

# BEECHER



November 2018

Editor-in-Chief: Jed Vergara

Co-Editors-in-Chief: Katelyn Kain & Emily Hayhurst

Beecher High School  
538 Miller Street  
Beecher, IL 60401

Bohemian  
Rhapsody Movie  
Pg. 4

Tylenol Killings  
Pg. 5

Thanksgiving  
Elsewhere  
Pg. 5

## Why do Leaves Fall?

Ryley Knapp  
Editor/Reporter



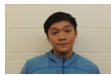
As Fall approaches, the temperature decreases and it's time to break out the sweaters and fuzzy socks. Some may wonder why there are so many colorful leaves crunching beneath their feet each step they take. In most parts of the world, the Fall months are followed with dramatic and colorful leaves everywhere. They can be spotted on sidewalks, roads, blowing in the wind or even piled at the edge of driveways. The reason they plunge to the ground one by one is quite simple, but not very well known. Unlike the evergreen plant, most trees do not have a wax coating to protect them. This specific type of plant is able to withstand the cold months because of this wax coating and the shape of the leaves. The shape allows them to conserve an adequate amount of water to survive. Most trees have much thinner leaves, leaving them to be more vulnerable to the cold



Cont. on page 5

## WHEN IS IT TIME FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS?

Jed Vergara  
Editor-in-Chief



Every year, most families decorate their homes with a tree, lights, and multiple forms of accessories to express their love for the festivities of the Christmas season. Enjoyable aspects of this season involve copious amounts of tinsels, Christmas train sets, and even wreaths that celebrate the spirit of the holidays.

### How did it start?

According to History.com, long before the advent of Christianity, plants that remained green during the winter had a special meaning for the people. Ancient people hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows believing that these would keep witches, ghouls, and evil spirits away. Ancient Egyptians worshipped the sun god, Ra, who



begins to recover from sickness during the winter solstice. To symbolize life over death, Egyptians would fill their homes with palm rushes.

Germany started the Christmas tree tradition that we know today. In the 16th century, devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes and if wood was scarce, some Christians would build pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreen and candles.

Lights began to tangle the evergreens when Martin Luther, 16th-Century Protestant reformer, was awed by the

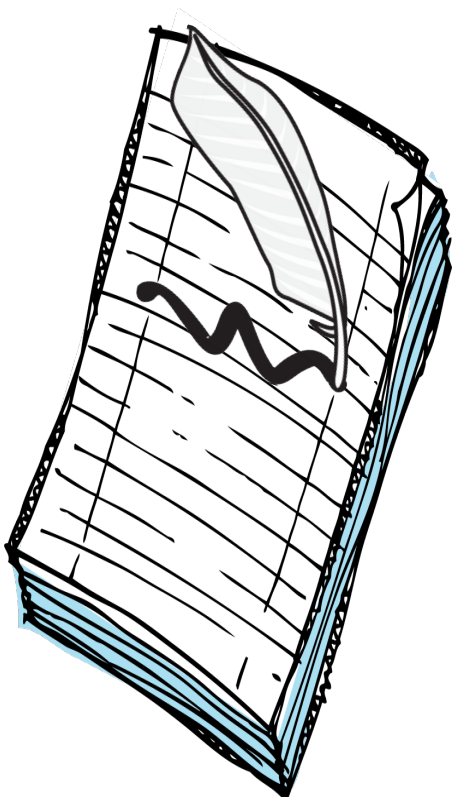
Cont. on page 3

## NaNoWriMo

Sammy Docter  
Editor/Reporter



National Novel Writing Month, usually shortened to NaNoWriMo, is a month-long creative writing project, in which participants try to write a 50,000 word novel in the month of November. The organization is non-profit and runs mainly on donations and money earned from merchandise sales on their website. Launched 19 years ago on July 1, 1999, with 21 participants, the challenge has blossomed over the years to be a program with hundreds of thousands of participants annually. Writing 50,000 words may seem to be a very daunting task, but it's very possible. Several bestselling novels have started out as NaNoWriMo manuscripts. These include Anna and the French Kiss by Stephanie Perkins, Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell, and Cinder by Marissa Meyer.



Cont. on page 4

## Food Pictures on Social Media

Gwen Docter  
Editor/Reporter



What do Thanksgiving and social media have in common? Food!

Every day, about 75 million photos and videos are posted to Instagram--that's roughly 900 posts every second. Since Instagram was released, there have been over 40 billions posts, and of those, about 1.5 billion photos have been tagged with hashtags such as #food, #yummy, and #instafood (and that's not to mention all the untagged pictures). Food is the most photographed subject on Instagram, so what compels people to post about their meals each day?

### Basic Facts

Instagram was launched in October of 2010, and in the eight years since, food has become one of the staples of social media--so



staples of social media--so much so that the newer Samsung phone models have had a feature added on their cameras solely for food pictures. But whether or not food posts on social media have a good influence on people viewing them is up for debate. Pizza, steak, burgers, and tacos are four of the most popular foods posted about. Based on these, it could be argued that food photos are promoting unhealthy eating.

Cont. on page 12