

The Jagwire

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The Man Who Came to Dinner

Katie Davidson
School News Editor

On December 1st-3rd, Falls Church Drama brought *The Man Who Came to Dinner* alive. The show was set in Mesalia, Ohio, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Stanley (Brennan Jones, *Junior* and Betsy Ryan, *Senior*). When the famous radio host, Sheridan Whiteside (Boris Mewborn, *Junior*) comes to dinner and slips on a patch of ice on their doorstep, he is confined to their house for the next three weeks. While in Mesalia, Mr. Whiteside's secretary, Maggie Cutler (Shanna Cawthorne, *Senior*) falls for the local newspaper man, Bert Jefferson (Jimmy Miller, *Junior*). Chaos ensues as Mr. Whiteside persuades the Stanley children, June and Richard (Kate Maines, *Freshman* and Mark Zubaly, *Freshman*) to run off and follow their dreams of getting married and becoming a photographer, respectively. Mr. Whiteside reeks havoc in the household as he repeatedly berates his nurse (Melanie Reuter, *Junior*) and doctor (Matt Nordan, *Senior*) with his quick-witted comments. While at the home, Mr. Whiteside receives visits from his long time friends, Lorraine Sheldon (Anissa Jordan, *Senior*), Beverly Carlton (JD Moreno, *Junior*), and his trusty Banjo (Zack Ascensio, *Senior*). He is finally able to leave the house after discovering the mystery of Mr. Stanley's deranged and murderous sister, Harriet Stanley (Katie Davidson, *Junior*).

The cast and crew have been working since October to rehearse and construct the set. This year, the cast of over 25 students had the opportunity to work with a new director. Mrs. Scott, the theatre teacher and show director at Falls Church, is originally from Texas and has previously worked at Lanier Middle School and JEB Stuart High School. She played the role of Nurse Preen in her high school's production of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. The department is planning to produce the one-act *Goodbye to the Clown* for the VHSL One-Act competition in January. The one-act will also play for two nights, February 2nd and 3rd, in the Spratley Auditorium.



American Airlines Flies into Bankruptcy

Brandon Credle
Staff Writer

The American Airlines parent company, AMR, filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. Chapter 11 Bankruptcy is when a company is unable to pay its creditors. American Airlines, American Eagle and other companies will continue to accept tickets, reservations and continue to deliver normal service during the bankruptcy. The Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of AMR said, "This was a difficult decision, but it is the necessary and right path for us to take now to become more efficient, financially stronger, and competitive airline." This has happened before with United, Delta and NWA. Despite the situation, American Airlines will continue to run the same as usual for the customers. However, American Airlines employees will have cuts in their pension, health benefits, and some may even lose their jobs due to the bankruptcy.

Students Dislike E-Books

By: Kendra Stansel
Staff Writer

This year Falls Church has started a new way of issuing books to students. But, some wouldn't call them "books". They're the new online textbooks known as the E-Books. All history classes, except the APs, are studying and doing homework in an innovative way. Instead of getting a bulky, heavy book, you get assigned a username and password. This may sound like a students' dream to not haul around a four pound book, but most dislike the new idea. From the "my internet isn't working" excuse to "it's hard to concentrate", the E-Books aren't that amazing.

The E-Books are a new and supposedly easier way to do homework and take notes at home. During the first week of school, history teachers handed out papers to each of the students with a username and password. The username has something to do with your initials, last name, or student ID number; along with a password, which is made up of random numbers and letters. If you forget that information, you're on your own for getting the assignment done. The new, and supposedly better way to do homework isn't such a hit here. "I need the feeling of turning pages, and actually reading a book" says an anonymous freshman. "When I use the computer, I think of Facebook, Twitter, and listening to music. It really is hard to concentrate when you use the online textbook". Things come and go, so hopefully the E-Books don't last long.



"Fairfax Leadership Academy"

By: Katie Davidson
School News Editor

Have you heard the rumors? A lot of people have, and students, teachers, and parents alike are up in arms! A group of teachers from around the area are proposing the creation of the "The Fairfax Leadership Academy", a charter school designed to help at risk youths in the old Graham Road Elementary School building. If you go to Falls Church, you know that our enrollment isn't as high as it should be, and that we are in desperate need of some renovations. From the bathroom stalls that don't reach above your head, to the black mold in the girls' dressing rooms, our school is old, and could use many updates that will not be granted with the creation of the charter school.

The new proposed charter school, located less than 2 miles from Falls Church, will take away students from our already under populated school. When asked about the issue, Mrs. Benner stated "[she] is afraid that the new charter school will take some of the best students at Falls Church, because the new school does not have any requirements for "at-risk" children."

Because of the nature of the charter school, they have the possibility to pick up \$500,000 in grant money from the school system. The teachers at charter schools also receive more money because they work longer hours all year long. This pay raise could harm Falls Church by taking some of our greatest teachers.

And lastly, the proposal for the charter school states that they will offer both AVID and IB programs. Falls Church is the national demonstration school for AVID, and placing another program so close is just superfluous. Our school is also surrounded by three schools that provide IB programs. These schools already draw talented students from Falls Church, and the population here cannot afford to have a decline.

If the charter school proposal is approved in Richmond in a few months, the effects on our school could be extremely damaging. If you are a student who is interested in fighting for this cause, make sure to attend PTSA meetings to voice your opinion.

If you have comments, questions, or concerns, please e-mail us at:

jagwireFCHS@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

-Jagwire Staff

School News

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Application Time!

By: Viann Le
Staff Writer

Seniors, have you started on college applications yet? Now is the time to get things rolling! You wouldn't want to spend winter break stressing out over which teacher to ask for a teacher recommendation or what to write for your personal statement, would you? The deadline for most college applications is January 15th! That's nearly a month away! Here are some things to consider if you either haven't started, or are in the process of applying.

1)**Start.** That's right, so many of you are worried about college applications but you don't do anything about it! It sounds like a drag (and it is) but as singer, Drake says in his song, "Better late than never, but never late is better".

2)**Research.** Any ideas on which schools you would like to go to? Great sources of information are the career center with Mrs. Foster, using Family Connections online, and going on college visits. Explore your options!

3)**Have a checklist.** For every college you plan on applying to, create a checklist of what you need to complete. The application itself, writing a personal statement, creating a resume, getting a teacher recommendation letter, submitting transcripts, submitting SAT scores, and anything else necessary.

4)**Relax.** After all the headaches and trouble, you can sit back and enjoy your senior year without worrying about college applications anymore! (Scholarships and FAFSA are a whole other story) Enjoy your senior year, while it lasts!

A useful tip to remember is that on any application that says "optional" for either personal statements, or teacher recommendation letters, do them anyway! Show that you want to get accepted and that you are willing to put in the effort to get there!



Greetings from Sewanee University!

Dear Falls Church,

Hey, this is Y-Nhi Nguyen and I have great news for you about my current freshman year at Sewanee University. The life at Sewanee is very rural and community-knit. Everyone gets to know everyone at some point at Sewanee and even though it is a small school, there is always room to find someone new! The school is like a miniature Hogwarts and the students even wear gowns! They are called "the gownsmen" because they made a certain GPA during their sophomore year.

I take four classes a semester and the general ed requirements are pretty harsh since it is a liberal arts school. Although I am majoring in Biology, I have many classes on top of that. I have to take my general ed requirements, PreMed general ed requirements, and the classes that support my major. With my passion of dancing, I am in the Perpetual Motion group which has a big dance show every spring semester. On the other hand, I made many friends through Posse and the Multicultural Program. I can't wait to head back to Virginia and share all the news I have here in Tennessee!

Y-Nhi Nguyen :)



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Syria: On the Brink of a Civil War

Gabriel Haddad
Staff Writer

Could you pinpoint the location of Syria on a map? The reason for the question is because of the turmoil occurring there right now. People all over the country are demanding freedom and rights by protesting in the streets and risking their lives for a better country. If we look back into the ancient times of this fascinating country, one would learn that Damascus was a major city in the ancient world and that it was successful for many years. They also want Bashar Al-Assad to leave and/or resign. Bashar Al-Assad is president of Syria who became president after his father, Hafez al-Assad. He is mainly known for ruling with an iron fist to the Syrian people. During the last couple of weeks, Syria went through more bloodshed as Assad's army killed several hundred protesters. Even though Syria is going through this bloodshed, many neighboring countries including Iran have been affected by this situation. Turkey promised that it would come in the country and help fight off the troops to get rid of Assad. On the other hand, Iran also promised to fight off the Turks if they were to ever invade. Neighboring countries from the Arab League have condemned Bashar's actions and gave him a due date to resign. As for Lebanon, they too have been affected by this turmoil, where part of the government doesn't want Syria to get rid of Bashar Al-Assad.

Sooner or later, one side will prevail. Whether it's Al-Assad ruling with an iron fist, or the people of Syria wanting to take a breath and gain rights to help earn a better name in the Western world. Every nation in the globe is watching as the people fight and die for their freedom and liberty. It's very interesting to see how a country values the freedom and liberty of an individual. It almost ties back to the U.S. when we defeated the British in the Revolution, which helped us create a country where freedom prospers and opportunity keeps expanding. No matter what the case may be, everyone in the Middle East is simply concerned, because Syria plays a huge part for the region and every nation neighboring it will be influenced in some way.



lonelyplanet.com



Egypt: Post Mubarak Era

Gabriel Haddad
Staff Writer



pthblog.amnesty.org.uk

Egypt was one of the first countries in the Arab World that underwent a revolution. Now, the question is, what will they do next? As for right now, two main components have been identified as to what Egypt has done so far, and whether it is positive or negative. The two main components are politics and the economy.

Six Months after the revolution, people started observing the political spectrum on Egypt. The military council suspended Egypt's constitution after taking power in February. The council stated that it would rule Egypt until the elections are held. Parliamentary elections set in September have been postponed until the months of November and December. According to critics the temporary amendments that were imposed in Egypt (two four-year terms) have been rushed and that new a constitution should be drafted before the election. Similar protests have been taking place after the revolution in Egypt, which resulted in bloodshed.

Aside from the political view, Egypt has considered some measures (negative or positive) regarding the economy. As a result of the revolution, Egypt's economy has been severely crippled as tourists stayed away from the land of the Pyramids, affecting an estimated 2 million workers. The gross domestic products shrank 7% as a result of the revolution. In addition, unemployment increased to about 9%. As a solution to the bad economy, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) granted Egypt about \$3 billion dollars. For the infrastructure of Egypt, about \$9.4 billion has to be put down as well as \$2.5 billion for the education and housing. Another solution was that the government imposed a 9% increase in food and fuel subsidies as an offset of rising commodity prices.

As we look at Egypt today, one would wonder what the future for the country holds and whether or not it will be allied with the western countries. In the end, the most important thing is to make sure the people's best interest is kept in mind.

(All statistics are from cnn.com)

Happy

Holiday Alternatives By: Michael Barnes Staff Writer

December, the month of the year that is looked forward to by most, not for the snow that can possibly be received, or for the NCAA football bowl games, and not even the chance to show off their new winter clothing. December is looked forward to for the three traditional holidays; those include Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza. With these holidays, there are families who do different things every year, but then there are those families who have unique traditions. Madame Smith, the French teacher said, "Since we are Italian, every year on Christmas Eve my family and I hold a giant seafood dinner, instead of the traditional meat eaten by most families." Junior Kenny Nguyen stated that, "Every Christmas my family and I set up a scavenger hunt to receive our gifts". Junior, Justine Aylstock, said about her Christmas tradition, "My mom and I go to JV restaurant and watch my dad and his band perform". Freshmen Karina Tobar stated, "Every Christmas my mother and I rearrange the furniture in the living room, and then after that my entire family and I watch Home alone one and two before opening presents". Different people have different traditions, and the different holidays are celebrated for different reasons. At the end of the day, our celebrating is done with the people we care about, and we celebrate our thankfulness to be with them in the situation we are in.

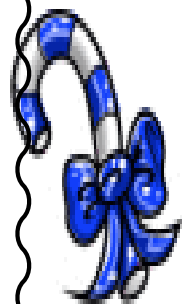


Holiday Employment By: Danti Wiryawan Staff Writer

Christmas is the busiest time for retail. Seasonal jobs involve in an exact duration of employment, usually for the buying and selling season. They are mainly common in industries ranging from retail to delivery services, offering a unique opportunity to earn extra profits throughout particular time periods. When you are in a seasonal hiring, make sure you arrive on time and show your optimism. Most hiring managers do not accept late applications for seasonal workers. Today, "seasonal jobs" have become almost the same with "holiday jobs" because of the extraordinary increase in purchasing across all aspects of the market during the winter months. That is why many people are applying for jobs right now.

Gift Ideas By: Viann Le Staff Writer

If you are anything like me, you probably have no idea what to get your friends and family for the holiday season. Here are some popular gift ideas that could help make things a little easier! For your girl friends; jewelry, scarves, and perfume are popular gifts. For friends who are boys; video games, or any sports related merchandise of their favorite teams. Moms will enjoy anything from what I listed as gifts for girls. Dads will always be a fan of ties and socks. You can never go wrong with mugs and gift cards if you are really out of ideas. In the case that you are out of money, then the creative, home-made "coupon book" is always a fun option to consider. Good luck and remember, it's the thought that counts!





Holidays



Vacation Ideas

*By: Danti Wiryawan
Staff Writer*

There are lots of fun things to do during Winter Break. The winter weather should not prevent you from doing any activities. During the winter, people go to different places to do a wide variety of cool activities that range from shopping to skiing. The activities do not have to be all winter related. You could go to the Southern area to go to the beach during the winter, or even shop.

New York City is one of the best places to go during the holidays. Although it may take extra money from your budget, the shopping, skating, and the city decorations make the cost worthwhile. You should be prepared for the cold weather, or even snow in New York. One way to stay away from the cold is by staying inside and shopping around the many stores New York City has to offer. Besides the ice rink at the Rockefeller Center, there are quite a few other skating rinks in New York City, like Wollman Rink in Central Park.

Going down South would be a great way to escape the cold and harsh weather. During the winter, the weather in Florida is mild. Orlando has many different exciting attractions like Disney World, but you are not limited to that. There is Universal Studios and outlet shopping. Also, Orlando is not too far from the beach.

There are many great skiing resorts in the Northern states, like Pennsylvania, Vermont, and New Hampshire, all of which get a good amount of snow in the winter. Most of them are not restrained to just skiing; they also have ice skating, snowshoeing, and sleigh rides available to make your stay worthwhile. No matter what you like to do, there is so much that the winter season has to offer.

Glam It Up!

*By: Jiwon Seo
Staff Writer*

WINTER FASHION COLOR OPTIONS: This winter season, go with neutral tones such as beige, white, brown, and gray. Nothing too flashy or bright.

COATS: Fur coats are stylish and practical in the wintertime. You can often wear casual or dressier version of fur coats. Hooded coats are sure to keep you warm!

SWEATERS: A sweater is always a must during the cold weather. You could vary the type of sweaters such as chunky-knit, cashmere, turtle-neck, wrap-around and more.

BOOTS: Dress your feet up with warm boots; high knee or low. Types of boot materials are crucial since you want to keep your feet warm. I suggest you go with leather or fur.

SCARVES: Scarves keep your neck area warm and cozy. You can choose a different variety of scarves such as infinity scarves, hand-knitted ones, silk and more.

FAUX-FUR JACKETS: Faux-fur jackets add a fashionable touch to your wardrobe and keeps you warm as well.



The Lockout is Over!

James Dickemann
Sports Editor

The NBA lockout started at 12:01 am on July 1, 2011 because of a controversy between the NBA players and the owners. The issue was that the revenue sharing and structure of the salary cap was not agreeable between the players and owners. During a lockout, teams are not allowed to trade, sign, or contract players. Players are also not allowed to use NBA facilities, trainers, or use staff members for any reason. The NBA players wanted more money, and so they would not agree to anything less than 50% of the BRI (basketball-related income.) Players were very passionate about this agreement because they all wanted was to get back to playing what they love, with what they believe was the right compensation.

Finally, on November 26, 2011, the National Basketball Players Association and NBA owners reached an agreement. The owners would pay 51.15 percent of basketball-related income to the players, which is much lower than what the owners had proposed at the 47-53 percent revenue split. The new 66-game season will start on Christmas day December 25, 2011. Pre-season workouts started on December 1st. All of our basketball fans at Falls Church High are more than excited to have the NBA returning for the 2011-2012 season.



Chris Paul will be traded to the L.A. Clippers in time for the start of the 2011-2012 NBA season
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Coaches' Corner

Michael Barnes
Staff Writer

Mr. Healy, the well known and loved teacher, as well as coach, is known for his great personality and love for Falls Church High. To gain insight on Coach Healy's sports background as well coaching style, we questioned him on his preferences of the sports he coaches along with his feelings about this year's team.

Q: When did you start at Falls Church?

H: I started at Falls Church in 2007

Q: What led you to Falls Church?

H: Coach Pap and I saw that there was a coaching position open

Q: Did the teaching job or coaching job come first?

H: The coaching job actually came first, the teaching job soon followed

Q: What was your high school sports experience?

H: My high school sports experience was an awesome one; I played golf, football, basketball and baseball.

Q: Do you enjoy coaching football or basketball more?

H: I like the two equally; I enjoy basketball because it is a sport I can coach with Coach Pap, who has been a friend of mine since first grade. I enjoy football because of the contact; maybe if there was contact in basketball, I might have a different answer.

Scandals at Syracuse and Penn State Universities

Brandon Credle
Staff Writer

Lately in sports, the media has been spotlighting the scandals at Penn State and Syracuse University. The Penn State scandal involves Penn State Defensive Coordinator Jerry Sandusky and eight accusers who have accuse him of sexual abuse. On December 13, 2011, the eight accusers testified against Sandusky. Currently, Jerry Sandusky is charged with 40 counts of child sex abuse from the grand jury's report released in November. The scandal has resulted in the firing of Penn State head coach Joe Paterino and has brought shame to the Penn State organization. Currently, Tim Curley the Athletic director was placed on paid leave and the person in charge of the Penn State police Gary Schultz has stepped down.

Another scandal is brewing in Syracuse, New York where Syracuse assistant basketball coach Bernie Fine was fired from his job due to another sexual abuse scandal. So far, three men have stepped forward of misconduct of Fine. The latest person is Zach Tomaselli, a 23 year-old man from Lewiston, Maine. The FBI has raided Fine's house, office and school locker looking for any evidence, they could use to prove the men's accusations.

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Jerry Sandusky in 2011

Property of Google Images



Bernie Fine at Syracuse University

Q: How do you feel about this year's team, compared to last?

H: I feel that this year's team executes a lot better; they have been really dedicated, and have matured a lot over the years in our program.

Q: Do you see a college career possible for any of this year's players?

H: I do, it is all dependent on their dedication to the sport and school.

Q: Did you have any college sports experience yourself?

H: No, I was talked to by Division II and III schools for football, but I turned them down to receive an education at James Madison University.

Q: Best coaching moment?

H: My favorite moment was the Bell Game this year, when Adam D. and Jordan C. called an audible at the line, where Jordan caught the ball and fought for yards to score. I was proud that they took it upon themselves to call the audible and how successful it was.

Q: If you could coach any other sport here, which would it be?

H: Golf, I enjoying being outdoors and I enjoy the slow pace of the game

Q: Who was your sport hero growing up? Who is someone you idolize now?

H: Growing up I idolized my uncle who played in the NFL, as well as Charles Barkley. Currently my sport hero is Joe Gibbs because of his ability to have a successful career with such good character, never once



redlogreport.com

Jenny From the Set **Sabrina Hanan** Staff Writer

Jennifer Lopez is a hit artist with many popular songs both in English and Spanish. "Jenny from the block" teamed up with Fiat to make a commercial advertising their car that would relate to her roots of growing up in the Bronx. In the commercial, Lopez is in the car driving through the streets of New York, but too bad she did not even step foot in to New York to film the commercial. The whole Fiat commercial was shot in Los Angeles, while Lopez had a body double playing her parts when her face was not showing. When the public found out about this, they were shocked and much taken back. The commercial was about Lopez still being "Jenny from the block" and going back to where she came from, but she did not even go there to film a commercial. Not only were viewers upset, but the graffiti artist shown in her commercial was as well. He sued Lopez but the charges were dropped. This changed the way people view Jennifer Lopez and put her in a bad position as an artist.

Dear Jane

My so-called friend is tearing my mind apart. She is telling the whole school completely false rumors about me. I think I can make amends with her, but I do not think I can trust her as a friend again. What should I do?

Sincerely,
1-800-NeedBetterFriends

Dear 1-800-NeedBetterFriends,
All hope is not lost, so do not worry. Everyone breaks each other's trust and loyalty. If she has not confronted you yet, I think you need to be the bigger person in this situation and confront her yourself. Not only will she feel guilty, but it shows how responsible you are at handling this situation. On the other hand, your friendship with her really depends on you. If she really is your best friend, you can find forgiveness in the bottom of your heart. But do not forgive too easily. With actions, let her show you that she deserves your friendship and trust.

Good Luck,
Jane

Upcoming Movies **Quynh Anh Ton Nu** Entertainment Editor

Feeling bored this holiday? Why not head to the theater and check out a flick? We have some suggestions...



We Bought a Zoo

Dec 23
Rated PG

Based on a true story, Matt Damon stars as Benjamin Lee, a widowed father with two kids. In an effort to create a fresh start for his family, he buys a house that happens to come with an old zoo. Benjamin and his family set out to fix the zoo and bring back its former glory. The film also stars Scarlett Johansson, Elle Fanning, and Thomas Haden Church.



The Darkest Hour

Dec 23
Rated PG-13

A group of American tourists suddenly finds themselves trapped in Russia as unknown aliens attack our planet Earth. Fighting to survive, they try to escape the capital city of Moscow. Starring Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, Rachael Taylor, Joel Kinnaman, and Max Minghella, the movie is a must-see for sci-fi fans everywhere.



War Horse

Dec 25
Rated PG-13

Albert Narracott (played by Jeremy Irvine) is a young man living in England at the start of World War I. Seeing his beloved horse, Joey, being sold to the cavalry, he enlists to serve in the war and finds himself on a journey across Europe. *War Horse* was directed by the world-renowned Steven Spielberg.