

The Bagpiper

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Reporting Freeman's news since 2009

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Operation Christmas Child brings hope around the world

By Ashley Booker
Staff writer

Franklin Graham founded Operation Christmas Child in 1993 with just a few trucks full of shoeboxes that he sent to children in Serbia, Hungary, Romania, Russia, and many more locations. Since then, Operation Christmas Child has delivered over 157 million boxes to kids in 160 countries.

The children that receive these boxes, aged between two and fourteen, are often poor or orphaned, and these boxes may be the only gift they ever receive. Aside from basic necessities like toothbrushes and toys like soccer balls and stuffed animals, these children are also getting something much more important – hope for their future, and the feeling of being loved.

The process begins with packing a shoebox, then sending it off to a collection center. But it doesn't end there. Operation Christmas Child's year-round volunteers will then load the boxes onto trucks and take them to processing centers, where they will be processed by volunteers from all over the country.

Fortunately, I had the chance to volunteer at one of these centers this year. My mom, friend Sam Wolfe, and I spent six days in Denver, Colorado, where we worked four shifts, including two six-, one five-, and one four-hour shift.

While I have been packing shoeboxes for as long as I have been walking, I've never volunteered at a processing center. While it was fun, it was not as easy as my we had expected.



Photo: Ashley Booker
Stuffed animals are a popular addition to the boxes sent to children around the world.



Photo: Ashley Booker
Ashley Booker and her mom Laura are busy sorting boxes of donated gifts at Operation Christmas Child in Denver. They spent a week volunteering, along with Booker's friend Sam Wolfe.

"It was physically hard work, but seeing all the boxes that were so carefully packed made it worth it," chaperone Laura Booker said.

Over the week, we handled thousands of boxes through many different stations. The first was pre-inspection, where you would check the boxes for donations made by those who packed them.

Next was inspection. Here, you would take out anything that can't be sent, such as candy and toothpaste, and make sure the box was full.

Finally, it would be taped shut and put into larger cartons, now ready to be loaded onto a truck and find its way to a child in a need.

However, easy as this may sound, it was both emotionally and physically exhausting. While going through the boxes, we found one that had been packed in memory of a child. When this happened, we would pull over the Chaplain, and pray that the box was especially taken care of on its way to the child who needed it.

"My favorite boxes came from a church in Nebraska," Booker said. "Everyone had something homemade in it."

Those who were taping said it took a toll on their wrists to constantly be twisting them around, and their thumbs from holding the over packed boxes shut while they taped them. Those who were packing the boxes into cartons had bruises on their hips, where they had held the larger boxes to move them from the table to the conveyor belt, and sore arms and shoulder from carrying boxes well over fifty pounds all day.

The center was never quiet, filled with the constant chatter of people showing off things they had found in boxes or sharing the story of how they got into Operation Christmas Child in the first place.

"Meeting people from all over and hearing their stories was fun as well," Booker said.

Even though we were emotionally and physically exhausted by the end of the week, the thought of the children's faces as they open their boxes later was enough to get us started on planning next year's trip.

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How much homework is too much?

By Jiselle Farrow
Staff writer

When you get through the end of the school day you think of your free time when you get home, but there is something else, your pesky homework.

Some students believe the homework their teachers give them is just simply extra work they need to do and feel unhappy about it. Others stress themselves out over the assignments and work furiously, but what about homework itself? Is it really necessary to have?

"I believe homework is beneficial for those who do it," math and science teacher Angela Frye said. "There is a direct correlation between those who do and those who don't."

Homework isn't just to stress out or trouble students, but it's a method of improving memory and understanding.

What exactly do teachers hope you'll get out of it?

"I hope they make mistakes so they can learn from them," Frye said. "Also to gain confidence to change their mindset of how and what they believe they can't do."

With a strong reason behind it, homework plays an important role in school and most likely at home as well.

So how do students feel it affects their life? Do they even feel it helps them?

"Well for me, homework doesn't really affect my personal life," sophomore Abbie Stokoe said. "I just finish it and be done with it even if I stay up a bit later on some nights. It gives me something to learn from and learn from mistakes I make on them."

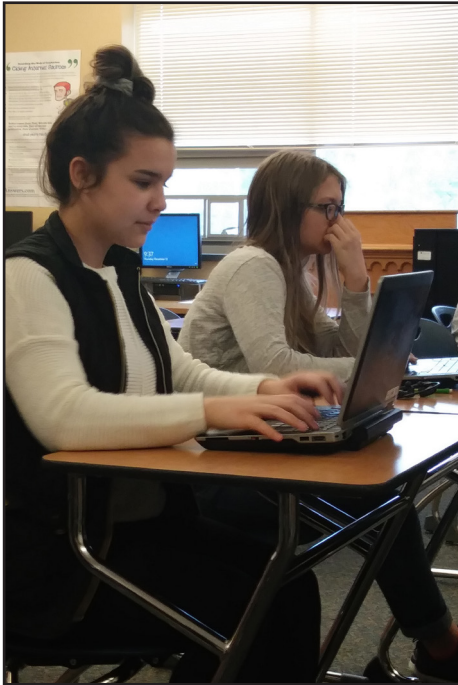


Photo: Jiselle Farrow
Freshmen Peyton Campbell and Bailey Swanson use their classtime to try and get avoid the need for homework in English class.

Just getting it over with and completing the work is good. Students can go about their lives at home with no problems. Sometimes the assignments can cause issues and stress for students though.

"Sometimes it's easy, but other times it's hard to understand," Stokoe explained. "Sometimes I can't always get help, so it creates some stress."

Students can choose to make homework bad in their heads or to just get what they need out of it to learn something new or remember.

But is there a right or wrong between having a lot of homework or too little of it?

"Yes, I would say there is a balance of the amount of homework that should be assigned," Frye said. "Too much becomes too tedious and boring and loses its usefulness."

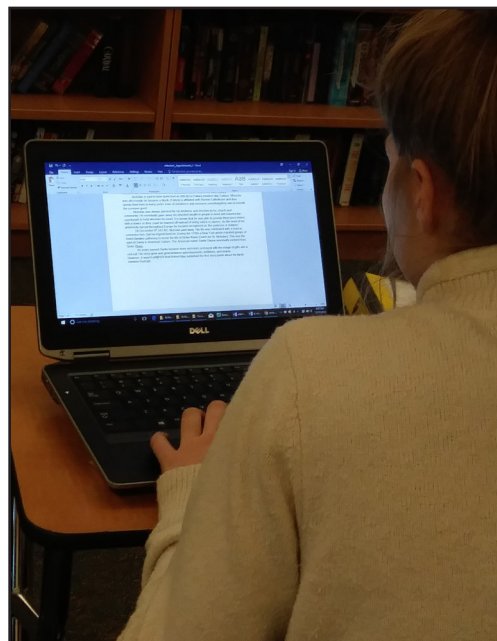


Photo: Jiselle Farrow
Google classroom has been one way students and teachers are navigating assignments and trying to eliminate lost work.

Princess Ryan reigns in Rockford

By Ronni Keizer
Staff writer

Every September, the Freeman community looks forward to the prized Rockford Fair because of its delicious food, fun rides, excellent live music and overall togetherness of the community. Two of our very own were crowned Fair Royalty last May, junior Ryan Hicks and senior Kaitlynn Strahl.

Hicks has been attending the fair her whole life. She felt the love of the community and decided to give back to it the way it has given to her by trying out for Southeast Spokane County Fair Royalty.

"When I was a kid, the fair was just a really positive experience and it had this sense of community," Hicks reminisced. "I've grown up to realize how lucky I am to be in a community

that's like that."

Hicks remembered looking up to the royalty when she was little and wanted to set a good example for young ladies just like past royalty had for her.

The audition process is extensive and progressive. It takes determination, confidence, and grace.

"First, I was sponsored by my old 4-H leader," Hicks explained. "Then all the girls went and did different events together. We had a tea and a desert night to get to know each other."

All these preliminary steps were preparing them for harder stages of the process.

"We wrote an essay and also did an in-person interview with judges and answered questions," Hicks said. "Next, we had to give a speech at the Grange in Rockford in front of the judges and all the parents and the community."



Photo: Ryan Hicks
Princess Ryan waves to the crowd at the Rockford Fair.

"We went to different festivals and different fairs around the area," Hicks beamed. "We rode in a lot of parades and, most importantly, helped set up, take down, and award prizes at our fair."

According to Hicks, the rest of her duties as fair royalty include Christmas events in Rockford and the possibility of riding in the Lilac Parade. Hicks mentioned that she enjoyed all parts of this experience, but her favorite part was getting to do it all with Strahl.

"I, personally, really liked growing close with Kaitlynn," Hicks said. "I feel like at the beginning we were both kind of shy, but now we're friends."

Anyone can see that Hicks has a passion for serving her community and loves being fair royalty. She recommends trying out for royalty to all sophomore and junior girls.

"Definitely just be yourself and be confident in what you're saying," Hicks advises. "Be open and honest and the best you can. It will come to you, if you're the right fit."

Cashmere's amazing artwork sets the bar

By Kaylie Smith
Staff writer

Junior Ada Cashmere is a spectacular, amazing artist. She loves art because she can make anything she can think of.

Cashmere's favorite thing to draw is any type of animal or mythological creature. Can we blame her? Animals are so fun to draw! She has been drawing for a very long time, and keeps getting better and better every time we see a new piece from her.

"I have been drawing ever since I can re-



member," Cashmere said, "since I could hold a pencil."

Cashmere has been in several competitions all over the state of Washington. She's entered the New ESD 101 competition in Spokane several times, as well as a couple of shows in Everett. Cashmere humbly admitted that she's taken "...a couple of first places in the state."

She loves all of her art pieces that she has ever made.

"I love all of them," Cashmere said. "They're all different, and every single thing that I make is an improvement from the next. You're always learning even if you don't like it. It's going to be better next time."

Cashmere would love to have a career in art when she gets older, but she also wants something a little more stable for herself to depend on, which is understandable. She said her art will probably be "a hobby and make some money on the side of another career."

Cashmere loves the freedom of creating



Photos: Ada Cashmere

art pieces.

"You can make literally anything you can think of," Cashmere said. "There's no real restraint other than your mind."

The story behind Frye's Genius Hour

By Regan Wolfinbarger
Staff writer

Math and science teacher Angela Frye has introduced something new this year: Genius Hour. Keeping students interested in what we are learning by letting us choose what we learn.

Frye caught inspiration and decided that Genius Hour would be something she tried this year. She liked that students weren't told what to learn and are, instead, learning something they want to learn.

"One of the teachers I follow mentioned it, and I started looking into it," Frye explained.

Genius Hour has allowed many freshmen to get the chance study topics they wouldn't otherwise learn and can take away

the "why am I still in school?" question that some students have.

"I liked the idea of having an hour every week where the students and I could pursue anything they'd like to, and it doesn't have to be school related," Frye said.

Student projects include language learning, animation, and more. A lot of freshman have taken up this language learning opportunity.

"I am learning Tagalog," Jasmine Seal said, "It is a Filipino language."

Genius Hour has even inspired Frye, using it as a chance to pick up her guitar again. She stopped playing for about fifteen years. She started playing her guitar in college, where her interest in it sparked.

"A friend I was really close with, they talked me into buying a guitar," Frye said. "I

played for a while, but after I got my teaching job, got married, and moved, I got busy, and lost my skills."

This has even inspired a freshman to do the same thing.

"I enjoy practicing my guitar," Trent Peterson said.

So far, Frye believes that this is a good idea and recommends this study to other schools, but even if she can't reach other schools, she still hopes that our school district would embrace it.

"I hope my experiences this year will help me show the other teachers how cool this idea is," Frye said. "I see the time that some students are wasting and that is frustrating because I envisioned something different, but I believe in the idea behind Genius Hour, so it is worth it."

Dixie Sefton, freshmen president

By Bailey Swanson
Staff writer

Freshman Dixie Sefton was voted to be the president of the ninth grade class this fall! So far the position seems to be going well for her.

"It's definitely been an enjoyable experience," Sefton said.

She enjoys doing her job a lot, and says that it is "a lot of fun." Even though she is a freshman, this isn't her first time running for an ASB position. Last year, she ran for the vice-president position at FMS. She has had experience before and knows what she is doing.

Sefton loves being a leader, and being the president is definitely a way of showing it. In addition, she also loves helping her friends and peers with whatever they need, and being president lets her do this.

"I like doing it, with meeting everyone and helping them," Seton said.

As freshmen president, students come to Sefton

and tell her things that they think would improve the school. She takes these into considerations and talks to other ASB members about them.

One of the important things Sefton has done to represent the freshmen class was taking the lead on their Homecoming week hallway. The freshmen were asked to decorate their hallway with a "throwback" theme. Sefton was in charge of this, and with her help, the hallway turned out to be amazing. She was also one of the people that was involved with coordinating the Homecoming lip sync battle competition, which went great according to her peers.

So far, Sefton has been doing a great job at being the ninth grade president. Her classmates think she is great and it seems that Sefton will be an amazing president.

Sefton loves the work, and even though the job a lot of work, she says it has definitely "lived up to her expectations."

New face in the crowd: Liberty Barber

By Ashley Booker
Staff writer

This year's freshman class saw a few new faces at the start of the year. One of these new faces is Liberty Barber.

"I lived in Belgrade, Montana, which is right next to Bozeman," Barber said.

While many people know Barber, or at least know of her, not everyone knows of her passions outside of school. An avid singer and painter, as well as fluent in American Sign Language, Barber is never without an active project. While this may seem overwhelming to some of us, to Barber, it's only natural.

"I've always painted and been into art," Barber said.

Though she'll paint almost anything, Barber has a passion for certain styles of painting.

"I really like doing water colors, so I really like landscapes and flowers and things like that," Barber said.

While she can't remember when her passions for art and singing first

began, she can remember how.

"My mom is very artistic," Barber said, "She's one of those people, and so are my sisters. It's like my whole family does art, so naturally I did art too."

Barber was taught sign language due to her older sister being deaf.

"I was taught (sign language) from birth," Barber said. "It was taught to me as a second language."

So far, Barber is enjoying her time at Freeman much more than her previous school.

"I like it," Barber said. "Obviously none of the people are complete and total jerks. Most people have been friendly. While you guys have more serious drama, it doesn't show up as often as it did in Belgrade."

Hopefully Barber, as well as all other new students, continue to enjoy their time here at Freeman, and she continues to sing, paint, and sign.

"I'd say I've adjusted well," Barber said. "I have friends, none of the classes are too hard, and I'm even doing extracurricular activities, which I've never done before. Freeman has been good."



Photo: Liberty Barber
Artwork is one of the hobbies Barber enjoys.

Pylant's standout soccer season leads to scholarship

By Sage Aldendorf
Staff writer

As a kindergartner, Hannah Pylant was the goalkeeper of her very first recreational soccer team, the Sharks. The 5'11" senior is still defending the net to this day.

Being a goalie is a huge amount of responsibility and leadership. They have to constantly read and move to the ball while possessing quick reflexes.

"Knowing I'm the last line of defense definitely comes with some pressure," Pylant said.

The two time WIAA Athlete of the Week has committed to play at Northwest University near Seattle. The Eagles are part of the NAIA sports division and compete in the Cascade Collegiate Conference.

"I recently visited the college and got to sit on the bench with

the team during a soccer game," Pylant said. "I really enjoyed it, I loved the team and the school."

Pylant has been thinking about being a therapist and majoring in psychology. She also admires that NU offers a faith-based education and specializes in that program.

As a dedicated student ath-

lete, Pylant is also qualified to be a participating member of the National Honor Society. She takes pride not only in her performance on the field but in the classroom as well.

"Hannah is a dedicated and very responsible student in the classroom," business teacher Scott Moore said.

Pylant refs soccer for younger kids and also volunteers in youth classes at her church. Pylant believes that playing soccer has taught her many things about taking a leadership role.

"Soccer has helped me grow in confidence by proving to myself what my body is capable of," Pylant said.

Pylant and the Scotties finished at a school record 13-7-1. The team made it to the state championships for the first time, and won their first state game 4-0 over Highland.

After a record breaking season, Pylant is thrilled to start her journey as a NU Eagle. She was ranked 99/500 in the nation for goalkeeper saves and will be playing on her select team throughout the winter preparing for the next level.



Photo: Hannah Pylant
Pylant's goal keeping helped lead the Lady Scotties to the second round of state, a school best.

New math teacher makes an impact on Freeman students

By Landry Hawley
Staff writer

Former math teacher Marty Jessett, who taught here for 4 years, transferred to University High School at the beginning of the school year. Because of this transfer, new math teacher Christa Heiser came in his place.

Before coming to teach here, Heiser was a stay at home mom.

"I have been home with my babies for the past few years, but after

college I was at Central Valley High School for a few years," Heiser explained.

Heiser's classes include Algebra 2, Geometry, and Stats.

"I love it," Heiser said of teaching at Freeman. "It's fun. It's a good mix of small and not small."

Heiser graduated from Eastern Washington University. Like many students, she grew up not having the best time in math.

"I actually hated math all the way throughout high school," Heiser said. "I had an amazing running start teacher that made me realize I didn't hate math, I just hated the way I was taught."

Maybe if you hate math right now, and you're struggling, Heiser can help you change your mind. And who knows? Maybe you'll be inspired to become an amazing math teacher too.



Photo: Landry Hawley
Heiser helps sophomore Brandon Bykerk during class.

Should girls get their own football league?

By Sydney McLean
Staff writer

The history of women's sports is short and very controversial. Though progress has been made in the past 20 or so years, the debate over equal rights in sports has continued to rage throughout America, particularly in the game of football.

It is no secret that the anatomy of male and female bodies are completely different. The female body was created to support another life and survive labor. However, the male body was not, allowing for more muscle fibers to build as well as wider bones and thicker ligaments.

For this reason, the idea of women playing an intensely physical game such as football has made people scoff.

"My apprehension to it is purely from a physical stand-

point," football coach Nate Garner said. "The female frame taking the pounding of a violent sport is something to be concerned about."

Though the reasoning behind the refusal of co-ed football is sound, there is nothing to refute a separate high school league for girls. Like the WNBA, a girl's football league would allow female athletes to compete in the sport they love without the risks of being hit by large masses.

"I could definitely see something like that happening in the future," Garner said.

Obtaining the funding for a high school female football league would be a lot of work. It would require paid coaches, equipment, and enough teams for tournaments, but it could be done. Like any new idea, it would just take time. Getting people to play would be the easy

part.

"It'd be an awesome thing to look into," PE teacher Scott Carolan said. "However, I think that it would take away [athletes] from the soccer and volleyball seasons."

According to Pop Warner, over 2,500 girls play tackle football every year. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, there were more than 1,900 girls who played high school football in 2016. That number has been steadily increasing just in the past two years.

"I think that girls should be able to play if they feel like it," freshman football player Taylor Wells said. "It's more dangerous for them to play with boys, so a female league makes sense."

More and more, we are seeing an increase of interest in female athletics because people's

eyes have been opened to the novel idea that females can compete. A female football league would solve any issues of bodily harm from unequal body masses while allowing equal opportunities for women to play a highly competitive sport.

"As a father, I would totally support my daughter in any athletic ventures that she decided to do, including football," said Garner.

The age of female athletes is here, and there are no reasons to not explore the possibility of a women's football league.

"The game of football is different than any other sport in America," Garner said. "I think we are in the infancy stage of understanding the health risks that it poses, but at the same time I believe that girls need the same opportunity as boys to compete."

Need community service hours? Try one of these!

By Jasmine Seal
Staff writer

15 hours of community service per year, 60 in total, are required of students in order for them to graduate. Many options are available for everyone, but the tricky part can be knowing where to look for something that will suit you. We are nearing the end of the first semester, the halfway point of the year. It's time to get going!

The Spokane Humane Society, an animal shelter, offers volunteer work of different categories, including foster care, the clinic, feline friends, canine crew, outreach, and the front desk. If you're interested, an online application can be filled out at any time. This and more information can be found on their website.

Their volunteer page says, "Humane Society volunteers are integral to our work, focusing on the general care of animals, from feeding and grooming to playing and training."

Within a week, you will be emailed

back a list of training dates. You must be 16 or older and have a parent sign the appropriate paperwork, or have an adult accompany you during your shifts if you are younger. Once you complete your training and buy a \$10 T-shirt, you are free to begin. You can choose to work any hours that best fit your schedule as long as it is during the time the shelter is open to the public.

Librarian Cis Hyndman runs the student crew, which is responsible for setting up Freeman's book fair, decorating, working at the fair, and then closing it down. If your grades are suitable, you may get out of class once a day to run the fair during the 4 days it is held. This counts for about four hours, but it is possible to get permission to show up after school and volunteer more.

"I couldn't do it without the students," Hyndman said.

She has been in charge of the student crew and the book fair for 26 years, completing her 53rd fair in October. She said that the student crew will remain after she retires.

Another place to get hours is volunteering for home game concessions.

"We got an offer for my whole country team to work at concessions," freshmen Liberty Barber said.

Barber did not have a food handling permit, but could still help out by making a food inventory list. One shift lasted two hours and ended at 7 P.M. She recommends working at the concessions stand because it is not difficult and easy to sign up for.

Barber also plans to work as a stagehand during the upcoming Robin Hood play.

"I know that I'll be happy to help because I love theater," Barber said. "While being on stage is fun, the people behind the actors are just as important and fun to be."

You can earn your hours slowly and steadily or sign up to work at big events for hours at a time. If you haven't started, don't panic, but be determined. There is still time to work up community service, and many options are available to you. Good luck!

Mountain bonanza: Spokane-area offers great skiing

By Jiselle Farrow
Staff writer

During the blissful days of a snowy winter, there are many things one can enjoy doing, one of them being skiing or snowboarding down the powder-covered slopes of the mountains.

In the Pacific Northwest, there are a number of ski resorts ranging from Oregon up to Canada, but all have one thing in common, the fact that they provide the thrill of zooming down the runs. In Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, there are four resorts that take the stage light and have good reputations.

Mt. Spokane

Mt. Spokane is only an hour's drive from school,



so out of the four it's the closest. The resort offers free shuttle rides from Lodge 1 and Lodge 2 and back, free parking, free Wi-Fi, a daycare for the little ones, ski check, ski rentals, dining, and lockers.

The mountain has a total of 6 chairs lifts, 52 runs to ski down, a terrain park, 16-night ski runs and a tubing hill. The elevation is 5,889 feet at the summit and 4,200 feet at the base. The resort provides two lodges to get food, and the Vista House at the summit for food and restrooms.

Season passes cost \$529 for a youth (7-17) and \$629 for adults, daily tickets cost from \$22-\$38 for youths and \$22-\$45 for adults, depending time of day.

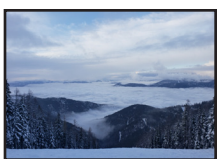
Mt. Spokane has an almost equal number of trails for all skiing abilities, making the mountain entertaining for all levels of skiers and boarders. The resort has two lodges making more room for people coming in to eat

their lunch than some resorts. Spokane has mostly double chair lifts, splitting up larger groups of people over two especially odd numbers. Though it has slower chair lifts, the mountain is opening a new side of the mountain to make new trails and a chair lift.

"I ski on Mount Spokane, it's the closest to drive for me and I like that its family oriented," said fourth grade teacher Tracy Edwards. "There's lots of runs, I enjoy being outside and looking at the beautiful scenery, and how that I can go at my own pace."

Silver Mountain

Silver Mountain is the second closest resort, located in



Kellogg, Idaho, about an hour and 15 minutes away. Resort amenities include an indoor waterpark, condos, dining, child daycare, lockers, shopping, free parking, ski school, Wi-Fi, and ski rentals.

The mountain has a total of 73 runs, a gondola up the mountain, 5 chair lifts, a tubing hill, a moving carpet in the beginner area, a terrain park and 8 runs for night skiing. Silver's elevation is 6,297 feet at Kellogg Peak and 4,100 feet at the base. Silver has one main lodge on the mountain and the village below.

Passes cost \$679 for adults and \$339 for youth. Lift tickets are \$48-\$57 for adults and \$37-\$42 for youths.

"I ski at Silver Mountain most of the time," freshmen Jacob Trevino said. "I really like how that it's more quiet, has great powder, and great runs that I can ski through the trees."

At Silver, you park down in the village and then take a thirty-minute gondola ride up to the mountain. The lifts on

the mountain are moderately fast; chair 4 is the oldest and longest. The trails are centered more towards intermediate and advanced skiers. Like on Wardner Peak, it's only accessible by a hike up to the summit or from a long traverse halfway up.

Lookout Pass

Lookout Pass is the third closest, located on the border



of Idaho and Montana and is about an hour and 40-minute drive. Amenities include free parking, dining, ski rentals, lockers and a free ski school for kids.

Lookout has 4 chair lifts, several terrain parks, and will soon be expanding to double its size. The resort consists of one lodge, half on the Idaho side and the other on the Montana side. It's highest elevation is 5,650 feet and the base is 4,500 feet.

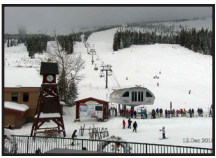
Passes cost of \$379 for adults and \$239 for youths, tickets run \$44-\$47 for adults and \$34-\$35 for youths.

Lookout is the smallest of the mountains so there aren't as many runs as the other three, but because of that, the runs can become more familiar to you. The mountain also receives the most snow in the area, making the runs' powder fields perfect for skiers and snowboarders. The majority of the trails are for the intermediate level, only one trail is for extreme, so it's perfect for moderately experienced skiers. When you park, the lodge and one of the chairs are only a few yards away. The downside is that you have to take a long chair lift ride up to the top to ski anywhere besides the beginner hill.

Schweitzer

Schweitzer is the farthest away, near Sandpoint, Idaho and is about a two-hour drive. The

resort provides a free shuttle service that runs every half hour starting at 7 a.m., premium paid parking, free parking, dining, shopping, rentals, repair shop, lockers and condos.



Schweitzer has 9 chair lifts, 92 runs plus open bowl skiing, 3 terrain parks, twilight skiing and a tubing park. It has a main lodge at the base and the Sky House lodge up on the highest peak. Its highest elevation is 6,400 feet and the base is 3,960 feet.

Passes for adults run from \$649-\$999 (depending on time of purchase), young adults are \$349-\$499, and youths are \$199-\$499. Lift tickets cost from \$69-\$81 and youths from \$40-\$50.

Schweitzer has ski trails for beginners to advanced skiers around the mountain, beginners mostly being near the base of the mountain on the front side and then intermediate and advance spread out higher up the mountain. For beginners, there are three main runs to ski. But if they're up for it, they could go on a few easier intermediate runs.

Pros to the resort would be that they provide a free shuttle up from the lower parts of the village where you are staying, they have several high-speed lifts, a variety of trails to ski and two lodges to eat at with lots of space.

Cons are that the mountain is very popular so there are usually long lift lines, it doesn't have great parking and it has the most expensive tickets.

Regardless of your skiing experience, there are a lot of great slopes in the area where you can enjoy the beauty of the Pacific Northwest's winter.

5 Christmas recipes you have to try (Freeman basketball approved)

By Sydney McLean
Staff writer

Christmas is, by far, one of the best times of the year. It is filled with fuzzy blankets, snow, and most importantly, food! From baking cookies to putting up the Christmas tree, the traditions that we hold dear are celebrated during December. So what better way to spend the holidays then baking some yummy treats with your friends?

The Freeman girls basketball team spent the afternoon together, making special Christmas cookies (first recipe) that we definitely recommend! During this time, we got closer as friends and family. It was an experience that brought out the Christmas spirit in all of us.

"It was yummy," senior Sage Aldendorf said. "Easy and quick to make, too."

Many people have their own baking traditions, and we hope that these recipes can add a little variety to the fun.



All photos: Sydney McLean
Sophomore Ellis Crowley and junior Grace Holt hard at work making Christmas cookies with the team.

Peppermint White Chocolate

Cookies - Genius Kitchen

Ingredients:

½ cup butter (softened)
½ cup sugar
¼ cup light brown sugar
½ teaspoon vanilla
1 egg

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
¼ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 cup of white chocolate chips
(about ½ of a 12 oz. bag)
½ cup of candy cane (crushed)

Directions:

1. Cream butter in bowl until light
2. Gradually add sugars, creaming well until blended
3. Beat in vanilla and egg
4. In a separate bowl, stir together flour, salt, and baking soda
5. Add flour mixture to the butter mixture, blending well
6. Stir in white chocolate chips and crushed candy cane
7. Place tablespoonful onto wax or parchment paper, two inches apart
8. Bake at 375 degrees for about 12 minutes or until golden



Gingerbread Hot Chocolate - Taste of Home

Ingredients:

¼ cup packed brown sugar
¼ cup baking cocoa
1 teaspoon molasses
1-½ teaspoons ground ginger

½ teaspoon ground allspice
Pinch salt
3 cups whole milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Whipped cream

Directions:

1. In a small saucepan, combine the first seven ingredients
2. Gradually add milk
3. Cook and stir over medium heat until heated through
4. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla.
5. Serve with whipped cream



Christmas Nut Mix

Ingredients:

2 egg whites
1 tablespoon water
Large jar of mixed nuts

¾ cup sugar
1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon ground ginger

Directions:

1. Coat mixed nuts with water and egg whites.
2. Toss coated nuts with all other ingredients, then bake at 300 degrees for 20-25 minutes.
3. Cool on wax paper.

Fifteen Days of Giving expresses the true spirit of Christmas

By Ronni Keizer
Staff writer

Students and staff are eager and willing to give back to the community in any season, but especially during the holidays. In so many ways, Freeman helps their local families by donating supplies, volunteering their time, and simply loving one another. During this season, the leadership class has taken initiative to help those in need.

They are putting on the Fifteen Days of Giving which is “An opportunity for people to help those in need during the holiday season,” leadership teacher Scott Moore said.

The Fifteen Days of Giving run the three weeks before Christmas break, and each week is a drive for a different organization. The first week was for the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, and students were asked to bring in diapers, formula, and detergent.

“We have done pretty good this week, considering everything else going on,” Moore said. “Vanessa Behan will be happy with whatever we send them.”

Week two focused on gifts for Blessings Under the Bridge. Students brought in blankets, coats, hats, gloves, and any warm outerwear.

“I think the elementary and middle school did a great job bringing stuff in,” Moore said.

The last week of the Fifteen Days of Giving, students were encouraged to bring in their loose change for the Spokane Guild School.

“We are definitely going to be helping out the Guild School, but we are looking forward to the spring so we can really kick it up

a notch,” Moore said.

The Freeman School District has been putting on the Fifteen Days of Giving for many years and it has become a favorite holiday tradition in the community.

“This was before my time here, and I’ve been doing this for 22 years,” Moore said.

As a whole, Freeman does very well when collecting these items for the organizations and continues to show up and do the right thing.

“We changed this to a district-wide activity a few years ago, and since then it’s really taken off,” Moore said.

When thinking about who this impacts, it’s not just the Greater-Spokane area, but families right here in our school and community.

“Each year we pick charities, and there are definitely Freeman families that have visited these organizations,” Moore said.

There have been similar drives throughout the year, but the leadership class wanted everyone to give it their all this time because of the holiday season.

“It’s just something we should do as human beings,” Moore said. “There are some people in need at no fault of their own, and those who can, should share.”

Senior Elle Clark, a student in the leadership class, feels that holiday cheer can brighten any soul.

“The Fifteen Days of Giving

puts us in the Christmas Spirit of giving instead of getting,” Clark said. “It brings us together to work for the greater good.”



All photos: Ronni Keizer
Above: Senior Elle Clark shows off some of the items that were donated this year.

Thanks to the hard work of the FHS leadership class, Freeman School District spent the 15 days after Thanksgiving focusing on others. Each week, students and staff donated items to benefit the VanessaBehan Crisis Nursery, Blessings Under the Bridge and The Spokane Guild School thanks to all who donated to make a happy holiday for someone else!



Homemade crafts great alternative Christmas presents

By Bailey Swanson
Staff writer

Have you ever been short a gift for someone during Christmas? I know I’ve run out of time to get people presents before. Sometimes you don’t have the time to go to the store, or the money to get people presents! Not having a present for someone can make Christmas awkward, or make you feel bad. Maybe you don’t have money, but have you ever thought about using the things around your house?

Lots of people make nice DIY presents that look like something you would buy at the store. DIY presents are a great alternative because you save money, and you can customize your gifts to fit a person’s traits! I have some of the best DIY Christmas gifts that you can make for your family or friends today!



Artsy Mug

Do you have those friends who just love their coffee or tea? This is the perfect gift for them!

Figure out what you want to draw, if needed you can sketch a design on a piece of paper first. Get a sharpie, preferably a darker color, and draw your design on a white mug (You can pick these up at a local Walmart for about \$13).

Let the ink dry and then bake in the oven at 350° F for 30 minutes.

You’re done! I would recommend hand-washing these though, as in a dishwasher the ink could fade.

Coasters

These could go along great with a matching artsy mug!

There are two ways to do this. You could cut out magazine clippings or family photos to fit a 4” by 4” tile, or you could use a sharpie and draw a design on the coaster!

If photos are being used, glue them down. If drawing, then let the ink dry for a minute.

Put a thick layer of Mod Podge (You can get this at your local craft store) over it and let it dry, this will take about twenty minutes. I recommend doing about three coats of Mod Podge.

Done! You can stack the coasters and tie them with a bow!

Terrarium Kit

Do you have a friend that loves plants? A terrarium will give them the greenery they need during the snowy season!

Get a glass jar. (These can range from mason jars to fish bowls depending on you!)

Put about a half an inch of small rocks or pebbles in the jar.

Put succulent potting soil on top of the rocks, this should be about 1-2 inches deep.

Take about five different types of succulents and gently bury them a little in the dirt. (If you have a prickly plant like a cactus, you can use a paper towel or glove to help.)

Spruce it up a bit by adding small rocks around your plants.

His will give it an outside feel.

You now have a flourishing tabletop terrarium!



Looking for some fun over break? Check out these activities

By Peyton Campbell
Staff writer

If all your friends are going out of town for the holidays, staying home might not sound that bad after you see how much fun you could have. With no more than 30 minutes, you can make some awesome Christmas memories.

In its second year, Ice ribbon in downtown Spokane is a great way to have fun with friends and family of all ages. If you are scared of falling or getting hurt while ice skating you have nothing to worry about. They have helmets you can rent, as well as skates and they have many workers skating around making sure everything is good. I would highly recommend this because it is a great time watching your friends fall.

If you would enjoy something a little less active and would just like to relax, on Lake Coeur D’Alene you and your family could take the Journey to the North Pole Cruise at Coeur d’Alene Lake. Once you reach Santa, he announces all the children’s names. You’ll get to see almost 1.5 million lights on the cruise, and you get to enjoy hot cocoa and seeing some of your favorite holiday charac-



Photo: Pia Longinotti
While you’re doing your Christmas shopping downtown, don’t forget to visit Santa. You’re never too old to give him your list.



Photo: Pia Longinotti
Kids are entertained by a group of carollers and their favorite Christmas characters while they wait their turn to board the cruise to see Santa’s workshop.

ters such as the Grinch and Rudolph. Kids ride free on this calming cruise.

There is one thing you can’t go without over the holidays: visiting Santa! At the Riverfront Park Mall, Santa is anxious to know what you all want for Christmas and to see if you have been naughty or nice. After you see Santa, the mall will have great sales for the holidays, and the reclining seats in the movie theater will be waiting for you to relax.

Spokane has many great attractions and activities that you can do with friends and family members of all ages that will create many fun memories.



Photo: Pia Longinotti
The Davenport hotel is a popular stop to take a break from the festivities and see some beautifully decorated trees.

The legend of Santa takes us to a monk named Nicholas

By Sage Aldendorf
Staff writer

We are all widely familiar with the ‘Jolly Man in Red’ standing in front of big name stores ringing a bell asking for donations. As kids many of us were told Santa would come down the chimney on Christmas Eve to leave us presents and fill our stockings. Little did we know St. Nicholas was actually a real person and dates back all the way to the third century.

St. Nicholas is said to have been born in 280 AD in Patara (modern day Turkey). When he was old enough, he became a monk. A monk is affiliated with Ro-



Photo: Brian L. Bossier Collection, wikimedia.com

married off instead of being sold into slavery. As the word of his generosity spread throughout Europe he became recognized as ‘the pro-

man Catholicism, and they devote their lives to living under vows of obedience, renouncing everything they own to benefit the common good.

Nicholas was always admired for his kindness and devotion to his church and community. He eventually gave away his inherited wealth to people in need and traveled the countryside to help whomever he could. It is known that he was able

to provide three poor sisters with a dowry so they could be

man Catholicism, and they devote their lives to living under vows of obedience, renouncing everything they own to benefit the common good.

During the 1700s, a New York article reported groups of Dutch families gathering to honor the life of Sinter Klaas (Dutch for St. Nicholas). This was the start of Santa in American culture. The American name Santa Clause eventually evolved from Sinter Klaas.

As years passed, Santa was portrayed more often with the image of gifts and a red suit. It wasn’t until 1929 that Robert May published the very first story-poem about everyone’s favorite reindeer Rudolph. The story constantly grew in popularity over the years between advertisements, traditions, and charity: Santa had become a Christmas icon in America.

Christmas traditions make this the best time of the year

By Loryn Wagner
Staff writer

Cue the Christmas Music because Christmas— arguably the best holiday known to man and to ever exist—is just around the corner, and I couldn’t be more excited.

Snow on the ground, candy cane hot chocolate on the stove, presents around the tree, what’s not to love about Christmas? However, Christmas has never just been about the presents, the tree, religious views or the food. For many Christmas Fanatics out there, Christmas is largely based on family.

Much like many families around the world, the special Christmas traditions my family follows during Christmas, such as having my mom’s famous potato casserole, assorted donuts from Krispy Kreme, hot chocolate and coffee, and of course, the gift exchange, make Christmas that much more enjoyable.

“My family and I watch *Elf* the movie and eat grandma’s homemade pies in my living room,” senior Johnny McGuire said about his holiday tradition.

Christmas is math teacher Christa Heiser’s favorite holiday.



Photo: Christa Heiser
The Heiser family victorious in finding the perfect tree.

“We had a lot of traditions when I was little around Christmas, so I think it was my favorite because it was super packed with all the fun things,” Heiser said. “We would go get a Christmas tree from the woods, and we’d always make hot chocolate and bring pop-

corn, which is kind of an odd Christmas snack, but that was our thing, and then we’d make Christmas cookies, and my dad would let me climb on the roof to put up Christmas lights. So I got to do all the dangerous, fun things that I didn’t get to do the rest of the year.”

But of course, you can’t have festive and bright Christmas without the lights and decorations.

Senior Noelle Case said her favorite family tradition is “going to the Coeur d’Alene resort and looking at all the Christmas lights.”

“We always eat hors d’oeuvres on Christmas Eve and open presents,” English teacher Kathryn O’Connor said about what her family does. “Sometimes on Christmas day, we go to a movie.”

When your families expand, your kids get married and have children, Christmas becomes more challenging.

“Now that I’m married, we split Christmas between my husband’s family and my family,” Heiser said. “So there was one a couple years ago, we got to do Christmas with all of my family. Then we drove to his family’s house and in the same day, we did Christmas with all of his family. It was a really special year because my sisters got to come home and his sisters got to come home, and all of our kids were there. It was just this chaotic mass of entertainment. So it was having everyone together, I think it was the best one a few years ago.”

All in all, the memories and special bonds we share together are what really make Christmas special. It’s a time to reflect on your life, what your thankful for, and to spend quality time with your family.



Photo Johnny McGuire
Seniors Johnny McGuire and Sage Aldendorf enjoy some Christmas fun.

5 unusual holiday traditions from around the world

By Loryn Wagner
Staff writer

As Bing Crosby has sung many times, “It’s the most wonderful time of the year,” but what makes this holiday season so wonderful? You could say it’s the beautiful decor that surrounds our homes, the cookies and the feast, or one of the most underrated must-haves: tradition. Every year--whether you know it or not--you follow a tradition. A tradition can range from getting a blue spruce Christmas tree, attending a lantern festival, or just opening presents near the fire. Many cultures have some variation of the Christmas traditions we have and celebrate. Here are 5 unusual holiday traditions from other countries.

5. Cavalcade of Lights: Toronto, Canada



Possibly one of the most beautiful traditions is the Cavalcade of Lights in Toronto, Canada that marks the start to the holiday season. This holiday tradition started in 1967 to show off Toronto’s newly constructed City Hall and Nathan Phillips Square. Today, fireworks fill the air with more than 30,000 energy-efficient LED lights that shine on The Square and their Christmas Tree from dusk until 11 pm until the New Year.



4. Befana the Witch: Italy Doing things differently around our “traditional” holiday, Italy’s tradition doesn’t involve an older man with a white beard, but a witch. Taking place on

the eve of January 5th, an old woman named Befana visits all the children of Italy to fill their stockings with candy and leave them presents if they’ve been good, according to folklore. Just like good ol’ Saint Nick, Befana enters through the chimney and has treats left out by the children who live there – typically wine and local delicacies.

3. Colonel Santa: Japan

Although Christmas is not a national holiday in Japan, friends and families all come together for this festive treat, a feast



of Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC). This tradition started in 1974 when KFC released a festive marketing campaign in Japan saying, “Kurisumasu ni wa kentakkii!” which translates into “Kentucky for Christmas!” Although, not the weirdest tradition, it may be one of the tastiest, and that is why Colonel Santa landed number 3 in my top 5 list.

2. Krampus: Austria

One of the most outlandish and scariest traditions is a beast-like demon creature that roams the city streets frightening kids and punishing bad ones: St. Nicholas’s evil accomplice, Krampus. In this Austrian tradition, St. Nicholas rewards the good little boys and girls, while Krampus is said to capture the naughtiest children and take them away in his sack. In the first week of December, many young men dress up as Krampus (especially on the eve of St. Nicholas Day) frightening kids with bells and clattering chains. This



spooky tradition is why Krampus has earned second place on my top five list.

1. The Poop Log: Catalonia, Spain

Arguably the weirdest and funniest tradition on this list is Tió de Nadal, the Christmas log. Tió de Nadal is made from a hollow log, with sticks, a smile, and a red hat. During the evenings of December 8th through Christmas Eve, children feed the log small treats with water, and leave him under a blanket to keep him warm. However, things get wild on Christmas Eve. According to Holidayextras.co.uk, children have been tasked with beating the log with sticks while singing traditional songs that include lyrics such as “Poop log, Poop nougats, Hazelnuts and mató cheese, if you don’t poop well, I’ll hit you with a stick, Poop log!” After the log has been properly beaten and sung to, the log magically poops out presents and candy. After the children



receive their gifts, the log is considered useless and thrown into the fire for warmth.

Whether or not you’re being scared to death by Krampus or beating logs with a stick, the best tradition for the holidays is spending time with your family.

The top five hottest Christmas gifts for high school

By Kaylie Smith
Staff writer

Have you been having trouble trying to find what you want for Christmas this year? Well, look no more! We have the top five hottest gifts of the season for high schoolers. You can find items that will interest you and make you want them for the holiday season.

Now girls and guys sometimes have very different tastes in what they buy, so we’re going to show you what both would want for the holiday season.

These gifts are sure to satisfy your holiday wants this upcoming season. We hope that we helped point you in the right direction to what you want for Christmas. Make sure you get them on your list before it’s too late to ask Santa!

GIFTS FOR GIRLS

Victrola Bluetooth Suitcase Record Player

This suitcase plays records! You can get records and play them all you want. They’re affordable, and they have great sound quality.



Cost: \$40

Retro/ Indie Sunglasses

These sunglasses come in many different shapes, sizes, and colors. They look good on everyone. Even models are wearing them!

Cost: Around \$100 (depends on the brand)

Lulu Lemon Clothing

These leggings are soft, comfy, and fit just about everyone. They also come in a variety of colors. They’re great for working out in or just wearing around!

Cost: Around \$100(depends on what you buy at the store)

Makeup Palettes

So many palettes have come out this season that it’s hard to keep up with them. For example, the James Charles palette is FABULOUS!

Cost: \$50-100

A Bluetooth Speaker

These speakers have a great sound system, and they’re durable. You can take them anywhere!

Cost: \$90

GIFTS FOR GUYS

A Spike Ball and a net

This includes a net and a ball for tons of fun. Spike Ball is a perfect way to bond with others.



Cost: \$40

Wireless Earbuds

These headphones have extra base. They are also cordless, so you don’t need to spend time unwinding your tangled headphone cords when you should be listening to music!

Cost: \$100-200

A Bluetooth Speaker

These speakers have a great sound system for jamming with your friends, or just rocking out in your room. Plus, they’re built to last.

Cost: \$90

PlayStation 4 Pro

This PlayStation has new and fresh graphics, and lots of storage so you can have as many games as you want.

Cost: \$400

A Nintendo Switch

This gaming system lets you play video games whenever you want. You can take it anywhere, and it’s easy to set up and use.

Cost: \$300

Cat costume safety for this year's holiday!

By Regan Wolfinbarger
Staff writer

The time of year is here once again where snow falls and laughter is heard. That's right, it's Christmas! Perhaps you are one of those people who dress their poor cats in the holiday cheer? If so, here are a few ideas to spruce up your cat to be more festive! Even the grumpiest cats will start to feel the festive vibes.

The classic Ugly Cat Sweater: is there more need to be said? You could take Instagram photos of your cat and yourself in matching ugly sweaters!

Santa Claws: that's right, dressing your cat in a Santa costume. They may look a lot like the Grinch, but trust me, they love Christmas as much as you do.

Now that you've got a costume idea, you need to remember cat safety.

For the costume, make sure it's not too tight or too loose. Both will end badly. Also make sure that the costume doesn't weigh a ton, your cat isn't going into battle. It could restrict the cat and maybe harm them. Be aware of small tears or structural issues with the costume- loose strings may become choking hazards.

Of course, the cat won't like it at first. Most cats will believe that it is restricting their movement (when it's not) and fall over, refusing to move. Cats also don't like things on their head, especially if it squishes their ears or covering their eyes, so be mindful. You have to get the cat used to the costume before the cat will accept it.

Finally, remember to supervise your cats at all times!
Stay safe and have a great holiday.



Photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/elisfanclub/15431295504/>
While your cat might look cute in a sweater, follow a few simple rules to make sure your beloved pet stays safe through the makeover.

HOLIDAY CHEER FOR PETS

Decorations around the house can be health hazards



1 AVOID COMPLETELY

Holly berries, imitation snow, angel hair, and tinsel are best avoided for free-roaming cats and dogs. All four are poisonous or otherwise cause harm to pets that eat them.



2 DOG SWEATERS

Dogs that have light layers of fur can benefit from sweaters and coats. Make sure to measure your pet's neck, chest, and waist before going out and buying a sweater or coat for them. You want it to be snug without being too tight or hindering movement.



3 ARTIFICIALLY COLORED BONES

Avoid getting artificially colored bones for your dog. Brightly colored dog food is designed to appeal to humans, not dogs. Though the most dangerous artificial coloring can't be used anymore, some of those still used in human and pet food has been linked to cancer. Others can make your dog more vulnerable to viral illness.



4 KEEP OUT OF REACH

Keep Christmas tree lights out of your pets' reach. Arrange your more delicate or treasured ornaments higher up on the tree to keep them safe.



5 CHRISTMAS TREES

The needles of real Christmas trees can cause stomach irritation and blockage. The needles of fake Christmas trees can still be chewed on, but pets are less likely to do so. Chemical preservatives on Christmas trees are also dangerous. They leach down into the water bowl at the base of the tree, and pets that drink them will become sick.



6 CONSIDER

Instead of hanging ornaments with metals hooks, consider using string or twine. Alternatives to catnip are honeysuckle and valerian. Time spent with your pet will still mean more to them than any gift you could give them!