist, gets sprayed into the nose to prevent the spread of the flu, without the use of needles. The FluMist contains a strand of the live virus to boost immunity in case someone comes in contact with the virus again. Receiving the

vaccine decreases the chances of catching the virus. Pasco County Schools partnered with Healthy Schools LLC, and implemented this free vaccine, as they think it is best for the well being of Pasco County students and staff. According to the Pasco County Schools website, the single best way to prevent the seasonal flu requires people to receive a flu vaccination, whether it be a shot, or the FluMist. Students willing to protect themselves from the potentially fatal virus received the FluMist, or a flu shot from their doctor or pharmacy.



Shannon Connors ('15) receives the FluMist during 2nd period from a trained nurse to protect herself against the flu.

Editorial Policy

Published seven times a school year, the student newspaper of J.W. Mitchell High School is a public forum with its student editorial board making all the decisions concerning its contents. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold the name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper. Opinions of letters are not necessarily those of the staff nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be constructed as the opinion or policy of the school administration, unless attributed.

Thank
you to our
sponsors:

Kim & Tom White
LuAnn Burchick

the Hoofbeat Staff

Adviser:
Susan McNulty

Layout Designers:

News
Olivia Weyer

Lifestyles
Caroline Weyer

Reporters:

Samantha Burchick
Alexis Clark
Christine Couture
Shyanne Dove
Emily Fowler

Editors:
Sarah Langston
Copy Editor in Chief

Centerspread
Sarah Langston

Sports
Brock Shively

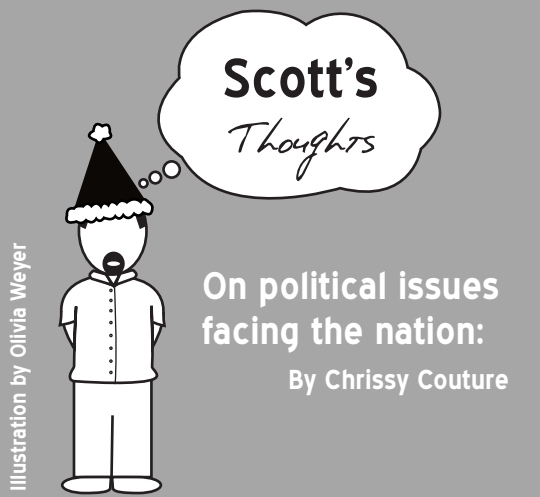
Amanda Garcia
Kaitlyn Klein
Alyssa Magilligan
Alexandra Michaud
Sebastian Miller

Olivia Weyer
Layout Editor in Chief

Entertainment
Olivia Weyer

Opinions
Jaelyn Moser & Kelsey Williams

Alexandra Moreno
Sarah Nagy
Sophie Sajecki
Bailey Sassatelli
Katelyn White



**On political issues
facing the nation:**

By Chrissy Couture

Q: Are Republicans on a solid path for success for the next several years/ elections?
A: The Republicans are in a great deal of trouble if they do not expand their minority vote. Blacks vote over 90%, currently, for Democrats, across the country. Hispanics and Asians are around 70%. The only minority group Republicans do well with is Cubans, and that's only older Cubans now. Younger Cubans have become more Democrat than Republican. Every minority group is voting against Republicans right now.

Q: How can you tell the difference between a Democrat and Republicans?
A: The best way to tell if you're a Republican or Democrat is how close you live to your neighbor. If you have neighbors above you and below you and next to you because you're in an apartment, you're probably a democrat. If your neighbors are a mile away or further, you're probably a Republican. If you live in New York and there's upwards of 500 people living in your building, do you want your neighbor kid to have a gun that he shoots practice with? If you live here, [points to Wyoming] do you care if your 12-year-old neighbor kid is able to shoot a gun? It's just a totally different mindset of how much government intervention should be allowed.

Q: How does this election affect the 2016 Presidential Race?
A: Presidential elections for 2016 started about 11:00 p.m. that night. The Republicans are pointing out places that Obama went, places that Hillary went. The first comment I saw was "Hillary has no coattails." In other words, Hillary went and campaigned in a bunch of states, but it didn't help. She's not as popular as you think.

Q: Why is Hillary having such a hard time gaining support this time?
A: She thinks she made a mistake in 2008 by not running as a historic candidate; "I'm the First Woman" was not the theme of her election. The theme was "Vote for me; I'm the most qualified." Obama ran as "This is a historic election and you have the chance to elect the first African American president." Now, the Hillary campaign has changed their strategy; she's going to run as the historic candidate, and the hope is, that it will motivate Democrats.

Prism prep

Sophie Sajecki
Staff Reporter

Intricate pieces of music fashioned by multiple sections of individual students create the sound of the JWMHS band. All band members spend two or more hours after school at mandatory practices, and some players go home to perfect their craft, and help others as well. "I've been practicing my basics a lot more like my scales. I want to go into music education, so I've been helping a lot of the freshmen with theirs as well," Ashley Alaire ('15) said. The band participates in many events, concerts and even performances to earn their grades. MPA (music performance assessment) represents one of the graded performances and just happened recently. "We went to MPA which evaluates us for how well that we have done and we got straight superiors, which is like the highest ranking, so I was really proud," Kelsie How-

ell ('15) said. Every year the band hosts a concert called Prism, held at the Center for the Arts at River Ridge High School. The Prism concert features all of the different sections in band, and even recent graduates contribute to the performance. "We have a student who graduated last year named Logan and every year he composes a percussion ensemble for us to play. He's going to be composing one for us to play this year to put on his college profile," Alaire said. Prism exemplifies an overall unique concert performance. No two sections play the same thing in one night, so something unique always occurs. The band also prepares very early in advance so that each band member performs their best. "We start pulling a lot of pieces that the bands will read [early]. One year we had the oboe section play "I'm Yours" by Jason Maraz,



Briana Acevedo ('16) leads the marching band during a clap-out before an away football game.

so we'll always have really interesting stuff," said Howell. With the honorable scores from the MPA and the dedication put into the Prism concert this year, the band prepared for an excellent event. This year Prism will be held for two nights: Friday, December 12th at 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 13th at 7 p.m. at the River Ridge Performing Arts Center.

Splitting up Sunshine

Katy White
Staff Reporter

A proposal made by several city commissioners in South Miami to divide Florida into two separate states brought about debate and discussion. The commissioners say Tallahassee refuses to take notice of the issues they face, and that this brought them to desire the split. Officials such as Vice Mayor Walter Harris publicly said that climate change and safety issues led them to creating the proposal. The state line would be north of Orange, Polk, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, making these counties part of the new state, known as South Florida. Pasco County, as well as counties further north, would remain in the state of Florida. The proposal must be approved by officials in each county and Florida's state legislature for it to take full effect and officially split the state. Ms. Orrego (FAC) explains that this split affects not just Floridians, but the whole country as well. She finds the division unlikely. "Other states like Colorado have wanted to do the same thing previously as well. It hasn't happened and I don't think it will to Florida. It will have to be an approved measure, not just by the Florida state legislature but by the congress as well. I don't see that really happening, to be honest," Orrego said. Safety issues and climate change led those in Miami to think that this issue caused more urgency than they first thought. "I think we should address whether or not climate change is a legitimate issue. I think research would suggest that it is, and I think that Washington is also divided

over this. It's a very controversial topic and it's not going to help us in the long run. The first step would be addressing climate change or global warming, then maybe address Miami," Orrego said. If the split occurred, colleges such as UF and FSU stay in Florida, meaning students in South Florida would need to pay out-of-state tuition to go to these colleges. Students in Pasco would pay out-of-state tuition to attend USF and UCF. Ms. Orrego knows the negative impact this news would bring. "I don't think we should hurt

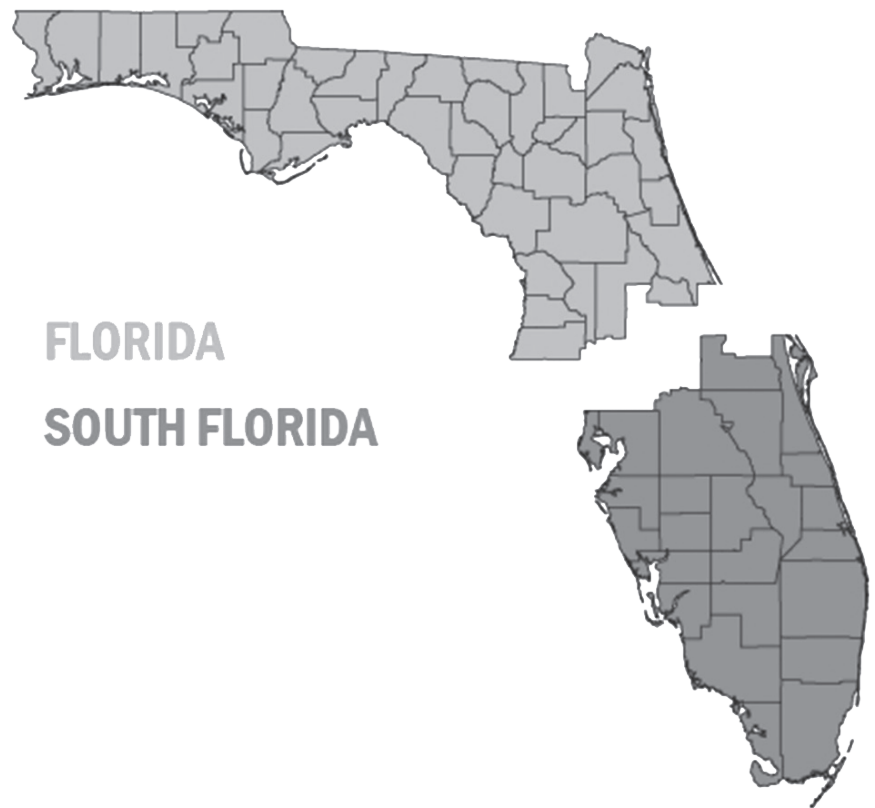


Photo provided by MyNews13.com

High tea team time on campus

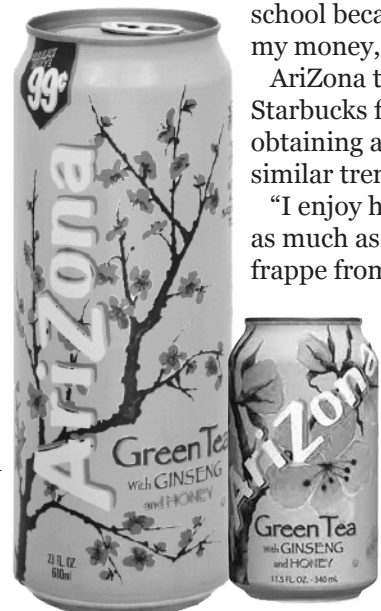
Caroline Weyer
Lifestyles Layout Designer

A new beverage arrived in all of the commons recently. AriZona iced tea provides students with an alternative to water or soda during their school day. However, controversy arose with the price of the tea, which costs \$1.25 for an 11.5-ounce can.

"I feel that the price is fair because we have the luxury of buying the drink on campus, rather than having to stop by the store before school," Bailey Bodden ('17) said.

The convenience of purchasing the beverage at school aids students in tardiness to class because stopping at a store on the way no longer proves an issue. However those that enjoy other flavors of tea find both the price and options minimal.

"My favorite flavor of AriZona is fruit punch, and at school they only



Photos provided by The NY Times

offer the iced tea. I prefer to go to the store before school because the price is cheaper and I get more for my money," Gavin Gruwell ('17) said.

AriZona tea products quickly turned into the Starbucks for tea drinkers. The same obsession of obtaining a Starbucks drink before class proves a similar trend for AriZona buyers.

"I enjoy having an AriZona green tea before school as much as other girls like having a daily java chip frappe from Starbucks," Alexis Zegan ('17) said.

The appearance of AriZona tea in the vending machines sparked controversy among students. The drink was put in the vending machine to serve as an alternative to soda and water. Students that do not agree with the price go buy it at the store instead. Overall, the convenience of AriZona tea in the machines impacted students drink choices.

Refer a friend and get \$25!

Call (727)-859-2195



Specializing in cruises, vacations
& resort hotels. Free onboard
credit with eah cruise booked.

RECAPPING BIG EVENTS IN 2014



FEBRUARY
2: PHILLIP
SEYMOUR
HOFFMAN
DIES

FEBRUARY 7-23: THE XXII OLYMPIC
WINTER GAMES ARE HELD IN SOCHI, RUSSIA.



FEBRUARY 17:
THE TONIGHT
SHOW
STARRING
JIMMY FALLON
AIRS



MARCH 2: ELLEN
DEGENERES
POSTS THE
OSCAR SELFIE
THAT SHUT
DOWN TWITTER

MARCH 8: MALAYSIAN AIRLINE FLIGHT 370 DISAPPEARS OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN



SEPTEMBER 30:
EBOLA SCARE IN
DALLAS, TX

AUGUST 9:
FERGUSON
PROTESTS
BEGIN

SEPTEMBER 4: JOAN RIVERS, COMEDIAN BEST KNOWN FOR HER RED CARPET INTERVIEWS AND TALK SHOWS DIES

AUGUST 11: ROBIN WILLIAMS, COMEDY LEGEND AND STAR OF ICONIC MOVIES, DIES



Photos provided by The NY Times

JUNE - JULY:
FIFA WORLD
CUP IN BRAZIL.
GERMANY
WINS

Tips
TO: FRESHMAN
FROM: SENIORS

If you could redo freshman year, what would you do differently?

"When I procrastinated and ended up staying up the entire night, it was the worst experience. Don't put off projects because even if you can do it in one night, don't put yourself under that kind of pressure," - Madison Schafer ('15)

"Set aside a lot of time for any projects or assignments you might have to turn in. Study as much as you can,"
- Matthew Blackburn ('15)

"I wouldn't have allowed myself to become so overwhelmed with everything! Utilizing study groups probably would have helped since discussing things with friends helps clarify things that weren't the easiest to understand." - Mansi Thaker ('15)

GUTTERS DONE WRIGHT

call 813-433-6799 to get a

FREE ESTIMATE

or to ask about our clean out & leaf guard servives

GUTTERSDONERIGHT.COM

OH, Christmas tree

Each household decorates their Christmas tree differently and can often be representative of that family. Some are quirky, others are traditional, and a few are in a category of their own. While the usual red and gold glass ornaments paired with silver garland look picture perfect in photos, some families like to take their own spin on their tree decorations. Ranging from sweet and family-oriented to completely covered from topper to stump

in shiny tinsel, each home has a tree specific to their aesthetic and atmosphere. Most do not stray too far from the traditional trees seen in movies and home decor shopping magazines, but some like to be different. It seems like everyone knows one person with three different trees scattered around the rooms of their house or that family who keeps a pristine white tree every year. No matter how a tree is decorated they can be a fun and expressive decoration in the home.



“ We put some lights at the top of the tree and it makes it look like [the angel's] dress is glowing. ”

– Grace Lopez ('18)



“ It's crystal and lights up bright. I usually decorate it white, or some years, gold. It's really pretty because once you look at it, your eyes start shining. ”

– Jocelyn Espinoza ('17)



“ Every year we do different stuff on it. This year I really want to get ornaments with pictures of Santa Claus in them. ”

– Maria Asanza ('17)



“ We do a different color scheme every year; last year it was different shades of gold and silver. This year, it'll probably be blue or red. ”

– Margaret Mooney ('17)

MOCKINGJAY - PART 1

Chrissy Couture
Staff Reporter

The familiar faces of Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence), Gale (Liam Hemsworth), Peeta (Josh Hutcherson), and President Snow (Donald Sutherland) filled the big screen with intensity on November 20. *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1* left audiences holding their breath in anticipation from start to finish. A much-awaited installment in *The Hunger Games* trilogy, *Mockingjay – Part 1* picked up right where *Catching Fire* left off.

After the clock arena began collapsing in *Catching Fire*, Katniss is rescued by Gale, Haymitch (Woody Harrelson), and the strangest of all, Plutarch (Philip Seymour Hoffman), successor to the game-maker Seneca Crane. This left fans with

★★★☆☆ - Don't miss it!
★★★★☆ - Definitely worth it
★★★★ - Go for it
★★★ - If you have extra cash
★ - Don't bother

more questions than ever; suspicion rose with Plutarch's role, and concern grew for Peeta's safety and whereabouts.

Mockingjay – Part 1 starts with Katniss screaming herself awake from a nightmare. She is in District 13, and since the end of the Quarter Quell, Panem will never be the same. The scenes from underground bunkers within District 13 are dark and heavy; the stressful mood of a growing revolution can be felt from rebel President Coin's urgent desire to make Katniss the symbol of the war – to make her the Mockingjay. However, Katniss has an agenda of her own. She makes several requests before agreeing to be the Mockingjay: all of the victors from the Quarter Quell must be rescued at the earliest opportunity, Peeta must be granted immunity from any punishment from helping the

Capitol, and Prim can keep her cat.

In addition to this list, fans of the book searched for something else. Who gets to kill President Snow? Katniss makes that her final demand in the book series, but so far that condition has not been brought up in the movie series. Fans expect it to appear in *Mockingjay – Part 2*, as it plays a pivotal role in the fate of the war.

Throughout the movie, fans see Katniss in positions of extreme vulnerability, as well as strength and spontaneity. Being unaware of Peeta's condition at the Capitol, except for the propaganda they force him to film, appears to torture Katniss. However, in moments of rebel spirit, she reminds viewers of how she reached this point: her quick wit and unwavering passion for what is just and humane.

Ultimately, *Mockingjay*

– *Part 1* portrayed the true outrage of *The Hunger Games* and what they mean to Panem. There was less focus on the Gale-Peeta love-triangle because attention was drawn to the Capitol's oppression, murder, and bombing of innocent people, entire districts, and even hospitals. The movie series has been moving in this direction since *The Hunger Games* received backlash for straying from the plot and towards the relationship drama.

Mockingjay – Part 1 is continuous in its intensity, and a definite success for fans.

The rebel cause is launched and the fate of Panem lies in the near future. A serious mood, high expectations for Katniss and President Snow, and avoidance of the love story make *Mockingjay – Part 1* a must see in *The Hunger Games* trilogy.

★★★★★

Photos provided by The NY Times



Katniss visits a District 8 hospital as the Mockingjay



Gale and Katniss walk through District 8

Hey, hey, hey, hey!

Sarah Nagy
Staff Reporter

The popularity of the already admired talk show host Jimmy Fallon skyrocketed with his recent transition to *The Tonight Show* on NBC. Fallon carried and even improves the legacy of the previous host, Jay Leno. *The Tonight Show* starring Jimmy Fallon serves as an entertainment getaway at 11:35 every weeknight.

In Fallon's segment called "Ew!", he and a guest star act as two stereotypical teenage girls that reply with "Ew!" to almost anything. He recently transformed the skit into a song featuring Will.I.Am. that made it to number 26 on Billboard. The song and music video reached 6 million views the first week, and took off from there. Although, appreciation for Jimmy does not only come from "Ew!".

"My favorite segment of his is the 'Ew!' I also really like the tweets he reads from fans that use the trending hashtag that he creates," Gabby Martin ('17) said.

Even before the high ratings of his goofy song, Jimmy Fallon was a late night icon whom fans love throughout America. He hosted *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* prior to taking on the role of *The Tonight Show* host. His show remains similar except for the time slot.

"I'm so happy his show is on an hour earlier, now I can get an extra hour of sleep. I also love the Thank You notes that he does with complete sarcasm; it makes the show," Mackenzie Bennett ('16) said.

Fallon's house band, called The Roots, performed on his show as well. They

play background music for dramatic effects, walk on music for guests, theme music for his games/segments, as well as performs with musical guests. The band also gets involved in skits such as 'Freestyling with The Roots', 'Classroom Instruments', and the 'History of Rap' with Justin Timberlake .

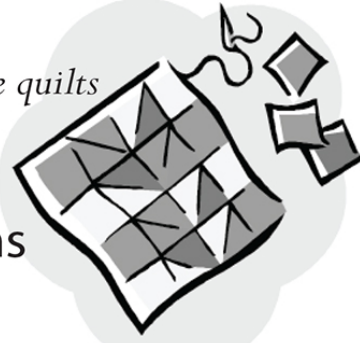
"The Roots are awesome. They give such a fun and comical feel to the show. Their music is great as well," Bennett said.

Fallon's fame grows each and every show he airs. With the popular "Ew!", the takeover of the *Tonight Show*, The Roots, and his segments, Fallon remains on the path to even greater success.

K & K Quilts

"One of kind" hand made quilts

Crib to king size




Kathleen Williams

(727)-375-5083

kathy19521@verizon.net

Now with locations in
Trinity and Palm Harbor!



1806 Short Branch Dr. Suite 102

Trinity, FL 34655

(727) 376-2770

2445 Tampa Rd. Suite A

Palm Harbor, FL 34683

(727) 781-7475

10

Event: Symphony in Lights

Where: The Shops at Wiregrass

When: Shows at 6, 7, 8 and 9 PM

12

Event: Ice Palace

Where: International Plaza

When: Now until Dec. 24th

14

Concert: Usher, August Alsina, DJ Cassidy

Where: Amalie Arena

When: 7:30 PM

15

Event: Christmas Town

Where: Busch Gardens

When: Runs throughout December

17

Concert: EDM Earthshakers Festival

Where: USF Sun Dome

When: Starts Tues. the 16th at 12 pm to Wed. at 12 AM

18

Event: NHS Elf Movie

Where: JWMHS

When: Entry is free

9

The HB Published!

11

Event: Celebration of lights

Where: Safety Town

When: Now until Jan.3 From 6-9 PM

13

Event: St. Pete Illuminated Boat parade

Where: Vinoy Basin waterfront

When: 6 PM

16

Concert: The Black Keys and St.Vincent

Where: Amalie Arena

When: 8 PM

19

Event: Candy Cane Ace

Where: Hernando County Fairgrounds

When: 6:30 PM

20

Event: Christmas Bricktacular

Where: Legoland

When: 7 PM

21

Event: It's A Wonderful Life

Where: Tampa Theatre

When: 7:30 PM- 9:45 PM

22

Concert: 93.3 FLZ Jingle Ball

Where: Amalie Arena

When: Doors open at 7 PM

23

Event: Tampa's Downtown on Ice

Where: Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park

When: 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM

24

Event: Christmas Eve

Where: With your family

When: All day

25

Event: Christmas

Where: With your family

When: All day

26

Event: Bitcoin St. Petersburg Bowl

Where: Tropicana Field

When: 8 PM

27

Event: Holiday Fanta-Sea

Where: The Florida Aquarium

When: 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM

28

Event: Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown

Where: Tampa Bay History Center

When: 9 AM- 5 PM

29

Event: Holiday Lights in the Gardens

Where: Florida Botanical Gardens

When: 5:30 PM

30

Event: Outback Bowl

Where: Hilton Clearwater Beach

When: 11 AM - 4 PM

31

Event: New Years Firework show

Where: Channelside Plaza

When: 8 PM



December 2014

Designed by Shyanne Dove

Top Christmas binge movies

By Chrissy Couture

Funny



Buddy: "First we'll make snow angels for two hours, then we'll go ice skating, then we'll eat a whole roll of Tollhouse cookie dough as fast as we can, and then we'll snuggle."

1. Elf
2. How the Grinch Stole Christmas
3. Santa Clause series
4. Christmas with the Kranks
5. Deck the Halls

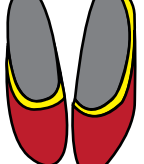
Throwbacks



Kris Kringle: "You better watch out. You better not cry, you better not pout. I'm telling you why. Because I came to town."

1. Santa Claus is Comin' to Town
2. Home Alone
3. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
4. Rudolph's Shiny New Year
5. A Christmas Story

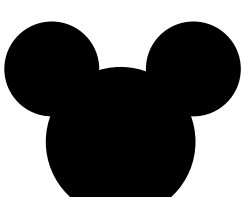
Sentimental



Maggie Andrews: "Honey, what's the matter?"
Nathan Andrews: "Your heart. I just wanted to see if it was still beating."

1. The Christmas Shoes
2. Miracle on 34th Street
3. Disney's Christmas Carol
4. Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas
5. It's a Wonderful Life

Animated



Ghost of Christmas Past: "Hmph! Listen, Scrooge, if men were measured by kindness, you'd be no bigger than a speck of dust."
Scrooge: [yawns] "Kindness is of little use in this world."

1. Mickey's Christmas Carol
2. Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
3. The Polar Express
4. Frosty the Snowman
5. Arthur Christmas

Illustrations by Olivia Weyer

Holiday head-start

Lexi Michaud
Staff Reporter

Decorating homes, stores, and theme parks for the holidays remains a favorite tradition, so much so that some decorations appear earlier and earlier each year. While this may bring excitement for some, the practice of hanging wreaths, lights, and holly in November dampens the spirit of both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Although Howl O' Scream continued until November 1st, Busch Gardens started decorating their theme park with Christmas decorations before the zombies got their last scare. Busch Gardens defends their early practice of displaying Christmas decorations before Thanksgiving because they must be ready for Busch Gardens Christmas Town. Although decorations fill the park early, the wonderland lights appear on November 28th, the right time for Christmas spirit. Stores and shops in malls start selling decorations and ornaments early, allowing family and friends to find what they need before everything sells out.

Black Friday arrives after Thanksgiving with hundreds of discounts, motivating shoppers to spend money as Christmas music beautifies the atmosphere. This frantic holiday activity takes away from the family time of Thanksgiving. A few homes decorate for Christmas after Halloween as others decorate after Thanksgiving. Those that jump from Halloween straight to Christmas miss the joy that Thanksgiving decorations bring. Home décor for fall such as red, yellow, and orange leaves and the smell of autumn flowing around homes during November leads up to the excitement of the holidays. The famous national tree in Washington, D.C. held its tree lighting on December 4th. However Rockefeller Center in New York City places their tree up in mid-November. Placing the tree up and decorating the city early ruins the fun of fall and Thanksgiving. Stores, homes, theme parks, and cities break out their decorations earlier

and earlier each year. This practice detracts from family celebrations centered around Thanksgiving. In addition, the spirit of the Christmas season focuses too much on material goods. Keep the wreaths, trees and lights locked up until December 1st, so that the warmth of Christmas decorations may become more significant and bring greater joy.

Give me liberty at my death

Bailey Sassatelli
Staff Reporter

Terminally ill patients in three states found comfort in the fact that they could end their suffering, thanks to the Death with Dignity Act (DWDA). According to the Death with Dignity National Center, the DWDA lets patients already close to death to die in a quicker fashion. Not suicide, nor euthanasia, this act provides a possible option for patients when the pain from the illness becomes too much to bear. All states in the U.S. should adopt this law because it lets patients with terminal illnesses die through medication rather than their illness. Only three states have enacted this law: Washington, Vermont, and Oregon, and only seven other states have proposed the adoption of the law. Created specifically for terminally ill patients within six months of their death date, the law in the Washington State Department of Health states that only a qualified patient may make a written request for medication and they must self-administer. Patients must be functional enough to physically request the treatment on their own. The law and prevents family members from making the decision for them. As for the method itself, in a physician-assisted death, a

doctor normally prescribes an oral dose of a barbiturate (a drug that induces sleep), large enough to kill the patient. At this time, Florida only has a few petitions floating around the community but has not put in an actual proposal for the adoption of the law, regardless of the multiple letters written to the Representatives of Florida as well as the Governor. The Death with Dignity Act not only allows terminally ill patients with no chance of survival to end their suffering, but it also shortens the families' heartache because they are no longer forced to see their loved ones suffering. The DWDA not only should be an option for terminal ill patients in all states, but should also

become a law under the federal government so people do not have to move to die the way they want to. In all reality, everyone will die at some point and these patients just want to die from their own method rather than from their illness. Who is the government to deny them that right?



Next Level Training is a family owned facility designed to help take YOU to the "Next Level"


We specialize in:

- Softball/Baseball lessons
- Speed, strength & agility workouts for ALL athletes
- Different fitness class groups

2530 Merchant Avenue Odessa, FL 33556
Tom Stager, Owner (727) 410-5725
www.NextLevelTraining1.com

Trinity, East Lake, Clearwater

VARSITY



CLUB

Established in 1989

*A Family Gathering Place
for Good Sports*



New Year's Resolutions

Are they worth a second thought?

As the new year approaches, so does the creation of New Year's Resolutions. The false hope that change happens at 12:01 on January 1st and that everyone will improve with the coming year eventually dissipates by early February. New Year's Resolutions prove pointless and counterproductive year after year, and yet a majority of people fall prey to the hopeless goals despite the inevitable disappointment. As a staff, the Hoofbeat agrees that the start of the new year is not the time to resolve things in life that one wishes to fix. Putting off goals and waiting until the new year to begin the changes only makes for procrastination until the last minute and often ends in failure anyway, so why wait and take that risk? When deciding to eat healthier, start going to the gym, or stop smoking, the Hoofbeat believes it better to start the process as soon as the problem gets identified. If someone chooses to make a New Year's Resolution anyway and disregard how the staff feels towards the pointless goal, they might as well make it a reasonable one that they can achieve. Start small with little accomplishments like waking up 10 minutes earlier for school or jogging an extra mile while working out instead of something out of reach. Big, extravagant plans like wanting to backpack across Europe during the summer only make it more difficult to meet those resolutions and result in lost hope and failed dreams. As a whole, the Hoofbeat believes that New Year's Resolutions are often just for show and do not accomplish the goal that the person intended. If a change needs to happen in someone's life, they should work on bettering themselves throughout the year instead of waiting until the new year starts. Hardly anyone feels different when the ball drops, so using New Year's Eve as an excuse to become a better person makes no sense.



ACT Prep
The Fast Track to Success



Head 2 Toe Salon
727-375-8808



The College Prep Zone
Terri Hartmann Baun M.S., M.A.
727.967.2890
Email: terri@thecollegeprepccoach.com
www.thecollegeprepccoach.com



LuAnn Burchick
727-389-4319
Hours: Wed. ~ 10-2
Thurs. & Fri. ~ 10-5
Sat. ~ 9-4



Mac Repair & Cell Phones (727) 372-1781
3138 Little Rd New Port Richey, FL 34655

CELL PHONE

WE REPAIR ALL MODELS

- Broken Screen
- Speaker Problem
- Broken Charging Port

COMPUTER REPAIR

IMac, Macbook, Tablets, PC's & Laptops

Advanced Component Level Repair

FULL SYSTEM DIAGNOSTIC

Fast & Reliable Electronics Repair

HDTV's & GAME SYSTEMS

WE REPAIR ALL BRANDS

Most HDTV Problems Can Be Repaired

We Repair Playstation, Xbox, Nintendo

NOV &

receive

Kaitlyn Klein
Staff Reporter

The Christmas season brings children hope each year with the appearance of Santa Claus. Often kids go the extra mile to make sure that when Santa Claus arrives, he gives out presents instead of coal. A child’s fondness for Christmas often comes from their belief in Santa Claus. Allowing kids the pleasure of believing in Santa Claus remains an unwritten law of parenthood, and every parent must allow their child that pleasure.

Santa Claus, also known as Father Christmas, represents the Christmas season and continually brings the idea of a holly jolly holiday. Little kids always get excited for a visit from Santa Claus, and during the season they remain on their best behavior, making sure they stay on the “nice list.” Santa Claus helps kids get into the Christmas spirit and they may experience a better Christmas than children who know the truth about Santa.

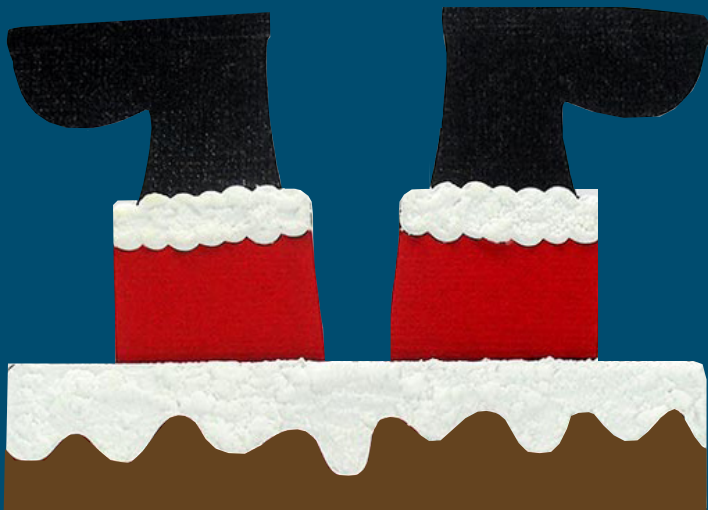
Kids who love Santa may wait very anxiously for his visit, normally leaving cookies and milk for him, and some even leave food for the reindeer. Kids like bragging about and showing off all their new toys, games, and other presents that they assume Santa delivered. Children get very exhilarated for Christmas, and believing in Santa Claus really brings the Christmas spirit for little kids. Kids who know the truth just expect their parents to

know what they want for Christmas and get it for them. The parents may not know what to get them and the kids get disappointed, so writing a list to Santa gets kids into the Christmas spirit.

Santa Claus also ignites kids’ imagination from an early age. It requires imagination to believe that one man flies around the entire world in one night, giving presents to every home. Therefore kids who believe in Santa Claus use more creativity than others.

Taking away that belief from them at such a young age may restrict a child’s imagination in the future.

During the Christmas season, kids get very eager for Santa’s visit. Children enjoy the Christmas holiday based on the belief of Santa, and parents must allow their child the delight of assuming Santa Claus exists.



ho-ho-
The horrible lie

Emily Fowler
Staff Reporter

Kids around the world look forward to Christmas each year, but not for the right reason. They anticipate a fat man dressed in a red suit to come and bring them presents. Sure, sharing and spreading the fictional symbol of Christmas creates a fun mood, but kids these days show trouble understanding the true meaning of the holidays. The commercialization of the holidays leads to the focus on material possessions.

With Santa, Christmastime loses religious meaning, and families spend less time with loved ones. Kids become spoiled and focus on gifts rather than the joy and warmth of the merry season.

Santa receives a bigger portion of the credit for Christmas cheer, which shows unfairness to the hardworking parents. Parents go out of their way to make their child’s Christmas special and make them happy. As a result, kids lack appreciation towards

their parents as they show more toward the fictional character. Children stay concerned about remaining on the “nice list” of Santa rather than on their parents’ good side for Christmas.

This Santa scam also sets children up for disappointment, leading them on for years about someone not in existence. This causes kids to doubt their parents in the future and they soon begin to wonder what other false information their

parents share with them. Santa needs to remain just what he represents: a fictional character used to boost the spirit of Christmas.

Telling the truth about Santa frees adults from worry about guilt over the lies. Adults may prevent children’s tears after finding out the falsehood of Santa, the one who they showed hope in each year. Sitting down with children to share the big news about make-believe Santa leads to no good. Santa brings

trouble and broken-hearts in children’s futures. Siblings often spoil the “fun” anyways and tell their younger brother or sister the truth, and parents still remain in a bad place.

Kids do not need to know about Santa, nor do they need to believe that he exists. Parents should give themselves a gift this season, avoid the lie of Santa, and instead unwrap the truth.