

# The Tower

JOHN ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL


**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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## 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

This time last year, The Tower published a piece recapping all of the major sociopolitical events that took place in 2015. From Black Lives Matter to gay marriage, terror attacks in Europe to the 75th anniversary of Adams High School, we looked at moments and decisions that had shaped our year. We admitted that events like the then impending election were daunting and divisive, but reminded our readers that we could all find common ground in the moments that inspired us, the majority of which were creative or cultural in nature.

Flash forward 12 months, and it's hard to say that 2016 was fruitful in bringing people together, at least from a political standpoint. Internationally, we saw nations torn apart by terrorism and the xenophobic rhetoric that ensued. Over the summer, the Brexit referendum was held, with Britain electing to leave the European Union, deepening the divide between the East and the West.

Nationally, we all witnessed one of the most tumultuous elections in our nation's history. Hillary Clinton, the first female presidential candidate nominated by a major party, vying for a position held by men for over 225 years, and Donald Trump, the real estate and TV mogul, both led two exhausting campaigns. Trump prevailed, exciting his Tea Party and alt-right base, along with the millions of middle and working class citizens that rallied around his message. Clinton, who garnered the majority of votes from minority and urban communities, was gracious in her loss; her supporters continue to voice their concern for the next four years, as Trump has not promised much in the way of ameliorating these disenfranchised communities.

In the wake of all of this, 2017 appears a for-

midable year. It is unclear if the world's main powers will continue sliding towards a more nationalistic front, and more uncertain, still, how their citizens will react to these political changes. Because of this, The Tower has chosen instead to focus on the more uplifting aspects of 2016 – our cultural and artistic endeavors.

Sweeping both the award shows and young minds everywhere, "Hamilton: An American Musical" was by far one of the biggest cultural phenomena of the year. The Broadway musical sold out every show, with ticket prices climbing into the thousands. The brainchild of Pulitzer Prize and Genius Grant winner Lin Manuel-Miranda, "Hamilton" effortlessly fused American history and hip-hop, telling the story of immigrant Alexander Hamilton and his rise to power in newly founded America. It reminded all those that saw the show and listened to its album of the tenacity and strength of immigrants, and that America was – and still is – a country of vibrant diversity.

For many seeking shelter from the summer's heat, "Stranger Things" and its cold and damp land of The Upside Down, provided exactly that. With nods to both "Freaks and Geeks" and "E.T.," this Netflix original featured a talented group of young actors tackling radioactive aliens and first crushes. A fan favorite, "Game of Thrones" remained the most critically acclaimed running show, receiving more Emmy nominations than any other – a whopping 23. Donald Glover (known in musical circles by his stage name "Childish Gambino") produced and starred in the up and coming indie series "Atlanta," one of the few shows to feature a primarily minority cast. With a 100% rating on "Rotten Tomatoes," "Atlanta" will be around for the long run.

2016 was equally prolific for the music community. Drake's fourth album, "Views," and its many singles, could be heard on almost every radio station, despite receiving lukewarm reviews from critics. "Life of Pablo," the fragmented and experimental seventh album of the quizzically short tempered Kanye West, was the most pirated album of the year. Chance the Rapper's "Coloring Book" was one of the most

universally acclaimed releases, receiving praise for its fluidity and inventiveness. On a slightly different note, the Nobel Prize in Literature went to Bob Dylan, a musician, extending a certain level of validity to the music industry and its work. Finally, J. Cole released "4 Your Eyez Only" just this month, allowing music lovers everywhere to end 2016 on an even higher note.

Within the Adams community, the success of our extracurriculars could be seen in a variety of ways. Our Mock Trial team did not relinquish its position as the best program in Indiana; placing three teams in the top five places at state, in addition to winning a plethora of outstanding lawyer and witness awards, the program proved itself a force to be reckoned with. "Wall Street Posse" placed first at state, going on to finish 16th at nationals. Adams' bands and show choirs were equally lively this past year; the Show Choir produced two technically challenging and visually stunning performances, and the band exceeded expectations at regional and statewide competitions.

The Tower hosted its second "Tower Rock" talent show competition in November, which highlighted some of the best musical acts at JA, and helped raise much needed funds for the student-run newspaper, which receives none from the school. This year, we added new members to the news family and continued to cover the politics of both our school and city, as well as issues facing the national community.

Darkness is everywhere in our society. We can become bogged down by all of the negativity and suffering in this world; distracted by all that divides us, it can become easy to block out anyone with a dissenting opinion. While politics certainly decide how we all lead our lives, it's equally important to remember why it is that we live. We are driven by our mutual love for the arts and for companionship. Remember all of the art that was created in this past year and our collective appreciation for it – it might be the only thing that gets us through 2017 in one piece.

THE JOHN ADAMS

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*The Tower* is a student-run newspaper publication and a voice for the Adams student body and staff. Letters to the Editor must pertain to Adams lifestyle, student/staff opinions, or local issues. Letters to the Editor must be sent to [slewis@sbcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:slewis@sbcsc.k12.in.us), or submitted physically to room 1831 or mailed to John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyck-  
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Contributors are non-*Tower* reporters.

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## THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FIDEL CASTRO

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Here in the United States, we tend to care more about what is happening in our backyard than in other countries, like Cuba, where the former leftist dictator Fidel Castro died at the age of 90 on November 25. Even if you happened to not know much about the controversial revolutionary leader, a quick Google search can tell you the basics - born and raised in Cuba, Castro was a fierce advocate for reform in the government growing up, and attempted multiple times to overthrow the current government, until 1958, when he successfully became dictator.

He reigned until 2008, when he passed power onto his brother, Raúl Castro. Fidel has been described as charismatic and tenacious in all that he does. And that's just the short version.

Castro was born in 1926 and raised in a relatively wealthy home, although much of Cuba was poverty stricken at the time. Upon entering law school, Castro developed a passion for social justice, anti-imperialism, and socialism. At the age of eighteen he joined an effort to overthrow the country's current dictator at the time, Rafael Trujillo. Although it failed quickly, Castro continued traveling in pursuit of reforming the government. The same year Castro joined an anti-communist group, and pledged to expose corruption in the government.

Fast forward to 1953, when Castro and over 100 others attempted to attack and overthrow the current dictator, and ended up serving two out of the fifteen years he was sentenced in prison. While imprisoned, Castro renamed his group the "26th of July Movement," and upon release continued to plan a revolution. Finally, in 1958, Castro and his supporters overthrew dictator Fulgencio Batista using guerrilla warfare, and began executing and torturing his supporters that remained. Castro became Cuba's President - although his presidency has largely been called a dictatorship - and remained until 2008. Although he denied being a communist, he implemented many communist policies and held dictatorial control over Cuba, executing and imprisoning people thought to be a threat to his regime.

Castro has been commended for his improvements to Cuba's health care and education system. The infant mortality rate under Castro dropped dramatically to 4.3 per 1000 births from 37.3. Services are free and funded by the state - 10 percent of Cuba's GDP is spent on healthcare. The dedication to education is also apparent. Cuba's literacy rate under Castro skyrocketed to 99.8 percent.

Through advancements, Castro also fell into conflict with the United States, at first due to President Eisenhower refusing to meet with him, but later due to Cuba's relations with the Soviet Union. This led to the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis during the Cold War in which the Soviet Union had nuclear armed missiles placed in Cuba, only ninety miles from Florida. The event kept Cuba and the United States in icy relations until President Obama made the historic decision to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba in 2014.

Governing with an iron fist, citizens attempting to escape the dictatorship were imprisoned and often killed. His controversial and divisive nature led to hundreds of assassination attempts. Castro kept state control of the press, and helped support many other Marxist governments in the world, propelling him to the national stage. After the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union in 1991, and the negative impact it had on Cuba's economy, Castro became slightly more relaxed and ushered in Cuba's "Special Period." This involved focusing primarily on environmentalism and anti-globalization. Due to health issues, Castro passed on leadership to his brother Raul Castro, while still holding a strong influence in the government.

Fidel Castro's death sparked a myriad of reactions on every end of the spectrum. Whatever opinion that is held about Castro, one thing is for certain - he made an impact on the world and will remain a revolutionary figure.



# TRUMP TRANSITION UPDATE: THE CABINET

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

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For the past 16 months, the media, the country, and the world have been fixated on Donald Trump, the reality TV star and real estate mogul who unexpectedly entered the race and became a national sensation. On November 8, this man became the President-elect of the United States. Since then, the topic of interest has been Trump's cabinet, or his closest advisors who will counsel him on wide-ranging policy issues and may decide the nation's agenda for the next four years. The following are some of the most important cabinet positions and the people Trump has picked to fill them.

## Chief Strategist

The chief strategist is a relatively new position, and its duties vary with each president. The position is usually not an important one; however, Trump's selection resulted in a national outcry and much controversy. Stephen K. Bannon, former editor of Breitbart News, a conservative media outlet, was chosen by Trump to be chief strategist. He has called his own website the "platform for the alt-right," referring to the fringe of the conservative movement, a group largely populated by self-described white nationalists. Breitbart has been quoted with headlines such as "Renegade Jew," "Women in Tech Suck at Interviews," "Birth Control Makes Women Unattractive and Crazy," and "How Donald Trump Made it Cool to be Gay Again." Many people have expressed outrage at a pick they see as racist, xenophobic, and sexist.

## Secretary of the Treasury

The treasury secretary oversees the Internal Revenue Service, aids in developing the tax code, and carries out sanctions with the United States' enemies. Trump has chosen Steven Mnuchin to fill this role. As a former Goldman Sachs executive, Mnuchin is contradictory to Trump's promise to remove lobbyists and executives from prominent roles in government, or, as he termed it, to "drain the swamp." Mnuchin's policy views are mostly unknown. An avid Trump supporter from the beginning, he has no experience in government. Perhaps this is what Trump meant by "drain the swamp."

## Attorney General

The attorney general heads the U.S. Justice Department and oversees high-level government cases. Trump has selected Jeff Sessions for this position. An Alabama senator for the past 19 years, Sessions was one of the first senators to fully support Trump's campaign. He is a staunch opponent of immigration and drug usage, at one time claiming that "good people don't smoke marijuana." He was denied a federal legal position in 1986 because of allegations of racist comments he made. However, Sessions has prosecuted Ku Klux Klan members and filed to desegregate schools in Alabama. The attorney general is partly responsible for civil rights laws in the country.

## Secretary of Education

The Secretary of Education heads the Department of Education, a federal division aiming to research, design, and implement improved standards in schools across the nation. Betsy DeVos is Trump's choice for this position. A multi-billionaire, DeVos is an ardent supporter of school choice and charter schools. DeVos, the previous chair of the Michigan Republican party, fought for bills that funneled money away from public schools and opposed bills which regulated schools, especially private institutions. It is likely that the Department of Education, a frequent target of budget cuts by the Republicans, will be defunded under the Trump administration. DeVos, based on her previous actions, will pursue charter school initiatives and funnel funding from public schools to do so.

## Secretary of Housing

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) concerns public housing projects, community development, and housing equality. Trump has appointed Ben Carson to fill this position, a 2016 presidential candidate on the Republican ticket. Carson, before being chosen, expressed skepticism of his ability to competently lead a large bureaucracy such as the Department of HUD. However, Trump deemed Carson capable due to his urban background: he grew up in Detroit. Carson believes that a more conservative approach should be taken with regards to public housing, saying that public projects "encourage dependency."

## Secretary of Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security, established after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, was designed to protect Americans from terrorism and threats abroad. John F. Kelly, a retired Marine general, has been chosen to lead the department. Kelly's son, also a Marine, was killed while fighting in Afghanistan. Two of Trump's most famous campaign promises, the construction of a border wall and the deportation of millions of undocumented immigrants, will be the responsibilities of Kelly and the Department of Homeland Security if Trump follows through. Kelly, in the past, has denied human rights abuses at Guantanamo Bay Prison and has been skeptical of allowing women to serve in certain military roles.





## HOLIDAY MOVIES:

*HOME ALONE, NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION, AND ELF*

### OPINION

HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTER

It's finally the most wonderful time of the year- the holiday season. Unless you are part of the very small percentage who doesn't enjoy this cheerful time, then you have probably watched many holiday themed movies. From "Home Alone," to "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," to "Elf," to "The Polar Express," there are holiday themed movies for just about every type of person. Although often corny, these movies are sure to put joy into even the grumpiest of scrooges this holiday season. Revive your Christmas spirit by watching some of these great movies below.

### Home Alone

"Home Alone," arguably the most iconic American Christmas movie, is famous for many things. Not only did it kickstart the infamous Macaulay Culkin's short lived childhood stardom, "Home Alone" also created a national holiday tradition that has stuck with us for over thirty years. The movie, taking place in Chicago documents eight year old Kevin McCallister as he stays home alone (hence the title of the movie) while his family is on a vacation in France. No, his parents didn't neglect him by leaving him home alone. It was simply an accident- little Kevin overslept while the chaos of his enormous family distracted his parents, causing them to forget about their youngest child. The morning Kevin oversleeps he realizes that his family has left him. He makes light of the occasion at first, but then he notices he is being stalked by the neighborhood burglars. While the burglars, Harry and Marv, are plotting to strike on Kevin's house, they do not want what this resourceful, witty, and sly eight-year-old has in store for them. Kevin creates an ingenious plan to strike back at the burglars, for which Harry and Marv are certainly not prepared for.

### National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

If there is one thing "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" is, it's this: sheer holiday comedy. In this comic installment of the National Lampoon's series, the dysfunctional Griswold family attempts go all out one holiday season and eventually discovers the true meaning of Christmas. Despite many other upsetting family vacations, Clark Griswold decides to make it up to his family: wife Ellen, son Rusty, and daughter Audrey, by giving them what he thinks is going to be the best Christmas ever. Things quickly take a turn a for the worst when their enormous tree falls down in their house, shattering through windows. Clark is still determined to give his family best Christmas ever. However, tragedy strikes again when the thousands of lights he sets up around the house blow out. With his family watching, Clark's misfortune seems to keep piling up. His obnoxiously poor mannered cousin-in-law soon drops in, and things continue to go downhill. Regardless of the obstacles they face, the Griswolds still manage to make the most of Christmas by helping their loved ones and remaining positive towards each other. With the help of his family, Clark finds that there is more to Christmas than showing off.

### Elf

As another feat in holiday comedy, "Elf" is sure to please just about anybody with a soul or slight sense of humor. Buddy the Elf realizes his whole life has been a lie when he discovers that he isn't actually an elf. He is over 6 feet tall, cannot make toys, and has grown up far more rapidly than his peers. Buddy is instructed by Papa Elf to leave the North Pole and search for his birth father who is a businessman in New York City. Although he leaves behind his family and friends in the North Pole, he certainly doesn't leave behind his elf persona. He ends up encountering his father, Walter Hobbs, and moving in with Walter and his small family. Sadly, Buddy and Walter have a poor relationship because Walter refuses to believe that Buddy is an elf. Although Buddy begins to feel useless and meaningless, he turns out to help one of his good friends, Santa Claus, by restoring Christmas cheer in all of the non-believers, including his father.



# FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

## OPINION

CASEY CARROLL - COLUMNIST

If you have been wondering why all the Potterheads have congregated in the past week, then I have your answer. On Nov. 18, the “Harry Potter” spinoff, “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” was released. The release caused the new movie “Doctor Strange,” grossing \$17.5 million in the box office, to fall into the second slot while “Fantastic Beasts” took over as number one at \$75 million. This movie has been anticipated for a long time, causing the film to make more money than the rest of the box office top ten combined.

Set 70 years before Harry Potter and his friends arrive at Hogwarts and around the time of the Grindelwald attacks in Europe, the plot follows Newt Scamander, a magizoologist. Scamander, played by Eddie Redmayne, leaves his home in the United Kingdom and travels to America to continue his work of caring for endangered beasts. Unexpectedly, he is sucked into the drama of the wizarding community in America. Scamander, accompanied by ex-Auror Tina Goldstein, her sister, Queenie Goldstein, and a No-Maj (American word for Muggle or non-wizard) named Jacob Kowalski, who came into contact with the Wizarding World after accidentally mistaking Scamander’s magical briefcase for his own, frantically run around New York City to find Scamander’s creatures and the source of the city’s peril before it is too late.

The word ‘amazing’ doesn’t even begin to describe “Fantastic Beasts.” The special effects seen in the scenes with the different beasts and the magic used throughout the film were impeccable. Both much-loved spells and a few characters known in the “Harry Potter” world make appearances or are mentioned throughout the movie. The main character, Newt Scamander, is an extraordinary character that you will instantly fall in love with. His quirky demeanor is adorable, and I recommend not seeing this movie if you aren’t prepared to fall



in love with and obsess over a fictional character. The rest of the characters were interesting, had depth, and left viewers wanting to learn more. “Fantastic Beasts” will be a series of five movies, so be sure to look out for the movies in the years to come.

The movie is based on the textbook “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” by J.K. Rowling, which appears in the Potter books and films as a textbook written by Newt Scamander on the Wizarding World’s many creatures. The film features beasts such as the Bowtruckle, a small, twig-like creature that guards wandwood trees and excels at picking locks; the Thunderbird, a flying beast that can sense danger and create storms as it flies; the Niffler, a long-snouted, burrowing creatures native to Britain with sticky-fingers; the Demiguise, a peaceful, ape-like herbivore with the ability to turn invisible when threatened and see the near-future; the Billywig, a small, vivid sapphire-blue insect with wings on its head which allow it to spin as it flies and delivers stings that cause giddiness and levitation; and Swooping Evil, a large, butterfly-like creature that emerges from a small object. If you are interested in acquiring extensive knowledge on these creatures and the many more the magical world has to offer, then I recommend reading the textbook.

On Nov. 19, J.K. Rowling came out with the original screenplay of the movie, available at most stores, which you should go buy if you want more information on the plot and characters seen throughout the movie. Even if you

haven’t seen or read the “Harry Potter” series, you would enjoy and be amazed by the effects, plot, and characters used throughout the movie.

In conclusion, it doesn’t matter if you’re a Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Slytherin, Gryffindor, or Muggle - seeing “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” is an experience that everyone should have and is definitely worth the money to see in theaters.

*The Tower* is now available online (mobile-friendly). You can now access printed issues from this year, articles that will appear exclusively online, and a contact page for user feedback.

## Interested?

Visit [thetowerja.wixsite.com/thetower](http://thetowerja.wixsite.com/thetower) and let us know what you think!

# THE PEOPLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA DECIDE: MISINFORMATION IN THE 2016 ELECTION

## OPINION

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

This election cycle, more than any other, should have been driven by information. An estimated 78 percent of Americans have at least one social media account, according to the data site Statista, which is an all time high. However, subscriptions to newspapers like The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal have plummeted, signaling that Americans are more likely to learn about current events from sites like Facebook and Twitter than actual news publications.

Scrolling through these sites in the past year, I have come to find that my news feed is saturated with posts by politicians, posts about politicians, articles analyzing these politicians, and, believe it or not, articles analyzing posts that analyze politicians. In public we tend to veer away from conversations about the election for fear of appearing impolite; on the internet, people feel more open and willing to express even the most extreme views, which is perfectly fine until these opinions can no longer be supported by facts. Unfortunately, these posts and the beliefs expressed in them often stretch, bend, or falsify the truth altogether.

On a site such as Twitter, information is much more accessible to users than on other social media platforms. Anyone with a Twitter can tweet, both to the general public and directly at someone, making conversation – and disagreement – flourish frequently. News sites and political figures frequently use Twitter as a way to report breaking news and keep followers in the know with live coverage. This makes it incredibly easy for fake news to spread – one false news story can be tweeted and within a few hours can have several hundred thousand retweets and favorites, reaching an audience in the millions.

This election cycle alone, President-elect Donald Trump tweeted links to or cited several false stories about his opponent or her staff, all of which were shared by thousands of his followers. His son, Donald Trump Jr., shared an article from the website abcnews.com.co (the actual ABC News site is abcnews.com) that claimed Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton was paying off people to protest at Trump rallies. ABC called Trump Jr. out for the false information and he quickly deleted the tweet, but not before it was picked up by several online syndicates.

Perhaps the most misleading example of misinformation are parody accounts – accounts created to pose as the person they are mocking by tweeting satirical versions of their beliefs and opinions. For instance, a fake account for former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani tweeted that Trump had performed poorly in a debate, and Meet the Press actually used it in an interview with the actual Giuliani to call him out on a discrepancy. They later apologized for the gaff, but the effect still remained: if the account could fool NBC, who's to say it hadn't fooled all of its followers as well?

Facebook, the larger culprit for this spread of misinformation, functions on a much more personal level – we choose who is allowed to view what we post, and whether or not we want to see what they are produc-

ing, even going as far as to create private groups, in which only members (who typically all agree on the same platform of issues) share information that seems to both bolster their candidate and party's platform, and tear down their opponent's. At one point this year, two articles involving the Pope were circulating Facebook simultaneously. One claimed that the Pope endorsed Trump, the other, that he condemned him. The former was confined to right-wing pages, while the latter was most popular amongst the liberal forums. Neither grouping of private pages knew that the other article existed because it was being spread behind these privatized walls, and neither had anyone within their groups to point out that they were fake, because no one disagreed with the opinions laid out in the respective articles.

I suppose this is how misinformation grew and altered during this past campaign season. In one of the most divisive elections to date, both sides were looking for facts to prove that their opponent was either a lying fraud or a xenophobic sexual predator. Either way, when an article or a tweet arose that supported that position, they would share and retweet – sometimes without even reading it – to prove that a platform existed that supported their argument. People then believed them because we have an expectation that what we read in the news should be true. In reality, that expectation should only be extended to publications like the New York Times and the Washington Post, who actually hire dozens of editors and fact checkers, not these new, less traditional online sites that seem to be replacing them. Perhaps that's why the newspapers are failing and the election turned out as it did.

## MATCH THESE QUOTES!

### QUOTES

1. "Worrying means you suffer twice."
2. "I'm going to steal the Declaration of Independence."
3. "That's my secret, Captain - I'm always angry."
4. "To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public."
5. "I see you're drinking 1%. Is that 'cause you think you're fat? 'Cause you're not. You could totally be drinking whole if you wanted to."
6. "Why are you the way that you are?"
7. "If I had to have a stripper's name, it would be Equality."
8. "Huge Ackman? That doesn't even sound like a real name."
9. "When you can't make them see the light, make them feel the heat."
10. "I'm a damsel, I'm in distress, I can handle this. Have a nice day."
11. "Sucking the marrow out of life doesn't mean choking on the bone."
12. "What in Megyn Kelly's America are you doing?"

### PEOPLE

- A. Bruce Banner ("The Avengers")
- B. Napoleon Dynamite ("Napoleon Dynamite")
- C. Newt Scamander ("Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them")
- D. Schmidt ("New Girl")
- E. Ronald Reagan
- F. Michael Scott ("The Office")
- G. Mr. John Keating ("Dead Poet's Society")
- H. Ben Gates ("National Treasure")
- I. Leslie Knope ("Parks and Recreation")
- J. Theodore Roosevelt
- K. Meg ("Hercules")
- L. Sir Lancelot ("Night at the Museum 3")

ANSWERS: 1C, 2H, 3A, 4J, 5B, 6F, 7I, 8L, 9E, 10K, 11G, 12D



# RACHEL CASPER AND SPENCER HIGGINS: TOWER ROCK'S THIRD PLACE

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

November's Tower Rock Music Festival proved to be a winning year for show choir students. The vast majority of Tower Rock performers were show choir students, which is a class available by audition that performs throughout the year. For many of them, Tower Rock is a great chance to exercise their creativity and personal music style. "It's nice to utilize our other musical skills and collaborate with each other," Casper said. "This was our first time performing a duet." Higgins agreed. He said, "Tower Rock is the only music festival-type-thing, and we don't have a talent show we have so it's great".

Casper and Higgins had never collaborated before, marking Tower Rock as their first attempt at a musical union. "[Rachel and I] were sharing memes one day, and [she] told me she wanted to perform at Tower Rock this year. She asked me to perform with her and I thought, 'Heck yeah!' said Higgins.

For third place winners senior Spencer Higgins and junior Rachel Casper, Tower Rock was a respectable achievement for the both of them. "We're really proud that we placed this year," said Casper. "Yeah, I think I deserved first, but...", joked Higgins.

Neither Casper or Higgins are strangers to the Tower Rock stage. This was Higgins' second year as MC for Tower Rock. With his inherent charisma and well-timed jokes, Higgins is always a crowd favorite. Last year, Casper performed with a show choir group. When asked to compare last year's Tower Rock to this year, Casper said, "Although the turnout for Tower Rock was smaller this year, it made me less nervous to perform." It was perhaps Casper's calm demeanor that helped the two secure their third place win.

The duo performed two songs during the festival. Their first performance was a witty rendition of the popular 1999 hit, Smash Mouth's "All Star," substituting borderline rap for singing. The song was well-received as a bit of comic relief from the plethora of woeful ballads that were previously performed. "The song is a bit of meme," said Higgins. "As leader of meme club, I wanted to represent."

Their second number incorporated Casper's stunning vocals and Higgins' proficient piano accompaniment. They performed the R&B classic, Alicia Keys' "If I Ain't Got You." The crowd went wild for Casper's flawless pitch and Higgins' fluid piano riffs. "I chose this song because I think my vocal range really works with Alicia Keys' songs and 'If I Ain't Got You' is one of my favorites," said Casper. When asked about participating in Tower Rock again, Casper said, "Yeah, I'll probably perform next year, however I won't be able to find such a gifted accompanist as Spencer." Spencer Higgins will also be releasing a mixtape this winter featuring Vice President of M.E.M.E. club, Bennett Stuver. It will be available via SoundCloud.



## MARY CLAIRE BURNETT: SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTER

The ultimate goal for most high school level athletes is to play the sport they love at the next level; NCAA. While receiving offers from Division 2 or Division 3 schools is quite the achievement, only a few athletes are met with the opportunity to compete at the Division 1 level. One of John Adams high school's very own, Mary Claire Burnett, is among those athletes who have reached that pinnacle of success. Burnett has committed to play soccer and study at Western Michigan University, an NCAA Division 1 school. The Tower reached out to her to learn more about her overall experience with playing the game she loves.

Burnett has been playing soccer for over a decade. She officially began playing club in sixth grade, for the Indiana Invaders and Jr. Irish. From there she went on to play in an elite league in Indianapolis, as well as for the Olympic Development Program state team. Not only is Burnett achieving all of the goals she set out for herself, she is also receiving a scholarship to play the sport she loves. This is not by any means an easy achievement. "To get recruited to play a D1 sport of any kind is very difficult," Burnett said. She explained that contrary to popular belief, most coaches don't just come to you. "I sent hundreds of emails to coaches, made a highlight video of myself, and went to tournaments to be seen by coaches," she said.

WMU, located in Kalamazoo, Michigan, was ultimately her choice because it fulfills all of the aspects she looked for in a college. "It is a D1 state school and not too far from home," Burnett explained. In addition she said, "I love the coach and there is a lot to do around the beautiful campus."

Burnett, however, could not have achieved these goals without her amazing teammates and coaches at Adams. They helped her realize that she "needed to find a team and coaching staff that [she] felt comfortable and confident with." Burnett continued with, "Coach Mac was inspiring and motivating. She helped me believe I can do anything I set my mind to." In addition, she explained how her years of playing for travel teams "literally pays off" when it comes to getting scholarships and playing in college. This is because all of the skills she learned and exposure she had gave her an edge with coaches.

"My advice for any younger players who want to take their game to the next level is to play with all your heart and to lose faith in yourself," said Burnett, who acted as a role model for her teammates. "You have to put the time in off the field to get to where you want to go. Never lose sight of why you love soccer," she said.



# GIRLS SWIMMING

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

John Adams Women's Swimming (JAWS) is unlike many other sports here at Adams - a handful of swimmers have two-a-days, the work the girls put in is unparalleled, and they are truly a close-knit team. Swimming is also, technically, an individual sport, although each swimmer's place factors into whether they win or lose a meet. As assistant coach Lynn Kachmarik says, "Swimming is an individual sport, although we come together as a team... it's exciting to watch them do their personal best."

However, from talking to these girls, you wouldn't think that the sport is mostly individual. Before meets, they spend most of their time talking or grabbing food together. If you talk to the swimmers considered to be the "fastest" on the team, you would not guess that they are the record-breakers of the pool by the way they talk or by the way they interact with the rest of the team. They talk mostly of the team and their happiness at being a part of it.

Stephanie Portolese, a senior captain, went to state her freshman and junior years and has broken multiple records for Adams (200 IM and 100 breaststroke). Instead of talking about

herself, she gushes about "the family" she is a part of and says, "We like to have a good time, but we also are successful and work hard.... It's not about winning, it's about going as far as we can as a team." Junior Kaity Radde describes the team as becoming a more "jointed endeavor" in which swimmers from all ends of the spectrum have come together, and their team of upwards of thirty girls has become stronger for it. Assistant coach Kachmarik says, "They all really care about each other regardless of their ability."

The closeness of the team is apparent from talking to Camille Soenens, a senior foreign exchange student from Belgium. Upon joining, Soenens says, "The team was very welcoming, I directly felt like a member of the "swimming family." Whether a race is going good or bad, JA swimmers can be sure that their teammates will cheer them on no matter what. "I love how we all push each other and whatever you do on your race during a meet, you can be sure that the team will be there to cheer you up," Soenens says. The boys swimming counterpart, JAMS, is even known to attend the girls meets in support; it appears as if all the swimmers at JA are one team, one family.

The amount of work the team puts in is another factor that make JAWS unlike other sports. Along with the two-a-days, the girls push themselves in every practice to become better. "A lot of people don't like to put in the work, but you can tell what you're getting out of it," Radde said. The girls' friendliness may be due to the fact that their

workouts bring them together. Soenens says, "I feel like because the practices are very hard, we all support each other all the time."

As of the week before Thanksgiving break, JAWS has a record of 2-2. With Sectionals in early February, we are sure to see plenty of success for JAWS this season.

# WORLD SERIES

SPENCER DANT - CONTRIBUTOR

History has been made. The Chicago Cubs won their first World Series since 1908, a 108 year drought without victory. As a Cubs fan, I can proudly say that I was able to attend game three of the seven game series. In a time where there is so much negativity in the world, the World Series brought the whole nation together. It was nice to have the break from all the drama and sadness. People couldn't go anywhere without seeing or hearing something about the Cubs, especially being so close to Chicago.

During game six of the NLCS game, my dad and I decided that if the Cubs won, we would go see the World Series. The Cubs ended up winning that game 5-0 but it was still nerve-racking to watch because the Cubs had come so far. As soon as the end of the game was in sight, my dad pulled up his laptop and searched for tickets. He purchased two tickets before the Cubs won because he was optimistic and because they were so far in the lead. As soon as the game was over, we both shot out of our seats and hugged each other because we were going to see history in the making.

On October 28, we arrived at Wrigleyville several hours before the game. There were so many people in Cubs gear that it looked like a sea of blue. People were almost bumping into each other it was so crowded. The screams and shouts of all the die hard Cubs fans made me feel special. My dad and I went into Wrigleyville sports to get some souvenirs for ourselves and others, and people were shoulder to shoulder. Everybody had the same idea that we had. We somehow made it out alive.

Once we were inside and in our seats, we instantly befriended the Cubs fans around us. The whole experience touched all of my senses. I could see all the Cubs fans, hear the fans singing along, smell the stadium food, feel the energy, and taste the ballpark hot dogs. If you have never been to a baseball game, the hot dogs aren't like normal hot dogs. Something is different and makes it a whole lot better. The game was crazy and kept everybody on the edge of their seats the whole time.

The Cubs ended up losing that game 1-0, but it was incredible either way. I got to spend time with my dad who is my best friend; I got to have a once in a lifetime experience; and I got to be a part of history. The Cubs ended up coming back from a 3 game to 1 lead to win the World Series. I will never forget that day for the rest of my life.





# THE HAMILTON MIXTAPE

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's finally here.

Your friends who are fans of the immensely popular "Hamilton: An American Musical" have surely told you about it by now - and possibly even forced an earbud into your ear as they scream about how good it is.

"The Hamilton Mixtape," which came out in its glorious entirety on December 2, topped the iTunes sales chart on its opening night - and the clean version was number nine.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, the musical's creator, appears in a handful of demos and one of the other songs as well, a pleasant surprise for Hamilton fans who didn't expect to hear his familiar voice on the mixtape. Miranda's demos include "Valley Forge," the original, slower version of "Stay Alive," and "Cabinet Battle 3," which covered the hot-button issue of slavery. "Congratulations," "No John Trumbull," and "Dear Theodosia (Reprise)," songs that never evolved past demos, were covered by other artists.

Many of the songs were not new to the ears of Hamilton fans, but they still offered a new taste of the musical that many now know like the back of their hand: favorites like "Dear Theodosia" and "Satisfied" were covered by new voices and big names alike. Even Jimmy Fallon appeared with a humorous rendition of the already-comical "You'll Be Back." Still more of the songs were brand new songs that were simply inspired by the show.

Though a couple of the songs feel rather like hearing a favorite Christmas song and not being able to sing along because the artist got a little bit too carried away in making it their own, the vast majority of the songs on "The Hamilton Mixtape" are refreshing, satisfying, and exquisitely Hamilton-esque. Miranda and his team did an exceptional job in selecting voices that would do their songs justice, and many of the artists that appear were artists that inspired his characters. For example, John Legend, an inspiration for the character and musical style of George Washington, sings a gospel-style rendition of "History Has Its Eyes On You."

Already, the mixtape is expanding. It will soon be available on cassette, true to its name. "The Hamilton Mixtape - Volume Two" is already in the works. In two tweets that were nearly a month apart, he specifically mentioned "Right Hand Man," "One Last Time," "Schuyler Sisters," "The Reynolds Pamphlet," and "Room Where it Happens" as songs that would appear.

If you have a Hamilton fan in your life, "The Hamilton Mixtape" would surely be a perfect holiday gift for them - assuming they haven't already bought it for themselves.

## HOWARD PARK ICE RINK: CLOSED

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

The Howard Park Ice Rink officially closed on May 6, 2016 due to the breakdown of the the 58-year-old refrigeration equipment. This equipment included coolers that kept the ice frozen. According to Matt Esau, the Director of Marketing and Promotion at South Bend Parks and Recreation, the cost to maintain the worn equipment was too much for the city to continue operating and repairing. "It lasted much longer than what was originally expected," said Esau. Now, South Bend is left without an outdoor ice skating venue.

The closing of the outdoor rink has left many members of the community wondering whether or not it will reopen, and scrambling. "So many people have asked if the ice rink is coming back and the answer to that is no - at least not in a very traditional ice rink format," said Esau. "We know that people really desire a skating feature in Howard Park. But how that looks has yet to be determined."

However, the city does have some plans in place for the renovations of the rink and the Park on a whole. These plans fall under a program called Riverfront Parks and Trails. This program is essentially revamping the local parks in the South Bend area. According to Esau, the frameworks for Howard Park that have been presented all have some sort of ice skating feature. "We want it to be something can be useful year-around and is a flexible, pleasing addition to the aesthetics and flow of

the new Howard Park design," said Esau.

The Howard Park Ice Skating Rink clearly means a lot to this community. Adams senior Alexander Sibilica said, "The rink means a lot to me and my girlfriend. Her parents met there back in the day. They both worked there and it has a ton of sentimental value to their family." According to Esau, the parks department has heard a substantial amount of outcry from the public concerning the closing. "We hear a lot from people about the ice rink. Its clearly a valuable community asset for South Bend," said Esau. "The great thing is that it gives people something to do together even in the coldest months. Any time we can help the community come together and enjoy the city, that's a big win for us."

In the meantime, the South Bend Parks and Recreation department is working hard to bring other winter activities to the community this season. In addition to the indoor Compton Ice Arena at Notre Dame, the Parks Department plans on providing an outdoor option as well. "We're looking at creating ice skating opportunities that will be temporary for this winter season," said Esau. "When the weather gets cold enough and stays there, we will be able to do that. We'll be promoting this and providing more info in the near future," continued Esau. South Bend residents area also invited to use the various winter activity facilities in Mishawaka. The city has just opened a free-admission and rental ice rink at University Park Mall. In addition, the popular ice rink at Merrifield Park in Mishawaka will open on December 16. Joe Canarecci, City Councilman at Large in Mishawaka, personally recommends venturing into Mishawaka this season for some winter fun. "This city has a lot to offer and our Parks and Recreation Department has been working hard to provide enjoyable seasonal activities for the Mishawaka and South Bend communities."

For more information on the Howard Park Renovation and the Riverfront Parks and Trails Project please visit:

[www.riverfrontparksandtrails.com](http://www.riverfrontparksandtrails.com)

# TV SHOWS TO BINGE OVER BREAK

## OPINION

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If you prefer to stay in the safety of your warm house over winter break, catching up on all the fantastic television shows offered on Netflix, Hulu, On Demand, and other platforms is a very productive option. If you are like many JA students, sometimes it may be hard to keep up with the TV shows during the school week, so now is the best time to catch up. Here are a few of the critically acclaimed (by actual critics and fellow students) TV shows available for binge watching:

### The Crown

Where: Netflix  
How long: 1 season (10 episodes)

For those who enjoy history mixed with scandal, "The Crown" is for you. "The Crown" tells the story of Princess Elizabeth II (now known as the currently reigning Queen Elizabeth II), beginning with her marriage to Prince Philip, and progressing to when she takes over the throne. Although I will provide no spoilers, this season of one hour long episodes showcases female empowerment as the Queen Elizabeth II controls the British Empire. If you are looking for a good feminist story, this one is both true and inspiring.



### Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life

Where: Netflix  
How Long: Four 90 minute episodes

This highly anticipated Netflix revival continues the mother-daughter story of Lorelai and Rory that ended in 2007 with the original show, "Gilmore Girls." I would advise only fans of the original show (which is also on Netflix if

you would like the backstory or a refresher) to attempt to take on the revival, as it is full of inside jokes and moments from the original show. It follows the girls' lives ten years later, in which both mother and daughter find themselves at a stand still in their lives. These episodes are a great mother-daughter viewing activity for the holidays, or even for the whole family. And fear not! The infamous "last four words" of the revival are truly a cliffhanger for those who enjoy a good plot twist.

### This Is Us

Where: Hulu, currently on TV  
How long: 9 episodes (and counting)

"This Is Us" has been called "fall's most emotionally satisfying series" by critics and it is quite easy to see why. At first glance, "This Is Us" offers a story about three siblings on their 36th birthday- two of them being Caucasian twins, one being an African American boy adopted after their parents' third child (as they were originally triplets) died. This in itself offers plenty of drama, as these three siblings lead separate lives geniusly woven together. Kevin is a television actor desperate to do something with substance. His twin sister Kate is morbidly obese and struggling to make a life change. Their adopted brother Randall is successful and has an amazing family. But he is still missing his real parents, so he tracks down his father. But yes, there is another twist. Throughout the show, a couple is shown, also the same age as the siblings, and are later revealed to be the siblings' parents, at the same age as the siblings are now, going through struggles like their children are. Dispersed throughout every episode are flashbacks from the '80s of their parents, keeping the theme of drama and family constant throughout.

### How to Get Away with Murder

Where: Netflix, Hulu, currently on TV  
How long: 3 seasons

For fans of Shonda Rhimes' "Grey's Anatomy" and "Scandal," HTGAWM continues the trend of intrigue, suspense, and lovable characters. Although the show itself revolves around a murder (or more) a season, it is filled with funny moments and lovable relationships, as well as drama to keep you on the edge of your seat. Follow the lives of a group of students at law school as they are drawn into their teachers' class on How to Get Away with Murder. This class quickly turns into reality when they, as well as their teacher, get involved in a web of unfortunate trouble and danger. Emmy winner

Viola Davis as teacher Annalise Keating shines in this drama guaranteed to keep you up late at night this winter.



### Friends

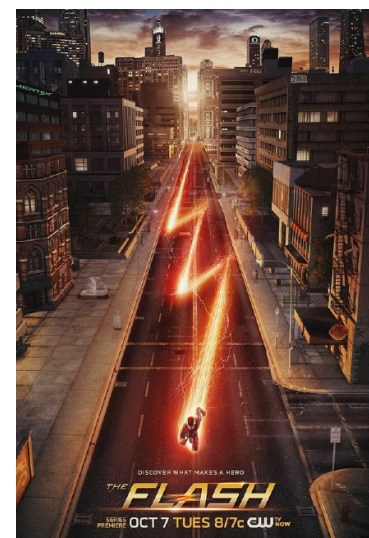
Where: Netflix, reruns on TV  
How long: 10 seasons

If you have not already had the pleasure of catching at least a few of this classic sitcom that has essentially set the tone for almost every sitcom in the 21st century, your next stop over break is certainly "Friends." This hilarious and warm hearted show tells the story of six best friends living in Manhattan that come across laughable and relatable gaffs in their personal lives. With a plethora of fan-favorite moments to choose from, this is the perfect comedy to watch with family and friends over break.

### The Flash

Where: Netflix, Hulu, currently on TV  
How long: 3 seasons (and counting)

For those who enjoy a good superhero origin story, turn to "The Flash," which offers a lighthearted and quick-witted superhero story. "The Flash" has just reached its mid-season hiatus, offering a perfect time to catch up just in time for January. Follow the story of the lesser known Barry Allen (aka the Flash) as he uses his new-found powers to save his city, and along the way falls victim to deception of someone close to him in the first season. The following seasons also offer an intriguing story and fun effects that will keep you entertained over break.





# CIVIL AIR PATROL

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

Here at John Adams High School, the CAP program (Civil Air Patrol) is run by science teacher Daniel Walsh. Students involved in the program work towards promotions by completing online tests, and in return earn military rank and are able to wear the Civil Air Patrol Cadet uniform. In the CAP program, morals consist of leadership, citizenship, volunteering, character development, military discipline, and aerospace education. A daily schedule of a student involved in CAP includes drill and uniform inspection on Monday, Science on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and physical fitness on Friday. By doing CAP, students receive a gym and science credit for their participation.

After completing 18 months of the program, students who enlist in the military are awarded a meritorious advancement from an E1 to an E3 after completion of the boot camp. Also, when students enroll in AFROTC (The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps) in college, they are waived from some Air Force science courses. Walsh said, "I first started the CAP program to provide students with another avenue of aerospace education. However, now it has developed into a unique opportunity for students to learn leadership, and a chance to see what it's like to be in a military environment." Walsh, who received his commission from the U.S. Navy through the Navy ROTC Program at Notre Dame, added, "I wish that I had the opportunity for a similar military leadership program when I was in high school."

Throughout the year, the CAP program is given many opportunities for military experience locally as well. "In the fall we conduct one field trip to Notre Dame," explained Walsh. "Then in the spring we conduct two more field trips: one to the Elkhart Airport and the other to the AirZoo Aviation Museum in Kalamazoo." Along with that, the JA CAP color guard team has been asked to conduct the opening ceremonies for the Notre Dame Hockey Game on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

According to Walsh, the CAP program is an important one. "When I was a Navy JROTC Instructor in Chicago, this program had a significant impact on graduation rates of students. In this school, if one of my students participated

in JROTC for one year, they had a 95 percent probability of graduation," he explained. Students interested in this program must maintain a 2.0 GPA, have a 85 percent attendance rate, and no significant discipline issues. In order to enroll, students must also speak to Mr. Walsh and their Guidance Counselor to complete a basic application as well as making sure it fits into their schedule.

## AM GENERAL'S DONATION TO JAHS

CASEY CARROLL - REPORTER

Mr. Robert Burns and his Introduction to Transportation students would like to give a big thank you to AM General for their generous donation. While discussing the classes he teaches, Mr. Burns mentioned to a fellow teacher, Ms. Jane Matz, that his Introduction to Transportation class, an entry level automotive class, was in need of donations. Being a new class to JA last year, the class had to borrow tools, such as small engines and other automotive related items, from Clay high school's auto shop. These tools allowed the students to have hands-on learning experiences in the automotive field. Last year, the first year the class was offered since JAHS was remodeled and the school's auto shop was closed, the class was small, allowing them to use Clay's supplies. With more than double the students enrolled in Introduction to Transportation this year and having to give back the borrowed automotive supplies, Burns and his students were at an impasse unless they could find donations.

After hearing of the class' need for donations, Matz took it upon herself to reach out to her contact at AM General, a company who designs, engineers, manufactures, supplies, and supports high-quality specialized vehicles for military and commercial customers worldwide, about the possibility of donation. The following Monday, not aware of Ms. Matz's connection to AM General, received an email about a Mr. Matt Crawford inquiring if a Rolling MV-1 Chassis would fit into the classes' needs. The model was the lower half of a 2014 MV-1 and consisted of a frame, engine, transmission, fuel delivery system and exhaust along with related

electronic components attached. The car had been used for factory assembly training of assemblers at the AM General Commercial Plant in Mishawaka, but the plant no longer needed it. AM General announced that the parts could be taken in by a school that has the room for it, which Burns responded to with an ecstatic "YES!" The only rules accompanying the taking in of this equipment were that they needed to use the half of the vehicle for training only and could never sell it. Burns responded: "This would fit the bill perfectly. It's new, clean and very easy to access all of the major components. This could be used for teaching about just about everything from tires, frame suspension, brakes, drivetrain, engine, transmission, exhaust, etc. As for ever selling, there is no worry of that, once it is inside it will never see daylight again."

Finally, after deciding to officially donate to the Introduction to Transportation classes and discussing the measures to see what would have to be done to the donation to get into the shop. Deciding to make the official move on Nov. 20, Burns contacted Louise at Tony's Service Center and Towing in Roseland, IN to ask for his services in moving the chassis free of charge, in which Louise very graciously accepted. The chassis, given the value of \$12,000, now sits in the JAHS wood shop with a designated area for the Introduction to Transportation classes. Napa Auto Parts, a downtown South Bend store, have also donated several automotive parts and components for use in hands-on lab work and JAHS is expecting the delivery of their own automotive tools and equipment, recently purchased from Napa at generous discounts.

In conclusion, Burns stated, "As a former automotive mechanic, diesel mechanic, and classic car enthusiast, I am anxious to get our lab area fully set up and have the students in my classes working and a full vehicle chassis and all of the parts and components from Napa to prepare the students for CTE Automotive at Ivy Tech and possible careers in the automotive industry." Both Mr. Burns and his students would once again like to thank both AM General and Napa Auto Parts for giving them opportunities that were previously unavailable, and may have remained unavailable, in their Introduction to Transportation classes.

# JOHN ADAMS BOYS SWIM TEAM

SYDNEY GRANLUND - REPORTER

Although many swimmers work year round, the John Adams Men's Swim team (JAMS) officially kicked off its season on November 29. The Bremen swim team traveled to Adams and gave the boys their first loss of the season. The boys fell short by a single point with 92 points to Bremen's 93. Two days later on December 1, JA traveled to Saint Joe and swam in another nailbiter of a meet. However, this time the boys were able to come out on top, winning 94-90 and putting their record at 1-1 overall and in the conference. Junior Bernal Cortes said, "It was a big deal because it's been a long time since we've beaten St. Joe." The boys' momentum carried into the weekend as they competed in the Goshen Relays on December 3. JAMS brought home a trophy, coming in second place out of six teams.

With the first week of the season in the books and heading into the second, it seemed as though the boys were unstoppable. On Tuesday, December 6, JAMS beat Marian 119-59 at Adams. The Eagles traveled to New Prairie on Thursday, December 8 and continued their winning streak, beating the Cougars 96-87. This week's results put the team at 2-1 in the NIC and 3-1 overall.

Senior captain Cory Helmuth is happy with how the season is going so far. "Our goal is to score higher than the team has in the past 10 years, and to grow as a team and unit," he said. With plenty of time left in the season, JAMS has a good chance of accomplishing that goal. According to Cortes, the biggest upcoming meet is against Elkhart Memorial on January 17. The meet is at Memorial, but JA would still appreciate people going out to support as the meet is expected to be a close one. Good job so far and keep up the good work, JAMS!



# WHAT TO DO IN SOUTH BEND OVER WINTER BREAK

NIKI HAKIMZADEH - REPORTER

As the weather gets colder, the time we spend outside dwindles and we find ourselves spending more and more time indoors. Many people use winter break as a time to escape the brutally cold South Bend weather and visit warm beaches in Florida and California. If you are stuck in the 574 over winter break, don't worry- there's plenty of activities both indoors and outdoors to try over break.

For those that don't mind the chilling temperatures, it can actually play to your advantage when accompanied with snow. A fun way to stay active when you yearn to stay indoors is sledding and tubing. St. Patrick's Park has many options for staying active in the winter time. They offer inner tubing from 11am to 5pm on weekends, and charge \$3 per person plus a vehicle entry fee. The park also had cross country skiing Wednesday through Sunday, 11am to 4pm. The daily trail fee is \$5 for adults and \$4 for youth 15 and under (\$10 for ski equipment rental).

Another classic winter activity is ice skating. You have the option to go outside or stay indoors. The Compton at the University of Notre Dame has public skating indoors if you prefer the indoors. Although the ice skating rink at Howard Park was removed, if you still prefer skating outside, the University Park mall has opened up a new, free ice skating rink in their parking lot. Now, after you go gift shopping, you can go ice skating with your friends as well!

Downtown South Bend also has lots of fun activities going on throughout the holiday season. You can check their calendar at [www.downtown-southbend.com](http://www.downtown-southbend.com) to check what daily activities they have going on. If you would rather stay inside and away from the cold, there are still some fun options for you too! Sky Zone is an indoor trampoline park in Mishawaka, across the street from Strikes and Spares. Their hours are 4-8pm on Tuesday through Thursday, 12-11pm on Friday, 10-10pm Saturday, and 12-8pm on Sunday. The pricing starts at \$10 for 30 minutes, \$15 for an hour, \$19 for 80 minutes, plus a two dollar fee for "SkySocks" that are required to jump. However, you must have a waiver signed before you can jump if you are under 18, so either bring a parent/guardian with you or go on their website and fill out an online waiver.

Whether you're staying inside or enjoying the snowy weather, you are bound to enjoy your two weeks off of school this winter break.

