

THE BARRACUDA NEWS REPORT

The BNR | UCHS | For the Students, By the Students

Sports

It was a great week for Barracuda sports! Varsity boys continued their winning streak as they won their second consecutive game of the season against Challenger with a final score of 72-25. Varsity girls won their first game of the season against Challenger with a final score of 63-12. JV boys continued the great night for UCHS as they also beat Challenger with a score of 48-16. The swim team opened their season with a great meet, taking third place overall with a team score of 109 points. UCHS hopes to continue their winning streak as the varsity and JV boys prepare to play United Faith this Friday in what is expected to be a competitive game. Exciting games are coming up next week against Christ the King for both Varsity teams, as the swim team prepares for their upcoming meet. Go Barracudas! - Trey Warlick

The Reef

Regardless of whether you're a dog-lover or cat-lover, stop by the Humane Society tree and grab an ornament. The items are due back before Christmas break (which is close!!) so take one as soon as you can. On Monday, December 5th, come see the new NHS members' induction ceremony. If the prospect of seeing your dear classmates' achievements doesn't motivate you, then maybe knowing there will be tables of food afterwards will. -Trinity

Christmas is Coming?! Well, After Exams...

Many students might agree that the best way to spread Christmas cheer would be canceling exams for the rest of the year, but this is unfortunately, impossible. Mr. Unverfehrt may have a German name, but that doesn't mean he's in the position of Old St. Nick to grant us what Mr. Willard might refer to as "free lunch" by cancelling final exams. Even though that adage can't be properly cited, because it's been used so many times, your English teacher's lecture about research paper citation is vital to retaining your eardrums in college.

Yes, I said eardrums. Despite the warm weather, I'm nervously shivering at the thought of listening to a deafening tirade from a cantankerous college professor about improper citation. Yes, kids, although this doesn't sound like "Jingle Bells" to your ears, we must prepare for the inevitable exams. Learning is learning and there are no shortcuts. When it comes to being prepared for college, getting a job, and, ultimately, being successful in life, there is no such thing as an overachiever, not even in the form of the nerdy student looking up the essence of nuclear physics at lunch. To answer the question of each tired-eyed, pouty-lipped face, we will be having exams - yet, it won't be long till Christmas break. I mean, without exams, we wouldn't be able to truly understand the contrast of exam week and Christmas break.



Feeding the Fish

Amelia Sisson is one of the seven new National Honor Society inductees who will become members on Monday, December 5th. Amelia, a junior, is active in Debate, Glee Club, and Envirothon, and also served as the manager and assistant coach of the Ladies' tennis team. Amelia is a champion of overcoming adversity, for she underwent her second knee surgery at the beginning of this school year. After dealing with the pain and immobility derived from her osteochondritis dissecans in her knee for years, Amelia was placed on a waiting list for donor bone tissue. With less than a week's notice, she was told a donor had been matched and a second surgery was upon her. Her fantasies of an active school year filled with sports and friends were replaced with the reality of physical therapy, a wheelchair, crutches, knee braces, and limping. Despite the unexpected change, Amelia braved it all with a smile on her face and finally ditched her knee brace for good this past Tuesday! While the outcome of her surgery is still unknown and a more extensive surgery lies in the future, the BNR wants to congratulate Amelia on her perseverance and positivity. In the words of the infamous Dory and the spirit of the UCHS Barracudas, "just keep swimming!" -Carolyn O.

In fact, when you remember the moment during exams when you were about to break your pencil over question 51, in which you had to identify the difference between saturated and unsaturated fats, you can turn on *Elf* and learn about the four main food groups of elves: candy, candy canes, candy corns, and syrup. One student looking forward to an opportunity to relax even said, "I'm not even sure what I'm doing for break, because I just killed all my brain cells in English class. However, I'm probably just going to get some rest and maybe, just maybe, spend time with family."

I guess, in an improperly structured response, I'd say "same?" Anyways, more on appropriately structured responses later in the next English lecture... after Christmas break, thankfully. Whoever you choose to be over break and wherever you go, just remember, you don't have to be a student... until after the break! -Caroline Walker

Suha Speaks- Two Disasters, One Week

Last Monday afternoon, the plane carrying Brazilian soccer players crashed on the way to a tournament. The plane held approximately 81 people, the entire Chapecoense soccer team. A 12-minute-long recording of the pilot relates fuel problems and the experience of "total electrical failure." Moments later the recording stopped, the plane had crashed. This is a tragedy because this team came from decaying slums of Brazil to rise to fame with the support of their whole country. Their dreams were cut short with only 5 surviving to carry on the legacy of the entire team. As our hearts reach out to the team and their families, disaster strikes a little closer to home.

As of now, there are 7 dead and at least 51 in critical condition from the wildfires in Tennessee. There have been more than 700 homes and hundreds of buildings damaged from the fire as well. Reports claim the fires were most likely human-caused. Mayor Gatlinburg, Mike Werner, sent a slightly reassuring message to the citizens and people around the nation saying: "We're going to be okay." \$30,000 was raised within the first two hours of Thursday's American Red Cross Telethon and native celebrity, Dolly Parton, will be donating \$1,000 a month for six months for families with devastated homes.

As students and faculty, we can keep these families of both the crash and the fire in our prayers and help them with our actions. -Suha S.