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Purple Press

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Archery team 1st in the state

OWL claimed the top spot at the state tournament in a historic moment

Maddie Linstad
Staff Writer

The OWL archery team has a new addition to their trophy case, and it's their biggest win yet. The OWL high school team won first place at the state tournament in Duluth in March. "I was very surprised. We had a lot of archers peak at the right time," said coach Tom Totushek.

The high school team scored a total of 3,383 points, only 32 points higher than the runner-up team, Lakes International Language Academy. On top of that, the team shot 187 tens (which is an arrow that lands in the inner yellow circle). OWL's middle school team did well too, with a score of 3,111 points and 97 tens.

Although the team as a

whole shot exceptionally well, there were some archers that had terrific performances at the tournament. Senior Ian Rosenberg-Scholl shot a 291, winning 3rd place in the high school boys rank. On top of that, all of his arrows were yellow and he shot a 50, which is when all five arrows landed in the ten. Sixth grader Sophie Sherman-Hoehn won

4th place in the middle school girls rank after shooting a 282. This was her first archery state tournament and her first year on the archery team. Seventh grader Maggie Jansen shot a 281 and won 5th place in the middle school girls rank. This was the best score she had personally shot this season.

Scoring a team seems complex, but it's actually pretty

simple. Instead of adding together the score of every archer, only twelve archers are calculated into the final score. These archers are the four highest-scoring girls, and four highest-scoring boys. Additionally, the next four highest scoring archers are added no matter their gender.

All archers who shoot are scored by the partner

they shoot with, with a few exceptions if you shoot on your own. The highest possible score for someone to shoot is 300, meaning all of your arrows land in the ten. Most of OWL's high school archers scored in the 270 and 280 range, with a few scoring in 250-260s. This means that they

Archery, 6

Anastasia comes alive on the stage



Ted Dobbins



Ted Dobbins

Actors rehearse scenes from the musical *Anastasia* in the auditorium last week. It will be OWL's first musical since *The Addams Family*.

The theatre department's spring musical will be showing the week of May 15

Ruby Kate Nolen
Staff Writer

A missing princess has lost her memory. Her family is offering money to whoever can bring her back. Will Princess Anastasia ever be found?

OWL's spring play, *Anastasia*, is about the search for Anastasia Romanov, a Russian princess who was

rumored to survive the execution of the royal family by the Bolsheviks, a Russian political party that supports communism. The main character, Anya, played by 11th grader Anna Nowatzki in OWL's production, has forgotten most of her life from before the revolution and is trying to figure out if she's

the lost princess. She travels to Paris with two con men, Vlad (played by senior Nick Streng) and Dmitry (played by senior Daniel Meekin), to try and convince the Dowager Empress to give the three of them the reward for finding Anastasia.

"We chose it because we loved the big ensemble cast,

we loved the story of a girl who has to find her home and her family, and we thought it would be a really fun one to do as a class," said theatre teacher Rebekah Rentzel. Almost all the actors in the play are students in a musical theatre production class, and every student in the class has a part. However, the students

had to do vocal, dance, and theater auditions, which served the purpose of teaching the students how to audition, as well as helping the teachers decide which student would be best for which part.

"The hardest part of directing a musical is making

Anastasia, 2

History day is back

State competition held in person for the first time in three years

Claire Ales
Staff Writer

On April 22, 2023, around 40 OWL students with 22 projects gathered at the University of Minnesota for the State History Day competition. OWL teachers Katie Craven, Dan Sullivan, Luke Turvold and Tim Leone-Getten attended and supported OWL students at the event.

Out of 22 projects, 10 projects made the final round. OWL received four honorable mentions: 12th grader Hazel Caroll and 11th grader Jaielle Galbreath with a performance, 11th graders Tess and Willa Champion with a documentary, 7th grader Juliette Lind, and 6th grader Lily Shultz with an exhibit. One 5th place was awarded to 11th grader Hiroko Zeleke with a documentary. There were also three 4th places, including 7th graders Charley Cheatham, Beatrice Cosgrove, Abby Horton, and Maisy Wall with a performance, 11th graders Cooper Peterson-Antin and Noah Johnson with a website, 7th grader Tait Vossen-Nelson, and 8th graders Aria Kulseth and Connie Van Genderen with a documentary. OWL had one 3rd place and Nationals alternate, 8th graders Claire Ales and Anya Robertson with a documentary.

History Day, 6

Sorcha named a finalist for ToTY

Science teacher was among ten finalists in pool for MN Teacher of the Year



Sorcha Nix

Sorcha teaches 8th and 9th graders at OWL.

Meara Gunderson
Staff Writer

Science teacher Sorcha Nix was named one of 11 finalists for the 2023 Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

Michael Houston, a math teacher at Harding High School, was named this year's winner at the annual banquet on Sunday, May 7.

Michael and the other 10 finalists went through an extensive round of interviews in front of a committee of 21

people made up of former MN ToY winners, school board members, and other prominent names in education. The culminating event took place at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, where educators gathered to celebrate the finalists and announce the winner.

The MN ToY award is a prestigious award given to a teacher who will become a spokesperson for Minnesota education for a year. Sorcha and the other finalists receive

an engraved crystal trophy, and are now lifetime members of the Minnesota Teachers of the Year organization.

"I feel very excited! It's an honor to have been nominated and to have made it this far. The other finalists seem super cool so I feel grateful to be included."

"I've had Sorcha for three classes now and it's clear to me that she is incredibly deserving of this award," said 9th grader Maddie Linstad.



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Leland Engelking prepares to make a pass to Noah Johnson in a game against Blake earlier this season
Bradley Benson

High hopes for Manatee season

Tess Campion
Staff Writer

Despite snow, cold, and winds, the Manatees have taken the field by storm despite a rigorous start to the season. Both the varsity and junior varsity team are aiming high and hope to fight hard this season, successfully wrapping up their first tournament last weekend with a fourth place finish in DI and third place finish in DII respectively.

Both teams were also voted in the top three for their tournament spirit score, a numerical value representing other competitors' voting of their sportsmanship.

For the manatee, the team environment comes first. "It is an opportunity to get into athletics in an environment that is welcoming and kind, which can be rare when it comes to high school sports.

The team is about building up the community and helping people learn and helping people get better with kindness," said junior Mintesinot Sturm. Much of the team feels

the same way and the team is a big reason players stick with the sport. Manatee junior captain Cooper Peterson-Antin reflected on joining the team in 7th grade, stating, "I immediately just fell in love with the community," with senior captain Ian Brooks adding, "The team is a perfect combination of competitive and supportive."

This team culture is brought down from the coaches and upperclassmen, who many of the players look up to. Head varsity coach Joe Ling has won conference coach two years in a row and is a big part of the team's success. "We all love Joe Ling," the manatee team said, who have started calling him "Joe King." Coach of the JV team, the former player DC is also helping build the program and its longevity.

When asked, Mintesinot said the biggest compliment he received was being compared to former Manatee player Miles Pertel, who was a senior when he was in ninth grade. Cooper added on, say-

ing, "I loved learning from the seniors."

The team has brought many students together in a close-knit community. Cooper recalls being in middle school, wondering, "What is going on with this sport and why is it such a big deal at OWL?" Now he can see the excitement and really values the people he has been able to meet on the team.

Looking to this season, the Manatee varsity team hopes to win their conference again and make division one for the state tournament. The JV team is also staying competitive in the conference, and junior Oliver Ley says they are really hoping to improve their zone defense.



Asher Vieau

Andre began working at OWL last month as an intervention specialist.

Andre joins OWL staff

Connie Van Genderen
Staff Writer

"Okay, I just want the record to show that I am confident in my basketball abilities, there have been several students who have challenged me and as of today, March 31st, I have yet to lose to any OWL student and I will put my title on the line to anybody who wants to step up. I am confident that zero OWL students can beat me," says Andre Williams, OWL staff's newest member who has already gained a positive reputation beyond the basketball court.

Andre first started working as a social worker at Harmony Learning Center in Maplewood of North Saint Paul, fresh out of college in 2016 with a degree in social work. He first wanted to have a degree in auto mechanics, yet discovered that it wasn't the right fit. "I thought that it'd be fun, but it wasn't, so I went back and got a degree as a social worker," said Andre.

He made the decision to become a social worker at Harmony rather than being a special education teacher so he could make a difference in students' lives and was working that position for the last seven years. He liked it there because it was challenging but rewarding - the students there had been pushed away from regular schools. Andre said it was nice "to be a face that kids could enjoy and have fun with."

At the same time he was partnering social work with barber school to start a business called Therapy Cuts.

"In the black community, haircuts are really important and for a lot of like young black men, you can look good and feel good and a lot of people have a good conversation with the barbers, and so I thought that I could pair those two things up, you know, like therapy, touch on a lot of deep issues," said Andre, explaining how therapy sessions can leave you feeling exhausted and a new haircut can balance it out.

He eventually left Harmony because he wanted a school that was able to focus more on academics. "I kind of had to reevaluate what I was doing there and felt like I could be serving other places better," said Andre.

Andre is an intervention specialist at OWL, helping with academics, making sure kids are on track, checking in with students, providing kids with workspace, and helping get kids to class. As of press time Andre has been working at OWL for about a month and is liking it so far. "I think the biggest thing I've gained from this is that there are students who still care about academics, like I said where I came from, there was a lack of that. And so it's given me a lot of hope and excitement, seeing that kids actually want to get Cs to Bs and are really putting focus and emphasis on academics," he said.

Outside of school Andre has four kids and they all love basketball so he spends a lot of time with them in the gym. He also dabbles in real estate and works part time at a youth residential facility.

Wo-Manatees looking to rebuild in 2023

Joe Lodahl
Staff Writer

The girls ultimate frisbee team, or the Wo-Manatees, are looking for a year of big improvements within the team after losing multiple all-state players coming into the 2023 spring season. The team consists of 16 total players, and they had their first game on April 11th against Saint Louis Park. They have two practices and one game each week, and work hard each day to improve, learn, and support the team.

Last year the Wo-Manatee team careened through the competition to get second place in state. This year, juniors Tess and Willia Campion, senior Lily Weissman, and 10th graders Gwen Stender and Mylie Peterson-Antin are spirit captains. Many of the players look forward to improving on their own skills,

and contributing to the overall success of the team. Players such as 9th grader Violet Baer-Benson and Tess look forward to a positive and supportive team for the upcoming season.

A big part of ultimate frisbee is the spirit. As games progress and more teams play others, teams are given a "spirit score" by the opposing team. The scores are based out of 20. Tenth grader Gabby Govrik said, "I love the opportunity to meet and connect with not only players on our team, but players on other teams as well."

Many players on the team agree that the community is one of the most compelling and important aspects of frisbee, and the Wo-Manatee team. "I like that it's an opportunity to learn and improve but it's also a very supportive and fun environment," said Mylie. After games or practices, the Wo-Manatee team sometimes

enjoys heading down to Icy Cup for ice cream, as added team bonding.

As of now, the team is 4-6. On the first day of the Matoska Classic, a frisbee tournament, the Wo-Manatee went 0-3

against Red Wing, Blake, and Squall. But, bouncing back on the second day they went 3-0, beating Blake, a team they lost to the first day, as well as white bear lake JV and Apple Valley!



Bradley Benson

Bea Lloyd makes a leaping catch against Eagan.

Anastasia, 1

sure you do everything three times," said Rebekah. Musicals are harder than regular plays because in addition to acting, actors also have to sing and dance, memorizing songs and choreography as well as lines. Of course, scenes need to be rehearsed much more than three times each. But it's not all work. "My favorite moment is always when we go from 'this is really hard' to 'this is really fun,'" said Rebekah.

The play will be performed on May 17th, 18th, and 19th at

7 pm in the OWL auditorium. "I think it's going to blow people away," said Rebekah. "It's a very dramatic show, it's very fun, there's a lot of energy to it. But I think there are also moments of really strong acting and real tenderness, and I think that will be really good to see on stage."

A wet and wild ride on a Costa Rican river

An OWL student on the Panama and Costa Rica trip recounts their white water rafting experience

Zane Sheire
Staff Writer

After a two hour bus ride through foggy mountains and beautiful scenery, we got to the place where we would have arguably the most fun of the entire trip. After we got off the bus we had to put all of the protective gear on (helmets and life jackets), then we were told what commands we would hear on the river. "Paddle forward" was the most common command and is what we were doing most of the time. Other commands included "paddle backwards," "lean in," (lean into the middle of the boat and put your paddle up) "get down," (sit in the middle of the boat) and "high five" (high five with your paddles). In the boats there were four to five people. For my boat there were five and our guide, in the boat we had foot stabilizers which kept us from falling in.

For my group we had a

guide named Kya who was very energetic and talkative, which was not the case for every guide on the trip. Kya talked a lot about where he was from and what other groups were like and he also loved to splash everyone. While on the river we had rapids from level one to level three, level three being the most extreme rapids. During the rapids we still had to paddle, most of the time at a faster pace so we didn't run into anything that would flip us out of the boat. During each rapid we would bump against rocks and get splashed with a lot of water. After each rapid we would high five each other with our paddles.

The river we were on was low during this time though, so the rapids weren't as extreme but people still did fall in. "It was really fun! I wasn't feeling that scared because of the adrenaline, so it just felt like a fun rollercoaster," said

9th grader Lillie Eiken. At about the halfway point we had an option to get out of the boat and swim in the river, which some people did, and they all said it was really fun.

The forests surrounding the river had a lot of wildlife. For example, we saw a lot of different kinds of birds but the coolest animals we saw were a group of howler monkeys on the trees right above us. Some people thought that we were on the river for too long, while others thought it was the perfect length and some wished we had gone for longer.

After we got off the river we had all changed back into dry clothes and had nachos afterwards, which in my opinion were not that good, but other people enjoyed them.

Overall it was a very fun experience and I would definitely recommend it to other people. 10/10.



Joaquin Garcia Benavides

Eighth graders Joaquin Paez, Dylan Bickelhall, Soren Johnson, Ian Myott, and tenth grader Santiago Johnson navigate the rapids with a guide on the Saraquipi River.

Pineapple farm tour: would recommend

How do you pick the best pineapple at a grocery store? Farm tour guide Michael has the answer

Elizabeth Hallanger
Staff Writer

Out of all of the things we experienced during our Costa Rica trip, I'd say that the pineapple farm was easily one of my favorites. When we first arrived, we got a chance to walk around the main area, which interestingly enough

had a peacock pen to the left and a pool with a waterslide to the right, which did give us something to distract from the fact that almost all of us, in typical Minnesotan fashion, had been burnt to a crisp while white water rafting earlier that day.

The tour vehicle was almost

like a fancier, green version of a hay ride trailer, and on it was our tour guide. Our guide Michael had an amazing sense of humor, in that he would constantly jokingly poke fun at us, while also giving off some incredibly intimidating energy, which only made his jokes even funnier. One of

his main gimmicks was that he branded a machete named "Justin" which he used to both cut pineapple slices and jokingly threaten us with. Throughout the tour, he also occasionally asked us some pineapple-related questions, and he responded to every wrong answer with some form of "god no" or "Jesus Christ, man!"

At one point, he asked us if we knew how to pick the best pineapple at a grocery store. Some of us responded with things like "Smell it," "Pick a leaf from the top to see if it comes out easily," or "Feel it to make sure it isn't too firm." All of which he responded to with his titular "Jesus Christ no!" or by leading us on and making us think we had found the right answer before then going "Jesus Christ, no!" The bit subsequently ended with him revealing that the best way to find out if a pineapple

was good was to cut it open with a machete. Needless to say, he carried the tour.

The tour took us out through the farm's expansive fields of pineapple plants, and we saw plants whose fruit had been harvested, plants that were flowering, and finally, plants that were bearing fruit. We also learned some pretty interesting facts about the farm itself, like how one plant can fruit up to 2 times and that one man can plant up to 7000 pineapple plants in one day.

Once we had gotten to the fruit itself, we got a chance to get out and walk around. The pineapples themselves were a gorgeous vibrant gold color, and some of us even got to pick some of the fruits ourselves. Our guide also came out and began cutting up some pineapples for us to taste with his machete. These pineapples were quite literally the sweetest, juiciest,

most vibrant, most delicious pineapples I have ever tasted in my entire life. You know how when you get a pineapple from the supermarket, it's usually a bit bitter or tough? Yeah, these things were nothing like that. I'm honestly kind of glad he only gave us a few slices each because if they had let us go out and pick our pineapples I think the tour would have ended with me passed out in the middle of the field from eating 5 whole pineapples in one sitting.

After we got our snack, the tour itself was sadly over. However, we were given some delicious Pina Colodas and pineapple marmalade with Ritz crackers, along with some free time to walk around, swim, or just listen to the peacocks yell at one another. Overall, the whole experience was definitely a highlight of the trip. Five stars for sure.



Purple Press staff photo

OWL students get a sample of the freshest pineapple they have ever tasted.

Panama Canal: wow, those ships are huge!

OWL students get a chance to witness one of the world's greatest engineering marvels firsthand

Claire Ales
Staff Writer

One of my favorite parts of the trip was visiting the Panama Canal.

I enjoyed learning about the history of the canal and then watching a ship travel through the MiraFlores Lock. I couldn't believe how big the ships were and how fast they traveled through the lock.

In order for the ship to go through the lock, the first thing that has to happen is four "taxis" will pull the ship into the lock. Next, the water is taken out of the lock and put into the nearby lake. While the water is being taken out, the ship will slowly go down with the water to the sea level on the other side. Lastly, the lock doors that weigh 3,900

tons open and the ship can go the rest of the way through the lock.

When it was time to watch the ship, we walked up to the observation deck. It was really cool because it had a great view and there were people announcing the different stages of the ship going through the lock. They would also announce what the ship was carrying, where it was from, and where it was going. The best part about watching the ship travel through the lock was waving at all of the crew members aboard the ship.

In 2016, construction ended on the "Panama Canal Expansion Project." The purpose of the project was to make the locks bigger so that

bigger ships could fit through. As of right now ships can be a maximum height of 190 ft to travel through the canal. They had to make them bigger because over time, ships have gotten a lot bigger than when the canal was initially built. The locks on the canal will probably have to keep getting bigger as more and more ships are built to carry more cargo.

This was one of my favorite parts because I love watching the ships going into Duluth Harbor in Minnesota. It was really cool for me to see it on a bigger scale. It's also amazing to see ships coming from all over the world go into one place and think that so many ships from all over travel down the Panama Canal every year.



Purple Press staff photo

Math teacher Tom Totushek pauses while watching a ship pass through the canal.

Senior Spotlight

Dani Butler



What pronouns do you use?
She/her

How long have you been at OWL?
Since 6th grade, so seven years.

What are your plans for next year?
Augsburg.

What's been your favorite class in high school?
Katie's senior sem.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Volleyball.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
9th grade canoeing trip because it was a new experience for me.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Pa'que retozen by Tego Calderón.

That One Little Kid

Oskar Helle-Morrissey



What pronouns do you use?
He-him.

How tall are you?
4'11.

What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
Star Wars in general.

Who's your favorite senior?
I don't have one.

What is your favorite video game?
Legend of Zelda breath of the wild.

What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
Soccer and lego league.

What were Tim and Luke like in high school?

It may be hard to believe, but social studies teacher Luke and Spanish teacher Tim were high school students once too

Gabby Govrik
Staff Writer

Tim:
Where did you attend high school?
Edina High School (I know...)

What was your favorite year of high school?
Probably senior year. I had a pretty fun friend group that year.

What year did you graduate?
1985 baby!

What was your dream job?
Teacher at a fun little school in St. Paul (JK--I didn't have a dream job).

What was your favorite class or classes?
APUSH and Spanish (surprise).

How is high school now the same or different from when you were in high school?
I think it is harder now. Students learn a lot more now than we did.

What is some advice you would give your high school self and/or high-schoolers now?

Try new things. Don't feel you need "to stay in your lane."

What were hobbies or extracurriculars you were involved in?
Nordic Skiing, Cross Country Running.

What was your go to song during high school?
London Calling by the Clash.

What was a typical outfit you wore to school?
High-top Converse All-Stars, Levi's jeans, very cool punk rock T-shirt.

What "clique" were you a part of?
The endurance athlete crowd.



Photo courtesy of Tim Leone-Getten
Tim in 1985.

Luke:

Where did you attend high school?
Red Wing High School.

What was your favorite year of high school?
Senior year.

What year did you graduate?
1999.

What was your dream job?
Sports Journalism.

What was your favorite class or classes?
AP Literature with Mr. Lorenzen.

How is high school now the same or different from when you were in high school?
Similarity: teenagers (haven't changed much), Difference: technology/social media competing for your attention.

What is some advice you would give your high school self and/or high schoolers now?
Find activities that build your confidence, laugh at yourself, don't compare yourself to others.

What were hobbies or extracurriculars you were involved in?
Baseball, Hockey, Choir, job at a lumberyard, driving around town in my '88 Chevy Blazer.

What was your go-to song during high school?
Mo Money Mo Problems (clean version only!).

What was a typical outfit you wore to school?
Doc Martens, jeans, oversized sweatshirt or flannel.

What did you dislike about high school?
Pressure to "fit in".

What "clique" were you a part of?
I floated between groups.



Photo courtesy of Luke Turvold
Luke in 1999.

Fashion spotlight: Dan

Violet Baer-Benson & Gwen Stender
Staff Writer

This issue, Teacher Fashion is starting with Dan, who famously wears a similar outfit to many of the other teachers in this school.

What is your go-to fit?
Flannel and jeans, I don't know?

What is your favorite shirt?
I don't know. I have a Patagonia flannel, red and blue. I like that one.

What is your skincare routine?
I don't need one.

What is your hair routine?
I buzz it every week.

How early do you wake up to get ready?
About 6:20, I give myself 15-20 minutes.

Where is your fit from?
My boots are from REI, same with my pants, and my shirt is from J Crew.

Where do you usually shop?
REI or Patagonia, sometimes J Crew.

What celebrity inspires your outfits?
Luke Turvold, Kevin Hansen, Tim Leone-Getten, and Leo Bickelhaupt.

What teacher at the school has the best fashion?
Leo Bickelhaupt.

What do you have to say about the current style trends at OWL?

Kids value comfort for sure versus when I was in school, a lot of things were uncomfortable and in fashion when I was in school, I appreciate that about students.

Glasses or contacts?
Glasses are less convenient and aren't as strong, but sometimes I like to mix it up and wear them.

At Dan's recommendation, our next teacher to interview is Leo Bickelhaupt. Stay tuned for next issue, where we will explore Leo's inspiration, his favorite flannel, and his devotion to skincare.



Violet Baer-Benson
Dan is one of the school's fashion icons.

New elective: Street Law

Social studies class was introduced to students this semester

Mylie Peterson Antin
Staff Writer

In my social studies elective class last quarter, we watched a movie titled Legally Blond. Although it may seem silly, the film taught us much about the authenticity of movie-portrayed court scenes. You may be saying to yourself, "What?! I had to write three essays last quarter!" Well, now you have the chance to take this class.

Taught by Dan Sullivan, Street Law was introduced this year and is available for all students 9th grade and up.

So far, the class material has been focused on the process of a court trial, how the court systems work, and how court decisions are made. There are two periods of Street Law, one during second period A days and one during first period B days.

Dan proposed the Street Law class when it was announced that Rebekah Rentzel would be teaching the Critical Ethnic Studies course. "They needed another elective course, so I chose this one," said Dan.

When asked why he chose to teach Street Law, Dan said, "When I teach Government

every year, my favorite topics are based around law. I think that the students also enjoy learning about the different subjects and types of law."

The first step for Dan in quarter three was to teach the students about what different types of laws mean, and how they affect our daily lives. The first project he assigned was a Write Your Own Bill summative, and many students both enjoyed and struggled with the assignment. "It was hard to figure out the logistics of writing a bill and how it could work in society, but I definitely feel like I learned a lot," said 10th grader Gwen Stender.

After he covered the basics of law, Dan moved onto explaining how court trials and systems work. He taught about criminal versus civil law, and soon decided the final summative for the quarter would be a written analysis about the authenticity of the trial process in the film Legally Blond. Although the film was played in class for all to watch, Dan also gave students the option to find a case online of a person who was wrongly convicted, and later

Street Law, 6

Senior plans food packing event

OWL Against Hunger is being hosted for Better World Day

Luis Hernandez
Staff Writer

On Friday, May 5th, Open World Learning will be hosting OWL Against Hunger for the first time since 2018. Abe Baer-Benson, a senior at OWL, is hosting this event as part of his senior project for Better World Day.

OWL Against Hunger is a food packing event for people in need. Leading up to the event, crews participated in activities to show how people are separated by the amount of money they have. In this activity, each person picked a card. There were three different color cards, blue (not enough), yellow (just enough), and red (more than enough). The blue card ment you got two single crackers to represent the people in poverty, the yellow card ment

that you got crackers and cheese to represent the people that had just enough to have and provide, and the red card meant that you got a full plate of food, with a drink included. This activity was meant to help the students understand the situations that a lot of people go through.

The next activity, this one more than just one class period, helps fund the event. The students, staff, and family have the opportunity to help fund this event. Each meal costs 25 cents, and the more that people contribute, the more meals that people have. Each crew has a poster that has a tracker that the crews use to see how much money they have raised for the fundraiser. This money goes straight to the event and will help feed so many people.

This was an event that OWL helped with at Adams Spanish Immersion before the pandemic. Abe said that it was something that he really enjoyed doing and that he was very happy that Tim had brought the idea to him for his senior project. In an interview, Abe said that raising money would be the hard part, but it has been really good this year. There were also grants that they had to apply for, but some got turned down. "We applied for a grant from EL for a better world day, but that got turned down," said Abe. This is an event that helps many people who are in poverty and are struggling to find food. Abe expresses his gratitude and happiness for this event. "It makes me feel like I'm making a difference in the world and it feels really good."

The event will be in the OWL gym, where there will be tables, set up and stations

where people will be packing food for the bulk of the day. Jobs for the event include putting the ingredients together, sealing the ingredients after, managing the tables and making sure that everything is going smoothly throughout the day. It's very exciting to see this event being held after five years. It's helping many people and will give the students at our school a new perspective on how some people live and what a great opportunity it is for us to do this for the better of our world.

Making sure that everything is going smoothly throughout the day, it's very exciting to see this event being held after five years. It's helping many people and will give the students at our school a new perspective on how some people live and what a great opportunity it is for us to do this for the better of our world.



Purple Press staff photo

Nick Christopherson and Theo Kimball work on a battle of the books bracket in the library.

Student club advises Caryl and library

OWL's bookworms are SLAC-ers, but they aren't slacking

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

If you come to check out a book at the OWL library during crew on Wednesday, you might be surprised at what you see. The normally calm and quiet book filled room is now overrun with at least 20 students arguing about... book covers?

This is SLAC, or the Student Library Advisory Council. Made up of 43 members split up into alternating high school and middle school weeks, SLAC is led by OWL librarian Caryl Mousseaux, and science teacher Sorcha Nix.

Caryl first came up with the idea for the group four years ago. "I have to give credit to my colleague from Highland Park middle, Adayle Andrews. She was interested in having a student library council that meets every week, and having some funding to support the ideas that they came up with. So she and I talked and made a grant together and now we've done it every year since." SLAC gets an approximately \$3,250 dollar budget every year through the EcoLab grant, which is broken into categories like book orders and events/initiatives. "The intention behind it is to give students the chance to practice leadership skills and work on projects, because you're going to use all those skills in the real world," Caryl continued, mentioning the group's growing size and aspirations.

SLAC started meeting in 2019, with only a few students shelving books and making posters advertising the library's collection. After the pandemic hit, SLAC became more community focused, and by 2021 there were about 20 members helping to create book orders and challenges over google meet. This school year, the group doubled in size, as did the library.

"When SLAC started there was like three bookshelves in the library, and now we have like two rows," said 11th grader Hiroko Zeleke, "we have helped a lot with library engagement as a whole." SLAC has been a critical part of increasing the library's ever-growing collection of titles, and they've recently been coming up with more creative ways to get the student-body

interested in the new books they've acquired.

You've probably noticed, or at least heard about many of SLACs recent outreach initiatives, like the door decoration competition OWL held in February. In collaboration with NAAPID organizers, SLAC was responsible for assigning every crew an black author, and coming up with the requirements to win. They've also created posters of every teacher's favorite books, which are hung up beside their doors.

There's now a button maker in the library, and the designs that are available to make were chosen through a SLAC-hosted contest. New displays are in the library every month, including "blind book dates" and ones celebrating black-history and women's-history months. The battle of the books that most English classes have been using as a do-now was completely organized by the students in the group. "All of these things wouldn't have happened without [SLAC]," praised Caryl.

The student-led aspect of SLAC is what's made it so successful. "Adults tend to overlook young people a lot because they're like 'you don't know things'. They'll say students don't know what they want. Students do know what they want," said Hiroko. She's considering helping to co-run SLAC next year as part of her senior project, an idea Caryl is enthusiastic about, "The library belongs to all of us. Especially the students. So it's important that there's a lot of student voice in what they see the needs are for the library."

But SLAC hasn't just impacted the library. Just like many other activities and groups at OWL, it's quickly become a close-knit community. "It's good to have like these built in friends and gives me something to look forward to every other week we have our meetings," said 10th grader Ruby Kate Nolen. The group has thrown Caryl a surprise birthday party every year since 2021, and frequently invites graduated members back for meetings. They have a lot of inside jokes and are constantly trading book recommendations,

What's up with the lunchroom?

Recent changes include new microwaves and menu items

Nina LaFerla
Staff Writer

The lunchroom has recently seen some changes, so let's see what students have to say about it.

Not long ago OWL got new microwaves for the lunchroom, which students from all grades can use to heat up their food during lunch. "I haven't noticed that they changed the microwaves, they're still really dirty," said 9th grader Cam Sisson. "I've made lasagna, popcorn, and Mac and cheese using the microwaves, I haven't noticed that they've changed though," said Blue Nord, a 9th grader.

The lunchroom rotates a clean-up team from a select few classes every month to try and teach responsibility

and leadership, as well as make sure our school stays clean. "Lunchroom clean up is a duty we all need to take part in to ensure we keep our school clean, it's something that helps to make sure that one of the most used spaces in our school is clean to a degree that is satisfactory to every student because we are the ones cleaning it," said 9th grader Dutcher Trobaugh.

OWL's lunch team has recently added samosas to the menu and students seem happy about this change. We interviewed a variety of different students and the two most popular items on the menu right now are orange chicken and samosas; their least favorite seems to be the burrito. "My least favorite

thing they serve is the little burritos with the gross white sauce," said 9th grader Marshall Westwund. "My favorite thing right now is the samosas," he added. "I think the orange chicken things are pretty good," said 8th grader Claire Ales.

The school store was started by Nora's crew in 2019, but got shut down because of COVID. It was recently reopened. The store is now run by Tim's crew. The school store has a variety of snacks you can purchase, including granola bars, fruit snacks, and Izzy's. The store accepts crisp tickets or US dollars as payment. "We've been preparing the store for three months by figuring out the prices, estimating how much we'll be making, and figuring stuff out with Dave and Tammy," says Isaac Wencel, a 9th grader in Tim's

crew.

The recent change in our weather means that playing four square at lunch is now an option. "In many eyes Simon is the best four square player at our school this far," claimed Simon Casper, a 9th grader. "Sixth and seventh are the ones that play the most," says 9th grader Wyatt Kessler.

Fraquetball is a combination of ping pong and tennis. The sport uses ping pong balls and paddles and is typically played in the gym hallway during lunch. Fraquetball is a known sport at OWL and was created by students. "The best team in Fraquetball would be Alpha Numericals, because they won it last year so they kinda have an edge," said 9th grade Wyatt Kessler. "In my opinion the best player right now would be Arthur Maddison," he added.

Masquerading in Old Hollywood

Prom is back at Sokol Hall this Saturday, May 6th

Shalimar Watkins
Staff Writer

OWL prom took place last weekend at Sokol Hall. The theme was Old Hollywood Masquerade. Shoutout to the Outward Bound prom committee for all their hard work.

The middle school dance was from 5 to 7 pm, and the highschool dance was from 7:30 to 10 pm.

The venue was decorated thoroughly for the event. There was a red carpet entryway covered with a balloon archway, the wall was decorated with gold stars with the names of seniors who attended, and the backroom had tables with fake Oscars statues as well as food and drink.

Luckily for all the high-school girls at OWL, Project

Fairy Godmother hosted a prom dress give away on Saturday, April 1st and Sunday, April 2nd. The event was hosted at Martin Luther King Rec Center. Girls were able to pick out a dress, shoes and accessories.

Prom evokes feelings of nervousness and teen angst. The thrill of engaging in a school tradition and having fun with your classmates outside of school prompts excitement. But for some it incites a sense

of apprehension; they worry about whether they should go with a date or attend the dance at all.

Though one thing I'm sure we can all agree on is one simple fact: prom is always a memorable and special occasion from the extravagant dresses and ridiculous dance moves to the nostalgic playlist of songs from our youth.

Hawks tennis team growing fast

Oscar Mons
Staff Writer

Two years after the pandemic, sports at OWL and Humboldt are still reeling. However some good things have come out of the pandemic, one of them is Tennis.

Tennis at Humboldt is a fairly new sport that came out of the pandemic, however the team led by Coach Koua Xiong and Mr. Lor already looks to compete at sectionals.

Sectionals will end the season and assuming the team makes it, will most likely be the week after our last match. To many other schools, Humboldt tennis pales in comparison to big schools like S.P.A., Highland, Harding and Central, who top the conference. The best team right now might be S.P.A., with Harding in a close second. Humboldt ranks lower down the list for sure. In a sport where you lose so often,

playing in the same conference with much better teams can be difficult, however with the addition of several new OWL athletes the team has grown considerably.

New OWL players include: Tait Vossen-Nelson(7th) 2nd singles JV, Calvin Defoster(12th) 2nd doubles JV, Harper Kopka(8th) 3rd singles JV and Simon Casper(9th) 1st doubles/singles JV. The previous year Beejan Daghhigh and

Oscar Mons(8th) were the sole OWL tennis players on the team and currently play 1st doubles Varsity.

Competition can be extremely difficult, especially when playing varsity as a middle schooler. Most varsity players are seasoned high schoolers and seniors with more experience than middle schoolers making it especial-

Archery, 1

had an average score of around 280 points. About half of the middle school team shot in between 240-260 points, with a huge portion shooting even higher.

The team was shooting during late Friday, or early Saturday. Many archers left on Friday to make the drive up, and a handful reportedly stayed late on Saturday for the official award ceremony. This ceremony was fast-paced, and went from individual elementary winners, all the way up to individual high school winners. The team standings were towards the end. "We were pumped up," said senior captain Veronica Rhode. "It felt like a really good sense of community. It wasn't just us being happy for ourselves, it was us supporting the team."

OWL's archery program has been around for about 15 years, and this is their first ever team state tournament title. It is reportedly a big deal since OWL is the only archery team in the Twin Cities. "There are still no other teams in MN in either Minneapolis or Saint

Paul. I imagine that other states may have teams in their urban cores," said Tom. The team has still had success in past tournaments, their most popular being Emily Yang winning the individual title back in 2018. Emily scored 293 points and went on to be an OWL archery legend.

There was a wave of surprise and excitement from both captains and archers. "I knew immediately that we'd won," said senior captain Guadalupe Dimayuga. "We were in downtown Duluth and I was yelling, and I was really cocky about it cause we're the best school." Ninth grade lieutenant Moss Windingstad said, "I don't know, it was very exciting." "I'm glad we took home the trophy as a team," said 11th grader Jack Linstad.

At each year's State Tournament, automatic bids are given to the top ten archers in each category. The OWL archers that medaled along with three other archers on the archery team have qualified for the Eastern National Tournament. The archers who have chosen to go include Ian Rosenberg-Scholl, Sophie Sherman-Hoehn,

Jacob Landy, Theo Kimball, Duncan Smith, along with Kathryn and Emily Totushek. Nationals will be held at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky on May 11-13.

Additional weeks of practice started up in mid-April and remain open to any archers interested. This practice is provided to give the qualifiers a few more weeks of shooting before they leave for nationals. The practices will also be used to make new targets, after archers shot through a huge portion of them. "Oh yeah, the gaping holes in the targets," said senior archer Asher Vieau. "Some of the holes were so bad that the arrow would go right through the other side of the target."

All in all, the OWL archery team had a successful season and the future looks bright. The next archery season will begin in fall of next school year. "I think that repeating as the State Champions is unlikely, but I would like to stay on the podium, so top three. I'd accept the Championship again though if it became available," said Tom.

History Day, 1

Two students in the junior division received topical prizes. Emily Totushek received the Raoul Wallenberg Prize in Humanitarian History with a website and Maggie Jansen earned the History of Austria and Eastern Europe Prize with a website.

When students weren't presenting their projects they walked around the University of Minnesota campus, and watched fellow History Day contestants present their projects. "It was a lot of fun seeing students and running around campus trying to see all of their projects," said social studies teacher Katie Craven. All in all, the day was stressful (especially during awards), but most of all it was fun and a really exciting experience. "Overall I was really happy with the results. We didn't have any projects go to nationals, but that's okay. We have many students that will continue to

do History Day and get better over the years," said Katie.

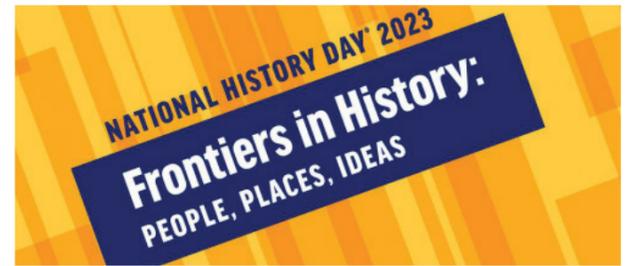
Students who competed seemed to enjoy the experience. "It gave me a good idea of what the state competition is like," said Connie Van Genderen. "There is a lot of waiting. We learned things we can use next year."

This year's History Day competition was the first in person competition since 2019. "It was really good to be back in person and have that energy there," said Tess Campion. "It was one of our best projects, and the topic was fun to learn more about it. It was

a competitive pool of people, and everyone was really committed to their projects."

"Going to state is always fun, because you get to hang out on campus," said senior Hazel Carroll.

This year's topic was Frontiers in History. Students are excited for next year's topic: Turning Points in History. "I'm excited for next year because we'll have momentum. Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will have gotten to experience in person competitions and will be excited about it," said Katie.



The 2023 History day theme was Frontiers in History.

SLAC, 5

helping newer members to acclimate into the overall OWL community.

"It makes me feel like I'm actually contributing to something that benefits people. It's also helped me make friends. It really makes me understand I have a voice in our community," commented Hiroko. This year more than 15 people have joined the group, and both new and older members are looking forward to making connections with their fellow book nerds and seeing what new ideas the

group will come up with.

SLAC already has many plans for the 2023-2024 school year, using data from the library census survey they sent out earlier this year. At the top of their list is making the library a more study friendly environment, adding soft seating and warmer lighting. Some members are wanting to create an Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library esque escape room, and are interested in adding a book exchange or donation bin to the library.

However, next year will come with a big change.

When Caryl announced her retirement, the future of the SLAC was questioned. But she knows that the new librarian will be glad to have the group. "It helps a lot to know that [they] are here... whoever [the new librarian] is, I know they're in good hands with SLAC." The SLACers themselves aren't worried either. "I think the students themselves will still run SLAC like it's always been. And Sorcha will still be there, which helps," said Hiroko. 9th grader Jocelyn Compton agrees. "SLAC is eternal."

Tennis, 5

ly difficult when most players on the Humboldt tennis team don't have more than 2 years of experience. Playing at a higher skill level at a younger age can lead to more losses than wins which can take a toll on the morale of the team. However, The team itself is very welcoming and friendly and accepts players of all skill levels. The team offers both varsity and junior varsity teams. The varsity team consists of 4 singles players in ranking order and 3 doubles teams in ranking order. For instance a player that plays #3 singles for their team will be matched with

the 3rd singles of the opposition, ranking is decided on the player's skill; therefore the best player(s) will most likely play #1 doubles or singles.

An average match starts with a racket spin (like a coin-flip) to decide which side will serve or return first. The match consists of best of 3 sets, each set contains 6 games, (to win a set you have to win by two) each game starts at Love-Love then goes to 15 (one point), 30 (two points), 40 (three points) until one player wins their 4th point or if both player reach 40 (40-40) which is called deuce, in which one player must win two points in a row to win.

The server switches sides

and serves to the opposite service box every point. After playing a game the other side will serve again before going back to the first side. Matches can sometimes be over an hour and thirty minutes long, so when time is scarce teams sometimes will play 8-game "pro sets" where they play a single set with 8 games and again must win by two (example 10-8 or 8-6). Tennis is incredibly fun and not only requires physical skill but mental as well. The environment is friendly and fun, anyone looking to join a spring sport next year should definitely consider tennis.



Photo courtesy of Tom Totushek

The archery team posed for a photo with their first place trophy.

Street Law, 4

exonerated by an organization called The Innocence Project.

Because the class had never been taught before, many students were excited to see what Dan's class had to offer, and so far it has not disappointed. 10th grader Luis Hernandez said, "I like how

laid back the class is, but you still get the information and are learning about stuff you didn't know before."

Dan said his goals for the class are, "For students to come out of it with a basic understanding of how law, the constitution, and criminal justice systems work." His next vision is to have a moot

court take place in class, and many students are excited for the proposition of playing different court roles to deepen their understanding of how trials really work.

10th grader Gwen Stender said, "I am very excited about the moot court. I hope Dan is an unbiased judge and I hope to be a witness."



Tim Leone-Getten

The OWL graduating class of 2023 posed for a photo on donut declaration day after announcing which post-secondary institution or program they will be attending.



Tom's 8th grade algebra class talked to MN representatives at the state capital about what they learned from their research projects on state spending.



Leo Bickelhaupt



Reviews 'n' stuff



John Wick movies go bang pow pow *Keanu Reeves stars as a former hit man in the thriller action movie series*

Nick Streng
Staff Writer

Out of all the big-budget action movies that have sent people flocking to theaters for a solid 1-2 hours of turn-your-brain-off chaos, John Wick has easily been one of the most popular icons of this genre in recent years. With the mature premise of Keanu Reeves as a former professional hit man brutally murdering anyone who crosses him in every single entry of the four-film neo-noir series, it's arguably one of the most serious and intense franchises ever created.

And if you think about it, it's also one of the silliest franchises ever created. I mean, it's Keanu Reeves as a former professional hit man who brutally murders anyone who crosses him for four movies straight. Tell me that doesn't sound like a story that would come from the mind of a twelve-year old.

Normally I don't take an interest in R-rated action flicks and only watch them if I can spend more time with my friends. Over spring break they organized a movie night to see John Wick: Chapter 4, which was recently released in theaters this year on March 24, when I realized that I

hadn't watched the first three movies preceding it. So given that I had no plans, I decided to binge the entire franchise in one day, even though I wasn't really sure if I was going to actually enjoy it.

A lot of action movies I've seen tend to accomplish only the bare minimum when it comes to a story, themes, and character development, and sacrifice any opportunity to expand those elements of the movie in favor of cranking the chaos levels as high as possible. Some movies that do this can be very enjoyable and fun despite not actually being any good (Cars 2 is a great example). However, most of them spend just enough time on their incomplete plot to prevent them from going all the way with their ridiculous action-filled concept as well, resulting in a very flimsy film that isn't memorable in the slightest aside from maybe a couple of horrific blood-and-gore moments. And because they can't offer anything special in either department since they couldn't make up their minds, they never reach the positive status of "so-bad-it's good movie" or "genuinely great movie." So I was fully expecting John Wick to match

this evaluation of mine, but what I got instead was the unthinkable - a franchise that went all the way with its ridiculous action filled concept, but actually managed to be genuinely great in the process.

Right from the first movie, it could not be clearer that the writers have zero interest in fleshing out the character of John Wick, never once bothering to explore the moral ambiguity of his violent actions, or forcing him to change throughout the story, which is literally just "These criminal thugs messed with John Wick

and killed his dog, now he's out for revenge." Having such a one-dimensional character is usually a death blow to any story, but with John Wick, it becomes weirdly evident that making him more complex wouldn't really be beneficial at all. The main focus of the movie is unrelenting nonstop action, so all it does for John's character is provide a tragic origin story for him, build him up as a ruthless and terrifying assassin, then it sits back and lets the chaos unfold. Zero development, zero lessons learned. And while a movie like that will definitely not

be for everyone, I enjoyed it immensely.

Amazingly, though, the action combined with the paper-thin plot never feels mindless, because where the series does dive deep into is the world building. As John rampages around the world getting into all sorts of jams, we always get a thorough exploration of the criminal underworld and how "business" goes, establishing the rules and the different factions extremely well. The second and third movies (John Wick: Chapter 2 and John Wick Chapter 3: Parabellum) have much more interesting obstacles presented for John, and while he remains entirely one-note, it's still possible to become invested in his journey and wonder how he's going to get out of increasingly tricky situations that can't always be solved by just shooting someone with a gun.

Keanu Reeves was a perfect choice for the role of John as well - although not in the way I was expecting. His acting isn't exactly good; he delivers every line of dialogue he has so awkwardly and never once did I feel intimidated whenever he was talking - in fact, I only giggled whenever he said

something like "I need guns, lots of guns," or "I'll kill them. I'll kill them all," or even just "Yeah," which I think is fair to say is his signature catchphrase. But there's such a great charm to his awkwardness that is so much better than having someone grim and stoic who can actually be taken seriously, and even though I can't call Reeves' performance good, to quote fellow Purple Press critic Alex Cowles, I wouldn't change a thing about it.

And what's perhaps the biggest positive of these movies that makes them work so well is the impeccable direction of Chad Stahelski, a.k.a. my new favorite film director of all time. It is not an understatement to say that he along with Reeves carries the entire quadrilogy on his back, making it so there's never a dull moment in any of the movies - both literally and figuratively. While most action movies fall victim to shoddy spectacle suffering from excessive shaky cam or bad choreography, Stahelski's directing is absolutely top-notch and he only takes the spectacle to the next level with every new entry. Along with thrilling firefights, elaborate



IMDb

The fourth John Wick movie was released this month.

John Wick, 11



TikTok

Is TikTok killing attention spans?

The social media app has popularized short form video clips

Kiara Steiner
Staff Writer

It all starts with the #SouthPark tag on TikTok having over 34.4 billion views. Why is a show that came out 23 years ago so popular again?

In the past year, the crass comedy show 'South Park' has plagued the social media app Tik Tok and the minds of young teens. Videos on the popular platform include clips of South Park, often with random online AppStore gameplay below it. These clips

are often entire episodes split up into multiple video parts. But most often they are out of context and are from any point in the show.

The main draw of this content is that they are short clips that involve no actual commitment to watching an entire episode/show. It's not just South Park that is being posted in this format. It's other shows as well, such as Modern Family and Young Sheldon.

Anyone can post these

Tik Tok, 10

Cocaine Bear is pretty decent

In a movie where a bear consumes cocaine and attacks people, a lot could have gone wrong

Michael Ryan
Staff Writer

Cocaine Bear was a hit before it even got released. The first trailer, released in November of 2022, spread like wildfire across the internet, sparking the imagination of the public with the idea of a bear that does drugs. The release of the film on February 24th of this year was anticipated with bated breath. And you know what? It was alright.

The basic premise of the film is that a drug trafficker dumps 75 pounds of cocaine off of a plane, which lands in a state park in Georgia. A giant bear eats the cocaine, subsequently getting addicted and going on a murderous rampage, desperately trying to get that next hit.

It's loosely based on a real story, when in 1985 a bear (which, according to Wikipedia, is known by the name of Pablo Escobar or

Cokey the Bear) was found dead in Georgia, surrounded by around 40 open packages of cocaine. It didn't kill anybody, it was probably too high out of its mind to do so before succumbing to overdose. For whatever reason, a doctor decided to do an autopsy on the bear, and it was found that the bear had absorbed three or four grams of the drug into its bloodstream when it died, possibly eating more than that. From there it was stuffed and

currently resides in a mall in Kentucky, raking in big bucks from T-shirts and postcards boasting its likeness. Loosely based, the film is.

The horror-comedy is split into multiple different stories: the first of which is the story of a young girl named Dee Dee, who ditches school with her friend Henry to walk in the local state park and go to a waterfall. When the two kids stop at a map, they find a bag of cocaine that they decide to open and, after much taunting and talking up, eat spoonfuls of. The bear is attracted by

Cocaine Bear, 11

The Last of Us garners praise

Critics crowned the series starring Pedro Pascal the best video game adaptation of all time

Lucy Annis-Bercier
Staff Writer

The HBO Max original The Last of Us is one of, if not the best drama series I have ever watched. It's based on the popular video game of the same name, which I've never played before, but I still found the TV show to be enjoyable nonetheless. Like all adaptations of books, video games, board games, etc., it's very exciting for the fans to see something they enjoy come to life. I believe this is why there

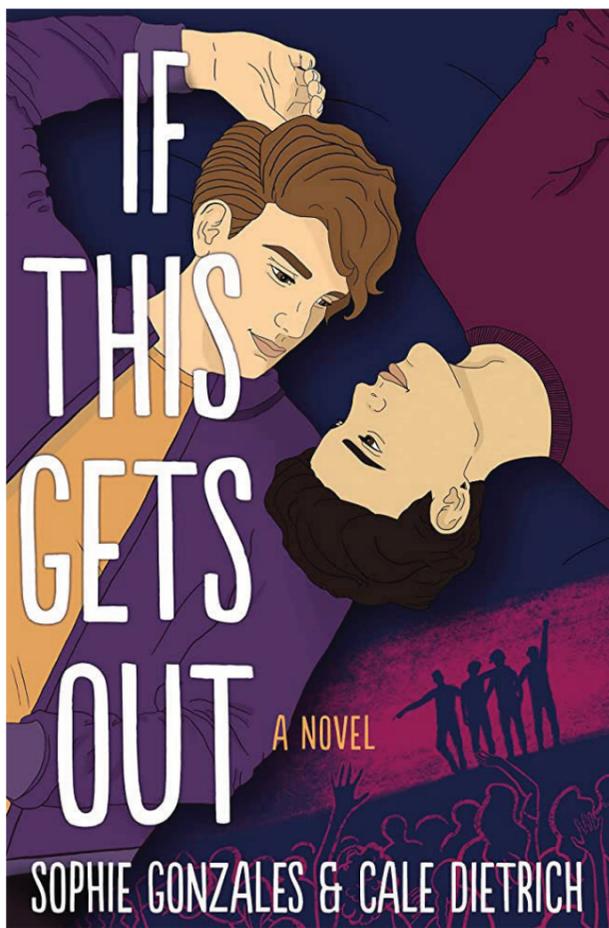
has been so much success for The Last of Us because there were already millions of guaranteed viewers who were fans of the video game and once word got out how amazing the show is, it gained millions more fans who may have never even heard of the video game. I am one of those people who was told I just have to watch the latest HBO drama series, which normally doesn't draw my attention. I was unsure if I would be interested in it but I decided to give it a

try and I am very glad I did. It's one of those TV shows that I believe anyone could get hooked on despite their bias or interests. It has one of the best, most engaging intros to a TV show I've ever watched, and once you watch the first episode I find it difficult to believe anyone would stop watching there.

The Last of Us stars Pedro Pascal as the main character Joel. He rose to fame with his roles in huge franchises such as Game of Thrones and Star

Wars but The Last of Us has made his name known all across the world. I'm very glad he's getting the recognition he deserves and I look forward to seeing what else he does in the future. The secondary main character, Ellie, is played by Bella Ramsey, who is best known for their role in Game of Thrones. The role of Ellie was originally under consideration to go to Game of Thrones star Maise Williams, but once the project began, the actress had gotten too old for the role and it was given to Bella Ramsey. Despite what some viewers might think, I think Ramsey

The Last of Us, 11



Keeping secrets from the public

Boy band meets boy romance in the YA novel If This Gets Out

Neve Dawson
Staff Writer

I don't know about you, but sitting on a park bench, stroopwafel in hand, watching the city of Amsterdam light up as dusk descends from your perch by the canals sounds really nice to me in almost any context. *If This Gets Out* recognizes that setting for the catalyst it is, and takes advantage of it, making me both invested in its story and wanting to eat a thin waffle-caramel cookie in the same scene.

It's not all about caramel delicacies though; it's also about psychology (stay with me here). Do you ever wonder about the lives of celebrities? Do you ever think about the sorts of pressures they are under, or what effect it has on not only their mental health, but also their lifestyle and freedoms? I know I didn't, at least not as deeply as I do now, thanks to this new romance novel.

If This Gets Out is a queer contemporary romance novel collaboratively written by Cale Dietrich and Sophie Gonzales about the newfound relationship between two members of a hugely popular boy band, much to the trepidation of their management team. Released in late 2021, the 295-page book has been widely enjoyed by other authors and readers alike for its distinct writing style and open discussion about celebrity freedoms.

Dietrich and Gonzales both have a background in writing, having written a number of other queer young adult books such as *Only Mostly Devastated*, *Perfect on Paper*, and *The Friend Scheme*. Gonzales also works as a psychologist.

The book follows Ruben and Zach, two members of the band Saturday, consisting of them and their two friends Angel and Jon. After being

taken up by Chorus Management and Galactic Records, the band's popularity soars, making the boys some of the biggest names in pop music at only 18 and 19 years old. With success comes public appearances, hence the book's setting of a tour throughout Europe, at least for the first half. Ruben has already come out to Chorus and the rest of the band as gay, but the management team are making him keep silent and even lie about his sexuality for the sake of their public image.

Meanwhile, Zach is struggling with the possibility that he might be bisexual after one fateful incident following a show in Paris (fitting). The book follows them as they fight back against Chorus for their freedom, deal with two particularly difficult toxic relationships, and try to stay true to their friends and each other, all while in the harsh glare of the media's spotlight.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable read. The plot progressed smoothly, with several revelations and twists to keep one interested. It never became boring, despite beginning the story on a tour where every day is the same. The pacing was handled well with no jarring time skips, and the characters all seemed to grow and learn as real people would. It was subtle, but by the end Ruben has gathered some courage and agency, as has Jon, to stand up to their respective toxic relationships, and Zach seems more comfortable, with his sexuality and in general, in ways that were barely fathomable to the characters we were introduced to at the beginning.

It took on a very playful, fun style of writing, which made it possible for me to laugh even while in the midst

If This Gets Out, 11

A classic in line for a sequel

Tears of the Kingdom builds on the decades-old legacy of Zelda

Chloe Best
Staff Writer

The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild sold over twenty-nine million copies as of 2022 and is often praised as one of the greatest video games of all time. The release of its long-awaited sequel, "Tears of the Kingdom," is just around the corner, with the recent trailer and gameplay showcase already taking the internet by storm.

The Zelda series debuted in Japan on the NES in 1986 with the original 2D game, "The Legend of Zelda." In the original game, the Kingdom of Hyrule has been invaded by Ganon and his army. They've stolen a potent magical artifact known as the Triforce of Power and kidnapped the princess Zelda, who shatters her own Triforce of Wisdom to prevent it from falling into the wrong hands.

The player controls Link, a heroic 8-bit youth who traverses a wide map crawling with monsters to reassemble the Triforce of Wisdom and rescue her; famously receiving a sword from an old man who tells him, "it's dangerous to go alone! Take this." Once

all eight main "dungeons" have been completed—each with a piece of the artifact—a ninth housing Ganon appears and Link is able to defeat him.

Several other 2D Zeldas were released after the success of the first game, including a sequel on the NES, "Zelda II: The Adventure of Link" where the princess is placed under a sleeping spell, as well as *The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past* for the Super NES in early 1990s.



"Zelda has been around for a long, long time," said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt. "I remember people playing it in my dorm in college on Macintosh SEs with little tiny screens."

In November of 1998, *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* launched in Japan and North America for the Nintendo 64 and marked a number of firsts for the Zelda series. For example, *Ocarina of Time* was the first 3D game in the fran-

chise and was released back when 3D games were still a relatively unexplored medium. Developers created Z-targeting, or the ability to "lock on" to an object or enemy, which is now common in video games across many genres.

Ocarina of Time begins with a sense of adventure as a nine-year-old Link sets off into Hyrule from the enchanted Kokiri Forest for the very first time. Young princess Zelda believes that Ganondorf, the Gerudo King, is trying to steal the Triforce. She asks Link to enter the Sacred Realm and claim it before he can.

Link falls asleep after pulling the Master Sword to open the Sacred Realm, and Ganondorf, following him in, steals the Triforce. "Adult" Link awakens seven years later to the kingdom under the Gerudo King's control. Hyrule is a darker place than Link explored seven years ago, literally. He frees the temples of the seven sages from Ganondorf's control and eventually infiltrates his castle to destroy him.

After *Ocarina of Time* featured an open Hyrule Field as well as the ability to con-

Zelda, 11

Potentially irreversible damage

The Willow Project in Alaska must be stopped

Alva Healy & Lizzie Dreher
Staff Writer

If the Willow Project is finalized, there will be several million metric tons of carbon dioxide pumped into our atmosphere each year. That amount of carbon emissions is irreversible in its damage done to our ecosystem. If ConocoPhillips goes through with the Willow Project, many people and species worldwide will be affected negatively by its impact on the environment.

What is the Willow Project? That's a common question being asked, especially since the project has recently been approved by the Biden Administration. The Willow Project is a plan created by ConocoPhillips that takes place in the Willow National Petroleum Reserve on the North Slope of Alaska. The project aims to drill 100+ wells into a gov-

ernment owned field in Alaska, removing around 400-750 million barrels of oil.

The project was approved on March 13, 2023. It was approved by the Biden Administration, although a petition with over 3.2 million signatures was in place against it.

The Willow Project first became a thing around 1999, and after ConocoPhillips acquired the Willow area leases, they then began to try and secure a permit to drill in the area in 2018. Although the project has been approved, it is currently unknown when drilling will start in Alaska, due to impending legal challenges. Many activist groups are expected to file for an injunction, in an attempt to block the project.

ConocoPhillips is a multi-action, Houston-based gas and oil company created by the merging of two companies,

Phillips Petroleum and Conoco. The companies merged in 2002. ConocoPhillips has been advocating for the Willow Project for years, and in 2020, the Trump Administration approved it. Originally, the project would have been given five drill pads, which would allow ConocoPhillips to obtain the full 100% of the Willow National Petroleum Reserve's oil. The Biden Administration later reduced the number of drill pads to three, which will still allow them to obtain 90% of the oil stored.

The Willow Project is a controversial topic, especially in the US. The project has the ability to affect the entire world, by putting that amount of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, but it will also definitely affect the economy to have that much oil being sold. Another recent surge of popu-

larity and focus on the project has emerged on popular social media platforms such as TikTok, and Instagram.

The project has yet to be constructed, but the drilling is planned to uncover up to 600 million barrels of oil. That insane amount of oil will take years to reach the markets.

The primary reason the project is as controversial as it is is mainly the fact that the Willow Project has the ability to generate enough oil to release over 9.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide pollution a year. In addition to the planet-warming pollution being added to the atmosphere, the project has the ability to destroy the habitat of native species, and may also disrupt the migration patterns of other animals, including caribou, a species vulnerable to extinction.

Willow Project, 10

A culture war with no winners

The problem with Florida's education reforms

Aanen Kulseth
Staff Writer

Classroom shelves sit empty as Florida's new education reforms go into effect. Passed by Governor Ron DeSantis, this new legislation seeks to "give parents the right to make decisions in their children's education." Essentially, this legislation removes and regulates all mention of gender and race in the classroom.

The law also requires that media specialists, librarians, and other school personnel involved in selection of library materials must complete a training program developed by the Florida Department

of Education. This training seeks to stop media specialists from allowing any book that mentions prohibited material, which once again, is anything that mentions race or gender.

Not only is this regulation of information unethical, but schools typically have only one media specialist, and this person is now required to review every single book throughout the school. This makes for a terribly slow process, leaving classrooms devoid of any and all reading material. This mess culminates in a terrible experience for students and teachers alike. Students now lack a very important piece of their men-

tal development, that being books. In addition, these laws are also oppressive towards teachers.

Recently, Florida has decided to extend the LGBTQ+ censorship to all grades, as opposed to younger elementary students. The Florida Department of Education has said that teachers "shall not intentionally provide classroom instruction to students in grades 4 through 12 on sexual orientation or gender identity unless such instruction is either expressly required by state academic standards." While DeSantis initially sold the bill as "protecting children," it has

now become clear that it is simply meant to ban all discussion of gender identity, regardless of age or maturity.

So what is the endgame to all of this? Since it is most likely not about "protecting kids from indoctrination," I would guess that it is nothing more than classic politics. Governor DeSantis's only goal is to become the Republican candidate for President. He is attempting to do this by carrying on a "culture war" in order to get Republican voters on his side. Many other Republican candidates are working similarly, which leads to everyone trying to outdo each other in

Florida reforms, 10

Little kid shows inspire nostalgia

Looking back on the best TV of the glory days

Ellie Patton & Lana Stevens
Staff Writers

Most kids watched a lot of television shows when they were little, making the shows a huge part of our childhood. But everyone grows up and grows out of those kids shows we all knew and loved, and since the thought of growing up can be scary at times, here are some kids shows to help us remember the good ole' days.

1. Curious George

Curious George is a classic about a lovable monkey named George living with a man in a yellow hat. As per the name of the show, George's curiosity leads him on adventures every episode and he learns lessons through his mistakes. The iconic monkey was originally in picture books illustrated by Margret Rey and H. A. Rey in 1941. In 2006, a TV show of Curious George came out on PBS Kids. All of the many diverse characters and different adventures George takes makes it easy for kids to attach to the monkey and his

stories. Definitely a favorite of kids shows. I (Lana) think it was so easy to fall in love with the show because of all of the different characters and places in the show. It feels like we are in George's own world, it's very immersive and memorable.

2. Martha Speaks

Martha Speaks is a show featuring Martha who became a talking dog after she ate alphabet soup. She lives with her family, Helen, who is her best friend and her owner, her adopted brother Skits, and including Helen's mom and dad. Martha is also friends with her adopted brother Skits who she doesn't always get along with but still enjoys playing with, and occasionally takes the role as his translator as he can't speak like Martha does. This story follows Martha each episode as she learns new English words and phrases with her new speaking ability. This show was one that I (Ellie) always watched when it was on because not only was it a really fun show but

it also helps kids learn new vocabulary and teaches kids watching along the way. You could always count on this show each episode to have the most fun and funny story every time. The show was released in 2008 on September 1st on PBS kids. The first children's book was written and illustrated by Susan Meddaugh in 1992 which was then later put on

PBS kids.

3. Odd Squad

Odd Squad is a show that takes place in a secret headquarters run by kids, that investigates anything strange, weird, and especially, odd. The two main characters we all probably remember the most fondly are partners in the Squad, Olive and Otto. Every episode they get cases

to investigate odd happenings around the world, and as they go they use math skills to solve every case, discreetly teaching those math skills to the viewers on the way. The PBS Kids show premiered in 2014 with the partners Olive and Otto, and as the seasons went on, since all the actors were on live-action, they grew up and were replaced with new characters (Unfortunately!). The series ran for three seasons and 108 episodes in a span of seven years, airing its final episode on July 8, 2022. What I (Lana) personally really loved about this show was how they made math seem genuinely fun and useful, and they had a really good way of teaching me a lot through the years without making it too obvious it was about education. Also, with the main focus of the show investigating odd, unusual things, there was rarely a dull moment!

4. Wild Kratts

The show that began as Zoboomafoo, Wild Kratts was always one of the favorites. The show follows brothers Chris and Martin Kratt as they solve animal problems around the

world with the creature powers that they put into their suits after Aviva studies the animal in question and makes the powers for the suit. There are several villains that show up each episode including Zach Varmitech who abuses the animals with his tech, Donita Donata who is a fashion lover that hurts animals for the fashion, and Chef Gourmand who is a cook that kidnaps the animals and attempts to use them for his meals. It was entertaining as well as educational and it was always really interesting to follow along with. This show made me really interested in every animal topic they showed each episode. This show was really fun to watch because it teaches you about each animal and teaches you to appreciate and respect that animal, as well as having amazing adventures around the world. Wild Kratts was brought onto PBS kids on January 3rd, 2011 and was created by Chris Kratt and Martin Kratt. The lovable Kratt Brothers and their team teach kids that all animals deserve to be "living free, and in the wild".



Chevrolet

Atticus prefers the feel of an older vehicle, such as the beauty pictured above.

New cars have better tech, but much worse feel

Atticus Brooks-Babcock
Staff Writer

Bluetooth, traction control, stability control, ABS, and auto headlights. These are a few of the amenities you may think nothing of when driving your car, but 30 years ago you were lucky to have abs.

Picture this: you're driving at 40 mph and another car pulls out in front of you. Of course you slam on the brakes however this is the 90s and you don't have abs causing all 4 wheels to lock up sending you sliding into the car, there is a technique call "pumping your brakes" which is just pressing the brakes hard and then letting off repeatedly and this is to simulate how abs jitters the break.

What is ABS? ABS is a safety feature made standard in 2004 and it stands for "Anti-Locking Braking System." In other words, it feathers the brakes to avoid your wheels locking up. you may notice the brake pedal giving you feedback under heavy braking. That is abs and that stops you from sliding into the car in front of you. Another important safety

feature is traction control, this uses the brakes to stop your wheels from spinning or "losing traction." Now this isn't all that fun but it has saved many lives.

Stability control is newer and more advanced but is similar, however it can use both the brakes and the engine to maneuver the car, its biggest application is preventing snap oversteer. More simple explanation: traction control controls forward motion and stability control controls side to side motion.

All of this makes it sound like older cars are just big metal death traps, but how much do all of these fancy new safety features actually affect the overall driving experience? It's almost night and day. I drive a 1992 Lexus SC400 that has none of the aforementioned features, it also has a 4.0L V8, is rear wheel drive, and has a welded differential. In my opinion driving that car is easier than a newer car because you can feel everything. You get so much feedback from the road that I know exactly what

Don't downplay genuine struggle

The words and terms we use can minimize the pain of others

Anya Robertson
Staff Writer

"I acted on my intrusive thoughts." "I got PTSD from that." "I'm so addicted to this game." "I'm so OCD." "This is my 13th reason why."

These words and many more have become part of our vocabulary. They become TikTok trends and throwaway phrases. DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) diagnoses and symptoms that wreck people's lives become jokes and common adjectives.

Every time you say something like this, someone cringes. Someone with that diagnosis, someone who genuinely deals with it,

someone who knows how hard it is.

What happens when someone says they want to kill themselves? You probably won't take it seriously. People say that all the time. After a hard class, when someone's being annoying, anytime you're frustrated, anytime you mess up. Think about how much you hear it. They make me want to off myself. This is my 13th reason why. I'm gonna throw myself off a bridge. But what if they need help? What if it's not a joke or an over-exaggeration? What if they kill themselves? And you didn't take it seriously, because everyone says it. Right?

Your words have an impact.

This normalizes mental illness. Every time you say anything like this, it downplays the struggles of everyone who genuinely faces this. It makes it seem like everyone has it or it isn't a big deal. "People minimize people's struggles all the time. It's normal," 8th grader Lizzie Dreher says. "And when you are struggling with mental illness, and actually open up to others, people call you a 'pick me.'"

Addiction is deadly. An addiction is something you feel like you couldn't live without and obsess over. Something you feel that you need and is severely negatively impacting your life. About a 100,000 people die from drug overdoses each year in the US. More than 140,000 people die from excessive alcohol use each year in the US. This

doesn't count the number of people we don't know about or people who die as a result of others with addiction. This also doesn't count the other addictions that wreck people's lives. Gambling, self harm, sex, eating, exercise, shopping, video games. The addictions that don't kill you but can destroy you. Your "addiction" is not the same. Addiction is serious and should be taken that way.

Most people probably won't even realize what they're doing, this is so ingrained in our culture. You might not think twice about calling someone schizo or bipolar. But it has to change. You need to think twice because bipolar disorder and schizophrenia are incapacitating mental

The words we use, 12

Is baseball a dying sport?

Bennett Vaughan-Fier
Staff Writer

Baseball has always been up there with football, hockey, basketball and soccer, however nowadays it's nothing more than a remnant of the past.

Baseball was first invented in 1876 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and shortly after its creation it became a hit. Baseball was one of if not the biggest sport during the 1900s, with kids from all over playing from dawn to dusk at their local parks. Baseball when it was introduced was so popular because it encouraged teamwork and it needed very little equipment unlike other sports like football and hockey. Because of these factors baseball took off, however although it doesn't need equipment the one thing

baseball needs to truly play it is players.

Baseball is a team sport for the most part at least when you're not batting, and because of the need for players it has led to a decline in its popularity, this is because nowadays people like to do things in much smaller groups, you still have your big groups, however usually in your neighborhood you don't have 18 people who want to play baseball laying around, this is due to many factors one being people staying inside and playing videos games in their free time instead of going outside and playing sports.

The next problem that baseball is facing is the sheer amount of games that a team in major league baseball has to play a season and the lack of interesting plays in a game. We all see the insane catches on

the highlight reels of the NFL's games or the dunks and buzzer beaters of the NBA, however in baseball you don't see as many exciting plays, and the big plays are usually not very interesting.

In 1960 there were 70% more hits than strikeouts, while today the strikeouts farm outnumber the hits. The other big problem is the amount of games a team has to play, on average a team has to play 162 games per season excluding if they make the playoffs, this is almost 100% more than a NBA team which has to play 82 games excluding the playoffs and 952% more than a NFL team which had to play 17 games excluding the playoffs.

Because of this it has created a lack of interest in the game and a declining viewership in person and online, with the

viewership from 2007 to 2019 declining about 1% per year. Another big problem is the difference in wealth between the teams, in the MLB they do not have a salary cap or their teams and this causes many teams to have bigger salaries than others, for example the Pittsburgh Pirates have a cap of 58 million and the New York Yankees have a cap of 200 million, and with those salaries usually come better players and coaches.

The problem with this is that many smaller teams get their rising talents snatched up by bigger teams with larger salary caps, and creates a huge skill division between the teams and basically bars the smaller teams from making it to the playoffs and winning, with the last small market team to win the world series

Baseball, 11

Cars, 11

Three keys to Rome's legacy

Meritocracy, opportunism, helped the Roman republic rise

Wyatt Hanson
Staff Writer

Rome, one of history's greatest empires. But what made Rome the giant of the classical age? Before Rome was an empire it was a Republic governed by a democratically elected senate, and led by two consuls or a dictator (more on that later).

The republic started after a revolt in the kingdom of Rome sparked democratic fervor within the Greek influenced populace leading to the foundation of a Republic. The senate of Rome was democratically elected by Patricians (Rome's ruling class). This senate would elect two consuls to rule Rome together every year and in times of crisis elect a dictator who would have a set amount of time they would rule.

The first thing that made

the Roman republic special was its Consul system. Under this system anyone who wanted to be hailed as a great leader of Rome would need Imperium. Imperium is a way of measuring someone's influence based on their accomplishments and family.

Under this system those who wanted triumphs would need to do something great E.G. Conquer. This is why Rome expanded so rapidly soon coming to control most of modern day Italy and later the entire Mediterranean and more.

Two, Rome's greatest advantage in its infancy was the Manipular legion. An embodiment of their class structure, Greek ancestry, and innovative skills. The manipular legion consisted of three types of units, Hastati, Plebeians (Roman

Peasants) that were drafted into the legion, Principes, more experienced and better equipped version of the hastati and the Triarii, spear infantry that was given the best equipment and drafted from the Patricians.

Rome's ability to innovate did not stop at the army, when the Romans were at war with Carthage they were failing at naval warfare, but one invention would change that. The Corvus was a bridge suspended at an angle with a spike on the bottom to be dropped on enemy ships and allow parties to board, turning sea combat into hand to hand fighting.

This ability gave the Romans an advantage over Carthaginians and Greeks alike and after the final reform of the roman army bringing it to the 120 strong cohorts we are all familiar with, the Roman army was unstoppable.

The third thing that made Rome was its position on

the stage. Rome was in the middle of Italy surrounded by un unified Italian tribes that relied on numbers to counter the romans. After the Italians were dealt with the Greeks found themselves outmatched by Rome's resources as proven in the pyrrhic wars.

When Rome destroyed Carthage it took major parts of hispania (Modern day Spain and Portugal) as well as much of North Africa and after it conquering the highly developed Greece and Anatolia (Modern day Turkey) Rome had an abundance of resources. The Egyptians and Gauls were no match for Caesar and Octavian because even with only part of Rome's economic power they could destroy any other nation.

The final and most important thing that made Rome what it is remembered for is its sheer will. During the first Punic war (the one

Rome, 12



Minesweeper is underrated

Orathai Hang
Staff Writer

There's that one iconic game that I was all too afraid to play. And no, it wasn't a horror game, but it was the fact that I didn't know how to play it. I first found this game on my Windows 7 computer, it was amongst the nine different pre-installed softwares found in the Games folder which held many nostalgic games. Unfortunately, I'm not going to be talking about the beloved Purple Place. I'll be writing about the one with the grid of blank squares, the red flag, and the hidden spiky bombs. Does it sound familiar? Yes, I'm talking about the classic game of Minesweeper.

What's interesting is that Minesweeper wasn't originally developed for a game of fun, but rather it was developed for the purpose of understanding and learning about the functions of computer mice. In 1990 mice lacked the scroll wheel and it wasn't until 1995 that mice were manufactured with scroll wheels. So at the time, the game only contained two of the main functions of a typical 1990 mouse; which was the left-click and right-click buttons. Minesweeper was developed by two Microsoft employees, Robert Donner and Curt Johnson, and released in 1989. Today, Minesweeper is categorized as a puzzle game that requires both logic and strategy. And it's still widely available, where you can find it on multiple websites and even within Google's category of games.

The objective of the game is to clear the whole board. Which can be done by clicking on all of the squares without bombs hidden within them. If you've successfully done that it will result in a board full of squares that you've flagged, which signifies that there are hidden bombs. And it should be noted that as long as you clear up all of the safe squares you can still win the game even if you forget to flag a bomb or two. And you could still win even if you didn't flag any hidden bombs at all, however, you'll most likely just end up confusing yourself. But sure, go for a challenge, I guess. The game also allows for you to adjust the difficulty, there are usually three levels: beginner, intermediate, and expert. And if you want to learn how to play the game, this isn't the place for you, I'm just here to review the game. I recommend watching a quick and simple video about the rules of the

game.

Right away, one of my issues with the game is that at some point I'd have to guess which square is safe. Sometimes I just find myself with an impossible board, one where you run out of logic and strategy, because I'm left with either a straight line of squares or numbers with way too many adjacent squares. And I wish there was a way to learn how to beat this system of luck without having to watch a 30 minute long video talking about it. However, I'm not going to lie, guessing is the thrill of this game. I mean it's nerve wracking in a fun way, because you won't be able to know until you click on it. When you do click on the right one, you just feel so powerful, like you're a psychic or something (especially if you're able to do it multiple times in a row). It's that thrill and sigh of relief that I find fun.

However, the biggest issue that I have for Minesweeper is that although the game is quite flexible on many devices and widely available, it's not easy without a computer or mouse. On the phone it's quite annoying to play. Rather than a simple right and left click, it's a two-step process of clicking on a square and then clicking on a shovel or flag. This makes it a long process to remove or flag a square, which makes the whole gameplay less satisfying as it makes it harder to speed through the board. When playing on a laptop without a mouse there are many times that I've misclicked, because the trackpad doesn't have two buttons. Sometimes the trackpad doesn't sense two fingers and instead registers a left-click ultimately leading to clicking on the square rather than flagging. And, you'd never think that a person could rage at such an innocent simple game, but misclicking will get you slamming the table; especially if you've gone too far into the game to lose.

If I could explain how playing Minesweeper feels in two words it'll be frustratingly satisfying. The game doesn't have any audio and the graphics are quite low, like, you can play this game even with the lowest specs. And I'm glad that the game's graphics are so simple, because the simplicity makes the gameplay experience both easier and more enjoyable. In addition to the simplicity, this game doesn't have audio. If it did, I would've imagined a very

Minesweeper, 12

Will it catch up with them?

Trump, Fox News face possible consequences for their actions

Ted Dobbins
Staff Writer

The past couple months of 2023 have been very eventful and significant. As you probably have heard, a certain Donald Trump was indicted on March 30th, becoming the first president in U.S. history to face criminal charges. This on its own made history, however following the indictment and throughout April came many other instances of conservative politicians being held accountable for the things they have done and said. But first, let's cover the indictment, and what its implications will mean in the future.

Trump was charged with 34 felony counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First

Degree, after the resurfacing of falsified records hiding payments made to keep pivotal information from American voters during the 2016 election, such as the \$130,000 payment made to adult film star Stormy Daniels. This indictment not only will further stain the former president's reputation, and potentially impact his bid for presidential candidacy in the 2024 election, it also hopefully will cement the notion that no matter how powerful a politician is, they are still subject to the law and should remain accountable for their crimes and actions.

This question of accountability emerged again in the following weeks after the indictment, when

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' ethical standards were brought into question. A ProPublica report detailed Thomas taking many extravagant trips paid for by conservative billionaire and GOP donor Harlan Crow, with none of these paid-for trips being disclosed on Thomas' financial filings. In response to this, the Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings proposing ethics reform to hold Supreme Court Justices at the same standards as other federal judiciaries.

However, these checks of accountability in politics don't just apply strictly to the politicians themselves, it also applies to the news outlets that cover them—the past couple weeks have also shown this. With Dominion Voting Systems bringing a defamation

lawsuit against Fox News, after Fox repeatedly spread false information concerning Dominion during the 2020 election. Dominion proved that of the 20 statements (made by Fox during 2020 election concerning Dominion) that were presented in the suit were false, and that Fox's conspiracies and lies considerably hurt Dominion's reputation. The case ended on April 18th when Fox settled out of court for \$787 million.

The past two weeks in particular were full of Fox's lies catching up with them, with Fox ousting anchor and right-wing extremist Tucker Carlson. This is after years of flagrant conspiracy theories, as well as sexist and offensive comments from Carlson, and

Accountability, 12

Tik Tok, 6

types of videos, most accounts are from anonymous users who upload hours of content of this nature. These short clips often go viral and receive millions of views.

Why does Gen Z find it so hard to sit down and enjoy a show? "Watching a show without looking at your phone is the new reading," couldn't be truer in this day and age. The craziest part is most of the clips are taken from 20 minute episodes that you'd think would keep people's attention.

The more I thought about this content it got me thinking - what does this say about the attention span of teenagers? I mean the fact that there has to be both TV and game clips simultaneously to get the youth's attention is shocking. To answer this question I interviewed multiple highschool students on how they think these videos have affected them.

I asked them what they think about these TikTok's having gameplay below them and 10th grader Gabby Govrik

responded "I like it because I find that it keeps me more engaged at what I'm looking at."

"My attention is grabbed very easily but not held easily," 10th grade Gwen Stender said on the matter.

I then asked all of them if they thought their attention span was good, and the majority replied "No," saying that they feel like they get distracted easily.

According to Social Media Psychology, 50% of TikTok users find longer videos

"stressful." I think the addition of other content playing below alleviates this so-called "stress" being experienced.

There has been a cultural shift within the past years as the attention span of teenagers deteriorates. In an age of endless media, content creators have to get creative. I think these videos are a cheap way to get views and create viral videos by taking other people's content, while simultaneously worsening the attention span of this up-and-coming generation.

Willow Project, 8

The project is being supported by Alaska lawmakers, as it will create many jobs, and help Alaska's economy as a whole. The state will no longer have to buy foreign oil, as the Willow Project will give the state enough.

Although Alaskan lawmakers are sharing their support of the project, the citizens, and Alaska natives are less optimistic about the drilling. They worry about the health of cit-

izens, environmental impacts that could come from major oil development, especially on Alaskan animals.

If the Willow Project isn't stopped by legal actions, it has the potential to harm endangered species, affect migration patterns of Alaskan animals, and put an irreversible amount of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. The petition currently has over 3.2 million signatures, and many more people made their decision to sign when the project was first ap-

proved. This world is already in a climate crisis, and the Willow Project could be irreversible in its damage done to the planet. You can find more information, and sign the petition by visiting the change.org website where the petition is located.



Florida reforms, 10

their attempts to gain popularity.

This is unsustainable. Politicians all spurring forth has increased radicalization, while citizens are hurt by their reforms. Not only is our nation's stability continuously harmed by this new movement, but our citizens themselves are actively harmed, all in the name of political power.



IMDb
Keanu Reeves as John Wick.

John Wick, 7

and exhilarating martial arts sequences will always be found in every film, and they're all elevated by the gorgeous set design, lighting, and cinematography. There is so much style and talent in the production of these movies to the point where I have no trouble saying that John Wick: Chapter 4 is the best directed movie I've ever seen in my life. When I binged the first three just so I could watch it with my friends, it was worth every second.

John Wick is a franchise

that had every reason to fall flat on its face, but the creators fully embrace its ridiculous premise and never go back once no matter how silly it gets, and after experiencing it in its entirety, I have become a devotee in just one day and now I'm never going back either. If you're looking for a film series with a real story and characters and conflict I wouldn't recommend these movies at all, but if you're looking for silliest, yet most stylish, insane thrill ride that cinema has to offer, look no further than John Wick.

Zelda, 8

front its adult dungeons in a non-linear order, and the original Legend of Zelda allowed Link to take on its many levels at any point in-game, Breath of the Wild would go on to become a game-changer for this design philosophy when it was released in 2017 alongside a new console: The Nintendo Switch.

Several other successful 3D games were released in the years before this including The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker, a CEL-shaded voyage in the Great Sea of Flooded Hyrule—and Skyward Sword, which shares similarities with what we know about Tears of the Kingdom— but seriously, if you can think of a praise for a video game, it's probably already been said about Breath of the Wild. Its "groundbreaking" design is cited to have inspired several other popular games such as Genshin Impact, Ghost of Tsushima and Halo Infinite.

The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom was known simply as "Breath of the Wild 2" by fans for 5 years of its development, with Nintendo stating that the title could "give away too much." It was origi-

nally anticipated for release in 2022, but is now set to debut on May 12th.

We know that Tears of the Kingdom will feature expansive new sky islands alongside the Hyrule fans know from its predecessor. An "underground" has also been showcased in various trailers with what appears to be unique environments and enemies.

"Of course, it's not just the same world as it was," said series producer Eiji Aonuma, during a 10-minute gameplay demonstration this March. "It's changed in many ways."

Aonuma's demonstration also shed light on some of Link's abilities from his magical new arm, such as the new vehicle building power "Ultra-hand," and the ability to fuse items together using a system that appears to have some similarities to elemental physics in Breath of the Wild.

"In this game, you can do a lot of things just by thinking about what's even possible," Aonuma said. "There's still a lot of new gameplay mysteries, and encounters we couldn't show today."

Tears of the Kingdom will also be the first Zelda game to feature Ganondorf in a surprising 17 years. Earlier trailers

showed the princess and Link encountering his withered corpse underground, held by the magic of a spectral green hand and oozing blood red malice. The corpse awakens upon their entering and Zelda is seen falling into darkness as the chamber crumbles.

The princess can be seen in a recent trailer wearing ornaments and a dress that seems to be inspired by the Zonai, a magical dragon-worshipping civilization who disappeared long before the events of Breath of the Wild. "I know why I am here," she says, cupping a golden teardrop gemstone in her hands. "It's something only I can do."

Zonai technology powers the magical golems of the sky islands. Each trailer is filled with ruins that resemble Zonai architecture from the first game. Since the title wasn't revealed until this past September—and the same can be said for any clues regarding the game's story—the role of the ancient civilization, the sky islands, any the new characters, or the actual "tear" seen in the third official trailer is still a mystery, adding to the hype for the newest installment of this classic Nintendo franchise.



Vulture

Keri Russell stars in the movie loosely based on a true story.

Cocaine Bear, 7

the scent of the cocaine and attacks them, dragging Dee Dee away despite devouring all of its other victims on the spot.

Her mother finds out that she skipped school, and knows that she went to the waterfall because the two of them were planning to go over the weekend, but didn't. She goes to the park looking for Dee Dee, and she finds Henry and two park rangers up a tree screaming about a bear on drugs that took her daughter. While the bear indulges in the murder of one of the park rangers, Dee Dee's mom and Henry run away and try to find Dee Dee.

Meanwhile, the man that the cocaine belonged to, the big name drug lord Syd, is

desperate to get it back, and has sent two people to retrieve it. Those two people are Syd's son Eddie that really doesn't want to disappoint him, and his more serious and financially motivated friend Daveed (the most enjoyable character in the movie).

The cops are also on the case to catch the guys looking for the coke, and, once they discover the bear, stop people from being killed by the bear. Much like they usually do in reality, they fail at their job and a lot of people die in HD.

I saw Cocaine Bear in theaters with my family. We went to Grandview Theater, which despite having "grand" in its name is tiny and on the verge of being shut down. It was a nice place, though the size of the room

that we watched it in was a little cramped—fun sized. Surprisingly there weren't that many people. Maybe it was because it wasn't opening night, maybe it was because Cocaine Bear's popularity had a short life, but it was definitely not a full house.

It has a 6.1 on IMDb (the critics rating) and 72% on Rotten Tomatoes (the audience rating)... which about sums it up. It was a fun romp, but I wouldn't watch it again. Despite how funny the idea of a bear on cocaine is, for me, some of the humor just didn't land quite right. I think it would have been better if they went head first into it, camped it up and acted truly terrified of a coked-up bear instead of the self-aware "this is ridiculous" thing they went for which seems to be popular in movies currently.

As for the special effects, they were the best part of the movie. The bear looked really realistic; I felt that if I reached out I could touch its blood-crusted snout.

And DESPITE what some people might think, there was no after-credits scene. Hah.

Overall, it's a solid 7/10. I'm looking forward to the sequel that I proposed to Hollywood being made: Cocaine Bear: Still Snortin'.

Cars, 9

the car is doing. I have driven a few newer cars, mainly my mom's 2016 Subaru Forester which comes standard with traction control, stability control, abs, Bluetooth, all of that. Driving that you still do get some feel back but I just don't feel as connected. The worst car I've driven was a 2023 Ford Explorer, in that I felt blind; there was absolutely

no road feel and because the brakes are stupid sensitive, the gas pedal felt like it wasn't linear and the steering felt like a broken arcade game. Now to clarify, I'm not saying that safety features are completely useless. Safety features like that have saved countless lives on the road and should definitely be equipped standard on most cars.

I'm saying that to the

people who are into cars and care about how the car drives, those safety features just aren't as fun. Like stability control and traction control are made to stop your wheels from losing grip and how are you supposed to drift with traction control fighting you - you can't. However, ABS doesn't affect the fun too much, it's just a good safety feature.

The Last of Us, 7

gives an amazing performance as Ellie and I couldn't imagine anyone else for the role.

This drama series tells the story of 56-year-old Joel and 14-year-old Ellie as they embark on a journey in post-outbreak America. In the first episode, it is revealed what Joel, his brother Tommy, and his daughter Sarah, went through on the first day of the outbreak, which was September 26, 2003. The episode mostly follows 13-year-old Sarah as the world slowly falls apart in front of her over the span of one day. It starts as a typical morning for Joel and Sarah but when night falls everything takes a turn for the worse. It is complete chaos, zombie-like people are running wild, crowds are swarming the streets to escape, and bombs are going off all over the area. As Joel, Tommy, and Sarah are making their escape, something tragic happens. This is ultimately what shapes Joel as a character and is crucial to the events that occur later on in the story.

Now in the present day, it is 2023, 20 years after the outbreak. America is ruled by militarized governments, there is a new form of currency, and fighting the zombie-like people known as "infected" is a part of everyday life. Joel works as a smuggler in the Boston quarantine zone with his partner, Tess. The episode ends by introducing what will be the main event to the rest of the show. It introduces Ellie, a strong, witty young girl who has been discovered to be immune to the infection. She has been kept locked up by a woman named Marlene who is a leader of a group known as the Fireflies, who work to restore a functional government. Marlene is planning to bring

Ellie to a doctor that can create a cure using whatever makes Ellie immune. When things backfire, Marlene asks Joel and Tess to take Ellie to the doctor. The pair are skeptical and not willing to risk their lives for this, but Marlene promises them a reward so they eventually agree. This is when the story truly begins.

The rest of the show consists of Joel and Ellie making their way to the hospital and the many obstacles they endure. There are also other elements that keep the show interesting, such as flashbacks that can occupy nearly an entire episode and introduce new characters. As the season progresses, so does the relationship between Joel and Ellie. Joel is a broken person whose life purpose was ripped away from him and he lives every day with a gaping hole in his heart. Ellie has grown up in a treacherous society and has also been an orphan her entire life. Once they find each other, whether they expected to or not, they slowly form a familial attachment to one another and it's truly so beautiful to watch unfold. It shows that even in a post-apocalyptic world where it seems like survival would consume the lives and minds of everyone, people still yearn for human connection.

This theme allows the story to bring in components that give something for everyone to enjoy. There is humor that can break up the serious tone and is responsible for the warm feeling the show can give you. There are dramatic scenes that allow for character development and because of the apocalyptic setting there is action, but what I like about it is that it's not unnecessary action, which I hate. The action and gore keeps the story

interesting and always furthers the plot in my opinion. There is overall a variety of things that can fit into anyone's watching requirements and likings.

What I like most about The Last of Us is its storytelling capabilities; it's quite amazing how it was adapted solely from a video game's cutscenes but it just goes to show how great the source material was. As I previously mentioned, there are flashbacks that can take up nearly a whole episode. There is one very memorable flashback that introduced two brand-new characters and tells an entire love story that was funny, dramatic, and very emotional. It blows my mind how they were able to pull that off and some people might go back just to watch that bit. I really enjoyed everything about this TV show, especially the acting and the writing. Some people might veer away from it because they may not enjoy "zombie" media, which I can understand. I wouldn't say I particularly love zombie-related things but the way they portrayed the infected was very interesting and I thought it was pretty cool. If you haven't already given The Last of Us a chance, all 9 episodes are streaming on HBO Max, plus season 2 is already in the works and I truthfully think it's worth your time.



IMDb

If This Gets Out, 8

of mini catastrophes, like when a girl gets drunk at a party so Zach has to lend her his room and the two end up sharing a room, or when an interview goes awry thanks to unseen emotions, and the management team have to scramble to correct it. Still, it adopted a deep, serious style when in more dire, adrenaline-filled moments, and the tonal shifts were smooth. It managed to maintain its light-hearted nature while conveying the emotions and perspectives of the characters perfectly for almost the entire time, except for when the mood required complete distant sobriety.

I noticed that I was invested about halfway through the book; somewhere along the line I had become empathetic without even realizing it. Every time the characters were silenced, forced to do some-

thing that they wouldn't normally do, or didn't want to do in the first place, I felt the indignation and discomfort of it on their behalf. Granted, I'm an empath, but even without that factor, it occurred to me that this can happen to celebrities, especially to younger stars, and has before. It made me think more deeply about celebrities, and wonder if they've had battles with record labels or management companies similar to this before. Are the celebrities that I see in the media being authentic and genuine, or is this a persona they've put on, either because they feel like they need to, or were pressured into doing so?

For the most part it wasn't hard to track with or difficult to understand; it was a quick, fun read that still made room for heavier, deeper topics that I enjoyed exploring both in the context of the book and outside of it. My biggest problem

while reading it was probably just keeping who was who in my head. It wasn't even the book's fault, I simply switched the names and faces at the beginning, so for the first half of the book whenever they specified Ruben I would think it was Zach and vice versa. After I realized that mistake I had a hard time keeping them straight in my mind, and my mental image of the two has been messed up ever since. Even so, that little bump didn't prevent me from thoroughly enjoying the book's content. Hopefully it's not a common problem for most of its readers; I don't think it is, you needn't worry.

If you're looking for a new and intriguing romance concept, or a realistic fiction with a unique physiological perspective to sink your teeth into, this book is definitely one to consider.

Minesweeper, 10

infuriating 8-bit background music, which would add more to the annoyance I already have with this game. Minesweeper is a repetitive game, but I don't get bored of it and that's for the two main reasons that it's completely randomized each time and once I finally win a game I get the biggest feeling of accomplishment. That's only because it's the type of game that gets you so bothered that you just want to win it that badly, and this bothered

mindset causes me to play the game endlessly. Nonetheless, I recommend playing expert mode. Yes, it's difficult, but that's the fun in it.

I would definitely recommend Minesweeper and in fact I think that it should get as much hype as Chess. If you play Chess solely for the competitiveness of it, guess what? Minesweeper also involves competitiveness too and you can experience it through the dedicated speed running community.

However, because a lot of the people on the leaderboard have completed expert mode in under a minute I wish you luck, I don't recommend being chronically online to speedrun anything. And if you aren't looking for competition, you can play this game to enjoy the satisfaction of clearing a board through logic and strategy... and maybe a bit of luck. You should play Minesweeper because it's free and widely available on almost any device, so it wouldn't hurt to try.

Accountability, 10

is another example of Fox News, and its anchors being held responsible for their harmful conspiracies and lies.

But what makes all of these cases important? They're meaningful because they all show the importance of keeping our politicians and political commentators accountable for their actions, and what they have said. It shows that falsifying documents, lying to voters, and spreading conspiracy

theories cannot go unchecked, as it causes harm and further damage to the political system. As we move into 2023 this trend of accountability is even more timely and important, as false information and conspiracy theories grow increasingly prevalent in news and politics. It is cases like these that remind us to keep this accountability in our politics, as it further strengthens democracy and our ability to usher in change.

Baseball, 9

won over a decade ago. Baseball however is not a dying sport monetary wise, they are still making a ton of money, with many sources estimating they made 10.8 billion dollars in this last 2022 season. Overall Baseball is slowly dying in viewership and popularity however because of how dedicated the players and fanbase is, it is still a profitable business, and still is making money.

Rome, 10

of the wars with Carthage) the Romans lost their entire fleet to a storm so they built another, then that fleet was destroyed in a storm so they did it again.

When the Gauls sacked Rome in the early days of the republic they refused to surrender and eventually beat the invaders. When Pyrus reached Italy and defeated the Romans again and again with his elephants the Romans continued to fight

and eventually conquered his kingdom. When Hannibal crossed the Alps the Romans sent consul after consul to defeat him and after all of that they won by besieging the city of Carthage and meeting him on the plains of Zama.

But Rome's greatest strength is also its greatest weakness. The will and ambition of Romans got the best of them. There were three great civil wars in the Roman Republic, the first was a dangerous president that the winner of a civil war would

be the dictator. The second that that position of dictator was not invincible shown by Caesar's assassination, and the last killed the republic with Octavian crowning himself emperor and ending the days of consuls and Conquests.

The words we use, 9

illnesses.

It all starts with what we say. Your brain creates neural pathways whenever you say something. The more you say it, the more it's normal. That's why when you start saying something ironically, you'll probably start saying it unconsciously. Once you say something, it gets easier and easier to say it.

If you start saying that someone's acting OCD or that they're OCD because they like things clean and neat, you start

saying it more and more. Your brain recognizes it as true, as the meaning of OCD. Then what do you think if someone says that they are OCD? Does it truly mean that they like to wash their hands before eating or like to organize their books alphabetically? Or does it mean that they obsess over things and resort to compulsions to receive a bit of comfort from their true intrusive thoughts and anxieties?

Think about what you say, if you think it may be taken wrong or that you're misusing

a word, do not say it. Instead of OCD, say perfectionist or orderly. Instead of addiction, say you love or that you're hooked on something. Instead of bipolar, say moody or flighty. Instead of PTSD, say upset or shaken. Instead of saying you're going to kill yourself, say that you hate that or that you're going to cry. Instead of saying you acted on your intrusive thoughts, say you were impulsive or reckless. Don't normalize mental illness or severe mental health symptoms.

OWL packs meals for community

Students packed nutritional oatmeal that will go to local food shelves



Clockwise from top left: Nabella Grijalva pours oatmeal into the funnel, Joseph Sierra Zepeda rings a gong to signal the completion of a box, Daniel Meekin sits on bags of oatmeal during a planning session, Tim Leone-Getten guides his crew through the packing process.

Moss Windingstad