TIGER TIMES

Happy Holidays

Operation Christmas Child Pg.12

School Industry Pg.16

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A letter from the editor

Teagan Brand

Dont Let your Dreams be Dreams.

Everyone was born with dreams: whether they sprouted from imagination or influence of the media and movies, they leave an imprint on our lives. What we dream of when we are young is what motivates us to accomplish greatness.

But what is true greatness? I think greatness can be accomplished in many different forms. Much of what we think is great is only what we see in the media ,overlooking what surrounds us everyday. Slowly I feel younger generations are losing grasp of their true potential for greatness, and it's easy to, considering the amount negativity and doubt that gets put into out heads at important stages of our lives. If I had never heard that being a journalist was bad pay ,and therefore a waste of time, I wouldn't have stopped trying to become better. I also would never have learned to experience the issues in the world and all that's inside of it because, I was scared it wasn't the " right job." Being a little girl my age, it would have been easy to dream the usual dream about becoming a vet or a doctor. Instead I focused on what I wanted to really do, which was telling many different stories through the craft of writing, and for helping me realize that, I thank my sister. But this could happen to anyone at any time. As soon as we hear something negative we assume it's the wrong choice for us and we abandon the thought of what we envision throughout our life.

Whether we dream big or small, being an astrophysicist or a dedicated school teacher, we all need someone to push us and encourage our dream - to someday become what we wish to be. In a lifetime, people will always have support and guidance through just about anything from many different faces. Some can come in waves of bad luck, of superstition, or measured by how many people choose to come into our lives and leave. But that should not determine whether you keep going or not. Let these experiences empower you to do your best.

Although you're not always going to do your best, and you may not accomplish what you've dreamt of your whole life, you will be able to learn from what you have done and what you have seen.

One of the most important things to remember when you do unexpectedly take the wrong turn is to never stop trying to keep going.

" Glory lies in the Attempt To Reach One's Goal And Not in reaching it " - Gandhi

Throughout our lives we have been shown what the right or wrong thing to do is, and due to that it has influenced us to think that what is ordinary is what is right . For example, The American Dream. As you grow up you read about the families with the white picket fence and two kids with a dog but as you really look at different families this isn't the case with all. To all people the American dream can be something other than the quintessential thought, instead of going to college after highschool you could travel, or you could study abroad, or even start working if that's really what you want to do. All possibilities are endless. At the end of the day you are the one living in it, not your peers or your parents, you are doing it by yourself so make it what you want, but don't forget that the people who help you through your day help to make you who you are.

So for all who are reading I hope you enjoy all the hard work and dedication put into this newspaper from the Tiger Times staff. Please Enjoy.

Why This Year's College Basketball SeasonWill Be One Of The Greats... No Doubt

By Alex Ailey

After the emotional roller coaster that last season brought us in the world of college hoops, this season is slated to be one of the greats. However, after the treat that last season gave us, the 2016-17 season may have a tough act to follow. Defending champion Villanova lost most of its starting core including Ryan Arcidiacono, and they aren't penciled in to win back to back titles. Other powerhouses that could be on the decline are Oklahoma, who lost lottery pick Buddy Hield, as well as Ryan Spangler, and California, who lost 3rd overall pick Jaylen Brown to the Boston Celtics. These teams could be in for a rude awakening during the nonconference.

One of the biggest question marks coming into the 2016-17 season is who is going to step up to the forefront as a Wooden Award candidate. Early favorites are Duke's Grayson Allen and Iowa State's Monte Morris. However, College Basketball fans know that one star does not make a championship caliber team. Duke, especially, has already learned the hard way that experience is needed to make a run in March, losing to a well-rounded Kansas Jayhawk team that have Frank Mason III and Devonte Graham to run the show, as well as several other upperclassmen leaders. But even teams like Kansas falter during big non-conference season games. The Jayhawks fell to Indiana in Overtime in the Armed Forces Classic. Indiana, who sports only one Senior, spreads the ball nicely, which is why they beat Kansas, but failed to defend their own style of play in an ugly loss to IPFW (Indiana University-Purdue University-Fort Wayne) that is sure to be a big blemish on their resume in March. Indiana will have no problem getting into the tournament, but a loss to a team that most likely will not be dancing could heavily affect their seeding.

When talking about the tournament, which starts in mid-March, one of the biggest things the selection committee looks at is how strong a team's losses are. Let's take last year's Monmouth Hawks. They finished with a record of 27-7 and were MAAC runner ups. They boasted wins over UCLA, USC, Georgetown, and Notre Dame. However, they had to face losses to Canisius, Army, Manhattan, and Iona twice, including a 3 point loss to the Gaels in the MAAC championship game. These "bad" losses counteracted the big wins that Monmouth got, and the Hawks missed out on the tournament. They only made it to the second round of the NIT as a 1 seed before being bounced by George Washington. The loss proved the committee right in the fact that Monmouth was not good enough to be an NCAA Tournament participant. Expect good win/bad loss to play a big role in what has already shown to be a crazy season.

One of the big topics entering the year is this. Who is good, and why? So far, the AP ranking poll has had a tough time answering that question. UConn was ranked #18 to start the season before suffering home losses to Wagner and Northeastern, as well as two Maui Invitational losses to Oklahoma State and Oregon, who has also not lived up to their #4 preseason ranking. The Ducks have losses to Baylor and Georgetown. But these two teams are looking at fairly easy nonconference schedules and not much contention in their respective conferences, the AAC (UConn) and the Pac-12 (Oregon).

Looking at teams around Colorado, the Colorado Buffaloes are off to a roaring start with a tight loss to Notre Dame and a dominant victory over former conference foe Texas. Colorado State is also out to a great start with their only loss coming to a very good Stanford squad on the road. The Buffs and Rams face off on November 30th at the Coors Event Center in Boulder. The Air Force Falcons also come from the Mountain West along with Colorado State, have raced out to a Colorado best 5-0 start, and play against Colorado on December 19th, and Colorado State on January 7th. The final Colorado team is the Northern Colorado Bears. They look to take control of the Big Sky, which has been in their grasp in the past, but they have started out 1-3, losing to Butler on the road, Santa Clara on the road, and #8 Arizona on the road. Sadly for UNC, their nonconference doesn't get much better, and it could be too little too late by the time Big Sky play rolls around.

Some surprise teams this year are already climbing up the rankings. Creighton has climbed to #12, Saint Mary's to #15, and Rhode Island, who is ranked at #23, many consider the Rams to be overhyped, but in a tough battle with Duke, they held their own, even when the result was evident. Some other teams have also surprised many this season, but not in a good way. We already talked about UConn and Oregon, as well as how Indiana may struggle to stop a good passing team. But there are more than just those three that could be busts this season. Michigan State so far is having about as good of a season as their football team, who will not be going to a bowl game, dropping two out of four to start the year. A Jaylen Brown-less California continues to show that their young talent can't handle the spotlight yet, just like they did last year, choking up a first round loss to Hawai'i in the Big Dance.

This College Basketball season has promise to be one of the best we have ever seen. The title could go to anyone at this point. If Duke matures in big games, the Blue Devils will be cutting down the nets in early April. If Indiana can protect big passing offenses, the Hoosiers could be there as well. If the Kansas Jayhawks get things clicking with their well-rounded offense, if Kentucky can execute against other Power-5 schools, if Villanova can prove that last year wasn't just a fluke, if North Carolina can use their big men down low. Any team could take it home. No game is a given this year. And if all of those teams start playing their best basketball, we could be in for a hell of a ride.

Alex's Top 25

1. Villanova
2. UCLA
3. Duke
4. Kansas
5. Baylor
6. Kentucky
7. Indiana
8. North Carolina
9. Gonzaga
10. Louisville
11. Xavier
12. Virginia
13. West Virginia
14. Creighton
15. Butler
16. Saint Mary's
17. Wisconsin
18. Arizona
19. Florida
20. Purdue
21. Notre Dame
22. Oregon
23. Iowa State
24. Cincinnati
25. Syracuse

5 Tips to Help Finals Not Seem So Awful

By Kailey Pickering

Finals can be one of the most stressful parts of high school, especially when they seem to come up too fast. They are right around the corner, starting December 14th, but it is never too early to start studying! However, that can be another challenge, with so much content, how do you even begin? Here are some helpful tips to prepare for finals.

First of all, everyone learns differently, there are three types of learners; auditory, visual and kinesthetic. Auditory learners tend to grasp information better in class when hearing the teacher talk, these learners tend to remember content easier, if you are an auditory learner you can go over and reread class notes. Visual learners learn from pictures and drawings, to prepare, visual learners could draw diagrams or symbols to help them remember different things. Kinesthetic learners tend to act things out or draw charts and diagrams to absorb information. It is helpful to know what kind of learner you are so you can study properly. Most people are a mix of learners, these tips will benefit many of you either way.

1)Colors

Colored utensils, whether pens, highlighters, or markers, are very beneficial. Taking notes in colored pen can help you focus and comprehend what you are learning. When reviewing your notes, going back and highlighting the important parts will help you remember those specific pieces of information. Color coding is also a helpful factor, associating colors with a certain group or characteristic in your notes will help the content stick. These are only a few techniques, colors are a great tool to use for studying and there are an unlimited amount of ways you can use them.

2)Writing

While this may sound boring, rewriting information is a great way to memorize a subject. According to research, writing a piece of information one time is equivalent to reading the same piece of information seven times! Why does this work so well? It's all about psychology. Let's start with the facts; your brain is divided into a bunch of different sections that control different things like emotional, visual, and auditory sections. When you write notes down your brain creates a connection between the verbal information you are receiving (that would be the auditory division of your brain) and the spatial relationships you create as you write. Not only are you making this connection but the act of actually taking notes puts your brain in a more focused zone and you're already prepared to take in information. There's one more factor that comes into play in this memorization process. Studies show that when you write something down you are visualizing the process. It's like reading a book, after a few paragraphs, the words disappear and you become part of the story. The same thing happens when you write, you become part of what you are writing down. Writing is a great way to memorize information, whether it's simply writing notes or just rewriting information to get it in your head.

Photo by Erica Pickering

3)Breaks

Another important thing to remember when studying is to take breaks. When you're studying hard you need to take small breaks in between. You could balance this easily and in many different ways. You could study for an hour and then take a fifteen to twenty minute break and eat a snack or watch a couple YouTube videos, maybe even take a nap, whatever relaxes you and takes your mind off of studying for a while. Why is this so important? When you're studying hard you get mentally and physically tired, your eyes start to hurt from reading, you can get frustrated with your work. After a while you really don't absorb the information you need to when you're this exhausted. By taking these breaks, you let your brain rest and relax. At the end of your break your brain is more prepared to get back to studying. Having this balance extremely benefits your studying.

4)Study Groups

Another great way to study is by studying with other people. Get together with some friends and ask each other questions, exchange ideas and tips, or quiz each other on the information. By studying in groups the environment is lighter and not as stressful. When you're with people you like you tend to enjoy yourself more and studying is easier. The atmosphere is not as serious and tight, which can be great for studying! One thing to remember when studying in groups is to study with people who will actually help your studying. It's fun to hang out with friends and mess around but when it comes to studying you should study with people who you are comfortable with but can also be productive with. Study groups are another great way to study in a less tense space.

5)Don't Procrastinate!!!!!

Whatever you do, DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! Procrastination is one of your worst enemies when it comes to studying. You tell yourself, I'll do it after practice, I'll do it after this episode, I'll do it tomorrow and you end up never doing it and before you know it, it's the night before the exams and you're cramming. Which is another thing you want to avoid, something procrastinating will lead to. If you're cramming you're really not taking in the information. What you should do is start studying a week or two before finals. You don't have to study for six hours every day but make sure you're taking time for maybe an hour or two to study. Then, the weekend before finals take a day and go over everything you need to for a couple hours. This way you won't be stressed with taking in a bunch of information all at once and you'll feel a lot more confident in your material. So instead of watching your favorite show, or reading your new book, or playing the best video game, take an hour out of your day and study, just don't do it all the night before.

These are five great tips to study for finals and can be used in a variety of ways. If you use these tips finals will be a breeze and over before you know it!

THE FUTURE IS NOW

How self-driving cars are ready to take the auto and transportation industry by storm.

By Chris Nguyen

Imagine a world where you can work on your laptop, play console games, or do any task while "driving" your car. The students who drive to Erie High School every day might not have to drive at all in the future, thanks to the technology known as self driving cars.

Self Driving Cars, or SDC as Google likes to call them, the company responsible for the making of software that powers the car. "The advantages of self-driving cars are so enormous I can't imagine the efforts put into self-driving cars will stop," says Peter Myers, a part time Uber driver who resides in Colorado. Google first pioneered the market for SDCs in the early years of 2000, and continues to be a recognized group in revolutionizing self driving cars' functions and changing how we move around. Since then, numerous amounts of research companies and organizations have been developing autonomous cars, working with big name corporations like General Motors, Ford, Toyota, and more to bring the dream to life.

Despite all of this, self driving cars still have to undergo a lot of tests before they are deemed safe for the whole public to use. There are a lot of factors that need to be addressed, like rain and snow, and certain types of obstacles. The SDC uses lasers, cameras, and sensors to get an understanding of the environment around it, and it is dangerous for everyone if the equipment were to be hampered by some cause, like weather. Hacking, software reliability, and software malfunction are some of many dangers that can happen from self driving cars. But with cons there are pros that come with anything. Reduction in traffic collisions, labor costs, and tragic accidents are all benefits of having self driving cars become the trend in the future.

There is one noticeable thing that will disappear if they become the main mode of transportation, and that is the loss of taxi driver cars, but Myers told us that he's not actually "concerned with [his] job being taken", and further says that "these things combined [autonomous cars working with computers] will massively decrease accidents and traffic." The pros greatly outweigh the cons, and there are always other jobs that former taxi drivers can pursue.

No system is without its kinks, and Peter says there are "things that a human driver can perceive that a computer cannot", like the best decisions to make on the road, like choosing to hit a tree rather than some unaware passerby crossing the road. The computer will tell the car to save the driver at all costs, but there are certain cases where it is best to sacrifice one's self over taking the life of someone else. Ending his statement, Myers concludes and acknowledges that "it will take some work before the cars are entirely autonomous", and definitely it will not be next year that self driving cars will be ready for the public to put to use.

The release date is to be estimated around 2020. Fixes and adjustments can be made by then, solving any issues that may arise with the SDC by then. They can be safely depended on for future use, as they will bring down the fatality rate of car accidents to almost zero because of the advanced software and equipment that the technology uses, and whether one likes it or not, sooner or later self driving cars will take over and trump the current types of cars that we have. Those are the ones we have to drive ourselves, where arguably, they are not very safe when not handled correctly and expose a huge risk to other drivers on the road.

The good, the bad, and the I-pad

I-pads in Erie have been praised and condemed. But one thing is for sure, everyone now has their hands on one.

Thomas Abrew

Whether it's faces being lit up from the light of the screens, or the ringing of the lost device notification in the halls, the new I pads have certainly changed the classroom dynamics at Erie High School.

Most of the use of I pads in classrooms so far has been for typing documents, as well as Internet access for websites that get the class more involved in activities to help learning. Of course there are recreational uses for games and the like, but, the main focus is to make learning easier, and more accessible to students.

While there are benefits to it there are also some problems that come along with it. Some say it's very expensive, and teachers have to keep a closer eye on the students to make sure they're doing their work. Some concerned parents have pointed out even more problems, I pads are a distraction and don't improve learning. A parent that wished to remain anonymous said, " I don't really think it adds all that much, sure it takes the load off of the back from less textbooks but, other than that not much else. "

Beyond all of the perceived issues of normal ipad use is a battle between students and admin over the use of VPN. VPN or virtual private network allows the owner of a device to " tunnel " into a managed network and use the resources available in that network, setting up a VPN under the St. Vrain Valley School District domain gives the user full access to resources in the SVVSD domain giving students who used them This prompted Erie High School to take action, signs were put up around the school prompting students to remove VPNs or else their ipads would be blocked from use.

Many though, disagree and say that the amount of time and money that went into bringing I pads to Erie High school was well spent. People also say that tablets fit students' lifestyles better, and more collaborative assignments between students and teachers are possible, along with many other positives, that very clearly outweigh the negatives. Writing and reading no longer require as much paper, students can easily access Internet and resources. Finally students who didn't have access to the Internet before, can now finally have those benefits along with the benefits of I pads. While many teachers and students agree that the I pads are more convenient, most can't ignore the very big problems that come with it.

Should Our Lunch Be Longer?

Kailey Pickering

After a morning of tests and classes that can seem unbearable and stressful, the thirty minutes of lunch each day is complete bliss for many students. Even so, can thirty minutes make up for the burden laid on students inside the cage of classrooms, or is it a perfectly timed, relaxing break from the day?

There are many students who think that this time period is way too short and should be lengthened.

Freshman Grayson Wolff thinks our lunch "could be a little longer."

Wolff explains that he needs "a little more cool down time between the second and third block."

Lunch is the one time of the day where kids like Wolff and many others get away from classes and socialize.

Socializing is also an important part of students lives, with so much going on between being pounded with homework and taking part in extracurricular activities, it's important for kids to socialize and have a good balance so that they are not feeling as if they're drowning at the end of the day. According to the washington edu essay Lunch Time at School How Much Time is Enough? The amount of time students have to eat reflect in their academic performance as well. The more time they get, the better their grades.

However, people like sophomore Katie Hix are okay with the length of our lunch:

"I think that the length of the lunch period is fairly good." Hix thinks that the time we have is better than barely having any time.

There are many students who would agree with Hix, they are used to how much time we have for lunch and are okay with that time.

While these opinions differ, both sides do not feel very strongly that the lunch needs to be longer in order to make our school better. And that is how most of the students feel about this subject. Nobody would complain about a longer lunch or the positive effects it has on students, but as of now, no one is complaining about the amount of time we currently have.

New Teachers

Kailey Pickeing and JT Turner

As the number of Erie High School students continues to grow each year, so does the number of staff. There are many new teachers this year who are new to either the Erie community or the high school itself. With such big class sizes, the new teachers really get to know many different kids.

"I definitely feel at home," Jennifer Bradfield, the new AP US Government and Politics teacher explains

After teaching at four different schools in the past fifteen years, Bradfield describes Erie as being "significantly different, in a good way."

"the kids being involved in everything" is what Mrs.Bradfield loves the most.

And with such a school participations this makes Jennifer Bradfield love it here even more.

That's not the only teacher at Erie. Kelly Shipley the new Biology and Chemistry teacher here who is very enthusiastic about the new teaching environment.

"I Love Erie" Shipley says.

She loved the transition from Altona Middle School to Erie she said it was

" Awesome, The school is very welcoming" Shipley proudly stated.

Even if you don't have them in class, be sure to give a friendly hello and smile to these two new wonderful teachers and give them a warm welcome to continue the year.

The Mentality

BY: ALEX HAMM & ABIGAIL OLSON

OCD, Depression, Social Anxiety. These are just some of the issues one of every four high schoolers go through. These issues arise from a variety underlying factors in the mental health of high schoolers including substance abuse, and abusive life situations. Here at Erie High School, we are no strangers to the trending statistics around the nation. The amount of students that have been going through these issues has been hard to keep track of, with data spikes arising sharply during some years and less so during others. But one thing can be for sure; our awareness of what mental health is and how it affects kids at Erie has become stronger as a spotlight continues to be shined on the issue.

"I don't think that we're a 'high-need' school, some other schools in the district deal with more issues on the topic, but we definitely have our share of things. At times it seems we have a lot going on, and at other times we don't have as much going on…. It's definitely an ongoing issue, and we do the best we can to provide services to the kids and hopefully help them stay in school and have good experiences." Said Mr. Schroeder, one of Erie High School's counselors for the past 17 years.

But, within this trend, it seems that a prevalent factor may be responsible for it. A lack of treatment for mental illnesses. Nearly 63 % (62.6%) of Colorado's youth do not receive treatment.

"A lot of it has not been treated or not been recognized by a doctor because parents don't want to, or don't have the money for it…. There's a huge stigma, some parents that I know, are really prideful of their kid." Said a senior named David Portilla.

Parental pride, by itself, is not a stigma. But, many parents take the natural parental bias too far. Overlooking flaws, vices, or issues that they shouldn't ignore, and not reporting issues, such as mental illness, in fear of ruining the reputation of their child, as well as maybe themselves.

This lack of reporting by parental figures is an issue, with those in need of treatment, not getting the treatment they need, leading to suicidal thoughts among these students.

Frederick has gone through 4 suicides in the past 2 years. And the risk of it happening it in other schools is ever present.

" We've been fortunate enough to not had any suicides here, but some of the others schools in the district, have. And they have recently, and it's scary…." Mr. Schroeder commented.

People dealing with these issues, sadly at times go unnoticed, leading many to go through thoughts of hopelessness about their situation. This hopelessness, results from depression and anxiety, as well as a mentality some have, that they can't share their problems or feelings with others. "Like in how all of us have been raised, it's just harder for us to share how we feel and feel comfortable with talking to others about how we feel… " said Abby Gartrell, an Erie Junior, who was put in a mental institute for 8 days during a stressful time in her life.

With people having trouble sharing their feelings and problems with others, many develop feelings of hopelessness. A problem, we as a community, can learn to solve.

"I feel like I need to step back and look at the whole system and be able to service more than one kid at one time." Said Mrs. Mayo-Cody.

We need to be able, as peers and schoolmates, to help each other through each other's problems. As there is only 4 counselors in Erie High to help over 1000 kids. Another thing that could help is learning to build a relationship with parental figures.

"The number one thing kids come in for, is parents." Mayo-Cody said.

Kids and parents learning to work together and communicate effectively, will help greatly with issues that high schoolers will go through.

But, with the understandably shaky trend in the mental health of the students, we have been going through a decline on these issues

"Mostly everyone that I know and have personal experience with, I think they are relatively stable or, you know, if they aren't, they are definitely keeping it to themselves." Said Gartrell.

With these facts in mind, we as Erie Tigers, can feel a sense of hope about our future state of mental health. Luckily Erie is not one of the 'at-risk' schools,and has a relatively good community that focuses on bringing awareness to these issues. But, a question remains for us to answer, and it's not an easy one.

What will you be adding to the Erie Mentality?

This article was written before the events at Breton High School. Our condolences to the community and families of Breton.

If you are dealing with suicidal thoughts, please call this hotline:
Call 1-800-273-8255

Benefits of video games

By Thomas Abrew

Many people agree on one thing, video games are amazing but, there is a very vocal group of people that have a big problem with them, that is that they believe they're nothing but bad. At face value a news article of this topic seems useless, according to raisesmartkid.com there are many different accounts of video games providing health benefits along the lines of cat-like reflexes, self awareness, as well as mood improvement. Though, this article isn't as useless as it seems, there are many more great things about these games and they aren't very well known.

This sort of article may turn away most people nowadays, it may be due to the media and the general consensus, meaning that when most people think of video games, the common picture pops into their head, focusing on the player with a bright light being shined on them with their mouth gaping open staring at the light with a controller in their hands, and one only needs to either look at the graphics in this article or just do a simple search on google images. While not being far off, with this picture comes a common thought, "What good can ever come from something like this?" which brings us back to our topic and the title of this article. There are many proven improvements in, strategy, and anticipation, situational awareness and pattern recognition. Most of the negative effects

though, only stem from violence in the games or from health problems such as obesity, or addiction.

Many people used to believe that video games could "rot your brain" or ruin your eyes, most people recently according to Debate.com on the topic of wheather video games are good for your brain or not, the majority ruled in favor of video games, the health benefits include helping improve problem solving skills and many other positives. This is just one part of the positives though, aside from health benefits video games help with morals and meaning that depending on the games that they play, people can learn many things about life, law, the value of lives, and much more than that!

"What good could ever come from this?"

Although there are many health benefits there is an even bigger reason that many people play video games. This is that they can create new ideas and have scenarios that could have never been thought of up until that point. They create a world where we can imagine ourselves as something or someone else in a place that could up until recently could only be found in movies and books. There are games that focus on almost anything nowadays, you can have things like bread finding a way to toast itself, live out your life in a quiet town with friendly neighbors, or even making a dangerous alien species go extinct. There is enough variety to have almost any situation. Video games are both very important and essential for helping people imagine better and bigger ideas. Meaning that video games can help people become more creative and open to new ideas. These reasons prove that video games have many benefits to playing them, and that many people have misconceptions about them, recently especially, with the internet playing a big role in all of this serving as the single greatest source of information for almost anything and not just exclusively gaming.

Fun & Flurries

Abbey Olson

Any resident of Erie would agree the community aspect is very important, especially as the seasons are changing. So what does the town of Erie have on its agenda this winter? First up is Erie's Country Christmas and Parade of Lights on Friday, December 2nd.Erie's second main winter event is located a stone's throw away in Westminster.The Orchard Mall is hosting horse carriage rides from November 25th to December 24th. Erie's very own Christmas Homestead at the Wise Homestead Museum on December 10th from 10am to 4pm will be a highlight of this winter season as it takes us back to the very beginning. Located in Denver is the much anticipated Denver Zoo Lights, this will be anual 26th celebration of lights, animals, and those you wish to tag along with . All of these are an opportunity to get involved in the local community! So if this is your first winter in Erie or your 15th, keep reading to see the tip of the Erie iceberg.

The Country Christmas and Parade of Lights will fill this town with laughter and cheer, as it always does. The event is on Friday, December 2nd from 5pm to 8pm. This event will take place in Historic Downtown Erie, but don't forget to pile the family into the car; there will be a Santa's workshop, along with complimentary s'mores.

If small children and sugar don't appeal to you come for the local school choirs and living nativity scenes, and don't forget those lights! This is Erie's biggest event of the season and if you are patriotic about your home then this is a must. It will be filled with friendly faces and cheer. Small town, even bigger celebrations.

Just a stone's throw away in Westminster at the Orchard Mall, not only are they offering fun experiences, but they are a holiday gift to our community and surrounding ones! They offer horse drawn carriage rides from November 25 through December 24, these rides are not every day so it is important to view the schedule on the website. This is a fun way to bring a community together, pulling from nearby areas allows for the Erie community to branch out. When looking at the holiday and winter season it is important to remember that there is easy affordable ways to get involved, this is a great example of that.

throughout the winter which can be found on their website. With winter comes the holidays, and if you celebrate them there are many events the will bring the holiday spirit to you and warm your heart. If the holidays are just not your thing, there are events that are just designed to get you out and about in your community. There is no reason this cannot be a fabulous winter, so giddy up to this relaxing and cozy event!

Erie's Historical Society has put on a Christmas homestead event every holiday season for the last five years. This is a great thing for those looking to really appreciate their home and those who built this community. Nancy Gruber the Vice President for Erie Historical Society says "This is a glimpse into the life of early settlers of Erie, Colorado and what they endured and worked for to build this community. It also help builds awareness and education to Erie, Colorado's beginning as a town/community." These settlers did not just work hard around the winter, however it takes place in December because the society wishes to capture the original simplicity of Christmas. Nancy also explains it perfectly; **" We wish to invite people out to see what Christmas was like for the original settlers of Erie when Christmas was much simpler. When getting an orange as your only Christmas gift was a big deal or a homemade toy or a new pair of mittens your mother or Aunt knitted for you...** It also gives the Erie Historical Society an opportunity to showcase the Wise Homestead Farmhouse/Museum."

Denver zoo lights are shining bright and calling you to enjoy a fun filled evening with beautiful animals. The zoo will be holding this from December 2nd through January 1st. The fun begins when the gates open at 5:30pm revealing Santa meet-and-greets, animal encounters, and especially illuminating lights.

This is an event that is great for all ages and allows the animals to be enjoyed through the holiday spirit. Shaun Anderson says, **"It is a great tradition, gives nearby communities something to look forward to every winter."** This will be the 26th year the Denver Zoo has put of the show of lights, that is over two decades of a traditions! Shaun also says the biggest change to this year's event they will be show casing the new traveling exhibit: "Washed Ashore:Art to Save the Sea," this features a handful of giant sculptures of marine life that have been made almost entirely from trash collected on beaches. However this exhibit will be over by January 16 2017 so hurry over to see the exhibit in it extra special glory of lights. Sean also gives a sneak peak to the event itself, "The lights will be spectacular just as we try to make them every year. Our zoo is spread throughout 80 acres, 60 of those are thoroughly covered with festive intricate lights. There will be 150 lit up animal sculptures. Visitors should also keep an eye out for the Gnome of the Roam, this will be a lighted Gnome that will be changing positions and locations each night around the park." So scurry down to the Denver Zoo, as January 1st is approaching fast and prices will go up on peak nights. Could this be a new tradition for you and your family?

Erie is no stranger to the cold weather and how to enjoy the festivities, these organizations hope to see you out make the best of the remaining 2016 year. And as mentioned before this is just the tip of the Erie iceberg!
https://i1.wp.com/www.neilkearney.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/DSC07320.jpg

Holiday Recipes

By: Jazmond Archuleta

Pineapple Glazed Ham Recipe

Ham is delicious by itself all alone, but glazed ham adds a whole new flavor. Pineapple glazed ham has a sweet and elegant taste. The best part of all is it does not require much work.

Ingredients:
1 spiral sliced ham (can be trimmed of fat or not)
1 (20 oz.) can pineapple slices, juices reserved
¾ cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon mustard
½ tablespoon flour
Maraschino cherries

Directions:
Preheat oven to 350°f and place its side in the roasting dish.
Pour ¼ cup pineapple juice over ham and bake 20-25 minutes per pound. 30 minutes before it is finished cooking remove it from the oven.
In a decent sized bowl, combine the brown sugar, mustard and flour and mix them together.
After you want to add just enough pineapple juice to make a thick glaze.
Pour the glaze mixture all over the ham, then place the pineapple slices, with the cherries on the top of the ham, surround and coating its outside, then you want to secure the toppings with toothpicks.
Now you will return the ham back to the over for another 30 minutes.
Remove from the oven and enjoy.

Microwaved Chocolate and Mint Swirled Fudge

This recipe is incredibly easy and can be done quickly and taste delicious and will leave your mouth watering. This is definitely a dessert your family will enjoy and will satisfy your late night cravings.

Ingredients:
1 bag milk chocolate chips (2 cups)
1 can sweetened condensed milk, separated into 2 parts
12 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup white chocolate chips
½ - 1 teaspoon of peppermint extract
4 drops of food coloring (optional)

Directions:
Line an 8 x 8 baking pan with parchment paper and set it aside.
Then combine the bag of milk chocolate chips with the vanilla and ½ of the can of sweetened condensed milk in a large microwaveable bowl. Microwave for 15 seconds, stir for 30 seconds, and then microwave for another 15-20 seconds. Stir for about 30-45 seconds or until chocolate is melted. If it is not melted return to the microwave for another 20 seconds.
In another microwavable bowl, combine 1 cup of white chocolate chips with the remaining sweetened condensed milk, peppermint extract, and green food coloring.
Microwave for 15-20 seconds, stir for 30 seconds, and then microwave for another 15-20 seconds. Stir for about 30-45 seconds or until the chocolate is melted. Of it isn't melted all of the way, return it to the microwave for 20 more seconds.
Intro the prepared pan, alternate spoonfuls of the mint white chocolate with the milk chocolate until both bowls of melted chocolates are all in the pan.
Gently run a butter knife through the fudge to create swirls. I run the knife up 4-5 times one side and then 4-5 times on the other side.
Place the fudge in the fridge and let harden, typically about 4 hours. Pull out the fudge using the parchment overhang.
Cut into pieces and enjoy!
Store in an airtight container and it will take 2-3 days to be finished.

CHRISTMAS Gift Ideas

Skye Ramsey

Parents/adults

•Wine pearls
•Row boat serving bowl with wood serving utensils
•Cold brew coffee maker
•Stovetop potpourri recipe
•Fill an ornament with candy
•Bath bombs
•decorated flower pot

Kids

•Color the earth kit
•Eco finger paint
•Troll dolls
•Nerf guns
•Belly bump ball
•Walkie talkies
•Unicorn bag purse handbag
Teens

TEENS

•Bluetooth droplet speaker
•Walnut and steel magnetic jewelry organizer
•iPad foosball
•Sugar scrub
•Mermaid blanket
•Cozy treat filled slippers (nail polish, candy canes, candy,lotion,perfume)
•Mugs

Teachers/ staff

•Gift cards to Starbucks
•School supplies(pencils, pens, sticky notes, dry erase markers)
•Cool pens
•Outdoors stuff/ gear(jackets, shoes)
•Coffee, tea, snacks
•Pet toys(squeakers, treats, balls)
•Sports stuff(Broncos, Rockies, Avalanche gear)
•Thank you card

Homeless

•a bag with gloves, money, a water bottle, gum, bars, a toothbrush/toothpaste, and a brush
•Knitted hats
•Gift cards(target,Wal-Mart, thrift stores)
•Blankets
•Pillows
•Fuzzy socks
•Big jackets

Erie:Do Gooders Are on The Loose

Small Groups Give Holiday Hope

By Clare O'Brien

With the the holidays coming and going, Charity in the small Colorado town of Erie is at an all time high. Groups such as Teens With Wings, Erie Uplink, and Erie Angels are doing everything they can to make the holidays special for everyone including the kids with families who may not be able to afford presents, hats and gloves, or even food.

Erie Uplink has been busy at work collecting non perishable food items such as canned green beans, corn, and mac and cheese. The group has also been collecting hats, gloves, scarves and even winter coats to give to kids who may not be able to get those things without a little bit of help. The group consists of volunteers from the community, including students from N.H.S, Stugo, and teachers.

" Helping Erie Up Link was a great opportunity to see what they do for the community and all of the hard work that goes into it, they always need help but i think it is a great thing that they are doing"says Cody Langton an Erie High School alumni.

Erie Uplink isn't the only group making a difference this holiday season, Carrie Mitchell's Teens With Wings (T.W.W.) are doing what they can within erie high school to give back to those in need.

The school also has a group called Erie angels consisting of both teachers and Students, the group is dedicated to making its students and staff know that each one of them is important and frequently gives notes, candy and even baked goods.

They consistently give little "pick me up's" to kids in our school struggling with injuries or just kids who may need something to brighten up their day.

The small town of Erie has a lot of Charity opportunities if you or someone you know would like to volunteer your time this holiday season, any of the groups above would love your help,as well as charity groups in Boulder, Denver and our close neighbors Frederick, Firestone, and Dacono.

Today is as good as any to get up, go out and do something for someone else! Offer to helpn ypur neighbor put up their lights outside of their house, shovel the older womens steps and sidewalk for her, get outside of your comfortzone.

Help preform a small act of kindness this season. As a community let's make it our goal to get in the holiday spirit and help someone out who may need it this season.

Scan this awesome QR Code to visit the Erie Up-Link website to find out how you can get involved!

In the Clubs

How Erie students have been making extracurricular inroads by participating in clubs

Nicole Davis

At Erie High School there are many clubs where people can express their love for certain activities and still be apart of the school community. After taking a good look at the clubs people are amazed on how organized and active they are. Erie high school would like to offer anyone looking for fun clubs to join in on theirs.

Within the walls of Erie high School are a vast array of options for students looking to plug in somewhere. From Chess Club to NHS to Link Crew to Drama, there is no shortage of options for students at Erie. " The clubs allow you to meet more people, get involved in your school. Really become a stakeholder in your school." Said Anna Williams the leader of link crew.

Among Erie's many clubs is Link Crew, a student group dedicated to helping out the new upcoming freshman. A little over half of the summer the link crew emails the new incoming freshman, they tell them about some activities that they can go to before the school year starts to get to know each other and give them a feel of the school. Once the School year has begun link crew will always be there for them, if it's just talking or if they actually need help finding something. The freshman and link crew meet up all throughout the school year. " It takes a lot of student dedication to finally become a link crew leader." Said Williams

The link Crew isn't the only club in Erie allows students to connect with each other, Drama club with Scott Wright is aimed at students who want to interact with each other. " Drama club is all about learning how to problem solve and work together in groups." Says Wright the man who runs it all.

" I feel like it's a good opportunity for kids to get to know each other, and gets them out of their usual friend group." Said Erie Sophomor Jazmond Archuleta

The focus of clubs had always been to help each other out with the mind. Either it is mind games or physical games, it all relates to the same thing getting to know each other. "Link crew is a help to the upper classmen because it gives them the chance to be with the younger freshman and find out what they have learned. Then they can take their ideas and use them."

Below is inofrmation on clubs at EHS

Art club meets after school Wednesday or thursday 2:30-3:30 pm with Mrs.Roberts.

Link crew(:for upperclassmen:) They meet the first day of school with the freshman.

National Honor Society

Tigers Who Code Club, a group for girls who want to participate in the opportunity to learn more about technology and computer science. Meets?

The Odyssey of The Mind https://sites.google.com/site/ehsbethlee/odyssey-of-the-mind/what-is-it You learn about how to use creative thinking, and how to solve problems with other poeple. I http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/p/

Drama Club. http://ehs.svvsd.org/updates/auditions-winter-theatre-production-christmas-carol

Tigers who Code: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mccpLexgEl-NZNXJ5tzKkm9wrdSxtuMX-ZYetu8PYQrI/edit and https://girlswhocode.com/ have great information about the schoolf girls who code and then world wide girls Who Code. They meet quite often and are always doing things for others around them.

For more information on Club at EHS visit http://ehs.svvsd.org/activities/clubs

Operation Christmas Child

Ali Hollis

NHS is unwrapping a new project called Operation Christmas Child the last two weeks of first semester!

Operation Christmas Child is an organization where families around the United States come together and donate boxes of toys, food, and knick knacks to children who don't normally get Christmas like every other family.

National Honors Society members are very excited to start this new tradition, and their goal is to have 25 boxes donated for their first year.

National Honors Society is all about high school students wanting to do more for their community, as well as surrounding communities, and even places we don't know.

At Erie High School, there are around 65 members in National Honor Society.

In order to partake in National Honor Society, students must obtain a 3.75 GPA and be willing to do activities outside of school to help the community.

National Honors Society has been in the Erie Community since the high school was founded in 2005.

Being in National Honors Society has many perks, one being bigger scholarship opportunities.
Colleges like to see that high school students are willing to put in the work to help their community 100% voluntarily.

Another perk of being an NHS member would be applying to jobs. It is important to employers that employees are willing to work hard to perform well at an advanced job, or even an internship.

"NHS chose this project because they felt like it was really important to give back to something that was bigger than just our community." said Julie Mitchell, NHS Instructor.

Bigger than just the Erie Community, this event is global, so that children in third world countries can have a Christmas at their home, even if they don't have a family to celebrate with, or even presents, now they do.

Operation Christmas Child is a donation set up by The Samaritan's Purse, a company that holds several christian family fundraisers.

All of their fundraisers have been successful, and last year the company sent out over 11.2 million shoe boxes!

While NHS at Erie won't have that many donations, members hope to keep that spirit in people's minds, and hope that will inspire teenagers in high school around the world that they can make a difference.

"What I love about the holiday season, whether you celebrate Christmas or Hannukah or anything, is that there is a chance to be bigger than yourself, and have the ability to pay something good forward." said Mitchell.

Many members say that this fundraiser is similar to the Wounded Warrior Project, where students filled boxes for soldiers, but nothing will ever feel better than this since they know one more child out there who is getting gifts on Christmas morning.

NHS makes donating the easiest thing! The average spent on one shoebox is $7. Boxes can be filled with anything from toiletries, to nutcrackers, to christmas ornaments.

Donors choose from boy or girl, age 4-7, 8-10, or 11-14, and then the shoe boxes just get filled from there!

Kids throughout the world give thanks, and come closer to the bible just with one small shoebox. This is a great feeling for community churches as well.

The Erie Community also pitches in and helps with this operation. Donations can be dropped off at the rec center, churches, or mailed directly from your house.

"The idea behind Operation Christmas Child is to give to children in need so that they can experience the joys of the holidays" said National Honors Society member, Kylie Hartkopp.

Around 3 billion people world wide live in poverty, and have about $2.50 to spend each day. At least 80% of humanity lives on $10 a day.

The Operation Christmas Child Project is just one way of The Good Samaritan helping people globally. "...so they can know that someone somewhere out there is thinking of them and cares about their health and happiness." says Hartkopp.

The mission of The Good Samaritan Society is to extend Christian Hospitality through a continuum of care to those in need or at risk, regardless of race or religious belief.

Their main values include healthy relationships, hospitable environments, and servant leadership. The servant leadership doesn't necessarily mean lead through Christian beliefs, but just leading by being a good person and having a good heart with good intentions.

As a charity, The Good Samaritan Society raises funds to provide loving care and quality service to honour the diverse population they serve. Donations to their charity allow them to enhance the programs and services they offer to more than 6000 people every day.

"It impacts my life in that, feel good opportunity" said Mitchell.

Along with Mitchell, members Kylie and Mikaela Von Keyserling agree that operation Christmas Child leaves students with a good feeling, and that sometimes it is better to give than receive.

Knowing that children all around the world will be feeling loved on Christmas by people they don't even know could be the best feeling in the world.

National Honors Society plans to continue this tradition after this year, saying that it makes them feel good, and is by far one of the best projects they do for others in the Erie Community, and in this case, even bigger than that.

Julie Mitchell, NHS Director
Photo by: Ali Hollis

Improv Night

Alex Hamm

That night on December 8th, laughter filled the air of the cafeteria as actors act out the movie, Forrest Gump, with Jackson Kumar acting as Forrest, and in end, having out act out the entirety of the scenes by himself.

This was one of the many scenes given to the Drama Department by the audience, which had been received from a raised hand in the audience. An audience member was met with two slips of paper, one a smaller one to give recomendations for scenes of other 'games', another larger paper on the table for a contest of matching the code name with the actor/actress. With all the different recommendations given by the audience, a huge variety was created with this, the scenes ranging from a caterpillar, who feels like they're on fire, all the way to Will Ferrell in the Erie Drama room.

But not only this, an audience member is met with food free for anyone and everyone to eat. At the end, the Drama Department encouraged the audience to take home the food which they want, one which some partook in.

The absurd scenes concocted from the audience's participation created hilarious results for them to see, an enjoyable experience for all that saw it. Though. there were times when a joke was overplayed or dragged out, leaving the audience less likely to laugh. Although, the experience was pleasant and amusing experience, despite these far and few moments. Which could have been caused by it being improv or by certain actors overusing the joke.

The Drama Department not only took movie recomendations by hand of the audience, game-like events changed up what the audience saw with 'games'. Like, "Red-Light, Green-Light", where all the actors and actresses were brought on stage and lined up on either side of the stage, the females to the right and males to the left. Then, one actor and one actress would walk on stage and begin to improv a scene until the person with the invisible microphone told them to stop. Whatever the position of the actor or actress was in before they were brought off stage, would be the position for the next actor to take. This again offered hilarious results for the audience, in one situation, one of the actors was nearly in a splits position when the speaker said stop.

The environment in the room was fun, and enjoyable for Improv Night, with funny moments following again and again, as the actors and actresses acted out absurd scenes, causing hilarity for all to see. An experience I would not mind doing again.

Writer's Workshop

Jackson Kumar

As the lights fade in the auditorium and Mr. Wright takes the stage, a hush falls over the audience. The winter play or "Writer's Workshop" has been in production for only a week and while it's been relatively under the radar the students participating in it have put massive amounts of work into it. .

During the week of November 14 students from all grades gathered to write, produce, and create their own original production. During this week students wrote an original script, memorized the script, created sets, did their own lighting design and ultimately performed a completely original piece at the end of the week on Saturday, November 26. When asked about how to devise a production the drama teacher Mr. Wright said that, "(When devising a production) First you pick a topic, then a theme you're going to go with. For our Writer's workshop we started on Monday and we just thought and brainstormed and on tuesday we began to write and audition for parts and began work on the production".

"Life in a Flash" premiered to a packed auditorium and thunderous applause. Each actor performed with charisma, character, and charm. Joshua Alejo stood out, even though he played only a side character he had the audience crying tears of laughter. Another standout actress was Skylar Temple, who played the titular Ellie, short for Delilah (the main character of the show). Temple wowed the audience with her intense stage presence and her acting abilities. During the thirty minute production the audience watches as Ellie grows from an insecure high school girl with little idea as to who she is to a confident woman who knows who she is and stands up for herself. In the epic finale, Ellie brings her fiance to thanksgiving dinner with her family, only to leave in distress and tears after an intense conversation regarding her choice of fiance. During her flight from dinner Ellie is struck by a vehicle and the play ends with Ellie waking up in bed to her mother standing over her sobbing.

After the production was finished, when asked what he hoped students had gotten out of the week long process of devising their own production, Mr. Wright said, "I would hope that being exposed to different types of theater gave them (the students) the opportunity to create something from the ground level and be proud of it".

Overall the resounding reception for the Writer's Workshop has been greatly positive and the attendees raved about the production. Erie High student Kayla Arlington said that, "I really enjoyed the play, all the actors were great, especially the one who played Ellie!". Kayla also stated that she, " was impressed with the script, sets, and lights. You can tell that all the students participating put lots of work into the production and sets." Another Erie High Student Maddie Womack said that, " I was really impressed with the work that all the students did. It was really good for being done in a week and I can't wait to see more!"

With resounding acclaim from students and a packed auditorium the Writer's Workshop was a success at Erie High, leaving attendees excited for more theater and more of Erie's excellent talent.

Drama teacher Mr. Wright helps students with the devising process.
From right to left: Skylar Temple, Mikayla Schindler, and Erica McNeal

Students begin the devising process on Monday

Holiday Survey

By; Alex Merx

what are you most excited about for the holiday season?

-no school 84%
-the gifts 4%
-the weather 3%
-cheerfulness 1%

How soon in advance do you buy your christmas gifts?

-before thanksgiving 4%
-black friday 10%
-2-3 weeks 2%
-2-3 days 68%
-christmas eve night 10%

What are your favorite holiday activites?

-being with my friends and family 11%
-buying gifts for friends and family 3%
-decorate the house 39%
-baking and eating holiday food 33%
-winter activies 7%

How do you feel about holiday movies?

-love them! 38%
-eh, there kinda cheesy 3%
-there good until you watch too many 27%
-some are good, some are not 24%

WHAT'S THE BEST CHRISTMAS DRINK?

It's that time of year again! Thanksgiving hasn't even hit and stores are already decked out in holiday cheer. Lights are up on trees, stars are hanging from street lamps and little red cups are out in full form. We're not talking about Solo cups, but the famous Starbucks holiday cups. These cups have become so highly anticipated each year there is even a website counting down their debut. The holiday cups dropped on November 6, marking the official start of holiday drink season.

We've got you covered with more choices than you probably care to make. Whether you're rushing to get the new Chestnut Praline Latte or running from it, Holiday drinks are pretty hard to avoid. Inevitably, you'll probably end up having one this holiday season... So which one's it gonna be?

There's believed that there are some obvious winners and some obvious losers. the general public clearly obsesses over certain holiday drinks, while leaving others out in the cold. Here's a list of all the most famous holiday drinks, ranked!

Coming in 6th place, A Peppermint Mocha!

Espresso, steamed milk, mocha sauce and peppermint flavored syrup. Topped with sweetened whipped cream and dark chocolate curls. This drink is good, so it's no wonder people get excited about it year after year. What's not to love about chocolate and mint together, in one caffeinated beverage? This is a holiday drink behind which we can all stand.

And stealing 5th, A Gingerbread Latte!

Espresso with steamed milk and gingerbread flavored syrup. Topped with spice-infused whipped cream and real molasses drizzle. Gingerbread is one of those holiday foods that people either love or hate. Every year people seem to fall for it in this latte.

Coming in 4th, A Christmas Cookie Latte.

It's a buttery, creamy latte handcrafted with a smooth shortbread cookie flavoured sauce, our bold espresso and freshly steamed milk. We then finish it off with a crown of whipped cream, shortbread cookie drizzle and butter cookie crumbles

Caramel Brulée Latte is sliding into 3rd!

Espresso with steamed milk and caramel brulée flavored sauce. Topped with sweetened whipped cream and caramel brulée topping. This holiday drink is just a dessert disguised in a coffee cup.

And a close second place, An Eggnog Latte!

Espresso with steamed eggnog and milk, topped with ground nutmeg.

The country freaked out when Starbucks tried to yank its Eggnog Latte from its national menu this year. It caused such outrage that Starbucks apologized, admitted its mistake and now Americans everywhere can now enjoy this apparently beloved beverage.

And proudly taking 1st place, A Pumpkin Spice Latte!

Cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, and real pumpkin pie spices atop whipped cream. Or other known as, the best holiday drink.

Food for one, Food for all. The School Industry.

Teagan Brand

Throughout the years baked goods have always been the best way to earn money and to provide outside food for the students of Erie High School. Erie has been selling tasty drinks and candies for many years to students and the reaction has been great. The sales range from Santiago Burritos sold in the front lobby to coffee sold in the library and even lollipops provided by the choir teacher, Mrs.Bird. You can always get an appetizing food or beverage for any occasion while in erie high school during the week.

As many of the students know from the announcements everyday, the choir department sells delicious lollipops for only $1 inside the choir room with many different flavors. Every week there is a new favorite flavor chosen by the students who eat them.

Jennay Bird started the lollipop sales" 4 years ago as a fundraiser for CR5's trip to Disney World" and ever since it has been pretty successful.

"It was actually the students idea, they researched what fundraiser had the highest profit margin and this was the winner!"

"Ever since we started advertising our sales in the announcements, sales have exploded!"

With the money they earn from just the lollipop stand it " gives us some extra spending money" says Mrs.Bird

Because of CR5'S Disney trips, they need a little extra money they can use to spend while on their trip. But how do they earn the money?

"students have the option to sell the bags to offset their personal cost to attend - so as far as business going well or not it's up to that individual."

When asked if they would expand their sales Mrs. Bird said "probably not." Due to the lollipops being an easy selling idea and because other things such as pastries will expire.

But you can look for different holiday treats at choirs silent auction/ cocoa and cram that takes place every year before their winter concert.

Along with the lollipops, right up the stairs and into the library the coffee cart awaits its busy orders from all the students taking part in its sales. Not only does the coffee cart sell a vari ety of coffee such as french vanilla and regular, they also sell hot chocolate for those cold winter days. All of these delightful drinks are thanks to Ashley Brandt, the creator of this well known coffee cart.

" We got the idea from another library doing it in the district" says Ashley Brandt

They "Thought it would be a great addition to our library - the students would really enjoy warm beverages and something new and different." and boy, has it shown.

Since their opening about three weeks ago, they have " sold close to 200 cups of coffee so far for just $2 a cup."

They are growing fast, and possibly adding new additions such as marshmallows to go with your chocolaty drinks, but where is all the profit going?

" Right now the money we are making from the cart is going to the library and we're trying to change the library"

As Ashley likes to call it into " a blended library"

Not only are they wanting to spend the profit on their supplies but they wish,

"To got new things for students, teachers, or teachers to bring their classrooms in, and hopefully that's where the money can go instead of just funding the cart."

But if you're looking for something to fill your appetite even more you should look no further than the Santiago Burritos that are sold every Thursday. These delicious burritos you would normally purchase at a local santiago's are now available for students that cost only $3 and come in all levels of the heat scale - mild, half and half, and hot-. The people to thank for this are the kids who help out collecting the money and giving burritos. Cammie Allen, Gavin Sackett, Arielle Shaver, and Jenna Stein and the founders of the idea and burritos Mrs.Tuck and Ms.Goodrich.

"I sometimes help out and I really like it because it teaches the kids a lot of valuable life skills (of business)." says Cammie Allen a student worker for the Burrito table.

"I think the business is going really well because we always sell out."

The first thing a successful business needs is a wide following full of supporting customers, and here at erie high school, these small businesses need all the supporters they can get. Ranging from staff to students and possibly parents and guests to our school, the industries we have such as the coffee cart show a lot of potential to our school environment making it a loving and welcoming community.

" I enjoy having the coffee cart at our school, It's nice to come in in the mornings and get your coffee before class- it's super easy to get to, its right when you walk into the library." says Kaelin Hawkins, a big fan of the coffee cart.

" I see a lot of kids coming in and taking advantage of this great cart we have."

Some might look at this as just another thing that can distract kids but it's really helping them save money and their time.

" I think it helps students by having a more convenient way to get something to drink in the morning and it costs a lot less than a starbucks drink."

Of course, all of us would love to see more of these around school and give students the accessibility to go right into a room in school and have what they want instead of driving off campus risking being late for class or getting caught sneaking out. Along with all these fun new treats I think we all can agree its one good sip, crunch 'n' dip.

New Advisory Class provides post secondary options

Sam Wessbecker

Staying up half the night pondering about your future has become a very often a routine that most teenagers indulge in quite often. For many students at Erie High School, questions like do i need to graduate? Where do i want to go to college? Are AP classes really worth it? And my many more, can now be fleshed out in a classroom setting with helpful advice from peers and a trustful teacher. A new advisory class that is aimed at helping students plan for their future is taking center stage at Erie High School this year.

What is Advisory all about? Advisory is for all four grades at Erie High School, and is taught by all the teachers and staff members. Advisory classes are split by grade level as well as alphabetically to provide a small and easy learning environment for students.

Advisory was introduced to Erie High School this year as a way to help all students learn how to career plan and help lead them in the right direction when they get close to having to make college, and college class decisions. As well as helping incoming freshman choose what classes to take in their future years of high school, and help get them on the right track to decide what career field they want to pursue. teacher will help teach life skills, and help students explore and make decisions about college and learn about job choices that interest them. Teachers will also help students be able to decide their career path based on talents and interest of each individual student. Advisory also helps students know what they need to study to achieve their educational goals and reach above the stars.

"The purpose of advisory is to help students make a thoughtful plain and help them decide what classes they want to take in the upcoming years in high school, and eventually college."

Mrs. Pohlman explained when asked what her idea and purpose of advisory was.

"Advisory will be held twice a month, on the first and third Thursday of each month, and maybe more frequently in the future, we hope to make advisory extremely helpful for students" Mrs. Pohlman explains. Advisory is held after first period for twenty minutes in different classrooms throughout Erie High School. Advisory will replace SSR for those days, and keep a normal schedule for the rest of the day. Mrs. Pohlman addresses the issue of taking time away from classes, "Advisory does not affect other classes, it's not taking away from the student's education, or shorten classes. If anything it's helping them tremendously.

After this year's first advisory class, most students thought it was a pretty awesome idea and really enjoyed learning what advisory was all about.

"I think advisory will help students make decisions and kinda know what we want to do with our lives and help us reach those goals. I really enjoyed it."

Tiffany Kan, a sophomore at Erie High School feels advisory will help her and other students make well educated decisions on what she wants to do with her life, help her make decisions and learn what she needs to do to reach those goals. In the first advisory class students learned each other's names, talked about their interest and learned what advisory was all about. Kan also told us what students did in advisory,

"We played a fun game where we rolled dice and said our name and a few of our favorite things. We got to know each other better, which was cool because i didn't know everyone in my class. Our second class we went over ways to study for finals and talked about time management, which was really helpful."

Advisory will be a helpful tool and place for helping in teaching students how to make decisions about their education, as well as allowing students to explore different career paths and teaching students how to reach their goals. It will build bonds between teachers and their students and give all students a comfortable enviornment to talk about their goals and get advice on how to get there. It will also bring students together and make Erie High School an overall more friendly enviornment, for freshman to seniors. It will get students ready for their lives during as well as after their journey at Erie High School. What do you think about the new advisory class at Erie High School? Do you think it will really help students in career planning and decision making?

eSports, the biggest thing you've never heard of

By Grayson Wolff

A perfect pass, he shoots, he scores! The crowd roars. But this isn't basketball, hockey, or even boxing. This is an eSport event, and the athletes are energy drink guzzling and headset wearing gamers.

With the growing industry of technology, competitive gaming is not something to be ignored. With some of the biggest eSport events topping out at over 20 million viewers, it is getting attention from some big organizations. Just recently, the Philadelphia 76ers ownership group purchased the Team Dignitas and Team Apex franchises. Different teams also brings on support from viewers and other players. "It has the same feeling as you would have for your favorite football team." Connor Free, a freshman, said "The team support is incredible, and that's what makes this big."

The esports industry is on pace to make around 500 million dollars in 2016, which is 50 percent more than the revenues made in 2015. With wages being high and some players making more than 1 million dollars over their careers, and prize pools growing, it is certainly more inviting to up and coming competitors. Speaking of prize pools, a new industry standard seems to be pools of 1 million dollars for major event, and with those events occurring quarterly, it makes a pretty big splash among the community. With the University of California, Irvine being the first to announce an eSports program at their school, it has sparked the idea within other colleges and even some high schools. Cody Oscarson, another freshman, said "High School and college eSports should definitely be a thing, I don't get why it hasn't been one already."

ESPN has tried doing just that by hosting a college league event called "Heroes of the Dorm" on their television network. It is a championship event playing the game Heroes of the Storm. While it didn't do the best in views, only receiving a 0.1 Nielsen rating, ESPN was pleased, and the certainly won't be stopping. With many games from many different genres, there is a game for everyone. Rocket League, one of the most recent games to enter the competitive e-sport scene, is a game known for being easy to play, but hard to master. In general, it is soccer with cars, but it is much more than that with different ways of driving, flipping, and boosting. The games last 5 minutes long, with a sudden death overtime if the game is tied. Counter Strike: Global Offensive is another one, being a first person shooter, it is a highly competitive and very skill oriented, with endless strategies being played out by different players. Dota 2 is the biggest title to be known for eSports and is a game where two +teams of five fight to protect their own structure and destroy their opponent's structure. It generates the most revenue among all eSport titles along with it being a M.O.B.A. style game, which stands for multiplayer online battle arena, which is a continuous battle allotted for a certain time with the highest scoring team winning. Plus, with many different customizable classes and characters, there is a playstyle for everyone.

UC Berkley's Golden Bears play off against Arizona State's Dream Team in Blizzard Entertainment's Heroes of the Dorm Championship. Photo Credit: BlizzPlanet.com

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eSports are lining up to be a direct competitor and alternative to major sports like football, baseball, and basketball. With many people preferring video games over physical sports, this can be a major opportunity for them. eSports are here to stay and a force to be reckoned with.

EHS WINTER SPORTS PROGRAMS HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS

SPENCER BROOKS, SAM ORONA

When the weather gets cold our athletes stay warm playing winter sports here at Erie High School. The most popular among sports fans and students alike are wrestling and basketball, both just as physically demanding, and entertaining to watch, as the other.

The wrestling team is going to hit the ground running harder than they ever have before, still getting over a tough loss at state last year. The team has already started the grind this summer going to a training camp at Western State to perfect their skills. The best athletes put up big numbers, most notably Adam Evertz who reportedly won 20 matches with no losses to document. In addition, the whole team will get to know the style of the nEs athletic director, Justin Carpenter, as he is filling the shoes of former EHS A.D., Richie Wildenhaus.

There are many returning athletes that were also seen on the football field this fall such as Trevor David, Quintin Hyrup, Zach Roper, Sean-Tyler Curell and Ruben Portillo. David is fully healed from his finger injury last year and healing from a benign tumor found in his leg earlier this year. Athletes like these who see each other again each season create a stronger bond between teammates, and ultimately helps out this Tiger team. Coach Gratton respects multi sport guys for this reason and encourages them to continue to compete together as much as they can in the years to come.

. The boys basketball team is looking to improve tremendously following a season where almost nothing went right for head coach Scott Melin and his Tigers. The Tigers finished the 2015-2016 campaign with a record of 2-21, with their only two wins coming against Sheridan and Frederick. Melin, as well as the entire team, is looking to move past that sub-par season, and go out with the old and in with the new.

The Tigers have a number of returning seniors, including Taran Black, Will Campbell, Cameron McCurry, and Garrett Mayers as well as a lot of youth. Players like Luke Loy, Jadon Lucero, Jeffrey Farineau, Tyler Larson, Alex Mathis, Ethyn Tyson and Noah Roper round out a very young core.

The Tigers will be without senior big man Cameron McCurry for the first part of the season with a knee injury. McCurry re-injured his knee after recovering from a partially torn MCL he sustained in the first half of last season, so he is familiar to these injuries. Losing McCurry is a big blow for the Tigers, who are lacking in size. McCurry, standing at 6 feet 8 inches tall, towers over everyone on the court. Starting in his place will be senior Will Campbell, who has size, but is significantly shorter than McCurry. Backing Campbell up will be Garrett Mayers. Standing at about 6 feet 3 inches, Mayers will be very small for the center position.

Though the Tigers are lacking in size, their confidence is sky high heading into this season, "I think this season is going to be a lot better," said Noah Roper, "everyone in the program has a much more positive attitude compared to the negativity of last season. We're much more together as a team," Roper said.

The boys basketball team, though lacking in size, has a decent chance to make some noise throughout the state this season. How will the girls basketball team fair?

The girls basketball team has made some coaching changes. The new head coach of this team is Elizabeth Russell. Russell has plenty of coaching experience, as she was previously the head girls coach at Centaurus. Russell is heavily involved within Erie High School. She is an English teacher.

The Lady Tigers finished last season with a record of 10-13, also a sub-par year for the program. They're looking to bounce back this year with tons of experience.

The girls basketball team has a mix of experience and youth. The Tigers' have talented seniors in Amanda Farineau, Darby Berringer, Annika Turner and Katy Humble. The youth is also a bright part of this team. This team is full of talented sophomores like Kaitlyn Patterson, Anna Giampietro, Lauren Kia and Delaney Speilman. Katie Huonder, Jade Phillips, McKaley Green and Adlee Schenbeck round out a talented group of juniors.

The Tigers' will not have senior Annika Turner for most of the season. Turner suffered an ACL injury during the offseason. This is a big loss for the Tigers, as Turner is one of the team's leaders.

The girls basketball team is full of raw talent. Will they be able to produce on the court this season with a new coaching staff and ultimately, a new beginning to the program?

It's officially wintertime, and the winter sports are under way! How will the winter programs fair this year with the competition around the state of Colorado?

New head girl's basketball coach Elizabeth Russell.
via: ehs-tigers.com

Cameron McCurry and a teammate attempting to block a shot.
via: ehs.svvsd.org

Best Moments of 2016: According to The Internet

By: Chris Nguyen

2016 has been a year full of intriguing events, and a lot of steps have been made forward for us people as a whole, promising a different and prosperous future. That being said, the year is coming to a close, and it will only be a matter of time before the new year of 2017 starts. Before it's too late, do yourself a favor and read up on what popular events the Internet and its citizens have captured this year as a whole..

January

-January 10th: Leo DiCaprio wins an Oscar for Best Actor of the Year for his performance in the Revenant. He was actually nominated many other times for the same award, movies he starred in were The Wolf of Wall Street and The Aviator.

February

-February 7th: The Super Bowl 50 game takes place this day in Santa Clara, California. Pitted against each other, the Denver Broncos win against the Carolina Panthers with a score of 24-10, with Broncos linebacker Von Miller as the MVP of the game.

March

-March 7th: Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning announces his retirement from the team and the NFL. Peyton has played for 18 seasons, 14 for the Indianapolis Colts and the remaining 4 for the Denver Broncos.

April

-April 23rd: Popular music artist Beyonce releases her highly anticipated album "Lemonade". This is her sixth music album, and has received critical acclaim.

May

-May 28th: In a Cincinnati zoo, a gorilla by the name of Harambe is shot by zoo officials, justifying the shot because they said there was a little boy that fell in Harambe's enclosure that was in danger of being mauled. Many took offense and decided to keep the gorilla's death in their memory by making memes of him.

June

-June 12th: A gunman who pledged alliance with infamous terrorist group ISIS went into a gay bar club in Orlando, Florida and killed 49 and injured 53 people with firearms. Many social media accounts changed their avatars with a rainbow overlay to commemorate those who had died in the shooting.

July

-July 6th: Video game company Niantic in partnership with Nintendo releases mobile game Pokemon GO, where players can "capture real life Pokemon, battle with opponents, and play with friends". The app proves extremely popular, and soon days afterwards its first release GO hits the top of the App Store and currently has around +500 million downloads, a global phenomenon.

August

-August 5th: The 31st Summer Olympics open in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The previous location of the Summer Olympics took place in London, England and the next place is to be set in Tokyo, Japan.

September

-September 26th: The first US 2016 presidential debate take place. The second and third happen on October 9th and October 19th. During this period, their supporters would ridicule the other opponent on livestreams, and much online fighting happened.

October

-October 11th: Tech company Samsung announces the permanent stopping of production of Note 7 phones because of numerous reports of the phones catching fire(a battery explosion issue). The Note 8 phone will be expected to be releasing in early 2017.

November

-November 8th: On Election Day, Republican nominee Donald Trump wins 279 electoral votes compared to Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's 228, and he is to take over Barack Obama's office in January. Many sources predicted Hillary to win presidency, but they were proved wrong, and many denizens of the Internet started talking about "moving to a different country" and "how America was doomed".

And these are the moments that define the Internet in 2016. Now that you're all caught up and in the loop, it's just in time to get ready to celebrate for a new year, 2017. We'll see what happens next year, and how the Internet will choose to react to it.