

## The Top



### Election Day

By Ella Sawitski

On Election day, citizens of the United States of America can vote by popular ballot for candidates for public offices at local, state and national levels. In even numbered years, federal elections are always held. In years divisible by four, presidential elections are always

held. Elections for local and state officials may be held in odd or even-numbered years, depending on local and state laws. Every year election day is on Tuesday because it does not interfere with going to church or with market day. The people who won locally were: Matthew L. Ossenfort is the Montgomery County Executive , Joseph M. Riley is the County coroner District , Edward W. Russo is the Alderman Ward 1 and many more.

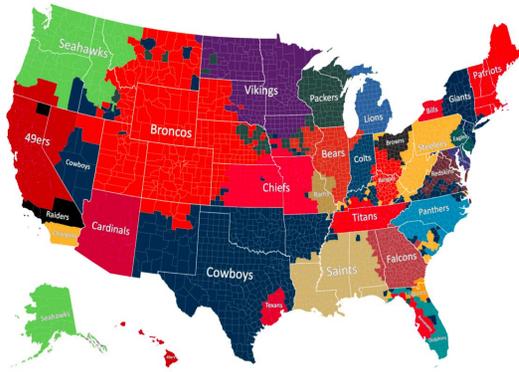


### Giant Pandas

By Ella Blanchard

Giant pandas are only found in the remote, mountainous regions of central China, in Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces, according to the National Zoo. Their lifespan is about 20 years. Adult Pandas can weigh up to 220lbs. Giant Pandas eat fish, bamboo and small animals. Giant Pandas are shy they don't go into areas where people live. Giant Pandas can climb as high as 13,000 feet and are also very good swimmers. The latest census in 2014 found that there were 1,864 giant pandas alive in the wild. This is not very many.





## The NFL

By Jackson Merritt

The NFL this week has resulted in the Eagles, Steelers, Patriots, and Vikings winning all of their games. The Eagles 8-1, Steelers 7-2, Patriots are 7-2, and Vikings 7-2. Potential teams are Bills, Chiefs, Jaguars, Titans, Seahawks, Saints, Panthers, and Rams. This week the teams that won were the Patriots, Panthers, Buccaneers, Falcons,

49ers, and Rams.



## SMI Drama Club

By Melissa Sapia

The SMI Drama Club is presenting to you the **Lion King!** Some of the big parts in this play are Shawn Kuehling playing Mufasa, Mariana Benvenuto playing Simba, Kasia Derrico playing Scar, Kyra Reynicke playing Sarabi, Ella Blanchard playing Zazu, Ella Sawitski playing Pumba, Andrew Baaki playing Timon, and a ton of others. This play will take place at our

school, Saint Mary's Institute, and will happen on April 27, 28, and the 29 of 2017. If your looking to buy tickets, they go on sale right after February break.



## Thanksgiving

By Anne Stanavich

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday celebrated in Canada, the United States, some of the Caribbean Islands, and Liberia. It began as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year. For more than two centuries, days of Thanksgiving

were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the middle of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November. In many American households it centers cooking and sharing a meal with family and friends. Turkey is a Thanksgiving symbol. Today however nearly 90 percent of Americans eat the bird whether roasted, baked or deep-fried on Thanksgiving, according to the National Turkey Federation. Other traditional foods include stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.



## Refugees

By Kasia Derrico

Refugees are people that leave their country because they are being persecuted or there is war. Usually the country is very dangerous and they are forced to leave. Most refugees in 2017 come from Syria because they are in the middle of a civil war and there is a lot of terrorism. In the month of June, the U.S. accepted more than 6,000 refugees. Since 1983, 1.6 million refugees have moved and settled in America. Refugees suffer a lot just to get out of the country that they live in. Such as getting caught by the police, having to hide, leaving your family, and more.



## Christmas already

By Sam VanWie

Christmas is fun, exciting and great. But it can be bad for you. If you listen to Christmas music too early you can get stressed about all the work you have to do for Christmas. Like decorating and cooking. If you listen to Christmas music before Thanksgiving you worry about not only Christmas but Thanksgiving too.

