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Banner News

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Psych teacher may be deployed

By Derrick Roffman

Sean Taylor, psychology instructor, hopes to get his orders to schools in the area around Afghanistan by the end of the spring and be deployed to nationals. Taylor, hopes to get his orders from the military to start as a school counselor for schools in the area around Afghanistan by the end of the spring and be deployed to nationals. Taylor hopes to get his orders from the military to start full time for the past two years. “I have always loved teaching, I also teach part time at Iowa State University, I enjoy it,” said Taylor.

It started as a school counselor for schools in the area around Iowa City, however Taylor joined the National Guard at the age of 35, which was high as well as on the court. Taylor joined a year after the 9/11 attacks, right before the war started. “I was in basic military training when my unit, the 109th Aviation Unit out of Boone was deploying to Afghanistan,” Taylor said.

Taylor ended up going to OCS, Officer Training School right after getting out of Basic Military Training before doing any job training “Since I already had a degree they let me do that,” he said.

“I've always loved teaching, I also teach part time at Iowa State University, I enjoy it,” said Taylor.

Sean Taylor

Tate Young

Students assembled in the Courter Center a little after noon on Oct. 30 to celebrate the holiday and participate in the SAC Halloween events.

First on the agenda was the caramel apple-eating contest. Two students participated, Dale Walker and Derrick Roffman. Roffman won, taking home a $25 gift card to Fareway. The caramel apple-eating contest was followed by the main event, the costume contest.

Celebrating Halloween

By Tanner Sandrock

Students assembled in the Courter Center a little after noon on Oct. 30 to celebrate the holiday and participate in the SAC Halloween events.

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Continued on page 3
Community strips down for coat drive

By Candace Daiker
Copy Editor

The heat may have been turned up, but the warmth in Boone’s Salvation Army seemed to be coming from piles of donated coats.

DMACC cosponsored the “Giving Warmth” coat drive that took place from Oct. 12 to Oct. 26 on all campuses, as well as KGW-TV, Gold’s Gym, Iowa Health-Denton Health Hospitals, and Community Choice Credit Union.

Members of Phi Theta Kappa, Dale Walker and Stacy Amling, distributed the first load of coats to The Salvation Army on Benton Street, Wed. Oct. 28. Sharon Karpin, a social worker for The Salvation Army in Boone, had just gotten off the phone with DMACC when the donation arrived.

“People mostly come in the colder months to look for coats. We have had about 30 so far, so we’re ready for more,” she said.

The Boone location usually gives away over 350 clothing items including coats, hats and mittens. Karpin said, “This year there will probably be more because we are seeing more people come in.”

The coats and other items available at The Salvation Army are free and intended for those that really need them. As far as being enough coat donations brought in, Karpin said, “Yes, it works out good. What we need, we get. Last year we were short on men’s coats in size large, but it all depends on who’s coming in.”

So far the drive has brought in 90 coats and 10 hats from the Boone campus, 12 from the Hamilton Center, as well as six other clothing items. One sign on the coat drive boxes said, “Students in need, please help yourselves to any of the donated items if you or someone you know needs them.” Boxes are still available for donations at DMACC campuses.

One of The Salvation Army’s goals is to spread the word for those in need. “Most middle-class parents that have just lost their jobs don’t even know what’s available,” Karpin said.

People are always encouraged to make donations or volunteer at The Salvation Army. “More and more need comes closer to Christmas time,” Karpin said. Applications for Christmas baskets, including food, toys, and clothing, will be available November 16 through November 23, November 25 through November 30 and December 1 from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at 503 Benton St., in Boone. An ID for all members of applicable families and proof of address is required.

Karpin added, “One of our main needs at Christmas is bell ringers. Volunteers can work one to six hours or more, and the money provides for all the needs of the following year; like buying food, etc.”

Those wishing to ring bells for The Salvation Army at Christmas time can visit ringbells.org or call (515) 432-5770 for more information.

Author to sign book on campus

By Derrick Roffman
Staff Writer

The “One Book One Community” program will have the author of “Hope’s Boy,” Andrew Bridge, speaking at the DMACC Boone Campus on Nov. 12.

“This is the first year we’ve been able to get the author to speak at DMACC campuses,” said Michelle Tedrow, Boone Campus librarian.

The program will also be on live Webcam to the other campuses. DMACC Boone Campus has had the most participation in the “One Book One Community” program which is open to all DMACC campuses,” said Tedrow.

The book is a memoir that speaks at DMACC campuses,” Tedrow said. “DMACC Boone Campus has the most participation in the “One Book One Community” program which is open to all DMACC campuses,” said Tedrow.

Andrew Bridge

Eric Thiell (left) of Boone and Ashlei Pritchard of Ogden rehearse a scene for the upcoming DMACC Boone Campus Drama Department production of “Murder Go Round” by Fred Carmichael. The comedy will be performed at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 20 and 21 in the DMACC Boone Campus Theatre. Tickets cost $5 per person and may be purchased at the door. DMACC students receive free admission with identification.
**Simulate to provide poverty insight**

DMACC and the Boone County Homeless Prevention Board are working together to provide a poverty simulation on Sat., Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to noon at the student center. This three-hour experience will submerge participants into the life of a homeless individual or family. Each participant will be asked to take a scenario and figure out how to survive using resources provided by the simulated community.

The simulation will teach what it means to live in poverty, and will demonstrate the effects poverty can have on the community.

The poverty simulation will be offered free of cost to all participants with a free-will donation lunch to follow. The simulation will include a presentation about efforts currently under way for the homeless and hungry in Boone. Participants also will have the chance to sign-up for a variety of volunteer opportunities.

To participate in the poverty simulation, contact Theresa Angle today at TAngle@ysu.ames.ia.us or at (515) 432-7903, extension 5510. The simulation is limited to the first 75 participants and spots are expected to fill quickly.

Twenty volunteers also are needed to assist at the different community service tables during the simulation. This includes a two-hour training session the evening of Fri., Nov. 20.

To volunteer, contact Julie Nash at jnash@co.boone.ia.us or at (515) 433-4092.

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**Halloween contests from page 1**

Three faculty members and 14 students dressed up for the contest. Contestants competed in three categories: best staff, best male student, and best female student.

The audience cheered on the contestant they thought had the best costume. The participant with the loudest ovation won the contest a $25 gift card to Fareway with the loudest ovation won the contest a $25 gift card to Fareway.

Other winners included Beth Christianson for best staff costume as the “Headless Chef,” and Trevor Gould for best male student as a pirate. “I feel amazing and exhilarated,” said Gould after the contest as he collected his winnings.

Overall student turnout was a little less than last year. Steve Krafcisin, SAC advisor, said there were around 20 student participants last year.

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Phobia factors: genetics, life experience
Where the root of your fear may come from

By Chelsea Magee
Staff Writer

Chills run down your spine, and your body starts to stiffen every time you step into a public bathroom! DUN! DUN! DUN! This is only one particular phobia that a person can acquire. People can have some of the strangest phobias, but it is what makes them who they are. Phobias are caused by different reasons. Lisa Fritscher, from Guide to Phobias on about.com, said, “Researchers are uncertain what exactly causes phobias. However, it is commonly believed that certain factors may increase the likelihood that a phobia will develop. These factors include genetics, cultural factors and life experiences.” Sometimes phobias can be caused from petrifying childhood experiences. Sandi Johnson, student services specialist, talked about her phobia: “Closed up places, such as elevators because when I was really little I was stuck in a Younkers elevator with my grandma for a very long time. It was horrible.” This phobia is known as claustrophobia, according to ask.com. Ashley Blum, a second year student said, “I have a fear of heights. One time, I went to Colorado and we went on a really long shaky bridge. My cousin decided it would be fun to shake the bridge the whole time. It terrified me. Ever since then I was afraid of heights.” This phobia is known as altophobia, fear of heights, according to dictionary.com.

Children can also have phobias, too. Shelby Hildreth, academic adviser said, “My daughter, Josie, has a fear of mascots. One time I was the Bear for DMACC, and she wouldn’t even go around me unless I took the mask off.” Josie is definitely not alone in this world. The name of this particular phobia is called maskophobia, according to wiki.answers.com. Phobias are something that people are truly scared of, and for most this fear is hard to conquer.

Taylor
from Page 1

come and go in my seven years and this is my first opportunity to go and to serve,” said Taylor. At the same time it’s hard for Taylor who has a family. Taylor said, “It is hard because I have a wife and kids, and I don’t want to leave them, but I want to serve my country. I have friends who are on their 2nd and 4th deployments and I haven’t gone yet.”

The military gave Taylor his warning order a year in advance, something rarely ever done by the military.

When Taylor comes back from his one-year tour of duty, he plans to get back to teaching.

Daylight saving for farmers, railroads

By Jamie Stueve
Opinion/Feature Editor

Daylight saving time happens twice a year on the 2nd Sunday in March and the 1st Sunday in Nov, where students lose or gain an hour of sleep but the history seems to be outdated by some.

Originally proposed by Benjamin Franklin in 1784 as an economical project, it was not taken seriously until 1907 by William Willet’s proposal. In his proposal, “The Waste of Daylight” he wrote, “Everyone appreciates the clear, bright light of an early morning during Spring and Summer months. It is seldom seen or used.” It started for two main reasons: for railroad companies and for farmers. Trains, in the past, were one of the main transporters of resources and people. The time changes made were for the travels of railroads to keep up with the sun and not fall behind in their destinations.

Farmers followed and still do for the purpose of maintaining their crops with “saving” more daylight. A majority of the state of Arizona does not follow this, as well as other American territories such as Guam and Puerto Rico.

Some feel they are forced to follow this time change but can’t find a reason for it. “I don’t think it really does much for people these days. It is just something that society keeps because it’s always been that way,” said Adriane Carrizon, a student on the DMACC Boone Campus.

Students follow the time change and are gracious for the extra sleep in the fall. “It’s nice because you feel like you get extra sleep the first couple of days,” said Carrizon. “I didn’t know much about it other than what my dad told me about the farmers.”

Today, a new reason for daylight saving time is to conserve energy. According to recent studies from the Department of Transportation, setting the clock an hour forward in the spring causes a one percent decrease in energy used, which is small but significant.

In winter months, the energy is least saved out of any other time of the year due to the need for daylight in the afternoon, which is offset by the late sunrise.

Students may not feel a need for the daylight saving time twice a year, but it is still on the agenda in the majority of the nation and is a force that adjusts the schedules and internal clocks of the body.
NASA made a daring move with the launch of Ares I-X, the world’s largest rocket, on Oct. 28.

By Eric Thiel
Sports Editor

The decision to continue with the test flight of the new spacecraft had been under debate in Washington because of its high cost. The launch came days after the conclusion of the Review of U.S. Human Space Flight, which stated that “when space exploration does not have the capability of completing its goals.”

Ares I will become the next generation of spacecraft capable of carrying humans into space. It is a part of the Constellation program that has the goal of developing the technologies to open the space frontier.

The project was started in 2004, part of the “Vision of Space Exploration”. The U.S. space policy intended to regain public interest in space exploration. Constellation will take humans further into space than before with plans of building a base on the moon, exploration of asteroids, landing on Mars, and going far beyond.

For more than 30 years, human presence in space had been limited to low earth orbit. The space shuttle has been the only spacecraft to carry Americans into space. It was designed to be a convenient method of transporting humans and equipment.

One of the greatest architect- design projects, the International Space Station, was assembled by the shuttle, which took around 10 years to build. With the aging shuttle coming to its retirement in 2011, a new human spacecraft will be needed to keep the U.S. in space. The Ares I is expected to replace the shuttle when its finished in 2015, but the review says it won’t even be close to ready by then.

Without any method of carrying humans to space, Americans will have to resort to buying tickets with Russian spacecraft. It will be a long gap until the U.S. has its new spacecraft ready.

Exploring the solar system will be mankind’s greatest adventure since the lunar landing. Due to the lack of funding, fantasy has been unable to become reality. Money is the basic problem and NASA just doesn’t have enough of it to make the missions they planned further.

Space has always been expensive and since the early sixties, the price of flights to space hasn’t gone down by much. The entire human space flight program costs each citizen seven cents a day, a total of $25.55 a year, 0.5% of the annual national budget.

The Review of Human Space Flight says if NASA wants to get the objectives done, it will need an annual $17 billion dollar budget. A nation that once spent 5% of its annual budget into getting to the moon, now only spends about 0.5% of it on the entire NASA program.

People have lost the determine to explore and to be beyond the unknown. Space has become boring science to the American people, and most of the nation isn’t even aware the Space Shuttle will retire in the next year.

If the United States wants to carry out human space flight it must get the American people enthused about it.

NASA has been exploring the solar systems with a series of space probes for more than 40 years, from looking under rocks on Mars, to searching for life. Scientifically, they are the best form of exploring space and its planets, though most people don’t feel the significant value it has.

When the U.S. landed humans on the Moon, the whole world stopped to watch. In that time, the world felt a sense of accomplishment that no machine could deliver to the deep uplifting impact it had.

The United States has the capability of completing their goals, but it is determined on the effort they put in.

President Obama will announce his decision around thanksgiving time that will determine the direction this nation will take towards space. He may choose to inspire the people with a new age of exploration, or possibly cancel the plans.

The bold step NASA may make will be a hard one but the founder of the first frontier to the Moon, President John F. Kennedy once said, “We choose to do these things not because they are easy, but because they are hard.”

Nursing provides many programs

By Chelsea Magee
Staff Writer

The nursing program at the DMACC: Boone Campus provides its students with many opportunities. The clinical fields offered at DMACC are medical, surgical and nursing.

The students can pursue their studies in pediatrics, obstetrics, cancer, cardiology, mental health and long-term care unit. Many students are surprised on how often they must go to class, study, and do all of their homework. Connie Booth, chairperson of the nursing program and faculty member for 28 years said, “I think the most surprising thing to students is the workload. No skipping, must have a “C” in all classes, have to study or won’t pass the board exams.”

Even though the faculty has a lot of experience in the line of work they are teaching the students, they also have good relationships with the hospitals, and help students to be successful in the program, although Booth would say, “We do not make it easy.”

DMACC is a small community college, so there are a lot of hands-on learning skills that the students can be taught. The students get to work with a mannequin, practicing whole simulation in the problem-solving course. This will teach them how humans may react when being given a shot, having blood taken, etc.

At the end of the nursing program, the student has to take the preceptorship. This is where the students have to spend a lot of time with a registered nurse, learning the role of a practicing nurse, participating in that particular nurse’s everyday working hours, and doing everything that they do in order to graduate.

A student will need to find a job after graduating into the clinical field of their choosing. Some of the students go through the DMACC; placement office to provide them with these services. Most of the students get an interview through the preceptorship. This makes it easier for the hospitals to hire them because when working with a designated nurse for the certain amount of hours, it will show them how that hospital runs, which will make less training that needs to be done.

Some of the students work as a nurse’s aide while taking college classes. Their tuition is paid for if they are going to be an RN just as long as they come back to work all of that time off that they took in school.

The economy has taken a big toll on the nursing programs in America. It has caused a decrease in the demand for nurses. This is usually because there are so many older nurses that are past their retirement, yet are still working. Some of the older nurses think that it is much too expensive to retire, and some are just not willing to retire. “I’m not ready to retire, but according to DMACC’s policy I’m eligible to retire,” said Booth. “I have a lot more to offer the students here.”

Health care is needed all over the world. Booth said, “I think as we see the economy turn around, the demand for nurses will increase.”

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Men win season opener against William Penn

By Shannon Jefferson  
Staff Writer

The season opener for the DMACC Bears men’s basketball team took place Nov. 2. The Bears opened the season against William Penn University JV with a massive win of 104 to 57.

Freshman Isaiah Gandy number 24 said, “I expected to win, but I didn’t expect to win by that much.”

In the beginning of the game William Penn was up by just one point. Didn’t take long for the Bear’s defense to take over. From there on out, DMACC was constantly in the lead.

Previous All-American Scott Windom number 22 was leading scorer with 20 points. Starters Kannon Burrage number 23 and Deremey Steptoe number 34 contributed 14 points each to the bear’s win.

The substitutions came in, Freshman Isaiah Gandy number 24 came in off the bench and immediately went to work with a steal and dunk. Gandy contributed 15 points to the Bears win.

At the first half went on, the Bears lead became larger. With steals, breakaway lay ups, and slam-dunks the bears quickly took over the game. The Bears ended the first half with a 3 pointer by Brad Burton number 1 and a slam-dunk by Windom number 22. The half-time score was at 56 to 25.

The starters began the second half with consistence. Freshman Hal Bateman number 4 threw an accurate alley-oop to Burton who scored the first half of the game. The Bears dominated both first and second half of the game scoring 41 points each half. All players contributed to the win.

Coach BJ McGinn believes the team still has room for improvement. “We need to continue to focus on making improvements each day in all areas, and continue to grow together as a basketball team,” said Coach McGinn. The Bears will go on the road to Norfolk, Nebr. to compete.

Women down at half: Finish strong

By Brad Burton  
Staff Writer

On Sunday the Bears came on strong to defeat the Vikings of Grand View J.V. 82-66 on the Boone Campus.

Early in the game the ladies played solid but couldn’t stop the flow of Grand View who shot a little over 45 percent from the field the first half.

The Bears, who shot a little above 29 percent from the field had trouble getting their shots to fall. Going into the locker room Coach Steve Krafcisin and the Bear’s saw themselves down 27-28 at the half.

Coming into the second half, the Bear’s defense to take over. From there on out, DMACC was constantly in the lead.

The women’s volleyball team has come a long way. The team, especially Coach Patty Harrison, who has led the women through a very successful season, couldn’t be happier.

Harrison began working at Iowa Central in 1981 and has been coaching 25 years since she started their volleyball program in 1983. It was what she called an “awesome” time just being there. As the volleyball head coach, Harrison has been leading the team since 2004, when she first arrived at the DMACC Boone campus. Switching to DMACC brought Coach Harrison closer to ISU and Des Moines. She enjoys the closer trips. For her, Boone has been an experience and long efforts of hard work have made the amazing team over the years. As a citizen of Jefferson, Iowa, Coach Harrison is married with three children and one grandchild. She is also one of DMACC’s educational advisors. Some of her hobbies include reading, crocheting and quilting. She also enjoys, as she says, “all the fun things moms do.”

Coach Harrison is thankful to have a well-disciplined team, in which the women can structure in time for academics. She says it is easy for the girls when they have classes together and always do homework with one another.

She added before the tournament, “The girls have worked hard to get to this point in the season. I think they are more than ready. They had a good practice yesterday. We are ready to except the challenges of playing back to the national tournament.”

After the victory during the tournament that took place Nov. 6 and 7, Harrison said how glad she was that everyone came out to support the team.

“I thought we played well as a team” said Cassie Nauholtz. “We came out with a lot of energy in the second half. We executed well on offense and played solid defense.”

Leading the way for the Bears were Tia Mays, who scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Kayla Koeppen gave the bears nine points and also dished out six assists.

Also contributing for the Bears were Naunola, Marni Jacobson, and Woods scoring eight points apiece.

The Bears will continue their journey this weekend, as they travel to Norfolk, Nebr. to compete.

Men’s basketball go 2-0

By Shannon Jefferson  
Staff Writer

The DMACC Bears men’s basketball team has already got a great start to the 2009-2010 season. The Bears played Black Hawk East Saturday Nov. 7. They came on the court ready to play, immediately shutting down Black Hawk East attempt to full court press. The Bears dominated the game, beating Black Hawk East 82 to 43.

Sophomore Scott Windom led the team with 18 points. “My role on the team is to be a leader. I feel I need to be an example to my teammates even though it’s hard sometimes,” said Windom. Brad Burton and Kannon Burrage contributed 14 points a piece to keep the Bears’ win over Black Hawk East. The Bears dominated both first and second half of the game scoring 41 points each half. The Bears’ consistent defense began to shut down Black Hawk East in the second half, only allowing them to score 15 points.

The Bears shot 56.7 percent in the second half and their defense forced Black Hawk East to only shoot 43.1 percent. In the first half Black Hawk East shot 41.9 percent. The Bears decreased the Black Hawk East to score and continued to execute on offense. The bear’s played solid defense, which led them to their second win. “I felt we did a solid job on the defensive end of the floor holding them to 45 points for the game and only giving up 15 points in the second half,” said Coach BJ McGinn. Everybody is starting to know their role on the team. When you have a team like that, that’s a hard team to beat,” said McGinn.

Coach McGinn believes the team still has room for improvement. “We need to continue to focus on making improvements each day in all areas, and continue to grow together as a basketball team,” said Coach McGinn. The Bears will go on the road to the weekend of the 13 and 14 to Council Bluffs to compete.

Women’s volleyball team ramps up toward State Championship

By Brad Burton  
Staff Writer

The women’s volleyball team has already got a great start to the 2009-2010 season. The Bears played Black Hawk East Saturday Nov. 7. They came on the court ready to play, immediately shutting down Black Hawk East attempt to full court press. The Bears dominated the game, beating Black Hawk East 82 to 43.

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Pay tribute to veterans: write a letter

Staff Editorial

Veterans Day is a federal holiday to recognize military veterans. On Nov. 11, all across America, people honor veterans and the deceased who served in the military, as they should.

According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, on June 1, 1964, Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day.

Nov. 11, 1918 marked the end of the most destructive war in human history; WW I. Congress recognized the end of war. They said, “Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations.”

Congress continues to declare that officials in all Government buildings display the flag on Nov. 11 and have schools and churches recognize the day with friendly ceremonies.

Every school should commemorate veterans. They should pay tribute to the importance of soldiers and veterans. These men and women have served us to defend our freedoms. They have done so much for us; each of them deserves our thanks and prayer.

Nov. 11 on the DMACC Boone Campus, the Writing Center is sponsoring a letter writing event to “take time to say thanks on paper” at 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Everyone should express his or her gratitude in one way or another. What is better than writing a soldier and thanking him or her personally?

Giving a personal “thanks” is the best way to show our gratitude for the veterans. There are a lot of hurting families out there and we need to recognize what they are going through and not take for granted how they feel. All across America we should show our appreciation for the soldiers and their families.
“What was your dream job when you were a little kid?”

By Jamie Stueve and Chelsea Magee

Michael Wagner
“A firefighter.”

Seth Rasmussen
“A baseball player.”

Katie Mcknight
“Probably a doctor.”

Matt Bosworth
“An underwear model.”

Donny Burkhart
“A bull-rider.”

Holiday cheer VS Thanksgiving

By Jamie Stueve
Opinion/Feature Editor

Now that Halloween is over, I can now move my attention and concentration to the most fantastical holiday I celebrate, Christmas. I would like to skip over Thanksgiving if I could. Don’t get me wrong, I am always thankful for friends, family and the founders of this ever-lasting country but I give a hoot about Christmas, not Thanksgiving.

Christmas in my household is insanity. The kind of insanity that makes you look forward to the following Christmas the day after it’s over. I have five siblings, four nieces and nephews, three pairs of aunts and uncles, my two parents and a partridge in a pear tree that comes together on this magnificent celebration.

Without the chaos and my mother downing margaritas to calm her nerves, these holidays wouldn’t give me the memories they do.

Christmas just really gets me going. I literally love everything in ordinance of this time of year. Snow makes me giddier than a child at a carnival. Festive Christmas music brings my spirits through the roof. I have a designated play list on my ipod consisting of nearly 100 songs I bust out the day after Halloween, as well as radio stations starting the same day.

Don’t even get me started on the food, the fact you get to indulge in candy canes, Christmas cookies and pies as well as my families potluck dinner. I go to bed extremely satisfied with the teamwork my stomach and I accomplished.

Every year since I can remember, my mother and I (we exclude my other siblings) have a tradition of setting up the decorations the day after Thanksgiving. We make a whole day out of it, blaring our favorite Christmas tunes, dancing like idiots and continuously gabbing about nonsense while we consume ourselves in piles of red, green and gold.

My job is always to set up and decorate the tree, being as it is the epitome of holiday décor. We have a theme for our tree every year, of which my favorite is the one where you can walk around the tree and see the whole family grow up with pictures, ornaments and garland everyone has contributed over the years. This day is next in line to the actual day of Christmas in falsetrionist.

We grew up being confronted with the realities of life, living Christmas as a burden to a lot of people, hassles with family, presents and finding time to pack it in our busy schedules. Tradition with family seems to be dissolving and disappoints and saddens me. Christmas is such a thriving part of the year that I dive in to earlier than some, which leave people questioning my sanity. I get so engulfed in the great mood, food and festivities of Christmas that nothing will bring me down. I don’t get the winter blues because I have the season to fall back on.

I encourage any students, who are a part of a family big or small, to get those traditions back, or to start a new one. You make the holiday what you want and have the opportunity to start festivities early with decorations available in stores now and Christmas music already started on the radio. Tis the season!

By Tanner Sandrock
News Editor

Every year Halloween ends and there is a brief intermission before the holiday season begins, but ever-so-gradually Christmas has been pushing it’s way closer and closer to that October date, practically consuming Thanksgiving in the process.

This year the offense was the worst, with the day after Halloween I turned on the radio only to be shocked and saddened to hear Christmas music already playing over the aires. Not only had Kris Kringle taken the radio but also after visiting the local grocer I found the Christmas displays were already up. Now I’m no Grinch; I love Christmas as much as the next guy, but come on, we really need to suffer under the obnoxious weight of Santa for two whole months.

Whatever happened to the days where Thanksgiving was embraced and celebrated? Anymore it seems to be just a precursor to the main event of Christmas, a warm up for family interaction and cooking skills. Candy canes and mistletoe have replaced images of turkeys and pilgrims. There isn’t even snow on the ground yet and we are dreaming of a white Christmas.

Before you know it, the jolly bastard will have taken Halloween and continue moving right through all the fall months into the summer. It won’t take long until the nation’s birthday comes with stockings and, trust me, no one wants to see Claus’ fat self squeezed into a swimming suit. Then what’s next; a week resting period before the tree goes back up on Jan. 2?

Before we can turn the tides of the Christmas wave we must first reclaim Thanksgiving; the first victim to Santa’s quests for holiday domination. We need to put a stop to Christmas making its way into the beginning days of November. Make him wait until the 26 and then let him go crazy, but quickly end the holly reign promptly by January. We don’t want him setting his sights on Valentine’s Day.

Thanksgiving has given us so much; food, football, and family time without the need of exchanging gifts. So come together and give something back. Its time we gave the month of November back to its rightful owner and be thankful for Thanksgiving.