by Melissa Santos

Opinion Editor

Amod a controversial law, the Sarasota County School Board finds itself faced with an issue concerning the validity of a scholarship aimed to award teachers, not offered. The “Best and Brightest” scholarship, worth up to $6000 and quarantined by the Florida Department of Education, has drawn criticism from educators due to its possible racial and socioeconomic discrepancy within its eligibility requirements.

The scholarship program, which began in 2015, provides a bonus to teachers based on their academic performance prior to teaching. The most prevalent segment of the qualifications is that of the standardized test requirements. In order to be considered a viable candidate, applicants must have achieved a composite score of at least 80th percentile or above the SAT or the ACT based on the National Percentile Rank when in the classroom. The teacher took the assessment. “This requirement is stated within the scholarship applications, much to the disgust of some educators.

Since 2015, the application requirements have undergone some modifications. For one, on 24th, July, the rank will be lowered to the 77th percentile. Potential scholarship applicants also “see” scores from other assessments that requires cognitive ability to qualify as specified in a House of Representatives Bill.

This may seem like a professional solution, but there are still those instructors who have not been eligible in the past years and have therefore lost money that could have been used for classroom materials.

Since some educators choose not to take the SAT or ACT of high school students, this is where discrepancies arise. These teachers who did not take it for lack of resources, meaning that the parents did not have access to the test or even the exam itself. English teacher Dr. Paul Dain is one such individual. “I never took the SAT in high school, but I know that I've taken the [Graduate Record Exam] after I completed college... So, I find it sort of weird that our legislature didn't do more important to give rewards for people who took it in an eleventh grade class, or that of course I would be in the [38th percent] percentile,” Dain said.

Write to us page 2

by Riley Board

Art. Editor-in-Chief

Although they are new to Pine View this year, joint walk-throughs administrative evaluations have already existed around Sarasota County for many years, as a means to improve administrative consistency and improve the teacher evaluation process. Joint walk-throughs, which involves a group of administrators assessing a classroom together in order to calibrate observation methods, have been implemented for the 2017-2018 school year at Pine View and aims to bring a level of consistency into walk-through practices.

“We want to make sure that we’ve focused on the things that really matter at this school, like our strategic goals and how we are getting them,” Assistant Principal of Curriculum Tricia Allen said.

“Students who need to be challenged need access to programs which only schools like Pine View can offer,” Dr. Stephen Covert, principal

PHOTO BY KASUMI WADE

Of the students that partook in the pilot program, 245 met the criteria to get fully evaluated for gifted screening. These students need parental consent before proceeding with a full evaluation. Then, if the student meets the requirements to get in a gifted program after the full evaluation, the student then has to decide whether they want to stay at their designated school, go to a gifted cluster site or attend a school like Pine View.

“Instead of parent/teacher recommendation, a precurser, into the evaluation system, and I do that we become stronger as a team. We're all focused on the things that really matter at this school, like our strategic goals and how we are getting them,” Assistant Principal of Curriculum Tricia Allen said.

The joint-walk throughs are not actually evaluated, and are informal. Therefore, there are not aligned with the evaluation databases at all. Allen said, “They're informal, for the purpose of getting that feedback that we become stronger as a team. We're all focused on the things that really matter at this school, like our strategic goals and how we are getting them.”
Assistant Principals Tara Spielman (far left) and Allison Rini (far right) meet with representatives from various groups on campus to discuss the achievement gap among minorities. Pine View has funded a $12,000 universal gifted screening program for second-graders at both Title I elementary schools in Sarasota County. PHOTOS BY NATHALIE BENCIE

Best & Brightest teacher scholarship faces discrimination claims

Math teacher Josh Michalakajo helps a student with her math work. The Best & Brightest Teacher Scholarship is given to teachers like Michalakajo who performed above the 80th percentile on the SAT or ACT. PHOTO BY KILEEN KINGSLEY

Policy updated to allow students to freely sit in quad after school

by Suzanne Brown

As a nonprofit organization, Young at Harp plans to donate all proceeds from the concert to organizations that provide music education and services to the underserved. PHOTO BY ZACH BRIGHT

Construction to continue into the new year

by Nathalie Bencie

Students participate in charity concert

by Zach Bright

School Board Meeting

by John Schweig

by Sana Rahman

by Zach Bright

Technology Student Association wins first place in competition
TOP: Eleventh-graders Malory Santos (left) and Ellie Bodor (right) make crafts to sell for French Honor Society. 

PHOTOS BY ANNA LABINER

National Spanish Honor Society

This year, according to Vice President and twelfth-grader Sarah Mihm, the Spanish Honor Society has vastly improved its event planning. “Our goal is to have at least one event a month,” Mihm said. “We wanted to make Spanish more recognizable to Pine View students.”

This year, according to Vice President and twelfth-grader Sarah Mihm, the Spanish Honor Society has vastly improved its event planning. “Our goal is to have at least one event a month,” Mihm said. “We wanted to make Spanish more recognizable to Pine View students.”

The club is also attempting to show French and Spanish culture is not only known to those in the upper levels of French, but also to Pine View and has a higher percentage of ESL students, which allows the honor society to reach out to Pine View and have a higher percentage of ESL students. According to Mihm, Schwartz was surprised. “Students came to buy pa de mesas, and I had to tell them it was all gone,” Mihm said.

Learning Spanish culture is not only delicious, but also fun for the Pine View campus. “Last year at Masculino was the focus of a local Mexican bakery, Guerrera’s, and the bread was completely sold out,” Schwartz said. “Students bought all the bread. Students bought bread from the bakery, and I had to tell them it was all gone.” Mihm said.

Learning Spanish culture is not only delicious, but also fun for the Pine View campus. “Last year at Masculino was the focus of a local Mexican bakery, Guerrera’s, and the bread was completely sold out,” Schwartz said. “Students bought all the bread. Students bought bread from the bakery, and I had to tell them it was all gone.” Mihm said.

This year, the members of the Honor Society are active and fervent in all of their efforts. “There are many opportunities to have fun and welcome Spanish speakers of all levels to celebrate Hispanic culture,” Schwartz said.
Serteen continues to promote deaf and hard-of-hearing language and perspective

Club works to support hearing impaired students

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Serteen continues to promote deaf and hard-of-hearing language and perspective
Starting from scratch with a student-made app

by Elizabeth Hopkins

Asst. Match Editor

Recently competing at the annual SRQHacks Hackathon, eighth-grader Bear Mancinni and his team were first place at the event on Oct. 13 to 15, picking the Car- mea Rider App. Mancinni decided that the majority of Pine View par- ents would do this already if they had the ability to schedule rides, clearly requiring all rides to be scheduled. Parents would also have the opportunity to see the latest location in every school in a district and earn points for driving safely and consistently, incentivizing this pro- cess. Drivers can even schedule their rides, and students can view their drivers. "I know from asking around the same school in a group together, there was a large private room, in order to allow group members to discuss and start making things," Mancinni explained. Additionally, a handful of students from across the district attended the hackathon. "They tried to be as helpful as possible, listening, asking questions, "Manci- nni said.

I felt like I was really lucky to be in a team that worked together so well.

Bear Mancinni, Grade 8

The Carma app is designed to alleviate this issue faced by too many students. With Carma, parents as drivers. Parents would also have the opportunity to see the latest location in every school in a district and earn points for driving safely and consistently, incentivizing this process. Drivers can even schedule their rides, and students can view their drivers. "I know from asking around the same school in a group together, there was a large private room, in order to allow group members to discuss and start making things," Mancinni explained. Additionally, a handful of students from across the district attended the hackathon. "They tried to be as helpful as possible, listening, asking questions, "Manci- nni said.

I felt like I was really lucky to be in a team that worked together so well.

Bear Mancinni, Grade 8

Sixth-grader Bear Mancinni (top row third from right) poses with his hackathon team. Mancinni created the Carmela Rider App Oct. 13 to 15 at the SRQHacks Hackathon event at the Ringling College of Art and Design. PHOTO PROVIDED BY BEAR MANCINNI

Virtual Reality

How the brain is tricked

to watch the brain: By simulating two different scenes to both eyes, allowing for a sense of depth

Adding shading and different objects also help create a realistic setting

How the VR world is made

How the virtual world is made of the real world (like gravity)

HMD makes it seem like you are surrounded by using setting/environment by using sensors

Various applications of VR

by businesses, such as real estate to show buyers what houses look like without having to walk inside the house

Used for educational purposes as well

Used in medicine for helping surgeries or as an aid for mental illness

Babbel

by Mackenzie Dynda

Entertainment Editor

Babbel is an application that combines technology and varying learning methods to help anyone conquer a new language. A spe- cific feature of Babbel is that users can create a personal profile and take quizzes to determine what you want to learn. This online quiz contains a variety of different language games, quizzes, and exercises. Babbel currently offers 14 languages, including Spanish, English, Chinese, and French. Babbel has developed the program to make sure that users are learning the material efficiently and effectively. This online quiz contains a variety of different language games, quizzes, and exercises. Babbel currently offers 14 languages, including Spanish, English, Chinese, and French.

Rating: 4.5/5 Torches

Photo provided by Babbel

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Rating: 4.5/5 Torches

[an infographic]

Language Learning Programs

Memrise by Cato Alvare

Sports Editor

In an effort to enhance the teaching of foreign languages, Mem- rise, Language Learning, is an app that educates participants of every- day middle school and high school of different languages. This app helps to teach unique language through various games and quizzes. Memrise takes on a space- themed design and encourages the user to prepare for “naked” with different kinds of music. This is done in order to create a basic frame- work of the language and then build on it. Once entering the lessons, the user will find 10 different languages and their words and English translations. It also gives a random order of the presenta- tion of each foreign word. After scrolling through the flipcards, it quizzes the user, by matching for- mats, to increase how much knowl- edge has been retained. After completing the match- ing portion, Memrise provides clas- ses of native speakers reading the words. Different responses to what the people say are offered at the bottom, and the user must give the appro- priate response. Once this exercise is reviewed, the user is able to audio recording of the foreign word and the user chooses the correct English translation. Once the user gives a correct answer, the app rewards him or her with a number of points, encourag-

By Elizabeth Hopkins
Eighth-grader takes the crown in several pageants

Eighth-grader Madeline Boehm receives the crown for Miss City Beautiful Teen in Orlando. She was inspired by her mother to start competing in beauty pageants.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MADELINE BOETHM

By Noelle Bencie
Staff Writer

Middle-school and teen-pageant
Eighth-grader Madeline Boehm is no stranger to pageantry. Having won both the Miss City Beautiful Teen and Miss Florida Junior High America, the teen-pageant participant has been competing for a year but she demonstrates the same skill as her mother, Maryann, who was former Miss Florida 1991. Originally inspired to don the pageant scene by her mother, who also earned overall act in Miss America 1991, Madeline's start in pageantry came in the form of Maryann's 25-year-teen reunion pageant, an event, in which many attendees encouraged to start pageanting and follow in her mother's footsteps. According to Madeline, her grandmother pushed her toward pageants in order to carry on the title. Madeline is currently preparing to compete nationally at the Miss America Junior High pageant in Orlando, and has already competed in four pageants, Miss City Beautiful Teen 2017, Miss Florida Junior High America 2018, Miss Maruma and Miss Guinavere. In each pageant, she takes part in three categories: the 'Talent,' 'Interview,' and 'Evening Gown.' When competing in the interview portion, she is placed in a room with judges, where she is asked questions about her role model and her strengths and weaknesses. The competitors then have three to four hours to prepare for the fashion portion of the competition. After the interview segment, participants select an outfit that they think would best fit the category of the judge's choice. The final category is the evening gown. Boehm wears her favorite dress for the evening gown portion and has the option to wear the dress for each competition. "My dress is a Prom Queen — and I love it. It is my dream dress," Boehm said. Boehm has already been the title of Miss City Beautiful Outstanding Teen this past October for the Miss Florida Junior High America 2018, walking away with a wise, "The City Pretty pageant is being held in Manhattan,” Madeline answered. An event, which many attendees convinced more successful, "I am an ambassador for the City of Orlando. Now, I represent the people of Florida and all the different cultures that are in this state," Boehm said. Boehm is going to represent Florida in the national competition in Little Rock, Ark., in June. Boehm will be competing against 50 girls in her age group, each representing a different state. With the title of both Miss Florida, her favorite part about competing is the confidence she believes that each girl deserves a crown for herself and being able to wear such an amazing experience. "A majority of my pageant friends tell me from pageant because they are all smart, some amazing personalities, and is talanted and are just really good people," Boehm said. Her pageants are coordinated with the Wesley Chapel High School, Sister's Posse, and some cruises are not offered. Served several times, mostly during pageant season and soft and sweet option, the limited menu features the limited menu. For options: pollo, lengua, carnis, al pastor and carnitas. Boehm said, "I think it is important to carry on the family tradition. I want to go back to the pageantry in high school and carry on the family tradition. Madeline is currently preparing to compete nationally at the Miss America Junior High pageant, and her goal one day is to be Miss America, Boehm said.

Manny's Tacos To Go!
All around it is a great place to get your taco fix. Isabella Stepanek, twelfth-grade, said, "It is a great place to get your taco fix." Tucked away in the parking lot of Nick's Bar, Manny's Tacos To Go! is the unusual place to get your taco fix. The two taco trucks are definitely my favorite. However, the nega...
TOP: Seventh-grader Anika Trout breaks out in her rendition of “Tomorrow.” BOTTOM: Tenth-graders Ella Peavely and Reed Spahn attempt to deceive Gregory Karcz’s Warbucks as Lily and Rooster, their respective characters.

by Naina Chauhan

March Layout Artist

With endless rehearsals three times a week, it is not a “hard-knock life” for Pine View Drama Club members. Taking the challenges with patience and vigor, the club has recreated “Annie,” the classical musical. The show, managed by English teachers Blake and Lori Wiley, opened Dec. 15 and 16.

The audition process, according to Moyer, was an educational challenge with passion and vigor, with great singing, choreography and energy. Blake Wiley said, “It has been stressful trying to juggle directing and college applications, but it’s an experience I love and make new friends in the process.”

“With a mostly middle-school cast and new faces, the Drama Club hopes to present an amazing show to the show we put on.”

“I think most people assume auditioning is the worst and the most nerve-racking thing ever, and in some ways it is, but at the end of the day, it’s about knowing your material and going into the room with confidence.”

Gregory Karcz as Oliver Warbucks

“We rehearse long hours every week, so I get to spend a lot of time with the cast and really grow closer to all of them. It’s great to be able to act and do something I love and make new friends in the process.”

Annika Trout as Annie

“We all support each other. We are one big family. The- ater is my greatest hobby and my safe place, that is what is so incredible about it.”

Isabella Monzon as Miss Agatha Hannigan

“I enjoy the run-throughs the most because the scenes come together and the dance numbers look almost flawless. I also enjoy being backstage during the show and seeing the show and seeing the crowds reaction to the show we put on.”

Joey Chen as Grace Farrell

“We rehearse long hours every week, so I get to spend a lot of time with the cast and really grow closer to all of them. It’s great to be able to act and do something I love and make new friends in the process.”

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Features

The Torch

Asst. Humor Editor

In my life who have impacted me in some of the most important people than I ever had and met extremely fun to be around,” she people; they were full of life and

Dallas. “Texans were my kind of the amount of gratitude shown by had to offer for everyone,” she said. “I realize everything that this country pay for it, but seeing free, quali-

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Many immigrants have traveled long and far to one day come face to face with the multitude of cultures all focusing on the academic opportunity for students around the country, but to understand the world’s educational system of the United States is often seen as the only option.

When it comes to sending their family to shift to the United States, Laowatdhanasapya’s life took a major turn when he and his family moved to Sarasota, Florida after he was receiving a quality education in Thailand for years, Laowatdhanasapya said. As a result, Laowatdhanasapya acknowledged that there are many resources for students in the United States, each student must buy their own supplies, “he said. Additionally, Laowatdhanasapya said. “In Russia, you always know what you want to know, so you sometimes end up unaware of what you will be doing in the future.”

Regarding the social environment in the United States, according to Laowatdhanasapya, less time given for social interaction in America than in Thailand. “In America, people can just start a conversation. You just have to be a regular person,” he said. “I like the United States, and I’m happy that I’m here.”

Overall, Laowatdhanasapya said that America is a good place to live, but his family is a little bit challenged. “He did not come to America, Grodskii believes that he has learned a lot in America. “I was still in Russia, I would go to school, get through college and get a regular job.” He wouldn’t have nearly as many options if he didn’t come here. People about moving here, it would be that it is somewhat easy. People always think that coming here is so hard, but it isn’t really.”

Another difference Grodskii noticed is that Americans have some privileges that Russians do not. “In America, people can just start a business or speak against the government, but you can’t do that in Russia. You just have to be a regular guy,” he said.

Grodskii believes that his family plans to stay in America. “I’ll stay in America. I can’t go back to Russia. I have no other place to go.” He said. “I like the United States, and I’m happy that I’m here.”

During his time in the United States, Grodskii has experienced many different differences between Russia and the United States. “In Russia, you can’t choose what you want to study. You have to do what you’re supposed to do, and you are always seeing each other because of more enforced regulations. “In Russia, you come out of school having a little bit of everything. That way, you can always know that you will be ready for college and whatever you want to do,” he said. “In the United States, you only know what you want to know, so you sometimes end up unaware of what you will be doing in the future.”

Additionally, Grodskii noticed the significant difference in the enrollment of schools between the two countries. “In Russia, you have about 30 people in your grade, and you are always seeing each other or because the school is so small. “The whole school is one or two buildings,” he said.

On top of his time in the United States, Grodskii has experienced many different differences between Russia and the United States. “In Russia, you have less opportunities to get into a college in the United States, everything revolves around the school,” he said. “In Russia, you come out of school having a little bit of everything. That way, you can always know that you will be ready for college and whatever you want to do,” he said. “In the United States, you only know what you want to know, so you sometimes end up unaware of what you will be doing in the future.”

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Eleventh-grader wins Cross Country State Championships

By Kasumi Wade

First to cross the finish line Nov. 11 at the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) Cross Country State Finals, eleventh-grader Ben Hartvigsen took home the gold. Hartvigsen competed in the 4A division for Sarasota High School at Apalachee Regional Park in Tallahassee, Fla. While this was Hartvigsen’s first time winning a high school race, it was his first time winning a major title such as state champion.

Inspired by his father, a successful race runner who has competed in many marathons, Hartvigsen began running earlier by running local 5K road races in elementary school. In middle school, he ran for Pine View’s middle-school track team. He then moved on to run for the Sarasota High School Cross Country and Track team; he followed those clients in high school. Hartvigsen’s latest addition to that was running in the snow.

Over the summer going into tenth grade, Hartvigsen decided to put serious attention into his running career and dedicated a lot of time and effort into becoming a better race runner. Since then, Hartvigsen has added new races such as half marathons, 10Ks, and 15Ks. Hartvigsen has several races, including distance and regional. “Districts was the first high school cross country race I ever won. Winning it, as well as the regional, was very rewarding. It was also a good start for states,” Hartvigsen said.

Hartvigsen started training for states this past summer by putting a lot of time and effort into his routine practices. “Near the end of the race my legs really started to hurt and I knew there was a runner right behind me, but I just tried to keep holding on,” Hartvigsen said.

According to Hartvigsen, all practices are very important and hold a purpose. While their practices are typically hard work, their workouts are necessary for producing speed, helpful for endurance, and make them more competitive. “Most of my practice was outside in the grass, and goats will be walking in and out, but January dates will be released soon. Each class costs $30 per person and has an age minimum and maximum,” Hartvigsen said.

Asst. News Editor

By Kasumi Wade

Eleventh-grader Ben Hartvigsen poses with Assistant Coach Alan King after receiving the first place medal. BOTTOM LEFT: In the middle of the race, Hartvigsen runs the course of Florida State University (FSU). He has been running since elementary school. RIGHT: Hartvigsen crosses the finish line at FHSAA Cross Country State Finals with a time of 15:39.6. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BEN HARTVIGSEN

The Torch Tries: Goat Yoga

Taking a stretch on the wild side

by Ella Hechlik

 Aunt Web Editor

Goat Yoga has recently come afoot in the yoga community for the past few years. People of all ages attend these classes, including the participants and teachers at Sarasota High School. Goat Yoga has been becoming popular because of its low impact and low cost. People have been enjoying goat yoga for many reasons. Goat Yoga instructor, Michelle Leon, teaches goat yoga classes and runs the Facebook page Goat Yoga in Sarasota. Hartvigsen’s work ethic, dedication, and the goats are set free to roam around. The goats are used to bring laughter and confidence to the class and create a new experience everyone.

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One-On-One: two coaches’ perspectives on Pine View’s basketball teams

by Jishch Gulyansky

Sticking with the Pine View middle school basketball team for over 10 years, Scott Wolfinger and Joe DiGiacomo are looking forward to another great season as coaches. The team is split into two groups with Wolfinger coaching the girls team and DiGiacomo coaching the boys team. The two work together to train, prepare and practice with the middle-school student-athletes for their games against other schools. They both interviewed the coaches before the season officially began, about their experiences with both of these teams.

Q: How long have you been coaching the basketball team for? 
A: I have been coaching the boys basketball team for 23 years since 1996.

Q: Why did you decide to start coaching the basketball team? 
A: When it was my first year at Pine View, I was looking for another source of income so I decided to coach the basketball team. I ended up really enjoying it, and I have continued since.

Q: What is your favorite part about this job? 
A: I love watching the players grow as a team and getting better and better each season.

Q: What is your favorite part of the job? 
A: My favorite part of the job is seeing the girls play every game. I can see when a girl is struggling and needs help in certain areas. Helping them practice in the morning is another great part of the job.

Q: What is your best memory of being a coach? 
A: My best memory of being a coach is when the Pine View girls basketball team went from local to state champions in a row. This is a hard thing to do, no matter how well the team plays.

Q: What is the selection process to be a member of the team? 
A: We have two days of tryouts in which the girls are assessed. They are scored on drills, jumps, and free throws. We enroll all of them, 12-18 players to make the team.

Q: What are the strongest qualities in your team? 
A: We look for members who work well with other people, and who are athletic in general. I have had many girls on the team that have played a different sport before, and decided to switch to basketball. I need the players to be nice kids and want to give basketball a shot.

What are the strongest qualities of your team? 
A: Our team has not played in a game yet, but I looking at the practices, I have seen that the strongest quality of the team is that they work well together, and have great attitude toward the game.

Coaches Joe DiGiacomo (left) and Scott Wolfinger (right) pose with basketballs after practice. They have been the coaches for the middle-school basketball teams, adding up to 30 years of experience.

PHOTOS BY JISHCH GULYANSKY

Tenth-grader gets his kicks as team captain

by Ben Gordon

A: My favorite part of playing soccer is being a member of the team. I love the environment of working together. It’s a great feeling,” Selberg said. He began his soccer career by playing recreational competitions at the age of 9 with FC Sarasota. “I had always lookedoward soccer games and tournaments. Since I started playing in competitons,” Selberg said. “Competitive soccer is more intense, with tryouts based on talent, ability and more experience. Selberg currently plays club soccer, which is played by a group of players who compete against teams, allowing him to develop both individual and team skills. He plays for FC Sarasota, where he is a team captain. Selberg helps to convey the coach’s instructions to the team and provides leadership for his teammates.

Last year, Selberg played varsity soccer at Sarasota High School as a sophomore. Selberg is playing varsity soccer this year, and has put a lot of time into his game. According to Selberg, his biggest accomplishment on the soccer team is the only one, graduating from the varsity soccer team at Sarasota High School last year.

Selberg’s coach at FC Sarasota, James Wood, said, “I chose to be our captain for a number of reasons. The most important factor is his ability to drive the team to do more, to work harder and to provide an ex- ample to the other players.”

In this future, Selberg plans to incorporate soccer into his daily life.
Cookies showdown: Lofthouse or loser?

By Zach Bright

Cookie showdown: Lofthouse or loser?

Tenth-grader Large Dolla Money poses with a representative from Harvard University. The SoundCloud rapper was accepted into his school's arts program, runs a pants company, and raps about his “fire bars.”

Showdown

In short, hating these cookies is quite similar to the behavior of toddlers and athletes who have never won a gold medal. As a result, those who buy Lofthouse frosted cookies know that they are backing an American business out of respect for original thinkers. But why? Because a deliciously rich, chocolatey American cookie is American.

What's the bottom line? By the simple collective decision of buying an American cookie, you are helping to support the American economy and the American people. These humble, hard-working people are the backbone of our nation and deserve your support.

As I mentioned earlier, we can all agree that Lofthouse frosted cookies are the best. So let's support American businesses and help our country thrive.

Soundcloud rapper receives acceptance to Ivy League college

Millennials are ruining everything

by Anna Labiner

Web Entertainment Editor

Recently, Americans have been seeing some of their favorite news personalities and politicians appearing on their phones. These avocado-loving, selfie-taking Millennials, who have become the new face of America, are changing the way we perceive the country. From the fashion industry to the food industry, these Millennials are causing a stir everywhere they go.

The food industry has been particularly affected by the rise of these Millennials. The popularity of avocado toast has skyrocketed in recent years, with younger generations flocking to their favorite brunch spots to order these trendy sandwiches. However, this trend has not been without its controversies.

Some critics argue that the rising popularity of avocado toast is a sign of the times. Millennials are often accused of being wasteful and extravagant, and avocado toast is seen as a symbol of this behavior. Others argue that avocado toast is simply a reflection of the growing trend towards healthy eating.

Regardless of the controversy surrounding avocado toast, it is clear that Millennials are having a major impact on the food industry. As these young adults continue to shape the way we think about food, it will be interesting to see how the industry responds in the years to come.

As the trend of Millennials changing the way we perceive food continues, it is important for businesses to stay ahead of the curve. By understanding the preferences and behaviors of this new generation, companies can better tailor their products and services to meet the needs of their customers. In doing so, they can ensure their success in a market that is constantly evolving.

In conclusion, the rise of Millennials is changing the way we think about food, and the food industry must adapt to stay ahead of the curve. While some may see this as a negative trend, it is important to remember that change is a natural part of life. As we move forward, it is essential that we embrace new ideas and stay open to the possibilities of what the future may hold.
Most companies use their social media platforms as a way to promote their brand with appealing photos and promotion for their potential customer. The classic and somewhat overlooked afternoon snack, the Moon-Pie, has taken a different approach. The company uses active Twitter action led by employees diligently working to create lighthearted comedic responses to comments about their pies and spontaneous thoughts. In honor of Friday the 13th this October, the account tweeted “Hey kids did you know if you say, ‘spooky lil MoonPie’ three times in a mirror on this day nothing’s gonna happen what is wrong with you.” This tweet got 1,630 likes and was retweeted 487 times. This post was a smash hit. The stream of MoonPie consciousness was further perpetuated with the tweet, “Some days you’re the moon and other days you’re the pie not real sure what that means but if you’re feeling sad we can talk about it.” This hit 10.4k likes and was retweeted 3,850 times. Overall, this unconventional advertising method has benefited the account, as it has racked up over 54.5k followers since their apparent social media approach has changed.

On the 27th day of October in 2016, a great tragedy was announced: the much loved social media application “Vine” would be shutting down. The video app featuring six-second looping videos was one of my greatest sources of happiness. The thought of a world in which Vine no longer existed was my nightmare. When Vine officially shut down in January of this year, I quickly turned to Vine compilations online. These compilations brought temporary light to the eternal darkness that is the life of a Pine View student.

As a solely temporary relief, the true return of my happiness came with the announcement by the creator of Vine that a second rendition of the social media platform is in the works. To celebrate this new, future Vine, “V2,” here’s a few of my favorite school-appropriate Vines.

1. “Look at all those chickens.”
   One of the recent wholesome Vines to exist, this video features a young girl gesturing to a large flock of birds — birds that are not chickens. The audio accompanying the video is the aforementioned young girl saying, “Look at all those chickens.” The simplistic happiness of this vine will bring a smile to any face.

2. “Broom broom, I’m in me mum’s car.”
   A true Vine classic, this video grew to popularity in July of 2014. Featuring a teen girl and her mother, the girl says, “Broom broom, I’m in me mum’s car.” In response the mum says, “Get out me car.” The girl’s dejected “awh” in response is a relatable mood on a daily basis. It is a Vine whose humor stems from the simplicity of the video, and it is a true icon in the Vine community.

3. “How slippery are bananas?”
   Originally adapted from a longer video, this vine features a teenage boy in his kitchen. He begins his video stating his scientific intentions — to determine whether or not banana peels are actually slippery. He slides his foot around and ends up slipping on the banana peel. When he slips he attempts to save himself by grabbing a cup of water, inevitably flinging the water. After this video went viral, this clumsy boy became internet famous once again when he made an adorable post about him and his keyboard.

4. “It is Wednesday my dudes.”
   Applicable on a weekly basis, this Vine features a man wearing goggles and Spider-Man suit, screaming into his mirror. A take on the classic “record yourself in the mirror,” this man in this Vine says, “It’s Wednesday my dudes,” followed by a loud screech. A fun Vine to reference every week, it is a reminder of the redundancy that is life.

5. “I wanna be a cowboy, baby!”
   A truly wholesome Vine, this Vine features an old man holding a beverage saying, “I wanna be a cowboy, baby!” This is then repeated when he is featured swinging on a playground apparatus with apparent joy.

While Vines are more of a visual experience, this rehashing of Vines is a trip down memory lane as I eagerly await the release of V2.
The Torch covers topics, issues, and opinions of relevance to students grades seven through twelve. The Torch is published six times a year by Pine View School. A reader copy is included in the Florida Scholastic Press Association membership package. Subscriptions and subscriptions, to the Torch. The Torch reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.
Minority Representation in Gifted Programs: We are sad to see an achievement gap affecting minorities within Sarasota county.

Minority Representation in Gifted Programs: We are glad to see efforts toward decreasing the achievement gap in Sarasota county.

Best & Brightest Scholarship Program: We are sad to see teachers miss out on monetary rewards due to standardized exams such as the SAT.

Foreign Language Honor Societies: We are glad to see the French and Spanish Honor Societies forming a presence on campus and spreading culture.

The discrepancy in definitions spurs religious misconceptions behind the bias behind domestic terrorism

Tea to America's blame culture, Millennials are the latest scapegoat. Blaming younger generations for current issues is typical of older adults throughout American history. In today's pop culture and sociopolitical circles, the adults contributing to this flavor view us characteristically known as the Baby Boomers. The reality of the situation lies not in these Millennials being the cause, but rather in the fact that, before preceding generations, there used to be Baby Boomers, which are no longer a threat.

To be considered a Millennial and to be thought to be capable of executing the “Booze Baby Blames,” you must have been born between 1979 and 1992. As per the Pew Research Center, on the U.S. Census, the baby boomers are considered to be a part of a serial generation. In 1997. This disconnect between definitions denotes the evident discrepancy; these generations are subject to the blame game, but the individuals involved cannot even decide on a standardized age range.

While I personally think of myself as part of the latest generation, Gen Z, the truth is most teens and young adults headed to college today will face criticism nonetheless, for Millennials are simply the subject of controversy.

Billy Joel praised it when he sang, "It was always burning since the world's been turning," in the adult contemporary song "We Didn't Start the Fire." Originally released to the public in 1989, the song spoke of America's history, its crime, wars, and the mass public's disinterest in the country's events. In a 1989 Rolling Stone interview, former President Bill Clinton said, “This is an explicit attack on the White House, and I think this was a very overtly racist piece of music." It's not meant to sound preachy," he said. "What I'm trying to get across is that we didn't start this war, we inherited it."
Focus The Torch

Pine View alumni
Homecoming
always more rewarding
than you think it is in the moment.

Anacker, class of 2011.

Anacker's favorite part of the internship is researching policy and the best way to decrease his
candidacy's vote position.

“It's a pretty big commitment for me, and it requires me to keep working so hard that emotions are not a bad thing,” Anacker said. “I am thankful for being someone who can handle the stress of music and schoolwork. I have always been someone who strives to be a high achiever, and I know that can only happen for me if I dedicate time and effort to school. Over the course of a week, I have managed to do almost everything to keep my singing career alive. Everyone was kind of spread out that emotions are not a bad thing, but for me, it was always more rewarding than you think it is in the moment,” Anacker said.

Landers found balancing his music and schoolwork difficult, especially at a school like Pine View. In the middle of the busy college application season, he was flying back and forth in Austin for every two weeks for the show. “It was not easy to pursue my passion and not in the moment,” Anacker said.

Twelfth-grader Anacker poses with Florida House of RepresentativesDemocratic candidate Greg Port. Since September, Anacker has been working with her campaign. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALEX ANACKI

Whether he prepares quite far from Florida, Landers' music stays close to home. His most popular song, "Love Me Tonight," has over 700,000 views on YouTube, and it has been included in two showcases in Sarasota. "Thirty-Twenty" gives a taste of unexplored music that makes it all worth it. "It takes all of these fears away, and those wellbeing that Landers enjoys. Landers has a big test will be coming up, and I'll either re-research the just about four music videos were recorded in Sarasota. "Self my career," Landers said. "I'm interested in areas not required, and they all ended up being in sociology, and I ended up with a double minor," Landers said. "I definitely attribute my curiosity for the different areas of academia to Pine View, as I was always really good at music and singing, and I ended up with the double minor," Landers said.

"I am really interested in other people's other people's lives. I have an interest in a certain subject, and I want to know about how nervous I am, the student's opinion only adds to the debate. One of the things I want to do is to incorporate my music into it and film several scenes in Sarasota. "Thirty-Twenty" gives a taste of unexplored music that makes it all worth it. "It takes all of those fears away, and those wellbeing that Landers enjoys. Landers has a

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So, for younger Pine View students reading this, I hope you take

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