

A public forum for students of the Fleetwood Area School District

The Tiger Times

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New FAHS Website Thrills Community

School

The Fleetwood Area School District has experienced changes in its website during the past couple of weeks.

"Just like anything that changes, it takes an adjustment. I am used to the old one, so as of now, I am not a fan. I like the way it looks though," Technology Education teacher Sara Sanocki said.

Sanocki said the high school's page on the website is run by principal Stephen Herman.

This new website is no longer supported by the Berks County Intermediate Unit either; all the teacher pages are being transferred to Google Pages unless the teacher chooses alternate software.

When clicking on the staff directory on the homepage, and then clicking on a link in a teacher's page, it will take you to a site that says, "error." This means BCIU is no longer a part of the FAHS website.

"Well, it's going to take me some time to get used to it. A lot of the staff materials are somewhat harder to access. I guess it makes sense because then there is better security; you don't want all the par-

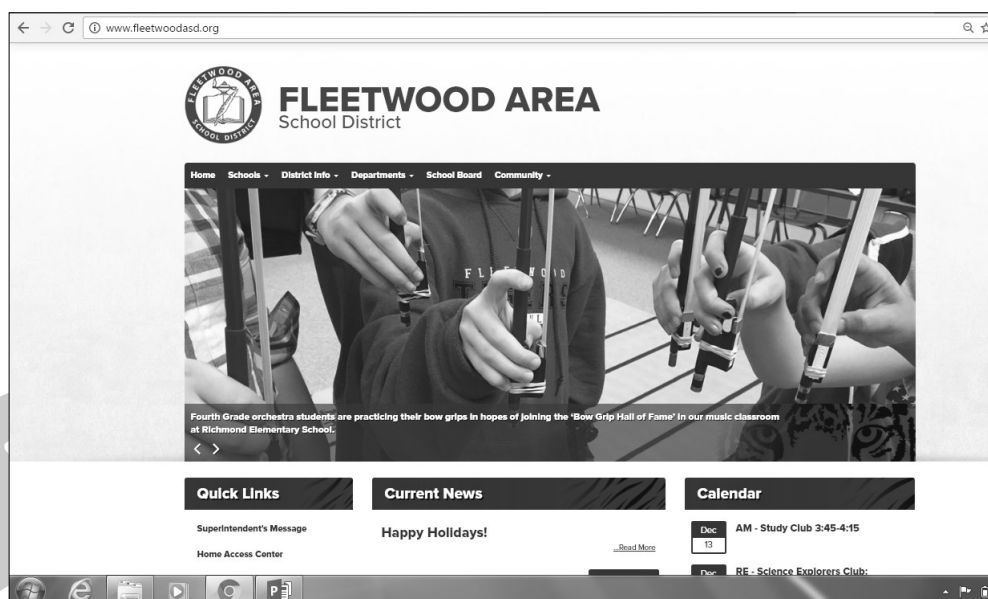
ents and teachers going into all of that," science teacher Karen Favata said.

There are a few people in the school that gave a positive outlook on this update in the school's webpage.

"It kind of came out of nowhere; nobody is used to it. I like it, though, because it looks nicer than the older one," sophomore Hannah Weitzel said.

Not many people were aware of the change yet, but the majority of the people who did say something about it believe these changes are not a good thing and that the page should go back to the way it was before.

By Anna Koehle



Standardized Tests Play Major Role in Educational Measurement

School

Standardized tests play a major role in today's American education. The goal of these tests is to prove the child's general knowledge of state required information and skills. However, there have been multiple debates discussing whether standardized tests even prove achievement or readiness to move up to a higher level of education. If the student were to score a low grade on the test, he or she could be unable to move on to the next grade.

Standardized tests were originally for people to test their knowledge if they applied for a government position. The biggest standardized test today is the SATs, and it was first introduced in 1926 by the College Board. It contained 315 questions covering areas such as vocabulary, analogies, and math proficiency. To some, it may seem peculiar that a test determining if one could work for the government became a test students take to decide if they can advance to the next level of education or which college will accept them.

Tests such as the SATs and ACTs show that no matter what your high school has had to offer, you still have potential for college. One problem with making standardized tests a requirement for advancement is that each teacher grades differently and has

different standards for academic evaluation. No matter what your GPA might be, that standardized test acts as an equalizer. In some cases, that can be worse. Another problem with these tests is that teachers feel compelled to educate the students specifically on what is tested, to the exclusion of all other relevant information. In other words, the tests can take away time from other subjects, such as history and science, because the general tests are based on math, language, and reading.

Most schools have administered standardized tests for children at a young age, including PSSAs, Keystones, and other benchmarks. It allows students at a young age to understand how to take a formal test, but in reality, why are they needed? Children take those tests in fear that they will not move on to the next grade if they do not pass, and that isn't the case. If you have one test already determining whether you are accepted to the college of your choice once you enter high school, then why is it necessary to have kids take another test that won't mean anything after they leave school? The current curriculum should be the only thing on that child's mind because what you learn in school is something that you'll carry forever.

From a different standpoint comes the positive side to standardized tests. Some teachers may have different standards than others. For example, one math teacher could be happy with just noticing the students effort in class and give them an A, but, on the other hand, another teacher must be satisfied with clear and completed work to achieve that A. Standardized tests take that away and are graded the same throughout the United States. When taking SATs, you are able to pick what test you would like to take, and that is something people should not overlook.

Every test is different as well, and some do not realize that. Each time you take the test, it is not the same as the first, which is helpful in a sense. Also, there are websites and books that you can read and participate in to prepare you for the test. It distributes a series of questions much like the ones on the SATs and ACTs. Many students find it helpful and get a little boost of confidence going into the test because they feel prepared.

By Rayanna Celmer



Reading Hillside Catches Fire

Community

On 21 November, around 6:00 p.m., several fire departments were dispatched to the Reading Fire Tower to fight a fire that started in the mountain behind Reading Area High School. "Yeah the fire was pretty wild. It was just a small fire when they ended basketball practice early, but then, as the day went on, the fire kept getting bigger to the point where it was scary," Reading High senior Justin Hummel said.

The fire gradually grew larger and larger and spread out near the fire tower. Eventually, it formed into a V shape. The smoke could be seen miles away from the city, according to WFMZ.

The fire was so big that many of



or in the process of putting the fire out," senior Tristan Spannuth, who drove out to see the fire, said.

The fire was hard to put out because of the type of terrain in which it was flourishing. It was hard for the firefighters to get into a good position to put the fire out.

The cause of the start of the fire has been speculated by many people. Some say that it was arson and was set aflame by criminals. Others say that it was caused by home-

less people that were starting a fire for warmth during the windy day; then, the wind took the fire, and it escalated from there. Others blame the conflagration on how dry it was during those couple of days.

By Mina Isaac

Fleetwood Girls B-Ball Team Expected to Perform Very Well

Sports

The girls' basketball season is underway, and the team is hoping to go far this year, much like past years, when they were tough contenders in the playoffs.

The team has been practicing for this year all throughout the summer. Coach Matt Kellet knows what he is doing. It also helps that he has an extreme amount of talent to work with.

"I'm excited for the season since it's my senior year and we have a lot of upcoming players to contribute to the team," senior Lauren Lister said.

The girls went 15-8 last year, while going 6-4 in their league--good enough to make playoffs.

Fleetwood girls' basketball usually stays at the top of the standings for Berks County, and they are expecting nothing less than being at the top again this year. They made the county semifinals last year, but they fell to Governor Mifflin, who ended up winning the county championship.

Coach Kellet has high expectations for his team, just like every year. Still possessing the memories of States three years ago, all he wants to do is make it back to the Giant Center and contend for the state title.

Although this may be tough with all of the players Fleetwood has lost over those three years, it is still very doable. And these graduated seniors were successful components of the team too.

The only upside to this blow to the team is that there are at least five new players the team is accommodating due to all the freshman trying out for the team this year.

"I am excited for the new addition of the younger players because it is building a good future for Fleetwood girls' basketball. They will help our team for the next four years, along with the upperclassmen and the next few groups of freshmen that are coming in over the next few years," team manager Brodrick Allen said.

By Nathan Mercuri

Should Tests Remain the Primary Method of School Assessment?

School

Exams have always been a big part of most schools worldwide. Though a change is wanted by many, it seems unlikely to some that a big enough stink could be made to drag attention to this rising issue.

"I would definitely want less exams. Tests are worth a lot of points, and if you fail them, it lowers your grade. I would certainly recommend more projects to replace exams," sophomore Makenna Moyer said. A poll was instituted at debate.org, where students were asked if exams should be replaced with another form of assessment. The results were 43% in favor of the replacement and 57% in favor of no change.

Though many polls have been taken, the results have gone in favor of replacement and those not in favor. The results also seem to vary from website to website.

Different views on this subject stem

scores as an idea of what the test taker knows or does not know.

The individuals who disagree with this most commonly point to the fact that exams can occasionally bring grades down and can cause the test takers more stress.

Effective action has yet to be taken towards replacing exams. So far, a lot of talk about a need for change has occurred, but any concrete action is still pending.

There are many websites that debate the effects that would occur if exams were to be banned.

"I support replacing exams. These tests that we as students are taking only question us on our memory of material that we may not understand," sophomore Elsie Martinez said.

By Morgan Albouse



from different evidence. The idea that tests should remain arises from the most accepted idea that students, in the long run, will benefit from taking exams. Also, teachers use the

NASCAR Season Races to a Finish

Sports

On 19 November, NASCAR's Second Tier Xfinity Series held their final race of the 2016 season at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Florida. That day, Daniel Suarez would win his third race of the year to clinch the Xfinity Series championship.

While this is significant in itself, there is much more backstory that makes Suarez's title even more special.

Daniel Suarez was born in 1992 in Monterrey, Mexico. He grew up racing at local tracks. When he was 18, Suarez moved to North Carolina to pursue a career in NASCAR. After racing in regional series in the U.S. and Mexico, he was signed by Joe Gibbs Racing, one of NASCAR's top teams, in 2015. He began racing in the Xfinity Series full time that year.

Suarez has won three career races in the Xfinity Series, all in 2016,

and was named Series Rookie of the Year in 2015. Suarez, with his championship, became the first foreign-born champion in any

of NASCAR's national touring series.

In addition to his driving skill, Suarez has been praised for his dedication to

the sport as well as his maturity, humility, and kind nature. These qualities have gained him a lot of respect among his fellow drivers.

It is also hoped that his success will influence an open doors for other foreign drivers who are pursuing a NASCAR career.

While Suarez's triumph is widely seen as an important milestone in NASCAR, the timing of his championship has led to some controversy, especially among the series front office.

CEO Brian France has openly supported President-elect Donald Trump, including endorsing him at a rally earlier this year. When asked about Suarez at a press conference the day after the Xfinity series race, France was defensive and reluctant to answer.

By Ben Schittler



Reading Teen Allegedly Opened Fire at Game

Community

In York, Pennsylvania, police are searching for a teenager from Reading who allegedly opened fire on two students from William Penn High School at a football game. One was shot in the back, the other in the midsection. The shooting victims were Darius Allen, 23, of York, and Antwan Jackson, 20.

The suspect is described by police as a teen who stands 5', 5", tall and weighs approximately 100 pounds.

"This occurred during the fourth quarter of the game against Lancaster's J.P. McCaskey High School on September 9," police said.

Sixteen-year-old Stephon Damien Brown has been ordered to stand trial on more than 2,000 criminal charges. He was charged as an adult with counts of recklessly endangering another person, aggravated assault, possession of a firearm by a minor, and criminal mischief. The U.S. Marshals fugitive task force arrested Brown in Lancaster on 14 October.

He was charged with over 2,000 counts of recklessly endangering another person due to over 2,000 people being at the game. Witnesses say that some of the shots went in the direction of the crowd.

"Brown is also a suspect for several other shootings in York," police said.

The two known victims were last reported to be in stable condition.

"We think that he's an indiscriminate shooter," Lt. Troy Bankert, commander of the city's detective bureau said. He also added that Brown is still believed to have a gun and to be in the York area.

In the wake of the shootings, school officials are considering changes, including moving home football games from Friday nights to noon Saturdays. Those attending the game were kept inside the stadium until officials determined the scene was safe.

By Brianna Bixler

The Effects of Deforestation Plaguing the Environment.

Environment



An issue that has been very controversial of late is deforestation. Many species have gone extinct because of this problem. Global warming is also a repercussion of deforestation. In rainforests, deforestation adds more carbon into the air than cars do on the roads of today's streets.

Animals cannot survive deforestation either, which is why it is a primary cause of extinction for numerous species each year.

"I feel strongly that deforestation is awful. I do not support the fact that it causes animals to become extinct. The flow of nature is being abruptly halted by this major issue," junior Christine Deida said.

Animals and plants cannot survive the conditions that transpire when their habitat is destroyed. About seventy percent of the planet's plants and animals thrive in the rainforest.

"I think deforestation is a very concerning issue and it breaks my heart to know that animals and plants are wiped out for the profit of man," sophomore Savannah Lopez said.

Global warming is also an issue that is fueled by deforestation. The less trees there are, the more it increases the impact of climate change. Greenhouse gasses enter the atmosphere at a higher rate than they would if deforestation was not an issue.

The water cycle is also affected in areas subjected to deforestation. Without trees to recycle water back into the air, the soil becomes dry and uninhabitable because the trees are not there to offer shade from the blazing sun.

By Morgan Althouse

National Football League Nears End of Regular Season

Sports

The NFL is nearing the end of the regular season. There are some teams who already have a spot in the playoffs, and then there are other teams, like the Browns, who have yet to win a game and have been eliminated from the playoffs.

The Cowboys are surprising everyone so far this year. They have the best record in the NFL, with a rookie quarterback and a rookie running back. Last year, they ended 4-12, so leading the division this year with the best record in the NFL in week twelve is very impressive.

As for the AFC, the Raiders and the Patriots are currently leading. Both teams have already clinched the playoff position, as did the Cowboys. All three teams are going to be very tough to beat, especially the Cowboys because they are in the NFC while the Patriots and Raiders are in the AFC.

The Browns' season is more than disappointing this year. In week thirteen, they have

zero wins, and a win doesn't look like it will be coming anytime soon, even though there could be a miracle.

The Panthers aren't doing as well as everyone believed they would be. Last year, they took a visit to the Super Bowl. They didn't lose many players over the off-season besides Josh Norman, so they were expected to be just as good, but they started off badly and haven't gotten on track yet.

In week thirteen, they are 4-8, and it doesn't look like they will start playing better anytime soon, even with a division that has no standout teams. The leader of their division is a tie between Atlanta and Tampa Bay.

"I hate it. The Eagles [stink] every year, and I'm getting tired of watching them. They are the only team I do watch, so seeing them always lose gets boring and not fun," senior Brodrick Allen said.

By McKenah Rapposelli



Beijing Engulfed in Massive Amounts of Pollution, Smog

Environment

In the past week, Beijing, among other Chinese Provinces, have been swamped in mass amounts of smog. The particles invading the air have now reached over twenty times the safe amount, according to The World Health Organization.

The effects of the smog have escalated quickly. These worsening problems include grounding flights, closing highways, and harming the country's food supply. If these conditions continue, there is a likely possibility that agricultural production in the country could take a serious hit.

At this point in time, 147 of Beijing's industrial companies have cut or suspended production. Schools currently remain open, and transportation has been limited to government cars.

This pollution exposes the people to serious risk. These risks include damage to cardiovascular systems, cerebrovascular




systems, and also cancer.

Multiple lawsuits have been made from citizens due to the dangers they have been exposed to and the little effort made to contain the situation.

The pollution is likely caused by coal-fired power plants that were built very rapidly. These plants are providing 60% of the country's electricity at the expense of the environment.

By Abigail Flannery



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Our 2016 Season

<p>Spring Show Greater Tuna Directed By Jeff Jones March 3, 4, 5, & 6</p> <p>Spring Junior Production Big Bad Musical Director position open June</p> <p>Summer Musical THE PRODUCERS Directed By Tara Sands July 21, 22, & 23</p>	<p>Talent Contest August</p> <p>Spaghetti & Song Directed By Jeannette DeAngelo September 30 & Oct 1</p>	<p>Fall Show Love, Sex, & The I.R.S. Directed by Brian Miller October 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30</p> <p>Junior Holiday Show I Hate Christmas Director: TBA December</p>
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Gilmore Girls Returns To Television

Entertainment/Art



On 25 November 2016, millions of fans tuned in to the long awaited season eight of popular TV series Gilmore Girls. This reboot comes nearly ten years after the seventh season of the show was abruptly canceled in 2007. The return to the familiar Connecticut town of Stars Hollow has brought on a whirlwind of emotions from fans of the series across the globe.

“It was like coming back home to people and places that I love. It was everything I needed and more,” junior Julia Donohoe said.

The new season is made up of four, hour-and-a-half long episodes that revisit the lives of Lorelai and Rory Gilmore. Fans of the show were eager to finally learn the fate of the beloved characters. Loose ends from many years ago were finally tied up, and many new twists and turns were brought to the series.

The cast faced a loss in the time away from the show. Actor Edward Herrmann, who portrayed Richard Gilmore, passed away in late 2014.

The cast and crew worked hard to ensure that he was honored in the reboot so his character could still play a role in the show even after his passing.

“We really had a very specific journey in our minds and we fulfilled the journey,” show creator Amy Sherman-Palladino said. This reboot so far has been given great reviews, and it is possible that yet another season could be in the works soon.

“I just couldn’t wait to see what hijinx Kirk managed to get into next!” Gilmore Girls aficionado and English teacher Zachary Houpp said.

By Abigail Flannery

The NFL Play-offs Are Starting

Sports



NFL Playoffs have arrived, and many fans are excited to watch their team compete. The first round of playoffs is the Wild Card round, and these games are being played on 7 January and 8 January. The Raiders and Texans compete first on the 7th in Houston, and then the Lions and the Seahawks play afterwards in Seattle.

On the 8th, the Dolphins go into Pittsburgh to take on the Steelers, and the Giants take a trip to Lambeau field, which is the home of the Green Bay Packers, to try and take out Aaron Rodgers and his team.

The Dallas Cowboys clinched a first round bye because they took the NFC East. They are coming off of a very impressive season, with two starting rookies at the QB and RB position as well as an outstanding offensive line. They will play the winner of the Packers-Giants game.

With not much experience in a team, the Cowboys may be worried because they have lost both games to the Giants so far this year, and the Packers are playing really well, making them a very experienced team in the playoffs.

The Patriots are being led by Tom Brady, just like every year. He’s had another outstanding season, according to sports analysts.

The Kansas City Chiefs also won their division, so they had a first round bye. They competed in a very difficult division. The Oakland Raiders were in a tough competition with the Chiefs for first place.

The only other team with a first round bye is the Atlanta Falcons. They had a very surprising season with an 11-5 record and outstanding offensive play. Matt Ryan and Julio Jones had a great connection this year and the offensive line led the way to many victories. There also were some surprises for teams who did not make the playoffs this year. The Baltimore Ravens started out 3-0 and had a good roster, but then they really fell and ended up 8-8. The Minnesota Vikings were leading the division for a while and started out 5-0, but ended up 8-8 as well.

Both teams who competed in the Super Bowl also failed to make the Playoffs this year.

By McKenah Rapposelli

2016 Craft Show Inspires Many

School

As many people struggled to find a parking spot early at 10:00 a.m., this year’s craft show looked like a major success. Parking was extended over to the middle school parking lot, and it was only the beginning of the long day the volunteers had ahead.

There were over 150 vendors this year, about 30 more than last year, and even some of the teachers set up stands to promote any products they were trying to sell. More than 500 people walked through the door before 11:00 a.m.

Physical Education teacher Mrs. Susie Cammauf was selling homemade centerpieces made from pine trees. She explained that it is a family run business with her parents and brother. Her job is to get pieces ready for her mother to decorate them.

English teacher Mrs. Sarah Wilkinson was selling essential oils and scrubs. She said that she made the scrubs herself for the first time, and she was excited to sell them.

The most delightful stand the craft show had was the beloved Lenard Novelty bakery. He sells cookies, brownies, cannolis, and



other pastries. He was filling the cannolis right there in front of patrons if they purchased them.

People from Student Council helped out during this event as well. This year’s Santa Claus role was played by Joey Moyer. Families were able to take pictures with and write letters to Santa.

Tim Hornbuckle and Emma Davis ran the spirit wear stand. They were selling t-shirts from previous and current events, such as homecoming, the pink-out game, and the Mini-Thon. They were also selling magnets, water bottles, key chains, and much more!

Students also ran the concession stand in the front of the building. The bestsellers in the morning were hot dogs, coffee, and donuts.

The craft show was an event to kick off the winter gift giving season. With 30 more vendors this year, organizers had to adjust the way the auxiliary gym was set up so everyone could fit. The final numbers for the evening were 2000 in attendance and a profit of \$4,800

By Rayanna Celmer

Fake News Swiftly Becoming a Real Problem Globally

Communications

The recent political election season has raised a number of issues regarding the government, including partisanship in Congress and the feasibility of Donald Trump as the next president. Ironically, one of the problems not getting as much news coverage is that of fake news. Fraudulent news sites and phony journalists have attempted to push their own agenda and influence the opinions and views of others.

A simple Google search yields numerous fake news sites. 21stcenturywire.com and infowars.com are some of the most popular sites publishing and spreading fake stories.

One of the most prominent and infamous of recent fake news stories was that of the paedophilia ring at a Washington D.C. pizza store. Enough people believed the story that someone fired shots into the restaurant, according to the BBC. Clinton also warned, as reported on many news outlets, to be on the lookout for counterfeit news. She cited “Pizzagate” as an example of real world consequences of fake news.

The “Pizzagate” scandal was made even more infamous by the fact that it was spread by Mike Flynn Jr., son and assistant of Mike Flynn, who Donald Trump tapped as his National Security advisor. Trump later fired

Fake News Sites:

- 1. americannews.com
- 2. infowars.com
- 3. dcgazette.com
- 4. mediamass.net
- 5. dailycurrent.com
- 6. private-eye.co.uk
- 7. empirenews.com
- 8. theuspatriot.com
- 9. 21stcenturywire.com

Flynn over the issue, according to the New York Times.

Furthermore, a recent study by Stanford University published on npr.org, found that the ability of students, ranging from middle school to college, to assess information sources “is described... as "dismaying," "bleak" and "[a] threat to democracy." Some of the conclusions that the study came to included “Most college students didn’t suspect potential bias in a tweet from an activist group,” “Many high school students couldn’t tell a real and fake news source apart on Facebook,” and “Most Stanford students couldn’t identify the difference between a mainstream and fringe source.”

By Ben Schittler

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