Ten senior and seven junior projects advance

Elsa Carlson
Staff Writer

Thought you were done hearing about all the history day jazz? Well think again, because the regional competition has just wrapped up and we've got results.

After working tirelessly for weeks, regional qualifiers improved their projects to the best of their ability. In hopes of becoming a state qualifier, many changes were made to the history day projects. Performances were run countless times; exhibit boards and websites were redesigned, all while papers and documentation were being rewarded. And after a long, adrenaline filled morning, the results for the competition were finally announced on March 9th during the awards ceremony at Johnston High School. OWL did an amazing job at the competition, with 10 senior projects and 7 junior projects advancing to state. We also had 2 other projects that were awarded honorable mention.

During the competition, there were many fun things to do outside of the actual judging time. In fact, with only 20 minutes of judging time allotted to each project, there can be lots of downtime. To avoid getting bored, people can listen to the piano player by the main entrance, buy the famous two-dollar eggrolls. “Other than watching other people’s projects,” 10th grader Helena Squires Mosher says, “It’s also fun to hang out in the halls and play some card games; that’s what I’ve done in the past.” It is also common for friends who are not part of history day to attend the competition and support their peers. “Moral support is good,” says Helena. “It also just feels good to share this information that you’ve learned with other people, cause hopefully they can learn some new things too.”

The awards ceremony was a redux as usual. All SPPS middle school and high school qualifiers crammed into the Humboldt gym. Teachers took their side in orange, and started their classes. The teachers defeated the students 18-17, and eventually subbed out to ref the game, which helped the students gain a bit of an edge. But it wasn’t enough. Gym and health teacher Joe Braden helped the team with some nice passes and tips, while teacher’s assistant Derrick Le-Trian aced the students with several float serves. Overall, the teacher team worked well together. “It was a lot of fun playing in front of a big crowd. I’m glad the teachers were able to win without cheating this time,” said Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten.

The students, in blue, started the game with many experienced players, and seemed like they would win easily, however, they quickly subbed out to give everyone a chance to play. They still had several talented players throughout the game though. 11th grader Francesco DiVella served off his jump serve and 11th grader Lucas Plaman caught the teachers off guard with some well placed hits. “We were really good at uplifting each other and having fun, instead of just trying to win the game,” said 9th grader Lili Hobday.

The gym was filled with deafening cheers from every grade, with help from several 11th graders, who led everyone else in the wave and other cheers. “It was fun to watch. It was very high energy and it was cool to see actual volleyball players play and help the people that don’t get to be a part of their team,” said 10th grader Sanaa Campbell.

The volleyball game was a success, although dozens were disappointed that principal Dave Gundale did not participate.

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The OWL archery team shooting on February 23rd (above), the awards table at the competition they hosted (below).
Monsters, magic, insane fight sequences, and effects, some mild language and it's all wrapped up in a funny and heartwarming story about a girl who wants to know her dead sister: It's She Kills Monsters, and it's this year's spring play.

She Kills Monsters follows senior Agnes Evans, a popular and mainstream senior who makes the unlikely choice to playing Dungeons and Dragons as a way to connect with the sister she has lost. Throughout the show Agnes learns things about her sister that challenge her own beliefs," says Rebekah Rentzel, who is in charge of directing the show, "and I think that it's good for kids to see what it's like to challenge your own beliefs and learn more about who your family is.

It begins when Tilly dies in a car accident one day after school during her junior year. The two sisters were nothing alike, Agnes prefers to stick to things like boys and cheerleading, whereas Tilly was more greedy and more into things like fighting dragons and role-playing games. Some time after her death, Agnes discovers a module for the Dungeons and Dragons in Tilly's locker. With the help of a local game store employee, Agnes begins to meet the sister she never truly knew.

"I picked this show because it deals a lot with facing your inner demons and your inner monsters," Rebekah says, "I also think it's important because it's a new way to write it, and I think the more stories we are telling by people of color the better our world is right now. Plus now plays are super fun!" But there is one thing you should know about She Kills Monsters, "It's good for middle and high schoolers, but maybe think for a second about bringing your five year old.

She Kills Monsters will open May 2nd and will run April 24, 25, and 26 in the OWL au-ditorium.

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**Money Crew!**

Isabella Grasiani

**The inside scoop on how Tien's crew found their groove**

In the past year Tien's Money crew has quickly gained re- cognition. Weather it be their unique mascot or that you need to pass a test to visit, the Money crew has put itself on the OWL map. This article aims to investigate further into the persona that is the secluded club in the corner room on the 3rd floor. Science teacher Tien Dang is a relatively new addition to OWLs faculty, first joining the school during his 14-15 school year, making this his 5th year. As a former member of Tien's crew I can remember when the crew went by a different name; 'Tien's Turtles'. Like many crews we had been sucked into the animal-mascot fad. As it turns out alienation isn't the only way to create a catchy brand. That was back in 2014 and Tien's crew has evolved a lot since then, as shown by their new mascot Lylah Hennensse.

So, it turns out Tien's Money crew is a pretty solid group. According to Tien their future plans include more potlucks and getting t-shirts made. So far they have the logo designed but are still fundraising to print the t-shirts.

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**Polar vortex hits Minnesota hard**

José Daniel Bates-Pearson

**A look behind the causes and effects of Midwest's freezing weather**

The popular girl turns to D & D as grief therapy

Emilie McCormick

**They haven't anticipated the need of Italian Dunkers**

Edric, 1

**sleeping bag gets. "The worst part is if you use a mummy sleeping bag, and you pull the hood over your head so there's just a small hole that you breathe through, and the food can grow into giant crystals over the hole that fall on you, so it feels like it's snowing," he said, "Last time I wrapped a fleece jacket around my head, and the fleece got damp but I didn't get frost falling on my face."**

Edric started getting into camping and being in nature when he was 28. He loves to go hiking and winter camping in northern Minnesota, and he really enjoyed the peaceful and beautiful it was in the winter. "I really love winter in gen- eral, but some months there are like 'ugh' but I like yes! More snow and more cold," said Edric. "That led me to the idea, how cold of weather can I actually do this in?" He has been sleeping outside on the coldest night of the year for about 20 years by himself, and although his daughter has said that she wanted to join him, she is only eight and got too cold. When asked about his inspiration, Edric said "I'm a person who tries to really un- derstand human potential, and how far I can push myself in situations I might be uncomfortable in. It’s really fun for me."
**Senior Spotlight**

*Candace Alexander*

How many years have you been at OWL?
For three years.

What are your plans for next year?
Ah jeez, I don’t know. Proedly get bank.

What was your favorite class in high school?
English because of all the different teachers.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
I’m a part of GSA.

What was your favorite fieldwork trip you’ve been on? And why?
Camp Dux Nord because I got to jump in the lake.

What’s your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
My favorite TV show is Trailer Park Boys!

If you had a walk up song what would it be?
Highway To Hell by AC/DC

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**That One Little Kid**

*Antonio Cervantes*

How tall are you?
4’11”

Who’s your favorite senior?
Angelo

Where do you think you’re going to college?
I want to go to the Netherlands!

What’s your favorite school lunch?
Orange chicken

What elementary school did you come from?
Adams

What’s your favorite class?
Gym

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**OWL in pictures**

*Student teachers teaching Q3 classes!*

Student teachers Amber, Heather, Emily, Nick learning their trade in Nora, Megan, Katie and Kevin’s classes.

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**“Well, I could keep doing this”: An interview with Tim**

*Purple Press staff photo*

OWL’s Spanish teacher talks about teaching immigrant students, coming from a long line of teachers, and the importance of cultural understanding.

**Nik Logue**

*Staff Writer*

So you’ve been at OWL for over 20 years, and you’ve established yourself as OWL’s central coordinator. Has that inspired a greater sense of responsibility in you as a person?
Yeah, I think so. Working at this place, your job can change and evolve depending on a lot of things, and some of it is what you’re interested in and what’s going on from year to year. So my job is entirely different than it was when I first came—it has some similarities—but it continues to change and evolve. I think that’s partly why teachers tend to stay around here for a long time, because it’s sort of like having several different jobs over the course of a few years, and it doesn’t get boring.

And was that sense of responsibility always there?
Yeah, but I think…it’s changed as the needs have risen. I would say something like “well, I could do something like that, I could dig in on that.” So it’s just kind of a gradual process.

Do you believe that teachers should be learning from their students as well as vice-versa?
Oh for sure! I love that question. Yes, that’s definitely my central belief in school, and I think that’s also what keeps this job interesting to me. My first job I had was great; it was a really good school and I liked the kids, but I didn’t really learn much. And after three years, I was sort of like, “well, I could keep doing this, but I’m not really learning much.” So I think, coming here, is a place where I’m constantly learning from the students, from the other teachers, and from many other people. There’s constant-
Do new names make cookies taste better?

From classic Thin Mints, to new fangled S’mores, get the lowdown on the 2019 Girl Scout cookies

Lily Hennessee
Staff Writer

There they are, they come in many flavors, and they’re all the rage: Girl Scout cookies.

The Girl Scouts of America have been fundraising by sell-
ing cookies during the Winter season for over 100 years, and for some, “cookie season” is now one of the most anticipated times of the year. Whether you prefer chocolate, caramel, mint, or some other flavor, it’s more than likely that there’s a Girl Scout cookie out there for you. This year’s flavors that are sold at GWU include: S’mores, Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Shortbread, Lemonades, and Thank-A-Lots. There are a few gluten free flavors too, but unfortunately they aren’t sold at our school. The cost this year comes up to five dollars a box.

While the commencement of cookie season is typically one of the most joy inducing times at school, this year has been met with some controversial opinions regarding price and quality. Social Studies teacher, Lily Hennessee, argued that the cookies simply don’t taste as good, and the iconic names are definitely missed.

Regardless of the raised prices and reportedly decreas-
ing quality, I decided it was still necessary to review Amer-
ica’s most popular cookies. Forty dollars later, I had tried every single flavor.

I started off with trying one of the most popular new fla-
ers, S’mores, which was introduced in 2017. Ever since then, the Girl Scout’s take on the classic campfire treat was announced, I’ve heard lots of hype surrounding the cookie. I was skeptical of how well it could be replicated in a cookie, but naturally, I was naturally pretty excited to see if the cookie lived up to the expec-
tations. After trying it for my-
self, I’m sad to say that it was severely let down. I wished for the cookie to take me back to nights around a campfire sing-
ing songs and making s’mo-
res, but all I was reminded of was a grocery store choco-
late covered graham cracker. Now don’t get me wrong, it didn’t taste awful, it just tasted nothing like a real s’more. The cookie really lacked the marsh-
mallow component, which is obviously the most important part of a s’more. Overall, I’m disappointed but not surprised with the S’mores cookie.

After the disappointing results of the S’mores cookie, I wanted to go for some-
thing that I knew would be much better: Thin Mints. Thin Mints have historically been one of my favorite Girl Scout cookies, and are definitely considered “top tier” among many customers. After one of these thin mint thins, I

Angelo Carvalle
Staff Writer

Dear NASA,

Please take the following se-
riously.

Scientifically, the final frontier: it’s cold, it’s dark, and there’s noth-
ing to help you from floating into the ininite darkness and dying. Can you imagine some-
where more splendid? Now, let’s go back to Earth, and fill up my words. According to cosmologist George Lucas, space is everywhere and ev-

eything. But the best parts of space are way up in the sky, so far up that the sky gets black and the shiny clouds make the earth look like a tall lattice for Amore. This part is where there are (probably) aliens, you can float around for as long as you can even go to the moon up there.

As previously established, this place is dang cool. But something troubling has re-
cently come to my attention. You guys, NASA, make it waaay too hard for people to enjoy the black flying stuff in the sky. You’re making peo-
ple do a thousand push-ups, fly in cars that go in circles and push it back with umb.) We got biceps in the bag, now let’s move on.

Number second Smarts. Second biggest requirement, you have to be able to think. Why would one have to be so smart in space? To keep a nation safe. Alternatives, scientists in NASA

National “emergency”

Shayla Brooks
Staff Writer

January 15th, President Trump stood in front of the White House Rose Garden and declared a national emer-
gency at our Southern Border. The emergency is entirely fab-
iculated, scientists in NASA claim that the Trump declared the border a national emergency is not necessary, it is instead using the threat of a real threat to make people believe that the immigration border is an emergency.

In fact, illegal immigration has gone down from its peak in 2007. There were, in 2007, 4.9 million undocumented immi-
igrants residing in the US. Now, 1.4 million undocumented im-
migrants live in the US, down 13% since 2007. Undocument-
ed immigrants overall make up only 3.3% of the US popu-
lation. How, with numbers like these, can illegal immigration be an emergency at our southern border be a national emergency? Even if immigration were somehow to go back up, it will not change the fact that it is not necessary.

Please, Mr. Obama declared 12 emergencies as president, 11 of which were econom-
ic sanctions. The other was an influenza pandemic pub-
lic health emergency. Every president since 1976 has em-

ciated National Emergencies, but none have used it to fund a proj-

to that was previous-

ly rejected by the legislature. To put the situation in simple terms, although Trump is a teenager that wants to spend his parents’ money on a new toy, his platform was previous-
ly rejected by the legislature. Even if immigration crimes are more dangerous, Congress and must be re-

national emergency? Even if all these numbers were not true, as Mt Trump claims, immigration is a bad thing. Are all humans not worth the same amount? If they are, we should be more concerned about our own sib-


The answer to these questions is yes. The immigration crisis is a complex issue that requires a nuanced approach. It is not a simple yes or no answer. There are many factors that contribute to the immigration crisis, including poverty, political instability, and environmental disaster. It is clear that more needs to be done to address this issue.

Shayla Brooks
Staff Writer

In conclusion, it is clear that the immigration crisis is a complex issue that requires a nuanced approach. It is not a simple yes or no answer. There are many factors that contribute to the immigration crisis, including poverty, political instability, and environmental disaster. It is clear that more needs to be done to address this issue.
Disney vs. Pixar: which is best?

Milani Dimayuga
Staff Writer

I asked teachers. I asked students. I asked the lunch ladies, the counselors, and I asked Dave. So now it’s time to settle some beef. When it comes down to it, who rules here at OWL? Disney or Pixar? As you might have guessed, it’s Synchro. Pixar is awesome and Disney is iconic, but in terms of fan-favorite stories and songs, Disney wins. I mean come on, The Lion King, Peter Pan, Moana, Mulan, Pinnochio, Dumbo, Jungle Book, and yes, even Frozen— you just can’t beat Disney. They’ve been around the longest and have the most movies on their belt to lead them to their ultimate potential. At least, in terms of the storyline. Of course, Disney movies are culturally insensitive and con- troversial, but they’ve gotten better in recent years.

Pixar’s top-grossing movie is Incredibles 2, which raked in $1 billion and grossed all over the world. Disney owns Lucasfilms, the production company that produced Star Wars so Disney’s top-grossing movie by all accounts is the Force Awakens. However, I don’t think anyone is all that upset. It was a monumental release brought in a whopping $2.068 billion. A lot of Pixar has been produced in collaboration with Disney and Pixar has released some of their best movies through Disney. Pixar has made a name for themselves in pop-culture. Pixar created Toy Story, A Bug’s Life, Monsters Inc., Finding Nemo, The Incredibles, Cars, Ratatouille, Wall-E, Up, and Brave, and I could go on, but I have to get what exactly makes these movies so great.

What makes Disney so memorable is their consis- tency and nostalgia. Disney has the Cars movies down to a T, with memorable and relatable characters that pull on your heartstrings. Some people think Pixar is better. I think they’ve done their part in the live action world. They’ve managed to integrate their movies into pop culture and every retail store sells them. Disney’s best mov- ies include Aladdin, Hercules, Finding Nemo, and Toy Story (which has hands down the best soundtrack of any movie ever). The Lion King, Moana, and Zootopia. However, Pixar has to be the best between the two. I’m actually a fan of both, Austin, I love Pixar, but I also love Disney. There is a certain novel- ity for me when it comes to Pixar. I actually despise some of Pixar’s movies. I think they’re controversial, but they’ve gotten better in recent years.

I passed that dang class with a C. I’m a really enthusiastic group, aаш, Katie and Dan usually have to tell us to tone it down. After that, a speaker went up to the podium to explain how proud the parents and teach- ers are of the students, wheth- er they advance to state or not. Finally, the results of the competition were announced. There were tears of joy and tears of sadness, but all was said and done. I was told in my job interview I just scheduled ;). But in conclusion, I got the brains for the operation. Let’s check out the next requirement.

Number Third Character, favorite, personal, good boy.

Number thirdly: Character. One of the most beautiful things an artist has to offer is a good personality, something to knock em outta the park with their smooth words and smiling face. This is great for TV, when they come back from fighting the Martians trying to steal our moon and have to make something up on the spot, to keep the pub- lic safe and happy. As if they really went to space just for “satellite repairs” or “putting a flag on the moon” or some- thing boring like that. But a character is key, you need to come back to Earth. I’m not usually one to tout my own hoon when it comes to this stuff. But apparently, ac- cording to a few at my school, I’m actually a nice guy. And get this: I’m super good at keep- ing secrets. Just ask my buddy Nick from the fifth grade, I told absolutely nobody about the thing he thought he was about to tell anybody I said that.

Well there you go, Mr. and Mr. and Mrs. NASA, my most convinc- ing piece yet. I got a lot of cool boys, the smart brains, and some weird qualities that make my heart that all make me el- fective and have a signed picture for your Hall of Fame wall. I’m looking for- ward to working with you all, I believe you’ll find it to be an astonishing experience.

Sincerely and with mucho love,
Angelo Carvile