

## O'Brien Makes Harrison History Placing Fourth Worldwide at ISEF

Madison Schiro

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Senior Arwen Fernandez O'Brien placed fourth worldwide at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), representing an historic first for Harrison High School.

O'Brien previously competed in both WESEF, the Westchester fair, and NYSSEF, the New York State fair.

She was given the special award of Excellence in Medical Research Award at WESEF, and qualified for ISEF after presenting at NYSSEF.

The 2021 Science Fair stretch looked quite different than in past years and created a unique challenge for all its participants, including O'Brien.

Each competition O'Brien entered took place virtually, which meant that most aspects of the fairs had to change - from the materials presented to the way students were judged.

O'Brien explained how her preparation looked different this year.

"Participants were required to create a digital project board which involved making Google Slides and filming videos to present research," she said.

This is already a large step away from the previous requirements of the Science and Engineering Fairs, as they had asked for slideshow presentations and documents to be read aloud in PDF format.

The task of combining both videos and slideshows into one presentation was something O'Brien had to immediately work on after competing in NYSSEF, as these requirements were a new challenge.

Another differing aspect of ISEF to the previous science fairs was the judging portion of the competition.

At WESEF, students had to be present in independent virtual waiting rooms from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on a scheduled day, and saw around five judges in total.

The NYSSEF competition was completely virtual, and students were required to submit a five-minute video on their respective topic.

These videos were reviewed for judging, and students who became finalists moved on to another round to be scored again after presenting a second time.

This year at ISEF, O'Brien had to present in front of approximately 15 judges, all experts in her particular field of research.

O'Brien expressed that this had initially made her nervous, but she soon realized

which is a common organism used in scientific research in order to establish the base work for future studies.

O'Brien explained that the goal of her research was "to advance the use of individualized medicine in hospitals, as there



The 2020 competition was canceled due to the pandemic. This year's competition was held virtually

Courtesy of Regeneron / ISEF



Fruit flies provide the needed answers. Here O'Brien is checking key research statistics.

Courtesy of Arwen Fernandez O'Brien

cogenomics Study.

Her research focuses on adverse drug effects/reactions, and potential solutions to prevent people being harmed by them.

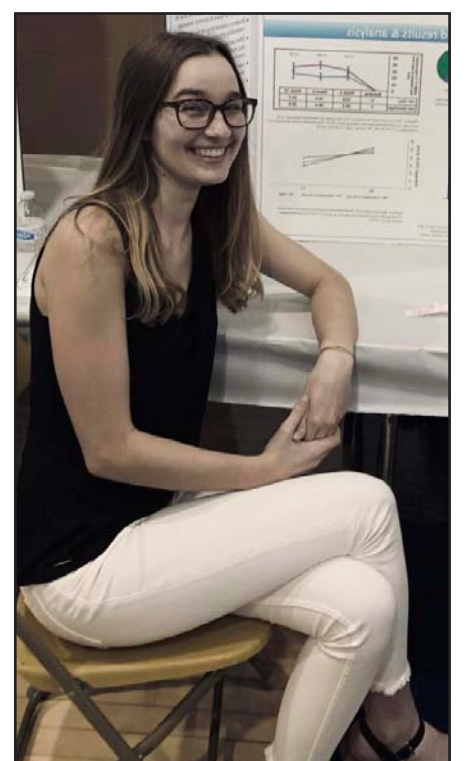
O'Brien was able to look at, study, and research *Drosophila melanogaster*, or fruit flies,

ISEF competition and the COVID-19 pandemic presented new challenges, O'Brien worked extremely hard and placed fourth.

Ms. Allison Blunt, O'Brien's Science Research teacher, said, "Arwen placing at ISEF was such an incredibly exciting event for Harrison Science Research. That was the first time in the class's history that a student placed in this international competition. This recognition was all the more impressive because Arwen conducted her research at home. Mr. Gunnell and I, and all her peers in Science Research, are so

proud of her efforts and her accomplishments."

O'Brien reflected that "After the competition was over, I just felt incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to share my research with these professionals."



When it's Science Fair season, it seems as though every week is another competition. Thankfully, O'Brien smiles her way toward an historic win.

Courtesy of Arwen Fernandez O'Brien



To advance the use of individualized medicine, O'Brien had to perform a genetic cross between mutant flies in her living room.

Courtesy of Arwen Fernandez O'Brien

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# NEWS & FEATURES

## Junior Class Auction Zooms to Success

Cynthia Malota

Staff Writer

The Harrison High School Junior Class Auction was held on May 20, 2021. This year was different from previous years because the auction had to be held fully virtual due to the pandemic.

Last year in 2020, the junior student government was not able to hold an auction at all, so this year being able to hold an auction virtually was a very good thing, but also much harder because of the possibility there would be a lot less people. This year in 2021 an email was sent out to members of the Harrison community showing slides of raffle or auction items and providing information as to when the auction was and how to join it through a Zoom link.

According to junior class vice president Lili Rossi, "We were able to get a good amount of raffle items and auction items for the auction, which was really great. But we were mainly scared about how it would go virtual on Zoom and if there would be any technical difficulties. In the end it did go very well and we were happy with how everything turned out."

For the days leading up to the auction, raffles were sold during lunch periods in school. For students who were fully virtual they were able to submit a sheet that was emailed with what they wanted to put raffles in for, then a member of the student government would do it for them.

There were 40 raffle ticket options, such as gift cards to food places like *Chipotle*, parking spots on cam-



**Auctioneer extraordinaire.** Mr. Mastrotta really did a great job handling the bids for the live auction.  
*Courtesy of Ms. Konrad*

pus for juniors, baskets with products like COVID-19 supplies, a pack of disposable cameras, LED lights, different types of lessons from students or teachers, and much more.

On the day of the auction all of the raffles were picked and the bidding for the live auction items was done via the Zoom by Assistant Principal Mr. Larry Mastrotta. Some of the items that were being auctioned off live were free tanning sessions, workout classes, a college counselor meeting, airpods, signed jerseys by either Steph Curry or Kyrie Irving, baseball lessons from a Columbia baseball alumni, and many more great options.

According to junior class president Danny Eljama, "Both the live auction and selling of the raffles went really well and we were able to make a good amount of money. We are also very thankful for anyone who joined the Zoom, bid on auctions, or bought raffle tickets because a lot of preparation and time was put into this. We were able to sell almost all of the live auction items and raffle items."

Overall, the Harrison High School junior class auction of 2021 went very well because there were a lot of quality items for people to choose from.

Taking into consideration the circumstances of the auction having to be held virtually, it still turned out to be very successful and was great for the student class government.

## CDC Significantly Revises Mask Guidelines

Luke Wong

Co-Managing Editor

As the percentage of the American population that has received their vaccinations has increased, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has finally begun to loosen mask guidelines and recommendations for those who have fully vaccinated.

Under the standards of the CDC, a fully vaccinated person is one who has had two weeks pass following their second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, or the same time period after the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, on May 13, 2021, the CDC updated their COVID-19 guidelines in a substantial manner.

Among other major revisions, the most prolific changes to the CDC's COVID-19 preventative measures came for those who have been fully vaccinated. According to *The Wall Street Journal's* report on the matter,

fully vaccinated Americans no longer "...need to wear a mask or physically distance during outdoor or indoor activities, large or small."

The new mask guidelines have received bipartisan support. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said "Free at last," when asked about the new guidelines by the press.

In contrast, President Joe Biden expressed a more cautiously optimistic outlook on the new guidance.

According to the same article in *The Wall Street Journal*, President Biden said, "Look, we've gotten this far. Please protect yourself until you get to the finish line. Because as great as this announcement is today, we don't want to let up."

"I'm honestly so glad that



**Respect the rules of what retailers require.** Despite the relaxed restrictions put forth by the CDC, individual businesses may still require masks and reserve the right to operate however they see fit.  
*Courtesy of WYSR*

the CDC has revised their guidelines," Harrison High School junior Aidan Tschantre told *The Husky Herald*. "I've been wearing my mask properly every day, and since I'm fully vaccinated, I can finally take off the mask."

Although New York governor Andrew Cuomo originally showed hesitancy toward adopting the revised guidelines, he quickly backtracked, saying "We have to reopen, we have to reopen smart, we have to reopen with a cautious eye, but we have to get back to life."

According to a May 17 account in *The Wall Street Journal*, while Cuomo originally wanted New York state health officials to review the newly issued CDC guidance, an already relatively high full vaccination rate of 42% in New York state may have influenced Cuomo's reconsideration of the CDC's guidelines.

Businesses have also responded with elation to the new

guidelines that remove social distancing recommendations for those fully vaccinated Americans.

According to *CNBC*, mega-store chain *Walmart* and warehouse-store chain *Costco* will both drop their mask requirements in-store, unless otherwise mandated by local regulations.

Additionally, theme parks such as *Universal Studios Orlando*, *SeaWorld* and *Walt Disney World* have begun to eliminate social distancing requirements throughout their parks.

According to the *New York Daily News*, these anchor amusement parks have loosened their mask restrictions. "The use of face masks in outdoor areas at *Walt Disney World*...is now optional..." *The Daily News* reported.

As more and more of the American public gets vaccinated, the CDC will likely continue to further loosen their restrictions.



# A Community Profile: Erin Locascio

Jack Kelly

Co-Managing Editor

Harrison, a town of over 28,000 residents, has immense socio-economic and demographic diversity; people with varying interests, backgrounds, and identities live in the many different parts of our 17-square-mile village. This town's diversity and variety of interests is paralleled in Harrison High School with many different friend groups, clubs, hobbies, and social networks. It is rare that one community figure is able to transcend all the social groups and divisions of a town like Harrison, but that is exactly what Erin Locascio (EDL) is able to do.

Erin is a passionate sports photographer and the owner and founder of EDL Photography. They are loved by many Harrison students, both athletes and non-athletes alike, as well as many parents and other family members. While EDL is often behind the camera and not the center of attention, the story of who they are and how they came to be a well-accomplished and beloved photographer is one of passion, dedication, and vision.

Erin grew up and still lives in White Plains, NY and was a White Plains High School graduate in 2012. The genesis of their connection to photography starts with their father, John Locascio. John took photos at White Plains High School from when Erin was 5 until when Erin was a senior in high school.

During their junior year of high school, Erin was allowed to hold a camera for the first time and it was love at first sight. Since that first exposure about a decade ago, Erin has not put the camera down. With each new day working with a camera, their love for photography increases and they continuously refine their craft.

Growing up, Erin played any sport they could, barring racket sports (sorry tennis fans!). This early inclination and love for

sports influences their worldview tremendously and enables them to be a much better sports photographer. Erin is able to know where to be in a sport and what they would want if they were the athlete being photographed.

Erin attended SUNY Cortland for college and further pursued photography. They managed sports teams and was able to do graphic design for the basketball, soccer, and softball teams at Cortland. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in physical education and while pursuing a masters degree in sports management, Erin was able to intern at Notre Dame and continue taking photos.

For a period of time, being a PE teacher was in the cards for Erin, but the Notre Dame internship and the realization that sports photography was the juncture of all their passions and interests sealed the deal and led them to where they are today. EDL described their current job to the *Husky Herald* as a "match made in heaven."

EDL Photography became an official business in 2018, but Erin had been able to monetize their passion dating back to 2013. They initially took photos for White Plains High School and through word of mouth, their services were so



**It's all in the shot.** Erin Locascio has years of experience honing their expertise behind the lens in order to get the best action shots possible.

*Courtesy of EDL Photography*



**A match made in heaven.** Erin Locascio has a passion for sports photography that is evident in the end results. Here they are setting up before a game at McGillicuddy Field.

*Courtesy of EDL Photography*

fan. At times, you might even catch Erin jamming out to "Good 4 You." Olivia Rodrigo is just the beginning of the bouquet of music genres they listen to. A typical EDL music experience is fairly eclectic: from country to pop, indie to alternative, and Katy Perry to Quinn XCII, Erin keeps you guessing what is next.

Erin watches *This Might Get Weird* on YouTube and *Grey's Anatomy* on Netflix. Like many Americans, Erin had a Netflix binge show at the start of the pandemic. Their trusty get-through-quarantine-series was *Criminal Minds*, a thriller crime series following members of the Behavioral Analysis Unit of the FBI.

Erin is both openly gay and openly non-binary (they/them pronouns)—they first came out in 2016. Erin recognizes that acceptance of queer identities, while it shouldn't take a long time, often does for loved ones and other community members. Erin has received lots of support from outstanding community members like Jay Ciracco; conversely, Erin has experienced lots of ignorance in Harrison and at other schools.

People will misgender Erin and call them "she," and Erin believes this is due to a lack of education about LGBTQ+ rights in Harrison and at most schools. Erin will post educational content and personal content to their main accounts explaining their identity, but this can only reach people who take the time to read the posts they put up—many might not bother reading and consequently will miss out on this important part of Erin's identity.

There is a distinct dichotomy between the way girls and boys respond to Erin's queerness. Erin noted that the women sports teams have athletes that actively self-correct or get Erin's pronouns right. On men's sports teams, there is a smaller frequency of people who correctly identify Erin. In fact, recently Erin was at a men's lacrosse game where they heard someone say, "I hope she was there to get the shot." This is a difficult thing for any non-binary person to hear, especially since they care so much for all the athletes they photograph.

When asked about the importance of LGBTQ+ education, Erin told the *Husky Herald*, "When you're in the LGBTQ+ community, you know it, you're

around it [queer identities]. My TikTok algorithm is a lot different than these boys' TikTok algorithms which is probably a large reason why I was able to realize my non-binary identity. But they're not in it."

Erin is not a very confrontational person, so it is infrequent that they will correct others about their identity—it is usually the people they are closest with that Erin will reach out to in order to correct. Erin just asks that others respect their identity and are kind and accepting.

EDL hopes that one day they will have their business model so perfected that they could pick up and move their business across the country, specifically to Colorado. Fear not, EDL will remain in Harrison for the foreseeable future, but going to Colorado is definitely a life goal.

Erin is considering bringing somebody else to help grow EDL Photography, but there are two key prerequisites for any prospective applicants. Erin would want anyone joining the EDL Photography team of one to be as immensely passionate about sports photography as they are. Moreover, EDL would want a partner for the business, not just someone to work for them.

One of the most salient things to know about Erin—beyond their camera abilities and growing business—is their unparalleled connection with the student athletes. Erin's relationship extends beyond a professional rapport into a friendship. All of the athletes can consistently count on Erin as a friend, as a mentor, as someone to turn to. Erin is undoubtedly transparent and straightforward with the athletes, but they are also kind, amiable, and approachable for any student.

While Erin is often in the background at games, it turns out that they have quite the compelling life and business story to share. The entire Husky community is grateful for their continued support of our athletes and for their mentorship for other young queer people and aspiring photographers. It's not easy capturing their many talents, but this journalistic snapshot provides a sincere and candid view of the magic they work behind the camera, day after day, game after game.



**A unique business model.** EDL lets customers pay for an entire game and then creates galleries for the individual athletes, rather than charging separate fees.

*Courtesy of EDL Photography*

elicited by athletes from different school districts and from varying sports teams.

Within the short span of three years, EDL Photography has rapidly grown and Erin now works with many different schools including Harrison, White Plains, Blind Brook, Briarcliff, Alexander Hamilton, Carmel, Dobbs Ferry, Pearl River, Valhalla, and Stepinac. EDL Photography takes photos of a diverse array of sports including soccer, football, baseball, wrestling, golf, basketball, track and field, and field hockey.

With experience, Erin has been able to establish a business model that works well and satisfies customers. Erin allows booster clubs, parents, or students to pay for an entire game and then they will create individual galleries for the athletes. This system that Erin has adopted is unique in the world of photography; other photographers might have a game fee and then individual photo fees, but Erin feels passionately about not making athletes incur a further expense.

Like many connoisseurs of music, Erin is an Olivia Rodrigo



# Instagram's New Profile Feature

Katie Rube  
News Editor

In recent weeks, *Instagram* has updated its platform to allow the inclusion of pronouns into peoples' bios. Hopefully this guide can answer some common questions and clarify the purposes behind the feature.

### “What are pronouns?”

Pronouns, linguistically speaking, are words that substitute for nouns. So when people ask to be referred to by certain pronouns, such as they, he, or she, they are asking that that word be used to replace their name in a sentence. For instance, if one were to say, “They are going to the mall” as opposed to “John is going to the mall.” “They” would be John's preferred pronoun, describing their gender identity.

### “Why are they so important?”

To many, pronouns might seem simple because the ones that they have been living with are ones they have identified with their entire life. Essentially, people who have been identifying with their gender assigned at birth since they were young don't bat an eye when someone re-

fers to them in a way that they've always been comfortable with. For those who are transgender, pronouns can stick out more and be an important part of their identity. They can also give people a sense of community and clarity.

### “I'm cisgender, so why do I have to put them in my bio?”

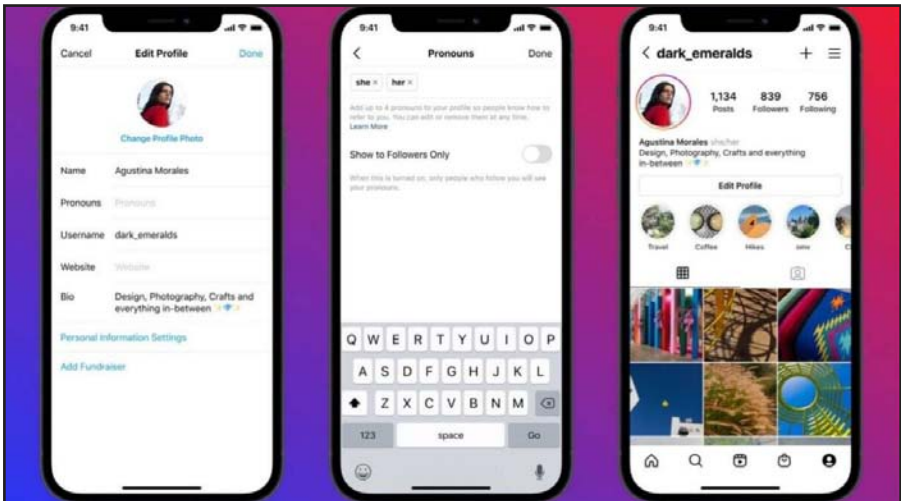
First off, this feature is not required, and doesn't have to be used if the user doesn't want it for any reason. As *Buzzfeed* journalist Kelly Martinez explained,

“while putting pronouns in your bio can be great, nobody should feel pressured to do so if they're still figuring out their identity or not quite comfortable sharing yet!”

However, putting it in your profile even when you are cisgender can normalize it and make it so that trans peoples' profiles don't stick out like a sore thumb if they don't want it to be a huge deal. When everyone participates, it can decrease chances of cyber-bullying that targets trans people. It also means that people know that you will respect their pronouns and be an ally.

Junior Elizabeth Murno explained why they think it's a good idea:

“The new feature allowing people to include their pronouns is great because it definitely encourages people to do so, ultimately normalizing it. It is extremely helpful because it helps make sure that nobody is misgendered, while normalizing openness about pronouns, which is key in preventing the outing of transgender people.”



**Pronouns provide a sense of community.** Instagram has recognized the need and desire for its users to make pronouns an important part of any profile.

Courtesy of Instagram

# The Great Battle of the Joshes

Erica Jacobson  
Staff Writer

On April 24, 2021 a great clash ensued: a battle of the Joshes. Hundreds of people, many named Josh, gathered at Air Park in Lincoln, Nebraska for one noble purpose: to reveal to one and all the ultimate Josh.

Who would start something like this? Well, that man would be 22-year-old Josh Swain, a civil engineering student from Arizona. On April 24, 2020, he began a *Facebook Messenger* group chat with other users named Josh Swain.

He began the chat with, “You're probably wondering why I've gathered you all here today,” to which the other Josh Swains responded with confusion. The real Josh Swain then sent them coordinates in Lincoln, Nebraska, and told the group that they must fight in a year's time, and whoever lost would have to change their name.

Josh Swain never intended for these messages to go viral. He was only trying to cure his COVID boredom. After sharing

his work on *Twitter* and explaining how this was only intended to be a joke, the Josh battle started gaining more and more traction. Very quickly, Swain's innocent joke became something more. It became real, and plans began.

All announcements were made through *TikTok*, *Twitter*, and *Reddit*, where some changes were made. The fight was no longer meant for just the Josh Swains, but for all Joshes. Also, the real Josh's original coordinates from the group chat were to a large, flat area he saw on *Google Maps*, but the owner of this land refused to let the battle take place on their property, so Josh changed the location to Air Park.

And thus, the plans for the battle were declared. The weapon of choice? Pool noodles. That's right, everyone had to hit each other with pool noodles. The rules were simple. If you were hit, you were out. The last Josh standing would be considered the ultimate Josh.

When the time finally rolled around, people did not expect much. They thought twenty-something participants would show up and that the event would never be spoken of again. These people were wrong - very wrong.

According to the 'Josh fight' *Wikipedia* page, over 900 people participated in the event.

Sydney Page of *The Washington Post* wrote, “...attendees ranged in age from 4 to about 40, and some arrived from Washington state, Florida, New Jersey, Kentucky, Texas and elsewhere across the country.” All were wearing masks of course. Josh Swain made it very clear that COVID protocols would still be enforced.

From the many videos that were posted to the internet and the live stream of the event, it seemed as though many people came in costume. Several people made knight armor out of boxes, there was a Han Solo present, and some superhero fans even showed up.

Although it is not clear just how many people named Josh were there, it was estimated to have been at least 50. Two out of these 50 were named Josh Swain. This is how the event started, a battle between the two Josh Swains. The real Josh Swain and Josh Swain from Omaha fought with bravery in a ruthless game of Rock,

Paper, Scissors. The real Josh Swain came out on top.

The next competition was the Josh Fight. Each of these men grabbed their hollowed-out, foamy weapons - the pool noodles - and charged into battle. The match lasted for only a few minutes, but a champion was declared.

Chloee Weiner of *NPR* states, “In the end, it was four-year-old Lincoln resident Josh Vinson, Jr., dubbed “Little Josh” by his peers, who was crowned the winner.”

It should be noted that this event was more than just a bunch of people gathering in a park. It was also a food drive for the Lincoln Food Bank and a fundraiser for the Children's Hospital & Medical Center Foundation.

Little Josh had been getting treated for sudden seizures at the Children's Hospital since he was 18 months old. He was awarded a *Burger King Crown*, a replica of

the AEW World Championship belt, and the respect of thousands.

The event ended with a massive pool noodle fight between all the attendees. Somewhere between 100 and 200 pounds of food was brought for the food drive and a volunteer reported it to be around four carloads full. Over \$14,000 was raised for the Children's Hospital, with the original goal being only \$1,000. On May 6, a wine company called Josh Cellars decided to triple the donation with \$30,000.

Weeks after the battle ended, discussions were still ongoing about just how amazing the whole experience was. Some have even suggested that this should be done every year with different names.

So far, the name Jenny Smith seems to be the early crowd favorite for the next battle.



**In the end, Little Josh was crowned the ultimate Josh.** Four year old Josh Vinson, Jr., pool noodle in hand, was happy to have won the day's battle.

Courtesy of Kenneth Feriera/ Lincoln Journal Star



**Let the ultimate Josh reign supremely.** Over 900 people participated in the first ever 'battle of the Joshes.' A good time was had by all and food and money were raised for charitable causes.

Courtesy of Kenneth Feriera/Lincoln Journal Star



# An End to the Problem of Mosquitoes?

Michael Tolve  
Staff Writer

Summer is right around the corner, and with the nice weather comes some sense of normalcy. Here come cook-outs, graduations, walks in the park, and hot days at the beach. These are some of people's favorite things to do, but what they do not enjoy are the mosquitoes. They collect your blood, and leave you with an itchy bump, sure to make you remember them, but what if the bites ceased to exist?

According to an article written by *NBC News* reporter Tim Fitzsimons, the bites will soon become a thing of the past. Soon the state of Florida will release 144,000 non-biting male mosquitoes genetically modified by British firm Oxitec that are supposed to mate with biting females, so that any resulting female offspring will be unable to survive.

"As we are seeing develop-

ment of resistance to some of our current control methods, we are in need of new tools to combat this mosquito," Andrea Leal, executive director of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District said in a recent press release.

The specific mosquito meant to be controlled in this case is called *Aedes aegypti*. Even though this mosquito only makes up about four percent of the total population, it is notorious for carrying most transmittable diseases to human, including

dengue fever, the Zika virus, and yellow fever, as well as heartworm to pets and animals.

For anyone thinking this is a conspicuous plan to get rid of mosquitoes, it has already been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, an advisory board of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

This practice is not uncharted territory for Florida as they previously released male mosquitoes carrying a bacteria called Wolbachia, which resulted in defective offspring (in Key West in 2017, and in Miami in 2018). The Zika Virus has made a comeback in Brazil and Puerto Rico. The release of these mosquitoes reduced targeted mosquito populations by 80 percent, saving

mothers from complications at birth, and birth defects.

When asked about the ethics of population control on mosquitoes, HHS student Rocco Triano stated, "If it is beneficial for the majority of the human population, and does not have any other major environmental impacts, I am all for it."

Fellow student Olivia Sayegh said, "I understand the health benefits involved with this, however I can also see how others can make the argument that we are playing God with nature. I remain on the fence about it."

Regardless of how you feel about genetically modified mosquito population control, it is amazing to see science in action and understand how far we have come as a society.

It is safe to assume that nobody enjoys mosquitoes.



**Genetically Modified.** Mosquitoes are known transmitters of diseases like dengue fever and the Zika virus. This plan has the approval of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Courtesy of CNN

# Bill and Melinda Gates Separate After 27 Years of Marriage

Luke Wong  
Co-Managing Editor

Bill and Melinda Gates have formally announced a separation after being married for 27 years.

On May 3, 2021, according to *CBS News*, the globally-recognized philanthropic duo issued a statement via *Twitter* that explained that the Gates' marriage would be ending.

Bill Gates, the fourth richest person in the world according to *Forbes'* World Billionaire List, founded Microsoft in 1975 and married Melinda in 1994. At one point during Microsoft's technology supremacy in the 1990s and early 2000s, Gates was the richest man on Earth.

Although the divorce announcement seemingly came out of left field for many, it was allegedly a long time coming for Bill and Melinda. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, Melinda had been meeting with divorce lawyers since 2019 in order to prepare divorce filings. Those

familiar with the matter also told *The Wall Street Journal* that the Gates' marriage was "irretrievably broken."

Despite the fact that no official reason has been given regarding the Gates' split, various reports have come out alleging different causes of the divorce.

One major reason may have been Bill's business and dealings with disgraced billionaire and sexual predator Jeffrey Epstein. According to *Vanity Fair*, sources told *People* magazine that "Epstein is definitely a sore spot for Melinda..." and that Bill's business relationship with Epstein was "...a 'major trauma' for Melinda and that 'she was totally opposed to what she considered shady dealings and some other issues he wanted to pursue in the business area. She was not afraid to speak up about it either.'"

*Vanity Fair* also reported that

the bombshell report that detailed Epstein's relationships with business moguls posthumously by *The New York Times* may have soured the Gates' marriage further; Bill's involvement with Epstein was much more significant than originally acknowledged. Following the release of *The New York Times'* report, Melinda "...reportedly began meeting with divorce lawyers," according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

While Bill Gates' dealings with Jeffrey Epstein may have played a role in the divorce, there may have also been general issues within the marriage itself.

According to *The New York Post*, Gates allegedly confided in his golf friends about his marriage to Melinda, calling it "loveless," and mentioning that the marriage was effectively over "...for some time and they were living separate lives." *The New York Post's* exclusive report also

explained that Bill has allegedly been "...holed up at *The Vintage Club* in Indian Wells, California," despite not known to be a frequent golfer.

Additionally, *The New York Post* also learned that Melinda Gates, a devout Catholic, would be seeking an annulment from the Vatican following civil proceedings.

Harrison High School junior Brandon Escobar said, "It's sad to see them divorced. They've done a lot of good work, and I hope they'll continue that despite this."

The Gates Foundation, a philanthropic charity that champions numerous global causes



**Bill and Melinda Gates in happier times.** In spite of the pending divorce, their philanthropic foundation will continue its good works.

Courtesy of Kyle Johnson/The New York Times

and issues, will continue to work globally, according to *CBS News*.

As divorce proceedings begin, more details surrounding the final years of the Gates marriage may become more apparent.

# China Now Allowing Three Children Per Family

Jared Summer  
Staff Writer

China will now allow married couples to have up to three children as the country attempts to reverse its declining birthrate.

According to Emily Feng at *NPR*, "the policy is a dramatic

change for a country which, less than a decade ago, still performed forced abortions and sterilizations of women who had more than one child."

China scrapped its old one-child policy in 2016 and replaced it with a two-child policy but this failed to assist an uprising in births.

According to Tom Hancock, Yujing Liu, Kari Soo Lindberg, James Mayger, and Philip Glammann at *Bloomberg*, "In a meeting, President Xi Jinping said Monday, May 31, the Communist Party's Politburo (A politburo or political bureau is the executive committee for com-

munist parties) decided to ease the current two-child restriction. 'Allowing every couple to have three children and implementing related support policies will help improve the population's structure.'"

Although it is not clear when the new law will go into effect, it is expected that the law will be applied over the next five years.

Sam Harfenist said, "It is about time that China becomes less strict on their birth control. I do not think it is fair to mandate how many children its citizens have or do not have. I believe that there should be no minimum because if people continue to have children, it will help their poor economy significantly."

Under this new policy of three children, the government said it would offer more appropriate educational resources and reduce educational spending for families. These policies were put in place, aiming to hold back couples from having more children than allowed.

According to *The Los Angeles Times*, "China's population of 1.4 billion already was expected to peak later this decade and start to decline. Census data released May 11 suggest that it is happening faster than expected. The working-age people 15 to 59 in the population fell to 63.3% from 70.1%. The group of ages 65 and older grew from 8.9% to 13.5%. The 12 million births reported last

year were down nearly one-fifth from 2019, and about 40% were second children, down from 50% in 2017."

That threatens a demographic crisis — too few people of working age to support the expected hundreds of millions of elderly citizens by 2050,

This is occurring as China's fertility rate is among the lowest in the world. Additionally, the government is aware that the amount of people aged 65 and older is increasing significantly.

The question that now remains is whether the Chinese government's relaxing of birth restrictions will make a difference in persuading more of the country's couples to have more babies.



**Three is allowed now.** President Xi Jinping has decreed that Chinese couples can now have three children.

Courtesy of South China Morning Post

# opinions & editorials

## Looking Back On One Long Strange Year

### Staff Editorial

It can be stated with certainty that this past year has been unlike any other that Harrison High School has ever known. Here are some salient timeline points to help your recall (timeline dates provided by Principal Beukema):

- \* March 13, 2020 - The last day of in-person instruction at the high school. Students were told to clean out their lockers and take all materials home with them. Most thought this would last perhaps a week or two at most. They were wrong.
- \* March 17, 2020 - This was our first day of remote learning. Teachers and students were finding new ways to teach students, utilizing new educational applications and technologies, flipping classrooms, recording lessons, exploring new frontiers in online learning and Google Meets and Zooms.
- \* June 24, 2020 - The graduation ceremony for the senior class was held in the parking lot at the new Wegmans. It was a unique experience, and a relatively successful one.
- \* September 3, 2020 - The faculty returned to the high school building after a summer of quarantines and uncertainty.
- \* September 9, 2020 - The current school year began under the Husky/Pride hybrid model. Green dots on the floors of the classrooms marked off six foot distancing as per the CDC recommended social distancing guidelines. Students and teachers alike were fully masked. There were one-way hallways, and staggered dismissals, synchronous and asynchronous days, and others who still remained virtual. It was unlike anything we had known before.
- \* October 1, 2020 - The high school had its first notification of a positive COVID-19 case. This was a fully virtual student, for the record. Many more cases would follow in the months to come.
- \* October 19, 2020 - This was the school's first quarantine (again, many others would follow): 163 students and 30 staff members were asked to go virtual as per the Board of Health guidelines in effect then.
- \* October 20-23, 2020 - This marked the first building closure and three days of virtual learning due to quarantine regulations.
- \* November 12 - December 9, 2020 - The building is closed and we revert to virtual learning.
- \* December 21-23, 2020 - The building is closed again, this time due to teacher quarantines.
- \* January 4- 15, 2021 - The district is closed and we return to all virtual instruction.
- \* April 7, 2021 - We return to a full school - uniting hybrid sections of Husky and Pride together. There are barriers on every desk and air cleaning machines in every classroom and a new three foot social distancing guideline is in effect.
- \* April 15, 2021 - And then the desk barriers were removed.
- \* May 10, 2021 - One-way hallways are now every which way and staggered dismissals are dismissed. It is one step closer to the way things used to be.
- \* June 3, 2021 - The senior prom is held in the gym due to inclement weather conditions. Still, a great time is had by all. It's yet another example of how Harrison rises to the challenges again and again.

As we head into a summer where there's more hope that a semblance of normalcy will return to our lives, the staff of *The Husky Herald* wishes you and yours a safe, healthy, relaxing summer ahead before we come back in September and do it all again!

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#### Mission Statement

Our mission is to be the voice of all of Harrison High School by professionally representing and informing our school with an accurate and entertaining newspaper. Our newspaper strives to uphold the tenets of journalistic integrity.

#### Editorial Policy

*The Husky Herald* is published by the journalism classes at Harrison High School, along with volunteers who attend the weekly meetings. Editorial content of *The Husky Herald* is determined by the editorial staff and reflects the opinions of the editors and staff, not necessarily that of the Harrison High School faculty and administration. The staff of *The Husky Herald* encourages students to get involved and have their opinions heard. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to respond to an article, please write to us. Letters containing the writer's name (and that are appropriately stated) will be printed. We reserve the right to edit such responses for grammar usage, clarity, punctuation, and length.



# Grateful for Senior Prom 2021

Wyatt Keller

Staff Writer

Prom is one of those words that comes with a bunch of memories and smiles. For seniors at Harrison High, this will actually be a thing in 2021 because of how far our society has moved forward since the COVID-19 outbreak over a year ago. As time is ticking towards the end of high school for Harrison seniors, be-

ing able to have some sort of normality like prom is something to smile about. As seniors, we hope to carry on those fun memories of what prom is about. From the awkwardness of a promposal to taking pictures with friends and dates, to having fun at the actual prom - these are all things that Harrison seniors are fortunate to have this year.

Thinking about what was taken from last year seniors -- from trips that were planned, to school events, to even having the liberty to walk through the school -- it's disheartening knowing that these things happened. This year's seniors

are very grateful and happy for what is being achieved through the hard work and efforts of our teachers and administration in order to make school events as safe as possible.

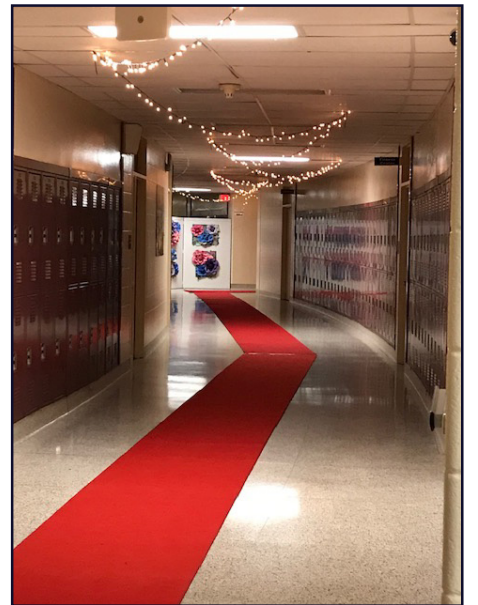
Reading an article by Jazmine Hughes from The New York Times, entitled "All Dressed Up, With No Prom to Go To" gives a fuller understanding of what seniors who graduated in 2020 lost and were never able to fully enjoy. One of the biggest takeaway quotes was, "But for students in the class of 2020, the COVID-19 crisis arrived just as they were receiving college acceptance letters, dreaming about new jobs, gearing up to leave high school behind — and making plans for prom, which, for most students, had been canceled."

Seniors last year unfortunately were denied the joys and memories that people have had for decades in high schools. All of this really goes to show how we have worked so hard to get to

this point in order to return to doing fun things again the safe and correct way. After all, nothing was promised to this class at the start of the school year.

"We seniors did not know if we would ever get to play our sports, ever go back to the high school, and we had no idea if we would ever attend a prom," said Victor Arcara.

This year obviously changed a lot for so many people because the unique situation made it so that the normal things, the givens, were not being given. That is why we really appreciate our upcoming prom. Here's to looking at our brighter futures, when every day returns to normal and each



**The Red Carpet Treatment.** The class of 2021 was given a full "red carpet" welcome en route to their senior prom on June 3,

*Courtesy of Mrs. Griffo*



**A Gym, Magically Transformed.** Thanks to the hard work of Mr. Gunnell, Ms. Hart, the administration, and more, the class of 2021 had a great prom after all

*Courtesy of Mrs. Griffo*

new adventure can be happily virus-free.

# Reflecting On A Pandemic Year

Jaquelyn Garcia-Hernandez

Staff Writer

It has officially been one year since the world we once knew changed forever. It feels as though it was just yesterday that the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic. A year ago everyone was racing to the supermarket as if a huge storm was coming our way. Grocery store shelves were cleared out. No one knew how greatly their lives were going to be affected, no one knew how long this pandemic was going to last, and no one knew how many innocent lives would be taken away.

On March 11, 2020, when the global pandemic was declared, top infectious disease specialist Dr. Anthony Fauci testified before Congress that the coronavirus outbreak in America would get worse. There were only 647 confirmed cases at that time.

On March 11, 2021, exactly one year later, Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported there were 29,154,659 positive cases and 529,263 patient deaths in the U.S.

Over this past year, we learned a huge lesson: "Do not take the small things for granted, no matter how small it might seem to you." Today as a nation we realize it is important to follow guidelines so that one day we can return to normality.

Donald Trump during his presidency announced to the nation travel restrictions and called for Americans to practice "good hygiene," but in a later interview with journalist Bob Woodward, revealed that he had been deliberately "playing down" the threat of the virus.

As COVID-19 continued to spread, individuals lost their jobs, their homes, the resources necessary to survive, and unfortunately had to face the deaths of many loved ones.

When President Biden took office, he declared a goal of getting 100 million shots into arms in the first 100 days of his administration. Since vaccine distribution began

in the U.S. on December 14, 2020, some 266,596,486 doses have been administered, with 35.8% of the total population now fully vaccinated, according to federal data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"COVID-19 has affected our business and has decreased the number of customers we get each day, but it hasn't affected our deli to the point where we have had to close down officially," said Stephanie Palma, an employee at Underhill Mini Market. "If Donald Trump would've taken the virus seriously earlier on, I believe we would not

restrictions," said Father Tom, the priest at St. Anthony of Padua. "This was especially hard on parishioners who lost loved ones. Even though the doors of our parish church remained open all day for individual prayer, we were not permitted to have public gatherings of any kind. We were, thankfully, able to live stream our masses and holy hours."

Father Tom said that during the pandemic, participation at mass in-person dropped quite drastically.

"People are still being very cautious," he said, "but more recently, people have

been returning to mass in-person. We are seeing a more steady flow of parishioners now. I believe, as an act of charity, everyone should consider getting vaccinated. People still have to be extremely prudent and careful when it comes to getting together for social occasions. We are not completely out of the woods yet."

Father Tom believes many have learned lessons through this COVID experience that will help them to live more meaningful and joyful lives.

"In the light of all the lives lost and the uncertainty that COVID brought into our lives, we have learned to be grateful for the gift of each day and to appreciate and value our family and friends even more," he said. "This past year made us think and ponder a bit more deeply about questions we may have been too busy to reflect on in the past, namely, the meaning of life and the purpose of suffering. All of us have been changed in some way by these experiences."

"I got the vaccine on Saturday, March 13," said local resident Edvin Lemus. "I had no reaction, only pain in my left arm. I believe that everybody who has the chance of getting vaccinated should do so, but I understand why people might not want to proceed. I do not think that people should be having huge gatherings because we still are in a pandemic and we should all be safe so that this can end someday soon."

When the virus first started, the lack of work affected many families, but things now appear to be opening up again. Our nation has come a long way from when we first started this pandemic. We went from having ghost towns to having people walking back on the streets again, hoping soon to resume living their normal daily routines. It hasn't been easy and will most likely continue with some challenges along the way, but the key is patience.

## "A year ago...no one knew how greatly their lives were going to be affected, no one knew how long this pandemic was going to last..."

be in the position we are in now. I do think everyone should get vaccinated because everyone could get sick. We all have to try to get back to normalcy. There was a customer who came in and refused to wear a mask and not even a couple of months later, he passed away due to COVID-19. I was one of those people who were ignorant and didn't believe much in wearing masks until I got the virus. Everybody keep wearing your mask, don't throw parties, have more sympathy for people, don't be selfish and just listen to what we are being told!"

St. Anthony's Parish was affected by the loss of a number of lives due to COVID-19.

"Up until June 13, 2020, in-person masses were prohibited due to the COVID



**St. Anthony of Padua Church** in West Harrison saw how hard this pandemic affected its parishioners.

*Courtesy of St. Anthony of Padua Church*



# Arts & Entertainment

## Netflix Password-Sharing: What It Means For You

Caroline Tanico  
Staff Writer

Be honest. You've shared your *Netflix* account with someone. Be it a significant other, close friend, or relative, you'd be hard-pressed to find someone whose *Netflix* account hasn't been shared with someone outside of their house.

It makes sense! Streaming services are certainly not cheap and if your best friend just wants to see what all of *The Queen's Gambit* rage is about, or binge the latest season of *The Umbrella Academy*, what's the point in making them pay for a *Netflix* subscription when you have one yourself?

It's easy to chalk up *Netflix*'s vendetta against password-sharing

to corporate greed, the typical fear of losing possible profit and the like. And, of course, that is definitely part of it. According to the *BBC*, in 2020 alone, *Netflix* gained nearly 37 million new subscribers. That number is nothing to scoff at, but it's probable that *Netflix* would like it to be even higher.

However, there's more danger in password-sharing than *Netflix* missing out on a little bit of profit. It's a matter of security for the rest of us. See, if you share your password with your best friend, no big deal for you, right? Then that best friend asks to share your password with their cousin. You don't really know that

cousin but at least your friend asked, so it's not so bad. But that cousin could go and share your password with their friends or family, and that's when you get into trouble.



Courtesy of Netflix

Now, it's unlikely that your friend's cousin will share your password with every single person that they know, so don't wor-

ry. The entire country isn't going to end up using your *Netflix* account. But you are in danger if someone in the now quite large circle of people using your *Netflix* subscription gets hacked.

In an interview with *WIRED*, Steve Ragan, an internet researcher, said, "Because I shared my password with you, and you got hacked, that criminal now has my password."

To use our hypothetical situation, your friend's cousin's friend from summer camp has now compromised your internet safety. This is especially dangerous if you have the tendency to reuse passwords.

So, what is *Netflix* doing to

prevent this? Well, *Netflix* has already put some precautions in motion.

In March, some *Netflix* users claimed that they received a notice telling them to create their own account if they were using someone else's when attempting to sign in. There's also been talk of *Netflix* requiring a code or answering a question to be entered when logging in to ensure that you're logging into the account that you pay for. This probably won't prevent you from sharing with a friend, thankfully, but it will help prevent people that you don't know from accessing your account.

## Olivia Rodrigo's Album Climbs The Charts

Isabella Chiaramida  
Staff Writer

The 18-year-old American singer-songwriter and actress Olivia Rodrigo shook the world when she released her first song, "Driver's License," (which broke *Spotify*'s record for streams of a song in a single week, as it was streamed 65,873,080 times the week of January 14) and she only got better when she followed it by releasing an entire album on May 21 to accompany the originally lone song. These new songs on the album, which is titled *Sour*, include "Good 4 You," "Happier," "Brutal," "Deja Vu," and more. All of these songs have recently taken over the app *TikTok* and just about everyone is loving them.

The songs are incredibly similar to many of Taylor Swift's early songs, and that can be easily explained. Swift helped Rodri-

go write some of the songs, one of them being "1 Step Forward, 3 Steps Back." Swift was even given writing credit when the album was released!

According to *Rolling Stone*, "When the songwriting and production credits for Olivia Rodrigo's highly anticipated debut album *Sour* were released, fans quickly noted writing credits for Taylor Swift and Jack Antonoff on Rodrigo's fourth track '1 Step Forward, 3 Steps Back.' The two numbers even make a "13," a subtle nod to important numerology in the Swiftverse."

Rodrigo also revealed that this song is not the only time she referenced a Swift song in the album. She mentioned that she was inspired by the "Cruel Summer" bridge while writing the

bridge for her song, "Deja Vu."

It is obvious that Swift and Rodrigo have become friends and fans of each other. *Rolling Stone* noted that "Rodrigo is notably a huge fan of Swift's and has been an active member of the star's fandom for years. She's called Swift one of her 'biggest inspirations.' Prior to Rodrigo releasing her breakout single 'Drivers License,' Swift had acknowledged the teen's cover of Lover single 'Cruel Summer.' The pair have interacted more in the past few months: Rodrigo and fellow Swiftie-turned-pop star Conan Gray made *TikToks* in the promotion of *Fearless (Taylor's Version)*. Swift also sent Rodrigo the ring she wore while recording Red. The pair official met in person at the Brit Awards this month,

exchanging handwritten letters and posing backstage."

According to Google, 97% of users liked the album. Junior Madison Erbeling, says she "loved some of the songs and didn't like some of them.. She has an amazing voice and it sounds like it is from the heart, but I don't love some because they sound very, I don't know, repetitive. But she is amazing."

Who is the album about? That is a topic of controversy, but the most agreed-upon answer is Rodrigo's ex-boyfriend and fellow actor, Joshua Basset. The two never confirmed that they were dating, but it was heavily implied and pretty obvious by the way the two acted on social media together. To top it all off, there were rumors that Basset left Rodrigo



Courtesy of Billboard

for Sabrina Carpenter, and Olivia hinted at heartbreak. Recently, though, Basset complimented the album and he and Rodrigo seem to be friends. Then, this month, Basset came out as queer. So, really, one can never be completely sure who the album was definitely about. All one can really know is that *Sour* is an amazing album that skyrocketed off the charts, and is hopefully the first of many Rodrigo albums to come.

### HEY SENIOR HUSKIES!

Compiled by Samantha Marano

#### What is your best/favorite memory of high school?



"Going to Harrison-Rye football games. It's a big tradition and the games are so much fun."  
Donne Pizzutello,  
Senior



"The USA football game my sophomore year when we won and then all celebrated after."  
Maddy Pirrello,  
Senior



"Senior Prom - it was a new experience, having it at the school - like in the movies."  
Aaron Montanez,  
Senior



"Being able to perform in the dance program and building my relationship with Ms. Toteda."  
Julianna DiCostanzo,  
Senior



# The Me You Can't See Explores Mental Health

Siobhan Smyth  
Staff Writer

The Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry, has revealed more of his mental suffering to Oprah Winfrey on their new *Apple TV Plus* show, "The Me You Can't See." The series includes celebrities such as singer Lady Gaga, actress Glenn Close, and basketball player DeMar DeRozan. His mental health issues will be talked about on this deeply personal and emotional series. In a series of recorded interviews with Oprah,

Harry speaks openly about his past excessive alcohol issues and taking drugs due to the anxiety that he was having about public events and the mental pain that he was in then due to the death of his mother, Princess Diana, according to a report by Adela Suliman of *NBC News*.

Prince Harry described his life from age 28 to 32 as "a nightmare time in my life," due to his struggle with panic attacks and severe anxiety issues. "I was just all over the place mentally," Prince Harry said, explaining that he frequently drank to excess, consuming a week's worth of alcohol in a single night, trying to ignore his anxiety problems. In the show, Harry does not say that he's an addict or an alcoholic, or reveal exactly how much he drank or the exact drugs that he

took, according to *The Washington Post's* William Booth.

"I was willing to drink, I was willing to take drugs, I was willing to try and do the things that made me feel less like I was feeling," said the Duke of Sussex, who is now married to Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, and living in a seaside mansion in southern California with their son Archie and expecting another child.

Harry explains that most of his trauma stems from the tragic death of his mother, who died in a car accident in 1997 and the stress that comes with living the Royal Life, which he compares to being an animal in a zoo. He further explains that at age 12, he was to follow his mother's casket with many strangers sobbing and watching him, and that this specific moment was traumatizing to him, reports Dulcie Lee of the *BBC News*.

London is a serious trigger for Prince Harry, due to the tragic death of his mother and the past

drama that he and The Royal Family have gone through recently. Returning to London triggers his fight-or-flight emotions, but he returned to London briefly for the funeral of Prince Phillip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II. The Royal Family has not responded to Harry's latest inter-

Oprah that she was suffering from severe depression and was having thoughts of suicide and explained that The Royal Family was no help, Queen Elizabeth II responded

"The whole family was saddened to learn the full extent of how challenging the last few years have been for Harry and Meghan..." During the TV series Harry says, "I thought my family would help, but every single ask, request, warning, whatever it is, just got met with total silence, total neglect. We spent four years trying to make it work. We did everything that we possibly could to stay there and carry on doing the role and doing the job. But Meghan was struggling."

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle both hope that speaking out about their struggles with mental health can hopefully help others and can tell a strong story. Throughout the series, Harry is seen participating with a type of therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, that helps to treat anxiety stemming from serious anger at the media,



Courtesy of Apple TV Plus

views and many are questioning if or when they will.

Although in March, when Meghan Markle revealed to

## A Scottish Roadtrip for Outlander Fans

Isabella Chiaramida  
Staff Writer

While some might know Graham McTavish and Sam Heughan as the amazing, mostly serious, and usually conflicted *Outlander* characters Dougal MacKenzie and Jamie Fraser, they are also some of the most real, hilarious, and witty people one will ever watch. In their relatively new show, *Men in Kilts*, the two men go on a road trip all over their home country, Scotland. They hunt down all the tradition, history, and culture they can find and make sure to pay it a visit, making jokes and playing pranks on each other all the way.

As of now, there are eight 30-minute episodes in the first season. In each episode, McTavish and Heughan visit two sites in Scotland, which teach them and the viewers new and interesting bits of Scottish history and culture. These things range from going shopping at an old Scottish family shop in order to buy a traditional suit—which, of course, includes a kilt—to their most sporty episode. In this



Courtesy of Starz

episode, McTavish and Heughan first visit a golf course, one of the first in Scotland, and learn about and how to golf, then they go to the site of the Highland Games and learning how to properly participate in one

of the most famous parts of the Games: the hammer throw. Finally, they visit Murrayfield, Scotland's biggest rugby field, and are taught how to kick the ball by Chris Patterson. Throughout this episode, the two Scots keep score of who wins the most games. In the end, it was McTavish. Because of his lost bet, Heughan had to take a dip in the freezing Atlantic Ocean. These are only a few examples of the hilarity of this amazing Starz show.

The show was so good and the two had so much fun filming it that they decided to make it into a book, which is titled *Clanlands*. The book is basically just the dialogue of the show, in the format of an interview. Fans of *Outlander*, fans of any sort of Scottish history and culture, or people who just love McTavish and Heughan are sure to enjoy both the book and the show.

Will there be a season two? One can only hope. McTavish has said that he is

completely down for a season two, and Heughan is too, but he is currently pre-occupied with the filming of season six of *Outlander*, which is more of a priority. Even if season two is made, it won't air until late 2022, because of the filming and production that needs to be done, and the finding of the sites and the history behind them. Fans can rest assured, though, that it is definitely not out of the question, and if they just can't wait for more McTavish and Heughan content, they can binge *Outlander*, including the new season, and read *Clanlands*.

Harrison High School senior Gabby Streeter says that she "hasn't seen the show yet, but it looks like fun," and she'd love to watch it. Any student who is a lover of history should really watch the show, and the entire aspect of history behind it should interest schools too. To learn more about Scottish history in school would be incredibly interesting, and many students would like it.

## Demi Lovato (They/Them)

Reagan Kelly  
Assistant Arts Editor

Demi Lovato has been a huge public figure since their early childhood. Lovato got their big break on *Barney & Friends* in 2002, after which they had a long career on the infamous *Disney Channel*, landing roles in shows like *Sonny with a Chance* and the film *Camp Rock*. Demi Lovato also has a huge singing career, holding two Grammys and one number one hit.

While Demi's professional

career was soaring they did however struggle much behind the scenes. Their dad was struggling with substance abuse and was abusive to their mom, until Mr. Lovato and Demi's mother, Diana, divorced in 1994. The singer was then estranged from their father from 2007. In 2017, Lovato released a documentary called "Simply Complicated" opening up about mental health and substance abuse problems as well as

their struggle with an eating disorder. At this point, Demi had been sober for six years and seemed to have it all under control.

Demi's recent documentary, "Dancing With The Devil" revealed that their life was so closely micromanaged in order to prevent a relapse, it did the exact opposite. In July of 2018, Demi relapsed, this time almost dying.

Demi Lovato has said they had three strokes and a heart

attack after a drug overdose in 2018, and that doctors told them they had been minutes from death. Thankfully, Lovato was able to recover.

In the beginning of quarantine, they were dating someone, which turned into a fast engagement. What seemed to be a flawless romance, again turned out to be otherwise. The singer felt fooled by ex-fiancé Max Ehrich.

In their documentary, Lovato

describes this as an eye opener. They wanted to get to know themselves and take some time to be alone following this relationship. In a recent *Twitter* video introducing their new podcast, the pop singer says they don't identify as male or female.

Over the past year and a half I've been doing some healing and self-reflective work, and through this work I've had the revelation that I identify as non-binary."



# 90-Second Interviews



“90 Second Interviews” is a feature where-in we sit down with two staff members and see how many questions they can answer in 90 seconds. This issue we turn to our languages department to explore what might get lost in the translation with Ms. Emma Asanza and Ms. Olga Garcia.

*Interviews coordinated by Jack Kelly and Aidan Lefkowitz.*

Señora Asanza



**What is your favorite word in a language other than English?**

Ójala - There is no direct English translation but it generally means “God willing” or “hopefully.” It comes from the Arabic influence in Spain.

**How many languages do you speak?**

Two - English and Spanish.

**What languages do you want to learn next?**

Portuguese.

**Best tip for self-studying a language?**

1. If you have the opportunity, live in a country that speaks the language you want to learn.

2. If you do not have the opportunity, practice as much as you can (as opposed to memorizing).

**Favorite vacation destination?**

Ecuador.

**First place you will travel to when the COVID-19 pandemic ends?**

Madrid.

**Favorite cultural food or cuisine?**

Ceviche de camarón (Cold citrus soup with food items like plantains or popcorn mixed in - it is a beach food).

**Where did you grow up?**

I was born in Buffalo and I moved to Valhalla when I was 8.

**Where did you go to high school?**

Valhalla High School .

**What music would be your theme song?**

"Formation" by Beyoncé.

**Favorite non-English language movie?**

*Pan's Labyrinth.*

**Google Translate or Spanish Dictionary?**

Spanish Dictionary - ¡Nunca Google Translate - zero zapatero!

**If you entered a talent show, what would your talent be?**

Playing charades (I am very competitive at it).

**What is something most people do not know about you?**

I meditate every morning, but my new baby Mia has disrupted this a bit.

**Favorite international cultural location or monument?**

Christ the Redeemer.

**Favorite song in a language other than English?**

La Vuelta al Mundo by Calle 13.

**Favorite figure of speech in a language other than English?**

"En la bocca cerada no entran moscas" (Silence is golden).

**Least favorite word in English?**

Moist.

**What world phrase do you wish had a comparable phrase in English?**

Buen provecho, bon appetit — Something to say before you start eating.

**Coffee or tea (and how do you like yours prepared)?**

100% coffee, iced with a splash of almond milk.

**Cat or dog?**

Dog.

**Are you a night owl or an early riser?**

Early riser.

**How long is your commute?**

12 minutes.

**Favorite telenovela?**

*Betty la Fea*

Señora Garcia



**What is your favorite word in a language other than English?**

Agur - Which translates to say "goodbye" in Euskera, a language primarily spoken in Billboa, Spain.

**How many languages do you speak?**

Two - English and Spanish.

**What languages do you want to learn next?**

Italian and Portuguese.

**Best tip for self-studying a language?**

Music is the best tutor. For instance, I learned from Barbra Streisand and Johnny Mathis, just like my father.

**Favorite vacation destination?**

All of Spain, but the best part was the North of Spain (Billboa). There are different cultures and languages from the rest of Spain. The geography there is breath-taking.

**First place you will travel to when the COVID-19 pandemic ends?**

Puerto Rico.

**Favorite cultural food or cuisine?**

Puerto Rican cuisine and truly enjoy Italian food (pasta especially). That is a very hard question because I am a foodie. Cuisine offers a way of learning about a language.

**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in San Juan, Puerto Rico. However, my father had a church in the center of the island, so I was constantly traveling around the island.

**Where did you go to high school?**

William Howard Taft High School in the Bronx.

**What music would be your theme song?**

Although I live with music, "Kiss of Music" would have to be my choice. (hardest question)

**Favorite non-English language movie?**

*Life is Beautiful.*

**Google Translate or Spanish Dictionary?**

Going to deduct points for this being a question

**If you entered a talent show, what would your talent be?**

Singing.

**What is something most people do not know about you?**

I have 12 chickens and one rooster.

**Favorite international cultural location or monument?**

Lucerne in Switzerland.

**Favorite song in a language other than English?**

Cuando un amigo se va by Alberto Cortez.

**Favorite figure of speech in a language other than English?**

"Como poco" (literal translation: How is coconut going?) Favorite response is "como poco rancio" (like a rotten coconut) which means if you only knew.

**Least favorite word in English.**

Thing.

**What world phrase do you wish had a comparable phrase in English?**

Salud - which means health and is said when somebody sneezes.

**Coffee or tea (and how do you like yours prepared)?**

100% coffee bustelo (colombian crop) with milk and sugar.

**Cat or dog?** Dog.

**Are you a night owl or an early riser?**

Early riser.

**How long is your commute?**

45 minutes.

**Favorite telenovela?**

*El Gran Hotel* (on Netflix)



# SPORTS

## Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Ends Season Strong

Larissa Iraj

Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Harrison Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Team was finally back on the field after a cancelled season last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The season started one month later than usual but the players could not be more happy that they were able to get in a full 10 weeks of practices and games that ended in the first week of June.

"I'm happy we were able to have a season because we were really able to spend time togeth-

er and create a family bond that can't be created anywhere else," said senior Alex Karofsky. "I also really enjoyed that amidst everything we lost this senior year, I got to have a lacrosse season that lasted over two months."

Head Coach Deirdre O'Brien and Assistant Coach Brittany Pickel returned for the second year and led the team to a record of nine losses and five wins.

With 14 returning players and six new players, including

three eighth graders and one ninth grader, the Husky team quickly bonded for the season that was ahead of them. The game opener at Nyack was a disappointment as the Huskies trailed during the first half. They then made a quick comeback to close the margin with senior attack Alessia Manzella scoring four goals, eighth-grade midfielder Harper Lapin adding two goals and five assists, junior attack Caitlin Oestreicher with two goals, and eighth-grade midfielder Lila Berkery and junior attack Alexis Cameron with one goal and one assist each. This was a good game for senior goalie Izzie Cipriano as she had 13 saves.

The Huskies were then able to pick up a strong win at their first home contest against Ardsey. Sophomore attack Amber Losito scored one goal and Lapin scored two goals within minutes of the start to set Harrison up for a quick lead of 3-1. The Huskies dominated this game by a score of 17-3. Goals were scored by Losito, Lapin, Berkery, sophomore attack Abby Trotta, Oestreicher, senior midfielder Maria DiRusso, sophomore attack Kayla Porto, sophomore midfielder Lucy Alcoba, and senior attack

Nell Shapiro. Izzy Cipriano secured the defense with five saves in goal.

The Huskies then fell 14-3 to Scarsdale and also to Mamaroneck, but quickly rebounded to hold down Rye Neck with a 13-0 victory.

Next, the team went on to face some of the most challenging opponents of the season, White Plains, Pelham, and Ursuline. Although Harrison lost back to back games, the girls worked hard to fight against ending their losing streak.

The Huskies were able to hold strong to their lead against New Rochelle 10-8. Cipriano had a great game in goal with 16 saves. Oestreicher led with four goals, Alcoba had three goals and one assist, Lapin scored two goals and made two assists, and Berkeley had one goal.

The momentum continued at home against Eastchester where the Huskies were up 8-4 after the first half and finished with a 15-6 victory. Some highlights of the game included freshman midfielder Stella Perini taking control of seven draws, three goals and one assist. Losito dominated with a game high of four goals.

Senior Night was June 1 and

the seniors played their hearts out in this game, bringing the final score to a 17-13 win.

Senior Ava Gjakaj had a standout night in offense with two goals and one assist while Cipriano had 12 saves in goal.

The team finished the regular season with another win away at Eastchester but could not overtake Clarkstown North in the playoff game. The score was 10-9 and in the last minute Clarkstown North held the ball and Harrison could not regain control of the ball to score. Although this season has been filled with ups and downs for the team, the players have had a positive attitude and all share in common their excitement to even have the opportunity to play this year.

"My favorite thing about this season was how we all became a family," said senior defender Cristy Chavez. "We all had the same goals and intention to play our hardest, but also to have fun and enjoy the season we all waited for ever since the pandemic hit. I feel that we created an amazing bond off and on the field that I would never take for granted and am thankful for the practices, games, and times we all played and spent together."



**Running downfield to make a difference.** Senior midfielder Maria DiRusso accelerates en route to her next goal.

*Courtesy of Maria DiRusso*

## Baseball Team Played Hard in Fairly Successful Season

Zachary Pearson

Sports Editor

As the regular season came to an end for the 2021 varsity baseball team, there was a lot of anticipation for this year's playoffs. In a shortened season due to the COVID pandemic, the baseball team needed to make every game count. Although there was much less player experience than in the past due to the cancelled season last year and a shortened preseason this year, the boys were able to have a pretty successful 8-9 season overall and 3-3 against opponents in the league.

Coach Marco DiRuocco was at the helm this season (as per usual) and was faced with the challenge of the shortened season.

Even though the COVID pandemic required some changes, DiRuocco emphasized that, "Baseball is baseball; it's naturally played outside. You're normally socially distanced in your positions." But Coach also mentioned that, "The biggest part is that the season started in mid-April. We played 18 games in pretty much a month. It was a lot of games, very fast, and a very short pre-

season."

The coach also said, "Overall our guys have been great, and they understood from the get-go that they had to respect the rules for everyone's safety and health. We were just thankful and appreciative that we had a season and we were able to play the majority of our games."

When asked about the team's strengths going into the playoffs, DiRuocco mentioned how tight-knit the team is. He says that it's about the "camaraderie and togetherness of our team. We are really starting to understand about playing for a full seven (innings). We've had some really tough brutal losses and as difficult as they were, to flip it to the positive side, they also force you to really go deep down below and see what you have inside of you to face that adversity to make you stronger, tougher and more successful. So those tough losses make us a better team overall. We learn from our mistakes and get better. It's always 'we before me,' that's one of our core values."

Baseball is a very mentally

demanding sport and learning to be able to put the team before yourself has always, and always will be, one of Coach DiRuocco's most important values.

This season, the team had a fair share of standout players, led by senior and Kenyon College commit, Parker Gibbons. Gibbons pitched and was the starting right fielder and is the most experienced player on the team. Including the canceled 2020 season, this would have been Gibbons's third year on the varsity team, because he was brought up as a sophomore during the 2019 season.

Gibbons hit three home runs during the regular season, including one against a Boston College commit from Byram Hills.

When asked about the game plan going into the playoffs, Gibbons said that the team "has a lot of faith in Luke (Burden) on the mound. He's been great all year and he is going to pound the zone and do what he does best. Jake (Quigley) has been phenomenal working with the pitchers all year and our defense has been getting better every game, and

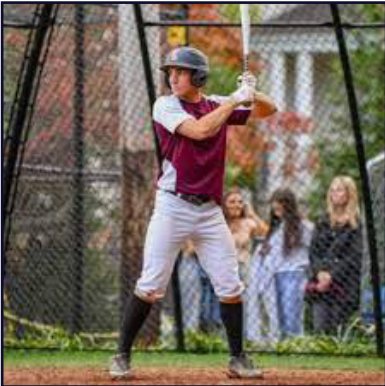
timely hitting has been huge all year. We just have to bring the energy and make everything click. If we can make that work, we can beat anyone."

When asked who the standout players on the team are, Gibbons listed sophomore Luke Burden, junior Cal McCarthy, and seniors Anthony Palatucci and Michael Sullivan.

Burden has been a bulldog all year for the squad, averaging around ten strikeouts a game. Burden was almost selected to be the *LoHud player of the week* after having an outstanding start against Rye in the annual Andrew Gurgitano game, where he didn't allow a run, struck out seven and only let up four hits.

Cal McCarthy has been great all year, being the team's starting left fielder and also having a solid season at the plate.

Anthony Palatucci is the team's center fielder/first baseman and possesses a ton of power at bat. In a game against Eastchester, Palatucci clobbered a ball over the right center field fence. This home run was featured on *LoHud's* Bench



**A seasoned veteran.** Senior Parker Gibbons has the most experience of any player on the team.

*Courtesy of Parker Gibbons*

Mob segment run by junior Matt Maida.

Sullivan has arguably been the team's most consistent hitter, hitting third in the lineup and usually starting at second base. Sullivan is additionally effective on the mound as well.

Although the season ended with a 5-3 defeat against Somers, the season was an overall success. Everyone was grateful to even have had a season at all, and there is a ton of potential going into next season.



# Yet More Senior Athletes Commit

Samantha Marano  
Arts Editor

In spite of the challenges this school year has thrown our way with new guidelines, postponed or shortened seasons, and masks worn at times,our student athletes really set the bar for excellence, breaking school records and personal bests.

The **Husky Herald (HH)** is proud to spotlight these six athletes who raised their game this year. We celebrate these seniors and their accomplishments, and honor their commitments to playing their respective sports next year in college.

First up is **Alisa Doohan (AD)**, who will be pursuing Cheerleading in Dviision II at Pace University this fall.

**HH:** How long have you been playing your sport?

**AD:** Since eighth grade.

**HH:** What do you love most about your sport?

**AD:** I love that everyone on the team ends up getting a special bond, like we're like family.

**HH:** Who has most contributed to your success?

**AD:** My coaches, teammates, family and friends

**HH:** Are you excited?

**AD:** Yes.

**HH:** What are you most looking forward to?



**Give me a P for Pace.** Alisa Doohan is excited about bringing her enthusiasm and skills to the cheer team at Pace University.

Courtesy of Alisa Doohan

**AD:** Cheering in a new environment and meeting new people and also growing even more as a cheerleader.

**HH:** What will you miss about being a Husky?

**AD:** I will miss the traditions and all the people i met while being a Husky.

Next is **Anthony Palatucci (AP)**, who has committed to playing Division IIfoob-allnext year at Western Connecticut State



**Committed to being a Colonial.** Next year, Anthony Palatucci is heading to WestConn to play some football.

Courtesy of Anthony Palatucci

University.

**HH:** How long have you been playing your sport?

**AP:** I've been playing the sport since I was five years old.

**HH:** What do you love most about your sport?

**AP:** I think what I love most is the rush



**Next step, college.** Martin Torales is looking forward to being on the Roos and embracing the college soccer experience at Suny Canton.

Courtesy of Martin Torales

you get during the game; it's unlike anything else you could ever experience in your life.

**HH:** Who has contributed most to your success?

**AP:** My dad has been a big part of my success, from teaching me the ins and outs of the game to taking me to the field as a kid.

**HH:** Are you excited?

**AP:** I'm super excited to be playing at the next level. It has been a dream of mine for a long time.

**HH:** What are you most looking forward to?

**AP:** I'm looking forward to playing in front of big crowds in places I've never been before.

**HH:** What will you miss about being a Husky?

**AP:** I will miss the sense of pride you have for your team and your brothers. In addition, the love the community has for its town and team is something I'll never forget

Next on our list is **Martin Torales (MT)**, who will be playing Division III soccer next year at SUNY Canton.

**HH:** How long have you been playing your sport?

**MT:** I have been playing soccer since I was five years old.

**HH:** What do you love most about your sport?

**MT:** What I love most about soccer is every opportunity to grow as a player and person.

**HH:** Who has contributed most to your success?

**MT:** Both my parents and my aunt have contributed to my success by believing in me.

**HH:** Are you excited?

**MT:** Yes.

**HH:** What are you most looking forward to?

**MT:** I'm looking forward to the college soccer experience.

**HH:** What will you miss about being a Husky?

**MT:** Being able to see my close friends in school every day.

Senior **Brandon Lucy (BL)** will continue his prowess in Division I Track and Field next fall at Manhattan College.

**HH:** How long have you been

playing your sport?

**BL:** I have been doing cross country and track since seventhgrade.

**HH:** What do you love most about your sport?

**BL:** Running slowly is really relaxing, and running fast is really fun.

**HH:** Who has most contributed to your success?

**BL:** Coach Bennett and Coach Zanot. They both developed my love for running and taught me how to train effectively.

**HH:** Are you excited?

**BL:** I am incredibly excited to have the opportunity to run in college. If you told me as a freshman that I would run in college, I wouldn't have believed you.

**HH:** What are you most looking forward to?

**BL:** Training with fast teammates and running in Van Cortlandt Park every day.

**HH:** What will you miss about being a Husky?

**BL:** I'm gonna miss the coaches and teammates that I have gotten to know and became friends with over the years.

Another senior pursuing Division I Track and Field next year is **Tristan An (TA)**, who will be doing it at Bucknell University.

**HH:** How long have you been playing your sport?

**TA:** I've done track for three years and four seasons.

**HH:** What do you love most about your sport?

**TA:** What I love most about track is my team and how we are able to not only compete but also have fun with each other.

**HH:** Who has contributed most to your success?

**TA:** I think that Coach Zanot has contributed most to my success on the track. He has done so much for me and my teammates and dedicated so much so that me and my teammates could improve and get better. My teammates also have contributed so much.

Teammates like Peter Fischer, Joey Cardacia, and David Ueda have all pushed me to become better.

**HH:** Are you excited?

**TA:** I am extremely excited to continue my athletic and academic career at the Division 1 level at Bucknell University.

**HH:** What are you most looking forward to?

**TA:** I am looking forward to meeting my teammates and surrounding myself with accomplished athletes.

**HH:** What will you miss about being a Husky?

**TA:** What I will miss most would definitely be my teammates and the fun we all had.

Finally, **Joey Harrison**



**Running fast is really fun.** Brandon Lucy will be helping the Jaspers to get to that finish line faster.

Courtesy of Brandon Lucy

**(JH)** will continue playing Division II Hockey next year at St. Thomas Aquinas College.

**HH:** How long have you been playing your sport?

**JH:** Since I was three years old.

**HH:** What do you love most about your sport?

**JH:** I love the competitiveness in hockey when out in the rink.

**HH:** Who has most contributed to your success?

**JH:** My father is the person who has been there for me throughout my whole career.

**HH:** Are you excited?

**JH:** I am extremely excited to play at the college level.

**HH:** What are you most looking forward to?

**JH:** I am looking forward to starting a whole new journey in college with hockey.



**Bullish about being a Bucknell Bison.** Tristan An is excited to be joining a team of accomplished athletes at Bucknell University. He loves the thrill of competition, along with fun of rooting on talented teammates.

Courtesy of Tristan An

**HH:** What will you miss about being a Husky?

**JH:** I will miss playing with some of my best friends from school.



**Soon to be a Spartan.** Joey Harrison will suit up for the St. Thomas Aquinas Spartans ice hockey team this fall. He will miss his friends, but is really excited to be playing at the collegiate level.

Courtesy of Joey Harrison