

JINGLE MINGLE: OGHS CHEERLEADERS HOST WINTER FORMAL

by: Kat Thaggard

Oak Grove High School held its first school-affiliated dance in three years this month. After a long wait, students ranging from freshmen to seniors dressed in their nicest to attend this winter formal.

The dance, which took place on Saturday, December 8, was sponsored by the OGHS cheerleading team in efforts to raise money for their national competition.

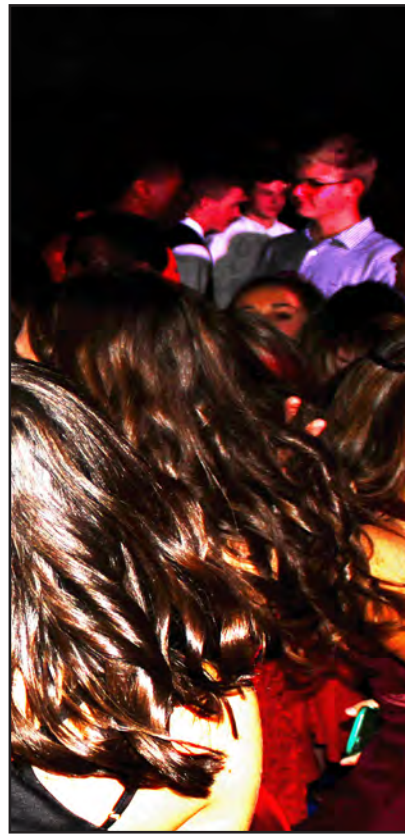
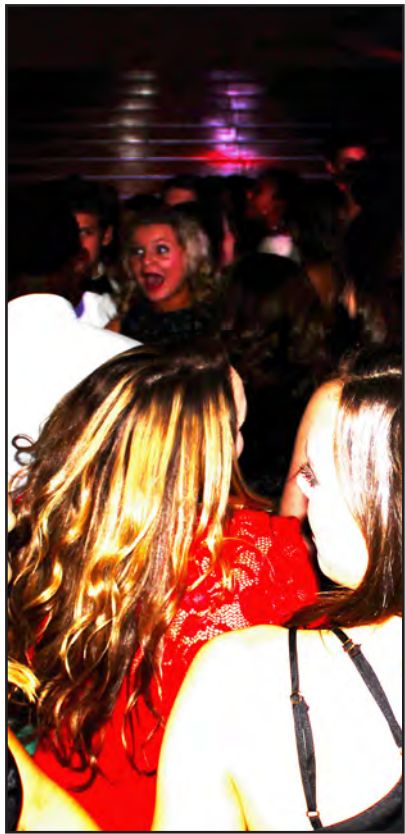
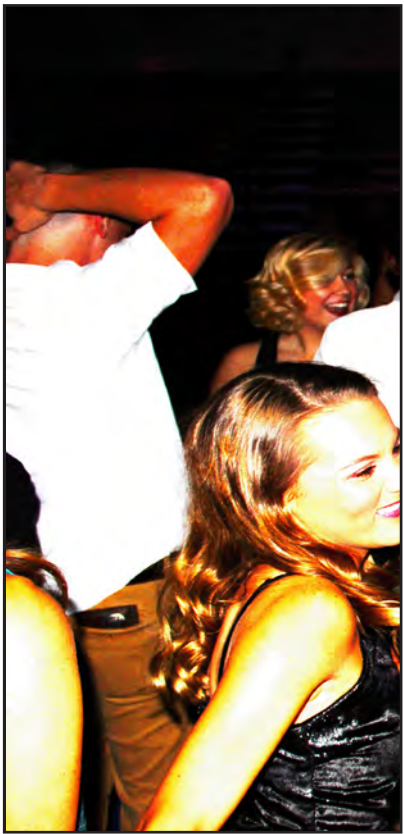
“We are going to nationals in February, and it’s a lot of money,” junior cheerleader Megan Payne said. “We’ve been hosting fundraisers and selling t-shirts for playoffs and all that stuff trying to get a good bit of money for us to all go to nationals.”

“The cheerleaders, our parents, and Burdine all stayed after school one day, and we decorated that night, and then in the morning we helped a little too,” Payne said.

After months of hard work and preparation, the doors to the gym were opened, giving some students the chance to enjoy their first high school dance. Students from all grades dressed in their winter best and enjoyed a night of dancing with friends.

“A lot of people showed up, the DJ was great,” Payne said. “There were a lot of freshmen and sophomores, and they had a really good time. I had a really good time.”

Junior Abigayle Talbot attended the dance. She remembers a fun night spent with old and new friends.



The dance was the successful result a collaborative effort of the between the cheer team, its coach, and the parents of the cheerleaders.

“Our parents came up with the idea,” Payne said. “They thought it would be cool since we haven’t had a dance this year, and they were like, ‘Well, a lot of people go to dances and we’ll make a lot of money off it.’”

The idea of a winter formal was conceived in October, and the cheerleaders, their parents, and their coach Ashley Burdine carefully planned every detail.

“We came up with the idea around October, and we talked about it a lot,” Payne said. “We talked about what theme we could do, and we really just sat down and said that a formal would be nice since we didn’t have a homecoming and girls like to dress up.”

Leading up to the big day, the team, their coach and their parents worked to turn the gym into a winter wonderland with snow-like decorations and twinkling lights.

“It was a lot of fun seeing all the grades together, and there were a bunch of freshmen, so it was really fun getting to meet them and get to know them a little bit better,” she said. “The whole gym was decorated very pretty, and there were lights everywhere, so it was a very magical night. Also, the DJ was awesome.”

The dance was a success, and the cheerleading team got even closer to meeting their fundraising goal. This winter formal was a great stepping stone for the cheerleaders on their journey to national competition. The success of this dance may have also helped pave the way for more possible school-affiliated dances in the future.

Talbot attests to the success of the dance and is grateful she had the chance to spend time with friends and have a fun night.

“It was a lot of fun just to be with friends and to be able to dance and have fun before the week of finals got crazy.”



Photos by Abigayle Talbot



Photo Courtesy of Molly Frances Camille

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January 6
- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY
January 21

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CINDY HYDE-SMITH "RUNSOFF" WITH A WIN

by: Lyric Church

On November 27, Mississippi elected Cindy Hyde-Smith as the state's first female elected into congressional office.

Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith ran against Republican Chris McDaniel and Democrat Mike Espy for the senate seat on November 6. Neither Hyde-Smith nor Espy won the majority of the votes. Because of this, the two went head-to-head in a campaign for the runoff election.

At the end of Election Day, the Democrat Party held the majority of the House of Representatives, and the Republicans held the majority of the Senate. The nation was focused on the Mississippi election, with leaders from both parties sending in officials to help with the campaigns.

Republicans wanted Hyde-Smith to win to maintain their majority in the

Senate, and Democrats wanted Espy to win so they would have the majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

President Trump endorsed Hyde-Smith and visited the state twice to rally support for her and the Republican Party.

Hyde-Smith ran with a Conservative campaign. She supports limited healthcare, is against abortion, and is a supporter of the National Rifle Association (NRA).

Espy ran with a campaign that was slightly in the middle. He supports expanding healthcare, he believes abortion is up to the woman, and supports "common sense limitations" on gun laws.

Both campaigns, however, did share some similarities. Both believe that the college and education systems need to be improved, and both share the more-and-better jobs platform.

Both candidates have also served in government positions before. Hyde-Smith was previously the Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce and served on the Mississippi State Senate. Espy was the 25th United States Secretary of Agriculture in the early 90s.

National attention on the election intensified when a controversial remark was made by Hyde-Smith, but it did not do as much damage to her campaign as people believed it would.

The runoff election was held on November 27. Cindy Hyde-Smith won the majority with 53.9 percent of the votes. She is Mississippi's first female elected into a congressional office.

She will be sworn in on January 3 with the other newly elected officials at the United States Capitol, where she will work for Mississippi for the next two years.

HATTIESBURG ZOO LIGHTS: A CHRISTMAS TRADITION

by: Myles Hudson

The Hattiesburg Zoo will host their annual Zoo Lights and Market event on the weekends of December 14-16 and 21-23 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

"Our annual Zoo Lights is a favorite activity for families during the Christmas season," Rick Taylor, Executive Director for the Hattiesburg Convention Commission, said in an official press release for Zoo Lights. "The peace and serenity of the zoo at night combined with the beautiful light displays, music, holiday market, and good cheer set the perfect mood for a wonderful family Christmas outing."

Zoo Lights is back by popular demand with more magic than ever before.

"A favorite Christmas tradition for many, this year's Zoo Lights display will be bigger and brighter than ever before," HCC Public Relations Coordinator Shuntasia Coleman said. "Zoo Lights will be brimming with holiday fun for the whole family. The zoo will be illuminated as loved ones bundle up and take in the sights."

Families will be able to participate in various activities and enjoy the magic of the holiday season together.

"Themed activities include: unlimited excursions on the Polar Express (train) to see the lights, endless rides on the holiday Candy Cane Carousel, a Feliz

Navidad celebration at Camp Capybara, shopping at the holiday market, letters to Santa, storytime with Mrs. Claus, and animal encounters throughout the night," Coleman said.

"A display of gingerbread houses from the gingerbread bake-off will be on view in the Asbury Discovery Center. Back by popular demand, guests can stop by the Festivus location to take a family selfie at the aluminum pole, air grievances, or just perform feats of strength for a more eccentric holiday experience. I am really looking forward to all of the newly added activities we have planned for Zoo Lights. Especially the gingerbread competition. I can't wait to see all of the creative submissions."

In addition to these activities, kids will have the opportunity to meet Santa himself.

"Kids can let Santa know what they want for Christmas while parents take their pictures with the big guy in the red suit," Coleman said. "Additionally, Anna and Elsa from Disney's Frozen will make a special appearance each night."

Families will also be able to shop together in the Market area while enjoying sweets, treats and snacks for all.

"Guests will be able to shop the Holiday Market, surrounded by twinkling lights," Coleman said. "The market will feature a range of local vendors offering a selection of handcrafted and Mississippi-made gifts for purchase. In or-

der to create the best experiences for our guests, it's all hands on deck when planning large events like this."

The Hattiesburg Zoo is ready to host the families and children of Hattiesburg with tickets already available for purchase.

"We expect about 1,000-2,000 guests each night," Coleman said.

Tickets may be purchased online at hattiesburgzoo.com for \$10, or they may be purchased at the gate on the day of the event. Children under the age of two will be admitted for free.



HATTIESBURG
Zoo Lights and HOLIDAY MARKET
DECEMBER 14, 15, 16 & 21, 22, 23
5:30PM - 8:00PM
HATTIESBURGZOO.COM | 601.545.4576

Photo Courtesy of Shuntasia Coleman

beat's bits

NEWS

by: Matthew Williams

ATTORNEY-IN-LAW

President Trump's personal attorney Michael Cowen was sentenced to three years in federal prison for tax evasion, making false claims to Congress, and authorizing payments during the 2016 election to multiple women claiming they had had affairs with Trump in the past. Shortly after the sentencing, President Trump tweeted, "I never directed Michael Cowen to break the law. He was a lawyer and he is supposed to know the law."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

SHINY, NEW APPLE

Apple plans to spend \$1 Billion on a new campus in Austin, Texas. Statements from the company explain they wish to be the biggest employer in the city and that the new campus will provide nearly 20,000 jobs. Apple's campus will be a mile away from the original one, which already boasts an impressive 6,300 jobs. The trillion dollar company made this decision due to new taxing laws passed last year that restricted the evasion of taxes on foreign profits



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DAILY EXPRESS

THE GOOD POPE

The Vatican has released information to the press regarding Pope Francis' removal of three Cardinals in his prestigious council of advisors. Though the Pope has stated that the "termination" of these men is due to old age, there have been reports of sexual assault accusations to two of the three men. The three men are Cardinals George Pell (77), Javier Errazuriz (85), and Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya (79).



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VERGE

BULLSEYE: OGHS CELEBRATES FIRST ARCHERY SIGNEE

by: Hermine Granberry

Senior Deneé Arledge signed to Blue Mountain College for archery, making her Oak Grove High School's first archery signee.

"It's completely unreal," Arledge said. "I'm so thankful for this opportunity and this blessing that I have been given."

Arledge has only been competing in archery for a semester since joining the team last spring.

"I needed a P.E. credit, and I didn't want to take the P.E. gym class," she said. "I figured archery was an easy sport that I could take and also get the credit."

Arledge, new to the sport, was very grateful for Coach Alana Donohue's guidance and support throughout the season.

"She is the best archery coach! She was always there pushing me and telling me to do my best. She was always willing to help me and perfect my shooting."

Arledge grew to enjoy archery more than she ever thought she would during the season.

"I never expected myself to do anything like this. I've always been a bookworm, never wanting to do anything active or outside."

Planning to graduate in December and start college at Blue Mountain College in January, Arledge had her first and last season of archery the spring of her junior year.

"I fell in love with the sport, but never would have considered archery in college," she said. "My mom is the one who suggested to me that I try for the Blue Mountain College archery team."

Arledge competed in the 11th and 12th grade female archery category at the 2018 State Games of Mississippi last spring. Just before her event, it was announced that the archery coach from Blue Mountain College, Trey Humphreys, was there.

"He got to see me compete in my category, and win the gold medal for it," Arledge said. "He told me to talk to him about joining the team."

Arledge met the team in September while they were competing in a competition at William Carey University.

"I really liked them and they seemed to really like me. I can't wait to be a part of my new archery family!"

Competing in archery at a collegiate level is very different than competing at the high school level. Events will vary with different shooting lengths, targets, arrows, and bows. The competitions will also be spread across the southeast.

"I'm just excited to just be a part of it,"

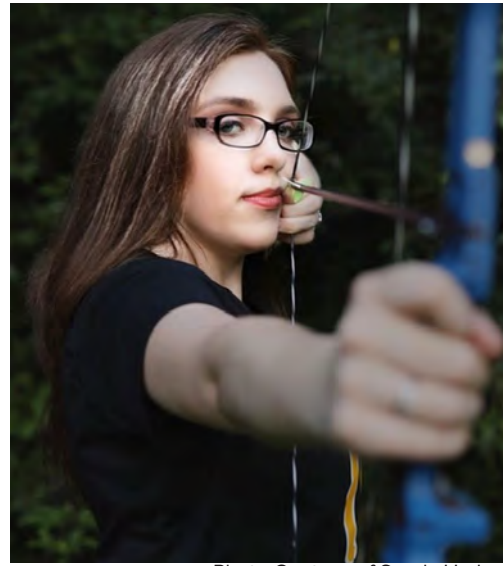


Photo Courtesy of Sandy Hyden

Arledge said. "I'm ready to do my best and be a part of the team."



Photo by Taylor Strange

THE LOWE DOWN

by: Nathan Lowe

"The End of the War Path"

The Oak Grove Warrior football team fought throughout the season to achieve an astonishing 12-3 record.

After beating Harrison Central and Petal in the playoffs, the Warriors went on to beat Brandon, who won in their previous match up, to be named South State Champions. The Warriors ended up falling short to Horn Lake in the State Championship with a score 31-27. The statistics that Oak Grove had by the end of the season were eye opening.

Oak Grove finished the season with 71 touchdowns, 27 sacks, and 12 interceptions. Offensively, the Warriors were hungry for touchdowns and they were fed well. Senior quarterback John Rhys Plumlee racked up 2834 passing yards along with 33 passing touchdowns. Plumlee also had 1444 rushing yards with 19 touchdowns. Junior wide receiver Tavion Smith had 44 receptions for 720 yards with five touchdowns on the year. Junior wide receiver Liam Breithaupt had 39 receptions for 602 yards with five touchdowns. Junior running back Nick Milsap finished out the year with 128 carries for 681 yards along with his six touchdowns. Leading the team in total tackles was junior outside linebacker Joey Griffith with 165 total tackles. Senior defensive end Jack Harris had seven sacks on the season. Senior cornerback Jarius Reimonenq picked off five interceptions. Congratulations to the Oak Grove Warriors football team on a spectacular season and being named South State Champions.

WARRIORS END SEASON AS SOUTH STATE CHAMPS

by: Kelsey Terrell

The 2018 Warrior football season came to a climactic close after a hard-fought, close battle at the State Championship game against undefeated Horn Lake. Trailing the Warriors for most of the game, Horn Lake was able to pull out a 31-27 victory earning them the title of State Champions. The Warriors returned with their heads held high as South State Champions.

The road to the State Championship, one which has not been traveled for the past several seasons, brought much excitement to Oak Grove and the Warrior community.

The rivalry game against Petal in September proved to the team and fans alike that this season would be one for the books.

"After the first petal game I realized that we were going to be special," junior Liam Breithaupt said. "We played like such a team that game, and you

could tell it was a turning point in the season."

While recent previous seasons have not lead to the playoffs, they have served as motivation.

"The past seasons have been pretty rough when it comes to our record and how far we made it," Breithaupt said. "We hadn't made playoffs the past two years. An obvious difference is how close our relationships are with each other and the coaches. I think that us all bonding and growing together outside of football really helped us play as a team."

Huge turnouts were common for the Warriors at each game, and fans brought energy.

"It's amazing having the 12th man. Even though they don't realize it, they made some of our big plays happen. They gave us so much momentum and they had a huge impact on the season," Breithaupt said.

The team made it to the State Championships with a 12-2 record, and they

played with heart and determination.

"State was probably the best experience I've ever had," Breithaupt said. "The team got to go around all of the elementary schools and see all the kids, and that was really something special to all of us. But after that it was like a normal gameday. We didn't end up winning State, but we won South State, and we beat Petal twice. I'm really happy with that."

The team faced criticism and doubt, but they pushed it to the side. The players and coaches focused on playing the game that they love.

"This season was very special to me because we were never supposed to make it to State," Breithaupt said. "Nobody believed in us, and we ended up proving everybody wrong. I wouldn't trade this team for the world."

The 2018 Warrior football season was impactful for every player and supporter. Junior Liam Breithaupt had an especially memorable season.

beat's bits

/SPORTS/

by: Nathan Mars

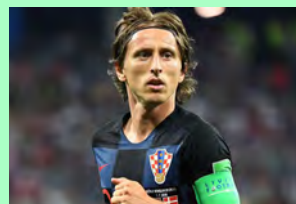
HEISMAN HEROICS

2018's Heisman race was one to be remembered. The winner, Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray, did not produce the "landslide win" that many Heisman winners are familiar with. Instead, Alabama's Tua Tagovaoila incited a fierce competition that drew many fans into a slew of debates about stats, teams, and play styles. Both players broke away from other candidates due to their incredible talent. Both Tagovaoila and Murray will face each other on December 29.



THE WORLD'S BEST

The Ballon d'Or is a French trophy given to the best soccer player of the respective season. This trophy includes every professionally established league in the world and is recognized as one, if not the most, of the most honored and sought-after award. For the soccer season of 2017-18, 33-year-old Croatian and Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric won the Ballon d'Or for his efforts for his country in the World Cup and his achievements at Real Madrid.



ATLANTA: ROOKIE HEROES

The city of Atlanta celebrated a new triumph on December 8 as their two-year-old MLS club, Atlanta FC, won the MLS title with a 2-0 victory over the Portland Timbers, effectively naming them the best team in North America. Atlanta's star striker, Josef Martinez, marked a record year for himself and his team, scoring 25 goals and gaining 6 assists in just 39 games. The city of Atlanta continues to celebrate as they look forward to the bright future of their club.



THE RUN AROUND: OAK GROVE'S DESPERATE NEED FOR A TRACK

by: Hermine Granberry

At first glance, Oak Grove High School looks like a typical American high school. It seems to have everything from the long hallways filled with students to the towering football stadium that hosts electric games on Friday nights.

Something is missing, however – a piece of the school that may go unnoticed to some, but for a 6A school like Oak Grove something is oddly absent. This missing piece? A track.

I guess technically, there is a “track” at Oak Grove, if one can call that quarter-mile asphalt oval a track. There, every school year, cross country, track and other various sports use this “track” to prepare for their upcoming seasons.

The sport of track and field has been around for centuries, first starting in ancient Greece in 776 B.C. at the first Olympics. A track is one of the oldest forms of “equipment” and – besides the surface of the track – has not really changed since then.

For a sport that has been around longer than others, and a school as large and competitive as Oak Grove, it only makes sense for our school to invest in a track. This investment would benefit not only the track and cross country teams, but anyone who trains on it or wants to see Oak



Photo by Hermine Granberry

“WE HOLD OURSELVES TO A HIGH STANDARD IN ACADEMICS, ARTS, AND ATHLETICS, BUT THE ONLY WAY TO DO THIS IS TO HAVE THE PROPER EQUIPMENT”

Grove’s track and field department succeed.

To begin, the current track’s surface is solid asphalt. This surface not only disallows the use of spikes, but also could be a contributing factor to the injuries runners are facing each season.

These injuries include both medial tibial stress syndrome (shin splints) and even stress fractures. Both of these injuries are not only painful – especially when running on a hard surface such as asphalt – but can also be season-ending.

As a member of the cross country team for the past six years, I have had shin splints almost every year midway through my season. This painful injury has forced me to ease my training and sit out important races, and in the end, has affected my times and season. Even taking precautions, such as wearing proper shoes and orthotics, and icing my shins after every workout, I still suffer from shin splints.

A quality track would not prevent all of these injuries, but the number would certainly decrease. This track would allow the athletes to train hard, focus on their goals and fully compete.

Another value to Oak Grove’s having a proper track would be the ability to host track meets. This would greatly help with the track team’s fundraising each season. The team would benefit from entry fees, parking, and concessions. Such events would also allow Oak Grove to show off its facilities to other schools.

Speaking of other schools, Oak Grove is in one of the most competitive districts and areas, as well as a prominent 6A school in Mississippi. We hold ourselves to a high standard in academics, arts, and athletics, but the only way to do this is to have the proper equipment.

In just the last two years, Oak Grove has had strong appearances at the state track meet. In 2017, the OGHS boys won the 4-by-800 meter relay, and Clay Derrick placed second in the 3200-meter run.

Last spring at the state meet, Oak Grove showed up stronger with Clay Derrick placing first in both the 1600-meter run and the 3200-meter run; Zaria Myers placing fourth in the triple jump; Brandon Haynes placing third in the 100-meter dash and fourth in the 200-meter dash; and the boys placing third in the 4-by-100-meter relay.

Imagine the impact if they had quality facilities to train throughout the season?

A quality track is expensive, but for what the school and athletes could use it for, it would be worth the investment. This track would allow all athletes to train hard and bring championship titles back to Oak Grove. Oak Grove High School is known for its outstanding athletic facilities, but we need a track worthy of our athletic standards to complete the picture.



Photo by Hermine Granberry

SEASONABLE RESPONSIBILITY: HOW SOON IS TOO SOON?

by: Lauren Powe

Ah, the ongoing debate of how early is too early to decorate for Christmas. Everyone is wondering whether it is acceptable to hang their wreath bearing red and green ornaments and golden flashing lights in the middle of October.

Well, it is not.

The unwritten rule: Saturday after Black Friday and Thanksgiving Thursday is the official first day of the Christmas season.

Call me a humbug, but there are certain times for certain holidays. Unfortunately, some rebels refuse to conform to these calendar restrictions. See, some people decorate for Christmas before Thanksgiving - even before Halloween in some cases.

Listen. October, November, and December each have respective holidays back to back to back, so each holiday deserves to be celebrated without being overshadowed.

October is for Halloween. November is for Thanksgiving. December (and the days following Thanksgiving) are for Christmas. If any of these cross over into another holiday, then the magic is just completely thrown off.

Some people had their Christmas trees up weeks before even thinking about what they were cooking for Thanksgiving. According to statistics published in Atlanta: Business Chronicle, “17 percent [of those surveyed] decorate in mid-November.”

One word: unacceptable.

Trips to Mitchell’s Farm, having a family football scrimmage, eating large amounts of Southern-style comfort food, pumpkin patches, corn mazes, and those red lipstick stains on your cheek from your great aunt’s kisses are just as magical as Christmas – albeit in their own ways.

Christmas is amazing. It is. Despite it being amazing, atmospherically, the magic just does not truly set in until after Thanksgiving. It is like the world just knows that it is not time to celebrate Christmas yet. Same for Halloween – spooky season is not over

until that night full of costumes and candy is over.

Now, no one is judging you for decking the halls and drinking eggnog too early in November. Instead they are simply just sad for all the Thanksgiving magic you are missing.

There is one rule, however, that has NO exceptions. Christmas music is NOT acceptable until the Thanksgiving feast has been eaten. Your Christmas music playlist is not what you should be jamming to on your way to Java Moes before that 8:15 tardy bell before Thanksgiving.

That’s right – even Mariah Carey’s “All I want for Christmas Is You” is NOT allowed. If you regularly listen to “Winter Wonderland” and “Mary, Did you know” on re-

play throughout the year, then you should definitely rethink your music taste.

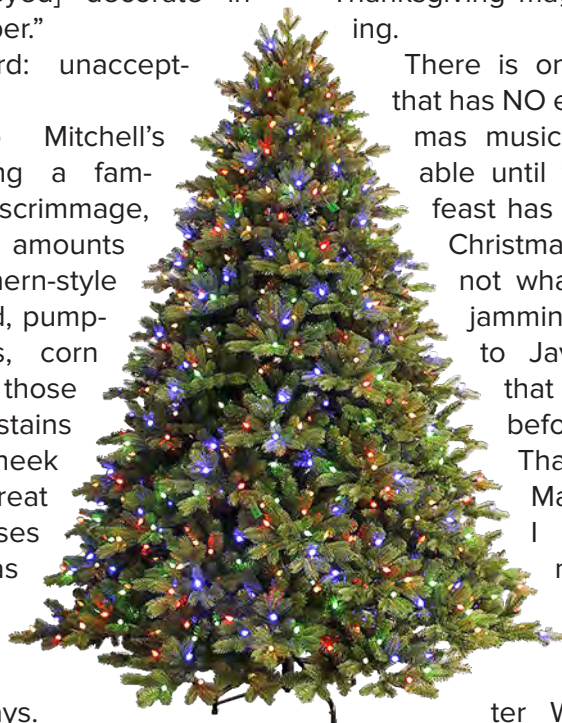
The same rule holds true for Christmas movies – they should not be aired or viewed until the turkey is gone. This is why Hallmark only

plays scary movies in Halloween, fall movies in November, and Christmas movies in December. Hallmark follows the rules. Who wants to watch “Elf” in the middle of eating peach cobbler at their grandma’s house on Thanksgiving? No one.

In the olden days, the song “The 12 Days of Christmas” was taken quite literally in terms of celebration. People would only decorate and prep for Christmas during those 12 days.

In recent years, the number of days before Christmas in which people begin celebrating has skyrocketed to more than a month’s worth. Only 25 percent of Americans decorate for Christmas during the acceptable time of the weekend after Thanksgiving according to Atlanta: Business Chronicle.

For some people, putting the tree up depends on their religion, which is why some Christians put up their tree and stockings on the Sunday Advent. Whatever influences the date you start decorating for Christmas - just for future reference - make sure to not take away from the magic of Thanksgiving and Halloween by giving too much attention to Christmas. Let us all fully enjoy each holiday we get the chance to celebrate.



MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN

EXEMPTIONS

HARD WORK SHOULD PAY OFF

by: Emmie Perkins

Exemptions have been a widely debated topic in schools for years. The success in a student's overall education journey is the most important factor when debating exemptions.

Exemptions are a good thing for students – serving as a reward at the end of a semester of hard work.

To be exempt at Oak Grove High School, one must have no more than two absences per term and a 90 or above average. Seniors must maintain an 85 or above average in the class they wish to be exempt in. These benchmarks represent hard work on tests, homework, participation and overall understanding of the course. I believe that if students meet these criteria they deserve to be exempt.

The implementation of good attendance for exemptions has a positive impact on schools. The higher the student attendance, the more money that schools receives. Exams, in my opinion, are the perfect incentive to get students to attend school.

“Exams are a great way to motivate students to do their best throughout the semester and bring up school attendance,” Vu Nguyen, a government and economics teacher at Oak Grove, said. “If students are diligent, they will be fine in college when they must take their exams.”

Junior Mia Pierce loves the extra time away from school exemptions allow.

“Exemptions are a great thing for me because in the summer I travel out of the country,” she said. “If I was not exempt, my days in Taiwan would be limited. The amount of stress taken off of a student when

exemptions come into play is amazing.”

While one may argue that exemptions do not prepare students for college, I cannot find validity in this claim – which seems to be the single argument against exemptions. A diligent student who meets all criteria for exemption in high school has shown great work and participation in their classes. These are characteristics that are shared by successful college students.

There are other ways teachers can ensure their students have overall knowledge of a course. For example, final projects or group work for exempt students could serve as a way to ensure these students receive a cumulative review of the course.

At the end of the day, the final exam is only a fraction of one's final average. Not all students are great test takers, therefore an exam is not an accurate assessment of all they have learned throughout a course. For students who already understand the material from the course, the final exam is just extra stress. A varied exam policy allows students to customize their education.

Why should excelling students not be rewarded for their hard work and dedication?

Exemptions serve as a motivator for students to attend school and strive for great grades. Exemptions motivate me as a student to set goals. Productive students should have a reward when they reach the end of the tunnel each semester.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE

by: Frances McMurry

Final exams are stressful for students, but these exams do serve a purpose and are ultimately beneficial to students. Exemptions, while enjoyable, do a major disservice for students. Final exams should be required for all students in high school.

Working toward a final-exam exemption may alleviate stress

for now, but in the long-run, students will likely not have prepared themselves for what lies ahead in a post-secondary educational institution. Most college classes build upon one another

– increasing in rigor and intensity, and few (if any) offer exemptions for their cumulative final exams.

Exams ensure students are meeting certain benchmarks before passing a class, which implies they understand the topic well and can put their knowledge to use. The most important reason final exams are given in classes is to ensure students understand the full scope of the material presented throughout the courses well into their futures; otherwise, the classes are pointless.

Final exams are cumulative and cover material taught throughout the semester. If the purpose of school is to give students valuable knowledge they can utilize throughout their lives, it is crucial to make sure they will remember the information long-term rather than

for just the test. Taking a mandatory, cumulative final forces students to retain and recall material from the beginning of the course.

Exams also ensure that students attend class until the end of the semester. Final exams, which account for 20 percent of final averages at Oak Grove, give students who are behind a chance to catch up. Students with low averages are offered the prospect of pulling their averages up if they do well on the final. They also keep students who are ahead aware of the fact that doing well on one test does not secure their grades.

Exams are beneficial because they keep students emotionally invested in the class and the presented material until the last day. At the end of semesters, most students begin to experience senioritis – mentally checking out. The initial response to these generally involves slacking off in class, procrastinating on assignments, and minimal studying for those last quizzes and tests.

With a required final exam to worry about, and no option to be exempt, students cannot give in to these desires until after the huge test. This means students would pay attention to the final material covered in class. They would be held accountable to continue putting forth their best efforts, rather than only doing the bare minimum required to pass.

Without exemptions, students would likely have a better retention of information, but more importantly, they would be better prepared for what they face next: college and the real world – where no one gets exempt.



by: Mia Pierce

“I want a relationship but I’m scared to be more involved, advice?”

It is okay to be scared about being involved in a relationship. Sometimes you are just not ready to be in that point of life. Whether it be not knowing if you can trust that person or it being your first relationship, if you do not feel like being in one, do not be in one. One day, you might be ready for a relationship, and you will know when that day comes. In the meantime, do not push yourself to where you feel obligated to date somebody. When you are single, you sometimes feel the need to date somebody to seem more normal to everybody, and that is not the case. You can start dating whenever you feel comfortable to start dating. Nobody is pressuring you to be in something you do not want to be in. If somebody cannot understand your choices, you should not be around them. Always be in a situation that you want to be in, not what you feel pressured to be in. You will always have people supporting your decisions every step of the way. Never feel like you are obligated to impress your peers by doing things or saying things that make you feel uncomfortable. If somebody likes you, but you are scared, they should be able to understand that you are not ready for a relationship yet. If not... Run as fast as you can away from them and avoid them as much as possible.

Tung
Talk

PLAYING IN A winter wonderland

The Lady Warriors huddle to discuss strategies to make a comeback against Hattiesburg / deep patel

Nya Warrick, member of the Lady Warriors basketball team, takes the ball down court., speeding past Hattiesburg players. / deep patel



Michael Pitts breaks away from a Brandon player and begins taking the ball towards the goal. / lauren powe

During a game against the Brandon Bulldogs, Cody Collins, member of the Warriors soccer team, fights to maintain possession of the ball. The two teams tied 0-0 in overtime. / lauren powe

During a game against Hattiesburg, the boys basketball team looks on as Brandon Tilley shoots a basket. The boys team lost the lead over Hattiesburg in the second half of the game. / deep patel



upcoming home games BASKETBALL

- 12/14 - JVB/VG/VB - Home vs Wayne County - 5:00
- 12/27-28 - VG/ - Away @ PCS Christmas Tournament
- 1/15 - JVB/VG/VB - Home vs Meridian
- 1/18 - JVG/VG/VB - Home vs Petal - 5:00
- 1/22 - JVG/JVB/VG/VB - Away @ Hattiesburg
- 1/25 - JVB/VG/VB - Home vs George County
- 2/5 - VG/VB - Home vs West Jones
- 2/11-15 - VG/VB - Region 5 6A District Tournament

“People should attend basketball games because it’s a really fun environment, and they’re guaranteed some excitement.”
- Blake Roberts, junior

“There’s a lot more confidence displayed when we step out onto the field knowing we have our biggest supporters (the students) to cheer us on.”
- Minali Patton, junior

upcoming home games SOCCER

- 12/14 - VG/VB - Home vs Petal - 5:00/7:00
- 12/15 - VG/VB - Away vs St Martin - 11:00 am/1:00 pm
- 12/18 - VG/VB - Away vs George County - 5:30/7:00 pm
- 1/4-5 - VB - Away at Gulfport Sportsplex - TBD
- 1/11 - VG/VB - Away vs Meridian - 5:30/7:00 pm
- 1/12 - VB/JVB - Home vs MRA - 11:00 am/1:00 pm
- 1/15 - VG/VB - Home vs George County - 5:30/7:00 pm
- 1/18 - VG/VB - Away vs Petal - 5:30/7:00 pm
- 1/19 - VB/JVB - Home vs Clinton - 3:00/5:00 pm

SHOULD YOU GO TO THE GAME?

“Every player works hard, and I want people to see how hard they work to get to that point. All of our sports are elite.”
- Nathan Lowe, student section leader

“Both of our teams are held to such a high standard with us being Oak Grove, so there’s never an “easy” game. So it’s fun to watch.”
- Minali Patton, junior

“I feel like I play better when my friends come support me. It makes the game more exciting when they’re cheering us on.”
Betsy Starns, senior

“My favorite part about being on the team is the bond between all of the teammates and competing with each other.”
- Blake Roberts, junior

THE RULE OF THE JUUL

by: Gian Luigi Zaninelli

The rise of vaping among American high school students has been meteoric and unprecedented. It's a new, unfamiliar, and devastating threat – one that administrators and parents have been ill-equipped to respond to, in large part because it came about so rapidly.

At least this is the dominant narrative.

The widespread belief that vaping is the newest, greatest threat to the health of American high school students is not fully true. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that based on the best data available, 19.3 percent of American high school students reported using electronic cigarettes in the last 30 days.

This sounds like any one of the litanies of data points that back up the posters and campaigns of today. The problem is, it's from 2011.

Seven years later, the rate is up a measly 1.5 percent, to 20.8 percent. The rise of vaping popularity is much less rapid than the rise of its vapour byproduct in the air. This information broadly eliminates common answers to the question "Why is this so popular?" – suggestions that it is the result of some concerted ad campaign by companies like Juul Labs, the makers of the eponymous and enormously popular vaping device.

In addition, it displaces, but does not fully discredit, theories that vaping's popularity owes to the moral depravity of Generation Z compared to the Millennials, who were still in high school in 2011.

The only thing that can truly be said about vaping, both in its effects on the body and the origins of its clearly enduring popularity, is that there are no easy answers.

Oak Grove High School may prove to be a much easier place to examine. We seem to be uniquely predisposed to vape, to say the least.

In at recent poll conducted by the Warrior Beat, 32.2 percent of the 348 surveyed students reported vaping (more than once). This would be well in line with national levels of vaping for seniors who the Monitoring the Future national survey found

vape at a rate of one in three.

However, it is shocking when all four grades are surveyed almost equally and report an average rate so high. Further survey questions administered by the Warrior Beat indicate that more than 75 percent of students who regularly vape began vaping at sixteen or younger.

This begs the question: What provokes Oak Grove students to vape so frequently?

The answer could simply be that young people are driven to break rules and rebel – with vaping being the latest iteration of a decades-long trend of minor infractions committed by young people, ranging from Dungeons & Dragons to drinking.

According to an anonymous student source, who vaped during his time at Oak Grove, "Kids will always look for something to do that's wrong, and they typically just do what's easiest. Vaping is less likely to get them caught than smoking,

and it's more available from older kids."

The availability of vaping devices is clearly a major component of their popularity. Warrior Beat survey results show that only 41.1 percent of the 112 students who vape actually own vapes – meaning the majority of users are mostly reliant on their peers.

This ought to be an extremely reassuring statistic for our administration and the federal and state organizations that work to protect our health. It is unlikely that nicotine-addicted students would subsist entirely on vapes of their friends. If there are students in this position, then I offer my deepest sympathies for their friends, who are surely annoyed. But it is good to know that for most students, vaping is a minor recreational activity.

When asked how often they vaped, 58.9 percent of the 107 students who vape responded "occasionally", which is exactly the percentage of students who reported they vaped but did not own one. The survey strongly suggests that only students who own vape devices are at serious risk of the health

problems correlated with long-term and consistent use.

The poster-based approach used by the school, which many students derided, failed. This is not because the information (that vaping is bad for you) is untrue. Rather, it is because, for the majority of students at Oak Grove, those health risks were less likely to be felt, and for students with real addictions, they fell on deafened ears.

Efforts to stop students from using public bathrooms as so-called "Juulrooms" – appropriately named since Juul is far and away the most popular device at Oak Grove – have also failed to reduce vaping. Students seem to be incredibly brazen with their vaping, with 29.5 percent of those who vape reported having vaped during class.

The complete inefficacy of strategies that try to catch students in the act is becoming increasingly clear. If Oak Grove wants to stop blowing as much smoke as the hundreds of students who do it while their teachers lecture, new methods must be created.

These methods will have to carefully consider the unique psychology of teenagers and allow students in the grips of addiction to receive needed help while stymying any further growth of its usage.

The Federal Government introduced new and significant restrictions against vape and e-liquid companies designed to reduce the physical availability of Juuls in particular, but if the statistics at Oak Grove are accurate, then students are as likely to put down their vapes as they are their cowbells.

As long as responses seek to virtually criminalize usage while rejecting any examination of students' reasoning in putting questionably unhealthy substances in contact with some of their most sensitive tissues, the "wrong" as the anonymous student put it, will win out.

If we are serious about stopping vaping, we cannot reduce it to another meme, another in-joke, another source of division between students and the adults who will punish in their efforts to protect.

Honest conversation is needed, in good faith – a faith in our ability to find mutually effective solutions that even the thickest vape cloud cannot hide.



ALUMNUS CHRISTIAN GREEN: HIS LIFE ON THE STAGE

by: Emmie Perkins

Oak Grove alumnus Christian Green, who graduated in 2009, delved into the world of professional theatre and arts after receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Ole Miss.

"I currently live in Chicago and work as an Art Director for a digital advertising agency while performing in shows and concerts around the city," Green said.

He has performed in numerous professional productions nationally, including Spring Awakening, Legally Blonde, The Wizard of Oz, Spamalot, and Grease.

He considers his performance in Spring Awakening his favorite accomplishment.

"The Southeastern premiere of Spring Awakening at Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, Tennessee has been my favorite production. Performing a show that was so new and relevant felt really rewarding every night. It was an all around incredible experience where everyone on and off-stage was fully committed to the work, which you don't always get in this industry."

Green has much to be proud of on his expanding resume but he is most proud of his performance with the cast of In the Mood.

"I've had so many incredible experiences for many reasons, but I'd say touring with the show In the Mood was probably my best accomplishment. I got the opportunity to perform in over 50 different theaters across the country – most of which were rich with history. Performing on stages where Charlie Chaplin, Judy Garland, and Frank Sinatra once sang and danced felt

like I was dreaming."

As an actor, Green immerses himself in each role he is cast in.

"I've heard a lot of people through my life refer to acting as 'pretending' to be someone else but I don't really see it that way. For me, it's taking all the parts of me that I share with a character and focusing on those. It's finding common ground. Being up on stage feels like I'm meeting someone new, but I get the opportunity to tell their story."

While taking to the stage every night to perform for audiences nationwide brings excitement, joy, and fulfillment to actors, it also requires sacrifice.

"I'd say the hardest part about traveling theatre is not having any sort of home base. You're always either on a bus or on a plane or in a hotel. Everything feels temporary. The only thing that stays the same is the show that you do every night. Other than that, everything around you is constantly shifting."

This sacrifice is a small price to pay in comparison to the rewards that come with this profession.

"The best thing [about being in a touring company] was definitely seeing almost all of the country by bus. We basically made a giant loop around the US, spending three weeks traveling up the California coast line. That was probably my favorite part because it was still winter in New York!"

Green is thankful for

the time and experiences he had at Oak Grove High School.

"High school set me up for success by having teachers that pushed my boundaries and wouldn't accept anything other than the best that I was capable of. While all my teachers played a part in setting me up for the future, Mrs. Allmon and Mr. Cole were two that played a direct (pun intended) role in what I do today. Both helped me discover my love for the stage and my skills of truly stepping into a character from the inside out."

Green loves the arts and knows the-

atre and the arts will continue to be present in his life.

"I don't really know exactly what the future holds for me, but I'd love to start my own professional theatre company one day in a city that feels underexposed to the arts."

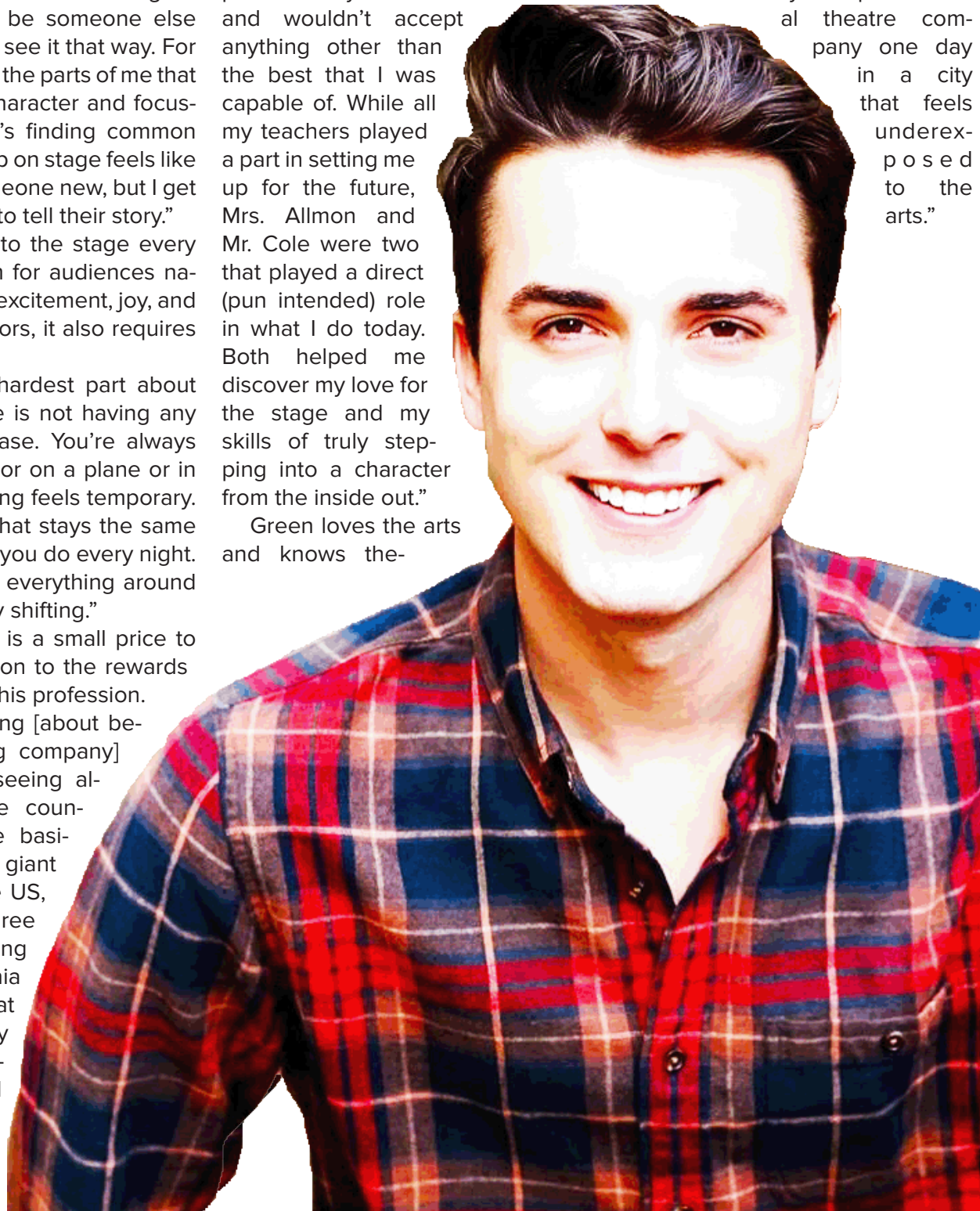


Photo Courtesy of Christian Green (@christianlgreen)

DC SPANISH STUDENTS BECOME TEACHERS: PARA LOS NIÑOS

by: Kelsey Terrell

As part of their curriculum, the dual-credit Spanish class, taught by Michelle Gay, visit a kindergarten class at Oak Grove Primary every two weeks to share their knowledge and appreciation of the Spanish language and culture.

"It's important to learn languages at a young age because your brain is in a more developmental state and you can learn them easier," senior Michael Pitts said.

"You retain it a lot faster," senior Marilyn Blanco said. "You don't question it. You just absorb it."

The idea to teach the kindergarteners stemmed from Gay's work at another Hattiesburg school.

"When I was in college, I started a program at Thames Elementary where I went and volunteered with a first grade class there," she said. "I did that for a couple years, and they finally wrote a grant to hire somebody full time. The program is still going on. They have a full time

Spanish instructor from kindergarten to sixth grade. I saw the benefits first hand. I wanted the servant leadership aspect to be implemented in this class as well, so that's why we do it."

The kindergarteners have fun learning from the high schoolers.

"Their teacher says that all throughout the week, the kids use the words we teach them," Gay said. "They'll say random Spanish numbers and colors. They'll get on the bus, and they'll say 'hola' or 'adios.'"

"It's enjoyable when you can tell they're having fun," Pitts said. "It's fun to see that they're learning and not just getting through the lesson. They're having fun while doing it."

The high schoolers enjoy sharing and teaching the class using fun activities.

"We do have fun little videos and activities to help them remember," senior Ethan Bolton said.

"It's a rewarding feeling when they can actually learn it and then say it back to you. It makes you feel like you're making an impact," Blan-

co said.

"On the Day of the Dead, we taught the kindergarteners what the Day of the Dead is, and we had them make tissue paper flowers. We used them to decorate the halls," Pitts said.

"This year has kind of been an experiment," Gay said. "Next year, we might even try to move up a grade because kindergarteners are very young and learning English."

Teaching the kids lessons encourages the high schoolers to continue learning and sharing the Spanish language and culture.

"It definitely is important because we have a very diverse student body here at Oak Grove," senior Clay Derrick said. "Some people don't want to share their culture because they feel that it's not a very inviting school environment. If you turn it around and tell them you're interested, they're more inclined to talk about their life and their stories."



Photos by Deep Patel

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DUAL CREDIT SPANISH INTERACT AND TEACH KINDERGARDEN STUDENTS

ENTERTAINMENT

OAK GROVE THEATER ADVANCES TO STATE COMPETITION

by: Landry Sutton

While the Oak Grove High School football team was preparing for the state championship at M.M. Roberts Stadium, the Oak Grove drama team was wowing audiences just across the Southern Miss campus at their annual Dramafest competition.

Dramafest is a regional qualifier for high schools all over south Mississippi. The drama teams that put on the best shows at Dramafest are given the opportunity to advance to the state drama competition, which is exactly what Oak Grove Theater did with their performance of their play, *The Axeman's Requiem*.

The entirety of Oak Grove Theater was excited to participate in Dramafest, and to find out that they will be competing at state. Senior Parker Viator, who plays the role of Papa Robicheaux, participated in Dramafest for his first time this year, and enjoyed the entire experience.

"It was really cool seeing all the different types of competition from south Mississippi," Viator said.

Oak Grove Theater's tradition of succeeding in drama competitions comes with much hard work and dedication.

Senior Brelyn Thompson, who appears as a loa (a type of Voodoo spirit) in the play, already knows how much she will miss participating in things like Dramafest next year.

"We put so much work into preparing for Dramafest, and whether we win or lose it's always worth it," she said. "There's nothing like putting on a good show for all your peers. I don't plan on doing theater in college, so this year is it for me. Drama has been such a big part of my life and I've met some of my best friends through it. I will miss it and it will always have a special place in my heart."

One interesting aspect of drama is that many of the roles backstage can be just as important to the overall show as those onstage. Senior Riley Barber serves as one of two music designers for the production.

"I write, arrange, and play the music you hear in the show, along

with Noah Yuvienco," Barber said. "I have a cart [backstage] where I keep my keyboard, guitar, ukulele, bongos, and amplifier."

Barber was happy to report that everything went "as planned" on her end at Dramafest.

Emmie Perkins, who stars as Elise in the play, already has the state competition on her mind. "Every play at the state competition is

usually very competitive so it's going to be exciting to get to watch other schools that were successful in their regional competitions come together and compete for the top two spots going on to the national competition," Perkins said.

The state competition will be held over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend next month in Meridian.



Photo by Reagan Daniel

CHRISTMAS JUKEBOX: A MIX OF NEW MUSIC AND STANDARDS

by: Nathan Mars

As we enter the holidays, we have come to expect a tsunami of celebrity Christmas albums. From renditions of Christmas standards to new attempts of the next Xmas Anthem, there is always an annual plethora of material to sift through.

This holiday season, we have been graced with two songs from the Acoustic Aficionado, Eric Clapton. Titled *Happy Xmas*, Clapton's new release delivers a refreshing approach to the warm holiday feelings with "A Little Bit of Christmas Love" and "You Always Hurt the One You Love".

The first of the two songs, "A Little Bit of Christmas," is riddled with reminiscent vibes from Clapton's prime, and his guitar expertise perfectly synchronizes with the accompanying lyrics to give the sought after Christmas feel. The fast-paced bravado of his guitar boasts elements from the best of his work, continuing to prove his versatility

as an artist. The song is everything Clapton fans would expect, and more; his sonic personality remains true, even today.

The second song, "You Always Hurt the One You Love" is slower than the first, providing a more relaxed and melancholic tone. This track is more suitable for a sit by the fire, a long car ride, or just for a break of the vigorous and abrasive Christmas material without disconnecting completely from the holiday joy. Clapton's voice is more hypnotic and less energetic without losing the listener.

Ultimately, both songs are highly enjoyable and the perfect dose of Christmas – not too Griswold, but not too Grinch. While I prefer "A Little Bit of Christmas Love", I believe both songs will easily find themselves on many Christmas playlists this holiday season.

Rating: 9/10

Ingrid Michaelson's *Songs Of the Season* is another holiday release that enhances the most wonderful time of the year.

Ingrid Michaelson is a 39-year old American singer-songwriter. Her new Christmas album, which is her sixth album, consists of a familiar but new tone.

Michaelson utilizes a vintage sound produced with clear, modern technology that delivers the paragon Christmas atmosphere.

On the opener, "Looks Like a Cold, Cold Winter" She allows the instrumental to fully project the range of her voice.

Additionally, She takes on traditional classics such as "Have Your Self A Merry Little Christmas" and "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" with an energy that breathes new life into the songs, coming into her own. All in all, I find her Christmas album to be one of the best of the season.

Rating: 7/10



WHAT DOES



IT MEME?

The "They Did Surgery on a Grape" meme originated from a video from Edward Hospital in Naperville, Illinois in 2010. The video demonstrates the revised da Vinci Surgical System by using equipment to peel a grape. Years after the videos publication, Cheddar, a business and tech site, made a video explaining the demonstration in July of 2017. A screenshot from Cheddar's video with the caption "They did surgery on a grape" was posted to Instagram on November 19th by the meme account @simpledorito. The post gained over 4000 likes and spread to Twitter two days later when user @ScummyR tweeted an edit of the screenshot featuring the famed "They did surgery on a grape" sentence. This tweet gained over 3000 likes and soon landed on Reddit's dank meme subreddit, where it received 13000 points. The popularity of these posts led to other social media users creating their own versions and parodies. One of the most popular posts included a grape photoshopped on a hospital with the caption "Bruh look who just got out of surgery."



NETFLIX

and

CHILLY

by: Frances McMurry

With Christmas coming up, we have scoured Netflix for Netflix originals that bring holiday cheer.

The Christmas Chronicles

The Christmas Chronicles features the story of brother and sister, Teddy and Kate Pierce, whose Christmas Eve plan to catch Santa Claus on camera turns into an unexpected journey that most children could only dream about. As their wild night unfolds, the siblings work together with Santa and his loyal elves to save Christmas before it's too late.

The Princess Switch

When a Chicago baker and a princess, both played by Vanessa Hudgens, discover they look like exactly alike, they hatch a plan to trade places in *The Princess Switch*. The twins must learn to navigate the false identities they've temporarily inhabited before someone finds out—or before they both fall in love with the other's partners.

The Great British Baking Show: Holidays

The Great British Baking Show: Holidays is for anyone looking for sweet treat inspiration this holiday season. Showcasing bakers from around the country, the contestants put their best recipes forward as they compete in holiday-themed challenges and eliminations for the titles of Christmas Star Baker and Festive Star Baker in this two-episode holiday special.

NUTCRACKER CLOSES ITS ANNUAL CURTAIN

by: Lyric Church

The South Mississippi Ballet Theatre's final annual performance of *The Nutcracker* was last night at the Mannoni Performing Arts Center at the University of Southern Mississippi.

The company performed the Christmas classic for the past two weekends at the University of Southern Mississippi's Mannoni Performing Arts Center and the Brownstone Center at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville.

More than 50 dancers performed in the ballet, with skill levels ranging from young beginners to internationally known professionals. Most of the dancers and the main cast in this production come from the South Mississippi Ballet Theatre.

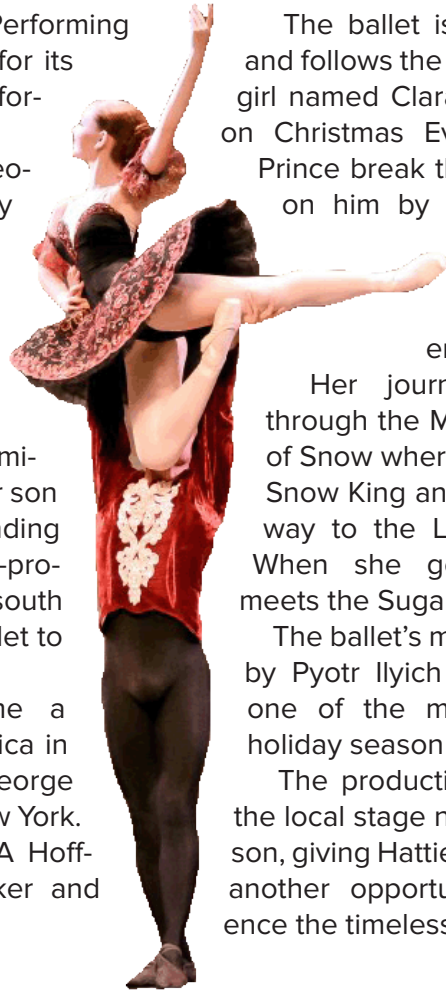
The school's first performance was on December 8 at the Brownstone Center in Poplarville where it remained for a performance on December 9. The school then moved its per-

formances to the Mannoni Performing Arts Center in Hattiesburg for its December 14, 15, and 16 performances.

The ballet was choreographed and directed by the owners of the school, Arkadiy and Katya Orohovsky.

They founded the South Mississippi Ballet Theatre in 2010 when they decided to move close to family in Mississippi to raise their son Alexei. Their goal when founding the school was to bring pre-professional ballet training to south Mississippi and to teach ballet to dancers of all ages in ballet.

The *Nutcracker* became a Christmas tradition in America in 1954 when a man named George Balanchine brought it to New York. The story is based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's tale "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King".



The ballet is set in Bavaria and follows the story of a young girl named Clara who goes out on Christmas Eve to help the Prince break the curse placed on him by the evil Mouse King that turned him into a wooden nutcracker.

Her journey takes her through the Magical Kingdom of Snow where she meets the Snow King and Queen on her way to the Land of Sweets. When she gets there, she meets the Sugarplum Fairy.

The ballet's music, composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, is one of the most recognized holiday season scores.

The production will likely to the local stage next holiday season, giving Hattiesburg residents another opportunity to experience the timeless holiday classic.

CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD: NOT SO FANTASTIC

by: Myles Hudson

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald is an amazing addition to the Harry Potter Family and sequel to the outstanding Harry Potter spin-off *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

Although the film is not as action-packed, adventurous, or romantic as the first film, it serves to set the stage for future installments and tries to explain a long mystery in the Harry Potter Universe – "Who is Grindelwald, and why is he important?"

The first installment in this series introduced New York City to the Potter universe, and this film introduces it to Paris. Setting *The Crimes of Grindelwald* in the City of Lights brought additional magic, mystery, and grandeur to the film. Viewers are afforded the opportunity to learn more about magical culture throughout the world.

Even though the story provides new background information on characters and families from the previous Harry Potter series, such as the Dumbledore and the Lestrangle family, seeing those films is not necessary for the understanding and enjoyment of the *Fantastic Beasts* franchise. *Grin-*

delwald does however serve as a sequel to *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, picking up where that film leaves off. Even those well versed in the Harry Potter universe might need a small refresher before viewing *Grindelwald* because some parts can be confusing.

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald, however, seems to open more doors and present more questions about Grindelwald and his followers rather than answer them.

The film has very special and different visual effects from other movies, but those effects are not as well done and magical as they are in its precursor *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

The *Fantastic Beast* series has a powerhouse ensemble cast including Johnny Depp, Eddie Redmayne and Jude Law. The most anticipated casting was Jude Law as a young Albus Dumbledore, the loved, admired, and respected future headmaster of Hogwarts. Law perfectly portrays what fans love about Dumbledore – his mysterious and sage personality and his fun, ingenuitive tricks that amaze viewers.

Hopefully this film is setting the stage for future installments, because

the plot seemed to get lost amongst the many new characters who were introduced. The title leads viewers to believe they will witness the crimes of Grindelwald, but they never seem come to light. This was an entertaining entry into the Potter universe for die-hard fans, but as a standalone film, it doesn't offer much.

Rating: 7/10



Photo Courtesy of Warner Brothers

beat's bits

ENTERTAINMENT

by: Anna Pittman

LEWIS LIGHTS MAKES A COMEBACK

Last January, thousands of dollars worth of electrical wire was stolen from the Lewis family in Purvis. In a quote obtained by the Hattiesburg American, Barbara Lewis, who is one of the 7 siblings responsible for the light show, said, "We haven't made any decision about what we might do, but there's a mighty strong possibility of (canceling it)." However, the lights are back on this holiday season, and visitors are welcome between 5:30 and 9:00 PM.



MERRY CHRISTMAS EPISODE SEASON

This holiday season, movies like *The Grinch*, *The Santa Clause*, and *The Polar Express* seem to be on repeat on televisions across the country. As an alternative, some turn to Christmas episodes from popular Netflix series. Refer to the following list for an extra dose of Christmas cheer: "The One With The Holiday Armadillo" from *Friends* S7E10, "Christmas Party" from *The Office* S2E10, or "Extraordinary Merry Christmas" from *Glee* S3E9.



THE CHRISTMAS SONGS YOU FORGOT

Jingle Bells and Silent Night are classic Christmas carols. However, many artists over the years have put their own spin on Christmas songs, but, as great as the covers were, people have forgotten about them. Remember when Taylor Swift released an entire Christmas album in 2009? What about "All I Want for Christmas is the Girl of my Dreams" by the Jonas Brothers in 2007? Exactly. These songs have slipped under the radar. Don't neglect them this Christmas!



MERRY CHRISTMAS
from
THE WARRIOR BEAT

