

# BIG BLUE NEWS



## **BLACK FRIDAY!!!**

**HAILEY FORD**

Black Friday is the first Friday after Thanksgiving, which traditionally marks the start of the Christmas gift-shopping season. It is one of the most chaotic days of the year, with people lining up outside of stores and businesses, eagerly waiting in line to get the best deals. Many stores offer highly promoted sales at discounted prices and often open very early, sometimes even as early as midnight, or even on Thanksgiving or the day before. With merchandise up to 70% off, Black Friday is certainly not going away any time soon.

Black Friday originally dates back to November of 1951 and referred to the practice of workers calling in sick the day after Thanksgiving, in order to have a four-day weekend. It derived from the concept that the business operated at a financial loss due to the lack of staff. A few years later in the early 1960s, police officers in Philadelphia began using the phrase “Black Friday” to describe the chaos that resulted when large numbers of suburban tourists came into the city to begin their holiday shopping and attend the following Saturday’s annual Army-Navy football game.



## **Freeman One Act Production Places 3rd at Districts....A Historic Victory for the Production**

**REBECCA FORD**

On Wednesday, November 30th, the Freeman One Act production went out to Geneva to compete in this year's district One Act tournament, competing with 8 other schools and vying for the chance to go to state.

In a scoring of unprecedented magnitude, Freeman placed 3rd, beaten only by Fillmore Central and David City, and over half the cast was awarded Outstanding Actor awards. The placing comes after Freeman's remarkable performance at ECNC, where they placed 2nd and were outpaced by Elmwood-Murdock.

The Freeman One Act production, *A Wicked Christmas Carol* follows a plotline identified by an equally comedic and dramatic mash-up of traditional Christmas productions, *Wicked* and *A Christmas Carol*. Following the misdeeds of humbug witch Lina, played by Summer Buss, *A Wicked Christmas Carol* tracks a tale of Christmas spirit, one wherein an evil humbug witch is forced to confront her unfortunate past, her corrupt sins, and the dark path that lies ahead for her. The story ends with a heartwarming twist, one wherein Lina “fills her heart with peace and love and keeps it all year long.”

Although the One Act production run has officially ended, students and coaches look ahead to the state competition of One Act on December 8th at Norfolk, hoping to attend to competition, take an important day to team bond, and have the chance to look at and draw inspiration from the best of the best.



## SEASONAL NEWS

## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

HAYLEIGH SHUBERT

To most people, Christmas is one of their favorite holidays and they celebrate many family traditions during Christmas time. One of the most popular Christmas traditions is setting up and decorating a tree. Another major tradition is exchanging gifts with each other. For me, this is my favorite part of Christmas because you have the suspense of not knowing what's in the box.

Now, from Hailey Ford, here is one of her favorite Christmas traditions. "I love when my family and I drive around town and look at people's Christmas lights" This is also a fun tradition to do with your friends or family. Some houses even have lights connected to Bluetooth and they can play a song and the lights will shine to the beat.



Finally, another favorite from Olivia Gouldie is sledding. She says her dad used to tie the sled to their four-wheeler and her dad would pull them around the yard. This sounds like so much fun to do, and hopefully, we get enough snow to sled this year!

SCHOOL NEWS  
**SCHOOL  
IMPROVEMENT****OLIVIA GOULDIE**

Recently in the senior American government class, we were assigned a paper we were supposed to write to talk about the positives and negatives of our school. Our school is a very good school and there are so many positives but there are a lot of changes that need to be made in order to make the environment better.

Bullying policies especially need to be stricter, I've noticed a lot of bullying all over the school. It needs to be addressed more by adults, we need to have more discussions about the effects of bullying. It causes so many issues later in life that no kid should have to go through. I strongly believe that every Friday we need a free day all the end of the day. Weeks are very long and most Fridays consist of not a lot of work due to teachers having most of it done through the week, or students having big tests on Fridays.

Our school has a very good population of hard-working students and they deserve a break, holidays should consist of activities and spending time as a school having fun. Home economics class has also been a debate for the longest time. Most schools still have the class but I think it's important for them to understand how beneficial this class would be. Cooking is a life skill really, and learning how to cook for yourself or your siblings can be very helpful. Learning cooking basics and safety could also help with problem-solving skills and math skills. I think a lot could benefit from the class and it'd be another way for students to learn the importance of cooking.

I think that we have a great school and improving little things with small suggestions from students, can help a lot. Our school can grow and be a safer place for future generations and I hope by sharing my thoughts I gave you a little perspective as a student at Freeman Public Schools.

## SPORTS:

## WORLD CUP KNOCKOUT

BARON ROGMAN



Courtesy of cnn.com

USA will face Iran in a winner-takes-all match to proceed to the knockout stages. The knockout stage has already arrived for the United States Men's National Team (USMNT) at the World Cup. Nothing less than a win on Nov. 29th will suffice when it takes on Iran in a winner-takes-all match. In the build-up to the game, Iran state media called for the US to be kicked out of the 2022 World Cup after US Soccer changed Iran's flag on its social media accounts to show support for the protestors in Iran.

US Soccer told CNN that it wanted to change the official flag for 24 hours to show "support for the women in Iran fighting for basic human rights" but always planned to go back to the original flag. USMNT manager Gregg Berhalter said, "The thing about soccer is you meet so many different people from around the world and you're united by the common love of the sport of soccer. I see the game being hotly contested for the fact that both teams want a place in the next round, not because of politics. We are soccer players and we are going to compete and they are going to compete and that's it."

Let's wish the USA good luck as they play Nov. 29th at 1:00 pm vs Iran. Can the USA take home the win? Will they make it all the way? Only time will tell.

**UPDATE:** The US beat Iran 1-0 and moved on in the World Cup to the Round of 16, where they ended up losing to the Netherlands 3-1. Here's hoping that in 2026 the US will make it even further in the World Cup. The 2026 World Cup will be hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico....with Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City being one of the sites!



## Facing History Trip to D.C.

REBECCA PELLEGRINI



One of the most awaited moments for the students at Freeman is, without any doubt, the Facing History's trip in Washington D.C. The Facing History class is a semester course that some seniors take to study all the events that are connected to the dark period of the Holocaust and World War II. During this trip, in fact, we visited the famous United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in D.C. The schedule for these long days is really busy and the main focus is on museums and memorial places in the capital city of the United States of America.

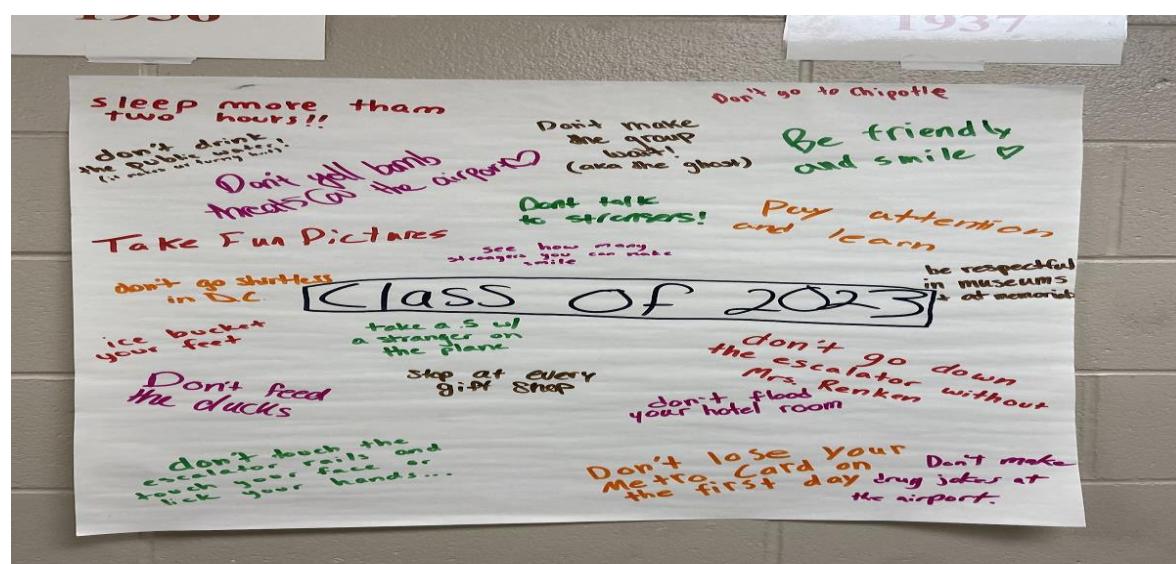
This year students and teachers left after school on, Monday November 7th towards Kansas City, where they spent the night. The day after probably was the longest for everyone: the alarm went off around 3.30 am and at 4.30 the entire class was waiting at the airport for the security check. The flight was around 3 hours long and, for most students, was their first time on a plane.

As soon as they arrived in the city, the class was already on the subway towards Virginia, for their first place to visit: the Arlington National Cemetery, one of two national cemeteries run by the United States Army. We got there in time to see The Changing of the Guard, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The National Museum of African American History and Culture was the next stop. The NMAAHC is the world's largest museum dedicated to African-American history and culture, with more than 350,000-square-foot (33,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of exhibits. For that reason, the day after, the class went back to visit it again.

In the beginning of the afternoon we went to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, a very emotionally moving experience for everyone. Around 5.00 p.m. they started the walking tour towards all the memorials and monuments: Washington Monument, World War II, Martin Luther King Jr., FDR, Korean, Lincoln Memorials and the Vietnam Wall.

The second, and last, day was a little bit more relaxing. After a little visit through some souvenir shops, the first stop was the Ford's Theater and the Petersen house. The theater is site of the assassination of the President Abraham Lincoln, which happened in 1865, and the house is the place where he died the next morning. After having seen the WWI memorial and the famous and long awaited White House, the class visited a series of museums: American History Museum, National Archives, Natural History Museum and they went back to the NMAAHC. Those were the last things that we saw, then (after a flight and a long drive) we came back to Adams around 2 in the morning.

As a tradition, the day after at school the class wrote a poster with all the highlights of the trip:



## SPEECH SEASON IS COMING!!

HAILEY FORD



With the 2023 speech season quickly approaching, the speech team is eager to be up and performing their speeches for upcoming competitions and conferences. This being said, I spoke with seniors Summer Buss, Shelby Ford, and Rebecca Ford, for some insight on what the upcoming season will look like for them.

This year, Summer is taking a new approach to perform, taking up POI, or a program of oral interpretation. She will also be taking on a serious speech about a woman who murders her husband. She explained her excitement and quoted, "I'm excited about meets and to get the ball rolling. Speech always has the best atmosphere in my opinion so I'm really excited for it".

Rebecca is also taking a spin with an informative speech, as well as an entertainment speech, all about her life as a quadruplet. In years past, she competed in humorous and entertainment. She explains, "I'm very nervous for speech, I always am, but I am really looking forward to making more great memories this year with my buddies".

Shelby alongside Summer will also be competing with a POI, different from last year's poetry, and OID or oral interpretation of drama. She will also continue this year with competitions in poetry. She exclaimed, "I'm most excited to perform, I enjoy watching people feel different emotions throughout my speech. Usually, my poetry speeches are very dark so it's nice to see the emotions people have. I'm also excited for the whole speech team to come back together, we're all super close so it's always fun. It's like having a big family".

## **BIG BLUE NEWS STAFF:**

**Hailey Ford**  
**Rebecca Ford**  
**Baron Rogman**  
**Olivia Gouldie**  
**Hayleigh Shubert**  
**Rebecca Pellegrini**

## FOOD NEWS:

***“Italian” Foods That Don’t Exist in Italy!***

REBECCA PELLEGRINI

Italy is famous all over the world for its food, and for that reason, you can find and get “Italian” food almost everywhere.

All the recipes of the dishes, of course, change in every different country and they are made with the ingredients that are available and local. There are so many dishes that people have thought to be classic Italian dishes, but they don’t actually exist in Italy.

**Fettuccine Alfredo**

The Fettuccine Alfredo is probably one of the most famous Italian dishes in America. There is a popular myth about a man, called Alfredo, that created the famous Fettuccine Alfredo in a restaurant for tourists in Rome back in the 1920’s. But the story is just a legend and in Italy, you can’t find that dish almost at all, least of all with chicken in it.

You can find, by the way, a type of pasta (called “pasta in bianco”) made just with butter and parmesan cheese.

**Spaghetti with meatballs**

One of the other Italian dishes that doesn’t exist in Italy is the classic American perception of “spaghetti with meatballs”, probably this idea has been fueled by the numerous films and TV series in which this dish is represented. The meatballs are called “Polpette” and are a really famous recipe dish in Italy, but they are not eaten with pasta.

**Garlic Bread**

The bread with a lot of garlic, oil, and cheese probably was invented in the USA. In Italy eating bread with ingredients on top is really common, for example, the typical “bruschetta” is always present during the classic “Sunday” lunches, made usually with a lot of members of the family together.

The classic “bruschetta al pomodoro” is made with toasted bread, a little bit of garlic, tomatoes and some extra virgin olive oil.



## NATIONAL NEWS

**A Death in the Family**

BARON ROGMAN

Kevin Conroy. A man that needs little to no introduction if you are a Batman fan. Kevin Conroy is looked at as the best voice actor for Batman in their respective community. He was the voice for the Dark Knight in countless animated shows and the Batman: Arkham video game trilogy. Whenever people looked at Batman, you would think of Kevin Conroy. He had such an iconic voice of the character that no one else could match. Kevin Conroy was an American actor. He was best known for his portrayal of the DC Comics superhero Batman in various animated media, beginning with the 1990s Batman: The Animated Series and its subsequent spin-off TV series and feature films in the DC Animated Universe.

But sadly on November 10, 2022, Kevin Conroy, and for many people, The Batman died. Conroy died at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City from intestinal cancer at the age of 66. He did not publicly disclose that he was ill. According to former co-star Diane Pershing, Conroy had been ill for a while. Conroy’s death instantly became international news. The word “Batman” began trending on Twitter shortly after news of his death broke, with over 492,000 tweets going out in less than 24 hours. The entertainment world, friends, and fans responded to his death through social and other media outlets. Following news of his death, fans began leaving flowers and other tributes at the Batman statue in Burbank, California.

## SPORTS

**Swim Season Begins!**

HAYLEIGH SHUBERT



On November 14th our 2022 swimming and diving season started. On our roster this year we have a total of 34 swimmers, 6 boys, and 28 girls. We hoped to have a bigger boy team this year but unfortunately, there are only 6 boys going out for swimming this year. One of our goals this year as a team is to win the conference like we’ve done the last two years. This year we have a very kind team and I think it will continue to be a welcoming environment for students to join. On Thursday, December 1st, we had our first swim meet at Lincoln North East. It was a very competitive meet, but in the end, the girls pulled through and won. Sadly, with the small number of boys this year, they were not able to win. Our next competition will be an invite on December 3rd in Hastings. I am very excited to see how our season goes and how everyone improves.

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