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School News

Colin is Committed!

By: Rihana Dye

Colin Olsen has committed to West Point! This is a HUGE deal! West Point is extremely hard to get into, with an acceptance rate of only 12%! For the people who don't know what this school is, West Point is The United States Military Academy, also known as West Point, is a U.S. service academy located in West Point, New York. There are five federal service academies, with each focused on a different branch of the military. West Point represents the Army. The goal of the United States Military Academy is to train future Army officers to lead with character, develop academically through its college system, and develop as competent military leaders through advanced military training.

Colin wants to attend here to become an officer in the US Army. His dream job is to be a combat engineering officer, and West Point provides the opportunity to get that job after graduation. Another motivation of his for attending West Point was its world-class education. West Point has one of the best engineering and liberal arts programs in the country, as well as the best leadership development program in the country. "I know that by attending West Point, I will get a great education in both engineering and leadership. (On a side note, attending West Point is entirely free of cost for every cadet, sweetening the deal)."

Colin has given us a step by step breakdown of what he had to do, because West

Point is more than a traditional college, so a lot more goes into the application process.

1. In the winter of my Junior year, I applied to go to West Point's Summer Leaders Experience (SLE). This is a week-long opportunity in June that allows you to live like a cadet, helping you better understand cadet life and decide if you want to attend. This program is not required for admission. However, I highly recommend attending. I had a great time. Thanks to my experience, I better understood the admissions process, and I was able to meet my admissions officer and get on their radar.

2. One essential part of the admissions process is that you must pass the Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA). This is a requirement for admission. It includes push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups, a basketball throw, a 10-meter shuttle run, and a 1-mile run. If you attend SLE, you will have the opportunity to take the CFA at West Point. If you don't attend SLE, you can take it at your own time.



3. After attending SLE, I began working on my application for the West Point Class of 2029. The application includes essays, surveys, and information about your extracurricular activities.

4. To be considered for admission, you must be medically qualified. To earn this qualification, you will fill out information through DoD MERB and see a Department of Defense doctor for an examination. I began this

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in August. The process took a very long time for me because I had a disqualifying condition that required a waiver.

5. Another admission requirement is that you must receive a nomination from a congressman or senator. These legislators have applications and interviews held in the fall.

6. You must take the SAT or ACT to attend West Point. Unlike other colleges, you are required to submit scores to West Point. To be competitive for an appointment (offer of admission) you should aim to score above 1200 on the SAT and above 28 on the ACT.

Colin plans to study either engineering or applied mathematics. Either one of these disciplines will give him the best chance of getting a job as a combat engineer upon graduation. Traditionally, West Point has had a strong engineering program, which will provide him with great opportunities to learn.

I asked Colin how he feels about attending West Point this summer! He says "I am very excited to attend. From the cadets I have talked to, I learned that it is common to feel nervous, as for many, it is the biggest challenge they have faced in their lives. However, I am confident that my academic preparation at HCS and my physical training at the gym will help me succeed in Cadet Basic Training this summer and in the upcoming fall semester."

Congratulations Colin on this great accomplishment! The HCS community is very proud of you and can't wait to see what great things you do on your next step!

6th Grade Happenings

By Maren Ettrich



The 6th grader has been up to a lot of activities. Some of these classes that these activities happen in or STEAM. STEAM is a class where younger kids work with the 6th grade on fun activities and projects. This class teaches the 6th graders to work

with people of all ages and gives them fun activities to do with younger kids. It also gives the younger kids a fun activity that they can do not just at school but at home as well. But STEAM is not the only class that does fun activities; the 6th-grade math class does them too.

The first activity they did after the break was drone flying around the cafeteria. The students figured out measurements and used them to solve math problems. This process



teaches the kids to trust the process and themselves. Another activity that was done was a discovery day party. This party was for the after-school club, and they had this party to honor the calf that they adopted, Eva. One last activity that was done before the break was a construction

project. The 6th grade built a house, solved for the area of the house, and the house volume as well.

Agriscience Happenings Recap

By Eve McCorkle

Recently, the agriscience class has been working hard in class, learning many new things. For example, right before break, they learned more about plants and how they function.

First, the class worked on repotting plants. To do this, they used small plants that had just started to sprout and had grown for a little while in larger pots to give them more room to grow. They squeezed the outer part of the smaller pots to loosen the soil for transferring it to the larger pots. Then they moved the dirt in the larger pot to the side to create a designated spot for placing the plant. Once they finished repotting their plants, they had to make tabs that showed the plant that was in the pot and the date that it was planted. Finally, the students brought the whole tray into the greenhouse so that it could remain healthy and sustained.

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The next thing they started to work on was assembling a flower. To do this, the students cut out petals from the packet that they got and started to color them. Once they had finished coloring the petals, they cut them out and taped



two petals together to make a total of six petals. Then the students took floral wire and glued or

taped a thing of it to each petal. Then, they connected each wire for a makeshift stem and then had the base of their flower. Then they used a pipe cleaner to add more stability along with floral tape. Finally, they labeled the parts of a flower, such as the stamen, stigma, petals, etc. Once they were done and finished with their flower, they were all set with that and moved on to more interesting things.

The last thing that they were working on was inoculating mushrooms. They started by drilling holes into logs of a tree. Each one was an inch deep and four inches apart from one another. Once they had finished drilling, they started to inoculate. They took the inoculators and “pounded” them into the mushroom and sawdust mixture. Then, they hovered the inoculator over each hole and put the mushroom mixture into the hole. Once the entire log was filled, they brought the log over to the wax station to seal it off. Finally, the logs are brought out to the woods and kept there for about nine months until they sprout.

Overall, this class has been working well on all of the assignments that have been thrown their way. Be sure to check in next week to see what they will be moving on to next!

Photo Creds: DIY Mushroom Logs Part 2: Log Inoculation - Planters Place Better Homes & Garden 19 Stunning Blue Flowers You'll Love and

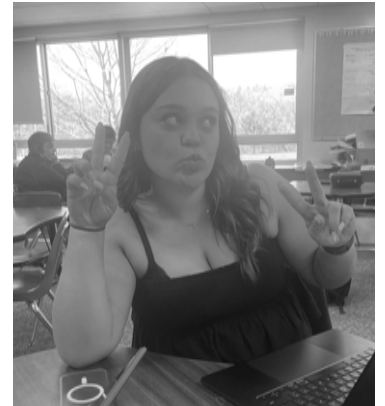
School Spotlights

Senior Spotlight

By Rihana Dye

Senior Spotlight changes are coming! We will have 2 seniors a week and this week we have Rhiannon Murray and Breanna Craven!

To start off, Rhiannon Murray has attended HCS her entire life, and is planning on attending The University of Minnesota, majoring in early childhood education and minoring in sports broadcasting. In her free time she likes to hangout with friends, and going to get food while driving and listening to music with them. She enjoys watching sports as well! Her favorite class taken during high school was Mr. Snyder's History Through Film class her freshman year because, “...it was the most entertaining and I learned the most while still having fun.” Her favorite high school memory was the



NYC trip this year with Mrs. Kowalski. “It was so much fun and I learned a lot while being able to hangout with my friends and making a lot of memories”.

Advice to underclassmen: “Do as many things as possible, go to every game, go to every event, and hangout with your friends!”

Breanna Craven has also attended HCS her whole life, and is not attending a college after high school, but is planning on

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working/interning at a Boutique for Bridal Consulting. In her free time she likes to bake fun little treats, and to sleep. Her favorite thing to do



is to go to Dunkin' and see me! She also enjoys going for drives. Her hobby is photography! Her favorite class during high school was Yearbook with Kowalski because "I love taking pictures and hanging out with Kowalski." Last but not least, her favorite high school memory was all of her FFA experiences and starting golf!

Advice to underclassmen: "Do what you love and don't feel pressured by others to follow the status quo! Find the courage to not to listen when people tell you that your dreams are impossible.

Believe there are going to be intermissions before you get to your finale."

Local News

Weekly Weather Preview

By Cheyanne Bennett

Next week looks to be mostly cloudy with some rain and certain times of sun throughout the week, Summer is getting closer and closer!!!

Monday, May 5th, 2025: Partly to mostly cloudy with a high of 59 degrees and a low of 47 degrees with winds at 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday, May 6th, 2025: Partly cloudy early, leading to clouds with showers later in the day, with a high of 66 degrees and a low of 52 degrees with winds at 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday, May 7th, 2025: Mostly cloudy with a high of 65 degrees and a low of 49 degrees with winds at 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday, May 8th, 2025: Sun in the morning



leading to clouds later in the afternoon with a high of 67 degrees and a low of 50 degrees with winds at 5 to 10 mph.

Friday, May 9th, 2025: Mostly cloudy with a high of 68 degrees and a low of 50 degrees with winds at 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday, May 10th, 2025: Mostly cloudy with a high of 71 degrees and a low of 53 degrees with winds at 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday, May 11th, 2025: Overcast with rain showers with a high of 70 degrees and a low of 53 degrees with winds at 10 to 15 mph.

Photo credit-Weather2travel

Info credit-The Weather Channel

Under the Helmet

By Dom Mensche

Some of you may have heard the fire siren blaring throughout the village of Hamilton, or even may have seen the trucks go by sirens wailing. The goal of this article segment is to help folks get to know the individuals inside the trucks and *under the helmet*.

The next Firefighter we get to meet is James Brautman. James is a Colgate student from South Carolina. He is in his Sophomore year and plans to go to FDNY Fire Academy after college.

Q: What motivated you to become a firefighter?

A: Seeing all of the trucks go by and how people look up to firefighters. It made me want to join all of that

Q: What does firefighting mean to you?

A: It means helping people while also being a better person because of it.

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Q: What is the hardest part of being a firefighter?

A: Some people are really into this job, others aren't. It's hard to find that balance between the folks you know are giving it their all and the folks who are there to fill out their resume.

Q: Any advice for someone looking to get into the fire service?

A: Just get after it. People always talk about doing stuff but never act on it. Be proactive in fulfilling your dreams.

West Hill Lacrosse Incident

By Ezra Stahlberg

On April 24th in Syracuse NY, the Westhill lacrosse team's seniors kidnapped 5 Westhill lacrosse first-year students. They set up a trap where they pretended to be masked men, holding guns and knives; they would jump out at the first-year students. They would kidnap the first-year students, put bags over their heads, take them to a wooded area, and drop them off. One of the victims, Fitzpatrick, stated, "People came out of the woods all dressed in black. They were armed with what appeared to be at least one handgun and at least one knife," According to NBC News. The students also videotaped the incident, and, according to Fitzpatrick, "they found the incident amusing." He was later returned home by the group with little to no physical injuries. However, the emotional trauma he and the other victims experienced is immeasurable. The other cases state that some of the other kids were able to escape the kidnapping attempt, but who knows how many times they pulled this stunt?



After Fitzpatrick got home, he took it to the sheriff's office, where they had posted a 48-hour warning for the boys involved in the

incident. The sheriff's office stated, "You have 48 hours to turn yourself in to the sheriff's... You will not be spending time in the public safety building, you will not have bail set, you will be released to the custody of your parents." Although these boys will be tried in a family court, if some of them do not turn themselves in by this period, they could face serious charges as adults. Fitzpatrick stated that a couple of the individuals were over the age of 18, showing that he knows who they are, making it impossible for the boys to get away without turning themselves in. The potential legal consequences are severe, and the boys involved must face the reality of their actions.

A hazing incident of this seriousness and local impact is a poignant reminder of the dangers of hazing and the trouble it can cause. It not only affects the victims but also those responsible for the acts. The impact on the Boys' lacrosse team is significant, despite the majority of the team not being involved in the incident. The team's season has been canceled, and the program's cultural views will most definitely be revised.

Photo Credit: Syracuse.com

Information & Quotes: NBC News

US News

Trump Hit with Over 200 Lawsuits in First 100 Days

By Dorothy Disha

Donald Trump's return to the White House has already sparked over 200 lawsuits, a record number for any president this early in office. Most of the cases challenge his executive orders on immigration, media and education, with multiple judges blocking key policies in the past few weeks. Legal experts say this is the fastest legal backlash a president has faced in

modern history, adding more fuel to an already fiery term.

Critics say his actions are “rushed” and “unconstitutional,” while Trump continues to claim the court system is biased. With legal battles piling up, many are wondering if this term will be even more chaotic than the last one.

Sources: AP News, CNN, Politico

Photo Credits: PBS

Trump Proposes Mining in International Waters

By Michael Hayden

On Thursday, April 24, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to fast-track permits for underwater mining. Potato-sized nodules of rare earth elements and critical metals such as lithium and cobalt that total over 1 billion tons have been found spread across US and international waters in the Pacific Ocean. China currently supplies most of the world with these materials. With trade between the US and China practically nonexistent due to the tariffs both countries have imposed, America’s demand for these materials is not being met. Trump’s goal is to have an American mining operation retrieve these metals so that it is not necessary to change his trade policies to acquire them.



However, Trump is facing a lot of backlash from the international community for this decision. Most members of the United Nations signed the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a treaty which, among other things, bans underwater mining in international waters. While Trump is not technically violating this treaty, since the US never ratified it, China, the EU, and Britain have criticized Trump for permitting mining before the UN’s International Seabed Authority could create firm regulations

on these operations, as they plan to do by the end of this year.

Trump has also been criticized by several climate activist organizations such as Greenpeace. These groups are concerned about the environmental impact that the mining operations could have. Previous research indicates that while some small sand-dwelling creatures would be able to return to the area after the mining operations, larger animals would be impacted by the loss of the nutrients that the nodules provide, and would never be able to repopulate the area.

A Violent Derecho with 90-mph Winds Made a 500-mile Path of Damage

By: Pyper McEwan

There are way more days of extreme weather coming into the United States. Wednesday, after a very violent storm struck more than a dozen states on Tuesday, it turned out to be very deadly. This storm brought hurricane-strength wind gusts, it also got a lot of hail and tornadoes. A derecho is a very long storm with destructive winds. This went across the Midwest with winds as high as 90 mph, which took trees out of the ground and roofs off houses and several different buildings. Many cities took lots of damage, including the Pittsburgh area, where two people died. There will be many thunderstorms that will slam us throughout Wednesday, these thunderstorms will bring lots of flooding.



There are many thunderstorms that are located in Texas and Oklahoma, and these thunderstorms are so bad that there are flood warnings as far as 300 miles away from these states. There are also many flash flood warnings. There is very intense flooding in many locations across the area, and very heavy rainfall. The

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National Weather Service has put out a warning for the flooding and heavy rainfall.

Info: CNN

Photo cred: CNN

Serial Killer in Connecticut

By: Rhiannon Murray

In the early months of 2025 a series of discovered murders across New England Spark fields of a serial killer. Between the months of March and April over eight bodies, mostly women were found in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The most recent discovery occurred in Massachusetts causing public concern. Law-enforcement agencies have not established any connection among these murders and have shut down claims of the serial killer. They emphasize that these investigations are going on separately and that they do not have any sort of connection.

In Connecticut 50 year-old Susan Wormer initially fuelled these fears. Her body was found dismembered in a suitcase near the cemetery on March 19. Donald Coffel was arrested and charged with her murder; he had been living in Wormser since December 2024. Authorities confirmed that this case was a domestic homicide and not connected to any of the other killings.

Because of the lack of evidence linking these cases there is no obvious reason to point to a serial killer. However social media speculations have been flowing. A Facebook group called the "New England serial killer" has over 65,000 members contributing to public fear. Law-enforcement officials caution against listening to speculation. They also know that it can cause problems with investigations and spread unnecessary fear if you believe what you read online.

As investigations continue, authorities emphasize the importance of relying on only verified information and caution the public not to

draw conclusions without any evidence. They continue to assure the public that all cases are being thoroughly investigated and that their communities are safe.

Image credit : New York Daily News

Global News

Things You May Have Missed (Spring Break Edition)

By- Dorothy Disha

Spring Break may be over, but the pop culture chaos never took a day off. From desert stages to courtroom showdowns, here's what YOU may have missed over the past two weeks.

- Coachella Weekend 2 brought the heat. Lady Gaga transformed the stage into a five-act opera called "Mayhem Ball," that was complete with costume changes and a theatrical storyline.
- Charli XCX caused a social media meltdown when Troye Sivan, Lorde, and Billie Eilish joined her on stage, creating a memorable group performance.
- Benson Boone had everyone emotional after surprising fans with Queen's very own Brian May for a "Bohemian Rhapsody" duet.
- Meanwhile, TikTok's future is on the line. Congress passed a bill giving ByteDance 270 days to sell or face a U.S. ban. Amazon has reportedly submitted a last-minute bid to buy the platform.
- Zendaya and Tom Holland made their first public appearance since confirming their engagement, with Holland visiting Zendaya on the set of Euphoria.
- George Kittle signed a four-year, \$76.4 million extension with the 49ers, making him the highest-paid tight end in NFL history.



- LeBron James posted a cryptic Instagram story with the word “Almost,” fueling retirement rumors once again.
- And for all the true crime fans, Netflix dropped a surprise docuseries called *The Silent Stars* about missing celebrities from the 2000s. Viewers are calling it the next *Making a Murderer*.
- Amazon has been reported to deny plans to showcase tariff prices after President Trump calls Jeff Bezos to object.
- New York Cannabis sales have now reached over One Billion, making it the most-used state.
- Pope Francis died on April 21, 2025 leaving people devastated. His funeral was held and broadcast in St. Peter's Square on April 26, 2025, in Vatican City.
- President Trump has reached 100 days in office, and so far, his approval ratings have gone down drastically.

Sources: TMZ, USA Today, Variety, The Guardian
Photo Credits- ABC News.



Who Will Be the Next Pope?

By Michael Hayden

Pope Francis passed away at the age of 88 on Easter Monday after a two month-long battle with pneumonia. In accordance with his wishes, he was buried on Saturday, April 26 in the Basilica of St. Mary Major, just outside of the Vatican's walls. A public viewing of the tomb was held on Sunday, with more than 13,000 coming to pay their respects.



Now that the late pope has been buried, the conversation in the Vatican has turned to his replacement. On Monday, April 28, Vatican spokesperson Matteo Bruni announced that the papal conclave will begin on May 7.

The conclave is the process through which a new pope is chosen. 135 cardinals from around the world will gather in Rome, where they will each give speeches to the others about their interpretation of the Bible and the direction that they think the Catholic Church's policies should move in. *Detroit Catholic* has identified twelve *papabili*, or cardinals who are likely candidates for the papacy; however, any baptised Catholic man is technically eligible for the papacy, though it is incredibly unlikely that someone who is not a cardinal will be elected. Any of the cardinals could be elected based on their speeches. More information about Pope Francis's successor will come in the next few weeks.

Photo: the tomb of Pope Francis, via Vatican Media

16-year-old Detained After Shooting in Sweden

By: Pyper McEwan

There has been a 16-year-old suspect who has been detained and suspected of shooting and killing three people who live in the city of Uppsala on Tuesday, April 29th. There are more people who are getting interrogated about this attack. The three people who were killed were between the ages of 15 and 20. There have been officers who are going door to door to find more information about this shooting. There is a big police investigation following the shooting. The police have said that they believe the shooter left the scene on an electric scooter.



Some people reported loud “bangs” during the time of the shooting, and along with the people who died, there were also people who got injured from the shooting. The police said

that the motive behind the shooting wasn't clear. The last shooting that Sweden had was in 2024, and 40 people were shot and killed.

Info: CNN

Photo Cred: CNN

Vancouver Filipino Festival Car Ramming

By Cheyanne Bennett

On Saturday, April 26th, 2025, there was a street festival that was to celebrate Filipino heritage on Saturday, April 26th, 2025 in Vancouver. There were many food trucks lined down the street, and there were many performers who started performing their traditional Filipino dance in the nice spring sunshine, but this family-friendly event turned out to be "Horror".

One person described this event as "a warzone, with bodies seen laying on the street." When someone drove right into the crowd and ended up killing approximately 11 people. Police said it was "the darkest day" in the city of Vancouver's history. The suspect who drove right into the crowd was charged with eight counts of second-degree murder. Police said, "This incident happened at approximately 8 pm local time when a guy drove a black Audi SUV into a large crowd of people who were attending the Lapu Lapu Day Festival, which was near East 43rd Avenue and Fraser Street."

Police said the people who have been killed were in the age range of 5 through 65. On



Sunday, April 27th, 2025, police put out a statement that people helped chase the suspect, and police identified the suspect as Kai-Ji Adam Lo, a 30-year-old resident of Vancouver who was arrested on the scene and had a history of mental health-related interactions with authorities before. "The suspect

Kai-Ji Adam Lo is in court and will remain in custody", said Vancouver police. Rai, a resident of Vancouver, told reporters on Sunday, "The actions of a single person shattered our collective sense of safety. It is impossible to overstate how many lives have been impacted forever by this lone individual."

Info credit- CNN

Photo credit- CNN

European Power Outage

By Maren Ettrich

On Monday, April 28, 2025, there was a huge power outage that affected countries like Spain and Portugal. In the USA, the biggest power outage that happened was on August 14, 2003. This power outage was known as the Northeast Blackout. It affected over 50 million people across the nation. The



biggest power outage in history happened in July 2012. It happened in India and affected 620 million people. With these huge power outages come many issues in the country where they happen. In this article, I will be discussing some of the issues that came along with these power outages. I will also be talking about how these power outages are trying to be prevented.

Many things across the world are needed to have power to work. Some of these include Stop lights, computers, and cellular networks. This causes places like hospitals to not be able to treat their patients with the best care possible. Which can cause people to die and the doctors not be able to do anything. It also causes problems with traffic because drivers need to have stoplights to let people know when it's their turn to go. Without this, it causes much confusion, which leads to accidents. The power outage in Spain lasted many hours and affected 10 million people.

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Since these power outages are such a safety issue, what is being done to stop them from happening? Well, every time there is a huge power outage, there is always an investigation to figure out what went wrong. The power outage in Spain is already being investigated. But the problems with these investigations can take a while because it can be very hard to find the problem and fix it.

Source: CNN

Photo Credit: CNN

Entertainment

All About Cheese

By Silas Campbell

Earliest cheese production predates recorded history beginning some seven to eight thousand years ago. People were storing milk in bladders made from ruminants' stomachs. Ruminants are even toed animals including cattle and sheep. There was a supply of rennet that would encourage curdling, thus forming the cheese. Rennet is an enzyme that is found in the animal's stomachs. So cheese was formed by accident. The earliest cheeses were sour and salty and very much like present day Feta.

I interviewed some of my friends here at school about cheese. This is how our conversations went.

First, I interviewed Mrs. Marhefka and I asked her what her favorite type of cheese was. She said, "I like goat cheese because I like the flavor of it and it pairs really nicely with other foods that I really like to eat. It's really good on pasta, it's really good with roasted tomatoes, and I also really like to eat it as a spread on a sandwich." Next I asked her, "What is your favorite thing made from cheese other than pizza?" She declared, "I like cheesecake." She also really likes lasagna.

Next I asked Sela Nelson about what kind of cheese she likes and she replied with this, "I like swiss cheese because of the taste and that there are holes in the slices of cheese and how it looks/tastes."

Lizzy Jones said that she really likes a good sharp cheese. She likes to put it in a sandwich. She also loves Baked Ziti.

Thomas Roy likes grilled cheese sandwiches and a charcuterie board. Jordan Mullenax likes to cook with it. Jordan also likes Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, and they both like Mac and Cheese the best.

Contessa Maiurano likes cheese and crackers. She also likes Mac and Cheese. Lena Harnik likes to use it melted on pasta. Lena also likes Grilled Cheese sandwiches.

I love cheese pizza, grilled cheese sandwiches, mac and cheese, cheesecake, and cream cheese with pretzels.

There are many types of cheese and there are also many different uses for cheese. You will never be disappointed no matter which cheese you choose to eat.

Opinion

Food Review

By Dylan George

Over the long vacation, Sawyer, Ezra, and I traveled to North Carolina. During our vacation, we stumbled upon one of our favorite fast food restaurants in the country, Raising Cane's. After just touring the University of North Carolina, we



needed a quick bite to eat before we headed to the golf course in the afternoon.

After driving around for a while, we saw Raising Cane's and quickly decided that's where we wanted to have lunch. We were in awe

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of the beautiful establishment when we arrived and could hardly wait to order. We were all so excited that none of us needed a menu and had decided quickly that we would each get chicken tenders, fries, bread, and a drink. Here is what we had to say about our meals and our experience at Raising Cane's:

Ezra Stahlberg: "This was one of, if not the best, meals I've had while on this vacation. After a long campus tour, I was starving and craving chicken tenders all morning. The Chicken tenders alone weren't my favorite; however, when dipped in Cane's sauce, they were unbelievable. But by far, the favorite part of the whole meal was the bread, some of the best I've ever had." Overall: 9.2/10

Sawyer Latella: "I loved Raising Cane's. After a dreadful campus tour, I needed a delicious bite to eat before I played golf for the first time in 7 months, and Raising Cane's was able to fulfill this need. The sauce was tasty, and I doused my fries, bread, and tenders." Overall: 8.8/10

Dylan George: "Coming into the restaurant, I felt like I wasn't very hungry; however, once I saw other people's food, I was ready to eat. The sauce and bread combination was one of the best things I've ever had, and the food was also very quick." Overall: 9.0/10

Over our vacation in North Carolina, we had some pretty good food, but Raising Cane's was close to the top of the list. Unfortunately, we don't have a Raising Cane, which is very close to us, so we won't get to visit for a while.

Photo Credit: Eater NY

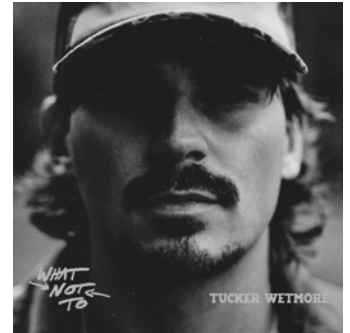
Album Review

By Dom Mensche

Album Review is an overview of albums released by popular artists, and they are rated by professional music analyst Dominick "Metro" Mensche

This week's review will be on the album *What Not To* by Tucker Wetmore.

Released on April 25, 2025, Tucker Wetmore's debut album *What Not To* is a deeply personal 19-track project that blends traditional country with modern storytelling. Drawing from his own experiences, Wetmore explores themes of love, loss, and personal growth. The title track, "What Not To," serves as the emotional centerpiece, reflecting on lessons learned from his upbringing and the absence of his father.



My Personal Favorite on the Album is the track "Whatcha Think Is Gonna Happen?" It's about how Tucker's Ex is confronting him about his bad habits, and how he justifies them. It fits into an upbeat mood, but also keeping that sad close-hearted country music we know from Tucker.

Other standout songs include the chart-topping "Wind Up Missin' You," the introspective "3,2,1," and the upbeat "Brunette." Critics have praised the album for its authenticity and emotional depth. While some tracks lean into familiar country tropes, Wetmore's sincerity and storytelling set him apart in the genre. Overall, *What Not To* marks a strong debut for Wetmore, establishing him as a promising new voice in country music.

Food Review - Applebees

By: Rhiannon Murray

Over break myself, Polly Lepage, Eve, and Pyper went on a quick trip to the infamous New Hartford. We originally planned on going to Texas Roadhouse but the wait time was well over an hour and we were wayyyy too hungry to wait.

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When listing our options, none other than Applebees came into the conversation. I don't know if I have ever been to Applebees before 9pm so this was going to be a special occasion.

After looking at the brand new menu, same food, just different font and layout, I decided there was no way I was spending full price on any of those appetizers. For drinks we got a mix of Shirley Temples and Roy Rogers (a Shirley Temple with Coke instead of Sprite). We all ordered our food and waited about 15 minutes which was a very good wait time. Our food was amazing and we left absolutely stuffed.

Reviews :

Eve 10/10 - "I got an order of mozzarella sticks and French fries for my entire meal. I ate before we went, so I was not starving; however, the food was super good. I love Applebees and was excited we picked that even though I was not that hungry. Our dessert that we shared was something I have never tried before, but it was so good. I will definitely be returning at some point!"

Pyper 10/10 - "I got buffalo boneless chicken wings and fries. It was the most delicious thing I have ever eaten. The lava cake we had for dessert was AMAZING and probably one of my favorite desserts to order."

Polly 8/10 - "I got a burger but ordered it with no lettuce or tomato. However, when it came it had both so I had to deduct a point. The fries that came with my meal were very good, which I was surprised about. I also have to talk about the dessert we got because it was so good. We definitely needed to order two, but our waiter did not seem to love us."

Rhi 9/10 - "I really enjoyed this outing. I will say the appetizers are not nearly as good as when they are half-priced after 9pm. I got a quesadilla, which was very good. It also was huge so I had leftovers to bring home. We got the lava cake for dessert but should have ordered two because we

demolished it within 60 seconds of it hitting the table."

Image credit: Applebees

Break Review

By Gavin Rutledge

Spring break has officially wrapped up and it is hard getting back to school because we haven't had a break in a while. I decided to go around and ask people how their break was and what they did. For spring break Teddy Freeth and I were invited by Bryce Wright and his family to go to their house in Cape Coral Florida. Overall the experience was a 10/10, we spent a lot of time on the boat, hanging out at the house, swimming, going to the beach, and more.

Q: What did you do for spring break and rate it out of 10?

Reagan Hope - "I went to Arizona. I rate it 10/10. I wanna live there!"

Dom Mensche - "Worked with Levi and played baseball. I give my break a solid 8/10."

Breanna Craven - "I slept, 9.3/10"

Jared - "I went to the gym, 9/10."

Mrs. Kowalski - "I hung out with Mrs. Reynolds and painted my room, I rate it 25/10."

Polly Hanson Rodriguez - "I had a softball game, I went to my friend Logan's camp, and I rate it a 10/10"

Sarah Rogers - "I spent time with family in Pennsylvania and I would rate it a 9.2/10."

Griffin Brumbach Thomson - "I went to Argentina. I rate it 9/10."

Overall, spring break seemed fun for everyone and there were high ratings all around the board. Soon enough school will be wrapping up as a whole.



Sports

Varsity Softball Recap

By Eve McCorkle

Welcome back from break, everyone! I hope you all had a great time over break because the softball team certainly did. The girls added four more wins to their record.

April 18th, 2025:

The girls started the break with a game against Herkimer. They got off the bus and got right to work. It took a little while for the girls to get a jump on their batting, but as soon as they did, they started playing great. Their offense was much better at getting on time, and their base running was on point.



When the girls took to the field, they locked down Herkimer. Eloise Freeth was pitching amazingly, even outstandingly, striking out girls left and right. After the first inning, Hamilton scored their first run. Eloise Freeth maintained her excellent work, and the infield and outfield ensured they kept everything close. Leading up to the fourth inning,

Hamilton did not stop and scored two more runs, making the score 3-0. In the end, Hamilton was dominant, playing the game the way they knew they could. Eloise Freeth was quite a star in that game, striking out a total of eighteen girls to help get their victory of 5-1. Great job, girls!

April 25, 2025:

The girls were ready to play and bring what they had. Both teams went back and forth early, with McGraw tying the game at 3-3 in the top of the third inning. However, Hamilton did not let up in the bottom of the fourth, putting up five more runs, giving them a bit of a lead. Leading up to the sixth inning, both teams scored two runs each to conclude the game and the scoring. Eloise Freeth had a total of thirteen strikeouts on the night and led the offense, going 4 for 4 at the plate with a home run, a double, two RBIs, and a run scored. Adriana Catania went 2 for 2 at the plate with a home run, three RBIs, and a total of 4 runs scored on the night. Overall, the girls played great and brought it to 'em. Great job, girls, and keep up the great work.

April 28th, 2025:

After the game at McGraw, the girls rested a bit, had a couple of practices, and got right back to it on Monday, April 28th. The team got off to a great start in Game 1, scoring 5 runs in the first inning and adding 4 more in the fourth inning. The offense was led by Eve McCorkle's two doubles, while Rihana Dye and Kate Simpson each scored two runs. Ellie Freeth assisted in the win by striking out 11 batters and allowing only 3 hits.

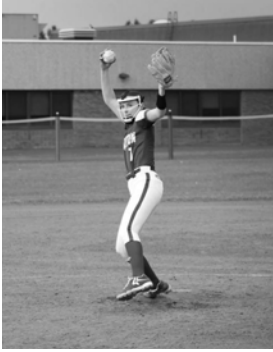


Game 2 was much tighter, remaining tied until the top of the fourth inning, when Izzy Catania drove in Adey Catania with a triple, and Ellie Olsen had a pinch-hit RBI single to make the score 2-0. The team then built a big lead in the

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fifth inning, scoring 10 runs in that frame. Izzy Catania had 2 hits and 2 RBIs in the game, while Ellie Freeth added 2 RBIs of her own, and Eve contributed another double! Freeth again earned the win, striking out 10 girls while surrendering only two hits. The team is now 6-0 to start the season. Great wins, ladies, keep up the outstanding work!

Overall, the girls have been on a roll, showing off their hard work, they have been putting the work in, and have become the unit that they have wanted. I'm sure the girls still have some things to improve on, and they will be putting the work in to get to where they want to be. Keep up the good work, girls!



Boys Varsity Baseball Suffers Loss to Dolgeville

By: Gavin Snyder

Last Monday, the boys played Dolgeville at home in a tough game. In the first three innings, both teams could not find a way to get home, but that all changed in the fourth.

With both teams being able to score but Dolgeville was able to get the head start with two more runs than Hamilton. They then took advantage and were able to score three more in the sixth inning. Hamilton added another run in the seventh.

But with Dolgeville being up 6-2, Hamilton wasn't able to come back, resulting in a loss. Luke had nine strikeouts, and Caleb added one. Cooper and Caleb also had one run each.

Photo Credit: Emily Evans



Hamilton Golf Team

By Dylan George

This past weekend, the Hamilton golf team was back in action after a long vacation. The team kicked off their first three matches at MountainTop Golf Course against a tough Sherburne squad. The playing conditions were very tough with severe wind, firm and extremely small greens, described as a "pool table" by Ezra Stahlberg, which also troubled the team. Unfortunately, the Emerald Knights lost in a final score of 162 to 165. The team was led by Bryce Wright shooting a 38, Dylan George with a 39, Ezra Stahlberg with a 44, and Sawyer Latella with a 44. The team struggled with the harsh conditions and needed to play quickly to beat the incoming storm. This was the team's first loss in almost 2 years.

On Wednesday, the team rebounded with a win at home against Herkimer, 173 to 196. The team took advantage of playing at home, with all golfers shooting very well. The team was led by Dylan George, who shot a 39, Bryce Wright with a 40, Ezra Stahlberg with a 45, and Nolan Dunlay with a 49.

The team looks to continue the success after this match, with sectionals less than three weeks away. Next week, the team has three home matches against Sherburne-Earlville, Mount Markham, and Cooperstown.

Photo Credit: PGA Play



History of the Kentucky Derby

By Ezra Stahlberg

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May third of this year marks the start of one of the most prestigious sporting events in American culture, held at the iconic Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. The Kentucky Derby is an annual horse racing event that has been taking place in the United States for 151 years. It is widely regarded as the premier horse racing event in the world, featuring some of the fastest horses on the planet. Each year, this covenanted sporting event attracts over 16.7 million viewers, with millions of dollars wagered on it.



This event is one of the most challenging races to qualify for; these horses must compete in numerous races across the country, finishing in

the top 5 and earning points. And through earning these points, the horses can qualify by placing in the top 20 point earners. Despite this incredible effort from the horses and their crew, the Kentucky Derby is only a short 2-minute race. This brevity adds to the intensity and excitement of the event, as it's a test of pure speed and endurance to declare the fastest horse in the world.

These traditions date back to 1875, when the Kentucky Derby's inaugural race was held by a man named Meriwether Lewis Clark, a prominent Louisville citizen who founded the Louisville Jockey Club. He was examining the success of Derby races in Europe, specifically the Epsom Derby. He observed the class and wealth associated with these events and concluded that it was precisely the sporting event that the United States could utilize. He particularly wanted to keep the same class and tradition of races like the Epsom Derby.

The race, in its first 25 years, was not as successful as he had hoped. It wasn't until Meriwether's death and the business was acquired by Matt Winn that the facility became incredibly successful in 1902, emerging as a major horse racing event for adolescent

thoroughbreds. Matt Winn made a critical choice, which was to maintain the same class and prestige around the event as before, to help carry it to the prestigious race that we all know today.

Today, the Kentucky Derby is not just a race, but an experience that ignites excitement and anticipation among fans. It is considered one of the most exciting and prestigious horse racing events in the world, earning a fan favorite status among people at home. Last year, over 233.03 million bets were placed on the Kentucky Derby, a testament to the thrill and unpredictability of the race. With crowds of over 150,000 people, the Kentucky Derby is undoubtedly a fan favorite and an event not to be missed.

Photo Credit: Kentucky Derby

Emerald Press

The Emerald Press

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