



METRO **Youth of Today** **Hope of Tomorrow** **Frost**



by Aiden Loyden
Hopewell Middle Sch.

I went to my grandparents' house for the holidays. I had a good time. I talked to some friends and I hung out with my family. My Grandpa and I binge watched *Cobra*

Kai. On most days, my brother and I played football. We ate a lot of food that was good made by my Mom and Grandma. On Christmas, we opened presents then we went to our family Christmas party. I saw a lot of family and had a good time. On New Year's Eve, we set off fireworks. They were very pretty. On New Year's Day, we put up the Christmas decorations and ate some food. I was very blessed to get presents, food, and shelter over Christmas. I hope everyone else reading this article was, too.



by Ava Roberts
Pflugerville High School

Before winter break, I met with my Guidance Counselor to get tips on getting ready for college. While on winter break, I worked on my college plans. I researched universities that offer Biomedical Engineering as well as academic and athletic scholarships. I laid out my plan for taking the SAT and submitting applications for college admission applications, financial aid, and scholar-

ships. This summer, I'm planning to visit colleges from my list. Also, I have been invited to participate in a medical leadership program and most likely will attend. I plan to check-in with my female mentors whom I have met while participating in many STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs over the years. Although, I have given a lot of thought as to what my academic future holds, I still have work to do. I will continue focusing on getting good grades. I will set timelines for both my SAT test date and college application submission. Please keep praying for me to fulfill my college dreams!



by Zoey King
Idea Montopolis Academy

Animal rain has been sighted since 1794. Animal rain is caused by strong or violent winds and storms picking up small fish, crabs, iguanas,

spiders, and frogs then they fall back down. Unfortunately the animals do not survive after falling and are most likely eaten by predators. The most recent animal rain happened in 2021 on December 6th. It only lasted a few minutes before small animals stopped raining. An estimate of how many fish landed were 39,000+ fish and there were only about 29,000 people in the whole country.



by Kyrie Williams
Nehemiah Christian Sch.

On Monday, January 10, 2022, we went on a field trip to a historical theatre in Austin, Texas named the Paramount Theatre. According to Wikipedia "The paramount is a live theatre venue/movie theatre located in downtown Austin, Texas. It is a classical revival style structure that was built in 1915. The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 23, 1976." This makes

the Paramount 107 years old this year. Now that is old. We went to the Paramount to see a play titled "The Adventures of the Tortoise and the Hare." *The Tortoise and the Hare* is an old Aesop fable that has been read many, many years. There are different versions of it. And on our field trip, we were able to see a whole new version presented in Lightwire Theatre style. It was totally awesome! Lightwire is electro luminescent puppetry and stimulating storytelling that is in New Orleans. It uses songs and a story for its storytelling presentation. The theatre is dark so you can see all of the puppets through lighting effects of lightwire. The next time you want to see something new and awesome, check out a lightwire theatre presentation at the Paramount Theatre right here in Austin.



by Lacey Johnson
Connally High School

Chances are you have encountered the prominent FAFSA acronym at one point in your life. Despite this, very few people hold a decent understanding of what the FAFSA actually is. Essentially, the FAFSA is a highly misinterpreted, yet tremendously beneficial application that is filled out by incoming college freshman and returning college students. The FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The idea of aiding students financially initially originated in 1965 with the passing of the Higher Education Act. This act acted as the gateway to creation for multiple programs and following acts that sought to improve the acts prior. Eventually, the FAFSA was implemented, and created for all people with the singular goal of providing free financial aid to students who wanted to pursue any form of higher education. In hindsight, the FAFSA seems like an immaculate opportunity for any student to take advantage of an opportunity so grand. Instincts might cause speculation on the downsides of completing such an application. Simply put, there are none. The FAFSA is a completely free application with absolutely no negatives throughout the process. This being said, if you do decide to apply for the FAFSA, there is some background knowledge needed in preparation.

No need to be alarmed though, the information is small in quantity and easy to gather. The information consists of your Social Security Number (SSN), parents Federal Income Tax Returns and W-2's, Alien Registration Number (if applicable), and your FSA ID (account will be created prior to FAFSA). Once these are all gathered, it is important to have an idea of the process the FAFSA sets you through. The procedure is rather straightforward. The form will be split into separate sections. The beginning sections will ask for your personal information. Next, you will need to input your financial background. Afterwards, you will have the ability to put in your choices of schools. There will be a maximum of 10 slots. These chosen schools will directly receive your FAFSA form. Then the tax return process follows next. This is where, for the most part, your parents/guardians will dictate as the rest of the sections request practical information. Once this is completed - congratulations! You have just received free money that requires little to no effort. You will be asked to sign the form then you will be allowed to go on your merry way. As you can see, the process is simple. I advise every eligible person to complete the FAFSA application. There are very few times you will receive free financial assistance, especially for such minimal effort. As the term "free money" suggests, you will never be expected to pay this money back under any circumstances. There is no loss. So fill out your free FAFSA form today and collect the money necessary to pursue your future!



by Kaitlyn Cannon
Blanton Elmn. Sch.

I had a happy and fun December 2021 holiday season break. My friends (two sisters Evelyn and Kaitlyn) were visiting here in Austin with their grandparents for the Christmas holiday. We had not seen each other in two years. All three of us have grown much taller since we last saw each other. We played games, which included wall-climbing, basketball at the park, and looking at our favorite movies and games on TV. We ate lots of goodies and stayed up as long as we could without falling out of our seats. When I returned to school last week, I was

so happy to see my teacher and classmates. We were asked to share what we did do during the break, but some of us did not get a chance to share, because some students talked a long time. Although the Omicron variant Corona Virus became another concern about masking and social distancing, so far, some students are ready to return to school to get through the rest of our class assignments. Our family has taken their vaccines. I am ready and hope to visit my cousins during Spring break, since they have received their vaccines. Until then, I am looking forward to continuing volleyball practice, get back to Praise Dance, and focus on school work. My focus is to continue to make the honor roll. I am working on improving better organization in my closet and bookshelf. I still want a puppy this year!



by SaNaya White
Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders

New Year's resolutions are often created among individuals searching to fulfill a goal that they have set for themselves. Despite being a popular phrase referring to self-change, "New Year, New Me" can sometimes be overestimated. It is important that when making resolutions we are sure that they are obtainable as well as impactful for our lives. Common resolutions include healthy eating habits, weight loss or gain, and exercising, etc. In the past, many of my resolutions have been forgotten or set above my achievability. The year 2021 was a year filled with challenges but also various chances for improvement. This year, my New Year's resolution is to focus on my happiness. I want to be

sure that I am living for myself as I am in the final semester of my senior year. As I am coming into graduation soon, I want to do what I can to focus on keeping my grades on track. In addition to this, I want to do what I can to make sure that I am enjoying the final moments of my high school career. Self-motivation and improvement are important qualities in life. This is my goal and something that I truly want to focus on throughout this year. I am incredibly excited to be graduating soon and getting prepared to begin a new chapter of my life. I know that 2022 will not be an easy year but I will do my best to make it my year. With every year comes new challenges, new obstacles, but also new opportunities. I encourage everyone to take 2022 and truly reflect and think about their New Year's resolution. Remember that you are not making a promise to yourself, but rather challenging yourself to obtain a goal. I wish you all an amazing year and I hope you had a Happy New Year!



can cause the bones and soft tissue to grow and enlarge the hands and feet. They can also cause widening of the jaw, forehead, and nose. Wadlow's tumor caused his entire body to enlarge. Wadlow's shoe size was 37AA which was 47 centimeters long. His shoes weighed almost over 4 pounds each. He died on July 15, 1940 when he

was 22 years old. On July 4, 1940, after going to a Manistee National Festival, a faulty brace irritated his ankle and it got infected. He had gotten a blood transfusion and surgery but that made the infection worse because of an autoimmune disorder. He sadly died on July 15 1940 in his sleep, but people still continue to study about him.



by Madison Roberts
Nehemiah Christian Sch

I feel like school is so much fun. Math, Science and Spanish are my favorite subjects. In my Math Class we always do Math Minutes and Math Flash Cards. This helps us build our skills in remembering the answers to all of the math facts in seconds. In Science

we conduct experiments and all sorts of stuff, like learning about our galaxy, the planets in the galaxy, our planet, etc. In Spanish I learn the names of things like animals and everyday things I use a lot. I have great teachers. They teach me so many things in school. Ms. Blackmon shows us a lot of love while teaching. She tells us that we are very smart students. I know they way my teachers teach me is doing me a lot of good because I understand what is being taught and I always get high grades. I get a lot of 100's.



by Zuri King
Idea Montopolis Academy

Robert Wadlow was a person who was recorded as the tallest person in history from February 22, 1918-

July 15 1940. His height was 8 feet 11 inches. What made him grow so fast was a pituitary tumor that caused his insane height. Your pituitary gland is in your brain and it regulates lots of bodily functions through the hormones including your growth function and development. Pituitary tumors



by Ruby George
Weiss High School

This year's winter break was all that I would hope it would be. Getting to sleep in, not having to worry about assignments or projects for school, and the best part of all, no school in general! I got to hang out with my friends and family all throughout the

break. On the 23rd of December, I went to Frisco, Texas to see The University of North Texas play against Miami of Ohio in the bowl game. I wish it were just a little bit colder though. That really would have put me in the Christmas spirit. Speaking of Christmas, it didn't feel right for some reason. Christmas Day really didn't feel like Christmas Day. A lot of people were agreeing that it felt off. But it's fine because I still got to spend time with family. That's really all that matters!