

HB

The Hoofbeat

J.W. Mitchell High School's Student Newspaper
2323 Little Road, New Port Richey, FL 34655
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#WhosHB



♡♡ Picture perfect Valentine's Day ♡♡

Sarah Nagy
Staff Reporter

Valentine's Day consists of flowers, chocolate, big stuffed animals, and kind gestures, but it also serves as a day to show the love and appreciation for significant others. February 14th marks the day when couples all over the world spend time together and treasure each other's presence. Valentine's Day traditions vary from couple to couple, but most manage to incorporate something into the day to make it just a little bit more special from

any ordinary day.

Bella Smith ('16) adores Valentine's Day because she has spent it with the same person for 2 years now. Her significant other, Jacob Samoranski, attends the University of Central Florida, but promises to make the best of Valentine's Day despite the recent far distance.

"In the past years, Jacob and I have gotten each other things like picture frames, stuffed animals, desserts and written each other

letters. We also made things like scrapbooks and shadow boxes. After we exchanged our gifts, we went out to eat to Carrabbas," Smith said.

Although the tangible gifts hold valuable memories, this year spending time together plays an important role for Smith and her boyfriend in appreciating Valentine's Day.

"This year is a little different because my boyfriend lives 2 hours away now. We don't get to see each other as often as

we used to. Valentine's Day is going to be even more special than usual. I'm driving up to see him and once I get there, we plan on exchanging our gifts. After that, we're going to go to a nearby lake to watch the sunset. Valentine's Day is a special reminder to show how much we love each other," Smith said.

Mackenzie Bennett ('16) also plans to spend the holiday with her boyfriend in a meaningful way.

"This Valentine's Day is

the first I'm spending with my boyfriend, Eli. He plans on taking me to dinner on the beach. He is setting it up himself and he says it won't disappoint. I'm very excited because I get to spend quality time with him with a beautiful ambiance," Bennett said.

Although the couples plan to incorporate sentimental gifts into their Valentine's Day, what truly means the most to them: the quality time and gratefulness for one another.

like you want it

Several tips to get you ready for ACT and SAT testing

PRE-TEST

- ♥ Take practice tests that will give you an idea of what to expect
- ♥ Take them early, and keep trying to raise your score
- ♥ Don't cram for the exam
- ♥ Eat a good breakfast, and have a good night's sleep
- ♥ Get a tutor for the test



DURING TEST TIPS

- ♥ Read questions carefully
- ♥ Underline or highlight something important
- ♥ Take your time, but don't spend too much time on one question
- ♥ Be careful answering the scantron... Make sure you're bubbling in the right answer to the right number

Are You Prepared to Take the ACT?

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– **Sammy Berberich**
University of Florida, Freshman 2014

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Monster madness

Lexi Michaud

Staff Reporter

The roar heard near Raymond James Stadium on January 17th signified the return of Monster Jam to Tampa. Monster Jam features oversized trucks jumping over cars and maneuvering through dirt tracks. These massive vehicles display designs of all different types of superheroes, characters and themes. Some trucks stand more than twelve feet tall, with wheels more than 5 feet high and 3 feet wide. The trucks will be back in

action in Tampa on February 7th with a totally different show. Alec Burchick ('17) attended Monster Jam for the past two years. Burchick's favorite truck is the Grave Digger. This neon green and black truck sports a purple hooded skull, signifying the grim reaper.

"He's classic. Nothing can beat the classics," Burchick said.

For one of their stunts, the trucks barrel through a narrow passageway.

"My favorite part is

when the Monster trucks come flying out of the tunnel,” Burchick said. Throughout the show, these trucks compete in two different categories: side-by-side racing and freestyle. More than 4 million fans crowd stadiums each year to see the event.

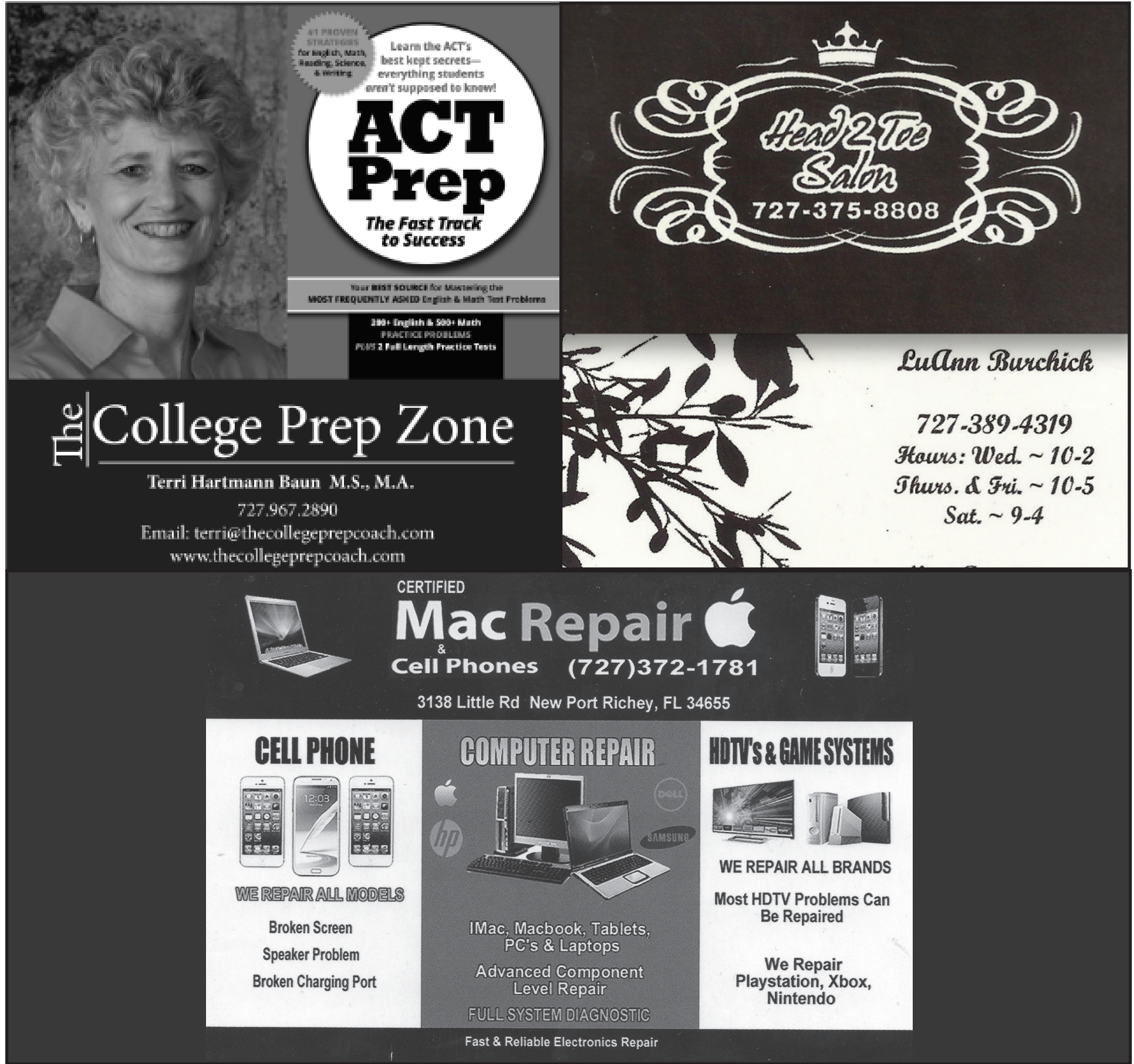
“Everyone there is friendly and energetic. They are not there for the first place, they’re there to have fun and show it’s not about winning,” Brandi Horsburgh (‘15) said.



Grave Digger makes a leap over the dirt course in the Raymond James Stadium. Photo provided by NY Times

Tickets remain for the February 7th Monster Jam at Raymond James Stadium. Gates open at 5pm and the show starts

at 7pm. Get tickets from TicketMaster starting at \$15 plus fees.



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A Valentine’s Day sweet treat

♥ Brownie Trifles ♥

Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 8 2x2 inch purchased baked brownies, crumbled into pieces (about 2 cups)
- 2 cups fresh raspberries or dark sweet cherries, pitted
- 1 cup chocolate ice cream topping

Directions:

1. In a chilled large mixing bowl combine whipping cream, sugar, and vanilla. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed until soft peaks form; set aside.
2. Divide half of the crumbled brownies between 4 large parfait glasses or water goblets.
3. Divide half of the raspberries, ice cream topping, and whipped cream between the glasses, creating layers.
4. Repeat layers with remaining brownies, raspberries, ice cream topping, and whipped cream.
5. If desired, sprinkle with cocoa powder. Serve immediately or cover and chill up to 4 hours.



Photos by Kelsey Williams

Matchmaking mania

Sophie Sajecki
Staff Reporter

Rather than spending Valentine’s Day all alone this year, grab some help from the JV Cheerleaders. In mid-January, the team passed out compatibility quizzes through first period class so students around the school may find their perfect companion.

“It’s a survey that you take about yourself and you answer questions. We’re going to send it to a company and they will find your top 10 most compatible people in your grade and also outside your grade that are most like you and least like you,” Demi Asensio (‘18) said.

The Cheerleader’s quiz gives many suggestions for all participants, not just dating recommendations.

“If you’re a girl then they will match you up with 10 girls who could be like your friends and 10 boys who you would be best to date. It also shows your enemies too so like who you would most likely not get along with,” Elisabeth Mott (‘17) said.

The potential for surprise will motivate some to purchase their results.

“It will lead to good friendships and I think it will be cool to see who you’re most compatible with,” Kaylee Strobel (‘18) said.

After collecting the questionnaires, the team sends all of the copies to a company who finds everyone’s matches. Once this process concludes, the finalized results become available for purchase.

“We will be selling the tickets at lunches and they are going to be three dollars,” Strobel said.

By filling out a survey and finding a few perfect matches, students may find an alternative to sitting alone eating chocolate and watching Netflix on February 14.

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Valentine's Day



DATE/GIFT IDEAS

You've been talking for...

A FEW

weeks

♥ **For him:**

Make a silly card and include a gift card to a store you know he loves.

♥ **For her:**

Get her that CD or movie she's been talking about and throw in some chocolates.

♥ **For each other:**

Stay in, order food (or make it together!), and watch Netflix for the night.

♥ "I don't think I could put a dollar amount on what I'm willing to spend. I think when you care about someone enough, nothing seems like too much to see them happy."
- Jaci Green ('15)

You've been dating for...

A COUPLE

months

♥ **For him:**

Give him a treat by buying that expensive cologne or shirt you know he would never get for himself.

♥ **For her:**

Haul that life-sized teddy bear with flowers and chocolate into school and have her carry it around all day.

♥ **For each other:**

The classic dinner and a movie can never go wrong! Get all dressed up, go out, and show each other off to the world.

♥ "I'm going to give him a big stuffed animal and have him tow it around the school. We'll probably go out to dinner [after]."
- Lydia Dubeau ('18)

You've been together for...

ABOUT A

year

♥ **For him:**

Add to his collection with new records or video games - maybe even upgrade his record player or Xbox!

♥ **For her:**

Check her Twitter and surprise her with the love-themed jewelry she keeps retweeting.

♥ **For each other:**

You've been together long enough to know that you don't need flashy dates anymore. Just spending the day on a picnic together might be exactly what you need.

♥ "Sometimes we'll go to the movies or just out to dinner and just walk around at a nice place. We just make the best out of everything."
- Demi Arsenio ('18)

Fans of the ice

Katy White
Staff Reporter

Imagine a lightning quick game that holds so much intensity, a game that keeps fans on their toes and on the edge of their seat waiting in anticipation for the next goal. Some anticipate a spontaneous fight, while others just love the sport of hockey.

Mady Capelo (‘17) loves the game more than anything. She follows a few hockey teams, and supports Mitchell’s team every Friday night. “My brother used to play when he was younger. I pretty much grew up at the hockey rink,” Capelo said.

Ryan Penland (‘16) strictly

watches The Lightning and refuses to follow any other team.

“I’m in love with the team and I love everybody on the team. I grew up watching them and I go to a lot of games,” Penland said.

Ms. Jill Sculerati (FAC) admits that hockey fights do make her uninterested, but she enjoys the game too much to let it stop her from watching.

“I just love the game. I actually prefer high school and college hockey games because they have fewer fights. I don’t mind them as long as no one gets hurt and

they don’t happen often. Too many fights slow down the game,” Sculerati said.

Mr. Steve Burnes (FAC) gets pure joy out of the technique and skill that goes on during hockey games, but his father also played hockey during his childhood and that automatically linked Burnes to the game.

“My father is from Buffalo, NY and played hockey growing up. When hockey came to Tampa, I was a teen. He took me to my first hockey game, and immediately I was hooked. I watch hockey for the game and strategy. I understand that fighting



Radko Gudas on the Tampa Bay Lightning engages his opponent to spark the team. Photo provided by ESPN.com

is part of the game, but the fast play and line match-ups are the main reason I enjoy watching hockey,” Burnes said.

Whether someone watches hockey for the jaw-breaking

punches or just to see the players skate with ease, each fan loves the game for their own specific reason, and that makes the game unique.

Rebuilding the Rays

Brock Shively
Sports Layout Designer

The Rays front office fights around salary cap obstacles and relocation rumors to deliver a championship for the fans. The whole outlook of the franchise changed this offseason.

That includes General Manager Andrew Friedman leaving to go to the high powered Los Angeles Dodgers. The once MLB executive of the year left a big gaping hole in the front office. Matt Silverman now takes over for Friedman, in hopes of winning a championship.

“Friedman was one of the best minds in baseball. He will be very tough replace in the front office,” Dillon Johnson (‘17) said.

Manager Joe Maddon also left to go to the Chicago Cubs. Former Catcher Kevin Cash looks to replace the star studded manager. Cash worked under Terry Francona in Cleveland for two seasons.

“It was strange how the managerial position unfolded, but in the end I think the Rays hired the right guy,” Aaron Bruegger (‘17) said.

The Rays traded some of their better players this offseason to rebuild with younger talent. A fan favorite Wil Myers also got traded to the San Diego Padres. The once American League Rookie of the Year sustained an injury that nagged him all last season and he never looked right at the plate. The longtime utility player Ben Zobrist seems like the final move of the offseason as Silverman traded him to the Oakland Athletics. The nine year member of the Rays wrote a heartfelt goodbye in the Tampa Bay Times to the Rays organization and the fans that supported him in his tenure.

“It’s tough to see a guy like Zobrist go. He was a huge part

of the Rays’ history,” Johnson said.

The Rays didn’t just lose players in the offseason; the team added valuable players to the long term and short term success. The Rays made a splash this offseason signing Asdrubal Cabrera. The former all star brings a great defensive arsenal with a good contact swing. The big additions in their trades look like Steven Souza, and Daniel Robertson. Souza classifies as a potential star in the outfield for the Rays. Robertson ranked as the Athletics highest ranked Shortstop in their farm system.

The Rays look to continue their success from the previous regime and give fans hope. The Rays look to prove doubters wrong in the 2015 season, starting in Port Charlotte for Spring Training on March 5th.

ROSTER CHANGES

ADDED

- Boog Powell
- Daniel Robertson
- John Jaso
- Asdrubal Cabrera
- Greg Harris
- Jose Dominguez

- Andrew Velazquez
- Justin Williams
- Mark Sappington
- Rene Rivera
- Burch Smith
- Steven Souza Jr.

TRADED

- Jeremy Hellickson ----- Arizona Diamondbacks
- Ben Zobrist ----- Oakland Athletics
- Matt Joyce ----- Los Angeles Angels
- Wil Myers ----- San Diego Padres
- Yunel Escobar ----- Oakland Athletics
- Sean Rodriguez ----- Pittsburgh Pirates
- Joel Peralta ----- Los Angeles Dodgers
- Cesar Ramos ----- Los Angeles Angels
- Ryan Hannigan ----- Boston Red Sox

COACHES

- Kevin Cash ----- Manager
- Rocco Baldelli ----- First Base Coach
- Charlie Montoyo ----- Third Base Coach

Cream of the crop

Amanda Garcia
Staff Reporter

Devoted athletes fill the campus, from the court, to the pool, to the field, to the mat. Seven got the opportunity to sign with a college for a scholarship to play the sport they love, and with the school of their choice.

Amelia Gamarra (‘15) received many offers to play softball in college, and at first she didn’t know which school to choose.

“I had a couple colleges looking at me and I was about to choose to go to MSMU [Mount St. Mary’s University], but at the last

second I heard from the JU [Jacksonville University] coach, and decided that I would rather be 3 and a half hours away from home rather than a whole plane ride. Also, my parents would be able to make the drive to come watch me play softball,” Gamarra said.

Athletes go through recruiting processes to get looked at, and each sport provides a different method for choosing their athletes.

“For the recruiting process, I was playing baseball all summer and was getting a

bunch of emails from college coaches from different schools, and I visited a couple of schools. At the end I went to University of North Florida Prospect Camp, and they really like what they saw and made the process of signing me really quick. They had me commit in about a week,” William Freeman (‘15) said.

Taylor Anderson (‘15) believes that her work habits made her successful, maintaining a rigorous practice schedule throughout the year.

“Some work ethics I had

were swimming six days a week, twice on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and then Saturday mornings. It’s just constantly training, doing weights and being dedicated to the sport that gave me the opportunity to commit to LSU [Louisiana State University],” Anderson said.

Freeman maintains that excelling in both sports and academics plays a vital role during consideration for receiving a scholarship.

“It’s very important to be a student athlete because I got most of my scholarship

money for being a good student. I was able to get a lot of scholarship from the university because of my high GPA and high ACT scores,” Freeman said.

In addition to signings by Gamarra, Freeman, and Anderson, Lawrence Watt also signed for basketball to St. Leo University, and Emily Kerns signed for track as well as cross-country with the University of North Florida. Kiera Delegro and Nicole Milford also signed their National Letter of Intent for softball.

Raising the bar

Alex Moreno
Staff Reporter

Strength, conditioning, nutrition, and overall fitness remain benefits for the varsity girls weightlifting team. Competition involved two events: bench press and clean and jerk. In the bench press, lifters lie on their backs and use their arms to lift as much weight as they can from their chest. In clean and jerk, lifters use their legs and the rest of their body to raise the bar over their heads.

Coach Regenia Dixon (FAC) impressed upon the girls the importance of both the physical and mental aspects of the sport.

“Coach Dixon did a really good job teaching us the form for clean and jerk, which helped me improve. The team improved weight-wise, as we all have reached new maxes,” Madison Bell (‘17) said.

The difficulty level of the two events varied depending on the person. Preferring bench press, Meredith McNulty (‘15) held a bench press max of 125 pounds and a clean and jerk max of 115.

“I personally think that clean and jerk is harder because it uses your entire body instead of just your arms. It’s something I’ve been trying to improve on,” McNulty said.

McNulty joined the girls weightlifting team her sophomore year and moved up to become one of the team’s captains her senior year, when she also advanced to districts.

“I think everyone struggles a little bit when they first start out weightlifting. But as the season progresses, you get stronger and you get used to

how meets go and what to expect,” McNulty said.

Before competition, the weightlifters must get a good night’s sleep and eat a healthy meal. Yet for those trying to make a certain weight class, the preparation method varied.

“You just have to eat right and make sure not to gain weight,” Abigail Williams (‘17) said.

Williams raised her clean and jerk max to 125 pounds after eating right, sleeping well, and gaining muscle strength. These goals remained important to the team, however, the athletes understood that they also needed the right mindset.

“A lot of it is really in your head. When you’re competing, it takes as much mental as physical strength to



Abigail Williams lifts 115 pounds in clean and jerk at the Disparti Invitational in December. Photo by Susan McNulty

step onto the platform and lift your best,” McNulty said.

Varsity girls weightlifting attracted more than 30 athletes, and continues to grow in popularity as girls recognize the sport’s mental and physical benefits. The

regular season ended in January, but two team members, Liesel Johnson and Kacy Capra, head to state competition in Orlando.

Teamwork makes the dream work

Chrissy Couture
Staff Reporter

Constantly cutting weight, running mile after mile several times each week, and restricting one’s diet define a wrestler’s lifestyle during the season, followed by rigorous strength-training in the off months. Those new to the sport may not come fully equipped with the endurance, commitment, and drive required for success. Coaches guide them, but veteran wrestlers lead by example to make both a mental and physical difference for the fresh faces on the mat.

“I hope to teach them drive, like some of last year’s seniors taught me. Just always work hard. It takes a lot of commitment, so it’s a lot of breaking down and building back up,” Dustin Watt (‘15) said.

The captains take on a responsibility more than just leading practice and preparing for tournaments. Strengthening young wrestlers for the pressure of being on the mat creates a bond that extends past each three-minute match.

“We’re all really good friends, and we all know a lot about each other, and if any of us need each other, whether its homework or girl problems, we’re all here for each other,” Matthew Hegwood (‘17) said. Freshmen look up to the seniors for advice and direction, but when senior year finally hits, the team dynamic changes.

“It’s weird not having anybody else to look up to. Like last year I had seniors to look up to, but this year I’m the one. Freshman,

sophomore, and junior year, you always talk to the seniors and ask them, but now everybody is coming to you with questions. It’s just different,” Russell [Storm] Schenk (‘15) said.

The knowledge that experienced teammates give to underclassmen wrestlers lays the groundwork for success in the future.

“You always have to go into a match thinking you’re going to win. If you go in thinking you’re going to lose, you lose. [Schenk] helped me realize

that,” Hegwood said.

Wrestling requires mental determination and demands physical vigor. People new to the sport brace themselves for a lifestyle of diet changes, running for miles, and multiple injuries. However, this transition goes smoothly with help from senior wrestlers, who know just what it feels like to be pinned against the challenges before them.

LAX = Lacrosse

Lexi Clark
Staff Reporter

Very different from other sports, lacrosse requires use of a long-handled stick with a net attached for throwing and catching a small ball. The players must get the ball into their opponent’s net to score a point.

“It’s so different from a lot of other sports and it’s so challenging, but once you get the hang of it, you just get it,” Gabrielle Chamberlin (‘18) said.

This club sport offered through The Thundering Herd provided many players a chance to return for a second season. Girls moved up from the middle school to the high school division. It not only requires a lot of practice

and hard work, but bonding between team members off the field helps them communicate.

“Team bonding is very important; the girls have become so close and it really helps them on the field,” Ms. Michele Chamberlin (FAC) said.

Life-long friendships develop through any sport, but in one of such a high-intensity, it becomes natural to grow so close to teammates on and off the field.

“Last year, I barely knew any of the girls on the team, but this year, we’re all good friends,” said Gabrielle Chamberlin. Lacrosse serves as a means

for players to let their competitive side out, since the physical nature of the sport allows them to challenge themselves and their opponents.

“[My favorite part about lacrosse is] the competitiveness. We’re always getting in the other teams faces and yelling at them and it’s really fun. We always laugh about it afterwards,” Gabrielle Chamberlin said.

Although the team finalized its roster in January, a lack of training and experience should not discourage anyone from trying out in the future.

“[If you’re thinking about trying out], do it. Just do it, go try out. When I started out, I

was horrible. Just try it and it will honestly be so much fun. It doesn’t matter if you don’t know how to hold a stick or cradle the ball or anything because you’ll learn and we can help you,” Gabrielle Chamberlin said.



Photo by Michele Chamberlin

Phed up with Phil Punxsutawney

Chrissy Couture
Staff Reporter

Punxsutawney Phil never relies on Klystron 9 or a weather app. According to the Inner Circle Groundhog Club, his system forecasts the remaining winter with 100% accuracy for over 125 years. However, LiveScience.com begs to differ; they say the woodchuck can only claim a 36% success rate. Local news stations utilize advanced radars, but still make incorrect predictions about the daily weather from time to time. Trusting a groundhog for an exact forecast for the next six weeks

seems childish and likely to result in disappointment. Counting on a groundhog’s shadow to predict the weather seems like a faulty way to prepare for the impending winter, or lack thereof. Skeptics of the holiday believe that the Inner Circle Groundhog Club makes Phil’s predictions in advance. And these critics provide evidence to discount Phil’s faulty forecast; the Groundhog Club receives the weather prophecy in “Groundhogese.” Only a few dozen people know this language, and conveniently,

they all belong to the Inner Circle. With that information, even Phil fans become likely to distrust the forecast. Some members openly prefer six more weeks of winter, and others, quoted on the Inner Circle website, “would be perfectly happy if Phil never saw another shadow again.” This winter-predicting land beaver brings more suspicion to his holiday because the Inner Circle asserts that only one Punxsutawney Phil ever lived; this assertion indicates that for well over one hundred

years, the same groundhog made the prediction every February. They say that Phil “gets his longevity from drinking the ‘elixir of life,’ a secret recipe.” If the Inner Circle actually created an elixir of life, hopefully they brew a “Fountain of Youth” variety of potions next. As Punxsutawney Phil continues to sip on the elixir of life, maybe one day he may enjoy his old age and look forward to retirement. The accuracy of his predictions eludes the public. This

February it might be a good idea to flip a coin or check a weather app before trusting Punxsutawney Phil’s prediction.

Decision Time: Upperclassmen offer advice on course selection

“I got my online and HOPE credits out of the way freshman year, took advantage of all the honors classes I could to get a head start on a high GPA and got 3 years of a foreign language under my belt by junior year.” - Jaci Green (’15)

“I would have taken a foreign language my freshman year to get it out of the way, because I have to take Spanish 2 as a junior when I wanted to take a course that interested me more.” - Gina Cilluffo (’16)

“The easiest way to have a high GPA is by taking higher level classes during your easiest years, not junior or senior year. I would have taken an AP class my freshman year.” - Melanie Mercado (’15)

Pinterest sets bar too high

Bailey Sassatelli
Staff Reporter

The Internet houses many types of social media websites, which fortunately include Pinterest. Created by Ben Silbermann, Pinterest grew from 5,000 users in August 2010 to more than 48 million now. The site allows people to post things, “like” what they see that may be unusual, and categorize their “pins” however they please on pages known as “boards.” The most popular boards include themes like weddings, date ideas, fashion, and DIY activities and showcase different personality types. However, the most frustrating aspect of Pinterest occurs when the board includes

items and ideas that seem hard to find and recreate. Even though it seems nice to collect pictures of a dream life, such as a home or wedding, dream lives only truly occur in dreams, unless someone ends up extremely lucky or rich. Since Pinterest lets people fantasize about future places, people, and activities, it also crushes dreams when it shows that the fantasies won’t become a reality in most cases. Although it might seem fun to create a vision of an ideal future, Pinterest holds the power to actually distort the way people look at their real life. Pinterest

creates a falsehood in which people crave so much that they turn their back on reality and forget the most important things in life. The site holds boards and boards of impossible crafts never made, complicated recipes never tasted, and decorating tips never executed. This type of Pinterest disappointment led a woman named Jenna Andersen to coin the phrase ‘Pinterest stress’ and even began her own site: “PinterestFail.com Where Good Intentions Come to Die.” Pinterest acts as a great confidence booster at times, yet at other times it crushes

people’s dreams. If someone becomes a chronic user of Pinterest, then it easily gets problematic, but many regular users report that Pinterest allows them to feel connected and even boosts their mood. So pin on, but before attempting to bake a Lego cake or redesign a lampshade, visit Pinterestfail.com for a reality check.

**interest's**
top 5 most searched for pins in January

1

Industrial design

2

Hair & makeup

3

Tattoos

4

Black History

5

Info-graphics

Dual Enrollment VS Advanced Placement

- Earn college credits for free
- Start your college transcript
- Get college-level experience
- ‘C’ or higher to receive credit
- Good on applications

- Earn college credits for free
- Score a 3-5 on the exam at the end of the year to receive credit
- Recognized by out-of-state colleges/universities
- Get college-level experience
- Good on applications

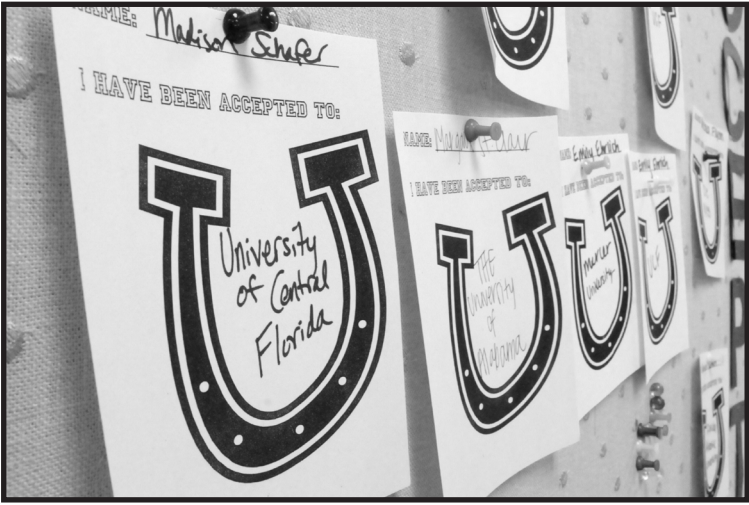


Photo by Jaelyn Moser

College Bound

Seniors who have been accepted to college can visit the CRC and add their horseshoe to the bulletin board.

- “I’ve recently been accepted to Ole Miss and the University of Alabama, I plan on trying out for both cheerleading teams and choosing from there. I want to major in special education.”**

- Mallory Eline (’15)
- “I always love seeing the updates on the college board and I’m excited to see where students are getting accepted. So come into the CRC and let us know where you wanna go.”**

- Ms. Michele Chamberlin (FAC)

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HALLMARK HOLIDAY

Emily Fowler
Staff Reporter

“Love comes with no price.” Ironically, this statement appears inside a greeting card that costs \$3.95. Why bother saying these types of quotes when Hallmark and other booming businesses go big each year on selling merchandise on Valentine’s Day? Valentine’s Day originated in the fifth century as a Christian and Roman celebration, called Lupercalia. People focused on admiration, affection and their dedication of love towards others. Today, Valentine’s Day creates the idea in people’s heads that they must buy gifts, when love requires no price. Hallmark and other card and gift companies assume responsibility for this confusion. They make cards, flowers and chocolate practically mandatory for this holiday. People lose the thought about gifts from the heart and focus too much on buying things. No one should feel like they need to purchase romantic items to earn a loved one’s appreciation. Gifts should not represent how much a person means to their partner anyway. Hallmark produces the wrong idea of how to present affection to a person. They make people think that in order to receive a

special holiday, they need to make purchases. But, they truly just want to see an increase of profit in their business. Each year, the total amount spent on Valentine’s Day comes to billions of dollars, according to American Express Spending & Saving Tracker. That proves how much people get caught up with the thought of needing to spend a ridiculous amount on the people they love. Valentine’s Day becomes commercialized due to these materialistic items, and this causes the holiday to slowly lose its special meaning. There should not be one day of the year that people go out of their way for loved ones; this should happen every day. Valentine’s Day quickly becomes overrated and overwhelming to celebrate. Companies like Hallmark should stop luring people into spending so much money on temporary gifts, which could never buy one’s love. Everyday should seem like Valentine’s Day for the people who love each other.

OR

true
love?

Bailey Sassatelli
Staff Reporter

Each year, right after Christmas, the stores stock their shelves with Valentine’s Day merchandise. Eventually everything ends up covered in hearts everywhere people go, with no mistaking which day the men will be bringing home flowers. Just because stores make Valentine’s Day a reminder to get someone else something nice, the meaning of the day must not become entirely materialistic. The meaning of Valentine’s Day holds true whether or not people spend money on their loved ones. On this day people take the opportunity to show love and affection, to subtly apologize for their past wrongdoings, and possibly make up for them.

The holiday, named for Christian martyr St. Valentine, still signifies an emotional and passionate day for everyone that plays a part in a relationship. As nice as it may be to receive or give chocolates, flowers, or bears, just spending a nice night together acts as the only recipe for a good Valentine’s Day. Regardless of which companies attempt to make money

on this special day, they fail at ruining true love. Even the poorest couples enjoy a good time together while celebrating the holiday, because they know that no amount of gift giving overshadows the power of love and its true meaning.

Valentine’s Day, although portrayed as a holiday that revolves solely around chocolates, flowers, teddy bears, and adorable puns and pick-up lines, acts as a reminder for people to pay attention to their loved ones more than any other day in the year. According to CNN, 6 million people either expect or plan a marriage proposal for Valentine’s Day. For these romantic types, Valentine’s Day will always serve as an important reminder of one of the most important days of their lives. What people buy for their loved ones does not have to define the holiday. To enjoy this Valentine’s Day, go out of your way to make the day unique and spend time with the one you care about the most.

