

## Fulton has seven on all-star team

Fulton's best league showing in several seasons did not go unnoticed on the Freedom American soccer fields this fall as seven members of the Red Raider varsity were named to the all-league team.

Senior Callie Beckwith headlined the group as the versatile defender was a key fixture for Coach George Beckwith's side in finishing a stellar varsity career. Beckwith earned first team honors for the second straight year while junior Sydney Gilmore, a second team pick last season, was also named to the first team. Gilmore scored nine times with six assists for 15 points for an 11-6-1 Raider team that placed second in the Freedom American League with an impressive 8-1 mark.

Sophomore Jordan Coulon, the team's leading scorer with 15 goals and six assists was a second team selection along with fellow tenth grader Hailey Carroll, the team leader in assists with seven helpers to go with eight goals for 15 points. Coulon has now totalled 29 goals in her three seasons with the varsity and like senior goaltender Emily Kerfien was an honorable mention selection in 2014.

Before being knocked out of action late in the season, Kerfien recorded 56 saves and was a rock between the pipes as Fulton's last line of defense.

A pair of Raiders earned honorable mention recognition as senior defender Shawna Cooper and sophomore midfielder McKenna Chesbro were both noted for their big contributions to the Fulton cause.

**Seniors take note!**  
**Your yearbook poll/quote/directory forms are due to Mr. Senecal by Friday in room 118**



Students from the GRB Spanish, German and French classes made their annual trip to Michaud Nursing Home on Friday to bring some holiday cheer to the residents. Pictured from left to right are Nick Riciputo, Hannah Bennett, Autumn Proto, Cloe Gagnon, Courtney Miner, Sarah Rice, Kenny Deloff and Marisa LiVoti. (Sra Piraino photo)



The FBLA is selling homemade hot cocoa Christmas ornaments for a limited time only. The ornaments come in four flavors; chocolate, chocolate hazelnut, chocolate mint, and white chocolate and are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. They are great to hang on the tree or put on a present, or you could just take the top off and use it. The ornaments are cute and simple yet very fun to use or give to someone. Orders may be placed through any FBLA member, Mrs Ferlito, or Mrs. Taormina. In the photo above FBLA members Devon Robison, Gabrielle Mills, Collin Bennett and Domonique Johnson are busy at work creating the ornaments. (Mrs. Ferlito photo)

## Opinion

# What's the problem with "Happy Holidays?"

By Julia Polly

"Happy Holidays," "Seasons Greetings" or "Merry Christmas?"

'Tis the season when the topic of which phrase to say reappears with a debate on which is the appropriate phrase to say and which one not to say.

While there are many who believe that "Merry Christmas" is the only appropriate greeting this time of the year, what is the problem with saying, "Happy Holidays?" While Christianity appears to be the most prominent religion around this time of the year with Christmas specials and Christmas countdowns on TV networks and more, there are other religions in the United States that should not be neglected during this most festive of seasons. Such celebrations in other religions that occur within the season are Yule, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa for example.

It is understandable, though, that when you grow up in such an atmosphere that you may feel odd hearing "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas" on the streets or in the stores. I believe



that this is a problem that older generations may face more often, possibly due to having older relatives who think in such a way, where they may have an issue with "Happy Holidays" or "Seasons Greetings."

It should, however, be seen as a mark of change for the better. As we head toward a more diverse future of recognition of other religions, it should be welcomed with a love of each other and understanding! Despite being uncomfortable to some, what's a little unease when it comes to sharing the happy feelings of the holidays with all instead of a select few?

## What's happening at G. Ray Bodley High School?

**Spanish Club** will be cooking after school today in Sra Piraino's room. Please see her to sign up.

The next meeting of the **Fultonian Yearbook** is today after school in room 102. New members welcome.

The **Class of 2019** is selling pizza slices and bottled water after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays for \$1.50.

The counseling office of G. Ray Bodley High School will host its annual **Financial Aid Night** tonight at 7 pm in the auditorium. All college bound students and their parents or guardians are encouraged to attend.

Presale orders for the 2016 **Fultonian Yearbook** are now being taken. Reserve your copy by Dec. 23, 2015 and receive \$10 off the normal price (\$50 instead of \$60). Orders are being taken in room 118 during guided study hall. A \$10 deposit reserves your copy at the lower price.

**Ski & Snowboard Club** long sleeve t-shirts and hoodie orders and money need to be returned to Mrs. Ryan in room 111 by Friday, Dec. 11. Be ready for cold snowy nights with a new GRB Ski & Snowboard Club shirt!

## What's for lunch?

**Today:** Chicken smackers with biscuit, sweet potato fries, peas and peaches

**Wednesday:** Dominos pizza with salad, corn and pears

## This week in Raider Sports

**Today:** Girls Bball vs. C. Square (JV-5/V-6:45); Boys Bball @ C. Square (JV5/V-6:45); Hockey vs. Liverpool (6 pm); Swim vs. Syracuse (5 pm)

**Wed. Dec. 9:** Bowling vs. C. Square (3:30 @ Mattydale)

**Thurs. Dec. 10:** Bowling vs. ES-M (3:30 @ Mattydale)

**Fri. Dec. 11:** Hockey @ Cortland-Homer (7:30)

**Sat. Dec. 12:** JV wrestling @ Blindmans Tourney (9 am @ C-NS); Boys Bball vs. ES-M (JV-2:30/V-4:15)

*Due to circumstances beyond our control*

**RaiderNet Daily**

*will not return until next week*

**Order your 2016 yearbook by Wednesday, Dec. 23 and save \$10**  
**Pay \$50 instead of \$60 and save some \$\$**

**A minimum \$10 down payment reserves your book at the reduced rate!**

**See Mr. Senecal in room 118. Order forms are available in the main office or from Mr. Senecal.**

**Order online at: [YearbookOrderCenter.com](http://YearbookOrderCenter.com)**

**School code: 13715**

**Submit yearbook photos online at [www.hjshare.com](http://www.hjshare.com) our school code is: fultonian Spirit Week & Fall sports photos needed!**

## Entertainment

# The interesting story behind the *Star Wars* saga

By Zachary Almeter

*Star Wars* is one of the most popular movie franchises of all time, and a long-awaited new movie will be premiering this month. The story of how this global phenomenon came to be is truly an interesting one.

While *Star Wars* creator George Lucas was growing up, he noticed that there was a gap in the market for contemporary children's mythology and decided to create his own fairy tale. If you think about it, all the elements of your average fairy tale are present in the original *Star Wars* movie—a young hero, his old and wise mentor, and a princess, to name a few. One of Lucas' favorite TV shows as a child had been Flash Gordon, and he had long wanted to create his own Flash Gordon-style space opera. It was

**“No one thought the movie was going to be any good, least of all the perfectionist George Lucas, so everyone was surprised when it became the most popular movie of all time...”**

only natural that he combine these two ideas.

George Lucas' first theatrical release was THX 1138, a bleak depiction of a sterile future. It did well at certain film festivals, but its pessimistic tone earned it bad ratings in theaters, so Lucas decided to make a positive, spiritually uplifting film for his next project. This ended up becoming *American Graffiti*, an homage to his youth. It featured an early appearance by Harrison Ford and was one of the highest-grossing movies of the time, in terms of how much it cost to make. This was a lesson Lucas did not forget while working on *Star Wars*.



Lucas' first drafts of the script were drastically different from the story we know today. Perhaps the most notable difference was the fact that Luke had a brother—a Jedi named Deak Starkiller. (This last name eventually evolved into Skywalker.) Part of the story involved Luke and Han going on a mission to rescue Deak from the Imperial island city of Alderaan, located above a same-named gas giant.

This part of the story was eventually cut because the filmmaking team didn't have the money to pull it off. Deak was removed from the movie, and his role was filled by Luke's sister, Princess Leia. (Of course, no one knew she was his sister at the time.) The

## LMC offering creative opportunities

Imagine turning a banana into a keyboard, or possibly passing time with friends doing something besides talking and texting with a cool new game available in the library. Come on down to the Library during lunch bell or study hall and join in on the fun featuring Makey Makey's and Story Cubes!

Makey Makey's are the place to be for those interested in engineering their own keyboard and learning some technological science in the meantime. To find out more, go to the front desk in the Library and ask about them and the library staff will do the rest.

Story cubes is a cool new game available where participants take turns rolling some specially designated dice and then create a story out of what they roll each turn. It is a storytelling exercise game that comes with some wacky outcomes and helps exercise the funny bone as well as promoting creative thinking.

Students should not be shy about coming to the library, more is coming out later. Members of the Library Club have been involved with various arts and crafts and are going to make a showcase sometime soon which will include things such as personalized bookmarks and more.

By Julia Polly

name Alderaan was reassigned to Leia's doomed home planet, and the concept of a city in the clouds eventually made its way into *The Empire Strikes Back*.

The original *Star Wars* movie was originally scheduled for release in December 1976, but multiple and frequent technical difficulties caused it to fall drastically behind schedule. The new release date became May 1977. No one thought the movie was going to be any good, least of all the perfectionist George Lucas, so everyone was surprised when it became the most popular movie of all time up to that point.

Thirty-eight years later, the original *Star Wars* movie is still one of the highest-grossing movies of all time, and the saga's universal appeal has caused it to remain immensely popular. It is anyone's guess as to whether or not the new movie, *The Force Awakens*, will live up to the high standards set by the first six movies, but fans around the world will be eager to find out on December 18th.

## Look your best!

Book now for the  
prom & dinner dance

Happy holidays!

## Reflections

-THE- Salon & More

608 South 4th Street-Fulton  
(across from McDonalds)

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## Festive season underway with start of Hannukah

Starting on the evening of December 6, Sunday night. The massive Jewish celebration of Hanukkah began with the lighting of the first candle on menorahs all around the world! For eight nights and eight days, candles will be lit one by one in honor of the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in memory of the story of Hanukkah.

The story goes that Judah, a Jewish priest, ordered that the Temple to be cleansed and for a new altar to be built in place of the old one. For the altar, pure olive oil with the seal of the "Kohen Gadol" (high priest) was needed for the menorah within the Temple-which was required to burn throughout the night every night.

The twist to this though, is the one flask that was found had only enough oil to burn for one day, but it burned for eight days instead. This was just enough time to prepare a fresh supply of oil for the menorah. It was then that an eight day festival was declared to commemorate the miracle of this by many Jewish priests.

Some well known symbols of Hanukkah include the dreidel, or

### Quick reads:

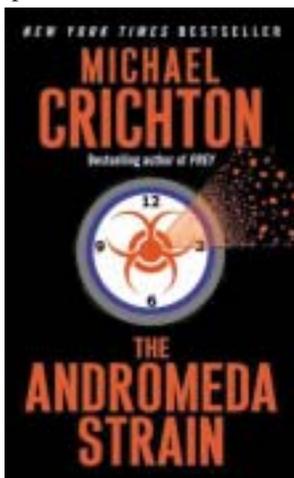
## Crichton's Andromeda Strain is a must-read

If you're looking for a good book to read for the holidays, I would suggest Michael Crichton's *The Andromeda Strain*, a heartwarming tale about a team of scientists working against time to find a cure for a mysterious disease found on a crashed research satellite. Well, maybe it isn't the most suitable choice for holiday-specific reading, but it is a good book.

The plot of the book consists of a top secret crisis situation. A satellite sent into space to collect bacteria floating in the farthest reaches of the atmosphere crashes to earth in a tiny, isolated town. Almost everyone in the town is found dead. The Wildfire team, created as insurance against the hypothetical situation that is now real must identify and find a cure for the disease before it can spread to the world.

This all sounds very extreme, but one of the greatest aspects of Michael Crichton's work is the way he takes complex, unlikely scenarios and uses existing scientific theories to make them real and practical. He has the characters who are familiar with the scientific topics explain them to more confused characters as the story progresses.

The concepts he explains are fascinating, are made clear very well, and tie perfectly into the flow and excitement of the story. In *Andromeda*, Crichton's exploration of the imaginary workings of Project Wildfire and of research on an microorganism unlike any ever seen



the spinning top piece that has the multiple hebrew letters on all sides. These stand for a meaning though, with Nun, Gimel, He and Shin all forming an acronym for "Nes Gadol Hayah Sham," which is translated to "a great miracle happened there" in reference to the



rededication of the Holy Temple. The dreidel also serves as a game, however. It is a sort of luck type of game that features multiple chocolate coins, buttons, nuts, or other things. Participants spin the dreidel to see what happens to their group of goodies. The meanings of these letters in the game go as follows: nun-take nothing, gimel-take everything; he- take half; and shin-put one in.

Food that is often eaten on Hanukkah, are Latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly donuts) which are cooked in oil and traditionally eaten during Hanukkah as a remembrance of the oil burning for eight nights.

Hanukkah ends on December 14, Monday evening, so if you know anyone of the Jewish faith, be sure to say "Happy Hanukkah!"

*By Julia Polly*

on Earth makes for a riveting, suspenseful tale.

The *Andromeda Strain* is a must-read for any fan of science fiction. For someone who is not a fan of the genre, this book might even change your mind.

*By Caleb Almeter*

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Going someplace cool? Take  
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Daily

with you and get your picture taken for this  
year's Fultonian Yearbook feature

**"Where in the world  
is The Raider?"**

## What do you think about Donald Trump's plan to keep Muslims from entering the US?



"It probably won't work."  
Josh Hudson



"Not all Muslims are bad."  
Cameron Clarke



"I don't support Trump."  
Collin Flynn



"I don't care if they come here."  
Daniel Aiken

# Meteorology and you

Today:

Tonight:

Tomorrow:

By Carson Metcalf



Filtered sun

**41°**

Average: 39°  
Record: 69° (1966)



Partly cloudy

**32°**

Average: 25°  
Record: -1° (1906)



Sun and clouds

**50°**

Average: 39°  
Record: 67° (1966)



Former GRB student and current SUNY Oswego senior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist. Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.