SOUTH TEXAS VIRTUAL ACADEMY

PHOENIX NEWS

Issue no. 1 Vol. 3 | Back to School issue 2024



READ IF YOU DARE

VA Spotlight

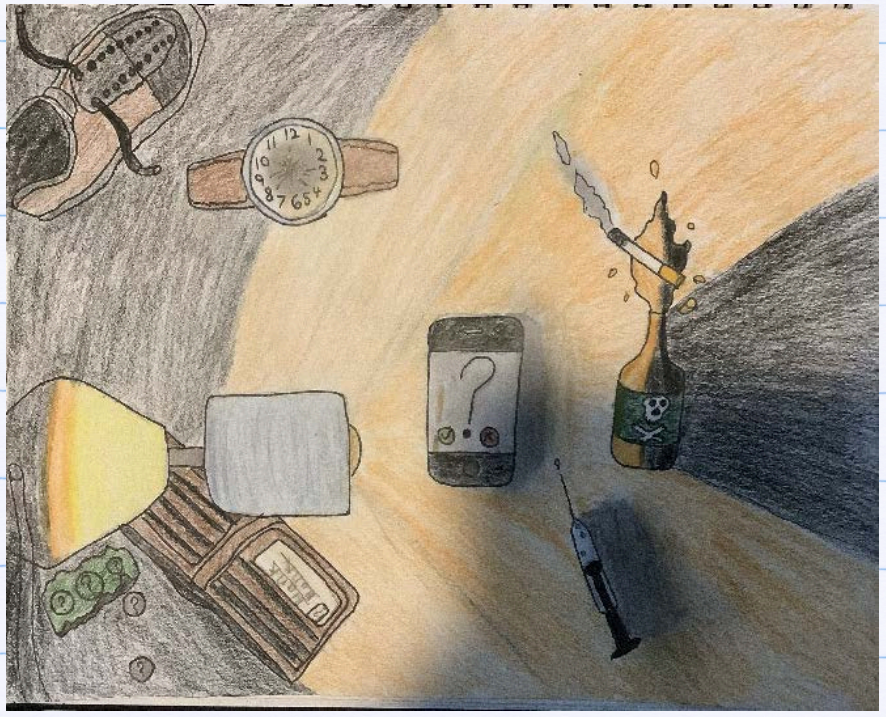
Keep up with the exciting things going on in the VA classes

Red Ribbon Art Contest Winners



Right: Nailah F. 10th grade

Left: Brandon G. 12th grade



Right: Joshua C. 11th grade



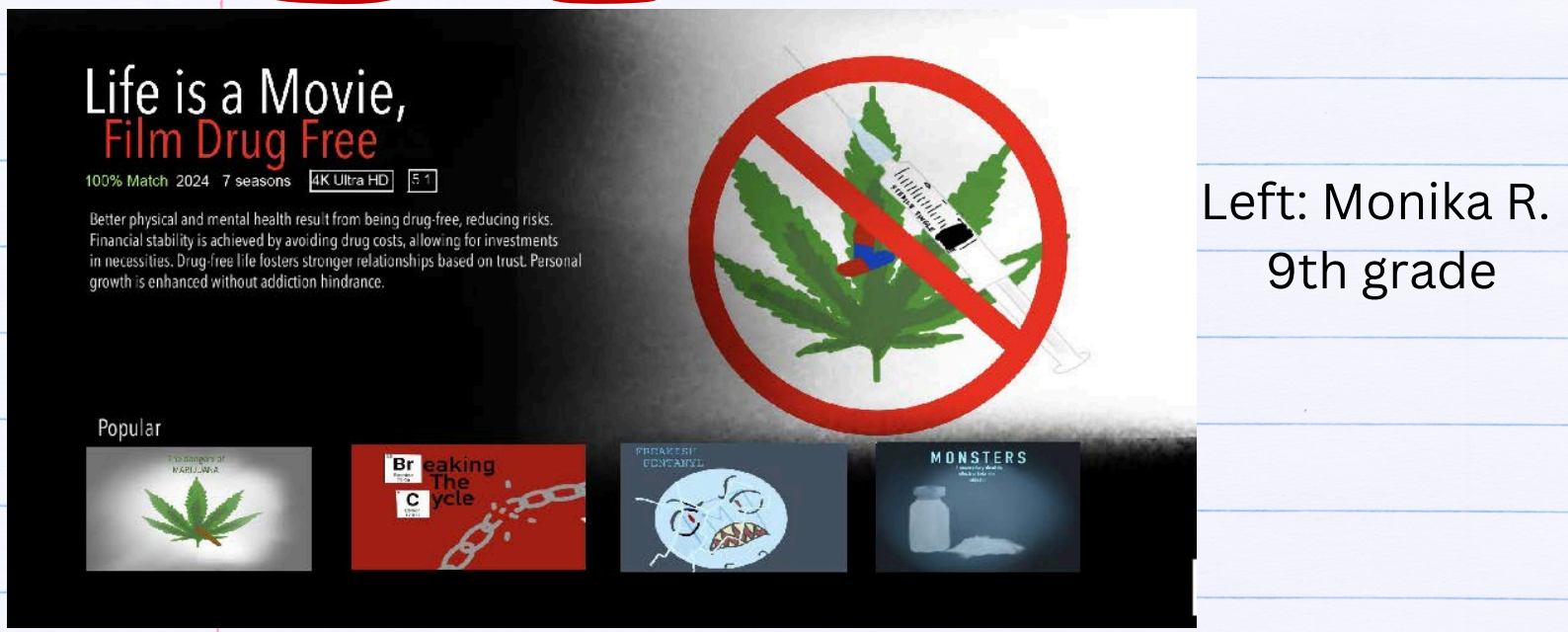
VA Spotlight

Keep up with the exciting things going on in the VA classes

Red Ribbon Art Contest Winners

Right: Nailah F. 10th grade





Left: Monika R. 9th grade

VA Spotlight

Keep up with the exciting things going on in the VA classes

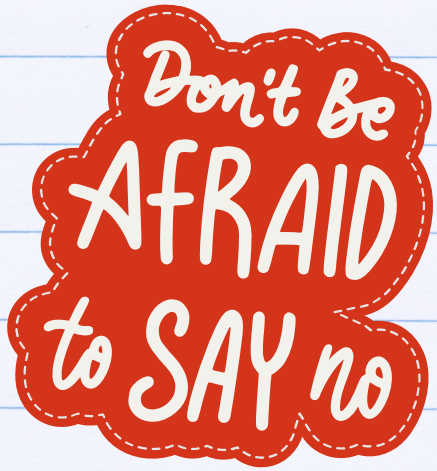
Red Ribbon Art Contest Winners

Right:
Valentina P.
8th grade



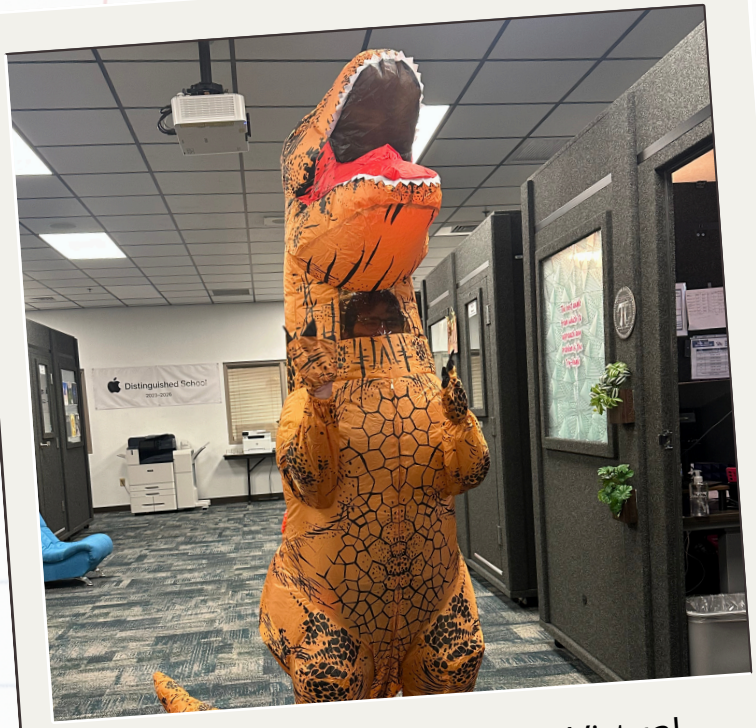


Left: Sophia S.
6th grade



Virtual Academy staff beyond the computer

A look into the work the VA teachers do when not behind the computers



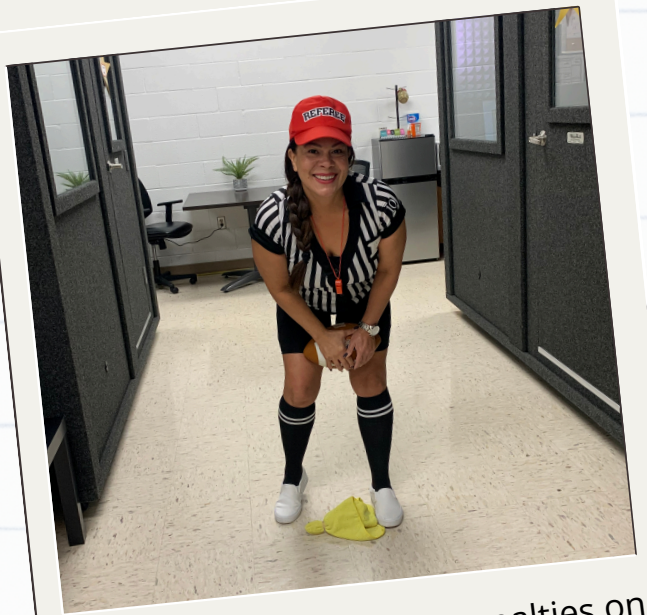
Not dinosaurs attacking Virtual Academy!

HALLOWEEN

fun with Virtual Academy teachers



Virtual Academy teachers were attacked by dinosaurs



Ms. Miranda calling out penalties on non-spooky behavior



VA Club News

Keep up with the exciting things the VA clubs are doing

The VA clubs came together for some spooky fun









For more information on club meetings please contact your sponsor

VA Club News

Keep up with the exciting things the VA clubs are doing

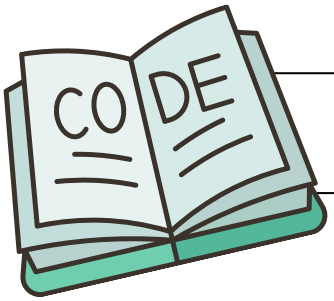








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Dress codes? No way

Student opinion

By: Jazmin



Dress codes in educational institutions can unfairly restrict what girls can wear compared to boys, perpetuating a cycle of gender inequality. Dress codes have often been criticized for reinforcing sexist attitudes, implying that girls' bodies are inherently vulgar or inappropriate. According to www.theatlantic.com many girls wear appropriate clothing, but are still sent home. While girls wear suitable clothing, and get sent home, guys break the dress code and don't get sent home. In addition, there is even a law in the U.S that prohibits clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, and the breast of a female student.

This disproportionate enforcement not only affects the day-to-day experience of girls in school but also contributes to a broader culture of body shaming. An example of body shaming day-to-day body shaming is when women wear revealing clothes they are constantly criticized, while men also wear revealing clothing, and no one says anything. The regulations in schools often focus on what girls should not wear, leading to a culture of constraint rather than empowerment. Furthermore, these dress codes can create an environment where girls feel physically and psychologically unsafe. The underlying message is that they must alter their appearance to accommodate the comfort of others, which ultimately fosters feelings of shame and insecurity.



Additionally, dress codes can cause girls to feel excluded from their peer groups. When specific styles of clothing—such as tank tops, skirts, or shorts—are deemed inappropriate, it can isolate girls who want to express themselves or feel comfortable in their chosen attire. This exclusion can lead to a decline in self-esteem, as they internalize the idea that their bodies must conform to certain standards to be acceptable. This dynamic not only affects confidence but also reinforces societal norms that dictate women's appearances from a young age.

Moreover, the psychological impacts of such regulations can have lasting effects. The notion that girls must manage their clothing choices to prevent distracting boys can instill a sense of guilt around their own bodies. It perpetuates the idea that a girl's worth is tied to her appearance rather than her capabilities or character. When educational institutions focus more on regulating girls' clothing than on fostering an inclusive and supportive environment, it sends a troubling message about gender roles and fairness. In summary, dress codes should be equal,as we shouldn't have to stop dressing in clothing we feel confident in because we are supposedly distracting others. Schools have an opportunity to create a more balanced and fair environment that not only values self-expression but also promotes gender equality if they make equal dress codes. Implementing policies that focus on fostering respect and understanding among students, regardless of their clothing choices, is essential for a positive educational experience.

Dia de los Muertos

By JB

When October comes to an end a special time of the year starts, Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos). It is a celebration to remember the people who have passed. Families welcome back the souls of their relatives. This celebration is mostly celebrated in Spanish-speaking countries and other countries. Each country celebrate it differently with different customs. In Mexico, the custom combines an Indigenous Aztec ritual with catholicism brought to the religion by the Spanish conquistador. It is a great way to remember our loved ones. It is a two day holiday that reunites the living and the dead. Families create ofrendas (offerings) to honor their departed family members who are no longer with us. They decorated altars (alters) to honor their departed family members. Mostly altars are decorated with yellow marigold flowers, (Flores de cempazuchi) photos, and the favorite foods and drinks of the ones being honored.By putting your Altar it encourages the love ones to visit.

Popular symbols are calacas and calaveras that are portrayed in fancy clothing, and charro outfits. It is also portrayed in sugar skulls and sweets and as a parade mask. People also dress up with Mexican style dresses and charro outfits. Some people say Day of the Dead is a rare holiday to celebrate but it is important to remember how our loved ones impacted our lives. It also celebrates their lives and our memories of them. Pixar Disney made an amazing dedication to the holiday by making a movie called Coco.It made this beautiful holiday easy to understand for all types of people. Qaxaca Mexico has the biggest celebration with people participating in parades and big festivals at the cemetery. Some food are dedicated to the holiday like the Day of the Dead bread.

Starting October on a Menacing Note

By: Joshua Cantu

Warning- Resident Evil 3 nemesis is rated M for mature meaning the recommended age to play is 17+ due to the use of gore, guns, and substances such as cigarettes, Play at your own discretion with the permission of a legal guardian if under the age of 17 and when playing proceed with caution.

“September 28TH... Daylight. The Monsters Have Overtaken The City. Somehow I’m Still Alive” A quote said by the legendary horror Heroine Jill Valentine in the classic Resident Evil 3 Nemesis. Before reviewing the game itself, here's some background information. Resident Evil 3 Nemesis is the third installment of the long running Resident evil franchise developed and published by Capcom with the series spanning all the way to this day. Resident Evil 3 came out on September 22, 1999 and received critical acclaim by critics and fans alike for its new game mechanics, unique locations, great soundtrack, and iconic main villain nemesis. Originally Resident Evil 3 was locked to the playstation 1 and 2 home console unless you wanted to go through the trouble of emulating which depending on where you get the game files could be Illegal, but recently for the 25th anniversary the original Resident Evil 1,2, and 3 have been released on the gaming platform GOG.com as of September 25 2024. Now that we’ve got the background information out of the way, time for the review..

Gameplay

The gameplay of classic resident evil is what mainly turns people away from the series as a whole due to its frequent use of tank controls. Tank controls work by having both the left and right directional buttons only contribute to the player's turning not actually moving in any given direction while the forward and backward directional buttons move the player forward and backward. Due to the nature of the controls many turn away from the series since movement was slow and concise, you had to be completely sure the direction you were headed was safe since if a zombie was too close and turning was slow it was very easy to get caught.

Besides tank controls there were few new additions to the classic resident evil gameplay style. The first new addition was called the tactical dodge. The tactical dodge allowed the player to dodge almost any attack from any enemy by pressing the aim and action button at the same time allowing for quick escapes in dire situations making the mechanic one of your most valuable assets.

Crafting ammunition was added to the classic Resident Evil gameplay loop allowing the player to use any stray gunpowder types which were A, B, and R to craft ammunition for the many weapons you acquire throughout the game adding a new layer of skill to the resource management part of the game.

A subtle but very much appreciated addition was the addition of explosive barrels or explosives plastered on the walls of the various locations throughout the game allowing for one bullet to take out hordes of enemies with the right timing of course.

Soundtrack

The Resident Evil games have always been known for their chilling but in some cases relaxing soundtracks and Resident evil 3 is not different with themes like “Free From Fear” being iconic in the horror industry as a whole. Free from fear is not the only great theme available though with themes like “Feel the Tension” giving very ominous or eerie vibes and themes like “Meeting Brad” being a beautiful mixture of ominous, eerie, relaxing, and gloomy.

Puzzles

Throughout Resident Evil 3 you will have to solve a number of puzzles ranging in difficulty. As a example one of the first puzzles you will encounter will be the locked box puzzle. The locked box puzzle has you finding a memo in the RPD which contains a cryptic message you will need to decode in order to get the combination to a locked box in the RPD needed to progress the main story. Another puzzle you will have to solve is in the storage facility, this puzzle will have you searching for the code to a computer in the facility needed to unlock a door which is required to progress the story, This puzzle entails you watching an Umbrella ad and paying close attention to the details in the ad as the code is subtly hidden in it. Don't let the flashy weapons and action fool you. Resident Evil 3 has some very challenging puzzles throughout the entire game making it a worthwhile play if you like puzzles.

Art Direction & graphics

Resident Evil 3 is quite old turning twenty five years old this year so the graphics of this game can seem dated in many areas mainly due to the use of preloaded backdrops which where used to save space as the game discs of that time had very limited storage in terms what you could load onto them so cutting corners with preloaded backdrops was just a necessary precaution. That being said while some of the backdrops may look low quality it's still important to recognize the actual art direction of the game, roads with trash on them, burning buildings, even blood in some areas giving the city a very disorderly, dark look. The disorderly look and actual dark coloring gives the game a very dark, ominous, gloomy vibe which matches perfectly for the theme and story the game was going for so even though some of the backgrounds are hard to make out it's still important to remember the circumstances of that time and how they still managed to create a beautiful atmosphere with what they had.

Is it worth playing now?

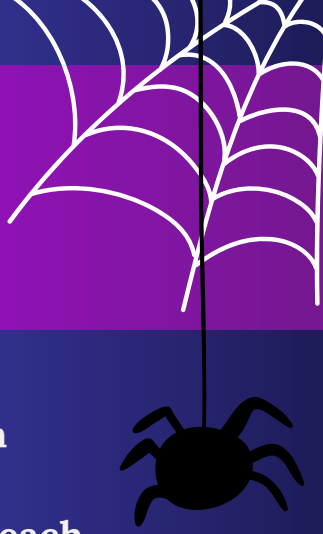
To know if the game is worth playing after all this time we need to re summarize what was discussed in the article. Resident Evil 3 was a game released to critical acclaim at the time due to its wide arrange of weapons, enemy types, and puzzles but those weren't the only reasons. Additional reasons as to why the game received such acclaim can also be seen in for one the incredible soundtrack and two amazing art direction. With ups there are downs so what may be the downsides to replaying this game? Resident Evil 3 Nemesis can be seen as dated by today's standards as even capcom the developers and publishers behind the game abandoned the tank control system in all of the modern Resident Evil games even the Resident Evil 3 remake excluded the use of the tank control system as its a very niche movement system which can be a hit or miss for most casual gamers and not to mention the graphics which used preloaded backdrops which can be low quality at times. although at the time the backdrops were seen as impressive with how games look today can be seen as lackluster. So after going over all of the positives and negatives to conclude, yes this game is still amazing even by today's standards as the positives drastically outweigh the negatives as most of the negatives can be seen as minor nitpicks, as an example the preloaded backdrops. The preloaded backdrops as stated can be seen as dated by today's standards as graphics have had a massive overhaul after all this time but when we actually consider that this game came out in 1999 it's impressive how nice it looks even now mainly due to its well directed art direction. The tank controls could also be seen as a negative but when you look at how the game is not centered around it's movement more so the combat puzzles, and characters it can be seen as more of a unique take on how games could be played rather than a negative. So yes Resident Evil 3 Nemesis is still very much worth the time to play it even now and is a must play for any fan of the horror medium.





SPOOKY SEASON MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

By: Argent Corvus

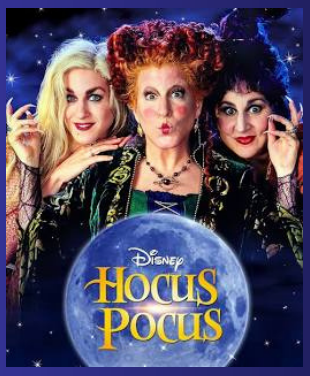


I would like to start off by saying, This is not a top 10 Halloween movies list. This is simply a list of movies I recommend to watch during the Spooky season.
The list will be split between 3 sections with two movies in each. First Family friendly, second Claymation, and third Horror. For any parents reading this I would like to inform you that all except maybe the horror movies will be something you can watch with your kids. With that said let's get into it.

Family Friendly Movies

1.Hocus Pocus

I adore the Hocus Pocus movie, it's a tradition in my household to watch it every October 31. Hocus Pocus is a well known cult classic, celebrating Women Empowerment. Hocus Pocus was released in 1993, starring Bette Milder, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Kathy Najimy as the Sanderson Sisters, the main antagonist (or protagonist, depending on your interpretation) in the movie, who would go on to become cultural icons for the season, partly due to their beautiful rendition of "**I Put A Spell On You**".

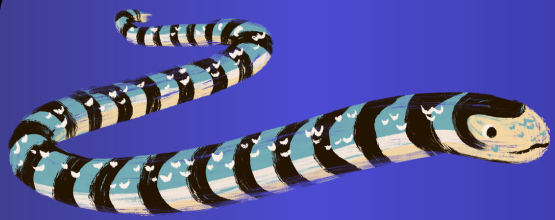


2. Beetlejuice

If you're interested in the strange and unusual, ghouls and poltergeist, then I think you'll find Beetlejuice to be a great watch, just make sure not to repeat the name three times in a row. Beetlejuice was released in 1988, this cult classic film was written and directed by Tim Burton. Starring Michael Keaton as the infamous Beetlejuice, the film would go on to have a Broadway musical adaptation that premiered in April of 2022.





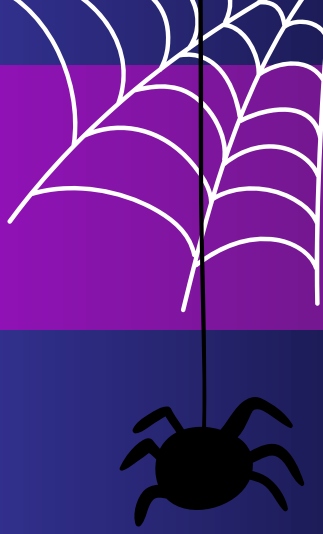






SPOOKY SEASON MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

By: Argent Corvus



Claymation Movies

3. *Nightmare Before Christmas*

Now I know there's a debate, about whether or not Nightmare Before Christmas is a "Halloween" or "Christmas" movie, I'd like to put that debate to rest by informing you all that the films creator has claimed that it's supposed to be a "Halloween" movie, though that might be the case I've always regarded it as a holiday movie. Another cult classic by Tim Burton, The Nightmare Before Christmas was released in 1997, this wonderfully spooky film, has beautiful and complex Claymation (stop motion using poseable clay figures), and an original soundtrack that is to die for. This film starred Jack Skellington (voiced by Danny Elfman, and Chris Sarandon), Sally (voiced by Catherine O'Hara), and Oogie Boogie (voiced by Ken Page).



4. *Corpse Bride*

Like The Nightmare Before Christmas, Corpse Bride is a Tim Burton film, with (in my opinion at least) an equally fantastic soundtrack and execution of claymation. Corpse Bride was released 2005, starring Scraps the dead/undead dog, Victor Van (voiced by Johnny Depp), Corpse Bride/Emily (voiced by Helena Bonham), and Victoria Everglot (voiced by Emily Watson).





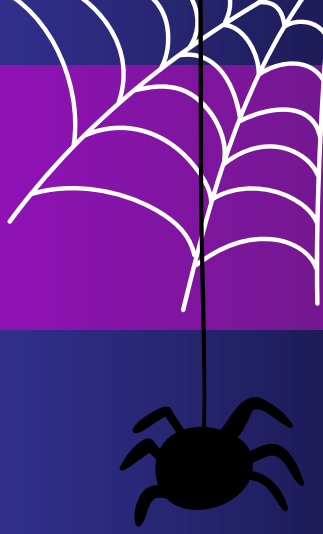






SPOOKY SEASON MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

By: Argent Corvus



Horror Movies

5. Scream 1996



The Original Scream is a fantastic movie that melds mystery and horror, perfectly capturing the horror of the darker parts in human nature. This movie really pulls you into its narrative making you just as anxious to figure out the killer(or killers) as the characters are. Scream released in 1996 starring Neve Campbell as Sidney Prescott, Courteney Cox as Gale Weathers, David Arquette as Dewey Riley, Matthew Lillard as Stu Marcher, and Skeet Ulrich as Billy Loomis.

6. IT 1990



The original film adaptation of Stefen King's IT was released in 1990, its clever use of practical effects really helps to elevate the scare factor. The only downside to the adaptation is they filmed it in chronological order, differently than how Stefen King originally wrote and published his novel. This is something the new adaptations share as well. This Movie starred Tim Curry as the Infamous IT/Pennywise.











Sports 101

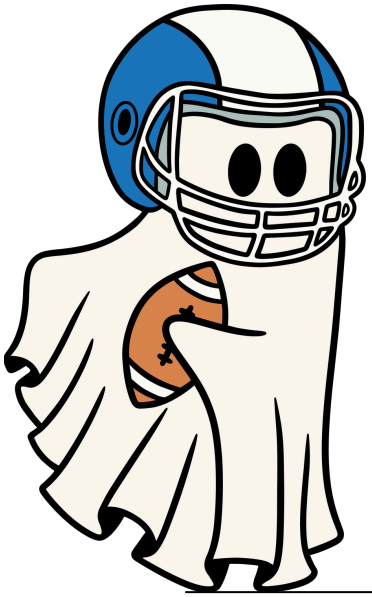
PREVIEW OF THE 2024 NFL SEASON



JC

October 2024 has indeed been busy for the NFL-from serious injuries to blockbuster trades to gut-wrenching performances that have shaped this season. The season-ending ACL injury to wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk of the San Francisco 49ers was a big shock to the offense. Other notable injuries were Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson and a number of other key players around the league, which have started to intensify concerns as teams push for positioning in the playoffs.

On the trade front, the Las Vegas Raiders have been one of the most aggressive restructurings, including giant deals that moved wide receiver Davante Adams to a new team. This and other moves have brought multiple potential transactions before the November trade deadline into discussion. The shifts could change dramatically as teams evaluate their chances in the balance of power in the league.



On the coaching front, The New York Jets fired Head Coach Robert Saleh. They also demoted Offensive Coordinator Nathaniel Hackett. Defensive Coordinator Jeff Ulbrich was prompted by owner Woody Johnson as interim head coach. Raiders HC Antonio Pierce, Saints HC Dennis Allen, Cowboys HC Mike Mccarthy, and Jaguars HC Doug Pederson are some of the other head coaches who are already on the hot seat.

There have also been great performances by rising stars, like Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, that have kept fans on the edge of their seats. Tagovailoa returned to practice, looking toward a possible return from injury as the Dolphins continued to show why they are having such a strong year. Meanwhile, teams like the Buffalo Bills and Cincinnati Bengals continued positioning themselves for midseason, adding to an already dramatic NFL season.





Baseball 101

By:DR

As the 2024 MLB season comes to an end fans are excited for the upcoming postseason. This time of year is full of nail biting games and teams competing for the World Series title.

Top Teams

Some of the best teams this year include the Houston Astros and the New York Yankees in the American League. The Tampa Bay Rays are also a strong contender with their smart playstyle.
In the National League the Los Angeles Dodgers are a top team while also the Atlanta Braves are looking to make a deep run into the playoffs led by their experienced players and new star players.

Playoff Format

The 2024 postseason will follow a familiar format. It starts with Wild Card games followed by the Division Series, League Championship Series, and finally the World Series. Each matchup being a best of 7 series.

Key Players

Many players are expected to shine in the postseason. Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Dodgers is an extraordinary player who can both pitch and hit well. Gerrit Cole of the Yankees is a top pitcher to watch. In the National League Ronald Acuña Jr. of the Braves and Mookie Betts of the Dodgers are both exciting players to keep a lookout for.

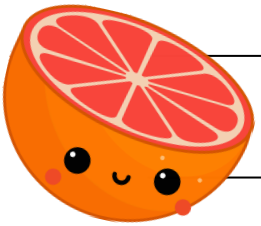
Fan Excitement

The postseason brings a more exciting and intense atmosphere to ballparks. Fans are very passionate cheering loudly for their teams.

Conclusion

As the 2024 MLB postseason arrives excitement stirs among fans and players. With great matchups and talented players on the diamond, this postseason is sure to be full of exciting action .Whether you're a fan or just enjoy watching October is an exciting time for baseball watchers.





Celebrating October's Abundance

By: Donaven. P

To begin with, the harvest that happens in October in the Valley is the grapefruits. Grapefruits that are harvested in the valley grow almost perfectly due to its unique climate.

When the grapefruits are harvested the way that they are picked is by pull twist snap motion. The tools that are used are ladders they help with reaching for the fruits that are top of the tree. But before you do all that process you have to look at the skin of the grapefruit to see if it ripe and if you're still unsure if it is ready you can take a look at other features like color, shape, weight, and texture.

After all that process what makes this grapefruit special is how far these grapefruit spread out . From the valley to New York these grapefruit are shipped throughout Texas and other states. All this can happen because of our unique climate. Our climate improves the production methods and increases agricultural production.

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Rounding Up RGV Events

Check out these local events that will be happening during the **November Season**



November 9th

Turkey Trot - 5k and 10k

Where: Fireman's Park 201 N 1st McAllen

Time: 7am-...

Price: Online Registration - 35$ for 5k and 40$ for 10k (mcallenmarathon.com)



November 3rd

34th annual Feast of sharing. Free meal and entertainment for all.

Where: 700 Convention Center Blvd, McAllen

Time: 11am -3pm

Price: Free Entry



November 30th

Flea Market in Pharr South

Where: Pharr Sports Complex 1901S Cage Blvd Pharr

Time: 8am-...

Price: 15$ entry fee



November 9th/10th

Beach Running!

Where: 33174 State Park Rd 100 South Padre Island

Time: 7am - ...

Price: Free Entry

By: Mannix

Rounding Up RGV Events

Check out these local events that will be happening during the **November Season**



November 3rd

Port Isabel Antique and Flea Market

Where: Beulah Lee Park, Highway 100 Port Isabel

Time: 9am-4pm

Price: Free entry, Vendors charge



November 20th

Flea Market in Pharr South

Where: 1402 S. Cage Blvd, Pharr

Time: 8am-11pm

Price: Free entry, vendors charge



November 9th

The arts as divine inspiration

Art exhibit to inspire and bring us together

Where: McAllen Public Library, 4001 North 23rd Street, McAllen

Time: 2pm-4pm

Price: Free Entry



November 2nd

11th Annual Book Festival Celebrate Vida!

Where: McAllen Public Library, 4001 North 23rd Street, McAllen

Time: 11am-5pm

Price: Free Entry

By: Mannix

Meet the Phoenix Journalism Team!



My name is Donaven and what my hobbies and interests are. I like to cook new things and make meals that make people happy. Also what I like to do in my free time is play some video games and also study different ingredients for new meals to make.



Mannix is one of the first, and few, seniors at the VA. He is known to enjoy playing guitar and fishing. He likes to listen to and talk about a variety of music and bands. Although he has the heart of an outdoors person he still enjoys the comforts of indoor activities like video games and being at the Virtual Academy.



JC is a football enthusiast. His favorite football team is the 3 time superbowl champion Denver Broncos. He has gone to sporting events. This past year he went to the superbowl. He met lots of NFL personalities like team owners, head coaches and hall of fame players.

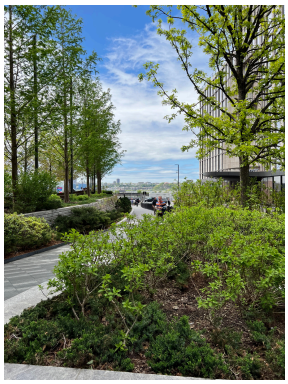


Jazmin loves listening to music, watching movies, series, spending time with her family, and friends. She loves dogs, and animals. She has a dog named Oreo. Her favorite series is The Flash.



His name is Joshua. He's an eleventh grade student here at the virtual academy, his hobbies are gaming, listening to music, running, and making coffee. He’s played a lot of game series but his favorite is the resident evil series, his favorite music artist is Low Roar and his favorite roast of coffee is blonde.

J unfiltered enjoys swimming, playing, and watching sports. She also likes spending time with her family and pets, traveling, and seeing new places. Also enjoy reading and writing, as well as watching movies and TV shows.



If you are interested in contributing to the Phoenix Newspaper please contact roberta.zamilpa@stisd.net

Meet the Phoenix Journalism Team!

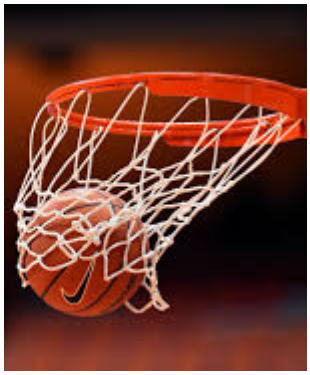
Argent Corvus is a Junior at the STISD Virtual academy. They Have 2 dogs named Ivan, and Maximus. A few of their favorite activities include listening to Music and podcasts on Spotify, making art, and watching other people's animations on youtube.





Ricky loves animals and collecting stuffed animals. in his free time he draws and is extremely creative.

Daniel likes playing basketball, running, and going fishing. He participates in Vipers basketball camps and tournaments. He does not like to read at all and has gone to 18 different states.



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