



Christmas Railway and More...

by Siana Garcia, Editor

During the holidays, spending time with family is simply the best thing in the world, and what better way is there to do that than by enjoying Roswell's local Christmas Railway. The Christmas Railway has many enjoyable attractions that bring hundreds of individuals in every single year, taking place at the Spring River Park and Zoo. While COVID-19 has affected the way of living for almost everyone, there are still amazing things to take part in, this Christmas light show being one of them. For the last 5 years, local civilians have worked incredibly hard to present a holiday experience of a lifetime. Using over 300,000 lights, there are several Christmas setups around the Spring River Park and Zoo that create a beautiful sight. Decorating the train itself with many lights, individuals get to enjoy a beautiful train ride, enabling them to admire the hundreds of thousands of Christmas lights, while listening to cheerful Christmas music. During this experience, individuals go through tunnels of smoke, walls of lights, and get to admire many trees decorated with color until they arrive at their destination. After taking part in the ride, many stop for hot chocolate, cookies, cinnamon rolls, coffee, and s'mores. While sipping a hot drink and having a tasty snack, there are plenty of benches and seating around fires to keep warm. Then, many enjoy taking a look at the Christmas Gift shop which includes candy, blankets, mugs, ornaments, jewelry, and much more Christmas fun. After this, several activities remain throughout the park, including the Nativity Walk, Snowfall Flats, Christmas Maze, Santa's Workshop, Polar Pals, Santa's Square, Elf Village, and the Christmas Gift Shop. Each and everyone of these activities have great aspects that make the night so much better. The Nativity Walk welcomes individuals to take part in a stroll with lights that tell the story of Jesus' birth.



Following, Snowfall Flats includes many furry friends that you can talk to and take pictures with. The next event offers one of the most known crowd pleasers here, which is the Christmas Maze. The Christmas Maze gives children and adults a fun game to do during their time here. It includes over 250,000 lights glittering with holiday spirit into the night sky. The night also includes Santa's Workshop, Polar Pals, and Elf Village which allows both children and adults to take part in Christmas crafts and activities. Santa's Workshop focuses on the arts and crafts aspects, allowing children to create paper planes, trains, and so much more! Polar Pals is a fun place to create a stuffed animal of your choice. The Elf Village is made up of many small play houses that represent all of the different places that donate and take part in the show as well. This includes Xcel Energy, Pioneer Bank, and much more. Finally, there is a specific station that allows children and adults to take pictures with Santa, offering many packages to purchase in order to have printed pictures to remember all of the fun. After taking part in all of these activities, meals can be purchased. This year, plates included tacos, tamales, chips and salsa, quesadillas, PB&J, sodas, and waters. For a good price, families can enjoy dinner while listening to Christmas music. The Christmas Railway remains to be one of the most admired events in Roswell due to the time and hard work every individual devotes when putting together this Christmas experience.

Christmas Fun Facts

"Jingle Bells" was the first song played in space.

In Ukraine, spiders are considered symbols of good luck on Christmas.

The Statue of Liberty is known as the largest Christmas Gift when it was given to the U.S by France in 1886.

Thomas Edison and a business partner invented Christmas Lights in 1880.

Over a billion and a half Christmas Cards are sent each year in the United States.

Christmas is the most popular time of the year to propose.

The largest gingerbread house ever made was as big as a real house

There are nearly 750 different versions of "Silent Night"

At first, Christmas trees were not accepted in the United States.

Santa has more than 30 different names.

The day after Christmas is National Candy Cane Day.

The man who wrote The Legend of Sleepy Hollow is credited with creating the Modern View of Christmas.

Merry Christmas



2020 Presidential Election

By: Gia Ruizespazra

This has been the very long-awaited election for the U.S. In September and October, the presidential debates were held. The two final candidates were Joe Biden and Donald Trump. Joe Biden represented the democratic party and Donald Trump represented the Republican party. The first presidential debate occurred on September twenty-ninth, 9 -10:30pm. Both candidates made angry interruptions during the other's speaking time and rules had to be changed for the next presidential debate. One of the moderators, Chris Wallace, was struggling to keep the debate going while being uninterrupted. He had to remind Donald Trump of his campaign's agreement in which both candidates had two minutes to speak on the given topics without any interruptions. The topics for the presidential debate were: economy, race and violence in cities, COVID-19, Supreme Court, the Trump and Biden records, and election integrity.

Biden was declared the winner of the presidential election after he won Pennsylvania's electoral votes and an hour later won Nevada's electoral votes. Many people in or out of the U.S were impatient with Nevada since it took them a longer period of time to count the votes. This situation was made fun of all over social media, and even reached the international lines. Funny memes and jokes were made because of how long it took Nevada to count their votes.



When the results were finally announced, Joe Biden said "This is the time to heal America" in his victory speech. He made this speech in his hometown located on Wilmington, Delaware.

Many citizens of the U.S and many others worldwide celebrated Joe Biden's victory by popping champagne bottles or cheering loudly in the streets. Mainly in Washington, D.C., the streets were filled with enthusiastic crowds celebrating Joe Biden's victory. There were people everywhere and all over the streets next to the White House. Most also celebrated in the Black Lives Matter Plaza, where the words "Black Lives Matter" are painted in yellow all across the entire street. People of all ages, sexualities, religions, and backgrounds came together and celebrated as a family. People danced, sang, honked their cars, jumped up, and waved their flags up high. Since COVID-19 was still a major issue a month ago, the ones who celebrated wore masks. Of course, there weren't a lot of Trump supporters on scene at this celebration and some even accused Democrats of election fraud. But state and local officials said this election was the most secure one in history and no evidence was found on Trump's accusations on fraud in this year's election.

Former U.S president Barack Obama congratulated Joe Biden on his win in the election. Joe Biden was vice president in both of Barack Obama's terms as president.

Continued on Page 3



Staying Safe from COVID During the Holidays and a Pending Vaccine

by Joshua Petersen

It's that time of year! Where families and friends are getting together for the holidays. However though, with the Global pandemic, Covid-19, things will be different. People may be facing an emotional toll from the isolation we are in and many families are deciding among themselves if they want to try to spend the holidays together or if they should skip the gathering together for the safety of themselves and of others. Many health experts are expecting a surge of corona virus cases as people travel during the holidays. And even though there is no way to prevent families and friends from gathering during this time, there are ways of making these gatherings safer. The best way to do this is to communicate with your family beforehand and agreeing to follow precautions said. Some recommended precautions given by the CDC are to (1) bring your own food, drinks, cups, and utensils, (2) wear a mask as always, (3) having the meal

outdoors and spaced out, (4) limit the number of guests invited, and (5) frequently clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and wash your hands.

Maybe even consider a virtual gathering with friends and family. This allows you to both to "gather" with your family, but to also be safe. And even though this year has been made difficult by Covid-19, some good news has recently been said about a potential vaccine for Covid-19. A vaccine is currently in progress and is being considered for testing already. The first groups of people who can be offered this vaccine are health care and essential workers, people at high risk for severe Covid-19, and people aged 65 and older.

This brand new vaccine has been approved, which marks a huge advancement in the medical field. Most vaccines can sometimes take years to develop. We will watch the progress of the vaccine very closely. And remember to be safe gathering this holiday season!

The AMA's: The Show Must Go On

By Michelle Perozek

This year despite all its challenges we still had the AMA's (American Music Awards) in November. There were many popular performers like Shawn Mendes, Dua Lipa, BTS, Bad Bunny, Jhay Cortez, Lil Baby and Megan Thee Stallion. There were many winners from the AMA's and many were popular artists like Taylor Swift, BTS, Justin Bieber, The Weeknd, Dua Lipa, Nicki Minaj, and more! The host for the awards was Taraji P. Henson, she has starred in many famous movies like Hidden Figures and said that she was excited for the awards since it brings the music community together between artists and fans.

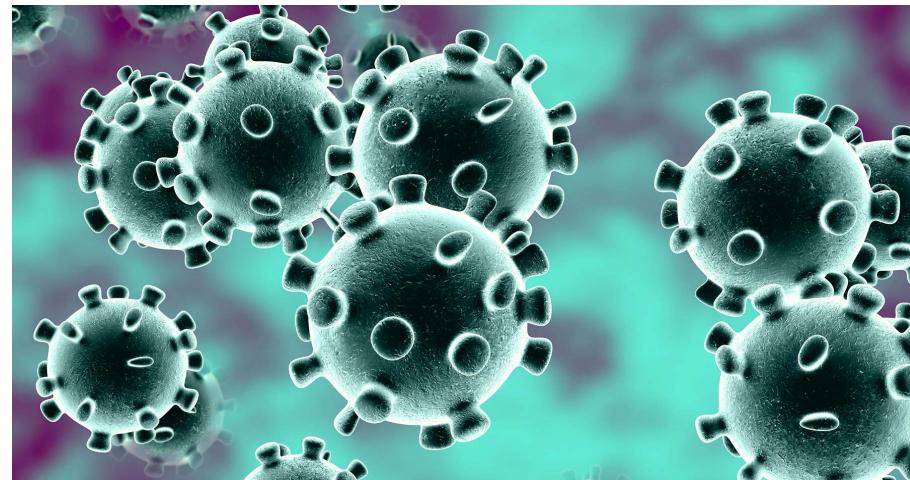


Corona Kills Another

By Gia Ruizesparza

On December 14, 2020, on a flight from Orlando, Florida to Los Angeles, California a man died due to COVID-19. Before entering the plane, everyone had to fill in a checklist stating whether they've felt any symptoms or have tested positive. This man lied on the checklist and wrote that he didn't show any symptoms and never tested positive. His wife later told an agency that he in fact tested positive and showed symptoms of COVID-19.

One of the passengers said that she saw him shaking and was clearly sick.



After the man died, passengers had to watch medical workers clean up the blood and bacteria of the man.

One also said that they never switched planes, and stayed on the same plane until arriving to L.A. The airline didn't check any of the

passenger's temperatures before going on the plane which is why the man got away with his lie.

This hasn't been the only death of COVID-19 while on a plane. A couple months ago a 30 year old woman died of the COVID-19 corona virus in the middle of a

flight from Texas to New Mexico.

This is a reminder to try and stay home during the holidays, especially during Christmas! The more people leave their homes, the longer we have to endure COVID-19 and quarantine. If you or a loved one has showed symptoms or tested positive, stay away from the public to not increase the spread of COVID-19.

Stay safe, make sure to keep yourselves warm and healthy this winter. Experts recommend that we take plenty of vitamin C and D and try to refrain from gathering inside for the holidays. We are all in this together, so be smart!

Police Brutality in Nigeria

In October, the entire nation of Nigeria gathered together to protest over police brutality. The Special Anti-Robbery Squad also known as SARS, have been claimed to treat citizens unfairly, and violate their human rights. SARS have kidnapped, sexually harassed, abused, detained, and even killed many innocent citizens of Nigeria.

The first protest occurred on October 8th, 2020. Citizens marched across the streets, and peacefully protested with their voices. Unfortunately, SARS didn't hold-back and injured many citizens during these protests. According to President Muhammadu, about sixty-nine people passed away during these days. Most were civilians, but police officers and soldiers died too.

One of the reasons for protesting was because of the ridiculous accusations and arrests which the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) made. A 27-year-old named Kola was arrested for being "too young to be driving such an expensive car" as said from his own words and must've

meant he had stolen it. Without any physical proof or actual crimes committed many others were falsely arrested as well.

Citizens of Nigeria have been named as criminals due to: the way they dress, what neighborhood they live in, what cars they drive, what jobs they have, and even the way they look. Citizens have also been randomly kidnapped and taken to jail without a fair trial. SARS had been killing and torturing people as back as 2016 but the youth finally gained confidence to speak out loud. Their voices gained attention all over the globe and became an international topic. With both the national and international protests, this issue had spread all over the media and received the attention it needed. Finally, after a few days of protesting, the Nigerian Police Force had announced that the Special Anti-Robbery Squad will be immediately abolished. Cities in Nigeria have calmed down because of COVID-19, and everyone is staying safe once again.



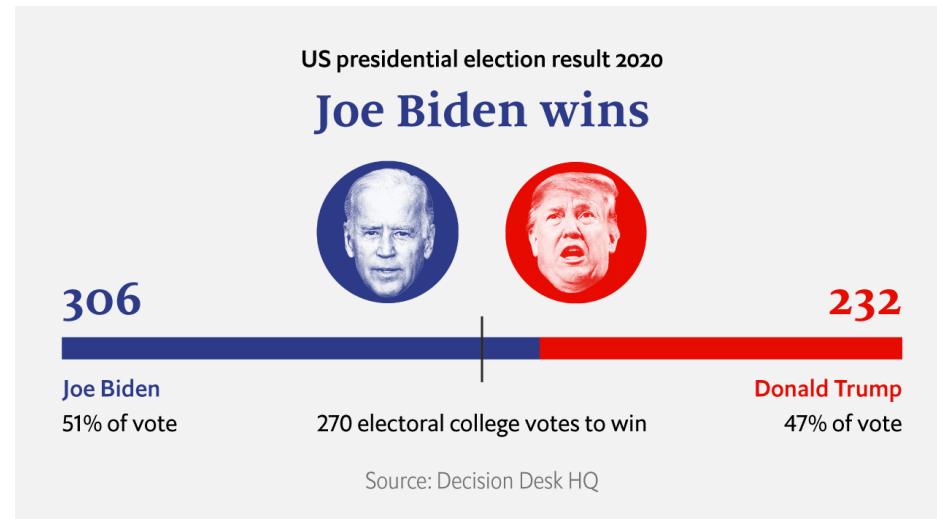
2020 Presidential Election

Continued from Page 2

by Gia Ruizesperaza

In his message, Obama stated he couldn't be anymore proud, and Joe will "do the job with the best interests of every American at heart, whether or not he had their vote." Obama listed the issues that will need to be handled in the upcoming year and Joe Biden will be ready.

The final results of the 2020 election were Joe Biden with 302 electoral votes and Donald Trump with 232 electoral votes.



May the holiday season bring peace and joy to you and your loved ones.



The staff of Early College High School's newspaper, *The Griffin Gazette*, would like to wish each and every one of our fellow students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community of Roswell a happy Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah! Wishing all a prosperous and much safer New Year of 2021!

(We thought it would be nice to include some pictures of when we were all on campus in 2020)

