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Safe2Say Something Initiative Arrives in the Fleetwood Area School District

School

Recently, Fleetwood Area High School had an assembly about a new app, Safe2Say-Something. FAHS Guidance counselors Fred Engelhardt, Ann-Marie Neubert, and Amy Moyer hosted the assembly.

The program encourages students to submit an anonymous tip if they suspect someone they know may be planning to harm themselves or others in order to “say something” that might prevent school tragedies.

To submit a tip, one either has to download the mobile app “Safe2Say Something PA”, call their number 1-844-SAFE2SAY (723-2729), or submit his or her concern online at www.safe2saypa.org.

Statistics on their website show that 1,000,000 students reported being harassed, threatened, or bullied. Eighty percent of

school shooters told someone of their plans, and 59% told more than one person. Moreover, 70% of people who commit suicide told someone and gave warning signs.

“Of course, I would [endorse S2SS]. I always tell students that this is not something you want hanging over your head. If you are worried about a friend, you need to tell a trusted adult as soon as you can. If something bad were to happen and you didn’t report it, you would have to live with that guilt, and nobody should have to go through that,” English teacher Sarah Wilkinson said.

S2SS claims on its website that it is “the easiest way to let someone know that there is a problem and let them handle it. The best part is, they will never know who it was that submitted it. It’s that simple.”

But the question is, will this program have a positive impact at FAHS?

“I feel kids wouldn’t take it seriously and would use it as a joke, or kids won’t use it at all when it’s a resource for our school,” senior Jessica Goggins said.

“I hope that students are using it. This is what teenagers know today—technology. This allows them to use what they know to help support their friends (or even themselves) if they are struggling with any type of mental health issue. However, I really think it needs to be promoted more by every teacher to remind students what it is all about,” Wilkinson said.

By Isabella Balthaser

Fleetwood Varsity Cheer Squad Wins Nationals

School

In late February, Fleetwood’s varsity cheer squad competed in a nationwide tournament against other high schools known as the Cheer Movement National Competition. The country’s best squads would compete for the Grand Champion title. A lot has happened on the way to the top, but Fleetwood was able to come out as number one in the tournament.

Winning the Grand Champion title helped strengthen the already strong bond the cheerleaders have with one another.

“It made me appreciate all of the hard work that we put in this season. We battled some injuries, which forced us to have each other’s backs and step in where needed,” junior Korrin Dietrich said.

Day one of the competition was off to a rough start.

“The performance started out great, but then we went into a pyramid and my

flyer fell. We didn’t think we’d pull it back,” junior Ashney Gabriel said.

One of the squad’s main flyers fell and suffered a head injury, which hindered her ability to compete. Junior Cailey Bergen, however, stepped up and took the flyer’s spot.

portive of me and had a lot of confidence in me, which made me feel more confident in myself.”

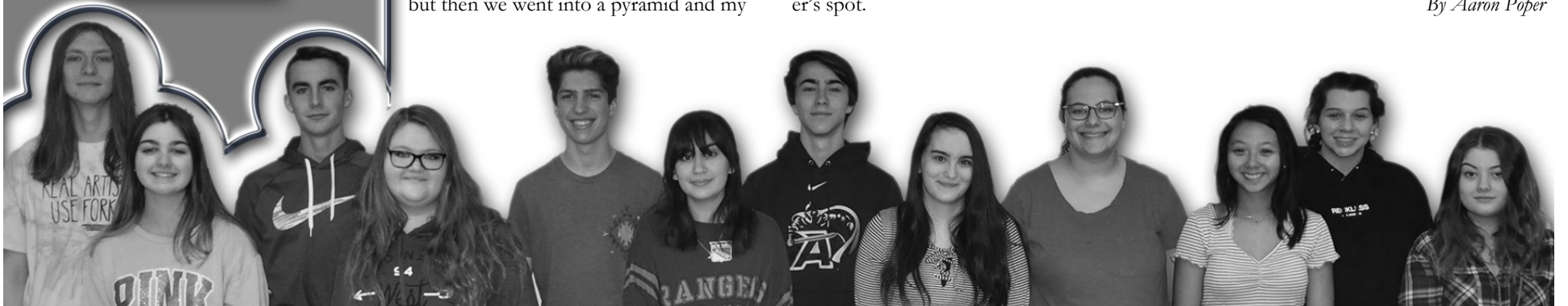
By Aaron Poper



What is a flyer? The flyer is also known as the ‘top girl.’ As a flyer, she must be prepared to be thrown up in the air and have trust that her cheerleaders will catch her.

“I wanna shoutout Cailey Bergen because she stepped in where someone couldn’t and did superb,” Gabriel said.

“We won because of Cailey,” Nisha Savino says. “However, I think everyone worked so hard together! It was fun, and I really enjoyed it! I had to learn to do [the injured cheerleader’s part] and change where I was going for the routine, and it made me nervous to know there was a lot I had to change in a span of a little over fifteen hours. [My teammates] were very sup-



FAHS to Remodel Library into Media Center for 2019-2020 School Year

School

The Fleetwood Area High School is renovating its library into a library media center. The renovation will take place in the summer of 2019 and will be ready for the 2019-2020 school year.

The school district has been planning the renovation for a while now, and it is very well-funded. The new library will not be affecting the rest of the school budget-wise because money has been set aside for several years. The communications department worked really hard to make this new library possible and affordable.

"There will be new carpeting, more space, and updated technology," librarian/media coordinator Mr. Kirby Barnett said.

Barnett hopes that the library will still be welcoming but more useful than it is now. The new technology will not only allow students to perform traditional research but allow them to make podcasts and videos

as well. Instructional Coach Mrs. Candace Hall's old room is being turned into a new "recording room." Along with the new technology, 3-D printers will be made available.

In addition to more space, the bookshelves will be pushed back against the wall and foldable whiteboard dividers will be added. The dividers will allow more than one classroom to be in the library at a time and allow teachers and students to write on them for educational purposes.

There will be new comfortable seating for a reading nook. The chairs are being reupholstered to give them a much needed facelift. The current tables are remaining as they are, but a new area with high top tables and seating is planned.

Once the new media center is completed, there will be TVs around the school that will project the morning announcements as a bulletin. The TVs will be put in

so that students are informed of the school's news throughout the day. There are hopes that live morning announcements will be made available, but this is not definite. This is more of a long-term goal that is being taken into consideration.

"I am pumped for the upcoming library. I want the library to meet everyone's needs and make people feel like they are 'at home'. The main goal is to have it feel welcoming and comfortable for all who visit," Barnett said.

This new library is expected to meet everyone's needs. It is encouraged that students visit and use the library to its full potential for the years to come. Students of the 2019-2020 school year, get ready to sit back, relax, and make the most out of your new library.

By Madeline Feichtel



NY Passes Abortion Law, Striking Debate

Health & Medicine

On 23 January 2019, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed a new abortion law into legislation.

The law makes it easier for state residents to have post-availability, third-trimester abortions.

The old law only allowed abortions in the third-trimester if the mother's health was in danger.

The bill AB 6221 passed with a vote of 94-49. This new law will allow abortion to take place up to nine months into the pregnancy.

The reasoning behind the action

would have to be if the woman had physical, emotional, or psychological complications.

The text of the bill states that "an abortion may be performed by a licensed, certified, or authorized practitioner within 24 weeks from the commencement of pregnancy, or if there is an absence of fetal viability, or at any time when necessary to protect a patient's life or health."

New Yorkers have tried unsuccessfully to pass this legislation since the days of Governor Eliot Spitzer in the late 2000s.

This new law allows abor-

tions through the third-trimester up to birth. New York specifically passed this law in case the Roe v. Wade principle is overturned.

The new law protects abortion and also removes abortion from the state's criminal code.

"It's about the health and safety of the mother and it's always been the point where the conservatives wave the flag, they want to roll back Roe v. Wade--this is not gray here, it's black and white," Cuomo said.

"I do not support abortion. The pain the baby goes through is insane. I do

not support abortions in the late term because it could cause more harm to the mother. I feel horrible knowing an infant child is getting their life taken away; my stomach drops thinking about it," Fleetwood Area High School Senior Chloe Allison said.

By Elyse Essick



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Jeopardy Host Alex Trebek Receives Cancer Diagnosis

Health & Medicine

Long time Jeopardy host Alex Trebek revealed on Wednesday, March 6, in a short YouTube clip, that he has been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Trebek has expressed his determination to fight this and overcome the low survival rate of this disease. He jokingly said "truth told, [he] has to because under the terms of

[his] contract, [he] has to host Jeopardy for three more years!" As a huge fan of Jeopardy myself, I hope Alex will overcome this, and my thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family.

By Madi McElwee

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Fleet Tweets

-I'm not here for a long time, I'm here for a good time.

-Ashley Unger

-Never be afraid to be yourself.

-Grace Tinman

Turning Point Arrives in Fleetwood

Politics

Turning Point USA is the nation's biggest conservative movement across thousands of universities and high schools.

A common misconception of the organization is that it preaches Republican propaganda. In this day and age, there are various different kinds of Republicans. TP USA just focuses on promoting American freedom, the free market, and limited government.

On Valentine's Day 2019, Fleetwood's Turning Point chapter met with Kutztown University's chapter to discuss a possible road map as well as what the organization entails. Fleetwood's chapter is still developing since switching to a new adviser, Mrs. Favata.

That is not to say the future is grim for the club. KU's TP USA president, James Stevens, has been rumored to be in contact with Will Witt of PragerU. Will Witt is a very popular spokesperson from a wildly successful conservative outfit known as Prager University. In the near future, he may make a surprise appearance at the campus. Students from Fleetwood and KU will be able to hear him speak. This should boost registration for both of the chapters. In addition, TP USA members from KU go on trips to country-wide chapter events to hear other conservative speakers, including Dennis Prager, Ben Shapiro, and Charlie Kirk.

According to the president of the Kutztown University chapter, what's mind boggling is that Fleetwood is the first high school in the county and is among one of the first high school's in the state to establish a chapter. To put

that into perspective, there are 1,300 chapters across the country as of February 2019, and TP USA is expanding into the United Kingdom as well.

At the meeting, James Stevens taught Fleetwood students about his *Be You* Initiative. It was all about how to engage in discussions with people of opposing views. Four major points of the initiative on how to deal with criticism are to Be Presentable, Be Open, Be Accepting, and Be a Good Listener. To elaborate, a person must keep a calm posture, dress appropriately, and be welcoming if he or she is to even think about changing someone's mind.

Being open and accepting is all about finding common ground with the opposing person. If a person can find a similarity in beliefs and/or background, he or she can understand another's views. Lastly, and the hardest, one should be a good listener. He or she must remain civil and take turns discussing his or her points of view. When taken out of context, lashing out and interrupting is no way to go. Instead, one should remain collective and wait for his or her turn to speak.

If you or another student you know has any interest in joining, Fleetwood's chapter asks you to remain patient. Right now, students can go check out KU's Turning Point USA chapter. Meetings are in the Student Union building every Thursday.

By Aaron Poper

Whale Jails being Investigated by Russian Government

Environment

Over 100 beluga whales, orcas, and baby walrus are currently awaiting their fate in icy, inadequate confinements called "whale jails."

These "whale jails," located in Russia's Pacific East Coast, near the city of Nakhodka, have reportedly killed at least 3 of it's trapped marine mammals. Designated to be sold to Chinese aquariums, these animals have spent months in small, rectangular pens.

Global outcry sparked the Russian government to take action and investigate the conditions in which the animals were forced to survive.

Stolen from the wild, almost all of the beluga whales are too young to thrive without their mothers. In addition to the deadly cold waters, these animals are forced to live on top of one another due to the tiny rectangular cells in which they are housed.

"Russian officials have charged four companies, which appear to be affiliated, for violating fishing laws. The companies have previously faced fines for illegal capture and have a history of selling animals to amusement parks abroad," *CBS News* said.

"No one objects to releasing the orcas, but the most important thing is to release them properly," Ecology Minister Dmitry Kobylkin said.

All of the captured marine mammals will be rehabilitated, and those who are able will be released back into the wild.

For now, these animals must wait while authorities decide the best way to move them without causing any harm. Awaiting transportation, these belugas, orcas, and walrus desperately cling to their lives.

By Morgan Althouse

Empire Star Jussie Smollett Alleged to Have Staged his Own Attack

Cops & Courts

Empire star Jussie Smollett, 36, has been charged with felony disorderly conduct after falsely reporting an alleged hate crime. Smollett actually staged the whole ordeal simply to gain publicity in order to get a raise in his salary. The following is a brief timeline of the events leading up to today.

●22 January 2019: A letter threatening Smollett arrives at the Fox studio where *Empire* is filmed. It contained a homophobic death threat spelled out in cut-up letters from newspapers.

●29 January: Chicago police open a hate crime investigation after Smollett claims he was attacked near his apartment. He said two men in black ski masks approached him at 2:00 a.m. and shouted racial and homophobic slurs, poured an unknown chemical substance on him, and wrapped a noose around his neck. They allegedly yelled, "This is MAGA country!" along with calling him names like "Empire fa****" and "Empire ni****".

●30 January: Chicago police release a photo of two "persons of interest" captured

on surveillance footage.

●1 February: Despite skepticism, Smollett maintains his story, saying it was "100% factual and consistent on every level."

●14 February: Smollett appears on *Good Morning America* and tears up during his interview. He continues to defend his story.

●15 February: Chicago police say they are questioning the two suspects, but later that day, they are released.

●16 February: It is released that two Nigerian brothers, Ola and Abel Osundario, said they were paid \$3,500 to stage the attack.

●20 February: A felony disorderly conduct charge is brought against Smollett.

●21 February: Smollett turns himself in to Chicago police. Bond is set at \$100,000, and he had to surrender his passport. He is now free awaiting trial.

By Madi McElwee

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Chris Watts Convicted of Killing Family; Confession Released

Cops & Courts

- Recently, Christopher Lee Watts' confession tapes were released to the public. The following is a timeline of the various events that lead up to today.
- 13 August 2018: The day of the murder, Shan'ann, Bella, and Celeste were reported missing by a friend. "When I came home, it was a ghost town. I have no idea where they are, I have no information on where they're at right now," Chris Watts said in an interview with HLN News.
 - 15 August 2018: Watts was arrested for the murders of 34-year-old pregnant wife, Shan'ann, 4-year-old Bella, 3-year-old Celeste, and unborn son Nico. Shan'ann was 15 weeks pregnant.
 - 12 November 2018: Watts pleaded guilty

- to first-degree murder and was sentenced to five consecutive life sentences with no possibility of parole.
- 15 November 2018: Watts's girlfriend, Nicole Kessinger spoke to the *Denver Post* for the first time. She was shocked when she heard that Chris was still married to Shan'ann and was pregnant, so she pressed Watts to tell her what happened. "It got to a point that he was telling me so many lies that I eventually told him that I did not want to speak to him again until his family was found," Kessinger said.
 - 25 November 2018: Text messages between Shan'ann and Chris were released to WSOC-TV, Shan'ann saying "I don't know how you fell out of love with me in 5.5 weeks, or if this has been going on for a

- long time, but you don't plan another baby if you're not in love," while Chris replied, "I'm not sure what's in my head." He also "denied that he didn't love her and didn't want to erase eight years together."
- 28 November 2018: Weld County District Attorney's Office released a videotape of Chris Watts confessing to his father that he killed his wife. Before he confessed, according to the *Denver Post*, Watts failed a polygraph test (even though they're not admissible in court). He admitted to having an affair, told police that he buried his wife at a Weld County oil site, and put his daughters in oil storage tanks.
 - 18 February 2019: Watts confessed to triple homicide, according to *USA Today*.

- 7 March 2019: Five-hour-long audio footage of Watts' confession tapes were released to the public.
- 11 March 2019: Dr. Phil interviewed Shan'ann's parents, Frank and Sandy Rzucek, about their reaction to Watts' confession. The morning of 13 August 2018, according to CBS Denver, Sandy woke up and knew something was wrong with Shan'ann. "I'm still on a mission for my daughter and my grandchildren, because they wanted to live. They had beautiful lives, loved each other, loved everyone around them. Momma's right here. I'm here, and I will stand up for them," Sandy Rzucek said.

By Isabella Balthaser

The Fifty States from Worst to Best: Part Two

Travel

- In a previous article, *The Tiger Times* began its state rankings with states 50-26. Here is the finale, states 25-1. Using criteria such as location, climate, culture, cities, diversity, and much more, we formed a list ranking the fifty states. Here are the top twenty-five states in the American union.
25. Kentucky--With big college towns in Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky is filled with sports. Not only are they the home of a few elite colleges but the Kentucky Derby as well.
24. Illinois--Chicago is the main reason this state is in the top half. It is one of the finest cities in America and brings with it a cool, unique culture. There are many sports teams, a couple of good Big Ten schools, and some tremendous famous food, like their deep dish pizza. The only thing holding this state back is, what else is even in Illinois?
23. Ohio--Ohio's most popular city is Cleveland, which does not come with very promising sports teams. Even with all the moves the Browns made in free agency, there is still a lot to work on before the beginning of the season. The Cavaliers have been nothing since LeBron left, currently with the third worst record in the NBA. The Indians have shown signs of being good but have yet to do anything.
22. Alabama--Alabama is ranked highly for their great college football culture. The Alabama versus Auburn rivalry is maybe the best in the sport. It is the heart of the SEC and is rooted strongly in its southern traditions, a respectable trait.
21. Oregon--Oregon is most known for its diverse landscape of forests, beaches, farms, and mountains, as well as its great colleges. The University of Oregon and Oregon State University help push Oregon to the top half of the list.
20. Washington--This ranks one spot higher than its neighbor to the south because of Seattle. It is a huge, unique, innovative city that just edges out Portland. The culture overall is a passionate one. The rainy climate may hurt it a bit, but ultimately Washington is a top 20 state.
19. Missouri--With large cities like Kansas City and St. Louis, it's hard not to be in the top twenty. Both cities also bring in big sports teams. The Chiefs have a very promising future with Mahomes as quarterback. The Cardinals are not what they used to be, but

- they stay average in the ranks as of now. The Royals just won the World Series in 2015 but don't even show up in the Playoffs anymore.
18. North Carolina--Although the inferior Carolina, the Tarheel state still has many positive aspects. Charlotte is a nice city, there are plenty of pretty beaches to vacation at and, maybe the best part is the rivalry between their three biggest colleges: Duke, UNC. and NC State.
17. Minnesota--Bordered by Canada and the largest Great Lake, Lake Superior, Minnesota is the home of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, known as the "Twin Cities." With both cities comes a variety of art and culture.
16. Maine--The northernmost state in the contiguous United States is up so high because of its nice, friendly culture. They love their seafood and their snow. Everything in Maine is aesthetically pleasing with quaint towns and different, but very nice cities in Portland and Bangor. There is not much that stands out about Maine, but there is nothing truly negative either.
15. Maryland--Filled with a long line of beaches, Maryland is a top tourist attraction for many reasons. The U.S. Naval Academy is located in Annapolis, the state capitol, and the largest city, Baltimore, is filled with sports teams, history, and diverse culture. Ocean City is filled with beaches where many high school kids go to celebrate "Senior Week," as well as the Chesapeake Bay for a more relaxing experience.
14. Louisiana--The Bayou state is in the top fifteen because of its unique culture, New Orleans, and its passion for their college, LSU. New Orleans is a fantastic city known for a fun-loving, amazing culture. The food is great, the city is fun, the sports are beloved, and overall, Louisiana is a great state.
13. South Carolina--The state needs to have a lot of attributes to be the "better" Carolina. Even with North Carolina being home to the pro sports teams, South Carolina still has better features. Starting with the climate, it is similar, but South Carolina is hard to beat. History fills South Carolina land from the Civil War, with the opening shots being fired off here.
12. Colorado--There is not much wrong with Colorado at all. The breathtaking Rocky Mountains make this state famous and for good reason. Denver is also a phenomenal city with a good sports fan base. The climate

- may hold this state back, as it is fairly cold. Colorado, overall, is a state with no real weaknesses outside its cold climate.
11. Georgia--From beaches, farmlands, and mountains to large cities, Georgia has it all. Atlanta, which is the state capital, brings in sports and diverse culture. Georgia is also the host of the Masters, which take place in Augusta.
10. Michigan--The motor city is a bit better than its cold counterpart in Colorado for a few reasons. First, the city of Detroit is immense and brings a passionate sports fan base as well as a proud culture. The weather is cold, but the Great Lakes are a marvel to visit. In addition, Michigan is home to two prestigious colleges that make the state even better. The rivalry between Michigan St. in East Lansing and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor is a huge part of why Michigan cracks the top ten.
9. Tennessee--Nashville, the state capital, is known as the heart of country music, and Memphis, located in the far southwest region of the state, brings in musical features like Elvis Presley's Graceland, so Tennessee is filled with music all around the state. With the music comes sports and popular cities, landing Tennessee in the top ten.
8. Arizona--This state is excellent. The climate may be hot, but you can forget about that when looking at the city of Phoenix. It is beautiful. Arizonians are proud and love their state. Beautiful sightseeing like the Grand Canyon only adds to the appeal of Arizona, the eighth best state in the United States.
7. Hawaii--Even with the city being absolutely beautiful, Hawaii still lands in the lower half of the top ten. Being isolated from the rest of the U.S., Hawaii is like it's own country. The beaches are top U.S. beaches, and their weather is some of the best in the country. The only downfalls that come with this spectacular state is the chance of many natural disasters, as well as the fact that many sports teams do not come out of Hawaii.
6. Massachusetts--The sports fans here are spoiled. They have seen their city win 12 championships. Boston is turning into the city of champions, and the passion of their fans is obvious. The state is not only known for Boston but also for the tremendous universities in the state. MIT, Boston University, and Harvard are just a few of the many prestigious colleges in this New England state.

5. Texas--The slogan "Everything's bigger in Texas" is basically true. The state in general is just bigger than most, being recorded as the second largest state in area and population. In this big state are many large cities, including Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Austin. Even with the Dallas Cowboys being a terrible team to be called the home team, there are many other sports teams filling up the cities to make it a great state for sports.
4. Pennsylvania--The Keystone state is a phenomenal overall state. It offers a climate where you experience all four seasons. Two great cities, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, have their own unique culture and fan bases. State College is a great cultural center in the middle of the state, and, overall, PA is a very solid state.
3. Florida--There are endless amounts of opportunities when visiting Florida. The coast is filled with beaches that reach hundreds of miles, and the large, beautiful cities light up the state. Miami is known for its Latin-American influenced culture and its nightlife, especially South Beach. Miami seems to be the perfect location for a vacation with no kids, but Orlando may be the best family-friendly city in America. Being home to Walt Disney World brings in families from all over the world to enjoy the fun, magical experience.
2. New York--Not quite number one, but it sure is a close second. The biggest city in the U.S. is a marvel to be in and to look at from afar with a breathtaking skyline. As great as New York City is, the state of New York is so much more than the city. Upstate, there are fantastic views from various mountains and other opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. New York is a phenomenal state with a little bit of everything, earning the second spot on our list.

1. California--The best state in the United States! California has amazing cities, plural. Los Angeles, San Diego, and the Bay Area are just a few amazing areas and cities that California has to offer. The beaches are nice, and the weather is sublime. There is a ton of diversity in California as well. Southern California is the hot, beachy areas that Cali is known for; Northern California is the bay area and a different scene from SoCal. California is a great sports state and packed with stars. Overall, this decision was not the hardest to come by; California is the best state in the country!

By Samuel Schappell and McKenah Rapposelli

The Tiger Times is a high school news journal that is produced using funds from The Fleetwood Area School District as well as club fundraisers. All subjects and topics appearing within The Tiger Times are self-selected by student reporters themselves; however, article suggestions are accepted from all students, staff, administration, and community members. Opinions and viewpoints stated in The Tiger Times are not necessarily the opinions and viewpoints of The Fleetwood Area School District, its administration, its faculty, the club advisor, or even the entirety of The Tiger Times staff. The Tiger Times is a public forum, the primary goal of which is to provide an outlet for student expression to The Fleetwood Area School District and its constituent communities. Viewpoints and opinions that are contrary to those appearing in The Tiger Times are welcomed, but they are not guaranteed publication except by approval from the student editors. Students who are not matriculated in the journalism course or who are not among the club's roster are still eligible to submit content for the periodical. All articles and letters selected for publication may be subject to editing for length and language consistent with the style established by student editors of The Tiger Times.