

# HB

## The Hoofbeat

J.W. Mitchell High School's Student Newspaper  
2323 Little Road, New Port Richey, FL 34655  
Volume No. 14 | Issue 4 | February 2016

# HOLDING COURT AND COUNCIL



Bella Smith  
*Staff Reporter*

As the 2016 Presidential campaign heats up throughout the months of February and March, discussion in the news pertains to the presidential candidates and world issues. Similarly, schools have their own politics. Student Council consists of students that get elected to represent their class and make decisions regarding the school. Teen Court lets students get the chance to act as a jury while making a difference in their peer's lives.

Current topics being discussed in the Student Council include events and teacher farewells. "We are currently working on the plans for March Madness week, the College Fair and a farewell gift for Mr. Braddy since this year is going to be his 25th and final year of running Student Council,"

class representative Zoe White ('16) said.

Student Council campaigns start at the end of the school year. During this time, the students use their political knowledge to gain votes.

"I think politics really applies to Student Council when we are campaigning for our positions. Other than the fact that we work as a team to come to a consensus on what will work best for our school," White said.

Another aspect of Student Council similar to government and politics involve the yearly amendments that the council votes on.

"We have a constitution that governs all of the rules for Student Council," Hunter Hill ('16) said.

Student Council gives students a chance to make a

difference in their school. In addition it offers students the chance to be a part of politics.

"Student Council has taught me not only how to be a leader, but how to accommodate for all students and do everything I can to make activities great for a large student body," Hill said.

Students learn the skills necessary to coordinate events in Student Council.

"My favorite thing I have done in Student Council would have to be planning the homecoming dance for the past three years in a row. Not only has it posed challenges but it also allowed me to create an event that helped students make memories that will last a lifetime," Hill said.

Student Council benefits the school and the community.

"We just finished shopping

for Christmas gifts for kids that couldn't really afford them," class representative Jordan Garcia ('18) said.

Another government related student-run organization is Teen Court, which gives students the opportunity to help peers learn from their mistakes and begin to move on from them.

"Not only are we helping the juveniles by possibly giving them a second chance, but we are also helping ourselves with the experience. We believe that at some point, someone is redeemable, whether that be in fifty years or twenty weeks. They will learn from their mistakes and try to make amends," Teen Court member, Dee Ross ('16) said.

Juveniles are given the opportunity to expunge their record if they comply.

"The sanctions assigned to juveniles range from classes to community service hours," Elsi Vega ('18) said.

Members of Teen Court find their time was well spent.

"This experience has been amazing, trying to get people on the right track. Some people don't look at it like that, but when you see someone that genuinely feels bad about what they did, you realize you are helping them," Vega said.

Students interested in joining Student Council can begin campaigning at the end of this school year. Students interested in Teen Court should go visit Mr. Stratman in room 709 and fill out a form in order to join.

# And the presidency goes to...

Sarah Nagy

Entertainment Editor

An unprecedented array of politics sweeps the presidential campaign in 2016, and occupied a large portion of 2015. The uncensored Trump, Clinton emails, candidate bashing, and most importantly, the issues that face America can be found daily on national news outlets. These controversial topics ignite a flame inside the political junkies that follow the campaign trail closely for both parties.

The path that the campaign currently travels down stumps political experts due to the fact that they thought Trump would be crushed by some of the

more experienced Republican politicians by now. He still leads in most national GOP polls. His supporters remain loyal to him and favor his political incorrectness, but he receives much criticism from others, such as Savannah Maples ('16).

"I don't think someone that could potentially be running the country should have no filter. That is a great way to create unnecessary conflict and war, and that just can't happen. There are way too many issues around the world, and we need someone mature," Maples said.

The Democratic candidates also

face a combatant campaign trail. Bernie Sanders, the "outsider" politician gains support from numerous millennials, and other liberals who view Clinton as untrustworthy due to her email server scandal. While Clinton still leads in the national polls, Sanders began to close the large gap that used to be there.

Forming political opinions is crucial for first-time voters so they are made aware of the facts and the issues that are prevalent in America.

"[I believe] many people go on a candidate's side and say they want them to win, when they know

very little about what they actually plan on doing or how people will believe accusations," Hunter Hill ('16) said.

First-time voters like Maples begin to choose their candidate, generating excitability toward politics, and having a say in the country's leader.

"I love that people are getting so into it, it's usually just adults and older people so it's exciting to see younger people so ready to vote. I like that voting precincts are so close and I'm just excited to be able to vote for the first time," Maples said.

Choosing a candidate and really

devoting time to understanding the issues and how one feels about them causes young folks to feel as if they have a say in the nation's leaders.

"Politics is power and we are lucky to be able to live in a democracy where we have a say in who will lead the country," Maples said.

The politics of 2016 remain heated and fiery, with an ongoing argument. The campaigns become nervous about the primary outcome, fighting for the most respected position in the country.

## Top candidates for party nominations

### Democratic Party

Bernie Sanders



Hillary Clinton



### Republican Party

Donald Trump



Ted Cruz



Marco Rubio



Photos provided by the New York Times

## Editorial Policy

Published six 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.

## The Hoofbeat Staff

### Advisor

Susan McNulty

### Editor

Caroline Weyer

Layout Editor in Chief

### Ads & Business Manager

Sophie Sajecki

### Layout Editors

#### News

Kelsey Williams

#### Centerspread

Caroline Weyer

#### Entertainment

Sarah Nagy

#### Lifestyles

Jaelyn Moser &  
Shyanne Dove

#### Sports

Brock Shively

#### Opinions

Bailey Sassatelli

### Reporters

Samantha Burchick

Alexis Clark

Emily Fowler

Amanda Garcia

Raleigh Illig

Allison Kaelin

Kaitlyn Klein

Alyssa Magilligan

Jessica Mason

Sophie Sajecki

Bella Smith

Katy White

# Tracking the events of terror

A time line of terrorism in America.



September 11th, 2001  
Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda hijacked four planes carrying out suicide attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

2001

November 28th, 2003  
Nuradin M. Abdi was discovered plotting a bombing on a Columbus mall in support of al-Qaeda.

2003

August 2006  
Three British citizens were discovered plotting to smuggle liquid explosives into the United States and Canada.

2006

June 1, 2009  
Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad killed one and injured another in a drive by shooting at the Little Rock recruiting office.

2009

January 8, 2011  
Representative Gabrielle Giffords and 17 others were shot in Tucson, Arizona by Jared Lee Loughner.

2011

April 15, 2013  
Three were killed and 260 people were injured when two pressure cooker bombs exploded during the Boston Marathon.

2013

2015



December 2, 2015  
Fourteen people were killed and 22 more were injured when Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik opened fire at a holiday party at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California.

# Changing the world one girl at a time

Sam Burchick  
*Staff Reporter*

The Let Girls Learn initiative is an effort by the United States Government to provide the public with meaningful ways to help girls around the world get a quality education. A key part of the program involves the reduction of barriers that prevent young girls from completing their education. Around the world, 62 million girls are not in school, but with Let Girls Learn different organizations work together to help girls complete the education they deserve. This program helps, gives them a chance to advance their knowledge and possibly make a difference in the world.

"This will help other countries bring themselves into the 21st century and allow women to gain

more rights and empower others to change the world," Rebecca Roberson ('18) said.

When other countries deny girls the opportunity to obtain a decent education, they limit the girl's ability to change their standard of living. An education reduces the likelihood of early forced marriages, and other forms of violence. If girls get a fair education there can be a ripple effect on her family and on her society. In some countries these effects can change the lives of these girls. For example, if all women in sub-Saharan Africa obtained a secondary education, 1.8 million lives would be saved each year. A World Bank study found that every year of

secondary school education is correlated with an 18 percent increase in a girl's future earning power.

"I think that girls in other countries don't get the same opportunities that boys do because they are still deemed worthless. Girls are still seen as not capable to do things that boys can do so they aren't given the same opportunities," Maria Asanza ('17) said.

Since the start of Let Girls Learn, President Obama and The First Lady have been working with the Peace Corps and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to help change the standard of how of girls are regarded around the

world. So far the USAID has made huge progress, providing 35 million text-books and other teaching materials, and training 300,000 teachers worldwide. Over the past 15 years they have also helped Ethiopia achieve 95% enrollment in primary school and started supporting education programs in 18 African countries.

In some countries, fewer than 10% of teenage girls complete their secondary school. Other organizations are stepping up to the plate and helping other countries create gender equality. The Peace Corps organizes and leads GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) Camps around the world to promote gender equality and empower young women and have

served a total of 30,000 people

"The girls who can get this knowledge can travel to other countries and spread their awareness and help others," Angeline Martone ('17) said.

The USAID annually invests \$1 billion to lead global programs to empower girls and increase their chances for academic success. Let Girls Learn provides equal access to education, helping girls stay healthy in school, and supporting female leadership. The progress for this program clears the way for girls all over the world to make their lives and others around them better.

# Creating law and order

Alyssa Magilligan  
*Staff Reporter*

Everyday, more and more bills and laws get put into place. These bills and laws help shape America today. These laws may impact all of us as a state, or as a country.

"I know of the patriotism law where all American flags made after January 1st will have to be made with American grown products," Caitlyn Freitas ('18) said. "It will give our country a deeper sense of patriotism and make our connection with the American flag a lot greater." The improvement of fairness in class action litigation was put into place on January 6th. This changes the way that laws are enforced throughout the country.

Another big issue in this country regards gun laws. With the vast number of crimes that happened in the past involving guns, gun control remains an issue throughout every state. The open carry legislation addresses

the issue of allowing people with a license to carry a weapon or gun the same way a police officer would.

In the Florida Senate, lawmakers currently debate raising the state minimum wage. Instead of being \$8.05 an hour, the new minimum wage could raise to \$15 an hour.

Despite heavy skepticism, the Florida Senate Education Committee continues their effort to extend teacher bonus based on that teacher's SAT or ACT scores, according to fsba.org. The Senate gave narrow support of this issue, and the chances of the teacher bonus still remain questionable.

A legislation signed by governor Rick Scott in the middle of 2015 states that students in Florida schools will spend no more than 45 hours a year on standardized testing. This reduced the amount of Sunshine State Standards testing students do throughout

the year.

Another big issue, both throughout the state of Florida and the United States, is abortion. A law currently being debated in the Senate prohibits anything related to abortion, including performing, attempting to perform, or assisting an abortion. Those with unwanted pregnancies have to require the Office of Adoption and Child Protection to gather attorneys that provide adoption services for their unwanted child.

The new laws being put in place for our state, or even for our country, intend to impact our daily lives in a positive way, and help out those around us who need it most. To find out about new laws and to contact Florida lawmakers, go to fsenate.gov.

**tcby** the country's yogurt

If you "LIKED" the other yogurt store, you'll "LOVE" us!!

10% OFF any single yogurt purchase

TCBY of Trinity  
3140 Little Road  
727.375.1177

Located in Mitchell Ranch Plaza

©2014 TCBY Systems, LLC. Valid only at participating locations. Please inspect all items of purchase. Limit one per customer. Excludes all other offers and discounts.

**Head 2 Toe Salon**

727-375-8808

**LuAnn Burchick**

727-389-4319

Hours: Wed. ~ 10-2  
Thurs. & Fri. ~ 10-5  
Sat. ~ 9-4

# Important Florida Election Dates



- March 15th: Presidential preference primary election
- May 6th: Senate candidate filing deadline
- August 30th: Primary election
- October 4-11: Absentee ballot general election deadline
- October 11: General election voters registration deadline
- November 8th- General election

## Keeping political views in the family

Katy White  
Staff Reporter

As teens slowly pay more attention to politics, they hear the opinionated comments of their parents. As studies prove, children often grow up to become a part of the same political party as the adults who raised them. A poll from gallup.com shows that 71% of teens from the ages 13-17 have the same thinking about social and political issues as their parents.

Tabbi Gutowski ('18) follows

closely after her mom and her political views, her mother being Republican. Gutowski started really paying attention to politics when Obama first ran for president and followed with what her mom thought about him. As time went on she slowly started analyzing political debates and tried to gain a greater understanding, and ended up agreeing with most of her family's

opinions.

"I like what Republicans have to say more. They are more focused on the wars and helping our country," Gutowski said.

While a large portion of teens take after their parents, 21% of U.S. teens claim to be more liberal than their parents and 7% claim to be more conservative. For those teens that think differently from their parents' views, a majority of

those teens are more liberal. When these same teens were asked, "How would you describe your political views?" 56% said they were moderate. But 25% said they were either conservative or very conservative, and only 16% said they were liberal or very liberal.

"[Politics] are not as black and white as people want to make it seem. There is a gray area, and you have to find [your] best fit,"

Haley Cathey ('16) said.

As teens get older their opinions and political views may or may not change, but as research has proven, their parents influence what party they decide to belong to.

**TRY YOUR FIRST 2 WEEKS  
- FREE -  
SELF DEFENSE | FITNESS | MMA  
(727) 203-3838 | WWW.FLNATION.COM**

# This year's glamor on the red carpet

"[Jenna Dewan-Tatum's] dress is just so stunning, it reminds me of a starry sky and it looks beautiful on her. Not to mention Channing Tatum looks great next to her," Madison Hueholt ('18) said.



"I love the cut of the dress and the structure of it and I love how Zendaya can look good in and just own everything she wears," Bianca Leigh ('18) said.

## Chamberlin's Corner

Ms. Michele Chamberlin (FAC) offers advice to students about applying for the FAFSA.

- FAFSA stands for Free Application for Student Aid.
- Seniors are able to fill out the FAFSA beginning on January 1st, 2016.
- There is no fee to fill out the FAFSA.
- Any graduating senior planning to attend a two to four year college or university should fill out the FAFSA.
- The FAFSA gathers info that can be used to provide the proper amount of financial aid to a student in the form of government subsidized student loans and pell grants.
- The FAFSA is free to apply for and to use.
- Each school has a distinct deadline for the FAFSA, so seniors should check with the school.

For more tips visit  
<https://fafsa.ed.gov>  
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about>

DANIEL PAWUK

STEPHANIE PAWUK



**PAWUK & PAWUK, P.A.**  
 CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS

3610 Galileo Drive, Suite 101 • Trinity, FL 34655  
 Phone: (727) 372-3111 • Fax: (727) 255-5171  
[www.pawukandpawuk.com](http://www.pawukandpawuk.com) • email: [fixitfirm@gmail.com](mailto:fixitfirm@gmail.com)



Wolfenden & Associates  
**DENTISTRY**  
 GENERAL & COSMETIC

**ROBERT P. WOLFENDEN, D.D.S., P.A.**  
**KEITH E. WOLFENDEN, D.M.D.**



- Digital X-Rays
- Whitening
- Lumineers/Veneers
- Air Abrasion
- Implant Restorations
- Intra-Oral Camera
- Insurance Filed

*Family Dentistry: Preventive - Cosmetic - Restorative*

**(727) 372-3200**

**1821 Wellness Lane**

(located off Mitchell Blvd., across from Sweetbay)

- Evening & Office Hours by Appointment
- New Patients Welcome • Financing Available

# Top Tweets causing controversy

Alyssa Magilligan  
Staff Reporter

Celebrities and politicians, despite their monthly paychecks of millions of dollars, possess habits similar to ours. These habits include posting things on social media platforms that may offend others, causing controversy across the internet as a result.

According to sportsday.dallasnews.com, Tyler Seguin, a hockey player for the Dallas Stars in the National Hockey League, was forced to take down his Twitter page due to a hacker

sending out an offensive tweet directed towards the LGBT community in Dallas, Texas.

Actor Hugh Jackman took a trip to his native country of Australia on a world tour while promoting his movie. Instead of referring to the famous tourist site the Opera House by its actual name, he called it the Opera Center. This resulted in Aussie natives becoming offended and correcting Jackman on his mistake.

Jaden Smith, son of Will

Smith, received negative feedback for encouraging students to drop out of school, get off of their phones, and pursue what they want to pursue. He tried proving that we would have a more intelligent society. According to E! Online, the only thing he really got out of it included negative backlash.

One of the more popular celebrities, Kim Kardashian, also caused controversy around April of 2015. Kardashian posted a picture

of herself holding a kitten by the neck. After noticing the large number of negative responses, she claimed that the owner and vet were on set of the photo shoot. They showed her how to hold the kitten up correctly so he received no harm, according to E! Online.

Donald Trump also caused the internet to bash him in his own way. On the fourteenth anniversary of September 11, he directed a tweet towards the "haters and losers" of

9/11. Although the tweet posted in 2013, it began surfacing in 2015, and it was since deleted from Trump's Twitter account, according to hollywoodlife.com.

Celebrities and popular politicians make mistakes just like everyone else, especially when it comes to receiving backlash on social media platforms like Twitter due to not-so thought out tweets.

## What side are you on?

### World's Smallest Political Quiz

**WHERE DO YOU STAND POLITICALLY?** To find out, take the world-famous World's Smallest Political Quiz. For each statement, circle A for Agree, M for Maybe, or D for Disagree.

How do you stand on <b>PERSONAL</b> issues?	20	10	0
◆ Government should not censor speech, press, media or Internet.	A	M	D
◆ Military service should be voluntary. There should be no draft.	A	M	D
◆ There should be no laws regarding sex between consenting adults.	A	M	D
◆ Repeal laws prohibiting adult possession and use of drugs.	A	M	D
◆ There should be no National ID card.	A	M	D

**SCORING** 20 for every A, 10 for every M, and 0 for every D:

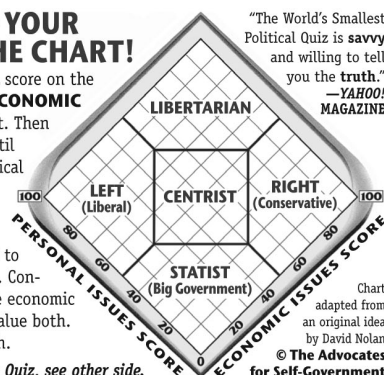
How do you stand on <b>ECONOMIC</b> issues?	20	10	0
◆ End "corporate welfare." No government handouts to business.	A	M	D
◆ End government barriers to international free trade.	A	M	D
◆ Let people control their own retirement: privatize Social Security.	A	M	D
◆ Replace government welfare with private charity.	A	M	D
◆ Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more.	A	M	D

**SCORING** 20 for every A, 10 for every M, and 0 for every D:

#### ◆ NOW FIND YOUR PLACE ON THE CHART!

Mark your **PERSONAL** score on the lower-left scale; your **ECONOMIC** score on the lower-right. Then follow the grid lines until they meet at your political position. The Chart shows the political group that agrees with you most. Liberals tend to value personal freedom. Conservatives tend to value economic freedom. Libertarians value both. Statists are against both.

To learn more about the Quiz, see other side.



OK TO REPRINT QUIZ WITHOUT MODIFICATIONS WITH CREDIT TO THE ADVOCATES

### About the Quiz

For years, politics has been represented as a choice between left (or liberal) and right (or conservative). Growing numbers of thinkers agree this is far too narrow a view—and excludes millions of people. The political map on the Quiz gives a much more accurate representation of the true, diverse political world.

#### The Quiz measures *tendencies*, not absolutes.

Your score shows who most agrees with you in politics, and where you agree and disagree with other political philosophies. Since it was created in 1987, millions of people have taken the Quiz. It has been widely reprinted and is used in classrooms.

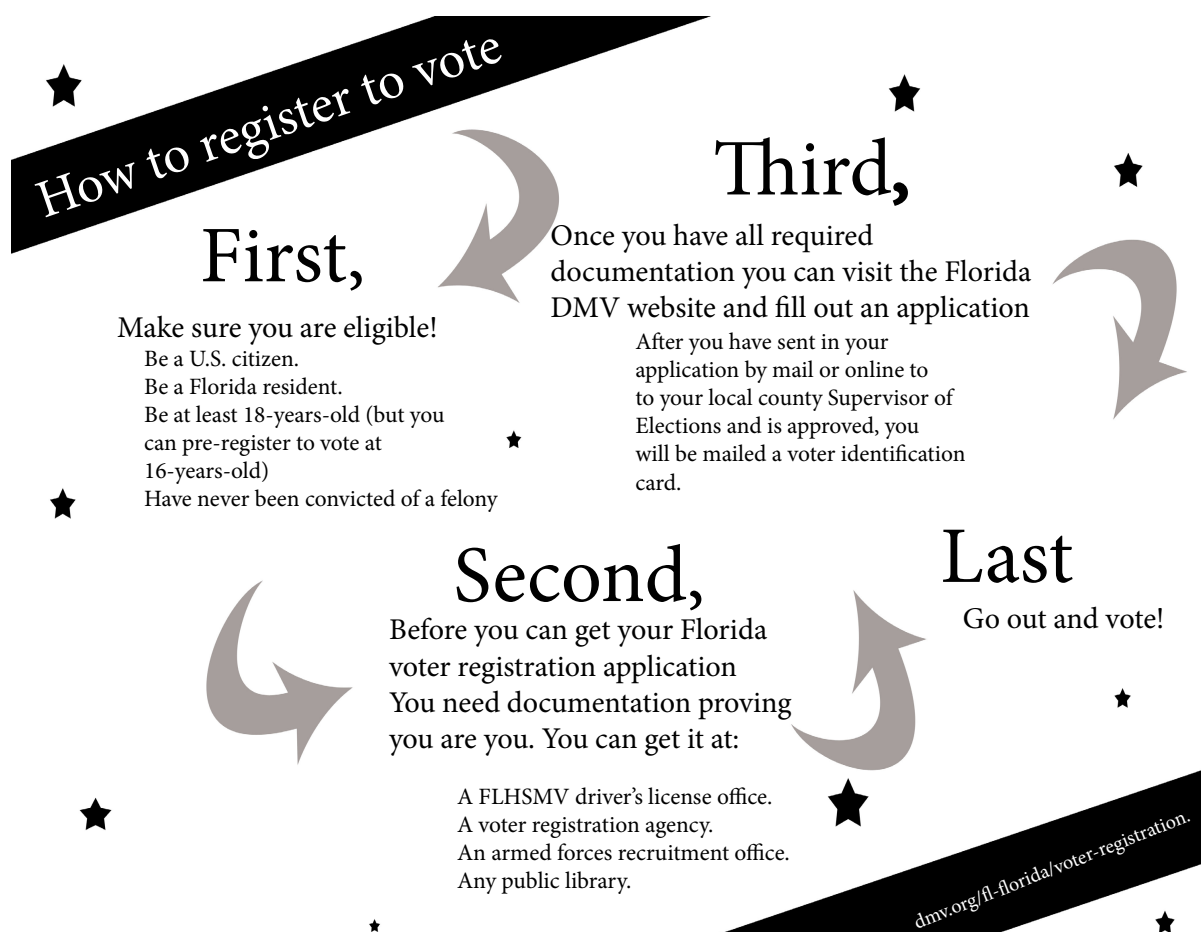
### WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE QUIZ?

Its history? The theory behind it? And answers to commonly asked questions? Visit our "Quiz FAQ" at [www.TheAdvocates.org](http://www.TheAdvocates.org).

- ◆ We encourage reprinting of the Quiz (without modifications, credit to the Advocates). Please let us know—and send us a copy, if possible.
- ◆ Take the *interactive* Quiz online at [www.TheAdvocates.org](http://www.TheAdvocates.org).
- ◆ Get the Quiz for your PDA at [www.TheAdvocates.org](http://www.TheAdvocates.org).
- ◆ What do libertarians believe—and why? Free information at [www.Libertarianism.com](http://www.Libertarianism.com).
- ◆ Want to give the Quiz to others? It's available for sale in several sizes and formats. Contact us.
- ◆ Educators: We're happy to send free copies of the Quiz for use in your classroom. Contact us.

### Advocates for Self-Government

269 Market Place Blvd., #106 • Cartersville, GA 30121-2235  
800-932-1776 • Email: [Quiz@TheAdvocates.org](mailto:Quiz@TheAdvocates.org)



## Becoming the new Americana

Sophie Sajeci  
*Staff Reporter*

The stereotypical American dream involves making money, doing good for others, and being an independent business owner. Business moguls represent some of the most influential people in society. Some even began their influence at a young age through joining clubs such as Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) or starting their own businesses. Around our campus, certain students have their own business ideas and plans for both now and the future.

SaltNation, an online company created by Mitchell and River Ridge students looking for better quality fishing shirts, developed in

an unexpected way.

"The idea started out as just a funny thought of 'Hey we should start a company' which we at first laughed at the idea then after a couple months, we decided to make a serious decision. We thought since we live in amphibious habitat full of fishermen, beaches and lots of coast line, we should make our own twist in the world of apparel," Brian Spicer ('18) said.

Being invested and knowledgeable in the product being sold makes for better business; when venturing into something big, knowledge is key.

"[SaltNation] is unique because we come from a

Florida background. We have first hand experience of what people would like in a shirt and have first hand experience of the Florida atmosphere in all four seasons. We are very known by the locals in our area and can adjust quickly to what the

customers want and can fill their needs," Spicer said.

In-school programs for young entrepreneurs include FBLA, which gives students early expertise for their upcoming success.

"Students can become entrepreneurs through this club by learning the important skills that come with owning your own business, such as public

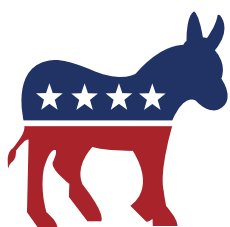
speaking, working as a team, problem solving, and how to have initiative," Ally Palmer ('16), FBLA Secretary said.

Becoming a part of FBLA is not the only path toward business knowledge. Some classes offered will spark new knowledge as well.

"Students can follow their own paths using FBLA competitions to learn and test specific skills, such as accounting, business law, cyber security, and sports management. There are also areas to hone your presentation skills. Through FBLA kids can also discover Mitchell's business academy for classes all about some of the topics above, even though you do not have to

be part of FBLA to be a part of the classes," Palmer said.

Young entrepreneurs continue their reign, seeking ways to turn their ideas into profitable business ventures. The FBLA members compete for awards while gaining valuable knowledge and building their resumes. Both the paths of entrepreneurs and of FBLA members lead to increased opportunities in the business community. SaltNation products are available for purchase at: [www.saltnation.net](http://www.saltnation.net).

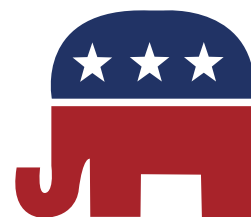


## Democrat

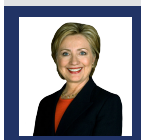
"I do not think people are equipped with all of the necessary skills for there to be minimal government involvement," Nurah Koney-Laryea ('17) said.

## Republican

"Republicans support the American Dream ideal where you control where you are in society, if you want it you have to work for it," Zach Rossignol ('17) said.



### Iowa Caucus



Clinton

49.9%



Sanders

49.4%



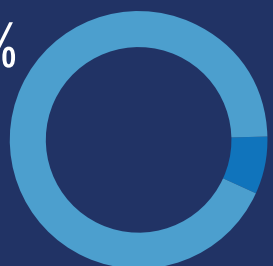
O'Mally

0.6%

The parties disagree on many issues, such as:

Increase in government environmental regulations to prevent global warming

93%  
YES



7%  
No

71%  
No

29%  
YES



Data provided by [tideswith.com](http://tideswith.com)

## Independent

"I'm an Independent because it doesn't really matter what party they are in. It just matters about the person and if their views are good, and if they are not running for a corporation," Ben Nichols ('17) said.



### Possible Candidate

Michael Bloomberg, the former Mayor of New York City may run as an Independent candidate in the Presidential election. The businessman, reportedly worth 37.2 billion would self-fund his own campaign.

### Iowa Caucus

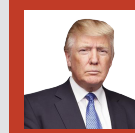
Cruz

28%



Trump

24%



Rubio

23%



In the last Presidential Election the size of the Independent Party increased to 44 percent of the voting population.



# The Buccaneers' ship sinks again

Brock Shively  
*Sports Editor*

Even when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers improve their record, the coach receives the pink slip to no longer show up to work. After winning four more games in the 2015 season, head coach Lovie Smith received a call informing him that the Buccaneers wanted to fire him. Smith's expertise is on the defensive side of the football, yet the Buccaneers went down in scoring defense this year, as they finished 26 out of 32.

"I get the firing of Lovie [Smith], but you need more time than two years. The team won four more games, so there was improvement," Trent Nardin ('17) said.

The Buccaneers went in house replacing Smith for the

vacancy, by promoting offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter. The Buccaneers defense struggled, but Koetter helped drastically improve a struggling offense. Koetter took over the third worst offense in the NFL in total yards, and moved them up to the top five.

"[Dirk] Koetter really helped improve the offense, and I'm excited to see how he fares as head coach," Nardin said.

Even with uncertainty ahead for the franchise, the Buccaneers showed positive signs moving forward. Number one pick Jameis Winston lived up to the bill in his rookie campaign. Winston threw for 4,042 yards and 22 touchdowns, while running for six more. Although he struggled early

in the season with interceptions, he kept improving throughout the season.

"Jameis surpassed my expectations this year, especially after losing the way he did to Marcus Mariota," Ryan Penland ('16) said.

Doug Martin also played well in 2015, finishing with 1,402 rushing yards and second in the league in that category. Martin's contract expires this offseason, and looks to draw significant interest from teams around the league.

"Doug Martin really shocked me, but who knows if he'll be back," Nardin said.

Gerald McCoy continued his success on the defensive side of the ball, making his fourth straight



Jameis Winston walks off the field disappointed after throwing an interception against the Tennessee Titans.

Pro Bowl. The Buccaneers also had replacements fill in for injured players. The notable fill ins consisted of Lavonte David, Logan Mankins, and Jameis Winston.

The Buccaneers move forward

to the offseason, after hiring their fourth head coach in the last seven years. The future looks bright, but Koetter must overcome the daunting task of getting this team to the playoffs for the first time since 2007.

# Wrong place at the wrong time

Kelsey Williams  
*Staff Reporter*

Participating in athletic activities increases a person's chances of getting injured. Every sport coming with its own set of risks, leaving it up to chance and the player to make the right move to avoid getting hurt.

Well-rounded athlete Rachel Kling's ('16) list of athletic history contains sports like figure skating, snowboarding, and volleyball. By participating in numerous sports Kling understands the importance of knowing the game.

"Focus on the fundamentals, because if you know how to play properly from the basics, it will

be harder to mess up and hurt yourself," Rachel Kling ('16) said.

An athlete may set himself or herself up for success by obtaining all the knowledge on the sport possible. Practicing day after day helps athletes not only play better, but also keep them safe in the game.

A common injury in sports is a concussion, which is an injury that occurs after a player receives a blow to the head or body that violently shakes the head resulting in a brain injury. This injury is common due to the fact that most sports require

a fast pace. According to the Mayo Clinic, there are more than 3 million cases in the US every year. After eight years playing softball, Madison Bell ('17) understands the odds of receiving a concussion.

"My injury occurred at softball practice. I was standing at the bucket collecting the balls that were being hit by the batter. When I was watching the batter, making sure I didn't get hit by the ball being hit, someone called my name and when I turned around I got hit in the forehead by the ball that the girl threw," Bell said.

Every injury requires different methods of recovery, which makes it important to obtain knowledge on the injury a player suffers from. By being knowledgeable on the recovery process of different injuries, players ensure a normal recovery that doesn't make the injury any worse.

"To make sure I had a fast recovery I stayed in bed a couple days and slept. When I wasn't sleeping, I had all the lights off and was probably eating. I couldn't watch TV, read, or be on my phone because I would get a

really bad headache," Bell said.

While an injury results in a temporary pause in athletic participation, players ensure recovery by following orders from their doctors. Pay attention while active, and make sure to follow any direction given by coaches to avoid danger.

Large numbers of injuries in sports. Players may prevent a large number of injuries with knowledge and focus, making a sport less dangerous.

# Performing at a different level

Jessica Mason  
*Staff Reporter*

The use and consequences of performance-enhancing drugs remain a very controversial topic over the past several years.

According to sportslaw.uslegal.com, major professional sports in the United States coordinate their own drug testing and use policies through consent from the professional athletes from their individual contract. That same website states that the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) has similar laws. Intercollegiate associations require their athletes to sign a consent form in order to receive admission to play any sport under the NCAA. The NCAA's established drug abuse policies make testing for street and performance-enhancing drugs a

requirement for it's athletes.

Opinions differ on the severity of the consequences given to professional and collegiate athletes who use performance-enhancing drugs. Some, like Spencer Edwards ('18) believe that drug abuse is not taken seriously enough.

"I think drug abuse is taken too lightly. It has become too common, as if the athlete has to take performance-enhancing drugs to be able to perform well at that level," Edwards said.

Certain fans justify the use of performance-enhancing drugs in today's sports environment, considering them a necessity to compete.

Professional sports also struggle dealing with performance-

enhancers. Performance-enhancing drugs resulted in nearly 39% of Major League Baseball suspensions.

However, the dangers of abusing performance-enhancing drugs remain severe. Symptoms of performance-enhancing drug abuse include liver abnormalities, tumors, heart and circulatory problems, psychiatric disorders, and in extreme cases, death.

There is no newfound way to completely prevent the use of performance-enhancing drugs in professional and collegiate sports. Though the effects of abusing are severe, the controversial topic on whether or not they are 100% justifiable by the sports watching population remains an issue.



MLB commissioner Rob Manfred deals with performance-enhancing drugs on a day to day basis.



Treon Harris took over for suspended quarterback Will Grier in the 2015 college football season.

# Cheering all the way to states

Jessica Mason

Staff Reporter

On January 9, Mitchell cheerleader Kelly Meehan sat in a circle with her team, holding hands and reflecting on the hard work that earned them the title of first place and grand champions at the Best of Pasco competition at Fivay High School.

"In 2015, we won Best of Pasco, and knowing that we were able to do it again that very next year is a feeling like no other," Meehan ('16) said.

The Cheerleaders worked hard this past season to execute a States-worthy routine.

"Our hardest stunt that we have is our pyramid because it has all of the elements to give us maximum points in our routine. It is difficult because every team member is involved and each person has to execute perfectly for the pyramid to hit," Ally Chamberlin ('16) said.

Although this was the team's

second competition of the season, the nerves remained present before taking the mat for cheerleaders like Emory Cherry ('18).

"My heart starts racing, and I just get this burst of energy. It's exciting when you walk off that mat knowing you just nailed it," Cherry said.

Achieving the first place and grand champions Best of Pasco title only started things for



Photo by Mitchell Chamberlin

this team. On January 16, they proceeded to take on the Regional competition, placing fourth and

moving on to states, which took place on January 30. The team finished fifth in the state.

# Wrestling adversity to the mat

Kaitlyn Klein

Staff Reporter

The end of the wrestling season approaches, and the team enjoys a 4-3 record as it currently stands. The team also fought two more matches through the week against River Ridge and East Lake.

The wrestlers credit their success for the season to the way they get ready for their rigorous matches.

"To prepare for my match, I like to listen to music, get in the mindset of 'I'm [going to] win and they can't stop me, and [I also] warm my body up. It helps me a lot,'" Dylan Nisse ('18) said.

Wrestling requires a lot of commitment, including difficulties maintaining weight and gaining strength. It also demands hours



Sebastian Candelaria ('18) grapples with an opposing River Ridge wrestler at the January 27 home matches.

of practice in order to improve.

However, wrestlers feel the reward of winning a match is worth it.

"I wrestle because it is thrilling and exciting. It takes a lot of work, but I like to push myself to those limits to see what I'm capable of, and it's a lot of fun," Nisse said.

The wrestling team continues to compete with the season winding

down. Mitchell hosts their final match, at the Sunshine Athletic Conference, on February 13th at 8 a.m. The team also looks to succeed at the 2A Region 3 Tournament, at the end of the wrestling season.



All Photos by Kevin White



# Ball is life

Amanda Garcia

Staff Reporter

The fans were on their feet in excitement awaiting for the boys to come out. As soon as they entered the gym, an array of cheers filled the gymnasium. The boys worked hard this season in the hope of becoming district Champs and beating their rivalry teams.

Both Varsity and Junior Varsity ended their seasons with a record of 17-8. Varsity however defeated their rivals.

"Our biggest rivals this year are probably river ridge since they have always been our rival and Land O' Lakes since they are the other team that is competing for top spot in the district as of right now," Slade Stafford ('17) said.

Varsity was able to pull through and win against Land O' Lakes with the score of 56-51.

"[Our biggest rival is] River Ridge. Our team prepares by practicing plays that can be used to beat the defense of River Ridge so we can get the win," Myles Megna ('18) said.

District games were held the week of February 1st. Wednesday February 3rd the varsity team took on Springstead, and

Friday, February 5th they were predicted to play Land O' Lakes for the Championship game.

"To prepare we are just practicing and making sure our line ups are alright and make sure all of our plays are set up, and make sure we play right and execute. We hope to win District Championships back to back, and move on to regionals," Kyle Rapaport ('16) said.

This year the final four teams making the playoffs are Mitchell, Land O' Lakes, Springstead and Sunlake.

"It's kinda weird to be a senior. I'm supposed to be the leader on this team. This season we expected to do better and win more, but in the end as long as we do good in playoffs it doesn't really matter how we did during the season," Rapaport said.

The boys played Land O' Lakes in the District 8 finals on Friday, February 5th. The team came up short, losing 52-39. J.J. Lewis ('16) scored 14 points for the Mustangs.

# Nothing but net

Raleigh Illig

Staff Reporter

As the girl's basketball team took the court at the start of the winter season, the varsity team has expectations to make it past Districts for the first time in 3 years. Eleven weeks later both JV and Varsity move on to the 6A-8 District Tournament for the first time.

"Our goal is to keep practicing, and going over our plays, and working hard on and off the court so that when we get to the rest of the District games and the District championships we'll win," Selena Dinovo ('18) said.

On January 12, 2016, girls' basketball faced their biggest rival team again, the Sunlake Seahawks in their district competition.

"Sunlake is probably our toughest game because they are an aggressive team, especially since they are in our district and our strongest competitor at the moment," Ari Jurkowski ('18) said.

The team went on to suffered excruciating losses against Sunlake.

"We lost both games, however we put up a strong fight and didn't let them off easy. We are a young team with a majority

of us being sophomores, and we have a lot of improving to do over the season," Jurkowski said.

As the season comes to a close with the final games approaching, the record as of now for girls Varsity is 14-12 and 7-5 for the girls JV team. The two seniors girls on the team, celebrate their last season on the court playing a game they love.

"My favorite memory of the season was on my birthday, and nobody thought that we were going to win against Springstead and we did," Juliana Gruerio ('16) said.

In preparation for the remaining District games, the girls have multiple practices a week to improve their skills.

"We have practice everyday that we don't have games from 6-8:30 p.m. We haven't gone past the playoffs in 3 years I believe. Our first playoff game would be against Armwood and that's a tough school but I think we can make it," Dinovo said.

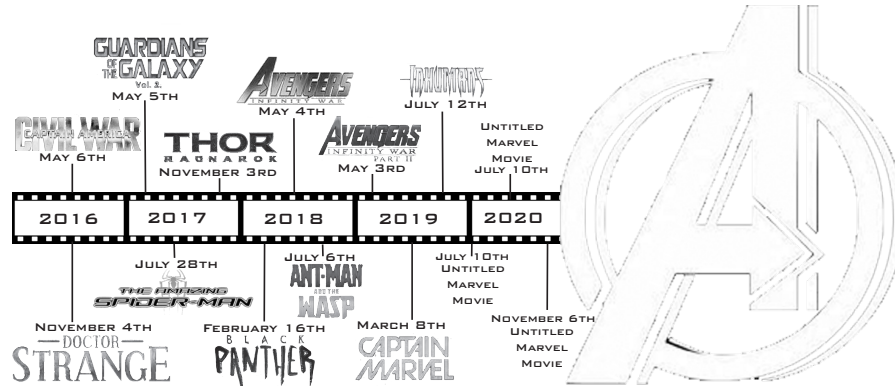
In hopes of going to the playoffs for the first time in years, the girls Varsity basketball team desires to achieve their goal for the season.

# Marvelous Marvel

Raleigh Illig

Staff Reporter

The famous Marvel series came to life from the comic books in 1944 with the release of the original Captain America motion picture. Since then, Marvel released numerous superhero movies following the comic books. Leading up to 2016, Marvel released a total of 42 movies released. It is Marvel's plan to make a movie based on each superhero, while intertwining their paths, and ultimately joining them in combat in future Avengers movies. Marvel recently released a timeline showing all the future movies up until 2020, called Marvel Phase Three.



## The force awakens

Allison Kaelin

Staff Reporter

Over the past 39 years Star Wars continues to top movie charts all over the world. The latest episode in the Star Wars series "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" achieved the title of highest grossing film of all-time, passing Avatar's \$760.50 million record in just 20 days. Not only did the latest episode become highest grossing film, but also recorded the biggest opening day and weekend with a total of \$367.06 million. The seventh film in the series picks up where Star Wars: Episode VI - Return Of The Jedi, released in 1983, left off.

"I thought the new movie was fantastic because while it included a lot of the stuff from the old

movies, it also had its own new plot and its own storyline to go with it," Stephanie DeVlieger ('19) said.

In addition to its box office success, Star Wars took over social media, with 234 million interactions using #StarWars from January through November of 2015. On opening day of "The Force Awakens" people took to social media expressing their thoughts about the movie, just one hour after its release.

"I thought it was pretty good. The story was kinda similar to episode IV but other than that it was fabulous", Joey Weierheiser ('18) said.

With the movie's release in the United States on December 14, 2015, the rest of the world waited to see what the social media hype was all about. The film opened in China on January 9, 2016, the final location of its premiere. With China being the second biggest film market in the world "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" continues to climb as the number one grossing film of all time.

The excitement of the Star Wars series continues, as fans await the release of Star Wars: Episode VIII in on December 15, 2017.



Action shots from the newest Star Wars movie, The Force Awakens.

## A bias toward news, from news

Allison Kaelin

Staff Reporter

Major news networks have been known to make questionable decisions on air and on social media. NBC, CBS, ABC, and CNN have had their fair share of being the center of attention. Reporters from all four news stations have been accused of being biased after comments they made while working. CNN contributor Ruben Navarrette blasted his own network, calling it out for bias against Republicans, while adding that CNN has a "warped sense" of what's actually news.

Sharyl Attkisson, a former investigative journalist for CBS News, made headlines in October for calling out CBS for being

biased in favor of President Obama and his administration. Her career at CBS lasted 20 years and provided just as many stories attacking Republicans as she did Democrats. Attkisson describes herself as "politically agnostic."

After the Democratic debate on October 13, 2015, in Las Vegas, news reporter Brittany M. Hughes from MRCTV asked CNN host Don Lemon if the media is bias. He denied any wrongdoing, stating, "people see what they want to see." Brittany M. Hughes then followed up, collecting CNN clips from the past and providing evidence that CNN anchors often share their political opinions. Republican Presidential candidate

Donald Trump recently accused Fox News of bias. Trump skipped the Republican debate hosted by Fox News on January 28, 2016, because of the scheduled moderator, Megyn Kelly. Trump uploaded a video to Instagram on January 26, stating "Megyn Kelly is really biased against me. She knows that. I know that. Everybody knows that. Do you think she can really be fair at a debate?"

Along with comments that reporters have made about everyday topics, politics also sparks controversy. With the 2016 presidential election coming this November, news networks like NBC have chosen to partner with

the Democratic Party. NBC news has announced that they will be partnering with TargetSmart, an organization that researches voting habits and trends. What most people don't know is that TargetSmart is a Democratic firm founded by Democratic workers.

Over the years news stations have been accused of being biased towards politics and other everyday topics. Reporters on networks like NBC, CBS, ABC, and CNN will continue to be in news headlines year after year for sharing their personal opinions live on air.



# Super heroes, super villains?

Jaelyn Moser  
Lifestyles Editor

DC Comics fans rejoiced as the trailer for the highly anticipated movie adaptation of a beloved and controversial comic hit the internet on July 11, 2015, after its debut premiere at Comic Con. Talk of bringing the epic battle between two superheroes to the theaters was finally confirmed when the official trailer for Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice hit the big (and small) screens everywhere. The battle between two heroes, seen as beacons of hope for the world, caused much controversy. In a world where people like to see life

in shades of purely evil and purely good, the showdown forced them to acknowledge that there is no strict line between good and evil. The fans' loyalty for their favorite hero caused a split in the fandoms: those who rooted for Batman and those who rooted for Superman.

"I lean more towards Batman because I like how he doesn't have power but still fights to protect his city," Michael Krapf ('16) said.

However, not everyone seemed to share the same opinion.

"I like Batman more, but Superman would obviously win. Batman is just a man with

awesome gadgets and Superman is invincible," Rachel Green ('16) said.

With the number of devoted fans the comics drew in throughout the years, expectations for the movie run high.

"I do expect it to do well, and I'm sure hoping it does. I love both Marvel and DC and I want to see both succeed. I am worried about the movie, being such a big fan, but I worry about all the geeky movies I'm excited for," Mario Genduso ('16) said. "As a fan you want them to get as close to the character and source

material as possible, but yet, you don't just want a bunch of fan service. You want a good plot, development and direction. So I, myself, am excited but will proceed with caution."

The released plot description from Screencrush.com states that "fearing the actions of a god-like super hero left unchecked, Gotham City's own formidable, forceful vigilante takes on Metropolis's most revered, modern-day savior, while the world wrestles with what sort of a hero it really needs. And with Batman and Superman at war

with one another, a new threat quickly arises, putting mankind in greater danger than it's ever known before."

With actors such as the much-loved "Man of Steel" Henry Cavill reprising his role as Superman, Gal Gadot playing Wonder Woman, Jesse Eisenberg as the sinister Lex Luthor and a new Batman arising in Ben Affleck, the movie is sure to garner much attention. Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice flies into theaters on March 25, 2016 and promises to uproot the superhero world.

# Lights, camera, award shows

Kaitlyn Klein  
Staff Reporter

At the beginning of each year, many award shows recognize acting and singing performances of the previous year. The most popular award shows include the People's Choice Awards, the Golden Globes, The Oscars, and the Grammys.

The People's Choice Awards, or PCA, remain one of the most watched award shows. CBS aired the 43rd annual award ceremony on January 6th, 2016, hosted by Jane Lynch. Many actors, actresses, artists, movies, and TV shows received awards. Fast and Furious 7 won favorite movie as well as favorite action movie.

Taylor Swift won favorite female artist and Ed Sheeran won favorite male artist. Jimmy Fallon won favorite late night talk show host and Ellen DeGeneres won favorite daytime TV host. Channing Tatum won favorite movie actor while Sandra Bullock received the favorite movie actress award. Chris Hemsworth got the award for favorite action movie actor, and Shailene Woodley favorite movie actress. The award for favorite comedic movie went to Pitch Perfect 2, and the award for favorite dramatic movie went to The Martian. Overall, more than 50 awards got handed out,

recognizing the favorite acting and singing performances of 2015.

Award shows like the People's Choice Awards try to incorporate the feelings of the teenage population into the results, so that the winners are chosen by the public.

"I like how I can vote for my favorite actors, movies, and tv shows for the People's Choice Awards. I wish more award shows would take people's choices in consideration," Alana Cruickshank ('18) said.

On January 10th, 2016, Ricky Gervais hosted the 73rd annual Golden Globes award ceremony.


This award show recognizes the best actors, actresses, and movies.

The Revenant won best motion picture- drama, and Leonardo DiCaprio won best performance by an actor in a motion picture for his role in The Revenant. Inside Out won an award for the best animated motion picture. Matt Damon won best actor in a musical or comedy for his role in The Martian, which won best motion picture- comedy or musical. More than 50 awards got handed out.

On Monday, Feb. 15, the 58th annual Grammy ceremony airs at 8 p.m. EST on CBS. Artists will

be recognized with awards such as Album of the Year and Song of the Year at the event, hosted by LL Cool J.

The 88th Academy Awards ceremony, also known as the Oscars, takes place on February 28, 2016, hosted by Chris Rock. The Oscars honor cinematic achievements in the film industry.



**PHSC...**

**Your EDGE in education**

- Dual enrollment opportunities
- Close commutes
- Affordable tuition
- Quality education
- Transfer options
- Scholarships, grants & financial aid

*Apply Today!*

Associate in Arts degree, Associate in Science degrees, Bachelor's degrees and Career & Technical Programs

**Pasco-Hernando State College**

1-855-NOW-PHSC • phsc.edu

Brooksville • Dade City • New Port Richey • Spring Hill • Wesley Chapel

**SOBER SOLUTIONS COUNSELING**

Located at 8056 Old Co Rd 54, New Port Richey, FL 34653

**If You Or Someone You Love Is Suffering From Drug Addiction, want to get your life back? It's not too late. Give Us A Call. We Can Help!**

**Call Today: (727)372-2010**

**Now with locations in Trinity and Palm Harbor!**



**ALBERT FAMILY ORTHODONTICS**

1806 Short Branch Dr. Suite 102  
Trinity, FL 34655  
(727) 376-2770

2445 Tampa Rd. Suite A  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
(727) 781-7475

# Do you have an issue with that?

Bailey Sassatelli  
Opinions Editor

Sources: SIRS.com and USConstitution.net

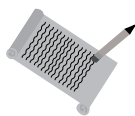
## Taxation



Should taxes be adjusted to allow free college for U.S. citizens?

Yes: Integrating free college can directly influence the literacy rate of this country and help people of poverty obtain an education.  
No: Taxes are already too high and many scholarship opportunities already exist.

## The Constitution



Should the U.S. Constitution be interpreted strictly based on the Framers original intent?

Yes: The opinions of the Framers were well documented and provided for the ability to amend the Constitution to reflect changes in society.  
No: The 18th century language is irrelevant to modern life.

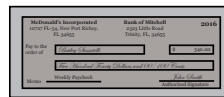
## Surveillance



Should the government continue to use surveillance on citizens as a method of national security?

Yes: Surveillance allows for the prevention of terrorist attacks and the use of it is important to ensuring the safety of citizens.  
No: Surveillance invades privacy and other manners of national security are in place.

## Minimum Wage



Should we raise the minimum wage to \$15?

Yes: Raising the minimum wage would allow for poverty to decrease.  
No: Increasing the minimum wage could have negative effects on the economy, including inflation.

## Legalization of Marijuana



Should we federally legalize marijuana use overall?

Yes: Marijuana possession charges take up too much of law enforcement resources that should be focused on other problems.  
No: Marijuana is a gateway drug that leads users to more addictive drugs and dependent tendencies.

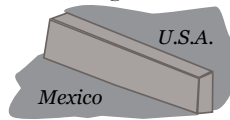
## Planned Parenthood



Should we defund Planned Parenthood?

Yes: Planned Parenthood is morally wrong and encourages actions that should not be allowed, including abortion.  
No: Planned Parenthood has had a positive influence on encouraging safe sex and has decreased the infant mortality rate.

## Immigration



Is the current anti-immigration movement racist?

Yes: The movement is driven by the public's fear of people that come from a different ethnic or cultural background.  
No: The movement is meant to directly influence and reduce illegal immigration.

## Euthanasia



Should we legalize the assisted death of terminally ill patients?

Yes: Euthanasia needs to be an option so the terminally ill are not forced to endure pain and suffering in their last moments.  
No: Euthanasia is a morally incorrect principle that stands against human nature and the medical purpose of saving lives.

## Gun Control



Do we need to incorporate major requirements for those interested in buying guns?

Yes: Increasing restrictions on guns is imperative to reducing violent crime in the country.  
No: Although guns can be dangerous if not used properly, tighter restrictions will intrude on citizens' right to bear arms.

# Know your politics

Emily Fowler  
Staff Reporter

Recently, the Hoofbeat asked a random sample of students to complete a political survey to show how much they know on politics. Using current political events in the news, we created the survey questions. The twenty students that completed the survey answered eight basic questions that a majority could easily find in a history textbook. The outcome of this survey may shock those around school and home, knowing almost all students interviewed forgot the answers to the previously learned political topics. All of the students could immediately answer the popular question, "Who is the most controversial Republican candidate right now?"

A question that half of the students answered correctly was "What does POTUS stand for?"

Although knowing everything about the presidential candidates seems important, understanding politics itself helps us keep up with what goes on around the world. Paying attention to current events and the political process educates students about the world. Instead of remaining unaware about what goes on around us, students should try to focus more on politics, as their decisions will directly affect the future of our nation. This survey clarifies the need for students to re-learn the basics of politics, and pay more attention to what happens around the nation.

1. Who is the most controversial Republican candidate right now?
2. What are the 3 branches of government?
3. What is the length of a term for a U.S. Senator?
4. What is the total number of people in Congress?
5. What does ISIS stand for?
6. Why are people fleeing from Syria?
7. Who recently tested the hydrogen bomb?
8. What does POTUS stand for?

Answers: 1. Donald Trump, 2. Judicial, Legislative, Executive, 3. 6 years, 4. 535, 5. Islamic state in Iraq and Syria, 6. The war in Syria, 7. North Korea, 8. President of the United States.

# Take an order

Kelsey Williams  
News Editor

Since his election to office, President Barack Obama's reputation regarding executive orders grew in recognition. The purpose of an executive order is to allow the President to institute a regulation on a pressing matter that does not need to be passed through Congress as a law.

The President's list of executive orders has grown expansive since his arrival in office. President Obama joins long lists of former Presidents that have exercised this right. For example, after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, former President George W. Bush issued an executive order that formed a Cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security.

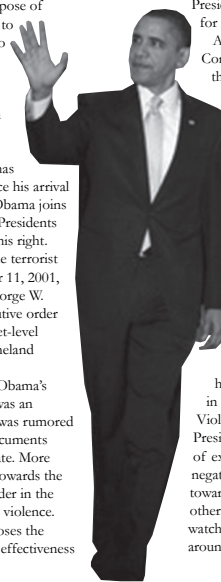
One of President Obama's first official actions was an executive order that was rumored to protect private documents like his birth certificate. More recently, he worked towards the creation of a new order in the hope of curbing gun violence. The new order proposes the enhancement of the effectiveness

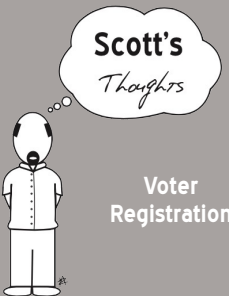
of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and other similar areas that expect the President to create a safer society for Americans.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, the President's newest order calls for more thorough background checks for all purchases even those between private sellers. The Social Security Administration (SSA) will be required to alert NICS about any mental health information that should possibly prohibit a person from purchasing a gun.

President Obama has drawn up these restrictions in a move toward creating safer streets for Americans.

The increase in gun violence has led to five mass shootings in 2015, according to the Gun Violence Archive. Critics of the President may exploit his use of executive power to create negativity around his actions towards curbing gun violence, while others find it a necessity as they watch gun violence affect those around them.





**Scott's Thoughts**

**Voter Registration**

**Q. How can students register to vote?**

**A.** When you get your license you can register and you will get it two days after your 18th birthday. March 15th is the day for the primaries and if you are 18 by Election Day you can vote. More information is available on [Pascovotes.org](http://Pascovotes.org).

**Q. What is the best way to have an influence when voting?**

**A.** This district is mainly Republican and Florida is also pretty much Republican. So, if you want to have a say in what happens, it would be smart to register Republican. There are other places where the opposite is true, but here, registering Republican is how you would have the most influence.

**Q. What is the disadvantage of registering with a third-party?**

**A.** Lots of people do not fit nicely into one of the major parties, so they consider themselves Libertarian or Green Party. The problem with registering with those parties is that they have never won, so really they are just a protest party.

**Q. What is the problem with registering as independent?**

**A.** Registering as an independent is really just a statement that you do not want to choose a party or that you don't feel like there is a party for you. However, registering independent doesn't allow you to vote in the primaries and you will not have as much of a say.

# "Making a ~~Murderer~~ Money"

Bella Smith  
Staff Reporter

Netflix recently began advertising the series, *Making a Murderer*. The series is supposed to be a documentary that provides the audience with evidence. However, there have been claims that the series is not a documentary and that the producers manipulated the evidence to support the main character's side.

The series revolves around a man, Steven Avery, who was wrongfully put in jail for 18 years. The Avery family lived in Wisconsin and owned an auto salvage yard. To the people in the town, the Avery family was mysterious. Despite having an alibi, Avery ended up being convicted of sexually assaulting Penny Beerntsen.

The Innocence Project, an organization that fights for wrongfully convicted people, demanded new DNA tests to be taken. They needed evidence to be found, proving Avery's innocence. When new DNA test results came back, they matched a local man named Gregory Allen that was a previous suspect that was overlooked.

After spending 18 years in jail, he was set free because of the new DNA evidence. Avery just spent 18 years in jail for a crime that he did not commit, so, he filed a lawsuit against the Manitowoc County Police Department. Those people essentially took away 18 years of Avery's life.

With help from the Innocence Project, Avery filed a lawsuit against the local officials that put him in jail. He was suing them for \$36 million over the wrongful conviction. Two years after Avery was exonerated from jail, he was accused of the murder of Teresa Halbach. Avery's attorneys claimed that the Manitowoc Police Department framed Avery

for the murder because of the lawsuit he filed.

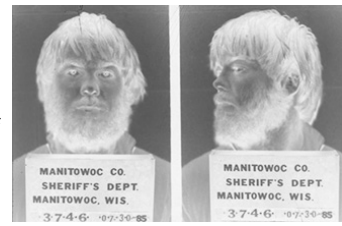
Brandon Dassey, Avery's nephew, made claims during an interview that he and Avery sexually assaulted and then murdered Halbach in their trailer on their auto salvage property. Because of this, Brendan was sentenced to life in prison at the age of 16. At this point, Avery's family hired two prestigious defense attorneys, Dean Strang and Jerry Buting to fight for him.

The attorneys found evidence that helped support the fact that Avery was innocent. However, the prosecutors also found DNA evidence inside the car. Avery's blood laid inside Halbach's car, which was found on their auto salvage property. The prosecutors also found Halbach's key inside Avery's trailer.

Strang and Buting claimed that the officials placed the blood and key to frame Avery. To support this, they showed evidence of a tampered blood vial that belongs to Avery.

Despite evidence found from defense attorneys, Avery was found guilty of two out of three counts for the death of Halbach and sentenced to life in prison. As for Dassey, he was sentenced to life in prison but is eligible for parole in 2048.

Thousands of people took to online petitions in hopes to free Avery. There is now a [Change.org](http://Change.org) page that was made by



Steven Avery before he went to jail for 18 years.



Steven Avery (right) in a courtroom during "Making a Murderer."

people after watching *Making a Murderer*. The series caused lots of concern over the possibility of innocent people being put in jail.

# A curious case of Affluenza

Emily Fowler  
Staff Reporter

In December, an eighteen-year old boy named Ethan Crouch finally got handcuffed alongside his mother in Mexico over an incident that happened in 2013. "Affluenza", the ridiculous, made-up term used to describe this case, defends the boy's life-taking actions. What happened back in 2013 led to his recent arrest. Sierra Schultz ('18) describes the incident this way.

"He was driving drunk and had teens in the back of his truck and he hit a whole bunch of people on the side of the road who were helping someone that had car troubles. This caused his friends to be ejected from the truck and he killed everyone that he hit. His lawyer used the defense of him being rich and privileged to say that his parents never imposed any values in him because he was never given consequences as a child," Schultz said.

Crouch's recent arrest is due to his escape to Mexico with the help of his motherly accomplice, after he violated his probation. This sickening story's twists includes some people who believe Crouch's parents deserve to receive full punishment, and others believe that Crouch deserves all of the responsibility.

"I think Ethan deserves more punishment. He was the intoxicated driver and should have been more aware of what he was doing and been responsible enough to take a cab or call someone for a ride," Joey Weierheiser ('18) said.

Supporting Weierheiser's argument, Crouch made the decision to drink and then get behind the wheel. Growing up spoiled and never hearing the word "no" come

**"It shows some sort of a careless type of parenting, and they give him the idea that the laws do not apply to him due to being in an affluent family."**  
Joey Weierheiser

out of his parents' mouths, Crouch first got away with his terrible crime all because of the word "affluenza", made up by a psychiatrist. The outcome of this case may affect the way others look at teens that act similar to Crouch.

"Other teenagers will probably be more likely to deter their peers from driving while intoxicated by taking precautions like collecting car keys before a party. Teens will be less likely to get in the car with someone who has been drinking no matter the circumstances," Schultz said.

Although Crouch committed the crime, the "affluenza" defense highlights his mother and father's lack of parenting skills.

"It shows some sort of a careless type of parenting, and they give him the idea that the laws do not apply to him due to being in an affluent family," Weierheiser said.

Clearly not thinking before his acting, Crouch's unforgivable incident teaches not only him a lesson, but teens around the world as well.

"Teens should exercise extreme measures when getting behind the wheel because they are inexperienced drivers. This case should emphasize the dangers of driving under the influence because driving while intoxicated can impact not only your life, but the lives of many others as well," Schultz said.

The term "affluenza" should not continue as a word in these types of cases. It acts as a literal "get out of jail" free card, as shown through Crouch's trial. Those who make foolish decisions and commit crimes deserve to live behind bars.

# Are We Ready for a Female President?

Sarah Nagy  
*Entertainment Editor*

The leader for any country, especially the United States, has no defined gender. A debate continues to come to light about whether or not the United States is ready for a female president. The folks who oppose the thought of a woman president anger women across the country because a number of men (and even some women) underestimate a woman's ability to hold a high position, and prosper in that position.

Even in modern times, women still battle for complete equality through the "feminism" movement that many see as an attempt to persuade the public that females are the superior gender; in no case is that the truth. Feminists seek (and have

sought) complete social and economic equality; women still only make 78 cents for every dollar a man makes according to CNN Money. The lack of faith in a female president, regardless of partisanship, is a sexist notion. This belief that women are incapable of performing the same tasks as men needs to be demolished.

Leadership, diplomacy, and charisma are just a few of the required traits a president must possess. Those traits are ubiquitous in both genders, thus making the idea of a woman in the Oval Office completely logical. Women from all over the world exemplify successful leadership. The people of the United Kingdom hold a high regard for the former prime

minister, Margaret Thatcher and she is respected for her accomplishments during her time in office. The people of her nation coined a term for her policies: Thatcherism. This goes to show that successful leadership is defined by success, not gender. Thatcher defies the stereotype of a woman incapable of holding a successful leadership role in politics.

In addition, the argument that a woman should not be elected into the presidential role remains invalid, as evidenced by the success of the current German Chancellor, Angela Merkel. During Merkel's time, the German economy has prospered and also successfully combatted the global economic

crisis. Finally, Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts senator, is a woman also praised for her determination and accomplishments in the U.S. government. Warren is accredited for her persistence in fighting for middle class families, and many financial issues.

The accomplishments of women such as Thatcher, Merkel, and Warren prove that women hold an equal vocal and mental competence as men. Women govern states, women occupy seats in the House and Senate, women are CEOs, and we are ready for a woman to be president of the United States.



Bailey Sassatelli  
*Opinions Editor*

As a country, we pride ourselves on how unique and advanced we are in comparison to other countries. One of the things we, as citizens, are good at is enacting change. The public tends to have the attitude of "we want it and we want it now," but what if we aren't ready for what we want?

In 2008, we made history by electing the first African American president, Barrack Obama; and in 1933 we elected our first disabled president, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Now, as we approach another presidential election, many hope this will be a turning point in our history if we elect our first female president. However, most people are unaware of

the fact that we have had a female run this country before.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson suffered a stroke while in office, and his wife took over while he was unable to perform some of his duties. He would still speak and still make public appearances while his wife pulled the strings from behind the curtain.

The fact that a female running the country happened in secret and away from the public's eye shows that we were very much a sexist country. In this generation, we still are a sexist country. Women are put down. Restrictions are in place for dress in many places including school due to the sexualization of

women's bodies. Many cases each year occur because of the degradation of women, and many women are preached at for the choices they make publicly. By definition, the way society as a whole treats women proves that we are not ready to be led by one.

Because of the general attitude of society, women are held to different standards than men. If a woman were to be elected to office, she will be judged on a much harsher scale than her predecessors. This may cause her to change the way she works in order to gain public approval.

Many people are so enraptured by the need to make history that they are willing to put aside a

person's political views just to put them in office. The candidate elected to the presidency should be elected because the majority of the population agrees with his or her campaign platform and strongly believes that he or she can run this country in a manner that ensures a positive outlook.

When answering the question of whether the United States of America is ready for a woman president, all signs point to "no". Someday, when conditions change from gender conflict to gender equality, we might be ready. For now, though, we need to focus on getting the issues fixed instead of blindly electing a candidate based on uninformed opinions.

