

ECHOES

Published by the students of Upper Columbia Academy

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Tis the Season

The Upper Columbia Academy students and faculty welcomed the holidays with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the first of December. The snow-covered campus filled with excitement and cheer as students watched the cafeteria transform. The ASB team set up and decorated a stunning Christmas Tree in the center of the room while various decorations and lights lined the walls.

At approximately 6:30 P.M. on that Thursday

night, students began filing in. The evening opened with live music and a performance by UCA's Octet. Following the music, came three spectacular speeches from Tanner Lowe, Chelysse Kakumba, and Mr. Spano that highlighted Christmas memories and morals.

A 10-second countdown signaled the lighting of the tree. Within moments, the darkened room was aglow with the colorful lights emanating from the Christ-

mas Tree. The Christmas season had officially begun at UCA.

At the end of the event, students and staff enjoyed a variety of tasty treats and hot coco as they celebrated with friends and created their own ornaments to hang on the tree. As a final note, the campus was visited by its very own Santa Claus.



By Hailey Fischer



Campus News

By Jonathan Haeger



The Annual Door Decorating Contest

The Annual Ad Building Door Contest just ended, and teachers made funny door decorations. The Library Door came in first place with their fantastic winter landscape. Second place was given to Mr. Hartman's doors, where an attendance list was shown, where multiple students were

humbled. Third place was given to the IT Department, where a keyboard was precariously strapped to the door. Congratulations to the winners, and well done to all who participated.

Winter Banquet, hosted by Mens' Club, strolled fashionably through UCA. The theme

was "Midnight in Paris." Though the air was cold and foggy, students dressed up in glorious attire and had a great time. Coming up next is our Christmas Break. Don't slide off the road, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



A Season for Music



Over the past few weeks, the Music Department has been very busy going on multiple music tours. Choraliers, Octet, and String quartet performed at Journey to Bethlehem at South Hill Church, and Summit Church in Post Falls. They were joined by Symphony Orchestra at Mr. and Mrs. Bacon's house for "Music on the Menu." Here, guests pay to listen to music and are fed a free meal. One donor paid \$5,000 to hear Octet sing "That's Christmas To Me" by Pentatonix.

The tour was not without incident, however. While heading to the Bacon's house, the bus got stuck in a ditch and

had to be pulled out by a caterpillar and a tow truck. Jonah Alvarado, a baritone in choraliers, stated, "Music tour was an emotional experience. We went through trials and tribulations just to get to our destinations. It was coordinated chaos."

For those who are music enthusiasts, or those who simply enjoy listening to music, the annual UCA Concert at the Fox Theater is happening on Thursday, December 15. The concert is free, so invite family, friends, community members, or anyone else who might enjoy all the music from Upper Columbia Academy!

Spiritual Life

By Angie Buursma



Journey to Bethlehem

As we enter the Christmas season, many people deck their halls with lights and other festive decor. Christmas is just so beautiful, not only visually, but also in spirit. The Christmas Spirit just has that certain feeling, unique only to Christmas.

As amazing as Christmas is, it is sometimes easy to forget why it is celebrated in the first place, because it is often focused on things like gifts, trees, decorations, music, and Santa Clause. However, this is not always the case. Beginning on

December 2 and through December 4, the South Hill Church was finally able to open its doors once again for its traditional Journey to Bethlehem.

This year was the South Hill Church's 14th year hosting it and after not being able to have it for the past two years due to covid, they were glad to jump back in it. Believe it or not, Journey to Bethlehem is not a small event. It has had numbers ranging from 4,000 to 6,000 attending each year. This year was one of their smaller years

with around 4,200 people visiting. The lines were so long that many people would take turns in their families waiting in line so that the others could warm themselves in their cars.

Journey to Bethlehem is such a popular event, and it is not hard to see why. As a visitor, not only do you get to watch the Christmas story come alive before your eyes, but also be a part of it as a side character. What an amazing start to the Christmas season!

Quote of the Month:

"Christmas is a necessity: There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves." - Eric Sevareid

Athletics

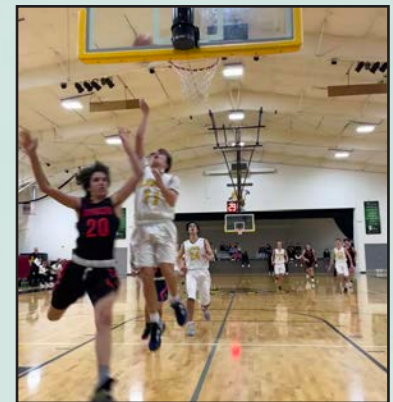
By Ethan Hickok



Getting Ready

Now that our ACRO Soul team has returned from their tour to ACROFEST in Nebraska, they are ready to start nailing their routine. They are working on many small fillers for their performances such as the minitrampoline, teeter totter, tumbling, air floor, and doubles moves. Very soon, they will begin their larger moves and complete their routine. They are planning to be prepared for their tours that will start about a month after we arrive back from break. They

will get the opportunity to go on many different trips and tours to perform all over the Pine Northwest. We are excited to see how our Acro team progresses throughout the year.



New Beginnings

This month, we get a total reset for our school sports. UCA has now entered basketball season. We just had out the very first set of games this week. These are only a few of many games yet to come. With four separate teams, many of our students get the chance to join our UCA athletics program. So far this year, our Varsity teams have played Asotin, Tekoa, and Liberty. Our Varsity girls' team is undefeated, and our guys' team has a standing record of 1-1. Our JV teams both

played Asotin, and the Guys JV also got to play Tekoa at home. The JV girls' record is 0-1 and the JV Guys' is 1-1. Try and make it to all UCA's home games. Our next game will be this Tuesday against Colfax.

With the start of a new sport season, we have a new sport for intramurals. The first volleyball game was on Monday. There are many games yet to come for both A league and B league competitors. Make sure to show up to help cheer on the other teams even if you are



The Sarah Tonin Corner

By Sarah Cole



For most people, Christmas is one of the most special times of the year. It's the time when the house smells too strongly of cinnamon, the time when there are always yummy treats in the oven or sweets hidden in the pantry, and the time when the speaker in the kitchen only plays Christmas Classics. It's the time for people who love eggnog to be victimized, the time for the family cat to have its few moments of glory atop the Christmas tree, and the time for fun family memories and those warm cozy feelings under the lights of the overly decorated tree.

These Jibbitz are a versatile accessory to anyone's favorite crocs to make their fancy footwear dream become a reality. Don't want to wear an ugly Christmas sweater? Jibbitz have got your back baby, don't even worry.



Christmas memes for you and your kin.



Kick off this holiday break with some fun and jolly accessories. You'd better hop onto these trends before they take the world by snowstorm.

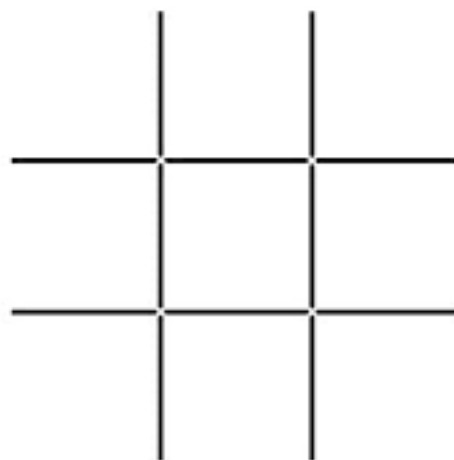
Try these festive (and equivalent to Gucci) glasses that you will never want to take off. They are the newer and improved Pit Vipers. Feel groovy this Christmas. Do it. I dare you.



Christmas Tic Tac Toe

To make tic tac toe more holiday-friendly, use one of these Christmas doodles as your X or O.

TIC • TAC • TOE



Student Highlight

By Sofia Pinell



Un Segundo Para Admirar

Elena Foll is a dorm student and Sophomore here at UCA. Elena would love to join the art class, but she's involved in many things which makes it harder for her to join the class. She really likes drawing and she has given some of her drawings to some of her friends. In this occasion she drew this really cool black and white parrot. She included a variety of techniques which makes it look even better.

2ND North Christmas Decorations in the Girls Dorm

Emma Dietrich is a senior and dorm student at Upper Columbia Academy, she is also the Resident Assistant for 2nd North in the girl's dorm. She decided to decorate her hall for her girls by putting Christmas lights up. A couple of the girls also decorated their rooms and doors. It is enjoyable walking around 2nd North with the decorations, and gives a nice feeling of the Christmas season.

A Holly Jolly Room

Haylee Olson is a sophomore and dorm student at Upper Columbia Academy. She is a very festive person and gets excited for any holiday specially for Christmas. She decided to decorate her room, she put Christmas lights up, she decorated a small Christmas tree with help from some of her friends and she placed an inflatable Santa Claus just outside her door. Everything gives it a nice feeling.





Are We There Yet?

By Tanner Duffy



The Most Chaotic Time of the Year

Christmastime is chaotic. No seriously! Christmas might have its wonderful virtues, family, decorations, a really long break from school, but the season itself can be very arduous. For some reason, everyone thinks it's rather brilliant to schedule every single school event in the latter days before break. This lack of time, on top of spending money for Christmas gifts, the pressure of getting the right gift, commercialism, and awkward family gatherings, all feed into the best seasonal gift. Stress.

For some of us Christmas is the excuse to be absolutely insane, and for some it's a way to channel the adrenaline rush from all the seasonal stimulation. But instead of focusing on the chaos among the fun stuff, let's look forward to the future and the new year, 2023.

2023 is a gross number. It doesn't end in 0, or 5, it's not even even! But I believe that 2023 will be worth more than the sum of its parts. We will have many things to look forward to. There will be flying cars, we will finally have hoverboards that actually hover, and Elon Musk will be President of the Earth. Okay maybe that last one is more of a prediction but either way we have many things to look forward to, though the one who looks forward is not the same as the one who lives through what was looked forward to when looking back on what was looked forward to then. Or something...

I encourage you to throw an extravagant New Year's celebration. Drink your Martinelli's, watch the ball drop in New York, really, really, slowly, as

thousands of tourists get covered in 2,000 pounds of confetti, (Americans are weird). If you're from Brazil go to the beach. If you're from Spain eat 12 grapes. If you're from Denmark throw some old plates. If you're from India build a sculpture of a random old dude and light it on fire. Whatever makes you happy, do that.

So, enjoy Christmas, enjoy New Year's, celebrate family, friends, and another successful cycle of Earth's orbit! Make your Winter Break last, do not just spend it all sleeping (though I cannot say that's a bad choice myself). Whatever you decide to do make it fun, and we will see you again in 2023. Just remember, that prosthetic legs make perfect stocking stuffers...



Random Quotes

"I am spelling your name the way I think it should be spelled." - Sadie Bowen

"Do you want your letters in 3D?" - Jomar Rodriguez

"That is the sweetest I've ever been called an idiot." - Pastor Fred

"Hey! Don't body shame my markers!" - Amy Ranette

"I will not have my rights violated by long sleeve shorts!" - Micaiah Haugsted

"Did you say you love me, Mrs. Riffel?! - Chaz Kastl