



WHIMSICAL WINTER WONDERS OVER BREAK

Haniya Raheel
Staff Writers

Do you want to do something over winter break?

Well here in Pennsylvania, there are many spectacular holiday light displays.

The holiday season is starting to sparkle up and so is the holiday spirit.

Before you decide to head to any of these places make sure to be safe and check their latest rules and regulations.

Longwood Gardens is hosting their "Longwood Christmas".

They will be presenting the contrast of fire and ice in a way you've never seen before. There will be specialties like flaming lanterns and fiery red hues all the way to birch trees and succulent frozen fountains.

You will be able to see various white and red tones before you make your way to the exhibition hall which leads you to an alpine wonderland.

Even outdoors the fire and ice theme continues through their extensive lake and tunnel that has over 20,000 lights.

The garden is open from 10 am to 11 pm and timed tickets are available.

This Longwood Christmas only lasts until January 9th, 2022, so book your tickets now.

Christmas Magic-"A Festival of Lights", is presenting their 38th edition of Christmas magic.

This festival is located at York County's Rocky Ridge Park in Pennsylvania.

The festival is open until December 30th, 2021 but closed on Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

You can walk through the glistening park and enjoy the holiday scenes, Christmas lights, train displays, and more.

Just as good as their Hershey chocolate, Hershey Park is featuring a breathtaking light show with over 250,000 synchronized lights.

You can stroll around and admire the various different light displays.

If you want to experience something warmer, they also have drive-through tickets for a different light show.

Tickets are purchasable on their website all month long.

Have you ever gone to the zoo in the winter? Well I sure haven't, but this year Lehigh Valley Zoo is hosting a light show.

Lehigh Valley Zoo will be transforming its zoo into the Winter Lights Spectacular.

There will be over 1.2 million lights and breathtaking holiday displays.

They have limited tickets and the light shows are only available on certain days.

Tired of your parents spending hours inside of Macy's?

Well here's a reason for them to spend more. Macy's is yet again hosting a nostalgic Christmas light show.

The Macy's in Center City has done this light show for more than half a century.

The light show is completely free to watch and is voiced by Julie Andrews.

The light show features classics such as *The Nutcracker* and *Frosty the Snowman* which have been illuminated with over 100,000 lights.

The show runs once a day at 10:30 am from December 1-24 and then at 11:30 am from December 25-31.

There are many light shows you can go visit with your family or friends during this winter break in Pennsylvania.

BEING WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Evelyn Lombrana
Staff Writer

As families pull out their old dusty box of bright, colorful ornaments, parents climb on roofs to try to string up the last strand of knotted lights, and children run around the house in bright red santa hats signing classical carols from "Feliz Navidad" to "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer", we know that it's Christmas.

With the 25th approaching, people all over rush off to the stores buying gifts from Barbie Dolls to diamond necklaces.

This holly jolly season has become filled with signs displayed in stores saying 25% off in red blocky letters, and for too many people, it is only the excitement of receiving gifts rather than the pleasure of being with friends and family that brings joy.

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SILENT WIND: THE DESTRUCTIVE TORNADOES THAT RANSACKED THE MIDWEST

Jasmin Jerry
Staff Writer

Late at night on Friday, December 10th to early morning on Saturday, December 11th, 30 tornadoes struck down in 6 states: Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee reigning catastrophic damage, injuries, and lost lives.

One of the most prominent damages was at a candle factory in Kentucky in which there were around 110 individuals working inside when the storm hit. Many of the individuals working in the factory were working “24/7 in order to meet Christmas candle demand” and were not able to escape the storms.

One of the survivors, Kyanna Parsons-Perez, spoke with NBC news and described how she managed to stay calm while she was in the Candle Factory and the roof collapsed onto her and her coworkers.

Between the open air and herself there was 5 feet of debris and she remembers calling out to her coworkers and asking them to “sing ‘Happy Birthday’” because she was turning 40 in a couple of hours.

At an Amazon warehouse outside of St. Louis, six people are reported dead and forty-five people made it out of the building alive, but the confirmed number of deaths is still unknown. The warehouse had collapsed with the building full of electricity, a gas leak, broken water mains, and water flowing into the building.

Families who were still in their houses, as many residents were sleeping, saw roofs flying off houses, their own houses caving in, and strong winds pounding outside their windows. Many residents had hid in their bathrooms, even in bathtubs, to protect themselves from the debris from the storms.

The tornadoes itself had left roughly 60,000 residents without power in Kentucky. Some residents even claim that houses that once stood tall with inhabitants inside of them that night, are nowhere to be seen, including the individuals who were once in them. One tornado had even struck on land and stayed on landfall for 250 miles wreaking havoc in its long tenure.

Although tornadoes are not uncommon in the midwest, the destructive nature and path these tornadoes took are considered unprecedented in nature. A part of this increase in the number of



Image courtesy of Canva

tornadoes is due to climate change as the conditions in the atmosphere that cause tornadoes (i.e warmer temperatures) are stronger than in years past. This shift in temperature, especially with how warm this December month has been, is causing these tornadoes to shift eastward and away from the midwest.

President Biden will visit the hardest hit sites on Saturday and has deployed additional National Guards assistance to help rebuild the communities and homes who have greatly been impacted. The President has also granted emergency declaration for Kentucky.

As of December 14th 2021, the death toll is reported at 88 lives lost with over 100 people still unaccounted for. From the Spri-Hian team, our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families, friends, and individuals who were victims and affected by the storm.

PENNSYLVANIA MASKING MANDATE LIFTED

Asna Akram
Staff Writer

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, on December 10th, the Pennsylvania mask mandate was struck down by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

As mask mandates are lifted and more individuals feel safe without a mask, Covid numbers are on the rise.

ABC27 reports that in Pennsylvania, the average number of cases daily was 8,199 between December 6th and December 13th. There was a 5.4% increase in the number of people currently hospitalized with COVID-19 between December 6th and December 13th.

According to data from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, as of December 14th, 12:45 p.m., there were 6,972 additional cases of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania. ABC27 recorded a cumulative total of 34,731 deaths in Pennsylvania due to Covid-19.

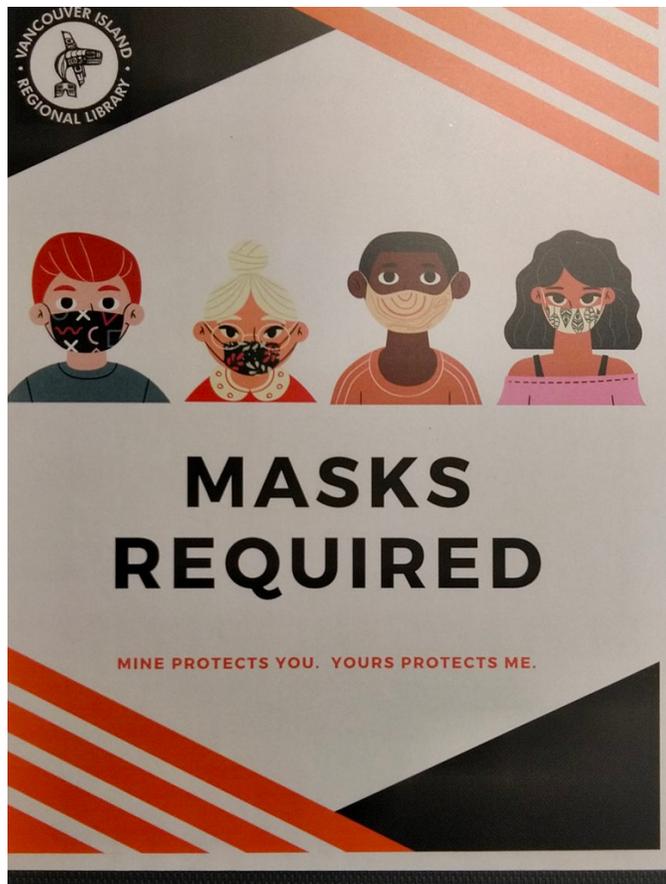
Just within the past 7 days, 658 deaths are due to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania.

CNN reports the Covid-19 milestone of 800,000 Covid-19 deaths and more than 50 million Covid-19 infections.



Images courtesy of Creative Commons

According to their website, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is the highest court in the Commonwealth and the oldest appellate court in the nation



Deidre McPhillips from CNN noted that "One in every 100 seniors in the United States has died of Covid-19, according to federal data."

NPR quoted WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a news briefing, "Omicron is spreading at a rate we have not seen with any previous variant." Tedros also stated, "Even if omicron does cause less severe disease, the sheer number of cases could once again overwhelm unprepared health systems."

Less than a month after being officially documented, Omicron spread to 77 countries.

CDC states, "Wearing masks can help communities slow the spread of COVID-19 when worn consistently and correctly by a majority of people in public settings..."

Although many are enthusiastic about getting rid of masks and the nightmare of Covid-19 coming to an end, the decision of lifting the mask mandate may be premature for some.

POSSIBILITIES IN THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN CONFLICT GOING INTO 2022 AND THE DESTRUCTION SINCE 2014

Nathan Campbell
Staff Writer

Though a full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the new year seems unlikely, we could see the Ukrainian border become fully militarized soon.

According to the *Military Times*, experts say that Russia does not intend to invade Ukraine, at least in the near term. Further, Russia does not have the military capacity or the will to occupy all of Ukraine. Instead, the growing Russian presence on the border with Ukraine is a response by Moscow to a fractured and increasingly hostile relationship with Kyiv. But this means that it still remains improbable that Russia would want to completely invade Ukraine despite their vast amount of resources; strategically, creating blockades around the borders of a (small) country is much smarter—and safer—than rushing into unknown terrain.

“Russia wants the West to make a legal pledge not to deploy forces and weapons to Ukraine, and the Russian Foreign Ministry demanded last week that NATO rescind its 2008 pledge to accept Ukraine and Georgia as members.”—however, the United States and NATO allies have rejected Russia’s demands. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg stated “NATO’s relationship with Ukraine is going to be decided by the 30 NATO allies and Ukraine, no one else.”

Despite Russia’s denial of planning an invasion, there is still fear in Ukraine “that the Kremlin may start a new war with its neighbor and former province that chose to break away from Moscow’s political orbit,” (Al Jazeera 16 Dec 2021).

It is probable Russia has a desire to reinstate the Soviet Union as it once stood before December 26, 1991, and this Invasion of Ukraine might be another attempt at asserting transnational dominance beginning with Ukraine and expanding from there. (Russian President Vladimir Putin claiming Russians and Ukrainians are “one people” and part of the “Russian civilization” brings to mind a certain figure.)

Before speculating, however, we must first consider possible outcomes while looking to the events in the conflict reaching back to 2014.

The 2014 Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity in which pro-Moscow Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich was ousted culminated in the annexation of Crimea

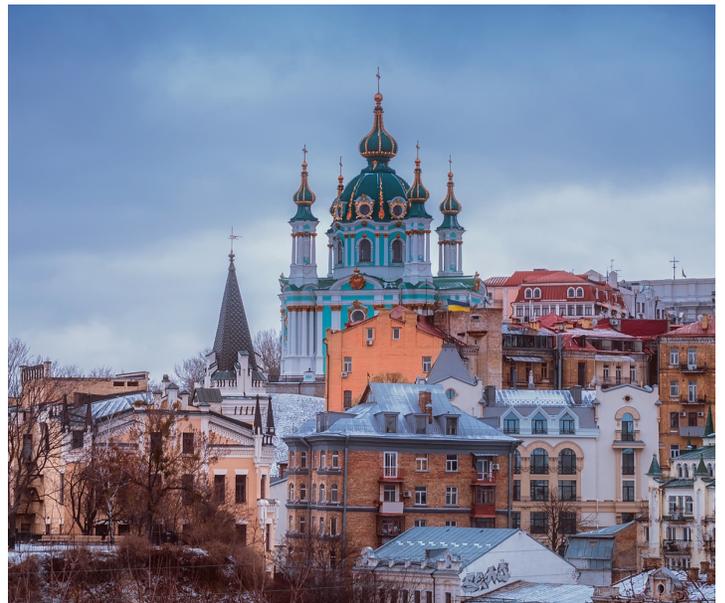
and the installation of Putin-backed separatist groups in Donetsk and Luhansk who restored the death penalty and ran dozens of concentration camps where they tortured and executed political dissidents. One of many tortured includes Professor Ihor Kozlovsky of the Donetsk State University, who said Russian officers spoke about Putin’s claims of the “Russian civilization.”

“The officer told me, ‘There are no nations, there are civilizations, and the Russian world is a civilization, and for anyone who had been part of it, it does not matter what you call it, a Tatar or a Ukrainian, you don’t exist,’” Kozlovsky told reporters.

The home of Liudmyla Momot, of the Ukrainian village of Nevelske, was shelled and destroyed by these separatists backed by Russia. Nevelske is only two miles from Donetsk in the country’s southeast.

“The worse Ukraine-Russia relations are, the more we simple people are suffering,’ said 68-year-old Momot, who has worked at a dairy farm all her life,” in an article from 15 December 2021 by the Associated Press.

“We fear that a big war will start. People are scared and packed up their bags,’ said Momot, who collected some blankets, warm clothes and other items in the debris.”



St. Michael Church in Kiev, Ukraine

Image courtesy of Canva

BEING WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND AVOIDING THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF CHRISTMAS

Evelyn Lombrana
Staff Writer

This commercialization of Christmas is evident as stores pull out Christmas decorations in early November, and consumers spend more money causing the stock market to increase, but there are also many ways to prevent the destruction of the true meaning of Christmas.

In early November when leaves are still crisping and falling off trees, stores begin pulling out plastic Santa Claus's and matching red and green pajama pants.

When you see Santa at the mall before Thanksgiving, you know Christmas has become too commercialized. For example, Youth Voices explains, "The Hallmark channels' views skyrocket, as people gather around and watch their favorite Christmas movies as a part of their holiday activities. Each year, Christmas becomes more commercialized and the true meaning of Christmas is lost."

The true meaning of Christmas, spending time with family and friends, gets lost in a rush of gifts and other holiday activities. In the 1930s this mass commercialization had taken over and Christmas songs were released, stores began to create holiday images, and children began to be advertised to also.

We still see this today as stores begin their Christmas sales earlier than ever and radio stations have begun playing Christmas music as early as November 1st. Youth Voices says, "The constant advertising and stress of Christmas almost overrides the joy the holiday should provide. We need to reconnect with the true meaning of Christmas and celebrate the holidays as they were always meant to be."

People have lost the true meaning of Christmas and why it was first introduced. Christmas for many now is stressful as friends and family spend more money than they have while they try to find the perfect gift, an seemingly impossible task. Therefore, Christmas has become too commercialized as decorations come out earlier each year and people put more effort into gifts than being with loved ones.

Moreover, as bills start arriving the joy of the holiday season turns into a frenzy of stress and worry. Christmas is no longer about spending time with loved ones and instead has turned into a frantic buying spree where each shopper tries to impress their relatives with the best gift.

For example, in 2019 the average amount spent was \$1,496, and in 2020 almost \$998.

This large sum reminds us how Christmas is no longer the celebration of friends and family and instead is only about receiving and giving gifts.

In 2005 the average american spent about \$763 and in 2006 the average american spent about \$826.

These statistics show how over the years Americans

are spending more on Christmas which is caused by the commercialization that is now brought on by Christmas. The stock market grows about 1.3% on average during the Christmas season showing how much more Americans spend on gifts.

Christmas used to be the holiday of joy and love but instead has turned into a nightmare of shopping and stress as Americans spend more money on trying to bring happiness to loved ones through lifeless objects.

However, despite Christmas evidently becoming too commercialized, there are many ways to reclaim the true meaning of Christmas. Being able to change the commercialization that Christmas has wrought is easy and several things will allow families to bond and come together this holiday.

To begin, making a Christmas craft together like paper snowflakes will bring happiness to your child as they see the beautiful paper creation come to life in the form of a snowflake. This craft is extremely easy and only requires paper, scissors, and a plate, so any child can participate in it and can each make their own unique snowflake which can be displayed around the house. This activity will bring families together, as they can all sit around the table and catch up while making fun ornaments.

Moreover, baking cookies together for friends and family will help prevent the commercialization of Christmas. There are all different types of Christmas cookies ranging in difficulty from sugar cookies to gingerbread cookies, so based on the age of your children you can choose the right type of cookie that will be the least stressful to make. Baking cookies will bring your whole family together as you work together to make them, decorate them, and eat them! Families can also set aside boxes of cookies for loved ones which will bring family members happiness instead of having to worry about buying a gift.

Finally, another way for families to bond is to have a game night. Parents can choose the game that is best suited for their kids' age range, and with fun competition can make the night one to remember. A team game will allow members to talk and work together in order to win, so a family game night is one effortless way to ditch the commercialization of Christmas.

Therefore, making Christmas ornaments, baking cookies, and a family game night are all effortless and easy ways to forget the commercialization of Christmas.

In conclusion, Christmas has become too commercialized which is shown through stores advertising Christmas sooner each year and consumers spending more money increasing the stress of this supposedly happy holiday season.

IDEAS ON HOW TO GIVE BACK DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Mia Reiter
Staff Writer

There are many things you can do at home along with many groups and events you can participate in to help out friends, family, animals, or members of your community.

- There are many food drives you can contribute to in your community. The DELCO Food Project collects non-perishable items like Canned goods, Boxes of pasta, Dry goods, Personal Hygiene items, and Laundry Items in which you can stop by and drop off your items on Thursdays from Noon until 5:00 PM at 535 Lamp Post Lane, Aston, PA.
- Many animal shelters in Delaware County are always accepting donations, especially during the holiday and winter season. Blankets, toys, pet food, animal beds, collars, leeches etc., are always accepted and taken in by shelters to benefit the sheltered animals.
- Making cookies during the holiday season is also a very popular activity that is an easy gift to give. Making cookies for your mailman, neighbors, friends, and family is a way to express your gratitude and is fun to make.
- Filling up paper bags with practical but enjoyable items like candy bars, water bottles, granola bars, warm gloves/socks, and other small foods and accessories for the homeless, in which you could later pass out or even send to a homeless shelter near you, is a sincere way to give back to those who need it.
- There are many things you can make at home that contribute to giving back to others in your community. A simple and easy task to show appreciation could be to make cards for your communities police officers, firefighters, teachers, local shop workers, coaches, neighbors, health care workers, etc.

FINALLY: FLANNEL FRIDAYS BUST OUT THE PLAIDS!

Justine Ferry
Staff Writer

Have you noticed anything about the people of SHS? Maybe something about their clothing? Something that is usually red and plaid? Those would be flannels.

If you were to look around the halls between classes, you would surely see someone dressed in plaid pajama pants or a flannel shirt. And why not? Flannels are stylish and comfortable to wear around school.

More and more students have begun to dress up in the popular attire. Some students are planning to make the flannel fashion a tradition and are trying to get as many people as possible to join them.

It's called Flannel Friday.

Flannel Friday is as simple as it sounds; every Friday, students wear flannel to school.

Springfield High School sophomore Jake Bogнар, who is known for wearing flannels often, has been instrumental in starting the so-called holiday. "[It] represents a unity of cool people," says Bogнар.

Some teachers have participated as well. Mr. Vandenberg and Mrs. Ward can be seen wearing flannel shirts and plaid print masks. We can definitely gain more supporters for Flannel Friday.

Springfield is about recognizing union and acknowledging that everyone belongs. This new Flannel Friday trend will be a great way for students to become engaged.

Wearing similar clothes will create a sense of belonging and school spirit among students and staff.

Not only is it a fun and engaging activity, it is easy to participate. Flannels, flannel pants, or other flannel accessories can be purchased at almost any retail store, and Springfield even offers blue flannel pants as spirit wear.

By participating in Flannel Friday, we can make Fridays even more enjoyable for our school community. Starting this new tradition will be something fun to remember about our time in high school. We encourage the people of Springfield to show support for their school, and each other, by stepping up to make this tradition happen.

A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS: THE HOT CHOCOLATE COOKIE

Julia Laverty
Staff Writer

On this holiday break what's better than sitting in your pj's, wanting hot chocolate and cookies at the same time. In this recipe, you get the best of both worlds, hot chocolate cookies.

This recipe does not take long at all and it would be great to do with the family on a cold night. This recipe does not take long at all and is a great way to spend time with your family.

The ingredients for this recipe are chocolate chips, all-purpose flour, hot cocoa mix, espresso powder, baking powder, baking soda, salt, butter, sugar, eggs, vanilla extract, and best of all, marshmallows. To start off you will need to preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Next, add the chocolate to a heatproof bowl and set it over a pan of water so it can melt. After the chocolate is melted, stir until it's smooth. Take the bowl off to let sit for a tiny bit.

While that is sitting mix all your dry ingredients in a medium bowl together. So mix the all-purpose flour, hot cocoa mix, espresso powder, baking powder, baking soda, salt all together to make sure there are no lumps.

Once that is done, beat the butter and sugar into a bowl until it is nice and smooth. Add eggs one at a time, add the vanilla extra, and beat until it's all smooth together.

After that, you will have to put the mixer in slow and add the melted chocolate slowly. Increase the speed to medium and add the dry mixture slowly and mix until all combined and smooth.

Add the white chocolate chips to the batter and mix until all is combined. Cover your dough up and put it in the fridge for about 30 minutes for it to firm up.

While that is in the fridge line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. After the dough is done cooling, scoop your dough about a tablespoon and places it on the baking sheet.

Continue this until all the dough is gone and place them about 2 inches away from each other. Place your two baking sheets into your oven for about nine to ten minutes.

Once the nine to 10 minutes are up remove the sheet from the oven. Place a half of a marshmallow on the center of each cookie.

Note, the side you cut the marshmallow put face down on the cookie. Put the cookies back in the oven until the marshmallows are melted on the cookies or for about two to three minutes long.

After two to three minutes take them out of the oven and let them sit for about five minutes to cool. After that, you can enjoy these delicious cookies.

This recipe seems not that difficult and doesn't take long to make. A lot of recipes usually take about 2 hours to 2 and a half hours to prep and make.

This recipe with prep time takes an hour and a half so it will not take up your whole day to make these cookies. These cookies are a great activity for anyone of all ages. This is a great way to get the best of both worlds.

When you are bored at home with nothing to do, why not make these cookies. This is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit.

Just writing this article myself makes me want these delicious cookies because they sound so good. I am going to make them myself and can't wait to try them.



Image courtesy of Julia Laverty

BEFORE THE RACKS

Grace Rubery
Staff Writer

Attention shoppers - did you know the biggest sale of the year is not Black Friday, it is December 26th? The big bosses know what they're doing and plan it according to the extreme.

The idea behind the sales is that Black Friday is more of a mental sale and less of an actual sale. For example on black Friday I bought some clothes and comforted my bank account by claiming, "oh you know what, it's black friday" when there was literally no sale.

Corporate and the media advertise Black Friday so much that it's portrayed to actually help shoppers when it truly doesn't do anything.

December 26th sales happen because after everyone's got Christmas done with, people have money to spend, but stores have racks to clear, so all of the nicer winter fashion is getting moved away in the snap of a finger to already make room for spring styles.

Realistically, this is awesome because technically December is just the start of winter so you can get clothes to finish out the season at a discounted price, and even get yourself those knick-knacks Santa forgot to leave under your tree.

December 26th sales end quickly into the new year because the sales main objective is to just clear the racks so if you don't go soon most likely stores' winter collections will be scattered among a back wall.

If you avoid people shopping for you and normally get a giftcard you are taking the smart way around this holiday season because who doesn't like gift cards?

However, that depends, recently there has been some media coverage regarding what you can do with your unused gift cards. At some stores they have kiosks similar to a lottery ticket machine that you simply turn your gift card into cash, or you could even 'sell' your gift cards on websites like cardpool.com.

This phenomenon was something a lot of people dreamed of and now it's reality. This makes the holiday season a whole lot more exciting for those whose relatives don't know how to shop. Thanks again for the Toys R Us gift card Grandma.

To trace back, indulging shoppers should prepare to head to malls and shopping centers on that week of December 26th to New Years Eve.

If shopping online is more plausible for you, the stores are sneaky about it and just overnight add loads of merchandise to their sale tab, but aren't going to



Image courtesy of Canva

heavily promote it.

Same thing within stores, the back walls and racks will be full for shoppers, but it won't get the media promotion and attention Black Friday gets. Keep in mind these post-holiday sales are more leaned toward clothing stores, and maybe some electronics, anything that for holidays would have some mass production. Prepare to save. Happy shopping!

Spri-Hian Policy

The Spri-Hian is a student-run newspaper established in 1932 and has been published by the Springfield School District with a purpose to inform and entertain the student body of Springfield High School.

The Spri-Hian aims to be the voice of its readership and to provide a forum for students to express their vetted opinions. A student-run newspaper creates the opportunity to practice and value responsible journalism.

The content of the Spri-Hian is a decision that is the responsibility of the student staff with the aid of the adviser. The Spri-Hian staff is open encouraged to communicate with the administration about story ideas, drafts, and discussions that center on journalistic integrity that builds credibility with the Spri-Hian's readership.

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A TRUE ARTIST: BANSKY

Rohn Bucknam
Staff Writer

Street art or graffiti art has grown to breed some of the greatest artists the world has ever seen. The art form has given us names like Jean-Michel Basquiat, and Keith Haring, two very influential street artists who went from the streets to galleries.

In recent years a new name has gained a reputation, a name without a face, that name being Banksy.

Banksy is most likely known to most as the faceless street artist who famously tried to shred his own work of art.

But before that Banksy had been making statements through his art and spreading his beliefs all across England. Banksy's art is often found spread across the cities of the world in his signature spray painted stencil style.

His pieces often depict motifs such as rats, children, protesters, and cops. All of which are used to depict scenes of oppression and/or critique some part of our modern society.

Each of his works deliver his messages satirically, for example one of his pieces depicted police officers arresting Bart Simpson, the famous cartoon character from the show the Simpsons, who was in the process of mooning them.

This approach allows people to be more open to Banksy's point of view on the world, making it easier for many people to understand the messages he is trying to convey. Banksy appears to have a very pessimistic view of the world which is shown through his works which often depict critiques on police, capitalism, and even the world of art itself.

Despite the countless messages Banksy tries to convey through his art it seems that what most people are fixated on is who the artist behind it all is.

No one truly knows who Banksy is since he has never revealed his face to the public and it is completely unknown whether Banksy is even just one face or a collection of faces with a combined message.

This curiosity in who the strong willed artist is and what he looks like has caused Banksy's name to spread across the globe.

Banksy's fame has reached such a high point that the people Banksy is critical of are the same ones defending his art and purchasing the art for millions of dollars.

Banksy's fame seems to pollute the messages he is trying to convey since people are more fixated on the name attached to the art rather than trying to understand the messages being conveyed in the art.

Despite the delusions around Banksy's art I think he still remains one of the truest artists ever to pick up the brush (or spray can).

Banksy, despite all of the fame, has refused to reveal his face and continues to produce art across the world spreading messages of love and freedom to everyone. The face behind the art and the name attached to it isn't important and it seems Banksy knows that because he still continues to push his controversial messages across the world, not for people to pay millions of dollars for or to take pictures in front of, but for those who actually want to listen and are searching for a voice.

Banksy remains a true artist at heart due to his dedication for the craft and what he believes.

All artists can take note from Banksy: don't do it for your image or for the money, do it for the love of art and the expression it allows you to convey.



Girl with heart balloon.

Image courtesy of Creative Commons

TOP COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL GAMES 2021-22

Nathan Cain
Staff Writer

Orange Bowl (College Football Playoff semifinal)

The Orange Bowl will be played on Friday, Dec 31, 2021 at 7:30 p.m between No. 2 Michigan vs. No. 3 Georgia. This will be the best game throughout all the bowl games this year.

The match up is going to be played at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida on ESPN.

Michigan is hot right now as they defeated Ohio State a couple of weeks ago. They keep winning with the help of one of the Heisman finalists, edge rusher-Aidan Hutchinson.

Hutchinson had 13.5 sacks this season and 8 of them came from games played against Penn State, Iowa, and Ohio State. On the other hand Georgia just came off a blowout lost to No. 1 Alabama.

They need to fix some things to win this game. Their powerhouse defense needs to play better in order to beat Michigan. If they clean things up it will be a great game.

Cotton Bowl Classic

(College Football Playoff semifinal)

The Cotton Bowl Classic will be played on Friday, Dec 31, 2021 at 3:30 p.m between No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 4 Cincinnati. The game will be played at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas on ESPN.

The powerhouse Crimson Tide just came off a monster win vs No. 3 Georgia. However the Tide lost star wide receiver John Metchie due to a torn ACL in the Georgia game.

But they have a future first round pick Jameson Williams that has to carry the load of the receivers. Bama keeps rolling with much help from one of the Heisman finalists Bryce Young.

Young lit the college football world up this year as a true freshman. On the other side of the field the Cincinnati Bearcats put the world on notice this year with a perfect 13-0 record this season.

Quarterback Desmond Ridder led this team to a first ever playoff appearance in school history. Many people question if the Bearcats are a "real opponent" against the Tide.

The Bearcats get a chance to make some real noise if they find a way to stop Bryce Young and the very talented Bama offense.

The Fiesta Bowl

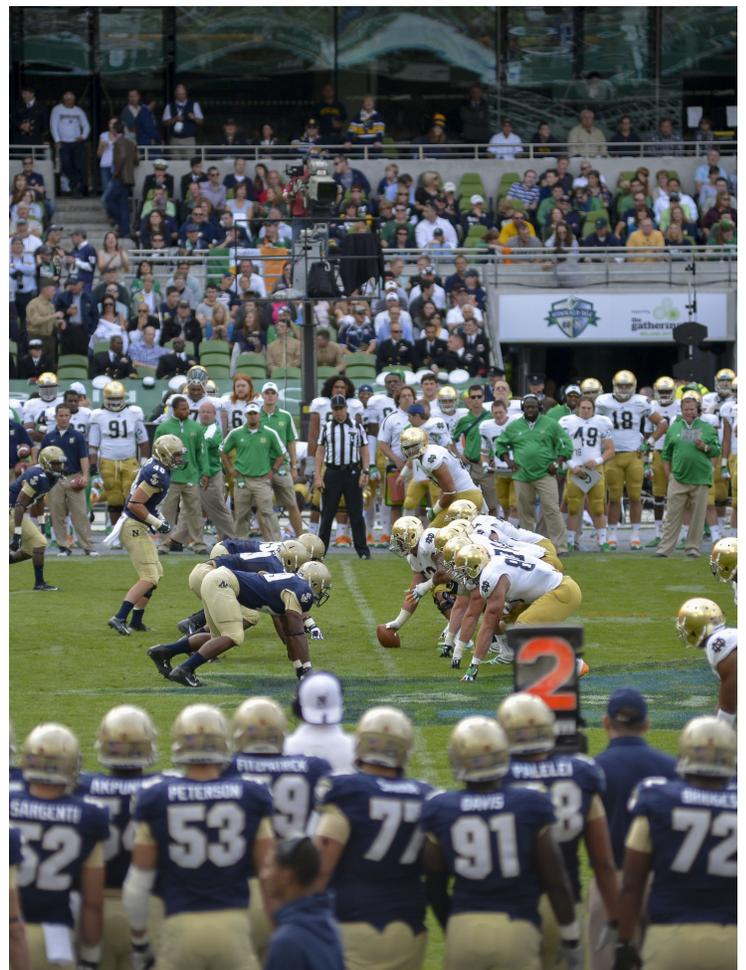
This year's Fiesta Bowl will be played on Saturday, Jan 1, 2021 at 1 p.m on ESPN. The game will be No. 5 Notre Dame vs. No. 9 Oklahoma State in State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

The Cowboys are coming off a big loss in the Big 12 championship game against the Baylor Bears. Besides that loss, the Cowboys had a great season this year as they finished at the 9 spot in the AP top 25.

They look to end their season off with a bang. Their opponent, Notre Dame finished this year at no. 5 not getting into the playoffs. With the loss of their head coach Brian Kelly, their game plan might change going into this game.

The Irish's new head coach Marcus Freeman puts a spark in the program and all the players seem to really enjoy being around him.

Freeman will try to get his first win as a head coach on Saturday and help change the program.



Images courtesy of Canva

THINGS TO DO

CCD Parks in Philadelphia brings the holiday spirit with Deck the Hall Light Show. You can go see the lights from November 22 through January 1 at the Dilworth Park In Philly at no cost at all. Deck the Hall Light Show illuminates the history of the city. This light show is very popular and many people go to see these amazing lights each year. This light show has been going on for many years and plans on not ending anytime soon.

Christmas Light Show at Macy's is a free event available to the ages 2+ that takes place at the Wanamaker building from December 1-24 at 10:30 a.m. and on December 26-31 at 11:30 a.m.; it is a once a day showing of its iconic, Julie Andrews-narrated, live organ-accompanied, dancing lights show and social distancing and masking rules will be in effect.

Koziars Christmas Village is open November 6th to January 1st, in Berks County Pennsylvania. The Koziar Christmas Village is owned by the Koziar family since 1948 at their family farm. These Christmas lights cover buildings, gift barns, and trees. There is also a large reflective lake that gives the place an entirely different view. The attraction has been voted "Best of the Best" by the American Bus Association. Standard pricing: Kids 3 and under are free, 4-10 yrs old are \$10, 11-64 are \$12 and Seniors are \$11 but on prime nights it's an additional \$5

Peddler's Village is a Christmas decorated village with lots of shops, restaurants, and festivities. It's located at 100 Peddlers Village, New Hope, PA 18938, the village is open through November 19-January 9th, 10am- 9pm, with free entry and free parking. With the use of 1 million lights to light the village, gingerbread-house competitions, pictures with santa, and various places to shop, The village is kid friendly including a carousel, an arcade, and several hot chocolate stands spread throughout the village.

You and your loved ones can have a magical time in Philly's, Christmas Village located in the heart of Center city right off John F. Kennedy Blvd. in Love Park from November 25th-December 24th mostly open all day everyday. It's free to enter but has vendors and food stands that as anticipated do cost money. Food ranges anywhere between \$2 and \$22 and it caters authentic German cuisine. Whether you just want to take a walk through City Hall, have a meet & greet with Santa, or even ride a carousel Christmas Village has got you.

The Rothman Ice Rink at Dilworth Park is located in the middle of Center City and is within walking distance from Love Park and Reading Terminal Market. The rink is open all holiday break from 11:30 am to 11:00 pm. Admission is \$7 per person, with skate rentals costing \$10 per person as well. While not required reservations are recommended, with each reservation available for a ninety-minute time slot. Lockers are recommended for shoes and cost \$10.

The Springfield Ice Rink is a fun thing to visit during winter break with your family and friends. This event consist of skating with friends and/or family and having a lot of fun. Free Skate every Friday and Saturday at 8:00 to 9:30 and Sunday from 2:00 to 3:30; \$8.00 to get in and a \$2.00 skate rental

The Blue Cross Riverrink is a winter ice skating rink next to a riverside walkway at 101 S Christopher Columbus Blvd in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The winterfest site is open to the public for free, but the ice skating admission is \$5 and the ice skate rental is \$10. Skate entry times are up to 90 minutes maximum. The kid skate helpers are \$5 each to rent, but photo ID is required. The ferris wheel is \$5, boardwalk rides are \$5-10+, and the arcade is pay as you go. The Blue Cross Riverrink is open now through March 6th from 1pm-11pm on Monday-Thursday, 1pm-1am on Friday, 11am-1am on Saturday, and 11am-11pm on Sunday.

Yuletide at Winterthur Until January 2, 2022 at 3:30 pm. 5105 Kennett Pike.

Tickets: \$25 Adult \$23 Senior (62) \$23 Student (12 and older; valid ID required for college students) \$6 Child (2-11) Walk around scenic Winterthur Gardens during the most wonderful time of the year! Home to a museum and sixty-acre garden, Winterthur in Wilmington, Delaware is sure not to disappoint. Henry Francis du Pont once called the historic hundred seventy five-room house home, in which the collection of historic and decorative objects collected and arranged according to the aesthetic principles of their visionary.