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Purple Press



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What will school look like come the fall?

There's a lot of uncertainty about if, how, and when students will return to school in the fall

Grace Bellamy
Staff Writer

In the time of Covid, schools are one of the biggest questions about how society will function. Who watches the children of essential workers? As parents return to work, what will become of young

children? There are a variety of options for schools, but no one knows which will be most successful in stopping the pandemic and providing an education.

The option that's probably the least favored is to remain entirely virtual. This

has the benefit of continuing the practice of social distancing, making it the safest, but also requires technology and wifi, which are resources that low-income students may not have access to, especially in districts that don't provide iPads or laptops to all students,

further exacerbating achievement inequalities. "In many cases, their children will not gain educationally at home, because parents will not be able to teach them, or their households might lack access to the high-speed Internet that enables remote instruc-

tion," said Harvard professor of government and sociology Theda Skocpol. Another concern is for special education students, who don't necessarily have access to the same resources at home as they do at school. According to OWL social worker Paige Geck, many students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are "struggling to maintain a structure in their routine and keep up with the workload. They become

overwhelmed easily and don't know where to start."

However, continuing with remote learning wouldn't look exactly as it does now. There have been mixed reactions to the change from students, teachers, and parents. Some students are able to work through efficiently, and some struggle to focus, which can be exacerbated by stress from working from home or from

School in the fall, 5

Justice for George Floyd



Bill McKinney



Sonya Schober

A woman pauses in front of George Floyd's memorial site at the intersection of East 38th Street and Chicago in Minneapolis (left). Seventh grader Noah Johnson (right) pitches in to help repair some of the damage done to Gordon Parks High School last week (right).

Grace Bellamy
Staff Writer

On Monday May 25, George Floyd was murdered by former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, resulting in protests against police brutality towards Black people

across the country and world.

The murder was captured on video, and showed Chauvin kneeling on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes, while the three other officers involved did nothing. All four officers were dismissed from the Min-

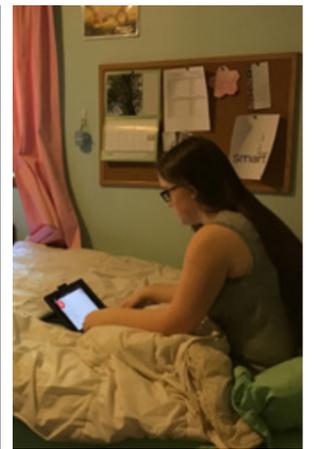
neapolis Police Department. Chauvin was charged with second degree murder, increased since his original charges of third degree murder and second degree manslaughter. The remaining three officers were charged with aiding and abet-

ting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter. The police were called by a store owner who had believed Floyd had used counterfeit currency.

The protests swept the country the week after the

video showing Floyd's murder became public, in what quickly turned violent. There were fires and looting in the Twin Cities, leading governor Tim Walz to instate a curfew and call in the Minnesota National

George Floyd, 10



Violet Wright

8th grader Hazel Wright works through her daily assignments from the comfort of her bedroom.

Distance learning, one and a half quarters later

Endale Witt
Staff Writer

"And that's how we get the answer 2.5x do you guys understand." It's quiet for a second then all the students' hands in the class shoot up with questions to ask.

It used to be so easy to ask a question when you didn't understand and get your question answered immediately. But now without being about to do that are students learning the same, less, or more.

Since April 6 students have been doing online school. Now that students don't get to interact with teachers they have to watch videos of teachers explaining assignments that need to be completed. This format will be continuing till the end of the year.

During the first week of distance learning it was taken very slow to make sure everyone was able to get con-

Distance learning, 4



Tim Leone-Getten

Math teacher Clara Raineri loads plants into her car to be delivered to OWL families.

The plant sale can't be stopped by a pandemic

How Outward Bound was able to safely deliver plant orders

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

Due to COVID-19, school closures and event cancellations have disappointed people everywhere. Luckily for Outward Bound students, the plant sale continued this year, in a safe, no-contact way.

Spanish teacher and one of Outward Bound's coordinators Tim Leone-Getten received hundreds of plants at his house, processed about 200 orders and filled them with the help of his family. Math teach-

er and fellow Outward Bound coordinator Clara Raineri then delivered the orders to each student's house. "We decided to have the plant sale because it's a great fundraiser for Outward Bound, everyone wants to garden since they're home, and it would be the one thing that isn't canceled at OWL this spring," said Tim.

The process of the plant sale did have to be adapted to account for less workers. "We had the plants delivered a day earlier and worked on it

for more days," said Tim. His backyard was lined with two long rows of plants, underneath several tents borrowed from OWL families. Each specific kind and color was labeled with a letter, to make them easier to find.

The plant sale was supposed to last about a week, but due to an error in the amount of plants ordered, it ended up lasting about 2 weeks. "We never considered cancelling, we just had to work out a plan to make it happen. It was a lot of work, but we were able to get it done and have some fun," said Tim.



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Seniors will continue sports in college

Micah will play Division 3 soccer; Jedi and Tom will play ultimate

Lili Hobday
Staff Writer

May 1st was the day that most OWL students announced their commitment to their post-secondary choice. But senior Micah Gundale went through that process even before we left school. On February 28th Micah publicly announced during a signing that he will be attending Gustavus college as a soccer recruit.

"I always wanted to play collegiate soccer at the highest level possible and Gustavus has started to gain a great reputation," said Micah

Micah started to contact college coaches toward the end of 10th grade. In his junior and senior years he sent them stats and coaches came to see him play. He was asked to play soccer at six colleges but decided on Gustavus. He said that honestly it came down to financial aid but he's very happy with his decision. Gustavus won back to back MIAC championships and went to the NCAA national tournament in 2018 and 2019, making them the current best team in the MIAC. Because of the team's past success and competitive new recruits, Micah thinks that it'll be a fight for every second of playing time. "That wasn't necessarily the case in highschool, although as a captain I did try to cultivate a competitive environment, it's not the same as having some of the best club players from around the nation playing together while also fighting for a spot on the starting 11," said Micah

There is a concern that Covid-19 will cancel the first semester of the 2020 school year and therefore the soccer season but despite that the players are staying prepared. "Gustavus soccer has a personal trainer who sends out workouts daily through an app called train heroic. So those



Purple Press staff photo

Many of the seniors on OWL's Manatee and Wo-Manatee ultimate frisbee teams will go on to play club frisbee next year in college.

have kept me busy and in shape," said Micah

Alternatively, senior Tom Hobday is headed to Saint Johns, but athletics did not factor into his choice. "I think that I chose Saint Johns for a lot of different reasons but sports might have actually negatively impacted it because Carleton (his other choice) is a lot better frisbee wise. I realized that there is more to college than just frisbee," said Tom. Next year Tom plans on playing club frisbee with the 'Bad A** Monks, intramural basketball, and possibly club volleyball. He is excited to continue his athletic journey in college, hoping that he will be able to have more success and play in a national frisbee tournament.

Senior Jedi played Frisbee, basketball, and volleyball in high school and plans on continuing to play all three in college and join a spike ball club! He is committed to Washington State University because of its really good science program, distance from home and beautiful campus. Frisbee of course will be his main sport and he is excited to play at a more competitive level of frisbee and hopefully travel with his team for tournaments.

OWL is graduating many athletes other than these three. Seniors Abby Davis, Lauren Mitchell, Malachi Raymond, Dabi O'Gorman, Connor Scott, Katie Syers, and many others, all plan on playing college frisbee. We wish them all good luck!



Charlotte Marboe

Juniors Charlotte Marboe and Lilian Hennessee hike in the woods of northern Minnesota. Hiking outside is one of the activities that will not be cancelled this summer.

Summer vacation, pandemic-style

Charlotte Marboe
Staff Writer

Last year I spent a majority of my summer at the cabin with friends and family, swimming and boating and Games on the yard, having the time of my life. I have spent the last eight months praying that summer 2020 would be no different, but Covid-19 could replace time with friends out in the sun, with more time quarantined in our houses, with the same people we have spent the last two months with.

A popular model suggests that there will be no more Corona related deaths come this summer, this model was cited by the White House, and experts do not agree. In fact, most experts say that is unlikely if not impossible. "Unfortunately, there is no way that amount of control could happen by the summer," says Harvard professor of epidemiology Bill Hanage, "Even in

the best scenario, we assume there will be flare-ups, and we will have to remain extremely vigilant." So, contrary to the White House's model, there will be deaths in the US after June 21st.

Senior Malachi Raymond is keeping his expectations low. "Given the circumstances, I'm mainly hoping I can see some of my friends before we all move to colleges halfway across the country. But obviously I want to respect social distancing to maintain the idea of even going to college in the fall," he said. This was a common theme with many seniors and even juniors, hoping they can see their senior friends before they disperse and praying they won't lose their own last year of high school.

On Monday May 18th governor Tim Walz issued the lifting of Minnesota's stay at home order, the order had been in ef-

Summer, 4

Covid cancels MN State Fair

Raina Rossell
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State Fair, the highlight and many people summers and a staple of Minnesota. Unfortunately, the world is on lockdown due to the pandemic that is the Coronavirus. This means that Minnesota's beloved state fair has been canceled.

Other state fairs across the US have been cancelled such as Ohio's state fair and the North Dakota State Fair which was canceled on May 11th which furthers this trend.

There was a lot of anticipation leading up to the decision to be canceled and it is clear that they didn't want to cancel. On April 23rd the State Fair General Manager, Jerry Hammer released a statement saying how its their duty to ensure a world class state fair for everybody this year. They also said that the outlook on this summer is unknown but they are not considering alternate fair dates or change in dura-

tion.

Gov. Tim Walz commented that "He can't make a definitive call but it's difficult to see a State Fair opening." He also commented that he found it hard to see how you could social distance there. However they predicted we will get a definitive answer before Aug.1. Hammer also has said that a decision to cancel the fair won't be made until it has to be.

Fair board members unanimously voted to cancel it, this being the first time it has been canceled since 1946 due to the polio epidemic. Many people agree and push the statement "Safety comes first". It just wasn't possible to have a state fair like the other in the past with its packed walkways and lines upon lines for food and rides. Overall they have started focusing their attention to next year's state fair and how they plan to create new experiences for fair goers while valuing their safety.

The face mask debate

Masks help to prevent you spreading to others, but don't necessarily protect the wearer

Elizabeth Dohrer
Staff Writer

Reports on face mask effectiveness has left scientists divided and the public wondering.

On April 28th, 2020, Vice-President Mike Pence visited the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota without a mask gaining a lot of criticism from the public for ignoring the Mayo Clinic's policies. After backlash from the public, Vice President Pence admitted that he should have worn a mask.

"I didn't think it was necessary, but I should have worn a mask at the Mayo Clinic and I wore it when I visited the ven-

tilator plant in Indiana," Pence said at a Fox News virtual town hall on May 3rd.

In this new era of Covid-19, you may be thinking about whether or not to wear a face mask. There are many reports on whether masks are useful, but many scientists are still divided.

A report from a multidisciplinary group assembled by the Royal Society called Delve - Data Evaluation and Learning for Viral Epidemics - weighed up the evidence and came out in favor of the public wearing face masks, this includes homemade cloth coverings.



Purple Press staff photo

Assistant principal Elba Frazier wears a mask as she looks over graduation bags being prepared for seniors.

What theater is like: college vs high school

A college production is more professional and takes less time to put on



Photo courtesy of Kendall Koll

OWL graduate Kendall Koll, who is active in theater at Wisconsin River Falls, poses in costume after a production.

Avery Koll
Staff Writer

Many schools in America have a theater program, but what is it like to participate in the program. According to graduate Kendall Koll, the biggest differences between high school and college theater are how the rehearsal scheduling works, and the level of professionalism.

Kendall goes to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

She is a musical education-vocal major, but she has also really evolved in theater. In her two years at River falls she has been in three productions, A Year With Frog and Toad and Argonautica both in her first year, and Robin Hood in this past year. River Falls wasn't her first theatrical rodeo, she did many performances during her years at Owl, and she's acted in twelve performances for a youth theater Young Artist

Initiative.

Kendall has been doing theater since she was ten and she's been doing it ever since. She continued to do theater in college because "it's a different experience of theater than high school and youth theater. I get to expand my horizons more, especially with the plays that they do." Doing college theater is more professional, the people actually want to

Theatre, 4

Will the NFL be back by the fall?

Zander Sachs
Staff Writer

There has been much speculation about the return for the 2020-2021 NFL season. As of now the season is still set to debut on September 10, 2020 with the Houston Texans playing the Kansas City Chiefs at Arrowhead Stadium. A repeat game from the 2019-2020 playoffs.

There have been many ideas about what would happen, along with the NBA an option going to be played with half or empty stadiums. But at the moment nothing has been decided. The NFL would lose hundreds of millions of dollars if no tickets were sold.

Schedule release just happened and due to the coronavirus two major international games have been canceled, One in Mexico one in London.

NFL facilities were opened on May 18, although one team is taking a stand in not leaving players susceptible to the virus. The 49ers will not start



practicing when the facility re-opens.

As the new president of The NFL players Association and center for the Cleveland Browns said in an interview, "You have to focus on feeding football inside of this world of coronavirus and not get caught up I'm trying to fit coronavirus inside of this world. The way coronavirus has changed how every industry is working, you

can expect just a throw football back in and think that the virus is going to kneel down to Almighty football." It is not in America's best interest to allow the football season to return.

ESPN sports analyst Kirk Herbstreit said in an interview that he would be "shocked" if this season like to return this fall.

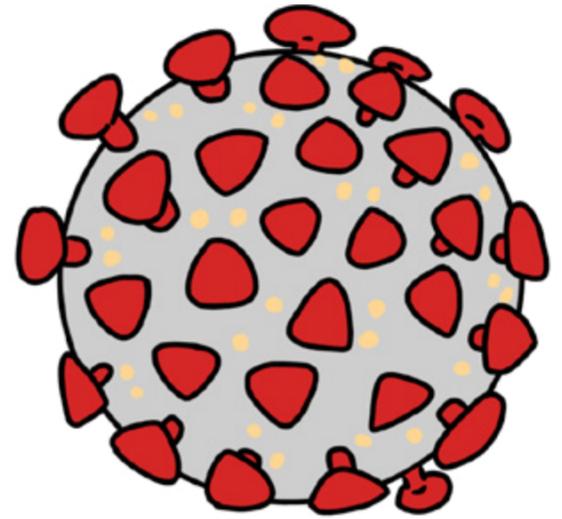
Why is Covid such a dangerous virus?

Maria Imholte
Staff Writer

As COVID-19 is at large in our world today, scientists don't know too much about it. As distance learning has started, and most businesses around the world are still closed, I've started to wonder, "What really makes COVID-19 so dangerous?"

COVID-19 has been frequently compared to another respiratory illness, the flu. COVID-19 is actually caused by a coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. According to Science Alert, COVID starts out in the lungs, like a common cold but then causes havoc with the immune system that can lead to lifelong lung damage or even death. This is the main thing that sets it apart from the flu.

Many people believed that COVID-19 would never get this big, causing this much change in our world. However, as COVID-19 has spread over the past couple months, it now has a higher death rate than the flu. COVID-19 now has over 5,000,000 cases world-



Avniel Green

wide as of mid-May, 2020. It is also now known that it spreads easier than the flu.

Doctors are still trying to figure out the "full picture" of the disease in terms of symptoms and severity. This is most likely because some people who get COVID-19 don't show symptoms. Only 1/12 cases of COVID are documented. So if this is the case, the person who has COVID-19 would have no idea they're contami-

nating others with their germs unless they randomly decided to get tested (which is unlikely because tests are hard to come by right now, due to how few there are.) If they don't quarantine and/or social distance, they could accidentally and unknowingly spread their unhealthy germs to others. This is how many of the COVID-19 germs have been spread.

Between 50% and 80%

Dangers of Covid, 6

From Little Hawks to college athlete

Senior Micah Gundale's journey to becoming a soccer player at Gustavus Adolphus College



Anja Gundale

Senior Micah Gundale, pictured as a youth player, dribbles the ball past an opponent (left). Micah's team gathers at the airport before a trip to Germany (right).

Anja Gundale
Staff Writer

When senior Micah Gundale was little, he always dreamed about playing in the premier league with his idols, like Ronaldo and Kaca, so everyday Micah would go outside and practice his touches and his shot in our backyard for hours on end.

Micah Gundale started his soccer career when he was five years old playing for a team called St. Paul Blackhawks Little Hawks. Then, when Micah started elementary school, he played with a recreational organization called Joy of the People (JOTP). In 5th grade he would take a bus from his school to JOTP everyday for free play which later on really helped with his soccer career. Over the years he has had the opportunity to play in some amazing places like Colombia and Sweden. In July 2016, Micah traveled abroad with USYF (United States Youth Futsal) to Medellin, Colombia where he played a total of six games and represented the United

States. During Micah's high school career, he was named All Conference three years in a row and was one of the leading scorers in his senior year. He was Captain of the Humboldt Hawks team his junior and senior years.

Micah applied to seven colleges and was accepted by Gustavus about a month after Labor Day. Micah said that, "the key to getting into your ideal school as a student athlete is through recruitment." Micah later went on to say that the recruitment process took some time and that it was pretty competitive. During the "reach out" process Micah sent his new coach Tudor Flintham an email introducing himself and giving him a soccer resume to get his attention. Micah said that "accolades and accomplishments don't stand out by themselves. You have to prove that you have the ability." Micah did this by giving Coach Tudor his game schedule and video clips from his high school season.

The recruiting process start-

ed when Micah was in 11th grade, not just his senior year. In 11th grade, he took a trip down to Gustavus and talked with coach Tudor where he was introduced to some of the team's tactics. Micah plans to bring to the team a well rounded player with a unique style he has developed over many years. He plans to room and play with his childhood best friend Philip Caputo whom he has known for eight years. He is also looking forward to playing with other players he has competed with and against. The Gustavus coach thinks with this year's recruiting class Gustavus could be a contender for the national championship in the next couple of years.

One big difference Micah sees between high school and college soccer is that college soccer is faster, more aggressive, more tactical and everybody is constantly thinking about what to do next to improve the game. Micah is looking forward to making new friends and winning a lot of games.

Small business during the Covid-19 pandemic

Mischief switched to online ordering and curbside pickup, and has now partially re-opened.

Liam Seath
Staff Writer

Since March 13th businesses have been very limited to serving people. Let's find out how Saint Paul business Mischief on Grand has responded to this recent outbreak of COVID-19.

Mischief is a small independently owned toy store that sells books, comics, and games. The store itself is family owned, and really focuses on the community. They host game nights, and have a variety of other fun events.

Q: How is Mischief coping with the Governor's emergency orders?

A: It's been difficult and we've had to learn to adapt to the new situation. We were closed entirely for 2 weeks and then began offering curbside pickup and local bicycle delivery services. Our customers

have been very responsive to this and even though our sales have been greatly reduced, we've been able to stay afloat and pay bills.

Q: What is Mischief doing to respond to COVID-19?

A: We've closed our store to the public and are now offering purchases only via curbside pickup and delivery. This is a big change for us because we had always emphasized the importance of experiencing our store in person. Because we've been closed, though, we've taken the opportunity to make a number of improvements and repairs to our store which would have been difficult to do while open.

Q: How has COVID-19 impacted your employees?

A: In addition to our family, we have one part time employee, a high school student, who we had to furlough in March



Purple Press staff photo

Mischief on Grand is one of many stores that is now open with some restrictions in place.

because the store had closed. We are planning to bring them back on June 1.

Q: What is Mischief's plan for reopening? How will you maintain social distance?

We are taking our time to make sure we can safely reopen. Although we are now permitted to reopen, we are not yet ready to do so. When we are ready, we'll start with closing off most of the store and just having a counter up front where we can serve customers and retrieve items for

them. Everyone will be required to wear masks and we'll have masks available for customers who don't have them. We'll also need to limit how many customers can come in at a time. It won't be a normal shopping experience for quite a while but our focus will be protecting our employees and our customers.

Q: Has the outbreak expanded Mischief's online base?

A: We made the decision when we first opened the store that we didn't want to

sell online and just wanted to focus on our local customers. COVID-19 hasn't really changed that, but we are using our website to sell customized Quarantine Care Packages, Easter Baskets, and birthday gifts. We're also using Facebook Live and Instagram stories to feature different products that people can buy online or by giving us a call. Our customers have been super responsive to most of these strategies.

Senior Spotlight

Kou Vang



How many years have you been at OWL?

I've been at OWL for 7 years, since 6th grade in the old building.

What are your plans for next year?

My plan is to attend the U of M Twin Cities.

What's been your favorite class in high school?

My favorite high school class has to have been math, specifically CIS.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?

The only sport I was in was the volleyball club in junior year.

Favorite field work trip and why?

I loved Camp Du Nord. I got closer with some people I don't usually hangout with and also tightened binds that I already made.

Favorite book, movie or TV show?

I don't have a tv so I don't really watch shows.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?

For my walk up song..I'm not sure. Maybe "we are the champions"

That One Little Kid

Marge Moe

How tall are you?

I'm 5' 0"

What's your favorite class so far and why?

English

Who's your favorite senior?

Jedi

Where do you think you're going to go for college?

I'm not sure

What's your favorite book, movie, TV show or video game?

There's too many

What is the weirdest thing about OWL?

Everything



Theatre, 3

be there, while some places like the YAI summer program where some parents might use the program to get their kids out of the house, don't have the highest professionalism.

College theater takes around two months from auditions to actual shows and it is more flexible with students' time, with some students' classes ending at 7 and rehearsal is scheduled for 7:30. "For rehearsals, they always base it around the actors class schedule, so whenever they're not in class they may or may not be in the theater during rehearsals," Kendall informs me, but you have to learn your lines on your time. Something that's also on your time is homework, rehearsals aren't every night, but if it is a rehearsal night use down times like lunch/dinner, in between classes and after rehearsal are prime time's to get your work done.

If you want to do theater in college Kendall says, "yes go for it, for sure. I know at least for my university, you don't have to be a theater major to do theater." So if you want to do theater in college and don't want to go to UWRF, do a bit of research if you can do theater without being a theater major at the college you want to go to. So college theater doesn't seem as hard as some imagine, they respect your time, it also gives you a look into some productions you didn't think would be that good, one last thing from Kendall, "the experience is worth the while."

Dangers of Covid, 6

of the population on our globe could be infected with COVID-19 or exposed to it. Of these people, around 0.6% will die.

Multiple COVID-19 vaccines are currently being developed. Some of them have moved on to medical trials, however things like these take time. There are no exact dates for how long it takes for an immune system to react to something, and side effects have no time limit when it comes to clinical trials. Organizations making these vaccines will also have to make sure that it is effective, and doesn't cause other problems throughout the body. With all this information, according to webmd.com, it could be 12-18 months before the vaccine is ready to be distributed into the public, if they had a vaccine that works against COVID-19 today. Although this is the estimated time, with the rapid spread of COVID-19, they are trying to get an effective and safe vaccine as soon as possible. It is also now being suspected that COVID-19 is going to become a seasonal sickness like the flu.

Originally, I wanted to include a fatality rate in this article. However I learned that the fatality rate will never really be accurate and that there's many limitations when trying to get an accurate one. This is because not all people who have the virus are confirmed with a test (due to lack of testing and no symptoms.) So someone could have died of COVID, received no test, and just be said to have died of natural causes.

What we do know (which is very little) about COVID-19 is changing rapidly, and lots of scientists all around the world are working very hard to get to the bottom of this virus mystery. There is a large scale of illness. Strict measures are critical for slowing the spread of COVID-19, and doing what it takes to prevent you and others from getting sick is priority. This is also necessary to return to normal as soon as possible. Experts are working rapidly to find solutions and answers to many of our questions.

Summer, 2

fect since March 27th. The lifting of the shelter in place does not mean everything is back to normal, far from it in fact. As of June 1st, salons and restaurants were allowed to reopen, but only up to 50% capacity and frequent visits to these businesses are not advised. The mall of America will even be opening back up following the reopening of smaller malls like Rosedale mall. But activities such as sports clubs and even the 2020 summer olympics will be cancelled this summer

Some things people can still do to get outside once it warms up here in the Twin Cities are hike, bike, and walk your dogs. If you maintain social distancing and respect peoples safety it is A-Ok to walk to your favorite coffee shop and get some curbside pickup treats, bike by the beautiful Mississippi River, explore some state parks like Afton or Minnehaha Regional Park. We may not get to enjoy many social gatherings yet, but we can enjoy Minnesota's great outdoors, alone together.

School in the fall, 1

the pandemic. According to OWL principal Dave Gundale, there would be “much more structure and live interaction,” if distance learning continued into the 2020-21 school year.

The achievement gap isn't the only thing affected by completely virtual school -- children's mental health, especially young children, is being negatively affected. One mother in northern California told National Public Radio that her five year old daughter has begun to say things along the lines of “I don't care if I die.” The mental health of all children is being affected by the crisis. “Many kids really need positive social interactions daily,” said Dave, something difficult to do over Zoom. One study found increased depression and anxiety for Chinese children who are under lockdown. More pediatricians have been favoring opening school due to the mental health risks. Dr. Dimitri Christakis is a pediatrician at the Seattle Children's Hospital who argued that “play,” and the need to “connect with other children... is immensely important for young children in particular.”

At OWL, students have proven “resilient,” and generally able to cope with the unprecedented changes in school and the world, said Paige. “However, it has been challenging, as it was unexpected and there was no proper transition period (no time to say goodbye or prep for distance learning). It has been very hard for students to be away from their peers, teachers, and friends,” she added.

Another option is a mixture of virtual and in-person learning. This could take a number of forms, including every student being assigned certain in-person days and virtual days, so that schools have half, or less, of their student body

in the building. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released guidance on this, adding suggestions of staggering when students arrive and leave school, and not allowing students to mingle in common areas, including the cafeteria. This might mean eating lunch in your third hour class or even in crew next year.

“A hybrid model could help the [need for] social interaction but would rely on a consistent, dependable schedule so families can plan accordingly.”

“A hybrid model could help the social interaction piece but would rely on a consistent, dependable schedule so families can plan accordingly,” said Dave.

One of the biggest debates over how this might play out is how to equitably serve students. The superintendent of Bibb County School District in Georgia, Dr. Curtis Jones, Jr spoke with The Wall Street Journal about it, and said that one way would be to focus on students who are at a disadvantage distance-learning, including low-income students, students experiencing homelessness or food insecurity, and students with disabilities. But he also pointed out that every student should have the chance to interact face-to-face with a teacher, regardless of income. “[b]eing equal is not being equitable. But, I'm not sure some parents are going to say ‘because I am able to do this, why are you putting my child at a disadvantage by not letting my child be in front of the teacher as much as others?’” said Dr. Jones. This is also a question of safety, especially if

the pandemic continues into winter. Families that can't afford heating may ultimately be safer at school, where there is free heating and food.

Students could also be staged in by age group, an approach both Denmark and Germany are taking, from opposite ends of the spectrum. German schools are beginning

with older students, believing that they will better be able to follow social distancing guidelines than young children. Denmark, on the other hand, is beginning with its youngest students, who are at least risk. This also frees up parents to go back to work. The Danish approach seems to be a more likely route for the economically-minded United States, if we choose to stage by age group.

Another option is the “Spike n' Squash,” where schools return to a pre-pandemic normal, or close to it, and Covid cases spike, resulting in a return to social distancing measures. This back and forth continues until a vaccine is made or herd immunity is reached. This is something that might happen regardless in states reopening before public health experts say they are ready to do so. It's also the most jarring version of reopening, one that wouldn't allow for time to readjust before things change again. For reference, it's estimated to take five or six weeks to know how a reopening impacts the amount of Covid

cases, according to Crystal Watkins at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. It would be a period of “normal,” for about a month and a half, then two weeks to a month of virtual school, likely until herd immunity is reached. No one knows how long this process could take, making it an unlikely option, especially in

Democratic states like Minnesota.

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is waiting to see what the numbers look like before making a decision about next fall. They are looking at models, data, and listening to public health guidance. The current guidance in Minnesota is a “stay safe” order, that encourages staying at home, or close to it, and allows gatherings of up to ten people. It also encourages social distancing of six feet or more, and wearing a mask or other cloth face covering. We don't know how long this will last, and, if cases spike, another stay home order could be put in place. Ultimately, there is a lot of uncertainty around what society will look like in the next few months and into the fall. Until a vaccine is produced and widely available, the main thing we can do is to limit the spread. Dave however, has hope for the future: “OWL educators are Teachers, Researchers, Scholars, and Leaders. When we are back to ‘normal’ we will have learned a lot that I hope can advance our program even more!”

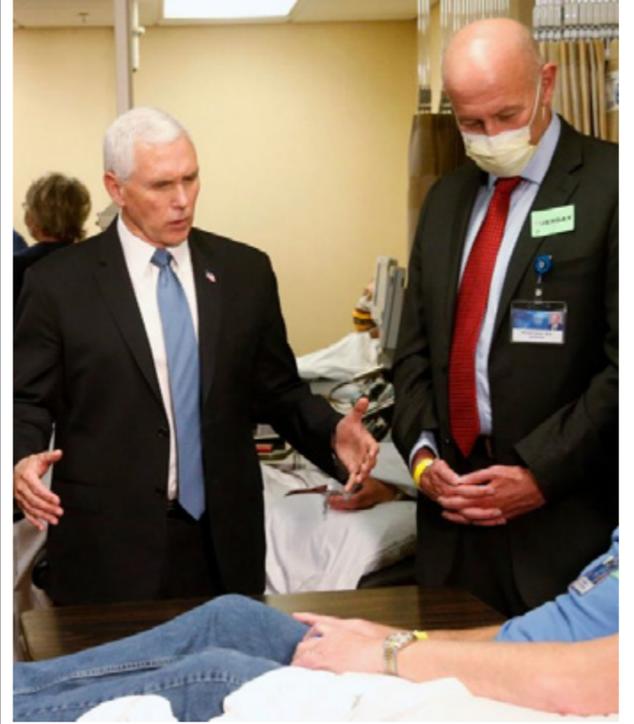
Masks, 2

Dr. Simon Clarke, associate professor in cellular microbiology at the University of Reading, states the report, “falls short of delivering new evidence and too casually dismisses precautionary principle when addressing the possibility that masks and coverings could have negative effects on people's behaviors. Until more evidence is delivered in either direction, that's all advice can be based on – opinions.”

Some wonder, what are the pros? And what are the cons? The pros are, masks help prevent you from spreading the disease if you have the virus, brings meaningful reduction if

tially, authorities in the West encouraged the public not to use masks, probably driven by the predicted shortage of masks for medical staff. This is changing now that we include the perspective that while the mask is not even close to 100% effective, in emergency situations even a small reduction of risk is better than no reduction.”

Although many stores are suggesting the use of face masks a few are requiring shoppers to wear masks. With this rule in place, we have seen pushback and some have led to extreme confrontation between workers and customers. A Family Dollar store security



Vice President Mike Pence didn't wear a mask on a visit to the Mayo Clinic, a decision for which he later expressed regret.

masks are worn by most people, reduces a likely increase in transmission, reminds others to practice social distancing, helps reduce dispersal of droplets, and less direct involuntary hand to mouth/nose contact.

Some cons are, although it will prevent you spreading it to others if you do have it, masks won't prevent you from getting Covid-19, authorities also worry about the appropriate techniques for wearing, removing, and disposing of face masks, wearing face masks

guard was fatally shot in Flint, Michigan, on May 1 after telling a customer her child had to wear a face mask to enter the store. Another event took place on Tuesday, May 19 when a Costco worker asked a shopper to leave the store for not wearing a mask, this resulted in the customer posting a video that he took during the altercation claiming that he was not going to put on a mask because he, “woke up in a free country.” After words were exchanged the customer post-

“When we all care for each other's safety and wellness, we are all safer and healthier.”

endanger a fake sense of security, and accumulated virus on mask surface may increase exposure when improperly handled or insufficiently cleaned.

Those are a few of the pros and cons, however, the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone wears a cloth face mask when going out in public. Everyone should maintain social distancing and other preventive measures even when wearing a mask. Obviously, you have a choice in most cases, although there are many stores that require the use of face masks.

Dr. Timothy Sly, Epidemiologist and Professor Emeritus, School of Public Health, Ryerson University said, “Ini-

ed another video saying that, “if everyone else is wearing a mask, then one person should be able to fly if anything.”

“Wearing a cloth face covering or face mask is a way to show kindness and consideration for others. When we all wear face masks, we are collectively safer. This is an example of Paul Wellstone's famous saying, “When we all do better, we all do better.” When we all care for each other's safety and wellness, we are all safer and healthier,” said science teacher Megan Hall.



A classroom in the UK shows an option for reopening schools. Students are six feet apart and class sizes are much smaller.

Distance learning, 1

connected. The school made sure everyone had their iPads and all other materials needed. Samuel Hayden, a junior at owl said the first week “went pretty smoothly.”

Students are discovering many differences between distance learning and in-school learning. In some ways distance learning is better, “it's more flexible” because “you can do your work when you want to” said Samuel. Another positive thing about distance

learning is,” the videos explaining the assignments or videos explaining the week,” said 8th grader Bea Lloyd. Teachers are seeing some advantage too. “Students can work at their own pace and there are fewer social distractions,” said Leo Bickelhaupt.

Of course there are also some serious disadvantages to Distance learning. “I would say working with peers is a challenge if you aren't in the same space,” said Sam. Another problem is engagement

with school material. Science teacher Rebecca Palmer said, “It is hard to tell if students are learning or engaged. It is hard to know if students are struggling if they don't reach out.” And students are saying it's a lot easier to get distracted then at school with teachers making sure you're on task.

One way teachers are trying to help students at this time is through Google meets which seems to be working for some students. “I have several students who come to multiple

office hours a week and have never done better,” said Tom Totashack math teacher. 8th grader Mintesinot Sturm has used office hours “for crew because it's nice to see people and theater because we are doing fun stuff.”

Looking into the future the rest of the school year is going to end online. This is the reality so students are going to want to make the best of the situation and use all the helps teachers are able to provide like google meets and email.

Best Wes Anderson movies

Which movies to start exploring the director's unique style, incorporating beautiful characters, sets, and techniques

John Cheatham
Staff Writer

I'm sure many of you have heard of Wes Anderson. Being one of the few auteurs of the past few decades, he's certainly made his mark on cinema. With his distinct style, he's one of the most unique directors ever and his movies are instantly recognizable as his own.

Speaking of style, I'll try to explain, though the best way is to just watch one of his movies. He uses many filmmaking techniques like slow mo, long pan outs, and moving cameras, but he's not great just for his techniques. He gives his characters off the wall personas and they are always unique. Set pieces will be colorful and range from tiny to huge. Pretty much everything in the movie feels like a Wes Anderson movie, and that's my best way to put it.

And if you're interested, here are my three favorite Anderson movies that are not only great, but show off why his films are so highly recognizable.

Rushmore: Rushmore is

about a 15 year old named Max who attends the vigorous private school Rushmore. He is the president of almost every club and an incredible playwright, yet flunks almost all of his classes. He meets Rosemary, a first grade teacher at Rushmore and starts to fall for her. He also forms a friendship with Herman, who helps him with wooing Rosemary. Soon problems start for Max with school and his love life, and Max will do whatever it takes to win.

Rushmore is a great movie and a huge step forward for Anderson. This was enjoyable from start to finish and exceeded in every way his earlier



film Bottle Rocket didn't. The characters were better, with a great arc for the sociopathic Max. He's a great counter to the more upbeat and relaxed Rosemary and the unambitious, in the best way, Herman. This is also where Anderson started honing in on his style with quirky and unusual elements, like all the clubs Max is in. Everyone should check out Rushmore, I promise you'll find it enjoyable.

The Grand Budapest Hotel: The Grand Budapest Hotel is the story of a concierge named M. Gustave and his lobby boy Zero. After Gustave's lover Madame D is murdered, he inherits a famous painting, which greatly upsets her son Dmitry, but the next day he's charged for her murder. Zero and his fiancé Agatha help Gustave escape from prison while Gustave tries to uncover the mystery of Madame D's death.

I absolutely loved this movie and is easily one of Anderson's best, if not the best. Every single element of this movie was perfection and it's becoming a serious contender for the best comedy of the decade.

Some of the things it's best at out of all of Anderson's movies are characters and cinematography. M. Gustave is without a doubt the best Wes Anderson



character ever and I knew this by the first 20 minutes of the movie.

Ralph Fiennes nailed the performance and that's just one character. From the sweet and courageous Agatha to the menacing Joplin, the supporting cast exceeds in their job of moving the plot and elevating every scene. This also has the best cinematography out of any movie on this list. It has these huge landscapes with beautiful cuts to painted

backgrounds and animated sequences, all complemented with perfect colors and lighting. Everyone needs to watch this perfect movie as soon as possible. 10/10.

Fantastic Mr. Fox: Fantastic Mr. Fox is an adaptation of the Roald Dahl book and is about the world of animals in the English countryside. It focuses specifically on Mr. Fox and his family, Ms. Fox, his wife, Ash, his son, and Kristofferson, his nephew. Mr. Fox is a retired hunter and wants to pull off one last job on the three meanest farmers in town: Bogus, Bunce, and Bean. He ropes other animals into it and needs to outwit the farmers to survive.

Before I talk about this I have to say I have a lot of bias for this movie. It was one of the first movies I remember watching in theaters and it's remained a favorite of mine since I saw it. I even own the soundtrack. With that out of the way I can still safely say this is the best Wes Anderson movie and arguably the best animated movie ever.

Even if many elements aren't as good as others, specif-



ically The Grand Budapest, I will always find this as the most enjoyable movie to watch over and over again. Every single character, plot detail, and joke works on multiple levels, making this movie endlessly rewatchable. Combine this with the beautiful stop motion figures and backgrounds and you have a recipe for perfection.

It's a very fast paced movie and unlike other Anderson movies, it doesn't slow down. It also uses lots of tactics from his earlier works, like the family dynamic from Tenenbaums or the animation from The Life Aquatic. It is Anderson's magnum opus. This is a perfect movie with no recognizable downsides. 10/10

Instant Influencer or instant disaster?

Erin Belmares
Staff Writer

Make-up guru James Charles, has a new show called Instant Influencer that leaves viewers confused and angry.

Instant Influencer is a new show that was released April 24th of this year and is hosted by a well known make-up artist across Youtube named James Charles. Six kids that want to make it big in the beauty world are brought on to the show to test their make-up skills and their marketing tactics in order to win the grand prize of \$50,000.

"So far the show seems really interesting. I haven't really gotten that far but the show looks intense," said 12th grader Emi Alperin.

But even though the show has produced only four episodes so far, two controversies have already risen from it.

The first one is about the elimination element of the show. Unlike other shows where they bring the participants on stage together and announce who's won and who's been eliminated, James decided to have everyone in their own private "lab pod" and will be told privately if they won, if they're safe, or if they've been eliminated. But the way contestants are told they're eliminated is what's not sitting well with viewers.

At the end of the first episode, contestant Britany Renteria, was eliminated from the show. James walked into her lab pod, sat next to her, and told her the sad news. She

was emotional and shed a few tears as James tried to encourage her to keep practicing her skills. The atmosphere was reportedly very uncomfortable with viewers and became more awkward when James made Britany promote her channel as she was crying. This caused many viewers to flood social media with their opinions and resulted in James having to explain the process on a vlog he uploaded after the first episode



aired,

"I want to respond to the thing that's probably been most controversial or commented about since episode one. And that is the elimination. No matter what reality show you're watching, the eliminations are always a little bit controversial because of course everybody has, you know, their different favorites. Everybody has different beliefs as to who did best in which challenges, who should've gone home, who should've stayed, etcetera etcetera. Orig-

inally, we did actually have a plan to do the eliminations kind of in like the typical reality style format where we just tell, you know, the winner and the loser in the judging room but since I say it's like an influencer/content creation based show, we thought it'd be kind of cool to tie in the elimination with that whole theme and we came up with the idea of doing the video lab elimination.

I personally really like how

they turned out because obviously it's good entertainment and that is the point of creating a show but also because 1. It's much more personal to send somebody home that way because you actually get to sit down and talk to them face to face, to hold their hand, to hug them, to make sure that they're good but also to give them constructive criticism and feedback for one last time, of what they can do to, you know, better themselves and their career moving forward."

The second controversy



rose from the third episode "I have to apologize for this..." James introduced a new "exercise" where the contestants had to show how they'd apologize in response to a controversy about them. James explained that if anyone was going to become an influencer, they would have to apologize for something eventually. Although James explained over Twitter that it was meant to be taken as a joke in response to "cancel culture," fans did not take it as that and expressed their anger through Twitter.

Viewers were outraged because most other influencers were not a part of any controversies and believed that James didn't take his controversies seriously, his most notable ones being offensive comments he posted on Twitter in the past. His explanation did not seem to help him either. It's led most of his viewers to believe that when a Youtuber does make an apology video in response to a controversy, it's not as sincere as they make it out to be.

As of right now, three contestants are left and expectations have risen. As for how the show will be viewed overall when it's finished, that's up to the Twitter viewers to decide.

What has to happen to re-open the US

Testing, contact tracing, and more PPE are needed before society opens back up

Ian Rosenberg-Scholl
Staff Writer

Everyone wants the economy back so that they can make money and buy food. So what would it take to reopen up the economy and the country?

According to the National Governors Association the country's testing capacity is still not enough to start to reopen. And it's not just the national governors association that says that most of the proposals out there say that there needs to be much more testing. A study Harvard says that the amount of testing in the country should be millions a day. And according to a study Duke University says that the ultimate goal should be that anyone with COVID symptoms should be able to receive a reliable diagnostic test.

The second thing that needs to happen is tracking. Meaning if someone gets tested for COVID and the test says positive states should try to contact trace it to people who have recently been in contact with that person so they can go into self quarantine. However, it would require an additional 300,00 people to track the and contact people who recently come in contact with the per-

son for it to work.

The third thing that needs to happen is rapid response. Many researchers say that all necessary medical equipment should be replenished and should have the protective equipment that they need such as masks and ventilators. It is necessary for them to have it so that they can quickly isolate new outbreaks and hopefully prevent them from getting too big so we don't end up where we first started.

The fourth thing is continued restrictions. Every credible plan to reopen the nation calls for it to happen. For example continuing the stay at home orders such as in Minnesota. The continued restriction will still need to have degrees of social distancing so that we don't have to shut down the country again in the fall. It would also include restrictions on travel and would also make it so that businesses would have to reopen much more gradually.

Team Fortress 2 is a both casual and competitive video game

The game lets you choose a class and make a team with other players

Jonas Kammeyer-Mueller
Staff Writer

Imagine the following: you're a beefy Russian man, working as a mercenary to defend some vital intelligence that a rival mercenary company is trying to take from your boss. In your boredom, you begin firing your minigun into the corner. Suddenly, you hear a scream from one of the corners you were shooting at. A spy! But before you can alert your team to the devilish rogue attempting to take your intel, he's already stabbed you in the back and ran off with the intel. That's just a typical day in Team Fortress 2. Team Fortress 2, or TF2, is a first person shooter released October 10th 2007 developed by Valve. In TF2 you play as one of 9 classes to achieve your objective, which can range from capturing points, capturing flags, or moving a payload to its destination. As I mentioned before TF2 has 9 classes, divided into three sub-categories, both of which I will briefly describe here.

But before we can get into the classes, we should probably talk about the more technical aspects of the game like the graphics and sound. While the graphics are by no means something you'd see in a modern release, the artstyle

is stylized in such a way that it doesn't really affect gameplay all that much, and adds



charm to the game. However, TF2's occasional graphical shortfalls are almost completely cancelled out by the game's sound design. Whenever you fire a weapon in TF2 it always sounds like you have some power behind it, which gives you a sense that any shot fired could change the outcome of

a fight, or even the game. In addition to this, most weapons have a distinct sound linked

with them in particular, which is a very nice touch.

Now we can move onto the classes, the first category of which is offense. This is where you'll find the Scout, Soldier, and Pyro classes. The Scout is the class for people who want to go fast, harass the enemy team, doing as much damage

as possible, and being a bit of a scumbag while doing it. Now we can move on to the Soldier. Soldier is the character for the patriotic American who wants to deal consistent rocket-based damage while also having some fun movement options

with rocket-jumps. The final class is the Pyro. Pyro is an odd character and is good for players who want to transition between support and offense, as Pyro can create and extinguish fires, as well as reflecting certain objects away from your teammates.

The second class of characters is defense, which is where

you'll find the Demoman, Engineer, and the game's mascot, the Heavy. The Demoman is a good class for people who want a more defensive-minded Soldier style of gameplay, wrapped in all the charm that a drunk Scottish cyclops can give. Engineer is the most laid-back Texan tech guy I know, and for good reason, as 'Engine' gameplay involves building support equipment like a powerful sentry, lifesaving dispenser, and terrific teleporter system, which makes gameplay slower than most, if not all other classes' gameplay. Then we have the Heavy, the ripped Russian beast with the highest health in the game and his minigun which can tear anyone and anything to shreds. If tank classes are what you like, then Heavy is for you.

Finally, we can move onto the support classes, which have the most self-explanatory names of the classes. These classes include Spy, Sniper, and Medic. The Spy is a class that specializes in infiltrating enemy lines through deception, then murdering your teammates and/or all of the Engie's buildings, all despite his unfortunate disability of being French. Medic is pretty self-explanatory, he heals the team, but he can also provide some pretty serious buffs like Ubercharge, which makes himself, and whoever he's healing, invincible for a short time. The last of the classes, the Sniper, is even more self

explanatory, you have a sniper-rifle, and you shoot people from a long way off, it's pretty standard stuff.

With the classes out of the way, how do all the classes interact together when playing TF2? Well, as with all multiplayer games, it's a mixed bag because of how good your teammates are or aren't, but overall this is a higher quality mixed bag than most. For example, one game that I played had almost my entire team playing as heavies, which almost worked if the enemy team hadn't started using engineers. While we lost that game, it was one of the best experiences I've had in a multiplayer game, which really speaks to how satisfying playing the game is.

To wrap all this up, TF2 is a good game for people who like casual or competitive FPS gameplay, which comes from the class-based nature of the game, as well as the fairly relaxed community that surrounds the game. Overall, I'd give the game an 8.5/10, with my only real criticisms with the game being the slow update speed and somewhat dated graphics, though these are mitigated by the smaller team and age of the game. This is where I'd typically tell you to buy the game, but it's been free-to-play since 2009, so what I will tell you to do is boot up Steam, download TF2, and give it a whirl.

Pro tag is fun and intense

The classic playground game is revamped for a fun and internationally competitive viewing experience

Jalen Bolton-Steiner
Staff Writer

Are you looking for something to watch during quarantine? Something thrilling, competitive and intense. Look no further than World Chase Tag, a professional version of the game you know and love. This sport takes tag and gives it a twist. It's a 1v1 on a small arena with lots of obstacles. There aren't any sports to watch right now and this is a great one.

World chase tag is a professional sport played by teams all over the world. There are various ways to play, but by far the most popular is called chase tag. This is played by two teams and each team has a maximum of five athletes. Each match consists of 16 rounds where they take turns having a 1v1 game of tag. However, the stage is set up like a jungle gym with there being many obstacles in the way such as bars and platforms that the players must maneuver. There is one chaser and one is the chased.

The chased gets 20 seconds to try to outrun or juke the chaser in order to win. If the chase lasts 20 seconds without being tagged their team gets a point. The winner of the round

stays and becomes the chased in the next round. Whichever team at the end of 16 rounds has the most points wins. The chaser must tag with their hands and not any other part of their body. If the chased steps out of the arena they forfeit the point.

This sport was formed in 2011 when two brothers, Christian and Damien Devaux, played a game of tag in their back garden. They loved the idea of tag but in a small arena with obstacles. They went to work on creating courses with obstacles to balance the chase between the Evader & Tagger. The playing arena is called the Quad.

The brothers held extensive testing sessions to see how even the course was between the chased and chaser. They were able to create what they called the "EQ" calculation which, by adding or removing certain elements of any Quad design, could tweak the level of difficulty. This has helped them to create multiple Quad designs at a variety of sizes. In 2014 they submitted a patent for the sport, then arranged its first event that summer.

There are 20 teams that



World Chase Tag is a one-on-one, parkour-fied, professional version of what you played during recess in elementary school.

compete with each other around the world. They had their first world championship in 2016 in the United Kingdom. They had 10 teams compete in this. World chase tag has hosted events and meetups all around the world and the events have over 350 million views online. They have been shown on many TV networks such as ESPN, NBC and FOX sports. Some of the athletes that play consist of some of the biggest names in parkour and American Ninja Warrior. They have said the people that excel

at the sport have very good agility, speed, and have the ability to navigate obstacles. The players train year round in their own versions of the quad, either in their teams or their own gym.

If you are interested in watching this sport all of their world championships and highlights are on their YouTube. There are tons of tournaments to watch and they are all very exciting. I find it's a very enjoyable sport to watch because the rounds are very short but can be very intense.

Swing states, 6

will stay with the President. Next, there's Pennsylvania, a state with a long blue history of its own. Pennsylvania is considered one of the largest toss ups in this cycle, with opinions on who it will go for varying rather wildly depending on who you ask.

Finally, there's Michigan, which also has a blue history, but contrary to Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, Trump's victory in Michigan is often considered somewhat of a fluke, and it seems to be the most likely to flip back to Democrats this election. But the new swing states aren't just former Democrat strongholds, there are 2 out of the former Republican column as well. Arizona is the first of these, and is a definite tossup in 2020. Many predict that it will be the closest state of all, and it could very well determine the election. Next is North Carolina, a state which was won by somewhat of a fluke by Obama in 2008. However, many Democrats are hopeful that things will change in 2020, and it does seem as if North Carolina will end up being a pretty tight race, though maybe not quite a flip.

Finally, there's the swingiest of all swing states, Florida. Florida has a three for three record, and a history of being absolutely vital to elections for decades. In cases like the 2000 election, Florida was the most

important state of all to the results. It's become almost a part of their identity, and it's always a hot topic for predictors to wonder who Florida will vote for. A 2020 tossup, Florida will be very important to watch this election, with many on either side of the aisle believing they can win it. Unfortunately for Biden, Florida tends to vote for incumbents, but that doesn't mean Biden can't win, simply that he has a steeper uphill climb.

So with these massive shifts in what states candidates have to target in their campaigns, the 2020 campaign is sure to be an interesting one, unlike any before it. And the trends established in this cycle will continue to define those of the future ones. That's what's truly fascinating about this field: It's so much more than just this election. In my opinion, Arizona will flip this election and begin becoming a democratic stronghold, while a Wisconsin will be the first rust belt stay to be secured by the Republican camp in the long term.

Regardless of how you think it will end, it can't be denied that this will be both an unusually close election and an unusually consequential one, so as usual, I want to stress those of you who can't vote to do so! And if you can't, remind your parents to vote.

The Half of It has unique relationships

The movie is a diverse and LGBTQ-inclusive coming-of-age story



Sarah Westawker
Staff Writer

Ellie and Aster begin hanging out at a lake, Ellie and Paul go to a party together, Aster has been hanging out with a boy that her religious family has been conditioning her to marry, more weird things like that happen and then finally all of these characters being in the same room having a very awkward interaction together because everyone is confused about their feelings. Those are some of the events that complicate the story further in The Half of It.

The Half of It is a new Netflix movie that came out May 1st, 2020. It is written and directed by American film director and screenwriter, Alice

Wu, who made her film debut 16 years ago with a coming of age immigration story called Saving Face and is just now returning to the business with The Half of It. The movie stars Leah Lewis as Ellie Chu, Alexxis Lemire as Aster Flores, Daniel Diemer as Paul Munsky for the main trio as well as others such as Collin Chou, Wolfgang Novogratz and Enrique Murciano.

"A shy, introverted student helps the school jock woo a girl whom, secretly, they both want," summarizes IMDb.

This movie is about Ellie Chu, a high school senior in the small town of Squahamish, who is exceptionally smart and writes essays for the majority of her peers for money but

she is also shy and friendless in school and at home she just has her dad. They are both Chinese-American immigrants, the family has gone through struggles and her home life is shared throughout the movie.

One day a classmate named Paul Munsky, who is an awkward school jock, chases her down and instead of a paper for class, he asks her to write him a great love letter to Aster Flores, a popular girl at the school that he claims he loves. But he needs a lot of help from Ellie to impress this girl because he doesn't exactly have a way with words. She agrees for money and starts talking to this girl a lot through letters and texting and she becomes attached to the whole project.

Aster, thinking that it's Paul, keeps talking to Ellie and they have a real connection and have some very insightful discussions. Most characters are more complex than they seem. Also throughout this process Paul and Ellie become close, they meet each other's families and begin to learn things from one another. After talking for a while, Aster and Paul actually meet up but it doesn't go well because Paul can not converse like Ellie has been with this girl for a while but besides all that, stuff seems to keep working out fine.

But there are some complications because this story isn't just about one boy and one girl being together, like they normally are. It shows all different kinds of unique relationships, romantic and platonic. It had different kinds of quirky characters and it gave them depth and showed more than just their high school stereotype. In the movie they discuss immigration, religion, sexuality, being in love and friendship.

In April 2019 they announced the movie and the cast, right when I heard it was being made I was really into

the concept of having LGBTQ story about a diverse group of teens. When it was released, I thought it was nice and done very well. Despite a few of the scenes' dialogue being a little cringy and the pacing being somewhat slow or boring at some points. Other than that, the pacing was good and they spent a good amount of time on every scene and got through the somewhat simple and genuinely cute plot in 1 hour and 45 minutes. For the most part the dialogue was smart and I bet there are some beautiful quotes that you could take out of this movie.

In my opinion it could become a popular coming of age teen movie for this generation. It was a different kind of romance, I haven't seen one with characters or heartwarming, realistic plot quite like it. I had a good time with it and would love to watch it again with a group of friends. The movie does talk about real things sometimes as mentioned before but it doesn't have mature or inappropriate themes, the only thing that could be considered would be some underage drinking or occasional non-passionate kisses between opposite and same sex teens. It's rated PG-13.

I really like the actors and the characters they portray, I thought they were fun, I enjoyed watching them and following along with their stories. I think the movie has a nice balance of being a super fun high school romantic comedy and also being real. I enjoyed how it was an LGBTQ friendly storyline that is hinted from the beginning and then is really put out towards the end. The ending could have been happier but it still worked well and could put a smile on your face. I think that it did work out perfectly. I would give The Half of It 4/5 stars.

Check out Brawlhalla if you're bored

Daryan Thao
Staff Writer

Fighting is a big part of games and has revolutionized through decades of gaming. The first fighting game made was Heavyweight champ. Heavyweight champ was made in 1976 and was the building blocks of fighting games. Through the decades, the gaming industry has made more and different kinds of fighting games like Mortal Kombat, Street Fighter Five, and Smash Bros. Because there are so many big fighting games people sometimes forget about the small fighting games like Brawlhalla.

Brawlhalla is a 2D platformer fighting game made by Blue Mammoth Games in 2015. The game can be played on computer, PS4, Xbox, and Nintendo switch.

In Brawlhalla the objective is like Smash Bros where you have to knock the opponent off the screen in order to win. Unlike Smash Bros where your characters already have their weapons and powers, in Brawlhalla your characters have two weapons that are selected for them. At the beginning of a match you don't start with weapons and you have to wait for them to fall from the sky. In this game you can make your own combos and combo strings or you can look them up. Characters in this game can be unbalanced which can affect if you win or lose. The reason for this is because some characters are op while other characters are complete trash. Some characters have powers that are better than others whether it be due to having a lot of damage or range. Be-

cause of this when you go up against someone who has an op character he will win.

Combat in the game is good, you won't experience any glitches or bugs, maybe some lagging if you have bad internet. The gameplay is fast and can end really quickly if you're up against good players. You move really fast in the game and to make it even faster you can use the dash button. You can also double jump and jump higher by using the doge button.

Graphics are also really good so you don't have to turn them down even if you have a bad computer. The audio is alright, if you don't like the music you can turn it off in the settings.

This game is really good



and I have had a lot of fun playing it because of its wide variety of characters that you can play if you get bored of another character and different kinds of game modes if you get bored of free for all.

In conclusion I think this game is worth playing because it has lots of content to explore and is free to play. I recommend this to anyone who would want to play a free 2D platform fighting game.

Parks & Rec's Covid special

Alex Cowles
Staff Writer

"Leslie, I've been practicing social distancing since I was 4 years old." -Ron Swanson

The Parks and Recreation special opens with Bobby Newport at his family's fox hunting ranch (he hasn't caught any, they're too fast) We see the whole Parks and Rec gang up to their usual shenanigans. Ben has a bizarre obsession, Andy locked himself in a shed for two days and April is not letting him out. Nobody wants to talk to Jerry/Garry/Larry/Terry.

The first and third parts of this special take place on a Zoom like software, but the second takes place on the TV. Leslie and Ben have an inter-

• "The first of these is Perd Hapley who is a character on the television series Parks and Rec"

• Jean Ralphio got himself hit by another car so he is "fluuuushed with ca-a-a-sh."

• It is an objective fact that Jason Mantzoukas is hilarious in everything he does. This was no exception as he plays Dennis Feinstein, slimy rich guy advertising his "Miracle Cure" perfume

Judged as an episode of tv this special isn't the strongest. There is no character development or plot, nor is it especially necessary. But it is an enjoyable reunion. This special should be thought of as a bonus episode, just a check in on the characters we love.



view with Joan Callamezzo, who seems... not well. During the commercial break, we see many familiar faces:

I highly recommend this special to all Parks and Rec fans as long as they set their expectations appropriately.

Crafts for your furry friends

Aidan Jewell
Staff Writer

We're all stuck at home so why not devote some time and creativity to make a nice toy for your pet.

Cats are easy to craft for, so let's make a feather on a stick -- pretty easy.

Step 1: Gather materials (A stick, a string, and a feather). If you can't get one of these, as long as the one you don't have isn't the string, it's fine. A cat will probably not care.

Step 2: Put it together. Tie your string to the stick and the other side to a feather. Make sure it's tied well or it won't last long.

Step 3: Play! This toy is fairly crude but your cats will enjoy chasing after it. It will be a good hour of fun for your cats and for you.

Dogs are also easy to craft for. I actually have two crafts for you to make. For the first you will need some felt or an old blanket with a moderate thickness and an empty plas-

tic water bottle. For the second you will just need felt or an old blanket.

Our first craft will be a chew toy.

Step 1: Cut your fabric to be a bit longer than the plastic bottle and triple the width. Also cut two smaller long pieces of fabric

Step 2: Wrap the plastic bottle in the fabric and tie it with your smaller pieces

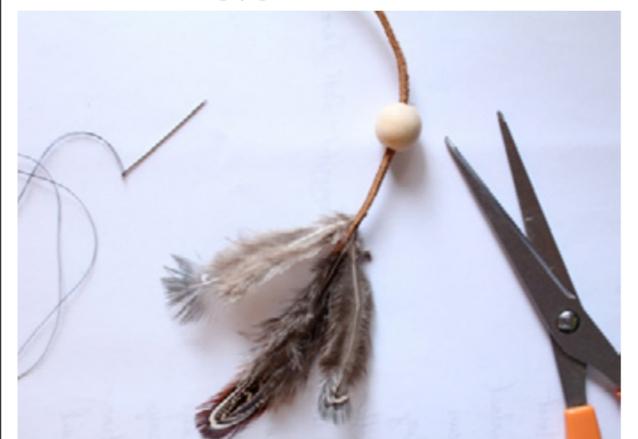
Trust me, your dog will love this toy. It makes a crackling sound that at least my dog enjoyed. Make sure to watch them whenever they have it. You don't want them getting to the bottle.

Our second toy will be a tug toy. It's really simple.

Step 1: Cut three long strips of fabric, maybe an inch across.

Step 2: Tie the end and braid it tightly, then tie it off.

It's an easy and fun toy for your dog and you to enjoy playing tug of war to his or her heart's content.





Erik Johnson



Lili Hobday



Lili Hobday

George Floyd, 1

Guard. President Donald Trump urged governors to push back against protestors with force, which many governors chose not to do. Trump, however, followed through on his words when on Monday June 1, he used tear gas on peaceful protestors by a church in Washington, DC, in a move that was criticized by both democrats and republicans.

The memorial service for George Floyd took place in Minneapolis on Thursday, June 4. It was a celebration of Floyd's life that was broadcasted to a group of supporters outside the worship hall. Some of Floyd's family members spoke, talking about his kind and welcoming demeanor. Reverend Al Sharpton gave the eulogy, and said that Floyd "changed the world."

The protests calling for po-

lice reform come during the coronavirus pandemic that has disproportionately affected communities of color that are also disproportionately affected by police violence. One idea that has been gaining more mainstream traction is that of eliminating police entirely, relying on community-led efforts to keep the community safe.

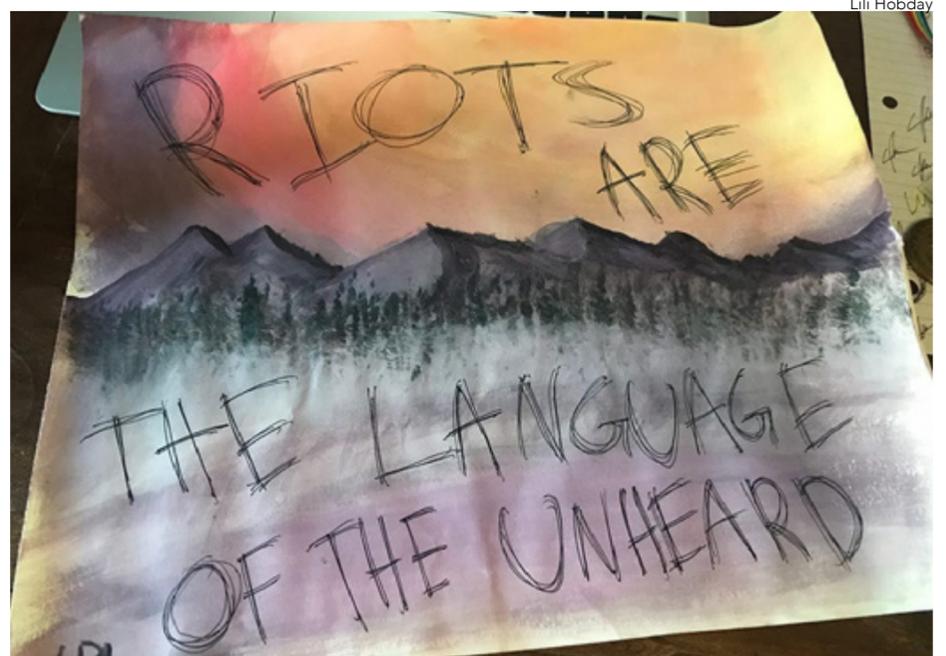
Store owners in Minneapolis board up windows Friday afternoon in preparation for continued unrest throughout the city (top left). The MN National Guard prepares for riots in Minneapolis (above left). Someone pauses in front of a burnt-down Speedway in Minneapolis (above).



Kevin Hansen



Lili Hobday



English teacher Kevin Hansen holds up a rubber bullet he retrieved near his home in Minneapolis (above). Rubble left over from the riots (upper right). This timely work by Lucas Plaman of art was featured in the online graduation slideshow last week (bottom right).

Photo courtesy of Eponine Diatta