

The Northern Bark

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A Look Through the Lens NHS Decorates for the Holidays

By Emily James
Pictured [top left] is Mr. Paxton's homemade "Bob Ross" Grinch, [top right] is Mrs. Liffbrig's student decorated door, [bottom left] is Mrs. Virts student decorated door, and [bottom right] is the Vault's interior window.



Science Now: The Seahorse in Your Brain

By Heritage Hamp

You know how we call the humerus the 'funny bone', because it makes us laugh for some reason when we hurt it? As it turns out, many parts of our body have funny nicknames and original names. For example, the 'seahorse' in your brain is actually the hippocampus because hippocampus is a direct translation of the Greek word for seahorse. The Greeks named it the seahorse because of the hippocampus'

supposed shape that is similar to a seahorse. One of the more funny ones in my opinion is the origin of the tragus. The tragus is the small flap of cartilage that covers the opening to your ear. It's named after goats, not because the tragus is a goat (hopefully), but because sometimes people get tufts of hair in their ears that resemble the beards of goats. The tibia, the front bone in your shin, is named after the Latin word for 'flute'. The auricles are part of the heart muscle and resemble puppy (Continued on page 2)

Breaking News: Aleppo Update By Heritage Hamp

To recap, Aleppo is one of Syria's largest cities and houses millions of people. Currently, there is a war going on between rebel forces and the Assad Regime. On December 19, an ambassador from Russia, Turkey, Iran, and France were supposed to meet together in Turkey to discuss the events happening in Aleppo, and try to find a solution to the war.

During a photo exhibition in the Museum of Modern Art in Ankara, Turkey, an off-duty police officer by the name of Mevlut Mert Altintas mortally shot and killed the Russian Ambassador Andrey Karlov. There are real videos and photos of the shooting as it happened. According to CNN, "After firing multiple rounds, the gunman shouted: "Allahu akbar (God is greatest). Do not forget Aleppo! Do not forget Syria! Do not forget Aleppo! Do not forget Syria! Only death will remove me from here. Everyone who has taken part in this oppression will one by one pay for it," he said." There has also been another three people who were injured in the shooting. It has been stated that Turkey was giving support to the rebel forces, but this extreme event is not a Turkish action.

(Continued on page 2)

Winter Sports Victory: The Best Christmas Present

By Hailey Yommer

On Monday night the girls basketball team traveled away for a game against Turkeyfoot, leaving victorious with a score of 49-23. Carly Rodeheaver led the scoring for the girls. Following up their win on Monday night, the team also won their game on Wednesday night. The away game against Fort Hill was a victory, with a score of 49-23. "We have had a great week this week, and I hope it will continue next week with hopefully another win", says Faith Parandhamaia. The girls will travel away to Berlin on the 29th for a JV and varsity (Continued on page 4)

Breaking News

(continued)

Russian President Putin has stated that this action's motivation was "provocation designed to spoil" Russian and Turkish relations. This murder was from the lone officer who had radical ideas, and does not represent Turkey as a country. His family is currently being detained and his house is being searched for terrorist evidence.

There has been news that Altintas has been killed in a shootout with the Turkish police. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said: "We regard this as a terrorist act. "Terrorism will not win and we will fight against it decisively." The Russian and Turkish governments have decided that they will come together even closer to keep events like these from happening again, and will be doing a joint investigation on this case. Just please keep in mind; Altintas is not a representation of Turkey or its people. He was a terrorist who murdered an ambassador who just wanted to help make peace.

Science Now

(Continued)

ears. So, it is named after the Latin word for ear. The falx cerebri, a membrane the runs between the two halves of the brain, roughly translates to 'hook shaped thing in your brain'. Which is funny because that is exactly what it looks like. The alx cerebri is connected to the crista galli, which is Latin for 'rooster crest' as it looks like the head of a rooster. The scapula is a Greek verb meaning 'to dig',

because the shoulder blade looks like a shovel apparently. Never feel bad for naming something after something that is really silly because your brain is made up of seahorses, hook things, and rooster crests.

**Northern Spotlight:
Chorus Christmas Concert
By Abby Burdock**

Northern's Chorus has been working hard throughout the school year to put on a great Christmas show. The show was held on Friday December 16th, 2017 at 7:00 PM. The chorus did an amazing job singing songs such as, "Star Dance" by Robert Louis Stevenson and Janet Gardner, "It Gets Better" by Andrew Lippa and Kirby Shaw, and "Sing We All Noel" by Gary E. Parks. Northern's chorus has twenty seven members this year. Eleven members are sopranos meaning they have the highest vocal range. Nine members are altos meaning they have lower feminine vocal range. Only seven of the chorus's members are baritones meaning they have the lowest vocal range and are usually male.

The show went very well with all members leaving the stage with a sense of pride. Justin Hershberger, a senior member and baritone says, "We sounded really great, even better than we expected. I've been a member for four years and each year it gets better". Cheyenne Bagley, a sophomore member and alto, says, "I had a lot of fun and it went really well. This was a good year for chorus". Mr. Salisbury the chorus conductor was very proud of

all of his students for their hard work. He said, "Overall the concert went very well. I'm very pleased and proud of the effort my students put into it. The comments from the audience of indicated that they enjoyed the show very much". The holiday concert chorus' biggest event of the year. Students put in a lot of time both in school and out of school preparing for the event. "We have chorus class first period, and we spend a lot of time preparing in there. We also spend time afterschool at practices making sure we are ready to perform" says Hershberger. All of the time and work the students put in paid off in the end because the performance was a smashing success.

[Below]
Photo: Mr Salisbury
Chorus Christmas Concert



[Right]
Photo: Mr. Salisbury
Chorus Christmas Concert



[Above]
Photo: Mr. Salisbury
Chorus Christmas Concert

[Below]
Photo: Mr. Salisbury
Chorus Christmas Concert



Watch, Look,**Listen:****Books You Should Read Before They Become Movies In 2017**

By Abby Burdock

With the new year comes plenty of new Hollywood flicks depicting many best-selling books. If you don't want to be the left out friend who has no idea what's going on in the theaters, pick up these books at the library before they hit the big screen on in 2017.

The first of many book to movies is *A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron, coming to theaters January 27th. The story follows a dog who keeps being reincarnated trying to find his purpose in life. The movie features actors Bradley Cooper and Britt Robertson. Publishers Weekly says the book, "Cameron successfully captures the essence of a dog's amazing capacity to love and protect". New York Times best-selling author Iris Dart describes the book as, "A beautiful, uplifting, tenderly told, frequently funny, and exquisitely moving story". This is the perfect read for dog lovers or just someone looking for a quick, cute read.

The New York Times Best-Selling novel *Before I Fall* by Lauren Oliver will be on the big-screen on April 7th, 2017. The novel follows seventeen-year-old Samantha as she is forced to relive the day of her death over and over again until she finds out the reason why she died and what she

could have done differently. The ALA Booklist praises the book saying, "Oliver, in a pitch-perfect teen voice, explores the power we have to affect the people around us in this intensely believable first novel...This is a compelling book with a powerful message and should not be missed". Publishers Weekly says "'Oliver's debut novel is raw, emotional, and, at times, beautiful....readers will love Samantha best as she hurtles toward an end as brave as it is heartbreaking." The movie features actors Zoey Deutch, Halston Sage, and Elena Kampouris.

Also premiering on April 7th is *Wonder*, the story of a boy with a rare facial deformity attending his first year of public school. The movie will feature actors Owen Wilson and Julia Roberts. The novel, written by R.J. Palacio, has received high praise. The novel has won many awards such as the ALA Notable Children's Book award, Amazon Best of the Year in 2012, IRA Teacher's Choice Award, Barnes and Noble Best Book of the Year in 2012, and the Kentucky Bluegrass Award to name just a few.

This is a must read for teens and parents alike. The moving story is a quick, enjoyable read that has a very powerful message.

Pick up these three great books before they become movies in the new year. These are three best-selling novels that are sure to keep you glued to the edge of your seat.

Entertainment:
Holiday Break

By Karen Beiler

Movies are a good way to relax and let your mind wander to a whole different dimension, and just enjoy time with yourself and family.

If you're tired of gift wrapping, singing Christmas carols, and you need a break then let me tell you about some new Christmas movie releases coming out in theatres.

Movie number one that you should watch over Christmas break that I also want to see is *Hidden Figures*. It's about a group of three African American girls who are working at NASA who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race, and galvanized the world. The visionary trio crossed all gender and race lines to inspire generations to dream big according to fox movies .com Another one, *Passengers*, is on a 120-year voyage transporting over 5,000 colonists to Homestead II when a malfunction wakes up a passenger, mechanical engineer Jim Preston, who is Chris Pratt, 90-years early. Lonely, he wakes up beautiful writer Aurora Lane played by Jennifer Lawrence for company. The two grow closer, but soon find themselves battling to stay alive and save the other colonists. Jim finds a way to return one of them to hibernation and offers it to Aurora, but she decides she wants to stay with Jim. When the ship eventually arrives at the new colony, Aurora and Jim are nowhere to be seen, according to

wikipedia.org.

For all sports players or fans, this movie will be sure to thrill and entertain you. It's called *Dangal*. It's about a former champion wrestler, Phogat, whose dream is to win a gold medal for India in wrestling. When he couldn't get the medal, he makes a promises that his son will do what he couldn't do. Although he loves them dearly, Phogat is disappointed when Shobha gives birth to four daughters, as he doesn't believe girls can wrestle well. However, when two of his daughters, Geeta and Babita, come home after beating up two boys, Phogat realizes how wrong he has been and begins to train his daughters in wrestling according to wikipedia.org. You could say that this movie has a pretty good lesson or moral to it.

Make sure you go out and watch these movies, whether it's by yourself or with friends and family.

Slice of Advice

By Emily James

"What should I do if I want to get a gift for someone who doesn't know what they want?" - Anonymous
If you know the person's interests well enough, use your own judgement and buy them something you think they will like. If you aren't sure, then the best thing you can do is buy them the gift of free money: a gift card. You can never go wrong with a gift card; the person can easily go out and buy something they know they will enjoy. Gifts aren't always about the money, though. While it sounds cheesy, sometimes, the best gift is a handmade one.

Need some advice? Send an email to nhsmorningshow@garrettcountryschools.org and our newspaper staff will do our best to provide you with some answers. Remember to keep all questions school appropriate. Student contributors are allowed to remain anonymous, but you must inform the newspaper staff in your email.

Victory: The Best Christmas Present (Continued)

on the 29th for a JV and varsity Christmas tournament against Berlin. JV will begin at 6pm and varsity at 7:45pm. The wrestling team has had one match this past week, an away match at Allegany. The boys secured their win with an amazing 76-6 finish. Almost every team member won with a pin, and Sam Beeman won by points. When asked about the match Tony Walker said "Allegany doesn't deserve a

quote". The next match will be away at Southern on January 4th, beginning at 7pm.

Boys JV basketball won their game against Hancock, finishing with 71-21. Peyton Carr led the scoring with 16 points, followed by Cody Eyer and Carsyn King who both scored 10. On Tuesday the boys played a home game against Allegany, with a 51-37 win. Peyton Carr also led the scoring with 16 points, Cody and Carsyn both scored 10. "We played well because we prepared really well for the game at practice. It was definitely one of the best games we have played over the last 2 years. It was fun to beat Allegany when no other JV team over the years has", says Peyton.

The varsity boys basketball team also played Hancock, winning 62-34. The team lost against Allegany on Tuesday night, with a score of 72-34. "Allegany is a very difficult opponent, the score may not show it but if we could have fixed some mental problems during the game the score would have reflected a little bit different", says Austin Evans. The boys next game will at home on the 28th for the Igloo Christmas tournament that begins at 5pm, which will continue onto the 29th. The first Bocce match was held on Thursday the 22nd, results will be published in the next paper. On Saturday the 7th the team will host a match at home, that will begin at 10am. Come out to support our winter teams!

Editorial

Reese's Christmas Controversy-tree

By Emily James

It's all fun and games until you mess with the Reese's trees. Last year, a sigh of disappointment swept over social media accounts. The reason boiled down to Reese's Peanut Butter Christmas Trees: the special edition treats that are only around during the holiday season. For once, the disappointment did not stem from something as complex as politics, as we saw with Starbucks' holiday cups. Rather, the general consensus on Twitter was that these treats looked nothing like trees! Which, frankly, they aren't wrong in asserting that. If anything, these "trees" look more like eggs.

Upon the release of these peanut butter trees, many individuals began making remarks via social media. Twitter user EmmyEmi tweeted a picture of her opened Reese's treat, with the caption, "Ah, the fabled blob tree, truly the most majestic of foliage", while Ben Johnson tweeted, "If you are unhappy about the shape of your Reese's Peanut Butter Christmas Tree, you can send it to me. I will dispose of it properly!" Needless to say, the reaction to these botched trees has been quite a humorous one.

The Reese's company, however, doesn't play any games. In response to seeing hundreds of Twitter accounts mocking their creation, the Reese's Twitter account posted an image featuring a series of Reese's Christmas Trees, with an overlay text that reads "#All

Trees Are Beautiful", and claiming that "Reese's celebrates trees of all shapes and sizes. It's not what it looks like, it's what it tastes like." You win this round, Reese's company, but your trees still look like eggs.

Strange Happenings What You Don't Know!!!

By Karen Beiler
The Handprint

Francis Leavy was a firefighter from Chicago, when on April 18, at 7:30 the alarm went off to go put out a fire, he was in the middle of cleaning a window and told his captain he would finish it when they got back. There were five squads on call covering that fire, they thought they had it under control from the outside but there were eight men inside trying to put it out that way when one wall collapsed on them. Francis was one of the guys trapped and earlier that day he had a premonition that he would die and he did in the fire along with the other eight. The place on fire was called Curren Hall and the police think it was arson because of the insurance on the building, so the building owners were tried and convicted of the crime. The next day one of the men at the fire station noticed the window that Francis had not finished washing had a handprint in the middle of it. They tried scrubbing it with different chemical cleaners but it wouldn't come off! Was the handprint a ghostly souvenir of the dead fireman? It's said that Leavy's thumbprint was obtained from his personnel records, and compared with the print on the window, they matched perfectly. It's said that the window was
(Continued on Page 5)

Tech Now:***Ok Alexa vs. Hey Google***

By Kristen Kight

In one home we have Alexa, amazon's pride and joy for the past two years. Amazon has also added to Alexa's family with two other devices: the echo dot and the echo tap. Then in the other home we have Google Home the only rival to Alexa. Google Home is said to be more shaped for the average household. With the two devices being extremely similar which company will profit more? Is one of the these voice assistants more intelligent or more useful than the other? Let's find out. First off I want to talk about the price of each device. The Amazon Echo cost on average \$179 and is the "flagship device" with the best possible speakers. Then you have the Amazon Echo Tap which cost \$129 and it is a portable battery powered version of the Echo, but it is not always listening. Which means you would have to hit the button each time you need Alexa. The last related product put out is the Echo Dot at the cost of \$50, but it is dependent on the Amazon Echo for its information. Then you have the Google Home that released in October and on average it cost \$129. It comes in just one size but is considered to be more appealing than the Echos because it has covers you can buy to make it match any room. Next I would like to mention the differences in the features. The first being the differences in music and sound. Google home and the Amazon Echo

both supports a wide range of free and paid music. Although the Amazon Echo does not include you-tube while the Google Home does. "YouTube is the undisputed leader in music, it has a massive collection of online content that Amazon can't beat. Amazon doesn't offer YouTube integration with Alexa, so you simply cannot access those songs." (cio.com) Alexa also seems to have issues with identifying types of music. For example if you ask Alexa to play spanish music she says it cannot be found even though it would be in the library. While if you ask google the same thing it responds immediately. The last thing I would like to mention is the responses and availability. Alexa is able to pair will most app controlled household things. An example being the ability to control the philips Led lights by just a simple verbal command. Google home is not yet able to do that. Through Alexa you can also make orders from your amazon account whenever you think of it. In the kitchen thinking you need a new santa cookie cutter you can just go "Echo put a santa cookie cutter in my cart" and it is there. One thing you can do with Google home, but not Amazon Echo is have an ongoing conversation. Say you're talking about disney. You may ask how many disney parks are there in the word. After it responds you can ask where is the closest one to me and it will be able to comprehend what you are talking about. With Alexa you would have to mention disney parks again. So before you go out buying one of these amazing voice

assistants for your home keep in mind these facts and maybe do some research of your own. You might find that one fits your individual need better than the other.

Strange Happenings

(Continued from Page 4)

broken on April 18, 1944 – 20 years to the day of Francis Leavy's death due to a news paper boy throwing a newspaper at the window and breaking it.

Do you still grow after Death- According to lifescience.com the answer is no. After death the human body dehydrates causing the skin to shrink. This shrinking exposes the parts of the nails and hair that were once under the skin, causing them to appear longer than before, said Dr. Doris Day, a dermatologist in New York City and an attending physician at Lenox Hill Hospital, also in New York. Typically, fingernails grow about 0.1 millimeters (0.004 inches) a day. But in order to grow, they need glucose – a simple sugar that helps to power the body, "Once your body dies, there's no more glucose," Day told Livescience. "So skin cells, hair cells and nail cells no longer turn over and produce new cells."

Looking Back at**History:****New Years**

By Kristen Kight

People have been gathering together to celebrate the coming of the new year for over 4,000 years. Today the celebrations start on December 31 and goes on through the night. Families and friends

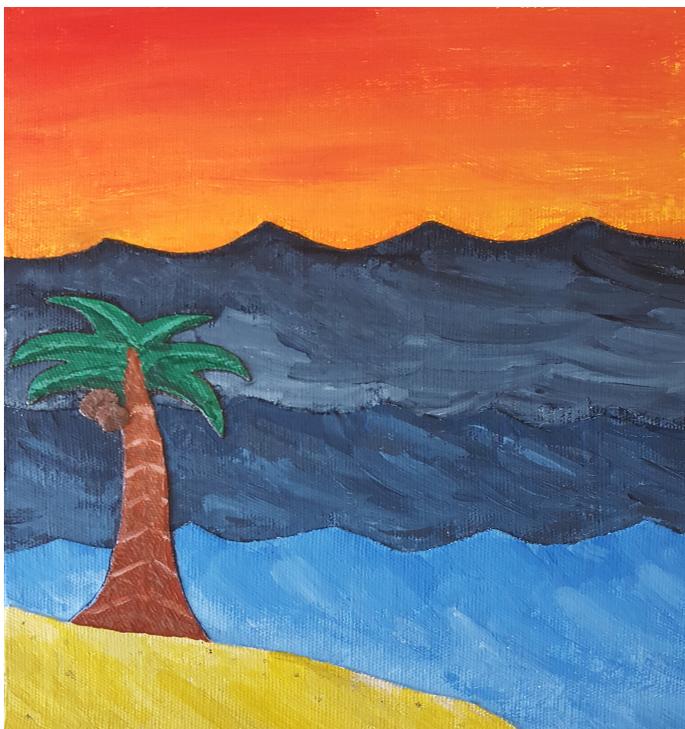
attend parties together. Many people eat special food, make resolutions, and watch the ball drop or the local fireworks. The earliest recorded new year's celebration was in Babylon and it wasn't on January 1. The Babylonians believed that the first new moon following the vernal equinox, a day in late March with an equal amount of sunlight and darkness, was a sign of the start of a new year. They marked the occasion with a massive religious festival called Akitu that involved 11 days of different rituals. One of the traditions was to make a resolution as to how you would help in the upcoming year. Similar to what we do today. "Throughout antiquity, civilizations around the world developed increasingly sophisticated calendars, typically pinning the first day of the year to an agricultural or astronomical event." (History.com) The early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each new year beginning at the vernal equinox. "Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. the emperor Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time."(History.com) A total of 90 days was added to his calendar in order to try to fix the problem. He introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar that many countries around the world use today. The Julian calendar instituted January 1 as the first day of the new year. The month was named after the Roman god of beginnings. Janus has two faces allowing him to look back

Looking Back at History:

(Continued from Page 5)
 into the past and ahead into the future. To celebrate the Romans exchanged gifts with each other, attending parties, and decorating their homes with laurel branches. Today we celebrate by attending parties, dropping random things at midnight (look up Bizarre things to drop on New Years for more information), shooting guns into the sky (to scare away evil spirits that might follow you from last year), and making New Year's resolutions. So no matter how you celebrate have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy (and safe) New Year..

Student Art Spotlight

By Abby Burdock



[Left]
 Artist: Emily Nichols
 Title: Sketchbook Cover
 Medium: Canvas and Acrylic Paint

[Right]
 Artist: Anthony Paul
 Title: Bucking Rodeo
 Medium: Acrylic



[Left]
 Artist: Ian Tice
 Title: Untitled
 Medium: Ink and Colored Pencil

Strange Happenings:

What You Don't Know **By Karen Beiler**

The Handprint - Francis Leavy was a firefighter from Chicago, when on April 18, at 7:30 the alarm went off to go put out a fire, he was in the middle of cleaning a window and told his captain he would finish it when they got back. There were five squads that day were on call covering that fire, they thought they had it under control from the outside but there were eight men inside trying to put it out that way when one wall collapsed on them. Francis was one of the guys trapped and earlier that day he had a premonition that he would die and he did in the fire along with the other eight. The place on fire was called Curren Hall and the police think it was arson because of the insurance on the building, so the building owners were tried and convicted of the crime. The next day one of the men at the fire station noticed the window that Francis had not finished washing had a handprint in the middle of it. They tried scrubbing it with different chemical cleaners but it wouldn't come off! Was the handprint a ghostly souvenir of the dead fireman? It's said that Leavy's thumbprint was obtained from his personnel records, and compared with the print on the window, they matched perfectly. It's said that the window was broken on April 18, 1944 – 20 years to the day of Francis Leavy's death due to a news paper boy throwing a newspaper at the window and breaking it.

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Marijuana -This drug is now used in eight different states like Alaska, California, Colorado, Oregon, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Washington – and the District of Columbia, all for medical purposes. There are 21 states that now allow the possession and use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, according to the National Institute on drug abuse. The marijuana plant isn't used only for smoking; its fibers can also be made into rope or fabric. Perhaps the oddest use of hemp rope on record is as a method for transporting giant stone statues. Marijuana was first born in China by an emperor named Shen Nung, he used it for medical use rheumatism, gout, malaria, and oddly enough, absent-mindedness according to narconon.org. In my opinion I think we should ban all uses of Marijuana inappropriately and just use it for medicine.

Your Northern Bark

News Staff [pictured left] Abby Burdock, Hailey Yommer, Emily James, Karen Beiler, Kristen Kight, Heritage Hamp Staff Editors: (*not pictured*) Ms. Virts & Ms. Roller



Pictured [Above] is the backdrop to Friday night's Band and Chorus concert, including an original painting by senior Cassidy Mark.