

Delivering
high school
news...one
page at a time!

Pine-Richland Rampage

ISSUE #7



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November 27, 2024

RAMS WIN WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP!!

Photo provided by pr_schools on Instagram



Dear Readers,
We're thrilled to bring you this exciting issue of the Rampage! In this edition, we bring you news of national signing day, Veteran's day, and more. We hope these pages inspire, inform, and spark new conversations. Enjoy the read, and thank you for being a part of our community!

Sincerely,
June McCune and Anna Karmanos
Editors-In-Chief



PR celebrates first snow of the season, 11/22

Photos by Vienna Restelli and Erin Zheng

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Peer2Peer & Spire November Club Meetings

What's New?

VIENNA RESTELLI STAFF WRITER

At Peer2Peer's club meeting on the 11th, students volunteered to prepare for World Kindness Day, which took place that Wednesday. We spent the meeting setting up the bulletin board with colorful paper blossoms signed by students from each homeroom as a pledge to being kind and spreading positivity. These blossoms were arranged on four trees we made for each grade, with bubble letters cut out across the middle that spelled "Kindness Grows."

Outside the school entrance, we wrote positive and encouraging messages in chalk for students and staff to see as they walked in. Even though I wasn't able to participate in writing the messages since I was working on the bulletin board inside, it was really nice to see all of them as I walked into school the next day.

This was my first time volunteering in high school, and it was a really fun experience—I'll definitely look for more opportunities to volunteer in the future.

The next day, on the 12th, Spire held their November club meeting. It was my first time attending one of their meetings, and it started off with the woman of the month, Joy Harjo. We read one of her poems that was all about Thanksgiving and being grateful.

Afterward, we were all able to get different colors of construction paper and put together a turkey with its feathers saying things we were grateful for as a Thanksgiving activity. It was really fun, and as we were doing it, we ate vanilla ice cream.

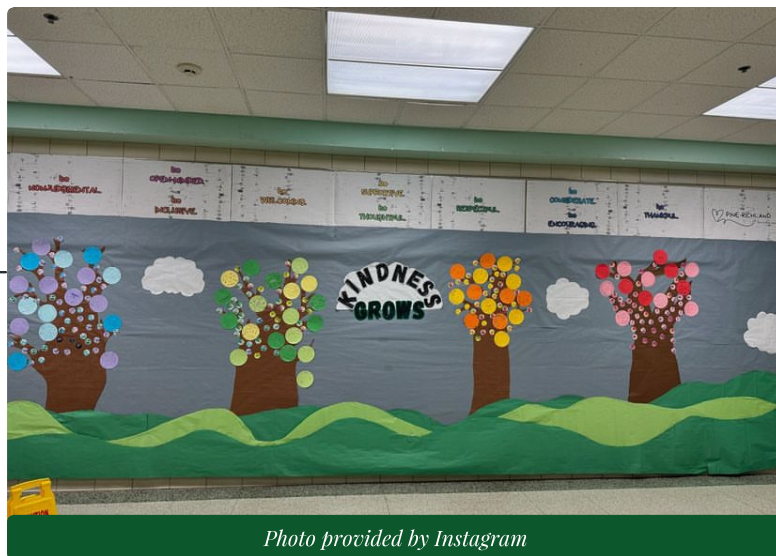


Photo provided by Instagram

Film Studies Club

Take a Look into this PRHS Club

HANNAHJAYNE SHANNON STAFF WRITER

I am one of the many students in Pine-Richland High School's film studies club. I think it's a very interesting club and it's very entertaining. I have fun because I have so many friends in that club so I never have nobody to talk to during the meeting.

Film Studies is a club where we get together for a meeting every couple weeks on a Wednesday and watch a movie. It's a different movie every time that is obviously school appropriate and something that most people want to watch. The meetings normally last one and a half hours to two hours long so we have time to watch the whole movie. The next day, on Thursday during the activity period, we get together again and talk about the movie we had just watched.

The first meeting for film studies was on October 30th and we watched the movie *I Saw The TV Glow*. The movie is about a kid who watches a show talking about a world underneath his own. When he looks into the tv screen his reality starts to crack. We had to wait two weeks to talk about the film because of schedule changes, but on November 14th, we finally talked about it.

It was fun talking about what the movie was about and everyone's likes and dislikes. I felt like a lot of people liked the movie and felt like it had a good story-line and good characters. I thought everyone's opinions were good and valid. Nobody was ever pressured to talk which made me less nervous. They had topics on a Google Slideshow that were things we could talk about, but we didn't have to talk about just those topics.

Overall, I think the club is really fun and I cannot wait to go to the next meeting. I am so excited to find out what to watch next. If you want to join the film studies club, it's not too late. The google classroom code is: HKFOV2A. There is also an Instagram page. The username is: prfilmstudies.

SENIOR QUOTES

Seniors, you have the option to include a handwritten senior quote with a positive message that showcases a positive legacy, words to live by, words of wisdom, or advice for your fellow students. You are not required to submit a senior quote. Your quote and signature will be collected during your homeroom period. During the entire month of December, a Senior Yearbook Staffer will visit your homeroom using an i-pad. Directions have been e-mailed to all Seniors.

Student Life

PR HOSTED ITS ANNUAL NATIONAL SIGNING DAY ON NOVEMBER 13TH, 2024 FOR 20 SENIOR STUDENTS.

See photos on pages 4 and 5!



Congratulations to seniors Ian Hurt and Mackenzie Mercuri and juniors Sanika Das and Brooke Deegan!

These Pine-Richland High School GATE students have now advanced to the Top 64 round of the 24th annual International Public Policy Forum debate competition. The PR team was selected as one of 64 from nearly 300 international submissions to advance following review of their 3,000 word essay on the topic, "Resolved: Equitable access to pharmaceuticals should be prioritized over protecting intellectual property rights."

National Signing Day *The Work That Comes Before* *Committing*

ISABELLE HOPPE STAFF WRITER

Every year, there are always a few athletes that stand out among the rest on November 13, National Signing Day. Only the best at what they do are able to officially sign their commitment to the school of their choice, and turn their verbal commitment into writing. All we see is the action shots of athletes in their element and of course the pictures of them signing their commitment into writing, and we know how hard they work and practice day after day. However, we rarely hear about the process of choosing a school, how to reach out to coaches, and how to know what school is right for you. Every sport's recruiting process looks a little different, so sophomores Piper Vogel and Jay Timmons gave their insight to what it looks like before college coaches can talk to you in volleyball, and what it looks like when you can contact coaches in football.

During club season, Piper sends emails to a variety of coaches the Wednesday before an upcoming tournament inviting them to come with the schedule of her games, a short paragraph about herself, and who she plays for. This is essential during club because the more coaches you can get at your matches, the more your name gets out there, and the more exposure you get. In the offseason, she attends college camps, which is another necessity for getting exposure and seeing if a program is right for you. Before attending, she sends emails to the coaches telling them she's coming, again doing as much as possible to have her name in their head. Piper cannot be contacted about offers until June 15th this year and as of right now she has almost no idea what to expect at 12:00 am on that day.

Jay Timmons is having a slightly different experience with this process. Getting his name out there is just as important, which is why he is constantly posting his highlights on Hudl and Twitter. A big difference with Jay is that he has never emailed a college coach to express his interest; the biggest thing he does is attend camps in the summer; this is by far the best way to be seen in football. Since he has passed the June 15th mark, Jay has taken 20+ calls from D1 schools and has taken visits to WVU, EMU, Pitt, Toledo, Michigan, Penn State, and Cincinnati. Jay says recruiting has been pretty stressful since his whole process began a little later than most, this was because he grew later than most. He plans to commit sometime near the end of next season.

The work it takes to be recruited is just as important as the work you put in for your sport. However, the difference in terms of what you have to do dependent on your sport is very interesting. Football focuses much more on social media to be seen whereas volleyball is more about contacting coaches directly. Football offers are also extremely dependent upon announcing the offers you have already received in order to promote yourself as an elite athlete, whereas volleyball is much more quiet about offers.

Student Life



CONGRATS TO OUR STUDENT ATHLETES!

Georgia Rottinghaus, Field Hockey, Indiana University Bloomington

Madalyn Myers, Softball, Allegheny College

Madeline Mill, Lacrosse, University of Pittsburgh

Emery Moyer, Track and Field, Duquesne University

Erica Waite, Lacrosse, University of Charleston

Vaughn Spencer, Wrestling, Lehigh University

Clayton Speakman, Lacrosse, Seton Hill University

Sarah Anne Shaffer, Swimming, University of Kentucky

Zach White, Lacrosse, Walsh University

Jake Waddell, Baseball, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Student Life



CONGRATS TO OUR STUDENT ATHLETES!

- Keegan Deihl, Baseball, Baylor University*
- Tanner Cunningham, Baseball, Frostburg State University*
- Rocco Campanella, Lacrosse, Walsh University*
- Dominic Ferraro, Wrestling, Edinboro University*
- Quinn Foster, Lacrosse, Messiah University*
- Calle Henne, Softball, University of Pittsburgh*
- Rozan Foster, Lacrosse, Messiah University*
- Ryan Mielnicki, Baseball, Lake Erie College*
- Sam Heckert, Baseball, Frostburg State University*
- Kendyll Jerry, Lacrosse, Youngstown State University*

Student Life

Painting Commemoration

A Look at Literal Sitting Time Capsules

KATE IAMS STAFF WRITER

When you walk into Honors English 10 teacher Mrs. Harshman's room, you notice that it is very colorful, but something that will immediately grab your attention is the chairs. Not the everyday classroom chairs, but the several painted wooden ones that are scattered around the room.

Each one of these wooden chairs have very unique designs, and are signed by the students in the class each year. These chairs act as a time capsule and are a great way for her to honor her students.

She came up with this idea during the summer of 2010 when she attended a writers' conference in upstate New York. Her husband's uncle is a poet, and every summer he gathers together with all of his other friends who are also writers. This was the summer that both Harshman and her husband were also invited to join the week-long camping trip, where everyone had the opportunity to share their writing: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. At the center of the camping trip was a big chair referred to as the "writer's chair," and whoever shared their writing would sit in it, and read their piece aloud. Once they were done reading, everyone else would give both positive and constructive feedback. After this experience, she realized how unique this was, and it inspired her to replicate a very similar experience in her classroom. This required Harshman to find wooden chairs at garage sales. Then she brought them into her classroom 221 to be painted by her students. Now when one of her students wants to read their work to the class, they get to sign their name on it. This adds a special, handmade, personal touch created by students, for students.

Since 2010, this has become a bit of a tradition for Mrs. Harshman, and she has now been implementing this experience for 14 years. She hopes to continue to do this in her English classes and find more chairs to hopefully bring this tradition into her journalism and yearbook classes as well.



Mrs. Harshman next to this year's writer's chair, Photo by Kate Iams



A few of the painted writer's chairs in Mrs. Harshman's room 221. Photo by Kate Iams.

Student Life

Veteran's Day Assembly

My Reactions and Experience

AVA BARSON STAFF WRITER

On Monday, November 11th high school Principal Dr. Hernandez welcomed 11th and 12th graders into the auditorium for a presentation. The contents of this presentation were in relation to Veteran's Day, a nation held holiday that provides recognition for our veterans. The crowd was filled with students along with a small group of local veterans all present to be recognized for their hard work.

The presentation consisted of multiple parts, beginning with the national anthem sung by the choir students. I thought they did a wonderful job singing the national anthem and the crowd all rose to place our hands on our hearts.

Following this was a recognition ceremony for our fellow teachers and staff members who are veterans. Among that group were Social Studies teachers Mr. Robert's and Mr. Goldsmith. I am grateful to have teachers who fought for something bigger than I can explain. They are part of the reason all of us were in that auditorium that day.

Then came the recognition for the local veterans that were able to join us that day. It was amazing to see so many veterans, most of them also wearing their uniforms. I appreciated how the speaker, who was a member of the JROTC, told us how long the veterans served and in which branch. There was also a guest speaker amongst the local group who served in the Navy and described what his experience was like. It was eye opening to get to hear his first hand experience. He talked about his job as the post office man and how his fellow sailors would line up to get their mail. The fact that these men were so excited to get their letters from their family is heartwarming but also sad at the same time. It's a harsh reality that not everyone sent off gets to return home. Those letters gave those men hope and a reason to keep moving forward.

Then to conclude, there was a ceremony with the white table and its contents for those who lost their lives for our freedom, as well as a flag folding demonstration that explained what all the folds of the flags mean. This part did make me tear up a bit. Those lives fought for us to all be here today and I will forever appreciate that. My grandfather was in the Navy. Believe it or not, there are a lot of people around us who fought in these battles. You can't always tell from just meeting them, but it's always nice to get to hear their stories.

I thank the school administration for this wonderful recognition and getting to make those who saved our lives feel appreciated.

WW1 had ended between Allied and Central Powers in 1918.

In 1945, after World War II, the US Veterans of Foreign Wars, also recognized as VFW, had called on Congress for a replacement on Armistice Day with one that would be able to honor all veterans of all wars equally. The VFW had argued that it was important to honor only those who served in World War I, but all veterans who have served in all wars since then as well.

On June 1, 1954, President Eisenhower signed the legislation renaming Armistice Day as Veterans Day, and November 11th became the official holiday.

Since then, Veterans day has evolved to honor not only those who served in WWI and WWII, but all veterans who sacrificed their lives. It has become a day for veterans, their families, and the American public, who take their time to honor the many sacrifices made by those who served our country. Today, Veterans Day has become an important national holiday, with ceremonies and events held across the country to honor veterans and celebrate their dedication and service to the United States.



Photo of Ava's Peepop, provided by Ava

The Origin of Veteran's Day *Who Created This National Holiday?*

GRACE LOGUE STAFFWRITER

Veterans day has long been a day to honor those in favor of serving in the US Armed Forces. But when did this tradition become the national holiday we celebrate today?

During World War I, many countries across the globe marked the end of The Great War by celebrating Armistice Day on November 11, 1919. This day holds the significance that marks the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year, which was the moment when

Student Life

More Than Just a Veteran

Why I Look up to my Dad so Much

BAILEY RODRIGUEZ STAFF WRITER

My dad, also known as Sergeant Rodriguez, joined the military on February 23, 2011. He joined because he wanted me and my siblings to have a better life than he did. I admire my dad for that because even though he may have not had much when he first had me, he worked hard to give me a good life. He has been in the military for 14 years, and has made a lot of sacrifices during those times.

"I was actually gone for Bailey's first birthday, as I was in basic training," he said.

After basic training he was deployed in Afghanistan to fight. The longest he has ever been away from home consecutively was 13 months. During that time, he learned a few lessons, one of which is that you can't take anything for granted, because you never know what the next day has to offer you.

Another lesson he learned was learning to be grateful for even the small things. He has shared with me before that he would take pictures of the sunrises and sunsets, because he was grateful for staying alive for another day. I remember him vividly telling me this: I was taking a picture of the sunset, and all of a sudden he told me how much sunrises and sunsets mean to him. It brought me to tears immediately, and now every morning we exchange sunrise photos.

He looks up to God, which is remarkable. He has seen so much, and been through so much even if he doesn't share it, but seeing my dad have faith after everything is wonderful. He's helped me lay the ground for my faith, which I wouldn't replace for the world.

Another thing I take pride in is the fact that he sees me, my siblings, and my stepmom as his biggest supporters. I think one thing that took me a while to appreciate is everything that he does for me.

In a private setting once, my dad told me he would count the amount of money it took him to buy groceries when I was younger, just so he could surprise me with things he knows that I would enjoy.

It still brings me to tears when I realize what he does for me everyday, and what he has done for me to give me the quite privileged life I live.

In a sense, my dad and I have grown up together. He's worked hard to get me and my family to where we are today, and he's very selfless because of it. I know that if I needed him at any point, he would drop almost anything in an instant to do anything for me, or my siblings, or my stepmom.

Not only that, but he is the person I go to for really everything. If I'm having a bad day, I know I can rant to my dad. If I have to go get my blood drawn, he's right there with me. If I just need a hug, he's there. Not only just that, but my dad has taught me a lot of what I know in life: how to hunt, catch a fish, and even how to drive a golf cart, which I almost flipped over only once.

This shows veterans are more than just fighters. They do a lot more behind the scenes than just serve our country.



Bailey and her dad, photo provided by Bailey



PR performed *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* on 11/22 and 11/23

Photos by pr_schools on Instagram



Sports

He's a Madman!

The Incredible Numbers from Nikola Jokić

SHOME RAO STAFF WRITER

Last year, the NBA season finished with one man at the top of the rankings, Nikola Jokić. With a record breaking season in points, rebounds and assists, Jokić won his 3rd MVP in his basketball career. His overpowering skill brought the Denver Nuggets to a 57-25 record and the 3rd seed in the West for the playoffs. After the post-season, people wondered who would be the next MVP. Maybe it would be Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, or even Dallas' Luka Doncic. But no, the answer remained unchanged.

So far in the current NBA season, Nikola Jokić has averaged 30 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists. To put that into easier terms, he has had the most points, rebounds and assists out of all his teammates in almost all of their games this season. Not only is it impressive to have multiple 25-30 point games, but it's unreal to be doing that along with 10+ rebounds and assists respectively. If you don't know, when a player has 10 or more in 3 different categories (whether it be points, assists, steals, etc.) in a game, it is known as a triple double. The center has done that 6 out of the 12 games the he has played this season.



Photo from Google

The Nuggets are in the middle of the West pack right now, but Jokić can definitely bring them back up again with his skill. His team is now fully dependent on him, which means he will continue to produce these numbers throughout the season. As long as he stays healthy, Nikola Jokić may have another easy shot to winning the MVP award when the season ends.

Playoff Push Heats Up

Teams Hope to Finish Strong Down the Stretch

DAVIS NATALI STAFF WRITER

The 12-team College Football playoff is underway in less than a month, with the final weeks of the regular season coming to a close. This year has been chaotic, with contenders falling each week, new and exciting match ups, and grand atmospheres all contributing to delivering great games. November is the time when the best teams separate themselves from the rest. Who are the teams that can separate themselves, and can they survive the final stretch?

With this being the first year of the new 12-team playoff structure, many teams are in contention that would not have been in years past. The four highest-ranked conference champions get automatic bids and a first-round bye, with the Group of Five champ getting a bid as the twelve seed. The first round of the playoffs features teams seeded 5, 6, 7, and 8 hosting a home playoff game. The winners of those games then travel to one of four bowl games (Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Peach Bowl, Fiesta Bowl) to face off against the conference champions. The final four who stand will head to the semifinals at the Orange Bowl and Cotton Bowl. Finally, the two winners will face off in Atlanta for the National Championship.

The SEC is the deepest conference in the sport. Every game has high stakes, and the atmospheres rival any other league. Texas, Texas



Photo from Google

A&M, and Tennessee are the top three contenders. Texas, led by senior quarterback Quinn Ewers, sits at 9-1. The Longhorn's lone loss came at home against the Georgia Bulldogs, 30-15. Texas, in their first year in the SEC, are looking to make it to Atlanta for their first conference championship, but they will have to go through their hated rival Texas A&M. The Aggies who after a week one loss to Notre Dame at home rattled off seven straight wins sat atop the SEC. A loss to South Carolina ended the winning streak for the Aggies who now

Sports

Continued... sit at 8-2 heading into the final weeks of the

season. Finally, Tennessee, who sits at 7-1 thanks to their dominant defense, has been peaking as of late and looks to make a late-season push for their first SEC title appearance since 2007.

The Big 10 occupies four of the top five spots in the rankings. They are led by the number one team in the country, the Oregon Ducks, who are 10-0 in their first year as members of the Big 10. Quarterback Dillion Gabriel and wide receiver Evan Stewart have been torching defenses. After a slow start to the season where they struggled against Idaho and Boise State, the Ducks have flipped the switch. Oregon handed Ohio State their only loss back in October, 32-31, and since that point, the Ducks have gotten better and better under the leadership of third-year coach Dan Lanning. The only real threat to Oregon might ironically be the Ohio State Buckeyes. Since that loss in Eugene on October 12th, the Buckeyes have rebounded. Thanks to some big wins, most notably a top-five showdown on the road against 3rd-ranked Penn State, the Buckeyes are on a path to a rematch with Oregon in the conference championship, with the winner getting a first-round bye and a top-four seed.

There have been plenty of surprise teams this season—most notably Indiana and Army, who both remain undefeated. Colorado and Coach Prime sit at 7-2, inching towards a Big 12 championship birth along with BYU. In the ACC, Miami stands strong, with Heisman hopeful Cam Ward lighting up the scoreboard as the Canes look to win their first-ever ACC championship. Out west, Boise State is set up to get the group of five at large bid behind star running back Aston Jeanty's historic season. Amidst all the trials and tribulations, this fall has showcased many good teams, and it seems as if anyone could win the national championship.



Photo provided by pr_schools on Instagram

HAPPY FRIENDSGIVING!

Today, Wednesday, November 27th is PR's 3rd annual Friendsgiving and Be-the-Match-for-Jax during all lunches.

STUFF-A-BUS

Members of the PRHS Student Government Association are partnering with all district schools to collect toys for 96.1 KISS FM 39's annual Stuff-a-Bus event. Collection boxes will be placed at all six district schools for students, staff and parents to drop off new, unwrapped toys starting today.

Toys will be collected by student leaders on Thursday, December 5th. All toys collected through this drive are donated to the annual U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

Pine-Richland High School student-athletes, juniors **Emme Kline, Anna Merlack, Mac Miller, Sammy Beuse, Dozie Okonkwo, and Jalen Neals**, represented the Pine-Richland School District at the 15th annual WPIAL Sportsmanship Summit at the Senator John Heinz History Center and Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum. They got to hear from keynote speakers who included Pine-Richland High School alum Neil Walker!

Sports

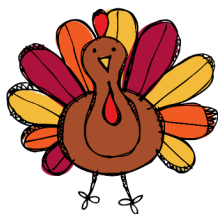


RAMS DEFEAT PETERS TOWNSHIP, 11/23

On November 23rd, the Rams won the WPIAL championship at Acrisure Stadium with a final score of 20-9 against the Peters Township Indians. They will advance to states.

All photos from Google

Fall Collection



Thanksgiving Break:

What a Blessing.

GIANNA UNGOR STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving break is an opportunity to increase rest and relaxation. I sleep in a lot and there are days when I relax watching shows or movies. I get lazy. I don't have to wake up early and worry about school work. It is the time to give my brain a break and just enjoy life.

However, not only can I relax more, but I can eat a big fulfilling meal: consisting of turkey, pie, mashed potatoes, ham, rolls, salad, and green bean casserole. Thanksgiving is one of the best combinations of eating food and spending time with family.

But in addition to relaxing, I can also get more hours in for work. Usually on weekdays I can only work 4 hours because of school. But on break I can actually get more hours which means more money, so I can go shopping and spend most of it.

If I don't want to work, Thanksgiving break gives me a chance to spend more time with family or friends. My friends and I can go to the mall or have sleepovers. Go out to eat or just sit on the couch and talk, which is always the best.

I wish we had more days off but I'll take the couple. After weeks of school it is great to just have breaks here and there. Mentally and physically. Also it helps me get caught up with anything so I'm not behind.

Overall, Thanksgiving break should be something to be grateful for and taken advantage of. It is a time to be free from school and enjoy your life.



Seasonal Skipping

What Happened to Thanksgiving?

BREE ARTHUR STAFF WRITER

Have you been shopping recently? Have you walked into a store and found a winter wonderland, instead of a homey, fall atmosphere? I have gone shopping recently and I have been left with the pressing question, what happened to Thanksgiving?



Christmas JellyCats

I personally really like Thanksgiving. I love spending time with my family, eating delicious, homemade food and I love watching the Thanksgiving football game with my family every year. My most favorite part of Thanksgiving is the food. I love homemade rolls. My mom makes crescent rolls every year and they are the best. They are warm, buttery, and they just encapsulate the feeling of fall and thanksgiving in a tasty, homey bite. This is why it makes me very sad when people just skip over Thanksgiving.

Now don't get me wrong. I love Christmas, it is my most favorite holiday. I love everything about the season: the spirit, the parties, the pajamas, giving gifts, the decorations, and the movies. I just wish that they would leave the fall items and decorations in the stores longer. For example, recently I went to the Hallmark store with a couple friends to buy Jellycats, and the whole front of the store was Christmas and winter themed items. I feel that Christmas items should start to be sold around November 21st. While I was in the Hallmark store I saw that there were not a lot of Thanksgiving cards, but there were racks and racks full of Christmas and winter cards.

So, as autumn is coming to an end. Don't skip the most important and fun part of the season. Enjoy your favorite Thanksgiving food, light your fall candles, and take in the beauty of fall. Remember to spend time with your family, and Happy Thanksgiving.



Fall Collection

History of Black Friday

A Shopping Frenzy

GRACE LOGUE STAFFWRITER



Black Friday is the shopping holiday in the United States that takes place after Thanksgiving.

Now, what is the reason behind the creation of this holiday?

In the 1950s, retailers would begin to see the increased sales and promotions it would bring- which is why the term 'in the black' compared to being 'in the red' because of the amount of shoppers. The reason that retailers would become more profitable.

But how did this demanding shopping day truly come to be?

The term 'Black Friday' was first created in the early 20th century by Philadelphia police due to the extreme traffic jams that would occur the day after Thanksgiving as shoppers would take to the streets to begin their Christmas shopping. In the 1930s-1940s, the department stores would begin to use the term for promoting their own sales for profit.

During the late 20th century, Black Friday became one of the largest shopping spree weekends of the year in the US in the 1990s as major retailers, like Target and Walmart, began taking part in the annual sales.

This day began to form the reputation for the crowds, long lines, and in some cases- violence, with aggressive shoppers fighting over the best deals.



In recent years, some retailers have begun Black Friday sales earlier, offering even July promotions with the intention to spread out the shopping season and increase sales. Though, nothing will be as phenomenally 'grand' as the notorious Black Friday of the year-So preferably stay inside away from the shopping war and enjoy a nice day, away from mayhem.

Thanksgiving Activities

Things to Do During the Holiday

TAYLOR SERVAGNO STAFF WRITER

There are a variety of activities that bring people together during Thanksgiving. The most popular thing is the family dinner on Thanksgiving. You can host Thanksgiving dinner or go to a family member's house, but either way it's so special because you're getting together with family. A great thing to do is help make the food, it's always very nice to help out your family members especially when you're cooking a big meal. The most traditional dishes on Thanksgiving to serve are turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and pumpkin pie for dessert. It's a great time to get together and share a meal. Something you can watch on tv is parades. A very popular one many people watch is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Some people choose to go there but it's really great to just watch it on the tv. In the parade there are dancers, floats, huge balloons, and the marching band. If the Parade doesn't interest you then you can watch the football game. There's always a football game during Thanksgiving that people watch instead of the parade. Often after the meal families will relax and either watch a festive movie or even play board games with each other. Making crafts and decorations are such a fun thing to do, especially if you're doing it with the people you love. As you make things they could be the centerpiece for the dinner table on Thanksgiving. We create long lasting memories together and always have fun together when we do activities.



Winter Collection



IT'S TIME!!

Are You in the Christmas Spirit Yet?

ADDYSON FISCHER STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving is over, and now it's time to put up those Christmas decorations, buy the wrapping paper, buy some hot chocolate, and start up those Christmas movies, and don't forget to wear those Christmas pajamas that you got last year for Christmas! It's time to bring out your Christmas playlist, and get cozy in bed because the moon is going up later and the sun is coming out earlier.



The month of snow, cold weather, warm fires with marshmallow roasting, along with the hot chocolate, and some Christmas music in the background of chatter with friends and family, a time where even the dog has to wear fuzzy socks and dress up in ugly sweaters. Are you ready for your next Christmas gift? Have you been naughty and receive coal, or have you been nice and receive that thing you've been eyeing for the past week?

This Christmas, it will snow, but the bigger question is, are you too "old" to play in the snow? Or will you make that long-awaited snowangel you've been dying to make? It's time to get outside and play in the snow, then come back in when it starts to get dark to start a fire in the fireplace, watch tv on the couch and drink that hot coco, maybe even have a friend or family member with you, remember it's always better when your spending time with a loved one rather than alone!

After Thanksgiving *Countdown to Christmas*

TAYLOR SERVAGNO STAFF WRITER



As Thanksgiving winds down the best holiday is coming up around the corner. It starts to get colder and darker outside, which means people will start decorating with lights outside, trees, and wreaths. Making the countdown to Christmas joyful, people get advent calendars which give them sweet treats or fun prizes behind the doors. People have family gatherings they usually see people they haven't seen in a long time come over.



Baking cookies is a great holiday tradition for some families. They get together and bake delicious homemade cookies. Gingerbread houses are also something families tend to do every year. It's either for decoration or just to eat it in the end. As you're baking or decorating you can listen to festive holiday music. There's so many great options to choose from. Getting together with family members is so special because you get to spend time with them and get closer to them. Many communities have tree lightings which bring people together and bring the Christmas spirit, which makes it all feel magical. Many people participate in holiday events like ice skating, Christmas markets, and watching great holiday movies. There

are hundreds of Christmas movies to choose from and they are all superior movies. The excitement and enjoyment of the countdown creates amazing memories and makes Christmas so special.



Opinion

Thanksgiving Break

Should This Time Off Be Extended?

SOPHIA KERNS STAFF WRITER

The very first long break comes on Thanksgiving break where we have three days plus the weekend off. Lots of families travel to see their extended family. They also could have family come to them. While this break is nice, we are also left with a three day school week. So many students are absent during these three days, so is it really worth it to have them? Here is what I think about these three days, and if we should add them to our break.

I would like to start off by saying that I miss school these three days. My family is going to visit my extended family and spend time with them. I will say, I never get that much homework for the days that I miss. Maybe an assignment or two in some of my classes, but that is about it. Which leads me to wonder how much work teachers are actually handing out. They must be aware that so many students will be missing these three days, so they can't provide us with too many tests or large projects. But, I also know that they are still able to get some work done, since I am left with homework.

Now, if we took off a whole week and the next Monday for Thanksgiving Break, we would have to add days at the end of the school year. Instead of ending on June 5th, we would end on the 10th. We would have to compensate for taking out these three days by adding them to the end of the school year. I would not mind this trade-off since summer break is already extremely long.

Everyone needs a break in the middle of the school year from time to time. This would help us to refresh and recharge to get back into school for another three weeks before Winter Break. Being able to relax just a little longer would make sure we are more ready to get back into classes since we had longer to just chill. It is not up to me to decide when we have our breaks and when we don't, but if I did, I would definitely add three more days to our Thanksgiving Break.



Hunting: The Pros and Cons

Is It Good or Bad?

SOPHIA KERNS AND HANNAHJAYNE SHANNON STAFF WRITERS

Since the beginning of time, humans have hunted for their food. It was common for everyone to know how to shoot a bow and be able to take down large animals. Now, we don't need to do that. Most of our food comes from farms and is very accessible. So, is it necessary to hunt anymore? In this article, you will see Sophia and Hannahjayne deciding whether hunting is more positive or negative.

Sophia: I have been hunting for a very long time now, and most of my family hunts too. My family is big on deer hunting, but some of us hunt turkey too. I think that hunting is positive for the environment. It helps keep a healthy population of wild animals. If people didn't hunt, the forests would be overrun with these animals. There would be thousands of deer in places where there might only be one hundred or so. If there were that many animals in one area, there is no way they would be able to get enough food to survive. Dying of starvation is much more cruel than shooting them. And, if you shoot right, it doesn't actually hurt the animal, and only takes 7 seconds for them to pass away. So, is hunting really that bad?

Negatives of hunting: Although there are great pros about hunting, not everything is positive. Here are some of the negatives to this hobby. Hunting can be scary for the animals because they do not understand why people are trying to kill them. Most animals have heightened senses because they need to be able to know if humans are trying to shoot at them.

Now, one thing we both don't agree with is hunting for sport. This is when people kill an animal just to kill an animal. This is not right and if you are going to kill an animal, you should at least use it for its meat. Overall, there are both positive and negative things about hunting. You can believe in whatever point of view you want about hunting, but do not be mean to those who have a different point of view than your own. If you're bored one day, maybe do some research on hunting to find out more about this activity.

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Students at the WPIAL championship game



All photos provided by Maggie Campbell

