

Spring 2021
Chalfont, PA



The Unami Times

Unami Middle School

Newspaper

“The liberty of the press is essential to the security of the state.”

5 Day in School vs Full Virtual

Megha Rao

On Monday February 22, Unami started 5 Day in School and Full Virtual. The students and teachers quickly adapted to the new style of social distancing while having many students in the classroom at once. A few of the precautions that Unami continued from Hybrid is wiping down desks after every class, wearing masks, dismissing grades at different times to keep hallways not too crowded, and social distancing in the classes as well as hallways.



Online students also had a few new changes. With all the new classroom cleaning rules and precautions along with grades getting dismissed at different times, students at home got almost 10 minutes of break time between each class. Students were also required to keep their camera on for attendance and the rest of the class depending on what the teacher wanted. During the first week, 5 Day in School and 5 Day Virtual has been working out very well for teachers and students and hopefully will continue for as long as needed.

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Pennies for Patients

Gianna Grumer

Unami’s Student Council is hosting their annual Pennies for Patients fundraiser, designed to raise money for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) through the Hero Squad Program. The mission of LLS is to cure Leukemia, Lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease, and Myeloma and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. This fundraiser is open from February 16 to March 12 in the hopes of reaching Unami’s \$2,021 goal!

Traditionally, students would bring in “pennies” and spare change to being totaled with their advisory classes. Classes reaching their donation goal would have their teachers perform dares, agreed to at the start of the competition. The winning class would also receive a pizza party! Because the COVID-19 virus is currently preventing students from bringing in physical money, they solely ask for virtual donations. These are added to grade level totals where teachers will be completing dares if their associated grade level wins. Student Council has also prepared prizes for the fundraiser’s top 3 contributors.



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2020-2021

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Unami and Community News

Addams Family Update: Filming!

Roshni Srikant

This year's musical, *The Addams Family*, has started filming scenes! On February 26, the cast filmed this year's Broadway Cares performance. The district's Broadway Cares submissions will all be broadcasted on March 9 at 7:30.

On February 27, filming started. Due to COVID-19, this year's production has looked a little different. For one, everyone had to wear a clear mask on stage, and the number of cast members was limited to allow room for social distancing. Filming has also added a lot of stress on making sure all equipment is functioning and ready to film, but it allows more room in case something is messed up, because it can be rerecorded.

The current plan is to livestream the filmed version online in the event that a live show is not possible. This production has certainly been a new and tougher experience for everyone, but it is sure to be great!



World News

2021 Inauguration

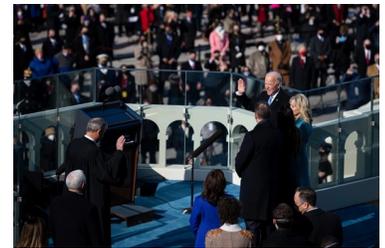
Ritvik Sindia

After a long presidential campaign, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris emerged victorious in the presidential election and were elected to be the 46th president and the 49th vice president on November 7, 2020.

On January 20th, 2021, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were sworn at the Inaugural ceremony at the U.S. capital at Washington, DC. Kamala Harris made history as the first black, and south Asian Vice President holding one of the highest offices in the country. Many distinguished guests presided this historical day of democracy, although the number of people who could attend were limited.

In order to prevent anyone from protesting or disrupting the Inauguration, security was tightened all around the Capitol. Days before, strict security measures were in place across the nation days prior to the grand Inauguration. Law enforcement officials braced for possible security breaches and violence prior to the swearing-in ceremony. State and federal officials took no chances after the violent siege on the United States Capitol that occurred on January 6th, 2021. The FBI, US Secret Service Agency and the National Guard worked closely to keep the public safe and protect the members attending the event. The Transportation Security Administration was also on high alert following the events at the capitol on January 6th.

At 12:00 pm. (EST) President Biden was finally sworn in and addressed the nation seeking unity after a riotous mob had stormed the Capitol building two weeks earlier. He promised the nation that he would be president for all Americans and would not let disagreements lead to disunion. President Biden urged all Americans to come together to help overcome the many challenges the nation faced. Kamala Harris also vowed to work with President Biden to build an optimistic nation for all Americans. She highlighted American aspiration and said President Biden had summoned the American people to look beyond the crisis and aspire to unite.



Source: Rollcall.com

That same night, President Biden addressed the nation at the “Celebrating America” concert, which occurred at the Lincoln memorial, and assured the nation that the best was yet to come. He also stated that the Inauguration was not just about him and Kamala Harris but about the American people. Several well-known artists performed that night to celebrate the Inauguration. Later that night, President Biden and Kamala Harris’s family witnessed gorgeous fireworks, celebrating the historical moment.

Latest Covid-19 Variants

Source: cdc.gov

Cassidy Fisher

The cases of Coronavirus reported daily has gone down immensely since mid-January; different Coronavirus variants have been recorded and have now traveled to the United States. How will these new variants affect our progress in lessening the spread of Covid-19?

It is inevitable for a virus to mutate and create different variations of itself. Scientists have been monitoring the physical change in the Coronavirus, such as changes in the spikes on the surface level of the virus. These types of findings, as well as genetic analysis, have helped scientists discover how changes in the virus affect its ability to spread and how those infected with it react.

Three Coronavirus variants have been circulating globally, as well as have reached the United States. These variants are: B.1.1.7 (discovered in the UK), B.1.351 (discovered in South Africa), and P.1 (discovered in Brazil). B.1.1.7 was found in the fall of 2020 in the UK. This variant has been known to spread more easily and quickly compared to others. Experts in the UK reported in January of this year that this virus variant is possibly associated with increased risk of death, but more studies need to be conducted before this information can be confirmed. B.1.1.7 was first recorded in the US towards the end of December of 2020. As of February 20, 2021, 1,523 people in 42 states have tested positive for this variant. B.1.351 was first found in early October of 2020 in South Africa. This variant has been found to share some mutations with B.1.1.7, but the CDC has not given out anymore information specifically related to this variant. B.1.351 was reported in the US at the end of January in 2021. 21 people in ten states have tested positive for the B.1.351 Coronavirus variant as of February 20, 2021. The final variant, P.1, was discovered in Brazilian citizens traveling to Japan in early January of 2021. This variant has certain mutations that could possibly affect its ability to be recognized by antibodies. Found in the US at the end of January, P.1 has infected five people in four states as of February 20, 2021. These three variants spread more easily and quickly than others. Studies so far show that antibodies generated through the currently authorized Covid-19 vaccination recognize these variants; this is still being investigated.

Variant	Reported Cases in US	Number of States Reporting
B.1.1.7	1523	42
B.1.351	21	10
P.1	5	4

World News

Latest Covid-19 Variants (continued)

Cassidy Fisher

How can you prevent yourself and others from contracting Covid-19 and these variants? Physical distancing, use of masks, and hand hygiene are the CDC's recommendations in order to prevent getting the Coronavirus and these specific variants. The CDC also suggests that you layer your masks by wearing a cloth mask with multiple layers or by wearing a disposable mask under a cloth mask. Be safe and spread awareness about these new Covid-19 variants and how to stop their spread.



Add **Layers** of material

2 ways to layer

- Use a cloth mask that has multiple layers of fabric.
- Wear one disposable mask underneath a cloth mask.
 - The second mask should push the edges of the inner mask against your face.

Source: *cdc.gov*

Coronavirus Vaccine Update

Ritvik Sindia

Over the past year, the world has been experiencing the worst pandemic of the new century. The Coronavirus made its way around the world, killing 2.5 million people, and infecting 115 million. Despite this, there is still good news on the way. The first vaccine approved for emergency use authorization was developed and manufactured by Pfizer and BioNTech.

On December 11th, 2020, the United States Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) issued the first Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a vaccine for the prevention of the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). It is caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV-2) in individuals 16 years of age and older. However, antiviral drugs for use in treatment of COVID-19 in pediatric (12 years and older) and adult patients was approved as early as October of 2020 for emergency use.

Following the approval of Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine, several other pharmaceutical companies gained approval for the Emergency Use Authorization. The vaccines that are also approved are Moderna and Jansen's COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine is to be distributed in the U.S. for individuals 18 years and older.

These vaccines help our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19 without us having to get the illness. The different types of vaccines work in different ways to offer protection. It takes a few weeks for the human body to develop immunity after being vaccinated. Therefore, it is possible that a person did not have enough time to protect them. The vaccines developed by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine requires more than one shot. The first shot starts building protection and the second shot a few weeks later provides almost complete protection. The most recently developed Jansen's vaccine, however, requires only one shot.



Source: *The Washington Post*

The Pfizer and BioNTech Vaccine is shown to reduce the risk of COVID by 95%. The Moderna vaccine was 94.1% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 after the second dose. Jansen's COVID vaccine was shown to be 85% protective against severe diseases. All these COVID-19 vaccines have shown similar side effects, which is injection site pain, headache, fatigue, muscle/joint pain, and fever. For both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine, the side effects are more common after the second dose. Interestingly, younger adults, with a more robust immune system reported more side effects than the older adults. These side effects are truly a sign of the immune system kicking into gear. They do not signal that the vaccine is unsafe. As of February 2021, no long-term side effects have been noted in these vaccine recipients. Pharmaceutical companies are closely monitoring the effectiveness and side effects of these vaccines continually.

As the U.S. battles the pandemic and is trying their best to make the vaccine available to all Americans, they are also starting to slowly revert back into normalcy. In a pandemic that has killed more than 2.5 million and infected 50 times that number leaves the global population vulnerable to the disease. As of February 2021, 22 million Americans have been fully vaccinated as the United States hopes to return to its former glory of being pandemic free. With President Biden's plan to spend 25 billion dollars on vaccine production and disbursement, all Americans are to be vaccinated for free by at least the end of 2021.

To bring this pandemic to an end, a large share of the world's population needs to be immune to the COVID-19 virus. The safest way to achieve this is through vaccination. With the new variants, researchers in the scientific community continue to find ways to battle the variants and find the cure. Several research organizations around the world are uniting to find various cures and different types of vaccines to strive for a pandemic-free land and save humanity from this infectious disease.

World News

Winter Storms: Cause and Effect

Anna Duffy

In the past month, the United States has received an extraordinary amount of snow. In stark contrast to last winter, the snow totals in Pennsylvania added up to roughly 25”, just in 2021. Texas, which consists largely of desert region, suffered under the most snow they have seen in years. This triggered the largest power outage the United States had ever seen. More globally, Turkey and Greece have also seen snow.



Source: Anna Duffy

One of the causes for this erratic winter season is the polar vortex. This phenomenon is like a spinning top of freezing air located in the stratosphere. It normally sits over the North Pole, or at least in that general region. Sometimes, however, some of the cold air escapes its Arctic home. This is likely an effect of human-caused climate change. Recently, the polar vortex both changed its position and split into chunks, creating havoc all over the world.

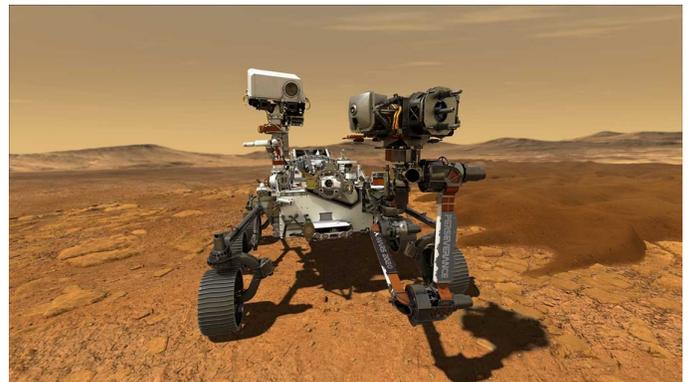
Yet this sudden rush of cold weather does not mean global warming is no longer in effect. Unfortunately, if nothing is done to actively combat climate change, we must expect more severe and erratic weather.

NASA’s Perseverance Rover

Gianna Grumer

After the launch on July 30, 2020, at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, scientists and engineers have been closely watching NASA’s *Perseverance Rover*. It landed on February 18, 2021, at Jezero Crater, almost seven months after its departure.

Perseverance joined four other NASA rovers currently roaming the red planet, the first to be landed on Mars since 2012. Weighing a total of 2,260 lbs., this project reached many milestones within the fields of science and space exploration. Along with technological advancements, *Perseverance* also holds a key difference from previous Mars rovers: it carries a helicopter. *Ingenuity* is the first helicopter on Mars, which is designed to understand and demonstrate flight in the planet’s environment and circumstances.



Source: NASA

The purpose of the mission is to explore Mars further. Besides looking for ancient life, *Perseverance* is also collecting samples and gathering information on natural resources. These projects are critical components to determining logistics around possible future human exploration on Mars.

Jezero Crater, the area chosen for the landing, is north of the Martian equator. This area, said to have previously been a lake, has a channel entering and exiting the crater, in addition to a delta of deposited sediment. This currently holds the most evidence of water on Mars; therefore, scientists believe it also holds the best chance of showing previous life.

Because of the successful landing, NASA’s next big plan is currently to send a “fetch” rover to Mars. This is in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA) and would be sent to Mars to retrieve sample tubes taken by *Perseverance*. These samples will then be launched back to Earth, setting new records. This can be expected to occur in approximately 2031.

World News

India's Farmers Strike Back

Roshni Srikant

In September 2020, India's parliament passed three laws which would change the way India's farmers profited forever. In rebuttal, they began to protest on the streets of the capital city, New Delhi. On the country's Republic Day falling on January 26, a celebration had been planned. This year, however, it was paralleled by a peaceful tractor protest led by many of the nation's farmers. As the day went on, however, some protesters got off the original protest plan, and things got violent. Protesters were tear gassed and beaten. Many cases of violence were reported throughout the day, and supporter Navreet Singh was found to be dead. In the following days, barriers were set up to prevent further protests and violence, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi tried to compromise with the protesters by delaying the laws for 18 months. But what are these laws, and why are the farmers striking back?

India's agricultural system has worked something like this: farmers bring their produce to local markets called *mandis*. At these *mandis*, farmers auction their produce to local traders, who will proceed to sell these products to actual sellers. Basically, the *mandis* and traders working there are the middlemen. This guarantees that all farmers get at least some amount of money because they are selling to people who will definitely pay them back with the profits made at stores. But the new agricultural laws essentially remove the *mandis* entirely. This might not seem like such a problem at first glance. But dig in a little deeper, and you start to

notice the problem: without the *mandis*, larger agricultural corporations can now directly sell to stores. This means that small-scale farmers are no longer guaranteed their money, and their jobs could easily be filled by large corporations. This could push these farmers into even more poverty. And now take this into consideration: nearly half of India is made of agricultural workers. And in the 1950s and 60s, there was a sudden boost in the agricultural economy which has since declined deeply, pushing many farmers into poverty. So, what does this mean? It means these laws are going to make many already-poor farmers even poorer.

Indian farmers aren't alone in this protest. Swedish climate change activist, Greta Thunberg, has been facing backlash for openly supporting the farmers, posting a tweet saying, "No amount of hate, threats or violations of human rights will ever change that." Other celebrities have been posting online, including another activist Meena Harris and Rihanna. In fact, India has seen this support as an anti-India movement of sorts. But they won't stop fighting. Neither will the farmers. And while it might be a boost for India as a whole, it will be a huge loss to nearly half of its people.

Sources: Vox, DW, The Diplomat



Source: Sanjeev Verma, Hindustan Times Newspaper

2021 U.S. Capitol Riot

Ritvik Sindia



When Donald Trump failed to get reelected in November of 2020, he did everything in his power to verify there was no fraud involved with the results. This included recounting mail ballots, making the electoral college vote again, and attempting to file several lawsuits.

Once Congress announced they would meet on January 6th to do one final count to verify the election, President Trump announced on Twitter that he and his supporters would have a rally to peacefully protest the election results in front of the Capitol building. However, some in attendance saw the rally as an invitation to violence and chaos.

Source-New York Times

2021 U.S. Capitol Riot (cont.)

Ritvik Sindia

When January 6th finally hit, thousands of supporters of the President gathered in Washington DC. The rally was titled “Save America.” During the gathering, President Trump addressed the crowd and encouraged the supporters to march to the Capitol and protest the electoral college from endorsing the election results. During the rally, Trump claimed that the election had been stolen from him and the crowd should demand that Vice President Pence and Congress reject Biden’s victory.

Around 1 pm (EST), protesters gathered around the eastern entrance of the capitol building, making it past police and security guards. About one hour later, the crowd had taken over part of the Capitol building, fighting their way with the security guards to the Capitol dome, where the election was being verified.

Once the supporters made it inside, they started to break more doors and windows that separated restricted areas from the public. They also vandalized and looted several offices of several lawmakers. This even resulted in assaulting and injuring several police officers and reporters. The House of Representatives, Senate Chambers, and other buildings within the Capitol were locked down, and members were evacuated into safer zones. After resistance from Mr. Trump to immediately send in the DC National Guard to quell the mob and help the police, help was sent around mid-evening. The counting of the votes resumed and was completed the next day.

This historical event was condemned by political leaders and organizations in the United States and all around the World. An independent commission was established to investigate the event in detail. The incident was characterized as an event of violence and domestic terrorism. More than 300 people were charged, five dead, and several others were injured. Several members of the Trump administration resigned afterwards, expressing disappointment over the day’s events. The security breach at the Capitol led to scrutinization of law enforcement agencies, intelligence communication, and awakening government officials to be prepared for future catastrophes.

The Brooklyn Nets Uprising

Ryan Bin

The Brooklyn Nets have now added James Harden to their already strong roster—including Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving—after a recent trade. With 3 superstars, it may seem like the Brooklyn Nets will win the 2021 NBA finals.

When Russell Westbrook left the Houston Rockets, Harden’s previous team, it had to rely on Harden. However, James Harden didn’t want to carry the burden of an entire team. So, he requested to be traded to the Nets. This trade was possibly the best for the Brooklyn Nets because Harden would be paired up with Irving, infamous for his ball-handling skills, and Durant, a previous teammate of Harden’s. The team chemistry between James Harden and Kevin Durant made the lethality of the duo unmatched back in 2012, when both players were on the Oklahoma City Thunder.



Source: *USA Today*

However, James Harden was traded to the Rockets, and Kevin Durant to the Golden State Warriors. It had been almost 9 years since the two were last together, so this current chemistry might not be as good as it was in 2012. If the Brooklyn Nets want to make their superstars the best they can be, they will have to make the most out of each players’ individual skillset. Kyrie Irving is a crafty and skilled point guard. He would be the “glue” that holds the team together. Kevin Durant is one of the best 3-point shooters in the NBA. James Harden also makes consistent 3-point shots and is an exceptional playmaker. In addition, the team itself would benefit the trio. The Brooklyn Nets have excellent players like Spencer Dinwiddie, Joe Harris, and Deandre Jordan. If the Nets find a superior strategy to use James Harden, Kyrie Irving, and Kevin Durant, they could become the greatest team in the National Basketball Association.

Reviews

Love and Monsters Review

Ashlee Raney



Source-Wikipedia

Love and Monsters, a post-apocalyptic film released in late 2020, stands out among typical dystopian films. Overall, it introduces us to lovable characters, interesting monsters, and a compelling plot.

Rotten Tomatoes critics wrote, “Love and Monsters takes some very common tropes from different genres and mixes them all together in a strange, unique world.” Some might worry about the plot of a monster apocalypse being done yet again, as the protagonist embarking on a long adventure whilst fighting monsters is extremely common, yet in this case, extremely well done. Love and Monsters is a comedic and heartfelt take on a well exercised concept. This movie has loads of heart, but surprisingly, not because of the love interest, Aimee. While Joel’s determination to get to her drives the plot, the movie focuses more on the relationships between allies he meets on his journey.

Another one of the key elements that made Love and Monsters so perfect was the casting choice of Dylan O’Brien. “O’Brien’s earnest charisma makes this comedic post-apocalyptic adventure a surprisingly sweet and entertaining pick.”, said Sandie Angulo Chen (Common Sense Media). O’Brien clearly had acting experience that made him fit for the role of Joel Dawson, especially having played the lead in another dystopian movie series, Maze Runner. Throughout the movie, he demonstrates a wide acting range from his strong comedic delivery to heart-wrenching drama scenes.

Love and Monsters may not be the first of its kind, but it is more fun and enjoyable to watch than others. In addition, any audience would be guaranteed to be entertained by Dylan O’Brien’s humor.

WandaVision

Simarpreet Bashal

Imagine being in a reality created by yourself. Each thing gets passed by only you. You control everyone and everything. You are the most powerful being in that reality. WandaVision is a Marvel television show consisting of Wanda Maximoff (AKA Scarlett Witch) and Vision. It is about two super-powered beings living an idealized life, but they begin to suspect that the place is not what it seems.

The first episode starts off in black and white. The episode is based off a TV show from the 1950s, I Love Lucy. Wanda has her powers and Vision has his robotic abilities. They are newlyweds and buy a house in the town of Westview. They then run into a few unusual issues. They have a heart on the calendar of today’s date. Throughout the episode they wonder what’s special about the day. Wanda stay’s home and her friend, Agnes, comes to visit her as Vision heads off to work. They then realize that Vision’s boss is supposed to come for dinner. They have to quickly prepare the food while the Boss and his wife arrive. But then when the food is presented, things start to take a turn...

Each and every episode has intricate details and hidden Easter eggs. If you enjoy solving puzzles and brain teasers, then I guarantee that this show is a perfect match for you. Not any episode fails to make you think: What just happened?

Viewers with a craving for science fiction and comedy will adore this TV Show. The easter eggs and details will leave you in awe. And like Agnes said in the show, “Oh this is gonna be a gas!”

Source– Disney+



Reviews/Technology and Entertainment

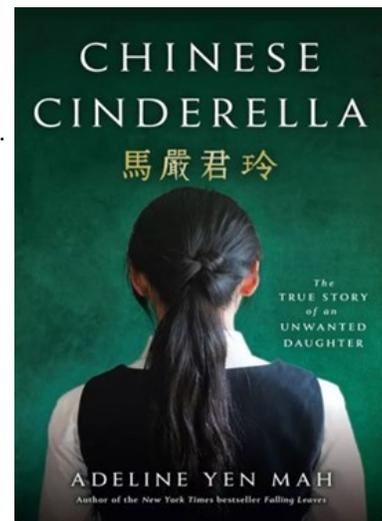
Chinese Cinderella: The Story of an Unloved Child

Roshni Srikant

I don't usually write reviews for anything but this deserved it. Chinese Cinderella is a memoir following the childhood of Adeline Yen Mah, a young Chinese girl whose mother died giving birth to her and who was looked upon by her family as bad luck. This book made me cry. And I don't mean graceful "aww-that's-unfortunate" crying. I mean things got ugly. Adeline was abused by her stepmother as a child, and had few sources of happiness: her grandmother, her aunt, and her friends at school .

She could not invite her friends as her stepmother Niang forbade it. Niang was partial towards her children versus her stepchildren, and she especially neglected Adeline. Her father was also neglectful towards her. But if you want to know the rest of her struggles (which are much more shocking), you'll have to read the book. And I didn't come here to give you a summary of the book. I came here to tell you why it's worth your time.

Adeline's word choice makes the reader that much more sympathetic with her situation. Her language is complex and detailed but still easy to follow. She wrote from her heart of her best moments and her worst. The way she wrote about being sent to boarding school and how her parents neglected her broke me down. And I mean I nearly cried myself to sleep over a person I didn't even know. She makes her story such that an already sad childhood was made that much more real. I don't know what else to say about this book, because it's sadly beautiful in a way that can't be described using words. So if you have some free time, check it out. Read it. And if you are of the emotional kind, sob over it.



Source-Sora

A Dedicated Radio in 2021? The Tecsun PL-310ET.

Anders Jacobson

Tecsun's homebrewed "ETM", or "easy tuning mode" feature quickly scans for stations, and based off personal experience, hardly misses a frequency on FM. The ETM accuracy on shortwave is debatable because of shortwave's large frequency spectrum and temperamental nature, though it seems to do a slightly above average job on finding such stations. AM scanning using ETM appears to be mediocre at best, though with both shortwave and AM, it does quite well with picking up weaker signals, provided that the user manually tunes to or inputs the frequency.



Other features include a dedicated reel antenna port, a headphone jack, a carrying strap, volume control, Centigrade and Fahrenheit temperature, time, alarm, stereo, and signal strength displays, an adjustable backlight, a frequency memory bank, a kickstand for tabletop use, a built-in speaker, and a button-lock feature. It should be noted that this receiver does not have any single sideband modes or a fine-tuning knob, but at just fifty dollars, there's little room to complain. This whole feature-packed apparatus operates on five-volt DC in, or, for traveling listeners and DX-peditions, a few AA batteries.

In short, for most listeners, the PL-310ET is about the last radio one will ever need. Small, light, powerful, and versatile, this little set earns a spot with the best of them. Though it falls short for serious shortwave listening, it would make a great starter radio for the hobby. AM and FM are outstanding on this set, and it stands as a formidable receiver to most other mainstream radios.

Technology and Entertainment

AirPods Max: Apple's First-Ever Headphones

Roshni Srikant

We've got ourselves some new Apple technology! Meet AirPods Max, the newest AirPods that aren't actually earbuds at all. They are over-the-ear headphones coming in a variety of colors, not unlike the ones offered for this year's iPhone 12: silver, space gray, sky blue, pink, and green. They come with a case, which is actually very different from that of the original AirPods and the AirPods Pro. So what's the difference? The case is not actually a charging case, but a slim Smart Case. The case, instead of charging the AirPods (you can see from the design of the case that it would not be able to), sets the AirPods into a power-preserving mode so that they save battery until used again. In addition, the Smart Case is not a mega-sized AirPods case. It's a thin cover with a magnetic clasp for easy storing and carrying.

And now for the AirPods themselves. Apple's overview states that "the over-ear headphone has been completely reimagined." And reimagined it has been. The headband is no longer foam on plastic, but a snug, flexible mesh stretching over stainless-steel frames. The arms don't have presets like many other headphones but can be customized to your exact fit. No more, no less. The cups can also rotate any way on their own. The ear cushions also mold to your face shape so there isn't outside noise leaking in. So clearly, the size isn't a problem as you can customize it to your exact fit.

So now how does the sound match up to the fit? Well, the audio quality is very similar to that of the AirPods Pro: there is Active Noise Cancellation and Transparency Mode. Noise Cancellation is Apple's audio technology which cancels outside noise out with anti-noise produced by the headphones to ensure that the only thing you hear is your music. In the AirPods Max, this is fulfilled using six outward microphones and two inward ones to make sure you're only hearing your audio. If you just so happen to be multi-tasking, Transparency Mode allows you to be 100% aware of what you're hearing around you while still playing your phone audio. Apple claims that the driver is custom-built to ensure there is little distortion and clear notes. The phone calls are now that much better, with "beamforming microphones [helping] isolate your voice on phone calls, so it's heard clearly—even in windy situations." Apple compares their audio to that of a theater, "with sound that surrounds you."

AirPods Max have inherited their siblings' traits: iPhone compatibility, Siri, the magic tap functions, all of it. They connect with your device as soon as they approach it, and they can switch between all of your devices: a function inherently present in the older AirPods. Again, you can share phone audio between two sets of AirPods (any model). Similar to the AirPods and Pros, AirPods Max know when you're using them and when you aren't and will pause streaming accordingly. Siri is also reading your messages and responding to your every move too! And one button can take calls, adjust volume, skip tracks, *and* grab Siri: the all-new Digital Crown, which is on top of the right-hand cup.



There's only one drawback, and that's the pricing. If you remember, the original AirPods cost around \$150-200, while the AirPods Pro were \$250. Well, the AirPods Max are pricier than an average iPad: \$549. While they are very good, they are definitely on the pricier side. It is recommended to start with AirPods or AirPods Pro, unless you plan on using these very often and need something which is more comfortable and immersive. If you will use these very often, then these are certainly the headphones for you.

Technology and Entertainment

Samsung S21 Ultra Review

Keshav Bhoovaragan

The Samsung S21 Ultra is the latest flagship that came out on January 14, 2021. The Price starts at \$999.99 in the US. It is available in five colors- Phantom Black, Phantom Silver, Phantom Titanium, Phantom Navy, and Phantom Brown. The Network technology used is 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G band speeds. The dimensions of this flagship is 165.1 x 75.6 x 8.9 mm (6.5 x 2.98 x 0.35 in). The weight of this is 227 g (Sub6) and 229 g (mmWave) (8.01 oz). The build quality of this new phone is a Glass front (Gorilla Glass Victus), glass back (Gorilla Glass Victus), and an aluminum frame. This comes in as both Single SIM (Nano-SIM and/ or eSIM) or Dual SIM (Nano SIM and/ or eSIM, dual stand-by). It is also dust/water resistant (up to 1.5m for 30 mins). This is something new that Samsung has added this year. Not only does the Note series get a stylus support, so does the S series now. The display is Dynamic AMOLED 2X, 120Hz, HDR10+, 1500 nits (peak) and 6.8 inches in size. The resolution is 1440 x 3200 pixels (20:9 ratio). The OS is Android 11. The chip set varies between countries. For international sales, they give the Exynos 2100 (5 nm) chip and for the United States and China, they give the Qualcomm SM8350 Snapdragon 888 (5 nm) chip. Next is the CPU, it is a Octa-core (1x2.9 GHz Cortex-X1 & 3x2.80 GHz Cortex-A78 & 4x2.2 GHz Cortex-A55), which is international. For the US and China, it is a Octa-core (1x2.84 GHz Kryo 680 & 3x2.42 GHz Kryo 680 & 4x1.80 GHz Kryo 680). The GPU varies among countries.



Source- The Verge

For China and the US, it is Adreno 660. There is no card slot this year. For the camera they gave us four lenses 108 MP, f/1.8, 24mm (wide), 1/1.33", 0.8µm, PDAF, Laser AF, OIS 10 MP, f/4.9, 240mm (periscope telephoto), 1/3.24", 1.22µm, dual pixel PDAF, OIS, 10x optical zoom 10 MP, f/2.4, 70mm (telephoto), 1/3.24", 1.22µm, dual pixel PDAF, OIS, 3x optical zoom 12 MP, f/2.2, 13mm (ultrawide), 1/2.55", 1.4µm, dual pixel PDAF, Super Steady video. This also features LED flash, auto-HDR, and panorama. The video quality is 8K@24fps, 4K@30/60fps, 1080p@30/60/240fps, 720p@960fps, HDR10+, stereo sound rec., gyro-EIS. For the Selfie camera, you get a 40 MP, f/2.2, 26mm (wide), 1/2.8", 0.7µm, PDAF, with features like Dual video call, Auto-HDR, and video quality at 4K@30/60fps, 1080p@30fps. This comes with a speaker but no headphone Jack. Some general features for this phone is that it has an under display fingerprint, Bixby (another version of Siri or Google), it has Samsung pay, and a Ultra-wideband support. The battery looks good on specs. It has a 5000 mAh battery. It also has fast charging 25W, a USB Power delivery 3.0, wireless charging 15W, and it also has reverse charging 4.5W. This is Samsung's latest flagship, and could be a powerhouse.



Source-TechRepublic

Interviews

Dr. Mackensen

Cassidy Fisher

Where did you grow up?

Yardley, PA, Bucks County. It was fairly rural back then.

Where did you go to school (high school and/or university)?

The Lawrenceville School (prep), Univ of PA for pre-med and for veterinary medical degree, College of New Jersey for master's in education.

French is not the subject you have always taught. What subject did you originally teach and what made you want to teach it?

I had always thought about teaching biology or related sciences. It was a good fit for my background also when I made the career change. It has been refreshing to teach a non-science subject most recently, though.

Where did you work before Unami?

Besides various veterinary owner and associate clinical positions in Pa and NY, I taught at Cinnaminson High School in NJ briefly, then Tamanend, then Tohickon Middle.

You have visited France many times and have family there. What is your fondest memory in France?

That's a really, really hard one. Because my mother was born in France, I had double nationality until the age of 21. My first trip to France was when I was three months old, on a "super constellation" four propeller plane, 16-hour flight. Back then they had open metal baskets for overhead compartments. I slept up there for part of the flight! Anyway, three hour multi-course family Sunday dinners (at lunch time) with company, my grand-mère and grand-père, trout fishing in the Vosges mountains, bringing my sons to France to share it with them, every croissant I've ever eaten in France, etc.

What word/phrase do you enjoying saying in French most?

That's easy. Ça va? Ça va! (How's it going? Going good!)

How do you like working at Unami so far?

Wow, it's been a really welcoming community. The other teachers will do anything to help you. My old homie from Tohickon, Mr. Pustay, has tried hard to help with all the virtual stuff too. I'm constantly blown away by how solid attendance has been in my classes. Very nice kids. I can actually get them to come on camera when virtual now!

What is your favorite thing about being a teacher?

Being around younger people, because overall they are more open-minded and carefree, and that reminds you to lighten up and enjoy the journey. Also, being around adults who have a wide variety of fields of expertise, all in one workplace. As far as the mechanics of teaching, trying to design instruction, materials and activities that will open brains up to easily scoop up and master the knowledge and skills.

How long have you been teaching?

Errrr...let's just say the lifetime of the average cat, times two...

What are some things you enjoying doing outside of school?

Classical piano and harpsichord, hiking, cycling, dirt biking, kayaking, primitive camping.

Do you have a quote you live by?

"Just do it." That's a good one. And the serenity prayer saying.

Creative Writing

Red Riding Pigs

Shruthi Ravishankar

Once upon a time, there lived three little pigs, named Tiny, Tidi, and Biggy. Tiny and Tidi were going over to see brother Biggy's house. They waddled down a brown, muddy path to get to the house. It was starting to get late in the night so they thought they would only reach the house the next day. They wanted to build a little house for the two of them to spend the night. But neither one could decide what material to build their house in. So, they called out for help. A big bad wolf came along and wanted to eat Tiny and Tidi. So, he told them to make separate houses; one out of straw and the other out of sticks. Big bad wolf did not dare to say brick because then he would not be able to eat them, he thought. He then skipped down on the path and hid in a bush. As the two pigs finished building their houses, they got in and fell fast asleep. Meanwhile, at brother Biggy's house, brother was worried and wondered where Tiny and Tidi were. So, he got his coat and set off to find them. That night, out of all nights was the scariest night. The trees had faces and the dark animals with red eyes were lurking around. But brother Biggy was determined to find his two little brothers. As he started to get closer, he stumbled on a bush. The same bush big bad wolf was hiding in. Brother Biggy got scared and quickly ran back to his house. The big bad wolf blew the two little pigs houses down and send them running. Then the big bad wolf quickly followed brother Biggy to his house to blow it down too. Brother Biggy knew that his brothers were not safe, so he had to think of a plan. Meanwhile the big bad wolf huffed and puffed to blow Biggy's house away. But the house would not go down. So, he ran inside



the house and put brother Biggy in a closet. Big bad wolf then wore Biggy's clothes and waited for Tiny and Tidi to come inside the house. At the time Tiny and Tidi were running down the path to brother Biggy's house. As they reached their brother's house, they kicked off their shoes and ran inside to greet brother. When they went into brother's room, they saw that their brother's skin had darkened. Oh my, they thought, what dark skin he has. Oh my, they thought, what big snout he has. Oh my, they thought, what big ears he has. Oh my, this is not how brother Biggy looks like, this is not our brother Biggy. Worried that the big bad wolf ate their brother Biggy, they took off the sheets and jumped on wolf till he exploded in to pieces. Not finding brother Biggy, they started to cry. All of

the sudden, brother Biggy embraced his inner hulk and broke through the closet. Tiny and Tidi were happy to see him at last. They huddled together closely and all fell asleep.



February/March Recipes

Leanne Mathew

Hey everyone! These are some recipes I made this past month or sometime recently. They're all delicious and you should definitely try a couple of these!

Recipe 1: French Toast

Recipe 2: Caramel Corn

Recipe 3: Hershey Kiss Thumbprint Cookies

Recipe #1:

French Toast

This quick and simple, yet tasty recipe is from Laura Fuentes at MOMables.com

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Serves: 4 Servings

Ingredients

1 cup milk, regular or dairy free
2 tablespoon corn starch (use flour as a substitute)

2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, optional

4 slices thick white bread

4 tablespoon butter or vegan alternative,

1 cup sliced strawberries, optional

Maple syrup, optional

Powdered sugar, optional

In a medium bowl combine the milk, cornstarch, vanilla, and cinnamon. Whisk until everything is combined and the cornstarch is dissolved.

Heat a large, nonstick pan over medium heat.

Place one slice of bread into the milk mixture long enough to soak the side then flip the bread and allow it to soak for an additional 3 seconds.

Melt 1 tablespoon butter in the pan and place 2 slices of bread into the center of the pan. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes or until golden brown.

Using a spatula, flip the French Toast pieces and brown the other side for an additional 3 to 4 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from the pan and repeat with remaining bread slice and butter.

Once cooked, topped the slices with strawberries, syrup, and powdered sugar

Creative Writing

February/March Recipes (cont.)

Leanne Mathew

Recipe #2:

Caramel Corn (Caramel Popcorn)

Looking for an easy way to change that average popcorn? Try this easy homemade Caramel Corn recipe made by Sally from Sally's Baking Addiction.com

 Prep Time: 20 minutes	Preheat the oven to 200°F (93°C). Spread the popcorn out onto 2 large baking sheets. Set aside.
 Cook Time: 1 hour	
 Serves: 10 cups	Combine the sugar, corn syrup, butter, cream of tartar, and salt in a medium saucepan over a medium-high heat. Stir constantly and bring to a boil for about 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and quickly stir in the baking soda. Pour the caramel over the popcorn and stir gently until all the kernels are coated.
Ingredients	
 10 cups (100g) air-popped popcorn	(If using caramel candies, simply melt them in the same way as above then pour over the popcorn)
 1 cup (200g) packed light brown sugar	
 1/4 cup (80g) light corn syrup	Bake for 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes. Allow to cool on the pan and break apart large clusters if desired. Cover the popcorn tightly once cooled.
 1/2 cup (115g) unsalted butter	
 1/8 teaspoon cream of tartar, optional	
 1/2 teaspoon salt	
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda	
*If you have caramel candies you can use that instead of the sugar, corn syrup, butter, cream of tartar, baking soda, and salt	

Recipe #3

Hershey Kiss Thumbprint Cookies

Do you still have that pack of Hershey Kisses from Halloween sitting in your pantry, and your resisting from eating it all because you know eating that much chocolate is extremely bad for you? No one? Just me? Well, if you do have a couple Hershey Kisses laying around, try this extremely tasty cookie recipe! This recipe is from Kelly Anthony and The Anthony Kitchen.com

 Prep Time: 20 mins	Preheat oven to 350° and have ready a cookie sheet lined with a sheet of parchment paper or a Silpat.
 Cook Time: 10 mins	
 Servings: 15	In a mixing bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and sea salt. Set aside until ready to use.
Ingredients	
 1/3 cup all-purpose flour	In the bowl of a stand mixer, mix together butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar and peanut butter on medium-high speed. If you don't have a stand mixer, use a large mixing bowl and a handheld mixer.
 1 tsp baking powder	
 1 tsp fine salt	Add the egg, followed by the vanilla extract. Add the flour with the mixer on low. Remove bowl from mixer and scrape the dough from the bottom, up and over the top. Return bowl to the mixer and mix on low 30 seconds more.
 1/2 cup + 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted	
 1/2 cup light brown sugar, firmly packed	Scoop out a scant tablespoon of dough and form into a ball. Place about 1" apart on parchment paper. Bake 10 minutes, remove from the oven and set atop a cooling rack.
 1/2 cup + 1 tablespoon granulated sugar	
 1 cup peanut butter	
 1 large egg	
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract	
15 unwrapped Chocolate Kisses	

Those were just a couple of my recipes these past couple months, hope you like them! Try some of them if you want! Have a nice March!

Creative Writing

Chocolate Recipes

Roshni Srikant

Chocolate. The mother of all sweet things. The mother of all bitter things. The currency of the Aztecs. That melty bittersweet confection prepared to perfection. Okay, okay, I'm done ranting. But seriously. I LOVE chocolate. If you let me pick between rollercoasters and chocolate, I'll take the chocolate. (No, I won't, I'll take the rollercoaster and steal the chocolate.) Anyways, before my excitement about chocolate gets out of hand, allow me to introduce you to my two favorite chocolate recipes to try this winter.

1. Hot Chocolate

This is kind of tedious but so worth it.

Serves 4

Takes 15-20 minutes

Ingredients:

4 cups whole milk

½ cup cocoa powder, sifted

¼ cup dark chocolate chips

1 tsp vanilla extract

½ cup sugar (adjust to your liking)

4 dollops Cool Whip (or 1 cup heavy cream + ¾ cup powdered sugar, whipped together)

Procedure:

To prepare, melt the dark chocolate chips in the microwave at 30 second intervals, stirring gently in between.

Bring the milk to a simmer in a pot.

Add the cocoa powder tablespoon by tablespoon to ensure there are no lumps. Stir the milk continuously.

Repeat step 2 with the sugar.

Mix the ingredients until thoroughly combined.

Mix in the melted chocolate chips and the vanilla extract. Bring the mixture to a boil, then bring it off the heat and allow it to cool for 5-10 minutes (so as not to scald your precious tongue).

Top with Cool Whip or make your own whipped cream by whipping together heavy cream and powdered sugar.



Creative Writing

Chocolate Recipes (cont.)

Roshni Srikant

2. Double Chocolate Muffins

I don't bake with eggs, so this is an eggless buttermilk muffin recipe, but it's so good you won't even realize. The original recipe is for blueberry muffins, so I've adjusted a few things. You can find the original recipe here: <https://www.cookwithmanali.com/eggless-blueberry-muffins/>

Makes 12 cupcakes

Takes 40-45 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup cocoa powder (use Dutch processed for deeper flavor)
- 1 tsp baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- 15 tbsps. milk
- 1 tbsp distilled white vinegar or other acid (lemon juice, etc.)
- ¼ cup neutral oil
- ¾ cup granulated sugar (adjust to liking)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips
- ½ cup white chocolate chips (if you don't like white chocolate increase dark chocolate to 1 cup)

Procedure:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Prepare your muffin tins with cupcake liners. Set aside.
3. Sift together the flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.
4. Measure 1 tablespoon vinegar into a liquid measuring cup, then fill the remainder with milk until you reach the 1 cup mark. Allow this to sit for five minutes. This will act as the buttermilk in the recipe.
5. In the meantime, whisk together the oil and sugar, then add the vanilla extract.
6. Add the "buttermilk". Whisk together until well combined.
7. Mix together the wet and dry ingredients just until there are no lumps. DO NOT overmix, as this will cause the muffins to rise too much.
8. Fold in the dark and white (or just dark) chocolate chips.
9. Fill each prepared liner with 1 ice cream scoop full of batter. If there is excess, evenly distribute it to the muffin tins. They should be about ¾ way full.
10. Bake for 20-22 minutes. Use a skewer or toothpick to ensure that they are fully cooked.
11. Enjoy!

And that, my friends, is my collection of chocolate recipes you had better try. If you make them, enjoy them while binging your favorite show. Have a good day!

Creative Writing

Virtual Learning Memes

Anders Jacobson

When you don't listen to the teacher and use the example project as a template for your own:



When the teacher is taking forever re-explaining the instructions on the module after you already read them:

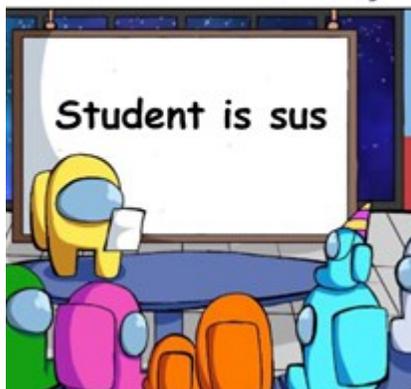


Checking the Canvas calendar for the submission page



Starting a ridiculous email chain with your peers and teacher to figure out where to submit

When your camera breaks on test day:



When math class is about to start but you're still looking for your laptop pen:

