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Purple Press

Volume #25, Issue #5

March 5th, 2025

OWL HD shines in numbers

The school-level competition saw huge turnout from 6th to 12th grade

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

On February fifth students and staff gathered at OWL to participate in a national competition that explores and celebrates history. This year the school level of History Day saw over 150 students presenting projects, with the regional competition scheduled for March 16th.

At OWL, students from grades 6th, 7th, and 11th (those who are not in AP US History) are required to participate and create an exhibit board, documentary, website, performance, or paper on their chosen topic. This year the project's theme has to be centered on "Rights and Responsibilities in History," with students urged

to consider who decides who has what rights and how they are enforced.

For example, 7th grader Teagan McNamara decided to create a performance on the fight for U.S. women's suffrage in the early 1900s, and 11th graders Moss Winginstad and Maren Sletten are looking at the history of children's educational television in a

documentary. "I was originally thinking of doing how 9/11 transformed children's television, but that didn't fit into what the theme was. So I thought of just doing the evolution of children's media overall," said Moss.

But these projects take much more than an idea. A huge aspect of History Day is research, and working to fully



Purple Press Staff Photo

School HD, 7 7th grade students talk with History Day judge

The robotics team is ready for their season



Kathryn Totushek

Johnny Gorton, Hana Ninow, and Rupert Smith gather materials before practice

This year the team masters mechanics and design ahead of their first competition

Remy Short
Staff Writer

The OWL robotics team Open Circuits is preparing for the coming season as robotics starts up again. Officially beginning in January, the members start practices with team bonding, crafting skills, and sharpening their skills

and knowledge. In addition, the team studies this year's challenge, which they will need to master so they can face off against other robotics teams from various schools.

The season started with a kick off event on January fourth of this year, where the new challenge was revealed to the robotics

team. Tournaments revolve around the challenges that are presented by the organization behind the competitions called FIRST Robotics.

This year, the challenge was revealed to the team through an animation, and it seems to be somewhat tricky due to the multiple smaller challenges intertwined into the main



Kathryn Totushek

9th graders Abby Horton and Emily Totushek build robot

challenge. The robot will have to place pipes onto a coral structure and remove balls that are entrapped within it. It also has to master throwing and climbing mechanics. The team intends to focus their efforts on picking, placing, and climbing.

After this kickoff, the team locks in for Build Week, a

week where the team works especially hard to craft the robot once they've finalized its design. Then the team settles into regular practices on Mondays and Wednesdays leading up to the first tournament on the third weekend of February.

Robotics, 9

OWL's Spring play is in the works

Upstream will have a focus on the environment and feature many storylines with cool characters

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

The river has lost her daughter and needs your help. This is the premise for the all new original play that will be performed at OWL this April in collaboration with Mixed Blood Theatre Company. Called 'Upstream', the story, written by local playwrights Saymoukda Duangphouxay

Vongsay, Ryan Hill, Blossom Johnson, and Johanna Keller Flores, will focus on issues surrounding climate change and young people's role in combating it. "The goal is to create a play that helps the audience kind of take action. How do you take action around an issue that matters to you?" explained theater teacher and program director Rebekah Rentzel.

The biggest new element of this play is the immersive aspect. While the story will start in the auditorium like any other play, multiple spaces throughout the school, such as the kitchen classroom, library, and green room, will also be transformed into acting spaces, with audience members getting to choose one of four storylines to follow.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Spring play, 8 OWL theatre members read through their scripts

The forgotten grade

Finnley Frolek, Anna Funk, Sally Keenan, and Lydia Manfred
Staff Writers

Have you ever been ignored, neglected, or have become second priority? Welcome to 7th grade, the year of the forgotten child.

Seventh grade is the year when nothing matters. The 8th graders are preparing for high school and the 6th graders are fresh meat. Second place is always the first loser. I bet the only reason why you're reading this is because you're a 7th grader, or you didn't know what the article you just accidentally turned to was really about. So I bet the question you're asking is what makes a 7th grader feel this way?

Well speaking as a firsthand 7th grader I would say that our grade is irrelevant to most of the school. Who wants to pay attention to the 7th graders when these new gen alpha 6th graders have come. Middle school is like fast fashion, if it isn't new then throw it out like the rest of the trash. These 12-13 year olds' expiration date has come. 6th graders are always getting so much attention because they are new to the school, and 8th graders are being prepared for high school. High school is where your grades count, people are preparing for college and everything is important. If 7th grade was a day of the week it would be Wednesday. Squashed in the middle of the other days, everyone just wants to get Wednesday over with. Have you ever even read

Forgotten grade, 8



The Purple Press

OWL's longest-running student newspaper was founded in 1996. We publish monthly from November through June. All content for The Purple Press is created by OWL students. The Purple Press welcomes feedback and letters to the editor. Submissions can be emailed to leo.bickelhaupt@spps.org. The opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of OWL staff or administration.

Adult to Blame
Leo Bickelhaupt

Editor-in-Chief
Claire Ales

Designers
Aria Kulseth
Claire Ales

Artists
Nora Xiong
Jae Lind

Copy editors
Kate Houle
Anson Lind
Joseph T. Schwartz
Kaden McNamara
Zania Hierlmaier

Hawks basketball has high hopes for Sections

Team hopes to stay strong after Conference

Roman Rufi & Teddy Lopez
Staff Writer

The Humboldt Hawks basketball team wrapped up their regular season last week. In their conference games they had an overall record of 3-9. They lost several very close games, while many of their wins were near blow-outs. For example, their game against Washington Tech, which they won 81-39.

Three OWL players played varsity this year, including 12th grader Danny Hobday, 11th grader Simon Casper and 10th grader Luke Hobday. Danny, one of the team's best defenders, also consistently gets rebounds along with his brother Luke. Simon is among the team's most developed shooters.

The players on the team aren't particularly happy with their conference record and hope to redeem themselves with a strong showing at the section tournament.

Despite their record

thus far, the culture of the basketball team stands strong. Simon explains the culture of the team as "loud, obnoxious people that make it fun to be around." This aspect of a basketball team keeps its bonds strong together. "The guys are super cool and make practices enjoyable," said Danny.

These players have a connection with each other that is strengthened by their experiences. For example, the team travels out of town for a holiday trip to go sleep at a hotel over winter break every season. They swim, hang out, and play their favorite games, ensuring that their upcoming season will be wholehearted. "We have consistently improved on our ability to play together and trust one another," said coach Sam Esboldt.

The players have high expectations for the upcoming postseason; they expect to earn a seed as high as fourth, which would mean hosting a home playoff game. Simon

explained that the mentality of the team is what drives them. "We keep beating ourselves with small mistakes that can be fixed," he said. He believes that his team is a top four conference-level team, and that if they fix their mistakes, they have the potential to go higher. This reflects the hopes for the success of the team, and the bonds they have built.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the season for the Hawks was the out of town tournament in Wilmar, MN. They had a record of 0-2 at the tournament but the two losses were both within 10 points. Despite not having the record they hoped for they still had a blast at the tournament. "It was fun to be able to spend time with teammates outside of school and practice," said Simon. Some of the activities they did was go swimming a lot and went bowling with the coaches and players.

On February 15 the Hawks played Roosevelt and had an impressive win over them 57-46. "Beating Minneapolis Roosevelt was the best win of the season. We proved to ourselves that we can beat teams that may be better on paper," said head coach Sam Esboldt. Last season they lost to them by 12 points, but the script flipped and the Hawks won by 11. This game showed the true potential of the team heading into the playoffs. While having an average offensive game they showed tremendous defense.

Some key parts of the win was forcing up shots; Roosevelt only made 18 shots out of 59, equating to a shooting percentage of 30%. Another key aspect was they



Luke and Danny Hobday celebrate a blocked shot, with the Hawks enjoying a 20-point lead over Eagle Ridge.

Boys basketball, 9

Hawks first ever female captain

Cam leads co-ed wrestling team, competes against boys and girls

Aria Kulseth
Staff Writer

There are many ways that people get into sports. Some have a lifelong passion, others may be inspired by a celebrity, junior Cam Sisson's story is a bit unique. "Low-key, I didn't realize it was a sport Humboldt had to offer until I was on the Humboldt turf and was wrestling someone for fun, and then someone said 'you should join wrestling'"

This is now her second year on the team, and this year she is also Humboldt's first female wrestling captain. Being the first female captain came with a few challenges "At first, honestly, it felt like a lot of people didn't believe in me. I had a lot of people saying rude things to me, making jokes about me, but now I feel like everyone has my back and really came together for me in the end," said Cam.

Wrestling is a growing sport among girls, But even though there is an increase in participation, girl wrestlers are still sparse in many programs, with Humboldt only having three girls of their estimated 20 wrestlers.

Wrestling is a unique sport, it's very tough on the body, and compared to lots of other sports it's not a team sport; it's you against an opponent, and if you do poorly, you have no one but yourself to blame. Not only is the physical aspect tough, but the sport also takes a lot of mental strength.

At Humboldt, both the girls and boys train together, matching up with someone in their same weight class; a similar situation can occur in actual competitions as well. Unlike lots of other sports, wrestlers can compete against someone from the opposite gender. For dual meets, which is one school against another, people just go against someone in their weight class, and whether they're a girl or boy doesn't really matter, but for tournaments, there are girls-only brackets.

The Humboldt team competed at sections this February, with girls occurring on February 7 and 8, as well as the following weekend. The competition resulted in a fourth place finish for Cam. The boys were a little later on

Wrestling, 9

A less glorified part of the game

Danny and Luke Hobday help Hawks with rebound acumen

Roman Rufi
Staff Writer

Rebounding. One of the most underappreciated aspects of basketball. A team that consistently grabs the board after a missed shot is more likely to win. The last 12 years in the NBA, 8 championship winners have been in the top 15 in rebounding. The only team to be last in rebounding and win the championship is the 2012-2013 Miami Heat, who had LeBron.

The act of rebounding is grabbing the ball after a missed shot. The key aspects of being good at rebounding are height, jumping ability, hustle, and knowing when to jump. The leader in most rebounds ever in the NBA is Wilt Chamberlain, who was 7'1. But then there are guys like Charles Barkley at 19th and Dennis Rodman at 23 who are both under 6'7. They show the athletic part but, most importantly, the knowledge of when to jump while also having incredible hustle.

There are guys currently in the NBA, like Josh Hart, who's 6'4" but averages almost 10 rebounds a game. Hart plays every game like it's his last; he makes sure to leave everything on the floor. The Humboldt hawks have their own guys who show incredible rebounding and hustle.: Danny and Luke Hobday. Danny averages 4.3

rebounds per game; Danny is only 5'10, but has the best hustle on the team. He has 36 defensive rebounds and 46 offensive rebounds. Offensive rebounds are harder to get than defensive, because usually defensive players are closer to the rim and get better angles.

"Defensive rebounding is more of a team effort, you box out and if the ball flies into your hand you're lucky. That's why I don't get as many rebounds on the defensive end, on offense you go straight to the ball," said sophomore Luke Hobday. Luke is averaging 8.2 rebounds per game, which is 71st in Minnesota. For total rebounds, he has 188, which shoots him to top 30 in the state for total rebounds. He splits those boards into a crazy 86 offensive and 102 defensive. His 86 offensive rebounds is 12th in the state.

"Luke & Danny are two of our better rebounders because they want to be. They both have such great mindsets about going to the glass every single possession. I could not be happier to have the Hobday brothers in the program, they are a coach's dream," said head coach Sam Esboldt.

One key to rebounding is boxing out. Boxing out is when you use your body to seal off someone from getting

Rebound, 9

Brian returns to his alma mater

Special-Ed teacher may not be as new to the school as he seems

Claire Ales
Staff Writer

Have you ever acted in a play alongside your highschool English teacher? Well Special Education teacher Brian has! The play was called As You Like It, which was written by William Shakespeare. "We had some good one-liners there, where the teacher played the buffoon and I played the smart aleck who was teasing him. It was a lot of fun," said Brian.

He even dressed up as this teacher for "twin day"

on which they both wore matching shirts. Oh, and by the way, the teacher in question is English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt, because Brian went to OWL!

"I've known some of these teachers for 30 years so it's kinda fun to work with them," said Brian.

Brian did his undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota Duluth in cultural anthropology and photography. He started out wanting to be an English

teacher, but discovered his English classes weren't very interesting. "In college my English classes were incredibly dull, and I was just so frustrated because I wanted to be where the action was. I want to be where people are doing work and improving lives," said Brian.

Brian had the opportunity to study abroad and travel to New Zealand, where he lived for a year. He also spent a "J term" living in an indigenous community in Ecuador. After

receiving his undergraduate degree, Brian attended Brooklyn College in Brooklyn, New York for his masters in science and education.

Before coming to teach at OWL, Brian had a lot of previous teaching jobs over the last 19 years. "It's kind of a long list. Actually, it's a really long list, so I'll give you the shorter version," he said. He taught at two public schools in New York, three St. Paul public schools as a special education teacher, was an instructional coach for 25 St. Paul schools, and taught at a private international school in Morocco.

Outside of school Brian enjoys spending lots of time with his family and being outdoors. "We go camping, cross country skiing, lots of canoeing in the summer, and lots of travel. I just really enjoy family time," said Brian.

At OWL, Brian currently teaches reading strategies, skills for high school readiness, skills for college and career



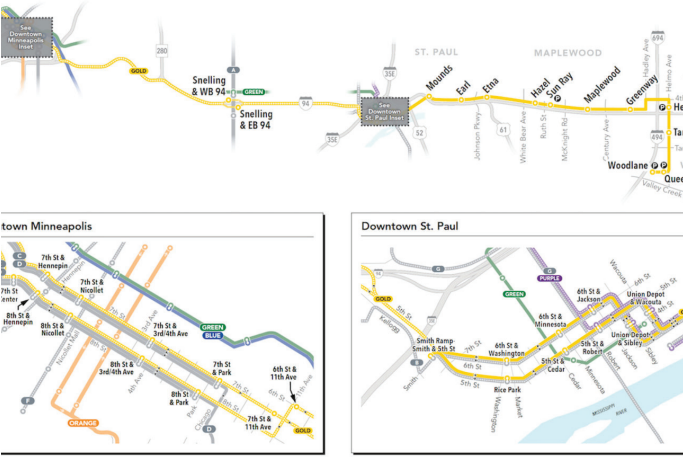
Adult Brian joins the staff

Brian, 8



Purple Press Staff Photo

High schooler Brian performs in a play with Leo Bickelhaupt



New METRO Gold bus line

The Bus Rapid Transit System will be a first for Minnesota

Tait Vossen-Nelson
Staff Writer

The new METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit System service will begin on March 22nd, 2025. Metro Transit believes that the Gold Line will be a big step forward in enhancing intercity connectivity throughout the Metro.

The Gold Line is a 16-station route which generally runs just north of I-94. The Gold Line will run all day, daily for 10 miles, connecting Downtown Saint Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale and Woodbury. It will run frequently during midday, evenings and Saturday; however, service will be less frequent in the early morning, late at night and on Sundays. The service will be adjusted based on demand after operation begins.

Around 70% of the Gold Line route will operate in bus-only lanes; it is Minnesota's first Bus Rapid Transit(BRT) system to operate mostly in bus-only lanes.

A BRT is a bus-based transportation network focused on fast and efficient transportation. BRTs usually have features which enhance the speed and efficiency of the apparatus. The speed and efficiency of the Gold Line BRT is amplified by features which include: pre-boarding fare payment, NexTrip real-time departure and arrival times, fewer stops than local bus systems, raised platforms for easier boarding and exiting sequences and buses can request early or extended green lights using a software called Transit Signal Priority.

The Gold Line amenities and safety features include the option to pay using cash or credit, heated shelters, parking in four of the stations, bike racks, benches, energy-efficient LED station lighting, trash and recycling bins, security cameras and emergency telephones. The buses will be unique and feature wider aisles to accommodate wheelchairs and strollers.

The fares are the same as the METRO Light Rail, two dollars for adults; seniors, youth, Medicare card holders and disabled people are eligible for reduced fares during off-peak hours.

According to Metro Transit, roughly 14% of all households within half a mile of the Gold Line stations don't have cars and around 93,000 jobs are located within half a mile of the Gold Line stations. The Gold Line aims to strengthen the community's economy through providing transportation services in a job dense area.

"This project is [also] increasing connectivity and access throughout this corridor [with] new, improved and accessible trails, sidewalks and crossings for bicyclists, pedestrians and mobility device users," said Laura Baenen, Senior Communications Specialist and Public Relations for Metro Transit. "During the design and scoping of the project, we added upwards of \$20 million of above and beyond connections to stations for these accessible trail [and] pedestrian connections."

The project cost \$505.3 million which is less than a third of what light rail systems cost to build, per mile. The project was funded by the Federal Transit Administration, which funded 45%; Ramsey County, which funded 26%; Washington County, which funded 26%; Counties Transit Improvement Board, which funded 1.5%; Federal Highway Administration, which funded 1%; and the State of Minnesota, which funded 0.5%. Construction began in 2022.

"Built mostly adjacent and north of I-94, the project did not need to acquire any single-family homes for construction," said Baenen. "We worked closely with residents and small businesses to maintain access to their homes and businesses throughout construction. This included creating specific access and detour maps for businesses, community organizations and multi-family complexes for their patrons, residents and communities."

Before the project was transferred from the counties to Metro Transit for design and construction they formed two community committees to counsel the Gold Line. Once Metro Transit took over the project it formed another

Gold line, 4

What is it and how can it be used?

DAC auto systems have changed audio use throughout the years

Diego Rodriguez
Staff Writer

What exactly is a DAC? DAC is a short name for a digital to analog converter. A DAC is a device that changes digital audio signals into analog signals. Most devices nowadays have a built in DAC, whether that is your phone, gaming console, or laptop.

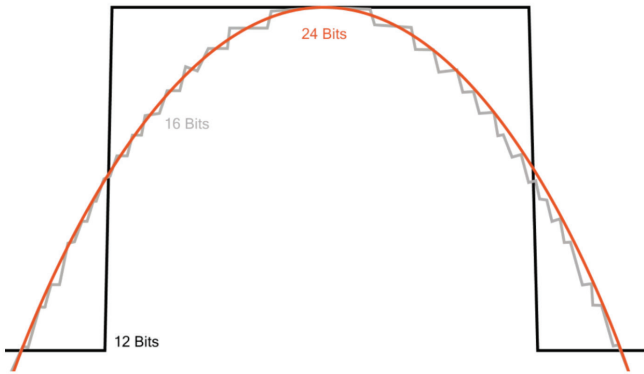
The issue with built in DACS is the fact that they can vary in quality that tend to only offer basic and not the best audio conversion; which can unfortunately lead to muffled or even a compressed like sound. External DACS on the other hand are made with higher quality internals and instead of making audio sound worse they can improve and preserve quality all while adding clarity, reducing distortion and minimizing data/signal loss.

DACS have been around

for a while, several decades at least at this point (invented in the 1980's). They originally played crucial roles in telecommunication and even radio broadcasting. Telecommunication relied on DACS for converting digital signals into analog signals for clearer phone calls and radio transmissions and ironically enough radio stations relied

on DACS to stream higher fidelity sounds to the people who were listening.

How do DACS exactly work ? A DAC is an operating system that takes audio data signals that originally are in a binary code (a bunch of ones and zeros) and convert them into analog waveforms and instead of those ones and zeros being played through your



The analog curve, which was once digital.

DAC, 4

ICE threatens sanctuary cities

Trump administration's new policies may affect the Twin Cities

David Griffith
Staff Writer

On February 5th the first planes of migrants landed at Guantanamo Bay. While we don't know the exact number of migrants on the planes, they were pictured in chains being led to the detainment facilities. This move by the Trump Administration plans to house 30,000 migrants at the site famous for its non-adherence to U.S law regarding detainees.

All across the country, scenes of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents raiding homes, businesses, and government buildings to forcefully arrest undocumented migrants have increased since President Donald Trump's reelection. While these raids are publicized by the Trump administration as arresting violent offenders, NBC news found that of the nearly 1200 Undocumented Migrants

arrested on January 27th, only 613 were considered "criminal arrests" by ICE. The other 48% only committed the crime of entering the United States.

The majority of these are considered "collateral arrests," meaning in the process of a targeted raid on an undocumented migrant with a criminal record or charges. If someone else within the vicinity is found to also be undocumented, then that person is also arrested, and deported. While these raids have been touted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as preventative measures , there is no evidence that undocumented migrants commit crimes at a higher rate than U.S-born citizens.

The Trump administration has furthered concerns over treatment of undocumented immigrants by removing government policies barring ICE agents from entering

schools, places of worship, and hospitals, among other sensitive locations. While no raids on public schools have occurred, Trump's new "Border Tzar", Tom Holman, has made it clear that anyone without proper documentation, is "on the table."

This threatens the over 11 million undocumented migrants, including roughly 850,000 children, that reside within the United States. DHS Secretary Kristi Noam also canceled an extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 600,000 Venezuelan migrants residing in The United States; many of them within the Twin Cities. This means after the April deadline, any Venezuelan with TPS could face deportation

These changes have worried many within the larger Twin Cities. Both St. Paul and Minneapolis are considered sanctuary cities, meaning that

local law enforcement may not cooperate with ICE officials. This makes it more difficult for ICE to operate in these locations, but not impossible. As of now there have been no mass raids beyond what's typical within the Twin Cities, but many are on edge, as other cities such as Chicago and New York have faced mass raids.

There is no SPPS policy directly relating to ICE agents or other federal agents arresting, detaining, or accessing the immigration status of students. Principal Dave Gundale said "if ICE came to an SPPS school, they would need to wait outside and the administrator would contact the school district Superintendent Office and General Council to determine next steps." There is also an SPPS policy that states "only representatives of the St. Paul

Sanctuary cities, 4

Passports change gender options

The Trump Administration has limited choices on US passports

Alva Healy
Staff Writer

What does this actually mean for our future?

This is a question many people probably have when they look at the executive decisions and presidential actions on the White House website. Within a week of his inauguration, President Donald Trump has made a plethora of decisions within the White House, leaving most Americans in the dust and trying to understand what this means for them. One that seemed to slip under people's radar is the new federal policy on gender, and, more specifically, how there are only two of them.

The basics of this official federal policy is that there are only two genders and two sexes: male and female. They are unchangeable, and "are grounded in fundamental and incontrovertible reality,"

as stated on whitehouse.gov. This policy specifically targets anyone who is non-binary, transgender, multi-gender, genderfluid, gender-neutral, or intersex.

Already, we are beginning to see changes in federal policies. A new passport and ID restriction was put in place, which does not allow for changes to gender on an identification. For the past few years, people have had three different options for what they could put as their sex on an ID: female, male, or X. "X" encompasses anyone who is outside of the female or male gender identity. For example, someone who is non-binary or intersex. You also had the option to change your sex from female to male or male to female.

But as of recently, with Trump's new executive order, those changes and accommodations will no

longer be provided. After Trump's inauguration, all passport applications with any change to the sex, or requesting an "X," are denied and being held by the Department of State. If you are applying for a passport, a few weeks ago, you would have seen three options for gender on the passport. Now, you only have two. This is only the beginning of the targeting that trans and genderqueer people will face during the Trump presidency.

It is likely we will see a stark decline in gender-affirming care, to the point where all treatment may stop all together. Trump's administration has made it clear that they are focused mainly on children, and their protection from "radical gender ideology." This means that it is likely that the first form of gender affirming care they will target is pediatric. We are also likely to see the education around

gender orientation being purged from healthcare and schools. The CDC has recently taken down information about sexual orientation and gender care, in the wake of Trump's inauguration. The discrimination of trans and genderqueer people will also become significantly worse. It is already up in the air whether or not trans people will be allowed to serve in the U.S. army, and it is very likely any education about gender orientation will be muted in the coming months and years.

From here, it is tough to say how severe the mistreatment of those who do not fit the federal gender ideas will be. We can say some things for sure, such as how gender-affirming healthcare will be almost completely disabled, but how far things may escalate is still very much up in the air.

Senior Spotlight

Elzo Van Genderen



What pronouns do you use?
He/Him

How long have you been at OWL?
Since sixth grade.

What are your plans for next year?
Attend college to pursue data science or political science.

What’s been your favorite class in high school?
My history classes.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Frisbee and film club.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
Du Nord, because the sauna.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Lets Go Crazy by Prince

That One Little Kid

Rosie Van Genderen



How tall are you?
5 foot something

What pronouns do you use?
She/Her

What’s your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
I like Harry Potter and the Sorcerers Stone.

Who’s your favorite senior?
Elzo.

What is your favorite thing about OWL so far?
The people.

What extra curriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
Theatre.

Mock trial team makes Regionals

The team had an amazing season, and is set on State next year

Connie Van Genderen
Staff Writer

Objection! Wrong. Mock Trial is not for the weak. 10, 12, even 13 hour days? But hey, at least there’s pizza. It’s worth it, trust me.

Mock Trial is an activity based around a fictional case and executed by students in a simulated trial. While OWLs Mock Trial team has been around for only six years, they are very successful. This year, OWL Mock Trial went 3-1 and moved on to regionals for the first time. Ever.

Regionals rolled around on February 13, 2025, with the team having their first ever trial in the Hennepin county courtroom. If you’ve never seen it, it’s breathtaking, the ceiling almost seems to blur because it’s so high, with leaves hanging off the walls and a huge bubbling fountain with decorative cannons. There was even an interesting appearance from the Farmington coach as the presiding judge. If you’ve ever asked a mocker about the Farmington team, you’d know that they definitely have a reputation amongst other teams for their competitive energy.

The team went against Parnassus’s High School’s best team, third in the county, and they saw some familiar faces, as the prosecution team had beat the second best Parnassus

team just three weeks ago. “I think that what I enjoyed [most] about this trial was that it felt like our teams were very evenly matched, despite the fact that the other team won. I didn’t feel out of place...and I think we could have won in another universe,” said 10th grader Alva Healy. The trial with Parnassus was a close match and both sides competed very well, with scores reflecting as OWLs best trial yet. However, OWL will not be moving onto the state competition. “I thought it was very smooth. I came in a little skeptical, because this team is ranked like number three, and

we’re a relatively new team, but I was really impressed with how the defence did. I mean they held their ground, and had great performances,” said 10th grader Aria Kulseth.

The team ended up being placed very high out of the 38 teams in the hardest county in the state. “I think the fact that we are placed 11th or 9th in the county, considering the fact that we are such a new team, is amazing,” said coach Ruta Johnson.

Currently, 15 students are on the team, with their four coaches, who are mostly volunteers. Akira Malley is the only coach working at OWL,



Purple Press Staff Photo

Mock Trial team at Hennepin County Courthouse

while their three other coaches are parents of students that specialize in law: Ruta Johnsen, Radd Kulseth and their newest coach, JaPaul Harris. While the team has only been around for six years, the team has climbed in the ranks very quickly for a team that only practices two times a week, and has a fairly average season length for such a successful team. “This made me really happy to see how far our team has come in the past year,” said Aria.

The team kicked off their season when the prosecution team beat Chisago Lake area schools by eight points in their first in-person match on January 7th. The team competed in the Ramsey County courthouse.

One week later, the defence team went up against Cretin-Derham Hall blue, the second of their two teams, and won by 16 points. That’s right, the public beat the private high school!!! Coach Mario would be proud.

At this point, the teams trials are split up so that two are in-person at the Ramsey county courthouse, and the other two are online. This makes it easier and more affordable for rural teams to compete that have to travel far to get to the courts. The prosecution had their second trial (their first ranked matchup) against Parnassus’

Mock trial, 9

DAC, 3

natural. By combining these systems you can achieve a true analog signal

DACS are now found in almost every device that produces sounds, such as phones, laptops and streaming devices in general. These systems all utilize DACS to process digital audio and the signals they produce. As mentioned before, internal DACS aren’t always the best and tend to lack in quality, due to this external DACS are superior. External DACS come in many different forms, which can vary in connections and sizes. Some DACS are the size of your arm or portable and as small as an ipod. But the biggest (and my personal favorite) reason for DACS is that they have the ability to process and produce sound when it gets to the higher bit and sample rates/depths. When you try to change your settings on a streaming service to “Hi Res Lossless” you usually get a pop up asking/ suggesting “external hardware” to be able to fully experience the higher resolution. With said external hardware you would be able to process and experience 24-bit/96kHz or even 32-bit/192kHz, on my last story this part was not very

Gold line, 3

committee and held in-person and virtual open houses and events at community festivals to hear public input, said Baenen. “Community engagement continued throughout construction of the project, especially with door-knocking, canvassing and neighborhood meetings to meet people where they are, in-person.”

After hearing complaints about the Route 94 express bus service in late 2024 the Metropolitan Council decided to replace the express bus service from Downtown St. Paul to Downtown Minneapolis with Gold Line service by expanding the Gold Line to include Minneapolis in 2027.

The extension will cost \$15-20 million which will be

Sanctuary cities, 3

Police Department may be granted permission to see and interview students in school,” which could be interpreted as barring federal law enforcement from entering schools.

The future of immigration policy and its effects on the Twin Cities is mostly unknown. The Trump Administration

emphasised but streaming music on airpods or bluetooth in general will not be able to handle and reproduce that music to it’s full potential due to missing that external hardware. Using a DAC can allow for higher resolution and a more detailed experience, and you can use them in a variety of aspects, such as speakers, home and car setups or wired headphones.

This is all in the name and faith of achieving higher sound quality, but is it worth it? It does always depend on who you ask, people have different priorities and to some people their music listening experience is fine as it is. The point of having and utilizing DACS is to get more than fine or then what is coming out of your phone laptop etc. If you are then it’s probably not worth it, could even be a waste of time or “too much work”. To those who pay more attention to their music and are interested in higher resolution music then I would say it’s worth it. Hearing different aspects and unheard elements of a song can make it a more fun and immersive experience. It can make you appreciate the songs a lot more due to realizing how truly complex they are.

covered by the Metropolitan Council’s existing capital budget. It will use the current BRT and express bus stops along the extension corridor along with some new stations. Express bus stops will be upgraded for Gold Line buses.

The Green Line also connects St. Paul and Minneapolis. The trip takes an average of 40-50 minutes on weekdays. The Gold Line extension is expected to make the trip in 15 minutes.

The full Gold Line route will bring people all the way from Woodbury to the Minneapolis Farmers Market.

“Extending the Gold Line will create a true crosstown route that allows people to travel efficiently between the east metro and some of our region’s top destinations,” said Lesley Kandaras, Metro Transit General Manager.

has promised to deport millions of immigrants over the next four years. There are many complications with these actions, as it would be the largest deportation operation in American history. So far the Trump Administration has shown no signs of reigning back their promises as the status of millions of Americans lies in the balance.

Upcoming Events

- March 7th: No school
- March 11th: ACT
- March 15th: Regional History Day
- March 18th: OWL community group meeting
- March 19th: Red cross blood drive
- March 21st: STEM day
- March 28th: End of quarter 3



Reviews ‘n’ stuff



Read Brave book review

Akata Witch deals with serious topics, while having a fun tone

Joseph T. Schwartz
Staff Writer

I did not intend on reading Akata Witch the first time I was introduced to it. It was handed out in class as it's this year's Read Brave novel, and it sat pretty much untouched on my bedroom floor for a week. And now, after reading it, I will say that it was absolutely worth it. The novel brings out my nostalgia for secret-world fantasy novels that I read in my childhood like the Harry Potter or Percy Jackson books, while bringing forth real world issues in a way which both younger audiences would be able to understand and older audiences can appreciate.

Akata Witch, written by award winning author Nnedi Okorafor and published in 2011, is the first novel in the Nsibidi Scripts book series. The novel takes place in Nigeria and it follows the path of the main character, Sunny Nwazue. Sunny is a 12 year old born in the U.S. to Nigerian parents, before moving to Nigeria when she was nine. As if Sunny didn't feel isolated enough from her split heritage, neither fully Nigerian nor fully American, she was born albino. Sunny's 'friends,' often make fun of her behind her back, calling her akata, a derogatory slur in Nigeria for Black Americans, as well as ghost girl.

After getting into a confrontation with her former friends, Orlu, a boy in her class, walks her home, and together they realize how much they have in common. Orlu introduces her to Chichi; a sharp-tongued girl who isn't afraid to speak her mind. For the first time in a long time, Sunny has friends; she feels normal. One day, Orlu has somewhere to be after school and can't walk home with Sunny. Now alone, Chichi approaches her and tells her that Sunny should know the

full story.

After a cryptic conversation with Chichi, where she talks about Orlu's ability to "undo" things, Sunny is left grasping for answers neither of her friends are willing to give her. That is, until Orlu draws a symbol of chalk on the cover of a book and pulls out a knife the size of his hand and forces her to swear secrecy to everything he will tell her. There, Orlu pulls her into an entire new world, one of juju and magical Leopard societies. Together with her friends, she needs to learn to navigate a whole new world where everything she once knew now holds no ground. And once she is just barely able to begin understanding this world, Sunny and her group of friends are called upon by a council of scholars to help take down a magical serial killer.

Despite my hesitancy to pick up the novel, the book is certainly worth the read. Okorafor excels in keeping her writing engaging. Every moment of the novel is relevant, and she never dwells on anything for very long (unlike some famous fantasy writers). No disrespect towards the classics, but it is certainly welcome when a writer moves the plot along succinctly. Perhaps I've been reading too much classic literature, but a straight-to-the-point novel like Akata Witch is a welcome breath of fresh air. This does result in less direct imagery, as Okorafor doesn't go into excruciating detail of the setting, so for those who enjoy more descriptive novels, this may be a turn-away from the book.

I will say, the novel is what you would expect of a book targeted towards middle schoolers. The plot is not as narratively complex as something like Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time series nor is it as

Akata Witch, 8

Why am I not good enough?

Self-love movement can have opposite effect and lead to struggle

Zania Hierlmaier
Staff Writer

Have you ever whispered the words "I hate you" to a mirror? Has the thought "I want to break you, and smash you, and live a day without you!" replayed in your head countless times, but you've never actually gone through with it? Instead, you always let the mirror win, your breath fogging its surface while you ask yourself for the hundredth time why am I not good enough?

In the last few decades, the term self love has emerged as social media tags and sections of self help books. Everywhere you look, there's a slogan telling the importance of loving yourself, and influencers on your screen making it look so easy and effortless.

However, for many, self love is something they will never have, either from themselves or society. This has been the case throughout history, and is the reason the self love concept we know exists here in America. In the 1970s, groups like the Black Panthers encouraged self love and self care in terms of advocating for healthcare, one of the many systems against Black people in America. Black feminists and other equal rights activists saw self love as essential to take care of their bodies and change their mindsets, which often involved negative self talk and image, as white, cis, able bodied Americans were often seen by society as superior.

This created the self love movement in America, which has recently shifted towards an industry, with social media

providing chances for many influencers and businesses to profit off of people's insecurities. When you watch a video of someone who looks perfect under today's beauty standards promoting self love, the video will do the opposite of its purpose, instead making you more insecure. Young people who see these videos will believe that you have to look perfect to achieve self love, finding the need to fix themselves, either through makeup and trends, excessive fitness and undereating, or even surgery. Studies have found that 40% of teens struggle with body image due to social media.

The words why am I not good enough echo across the world in great cacophonies, but none of us hear each other's broken words. We

isolate ourselves in tiny boxes, fixating on small problems no one else sees. However, when we do let our feelings slip, hearing other people's struggles helps our self worth, creating an environment against one another, instead of



Good enough, 8

Pros and cons of the school iPad

Despite their problems, SPSS-issued devices serve their purpose

James Hietala
Staff Writer

Each Saint Paul Public Schools student is issued an iPad for school work. I became interested in whether these were the best devices for this purpose and decided to look at the pros and cons of these iPads, and compare them against some other devices.

One of the most important traits of a school issued device is its durability. They need to be able to withstand careless and clumsy treatment, while still being usable. The school issued iPads accomplish this by using a case, which while not necessarily a core part of the iPad, is not available on alternative solutions like laptops. The cases allow iPads to withstand significant amounts of abuse, while

remaining intact.

These cases also give the iPads a stand and keyboard giving them a more laptop-like form. Even the keyboards are more durable than a more traditional one, which while not feeling as nice to type on, allows for it to withstand spills and grime that ends up on it, and better protects the keys from removal. However because the keyboard is designed as a single piece, any damage to the keyboard will affect most keys.

But even if the iPads do break, they are available in mass quantities for cheap, meaning it's not a big deal to have them replaced by the school. I have estimated that they cost somewhere around \$450 each.

Another aspect of the iPads is their size, with a total screen size of 10.2 inches diagonally, which can be both a positive and a negative. Its smaller size makes it more portable which is essential for a school device which needs to fit inside backpacks and be easily carried around, but at the same time the smaller screen gives less room for the actual display.

Despite having keyboards, the school issued iPads are not a full replacement for a laptop. Notably they do not have a mouse (or something similar like a touchpad), in favor of a touchscreen. This could be an advantage for some people who prefer touchscreens, but is objectively worse for more advanced apps and is less efficient. The ideal

solution would be laptops with touchscreens, which are relatively common and available even on low end devices.

It also encourages the use of the mobile app versions of programs like Google Sheets which are vastly inferior to their web-based counterparts. Even for less complex programs than Google Sheets, like Google Docs, and Schoology, their web versions are more advanced and have more features. Sometimes, like in the case of Google Sheets and Schoology, you can still access the web version through the browser, but it may not function as intended and is jankier, especially if the site expects you to have a mouse.

iPads, 9

My Y/A book recommendations

From sci-fi to fantasy, Anson shares some of his favorite reads

Anson Lind
Staff Writer

Every school year only allows for eight issues of the purple press to go out, which in turn means only eight chances for me to review my favorite books, which of course isn't nearly enough time for all the books I'd like to talk about. As a result, rather than writing one review per issue, I've decided to quickly run through many of my biggest YA book recommendations from the fantasy and sci-fi genres. I've divided them up by subgenre to help narrow down my choices, as again, there are so many amazing books in the world that it's hard to pick just a few.

I'll begin with what is perhaps my favorite sci-fi subgenre. Space opera is the name given to the subgenre that, appropriately enough, takes place in space, usually aboard spaceships. My

personal favorite for this category is a book called Illuminae, by Amy Kaufman and Jay Kristoff.

Illuminae follows two teenage lovers - Kady Grant and Ezra Mason - who live on an illegal mining colony established by WUC, a large corporation. WUC's main rival, BeiTech, finds out about their illegal mine, and responds by attempting to wipe out the entire colony. A small fleet of survivors narrowly escape the initial assault, but out in space, their problems just don't seem to end - not only is a BeiTech warship pursuing them, but the fleet's AI seems to have gone insane, and a dangerous virus is breaking out on one of the ships. As everything comes to a head, Kady and Ezra may be forced to take the lead when the ships' captains could not.

On its own, Illuminae is a pretty solid book, but the presentation is what really

makes it stand out. Rather than a traditional book, the story is presented through a collection of documents - interview transcripts, surveillance footage summaries, chat logs, and many artistic pages in which words flow into images. All of this combines into a book whose reading experience is like no other I've ever experienced.

I do need to put in a bit of a content warning here - as with many space operas dealing with fighting spaceships and explosions, there is a lot of death in this book, and the unique format of the story really forces you to feel each and every one, much more so than any other book, so note that if you're not comfortable with that, this book may not be for you.

This next pick could also count as a space opera (I may have cheated a bit), but I feel it's different enough that it can

count for its own category. My pick for a more episodic, slice-of-life sci-fi story is The Long Way To A Small Angry Planet by Becky Chambers. This story follows the crew of the Wayfarer along their journey to reach the titular planet, and each chapter generally houses its own, independent subplot focusing on one of the characters, more similar to TV shows like Star Trek than to movies with overarching plotlines like Star Wars.

The crew of the Wayfarer feel like real, compelling characters, and by the time the book ends, you've likely become attached to most of them and their individual plotlines and struggles. While I'm not the biggest fan of a few plotlines, this is still a book well worth reading for any fans of sci-fi.

Bridging the gap between

Book list, 8

Marvel Rivals offers new features

The new game is fresh and elevates the idea of hero shooters

Olli Liimatta
Staff Writer

Imagine you have the ability to change the game with one click of your mouse or controller, the opponents are about to capture the point and you're about to lose your game. You decide to use your ultimate and get a teamwipe, your team stands on the point and captures it, and from the momentum you created, your team wins the game. Well, you don't have to imagine, because that can happen in the new hero shooter, Marvel Rivals.

Marvel Rivals was released by NetEase games on December 6th, 2024. The game is free to play with cosmetic skins available to purchase with in-game currency. The game dropped for Xbox Series X/S, PlayStation 5 and on PC, and was a collaboration with Marvel Games Studios, meaning all of the heroes

come directly from the Marvel Cinematic Universe or Marvel Comics.

The object of Marvel Rivals is to complete many in-game objectives and of course, kill the other team. The in-game objectives are: convoy, domination, and convergence. All three of them are included in quick match or ranked. In convoy, you try to push a moving point through checkpoints to reach the end in time.

If your team pushes the point to the end, you win, but if the other team stops you and the timer stops, you lose. In domination, you try to capture a point and need to capture the point twice to win. Convergence is a mixture of the two, where you have to capture the mission area in order to unlock a moving point. The graphics are pretty good and the audio quality is

decent, making the game very much like Overwatch.

When Marvel Rivals was released, the average player count of Overwatch on PC went from around 50,000 average players before Marvel Rivals, to 25,000 after the game was released. The gameplay itself feels better than Overwatch, and got rid of some annoying things like role queue.

There were also lots of new mechanics introduced, including the never seen before destroyable environments which created a lot of chaos and new ways to play the game. Another example of new mechanics introduced are character specific mechanics. Some examples of heroes that have these mechanics are Thor and Mantis. Thor has a bar of three hammers on your screen, which you can use to throw lightning for a

short period of time, throw Mjolnir, or fling yourself forward with your hammer. You consume the hammers by using these abilities, and they slowly regenerate over time. Another hero that is similar to Thor with the consumables that regenerate is Mantis. However, she can reload faster because if you hit a critical hit (headshot), you instantly get another consumable, with a maximum of five.

Marvel Rivals is great because it brings the idea of a hero shooter game to whole new levels with fresh new characters and abilities. The game just had its first major update a couple weeks ago, bringing Mr. Fantastic, Invisible Woman, and a couple new maps to the game. The game currently has a variety of characters (35 in total),

Marvel Rivals, 9

Doctor Who has sci-fi fun for all

New seasons on Disney Plus offer an opportunity for new fans

Jaye Schlinder
Staff Writer

On December 9th, 2023 Ncuti Gatwa (n-shoo-tee gaht-wah) made his debut in Doctor Who as the 15th Doctor, following a bi-regeneration (when the Doctor regenerates into two separate Doctors) with David Tennant's fourteenth Doctor.

The 15th Doctor is the first black Doctor in the history of Doctor Who. Since his debut, he has starred in eight episodes and two specials. For the first time, these episodes are airing on Disney+, though previous Doctor Who episodes can be found on HBO Max.

Doctor Who is a sci-fi television series on BBC. It began in 1963 but ended in 1989, before a movie in 1996, and the series' eventual revival in 2005. It went on a short hiatus in 2022, before returning in 2023 for Ncuti Gatwa's Doctor. The show

follows "The Doctor," an alien from the planet Gallifrey. The Doctor travels around space and time in the TARDIS (Time And Relative Dimension In Space), which is a spaceship disguised as a telephone box. The Doctor always travels with a companion, a human friend of his. The Doctor can also "regenerate" instead of dying, changing their face, and therefore the actor.

Gatwa was announced as the Doctor on May 8th, 2022.



Doctor. Who, 7

What happened to Overwatch?

How the game went from millions of players to just under 17,000

Erik Imholte
Staff Writer

You probably haven't heard the name Overwatch in a long time— and if you have, you probably haven't heard it in good contexts. Nowadays, the game is known for its blatant anti-player structuring, poor balancing, poor game design decisions, and excessive monetization. These factors have effectively killed the game, reaching its lowest ever player count in December 2024 with just a little under 17,000 players active. How did this game, once championed as the pinnacle of eSports and pulling in millions of active players, fall this far from grace?

Overwatch was initially announced by Blizzard, the studio behind MMO sensations StarCraft, World of Warcraft, and Hearthstone, at their convention, BlizzCon, in November of 2014. Minutes

after it was announced, attendees of the event were granted access to a demo of the game, with 14 unique characters available in a 6v6 showdown, drawing inspiration from other hero shooters such as Team Fortress 2. Audiences raved about the smooth, quick gameplay and hero design, kickstarting Overwatch's extensive marketing campaign, which lasted for about a year. In the days leading up to the game's highly anticipated release, Blizzard announced a 4-day beta testing period, which allowed players to test out the game for free (as long as the player was registered with Battle.net, Blizzard's game client). This beta pulled in almost 9.7 million players, which defied the expectations of both critics and Blizzard themselves. Overwatch finally released in May 2016, selling more than 7 million copies in

its first week.

Upon release, Overwatch players racked up over 110 million hours of gameplay in its first week from all 7 million players. It wasn't long before small-scale eSports events cropped up, where skilled players would face each other for a small cash prize. As Overwatch's eSports scene gained traction, Blizzard saw a means to organize an official league, called Overwatch League. Similarly to football, basketball, or baseball, teams were established in cities in countries such as South Korea, the U.S., Canada, and China, and backed by sponsors. Players would be signed from all across the world and pitted against each other in regular season and playoff games, eventually culminating in a championship at the end of the season. This setup was revolutionary in the eSports scene, because it was treated

more like an organized sport than the typical eSports format of semi-organized leagues of small, non-sponsored teams.

Overwatch League was a success, attracting almost half a million viewers in its first game, and making almost four times the revenue critics and experts expected. The league continued to thrive throughout the following years, signing deals with Disney, T-mobile, Spotify, Coca-Cola, and more. Also a success was the Overwatch World Cup, which worked similarly to soccer's World Cup; players of the same nationality would annually come together to compete for their National Team against other national teams. The 2017 OWC final in Anaheim had over 300,000 viewers, with South Korea emerging as the champion.

Overwatch continued to

Overwatch, 8



Jae Lind

Music's biggest night

The 2025 Grammy's featured performances by beloved artists

Amelia Keenan
Staff Writer

The Grammys, known as the 'biggest night in music', has passed. Awards have been handed out, speeches have been made, and records have been broken. For those of you who don't know, the Grammys is an award show where the 13,000 members of the Recording Academy vote on which musical artist wins in each category. These categories include Song of the Year, Best New Artist, Album of the Year, and many more. This is the 2024 Grammys recap.

This year marked the 67th annual Grammys, with many amazing artists being nominated, new and old. There are 94 total categories at the Grammys, but there are 4 main categories. These are Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist. Other big categories include Best Rap Album, Best Country Album, and Best Pop Vocal Album. I will go through each of these categories and talk about the nominees and the winners, and what people thought about the results.

Beginning with the Best Rap Album, the winner was DoeChii for her album 'Alligator Bites Never Heal'. This made her the 3rd woman in the history of the Grammys to ever win this award. Some of the tracks on this album include 'DENIAL IS A RIVER' and 'NISSAN ALTIMA'.

The next category is Best Pop Vocal Album. Some of the nominees included 'HIT ME HARD AND SOFT' by Billie Eilish, 'Rise And Fall Of A Midwest Princess' by Chappell Roan, and more. The winner in this category was 'Short n Sweet' by Sabrina Carpenter, making this her first Grammy ever.

Best Country Album went to Beyoncé, for her album 'Cowboy Carter'. She became the first ever black woman to win in this category. During her acceptance speech, she said "I think sometimes 'genre' is a code word to keep us in our place as artists, and I just want to encourage people to do what they're passionate about," responding to those

saying she shouldn't make a country album.

Now what everyone's been waiting for, let's talk about the major categories. Starting off with Record of the Year. There were a lot of amazing nominees in this category, like 'Birds Of A Feather' by Billie Eilish, which was the most streamed song of 2024, and '360' by Charli XCX, which was part of the infamous album 'Brat'. But, the winner in this category went to none other than Kendrick Lamar for his diss track against Drake, 'Not Like Us'. This was his first win in the 'big 4' categories. During his speech, he dedicated his win to the L.A wildfires.

2024 was the year of new music. For me, Best New Artist was one of the categories I was most interested in. Sabrina Carpenter, DoeChii, and Benson Boone were just some of the nominees in this category. But in the end, the Grammy went to the well deserved Chappell Roan after she released her first studio album "The Rise And Fall Of A Midwest Princess" this past year. She then called out the music label industry and their lack of support to new artists during her speech. "I told myself if I ever won a Grammy and I got to stand up here in front of the most powerful people in music, I would demand that labels and the industry profiting millions of dollars off of artists would offer a livable wage and health care, especially to developing artists."

Song of the Year was another category that interested me after all of the music that was released in 2024. So many songs like 'Birds Of A Feather' and 'Good Luck Babe' had a huge impact on the music community and were heard by millions of people. But was any song quite as impactful as 'Not Like Us' by Kendrick Lamar, the winner of this category? This was Lamar's second major category win for the same song, and really showed how much he changed the music industry, with 'Not Like Us' being the most streamed diss track in history.

Grammy's, 7



Video game confusion

Is the Switch 2 different enough from the original console?

Staff Writer

As of January 16, 2025, the Nintendo Switch 2 has been officially announced by Nintendo, along with a teaser for a new Mario Kart game, where it was shown on screen in the trailer. The announcement revealed other important details like backwards compatibility so you can play a lot of your old switch games on your new console. They also announced an overview trailer on April 2, 2025 discussing further details and events around the world showcasing the console.

After the reveal, many gaming journalists were very confused and worried about Nintendo's future, because they felt that the new console didn't do enough to separate itself from the original console. They had many complaints such as it looking too similar to the original, the name may cause people to not buy it because they think they already have a Nintendo Switch and don't need a new one, and the magnetic holder for the controllers looking breakable and flimsy.

Although the price has not been confirmed you can expect it to be in between \$400-450 based on the previous Switch's price, which was \$300 at launch. This has upset people because journalists think that the average person won't want to buy this new console if they already have a Switch, especially if it's way more expensive and doesn't look that different. They don't know the technical upgrades that are happening on this new console and are worried because of what happened with the previous console, the Wii U.

What happened there was that Nintendo was not able to market the console as something distinct from the original Wii and people didn't buy it. It still goes on as one of the worst selling Nintendo consoles of all time. But the difference between these two scenarios is the Wii U didn't have any game titles that sold on the console, whereas the new Switch 2 has an opportunity to have console selling titles and that could push the sales up.

Besides the new Mario Kart, no other game has been

officially announced by Nintendo. But many games are expected to eventually be released, including new 2D and 3D Mario games, along with other games that have been announced for the current switch, like Metroid Prime 4. Whether these will be available on day one of release is up to speculation.

As of late, a lot of Nintendo games are reportedly being ported to the PS5 by a studio called Panic Button, which has done a lot of porting for old Nintendo Switch games, so it is possible to think that these games could also come to the new system, but this is also pure speculation.

The video game industry is changing. It's been eight years, almost a decade, since the first Switch, and people are ready for a new generation and want new games. But this is not the same planet it was eight years ago, so they need to treat it like that. They need to separate themselves from the first Switch generation, but keep the name and branding, so they have quite a puzzle to solve.

Personally, I do not think this reveal was good enough. I think they should've done a better job, but it did what it needed to do, which is to bring attention to the fact that there will be a new console soon. I am sad that the overview will not be coming for a while and I think that the gap between the initial reveal and hardware overview is a mistake. I do think that this is going to confuse parents; it's a confusing console in itself, but I have faith in it. All Nintendo has ever done is be weird, and they're being really weird right now, so personally, I'm crossing my fingers and hoping for the best.

Knocked Loose is short yet unique

In 10 tracks, album cleverly combines loud vocals and dark tones

Grayden Smith
Staff Writer

This is probably the angriest album I've heard, at least for a while. The hardcore punk/metalcore album, You Won't Go Before You're Supposed To by Knocked Loose, was released on May 10th, 2024. It's loud, angry, somehow groovy, and has many heavy, slow breakdowns. Breakdowns are moments usually in the latter half of a song and it's typically when the song gets super heavy and chunky. There always seems to be a sort of creepy or uneasy feeling in each song.

Bryan Garri's angry and loud vocals, paired alongside the dark tone supplemented by the low tuned guitars of Isaac Hale and Nicko Calderon, makes you feel like you can feel the sound hitting you. Then, the bass performed by Kevin Otten gives the album the eerie feeling present in all

of the songs, and the drum kit of drummer Kevin "Pacsun" Kaine features a loud and ringing snare with fast kicks that makes each song have its own groove and pace. A good example of the grooviness added by Kevin Kaine is in the intro of the song "Piece By Piece."

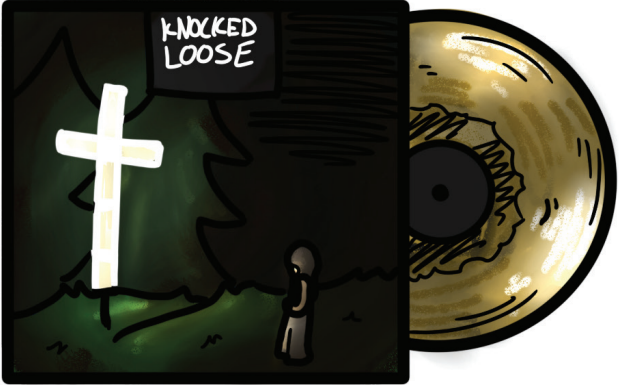
Although the album is only ten tracks long, totaling 27 minutes of playtime, I feel as if that's a good thing. The album

isn't exactly repetitive, but the songs are similar in sounds, meaning that if the album were to be longer, it would be easy to get the feeling that the album is boring and bloated. Songs on this album are often only two to three minutes long, but full of unique sounds coming from the guitar, with many songs including a heavy breakdown.

One of my favorite songs on the album is "Blinding

Faith" and it also happens to be a great example of a good breakdown. It starts off with Bryan screaming the title of the song and it gets into fast playing craziness. This song also features low growl vocals done by Isaac Hale which he does a few times on the album. Eventually, the song has my favorite part of the entire album, when Bryan says the title of the song again, which transitions to one of the best breakdowns on the album.

The most popular song of the album is "Suffocate" featuring Poppy, but it's also controversial. It was performed on Jimmy Kimmel Live!, complete with pyrotechnics and a mosh pit, which outraged many people due to the angry sound of the song and the crazy scream done by Poppy. Bryan also improvised a pig squeal, which people claimed to have scared their kids. Some



Jae Lind

Knocked Loose, 8

Dr. Who, 6
annual Christmas special.

Special One: The Church On Ruby Road

"The Church on Ruby Road" was the first time the 15th Doctor starred in an episode without another Doctor present. Its main purpose was to introduce Ruby Sunday as a companion, establish an interesting dynamic between her and the Doctor, and hint at an overarching plotline. The special itself has a fairly self-contained plot that still relates to the rest of the season - 8/10.

Episode One: Space Babies - 5/10.

Episode Two: The Devil's Chord - 6/10.

Episode Three: Boom

Written by guest writer and former showrunner Steven Moffat, the episode was a window into a new genre for Doctor Who: suspense. With a very interesting premise and dramatic storytelling that leans into the season's overall arc, 'Boom' brought the season

back from mediocrity - 8/10.

Episode Four: 73 Yards

Most people seem to have a love/hate relationship with '73 Yards.' People who love the episode really like it, and those who don't really don't. The episode is a more contemporary episode, focusing on Ruby Sunday instead of the Doctor. Russel T. Davies, the writer, classifies the episode as 'Folk Horror.' We are split on how to rate this episode, so it'll have two ratings - 7.5/10 and 4/10.

Episode Five: Dot And Bubble - 7/10.

Episode Six: Rogue

'Rogue' was by far our favorite episode of this season, it introduced a very interesting new species of alien called the Chuldur, as well as having a new character called Rogue (played by Jonathan Groff) that the audience could easily connect and fall in love with. It had a well written plot and really fun setting, overall we loved this episode the most out of the season and is one of our

favorite Doctor Who episodes of all time - 9/10.

Episode Seven: The Legend Of Ruby Sunday - 7/10.

Episode Eight: Empire Of Death

In our opinion, the finale of this season was a let down. The rest of the season was really well done but the last two episodes were a very disappointing conclusion. It was filled with plot holes and bad writing, which left the viewer feeling unsatisfied with the ending - 4/10.

Special Two: Joy To The World - 7/10

In conclusion, Ncuti Gatwa and Millie Gibson did a really great job playing the Doctor and Ruby Sunday. Gatwa brings a certain whimsy to the role, similar to David Tennant's Doctor, but also focusing on the darker aspects of the Doctor. He showcases both the light and happy side of the Doctor, as well as the pain and trauma the character has. Gibson's character was more than just a side character;

School HD, 1
understand a topic takes a lot of dedication. "I personally really liked finding quotes in newspapers. That was really fun because I got to see what newspapers looked like and what they talked about [in the past]," said 6th grader Clara Rufi. "Yeah, researching is pretty fun," agreed 7th grader Crosby Andriankos.

After research, it's time to put the project together, which can be more stressful. "Doing the performance all on my own... remembering all the lines and trying not to stumble [is hard]," said Teagan. "[My least favorite part] so far is the editing, but that's only because I don't want to do it. Like we've gotten everything done, and now I just need to edit our documentary," said Maren. "Just like getting it done by the deadline, and like, presenting it [is the hardest part]," agreed Crosby.

But it's a worthwhile process. "It's a good way to connect with history through your interests. Like, honestly, I hated History Day in 6th

grade, but that's because I was researching something that I was not interested in. But now I am, and I'm super happy and excited," said Moss. "If you can find the right topic, it's a way for you to interact with other people and form a community around what you're interested in. Because there's some people out there who are like, my interest doesn't relate to history at all, but it always does, so it's just a good way for you to talk about something you enjoy and get to know more about it," agreed Maren.

The regional level in March (which 40 OWL projects have advanced to) will help propel some students to the state contest in late April, and possibly the national level in D.C in June, which a handful of OWL students have qualified for almost every year. Students who make it to these levels go through many revised versions of their projects, working to refine their presentation, and make sure it accurately and interestingly reflects their chosen topic from history.

Grammy's, 6

After so many amazing winners, let's talk about the biggest category of the night, Album of the Year. For only the 12th time in history, all of the album of the year nominees were women. Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, Beyoncé, Sabrina Carpenter, and Charlie XCX are only some of the nominees in this category. So many amazing albums were released in 2024, but the final decision made by the 13,000 members of the Recording Academy was 'Cowboy Carter' by Beyoncé.

This makes history being Beyoncé earned her first ever Album Of The Year award after almost 40 years of making music. But, many people were not happy with this outcome. People pointed out how Billie Eilish didn't win a single Grammy this year after her phenomenal album 'HIT ME HARD AND SOFT' and her song 'Birds Of A Feather' being the most streamed song of the year. Taylor Swift also didn't win any Grammys after her release of 'The Tortured

Poets Department', which was the most pre-ordered album ever.

Whether you agree with who won or not, one amazing thing to see at this year's Grammys was the domination of women throughout the categories. In 2017, only 12% of Grammy winners were female. This year, 32% were female. Although the majority of winners are still male, many of the main category nominees and winners were women. Many amazing artists won a Grammy for the first time ever, and history was made across the board. So in the end, it's up to your opinion if you think the wins were deserved, but you can't deny all of the artists worked hard to get where they are today, and have a huge future ahead of them.

Overwatch, 6

flourish until March of 2018, when a support character (a character with abilities to heal damage taken by teammates) named Brigitte was added. Players immediately noticed her extremely powerful set of abilities, with automatic and powerful healing, heavily damaging abilities (which are not common in support characters), and her ability to stun opponents, leaving them unable to move or use abilities. She quickly found her way into competitive and OWL team compositions, becoming a staple of the GOATS team composition (which consisted of three tank characters and three support characters). GOATS proved extremely difficult to counter, dominating Overwatch's competitive scene and angering thousands of players, causing some players to take hiatuses or completely

drop the game. To deal with this, Blizzard implemented the controversial feature of a role queue, which forced you to predetermine your role (e.g. tank, damage dealer, support) before entering a game. This alienated players, semi-effectively fixing the GOATS issue but restricting the player's ability to create imaginative team compositions with a mix of roles.

Facing dropping player counts and growing negative public opinions of the game, in 2019 Blizzard made the surprise announcement of Overwatch 2, a reboot of the game that included an extensive single-player story mode, new game modes, and an incredible cinematic announcement trailer. Hype around Overwatch 2 slowly began to grow after the announcement trailer, but due to most Blizzard developers working on Overwatch 2, the

original Overwatch received little significant updates, causing even more players to drop the game. By the time Overwatch 2 was released in 2022, the player count of Overwatch 1 had reached historic lows. Overwatch 2 released for free on every modern platform, and millions of players new and old, booted up the game to see what had changed.

Immediately noticed were the obvious changes to the game's monetization, scrapping the constant free cosmetics that Overwatch 1 would reward you with via loot boxes and replacing it with a virtual currency similar to Fortnite's V-buck system. This system is commonplace in most live service video games as of the last couple of years, and wouldn't cause as much of an uproar if not for the fact the tokens were egregiously overpriced, costing you almost

\$20 for a single skin. Not only this, the game is first person, so you wouldn't even get to see the skin you paid \$20 for during 95% of gameplay. This quickly began negative backlash to Overwatch 2's release, as players felt the game was now a blatant cash grab. Also noticed were the changes to gameplay, like how the number of players on a team went from 6 to 5, drastically decreasing the amount of interesting and creative team compositions you could create.

These issues, along with a slew of other more minor issues, quickly turned many players off from the game, and it lost popularity quickly. Many players still held out hope for Overwatch 2, hoping that the single-player mode would prove to be worth all of these alienating changes. Unfortunately, delay after delay kept the single-player away from players, and in

2023, Blizzard blindsided the entire player base by canceling the single-player mode entirely and releasing a poorly-made PvE mode that was pathetically boring and repetitive. In another blindside, they also claimed to have canceled the single-player before Overwatch 2 even released, leaving thousands of players feeling betrayed and angry.

Player count on Overwatch 2 dropped even further after the cancellation of the single-player, reaching all-time lows in late 2023- and with dwindling profits and lack of interest in the game, Blizzard shut down the Overwatch League in early 2024, killing the game's competitive scene and effectively digging its own grave. In 2024, Overwatch 2 faced impressively low player counts, despite constant collaborations and events to attempt to bring back players.

Even worse for Overwatch 2, NetEase's Marvel Rivals released in late 2024, which is a game very fundamentally similar to Overwatch but featuring Marvel superheroes, which snatched away even more of Overwatch 2's players. Soon, Overwatch 2 reached its lowest player count ever, with just a little under 17,000 players active.

Once a flourishing eSports giant and a reputable hero shooter, now a dying cash cow that Blizzard is attempting and failing to milk every last drop out of. Overwatch's story has gone down in history as one of the furthest falls from grace in online gaming history. In my opinion, it's truly a shame what happened to Overwatch; but at least it can be a cautionary tale for any other online game trying to get its feet off the ground.

Spring play, 1

“It may not be a format you’re familiar with, but this sort of walking performance is a really exciting way to engage an audience and to kind of have fun, to get people up and thinking about things,” said Rebekah, “In the past, we’ve done a performance like that at this school. We did an interactive version of Clue, [where] the audience moved around the school to different locations, and they, like, solved the mystery of Clue. It’s kind of similar in that sense, except this is for climate change.”

Each of the four storylines will focus on a different specific issue within the context of climate activism, with community experts coming in to help teach and talk about current issues and how to address them. Audience members might get to test different kinds of

water, or learn about what types of plastic are recyclable, depending on which trail they choose to follow.

This creates some unique opportunities for actors and designers, as essentially they are working on multiple different shows happening simultaneously. “Because we’re doing something that is a much bigger production that involves a lot more moving pieces, there’s going to be a professional team that supports us,” said Rebekah. Alongside the playwrights, director Alejandro Tey, professional designers, and adult actors (who will be taking on more of the improv heavy roles) will be working with students to bring the show together and make sure it’s a feasible and satisfying experience for all participants.

“I was very skeptical. In all honesty, I wasn’t going to be a part of theater... and

genuinely, the Mixed Blood Theatre people really did convince me. I think Alejandro did a good job explaining



Purple Press Staff Photo

Student actors familiarize themselves with the script.

how the play would work in a concise manner, and I genuinely think that this show

could end up being something enjoyable, both for the people working on it and the people experiencing it,” said 10th

of rumors going around about how the students were having their choices taken away, or how it’s all gonna change, and the students aren’t gonna have any say in it. That’s a lie... The adults are just here to boost us. They’re here to keep us on track and give us a little more leeway, as they’re able to work on this far more than we ever could because of the school day.”

Another unique aspect of this show is that some performances will take place during the school on weekdays. Cast and crew members will be split up into alternating casts, and will take turns performing the show for visiting school groups from throughout the Twin Cities. The performances will only run about an hour long, so there will be minimal interference with regular classes, but timing will be crucial. “The usage of space and the usage of just moving

around the school while this is happening is going to be interesting. I thought it would be difficult, or way too hard... but the timings match up pretty well, and since it’s not going to be that long of a play, there aren’t going to be very many people in the hallways during either scheduled time during the day,” said Joseph.

So while the format and subject matter are new to OWL, there’s many dedicated people working to get this unique show off the ground. Public performances of Upstream will be Fridays at 7pm, and Saturdays at 10am and 1pm from April 11th through 26th, with no required cost, though donations are welcome and encouraged.

“It’s a different kind of show. But it’s still OWL theater at its core,” said Joseph, “I’m excited, I’m nervous, but I think it’ll work, and I think it’ll be good.”

Forgotten grade, 1

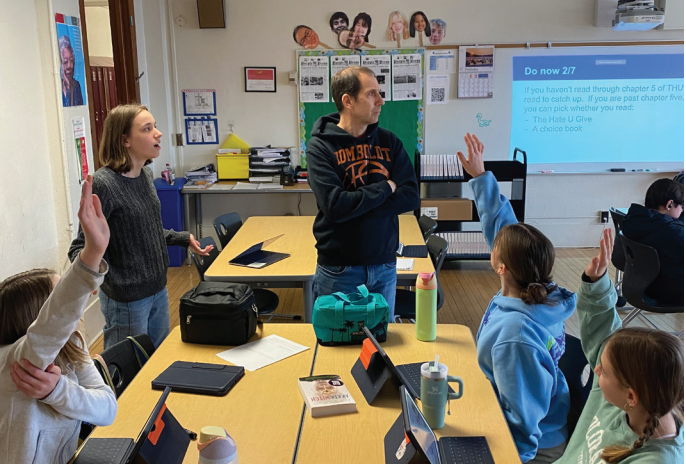
an article about a 7th grader? I didn’t think so. So how are we forgotten again?

“Our recognition is so low, I’m scared we’re fading away” Ash Bandelin commented. Maybe being in 8th grade will be better. Maybe we will get more attention next year when we are preparing for

7th grade is just... it exists.” Remarkd a 7th grader Zelda James. We’re the odd number between the even ones, the second place. Eventually we’ll get this year over with, by far its the worst year of middle school.

Well if you take anything from this article seriously, it is that 7th grade low key sucks.

Bad grades, drama, and



Purple Press Staff Photo

7th graders try and catch the attention of Leo Bickelhaupt

highschool! We are never looked at during community meetings. Did you know that 7th graders even had a whole theatre performance? You probably didn't show up. And do you know what 7th grader was profiled in the Purple Press last month? Just Kidding, 7th graders never get profiled.

“Everything seemed like such a big deal, but then...

when you can’t get your hair quite right. Just make sure when you see us in the hallways, don’t ignore the fact we exist. Also 6th graders, enjoy the attention while you have it, because you won’t be the center of attention forever.

Book list, 5

the sci-fi and fantasy picks on this list is the science fantasy subgenre, which (at least in this case) deals with magical elements in a sci-fi world. The book I feel does this particularly well is Once and Future by Cory McCarthy and A.R. Capetta. This story follows the premise that, in a galactic dystopia where the Mercer supercorporation rules practically everything, main character Ari discovers that she is, in fact, a reincarnation of King Arthur. Joined by

ancient wizard Merlin, whose centuries of aging backward have left him a teen, and an array of characters who serve as the reincarnations of various others from the Arthurian legend, Ari sets out to bring down Mercer. Merlin, however, knows that every reincarnation of Arthur inevitably dies, and with Morgana interfering, this cycle may not be any different. Packed with several fantastic twists and entertaining story beats, this book is one I just keep coming back to.

Akata Witch, 5

thought provokingly symbolic as George Orwell’s Animal Farm. However, that does not necessarily mean the book is entirely lacking on either front. The book’s repeated mention of identities, such as Sunny’s albinism, and how it affects the characters within the story are brought forth in a way which emphasizes the issues present without taking focus away from the main, fantastical plot of the story.

Overall, it’s a fun, engaging story about a young girl who learns to grow into her identity and understand a grand new world of juju and fantastical monsters, and I’m glad I got to experience it. The novel covers

its bases among different audiences well. The book is narratively straightforward enough to appeal to younger audiences, while still being able to bring up socially relevant issues which all age ranges would benefit from hearing in a nuanced and plot-integrated manner. As long as you, the reader, enjoy fantasy novels reminiscent of Rick Riordan’s novels or Eoin Colfer’s Artemis Fowl series, you will enjoy this novel and finish it having learned something new.

Knocked Loose, 7

said they were “satanic” and such, but I don’t really see how, it’s just kinda silly. In addition, the live performance on Jimmy Kimmel was nominated for the Grammy for “Best Metal Performance.”

The album doesn’t really have any weak points, but I’d say my least favorite song on the album is the opening track “Thirst.” It’s actually pretty good, but compared to the rest of the album it’s underwhelming. The song sounds like most of the other songs, but it’s uninteresting because it doesn’t really do anything besides the intro. It starts with ambient sounds,

followed by a scream that transitions into the rest of the song. Other songs on the album did the same thing, but better.

This album is probably the best metal album of the year. It has everything I would want in one; groove, loudness, anger, and great breakdowns. I’m not sure about the lyrics, I think they’re good, powerful, and well written to fit the mood of the album but on the other hand, I’m not sure if I entirely agree with all of them. I’d give this album 8.8/10. Please check out this album and then tell me what you think by emailing gsmith018@stpaul.k12.mn.us.

Brian, 2

readiness, and co-teaches ELA for sixth and seventh graders.

Over the first half of the year that Brian has been at OWL, he has really come to love the students because of how kind they are. “My observation is that the kids make this school and the way that they show up and take part in building the community. I’ve also noticed the way that they are willing to make things better and be helpful towards each other,” said Brian.

Good enough, 5

in unity.

This is one of the main flaws with the self love movement, because the entire point is to eliminate comparison. If there’s one thing you should take away from this article, the mirror is an unreliable narrator. The girls on instagram are unreliable narrators. The voice in your head is an unreliable narrator. You are the only one in charge of your mindset, and for the last time, you are good enough.

Robotics, 1

The team practices usually involve taking the robot to a wide and open area to test drive the robot and its capabilities. This is done by navigating the robot around boxes and other obstacles. The team also utilizes the Hmong College Prep Academy in Saint Paul to practice, as the school has a functional field in which robotics teams from around the city are welcome to practice on. This can be especially beneficial as the field contains actual game pieces involved in the tournaments which the team can use prior to the competition.

Robotics isn’t just one huge team either. Members branch off into smaller sub-teams to complete different tasks at once. The build team creates a functional robot with a base chassis, electrical parts, and other necessary attachments to carry out game tasks. The programming team works on coding the robot to be able to work on the field. And the drive team partners with the programming team to tweak the robot to perfection, and practice maneuvering the robot.

Meanwhile sub-teams that don’t work with the robot include the business team, the social media team, and the 3D

printing team. The business team focuses on generating

submissions that are judged at competitions. The social



Purple Press Staff Photo

10th grader Claire Ales talks with mentor Lance Van Elsen

money, coordinating events, and writing award

media team uses TikTok and Instagram to promote Open

Mock trial, 4

second team, and won in a landslide.

The team had won every competition, but one remained. In the last trial this season, on February 4th, the



team went up against Apple Valley’s Mock Trial team, which we lost to. They have been the regional champions for the last nine years, and take a very aggressive approach to trials. “They had good content, but their presentation really hurt them. They were very theatrical in a way that

was not like an actual court,” said Radd.

In years before, the OWL Mock Trial team has had a record of 3-1, but have not moved on because of score differentials, teams that have won 4-0, and team matchups.

ended witha loss, the team walked away proud.“That team is just like what we want to be like,” said Radd.

Most students on the Mock Trial team have been there for a long time, and have built up knowledge from past years. Currently the team is looking for some young blood to continue the activity at OWL. With a third of the team graduating next year, the team is looking for students of all ages. If you have an interest in improving your public speaking, arguing or acting skills, talk to Akira about joining next year.

“I mean, it’s just my first year, but yeah, state next year? I think we could. We were very equally scored with [Parnassus]. I think that we could do it,” said Alva. And in Akira’s words, “State next year. Yeah, NEXT YEAR, NEXT YEAR!!”

However, this year the team received an email a week later that they were moving on! They would then compete against Parnassus’s best team, which is unique for the fact that they combine all their teams into one, or two depending on how many move on, to create one “super team”. While the trial

Boys basketball, 2

always kept their head up, and never let the other team get the best of them. They always tried and never gave up.

While not having many wins in the conference, they did win against Como after previously losing earlier in the season. Star defensive monster Danny was out due to a sickness. With his absence, players had to step up, and one player who did was his brother Luke. He had six steals and seven blocks.

If you watched the game you would have seen he did a

lot more that doesn’t show up on the stat sheet. “I had a lot of energy that game, and once we started coming back, that tripled.”

For Luke, being a disrupter on the defensive and offensive end is what he does from game to game. Simon also had an impact on the game, showing hustle and energy on defense and offense.. “I feel like that was my best game. I really stuffed the stat sheet. I had a stat in every category in that game,” said Simon.

Wrestling, 2

February 21st and 22nd with multiple boys from Humboldt placing, but not making state. And finally Humboldt had their team sections on February 15th, Where the best wrestler from each weight class duels for an overall point score for their team. “ We came up against a team that we could have beat, but it wouldn’t have been easy. It came down to a really close call, and if we would have won one of the matches that we lost we would have won, but we didn’t so

we were out,” said Cam. Also competing at the varsity level for Humboldt is junior Grant Weyandt, who ended the season with a winning record.

Cam is already looking to next year’s season, where she hopes to improve on her fourth place finish at sections and potentially compete in the state tournament.

Circuits and their fundraisers. And the 3D printing team works with 3D printers they built to make specific pieces for the robot, pendants to give away at tournaments, trinkets to sell to obtain funding, and other various projects. “We always share at the beginning and end of practice what we plan to do and what we complete so that everyone knows what the other sub teams are working on,” said senior Kathryn Totushek.

Later in the season are the regional tournaments— the two biggest and most important competitions. Taking place at the end of March, they are the longest tournaments with

the highest stakes, as robotics teams can gain awards, qualify for the state and possibly world competitions. “The tournament in Duluth was a highlight for me- we stayed in a hotel and the robot performed decently,” recalled junior Anson Lind.

The value at the center of the team is called coopertition. Created by FIRST Robotics, coopertition is the concept that upholds cooperative competition through kindness and respect brought by the individuals and teams involved in robotics. As the season unfolds, Open Circuits strives to have fun and always learn more.

characters such as Spider-Man, Iron Man, Black Panther and Star-Lord. There is also a class that is all about helping your teammates, which is called strategists (supports). There are many staples of the Marvel Universe in this list like Rocket Raccoon, Mantis and Loki.

However, the game requires you to have good hardware because it is designed in Unreal Engine 5, making the game run choppy on Xbox Series S and lower end PCs.

Another con about the game is that there aren’t many maps, around 9 in total, which makes the map pool very repetitive and boring.

Marvel Rivals is worth downloading especially because it is free and only takes up around 70 GB of storage, which is around how big other hero shooter games are. This game is mostly for people who like superheroes, shooter games or just a change of pace in general.

iPads, 5

The school iPads are also not very powerful, and while they definitely don’t need to be, they do encounter problems with more memory intensive websites. This can lead to occasional website crashes and lag. Most websites don’t have these problems, but many more advanced interactive programs are, which could benefit from slightly more powerful devices.

Chromebooks, similarly to the iPads issued by the school

district, are cheap and often underpowered, however are not as durable as the iPads as there isn’t really any kind of case available for them. On The other hand Chromebook’s have larger screens, proper touchpads, and can run the web version of programs. They are still much more limited than a proper laptop, however they are functional enough for their purpose as a school device and most general purposes.

I do think that Chromebooks would be

better than iPad’s overall, but I do prefer more desktop-like devices personally, and someone who prefers more mobile devices may prefer iPads. However I do think the touchpad and web based programs would provide benefits over the iPads.

In the end though, while they do have plenty of problems, the school issued iPads serve their purpose of being cheap, replaceable, and durable devices for schools well.

Rebound, 2

in front of you when the ball is in the air. “If you box out, It’s a lot easier to get the ball if you have your body on someone,” said Danny. Also, timing your jump is important because if you jump too late or too early, someone else can grab the rebound. On offense, an important part is being sneaky. By running and timing your jump perfectly, you can surprise the defensive player.

The last part is positioning. If you can position yourself perfectly to where the ball falls, you can easily grab

the rebounds on offense or defense.

The perfect way to grab a rebound on defense is to box out, then time your jump and grab the rebound. On offense, you would try to sneak around the defensive player and grab the rebound by timing your jump. “Offensive rebounding is easier because you just run in there and grab it, people aren’t expecting me to get up there because I’m shorter than them,” said Luke.



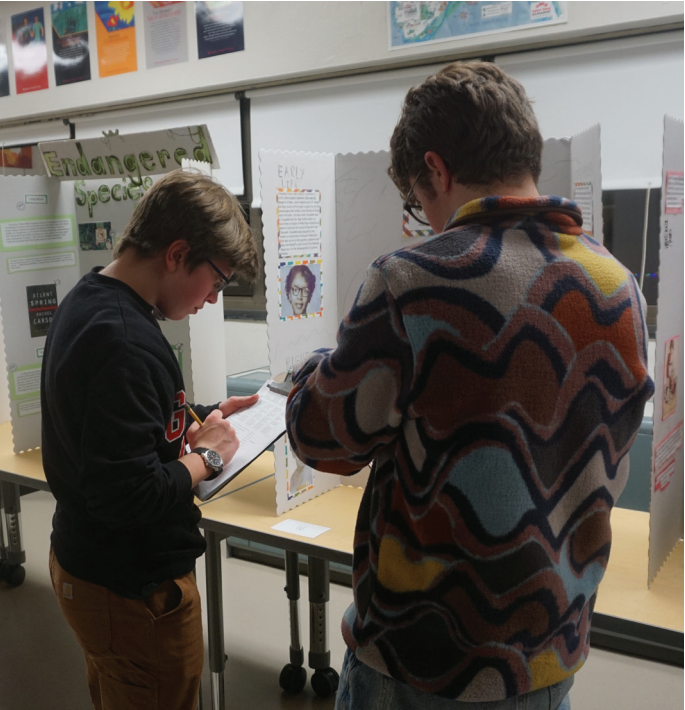
Charley Cheatham

Students perform their project at school history day.



Charley Cheatham

The signature History Day thumbs up.



Charley Cheatham

Student judges evaluate an exhibit board.

Basketball wraps up season, prepares for sections



Luke Hobday goes up for a block.

Roman Rufi



Simon Casper executes a layup.

Roman Rufi



Simon prepares to take a free throw.

Roman Rufi



Danny Hobday on defense.

Roman Rufi



Danny is introduced at the beginning of a game.

Roman Rufi



Luke receives a cross court pass.

Roman Rufi

NAAPID at OWL was a success



Shadae Wilkins introduces the program for the evening.

Kathryn Totushek



The Owl choir sings the national black anthem.

Kathryn Totushek



OWL students perform a majorettes dance.

Kathryn Totushek



Shalimar Watkins reads a poem she composed.

Kathryn Totushek



Fraquetball!!

Now is your chance to have your name among the stars. The Spring season of fraquetball is coming. The fall season saw competition among the lunches and three lunch champions were crowned. The spring season is for all the marbles. Lunch champions will square off against each other to see who will have their names etched onto the wall of champions. The season begins next week. Sign up with a partner who shares your lunch period.

Scan this to sign up for the spring season of Fraquetball

