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Interact Club Spruces Up the Cancer Garden

by Loc Dinh

Through raising money selling pink masks, the Interact Club is planning to tidy up the breast cancer awareness garden located between the auditorium and the main office.

The Interact Club is a community service organization connected with Rotary International, which helps serve the underprivileged and provides opportunities to help out the community.

The Interact Club back in 2011 created the cancer garden.

"I just learned about it this year. When I saw how



After Photo of the garden

overgrown it had become, I decided it was time to get to work," said Ms. Walker, the current Interact Club sponsor.

In early November, Lowe's Winter Haven offered to donate \$2500 to our Interact Club to fully refurbish the cancer garden.

"We've been making a lot of progress in the Cancer Garden this year," said Senior Nicholas Lopez, the current historian of the club. "We plan on using that money on new mulch, flowers, and tools to keep the garden maintained well into the future."

The club has already started work on renovating parts of the cancer garden by planting new greenery and pulling out the overgrown weeds and plants. Members volunteer their time and labor after school to help freshen the look of the garden.

"Working in the garden was actually pretty fun and a good way to help the school," said Sophomore Caroline Jarrett.

Interact Club also provides many other volunteer opportunities around the community such as hanging up lights downtown for the holiday season.

Ms. Walker provides the club members with the chance to help out at First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven by bagging lunches for the homeless and participating in soup kitchens.

"Bagging lunches is a great and fun way to give back to the community," said Senior Asier Arambarri, former Interact Club president and current member. "I'm always excited to help out!"

HOSA Lifts Spirits One Card at a Time

by Cas Hendron

HOSA is hoping to bring some smiles to the elderly this holiday season as well as forming a lasting tradition. HOSA members are customizing cards to send to Spring Hill Retirement Home.

This project will help students establish pen pals, gain community service hours, learn how to communicate, and help elevate the residents moods. Maybe after the covid-19 restrictions, they could even have the opportunity to meet some of the residents they're writing to.

"We know they're [Elderly patients] isolated for the last six months due to Covid," said Hileman, HOSA sponsor. With students willing to participate, this project will flourish.

This project is meant to lift their spirits and "let them know someone cares."

Students are ecstatic to be working on this project and hope it can be a way to spread the knowledge of HOSA around the community to help with future projects.

"This project is meant give back to the community and influence others," said Senior Philrosen Manfiston Sejour, HOSA officer.



Before photo of the garden



Junior Kamy Williams sends a heartfelt letter to the Spring Hill Retirement Home

Yearbook Sales:

08/31 – 09/30 \$60
10/01 – 10/31 \$65
11/01 – 01/31 \$70
02/01 – 04/30 \$75
05/01 until sold out \$80

Senior Calendar



TBA: Announcement/Cap & Gown Orders/Payment Herff-Jones will be in the cafeteria all lunches to accept announcement/cap'n gown orders and receive payment

February 11: Deadline for Yearbook Senior Recognition Ads: Ad completed online www.jostens.com. Contact Mrs. Jaime, Cynthia.Jaime@polk-fl.net

TBA: Graduation Announcement Delivery – Graduation announcements will be delivered in the cafeteria during all lunches

TBA: Prom -

TBA: Senior Meeting/Cap n Gown Delivery

Senior graduation meeting, 8:30 auditorium; cap/n gown orders will be delivered in the cafeteria following sr. meeting

TBA: Grad Walk, voluntary-Denison Stadium (seniors arrive 7am) 7:30 am walk the field with classmates, wear cap'n gown, parents invited, park on Denison side of field.

TBA: Chain of Lakes Grad March voluntary-seniors walk the halls in celebration of the Class of 2021 in cap'n gown attire cheered on by elementary students

TBA: Grad Bash-Universal Studios & Islands of Adventure: tickets- ____ no bills larger than a \$20, ticket sales _____

TBA: Senior Exam dates

TBA: Official Senior last day

TBA: YEARBOOK PARTY TBA-Mrs. Jaime

May 1 Community Service Hours due for award purposes

TBA: Baccalaureate – The Winter Haven Ministerial Association sponsors this senior event. First Presbyterian Church, 637 6th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881, 4 pm (lineup for seniors 3:30)

TBA: Senior Awards: Winter Haven High School auditorium, 6 pm, invited seniors arrive 5:30 (individual scholarships)

TBA: Mandatory senior breakfast, 9 am, Nora Mayo Hall, 500 3rd St. NW, Winter Haven, sr. accolades distributed

TBA: Graduation Practice Mandatory Practice, 9 am RPFunding Center 701 W. Lime Street, Lakeland, FL 33815

May 24: Graduation 7:00 pm, RPFunding Center, Seniors arrive 4 pm, doors open to the public 4:00 pm

Contact Information:

School Website: www.winterhavenhs.com

School Phone: (863) 291-5330

WHHS Facebook page – search @winterhavenhs

Leonard's (Senior Portraits): 1(888) 224-5045

www.leonards.com

Jostens (yearbook) 1(800) 567-8367

www.jostens.com/

Herff-Jones (Cap n Gowns): (727) 545-3288

www.HerffJonesTampaBay.com

Senior Class Sponsors: Cindi Jaime (Cynthia.Jaime@polk-fl.net #291-5330 ext. 421)

Gina Cea, Rob Fritz



Senior Trinity Hardy signs with the West Point Military Academy to play Division I basketball. Shortly after, she led the Lady Blue Devils to victory in the Prospects Tournament over Thanksgiving break. She was the leading scorer scoring 24 points against West Orange and 28 points against Dr. Phillips High Schools.

Students can find out their obligations for lab fees, ID's, and uniforms on their student portal. They can come pay their obligations in Mrs. Cea's office.

2020: A Year Like No Other

by Grace Corkins

2020 has been a disaster of a year. One could argue that it has been the worst year that Earth's human population has experienced because 2020 has experienced some of the worst disasters in history.

The year started off with the Australian bushfires that started in 2019 and continued into 2020. Fires have so far burned more than four million acres across California, about doubling the previous record of nearly two million acres set in 2018, making the 2020 North American wildfire season the worst North America has seen.

Fires weren't the only disasters of 2020. For only the second time, the official alphabetical list of hurricane names has been used up, meaning forecasters have had to move to the supplementary list of Greek letter names.

So far this year, the U.S. has had numerous natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, and drought. Of the disasters, 16 caused at least \$1 billion in damage, tying the record set in both 2011 and 2017. The cherry on top of 2020 is the prediction that it will be Earth's final year. This prediction is related to the 2012 prediction that was based on the Mayan calendar ending. At the time of the Mayans creating their calendar and predicting the world ending in 2012, they were using the Julian calendar. In 1752 most of the world changed to the Gregorian calendar. This change caused 11 days to go "missing" over the course of a year. That means that the official date that the Mayans thought the world was going to end when converted from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar was December 21, 2020. So, will 2021 ever arrive?

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Trident

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The mission of the Trident is to keep the students, staff, and community of Winter Haven informed about news related to Winter Haven High School in order to entertain, congratulate, and motivate our readers while promoting a positive atmosphere

Don't Argue with This Team!

by Ty Nguyen

The school's Debate Team started their first year with a tournament on October 7. Six members, who consisted of three seniors and three sophomores, competed during the event. The tournament was held virtually due to the risks of Covid.

During the tournament, Senior Kendall Booker earned an honorable mention in congressional debate.

"Getting an honorable mention was cool because it was the first time I had ever participated in a debate competition," said Booker.

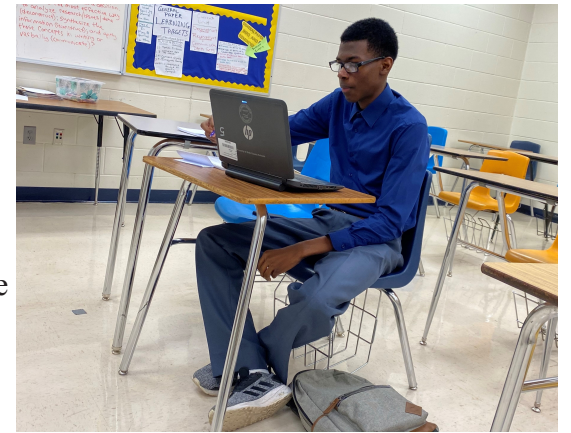
He enjoys being in debate since he gets to compete against opponents who make real arguments with various sources, and he can learn about issues happening around the world.

Mrs. Layne, the coach of the team, has goals for everybody to be more comfortable debating since they lost the chance to prepare last year due to the lockdown. She wants everybody to "get their feet wet."

"My ultimate goal is to have a self-sufficient team that starts young and as they transition through high school, they have the ability to train the younger ones and help me to maintain a certain level of quality," stated Mrs. Layne.

One obstacle the team faced was that everything is being held virtually. This is a loss to the kids who had hoped to compete against others in the same room. Also, the team is split with virtual and in-person learning, which slows down the pace.

"Watching the team members who have never competed before get in there and try it, even though they didn't know what they were doing," said Mrs. Layne, "that to me was the icing on the cake because they were terrified but they did it anyway... They did the best they could and I was really proud."



Senior Kendall Booker participates in a heated virtual debate using Zoom.

Front Office Window Gets New Display

by Erik Clemons Jr

Over the summer, the front office got a cool new makeover. There's a school themed glass display on the front windows of the main office building for all passersby to see.

"It's really something to promote the school branding and the logos," says Mr. Jones, assistant principal. He organized the project and made sure it looked perfect. It includes all the school colors and three of our most popular logos, such as the "WH" and the blue and gold devil face.

A company out of Tampa came out and applied the decorations for us. Such a great job was a little pricey. "It was an approximate \$3,000," said Jones.

Jones plans on putting more displays around school, but with budgetary considerations, it won't be any time soon. "We just only wanted the front office done. We have to watch our budget and how we spend money."

As far as promoting school spirit, Jones thinks the display does what it needs to do. "It promotes school pride and looks very well."

"The display is just what the school needed," says Dylan Jones, senior. "As a football player, I'm glad to see what we wear on the field be used to decorate our school also."

If you haven't already, take a walk to the front of the school and check it out; or if you're passing by, don't forget to look.



Blue Devils display the new front office window decorations.

Senior Shoots for the Stars

by Erik Clemons Jr

Joseph Rooney, a senior, achieved an aviation scholarship that will pay for his flight training to become a pilot.

Awarded the James C. Ray scholarship through the Ray Foundation, Rooney, known as Max, was given \$10,000, which he will use to achieve his private pilot license.

"A few of my close friends and Mr. Hughes really inspired me," said Rooney. "I want to go to the Air Force, get my private license, and go into the airlines."

Rooney flies three times a week in a "Cessna 172" at Bartow Airport. His family is very proud of him and is grateful they can avoid college fees thanks to his scholarship.

"All it took was an essay, my transcripts and an interview," said Rooney. "I believe anyone can do it."



The Winter Haven AAAC flies their 1949 Piper Club plane.

AAAC Takes Flight

by Erik Clemons Jr

The WHHS AAAC flying club is an Aerospace Program which is having an amazing lift-off their first year. They have recently moved to a hangar in the Winter Haven airport in October and are currently working on restoring two sport planes.

"It's a great way to get some community service hours," said Joseph Rooney, senior. "The club was started through inspiration from Jamie Becket."

Currently, they are working on restoring a 1949 Piper Club, a sport plane which is used for flying short distances and helping club members learn how to fly. All it needs is a new engine and some bodywork. Then it will be ready for the skies.

FCA Opens Mornings in a Spiritual Way

by Luci Lippelgoos

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is for athletes to come together and praise God, as well as to learn to play their sport through their faith.

All athletes are invited. During their morning meetings, they listen to Christian music, provide snacks, and have a group huddle where they reflect, share, and pray. Normally the group huddles are led by a person who is on staff with FCA West Central Florida, but due to the pandemic there are no visitors currently allowed on campus.

“I enjoy the time with God at the beginning of the day,” said Mrs. Walker, the club director.

FCA meets every Thursday morning before school at 6:35 a.m. in room 1-105. Students are released at 6:55, providing plenty of time before classes begin.

Online as well as on campus students are invited to join. A link is sent out weekly for online students. To receive club information and virtual links, students can text fcawhhs to 81010 on remind.



Sophomores Michael Leuteritz and Beatrice Monroe show their support for Transgender Day of Remembrance.

GSA Recognizes TDOR

by Grace Corkins

Transgender Day of Remembrance, also known as Transgender Day of Resilience, is formally recognized on November 20. To recognize this day, the Winter Haven High School GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) Club passed out pins to faculty members and students, including rainbow, pansexual, bisexual, asexual, transgender, and pronoun pins. There were also ally stickers available.

TDOR is a day that is meant to help spread awareness of transgender people who were murdered because of transphobia, while also recognizing those who are still alive. The day was started in 1999 on November 20, to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998.

Wearing pronoun pins is a small step that can lead to a more informed society. This starts with teachers wearing pronoun pins to help educate students on the importance of knowing and asking for a person’s pronouns instead of assuming pronouns.

GSA co-sponsor Mr. Monaco said, “Teachers and students alike can avoid microaggressions by not making gendered statements, using appropriate pronouns that people have given, and by not making jokes about or at the expense of transgender people.”

Wearing pronoun pins signals to students and others who are trans or nonconforming that they have someone whom they can go to who understands their needs.

Toys Drive Their Way Into Blue Devils’ Hearts

by Grace Corkins

Student Council held a toy drive that helped children in foster care receive gifts for Christmas. The drive was in partnership with Heartland for Children, which is the foster care system for Polk County, Hardee County, and Highlands County.

Students were able to participate in the toy drive by bringing any new and unwrapped toy for children up to age eighteen. The donations drop-off locations were in the building 34 office, the main office, and room 34-221.

Mrs. Archambault, sponsor, wanted students to participate because “it benefits children who wouldn’t otherwise get gifts for Christmas.”

Winter Haven High School’s Student Council has held a toy drive with Heartland for Children for at least the past eleven years. The exact number of years is unknown because the Student Council has held this toy drive since before Mrs. Archambault become the sponsor of the Student Council.

Mr Fritz's fifth period donated the most toys and won a prize. The toy drive ended on November 30.

Key Club Opens Up Aid to the School Community

by Xithlalic Vasquez



Senior Gadiel Galloza displays items from the clothes closet, stated Senior Galloza.

Key Club is a service club that helps give back to the community. Two of their bigger projects, Blue Devils 4 Life (BD4L) and the clothes closet, focus on students and staff.

BD4L is sponsored by Key Club and Culture Connection. BD4L is packages filled with hygienic products, snacks, and laundry detergent. These packages are sent to recent alumni at college, the military, or living or working locally.

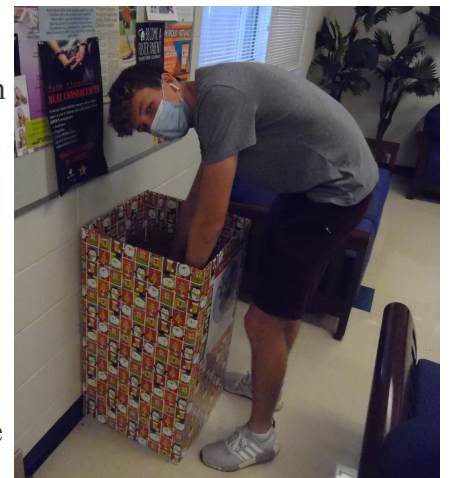
“This past October, we sent out 13 care packages to former students all over the country. Some are in Florida, while others are as far as Indiana,” stated club sponsor Mrs. Walden. “The students were surprised and grateful to be remembered by their Blue Devil family back at home.”

While BD4L is for alumni, the clothes closet is for current students and staff. The closet is located in 36-209 and, according to club President Molly Koos and Vice-President Gadiel Galloza, is open during all lunches throughout the week.

People are to go “whenever they need hygienic supplies, school supplies, clothes, or just to grab a snack,”

The closet gets its items from donations. All donations for the closet should go to Dr. Miller in upstairs 36. The closet is currently in need of clothes hangers.

“School culture does not [just] give us a little a little hope here and a little help there; it’s the foundation of student success and a school achievement!” exclaimed Dr. Miller.



Senior Noah Baker donates to the Toy Drive.

Let's Talk Politics

Should We Keep the Electoral College When Voting for President?

Yes

by Grace Corkins

The Electoral College acts as a fail safe to ensure that our national politics stay national. The Electoral College was approved by our Founding Fathers and has stood the test of time. The Electoral College wasn't even their first idea for voting. The first draft of The U.S. Constitution (the Virginia Plan) proposed that Congress choose the president. The Constitutional Convention rejected this parliamentary model. The delegates wanted an independent executive and real separation of powers. Some suggested a direct election, but that too was rejected. The Electoral College was the result of a compromise, just like Congress and the Bill of Rights.

Abolishing the Electoral College would result in having to amend The U.S. Constitution, which should be done rarely. Amending The U.S. Constitution should be reserved for dire situations when reform is necessary.

Abolishing the Electoral College and voting solely based on the popular vote would cause several issues and not protect our election the way our Founding Fathers wanted. A popular vote would mean that heavily populated states have the most influence on election outcomes. This would mean that presidential candidates would no longer campaign in all parts of the country. Instead, their campaign staff could simply run the numbers on which states would guarantee the popular vote and only campaign in those states. This would mean that states with larger populations would have disproportionate influence.

Overall, the Electoral College acts as a safeguard against voters who just vote based on the candidates' party or even randomly. However, if the Electoral College were abolished, those voters could potentially be the deciding factor in an election outcome. We need to keep the Electoral College.

No

by Cas Hendron

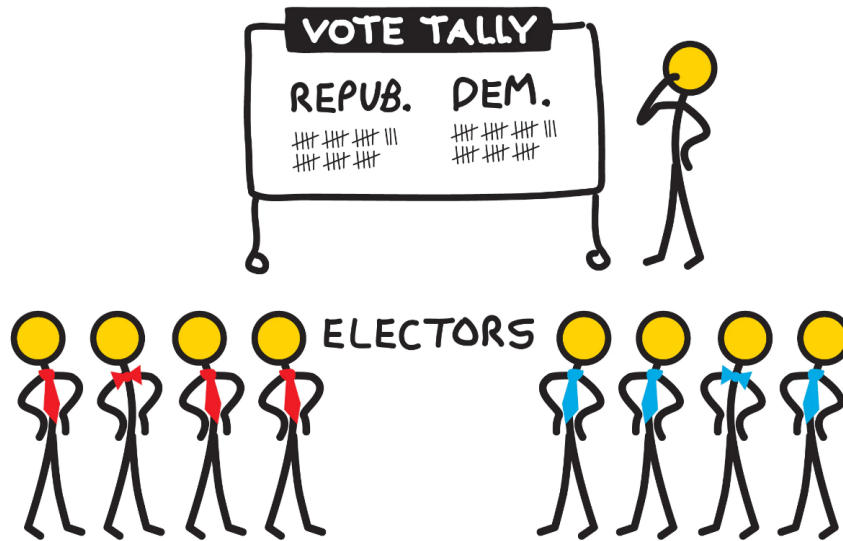
The Electoral College is undemocratic and should be eliminated.

The Electoral College makes many people feel as though their votes don't matter, especially in situations like the 2016 election when Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by over four million votes but still lost the presidency due to the Electoral College.

For many states, electors can choose not to vote the same way as their states population, thus invalidating the votes of many American citizens.

When the Electoral College was created in 1804, the framers of the constitution believed that citizens were too incompetent to make their own political decisions. Now, citizens are more educated and capable of making decisions that will greatly impact them. The Electoral College is structurally outdated and gives a small group of people power to make decisions for an entire nation.

With the number of electors being based on the number of citizens in each state, the Electoral College gives too much power to large states making it easy for a few swing states to rip the victory from

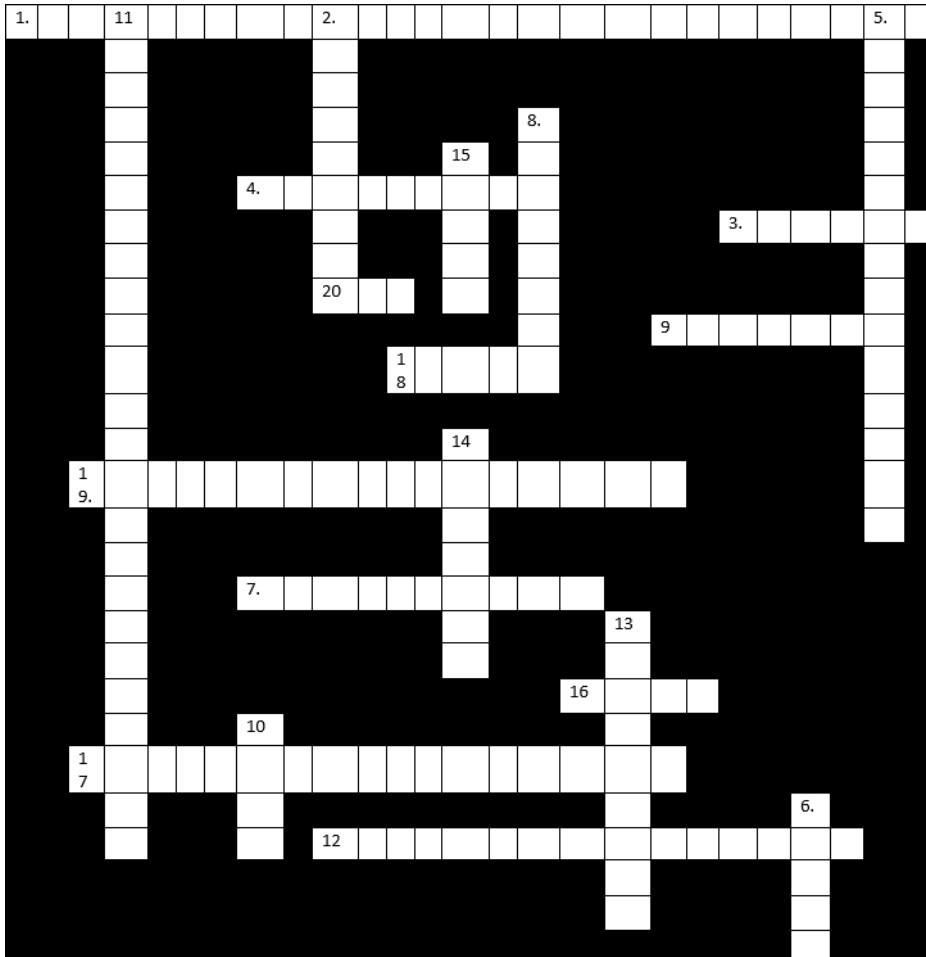


one party's hands giving it to another. Smaller states with fewer representatives have a more difficult time getting candidates to acknowledge them so they get less resources and funding put towards advertising candidates.

The Electoral College might have been needed back at the beginning of America when not many people were able to get to polls and literacy rates were low, but now there are millions of citizens who vote every four years. Yet, because of the Electoral College, there are only two hundred and seventy who are truly considered important. Just because the Electoral College has worked for a long time does not mean it shouldn't be changed or even abolished.

The backbone of democracy is that people have the right to choose. Is America truly a democracy if a small group of people have the power to decide the leader of America?

Christmas Movie Crossword Puzzle



Down:

2. The ____ Before Christmas
5. Scrooge is forced to take a journey through past present and future
6. Jack ____
8. Small creatures that wreak havoc if fed after midnight
10. ____ the halls
11. Features the snow and heat miser, Santa takes off the day before Christmas
13. Santa and his Canine companion try and persuade a toy store owner now to close shop
14. ____ the Red Nosed Reindeer
15. The ____ Express

Across:

1. The Whos in Whoville deal with a menace that is trying to steal Christmas
3. ____ the Snowman
4. An 8 year old boy is left home while his family takes a trip
7. A single Father accidentally murders Santa Claus and is forced to take over his job
9. A horror film based on a horned beast that punishes naughty children
12. Contains the lines "you'll shoot your eye out kid"
16. Let It ____
17. A six year old living in a hotel decides the hotel owners daughter is getting married for the wrong reasons and plays match maker.
18. Contains the line "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings."
19. Debuting in 2019, a mailman finds Santa hideout in the north pole
20. Contains the line "you have such a pretty face you should be on a Christmas card"

Holiday Cupcakes

by Ty Nguyen

Recipe for the Cupcakes:

1 1/2 cups of all-purpose flour
1 1/2 teaspoon of baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup of sugar
1 stick of softened unsalted butter
3 eggs
2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
3/4 cup of milk



Instruction for the cupcakes (this yields about 12 cupcakes): First, preheat the oven at 356 degrees. Then sift the flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl and in a separate bowl, combine the butter and sugar until it has a cream-like texture. When the sugar and butter are combined, crack the eggs one at a time after one egg has been mixed in completely. The last egg needs to be added with the vanilla extract. Pour half of the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients, and after mixed completely, add the milk and the remaining half of the dry ingredients. After its finish, line the cupcake tray with liners and pour the mixture into each mold. Bake the cupcakes for 18 to 20 minutes.

Celebrating the Holidays Safely

by Loc Dinh

With over one million confirmed cases of COVID-19 being reported in the United States, many are planning to celebrate the winter holidays with precaution. Holiday celebrations and travel with families across the country are unlikely to be canceled even as numbers continue to climb. There are concerns about college students or family members frequently exposed to COVID-19 coming home for the holidays and potentially spreading the virus among their family members. The question facing many Americans this holiday season is whether to continue their celebrations and gatherings without revision.

The answer would be to implement precautionary measures to keep them and their family members safe. While social gatherings are never 100% risk-free, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) laid out comprehensive guidelines, for Americans planning to celebrate the holidays, to reduce the risk of a surge in cases. They consider factors such as the duration of the gathering, location, and how attendees behave. The CDC suggests limiting indoor exposure for long periods of time. They also advise the potential gatherers to get tested if they show symptoms or if they are often exposed.

Although taking precautions and revising gatherings to be outside might seem like a hassle, it will pay off in the long run when it comes to keeping potential high-risk family members safe.

Travel this holiday season will also be a big concern as many families plan to stay in-state instead of traveling to meet up with a large group of family. If you do plan to travel by airplane, however, make sure to wear a mask at all times when on the plane or in public near others.

With all of that in mind, the winter holidays should still be celebrated by families all over the country, and they should be a time of joy and bonding whether it is through Zoom or face to face.

Put a Mask over Stress

By Erik Clemons Jr

2020 has been a strange year. We are all dealing with certain things in our lives, and it may be hard to cope. To help, here are some tips to “mask” stress or anxiety during the holidays under Covid.

- Get adequate sleep
- Turn away from negative behaviors
- Connect with your family and friends
- Plan your days and make short term goals
- Focus on gratitude throughout the day
- Exercise or find some hobbies you’ll physically enjoy
- Light a scented candle (lavender, rose, vetiver, bergamot, roman chamomile)
- Chew on your favorite gum
- Have a good laugh
- Practice Deep Breathing

Recipe for the cream cheese frosting:

1/2 stick unsalted butter
8 ounces of softened cream cheese
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
4 cups of powdered sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt

Instructions: Combine the butter and cream cheese and beat until it is creamy, well-combined and contains no lumps with any type of mixer or whisk. Add the vanilla extract and salt and stir well until combined. Slowly add the powdered sugar into the bowl while mixing until it is completely gone and combined.

Once the cupcakes are cooled and the cream cheese is finished, decorate the cupcakes, add sprinkles or candy, like candy canes, if desired.





When not teaching English, Mrs. MacCalla can be found skiing on the second tier of the pyramid

Blue Devils Ski Together

by Luci Lippelgoos

Whether topping a four person high pyramid or simply skiing by with a gleeful smile and wave, the MacCallas can do it all! Mrs. MacCalla, English teacher, and two of her children, Skylar, junior, and Piper, freshman, are all Blue Devils who rip the water.

Trident: How long have you and your family been water skiing?

MacCalla: I've only been skiing for six years, my husband is a third generation skier, and my kids are fourth generation skiers.

Trident: What is the most exciting thing about water skiing?

MacCalla: Performing

Trident: What is your biggest accomplishment in the sport?

MacCalla: My kids all skiing.

Trident: What kind of things do you do in the sport?

MacCalla: I swivel ski, do flag line, any second tier spot in a pyramid, and perform as Corkett the Clown.

Trident: Do you ski for a team?

MacCalla: My family and I ski for the Cypress Gardens Water Ski Team on Lake Silver.

Trident: Are there any competitions, shows, etc.?

MacCalla: Every third Saturday of the month our team performs a show on Lake Silver. Also later in April and June there will be some competitions.

Trident: Who in your family waterskis?

MacCalla: All five of us.

Trident: How has water skiing benefitted your family?

MacCalla: It brings us all together and encourages a healthy lifestyle.

Trident: Who is the best water skier in your family?

MacCalla: My husband.

Trident: Is there anything else you would like to add?

MacCalla: We would love for everyone to come out to our ski shows every third Saturday of the month. Our team is also always wanting and looking for new skiers.

Voices of the Campus

How is COVID affecting your plans for the winter holidays?

“I’m from New York so I can’t fly up to New York to see my family, but luckily I have some family here.” - **Ms. Ross**

“It’s going to be harder to buy presents” - **Cyndal Reliford, 11th**

“Our cruise got canceled.” - **Mikayla Summerall, 10th**

“Well my cousin is getting married during the winter holiday and we would fly over to Vietnam but since COVID, we can’t.” - **Vivian Cai, 12th**

“It’s more difficult to make plans with the pandemic.” - **Kaiden McGuire, 9th**

“We can’t travel and it makes it harder to do Christmas shopping.” - **Emily Johnson, 12th**

“I have to cancel large family gatherings and I’m not planning vacations.” - **Nikki Jordan**

“My grandma can’t go to the family gatherings.” - **Xander Sikorski, 10th**

“My birthday is in December and I’m turning 16 so it is keeping me from having a big party.” - **Tatyana Alexander, 10th**

“My family and I usually go on vacation but we can’t this year because of all the COVID restrictions.” - **Logan Wakeman, 11th**

“Usually I travel to New York and this year I can’t.” - **Alyvia Logan, 9th**

“We’re not having a family Christmas with everybody this year.” - **Kaylee Tomon, 10th**

“It’s not that bad, I’m going to Virginia where it hopefully doesn’t spread as much.” - **Khiry Baldwin, 9th**

“It hasn’t affected anything, we’re still doing what we usually do.” - **Deondria Henry, 12th**

“I can’t go to Puerto Rico and I haven’t been in 2 years. My grandpa has COVID.” - **Kevin Torres, 12th**

“I have a germaphobe aunt so everything is limited.” - **Patrice Riettie, 10th**

“It lowers the chances of me being able to do the typical Florida stuff that we usually do.” - **Bushra Khaliq, 11th**

“It is making it difficult to visit my family out in L.A. because everything is shut down.” - **Noah Berto, 12th**

“I am still going to have my family gather and trust them to be responsible with testing if they have symptoms.” - **Mr. Erb**

“Instead of spending the holidays alone because I don’t have any friends, I’ll be spending the holidays alone because of lockdowns.” - **Ethan Thomas, 12th**

“Usually, I have lots of family from all over the country in places like New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, and the Carolinas. This year, however, we’re keeping everything limited to just my family in town.” - **Nicholas Lopez, 12th**

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 5

Across:

1. How the Grinch Stole Christmas
3. Frosty
4. Home Alone
7. Santa Claus
9. Krampus
12. A Christmas Story
16. Snow
17. Eloise Eat Christmas
18. Klaus
19. It's A Wonderful Life
20. Elf

Down:

2. Nightmare
5. A Christmas Carol
6. Frost
8. Gremlins
10. Deck
11. The Year Without Santa Claus
13. Santa Paws
14. Rudolph
15. Polar

Chorus Sings Over Covid

by Bella Blind

COVID-19 has caused many changes, and chorus is one of the many fine arts courses that have had to make alterations to how classes are being taught.

According to Sabra Hatley, chorus director and instructor, the chorus department will be unable to have their usual scheduled annual concerts and unable to participate in the HOPE Project International Fundraiser like last year. The students are unable to go to Disney's Epcot to take part in the Candlelight concert, which is an important concert that requires auditions.

Since the class is being taught both online and in person, there have been many modifications in how the class is being taught. There is a higher risk of getting COVID-19 when singing due to the aerosols released, according to Hatley. This requires the students to wear face shields, to stay six feet apart, and to use microphones while singing.

One of the biggest struggles for Hatley when teaching both face-to-face and e-learner students, is being able to have all students participate and interact cohesively. Hatley must place an i-pad of e-learners in the center of the room so that all the students can hear each other. The e-learners have a hard time hearing, so they must wear headphones as well. Another struggle Hatley must deal with is the fact that the e-learners are usually muted and because of this, there is a "lag" or delay when Hatley begins conducting the classes. This makes it difficult for not only the e-learners to learn their music but for the whole class to blend and sing together as a group.

One common misconception among most is that the chorus classes can solve these major issues that they encounter by starting virtual choirs. However, this is very difficult for the classes to accomplish because the chorus department does not have this type of technology.

"My kids [students] wanted to do virtual choirs," stated Hatley. "I love that idea; however, we simply do not have that technology to make that happen. There are a lot of things and a lot of people behind the scenes making all of that work."

Senior Christopher Hostetler, who has been singing since sixth grade, has also had many struggles this year with wearing a mask in choir.

"I can't see who is singing and who is not," stated Hostetler, "so this makes it hard to stay together. The main thing [to solve this] is listening and seeing if I can identify who is singing."

According to Hostetler, the thing he enjoys most about chorus is the "freedom of it" and being able to be himself while having fun. He stated that he enjoys the fact that there is no set structure when it comes to singing, so he is free to be as creative as he wishes.



Singing while social distancing is difficult for the Cobalt Men's Choir.

Band Performs for the Holidays

by Ty Nguyen

Every year the music department performs their annual Christmas extravaganza; however, due to covid, the band performed their own winter concert. On December 5, at 6pm at Denison Stadium, five groups performed: Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Full band and the Devilettes.

"Even though this will be my second year performing at the Christmas extravaganza," said Elizabeth Nguyen, a junior Jazz Band player, "I'm still really nervous, but also really excited to play since it's been a while and it will be my first time performing with the band."



Performing outside, the band stays safe during their holiday concert

In past events, more groups would participate such as orchestra and chorus. Unfortunately, they are unable to participate since it draws too many people. In addition, the concert was held outside due to social distancing regulations.

After practicing and preparing for a long time, each group performed and played different pieces. During class, online learners had to play at home and through a screen. They also had to attend after school rehearsals so they can be involved.

Coverings such as bell covers were used on the instruments and wearing masks were requirements to practice in person.

"It's exciting. More than anything just because we haven't had the chance to be whole and play as a complete ensemble ever since Covid started. I haven't seen some of the kids in six months and there are some kids I will be seeing for the first time. So, I'm excited to put on a show and play music as a whole, versus broken up like we do in class," stated Mr. Deases, the band teacher.

Orchestra Makes Music Safely

by Ty Nguyen

Usually, the music department would perform together during their annual Holiday Extravaganza but due to covid, that wasn't possible. Orchestra decided to host their own free winter concert on December 17, at 6pm underneath the cover area in front of the cafeteria.

The winter concert was their first concert of the school year but in past years, they would have had at least two to three already.

"I'm excited that we get to have a concert even with corona, and hope that the pieces we play sound good," stated Dashiell Warren, a freshmen orchestra member.

During the performance, students played pieces and gave brief introductions on the background of the piece. The concert was a reflection and a showcase of what they have been studying and learning throughout the first semester.

The biggest obstacle orchestra faced was covid.

"It's kind of scary to even have the idea of a concert with covid, but we've followed all the recommendations from supervisors, and I feel like the kids are at a place where performance will be a positive experience for them," said Mr. Miller, the orchestra teacher.

Covid had also made it difficult to play as one ensemble.

"It's hard to have a rehearsal... when part of the students are at home and part of them is face-to-face," stated Mr. Miller.

Last year, orchestra was impacted negatively as well because they had been preparing for the State MPA, an accomplishment that hasn't happened for a long time. They had to cancel when the lockdown happened, which brought an abrupt end to their concert season.

"To finally come back and have a performance just a couple of months shy of a year later," said Mr. Miller, "it's very exciting to me and the students because performing is the most rewarding part of being a musician."

What's New with the Blue Devil Battalion?

By JROTC Cadet Janessa Thomas; JROTC PAO

Giving Back to the Community

Our JROTC cadets love to give back and play a helpful hand in community service opportunities across the Winter Haven area. Though not required many of the cadets in the program take any opportunity to give back and obtain experience in multiple fields assisting in a multitude of events. Our JROTC program specifically enjoys being able to say we participate and affect so many service organizations with our influence and admirable cadets. Some of the major events that the program has participated in include Special Olympics, held traditionally at the Cypress Lanes Bowling Alley our cadets help citizens with a vast range of disabilities compete in a friendly competition while also bringing awareness. More recently staying true to the holiday season our cadets helped the Optimist International club at Champions Church in Havendale set up their Christmas tree stand in preparation for the upcoming holiday.



Our cadets that gave their time helping in preparation for the Christmas season.



Previous cadets placing at a drill competition at Brooker High School.

A New Drill Season!

Welcoming new and ready to learn cadets to the drill field we are proud as a battalion at the leaps and bounds our cadets make with their quick-thinking skills and memorization needed to truly solidify a drill team member. With high hopes our cadets steam into the new drill season practicing and showing what extraordinary progress they have made executing commands and building a strong foundation for competitions to come. With the first competition being held in January our commanders for platoon (unit consisting of two or more squads or sections and a headquarters), squad (a small number of soldiers assembled for drill or assigned to some special task), and color guard (a uniformed group, especially of soldiers, police officers, or school representatives, who parade or present their institution's flag on ceremonial occasions) practice hard to whittle out any flaws creating an award winning team in hopes of placing in the upcoming months.

Raider Team

Raider Competition or "Raider" as it is more commonly known is a very popular athletic competition held within Junior ROTC programs around the United States. It is the Junior ROTC equivalent of the Army ROTC "Ranger" competition in college, only far less dangerous but very challenging as well! Our battalion raiders go through days of training year-round in hopes to place in these rigorous challenges against a multitude of schools in the surrounding areas. While most Raider teams are formed within Army JROTC programs, some of these teams are also found within Marine Corps, Navy and even a few Air Force programs. Most schools who "Raider" have a male team, but almost as many have a mixed team. Some bigger schools also offer a separate female team, or any combination depending on the number of cadets within to participate. As the competitive sport of Raider gains more and more teams, the other three services will likely gain more talent and traction. Regardless, competing in Raider is a great way for JROTC cadets to stay mentally and physically in shape in a military framework.



Our raider team in the last laps of their competition 5k.

Equine Studies Learn in the Real World

by Xithlalic Vasquez

This is the second year that the Equine Studies Program has been partnered with the Hope Equine Rescue. The rescue is a non-profit organization that takes in horses that have been mistreated or disowned and cares for them.

This year, according to Mrs. McCullough who teaches the class, there is one returning student, Junior Talyer Wright, who gets to move on to the second year course where they learn how to properly ride a horse. In addition to the returning student, there are 19 beginner students who learn the basics of horse care.

Students get to go to the rescue during fourth period, including the 11 elearners. The students on-campus are transported via bus, while elearners get the options of going to campus to ride the bus or getting a different ride and meeting the class at the rescue.

"Many riders these days are just riders. Our goal is to make horsemen and women," stated Mrs. McCullough.



Junior Talyer Wright prepares to mount up.

Creative Corner

Paranormal Busting part two: Apartment 4-4

by Xithlalic Vasquez

“I think it’s nice that you guys waited for a day until I could join as well,” Abyd said as the paranormal club walked through the parking lot of the supposed haunted apartment building.

“Yeah, totally. We totally waited for you and didn’t accidentally drop the phone we used to face call you down the stairs while struggling with the equipment,” Tansa bit out as he glared at Luci who looked away.

“At least you’re not the one who ate an entire pizza and nearly spilled soda on the microphones,” Videl said as she looked accusingly at Tansa who fiddled with a zipper on the equipment bag.

“Come on guys, will you focus? We have to focus here or else we’ll never be able to investigate this apartment. As much as I love hanging out with Videl, I think it’s time to overcome this apartment building,” Luci said as they walked up the stairs.

“We would get there faster if someone didn’t have a fear of elevators,” Tansa muttered to himself.

“Want to say something to my face, brave boy?” Videl threatened as Tansa shrunk behind Abyd.

Abyd and Luci sighed and shook their heads as they continued up the stairs to the fourth floor.

“Here we are, room 4-4,” Videl said as she fished into her pocket and pulled out the key.

She had been able to get the key from the caretaker after promising to take care of the garden on weekends for a month.

“Alright, do we have a good idea of where the cameras and lights are going?” Luci asked as the door clicked open.

“Yeah, yeah. Say, I think it’s better that we waited so long. You do know what today is, right?” Tansa asked with stars in his eyes.

“It’s the anniversary of the fire four years ago. Were you here for that, Videl?” Luci gently asked.

“Yeah, I think it started in this apartment. It filled the hall with smoke and it started its way down the hall before the firemen arrived. I hear there was a girl who lived there with her family and she made it out by herself but she took the elevator and got stuck. She breathed in too much smoke.”

Chills ran through everyone as they walked into the untouched apartment.

“They fixed it up after the fire but no one has ever rented it. The few who have come to see it report hearing the sounds of a girl coughing and sounds of walking. They say it sounds like someone still lives here and things even go missing only to reappear at different spots,” Luci said as they set up the equipment in the room.

“I think we should turn off the lights and try to communicate with the spirit. They’re probably scared of light,” Tansa said as Abyd walked towards the dusty living room.

“Look at that, it’s so undisturbed like no one has cleaned it even though there are people checking it out ever so often,” Abyd whispered in awe.

“Maybe it’s soot, from the fire,” Tansa teased.

“Come on, let’s get comfortable, lights are going out,” Videl said as she stood next to the light switch.

“I think we’re all ready,” Luci said as she glanced at the guys who looked serious for once.

The lights went out and the room grew quiet aside from the communication device. They took turns asking four questions each but none of them had received even a slight difference in the frequency.

“Videl, your turn,” Abyd said as he stepped away from the camera with the communicator. “Videl?”

The other two looked to where Videl had settled down but saw nothing.

“Do you think she was taken? Can a ghost actually do that?” Tansa asked as Luci felt around for her.

“No, besides so far there has been no sign of a ghost, and we have the perfect atmosphere for it,” Abyd said.

Suddenly, coughing filled the room.

“Luci, Abyd, that wasn’t funny,” Tansa said as he stood up.

“It wasn’t me,” They responded.

“Isn’t it getting a bit hot in here?” Luci whispered.

Another cough rang out. The group screamed as Tansa tossed the communicator in the direction. A crashing sound filled the room.

“Hey!”

“Ah!” They all screamed as they scrambled around.

“Oh, will you guys quiet down?”

The lights flicked on to reveal Videl holding a bag with drinks and snacks, “I’m not a ghost, and also, whoever threw that, your aim sucks.”

Tansa’s face flushed as he cleared his throat. “Well maybe you should have told us where you went before scaring us.”

“It’s dusty in here. Plus, I told Abyd.”

The others turned to look at a confused Abyd.

“What do you mean? I was at the camera trying to fix the audio. It started to get staticky.”

“No, you were next to me. I was on the ground and you were sitting on the couch.”



Artwork by Senior Alexander Nguyen

Continued on pg 12

Dive Team Places in State Competition

by Bella Blind

Four divers from the WHHS dive team placed at the FHSAA 4A State Swimming and Diving Championships that took place at the Sailfish Splashpark Aquatics Athletic Center in Stuart.

Quinn Scarbrough led the dive team by finishing fourth in the one-meter diving event and scoring 396.45 points in the 11-dive program.

Scarbrough is a current junior who has been a part of the swim/dive team since his freshman year. His goals for the next season are to place second in state competitions.

“What I enjoy most [about being on the team] is having fun hanging out with friends,” stated Scarbrough.

Focusing is a major factor for Scarbrough before beginning each event. He stated that before every competition, he must focus all his attention on doing his specific events correct the first time without having to come up for air.

One of the biggest struggles Scarbrough has to go through is juggling between Cambridge courses and after-school sports. To overcome these obstacles, Scarbrough stated that he must time manage and put his priorities first.

Another diver, Julian Salvia-Gonzalez, placed eighth gaining 324.45 points; and Joey Cea placed tenth gaining 309.25 points.

Placing fifteenth, Haley Henson scored 317.60 points in the girls’ one-meter diving event. Matthew Long placed twenty-second in the boys 200 individual medley and twenty-fourth in the 100-freestyle event.



From left to right: Coach Voisard, Joey Cea, Quinn Scarbrough, and Julian Salvia-Gonzalez.

Girls' Weightlifting Carries Heavy Expectations

by Cas Hendron

This year girls’ weightlifting has a lot on their shoulders. With the challenges brought about by Covid-19, things have been difficult but still successful. The lifts may still be the same, but many new protocols have been introduced. The girls have to wear mandatory masks, have temperature checks and must work in the same partner group when practicing.

“My girls start lifting at six o’clock in the morning four days a week, that’s commitment,” said Mr. Jones, Head coach.

With strong competitors such as Lake Wales, who has won county for the last Four years, extreme practice is vital for success. To reach that success, the girls are all very supportive and motivate each other.

“You’ll always have the girls that make it competitive but there’s always the girls who are cheering on everyone no matter what school,” said Hannah Penka “That’s always been my favorite part.”



The girls' weightlifting team encourages Senior Hannah Penka to lift.

Boys’ Soccer Kicks Off New Season

by Bella Blind

The boys’ soccer team hosted their first official home game on November 10 against Haines City High School at Denison Stadium.

Coach Shawn Smith stated that the team’s goals this year are to come together as a “cohesive group,” develop good communication, and successfully play as a single unit. The team also plans to win districts.

The team has had many struggles so far this year. One of the many struggles the team has had to go through is the rebuilding of the team due to a loss of many varsity players. Another obstacle that the team faces is one that has caused change to everyday life.

“COVID 19 is probably another one of our biggest challenges,” said Coach Smith. “It [COVID 19] has impacted returning players. We are very low for tryouts. Plus, we have to adjust how we practice and all of the safety precautions.”

Coach Smith started coaching soccer in 2001; however, he did not start coaching at WHHS until 2014 as the assistant varsity coach. Coach Smith became the head varsity coach last year.

One of the many players on the team is Senior Bradley Meyer. He has played for about seven years and he stated that one of the many reasons why he joined the team was because he previously played competitively.

One of the main reasons Meyer enjoys playing soccer is that he has the opportunity to meet new people. There are also many things that inspires Meyer to continue to play soccer.

“I have a love for the sport,” stated Meyer, “and I like being able to stay active.”

The team’s biggest competition this year is George Jenkins. The team’s record from last year includes seven wins, eight losses, and three ties. The team hopes to improve on that record.

According to Meyer, the team placed fourth in districts last year and placed second in districts two years ago.

Coach Smith stated that the thing he enjoys most about coaching soccer is “making an impact on a young man’s life and giving him the tools to be successful in life.”

JV Soccer is getting a kick start

by Luci Lippelgoos

The Lady Blue Devils JV soccer team has had a great start to the season. Their first game of the season was on November 10 against Ridge Community High School.

The JV soccer team is led by Coach David Gilliam.

“The teams are learning to work together,” said Freshman Heleigh Reimer. “I am excited to see how we will do this season.”

The young team is made up of many freshmen. This strong group of girls work hard throughout the season to improve their skills.

The JV soccer season lasts until January.

How to Make a Piñata

by Xithlalic Vasquez

Materials needed: cardboard (a cereal box will do), scissors, stapler, tissue paper or streamer, glue, ruler, and something to hold up the piñata like rope or a zip tie.

How to make the body:

1. Get the cardboard and draw or trace an outline for the design you want, this will be your front and backside.
2. Cut out strips which will be the width of the piñata. The width will vary on how wide you want it but once you have decided the size, add an inch to it (width-wise, not length-wise).
3. Take the strips and fold half an inch on the bottom and top. If you have more than one strip, staple the ends to each other.
4. Grab one cutout and the strip, bend the strip to the shape of the cutout as you staple along with the folded half-inch.
5. Add two holes on the width strip where the top of the body is and slip in the rope or zip tie through. Then near the top, cut a little flap on the width slip that will allow items to be put inside.
6. Get the remaining cutout and repeat step 4.

How to make the decoration:

1. If you choose to use streamers, skip to step 2. Measure out about 1½ inches and draw a line across the tissue paper. Repeat this action until you cut out enough strips to cover the body.
2. Fold your paper material ¾ and wrap around your hand. Have the tops - where the fold is - line up. Don't wrap too much around your hand or else it will be harder to cut. Slide it off and hold the oval shape tightly so it all stays lined up.
3. Cut upwards from the bottom and leave about 3mm at the top - you can cut less if you don't want it to appear very ruffy. Depending on preference, you can cut a centimeter or half a centimeter apart. Repeat until done.
4. Put on a horizontal strip of glue at the bottom and place a strip of the cut paper material on it in a straight line.
5. Place the second strip above the first with some of the bottom covering the top of the first strip. Repeat this until everything is covered on both sides.
6. Put strips on the width and work your way up from both widths. Make sure to cut the paper on the flap to allow the flap to open.

Making a piñata is a great way to spend time with relatives, especially when you get to break it together.

Creative Corner Continued from page 10

They all turned their heads to the couch where the dust remained untouched.

"You know, I think my mom called," Luci said hoarsely as she took a step back.

"Did you see something? I didn't," Abyd whispered.

"I mean, isn't this what you were looking for? Tell them, Tansa--"

The group turned to look for the leader but the door was already wide open. The group silently looked at one another before charging out of the room.

"Any ideas of what to check next?" Tansa casually asked as they all stood in the stairway catching their breaths.

"We could look into the mystery of the disappearing principal. I swear the principal is never here, but then when I least expect it, boom!" Luci said as she made a gesture.

"Any objections?" Tansa asked.

"Well, we have to get the equipment back before anything," Abyd said and the other two groaned before heading up the stairs.

As they neared the door, their eyes focused on the two black bags outside of the door.

"Oh," Tansa whispered before his eyes rolled back and he collapsed on the ground.

"You guys back already?" Videl asked, popping out from the apartment with the bag she had come back with.

"You didn't run away with us?" Luci asked as Abyd poked Tansa with the tip of his shoe.

"I did but I went back for the equipment. Say, why is he out cold?"

"He thought you were a ghost. Come on, He'll find his way back when he wakes up. Should we get pizza? I'll pay," Abyd said as he and Luci walked over for the two bags.

"Sure," The girls replied.

"Did someone say pizza?" Tansa asked as he sat up.



The 3D Studio Art Class students present their 2020 Blue Devil Mask-cots.

From left to right: Jonathan Hostetler (10th), Michael Leuteritz (10th), Jacari Hines (10th), Jana Peterson (9th), Jordyn Frazier (9th), Alejandro Webster (9th), Kaylee Lopez (12th).



Comic Strip

by Erin Thrift and Cassandra Hendron

