

FREEDOM PRESS

One month until Spring Break!

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Photo By: Raymond Arbaje

Joaquim Petegrosso signing his Letter of Intent to play

volleyball at St. Thomas Aquinas College

NEWS

Brazilian Carnival at Freedom!

By: Hendrix Fernandes



Photo by: Renato Puopolo

On February 6th, Freedom High School's Brazilian club hosted an event during both lunch periods to celebrate the coming of Carnival, an important holiday and time of celebration for Brazilians.

The Brazilian Carnival is an annual event that Brazilians cherish as it begins on the day before Ash Wednesday to celebrate the beginning of Lent, an important period of great religious significance. During Carnival, the people of Brazil get to watch beautiful performances and street parades. Colorful and lively outfits and costumes, riveting music, and dancing are on full display, and the whole world gets to see the colorful and glamorous culture of Brazil.

During lunch, people gathered in the courtyard to celebrate. The Brazilian club members handed out masquerade masks that students could display over their eyes to get in the vibe of the celebration. Students gathered around, receiving masks and appreciating Brazilian culture.

Brazilian club often gathers to celebrate and discuss Brazilian culture, as Brazilians make up a significant part of Freedom High School's student body. It's great for many students to share their culture and participate in other cultural events to be more in touch with their peers.

NEWS

MegaCon Excites in Orlando

By: Fernando Molina

Megacon recently happened on February 1st-4th at Orlando Convention Center. Megacon is an event that will allow you to meet one of your favorite authors and just have a fun experience. The event is full of interesting people and fans from all around the world. Of those guests, many dress up in different genres of pop culture characters ranging from movies, tv shows, and video games.

The vendors were selling all sorts of different souvenirs and collectibles from all kinds; posters, jewelry, clothes, swords, action figures and 1:1 replicas of characters. One of the highlights of the event was the Meet and Greets and the signings. They were very down to earth and very friendly. During the event there was a Q&A, with the cast of Back To The Future and The Star Wars that stars Hayden Christensen and Ewan McGregor.

The organizers did a great job of keeping everyone safe and everything organized during the event. There were a lot of security and cops just going around the event, to make sure no one was getting hurt and keeping everything going smoothly, the lines for some events were very well monitored and managed.

The couple downsides was the horrible odor coming from the hundreds of sweaty cosplayers going around the event, and the hour-long lines for the popular events. Overall it was a good experience at MegaCon and I plan on going next year. This event is definitely recommended to anyone who's into pop culture and conventions.

FEATURES

Little Shop Of Horrors Exceeds Expectations

By: Samantha Villanueva



By: Luan Santos

Freedom High School's most recent in-class theater show, Little Shop of Horrors, performed from February 1st to 3rd, truly raised the standard for what a high school theater production can be. The production included all students from Tech and Musical Theatre 2 and up. From the show's technicality to the actors' performance, anyone who doesn't expect much from a high school performance full of teenagers, would certainly have their opinions changed after seeing the show.

Little Shop of Horrors follows a florist assist, Seymour Krelborn, played by Davi Vianna, who stumbles upon a strange plant in hopes that this plant would save the struggling florist store, Mushnik's Flower Shop, run by Mr. Mushnik, played by Matheus Britto. The strange plant, "Audrey 2," played by Sam Galan, is named after Seymour's coworker and crush, Audrey, played by Keira Murray, and is a very demanding plant that requires an unusual diet, which ultimately leads to the demise of the characters.

The entire production was impressive but specific aspects of the show that stood out more than the rest were the technicality of the props and set, the vocal performance from Keira Murray and Sam Galan, and specifically the acting performances from Davi Vianna and Aidan Cox. Both Keira and Sam

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showcased the versatility of their vocal ability when keeping a specific singing style to fit the setting and mood of every song they performed, many people are capable of doing that, but not many can maintain that while doing it consistently. Both Keira and Sam showed off impressive vocal performances, but each specifically had moments where they truly shone. Keira's and Sam's best performances were respectively "Suddenly Seymour" and "Supertime". Davi and Aidan had multiple scenes together, throughout the musical and whenever they did perform together, it was one of the best acting performances of the two. A specific performance with the two actors that stood out from the rest was their performance of "Now (It's Just the Gas)." Even though specific performers were pointed out, it shouldn't discount the talent and hard work of all the performers on stage.

As mentioned before, the technical aspects of the show were all unexpected and raised expectations of what high schools can accomplish. From the set to the costumes not only did both fit the period of time and location of the show, but the costumes also fit the character's aesthetics and the way they present themselves. One of the most impressive costume works was the two quick changes of Aidan Cox's characters in the song "The Meek Shall Inherit," going from Berstein to Luce and then Luce to Snip, each done in about 30 seconds. The set and props were probably the most impressive work the tech crew has ever done. Every technical aspect of the show such as what was mentioned previously, including lights, sound, and stage management, was more than done expertly. It is known that technical theater is capable of setting up impressive sets seen in shows such as Beauty and the Beast and Mamma Mia. Now, it's accurate to say that Little Shop of Horrors can be seen on that standard.

Truly, this production was one of Freedom's best performances yet, from the acting to the set, all of it was incredibly impressive. With all that being said, Little Shop of Horrors deserves a 9.5/10. The next theater production won't be until Grease: The Musical which will be shown from April 11th-13th.

FEATURES

AVID at Freedom High School

By: Ana Traspuesto

AVID is an amazing in-school academic program for grades 7th to 12th. The purpose of AVID is to prepare students for college and to help students stay more organized and on track with their classes. There are 2 AVID teachers at Freedom, Ms. Moody and Ms. Brown. One of the reasons many students choose AVID as their elective is because participating in AVID can boost a student's chances of college admission and help them learn the ropes of college applications.

AVID provides students with the skills needed to achieve good grades as well as social and emotional support to assist students to be able to succeed in school. The AVID program at FHS also requires that students maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. In the class, students are taught Cornell note-taking, time management, study skills, writing and reading skills, and many more. Students also learn about colleges and how to prepare for college admission tests.

There is also an AVID club at Freedom High School where all of the presidents from each AVID class get to meet and talk about future plans. Joining AVID has multiple benefits and provides support for students by being in a smaller class size and by providing more help in students' core classes. AVID helps students apply, prepare, and practice the essential skills they might need after high school. If any student has the willingness and the desire to work for academic success joining AVID will help them meet their goal.

FEATURES

The Spanish National Honor Society

By: Gabriela Umanchuk

One of the biggest clubs on campus, The Spanish National Honor Society started back in 2018. Last year was the 5th anniversary of the club since it started, with a tiny group of about 6 students. Throughout the years it stopped being a club and became a family of students with things in common. Everyone is included in every activity. It's a place full of energy and friendship. Every event has some kind of energy that produces excitement and becomes more like a feeling of something inexplicable, something more than just a school club, something closer and more familiar. It is the place where you would want to make a lot of memories and would never like to erase.

The society started with a group of students that year by year kept growing with every induction and every interest in Spanish culture. Some members of the society gain inspiration to fight for their dreams, they realize that they are not the only ones with the same goals and realize that with the help of each other they can work towards that dream as a family. For example, some of the members wanted to expand their musical skills, become writers, singers, and multiple other hobbies that the society inspired their members to follow or just to not leave them behind. Some of them thought that it wasn't possible to accomplish much of the things that they dreamed about, myself included, but knowing that there are more people out there wanting the same things or similar things as you, gives you the hope that you can actually achieve them because you have a family by your side.

The society is dedicated to do community service in multiple places. Such as "Give Kids the World", and many other organizations dedicated to helping our community. Every little event that the society is involved in, helps our community, which is one of the reasons why this society was built, apart from representing the hispanic culture in our school, which was the first reason why this society was ever invented. Through all these events, members of the society get to know each other event by event, it is almost impossible to not meet somebody new at every opportunity, making a family student by student.

FEATURES

The Excellet Sea Cadet Cafe

By: Jashaliz Rosado

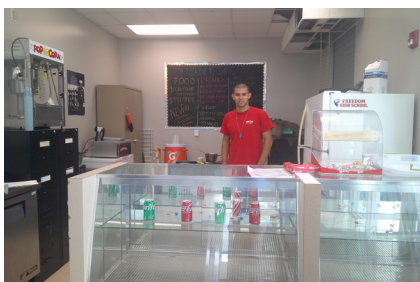


Photo by: Allyra Castillo

Here at Freedom High School, we have the privilege of enjoying a snack at The Sea Cadet Cafe. While at the cafe you can see the cadets provide a great service, making The Sea Cadet Cafe the best place to go for a quick snack at our school.

Located next to the PAC and operating during A and B lunch, The Sea Cadet Cafe menu is just what you need with hot chocolate (2 dollars) to warm you up in the cold weather, a cookie (1 dollar) as a quick snack or coffee (2 dollars) to get you through the day. A lot of students have said that hot chocolate and cookies are the best things on the menu, and I personally agree. The cookies are nice and warm, and the hot chocolate has a great taste.

As I interviewed a ROTC cadet, he shared how it was a fun experience and a great opportunity for them to learn management skills as they put this together. Due to the need of funding, Cadet Rosario came up with the idea of the cafe, which was approved by Principal France, giving us an alternative snack on our lunch break. I believe it was a smart, fun way of coming together to help the program, showing good leadership skills by the cadets, and proving to all of us why the program is so important!

While enjoying a nice warm cookie or some hot chocolate, you can also feel good about it, as 100% of the funds go to supporting the ROTC program. The ROTC program is a program of high importance here at Freedom High School, so I invite all the Patriots to help support the program while indulging in a delightful snack, all for a good cause.

SPORTS

Freedom High School 2023-2024 Boys Basketball

By: Leonardo Cozzo



Photo by: Julian Girona

The 2023-2024 Freedom High School basketball season has officially ended. Our Patriots had a great season. All three teams, including the Varsity team, the JV team, and the Freshman team had a season to remember. The Varsity team, led by Coach Todd O'Neal, had 8 wins and 18 losses. The JV team, led by Coach Rob Caraballo and Coach M, had 8 wins and 8 losses. The Freshman team, led by Coach Ed Moore, had 8 wins and 5 losses. All three teams had the same amount of wins! This shows the competitiveness our school has when it comes to basketball.

The Varsity team had 8 wins! This led them to the district tournaments, or in other words, the playoffs. They qualified in 5th place, and unfortunately lost to Apopka 69-45, ending the 2023-2024 season. In that game, the team was led by Freshmen Luis Guzman and Senior Elijah Perez, both with 9 points. Throughout the season, Senior Malcolm Frisby averaged 12 points per game, which was the team-high!

The JV team ended the season winning 4 consecutive games, which resulted in a 8-8 record. Their game against our local rivals, Cypress Creek, was an amazing win! They won the game 68-65 in overtime. Individually, this game was amazing. Julian Girona and Yadiel Rodriguez both had 13 points, Ledarius May had 19 points, and Alladin Mba had 19 points and 11 rebounds,

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recording a double-double. Throughout the season, the leader of the team, Julian Girona, averaged an impressive 20 points per game.

The Freshman team had the best season out of our three teams. The team ended the season 8-5, with Kaleb Negede averaging 13 points per game and Bernardo De Matos averaging an outstanding 4 blocks per game! Bernardo is a 6'7" feet tall freshman with immense potential. The greatest moment of the season was when our Freshman team beat one of the best schools in the country, Montverde Academy! Another amazing game was our victory against our local rivals Cypress Creek. They beat them 69-51 with an amazing game by Kaleb Negede with 25 points. Dominique Pierre also had a great game with 16 points, 7 rebounds, and 5 blocks!

In conclusion, our school's basketball legacy has continued to grow every year. Looking at our teams from this year, we can just tell that next year will be even better! Now, all we can do is cheer from the sidelines and motivate them to do their best.

SPORTS

The Tennis Spring Season is Upon Us

By: Rodrigo Suarez

One of the most exciting sports in the world, also known as the “white sport”, because of its distinguished dress code; or as its name in French “Courte Paume”. This sport originated way back in the 12th century, in northern France, and was mostly played by monks on special occasions. Forward to the present, our patriot team will be starting their campaign this Wednesday, February 21 against Tohopekaliga High School.

Tennis is a sport played at the best of 3 sets, with some occasions played at the best of 5 sets; being the grand slams (pro tennis biggest tournaments) in these few cases. The sport itself is somewhat atypical for our school since it is one of the few sports; alongside Swimming, that does not have a venue in Freedom High School, forcing them to move to the USTA campus in Lake Nona. Also, something different about this sport is it is played individually or with couples, being couples of the same gender or mixed.

If we have to talk about the team itself, the truth is they have played a perfect couple of seasons the last few years, both boys and girls, for example; the boys ended the campaign with a positive record of 9-4, and 7-5 record on the girls side. For those who do not know, these records are taken according to how many series you win and not how many matches each player wins, usually seven matches are played per series.

For this spring, the players will prepare much better to be able to get a district title, something that has been seen very close to them in recent years.

REVIEWS

Southern Comfort: Zaxby's on John Young Parkway

By: Alexander Camacho



Photo By: Benjamin Cardenas

Zaxby's on John Young Parkway is the go-to spot for delicious Southern-inspired dishes in a welcoming setting. Their crispy chicken fingers, served with tasty dipping sauces, are a crowd favorite, whether you're a local or just passing through and craving some comfort food this place is for you. You'll find affordable prices that match the quality and portion sizes of their tasty Southern-inspired dishes. Zaxby's ensures that everyone can enjoy their delicious Southern-inspired meals without breaking the bank.

When comparing Zaxby's to other chicken places like Raising Cane's, Zaxby's stands out for its diverse menu selection. While Raising Cane's focuses primarily on chicken fingers, Zaxby's offers a wider variety of options including salads, sandwiches, and appetizers. Zaxby's also has a range of flavorful dipping sauces and side choices than other competitors' canes sauce. Zaxby's is a top choice for those seeking more than just chicken fingers.

My visit to Zaxby's was fantastic. The staff was friendly and efficient, ensuring a quick wait time. The restaurant was clean and inviting. As for the food, the chicken tenders were flavorful and cooked to perfection and were much more flavorful than other chicken spots in the Orlando area. Overall, a great experience that left me eager to return and recommend to others. We visited Zaxby's in the late afternoon and found it pretty quiet. But if you're planning to go

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during lunchtime, be prepared for a bit of a wait. It tends to get busy. Still the friendly atmosphere and tasty food make it worth the wait.

Zaxby's earns a solid 4 out of 5 stars for its delicious chicken options, inviting atmosphere, and amazing service. Zaxby's remains a favorite destination for chicken spots in Orlando. I look forward to returning in the future.

REVIEWS

The Princess Diaries Entertains Viewers

By: Elizabeth Robbins

The Princess Diaries is a coming-of-age film about a teenage girl from San Francisco named Mia Thermopolis. Mia is played by Anne Hathaway, and her grandmother, Clarisse, is played by Julie Andrews. The Princess Diaries was directed by Garry Marshall and you can watch it on Disney Plus. It is set in San Francisco in the 2000's.

At the start of the film, Mia is fifteen years old. She goes to high school and seems to have an average life, until one day all of that changes. Her grandmother comes to visit and reveals a secret that will change the course of Mia's life. Mia is the princess of a small country called Genovia, and her grandmother is the queen. Mia has to choose if she wants to follow through and be the princess and eventually the queen, or if she wants to continue with her life as it is. She has to balance the struggles of being in highschool and deciding what she is going to do at the same time.

This is a great movie to watch when you're in the mood for something light-hearted. The actors performed well throughout the movie and made it very enjoyable to watch. This movie is loosely based on The Princess Diaries books, but you don't need to read the book to understand the movie. Many people have to make hard decisions in their lives, just like Mia, so even if the plot itself isn't very relatable, people can still make connections to the overall themes and characters.

I would recommend this movie to anyone. This is a great movie for anyone to watch and enjoy. There are some very funny moments in it, so if you want to laugh I would recommend you watch The Princess Diaries.

REVIEWS

Twilight Breaks the Scale

By: Torry Gonzalez

Bella Swan's (Kristen Stewart) life changes when she moves from Phoenix, Arizona to Forks, Washington. Here, she meets the love of her life, Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) and tells the story of Twilight, which was released on November 21st, 2008.

Twilight takes place in January, 2005 when Bella moves from Phoenix, Arizona to Forks, Washington. Bella is at school when she sees Edward Cullen and falls in love with him at first sight. As time goes on she and Edward meet and start to get closer when she discovers he's a vampire. Bella then has the choice to still love him as he is or to get away from him. In the end she chooses to love him anyway. The actors all do an outstanding job at performing their roles to the fullest. They make everything seem so real and portray lots of emotion into their characters.

The greatest aspect of Twilight is the somewhat dark romance that takes place. Twilight also isn't just a solely romance movie, there's some action packed scenes as well humor to balance out everything. There's also a vintage take on how the voices in the movie sound. With Twilight you can learn that nothing can get in the way of true love through a unique and creative cinematic experience.

Twilight is the movies people would want to watch for nostalgia or for purely the action packed or even for just the plot in. This movie should NOT be watched by kids under the age of ten. Even if you don't like romance, you should give Twilight a chance. All together Twilight Is an amazing movie.

Twilight is 4.5/5 stars.