



Purple Press



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Basketball forced to pause

After surging to a 4-1 start, a positive COVID test led to a 10-day quarantine for the Hawks

Lili Hobday
Staff Writer

On Monday February 15th, the Humboldt boys basketball team was heading to practice and looking forward to their game the next day. But when they pulled up to the school, their coaches were standing

outside, the doors were locked and the lights were off. Someone on the team had tested positive for COVID-19.

The boys season could not have been going better before this. They were 4-1, having lost only to Johnson by one point. This is a huge improvement to

their 6th place finish last year. The week of the 14th was going to be a big one for them, since they were playing the current conference leader Central and would get a chance to redeem themselves against Johnson. Although the games are to be rescheduled, senior Elijah Ojo

said this experience threw a lot of the team off, "We thought nothing was going to happen to anyone the whole season. It was very unexpected and right before a big game." Now they are back in action after having quarantined for 10 days.

Part of the team's success

is owed to new players Xavier and Dominic Garcia. The senior and sophomore are the sons of assistant coach Gil Garcia and nephews of head coach Auggie Garcia. When asked why they decided to transfer to Humboldt, Xavier said, "I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to meet new people and get some new connections. My mom

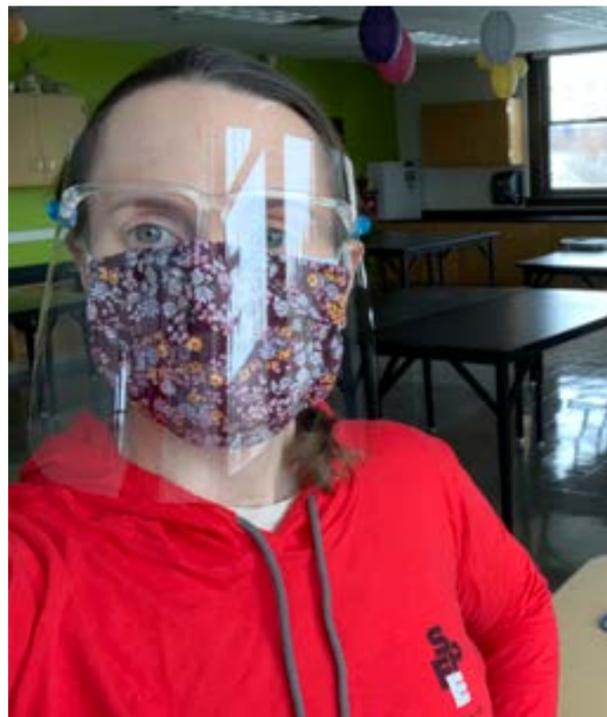
went to Humboldt and my dad and uncle have been coaching here for some time." Both boys have had a big impact on the team. Xavier is averaging 21 points and according to Elijah, "Dom has come up big in our last three games, especially against Highland when he hit some clutch threes to win us the game."

Basketball, 2

Students, teachers return



Special education teacher Jeff Steiner showing off his mask and face shield at school this week (left), science teacher Megan Hall in her classroom, ready to teach in-person for the first time since March 2020 (right).



Purple Press Staff Photos

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

After almost a year of distance learning, small groups of OWL students returned to the building last week for academic help. About 50 middle school students were invited

for in-person academic help, and have started to come in on Mondays and Tuesdays. 50 high school students are coming on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Each day, students either get dropped off by their rides

or the bus at about 12:30 and eat in the cafeteria until about 12:45. Then, five students go to each of the classrooms with the best ventilation and windows. The hallways are all one-way only, and masks are required. The students

work with their teachers until about 3:00, when the busses take them home. "We help them by talking through what they need to do and prioritizing their work," said Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten.

So far, in-person academic

help seems to be a success. "It's working really well. Students are getting a lot done. The students that are there seem to be glad to be back at school and see their teachers and other kids," said Tim.

Will there be an in-person graduation?

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

OWL's class of 2021 is already in the midst of the second semester of their senior year, but most students have yet to step inside the building, raising questions about their graduation ceremony in June. The class of 2020 held a virtual graduation due to the pandemic, but with COVID numbers slowly decreasing and vaccinations being distributed, will this year's seniors be able to pull off an in-person ceremony?

Despite the fact that in-person academic help has just begun at OWL, there is still a possibility that there could be some sort of in-person graduation for the seniors. "We have to wait and see what happens with the infection rates, but we're going to try to do everything we can to hold an in person graduation in some way, either inside or outside," said Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten. "June is probably a little early for it to be a completely regular graduation, but we hope to have as good of a graduation as we can, as normal as we can." For there to be any sort of in-person graduation, obviously COVID numbers would have to decrease, and vaccinations would need

Graduation, 2



Mintesinot Sturm

Mintesinot surfing this year in Barbados.

A break from Minnesota

Mintesinot takes advantage of distance learning in Barbados

Cooper Peterson Antin
Staff Writer

While most of us were trapped inside our houses these past couple of weeks, bearing out the cold snap, 9th grader Mintesinot Sturm was living a bit differently, snorkeling with sea turtles and surfing waves.

For the past couple of months, Mintesinot has been residing under the warm sun of Barbados with his fami-

ly. Barbados is a small island country off the coast of Venezuela. It is an eastern Caribbean island that has beaches all around the coast line. It is currently in its dry season and is quite warm.

After Mintesinot's family found out that SPPS had confirmed we would be doing distance learning to start the year, they thought it would be a cool experience to live there for a couple of months. They

arrived in November when Barbados had zero community spread of COVID-19 so they felt it would be safe to go.

Mintesinot has gotten to experience many new things and activities while being in Barbados, one of these being surfing. He has taken a few lessons and seems to enjoy it. "I don't mean to toot my own horn, but I would say I'm quite good at it and it's very fun," said Mintesinot. Mintesinot has also been enjoying all of the beaches and basketball courts nearby. He has been

Mintesinot, 2



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Senior Spotlight

Kate Moe



How tall are you?
I'm around 5'1-5'2.

What's your favorite class so far and why?
My favorite class is probably English because of the Preston has a very fun teaching style and he explains everything very well.

Who's your favorite senior?
I don't know any seniors.

Where do you think you're going to go for college?
I haven't thought about were I'm going to college yet, I'm thinking maybe University of Minnesota but want I want to get a degree in may change and I will find a better college for my interests.

What's the best thing about distance learning?
The best thing about distance learning is I have like a hour to eat lunch and I have time to do homework during the day!

What's the worst thing about distance learning?
The worst thing about distance learning is not seeing people, I personally am a very social person so it's hard for me.

How many years have you been at OWL?
I've been at owl for 4 years, I started in 9th grade.

What are your plans for next year?
I am going to be going to Whitman College or possibly Norwegian Folk School.

What's been your favorite class in high school?
AP Lang because of how Kevin framed the class and listening to Unwritten.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Outward Bound, Ultimate Frisbee, co-founder of Environmental Club, Kids for the Boundary Waters, newspaper, and probably a few more.

Favorite field work trip and why?
Du Nord because it felt really cool to work with a wider range of people. Also our counselor gave us ice cream on the last night and I am exposing that now.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Closing Time by Trip Shakespeare.

That One Little Kid

Liam Nowatzki



Mintesinot, 1

playing a lot of outdoor basketball which he wouldn't get the opportunity to do in Minnesota right now. He also went snorkeling and got the chance to see stingrays and sea turtles and even a shipwreck.

Along with activities Mintesinot has also gotten to experience new food and culture in Barbados. "Possibly my favorite part of being in Barbados is the bread truck near our house. We can walk down there and get cheap jam puffs and lentil pies," he said. He says the island life is pretty laid back and he hasn't had to adapt to much of a culture change.

Overall Mintesinot has been enjoying Barbados, but not everything has been perfect. COVID-19 has had its effect on the island. Even though it was safe when they arrived, it didn't remain like that the entire time. Some tourists not following the restrictions caused COVID to spread throughout the island. In turn this led to heavier restrictions and more protocols.

On February 3rd all businesses except for pharmacies and grocery stores were required to close along with a 7pm curfew and beach restrictions. These are currently set to end soon, but could remain intact because of the amount of cases.

Currently Mintesinot and his family are planning on returning back to Minnesota on April 8th. This date could change, however, depending on the plan for school. While he does enjoy being in Barbados, he does miss his family and friends back home. His dad wasn't able to join them on their trip because of work restrictions and neither was his dog or cat, so he looks forward to being able to see them again.

History Day forges on

Virtual competition is not quite as fun, but it will have to do for now

Hazel Wright
Staff Writer

You walk along the hallway from your social studies class, heading for the bathroom. In Quarter 2 and early Quarter 3, you'll inevitably see students working on their History Day projects in the commons. Or you would, if we weren't in Distance Learning.

History Day is still happening this year. It just looks a little different. 11th graders are doing it in US History with Katie Craven, 7th graders are doing it in American Studies with Dan Sullivan.

But there aren't as many people in other grades, and

there won't be an OWL History Day event. Since so few people are doing it, there's no need to compete at the school level, which means that at least one integral part of the OWL History Day experience won't be happening. I know, it's disappointing. "Virtual contests work, but they're not quite the same experience as in-person ones," said Katie.

Students will need to register and submit their projects by March 8th for Regionals. Judges will meet over Zoom or another video conferencing app to determine which projects move on to State. The projects moving on will be announced

on March 24. Revisions for State will be due by April 15. The judging process will repeat, and the State Awards Ceremony will be on May 2nd, to announce the projects moving on to Nationals.

While having more time to complete projects is a good thing, since there's no school competition, the fact that we're in distance learning hasn't helped. As Katie said, "When you only see students for an hour a week it's difficult to teach all the skills. But I would say that while we didn't get to do things as in-depth as we normally do, students still learned things like how

to conduct research, note-taking, thesis writing, analysis, and so on." Students are doing their best, but the support that usually comes from doing it at school just isn't there this year. According to Katie, one of the biggest challenges is making sure students are working on their projects.

Ninth grader Willa Campion says that History Day has been different. Not necessarily harder, but different. Since she has been at home, she's had plenty of time to work. But she's also doing a new type of project this year, which has made it harder. Willa and her twin sister Tess are doing a group website, and according to Willa, it's been "difficult to learn how to use the web-

site creator when we aren't in school to ask questions." Another challenge Willa has been facing is research. As she said, "It has been harder to get interviews and research materials when you can't meet with people in person."

Virtual History Day is certainly going to be very different. The judging experience will be completely different, and the timing is going to be interesting as well. But at the core of it, it's still History Day. There's still the same rush of excitement on the day, and students still learn and hone their research and writing skills. And hopefully next year, History Day will be something closer to normal.

Basketball, 1



Purple Press Staff Photo

Humboldt senior Brian Williams after hitting 1000 points this season.

Another big success for the boys this season was seniors Brian Williams and Xavier Garcia hitting 1000 points. Williams is the leading scorer in Humboldt boys basketball

history having hit 1000 a few games before Garcia, but the boys will compete for that title for the remainder of the season. During a game against Highland, Brian was fouled

with 999 points. When he made his free throw the team and the select few fans went crazy. Brian was brought to the middle of the court and given his 1000 point ball. Garcia had a similar experience. The team's first game back from quarantine, he hit a 3 a few minutes into the 2nd half, making him the 2nd player in Humboldt boys basketball history to hit 1000 points.

As for the girls team, this season has come with some serious blows. Last year they put together a C-squad, JV, and varsity team. This year

they lost 4 out of 5 of their varsity starters and the whole program consists of 8 players. Despite these setbacks, the team is 5-2 going into the second half of their season and is projected to finish either second or third in the conference. "This year has been difficult but we're doing good. It's nice to be back at the school and to be able to see people plus all the girls playing are dedicated to making the best of this short season and we're having lots of fun," said Humboldt 11th grader Hai Gay Soe.

Graduation, 1

to become more widely distributed. Principal Dave Gundale said that the district had not made a decision on graduation as of press time.

Many seniors are holding out hope that they will be able to experience their graduation with their classmates. "I want an in person graduation because ever since 8th grade to 10th grade at OWL I've seen people graduate on stage, and many of them have told me it's a wonderful feeling knowing you did it," said senior Elijah Ojo. Senior Ella Pratt agreed.



Mintesinot Sturm

Mintesinot with a sea creature on the beach (above), Mintesinot playing basketball (below).

"Even if it looks different than past years I think it's still possible to have an in-person graduation. Not being able to experience everything else this year has been hard for us but I think an in-person graduation is achievable and it would mean a lot to the seniors."

Asian Americans are victims random hate

Social media urges awareness of this widespread problem

Auria Cha
Staff Writer

On January 28th, an 84-year-old man was pushed to the ground while he was taking his morning walk and died 2 days after. Not even a week later, on February 3rd, a 61-year-old man was slashed in the face with a box cutter. Just 15 days later on February 18th, a 52-year-old woman was aggressively shoved to the ground. These recent attacks on Asian elders have been increasing and escalating in places like New York, the Bay area, and just in big cities with large populations of the Asian community (aka Chinatown

in San Francisco, NYC, and more).

That's the same thing for almost all of those in the Asian community. There was an 876% increase in the Asian hate crimes and about 1,900 to 2,800 incidents of crime reports, whether it's verbal or physical, increased in just this month alone.

On social media, people have bn to use #Stop AAPI Hate to spread awareness of this situation. Celebrities like Olivia Munn, Bowen Yang, Bee Yang, Awkwafina, Daniel Dae Kim, Arden Cho, and many more have all spoken about these crimes and spread

awareness. Bowen Yang even claimed to match up to \$5,000 to \$10,000 in donations to the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, a non-profit organization that defends and advocates the civil rights and human rights of the AAPI community. Others like Daniel Wu and Gemma Chan offered \$25,000 to those who find the person who pushed the innocent woman.

The motives of these violent attacks are not quite known, but there is speculation they are connected to Former President Trump having labeled the corona virus the "Chinese virus" or "kung fu virus." Some attacks, however, have been and were still occurring during and before the pandemic. Cases of being yelled at in public have been common since March 2020, when the pandemic started in Minnesota.

There has only been one reported case of violence in Minnesota. In May 2020 three teens were charged for attacking an elderly Asian woman at St.Paul's Greenlight Rail Station. It's not just Chinese people who have been faced with this prejudice. Hmong, Vietnamese, Karen and other Asian ethnic groups have been faced with these situations too.



A tweet informing users about the violence occurring toward the Asian community recently.

OWL theater readies for Shakespearean fun

Hazel Carroll
Staff Writer

It's been a challenging year for theatre kids. With school and community performances canceled and even Broadway having shut down last March, theatergoers everywhere have been starving for an outlet. Well, good news OWL students! This year's spring show is Shakespeare's Twelfth Night!

Twelfth Night was originally written by Shakespeare in 1601. The play surrounds a love triangle involving a duke, a crossdressing twin (whose brother may be dead), and a grief-stricken countess. A group of suitors, servants, and a not-so-dead twin form the supporting cast that fills out this classic comedy. "Twelfth Night is Shakespeare's comedy that celebrates love, foolishness, and discovering our true selves. It is full of mistaken identities and mischief. I cannot think of a more fun way to return to the theater," said theater teacher Rebekah Rentzel.

However, OWL's production won't be told exactly as Shakespeare wrote it. "For my senior project I'm working on adapting Twelfth Night to make its humor more accessible to modern audiences," said Iris Carroll, "In addition to changing the language, I'm also interested in leaning into the play's queer tones and reimagining it in a modern set-

ting." Iris is working with theater teacher Rebekah Rentzel, Leo Bickelhaupt's AP Literature class, the Theatre Advisory Board, a writing crew, and a group of theatre-loving students who gather for read-throughs of the original script to transform this show. "I am very excited to see the adaptation come together. My vision is that it will feel complete and correct in its changes to setting and characters." The current plan is to turn the high society of Renaissance England into the modern music industry. "We're currently playing [...] with some ideas," said Iris, "including Olivia [the countess] as a musician who just broke up with her band, Orsino [the duke] as the leader of a record

label that wants to recruit Olivia, and Viola as someone who pretends to be a man to take part in a boy band that Orsino wants to set up."

Now, this all sounds great, but we're in the middle of a Pandemic, how will they pull this off? Currently, things are pretty up in the air, but the team has put together several plans ranging from recording the entire thing over Zoom, to having live outdoor performances. Though details aren't concrete, the show will go on no matter what.

Finally, the most important part: audition news. Auditions will be held in late March, so keep watch for more information. Performances will be held at the end of May.



Rebekah in the empty auditorium.



Purple Press Staff Photo
11th grader Max Schibel.

Violet Wright
Staff Writer

In a scenario typical COVID-era hijinks: Max Schibel, 11th grader, applied and got into a program to go to Israel - which was promptly postponed because of concerns around infections.

The trip was scheduled to leave on January 24th, earlier this year. "The program is

Max stranded In Saint Paul

Hopes of going to Israel still in limbo due to restrictions

just an American high school experience, but with added Jewish elements and classes," said Max. "It is functioning the same as OWL is with online, but has to deal with people in different time zones so class times are strange."

Max said he heard about the program "through my summer camp and Synagogue, and applied at the end of November." Max is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to actually go to

Israel. "Meeting interesting people is a good thing about the program," Max said. But, "I think the whole thing will improve in person as we will be able to have classes, and go on trips in person."

There's not currently any set departure date, but it's expected to be around the 14th of March. "The latest information the students have gotten is that the Israeli airport will open on the 6th," Max reported.

OWL Robotics making the most of virtual fun

Unable to build robots, focus shifts to team building and research

Willa Champion
Staff Writer

Over google meet, a group of 6-12 graders discussed holograms, Beyoncé's partnership with Pelton, and ways to improve mental and physical health through virtual 3D gym classes at home. In another breakout room, students learned and explored programming robots to move and complete difficult tasks. These members of OWL's robotics team, The Open Circuits, meet every Wednesday despite this year's virtual challenges.

FIRST robotics is a nationwide competition for high school students around the country. Each year, students work together with a team to research an innovative solution to a real-world problem and build and program a robot to complete different tasks on a game field, such as throwing whiffle balls into a basket. OWL's robotics program was founded 8 years ago by science teacher Rebecca Palmer and has continued ever since. The Open Circuits team is currently coached by science teacher

Megan Hall and math teacher Clara Raneri. "One thing I love about the Open Circuits is the consistent history of female coaches, which is reflected in the students on the team. We have some of the best gender diversity on our team in the state of Minnesota," said Megan.

Like all extra-curricular activities this year, robotics has looked different from years past. FIRST announced they will not have any in-person events and game play, however the season is continuing virtually. This year, The Open Circuits team has been working closely with OWL's middle school FIRST LEGO League team. "We are collaborating more with the Brick Birds, OWL's LEGO League team," said Megan, "we are also not working on a physical robot, so programming has become more of a focus." Although The Open Circuits have not been able to meet in-person to build

a robot this year, they continue to program and focus on the research project aspect of the competition.

"The Open Circuits are an incredibly fun team. There is a lot of joking around. When I did a post-season survey last year, most of the team members said their favorite part of FRC [FIRST Robotics Competition] was the friendships they made. We're also unusual in that middle school students are allowed to support the high school team, and high school students mentor the middle school team," said Megan, "I would encourage students who are curious about FIRST LEGO League (for middle school) or FIRST Robotics Competition (for high school) to join the team next year. Anyone is welcome and we have a great time together. And I have a hunch we are going to be extra exuberant when we finally get to build together in person again."



The Open Circuits robotics team meeting over Google Meets this year.

Vaccine stories

I got a text at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, and by 10:00 I was at the Mall of America for the shot. I got briefly lost, but once I found the site it was really well organized and over pretty quickly. Round two is scheduled for Saint Patrick's Day. My arm was kind of sore the next day, but I'm really happy to have round one in the bank.

- Leo Bickelhaupt, English teacher

My mom dropped me off at the Minneapolis convention Center, I walked through the checkpoints quickly, then this really nice nurse gave me the shot. It didn't hurt at all. As soon as the vaccine went into

my arm, I felt a huge sense of relief. I'll be fully vaccinated on March 26.

- Megan Hall, Science teacher

I got an email that I could sign up for an appointment, so I signed up to get an appointment two days later. I went to the Minneapolis Convention Center on a Friday night, and it was really smooth and well-run. I barely had to wait before I got my shot. There were lots of people getting their shots, but there weren't long lines. It was sort of bizarre because I'd been thinking about it for months and it happened so quickly after thinking about it

for so long.

- Tim Leone-Getten, Spanish teacher

I 'won' the vaccine lottery on Monday morning, and was able to be at MOA Tuesday afternoon for my first dose! It's a super slick operation; well organized and efficient. I got my jab within 10 minutes of arriving. Waiting the 15 minutes for observation was what took the longest, but I kept myself entertained windmilling my arm and reading a book. 24 hours later my arm doesn't hurt, though my mouth is super dry. 10/10 would recommend.

- Katie Craven, Social studies teacher



Reviews 'n' stuff



How Georgia turned blue

Three theories about what the swing means in the big picture

Maxwell Juvland
Staff Writer

In the aftermath of the Georgia runoff elections, a lot of people have been wondering what the results mean for the state's political future. Democrats Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff narrowly won their respective Senate races, giving the Democratic Party the slimmest of Senate majorities and replicating the historic flip of Georgia in November by now President Joe Biden. Georgia's decades-long streak as a GOP stronghold has been shattered, and going forward, there seem to be three major theories in the political community as to what this will mean for Georgia's political future.

The first theory claims that Georgia will become a highly competitive swing state for several elections to come, bearing a similarity to battlegrounds like Wisconsin and Pennsylvania this election. Stacey Abrams did an absolutely stellar job rallying minority voters in Georgia behind the Democratic Party, but that turnout can't last forever, right? And observing the Georgia senate

seats, while Jon Ossoff will be serving until at least 2026 with his term, Warnock is up for re-election in 2022.

Many pundits view this as a quite vulnerable Democratic seat in what is expected to be a Republican wave year. So despite recent rapid shifts and the effectiveness of Stacey Abrams as a grassroots organizer, the Democratic Party may be stuck hitting a ceiling in Georgia for many years to come. Georgia could be the new flip flopping state from the Southeast as Florida seems set to become a state with a solid GOP lean.

The second theory claims that Georgia is by nature a Republican state, and will fall back upon its GOP roots in subsequent elections. This theory posits that Georgia only flipped this cycle due to Donald Trump's massive unpopularity, the Coronavirus pandemic, and terrible GOP Senate candidates. After all, Georgia has been a Republican stronghold for generations, and such a sudden change of course seems unlikely to hold in the future.

If this proves true, Georgia would be following a course similar to that of Indiana or North Carolina following the 2008 presidential election. These states saw a hard swing to the left in remarkable circumstances, but quickly returned to the usual following the 2008 elections. Indiana more dramatically, but North Carolina could likely be a very apt comparison. Both North Carolina and a GOP scenario Georgia could flip blue in blue wave elections, but would generally hold for the GOP in other situations.

The third and final theory claims that Georgia is already on the road to becoming a Democratic stronghold in future elections. This theory posits that the seal has been broken on GOP control of the state in elections, and that the floodgates are now open for a Democratic takeover. It seems that the flip on the Presidential level was no fluke given the victories of Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock in January, and if that can hold to 2022, Democrats may be able to take the governorship and tackle voter suppression, making the state even more Democratic.

This would be very similar to what has happened in states

such as Virginia and Colorado since 2008, both of which have become relative strongholds for the Democrats after flipping to Barack Obama in that year's Presidential Election. Especially Virginia, which is similar to Georgia in that it went from a GOP lock to a Democratic state rapidly after a blue trend took off in its large suburbs. Through a mix of sky high minority turnout, thanks to Stacey Abrams and other local organizers, and this suburban trend, Georgia could very well become a consistently Democratic state.

Regardless of which theory you find most compelling, there remains a lot of uncertainty and nuance in Georgia's political future. It could very well end up being the deciding state in many Presidential and Senate elections in the future, and it is certain to be the subject of much speculation by pundits in the meantime, similar to what you see here. But one group that will definitely be happy with this intense political period concluded are Georgians. No more ad bombs and record breaking campaigns will be bothering the people of Georgia anymore. That is, until the next election.



You'll laugh, you'll cry

Minari is a straightforward heartwarming story that elicits a range of emotions

Jack Cheatham
Staff Writer

In a shock to no one, 2020 wasn't the greatest year for movies. The pandemic threw everything for a loop, the film industry included, with theaters and filming having to shut down in March. This pushed most major blockbusters back and put a major dent in the theater industry. The movies that did come out were mostly smaller or streaming exclusives, both of which could be watched easily from home.

Although some great movies did release straight to video like Soul or Da 5 Bloods there aren't nearly as many standouts as last year, which brought us Parasite, Marriage Story, and others. One movie I had been looking forward to for a while was Minari, a film which is a competitor for this year's best.

Minari tells a simple story of a Korean family moving from California to rural Arkansas in pursuit of the American Dream. This is in most part due to the father Jacob who dreams of planting and selling Korean crops in nearby city Dallas and quitting his job separating chickens. The rest of the family has to adjust to a drastically different lifestyle and eventually, grandma Soon-ja arrives to help watch the kids. Problems begin as farming goes bad and health problems arise.

I really enjoyed this movie and was worth the wait. Everything it attempts to go for is pulled off expertly and it all seems very personal, which I

get because it is semi-autobiographical. Each of the characters feels real and you can empathize with each. This is in most part due to the great script and incredible performances, particularly by Steven Yeun and Youn Yu-jung. Both performances captured the completely different characters perfectly and were a highlight. This isn't to say the rest of the cast is bad, as everyone did a great job, but those were the big standouts.

However, while the acting was great, my favorite part of the movie was the range of emotions it can make you feel. It really was a "you'll laugh and you'll cry" kind of movie as it balances both in a way that doesn't feel forced or corny. It shows real hardships and fears but isn't afraid to crack a pee joke or two, which works as a great contrast. Speaking of jokes, there was a surprising amount and most hit, which is super unexpected in what I thought would be a dead-serious drama. The sad moments do hit, in particular, a scene toward the end that I won't get into, and they hit hard.

There was only one thing that held this back from being phenomenal and that was the fact that it didn't feel like it broke new ground or revolutionized film in any way. This isn't really a complaint because I wouldn't really change anything about this movie and it's a great watch where it is. It's entertaining, heartwarming, and could be my favorite of 2020. Everyone should check this one out and I give it a light 9/10.

Was impeachment worth the time, cost, and effort?

Despite a second acquittal for Trump, the process was still worth pursuing

Ted Dobbins
Staff Writer

On January 13th, 2021, former President Donald Trump became the first President in all of U.S. history to be impeached twice, and the only president to have Impeachment hearings after they are out of office. But on February 13th, to the disappointment and sadness of countless people, the House of Representatives and the senate voted and didn't meet the required two-thirds majority vote to convict Trump, and so he was not punished for his actions. But was the Impeachment worth it? What did we have to gain from the impeachment? Has anything changed because of it? What's next?

Former President Trump was impeached on January 13th, under the charge of Incitement of Insurrection, for his actions on January 6th, where he encouraged mobs of his supporters to storm the capitol, and you know the rest. On February 13th the House of Representatives took it to a final vote and resulted in 232 representatives voting in favor of convicting Trump (including 10 republicans), and 197 voted not to fully impeach him.

The 232 yea votes were not the required two-thirds majority (roughly 290 votes), so it did not go through. This was the most bipartisan vote ever. 10 votes may not be much, but it's more than the opposing party has ever contributed before.

I believe that this whole impeachment process (even though it didn't go through) is still considerably worth it, and I think it was a crucial and important play by the House. Even if former President Trump wasn't convicted, it was still an important step, because it showed that many leaders of our government and nation can not stand for Trump's actions on January 6th.

The fact that this is Trump's second impeachment and that it continued after he was out of office, will show in history that we didn't just let him go free, and that we still tried our best to hold him accountable for his actions that led to the insurrection. This impeachment will also hopefully show history that Trump's actions were not okay, and that he didn't just go off free of any chances of punishment, but most importantly this discourages this from ever happening again,

and shows that a president can not spread false claims until the point of insurrection. And that even though he was not convicted, this will show in the history books that countless politicians and leaders did not stand for Trump's actions and hopefully will show that it can never happen again.

But what's next? Has the impeachment led to anything else? Will Trump go off free? Well, right now we don't really know what might happen in the long run, but the impeachment has definitely led to other actions. For example, just days after the impeachment ended, Mississippi Democratic Representative and chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, Bennie Thompson, is suing former president Trump and his attorney Rudy Giuliani, in a lawsuit that accuses them of inciting the insurrection. If lawsuits like this one continue, more information might be discovered in investigations and depositions, which can further convict the former president and possibly lead to more action.

But also because former President Trump was not convicted, he still retains all the benefits of a former President, he still receives heavy amounts of taxpayer money, many other pensions, and he can even technically still run for future



office. So the impeachment didn't affect him too much personally, but it is still highly documented and noted upon, so the country will not forget about this anytime soon. And because of this, the second impeachment might also have swayed people's political leanings, and will stick in the minds of countless people for years to come.

So I believe that the second impeachment and its entire process was 100% worth it, and I believe that we might not reach other steps if it wasn't for the impeachment. It shows that leaders and people alike will not stand for the actions of former President Trump, and that it can never happen again. But what do you think? What do you think will happen next? Do you think the impeachment has impacted in other ways? Do you think other actions might be taken because of the impeachment?

Nomadland hits home

Narrative is captivating, filmmaking is underwhelming

Otis King
Staff Writer

Nomadland is a film written and directed by Chloe Zhao, adapted from the book of the same name. It follows Fern, a lonely woman living out of her van, after recently losing almost everything during the Great Recession. Her husband died shortly after losing his job at the plant which employed

most of the small town they called home, therefore Fern lost their house and most of her possessions.

This film is an interesting narrative of love, loss and the freedom that comes with a nomadic lifestyle. However, while the narrative is captivating, the actual filmmaking applied is

Nomadland, 5

Survivor still rules

If we can't interact with others, at least we can watch people on TV

Lillian Hennessee
Staff Writer

According to a recent study done by British company Ofcom, overall screen time usage has gone up by 31% since the start of the pandemic. Personally, I've seen a major increase in the amount of time that I spend watching TV. Last week, there was one day where I spent a shocking 10

hours watching the tube. With all the TV I've been watching, I'm certain that I've found the absolute perfect quarantine show: Survivor.

Survivor has been on the air since 2000, and is still going strong. This makes for 40 amazing seasons, and a combined 400 hours of television (roughly). If you're not familiar with the show, it's essentially a survival show combined with social elements, where somebody gets voted off at the end of the episode by their castmates (or as the show deems them, tribe members). The earlier seasons focused more on the survival aspect,

but has recently trended more towards the social aspect, with the signature catchphrase of the show being "Outwit, Outplay, Outlast."

Survivor is the perfect show for quarantine, for many reasons. The obscene number of seasons will keep you occupied for ages, maybe even until the pandemic is over! Even though there are 40 seasons, the show keeps itself fresh with interesting themes. For example, some seasons have the theme of "Blood V Water," where people compete against their own family members. Additionally, many seasons have some returning players, so you get to

watch some of your favorite players throughout multiple seasons.

However, my all time favorite part of Survivor is its host, Jeff Probst. Without question, Jeff Probst is one of the best TV hosts of all time. He's charismatic, adventurous, cute, and really knows how to move the show along and cause drama. Honestly, if Jeff Probst left the show I would probably stop watching. Lastly, Survivor is great to watch while social distancing, because it's a social game. If we can't interact with others, at least we can watch other people do it on TV.

Hulu and Amazon Prime have seasons 1-31, and Netflix has seasons 20 and 28, which are widely accepted as the two best seasons of the show.



New release has potential, but it's not there yet

Cyberpunk's bugs interfere with what could have been a great storyline

Elizabeth Hallanger
Staff Writer

Over the years, video games have constantly strived to be bigger and better, and in all honesty, I love it. Getting to see the evolution of graphics, game mechanics, and overall quality in video games is such a treat.

For me personally, I don't really have high standards for video games. You could give me a game with the most mind numbing mechanics known to man, and as long as it had pretty graphics, I would play it. However, when Cyberpunk 2077 was first released, my hopes were high. I've always been a big fan of the sort of aesthetic the game was offering, and along with the promise of it being an open-world adventure with plenty of detail and things to do, so I was counting down the days until its release.

While I had heard some skepticism from the gaming community, saying that it would flop like other games that had promised similar things, my hopes were still high. When my friend and I finally got our hands on the game, we were waiting excitedly for the game to begin, and, well... it was something. So, did the game actually turn out to be as good as it was planned? Or, does it look like it'll be remembered for its monumental failures in the same way as its predecessors? Because from what I experienced, it seems like it's leaning towards the latter.

The game's main storyline is one of the best parts of the game, in my opinion. It centers around you, a mercenary, going after a rare implant that can grant immortality. I found the concept, plot, and game's message overall to be interesting and engaging. It fits within, and expands on the world of the game, and I personally found the characters to have very interesting and entertaining roles, especially Keanu Reeves' character. The environment is also a large plus; the world is extremely immersive in its atmosphere,

and it really fits together nicely, almost making you feel as though you're really there.

That is, however, when the graphics work as they're supposed to.

While the game may have had many positive aspects, it's not at all perfect. The game is inherently flawed, and it causes a whole lot of problems. The bugs in Cyberpunk are very noticeable, essentially unavoidable, and practically everywhere. Clipping into buildings and walls, strange vehicle physics, buggy NPCs and their even worse AI.

Those weren't even all the things my friend and I experienced, as we spent a good half of the play time just accidentally no-clipping into buildings on janky cars and staring at the lighting that would occasionally stop working, turning the world into a strangely-shaded wonderland. However, it never failed to entertain us when an NPC would scold me for being "weird," when I did something as simple as sit next to them, and then not a minute later, pull an entire box of noodles from a non-existent pant pocket. While you can have some good fun with the awkward NPCs, buggy police, and no-clipping cars, they're much more of a hindrance than a fun aspect.

So, my overall thoughts on the game? It has potential. The game, in its current state, is bad. It's a buggy mess that feels partly unfinished, but it's also got some great mechanics and an interesting storyline. Plus, due to COVID-19, much of the development was most likely halted, so that's understandable.

While the recent removal of the game from stores and player's consoles stirred up more controversy, and is quite the nuisance -- and a bit funny if you ask me -- I do feel as though the game can come back better than before. If other games could, then I believe Cyberpunk can as well. For now, however, I would give the game a solid 4/10, as the storyline is alright, but I'd simply recommend to not take your money anywhere near this game until it's been improved.

Games beyond Among Us

Options for crews to play virtually together

Avery Koll
Staff Writer

With the Among Us craze starting to die down a bit, some of you might be wondering: what other options are there for digital games that can be played with your crew virtually?

My crew has played a lot of Among Us... but we have played one game that was not Among Us. Codenames. Codenames was originally a card game, but with the pan-

demic, it, like many other games, has been ported digitally. Even the official Codenames webpage has a virtual version of Codenames. To play Codenames, you split into two teams and assign one player on the team as a spymaster.

The spymasters receive a layout of what cards are on their team, civilians and assassin. They give one-word clues that can point to one or more words on the board, and the other players on the team attempt to guess their team's words while avoiding the

words of the other team and assassin. If you choose the other team's card your turn is over, but if you choose the assassin the game is over, nobody wins.

Another game to play is Jackbox. Now I've talked a bit about Jackbox in the past, but it really is a fun and easy game to play. All you need to be able to play is someone who has a Jackbox party pack, and a device where you can access Jackbox.tv. But some of the games have a limited number of players, but with that there is the audience feature, the au-

dience can still actively participate in the games, but depending on the game the audience participation can vary.

In one of my favorite games, Trivia Murder Party, only eight people can play and the rest join the audience, the audience can even win the game in some cases. There is also a game called Bracketeering where 16 people can play the game. The goal of Bracketeering is to get your answer to the end of the bracket and get the most points. For this game the audience doesn't get to fully play alongside the others, they just vote for their favorite answer.

Nomadland, 4



underwhelming. The slight shake of the handheld style becomes bothersome during long portions of the movie and was slightly distracting to me,

although I respect the reason behind it. Using this handheld style to depict a life of unrest while moving from place to place. But, while I do respect

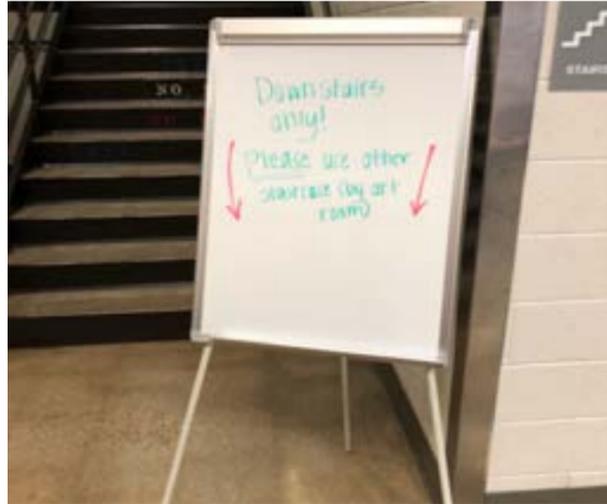
this creative choice and understand the reason behind it, I personally did not appreciate it. However, something I found interesting and very surprising, was that most of the people performing in this movie are not actors. They are in fact real nomads that were consulted about the story and were used to great effect in the film, creating an excellent sense of realism.

Nonetheless, what really saves this movie in my mind is the amazing performance by Frances McDormand. She delivers yet another multi-lay-

ered and carefully crafted performance with incredible nuance to the character, all while still bringing the same little idiosyncrasies she carries between roles. Really an all around stellar performance that brought the film to the next level.

Overall, I enjoyed the film, mostly the performances by not only McDormand but also her fellow cast members. I could have done without certain aspects of the filmmaking, but what are you gonna do, right? My official score, 6/10.

In-person school pictures



Leo Bickelhaupt
Dave addressing the high school students on their first day of in-person academic help (top left), a sign showcasing the one-way staircases and hallways put in place throughout the building (top right), English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt showing off his MNUFC mask and face shield (bottom left), Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten arriving at school on Thursday with an air purifier for his classroom (bottom right).

