



Christmas Cheer is Here

By: Ana Kinkela

Staff Writer

The next holiday near is full of Christmas cheer.

Junior Alex Yarboon and his brother, sophomore Aaron Yarboon agrees they both are excited for Christmas.

“The Christmas holiday is always my favorite, it brings everyone into a festive mood,” Yarboon said.

He believes that the holidays are a good way to have our families together with no worries about work or things outside of what we believe to be important this time of year.

“Christmas is a time for friends and family to unify and cherish each other’s company, so I’m going back to Monroe to spend time with them for break,” said Yarboon.

Yarboon doesn’t believe Christmas to be about getting presents. He thinks it’s about being grateful to be with his family and friends.

With his older brother Andrew in college, his younger brother Aaron in school with him, and his parents working, it is hard sometimes to get a break in to just sit and spend

time together. He takes advantage of this time to do what they can together.

Yarboon believes Christmas to be perfect and wouldn’t change a thing about it. He loves all the traditions like decorating the tree, their house, making cookies and dinner, and waking up early to open their gifts.

“My favorite thing during Christmas is decorating the tree with my parents and brothers,” Yarboon said.

Yarboon wish for this year is to have no distractions and to just being with the people her loves the most for the holidays.

“Holidays are a little crazy since my parents are divorced and we go to three different places for both my parents. But I don’t mind, I like being able to stay busy and have something to do with them,” Yarboon said.

At Yarboon’s moms, they do Greek and polish traditions, along with singing Christmas carols. That is one of Yarboon’s favorite thing to do, along with eating amazing food that is cooked at his dads. “We usually make a big dinner

that includes turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, and padseo—which is broccoli noodles,” Yarboon said.

This is the Yarboon’s first Christmas here, even for Yarboon’s youngest brother Aaron, who is a sophomore, is excited to be celebrating it with his new friends.

“It’s a lot different being in a new place this year for Christmas,” Aaron said. But he’s happy here, they’ve both made some amazing friends and love sporting the Blue Devil spirit.

“I hope Christmas this year is amazing for my family and makes them happy to enjoy each other,” said Aaron, he loves his family just as much as his brother does.

“I want my family to be together this holiday, thankful for another year,” Aaron said. The Yarboon family is very strong and loving, no matter what they’re doing.

“Christmas really will be different thing year, but I believe things happen for a reason and end up leading us where we are supposed to go. So I’m excited this year, to be with my family and new friends.” Yarboon said.

365 Days to Make Up for 356 Days

By: Sydney Black

Staff Writer

Another year being added to the past—2016. Think about it. It’s kind of bizarre how there are so many years behind us and 2016 will soon be one, too. It’s funny to think that who we were in 2016, along with everything that occurred, will all be history in just a matter of days.

2016 was a year full of major events – the presidential election, the leap year, the loss of the beloved cultural icons like Muhammad Ali, Prince, and David Bowie, among many other events. However, as we say goodbye to this year and welcome 2017, here are some important concepts to remember as we ring in the New Year.

New Year, New You

Yes, that’s right – new you. As we bring on 2017, take this as an opportunity to better yourself. Make it a “New Year resolution” to become a better person than you were this year.

Look at all the mistakes you’ve made – how did you learn from them? Think about the good deeds you’ve done—strive to do something better than that.

It’s important to become the person you’ve always wanted to be. Whether it be getting all A’s, or pushing yourself to do good in something, such as perfecting a move for whatever sport you may play, or hitting the right note for your choir class, take this upcoming year as a chance to make a change, not just around you, but within you.

Gain Confidence

Grab some confidence. Tell yourself that

you’re going to do something and then go do it.

Think about everything you’ve ever wanted to do and accomplish it—or at least try. For this arriving year, do your best to not tell yourself that you can’t do something; you won’t even know what you can accomplish until you try.

There are so many things that you haven’t done that you probably wish you should have—well, go do whatever they may be! Take this year, this new start, to gain some confidence and accomplish the goals you didn’t allow yourself to reach, or even maybe new goals.

Being blessed with another year to finally, actually, take part in achieving those goals you always put aside until tomorrow, and then the next day, and then the next.

Brace yourself to get out of that habit of telling yourself that you’ll get to it later, and then never do. This new beginning should be your eye opener to the fact that time is ticking by, so accomplish what you can now.

Good Terms

Throughout 2016 you may have had disputes, drama and all the other events that happen during the teen years. Well, leave it behind, it will do you no good as you start the New Year. When coming into this new year, try and start it up with a fresh start. Going into the New Year with settlements and compromises will allow you to have a better start to your year. Consider this to be a change or perhaps a resolution; being the bigger person so everything stays calm. The point is, why would you start off a new chance in life on bad terms

with anyone? Whether it’s your mom, dad, brother, sister, uncle, or even a friend, you should create peace and go on with your year not in solitude but friendship.

Year of Luck?

If you didn’t know, 2017 is the year of the Fire Rooster, which is known to be lucky. It says in the Chinese zodiac that the year of the rooster will be a powerful one, meaning that there will be no middle of the road when moving forward. The zodiac states that the year of the Rooster will bring fresh challenges requiring quick wit and practical solutions. This year, impressions will count. 2017 will be full of new opportunities, so take them.

Wrapping It Up

As we say goodbye to 2016 and all the events that happened – important or not – remember that with the New Year comes new tasks and opportunities. Live this year better than the last, because it feels good to become better than you were the day before. In one day you could become anything you’ve ever wanted, or do anything you’ve ever wanted. In the span of 24 hours, 2016 will be history and 2017 will be present. With this being the “year of luck”, try and take advantage of it and accomplish goals; and if you don’t have any, use this time to create some. Also, don’t let the rumbles of 2016 keep you from climbing your mountain during 2017. Gain confidence, because you never know how close you are to achieving something. So, now that 365 days are almost done and over with, make the best of these last few weeks and set yourself up for another 365 days. Happy New Year.

RHS Student Pursues Dream of the Military

By: Brendon Jacques
Sports Co-Editor

There's so many different career paths that young adults have to choose from coming out of high school. This varies from going to college, becoming a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer, and so much more.

Senior Eric Raska is taking a path that many people aren't willing to take.

A path that shows so much pride in your country and making sure the rest of us can be free to choose our own.

His path is to become a Guard of the United States Air Force.

Raska said, "It's always been my dream to be in United States Air Force. I'm so excited the dream is finally about to become true."

Raska was raised from a young age that it was very important to understand the meaning of freedom and respecting the people who risk their lives every day to protect his own.

This mindset was taught by his father, Paul Raska, who served a total of 23 years. First in the Army, then Army National Guard, and finally retiring as an Air National Guard after 13 years.

"My dad has been a huge inspiration to me. He has inspired me to follow his footsteps and serve my time in the military," said Raska.

Not only has his dad served in the military, but his older brother Christopher has as well.

Raska said, "I see how the military was able to transform my brother into a mature adult while also helping him with his career. Seeing all the benefits he was able to receive especially in his career shows that it can help me as well."

These benefits for Raska would include the military paying for his college, helping him start a career, giving him many different experiences, and showing him the true meaning of protecting the US.

"I would like to go to Western Michigan University and have a career in mechanical engineering. The Air Force would really help guide me in pursuing that goal," said Raska.

Raska has been talking to a recruiter for almost a year now and knows the steps he must take to join the United States Air Force.

One major step he must take is improving his physical fitness and making sure he's in top shape to reach the requirements to be an active member of the Air Force.

Raska said, "It's always been a struggle for me to stay in shape. But now it's time for me to begin the process of losing weight and reaching the fitness requirements."

To do so, Raska has stayed on a strict diet while exercising five days a week for the last couple months.

"The Air Force requires me to be at a weight of 202 pounds for my

height. My goals is to reach that weight by February first since I'm about 220 pounds right now," said Raska.

Raska still has a long journey ahead, but no obstacle is too far out of his reach.

Eric said, "Nothing will stop me from reaching this lifelong goal. I know that I'm motivated and persistent enough to achieve it."

With that goal in mind, he must take his academic studies into consideration as well.

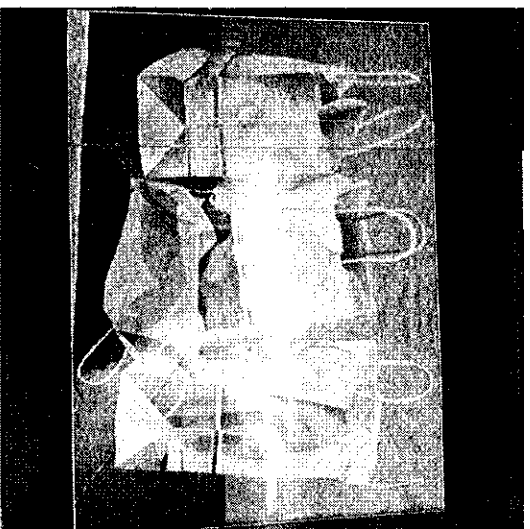
"Before enlisting you must receive a high school diploma and take the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery test," said Raska.

This test consists of four areas critical to the Air Force: arithmetic reasoning, work knowledge, paragraph comprehension, and mathematics knowledge.

Raska said, "This test helps determine whether or not you have the mental aptitude to withstand the demands of the Air Force while also identifying the strengths to determine the careers best suited for you."

So as many people begin to start their journeys towards college and later into their careers, Raska will continue to strive towards his dream of joining the Air Force while conquering his many goals set in place along the way.

SHOW US YOUR STUFF!

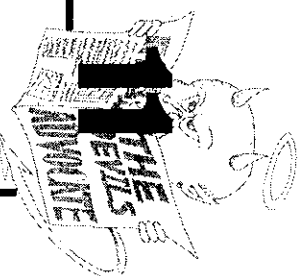


By: Jaret Gil
Senior

By: Bailey White
Senior

By: Jessica Weaver
Junior

Fun and Games



Christmas word search

S S Q B T H S R H C
 N E A O Q M L E P H
 S G I N J I E E I R
 M T N K T Q I D W I
 A Y N I O A G N H S
 G B E E K O H I M T
 P L J T S C C E M M
 F O R X I E O R F A

Christmas	Present
Joy	Reindeer
Elf	Santa
Tree	Cookies
Word	Sleigh

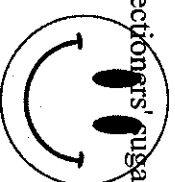
Chocolate Snowballs

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup of softened butter
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 1 large egg
- 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
- 2 cups of all purpose flour
- 1 cup of chocolate chips
- Confectioners sugar

Directions:

-Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, cream butter, sugar and salt until fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Slowly beat in flour. Stir in chocolate chips.
 -Shape dough into 1-in. balls. Bake 15-20 minutes or until set and bottoms are lightly browned. Cool on pans 2 minutes.
 -Roll warm cookies in confectioners' sugar. Cool completely on pan.



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 Yearbook!
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 out to Richmond High
 School!**

Ethan Wyatt



Star Student
of the Month

1. Favorite thing about this school year: *Hanging out with friends*
2. Roll model: *Dad*
3. Favorite teacher: *Mrs. Kapa because she's chill*
4. Favorite after school activity: *Football, track, wrestling*

Madeline Rigole



1. Favorite thing about this school year: *Getting a 1 at marching band*
2. Roll model: *Sister*
3. Favorite teacher: *Rineer because he challenges us*
4. Favorite after school activity: *Band*