

The Patriot Press

Northern Middle School • Owings, Maryland • December 4, 2015 • Volume 44, Number 1



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A look back
at Spirit Week



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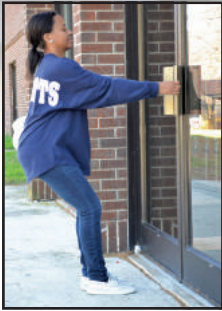
 
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The Patriot Press
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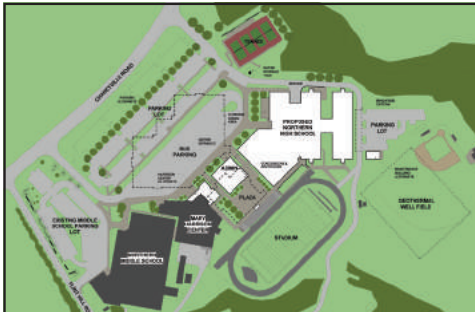


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Editor's Note

Keep up with all of Northern's journalism at
www.patriotpress.edublogs.org

by Madison Griffith and Hailey Guit

New Beginnings

Beginnings are always difficult. Beginning an essay, beginning a new job, even beginning a new school year. Beginnings of-

new teachers and support staff whom students and staff need to get to know.

The football team has started a new page play-

Individual achievement is another way that students can begin the school year with new purpose. Maybe you didn't do so well in a class last year. Make this year the one when you can really improve. Maybe you were too afraid to join a club because you didn't know anyone else in it. Join it anyway and you might just make some new friends. More often than not, we will look back and regret what we didn't do rather than what we did.

The Patriot Press has been faced with its own challenges as we begin a new school year. Fewer students signed up for the class resulting in a smaller staff. Each staff member has more responsibility than in previous years. Only nine students returned from last year, so half the class is new students who have spent the first quarter of the school year learning how the magazine is made and all the work that is required to put it together. Nevertheless, this allows new ideas to be shared and put into action. Each new school year is an opportunity for students to start fresh and begin again. As F. Scott Fitzgerald said in *The Great Gatsby*, "Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall." Dive head first into the school year, have a great beginning and make this year what you've always wanted.

fer opportunities: The opportunity to start a new page and to begin fresh. After all, it's never too late to start a new page in your life.

New teachers, new clothes, and new friends are all part of a new school year. The 2015-2016 school year has been full of new and exciting things. A new dress code policy, a new security system, and new teachers are some of the things that have changed at NHS. Northern lost seven and one half staff members last year, four teachers and three and a half support staff. Still, the school has gained

ing stronger than anyone can remember, including beating our county rival, Huntingtown, for the first time in eight years. The volleyball went undefeated on the season and won SMAC. Both boys and girls cross country won Regionals. Many new clubs started around the school including the Student Wilderness Adventure Group, the Polar Bear Plunge Club, Fashion Club, and Modern Music Listeners Club. Each of these groups started because a student decided to bring something new to the school and make a difference.

The Patriot Press is the student newsmagazine of Northern High School in Owings, Maryland. It is written, edited and designed by the Journalism students of NHS. The magazine is not an official publication of Northern High School or of the Calvert County Public Schools. The content of the magazine represents the ideas and opinions of the student writers and editors. These views are not necessarily shared by the administration or staff of Northern High School or of the Calvert County Public Schools.

Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the editorial board.

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Letters to the Editor are very welcome. Email them to clitesg@calvertnet.k12.md.us or drop them in Mr. Clites' mail box in the main office.

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News and Notes



Seniors Emily Hall and Layla Purdy auditioning for the Talent Show.

The senior Class Council planned a **Talent Show** for Nov. 20. Due to a conflict with the volleyball State Playoffs, it has been postponed. Tryouts were held Nov. 4, 5, and 6 at which students came out to show their talents and hopefully earn a spot in the show. Last year, the school didn't have a Talent Show at all so there was a lot of excitement for this year's show. "I feel like people are amazed by the talents other people have, and it's a great way for students to get to know their peers better," said senior class council sponsor Mrs. Lisa Davis. The proceeds from the show will go toward Project Grad, an event after graduation sponsored by the class council each year to make sure seniors stay safe on Graduation night. **-Hailey Guit**

Three talented students from the Academic Team represented Northern High School on November 14 taping of **It's Academic** at WJZ-TV in Baltimore. Senior Micah Calderwood is the team captain, and Seniors Sarah Lodder and Jenny Thrift form the rest of the team. They competed against teams from Mount De Sales Academy and Dulaney High School. The show works similar to the show Jeopardy, in which a question is asked, then if the team has answer they buzz in. After a short discussion between the team members, the team captain gives the answer. "It's a great opportunity to see what our students are doing outside of class, and I think it really shows our academic strengths here at Northern," said Lodder. The show will air on January 30 on WJZ-13. **-Hailey Guit**

As the school year begins, there are always changes around school. Although it hasn't been eliminated altogether, the administration decided to relax the **dress code** to cut the amount of time teachers and staff were spending addressing it. The dress code determined by the school system is a set of guidelines regarding how students should dress during school. Most students are respectful, and the administration addresses the student's clothing only if they feel a line has been crossed. "We're trying to keep students in class and maintain a safe learning environment. As long as it's not inappropriate or a distraction, learning can still happen," said Principal Kevin Howard. Students must still dress appropriately but the dress code will be less stringent this year than it has been. **-Taylor Isenberg**

As the holiday season approaches, the Student Government Association is participating in **Stockings for Soldiers**, a program to make servicemen's lives better at the holidays. They choose 25 U.S. soldiers from a unit that is affiliated with the school and collect gifts to send so they can enjoy their holiday this year. The SGA committee is assigning each person a soldier and that person will go out buy gifts like beef jerky, socks, 5-hour energy drinks to send. They may also make a humorous holiday music video. The packages will be sent to the soldiers in November so the soldiers will get them in time for the holidays. **-Madison Griffith**

Poetry lovers everywhere, mark your calendars. The schoolwide **Poetry Out Loud** competition will be held on Monday, Dec. 7. "Poetry Out Loud is a national recitation contest leading to county, state winners national winners," said english teacher Stephanie Milton. At the school level, students recite two poems. At the state competition, a third is added. Students memorize one poem of 25 lines or fewer and another from the pre-twentieth century category. At the school level, first prize is \$40, second prize is \$30, third prize is \$20 and honorable mention will receive \$10. Performance tips can be found at www.poetryoutloud.org. **-Madison Griffith**

Safety First

New school security is inconvenient, but it's intended to make Northern a safer place.

by Lauren Downs and Micaela Shannon

According to the gun control advocacy group Everytown for Gun Safety, there have been 150 school shootings in the United States since 2013. In order to keep students and staff safe, schools all across the nation have been updating their security systems to prevent them from happening. After the high profile Sandy Hook school shooting in 2012, the state of Maryland passed funding and requirements for all the schools in the state to increase security. Our school has seen a big change. The

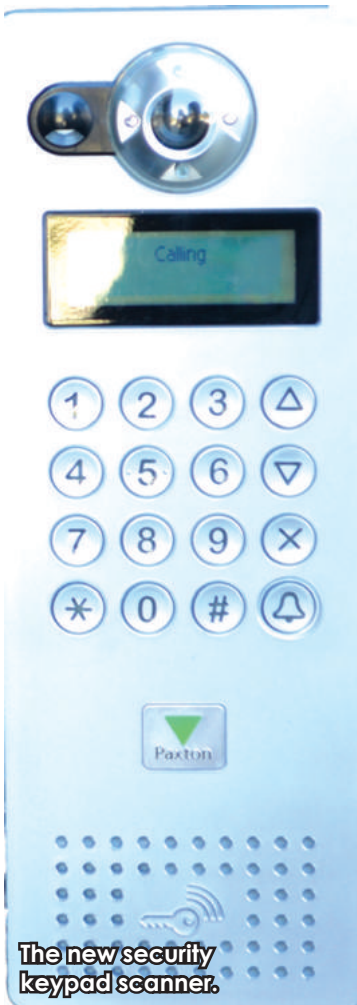
doors now have automatic locks and both students and visitors need to be buzzed into the building by the main office.

The new locks are operated by magnets which lock the doors automatically. Between the bells for class, the doors are unlocked so students can get to their next class. Teacher's staff IDs can open the doors thanks to magnetic strips in their badges, but if students find themselves locked outside after the bell has rung, they have to go to the front entrance and stand in a marked box to be buzzed in by the main office. The main entrance doors and the Mary Harrison doors each have cameras that allow the main office to see who is at the door.

As Principal Kevin Howard always says, safety is an inconvenience. "The new security makes it harder for students to enter the school,"



Alexys Adams waiting to get scanned into the school.



The new security keypad scanner.

Vice Principal James Carpenter said. These changes have made students more careful not to be late for their classes and more mindful to be where they need to be. The new system also allows staff to keep track of students and make sure that they don't wander around the campus. "I think that the new system is necessary for the safety but it's also unnecessary to have every door locked because it makes it more difficult to get around the school," said sophomore Lauren Moltz.

The goal of the system, of course, is not allowing outsiders to come into the school anytime they want. Every person who enters has to come in by the main office. This keeps the students and staff feeling safer. "It's disappointing that we have to have this school security because you never know what will happen, who will walk through the doors, and what might happen," says safety advocate Mr. Kenny Seibert.

Over the years safety has been improved at our school through the addition of two safety advocates and a police liaison officer. "It is disappointing to me that we have school shootings, but I don't know why the schools didn't have this security before," said criminal justice teacher Mrs. Denise Miles.

Sadly the heightened security is becoming a necessity in schools around the nation to keep out harmful people and prevent more of these situations. However, the inconvenience is a small price to pay in order to keep our school safe and secure.

Photo by Hailey Guitt

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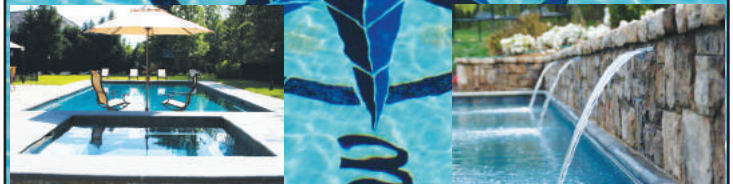
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Going Clubbing

Four new clubs offer students the opportunity to explore their interests in and out of school.

by Jenna Jaeger, Kelli Kaiser, Aiyonna White, Heather Rice and Madison Griffith

A number of new clubs have been created this year and some have started their existence with a bang. Following are three new clubs you might consider joining.



The S.W.A.G Club hiking in Dunkirk.

S.W.A.G.: Juniors Anna McAulliffe, Amy Hagen, and Madi Long started the Student Wilderness Adventure Group (or S.W.A.G.) to teach other students how to be safe while having fun in the outdoors. "We would like to encourage exploration of the outdoors and outdoor activities," vice president Hagen explained. Friendship is an important component of the group. "My best friend is president, so it's always a fun time at meetings." President McAulliffe explained. "We plan to start out easy and steadily go on harder and longer hikes." The first group trip was to Ferry Landing in Dunkirk on October 25. Along with hikes, SWAG members prepare slideshows of past travels to share with others in the group. "So far, we've had a really interesting presentation about the Adirondacks in New York," said Long. By the end of the year, SWAG hopes to take an overnight excursion to Great Falls, Virginia. It's not too late to join in on the fun. Student Wilderness Adventure Group meets Mondays B-lunch in Mr. Norfolk's room.

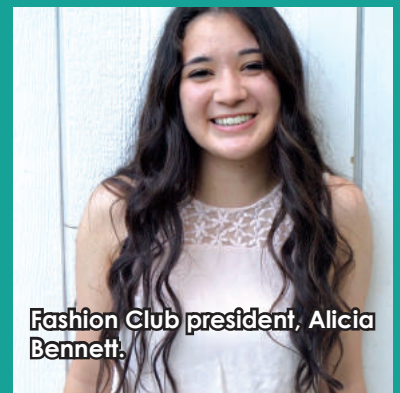
Modern Music Listeners Club: "This club is all about listening to music and people being able to discover new music that they're interested in," said sophomore presi-

dent Jessica Drake. Drake and sophomore vice president Elisabeth Elbrecht formed the club because of their love of music and their desire to share it with other people. "Some activities we plan to do are playing different types of games and trivia, discussing the music industry, watching music videos and movies, bonding over music and overall just having a fun time," said Drake. They meet every Monday A-lunch in trailer 5. New members are always welcome.

Fashion Club: Fashion Club is all about fashion topics, crafts, DIY's and listening to guest speakers talk about different aspects of the fashion industry. "It's a positive place where people can talk about fashion and fashion related things while hopefully getting involved in the community," said junior president Alicia Bennett. They plan to volunteer at DC Fashion Week at the end of February. "I created the club to get a head start, as I plan to work in the fashion industry," said Bennett. Meetings take place twice a month during B-lunch on Thursdays in room 901.

Digital Recording Club (DRC): This is a completely student-led club that was started by junior Celine Gautrois. "It's a way to help kids get comfortable in front of the camera. If someone were wishing to major in digital recording, then it would be helpful in pursuit of this dream," she said. The Digital Recording Club plans to create an end of the year short film. The film will include clips of meetings and activities the club takes part in during the day. The club includes about

20 students from all grades. They hope to get funding in the future for equipment involving the media and technology. This club meets every Wednesday in room 607 both A and B-lunches.



Fashion Club president, Alicia Bennett.



An early meeting of the Digital Recording Club.

Coming to America

Students were excited to see the Pope during his visit to D.C. in late September.

by Joey Almony
Opinion Editor

On Tuesday, Sep. 22, at 4 p.m., Pope Francis stepped foot in the United States. Flying from Havana

The Obamas greeting the Pope at the airport.



after a visit to Cuba, he arrived at Joint Base Andrews and was greeted by

President Barack Obama, the First Lady and many other religious figures. For students at NHS who are Catholic, the Pope's visit was a big event.

Junior Nina Dorsett was there to witness this historical event with her church group. "D.C. gave a bunch of tickets to local churches, and my church received some," she said. She fortunate enough to see the Pope first arrive in the U.S. "I was really lucky. My group was really close to him; it was exciting," said Dorsett.

The day wasn't all fun and excitement. The usual 45 minute trip into D.C. took Dorsett almost two hours due to traffic. Major commuter routes and main roads were temporarily closed for the Papal visit. On the next day of the visit, senior Maddie Gentry and her sister freshman Cameron Gentry avoided the headaches caused by stagnant traffic. Instead, they stayed at

a hotel just five minutes away from the event, but the visit was still exhausting. "We were up at 8 a.m. and the parade didn't end until 4 p.m.," said Cameron, "It was a lot of sitting and standing."

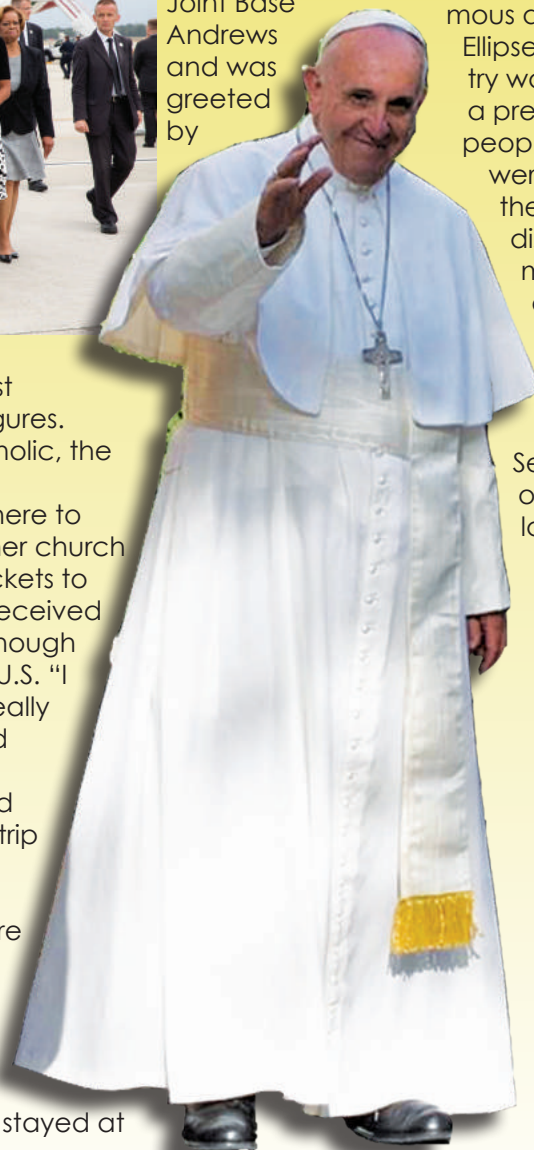
It wasn't just a long day for the Gentrys, but also for the Pope himself. Before the parade started that day, Pope Francis attended a White House Welcoming Ceremony, where he had a personal meeting with Obama.

After the meeting, the Pope hopped into his famous all-white pope-mobile to ride around the Ellipse of the White House. Cameron Gentry was impressed that Pope Francis drew a pretty large crowd. "There were a lot of people there. The traffic was crazy, and roads were even closed," said Gentry. Luckily for the spectators, an enormous jumbotron displayed the whole event on the monument grounds so not a bit of the historic event was missed.

After the parade and his Mid-day Prayer with the U.S. bishops at Saint Matthew's Cathedral in D.C., the Pope appeared at the Junipero Serra Canonization Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest Catholic

The Popemobile:

Although they may be not as cool as the silkened thrones that carried popes in history, the Popemobiles include many interesting and cool perks. Not only do some have bulletproof windows, but all can accelerate to high speeds quickly in case of an emergency. Pope Benedict's even had it's own oxygen supply. Even with the James Bond perks, Pope Francis prefers his 1984 Renault 4 over the pimped out Jeep Wrangler.



Photos courtesy of Nina Dorsett and by Pete Souza and Lawrence Jackson by permission of the White House Photo Office

Church in the U.S. This was the first ever Canonization Mass on U.S soil.

Although the first two days of the Papal Visit were long, it was completely worth it for those who attended. "We got gold seating on the lawn about 30 yards away. We were closer than a lot of people," said Maddie Gentry. Also lucky enough to witness the event close up were many students from Catholic University. Pope Francis was the third Pope that the University has hosted, being the only University in the country that can say that.



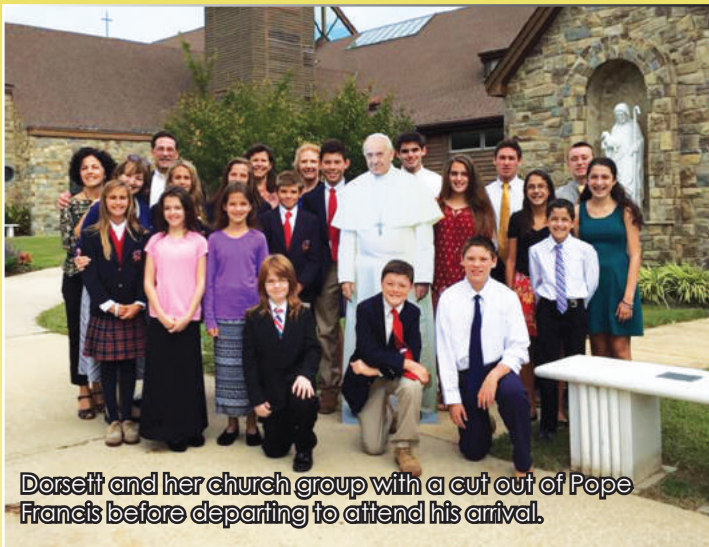
Pope Francis and Obama at the White House:

and the world and as a whole. "Seeing so many non-Catholics support Pope Francis and his message gives me a sense of pride and love for the Catholic faith," said Dorsett.

For Catholics, the Pope's visit meant a lot to their faith. "To be that close to the head of the Catholic Church, especially a really awesome and humble one, brings a new surge to my faith," said Dorsett.

Pope Francis ended his trip to Washington with yet another eventful day. He started by making history again by being the first Pope to formally address Congress. He did not hesitate to challenge Congress to address issues like the immigration crisis, climate change, abortion, the death penalty, family, the distribution of wealth, and war.

After his address to Congress, Pope Francis visited several Catholic churches and charities, and finally departed for New York at 4 p.m. The Pope's visit to our area drew international attention and was an opportunity for students from Northern to witness history.



Dorsett and her church group with a cut out of Pope Francis before departing to attend his arrival.

Along with great seating, came an amazing experience for the Gentry sisters, who were present at the Canonization Mass. "Very cool, very exciting, once in a lifetime opportunity," said Cameron Gentry. Not only were the Gentry sisters grateful for experiencing history, but Dorsett too was extremely appreciative. "It

Canonization backlash:

The canonization of Junipero Serra into Sainthood caused an outcry and protest from many in the Native American community. Serra is accused of destroying Native American culture and tradition during the 18th century by conducting a number of aggressive mission trips throughout California, converting thousands of Natives forcibly to Christianity. Native Americans who were insubordinate were sometimes violently punished, and the Spanish inadvertently spread diseases that killed thousands.

was really exciting. I had great seats and it was definitely something I'll always remember," she said.

"I knew it was a big deal, but I didn't know it was this big, like nationally big," said Maddie Gentry. Pope Francis' visit was an opportunity for students to learn about his impact on the Catholic religion



Fun facts about Pope Francis

(Jorge Mario Bergoglio)

1: Pope Francis is the first Jesuit (member of the Society of Jesus) Pope, the first to ever address Congress, the first Pope born in the Southern Hemisphere, and the first Pope in 700 years not to be born in Europe.

2: While studying psychology and theology at the Colegio of San José, the Pope worked as a bouncer in a bar to help pay for his studies.

3: The Pope is multilingual, speaking Spanish, Latin, and Italian fluently and understanding English, German, French, Portuguese, and Ukrainian. However, most of his speeches are in his native tongue, which is Spanish.

Source: Biography.com

Presidential Elections 2016

Enough with the rhetoric and political mudslinging, bring on the real policy debates.

by Hailey Guit
Editor in Chief

If you have watched any of the six presidential debates since the first one aired on August 6, you might have noticed a pattern. Four were for the Republican Party, and two were for the Democratic Party. At every debate, there was more scandal and accusation flinging than there was any real discussion of the topics planned for debate. Maybe the real question that needs to be asked at the next debate isn't for the candidates, but for the moderators; When will the real debates begin?

At the second Republican debate, held September 16, moderator Jake Tapper started off the night by saying "Our goal for this evening is a debate. A true debate, with candidates addressing each other in areas where they differ. Where they disagree -- on policy, on politics, on leadership." Tapper's first question was a provocation for Carly Fiorina to talk about her opinion of Donald Trump's temper. Trump chose to use his first words in the debate to say "Well, first of all, Rand Paul shouldn't even be on this stage. He's number 11, he's got one percent in the polls, and how he got up here, there's far too many people anyway." The practice of pointing fingers and degrading other candidates continued through the debates and was a common factor in all the republican debates so far.

When there was a rare moment of actual political debate, the republican candidates often chose to attack their democratic counterparts, something both parties tend to do. This, of course, does nothing to help viewers decide which candidate will best support their views. Debates among the Republican Party and Democratic Party should be tools to help citizens decide which candidate they want to vote for in the primary election. Criticisms between opposing party members can wait until the general election.

The democratic debates did a better job of hold-

ing real discussions of topics that are relevant, but again the moderators chose to ask questions that were less about policy and relevant topics but rather accusations about the candidates' character. Candidates from both parties spend all their allotted time during debates repeatedly stating that problems need fixing in America, but usually not discussing how they plan on fixing them.

The democratic debates have done a better job of bringing up relevant topics like voter turnout, the Black Live Matter movement, gun control, and foreign affairs involving ISIS, Russia, and Syria. Some of these topics have barely been brought up in any of the republican debates so far and of the ones that have, more finger pointing has been done among the candidates than real discussion of how they plan to deal with these issues. In both parties, candidates tend to say how they feel about an issue without really defining what they would actually do.



Republican candidates posing before the CNN debate.

Photo courtesy of CNN

One topic for debate that doesn't seem to go away, no matter which party is being addressed, is the topic of Senator Hillary Clinton's emails. This has been a recurring issue for months, and while she still has plenty of explaining to do, Senator Bernie Sanders perhaps said it best at the first Democratic debate when he said, "Enough of the emails, let's talk about the real issues facing America." Sanders had that right. Viewers will, and are, getting tired not only of the email scandal but of the relentless mudslinging and pointless back and forth banter between the candidates that does not help anyone decide who they should support.

One thing that all candidates seem to agree upon is that America is in need of a new leader who will set forth an agenda and fix the problems facing millions of Americans. Hopefully, they will soon put aside allegations and accusations and start discussing the real issues in the country. Then people may be able to figure out which candidate they really want to support, not just who made for the funniest clip on Twitter.



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GIVING vs RECEIVING

Presents are great, but finding a way to help others will make your holidays bright

With the holiday season quickly approaching, people are getting excited for the gifts that they will receive and those that they will give away. It's the time of year when the truth about whether people prefer giving or receiving comes out.

Thanksgiving, of course, is about being thankful for what you have, as well as giving back to others. Similarly, the spirit of Christmas is about giving to others and the joy that comes from that, and Hanukkah is celebration of light and life.

During the holidays, the focus should be about giving back and showing people you support and care about them. Some of us, though, are more concerned about what we want rather than what we can give back. This type of greed can overwhelm people and make them lose focus of what's really important.

Of course, getting gifts is not a bad thing. Part of the joy that comes from this holiday season does indeed come from receiving gifts and knowing they come from a loving place. This doesn't mean that getting a gift should be seen as a requirement, or as more important than the real meaning of the holidays. This type of greed too often plagues people during this joyous time of the year.

Gifts are a way of showing someone you care about them, a way to brighten their day. The holidays should be a time to display love and thankfulness. Presents are always exciting, but the recipient shouldn't simply be excited about the item they receive. The feeling of giving is an invigorating one; it can bring joy and peace.

Gift giving isn't the only way you can give back at the holidays and after. Some people may never change their greedy ways, but this holiday season, strive to be someone who receives joy through giving thoughtful gifts to others. Ways to give back include donating to charity, volunteering in the community, and being thoughtful to your friends and family. The Maryland Charity Database lists over a thousand
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active charities in our state. You can volunteer at charities, food banks, or your church to help out. Another way to give back is to do something as simple as baking a cake for your grandparents.

You can donate money to national charities like St. Jude's Children's Hospital, The American Red Cross, or UNICEF. You can also support local charities like Project Echo, the Calvert Animal Welfare League (CAWL), or End Hunger in Calvert County. Another way to help is to buy a present for Toy for Tots or needed supplies for Operation Christmas Child, which gives help to children all around the world who can't afford life essentials like toothpaste and a toothbrush.

You can volunteer in school by tutoring other students or helping with school events. Volunteering at church can also make a big difference and they can probably use your help with all the special events around the holidays. Volunteering at local animal shelters can help save animals' lives and help find them new homes. You could help out at one of the county food pantries. Don't know where they are? Visit EndHungerCalvert.org for a list.

Giving back can be as easy as cleaning the house before your mom comes home from a long day at work. Shoveling snow off an elderly neighbor's driveway can help so much. Setting the table without being told to at a family dinner will make your parents' day. Even helping your grandmother bake a cake for the family can count as giving back. It is so easy and effortless to help, why not show you know the meaning of the holidays and take a step.

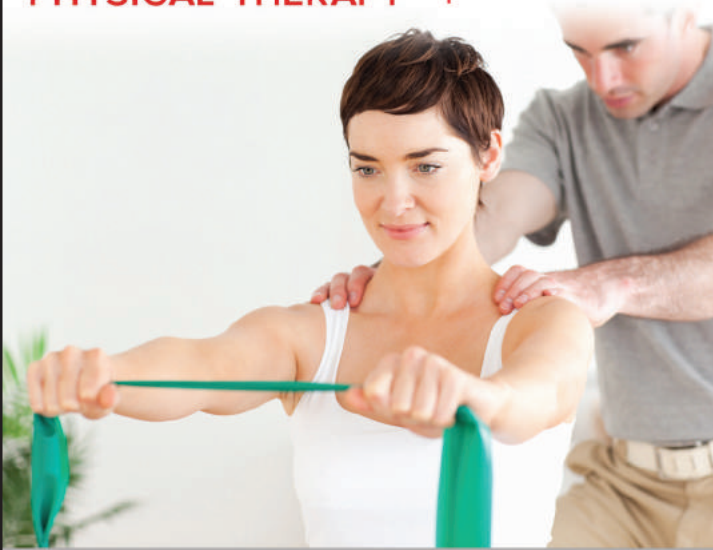


Photos by Lauren Downs

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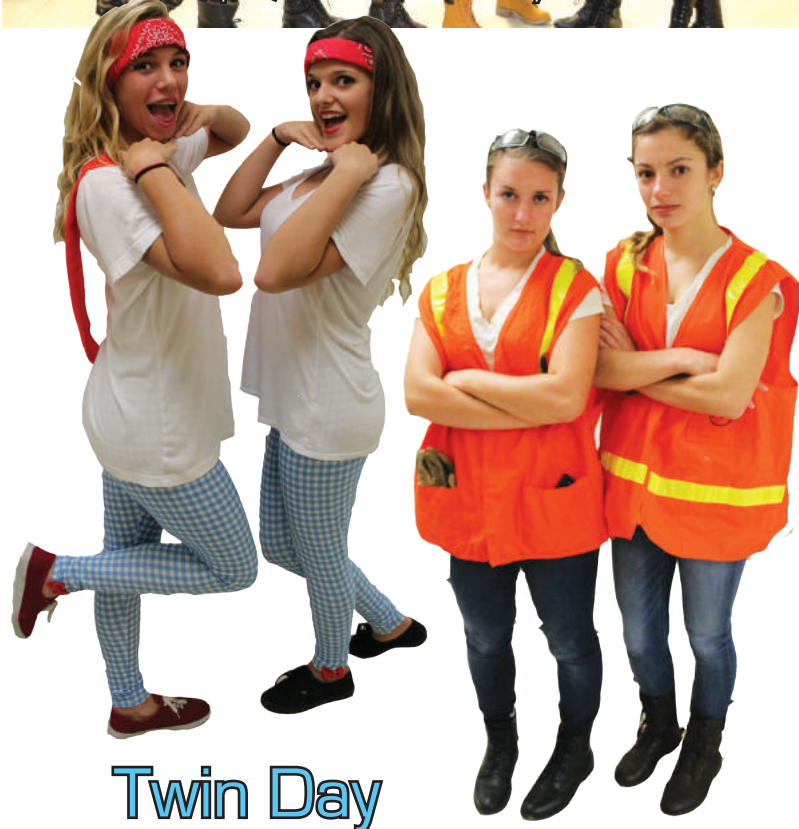
Maryland Day



Top: Seniors Kayde Taylor, Bridgette Mauer, Helene Howard, Kristina Staley, Halle Magallenes, Kyndra Wilson, and Serena Bronkas army men. Bottom: Sophomores Amber Vaughn and Jessica Prestipino, Sarah Miller and Caitlyn Kaleda.



Top: Devin Bauguess, Shane Colgan. Bottom: Group of seniors.



Twin Day

Homecoming Week

by Kelli Kaiser and Katelynn Hartman

Spirit Week is everyone's favorite part of fall. Looking back on Twin Day, Junior Caitlin Rexford said, "My best friend and I were planning to be yin and yang, but then she went to Wal-mart and bought Olaf onesies and baby pacifiers, so we were baby Olaf's." Junior Alissa Lambert's mother bought everything she needed the day before the week began. "This year, we had a lot of different and creative ideas on how to show school spirit," said Lambert. Students enjoyed showing their school spirit and getting to show off their exciting outfits.

Senior spirit wall, seniors in spirit wear, and senior Homecoming court winners, Christian Daniel and Natalie LaPlaca.



Photos by Becca Emerson, Kelli Kaiser, and Hailey Guit.



Jungle Day



Spirit Day

Top: (Left to right) Sophomores Seth Nottingham, Rebecca Emerson, Brooke Bogaczyk, junior Kendall Norton, sophomore Daniel Horak, and junior Jocelyn King. Middle: Colton Jarboe. Bottom: (Left to right) Mykaela Bailey, Jabrea Faulkner, Caitlin Rexford, Makayla Kit, Berna Jacks, Shawntaneese Glvens, and Keisha Marks.



Top: Seniors Claire Nestor and Tristan Serrao in pink. Sophomore Brooke Bogaczykin orange. Group of juniors in green.



Pep Rally



Left to right: Freshman R.J. Dennis. Sweetest senior Allison Curtin fishing through whipped cream for bubble gum. Pep Rally MC's: Dominic Vasquez and Payton Fleming. Senior Serena Bronk twirling in front of the whole school. One of the coolest seniors, Eddie Zhang. Seniors Lauren Luongo and Layla Purdy dancing at the pep rally dance off.



THE PATRIOT PLAYERS PRESENT: ZOMBIETOWN

FLESH EATING FREAKS TOOK OVER THE STAGE IN THE MARY HARRY

by Aiyonna White
Feature Editor

The Patriot Players worked hard preparing for their newest play, *Zombietown* which was presented on November 6 and 7. Students who saw last year's shows, *A Chemical Imbalance* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, know that they have a lot of talent.

The horror comedy was set in Harwood, Texas. "This was a unique play in the sense that it was about a zombie apocalypse, but the audience knew when the actors were acting. It was a documentary play, so it was almost like a fake documentary," director and theatre teacher Mrs. Rachel Sparks explained. *Zombietown* was a bit like *The Walking Dead* and *The Office* mixed together. "It's actors playing real people, but telling the story from their perspective. It was very different from the typical play," Sparks said.

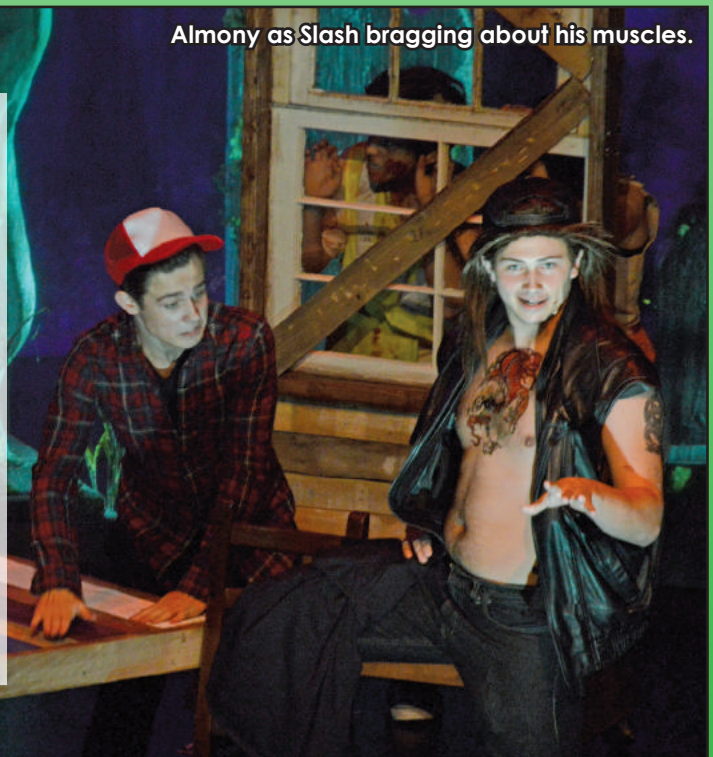
The strange plot wasn't all that was unconventional about *Zombietown*. "Each actor had to play at least three characters," junior Marina Beeson noted. The eight main characters each played a member of a theatre collective, a Texas zombie apocalypse survivor, and a third secondary character. Beeson played Jamie Sumner, Donna Mallory, and Max Davis. She was most excited to play Donna Mallory, because she is described as a mad scientist. "This was a hilarious and witty play. I hope you got the chance to see it," Beeson enthused.



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ALMONY
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BEFORE. HE
EARNED HIS
FIRST EVER
PART, TAK-
ING A LEAD
IN
HIS FIRST
PLAY.

"This is the first time I've ever done anything like this. I got into it because Ms. Sparks needed new people, and Ms. Bayne recommended me because she thought I was energetic and would make a good actor. I liked playing Slash Murphy the most because he is outgoing and funny. I knew he'd get a lot of laughs. I used to hang out with just football players and lacrosse players. Now I'm hanging out with theatre kids. It's different, but it's really great. It's fun to get out there and do something new. You'll find talents you didn't know you had."

Almony as Slash bragging about his muscles.



Samson Allen earned a lead role his freshman year. He played Mayor Arnson, Connor Marx, Marvin Belwether, and Robbie Darling, a trucker who gets turned into a zombie. Allen liked playing a zombie the most. "My favorite part of the play has been having a community act towards one goal. That's the best part," he said.

Sophomore Jonathan Wilkerson played a zombie. "My favorite part of playing a zombie was pretending to kill people and eat their brains," he said. He also loved the cool makeup and costumes.

Cast and crew members aren't the only ones who were anticipating opening night. Senior Ryan Briggs could not wait to see *Zombietown*. "I had a bunch of friends in the production, and I love the theatre program here at Northern. I was excited about the costumes and the plot. It was during the Halloween season, so it was nice and spooky," Briggs said.

The Patriot Players agree that this was not a play you would've wanted to take your little brothers and sisters to see. "It was definitely not appropriate for young children," Sparks explained. "It had some teenaged and grown up humor in there. The zombie makeup was scary. Think *The Walking Dead*." Make-up took the crew about an hour to complete, but the time paid off. "I was very excited about the makeup," junior Maya Fields said.

With a combination of determination, teamwork, and pure talent, the students and director made *Zombietown* a dark, hilarious, and excellent play. Junior Emma Shay also had her first lead in *Zombietown*. "I think the play went really well," she said. "We had a big lively audience both nights which was awesome. I'm really happy I was able to be a part of it."



Allen as Mayor Arnson



Mabel Carter as Didi Drago



Zombies dancing at the end of Act I.

Photos courtesy of Taylor Heison

A new Northern

The county goes back to the drawing board for new plans and a new start date.

by Kayla Nalepa
Assistant Editor

We've been hearing about a new Northern High school for years. Plans to build a new school go all the way back into the 2000's and a solid plan was in place to start the school last spring. At this point it seems like a longshot, but recent actions by the county are finally moving the project forward. If the current plans sticks, ground will be broken in August of 2016 and construction will stretch over a 40 month period.

The *Patriot Press* published plans for a new school design along with drawings of its spaces last year. When the cost to build that school came in over \$15 million dollar over budget, those designs were scrapped and new plans were drawn up for a less expensive design.

The new school will consist of three buildings, being built over three phases, the Mary Harrison Center, an administrative building and the main school. "The first phase will start in 2016 and consists of constructing the new school," said Director of School Construction Mr. George Leah "In 2019, the second phase will begin. It will include partial deconstruction of the current building and construction of the administrative core building. The third phase will be wrapping up the construction, getting the building ready to be used as well as alterations and additions to the Mary Harrison and site and parking lot improvements."

As far as the layout and design of the new school goes, there will be three levels, one main level, along with an upper and lower level. The entrance level will hold the physical education wing, the cafeteria, media center and math/computer technology classes. On the upper level will be the English and history departments as well as the special education classes and a computer lab. The lower level will include all science classes and biomed labs.

Beside the main school building, a smaller building

called the administrative core will include the administrative offices and the school infirmary. This will be the only school in the county with a separate building for administration. "I don't like how it can't be one facility," said Principal Kevin Howard. "But they definitely did the best they could under the circumstances." The main and attendance offices including the principal and vice principals rooms will be inside.

Last spring, the Board of Education rejected the original Northern plans because the bids came in dramatically over the planned cost. In July, a public hearing for a budget adjustment was held, concluding that there needs to be a \$102,000 increase to the new school funding in order for the school to be built. "The Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Improvement Plan requests a budget figure of \$86,680,000 of combined state and local participation," said Leah. With the school costing \$86,680,000 the state will pay up to \$44,558,000. The County Commissioners added \$4.7 million dollars to the county Capital Improvement Plan on October 27 to cover additional costs of the new school.

Coming in at a total of \$87 million, the school will be more accessible to 21st century learning and will hold an energy efficient profile. According to Leah, not much has changed from the previous site plans except that the square footage has been reduced to cut the cost. It will still be larger than the current facility and it will contain a geothermal heating and ventilation system. Using STEM labs, SMART boards and wireless technology, students will have state of the art tools for learning. It will also incorporate LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) elements which will allow the school to save money and be more energy efficient.

It seems that the wait for a new Northern High is coming to an end as the new facility should be completed sometime in 2019. Unfortunately, the current classes will not be in attendance when it's completed but they'll be one of the last groups to experience the 41 year old school in it's original form.



From left: First floor, second floor, third floor plans.

photos courtesy of Mr. George Leah

Dream teams

Students and teachers take part in a brutal sport.

by Christian Daniel
Pete's Picks Editor

It's a brutal sport where friends turn against friends, and families are torn apart week by week. It makes you forget who your home team is and leaves you confused with no clue who to cheer for. Brother turns against brother, friend against friend, finally, when it is your pick you end up with the third string quarterback from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Although you may think all hope is lost, you still feel that you have a chance to win the trophy at the end of the season. Fantasy football, although it does not require any athleticism, is still a difficult "sport". Owners draft a team of players who play different positions and who could be from teams all over the league. Then, owners need to decide who to start in their lineup each week, normally

one quarterback, two running backs, two wide receivers, one tight end, one kicker, and one team's defense/special teams.

Owners decide who to start each week depending on how well their players have been playing or which team they are playing next. Teams are awarded points based on how well their players do in their games, and the owner with the most points wins that week. Although fantasy football may not seem like a competitive sport, students as well as teachers throughout Northern High School think that it is.

Seniors Dominic Vazquez and Adonis Powell are in a league that they and ten friends set up. "It's a nice escape on Sundays, and I like to win against my friends," Vasquez said, "Ask Adonis how bad I crushed him this week." Powell doesn't care about the results of any one week match up, saying, "I'm in it for the money."

Some students compete in multiple leagues as Senior Justin Byun does. He plays in two different leagues with his friends. "I enjoy playing because it's surprisingly competitive, and it's fun to talk trash," he said. Instead of painstakingly setting up a league and draft time for his friends, Byun's group just entered a live online draft at the same time. "It's just easier and more convenient this way," he said. Byun ends up playing with random people in leagues from all over the country.

Sophomore Abe Hubbard is the commissioner of his

league and set up the draft and organized all of the teams. "I like to play because it's something competitive for me to do on the weekend that doesn't require too much effort," he said. "Being the owner isn't that hard since the computer does most of the organizing."

Fantasy football has been around since before all the students at Northern High School were born and teacher Mr. Robert Halstead has been playing for 21 years, longer than any of the students have been alive. "My first year teaching, my brother asked me if I wanted to be part of this fantasy football thing he'd heard about, so five or six of us drafted teams in his dorm room," said Halstead. "We still play because it's a guaranteed way for all, now 15 of us, to meet and catch-up for at least one weekend in the year... and we all play because we all have that equal shot to win the championship at the end of the year."

Many women also participate in this "sport". Senior Kristina Staley is actually in first place in her league despite never playing before. "If not for my boyfriend and my brother-in-law, I would not have played," Staley explained. "I

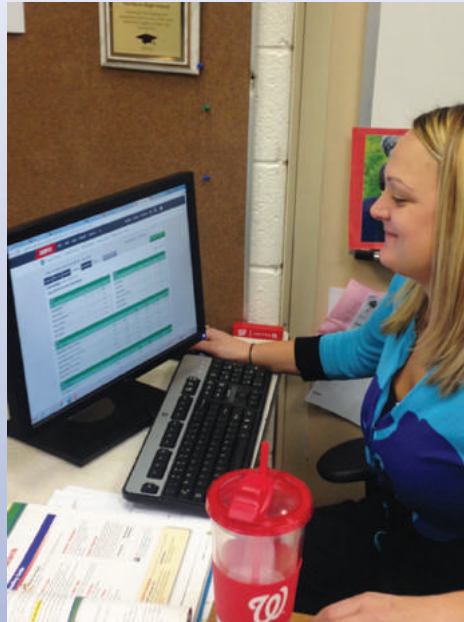
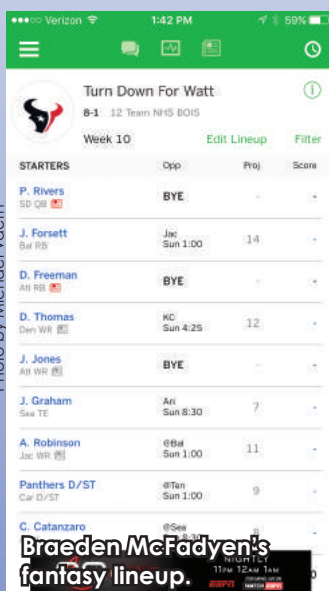


Photo by Michael Vaeth



enjoy playing because it's fun to compete and beat all the guys who get mad when a girl beats them"

Staley is not the only female who participates in fantasy football. English teacher Mrs. Kristen Lowder plays in a league with teachers at Northern High School. "Playing fantasy football helps to make me more interested in all of the games on Sunday and not just the Steelers."

This brutal "sport" helps get people interested in more football games during the season than normal. It helps bring friends together, keep people excited on Sundays, and gives people a competition in something that does not require much effort. No matter what age or gender, people across Northern High School love to participate in fantasy football.

The history of fantasy football

The game was invented by a man named Wilfred Winkenbach in 1962. He was associated with the Oakland Raiders (He also invented fantasy golf in the 1950's). The league he created was called the Greater Oakland Professional Pigskin Prognosticators League, which consisted of a total of eight teams.

The game grew slowly by word of mouth since there were no computers and keeping track of points was more tedious. In 1997, CBS Sports ran a beta version of the first online fantasy football league. The NFL released their own fantasy site in 2010. According to a survey by American Express, in 2015 nearly 75 million Americans are playing fantasy football.

Rippin', lips and crabbin', trips

Students crab and fish in the waters of Southern Maryland when the weather is good

by Ian Cleary and Joey Almony

Living on a peninsula in Southern Maryland surrounded by the tortuous Patuxent River and the bountiful Chesapeake Bay provides students with privileges others don't have. Whether it's waking to the sun rising over the Chesapeake or chowing down on the delicious seafood all around us. For those who like the outdoors, being surrounded by salt water on three sides means access to some of the best fishing and crabbing in the country. You can find junior Rachel Martin on summer days crabbing with her father on the Patuxent River. She enjoys crabbing quite a bit, and goes often when crabs are in season. "I like being able to eat the crabs that I caught later that night," she said.

spend hours baiting a 1,200 foot trotline. The trotline is usually baited with slimy, stinky chicken necks, but some more experienced crabbers have leveled up to the more cumbersome clam bags.

You may find yourself taking an unusual amount of time making sure you have all your supplies, which include a 6 foot wire net, bushel basket, a Maryland certified crabbing license, measuring tools, and something to pick up the snappy crabs. Martin once forgot her claw tool, and was punished dearly.

Photos courtesy of Rachel Martin, Chulo Leonardo, and Jack Dege

The Patuxent River surrounds Calvert County to the west.



Even though it's a good time, Martin notes that crabbing can become a tense environment on the boat when she doesn't catch anything. "My dad gets really angry and yells at me when I miss crabs because he wants to get every crab on the trotline," she explained. Martin's father, John, is a long time crabber who takes it very seriously. "He has been trying to teach me how to crab my whole life," she said.

Crabbing trips aren't all fun and games. Any Maryland crabber knows the amount of prep work required for a successful trip can be tedious. You have to

A bushel of crabs from one of Martin's trips.



"One of the worst things that can happen is getting pinched. They refuse to let go," she explained.

Some things you have to consider when trying to catch crabs are water depth, the type of bait, where you're crabbing, and when you crab. Most crabbers get out early in the morning because crabs will not bite later in the day. The usual crabbing trip starts at the crack of dawn and continues to midday. Still, it's all worth it to fill the steamer with a bushel of crabs caught fresh.

Senior Chulo Leonardo helped start the fishing club a few years ago. He loves to fish during the summer. "I usually fish from around 4 to 7 p.m. a couple times a week. I find it to be really relaxing, just being able to go out on the water and enjoy myself," he said. Leonardo likes to fish in different places to keep things interesting. He will go out on the Chesapeake Bay to catch rockfish which can be up to 50 inches long. Rockfish are arguably the most sought after fish in the state of Maryland. Leonardo also likes to catch bass in local ponds. Although a lot of fun, fishing, like crabbing, doesn't always come cheap. "I spent \$80 on my rod and then spent another \$120 on my reel," Leonardo said. For serious fishermen like him, it's good to have to best equipment for the job.



Junior Jack Dege, who also likes to fish, only spent \$60 on his rod. Not bothering to spend as much as Leonardo because he only fishes about once a week during the summer. Dege likes to fish with his friends off a public pier on the Patuxent. "I enjoy fishing mostly because I like being outside," he said. For the most part, Dege and his friends catch the local catfish out of the river.

When good weather comes to a temporary end in late November, Northern students will find themselves chomping at the bit to get back on the water in the spring.



Top Left: Leonardo holding a fish he caught. Top right and bottom: Crabs that Martin caught with her family on the Patuxent River



journey to States

by Ian Cleary and Braeden McFadyen

The volleyball team had an undefeated regular season this year and went into the playoffs with high hopes. The team's serving and serve-receive players have been pivotal to their success this season along with good communication. The team finished the regular season with a record of 15-0. At press time they were poised to play in the State playoff game on Friday, November 20.

Last year, the team only made it to the first round of the playoffs. They realized they needed to work harder in the off-season to do better this year. The girls played on club volleyball teams together and practiced hard in the spring and summer. Coach Bobby Gibbons said, "They are able to do great things because of the fact they have played and worked hard with each other for the last 3 years." Their dedication to improve has definitely paid off.

It's not easy to come from behind, and the team's ability to bounce back when they have been be-

hind in sets has been one key to winning games this season. They have been in tough situations in matches when things weren't going their way. Senior Natalie LaPlaca said, "When we have been down in games, our server would get on a roll, and it would help us get back in the game. We also have been able to come together when we are down."

The team has also learned to maintain their mental poise throughout the season. Senior Kiana Bopp said, "We just realized we can't freak out when we're losing." When



Bopp serving.

Photos by Payton Fleming and courtesy of Kiana Bopp and Rick Hagen

they are losing, the team keeps their calm and gets back in the game by taking it one point at a time and letting the other team make mistakes.

In order to get pumped up for their games, the volleyball team uses the same pregame routine every home game. "We play music on the speaker in the small gym while we stretch and we make a big N on the floor when we run out," explained LaPlaca. Coach Gibbons also keeps them pumped up during the game so they don't lose their intensity. "All I do is motivate them. They are the ones that go out and play everyday. So I just prepare a gameplan, and they go out and do the rest," said Gibbons.

On Oct. 14, the team faced their



LaPlaca saving a ball.

The volleyball team had an undefeated regular season followed by a playoff run advancing them all the way to the State Championship.

biggest rival, Huntingtown. It was one of the most anticipated games of the season since both teams had undefeated records. The game ended up going heavily in Northern's favor. They blew the cap off the Huntingtown team and beat them in three straight sets. The game was never in doubt while the players looked more comfortable playing together and as a team. Huntingtown just couldn't match their energy and, once they won the first set, they never looked back. "Beating Huntingtown was really sweet especially because I've never beaten them before in my four years here. Playing in an atmosphere with a lot of people really motivated us to hustle after everything and put on a good show for the people that came to watch," said La-placa.

There was not a better way to end their regular season, as the team secured the SMAC championship against La Plata. They won in three straight sets and continued their dominant play. "We only got as far as the first

the next 3 sets to send their rivals home distressed. The team got back to work quickly to get ready for the regional final on November 13. On that day, their great



The team after they won the Regional Championship.

© 2015 Rick Hagen



Junior Amy Hagen spiking a ball.

round during the post-season last year, but States is still the goal for this season," Bopp said.

The team began playoffs with a win against Great Mills. The playoffs continued on November 11, where they went on to beat Huntingtown once more. After surrendering the first set to Huntingtown, they would rebound by winning

play got them another win and regional championship against Magruder High School. On November 16, the team played Towson High School and like all season, their teamwork and determination aided them in another annihilating win in 3 sets to send them to the State final. Senior Lauren Luongo said, "In the beginning, our passes were shakey but after we regained focus, we tried really hard to work together to make every point that followed great." The team finished the first set with a score of 25-13, second set following was 25-11, and then coming out victorious in the third set with a score of 25-19. "Our serves this game were really strong which was a great advantage to have even though we made some errors," said Luongo. Making it to the state championship is quite an accomplishment, and it's something these girls will hold onto for the rest of their lives.



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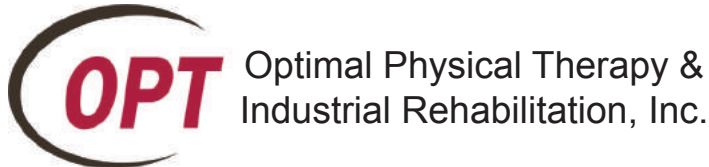
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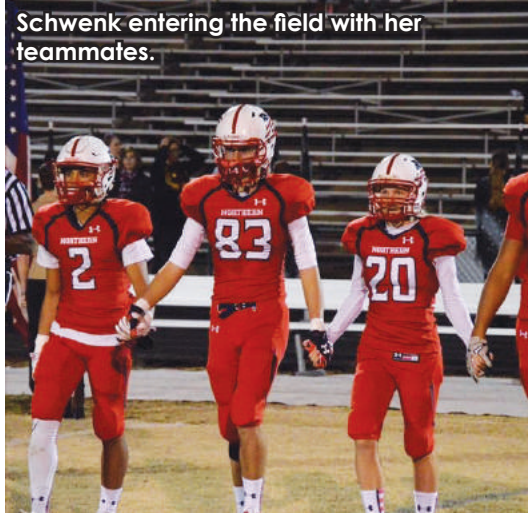
Kicking her way onto the varsity football team

Senior Elizabeth Schwenk joined this year's varsity team as the only female player.



by Jenna Jaeger
Feature Editor

Football is a male dominated sport with teams ranging from little league to the NFL consisting solely of boys and men. Not at NHS. This year's varsity football players welcomed senior Elizabeth Schwenk as a member of the team.



Schwenk entering the field with her teammates.

Schwenk began playing sports at the age of four and has played a number of sports including lacrosse, tennis, soccer and basketball.

Schwenk usually plays soccer during the fall sports season, but this year she wasn't going to, which led to her decision to join the football team. When she heard that the football team didn't have a good kicker she decided to try out despite never having played football before.

Fitting in on the football team isn't like joining just any other team. "It's definitely a different sport than anything I've ever played, and obviously it's all guys, so that was different, but still fun," Schwenk said. In addition to the gender difference, she played a unique role as a member of the team. During practice, Schwenk would join in with the team as they warmed up by stretching. Then the team would practice their special teams, where the kickoff, field goal, and punting squads work out. Schwenk spent most of her time practicing kickoffs and field goals.

"It did get a little boring at times, only getting to kick and

watch," Schwenk admitted. She is an extra field goal kicker. But she was the third string kicker behind Bryce and Gunnar Christianson, which meant she really didn't get as many opportunities to show off her skills as she would have liked. During the season, she only got the chance to kickoff twice and was mostly used for the point after touchdown.

She was the only girl among forty male players, and only the third girl to ever play football for Northern. "Everyone just counted me in, and accepted me as one of them," she said. Although football players can seem intimidating, she says the team welcomed her as a regular member of the team. Sometimes even players from other teams would notice Schwenk on the field. "The very last game, a player said 'Is that a girl? You go girl!'" she said.

Schwenk's teammates enjoyed playing with her. Junior Gunnar Christianson said that she fit in with the rest of the team, "She was a real team player and was always there for us. We kind've adopted her as a big sister figure, and to her we were like brothers." Schwenk ended the season with high praise for her teammates. "They do so much that so many people don't understand. They don't understand just how much time goes into it. They put in 100%. They keep up with it all year long and have so much dedication and commitment for the game. It really was eye opening," she said.

Schwenk practiced and conditioned along with the rest of the team. Girls may be hesitant to play traditionally male sports like football, but Schwenk proves that girls can do whatever they want as long as they have the determination and drive to keep up with the rest of the guys. "One girl even asked me for advice about kicking because she wanted to be a kicker for the team." Schwenk said. "I definitely recommend it for girls, I say go for it if anyone wants to."



Schwenk showing off her guns.

Schwenk kicking.



Photos by Becca Emerson and Rebekah Schwenk



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Is Fall Your Favorite Season?

Yes 44%
No 56%

Do You Like Pumpkin Spice Flavor?

Yes 57%
No 43%

Did you celebrate Thanksgiving?

Yes 96%
No 4%



Survey of over 10% of Northern Students

by Andrew Jaeger
Online Editor

Favorite Holiday Food

*Turkey,
mashed potatoes,
stuffing*

Favorite Fall Activity

*Eating,
pumpkin carving,
being outside*

Favorite Fall Movie

*Charlie Brown,
Halloweentown,
none*

Favorite Holiday Dessert

*Pumpkin pie,
apple pie,
ice cream*

Favorite Fall TV Show

*NFL,
The Walking Dead,
none*

Favorite Fall Drink

*Hot chocolate,
pumpkin spice latte,
apple cider*

Where Did You Spend Thanksgiving?

*At home,
grandparent's,
relatives*

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Fall Fashion

Students express themselves through their unique fall style.

by Becca Emerson
Photo Editor

The chilly fall weather is here and along with it comes changes in fashion. Students scramble to find the scarves, boots, sweaters, and hoodies they stored away last spring. For many students, fall is their favorite time of the year.

"Fall is one of my favorite seasons. It's comfy clothes season," said sophomore Xavier Harris. Depending on the weather conditions, Harris prefers to wear joggers, a nice shirt, and a Helly Hansen jacket with some boots or tennis shoes. "I dress up a few times a week, but when I don't, I wear sporty clothes to be comfortable," he said. He dresses up to keep his confidence and to feel nice.

"I shop for comfort, especially during the fall," said freshman Victoria Howard. Howard tends to stay away from buying itchy sweaters and leans more toward comfortable clothes from places like American Eagle. She likes to layer her clothes to be cozy during the day, yet stylish. "It's easier to dress up nicer in the Fall because you can constantly layer up your outfit to make it look right." Dressing up a few times a week, Howard chooses leggings, sweatshirts, longsleeves, scarves and moccasins.

"I never try to bum it at school or any other social event," said freshman Samson Allen. Allen's typical Fall outfit would be khaki colored pants and a tight colored dress shirt with a dark colored sweater to layer on top for a pop in his outfit. Dressing nicely at school is a way he keeps his confidence up. He enjoys online shopping at stores like The Gap, Old Navy,

and Banana Republic. He says online is where he keeps up with the season's styles.

According to a 2015 Pew Research Center study, 92% of teens go online daily, and 71% of teens use more than one social media site. Those sites have become key to spreading fashion trends. "Seeing outfits on Instagram and Twitter can make me want to buy certain things," said sophomore Morgan Miller.

Advertisements and promotions expose students to new styles and trends. "If I see something online that a fashion blogger is wearing and it's cute, I'll buy it," said sophomore Meghan Whittington. Social media sites allow internet stars easier ways to share fashion trends and tips that students can use.

Social media isn't the only influence on students' styles, their friends have an impact too. "I look at what they wear and see if it will go with my style or not," said Sampson Allen. According to an article in Scholastic Magazine, peer pressure is "peer influence, or social influence to adopt a particular type of behavior, dress, or attitude in order to be accepted as part of a group of your equals." Without necessarily knowing it, we are all influenced by our social groups when choosing what to wear. No matter how you are influenced to dress this season, layers are a must due to the dropping temperatures. "The seasons always play an effect on me. When it gets colder, I bundle up in sweaters, jackets, and gloves," said Allen. The weather allows us to pull out the popular Ugg boots, Timberlands, or combat boots instead of Nike sneakers and Sperrys.

"The colors in the fall help me match my shirts, pants, and scarves together," said Howard. Whittington agreed, "I wear colors of fall, like the leaves, on given days." Colors like plum, burgundy, mustard yellow, and forest green are popular additions to anyone's fall closet.

Sweaters and boots are often students must-have items in order to stay warm as the temperature gets colder and colder. In a style transition, student's clothes go from brightly colored, lightweight clothing to darkly colored, heavier clothing. Sweaters provide extra warmth that light t-shirts don't provide, and boots protect student's feet from the cold temperature, all while adding to a cute fall look.



Left to right: Sophomore Morgan Miller, sophomore Malik Miller, sophomore Xavier Harris, junior Lily McLane, and freshman Sampson Allen wearing the styles that are in for the fall of 2015.

Togs for a cause

A number of the most popular fashions students wear donate a portion of their profits to charity,

by Jordan Carbo and Emma Donaldson

Fashion trends come and go, but donating to charity will never go out of style. There are several clothing and accessory lines that support charitable foundations and donate a portion of their profits to good causes. Many of these companies are also very in style.

Ivory Ella is a clothing line that donates 10% of its profits to the World Wildlife Fund's Adopt an African Elephant program, which helps save elephants from ivory poaching and habitat loss. Many students wear these clothes, whether it's because they're a die hard elephant lover or just think the clothes are cute. "I just bought it because I like the shirt. I don't really care about the foundation," said sophomore Jessica Prestipino. Others are on the fence about their purchases. "I know it is about saving elephants. I think the shirt is cute because of the little elephants. I love it," said sophomore Grace Jensen.

Ivory Ella has been very successful in their goal of saving elephants. A total of \$165,000 has been donated toward the cause which is comforting to those who are enthusiastic supporters. "I like elephants, and I want my kids to know what they're like, you know? I don't want them to go extinct," said sophomore Amy Nicholson. Of the species that once roamed the earth in millions, only 500,000 elephants remain today which is considered borderline endangered according to the Ivory Ella website.

Vineyard Vines is a company that supports a cause as

well. Sophomore Seth Nottingham said, "I bought it because I thought it looked cool with the American flag on it, and it fit nice." Vineyard Vines supports the Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust, Loggerhead Marinelife

Center, Sailing Heals Foundation, and the Breast Cancer Alliance. Junior Hunter Cleary said, "I bought the shirt because I like the material and it was a popular brand."

Lokai is another well known company that donates a portion of its profit to charity. Students may be familiar with the clear beaded bracelets that feature one white bead, and black bead. The white bead holds water from Mt. Everest while the black bead holds mud from the Dead Sea. These are the highest and lowest points on earth, representing hope and staying humble. Lokai donates a 10% of its profits to multiple charitable causes.

For breast cancer awareness, Lokai sold pink bracelets and donated one dollar from each purchase to help the fight to find a cure for breast cancer from September 13 through October 31. For regular sales, charitable donations go to Pencils of Promise, Best Buddies, Music Beats Hearts, and the Cure Alzheimer's Fund.

TOMS is a shoe brand that helps provide shoes, sight, water, safe birth, and bullying prevention services in over 70 countries worldwide. "I think that any foundation that is also

giving back and not just keeping it for their own financial gain is something that should be valued," said English teacher Ms. Rebecca Portillo. TOMS has provided 45 million pairs of new shoes, restored the eyesight of 325,000 people, 175,000 weeks of safe water, and reduced the amount of births without skilled birth attendants and bullying to people in need throughout the world.

These trendy brands donate portions of their proceeds to organizations that do good things. When you're gift shopping for the holidays, why not consider giving a gift that will also give back to a charity in need.



Sophomores Meghan Whittington and Myranda Smithburger in their Ivory Ella shirts.



Tom's shoes donate one pair of free shoes for every pair sold.



Junior Lexi Wysocki's Lokai bracelet.

Photos by Jordan Carbo and Emma Donaldson



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Makin' rainbows

The new Snapchat update offers photo effects and face filters for the popular app.

by Serena Bronk and Mike Vaeth

Ever wonder what it would look like to take a selfie underwater, or to capture a picture of yourself shooting lasers out of your eyes? With the new Snapchat update, those things are now possible. The new update allows you to add new special effects and face



Antonio plays with the rainbow filter.

filters to Snapchats with the click of a button.

Senior Amanda Berger has used the update ever since it first came out and loves its features. "Once the new update came out, I couldn't stay off my phone," she said. People have compared the new update to Photo Booth on the Mac. "I feel like the new Snapchat is taking me back to the years I used Photo Booth every day and made myself look like I was swimming underwater," said Berger.

Senior

Helene Howard loves taking pictures and sending crazy selfies to all of her friends. "With the new update on Snapchat, I am able to send funny pictures to my best friends and get them to laugh," she said. The new face filters can also be used for videos to make the snaps you send even funnier than before. "Honestly, who would open a Snapchat of me having a rainbow come out of my mouth and not laugh?" said Howard.

In order for the new features to appear, you must hold your face in front of the screen. Many of the filters give you a command so the effect can work. For example, you must raise your eyebrows in order to create a color explo-

sion on the screen. Another command tells you to open your mouth so bubbles can come out while it makes you look like you are underwater. To add additional variety to the app, new face filters replace old filters daily.

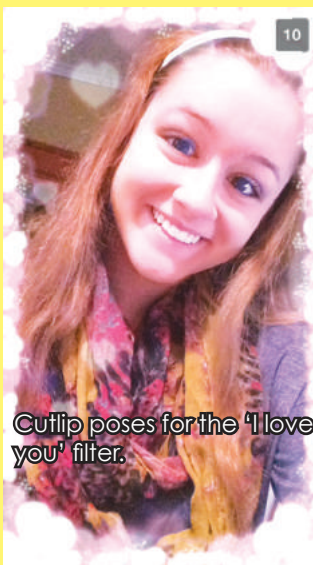
Senior Dominic Vasquez believes that the update wasn't necessary and that it's making the app too complicated. "I think it's taking a very simple thing, and doing too much," he said. "I don't really have a favorite face filter, there are too many to choose from, and I don't use them as often as others use them."

After the new update came out, the app flew up to the number six spot on the charts for free apps in the app stores online. Many students are using the app more than ever before. Berger admitted to using the

app more than she texts now, "I seem to always forget to text my friends back, but when it came to sending them back a Snapchat, I never forget," she said.

The update works on both iPhones and new Android devices. There are other new features to the app. You can now replay more Snapchats, but the app charges 99 cents for three replays per day. Also, there is a new trophy feature which allows you to gain rewards by doing specific things on the app. All these new features added to the app make it more user friendly and more popular than it has ever been before.

Berger experiments with the Snapchat filters.



Cutlip poses for the 'I love you' filter.



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Apple releases iOS 9 and new ownership program

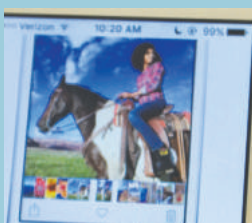
The new update offers unique features for iPhone fans.

Tips from the Tips app on the new iPhone

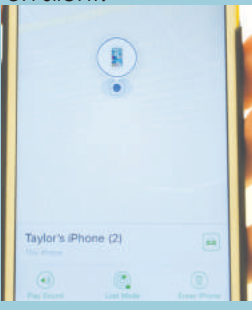
Search in your settings – search for a specific setting by typing it into the search bar at the top of the screen.



Look through a bunch of pictures at once – drag the scrubber to find your favorite photo of a bundle.



Lose your iPhone? – go to the Find My iPhone app on someone else's phone, tap the missing iPhone, tap actions, then tap Play Sound. This will work even if the phone is on silent.



by Taylor Isenberg
Apprentice Editor

Every year, Apple releases a new phone followed by a new operating system. The company recently released the iPhone 6s and 6s Plus along with iOS 9. In September, Apple announced the iPhone Upgrade Program, a new plan that charges customers a monthly fee, starting at \$33 for an unlocked iPhone 6S, which will allow customers to update to a new iPhone every year, regardless of the carrier they use. The system is much like the Verizon Edge program, which allows customers to upgrade every 18 months. "I think it's a good idea because if you crack it, you are able to get a new phone a year earlier than with a two-year contract," said junior Katelyn Mathieson.

The iPhone Upgrade Program includes their AppleCare+ program which extends the basic warranties of iPhones to two years after their purchase. When you get your iPhone through the program you have the option of choosing any carrier (AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, Verizon) as long as you aren't under a current contract. Once you have made 12 payments on your phone, you are eligible to get a new iPhone.

There's a misconception that carriers like Verizon are scrapping their upgrade every two-year plans in favor of pricier pay for your phone monthly models. According to TechTimes, a website that covers technological innovations, Verizon customers can stay under their two-year contracts if they want to.

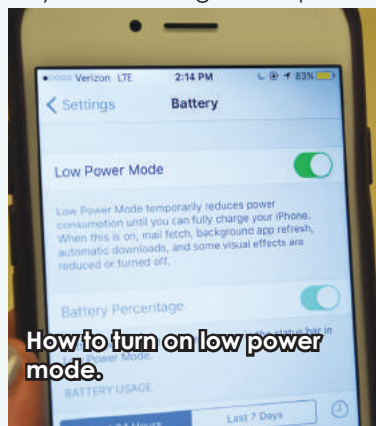
Other bombshells Apple dropped at their September Fall Event include plans for a new iPad, the Apple Pencil, a new version of Apple TV, and iOS 9.

iOS 9 and the new iPhone have several new features worth considering:

Automatic Software update:

Instead of manually updating your phone, you can have it au-

tomatically update at night while you're asleep. Your phone will tell you that the update can be installed and ask permission to install the update overnight. If you don't have enough storage, you can plug it into iTunes. "I think it's a good idea, but even if I say it can update while I'm sleeping, the next day it asks me again to update the same thing which is kind



How to turn on low power mode.

of annoying," said Mathieson.

Low Power Mode:

This could be a lifesaver for people who are constantly on their phone. It turns off features like background app refresh, mail fetch, automatic downloads, and certain visual effects when your phone starts to run low on battery power. As the day progresses your battery will not be drained as quickly as it would otherwise. "It's

a lifesaver, and it tells you what apps use the most battery," said junior Abigail Wilder. You can turn the mode on under the Battery menu in the Settings app.

Back to button:

The Back-To button is used when you're pulled out of an app by a notification, like a text message. After typing your message, if you look in the upper right hand corner of your screen there will be a button that says "back to" and whatever app you were using. "I like the back-to button, it's helpful," said junior Mason Long.



The BackTo button.

New Search screen:

Swiping once to the right from the home screen brings you to the new search page. Here you can look at who you have recently texted and the apps you've used, labelled as Siri suggestions, news, and different tabs to click to look for things nearby. If you want to check the weather or check on your favorite sports team, you can go to the search bar and type in whatever you want to find. If it isn't easily accessible, you can click on Search Web to bring up more results. "It's like a car. It helps you get places faster. I like it," said Wilder.

IOS 9.1 update:

Apple released the newest update for the IOS. The update includes 150 new emojis and multiple bug fixes. Some of the new emojis include a unicorn, a crab, spock fingers, a writing emoji, and several others. "I like them. They make text messages more interesting," said junior Heather Carter.

Photos by Taylor Isenberg

Wiped out!



The Neighbourhood

by Kayla Nalepa
Assistant Editor

The Neighbourhood is an alternative rock band with a black and white aesthetic to their videos and images that somehow makes it into their sound as well. The band is from southern California and got their big start in 2013 when the song "Sweater Weather" on their debut album, *I Love You*, became a number one hit. Two years later, the group has re-released their second album, *Wiped Out!*.

The album consists of 11 songs all expressing a new chapter in the band's life, the things they have encountered and the struggles they have faced. Although each song is distinct, they all flow together to create a Californian vibe reminiscent of spending a day at the beach. With heavy topics the album covers, the songs maintain a chill feeling, so maybe a cold day at the beach.

The first track on the album, "A Moment of Silence," is 30 seconds of silence in honor of lead singer Jesse Rutherford's late father. It points out that this is a new time in Rutherford's life as he pauses to realize his youth is over. This is followed by Prey, an exciting tune with a coastal vibe. Next is "Cry Baby," a song about Rutherford's denial and fear of falling in love. These tracks all have distinct messages, yet share a common theme of growing up.

The songs on *Wiped Out!* go in order of progression. The album begins remembering the death of Rutherford's dad. It moves on to a romantic crush, to falling in love with your soulmate, to recognizing their imperfections. The tracks address the anxieties and fears that surround human relationships and ends with "R.I.P. 2 My Youth," showing that adulthood is the next journey.

The beaches of California definitely provide a recurring theme to most tracks. In "Baby Came Home 2 / Valentines," the second half of the song consists of the sound of waves crashing and people at the beach. The waves then carry on into the intro to "Greetings from Californnia." To capture these sounds, the the band spent three months in Malibu, California.

Wiped Out! is a unique album that adds personality to the alternative scene. **Grade: B**



Photos courtesy of Columbia Records



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Movie reviews

It's *The Peanuts Movie*, Charlie Brown!

by Hannah Wilson

Advertising & Business Manager

Charles Schulz, the late creator of *The Peanuts* comic strip, would have been very pleased with the new *The Peanuts Movie*. It is entertaining, humorous, and each character is executed flawlessly including their physical appearance and personality. For the first time, Charlie Brown and the rest of the *Peanuts* gang are even brought to life transformed from 2D to 3D.

Although it was made for younger children, the film is great for the whole family. There are fewer insults like stupid or blockhead, typical comments in the *Peanuts* comics, making the movie a bit more kid friendly. In addition, there are some clearly defined themes in the movie about being yourself, being determined, and appreciating others for who they truly are that would be good for everyone.

The subject of romance is also quite prominent in the movie. Charlie Brown has a crush on the new little red headed girl next door, Lucy is constantly flinging herself at Schroeder, Sally calls Linus her "sweet babboo," and even Snoopy is smitten over the girl of his dreams, Fifi. These romantic subplots add a softer element to the film and ultimately are some of the most relatable parts of the film. All of us can recall a time when we had a crush on someone and desperately wanted to impress that person. Some may even be bold enough to recall a time they embarrassed in an attempt to make a good impression as Charlie Brown often does.

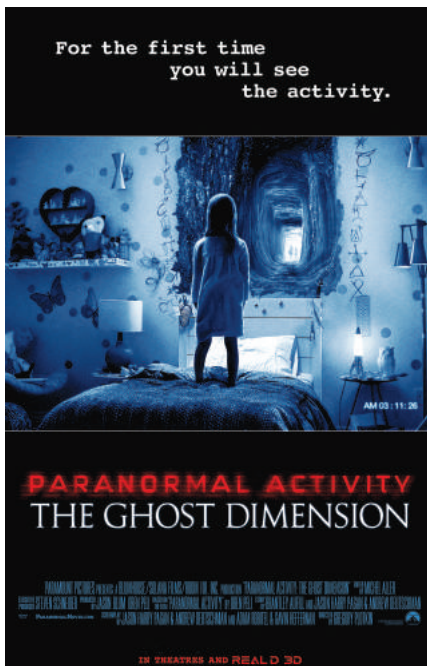
The transition of the *Peanuts* characters from 2D to 3D computer graphics was an unexpected addition by the producers of this film. It was well executed and makes the old fashioned characters seem more modern. The new Charlie Brown film is well worth seeing, especially if the *Peanuts* gang has left a lasting impression on your childhood. **Grade: A-**



The Paranormal Experience

by Jenna Jaeger

Feature Editor



People are scared of different things. Some people are scared of spiders, clowns, airplanes, or even One Direction never coming back. But everyone finds fear in a good old horror movie. Paramount Pictures' *Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimensions* will be entertaining to some, but terrifying to others.

Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension continues the story from *Paranormal Activity 3* by including the final scene from that movie. This movie is about a family living in a house they've owned for several years. It focuses on the discovery of a case of VCR tapes left by the previous owners of the house. An unusual camera is also found, and this leads this family to make some strange and frightening discoveries and put themselves in danger.

During most of the movie, when something freaky and abnormal happens, the family's uncle makes a sarcastic comment, and you are able to laugh off what just occurred. That can be good or bad depending on what you want out of a horror film. In terms of horror, it isn't as frightening as the previous movies. *Ghost Activity* includes some comedy in the movie, distracting viewers from the movie's serious and more creepy aspects.

Viewers who are freaked out by horror movies and who remain scared for the next week or so don't have to worry about going to this film. The movie won't have that effect and may instead make you chuckle. The final scenes of the movie stop being comedic and instead get very creepy. That is when the film finally turns into a horror movie, and is the most thrilling part of the piece.

The movie is still entertaining to watch, but if you plan on seeing it, don't be in the mindset that you're about to be freaked out. Despite its medium level of scariness, it is still an entertaining movie and is worth the price of admission. **Grade: B**



Greg Miller

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What would your superpower be?

Students fantasize about the superpowers they'd like to have.

Andrew Jaeger
Online Editor

It is very unlikely that you will one day be bitten by a mutated spider or fall into a vat of radioactive waste to gain mysterious new powers. Still, it's fun to think about what kind of abilities you would like to have if the day ever came. We asked students what super power they would like to have.

Osmosis Max – Max Hakun, 12

I would want the power of absorption. Anything I want, I can take from others. If I wanted to be as hard as a diamond, all I would have to do is touch a ring containing that material. If I wanted to conduct electricity, I would just touch a power outlet. I could even steal other people's life force. Given all this power, naturally I would be a villain.



Miller the Filler – Caitlin Miller, 12

I would like the ability to fill anything up. You could do so many things with it. Fill up someone's bank account. Fill someone's plate with food. If someone is being annoying, you can fill their bladder so they have to leave you alone.

The Invisible Girl – Hope Bennett, 9

Invisibility. I could easily listen to people's conversations without them knowing I was eavesdropping. I could get into movies and concerts for free, saving a bunch of money on tickets. I could even sneak into stores and steal food and clothes.

Darth Bubser – John Bubser, 11

I would like the ability to control the Force. It would be a cool party trick. I could impress people by levitating a can of pop or a bag of chips. Plus I could finally achieve my goal of juggling four balls using my new skills.

Dirty Dan – Daniel Corteville, 12

I think I would want the power to read people's minds. It would be cool to freak people out by telling them what they were just thinking. "Whoa! I was just thinking that!" You could use this power for good or evil. Personally, I would use it for good.

Girl that Lives a Really Long Time – Lexi Nobles, 10

My superpower would be immortality. I think it would be so cool to be able to live forever, watching how the world changed over time. I would help solve world issues throughout my lifetime since I would be immortal.

Magic Mike – Michael Lindsey, 11

Teleportation would be sick. I wouldn't need to drive, and I could travel all across the country. I would definitely go skydiving without a parachute. How cool would it be to teleport out of danger just before hitting the ground.

Trey – Trey Lake, 12

My superpower would be the ability to see into the future. I'd immediately hit up the lottery and the stock market while occasionally saving beautiful young women from peril. I would also go to Las Vegas and gamble on sporting events with a hundred percent success rate. With all of my accumulated funds, I would follow the Donald Trump path and run for President.

Mr. Clean – Dan Anglim, 12

My superpower would be the ability to be clean. Think about all the time you would save not showering and brushing your teeth. There would be no need for any of those things. Just wake up and you're good to go. Maybe you go out for a long run. The good thing is you're not sweaty. You smell like flowers. You smell like heaven.

The Flash – Titus Smith, 11

Super speed. It's always been a dream of mine to be the first land mammal to break the sound barrier. Plus, it would be great to steal stuff without getting caught.



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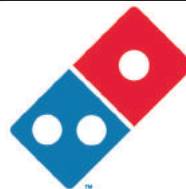
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Q & A with Serena Bronk

by Kelli Kaiser
Apprentice Editor



Bronk (center) and other representatives at the event. PHOTOGRAPHY

Senior Serena Bronk doesn't just toss her baton here at school. She competes in national championships. She twirls for a team called the Dynamics. This fall, she was invited to Peru for three weeks to perform her best at the Festival Internacional de Primavera Trujillo. The Lions Club paid for all the girls who were invited to go on the trip.

Photos courtesy of Serena Bronk

Q: When do you choose to start twirling?

A: I've done it ever since I was three. I do it because it keeps me busy and I've won a lot of awards with it. I get scholarships for college now because of it. I also do it because it's very fun and I get to be on my team with all these girls I really like and we spend a lot of time together. I also get to go to Worlds.

Q: Why did you start?

A: My mom did it when she was young up in Elkridge where I practice now, and she just said, okay, my kids gonna do dance or baton. Whichever she likes better, she will keep doing.

Q: What's the hardest thing about it?

A: Getting down new tricks because I've hit myself multiple times in the face. I get the trick down eventually. The hardest part is getting the trick and still catching it.

Q: Why did you go to Peru?

A: They chose fifteen girls from around the nation that compete at a national level and seventeen to represent the United States in Peru.

Q: What did you do while you were there?

A: We go there to perform and represent the United States. We were escorted to orphanages and adult homes. We went to a lot of dinners because we were official. We met the king and queen of Peru.

Q: What was that like?

A: It was so fun. The queen was so pretty and her name is Alinka. We went to her coronation and we got to stand on stage with her. After the coronation, we went to this party at a club and she was there and so was the king. We introduced ourselves and they introduced themselves. We hung out with them for the two weeks and did everything together.

Q: Was it a competition?

A: No, it wasn't a competition, we had to win at a national

level to be eligible for this trip. It was just performances to represent the United States.

Q: What were the people like?

A: They were so scary. They knew we were Americans so they would try to rip us from the street. That's why we had bodyguards. We were famous basically, so we had to be escorted everywhere. Other than that, when we were performing they loved us. They always wanted to see more. We performed in a big parade and they would run out from the parade lines and try to grab us.

Q: How was the food?

A: The food was gross. They served us octopus in a breadstick. We thought it was a normal breadstick and we ate it. It had tentacles in it. It was disgusting. The people knew we were Americans and thought we loved chicken and rice so they fed that to us at every meal.

Q: Do they speak English?

A: We had a translator there as our person. Everyone there spoke Spanish, even the bodyguards, but they spoke little

amounts of English. One of the bodyguards that I got really close to spoke minimal English so we would talk to each other.

Q: What was the prettiest part of the city?

A: We were driving in a bus to go to one of the performances, there were huge sand dunes in the background. There was these huge mountains in the back with huge sand dunes all down the mountains.

Q: What was your favorite and least favor-



Bronk waves to the fans in Peru.

ite part of the trip?

A: My favorite part of the trip was when we went to this military place to perform in Peru. As soon as we got off the bus, we got escorted by these military boys. My least favorite part was waking up early every day to go do stuff. We went to bed at 3 a.m. every night after performances and got up at 7 a.m. every morning.

Q: If you had the opportunity to go again, would you?

A: Yes, I definitely would. I grew really close to all the girls there and I really miss them because they were from all over the U.S., and I don't see them anymore. I really miss the little babies we got to meet at the orphanages, they were so cute.

Journalism One's Hot 15

edited by Christian Daniel • art by Michaela Shannon



15. Boy band blues

One Direction is coming out with a new movie. A 3D film with 2D personalities about 1D. We think the band is getting a little Nee-dy.

14. Oops... she did it again

Britney Spears' Twitter account was hacked recently. Her followers instantly knew it

wasn't her because everything was coherent and spelled correctly.

13. Hotline bling

Drake has come a long way from *Degrassi*, except for his dancing skills. Maybe he should play it safe and sing from his Jimmy Brooks wheelchair.

12. Gritty in pink

The Powderpuff games got pretty heated last month. Looks like it's not only the guys' football team that has grit now.

11. Do the Dougie

Students seemed to have a pretty good time at Homecoming. So did a few chaperones who got to dance in the middle of the gym with us.

10. Presidential election

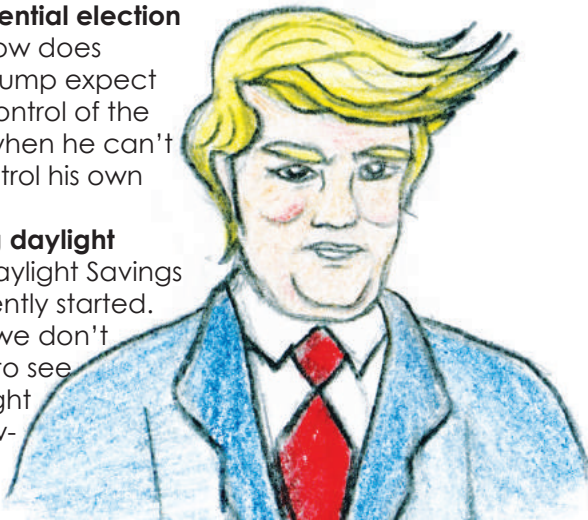
How does Donald Trump expect to take control of the country when he can't even control his own hair?

9. Burning daylight

Daylight Savings Time recently started. Too bad we don't ever get to see the daylight in window-less NHS.

8. Horror TV

Scream Queens is a new show on FX about a serial killer stalking a sorority. Unfortunately, the only thing you'll scream while watching the show is, "Turn it off!"



7. Gametime upset

Call of Duty: Black Ops 3 came out recently. Treyarch definitely had a *Fallout* in sales.

6. Photo op

All of the students were excited about the new Snapchat update including an array of new and whacky photo filters. The reviews said it was jaw-dropping.

5. Thespian challenge

The *Zombietown* play went well and drew big audiences. It must've taken a lot of hard work and dead-ication

audiences. It must've taken a lot of hard work and dead-ication

4. Upset city

Ronda Rousey predicted that Holly Holm would try to kick her in the face during their fight. Looks like she hit that nail right on the head. Or got nailed right in the head. Whatever.

3. Stressed students

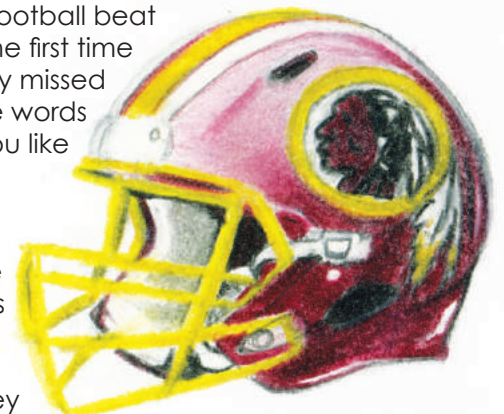
National Stress Awareness Day was November 4. It was a shame that students were too busy working on projects, studying for tests, going to spots practice and working for clubs to take the time to be aware of their stress.

2. Do I like what?

Northern Football beat Huntingtown for the first time in years and barely missed the playoffs. In the words of Kurt Cousins, "You like that?!"

1. For once

The Redskins had their bye week a few weeks ago. For once, all the fans were excited because they didn't have to worry about the team losing.



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-Theodore Roosevelt