The Torrance High School Newspaper

Torrance News Torch

Lighting the Way to Torrance High School Since 1922

THS SAYS THANKS

CAN FULL OF THANKS

BY DAZEA PASION

Torrance High School's ASB held their 7th annual canned food drive from November 4 to November 19 with the goal of collecting 17,000 cans. 17,000 cans! Can we do it? Yes, we can!

Every morning during the two-week event, ASB and student council members stood at each entrance of the school to collect cans from arriving students. Every student donating at least five cans received a Yogurtland gift certificate. What a sweet treat! Students also received class spirit points for donating, resulting in the Senior class winning with a total of 3,939 cans. Great job, Seniors!

ASB has always worked to make the canned food drive beneficial for everyone. According to Senior Class President Michael Welsome, "After the cans are collected on the final day, [ASB] is donating them to Project Hope, a local

charity... Project Hope will use these cans to feed local Torrance students and their families." Project Hope is a charity we as a community are all thankful for.

Michael also added, "Our goal is always to get above 10,000 cans because that means we averaged 5 cans per student, but 17,000 is absolutely do-able. It will be better than last year, which was 16,478 cans, and that is what we are striving for." We were a bit shy of our goal of 17,000. Nevertheless, we collected a grand total of 13,433 cans, all going to charity. Can-tastic!

With Thanksgiving around the corner, the canned food drive will be able to provide multiple families with delicious, hearty meals. Hopefully, our efforts will give them something to be thankful for this holiday season. Thank you to everyone who donated cans!



Photo courtesy of: Torrance Tartars Instagram

THANKSGIVING FOR REAL

BY JOSHUA FLORES

For the first time in Torrance High School history, the Thanksgiving break is one whole week. Scholars and enthusiasts differ on what the holiday is actually about. Although it is true that Thanksgiving is about being thankful, there is more to the story than what is taught in school.

When the Pilgrims (also known as the Separatists) arrived at Cape Cod, no one was there. All the Native Americans were eradicated by disease brought earlier by European traders.

After the landing of the Mayflower in 1620, William Bradford chronicled in his Of Plymouth Plantation "they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of Heaven who had brought them over the vast and furious ocean."

Some were military men armed with muskets, others sailors and mariners, all with wives and children. All began

building shelters and defences for themselves.

During breakfast one morning, the men suddenly heard a "great and strange cry." After this, "arrows came flying amongst them." Neither side suffered casualties. The place where this occurred was later called the "First Encounter."

After a long and brutal winter, an Indian named Samoset came to the settlement

with the chief of the Massasoit tribe. They learned to speak English from the fur traders in the northern Atlantic. A peace treaty was soon established between the European settlers and the Native Americans.

Squanto remained with the settlers until his dying day. He taught the settlers what to farm and where to fish, and after a plentiful season, the settlers had a bountiful

To celebrate the harvest the settlers and the Native Americans shared a large feast. Bradford listed a veritable fare, including a "great store of wild turkeys."

According to historian David Barton, the idea of Thanksgiving Day may be attributed to Mrs. Sarah Joseph Hale, editor of Godey's Lady's Book. Hale would constantly send letters to presidents, asking them to make a Thanksgiving holiday. Finally President Abraham Lincoln agreed in 1863, making the last Thursday of November a "National Day of Thanksgiving."

But it wasn't until 1941 that Congress "permanently established the fourth Thursday of each November as a national holiday." Knowing this, maybe this year you'll consider Thanksgiving Day as being more than food, family, and football.



Jaylem Brar (12) donating blood

Photo courtesy of: Torrance Tartar Instagram

BLOOD LIVES MATTER

BY KAYLA COLLINS

Torrance High School contributed to the holiday season with the UCLA Blood Drive on October 30. Many students gave blood that will go to hospitals and urgent care facilities to help people in catastrophes.

Donating blood can even save a life! Students make a significant sacrifice when donating blood, but they feel good about themselves in the process.

According to ASB's Senior Reyna Flores, "The overall experience of the blood drive made me feel like I was making a difference...[it] made me happy to think we are all helping others in need."

The little things make a huge difference; no one knows what lives will be saved by donating blood

This year's UCLA Blood Drive was a tremendous success. Senior Bola Soliman said, "I wanted to help people...[the blood drive] was seamless and painless." Torrance High School has been participating in the UCLA Blood Drive for 20 years.

THS collected 135 pints of blood with 100 students participating, utilizing many volunteer hours to make a difference. We are giving back to the community one pint at a time.

TURN THE PAGE!!

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Whats so "black" about Black Friday?
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Is Wrinkle In Time worth every dime?
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ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 3

Tommy Tartar gets his crystal ball read!
See page 3!



andes florist

Blazes Abound

BY MIKI IGNACIO

As the year progressed into November, the California fires continued to rage. A multitude of fires—including the Kincade, Maria, Ranch, Barham, and Eagle Firesbrought destruction into communities.

On November 3, the Ranch Fire broke out in Tehama County. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), the Ranch Fire has currently burned approximately 4,000 acres of land, and the firefighters managed to contain 85% of the fire.

So far, four injuries were reported, but thankfully, no one was killed.

On November 10, the Barham Fire let loose at Hollywood Hills area of Los Angeles County, reported by KABC-TV.

The Deadline stated the Warner Bros. Studios lot in Burbank evacuated because of the close proximity between the studio and the fire.

The Barham Fire burned at least

34 acres of land, but fire fighters contained 15% of the fire. No injuries or casualties were

Burning since October 23, the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County was finally contained on November 6. According to Cal Fire, the fire destroyed a total of "77,758 acres and destroyed 374 structures."

The Eagle Fire at Lake County raged from November 5 to November 6, and burned 75 acres during its tenure. Four officers were injured, but fortunately, it was reported no lives were lost to the deadly fires.

The lack of rain and humidity may bring more fires in the future. However, we have our trusty fire fighters to protect and save us all before California faces further catastrophes

Hopefully, the fires will be contained before any more damage and injuries are inflicted.



More Damage from the Kincade Fire **Photo Courtesy of Getty Images**

Serving Tennis Love

BY ASHLEY MERCURIO

The Torrance High School Girls' Tennis Team had an amazing season and were able to get into California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) under the leadership of head coach, Tony Cortez. The team's hard work paid off when they reached 3rd Place in their league with an overall score of 4-4.

Junior Doubles #1 Emily Partida states, "The team performed really well this year as we were able to get past the wild card round in CIF. We also placed third in our league."

Their triumphant season ended on November 6, and they are now on off-season practice. Competition has been tough for

but they always try their best.

"The competition against North and West is hard and it always ends in a close match," Emily said. However, this team's competitive passion for their sport is what drives them the most to do their best.

Sophomore varsity member Sona Nair says, "I love to play tennis, so nothing makes me feel better than playing and getting better. It's also the competitive spirit that drives me'

No matter what, this team has superior skills and is always willing to engage in a good match with any competitor. Congratulations to girls' tennis on getting into CIF!

Old Navy during Black Friday **Photo Courtesy of Shutterstock**

Give Thanks and Trample

BY USHNA ANWAR

The infamous Black Friday will take place on November 29. Although the official day happens the day after Thanksgiving, the sales for Black Friday have a tendency to be announced much earlier. This strategy allows businesses to attract consu-

According to The Balance, Kimberly Amadeo noted "the competition this year is so fierce, stores are innovating new ways to get your dollar."

When you think of Black Friday, you picture individuals lined up for hours outside of a store waiting to get their hands on a great sale. Technology has made Black Friday shopping from the comfort of your home more accessible.

Amadeo added, "Thanksgiving and Black Friday are still the busiest shopping days for stores, but traffic is declining."

In 2018, the amount of people shopping in stores decreased by 9% from capturing 20% of all holiday online shop-

Black Friday shopping could be hypocritical. People sit around a table, sharing what they are thankful for, and within hours, they scurry inside stores searching for the best sales.

Chelsea Skrabak, writer at Calabasas Courier Online, argues the whole point of Thanksgiving is undermined by the reality of Black Friday.

Despite Black Friday's negative influence on society, businesses take social class into consideration. The Black Friday proves to be a boon for the poor.

Cole Webb Harter, writer at FEE, believes "the truth is Black Friday benefits the poor and the working class most of all." This shines new light on the abused Black Friday legacy.

Those less fortunate use Black Friday as an opportunity to buy Christmas

presents or upgrade their households. Regar-2017, but online sales increased by 18% in the same year. Companies using their webdless of how you spend Thanksgiving weeksites to promote their deals led to "Cyber end, take some time to think about what you are thankful for. Happy shopping! PREGNANT? FEELING PRESSURED? YOU HAVE OPTIONS Pregnancy -310-787-4357 phctorrance.org

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Drowning the Competition

BY KARA SERAFIN

On November 7, the Torrance High School Boys Water Polo team played their much anticipated CIF game at the Torrance Aquatics Center at 5:00 P.M. Although the competition did not unfold the way they had hoped, they had a remarkable season overall.

Through hard work and determination, the team defeated all of the other Torrance high schools. This was no small accomplishment. Boys Water Polo Coach Lara Williams remarked, "Our boys team had a great year. We had a good time, and trained hard."

The many hours of practice the team put in seems to have paid off.

Now that the season is over, there is time to reflect on this past season and look forward to next year.

Coach Williams expressed, "We had high hopes to go much farther. We have a lot to work on in the next year, and have a lot of great potential with our new players."

If the water polo team continues to practice diligently, they may have even more success next year than they did this



Water Polo players competing **Photo Courtesy of Christine Cotter**

GIVING THANKS FOR LEFTOVERS BY USHNA ANWAR









Read Your Sword and Shield by Eduardo Benitez

Prepare yourself for another installment in the Pokemon franchise with Pokemon Sword and Shield. Developed by Gamefreak and produced by Nintendo, this new addition has you explore the lands of Galar, roaming the wild lands, and visiting a variety of towns and cities on your journey.

New and exciting gameplay features have been added, ranging from character customization to brand new battle mechanics. Camping and jobs have been added for a nice dose of varie-

The game itself does not seem too impressive, even if this is the first mainline Pokemon game to make its way onto a console.

The story is just about the same as

any other Pokemon game from previous entries; start your journey training to be the best, battle a few rivals, take down an evil corporation, and become the pokemon champion.

Nothing truly new is added in terms of story, even though Pokemon from previously introduced titles have been cut to make space for new development. So, fans are demanding old pokemons to return.

The game feels largely underwhelming. Much of what made Pokemon so well received has been replaced with minimal features, making this game feel bare and empty.

Whether this game is worth \$59.99 is entirely up to the consumer, but from all the backlash the developers have been receiving, it may be best to spend your money on something else.

Very Frozen Sequel

BY USHNA ANWAR Frozen 2, the sequel to the popular Disney blockbuster, debuts November 22 in select theaters. It may have taken six years to contrive, but our curiosity as to what has been going on in our favorite animated characters' lives will be satiated shortly! An early premiere

of the movie will be available the evening of

The original Frozen was a chart-topping success and "grossed \$1.3 billion at the box office," according to Forbes writer, Natalie Robehmed. Doubts about Frozen 2 being as successful are not easy to find. Writer at Animation Magazine, Mercedes Milligan, reports that Frozen 2 is Fandango's quickest selling animated movie and "is expected to score a \$100 million" in its opening weekend. Some box office watchers predict more than \$M125."

The storyline takes place three years after the first film. Seven new songs are premiered, including "Into The Unknown," which will be covered by Panic! At The Disco for the end credits

Scott Stump, writer at Today, senses

"the new song threatens to become which will be covered by Panic! At The Disco for the end credits. Scott Stump, writer at Today, senses "the new song threatens to become the latest "Frozen" earworm, replacing "Let It Go," which seemingly has been playing on loop in every home and car containing small children for six straight years." The hyperbole is overt.

Also, at least eleven new characters will be introduced to "the sequel of Disney's biggest animated box office hit," according to Cinema Blend writer, Dirk Libbey.

Shyla Watson, a writer at BuzzFeed, relayed exciting news about how "there are still Easter eggs from the first film that fans haven't discovered yet." An easter egg is a hidden element or message which generally occurs in movies, tv shows, or video games.

Disney will indubitably take full financial advantage of this continuation, so be sure to watch for more Easter eggs in the sequel. This is the perfect film for family members of all ages as its release was timed perfectly during the

Tartars Take the Stage

BY DAZEA PASION

The Torrance High School Department of Theater presented its latest triumph, the Fall production of "A Wrinkle in Time" in the main auditorium from November 14 through the 16. THS students took themselves, the audience, and the stage through the fifth dimension to deliver a satisfying rendition of the classic tale.

Full of special effects (vivid projections, lighting, and sound effects), the theater department put their all into the production.

THS theater teacher, Mr. Darryl Hovis, said, "It's like giving birth." Putting on a whole production is never an easy feat. He added, "It was nice to see students take control of

The production was very hands-on, allowing students to input their own ideas into the set, direction, and appearance. On top of the amazing set portrayal, the acting was phenomenal. Students wowed the audience as they delivered heartfelt, comedic, and meaningful lines.

Senior Isabella McDade (Mrs. Who) said, "The experience was exhausting, overwhelming, yet very thoroughly rewarding.'

Everyone, onstage and backstage, gave every performance their best, and it really showed. Thank you to everyone who supported the production. It was a fantastic job, Tartars!



Photo courtesy of Daeza Pasion

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Recipes We're Thankful For

Banana Bread

Source: https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/20144/

banana-banana-bread/

Time to Make: 1 hr. 20 mins.

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup of butter

3/4 cups brown sugar

2 eggs, beaten

4 overripe bananas

1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. and lightly grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan.

In a large bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, cream together brown sugar and butter, and add eggs and mashed bananas until well blended. Stir banana mixture into flour mixture. Pour batter into prepared loaf pan.

Bake in the oven for 60 to 65 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean. Let bread cool in pan for 10 minutes, then remove from pan to prevent overcooking

Banana bread is a classic autumn comestible that comes with much flavor and a lovely aroma. The loaf sported a perfectly moist textured. It is best eaten warm, paired with coffee or hot chocolate. Enjoy your delicious, Thanksgiving-worthy fare! Green Bean Casserole

https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/ paula-deen/green-bean-casserole-recipe-1953741

Preparation Time: 30 mins. Ingredients:

1/3 stick of butter

1/2 cup of diced onions

1/2 cup of fresh, sliced mushrooms

2 cups sliced green beans

3 cups chicken broth

1 (10 3/4 oz can) cream of mushroom soup

Salt Black Pepper

Garlic Powder

1 cup grated cheddar cheese

Optional: (for topping)

Bacon bits

French's Crispy Fried Onion

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Boil green beans in vegetable broth for 10 minutes. Drain well.

Melt the butter in a large skillet. Use to saute the onions and mushrooms

On low heat, add green beans and cream of mushroom soup to onion mixture. Add salt, black pepper, garlic powder to taste. Stir well.

Pour into a greased baking dish, and bake for 20 minutes, then top the casserole with cheddar cheese and bake for an additional 10 minutes, or until cheese is melted.

This recipe produced a savory dish that is best served warm. The hearty taste of mushrooms mixed with fresh green beans made a wonderful, easy meal worthy of thanks. We tried this recipe topped with bacon bits. Fantastic! It made for a very enjoyable, Thanksgiving- Potluck-worthy dish!



Adopt a Pet! BY USHNA ANWAR

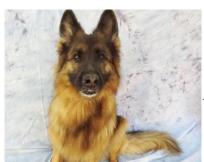




Midnight 20-00165 7 Months Old **Domestic Short Hair, Female**

Available at the spcaLA South Bay Pet Adoption Center 12910 Yukon Avenue Hawthorne, CA 90250 (310) 676-1149

Meow! My name is Midnight and I am a sweet kitten. I have beautiful golden eyes and a luxurious black coat. I am looking for my Friend for Life to take me to my furever home! Could that be you?



Susy Q 20-00001 6 Years Old German Shepherd, Female

Available at the spcaLA Pet Adoption Center 5026 W. Jefferson Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90016 562-730-5300

Woof, my name is Susy Q. I'm a sweet and gentle German Shepherd who is looking for a Friend for Life. I know sit, down, and I walk very well on a leash. Stop by and visit me!

Giving Thanks In Different Ways

BY KAYLA COLLINS

Torrance High School has a diverse population, and students celebrate Thanksgiving in different ways. Even though Thanksgiving is a national holiday, many cultures have different ways of celebrating it.

In Mexico, many families make tamales, which are often difficult and time-consuming to make, when the holiday season comes around. Others travel to see family in different places in the world. Some families just stay at their home and watch the thanksgiving parades. And other families go around the dinner table and say what they are thankful for.

Sophomore Aliyah Correas said, "For Thanksgiving, my whole family helps cook the dinner." While they wait for the tur-

key and cranberry sauce, they watch movies together. What a wholesome way to spend the holiday!

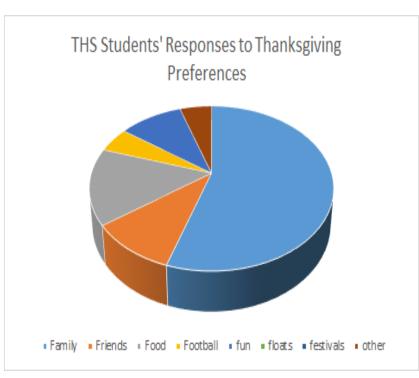
Others follow their culture's traditions. Sophomore Jasmine Dela Cruz said, "Sometimes we have a whole cooked pig." Her family follows their culture's traditions, but puts their own unique spin on it. She

explained, "There's also a bonfire outside, so all the adults can sit and talk." Now that's a cookout!

Many people enjoy this special holiday in their own unique way. But they all do have something in common, they spend it with their families! Be sure to remind your loved ones during this time of Thanksgiving how thankful you are to have them in your life!



THS is Most Thankful for... BY MIKI IGNACIO





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BY JOSHUA FLORES

This Thanksgiving the News Torch crew wanted to know what the students at Torrance High feel most Thankful for. The pie chart above reflects their preferences. The options were family, friends, food, football, fun, floats, festivals, and other. Out of 197 sampled responses recorded 20 were Freshmen, 78 were Sophomores, 76 were Juniors, and 23 were Seniors.

More than half of the respondents said family was the most important thing during Thanksgiving, followed by "food, friends, fun, football," and "other," in order of importance. The most significant response for "other" was NO SCHOOL.