



Graphic by Alyson Danielson

VOL. 4 NO. 2: December 2022

Southwestern High School's Student Newspaper

Opening the Doors to the Holiday Spirit



Nate Lewis decorates Mr. Frisbee's room.
Photo by Janmanshi Padhya

By Janmanshi Padhya

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. - When Mr. Frisbee walked into his classroom on Dec. 12, he was flabbergasted. His whole room was covered in wrapping paper. From the walls to individual calculators, everything was cloaked in colorful gift wrap. This decoration was a result of the NHS annual door decoration.

Every year, the students of NHS anonymously decorate school room doors. The staff members then get hints to guess who decorated their room's door. This year the door decor was put up on Friday, Dec. 9 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

See DOOR DECORATING, Page A2

Fall Sports Roundup

By Kira Ricker

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.- The Southwestern Trojans completed phenomenal sports seasons this past fall with athletes participating in football, volleyball, soccer, swimming, cross country and tennis.

See FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP, Page C1



Submitted by Mr. Walters

New Year's Resolutions!

By Audrey DeLong, Kayla Patrick, & Abigail Flagella

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. - As 2022 is coming to an end, 2023 is just around the bend.

Trojan Times staff traveled the school asking teachers and peers: what is your New Year's resolution?

See NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS, Page A3

SWHS Pets Duke It Out For Cutest



Morgan Troutman's dog, Emmy Lou. Submitted by Griffin Bogdanowicz

By Trojan Times Staff

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.- Students and staff submitted their adorable animals to compete for the title of Southwestern's cutest holiday pet. See the charming cats, the delightful dogs, and the great... goats?

See Results, Page E1



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Letter From The Editors

It is our privilege to be your editors for the December 2022 edition of the Trojan Times!

The Trojan Times harbors immense student creativity, which really shows in this edition. From reviews to opinion pieces, you will find some very interesting and holiday-oriented articles. Not to mention submissions from readers of their cute holiday pets!

As an ambitious student group, we want to document life at Southwestern. Moving forward, we will be pursuing photojournalism, personal profiles and feature pieces. So, look forward to future editions of the Trojan Times.

We appreciate all our readers and would like to thank all who helped with the paper or gave interviews. We wish you a merry Christmas!

Your Editors,

Justin Vanstrom & William Dorman



NEWS

Door Decorating

Continued From A1

“The NHS does the door decorations to show appreciation to the staff and bring an air of festivity,” said Mr. Pagett, the co-advisor of NHS.

The tradition has been doing its job, because the excitement for the door decorations amongst both the staff members and the students was noticeable.

“The door decoration gives the staff and the students something to look forward to,” Mrs. Miley said.

The doors are assigned to the students by the advisors of NHS; therefore, there is always an anticipation of finding out whose door everyone has.



“I am looking forward to decorating a teacher’s door and cannot wait to see what other students create,” Julia Meyers said.

The teachers were demanded to leave school exactly by 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9 so that the students could get started on with their door decoration.

Students got their supplies and got started on the door decor on the assigned dates and time. Some students even made use of both the days to implement their ideas according to their desires.

The doors this year turned out to be delightful. Each door had creativity and innovation.

Mrs. Cresanti’s door consisted of countless paper poinsettias with “Merry Christmas” written over them. Ms. Huther’s door was the Huther Express, with railway tracks on the floor.

Check out the efforts of the NHS students for yourself. Get into the festive spirit and walk around the hallways to see the doors before they get torn down for the new year!



NHS student identities protected until the “Big Reveal” on Dec. 21. Submitted photos.



HOLIDAY HISTORY: The Stories Behind Winter Holidays

By William Dorman

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. – There are hundreds of ways that people celebrate the holiday season. From putting up a Christmas tree, to lighting a Menorah, anyone can get into the holiday spirit. Read on to learn about all the different holidays celebrated in wintertime!

Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a Jewish celebration of the reclaiming of Jerusalem in the second century B.C. The festival is eight days and is observed by lighting a menorah, a candelabra with nine branches. The center branch is a special candle and is used to light the others. Each night, an additional candle is lit, until all eight candles are lit on the final night. This year, Hannukah is from Dec. 18 through Dec. 26.



Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is the annual celebration of African American culture from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, ending in a feast called Karamu. Kwanzaa was invented in 1966 to celebrate the pan-African roots of black Americans and is celebrated alongside Christmas. The seven days of Kwanzaa are each dedicated to one of the Nguzo Saba, or Seven Principles of Kwanzaa.



Las Posadas

Las Posadas is a part of the Christmas season practiced in Mexico and Latin America and takes place from Dec. 16 to Dec. 24. This cultural tradition is the most anticipated part of the Christmas season for children, and is marked by parties, processions and candy. Las Posadas brings a sense of community spirit to the people who practice it.



Christmastide

You may know it as the “12 Days of Christmas,” although the traditions of original Christmastide are all but dead in the United States, owing to the popularity and rise of secular (nonreligious) Christmas traditions. The American Santa, on his path to global domination, left Christmastide behind to be relegated to the popular “12 Days of Christmas” song.



There are many, many ways to spend the holidays, each of them more interesting than the last. At the end of the day, though, what matters is that you spend the holidays with loved ones.

New Year's Resolutions!

Continued from page A1:



Mr. Brown: “To appear nice and kinder to the student body.”



Mr. Burkholder: “To get better sleep.”



Mrs. Jayet: “To be calm.”



Cadence Barton: “To work on my mental health.”



Mr. Cashmore: “To volunteer and workout more.”



Mr. Kindberg: “To be more patient.”



Joah: “To become a professional skier.”



Mrs. Nobbs: “To be more kind to everyone.”

Pictures by the Trojan Times staff

WINTER JINGLES:

HS Puts on Annual Holiday Concert

By Angelina Wilder

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.—This year's high school winter concert was on Tuesday, Dec. 13. The choir, band and orchestra all preformed in the concert.

The choir performed six songs with different styles and tempos. The choir program included "Gloria," "Joyful, Joyful Day," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "And Miles To Go Before I Sleep," "Ad Astra" and "Mary Sat A-Rockin'."

"I have two favorites: I really like 'Ad Astra' and I really like the arrangement of 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,'" choir director Ms. Huther expressed. "I want to have different styles, different time periods and maybe even different tempos, so you have variety."

The band performed five pieces this concert. "Each one carries a special meaning," director Mrs. Sigler said. "I chose these songs because there is such a variety of style, and each one derives such different emotional responses."

The pieces played by the band included "The Ukrainian Bell Carol," "Metrodance," "Santa's on His Way," "Clouds That Sail in Heaven" and "Choose Joy."

The high school orchestra played three pieces. These pieces were "Gesú Bambino," "Wizards of Winter" and a Vivaldi piece.

Although Area All-State performances were cancelled this year due to weather, Southwestern had a few students accepted. Julia Meyers (senior), Marley Ohl (junior) and Aly Dalton (junior) were all accepted for choir and Lucy Colburn (junior) was accepted for band.

Congratulations to all of Southwestern's musicians accepted to Area All-State.



Southwestern's musicians who were selected to participate in Area-All State. Pictured left to right: Julia Meyers, Aly Dalton, Lucy Colburn and Marley Ohl.

Photo by Angelina Wilder

FINANCIAL COLUMN

with Southern Chautauqua FCU

Seniors: It's Time to Apply for Scholarships!

By Jessica Quijano-Fuentes

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.—Seniors: have you asked about what financial aid you can get for college?

If not, you should. There are many different kinds of financial aid you can receive. There are **national scholarships and grants**, which are for anyone in the United States. There are **regional scholarships and grants**, which are for anyone in a state or county. You can also find scholarships and grants in credit unions, churches, family employment and social clubs, too. For some scholarships, you can submit applications up until you graduate.

Before you even start applying for grants or scholarships, however, there are other steps you can take to save money. First, make sure that the school you choose offers your degree at the lowest price. Also make sure that you apply for **FAFSA** and **TAP** if you are in New York State. Most likely, you can get more financial aid if you apply early for FAFSA. Also, any student in Chautauqua County can submit an application to the **Chautauqua Regional Community Foundation** (you can submit an application each year you are in college – even graduate school!). This CRCF application opens April 15.

A website that you can use to find more grants and scholarships is **hesc.NY.gov**, which lists financial aid opportunities specifically for students in New York State. Also, if you attend a SUNY school, consider looking into the Excelsior Scholarship. This offers full tuition for students based on family income requirements and the agreement to work in New York State for five years upon graduation.

For national grants and scholarships, you can browse **fastweb.com**. Another way is also through loans in banks and credit unions, but you need to understand their conditions and how they work. Don't forget: even if you don't apply the first year, you can always apply afterwards. Like Mrs. Winchester said, "Apply for anything you think you can qualify for!"

If you have any more questions, stop into the credit union or the counseling office.



OPINION

Season's Greetings? It's Soccer, Oxford Said So

By Dustin Hendrix

The TJ Maxx employee was ordered to greet you with “happy holidays,” and your stubborn uncle will insist on using “Merry Christmas.” How could season’s greetings be such a touchy subject?

According to DeseretNews, there are at least 12 religious holidays and many other celebrations in the United States between Thanksgiving and New Year’s. When December rolls around, American Companies wrap up every holiday into their marketing scheme and label it the “Holiday Season.” This has caused some controversy in recent years and has unfortunately found its way into politics.



Those who celebrate other holidays may grow tired of constantly being wished a “Merry Christmas,” especially those of different religions. It’s hard to not be a part of Christmas, as commercialization has made the Christian holiday part of our identity.

Over the past few decades, many companies have decided to use “happy holidays” to acknowledge other cultures and religions that may celebrate other holidays during the Christmas season.

However, some Christians find “happy holidays” to be offensive as well. By reducing Christmas to another holiday represented by presents and food, many feel the birth of Jesus is an afterthought in our modern world.

If someone is a big enough Scrooge to reject your tidings of goodwill, then so be it. To argue over which to use goes against the values almost every religious holiday. Of course, if you’re worried, maybe don’t go wishing a “Merry Christmas” to someone dressed in traditional Jewish garb or “happy holidays” at Sunday mass.

From our homes to yours, the writers at the Trojan Times wish you a Merry Christmas and happy holidays!



By Justin Vanstrom

Roaring crowds, thunderous cheers and a tricentennial rivalry: U.S.A. vs. England. This was the recipe for an electric atmosphere, one known all too well around the world. United States fans are desperate for a lead. It became clear that it was the U.S. against the world with one chant. The U.S.A fans cried, “It’s called soccer!” The new motto of the West was born.

Although the U.S.A. tied with England in the World Cup, an important question arose: is the sport called soccer or football? Many oppose the term soccer, as it is coined as a term of Western ignorance. “We took the sport,” said Declan Kennedy, a dedicated world cup viewer here at Southwestern. “I may call it soccer around friends, but everywhere else it is football.” Now, the contention between the terms soccer and football is at an all-time high because of the World Cup. In order to settle this, a trip to the past is in order.

Soccer was derived from the medieval game football. Football had two variations: rucker football (rugby) and association football (soccer). Oxford made the clarification between rucker football and association football in the 1880s, shortening the terms to rugby and soccer.

The most interesting fact is that between the 1960s and the 1980s, “Soccer and football were ‘interchangeable’ in Britain,” according to Britannica Encyclopedia. The term “soccer” in England has diminished in popularity, and they have reverted to calling the sport “football.”

Now, England’s previously colonized areas still refer to it as soccer. It isn’t only the U.S.A. that calls it soccer. South Africa, Canada, Australia, Ireland and Pacific countries call it soccer, too. In simpler terms, it was soccer first.

Kennedy was shocked; however, he continues to acknowledge the sport as football, stating that, “The world continues to call it football, but soccer has its own history, just like football.” Kennedy said he realized how interchangeable these terms are.

When it is boiled down to just the facts, each term has its own etymology. The beauty of this niche subject is that we are seeing the development of cultures firsthand, all through the competitive nature of sport. Football is another development in history; however, soccer was first.



Cartoon by Justin Vanstrom



SPORTS

Snowy Slopes Season



By Stella Hren

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.—As skiing and snowboarding season approaches, some head to the slopes to enjoy the fresh powdery snow.

Whether that's at Holiday Valley, where the high school ski club heads to on Fridays, or Peek 'n Peak for the middle school ski club.

Personally, I love skiing at Holiday Valley. I learned two years ago and it's been my go-to activity on snowy days ever since.

It's easy once you learn the basics and before you know it, you're out on the slopes enjoying the cool, fresh air.

While skiing offers an easy and fun start to being on the wintery slopes, many others prefer to try snowboarding instead.

Although I can't really comment on snowboarding, as I don't snowboard myself, according to snowboarders, it is more difficult, but a lot of fun as well.

A former skier, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "Snowboarding is really fun. I can say it was harder than skiing, but it was easier to become more advanced compared to skiing."

Clarissa Hren, an eighth grade student at Southwestern and fellow snowboarder, said, "You should be prepared to spend a lot of time sitting on the ground in the beginning. Snowboarding is really fun, just don't get frustrated!"

Whether you choose to ski or snowboard I hope you have fun on the slopes, learn fun tricks and spray a lot of people with snow!

FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Kira Ricker

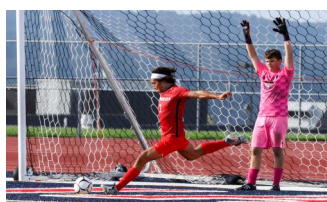
Boys Cross Country:

League Record: 16-0

Overall Record: 32-0

Sectional Champions

State Qualifiers: Nate Lewis, Trey Faulk

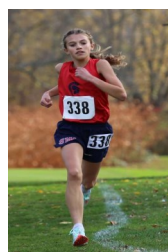


Girls Cross Country:

League Record: 10-5

Overall Record: 21-8

State Qualifiers: Emma Lewis



Girls Varsity Tennis:

League Record: 5-1

Overall Record: 11-3

League Champions



Boys Varsity Football:

League Record: 5-1

Overall Record: 6-3

Co-League Champions



Boys Varsity Soccer:

League Record: 8-2

Overall Record: 14-5

Coach Deering received Coach of the Year

Girls Varsity Soccer:

League Record: 6-6

Overall Record: 9-9

Girls Swim & Dive:

League Record: 6-0

Overall Record: 10-0

League Champions

Girls Volleyball:

League Record: 12-2

Overall Record: 16-3

Photos submitted by Shelly Phillips



REVIEW

FILM: DC's "Black Adam"

By Dustin Hendrix

If you've been hankering for some raw, fast paced action, this movie was made for you. Viewers of "Black Adam" get to enjoy Dwayne the Rock Johnson throw around Royal Marines and bully superheroes for two hours, but somewhere between those fight scenes there's a story of a troubled demigod seeking vengeance.



Teth Adam is the ancient champion-turned antihero of Kahndaq, a Middle Eastern country with a long history of oppression from foreign nations. When he is brought back from a 5,000-year sleep to free his country, Adam becomes unpredictable and extremely violent. In response to his awakening, the Justice Society sends some of their best heroes to defeat Black Adam and restore peace in Kahndaq. Amongst their fighting a much bigger threat arises, one that is looking to take over the entire world.

Like many new action superhero movies, the CGI in "Black Adam" is just too much. It's hard to appreciate the setting of the movie when every landscape is computer generated. Sometimes the CGI seemed upright mediocre and unfinished, especially with the superhero Cyclone and in a scene where the Rock temporarily loses his powers and his muscles.

Dwayne Johnson put up an impressive performance for his first superhero movie, but the bar wasn't set very high in the first place. It's obvious the Rock really practiced his stoic "Black Adam" face in the mirror before he showed up on set, because that's pretty much all he does throughout the movie. The character's quiet seriousness and faulty morals makes for a protagonist that blurs the line between hero and villain, breaking the mold for traditional comic book characters. Despite its shortcomings, "Black Adam" does offer a nice change of pace from current superhero movies.

I'd recommend this movie to anyone following the DC Universe, or anyone who loves to watch Dwayne Johnson at work.

AUTHOR SCORE:



MUSIC: Top Five Christmas Tunes

By Nate Lewis

Whether you are Decking the Halls or Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, here are the top five Christmas songs to listen to this holiday season!

Christmas is a time of joy, and what better way to kick off the Christmas season than to turn on the tunes? There is a ton of debate when it comes to the Christmas top five; however, I know you will agree with these choices.

I decided to run a poll distributed to the high school asking the Trojans' top five songs, and 142 responses were submitted. Due to the overwhelming submissions, my top five were based strongly on the poll results.

#5 "The Christmas Song" (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)

This song was the number one write-in on the poll, so can't be ignored. The lyrics and slow tempo take you to a place of relaxation and joy as you enter the Christmas season. With multiple different artists putting their own swing on the original piece, this song finishes number five on the list.

#4 "All I Want for Christmas Is You"

Even though some people are tired of listening to it, one simply cannot overlook the sheer popularity that this song has had. This song tops the charts with over 248 million streams according to official Charts.com.

#3 "Jingle Bell Rock"

Nothing quite gets you in the Christmas mood like "Jingle Bell Rock." Not to be confused with "Jingle Bells," this song's melodic catchiness gets stuck in your head the moment you hear it. The song says it best: what a bright time, it's the right time, to rock the night away!

#2 "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"

"Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" gets everyone dancing merrily and in that Christmas spirit. The additional urge to sing along lands this song the runner up position on the list.

#1 "It's Beginning To Look a Lot Like Christmas"

No other piece can compete with the feeling you get when you hear this song. Southwestern students and staff voted this the number one song, and I could not agree more. This song can be played from the start of the holiday season right up to the midst of the Christmas chaos, all while filling you with the joy that only Christmas can bring. When the snow starts falling remember this song, rounding out the number one spot on the top five Christmas songs.



Cutest Holiday Pet Contest Results!



1st- PLACE WINNER CUTEST HOLIDAY PET: PUMPKIN

OWNER: Madison Cresanti

AGE: 5 years old

BREED: Nigerian Dwarf

FAVORITE THINGS:

She loves snacking on strawberries, she carries a backpack on walks and munches on the brush we walk by. She also likes to climb up and jump off anything she can get to.

FUN FACT: Pumpkin is a great mom and has two twin boys, Rusty, and Dusty, that she plays with every day.



VIOLET

Owner: Vincent Skaggs



SADIE

Owner: Chris Miller



TOBY

Owner: Mrs. Schrader



Runner Up!

OLLIE

Owner: Mrs. Adams



**RUSTY (above)
HOUDINI (below)**
Owner: Maddy Cresanti



KOVER

Owner: Lillian Cobb



BELLA

Owner: Lynn Linkous-Joy



SKYE

Owner: Lillian Cobb



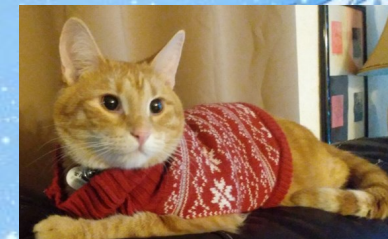
SHADOW

Owner: Rylee Littlefield



SKYLAR

Owner: Lillian Cobb



COOPER

Owner: Sofia Powell



BOO BOO

Owner: Mrs. Adams