

# Mustang Spirit

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February, 2022

## Debate Wins Again Making FAFSA Mandatory

By Tyler Kent  
Staff Writer

Thanks to senior Qurat-Ul-Ain Farooq (Ani) and junior Nneoma Olumba, all seniors may have to apply for their FAFSA in order to graduate.

The new bill, which they wrote as part of the Democracy in Action competition, was presented to Florida officials in the hopes that it will become a law. It makes FAFSA applications mandatory. Seniors



who don't want to apply can choose to opt out. Making the FAFSA applications mandatory means more and more students could get grants and funds for further education.

"We saw that not enough kids were applying, and we understand how expensive college and further education can get. But, there's FAFSA money being left over and not used by students. We want these students to take advantage," said Ani.

The bill will make college more readily available to those who thought they could never make it there. This is an important and beneficial bill that will impact the lives of many students.

"People have the option to opt out of applying if they don't see fit but requiring it to graduate is making the numbers for FAFSA increase. All the other states who made FAFSA mandatory as well, have seen a huge skyrocket in their

numbers," said Nneoma.



Financial help is always an issue for college kids, housing is an even bigger stressor. FAFSA has all the best options.

"Balancing college, social status, and bills is already enough on any young adult's plate, let alone trying to find suitable and cheap housing. FAFSA allows scholarships, grants, housing options, and so much more," said Ani.

This is the second win for debate students. In their first bill,

they had the suicide prevention hotline numbers printed on the back of student identification cards.

"It feels good winning two years in a row, I definitely feel good about myself and that we're bringing changes to students around us. The previous legislature that was passed was also useful and important to students, so it feels good to know I am making a difference in my school's community," said Annie.

"This is actually my first year winning and I feel very proud of myself and honored to fight for my fellow peers. I am glad that our bill is going about for change and reconstruction. I want our peers to have a good chance at going to an ivy league or a school of their dreams," said Nneoma.

The bill is now on its way to Washington DC where they are hoping it will pass.

## Students Have Sweet Time

By Danyel Nieves & Alejandra Pinarete  
Staff Writers

The agricultural students went on a field trip to the Clewiston Sugar Cane field in West Palm Beach and had the opportunity to participate in multiple activities.

They got to see how sugar cane is grown and manufactured.

"I didn't know that to have a finished product of sugar and brown sugar made from sugar cane it had to go through like such a complicated process," said Diana Henry.

One of the first things they discovered what happens to left over sugar cane. As the students arrived at the fields there were clouds of smoke. they found out that the left overs were burned and used as fertilizer.

When the students got to the sugar factory, they saw the mountains of sugar that are used to make sweets and how it is processed in enormous machines.

"That seems like a lot of sugar, too much sugar if anything, to be completely honest I was kind

of concerned. It was like the fields stretched across the world, like they never ended. It was really interesting to see," said Anthony Nelson.

A part from being the largest sugar cane field in America with well over 230,000 acres, the trip into the fields also included a tour of the mills located on the farms, which helped process and produce the sugarcane.

In the Clewiston Museum the students had a tour which included prehistoric items, an explanation of how sugar cane was processed before any machine came



to the field, and images of how the area looked before.

"The tour was pretty cool we were able to see fossil fuels and how the field look before, oh and we got to experience the new version of the museum," said Anthony.







## Student Finds Herself in Art

By Andrea Jim & Sabrina Magarinos  
Staff Writers

Being quarantined shut the doors for businesses and isolated people everywhere. But for some, it opened the doors of creativity.

“During quarantine, I started my art life when I did a wall mural in my bedroom. I drew mushrooms, which was the biggest art piece I’ve ever made. Since then, I kind of started to draw more on paper, on the walls and that’s where I started. I was really bored and sad during quarantine so that was a big thing that helped me,” said junior Andrea Canizalez.

Andrea uses different art forms to create things that inspire her. Whether it’s a realistic drawing of a person or a colorful galaxy, she converts things and people she feels drawn to into art.



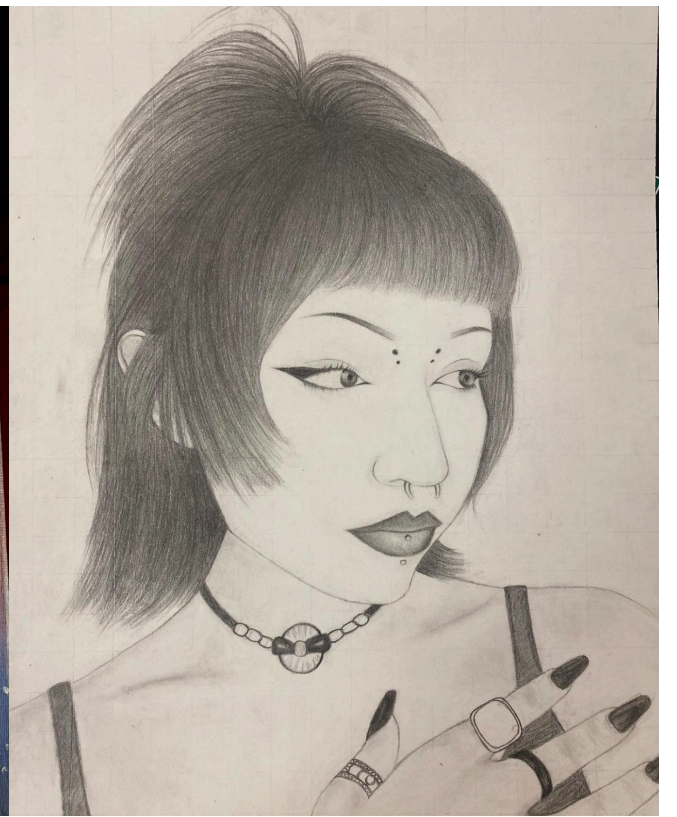
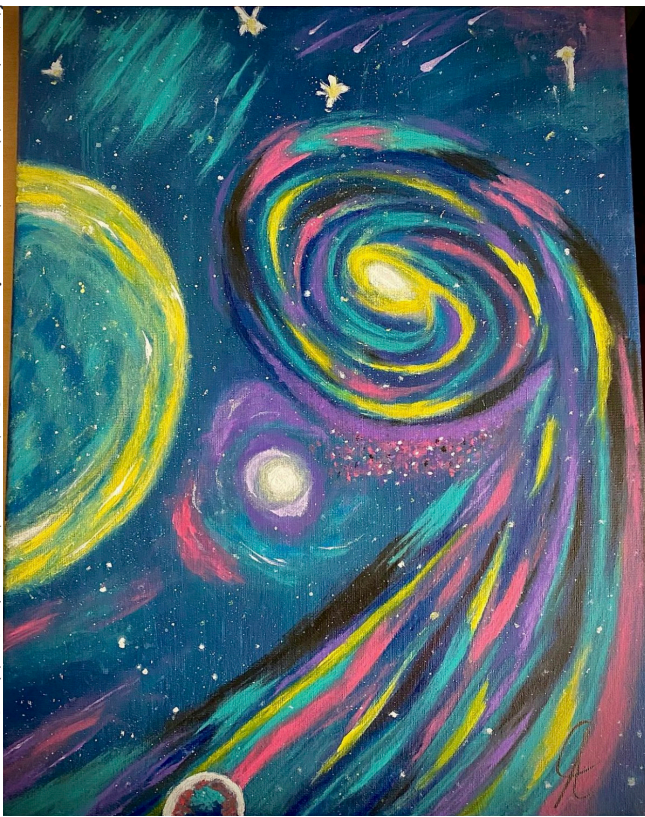
“I like to create things that inspire me, or that I find interesting.”

Like if I see a flower that twines weirdly with another or if I see someone who is really pretty, or I find something in a nice lighting, that will inspire me to create a piece,”

said Andrea, who started developing her art style while she was in middle school.

“I actually had an art style in sixth grade because I was like ‘emo’, and into 21 Pilots and stuff, so I would draw a lot of sad things with their lyrics. If there was a lyric that was metaphorical, I would draw whatever it was, and it was really bad.”

One thing Andrea does is



express emotion in her artwork. Every piece she creates has meaning.

“I did the mushroom piece one for my sister, because I would say I want to draw for you, tell me what you want me to draw for you. She told me she liked my art because it’s from me so I just do something I wanted to do, and I did my mushroom piece. She was like ‘it’s beautiful like that’. So, it holds a lot of meaning to me since it was

for my sister,” said Andrea.

As she continues to perfect her art using paints, charcoals, and pens, she’s also focusing on using her art as a career.

“I want to be a graphic designer for brands/companies, mainly doing like labels and designing the logo for the brands. That’s basically like which picture you think of when you think of Instagram, or Target, Snapchat, etc.”

## Trip to FIU Gives Glimpse of College Life

By Sweden Martin  
Staff Writer

Juniors and seniors got a taste of college life recently during a field trip to the South campus of Florida International University (FIU).

According to sponsor Ingrid Clarke, the trip was good opportunity for these students to see what a college campus is like.

“I got accepted at FIU but never went to the tour because I had covid. This is the perfect opportunity for me to see the school and learn about the different programs that they have to offer,” said senior Melissa Herrera.

The first building they explored was the Lecture Hall.

“Being at a lecture hall makes me feel as if I was part of an actual college class, which I only see in movies,” said senior Vianka Gonzalez.

The students were given a run-through of what they should expect

from the tour; they were then divided into two groups and given a tour of the several buildings on campus.

According to several students, they never expected the campus to be so big and include so many resources.

FIU’s South Campus was impressive for students in size and in its facilities.

“They have a hair salon and a nail salon. What don’t they have?” said an intrigued junior.

The students visited the Charles E. Perry Primera Casa, which is a building designed to commemorate the founder of the university. According to the tour guide, Cami Valle, Perry’s ashes were actually spread around the building.

Students also saw the freshman dorms.

“I’d actually live in one of these dorms, it’s not too tight and the souvenirs look good. It’s defi-



nately a thought,” said one of the seniors.

The students were given a quick view of the stadium, the gym, and the different health programs, which come free with tuition as well.

“This looks good for our football players, basketball players, and our athletes overall,” said another senior.

Valle pointed out several of the academic facilities too like the health and science building and the foreign language building.

“FIU is prepared for all your career choices and our business students. We are ranked number one nationwide for our business pro-

grams,” said Valle.

Lastly, the students were taken to see the “seal,” which is FIU’s logo encrypted in the ground.

According to Valle, if you step on it you must start at the letter “I” and walk backward around the seal for the number of years it will take you to graduate.

At the end of the tour, the students went to one of the best buffets on campus.

“The tour was very informational in regards to life on campus as a student. After the trip, I would definitely consider going there in the future,” said senior Johaun Mylles.



## Cheerleaders Help Church Feed the Needy

By Aniayah Frederick-Docteur  
Staff Writer



A group of cheerleaders helped members of True Gospel Holiness Christian Center feed people during December. Together they fed about 200 people who picked up their groceries from their cars.

The boxes were packaged with fruits and vegetables that were donated from the community.

“It felt great to help families and see the smiles on people’s faces,” said senior Omari Pierre-rene.

Along with food, each recipi-



ent also received a flower as a special gift.

“I feel like some of them were really grateful for such a little thing, and some of them made my day better with the compliments and hearing ‘God Bless.’ Although some were rude, it still was an enjoyable experience,” said freshman Shanice King.

The boxes were filled with items like bottled water, tomatoes, corn, green beans, zucchini, and chicken. Everyone agreed that experience was very impactful because it helped people understand the importance of food drives.

“The people that came were in need and a lot of them lost their loved ones and jobs due to covid,” said Omari. “I was able to have a better understanding of how and why people go to food drives.”

Church members were grateful to the students for helping with the food drive and asked them to come back. They even gave away a \$100 gift to junior Katricia Joseph.

“Receiving the money from the church was genuinely nice. I was grateful for it. I feel like it was well earned, and it was a great reward for working hard,” said Katricia.

“They loved it and want us to come back every moth,” said sophomore Aniayah Frederick-Docteur.

## Theatre-Santas Come in All Colors

By Sweden Martin  
Staff Writer

Theatre students got a chance to spread some holiday cheer by visiting West Hollywood Elementary and presenting a play.

This is the first time in nearly four years that theatre has been able to go out into the community and serve.

“The theatre club has been closed for a couple of years and we want to show people that we’re back,” said freshman Kayla Solano. “And, we got to put these kids in the Christmas spirit.”

Students like 7-year-old Nathan said the play really helped him feel better and get more into Christmas.

The play had several skits each with different characters such as Olaf, the friendly snowman, Santa’s little helpers, a cowboy, Batman, and three different Santas.

“There’s a black Santa, a white Santa, and a female Santa. One thing about this is that it’s going to show them that diversity is a thing, and anyone can do it,” said sophomore Trey Young.

Highlighting different Santas was one of the aims of the play; to show the students that theatre is for everyone. According to several girls in the theater club, the aim of the female Santa was to change the perspective that boys are superior to girls.

Theatre teacher Emilia Vizcarrondo wrote the introduction of the play and also played the role of Olaf, a friendly guide throughout the presentation. Skits included a toy story parody, dancing Santas, Mrs. Claus, and a Santa feud, along with more.

“The toys were my favorite, I liked the Batman because I watch it a lot,” 7-year-old Mateo said.

“My favorite was the girls who did the handstands and cartwheels because it reminds me of gymnastics,” 7-year-old Veya said.

According to Veya and 6-year-old Taycie, when the performers came off the stage and gave out candy it made everyone happy.

“The theatre club’s goal is to make these kids happy and in the future, perform at more schools. We are theatre and this is our comeback,” senior Warren April said.

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## Movie Review

By Bry'Anne Graham  
Staff Writer

“With great power comes great responsibility.” Spiderman *No way home* is currently ranked number three out of all Marvel movies.

Tom Holland plays Peter Parker, AKA Spiderman. Zendaya plays Michelle “MJ” Jones, Parker’s love interest. Zendaya is in a variety movies and shows, including Euphoria. Jacob Batalon is Spiderman’s best friend Ned.

In the beginning of the movie nobody knew Spiderman’s identity until a villain named Mysterio unmasked him and the whole world saw his face. Now revealed, his life completely changed. People started treating him differently, and he couldn’t separate his super hero life from his ordinary life. The school principal treated him with favoritism and all Spiderman wanted was a normal high school experience.

Throughout the movie, Spiderman tries to return to the way things were and eventually visits Dr. Strange, begging for his help. Dr. Strange helps him by creating a spell that would allow people to forget Peter Parker is Spiderman. But, the spell backfired causing problems in Spiderman’s family.

The spell also led to villains from different universes being released from their time zone. Doctor Strange tries to return them but Spiderman wants to reform them before sending them back. Eventually, the villains turn back to their evil ways and try to kill Spiderman.

*No Way Home* reminded me of why I love Marvel movies and always enjoy watching them. The movie was an entertaining, dynamic action movie which had to be the best one I’ve watched yet. From all the spells to all the action and fights, the film was phenomenal. There was so many parts of the film that had me on the edge of my seat. From the beginning to the end of the film, there were surprising scenes and characters, and the storyline was written very well. The film was well put together and entertaining and I would highly recommend it to everyone.



## What Are We Watching?

By Kajol Rajpaul & Brianna Scott  
Staff Writers

Binging different TV series while relaxing, taking road trips, or having lunch with friends has become the new norm.

And, according to a recent survey of Netflix series, these are the shows at the top of the list: *Grey’s Anatomy*, *Hunter X Hunter*, *On My Block*, *The Vampire Diaries* and *All American*.

“I like Greys because of the never-ending problems and relationships built over time in one hospital,” said Anaiyah Frederick-



Docteur. *Grey’s Anatomy* is a show about an upcoming doctor, Meredith Grey. She has many obstacles to overcome. For example, the man she is in love with is married. While going through these problems she must focus on her internship at Seattle Grace Hospital.

*Hunter X Hunter* is an anime that is based on a kid on a mission to find his father. 12-year-old Gon followed in his father’s footsteps to become a hunter in order to find out why his father left him. After he becomes a hunter he faces many challenges that build his strength and char-

acter. All of this to keep his promise to Mito-San, the woman who raised him.

“I became interested in anime during quarantine and it was the first one I decided to watch. It’s a balance of fighting and adventures. Learning as he goes on his way it became one of my comfort shows,” said Marcus Jackson.

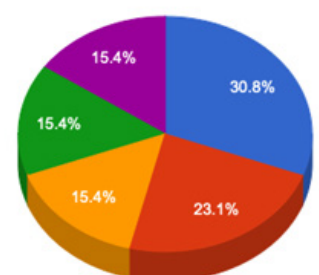
“I like shows that keep me on my toes,” said Layla Heyligar. *Vampire Diaries* is the perfect show. It’s based on two brothers who fall in love with the same girl. Later, when she finds out they are brothers she falls into a love triangle and has a hard time choosing which one she wants to be with. Her choice causes major conflicts.

*On My Block*, is another popular show that involves street-savvy friends who are navigating their way through high school. Lifelong friendships are tested as

Monse, Ruby, Jamal and Cesar confront the challenges of adolescence and life in their predominantly Hispanic and Black neighborhood in South Central Los Angeles.

*All American* is based on a high school football player trying to do better for his family and maintain his grades. Spencer James also struggles to fit in to his new school.

“As a football player in high school trying to maintain my grades, I can relate,” said Jerrold Jackson. “Knowing where I came from after my injuries, it became motivational.”



Key:  
Blue: Greys Anatomy  
Red: Hunter x Hunter  
Orange: On My Block  
Green: The Vampire Diaries  
Purple: All American

