



A local business deep dive
- Page 4



Not everyone has a phone?
- Page 5



Reflections on a trip to Costa Rica
- Page 8

Purple Owl Press

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Aria qualifies for the state meet

Junior becomes first OWL athlete to run at state after qualifying in the 400

Claire Ales
Staff Writer

On June 5th, junior Aria Kulseth competed at the Minnesota state high school league track and field state meet in the 400.

Aria became the first OWL athlete to qualify for state by placing second at the section meet with a time of 1:00.70. With a rough start to her event

at sections, which placed her around last place at the 200 meter mark, Aria had to fight in the last half of the race. She recalls falling out of her form in the beginning half of the race, which put her in a position where she would have to work really hard during the last bit of the 400. "I don't know what happened, but I kind of just got back into the headspace

that I knew I needed to be in. I saw the girl I needed to beat and I had probably 30 seconds to come back from that awful start. I pushed through it and kind of felt like I broke through a mental barrier, I think the last 100 meters was all heart," said Aria.

In section finals last year, Aria remembers being in a similar position during the last

half of the race. "I think the section final really gets into my head. Last year when I was looking at last place around the 200 mark, I kind of accepted that it was over, but this year I rejected that thought and pushed harder," said Aria.

In addition to being part of the track team, Aria runs cross country as well, which she qualified for state in earlier this

year. Aria felt like qualifying for state in cross country gave her the boost in confidence she needed to run her to her fullest potential during section finals. "I felt like I had broken that ceiling that had held me back for so long and in previous years it started to feel like I was never going to make state," said Aria.

With her goal of

reaching state having been accomplished, Aria went into the state meet with a different mindset. She was happy to be there competing against the top runners in the state and mainly focused on running a race that she would be proud of. "You see peoples' times throughout the season and it's crazy to see them in person. I

Aria at state, 9

OWL Outward Bound trips were a success



Kent Miller

Deep portage students took a canoe trip while they were in Northern Minnesota.



Tim Leone-Getten

OWL students place cement in Costa Rica.

High school students spent the week in Northern Minnesota, Colorado, and Costa Rica

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

For one week a year OWL students get to skip class, blow off homework, and do whatever they want.

...okay, that may be a bit of an overstatement. Interim and the Outward Bound Service Adventure trips are

a yearly highlight for many, but the mid-quarter four week is meant to be a chance for students and staff to try new experiences and do some service work, not completely stop learning.

"The goal [is] to provide a spring experience that [is] engaging and 'opt in', where students get some control

over their learning, and the opportunity for us to offer things that would never fit inside a normal course that we teach for a whole year," said English teacher and interim coordinator Preston West.

This year, 15 different interim courses were offered, on top of three different Outward Bound trips

to northern Minnesota, Colorado, and Costa Rica. There are a lot of finicky details that come with changing the entire structure of OWL's everyday routine, so planning for the week started way in advance, and students spent a lot of time eagerly waiting while materials and class rosters were gathered.

"Katerina [the middle school counselor] and I start in November, and we talk with the staff about what courses they want to offer in early January. We need to make sure that we can share accurate information around budgets, student/staff ratios,

OBSA, 9

Inside the paranoia: OWL Nerf wars

OWL juniors and seniors spent several weeks battling with nerf guns this spring in hopes of a prize

Clara Plumstead
Staff Writer

You hear the pounding of shoes on the pavement behind you, yet risking a glance will also risk your life—or more accurately, cost you a win. Racing around a corner, stripped down to your underwear, you slam yourself against a lightpole, shielding yourself from an onslaught of

foam bullets.

Suddenly—you remember. You clutch a second pair of underwear, close your eyes and...put it on your head? Your attacker, unprepared for this transformation, pivots as the tables turn. Brandishing your nerf gun, you watch as their eyes widen, realization settling in.

They back away, but it's too late. You shoot them right in

the arm, securing a crucial win for your team. But wait: it's 8:20am, and if you're not careful, you're going to be late! Not a good idea when multiple tardies threaten your very prom experience. Quickly, you drive off to school as if you haven't just triumphed in a perilous footchase—one documented only through

Nerf wars, 9



Carlos Amaya

Carlos Amaya caught Connie Van Genderen to seal the win.

Alysha is moving on

Azriella Barrett and Hannah Loomis
Staff Writers

Our cherished ELA teacher Alysha Lundquist is moving to Duluth this summer. Alysha has worked here for three years and has brightened the lives of everyone she has encountered.

Alysha has been an English teacher at OWL since the 2023-2024 school year. She taught 7th grade English, English 9/10, and was the teacher coordinator for the Environmental Club.

Alysha will be moving to Duluth so she can be closer to her parents and horses. She will be returning to the online school, where she taught before coming to OWL.

It's clear that Alysha is a knowledgeable, outstanding teacher and mentor, shown through the various appreciation of her students. "Altogether, her vibe is very upbeat. She encourages you to get things done, and I actually learn a lot of things in her classes, that's one of the main reasons I really like her, and she's just nice to talk to," said Chester Treziok, 8th grader and Alysha's crew kid. "Even if you're somehow failing the class, it's hard to feel like you're failing Alysha, because she will never stop encouraging you and helping you be the best you can be," stated Adelaide Stender-Sayler, 10th grader.

A lot of students appreciate her upbeat and helpful attitude. "My favorite part about having her as a teacher is like she's very chill... in her classes, I think because she's so chill, I don't really get

Alysha, 10



The Purple Press

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

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Track succeeds at Sections

OWL student results at the Sections meet in May

Erik Imholte
Staff Writer

The Humboldt Hawks track team had a very successful season this year, and they definitely held their own at the 3AA Section meets at Macalester on the 27th and 29th of May.

At the prelims meet on the 27th, many people qualified for section finals; in the 400m finals, senior Pat Toohey placed 7th, sophomore Luisa Schmidt placed 5th, and junior Aria Kulseth placed 2nd – Aria became the first OWL runner to qualify for the state meet based on that result.

Meanwhile, Za'im Dennis and Louisa McAlpine, took on the hurdle events. Za'im ended up placing 4th in the 110m high hurdles and 3rd in

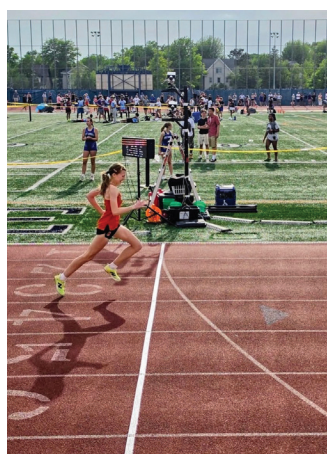
the 300. Louisa got 7th in the 100m high hurdles and 4th in the 300.

In the relay events, every relay team, Men's 4x100m, 4x200m, 4x400m, and 4x800m and Women's 4x100m and 4x200m, ran their personal best, with the men's 4x200m team placing 6th in the finals. In terms of field events, Pat placed 7th in high jump and 9th in long jump.

Aria Kulseth, Louisa McAlpine, Pat Toohey, and Za'im Dennis were awarded All Conference, meaning they placed top three in conference finals. All Conference honorable mention was given to Luisa Schmidt and Teddy Lopez.



Radd Kulseth
Annabelle Wilson competes in the 4 x 800 relay.



Susan Toohey
Aria Kulseth surges across the line in the 400.



Annabelle Wilson
Alva Healy throws the discus.



Annabelle Wilson
Pat Toohey comes in for a landing in the long jump.

MS Frisbee ends the season strong

MS Frisbee at OWL celebrates a year of success and changes

Bahati Stalheim
Staff Writer

Middle school has just finished the season with the state tournament on May 16th and 17th, in Blaine MN. Three of our teams competed in four games, day one, and two competitive teams, the Seacows and team Mana competed in both days taking 7th and 8th place.

This year we have three main coaches; Donald Post, who has been playing ultimate for 11 years now. He continues to play on his own team in his free time now, and has been coaching at OWL for five years now. Donald is also an alumni of OWL, and played on the high school frisbee team. Flannery Henke-Haney is another OWL alumni, both playing on the OWL frisbee team and on a rec team of her own, Flannery has been coaching at OWL for three years now. Chris Proczko is the newest coach, with this being his second year coaching, and a parent of a middle school ultimate athlete.

In past seasons, middle school frisbee has had less players, only making two teams. The teams were built more equally, having more different grades and skills together on the same team, since middle school frisbee started the vision was always

to include more players, and build the community around frisbee. "Having that very balanced, welcoming developmental environment," said coach Donald about the team's values, and his goals for the program.

After a few years of this system, and participating in the MNU (Minnesota Ultimate) league, OWL decided to drop out of the league, and start setting up games and logistics independently. "I looked at the price, I looked at the competition, I looked at the leadership, I looked at everyone involved, and said that we don't want anything to do with it," said Donald, explaining why we decided not to play in the league last year. Last year for the spring season was also when we started to make teams more based on athletic skills, instead of making them all with equal abilities. "Last year we kind of toyed with some like roster building techniques and kind of like took some attributes from certain players and kind of see how we can get a line together," said Donald.

Back in 2020, we had 27 students trying out for middle school frisbee, and now we have 65 kids in the program. We now have enough players

MS frisbee, 9

Boys volleyball team finds success

They ended the impressive 2026 season with a record of 12-14

Brogan Buffie-Gleason
Staff Writer

Humboldt and OWL's boys volleyball team hasn't been around long, but they're already making themselves known. The 2026 volleyball season for boys varsity ended with a 12-14 record, compared to last year's 2-10 record.

The varsity season for the Humboldt hawks boys came to an end in the semifinals with a loss against East Ridge on May 29th. They had recently beat Highland Park 3-1 in the quarter-finals to advance to the semi-finals. Some key wins from the regular season were against Harding 3-2, and Cristo Rey Jesuit 3-2. Close games this season were 2-3 against Johnson, and 2-3 against Central.

The main goal of the team this year was to see improvement from last year's 2-10 record, and to keep up with the other teams. This year's record and games shows that the team has improved, and can compete with some of the top teams. 9th grader Kola Olatunde said "the highlight of the season was winning-quarter finals and making it to semi-finals," two of the most important moments of the season.

The team itself seems to

have a very strong connection, and uplifting feeling. "Everyone brings you up, and if you're getting mad over that you're not performing well, they all reassure you that you're doing good," said Kola when asked about the team atmosphere.

The team has high hopes for next year, but they are losing some important players that graduated this year, such as Sincere McConnell, the team's star middle blocker. "All of our players and team improved," said Kola, who thinks the team can have another good season next year.



Emily Totushek
Senior Alex Perez-Salazar serves the volleyball.

OWL frisbee teams wrap up seasons



Madison Fude
Womanatee huddle up as a team.



Tara Diaz
Sophomore Benji Diaz reaches to catch the disc.



Angie Fude
Sophomore Percy Walling plays during a game.



Tara Diaz
The boys frisbee team pose for a team photo after a game.



Megan Hall

Dylan working at Shanghai Henri's last summer.

Job opportunities for OWL students

How to navigate the summer job market without experience

Ehna Rose Sommerville
Staff Writer

How should I get some money this summer? This is a question many people may be starting to ask themselves. Many high school students want a job this summer, with the surge in free time and an opportunity to have some extra cash, whether it be for a car, to go out with friends, or for the very rare reason: to save.

But how do you get a job? And where would you even want to work? Somewhere with a low workload? Somewhere with friends? Well, getting a job can vary in experience depending on your age.

One option could be Right Track. According to the Saint Paul government page, "Right Track is the City of Saint Paul's youth employment initiative for building a diverse future workforce while supporting young people and their families. Right Track engages over 1,000 young people from cost-burdened homes throughout Saint Paul in a variety of internships." Right track offers job opportunities for people 14 to 24, and applications for their program open in February. To get a job through this program, you have to meet the income requirements or have a barrier to employment.

Speaking from my personal experience, I would say that right track is a great opportunity. In my case I qualified due to having a barrier to employment: ADHD. They had a job fair, where they had tons of places to work. I ended up working at the Como Pool as a pool attendant, which had a lower work load. I couldn't work on weekends, had a cap of hours I could work a week, and had to be paid at least minimum wage.

Every two weeks or so, there would be required paid training. We would learn about money management, career opportunities, and how to successfully manage a social scene at work. I met lots of

new people, such as people who worked for city hall or people who worked for Como Zoo. There were a great variety of jobs.

But what if you don't qualify? One big job market for teens is the State Fair. Many stands offer jobs for teens, but the State Fair is just 10 days, not a lot of opportunity for work.

If you've asked around or looked into the job scene at OWL, you'll notice there's one very common job: lifeguarding. Many students work for the Saint Paul public pools, like Como Pool, or Highland Pool.

To be a lifeguard you need to be 15 and take the training, which is offered for free at Jimmy Lee recreation center. Here, you have to pass two preliminary tests that are physically demanding. For example, you have to swim 150 yards, and swim on your back with a weight. If your interested in lifeguarding, I personally recommend that you start daily lap swimming at least a week before. This is a mistake I made; I started the test having not swum in months and it was very physically taxing. If you do not pass the timed pre test, you are allowed a second try.

After this, you'll take a course that is around 30 hours, that involves classes that teach you things such as the protocols, CPR, and heimlich. Later, you take classes in the water, learning how to do saves, and how to jump for which situation. To be able to keep your skills sharp and keep working, you'll probably be expected/required to participate in monthly/bi monthly training.

If you are interested in reading more about the lifeguarding program for the City of Saint Paul, you can visit the Saint Paul Government website. From there you will go to the Parks and Recreation website, then to the aquatics page.

Another common job

Summer jobs, 9

The secret lives of the OWL staff team

Everything you don't know about your teachers explained below

Greta Crouser
Staff Writer

During the summer break, we normally try to push everything school related to the loneliest corner of our minds. Including the teachers. But in between going down a water slide and licking a bomb-pop, have you ever wondered "what is my math teacher up to?"

We know Tom Totushek as a charismatic math teacher and dedicated coach of the OWL archery and robotics teams, but what does he get up to outside the school year? Well, Tom's summer includes a lot of reading, relaxing, sleeping, and spending time with his family. He is also planning on taking trips to the Boundary Waters, camping with his family, and golfing. His goal this summer is to break 100 golfing 18 holes. When asked

what part of the summer he is most looking forward to, Tom said "Not working!"

History teacher Katie Craven also likes to take a relaxed approach to her summer. She's going to Ohio to see her grandmother and some other family, and to Colorado to see her bestie and her family. Her favorite summer activities

are going to the pool, playing with her son Jamie, biking, and taking walks. She's going to judge History Day Nationals in D.C. in June. When asked if she does any work over the summer, she replied, "absolutely not." And when asked what it's like having summer break in her career, she replied "wonderful." Her

biggest goal this summer is to potty train her son. Her favorite part of the summer is not getting up to an alarm, the sun staying up late, and grilling out.

But not all the teachers use summer as a break from their subjects. Beloved science teacher, Akira Mally, is planning to be a camp counselor at a STEM based summer camp at an E-STEM middle school for the first month or so. He's going down to Iowa for the fourth of July to see his dad's family. His goals this summer are to break his v6-v7 plateau in rock climbing and get really good at making dumplings from scratch. When asked what it's like having summer break as a part of his job, he said "it's wonderful, definitely one of the perks of



Leo Bickelhaupt

Tom relaxes in the BWCA with family and friends.

Teacher summer, 9

The MN Wild have a promising future

Understanding their elimination during the playoffs this year

Zain Olson
Staff Writer

The Minnesota Wild had one of the most promising teams in franchise history this season, but again fell short in the second round of the playoffs. However, this season there are more explanations for the elimination.

Besides the goalie position, the center position is the most important as they are expected to score, defend and win faceoffs. Hockey expert and history teacher Luke Turvold says, "The Avalanche has the most talented group of centers in the NHL, and it's not particularly close." This is to say that Colorado's centers are not only much better than Minnesota's centers, but they are ranked at the top of the league. The Wild's best center, Joel Eriksson Ek, had been injured and didn't even play in the series. This put the Wild at a huge disadvantage.

Additionally, our best

defenseman, Jonas Brodin, was injured. Luke said "He is a tremendous skater and has historically been our matchup defender against Colorado's top offensive line." Brodin can catch Colorado center Nathan Mackinnon who happens to be the second fastest player in the league. But since Brodin was out, the Wild couldn't keep up with the Avalanche's linemen.

Some people argue that

our stacked lines this season should have produced more results in the playoffs. We had Quinn Hughes, a top-three defenseman and Matt Boldy had his best season yet. However, the problem wasn't our line, it was our competition. Dallas and Colorado were in the top three of the entire league and with our two injuries, we had little chance at beating Colorado.

There is hope for next season. With our locked-down core talents, rising prospects and more financial flexibility, the Wild's next season is expected to be just as good or better. Key returning players are Kirill Kaprizov, Brock Faber, Quinn Hughes, Joel Eriksson Ek, and Matt Boldy. These players will be the Wild's offensive and defensive pillars and help the team remain a top contender for the Western Conference.

Players that are expected to return next season better and stronger are Danila Yurov and Marco Rossi. Yurov has serious offensive potential and Rossi, assuming he gets stronger, is expected to be really good.

As for what they should add to an already great team, I think another highly-rated center. While Minnesota already has brilliant centers, another high scoring center could really make more consistent lines, and lead to another great season.



Jae Lind

Intro to Ethics: OWL's newest elective

Students have positive reviews of Preston's class addition

Kaden McNamara
Staff Writer

As we begin to finish up classes for the year, I can't help but look towards whatever classes I might be taking next year, and am once again reminded that OWL has a lot of unique electives for high schoolers. Sure there are the reasonable ones like psychology, sociology, or journalism, but there's also some complete oddballs, such as LGBTQ+ comics and cartoons, microbiology, forensics, or a class I am currently taking, the one I'll be talking about today, intro to ethics, which as 11th grader Johnny Gorton said "It's quite ethical."

Intro to ethics is a new class this year taught by English teacher Preston West for the high school audience. According to Preston, he "wanted to teach ethics because I wanted students to start

thinking about right vs. wrong. A lot of students at OWL have very strong opinions about things, which isn't necessarily a bad thing, but I think it's good for them to test those opinions and make sure they actually believe them, instead of them being a gut instinct on what's comfortable."

This can be seen in how he's teaching the class. He started the class by having students respond to ethical questions before having them compare their stances to an interviewed adult of their choice. After that he moved into lectures about a few of the basic ethical frameworks, such as Utilitarianism and Kantian Ethics, because as Preston said, "I think it's important to have a fairly heavy lecture component, so that kids have a good grounding in a lot of the basic ethical theories, whether or not they believe in them."

Next Preston had his

students look at fictional ethical dilemmas and apply the premise to a real life situation, evaluating how they may or may not change their behavior afterwards. Throughout the first quarter of the class, students were given ethical questions such as the well known trolley problem every day in class and had to explain their answer to the question and why they think that's the right thing to do,

"I'm quite enjoying it, the daily journaling prompts are actually quite fun, I quite like them," said 11th grader Joseph Schwartz. Where the first quarter focused on learning about ethical frameworks and getting students thinking about why they stand where they do on topics, the second quarter of the class focused on applying those ethical beliefs in fishbowl discussions and analyzing their own frameworks, and how that

applies to the broader world.

Fortunately for Preston, student feedback on the class seems to generally be positive: "If I could take this class again, I would probably take this class again," said Johnny. Many of the students taking the class have been very engaged with the content and have brought many varying perspectives and opinions to the class, which have made it particularly interesting. The fishbowls in the class have been very good for promoting the critical thinking and discussion skills that Preston was looking to cultivate. However "[it] is definitely geared towards people who have something to say about it and can verbalize what they're saying," said Joseph, while the class can be very fun for people who have things that they want to say, and can say them effectively,

Ethics, 10

Small businesses are the heart of the Saint Paul area

The stories behind several small businesses that continuously shape Saint Paul's authentic culture

Andres Moreno Abrego
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what goes into making a small business? Maybe you're curious where the name came from? Or the idea that sparked it? Well what if I told you I have interviewed a mix of employees and owners of several small businesses to get the inside scoop. I don't mean the simple questions like what's your name but the deep questions like what's your favorite customer story? In this article you'll get a mix of interviews and real authentic opinions. Now let's cut to the interviews....

Hilda's Hair Hut (4156 Cedar Ave S, Minneapolis) and D's Bahn Mi (1848 E 38th St, Minneapolis).

My dad and I have been going to Hilda's Hair Hut now for a few years. Which is a big deal because we never have stayed at a barber shop for more than a month, or even more than one cut. Hilda also has a restaurant called D's Bahn Mi where she sells authentic Vietnamese food and it's really really good.

Q: What is an important trait for a small business to have?

A: To have people skills. That's my number one. It's about knowing these customers on a personal level, not just cutting their hair, you know?

Q: What do you think is the hardest part about owning a small business?

A: That you can never have any... rest. Like, no days off, you can't have an excuse. Cause if you don't work, you don't get paid. You can't even afford to get sick, really.

Q: Do you think your culture, coming from Vietnam, has helped you in creating a business

A: The funny thing is, you know, I came to America when I was only four. So, I just know that I'm Vietnamese, but I don't know what to compare myself to as a Vietnamese, because, coming from San Jose, California, everyone is an entrepreneur there. But, when I was able to go to Vietnam, I got to see all the people and know where I came from. Like, I know why I am the way I am. I have my work ethic and everything like this because of the bloodline of the

Vietnamese.

Q: What made you want to be a hairdresser?

A: I love doing hair, and I remember, in junior high school, I would do everybody's hair. So I had a natural trait already.

Q: As an owner of two small businesses, what advice would you give to people in creating businesses and keeping them successful?

A: Like I told my kids, opening a small business is a do or die. It's not just the product you have. The product may be good, but if you don't have the relationship with a customer, if they're just a number, they could go anywhere.

If you make them feel like this is your home, this is their home to be, they'll copy that for you. Treat that customer like they are your lottery ticket.

Now that's the end of her interview. It was really nice to ask her questions and really get her input. Hilda is by far the best barber I've ever been to and she has such a welcoming space I would definitely suggest you to check it out.

Sister Sludge Coffee Cafe and Wine Bar (3746 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis)

Now I was unable to contact the sisters because of their busy schedule, but I was able to snag an interview with one of their employees, Celeste.

A little bit of backstory, I have been going to Sister Sludge for a year and a half now, and I now only get coffee from either Sister Sludge or Sunbeam Coffee. In fact I go every weekend because of the vibes and amazing coffee. I definitely suggest it for anyone needing a place to do book writing or school work. They have extremely comfortable couches and seating areas. All the employees are extremely nice (not fake nice, authentically nice). Especially Celeste, she is amazing and an amazing artist. And Tilda Inhibitt, also known as Brian, is an exceptional drag performer and employee. He always has an amazing vibe and is really fun. And Max makes the best Gloria's (P.S if Max is there ask for a Gloria)

Q: How long have you worked at Sister Sludge?

A: Three and a half years.

Q: How would you

describe working for the sisters?

A: Yeah, they're all, like, little shots of espresso. They look the same, but they have minor differences in my opinion.

I can tell exactly who's who. They're very fun.

They're very energetic. All



Andres Moreno Abrego

the customers that they meet, take the time to come back. They make coming back a dream day. They'll call you sweetheart, they'll call you honey. They like to remember your name, which explains why next year the business will have been open for 30 years now. 30 years. Their business is older than me.

Q: What do you think separates Sister Sludge from big chain coffee shops?

A: Definitely the atmosphere and the quality of the espresso, which is the big thing these days, 'cause big chains don't care about espresso, and I didn't realize that until I was working here. (At Caribou) all you have to do is press a button and the espresso comes out. And then you put a tablet in the top of the machine and it will clean itself.

Here (Sister Sludge) the espresso machine is like, you can't let the espresso sit out for longer than 20 seconds. You have to make sure that you clean the machine in a very specific way. You have to make sure that you press down on the espresso.

There's minute little details that go into the quality of the coffee and stuff like that. And then on top of that, the vibe just seemed very genuinely nice.

Q: How did you think the whole thing with ICE affected Sister Sludge?

A: Well, that's actually an interesting question, I mean, a lot of people would come in and be like 'can I put this campaign up?' or fundraiser. Or, at one point, this customer was just incredibly paranoid, and they came in really late at night, in their bathrobe, no shoes, no socks. But the thing is, they still came here, because they felt like this was a safe zone.

Q: Do you have anything else to add?

A: I'm really lucky to work here.

Hall of Hekate (526 7th St W, St Paul)

The next business is a business that I absolutely adore and have been going to for over two years. If you're into metaphysical witchy stuff such as tarot cards, herbs, crystals and even books and jewelry, I think you'll really enjoy it.

I was able to talk to all three of the amazing owners and witches Angie (also known as Angelique), Helen, and Roxy.

Q: What inspired you to start Hall of Hekate

Helen: Well, Angie and I had wanted to have our own shop like this since she was 14, that's 30 years ago. That's when the idea was born. Angie and I were reading tarot cards for friends and friends of friends. And we were just thinking how cool it would be to have a place like this. So, it was kind of born 30 years ago, and then took that long to manifest.

Q: What do you think makes your business special?

Helen: Honestly, I feel like what makes us special is the community that we created, and how it's a safe space for everyone. You know, no matter who you are.

Helen: We do free classes, and I think that is something that makes us stand out from other businesses like this.

Roxy: I think the community aspect is huge.

And, you know, the business practice of ethically sourcing is definitely important. I think ethical pricing is just as important, because a lot of places really don't [do that]. We keep what we have for sale attainable to just about everybody.

Helen: Like Roxy said, we ethically source our crystals. We price ethically. We also have a lot of handmade items that we make ourselves at home, and we do it intuitively.

Roxy: In a nutshell, everything here is very affordable for everybody who comes in the door.

And they can tell. People come in here, and they say, 'Oh, it feels good in here,' or 'the energy is good in here.'

Q: What advice would you give to people who would like to start witchcraft?

Angie: To start with the old school and work your way to the now,

I guess. I mean, the old traditions still have a lot of good things to teach us. The old traditions are what the new traditions are based on.

Roxy: Start that way, because everybody, I think, needs structure to begin with. And then once you feel you have a good foundation, then you branch out and make different things yours and add things that feel right.

Helen: And, you know, I would also say to somebody who wanted to start practicing to come here. Come to some of the classes that we offer, come and talk to us.

Q: What is a common misconception about your individual practices, or just the shop in general?

Angie: That we worship the devil.

Helen: Witches worship the devil yeah, I think that's the most common.

Roxy: Just the media, TV shows. Whenever they talk about the occult or a satanic symbol, they use our symbols.

You know, like, the Celtic symbols. Those are not satanic. They have nothing to do with Satan. That is the biggest misconception of our practice.

Q: What do you think is the hardest part about owning a small business?

Angie: Oh, God, the time, the amount of time. It's a lot of work, and a lot of money.

Well, that's all the interview questions I had for the Hall of Hekate and again thank you to Roxy, Angie and Helen for answering these questions.



Andres Moreno Abrego

Nine Lives (1165 7th St W, St Paul)

Nine Lives is a thrift store located in Saint Paul. It's purely donation based and super affordable. They have a variety of options from men's clothes to women's, to pants to dresses and skirts, jewelry and heels. Both of the owners are absolutely wonderful and have amazing personalities that are positive and fun. And honestly it kinda gives 80's crazy cat lady vibes but I love it so much, it's so fun.

Q: What inspired the name of Nine Lives?

A: That's a good question. Roxanne and her partner dreamed about having their own store, and they both had cats. They were gonna call it, like, Frida's Grand Emporium

or something like that. And I go, oh...

I thought you might use something punny. I thought Nine Lives, but, oh, well. But then Roxanne went dead quiet, and she called her partner, and told her partner, and her partner goes, 'Yeah. Yeah, that's better. And Roxanne goes, 'Oh, I just wish my mom wouldn't have thought of it.'

Q: What makes your business stand out from other businesses that do the same thing?

A: Well, not a lot of other businesses do the same thing. I mean, businesses that take donations don't necessarily curate as much. Partly, I think it's Roxanne, and her personality. When you come in, it's playful. It's really playful. She works hard to participate in community events, so she gets out there.

And there's something about the space that when people come in, they feel good. We've had people come in, not a lot, but sometimes people come in, they go, 'I just felt so terrible today, but this is a good place to be.'

Q: What are some of your favorite customer stories and/or memories?

A: So my old roommate from college, her mom passed away, and she goes, 'I have some stuff that you could take, do you think it would sell in the store?' She pulls out this poncho, and she goes, 'My mom wore this all the time. She loved it so much, and I'm never gonna wear it. Do you

think it would sell?'

Yes, definitely. So one week later, these customers came in, it was a mom, her mother and her husband and a baby.

And her mom goes, 'It's just what you've been looking for.'

And then her husband goes, 'Oh, yeah, that's it. That's it, right?' So they shop a little more, and then she comes over, and she's all excited.

She's got the poncho, she puts it on, and she spins around, and she's just beaming. She goes, 'I have looked for these exact colors. You cannot believe how hard these things are to find.'

I sent it to my friend, and she started crying.



Andres Moreno Abrego

Senior Spotlight

Margaret Moe



What pronouns do you use?
She/her

How long have you been at OWL?
Seven years

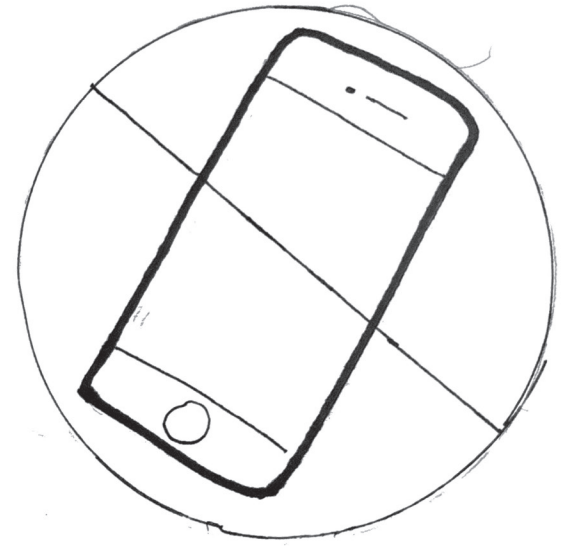
What are your plans for next year?
I'll be going to Agder Folkehogskole in Norway for a year to study film, then attending Whitman College.

What's been your favorite class in high school?
AP Lang or my TA's.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Ultimate, Environmental Club, Outward Bound, Students Demand Action, Youth in Activism Day . . . too many to count.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
The Outward Bound trip to Maine.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
All Night by Icona Pop.



Aria Kulseth

That One Little Kid don't have phones

Ciyee Xiong

Henry Helle-Morrissey and Cooper Small
Staff Writers

To most people at OWL, phones are an important part of life. They use them for everything from communicating with friends and family to keeping up with the latest news.

When you walk around OWL, you can see people everywhere on their phones. If there are two facts of life of being a student at OWL, they are that 1) you will have work to do and 2) you or your classmates will often be on their phone. But some kids don't have phones.

We were interested in those rare few, a dying breed among the students of OWL. How do they fit into life at OWL and at home? Are their lives even affected by their lack of phones? And more importantly, what is the role of phones in the student body of OWL, and how has it changed over time? How will it continue to change? To answer these questions, we can look to those across OWL - students with phones, students without phones, and teachers and parents as well.

Ninth grader Matteo Alejandro Provenzano, who does not have a phone, said, "It's also kind of like a status thing. Or like a lot of people are like, oh, a phone. It has the power to text and call, and then my Apple Watch has that power, but it's like, it's not the same." On the topic of his parents, he said, "my parents will not let me get a phone because they're worried about social media and distractions and things. And my opinion on it is, like, I get it. It makes sense, like I think it's the right decision." Dominic Sheehy, a 9th grader, said, "As a phone haver, I would say, I think it's very useful for communication. I do see the negatives to social media." 8th grader Rocio Hernandez said, "I think you can get, like, really sucked into it. Like, it's hard to put it down sometimes."

A lot of teachers have different views on phones as well. Tom, an OWL math teacher, said, "it's a tool. It's a fantastic tool.

It allows a lot of really nice things, instantaneous

communication, and knowledge of where my children are. It facilitates downtime. I like to play certain games that nobody will play with me." Of course Tom is also well aware of the downsides of owning a phone: "The kids always have something in their ear splitting their attention, because your attention is the most important thing you have. You know, you're in class and you're like, well, I'm going to give class 30% and I'm going to listen to music. Sometimes I find myself even thinking, can I just sit outside myself and just listen to the birds? I think that that's really being lost with these kids."

Dan, a social studies teacher, reports a similar sentiment, saying, "I feel bad when my kids are playing and I go to my phone. They're like this for such a short amount of time.

What am I doing? Yeah, I'm always staring at my phone, and I could be soaking this moment."

These feelings of desperation were furthered by OWL science teacher Megan Hall, who says, "as a teacher, like working with young people, phones are highly addictive, and there are lots and lots of research studies showing negative impacts on the developing brain. And so I feel sad that young people who I care about inevitably have this addictive thing with them all the time. It's sort of hard to be in society without one."

In addition to these perspectives, as of late, the trend of 'dumb phones' among Gen Z and younger people has erupted. Essentially, dumb phones are older cell phones that were eventually replaced by modern smartphones — these range from landline phones to flip phones. It represents a shift away from phones that, as we have mentioned, is getting bigger by the day among Gen Z.

As we have discussed, the overarching trend here seems to be a near-binary among students at OWL: broadly, those without phones deeply want phones, and those with phones do not like their phones (and maybe want no phone). The reasons for

Phones, 10

How tall are you?
I don't know.

What pronouns do you use?
She/her

What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
Hocus Pocus

Who's your favorite senior?
I like Margaret.

What is your favorite thing about OWL so far?
I like how people are really nice and welcoming

What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
I don't really like that kind of stuff.



Writing books is possible at any age

Several students have written projects they hope to turn into books

Melita Allen
Staff Writer

Did you know that many OWL students, from seniors to sixth graders, actually write books? Not for money, or fame, but for fun?

10th grader June Green has written books in the past, and is currently working on another one. She said that it usually takes about half a year to write a book. Some of her steps to writing a book include drawing characters, picking a genre, figuring out the plot, and what's going to happen when and where and in what chapter, and, of course writing. After writing, June said that her friends can read the book, but otherwise, "it's just kinda there."

Often inspiration can come from real world events, other writing, and Pinterest.

The key to starting a book is having a plan, "Going from 'I'm going to write a book!' With no clue where you're going, then taking the time to have it all laid out is a crazy transformation," 10th grader Jae Lind said. "Seeing your plot laid out makes it feel feasible. And then once you actually do it, hey! Now you can do it again." Some people, like June, are just bored, and need something to do.

The process for writing a book can be long and challenging. First off, you have

to actually pick a topic to write about. "I have little freaks that live in my head, and they yearn to be freed," said 10th grader Adelaide Stender-Sayler, explaining how she figures out what to write about, "the only way I know to get rid of them, is to write out a scene idea. They go on the doc, and eventually they end up being connected."

9th grader Atlas Schultz has a similar process, with the little people in their brain, but also takes inspiration from songs, "I'll hear a song or lyric that will fit a character. I just started finding music that fit

a character I'm writing about fire, and had the idea of that character setting things on fire."

"I make a 'Murder Board,'" said Jae, talking about their process of writing a book, "think: wall covered head to toe in color coded post-it notes, working through the story, with smaller details. Each post-it note is a scene."

Adelaide says that it can take from 30 days (if you're doing NaNoWriMo, where you have to write a novel in the span of the month of November) to nine months, and you have to really like the

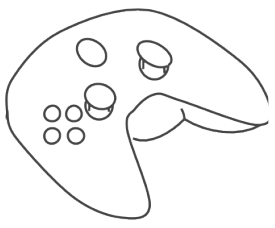
story you're writing to stick with it. "Because that way, even if you need to take a break, or you don't work for a little while, you'll always come back to it because you want to see your characters complete their journey," said Atlas.

Most OWL students, when finished writing, hide their masterpiece in the Cloud, never to be re-opened again, hidden from the watchful eyes of potential critics, (aka peers). But, in some rare cases, they go on to step two, (or maybe three? Who's counting?) of the writing process: editing. "I would love to get [the book] published, so editing is necessary, as scary as it is," said Jae, "I just started draft two." Atlas plans to finish their book by the time they graduate, and would also like to see it published.

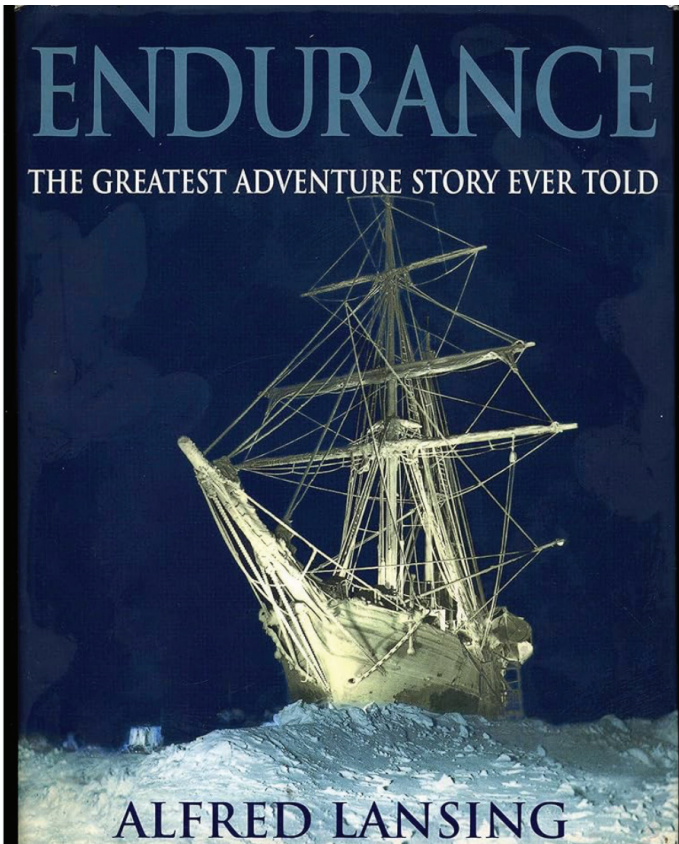
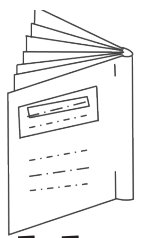


Atlas Schultz

A cover mock up for one of Atlas' books.



Reviews 'n' stuff



You should really read these

One of our avid readers breaks down their top 5 books from HS

Anson Lind
Staff Writer

In my time at OWL, I have, unsurprisingly, read a lot of books, and I've reviewed quite a few of them for the Purple Press, too. Now, as the time has come to write my final newspaper article at OWL, I spent a long time deliberating over my ideal send-off. Finally, Leo approached me with an idea: my five favorite books I read in high school. I thought to myself, that's a great idea for a final article! Oh, how foolish I was. But now, after extreme deliberation and several heartbreaking decisions, I've arrived at my conclusion; five of the best books that I've read in my time at high school. I've done my best to make these as varied as possible between different genres, and they are being presented in no particular order.

From the moment I started this list, I knew that *The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle*, by Stuart Turton, would have to be included. In fact, I wrote an entire review on this book alone for this newspaper a little over a year ago. The book is a twist on a classic, Agatha Christie-style murder mystery, in which a party ends in a murder and anyone could be a suspect, set within a time loop out of something like *Groundhog's Day*. Our protagonist finds himself in the body of a different guest each loop, and will only be allowed to leave the manor when he discovers exactly who it is that will kill (or has killed, or is killing) the titular Evelyn Hardcastle. It soon becomes clear, however, that he is not alone in this loop, and that nobody can truly be trusted.

This is not a "light reading" book, despite everything taking place over only one

day, the way that the book and its protagonist jump about through the timeline can make it challenging to keep track of the true, chronological order that everything takes place. Of course, I'd still highly recommend it for the twists and turns to its multi-layered mystery, blending the murder of Evelyn Hardcastle with the nature of the time loop itself. If you're looking for a book that needs a lot of active reading and focus to unravel the plot, give *7 1/2 Deaths* a read.

Now, let's go from a complicated mind-bending mystery to a much more loose, goofy romp through a bizarre multiverse. *Wild Massive* by Scotto Moore imagines that every universe is actually just one floor on a massive skyscraper. Our protagonist Carissa is content to ride her elevator between the different floors in peace, until a shapeshifter somehow finds their way into the elevator shaft with news of an impending disaster that could destroy hundreds of floors. The adventure that ensues quickly catches the attention of the Wild Massive media corporation, who are determined to turn Carissa's story into the climax of their longest-running superhero saga—and it's unclear whether they want her to be their hero or their villain.

Wild Massive, at least for me, is a guilty pleasure book of mine. It may not be the most well-crafted story out there, but it certainly is immensely fun. The book manages to pack in plotlines surrounding superheroes, incomprehensible beings, a clear Doctor Who parody character, and an impressive number of sci-fi theme

Five books, 10

Phone addiction is becoming a problem

"Everyone hates their phone, but no one wants to get rid of it."

Theo Pennington
Staff Writer

You've been sitting on your couch doomscrolling for hours. Your focus is solely on your phone, but you're not really thinking about it either. Hours pass by and you don't even realize it. You feel gross, your leg is falling asleep, you're thinking of all the productive things you could be doing if you just got off TikTok, but you can't. The stress and guilt keep building, so you get sucked into the void even more to distract yourself.

This is a common experience. Everyone hates their phone, but no one wants to get rid of it. The amount of times I've heard someone talk about how much they hate their phone, how much it's ruining their life, and

then spend five hours a day minimum scrolling on it is astounding. I'm sure we're all familiar with the whole "phone bad nature good" thing, but we don't actually do anything about it. You skim an article about how X is making you hate everything, go "damn that's crazy" and continue what you were doing but now feel a little more guilty about it.

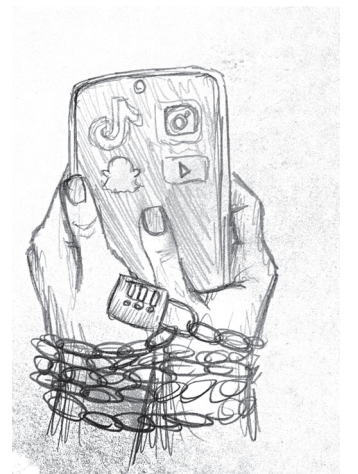
Why is that? What's so good about the glowing rectangle that we want to stare into it for the rest of our lives? On average, people spend 7-9 years on their phone screen, with that number going up to 11-21 years when including broader screen time like laptops and TV's. For most people, this is a terrifying statistic; so how do we combat it?

Social media companies have a financial incentive

to keep you on it as long as possible; the goal is to get you addicted so they can maximize profits. "It's as if they're taking behavioural cocaine and just sprinkling it all over your interface," says tech engineer Aza Raskin. These companies are aware that their product is addictive— it is literally designed that way. The more ads you see, the more money they make. The more time spent on the app, the higher the stock price goes up. The more they can push the premium version, the more \$8-\$40 a month subscriptions they can get.

Recently, a verdict from a California jury found Meta and YouTube negligent for causing severe mental health issues in a young user. A 20 year old woman going by the name K.G.M. sued

Meta, claiming that its apps (Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube) damaged her mental wellbeing. She started using the platforms at age six, and developed anxiety, depression, and body dysmorphia. K.G.M.'s lawyers argued that features like the infinite



Noa Calzada Villanueva
Phone addiction, 8

Glorious Revenge hooks you at the start

The book follows multiple perspectives throughout the full plot

Jae Lind
Staff Writer

As the end of the school year draws near and some classes begin to wind down, I finally have this wonderful thing called 'free time' to spend doing activities such as reading novels from my too-large backlog of TBRs. I purchased *Maude Horton's Glorious Revenge* by Lizzie Pook last year, and when I finally picked it up again recently, I remembered nothing about the book other than I thought it looked good. But after reading the first three sentences, I immediately knew this was going to be a wonderful read:

Let us begin at the end, shall we? In a cold London square. A murderer is to be hanged and the fuss has lured the pigeons out in their hundreds.

Maude Horton's Glorious Revenge is a historical fiction

mystery following- you'd never guess- Maude Horton. A year ago her sister, Constance, ran away and joined a ship's crew heading to the arctic disguised as a man. After the ship, *Makepeace*, returns, Constance is not on it and is supposedly 'dead' with no other information. Maude will not stand for this, and begins to investigate her death.

The book jumps through perspectives. There is Maude Horton, of course, investigating what happened to Constance and where she went. There is the journal of Constance during her time on the *Makepeace*, and there is also the perspective of Edison Stowe, the *Makepeace's* scientist, after the ship returns and he is back in London.

Maude Horton's Glorious Revenge also has very interesting discussions on what makes someone a 'good person' versus a 'bad person.'

While this is not the focus of the book, I found it to be extremely interesting while reading. This was mostly regarding the character Edison Stowe. In Constance's diary, Stowe is portrayed as a threatening man who has nefarious plans which she tries to stop, all while living in fear of him. To her, he is a monster. But, in Maude's perspective, she sees Edison as a simple liar. He portrays himself to her as a polite businessman, but she sees through him to his terrible interior. These are tied together from his own perspectives. To him, he is just doing what he needs to do to survive and pay off a debt. He isn't aware of his monstrous actions. We also get flashes of his backstory, of why he is this way. Whether or not these parallels were intentional, it was just wonderful to read. It really shows how we perceive characters (and people) based

on who is telling us about them.

This book is also a historical fiction based in reality, something that I adore. The *Makepeace* is trying to find two ships that disappeared in the arctic- the *Terror* and its sister ship the *Erebus*. These are real ships, which actually did disappear in 1845 searching for the Northwest passage. The travel company mentioned is real. The hangman is a real guy. Locations visited are real.

It should also be said that this book talks a lot about death. If you couldn't tell by the fact that they are mentioned by the third sentence, hangings are a large part of the plot. There are a lot of hangings in this book, many described in detail, and there are other gory parts. If you are very squeamish with bones and blood in books, maybe skip

Glorious Revenge, 9

Trading card prices are rising quickly

"Scalpers" have proven to be a hindrance in trading card games

Nikolai Stricklan
Staff Writer

If you know me in person, you know I love some sweet sweet trading card games. Little sprinkles of Pokémon, maybe some *One Piece*, etc. But these all have one common factor that's needed to play: the cards! But if you can't get the cards... then how do you play?

This is the most recent issue in the nerdy little card game bubble; if we don't have cards, how can we play? And you may be asking, why are there no cards? How could you run out of cards? And the answer is, of course, financial gain! Scalpers have come to the card industry. There are people who buy cards in mass amounts, not to play, but to open all the packs and sell them for

financial profit. Always comes back to money, huh?

The most recent examples of these acts take place in the Pokémon and *One Piece* TCG communities. In Pokémon's case, if you want a SINGLE pack to open, you either need to spend a fortune going to an official Pokémon event, or spend even more money buying them from some random guy on eBay who has 500 identical boxes in his basement.

As someone who plays TCGs, and is a kid who doesn't have heaps of money to drop on cards, do you know infuriating it is to have something so fun and joyous ripped out beneath you, because there's slight monetary gain? This issue is so large that many videos have circulated online of adult men

literally ripping single card packs out of children's hands just to sell for five extra dollars online.

You may be asking yourself, "why don't stores just limit the amount of packs or products people can buy?" Well they have done that! And scalpers just come in with other scalpers and buy it all separately! I'm so serious. I've seen videos of groups of people buying products, seemingly to play the game, then going outside and giving it all to one person.

The positive to this issue are the satisfying videos of people grabbing packs right under scalpers noses, or even waiting for the restock to make sure kids get them. These videos are hilarious, satisfying, and somewhat of a service to the TCG community.

Overall, this issue isn't that important in the grand scheme of things, but it's an issue close to my heart, and to the card trading community.



Noa Calzada Villanueva



Noa Calzada Villanueva

Olivia Rodrigo has exciting news

Our reporters predict her new album will be more mature

Rocio Hernandez and Frances Healy
Staff Writers

After Olivia's GUTS World Tour, which featured tracks from her past albums GUTS and SOUR, she teased a new album by telling the press, "I won't say too much, but I think 2026 is going to be a busy year for me. I've been having a lot of fun dreaming things up."

On April 2nd, 2026, Olivia Rodrigo officially announced the cover art, title, and release date of her new upcoming album, You Seem Pretty Sad for a Girl So in Love, which will drop on June 12th. After this album is released she will have three albums out, with the first two having some of her most known songs like "Drivers License" and "Vampire".

Before dropping her new single, Olivia left four heart-shaped locks around Los Angeles, Paris, London, and Hoboken, New Jersey. They revealed that her new single, "Drop Dead", would be the lead single for her upcoming album, and would be released on Friday, April 17th. One week before the release she shared a snippet of the song without vocals. The video previewed with pink text reading "I hope you never finish that beer," after showing Olivia with glasses of Guinness. This sparked many fan theories linking the song to her past relationship with British actor Louis Partridge.

After the release of "Drop Dead", Olivia was host and musical guest on SNL on May 2nd, where she performed her new single along with a new unreleased song, "begged", which will also be included in her new album.

On May 22nd, Olivia released her exclusive B-side demo track "Never Do". It will be available as a limited edition "The Cure" Vinyl. This demo track will not be included on her new album.

A few days later, on May 26, Olivia unveiled the full track list for her album, revealing that the album is split into two sections, titled "Girl So In Love" and "You Seem Pretty Sad." The first half of

the album, Girls So In Love, includes seven tracks along with "Drop Dead". The second half of the album, You Seem Pretty Sad, includes six tracks with "begged" and "The Cure".

There has been a lot of fan speculation around Olivia's "new aesthetic" that she is bringing with this new album. Olivia changed her butterfly logo from purple to red and black, and her website from the classic purple theme to red and black.

Fans have been really excited for this new album, such as 8th grader Sally Keenan, who said, "I'm really excited because it's been really hyped up and people seem more excited about this one than her other albums. I like the new aesthetic that she is bringing with this new album, and I'm excited because the tour looks really fun." Her fans aren't the only ones who are eager for the release of the album, as shown when Olivia wrote on Instagram, "I am so proud of this album and can't wait for you to hear it!"

With the evidence we have we think that You Seem Pretty Sad for a Girl So in Love is going to be more mature, experimental along with having 1980s inspired smooth soft rock pop songs instead of her past grunge vibe. With this new vibe many fans will have to get used to the change, but we think that this album is perfect for most people because of the two sides of it: love and heartbreak. Some may disagree, but we think that this will be one of her most popular albums, especially with the amount of hype around it, which wasn't as strong with her previous albums.

Better Call Saul is described as different

The show has six seasons and has the same creator as Breaking Bad

Norman Simon
Staff Writer

Better Call Saul is a different, but similar show to Breaking Bad. While Breaking Bad is about Walter White becoming Heisenberg, Better Call Saul is about Jimmy McGill turning into Saul Goodman. But instead of being about a brilliant high school chemistry teacher who is in financial trouble and is diagnosed with lung cancer, it is about a lawyer with a criminal background trying but failing to achieve his dreams as a lawyer and turns to his criminal past and unlawful ways to achieve those goals.

Better Call Saul aired from 2015 to 2021. It has six seasons and was first thought up by the creator of Breaking Bad, Vince Gilligan. When the character Saul Goodman was introduced in season two of

Breaking Bad, he considered a spinoff series to expand more on the character. Much like Breaking Bad, Better Call Saul is about a transformation of a character through the course of the show.

Better Call Saul is about former conman and aspiring lawyer Jimmy McGill in early 2000s Albuquerque, New Mexico. It focuses on him and a couple other characters including Mike Ehrmantraut, a former corrupt cop and fixer, Kim Wexler, a lawyer and romantic partner of Jimmy's, and Ignacio "Nacho" Varga, a member of a drug ring. A typical episode had many storylines, usually split between a legal and crime drama, where the legal side is more dialogue focused, and the crime drama part is more action and tension focused.

This is one of the best

shows I've seen. Though like A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms, you should watch the main show first, because much of the lore and characters will be confusing if you haven't watched Breaking Bad. Better Call Saul is one of the best shows I've watched because of how funny, smart, and well acted and directed it is. Better Call Saul is as good as Breaking Bad, and maybe even better, but don't think that they are the same. I would say it's more funny due to Bob Odenkirk, who is a comedian and is acting in the lead role. It also is really good with visual storytelling, especially in its cold opens.

Better Call Saul has amazing performances from Bob Odenkirk as Jimmy McGill and also returning roles for Mark Margolis, Jonathan Banks and Giancarlo Esposito. It also has

new roles like Rhea Seehorn as Kim Wexler, Micheal Mando as Ignacio "Nacho" Varga, Micheal McKean as Chuck McGill, Patrick Fabian as Howard Hamlin, and Tony Dalton as Lalo Salamanca. I highly recommend you watch this after Breaking Bad.



Noa Calzada Villanueva

AI art is becoming a problem all over

Everyone is creative in their own way and AI ruins the creativity

Zelda James
Staff Writer

I hate AI as much as the next person, I hate it in creative spaces and want it gone. When I listen to people talk about how much they hate AI they always refer to the photos and videos it makes as AI 'art'. I think that even the art being in quotation marks is still the wrong term to use because AI is not art and it will never be.

"What is art?" You might be asking yourself. I define art as a work of creativity and meaning being brought together. The meaning of the art is the reason someone chose to make the art. The emotional response to the art, or even the art itself has a deeper meaning.

People that draw things, people that think of new things, people who do any

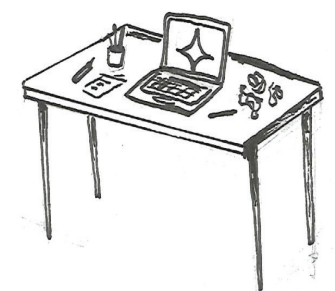
sort of art and go through the process of making it, they are creative. I have a theory that all people are creative in one way or another. Even evil and rich people are very creative in how awful they can be. If my theory is true, then art is creative simply because a human made it.

Anyone who has made any form of art before should know it takes time to make it. If it takes time to make art then there is a reason to make it, you don't want to waste your time making something worthless. If you make art there is a reason and there is meaning. It is not just the artist that gives art a meaning, but the audience as well. Thinking about what the artist was thinking while making the art, or the themes of the art, or giving the art a new meaning,

they all give the art meaning to someone. AI takes bits and pieces from artists who are creative. AI is built not to create original things but to take and mash together other art, AI is built not to be creative so it will never be creative.

The people who generate images using AI don't actually care about the things AI is generating because it can make them in mass production. The images lose all meaning individually—and like most things mass produced—all meaning is gone since it is one of an infinite number of images that look exactly like it. AI means something to someone, it means that artists are being pushed down in favor of AI. Meaning in art should be about the art itself rather than what it represents, a soulless and pointless piece

of garbage only made to make the rich richer and the people who make it can't see the point of art. No reasonable person would ever like AI and by my definition it isn't art. It is simply images and videos. If AI is not art then the people who make it are not artists, so stop calling them that.



Aria Kulseth

Amulet broken down book by book

Rajan reflects on what makes this unique series worth reading

Rajan Agarwal
Staff Writer

I have been a long-time fan of the book series Amulet by Kazu Kibuishi, and I decided that I would share some of my opinions on what makes it so great, as well as which of the books that I like the most, using any categories I want. I will be sharing these in book order and not ranked order. Also, if you don't understand anything, you should read the books. They're the best. Just saying.

Book 1: 3.5/5

This book is pretty good. We got introduced to a bunch of random creatures that we literally never see again, like the arachnoid, a weird spider-octopus thing, and the conebeak, which is some sort of bird shown in literally one scene. One of my annoyances is that most of the rest of the series has much brighter colors, while these ones were very dark and dull. I would've liked them to be brighter. However, we are introduced to Miskit, who is one of the best

characters in the series.

Book 2: 4/5

This book is even better than book one. Sure, it's got the same problem as book one with the colors, but some of those are fixed, and it introduces a character that, in my opinion, is one of the best in the entire series: Leon Redbeard. I like him because he's a fox, which is my favorite animal, and he's also really good at sword fighting, which I really like. He's so peak!

Book 3: 4/5

This book is where the art gets better. Most of the colors are fixed, so I feel it's gotten better, but it isn't an amazing installment, so it's not too high on the list. We are introduced to a lot of new characters, though, so that kind of redeems it from just being meh.

Book 4: 4.5/5

This is where the series starts getting really good. One of the most important settings, Cielis, is introduced, and another of the majorly important Stonekeepers, Vigo Light, is also added, along with

major side characters and plot points. We also get introduced to more of what the Stones can do, <spoiler> like animating literal dead people. </spoiler>

Book 5: 3.5/5

Book five is...eh for me. We get into lots of detail about Max and his past, and Chronos (a mountain giant) exists, but I feel that not enough happens for it to be too interesting for me, though Trellis finally loses the armor (good riddance, it was ugly to begin with).

Book 6: 4.5/5

I feel book six is one of my all-around favorites, because so many interesting things happen. So first off, Colossus—absolute peak. Giant robots are the best. Secondly, some great new characters are introduced, like Mayor Riva, General Pil, and Patrick (who plays pretty much no role whatsoever in the entire story, but I don't care). We also get further development into what's happening with the shadows, which are seen twice before solely in the first book, and aren't really mentioned up until now, but will play major

roles in the rest of the story. Oh yeah, also Max just straight up dies, so that's interesting.

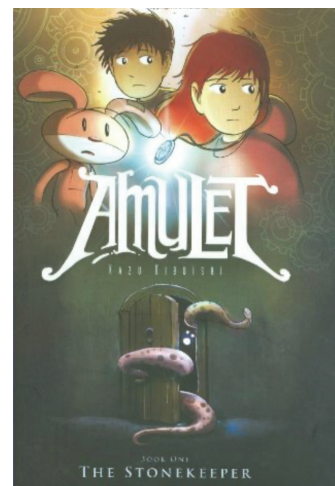
Book 7: 3/5

I don't really like book seven that much, and I don't really know why. We get reintroduced to Gabilan, who is cool, but something about the whole plot just annoys me. I am very confused about why I don't like this, and let's just go to the next book.

Book 8: 4/5

I like this book for pretty much two reasons. Number one is: space! We go to space.

Amulet, 9





Tim Leone-Getten

OWL students pose for a group photo while in Costa Rica.

Costa Rica left students changed

Zania reflects upon her week long visit to Costa Rica for interim

Zania Hierlmaier
Staff Writer

There is a certain emotion felt after discovering what you've missed. For the 20 of us in the San Jose airport, realizing we had just missed our flight to Miami, it was a mix of sadness and exhaustion. But somehow, after about 20 minutes of phone calls and quick tears, we learned a valuable lesson of redirection, adding to the many other wisdoms gathered from this trip.

When I first stepped off a plane to Costa Rica on May 16th, I had a suitcase of dirtfree clothes and no concept of what to expect. Standing in the middle of the airport parking lot with sweat dripping through my shirt, and no solid meal since 3 that morning, it became evident this trip would require flexibility.

Our group's ability to be flexible was put to a test several times throughout the week. We spent time in two different locations in Costa Rica, first at a base camp around 45 minutes outside of San Jose, and later in a "treehouse" in Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí. At the treehouse, we were surrounded by the Costa Rican rainforest, and experienced torrential downpours that limited our plans and service. Luckily, the Costa Rica Outward Bound staff were some of the most adaptable people I have ever met. On our first day at the treehouse, we played soccer in a downpour, and over the course of the week, took several emergency grocery trips made possible by our leaders, Henry, Danny, Samul, and Jair, who taught me to make the most out of otherwise unfortunate events.

Every Outward Bound trip feels like a detox from life, and Costa Rica was no different.

In Costa Rica, the beauties of the natural world were easily accessible to us. Most days, we would wake up to howler monkeys and a variety of insects on our walls, and spend the majority of our time outside, where the plants were vibrant shades of green, and

you could practically touch the sun's rays. Spending a week completely surrounded by nature and away from technology allowed me to fully appreciate life in the moment, an important lesson in the world we are currently living in.

The physical labor we did in Costa Rica also created an environment I could be present in. During the week, I was forced to shift my priorities to focus on shoveling another pile of cement, and painting the next wall, which, albeit, was difficult for me. Like many, it's not easy to drop my normal schedule and deadlines for a week, but, from my experiences in Maine and Costa Rica, it is very beneficial to understand your own life values.

Make a space better than you found it.

On Outward Bound trips, the primary focus is service. At base camp, we worked on cementing the main road and repainting the bodega, an area that housed storage and offices for Outward Bound employees. We continued cementing at the treehouse by making a path where it was difficult to walk due to mud, and also moved stairs to a new location deeper in the forest. As a group, we were able to see the positive influence our work did for Outward Bound and Tarzon, the man who owned the treehouse.

Costa Rica brought us together.

The 20 of us on the Outward Bound Costa Rica trip started as a group, but ended as a unit. Over the course of the week, we bonded over the syrupy juice we had at dinner, our leader Henry's strange EDM playlists, and moonfrogs, a tradition of the trip where each person would get to wear a frog necklace for a day that was blessed with good juju. We all learned how to connect with people we were seemingly different from, a valuable lesson that can be applied many times throughout life.

I left Costa Rica with

Costa Rica, 10

Movie nights with friends are a blast!

They may require some planning around navigating schedules

Maren Sletten
Staff Writer

Have you ever done a movie night with friends? If you haven't, you should. My family had a pretty concrete schedule for movie nights happening on Tuesdays with pizza for a long time, but after a while we began running out of movies. My parents forgot what I'd seen already and I was failing to come up with anything that wasn't something we'd already seen in a different format. So we waned off of them, especially since the stuff in theaters costs so much to go see with expensive tickets and snacks that are more readily available from the comfort of our own homes. Movie nights steadily petered out as work schedules changed and homework became more important than trying to figure out what to watch next Tuesday. This isn't to say that we have completely

forgotten the tradition—we still get pizzas on Tuesday nights—we're just less likely to watch something we will all pay attention to. So my dad commandeers the TV remote to watch his Discovery+ shows and then we all slowly filter out of the living room as we find something else to do. But I was feeling a little empty and a few friends had mentioned wanting to see Project Hail Mary, so I checked if I had it at my disposal.

Okay confession time: I pirated Project Hail Mary. We could debate the ethics of pirating a movie all day, but what I'm really here to tell you about is the fact that I saw the movie and I loved it. So let's talk about the experience.

When I discovered it was out the first thing I did was bring it up to the two people who had said they wanted to see it in theaters. We were in the presence of other people

for a senior meeting, and two other people piped up expressing interest. We wanted to do it over the weekend, so after some texting we figured out a date...and nothing else. So I'm bad at planning! Okay I get it. But it worked out, so who cares? Maybe I should have communicated with my people more, but we all watched it and had a good time. The overall last minute planning went over just fine. The biggest hurdle was mostly figuring out when everyone was going to be at my house. One person had hangups at 7:00pm, and another had robotics until 5:30. At first I believed our plans were a bust— if friend one had to leave at 7:00 for their thing, and the movie was two hours and thirty-seven minutes long, then we couldn't start at 5:30 and finish the movie, but if we started before 5:30 then friend two would miss out. I

was determined to find a way to remedy this but friend one piped up saying they could do their 7:00pm meeting virtually so we can start at 5:30.

Phew, first hurdle jumped, everyone agreed about pizza (thank god), and as 5:30 rolled around all four of my friends showed up, and we were on! My living room has a strange set up, so after watching about thirty minutes of the movie we all agreed to move the couch like I had initially suggested, knowing how hard it was to watch anything from where the couch was positioned. After kicking up enough dog hair to form another dog, we checked the time and realized it was 6:50, so we might as well wait for friend one to be done with their meeting before starting up again.

We had made plans for what to do during that time:

Movie night, 10

Azul is a great competitive game to play

It involves a combination of strategy, luck, and a little bit of math

Louden Buetow
Staff Writer

Have you been looking for a competitive game you can play without getting really mad? Well now you have one and it's called Azul.

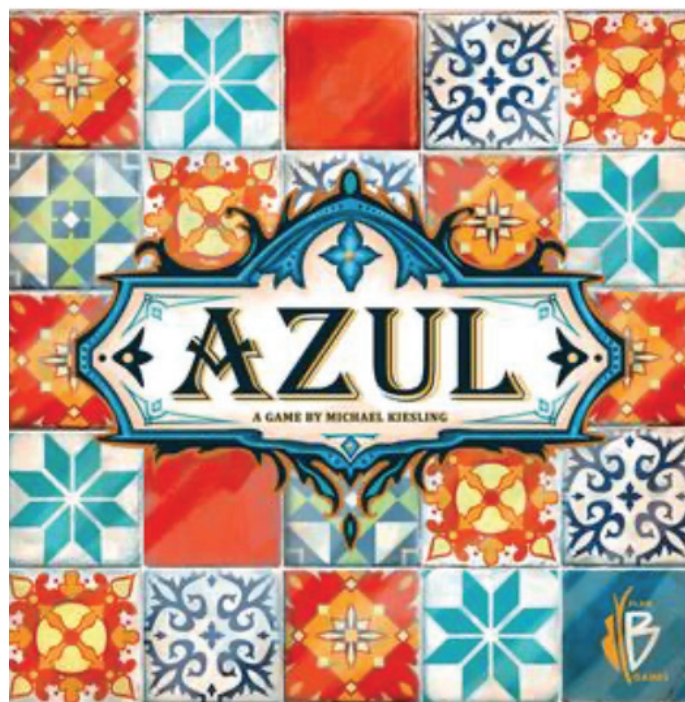
Azul is a very fun two-four player game about building walls to play that will feel competitive without making you stressed. Every player gets a board, each of which has spots where you can place walls. You get the tiles to build the wall from factories, which is an almost coaster-like circular object in the center where the tiles are placed. During the game you will get tiles to place on the board that will end up as a part of the wall. You get tiles from factories and each factory has five tiles that are grabbed from the bag in the middle. You win by having a horizontal row of tiles on your wall. You can score points at the end of the game but also throughout the game you get one point for each tile placed on your board.

During the game you can also lose points, because for

every tile that can't fit on your board you put it on the bottom row or floor line. If enough tiles are on your floor line you will start losing points. Each turn you can grab tiles from the factories or from the center. There are only tiles in the center after a group of tiles has been taken from the factories because all extra tiles

will be placed in the center. When taking tiles you will always only take tiles of the same color.

Now that you know how to play it's also important to know how to win so for a horizontal row you get two points, for every vertical row you get seven points and if you have every color down on the board



you get 10 points. The board is a five by five which means you need five tiles to win one, and five tiles to get more points. If it ends up in a tie the player with more horizontal lines wins. If it's still a tie after that then it is just a tie.

There are many ways to win the game. You can focus on taking the pieces that your opponent needs or try to focus on getting all of one color or a full vertical line. Either way you should always be careful of the floor plan and make sure that you can hold enough tiles or if you can't, that you're sacrificing the tiles for a good reason.

Azul is one of, if not my favorite board game. If you do play it make sure to actually read the rules, because I know I didn't explain everything too thoroughly here. Azul is a fun game that has many sequels with similar playstyles but still very different with the theme, art, and gameplay.

Phone addiction, 6

scroll and autoplay were intentionally designed to be as addictive as a slot machine.

Because these companies have something to gain, it doesn't matter if the ways to keep consumers on their app make them feel worse. As long as users are spending as much time as possible on them, they're winning. In 2021, Facebook faced controversy when a Washington Post article revealed that Facebook's algorithm was boosting posts not with the most likes, but with the most angry reaction emojis. The posts with more angry reactions regularly included toxicity, misinformation, and poor news writing— aka things that get people angry enough to argue about them with strangers and spend more time on the app.

Mark Zuckerberg announced Meta would be removing the fact checker and switching to community notes, on the reasoning that it was politically biased. While it is true that the fact checker was mainly labeling misinformation from the right, that's just because a larger portion of misinformation was coming from the right. In addition to the switch, Zuckerberg also removed penalties for users sharing false content, which means

their posts are being boosted just as much as any other post on the app.

Okay, so we know social media is bad. What should we do about it?

Honestly, if you want to get your screen time down, just delete the app. The average person spends two hours and 40 minutes a day on just social media, with that number going up to an average of four hours a day with Gen Z. You can try just not using it as much, you can try doing a digital detox once in a while to make up for it, but the most effective thing is to get rid of the temptation entirely.

Some have combatted the black hole of screen time by "going analog," a recent trend where your phone basically only works for calls, like a landline. We've also seen a rise in the popularity of physical media like CD's, records,

DVD's, Polaroid cameras, all working to replace the non-communication things you use your phone for. Some say that the analog lifestyle also offers a sense of ownership that you just can't get from digital media. Holding a CD in your hands feels different from playing an album on your phone, flipping through the pages of a book feels different from scrolling through them on a kindle. Excessive screen time is considered two hours of recreational use a day. Delete your socials, put the phone down, and go dig through your parents old CD's.

Small businesses, 4

Story B:

A gay couple came in. And they had a student they were sponsoring from Kenya, I think. So the sponsored student has some stuff, and I'm gonna give him a discount, cause they're helping this young man, right? And Roxanne starts bagging everything.

And hands it to the guy and he was confused. He didn't know what was going on. Cause

he didn't have any money. And then the couple were like, 'Oh, whoa, No, no, no.

We'll pay. We'll pay.' And Roxanne tells them no, and they were like, 'Why are you doing that?' And she said, 'Because you're helping someone.'

And then, they go, 'What about the coat? We'll pay for the coat.' She said, okay, fine.

And they were just so happy. And as they were walking out, they told him, 'this is the best of America.' And then, a week and a half later, we got a check from their organization.

Aria at state, 1

just felt honored to be running against them and be thought of as good enough to compete against them," said Aria.

Aria ended up with a time of 1:00.79, which is almost identical to the one she ran at sections. Overall, she was content with the time she ran at sections. Additionally, many of Aria's family members and friends were at the meet to cheer her on.

Glorious revenge, 6

this one. It does also feature animal death prominently.

Unfortunately, the book suffers from a case of the 'slow middle.' The beginning is good, and the end is good, but the middle was.... eh. Certain parts were delightful, and whenever one chapter that was particularly good ended I was so excited to see what happened next, but due to the three-perspective style of the story there were two chapters I had to read first, and one of those chapters would have an interesting end, but then the initial chapter I was excited to read wouldn't be great. Still, that hope of a good next chapter easily propelled me through the book and I finished it in a few days.

Overall, Maude Horton's *Glorious Revenge* is a wonderfully dark historical fiction and easily worth the read.

Nerf wars, 1

eye-witness accounts and the dedication of owlnerfwars Instagram.

That's right, the annual OWL nerf-gun wars are hot off the press, with juniors and seniors participating in this action-packed, bracketed competition that began April 20th.

Remaining winning teams were reassigned target teams every Sunday which was released publicly on their Instagram page. "We planned our attacks for the first round, but for the second round we didn't have time to plan anything so we just kept guns on ourselves," reflected senior Titus Galbreath.

Finding their enemies' houses, however, was a much sneakier affair. "We usually get connections in order to find where people live. It's surprising how certain people are quick to snitch on their friends," said senior Val Thao, member of the Shifty Smiskis.

Despite its name, OWL nerf wars is unaffiliated with the school, so guidelines required that nerf-shooting occur only outside of school grounds, and that it is prohibited, naturally, inside homes, places of worship, or at a moving vehicle/from inside one.

"It was scary, I was living in paranoia," senior Emma Miller, a Wizz Warriors member, told reporters about her experience in the games. But isn't that the thrill everyone is chasing?

"It was pretty fun,

you kinda felt like you were on the run," confirmed 11th grader Connie Van Genderen, "there were eyes on you at all times, but it was very exciting to be involved in something like a shootout. For our team, it was strange to go up against our best friends because it

sure you've already guessed): underwear. Underwear on your head grants you immunity, so long as your assailants aren't doing the same thing. The trick is for the attacker to be prepared (aka wearing underwear normally and then also on their head)



Harper Kopka

Luke Hobday eliminated Harper Kopka in the final round.

forced you to be secretive around people that you usually tell simple things—like what you're doing—and you couldn't hang out at all."

After all this talk of courage and adventure, you may wonder, what are the rules to this harrowing contest? There are many, but by far the most important involves (as I'm

before they even arrive, as a precaution in case the victim has resolved to brave the battlefield in undies. But don't great minds think alike, you may ask? Well, there's a solution to that scenario too: if both are decked out in normal underwear and underwear on their head, then the rule cancels out and they can shoot

Teacher summer, 3

the job, I love making all my friends jealous." He is looking forward to camping, grilling, and his favorite part; going to his favorite secret beach with his friends.

Art teacher Kent Miller also stays active in his subject. When he's not in his ceramics studio, you can find him mountain biking, camping, hiking, or grilling. The biggest events in his summer are going up to a cabin, and celebrating his parents' 80th birthday. As far as professional development goes, he's working on his own art projects and writing down curriculum. "I really enjoy creating my own art during the summer so that recharges me for being able to lead students in their creative adventures during the school year," said Kent. His goal this summer is to make 600 pounds of pottery: fire, glazed, and fired again. He sells some of his

pottery as well. His favorite part of the summer is making art and recharging himself for the next school year.

English teacher Alysha Lundquist's summer sounds like one out of a movie. She's going down to the western US to see her parents. They like to go camping and ride their horses side by side. She's looking forward to spending a lot of time in the great outdoors; a week in Lake of the Woods, a couple weekends at Fisherman's Point campground at Hoyt Lake, and a lot of time at her family's cabin on the south shore of Lake Superior. "I want to get my 2007 Honda up and running as a daily driver again. I would also like to get my 24 year old mare back into shape for at least one more riding season before she has to retire," said Alysha. Her sister and her boyfriend are flying their small plane up from Nevada to go sightseeing around Lake

Superior with them. She loves spending time with her family, friends, and animals, as well as four wheeling, kayaking, fishing, and horseback riding. But most of all, she loves spending time with her wife and animals and staying in bed.

Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten also has an exciting summer planned. His youngest daughter is graduating from college, so they're going down to Chicago to see her. He also goes to Door County, Wisconsin, with his whole family every summer. He's mostly planning on staying in the midwest, since they had bigger trips this year, such as going to Italy to see the Olympics. "Sometimes I do house painting. I will do house painting both inside and outside. And I do that for people I know, like friends or family that need a big project done," said Tim. His goal is to train for the ski racing he does

in the winter. He appreciates having the summer break in his career because the teachers' workload is so demanding during the year, and it gives them time to refresh.

Even our esteemed principal, Dave Gundale, has plans for the summer. Yes, he does use his summer to prepare for the next school year and attends an EL Education Leadership conference every summer, but he enjoys his break too. "I try to exercise more, get some projects done, do lots of gardening and just enjoy a little less structure for a couple months," said Dave. He's planning a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters and spending long weekends at his cabin with his family. His summer goals are to renovate his bathroom, exercise, and read. And his favorite parts of the summer are rest, travel, and enjoying the morning and evening air.

MS frisbee, 2

for four teams. At the start of the season, we had one competitive mixed team (The Seacows), two non-competitive mixed teams (Team Mana, Team Tee), and one all boys 6th grade team (Manathree). After another competitive team in the league dropped out, Team Mana stepped up to take their place, giving OWL two competitive teams. If you wanted to be on the competitive team this season, you had to fill out an interest form and be chosen for the team. Since you have to try out for the competitive team, all of the students on the team really want to be there and are willing to push themselves in practice and games.

Although OWL didn't originally want or need to have a competitive team, over the years Donald has seen another approach to ultimate. "Because other teams have been slowly

each other.

Teams consisted of three members, organized by upperclassmen, who had to first make a team name, a poster, and pay \$10 into the winner's pool. In order to advance to the next round, your team had to get the most kills against the team they were up against. If your team had the most kills, but you had been sacrificed, you were revived for the next round. Having contributed their own money to the winner's pool, participants had every reason to go the extra mile and ensure their immunity.

After six weeks of hiding, scheming and grit, one team secured their win last week: Pistol Pals, with 11th grade members Carlos Amaya, Harper Kopka, and Liam Nowatski! Their strategy involved making "individual plans to get people and adapting if it didn't work out," according to Carlos. Having "put a lot of work and dedication in to get the win," the Pistol Pals plan to celebrate by buying a bunch of Harper Kopka cutouts, obviously. At least we know the money is going to a good cause!

OBSA, 1

and timing before we ask staff to start making decisions about what they want to teach. Katerina spends a lot of time making sure that the nurse, office, and lunch staff have the information they need. We can't afford to cook lunches for 500 students when 250 have left the building, and the nurse needs to make sure that all teachers have the medications they need for various field trips," explained Preston.

The biggest of these field trips are the Outward Bound trips, which high schoolers do service throughout the year to fund. Three groups of around 30 OBSA students each headed off in buses and planes to various Outward Bound

camp, including OWL's first ever international camp visit in Costa Rica, to do service and team bonding.

But whether students were making pinatas or enjoying the sights of the Rocky Mountains, the week was, in the words of senior M Lind, a "great way to mix up the end of the school year," and many students walked away with new friends and new memories to cherish.

Amulet, 7

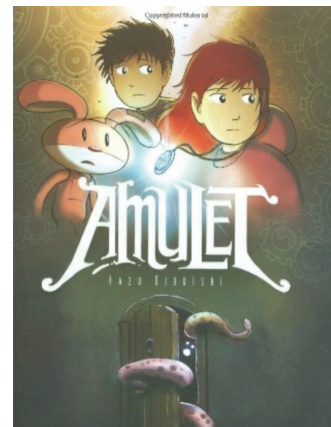
More giant robots. Cookies and ice cream (no seriously, there is a very good looking dessert that they show at one point). We get introduced to some other characters like Bento and Flon, who are literal aliens and are very funny. My other reason is: the Void. We are introduced to this place in book four, but don't ever really get to know about it, or what happens there, until book six, and that's just a memory. Here we see the Void as it truly is, a hub of Stonekeepers who just move around aimlessly. I am kinda confused how time works, <spoiler> as we see an older version of Emily helping younger Emily escape, </spoiler> but who cares. It's

author logic. Not everything has to make sense 100% of the time.

Book 9: 5/5

First off: absolute cinema. Everything is revealed. New characters. Amazing world building. Everything. Is. Peak. Anyways, we get a lot of new information about the voice that guides Emily from her Stone. <spoiler> So apparently it's a computer program guided by robots from a different dimension (I'm not 100% sure what is actually going on with these things), and it was made by Emily's great grandfather, who was the Stonekeeper of Emily's stone before her. </spoiler> We get some more mountain giants (Cada and Cora) who

are also Stonekeepers. We are also introduced to Ronin (technically, Ronin was in book four, but I think that was a fake) and her four trainees West, Lia, Janis, and Bren. There's a lot more details that I would get into, but I probably don't have enough space.



Summer jobs, 3

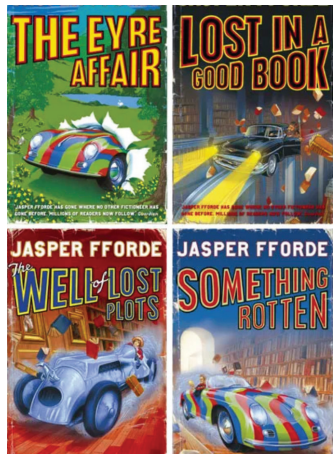
for either the summer or the school year is the food industry. Chipotle, Canes, or other big chains like these are very common among students for work opportunities. Other smaller places that hire teens might be places like Grand Old Creamery.

Getting a job, whether it be year long or just for the summer, can be hard if you're a high schooler. You might not have a car, or can't work a lot because of sports. If you're having trouble finding a job, my advice would be to simply ask. Lots of your peers have different jobs or know of different opportunities.

Five books, 6

parks, all along the way to an extremely meta ending that weaponizes plot tropes themselves. Reading this book was just plain fun, and I loved it.

Speaking of “extremely meta,” few authors have more thoroughly demolished the fourth wall than Jasper Fforde. I’m recommending his Thursday Next series in particular, although it’s hard to go wrong with this author. The series is set in an alternate universe in which genetic engineering technology is extremely advanced, the political landscape is dominated by the Goliath supercorporation, and few things hold as much cultural weight as literature. Thursday Next, our protagonist works for Special Operations 27—AKA the Literary Detectives—who are responsible for investigating book-related



crimes, such as falsified “lost Shakespeares” or a mad villain holding Charles Dickens manuscripts as hostages. As the series progresses, Thursday discovers the ability to enter the BookWorld itself, avoiding disasters within the world’s literature alongside literary characters, grappling with bad plot elements and inter-genre tensions, and much more. Best of all, the Thursday Next books are, in fact, books that exist within the universe they depict, and Thursday soon must deal with her own fictional self and her series being put at risk.

Each book of the series brings something new to the table while retaining the series’ usual DNA. The sheer quantity of ideas present in this series, from entering books, to time travel, to cloning, and so, so much more, keeps it consistently feeling new and interesting. The Thursday Next series is both entertaining and hilarious, and, as with most of this author’s books, is absolutely worth a read.

Let’s switch gears once again, from funny and lighthearted books to extremely dark and serious ones. Japanese youtuber Uketsu has written three similar books; Strange Houses, Strange Pictures, and Strange Buildings, the third of which is the book I most recommend. Strange Buildings contains eleven cases, each surrounding some sort of

strange building or floor plan with a few architectural oddities, which slowly add up to evidence of a darker conclusion. Hallways leading to nowhere, mysterious dead spaces in the walls...each case is a satisfying mystery on its



own, but the conclusion of the book sees each case coming together and connecting to tell a much darker story.

Before you check out this book, I do need to warn you that this is a very dark book, containing descriptions of cult manipulation, intense child abuse, and more. It’s also translated directly from Japanese, which can make a lot of the language seem quite simplistic and at times, clunky. However, the concepts behind it were more than enough for me to become extremely interested in the story, building my own theories as to how each mysterious house feature was connected and what might really be happening. Fans

of dark mysteries, I would definitely recommend this book.

Finally, I want to throw in what might just be my favorite nonfiction book I’ve read. It feels weird counting an AP English Language book club book as one of my top books of high school, but Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing reads so intensely it is often hard to believe that it truly happened. In 1915, explorer Ernest Shackleton led the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition in the hopes of being the first to cross Antarctica on land. On the way, however, their ship—the Endurance—became stuck in the ice of the Weddell Sea, leaving 28 sailors stranded in the Antarctic seas with seemingly no hope of rescue. What followed next was a journey over ice, over seas, over mountains, and more as the crew attempted to achieve the impossible and make it back home alive.

Endurance documents this trip using firsthand accounts from journals kept by the explorers, ensuring it remains accurate throughout a genuinely incredible narrative. I’ve never been as much of a fan of an AP English book club book as I was of Endurance, and even if you aren’t a fan of nonfiction, I’d still wholeheartedly recommend reading this book.

Phones, 5

wanting phones are for social reasons: essentially everyone at OWL has a phone and frequently uses it. It is natural to want one to fit in more with one’s friends. The people without phones are missing out on social media, texting, trends, games, and therefore, they are missing out on more plans. While some alternatives exist to bridge the gap (such as Apple Watches), they do not do all of these things for fitting in.

For the majority of students, most like to enjoy their phones. But, as a lot admit, they have an addiction to their phones. Those are also only the ones that admit their addiction: the real amount could be much greater. There are so many addictive apps from companies that want your time, money, and attention, that it is hard to not get addicted to the apps. Instagram is specifically designed to garner your attention - so much so that high hours of screen time can be seen among the entirety of the youth.

This isn’t just a problem with students - most teachers even admit that it is hard to put down. While parenting and teaching, teachers see that unhealthy habits can easily develop among children. Some students at OWL go above and beyond the restrictions, and others hardly obey them. Rampant phone use is a

problem that we are likely to see more in the future, and as a society, we will likely see more restrictions on phones. That’s without even mentioning the mental health issues that are associated with heavy electronic usage in childhood development.

On the other hand, there are good uses of phones as well. It bridges gaps between poor and rich societies, therefore allowing the former to get more resources - it is hard to say that more resources for the socioeconomically disadvantaged is a bad thing, but is this the best method for its employment?

With all of these factors, what may the future of phones look like based on the role of them today? The role of phones currently seems at its unhealthiest, with more attention being devoted to social media than anything else - but will this change? As mentioned earlier, there is a heavy movement towards dumb phones and more analog tech - but will this be incorporated into OWL and the rest of young and adult society? Will there even be laws passed nationwide to limit phone use? Who will incorporate these changes into the system?

Only time will tell, but for now, we know that phones will remain a constant at OWL.

Movie night, 8

walking to the gas station that I now know is five blocks from my house (I didn’t know what the measurement for blocks was and I was made fun of thoroughly as they explained it to me) to pick up snacks. We walked there and purchased a good round of snacks that we would be munching on for the remainder of the movie. We walked back to my house, where friend one informed us the entire time we were gone they had been staring at the same screen because they had only changed it once during the meeting, and they had resorted to playing Pokémon Go. We piled back onto the couch after drinks and snacks were grabbed, and we began talking and playing on our phones while we waited out till the end of friend one’s boring meeting.

Locking back in, we had barely any interruptions after that. We all talk during movies so in areas where confusion arose or we had references to make we would spout them out and all divulge into conversation or laughter. The movie was good. I’m not going to spoil it for you here, I just want to simply plant the idea of a movie night with friends in your head, because let me tell you, it was amazing!

I had such a good time, and my friends did too, as we bonded over a silly movie about a space adventure. The movie was based on a book only one of us had read, so they would pipe up with some of the bigger differences between the book and movie, like a character bombing Antarctica— that was a hot topic of discussion for a good while. We briefly paused the movie to speak about the

canon consequences of this action and try to understand why that decision would be made.

Despite getting too hot during our viewing, overall it was exciting, and the silent comradery we had when we

reached lapses of silence to watch the movie made it all the better. That warm feeling of comfort as you sit among friends and relax in each other’s presence was a delight and made the viewing better overall, especially considering



we didn’t spend an excessive amount of money on snacks, had pizza, and we could talk to each other! A movie theater takes some of these experiences away (which is why DVDs became a thing in the first place), and after that it was streaming platforms and their ability to give you shows, movies, songs, etc for cheap prices, then the media companies and their inflation making streaming the same price if not pricier than cable.

Having the opportunity to watch Project Hail Mary from home was amazing, getting to watch it with friends even better. And though I don’t condone piracy (wink, wink) I totally think you should try catching a movie with friends some time. Do a movie night, pack into someone’s house no matter how cramped, buy pizza, pool together to get dinner from a restaurant down

the street, argue over who’s making dinner and bring over ingredients, who cares! Just have fun. Movie nights, just like friendly hangouts, are a bonding experience that brings people together. Every theater I attend in company, and every crappy laptop viewing of a favorite, are totally worth it to sit back, kick your feet up, and spend time watching a movie with people who are just as excited as you. Instead of being lonely and shut up, you are surrounded by like-minded people that create an air of enthusiasm that leaves you full of post hangout adrenaline that can far beyond post-party clean up and changing into pajamas. You can relax into bed knowing that even if something bad happened prior in the week, this movie night just made your day, and nothing at the moment can knock you down.

Costa Rica, 8

bruises scattered on my arms, clothes stained with mud, and countless unforgettable memories. When I think of this trip, I’ll imagine JJ and Luna, the base camp dogs who fought over sticks and knew both Spanish and English. I’ll picture our dance parties in the treehouse kitchen, and the designs drawn into cement. But overall, I’ll reflect on the person I became in Costa Rica. The person who was fine getting soaked with rain, and putting their life aside to take in nature. Due to Outward Bound, I was able to bring that version of myself back to Minnesota, and truly understand the importance and value of these trips, which I hope every OWL student can experience in some form.

Ethics, 3

for those who don’t really want to speak in front of the whole class, “you can just get along, just typing down all your answers in your journal prompts not saying anything, but I think it’s a whole lot more fun if you say something,” said Joseph.

Fortunately even if you don’t feel comfortable talking in front of the entire class, you can still have plenty of fun with just talking to the people at your table, “there’s probably about 10 kids who participate in discussion pretty regularly,” said Preston, “but I think most kids, even if they don’t want to talk in front of the whole class, I’ll hear them talk to the people around them.”

Alysha, 1

stressed out,” said ninth grader Lauren Harris. Ninth grader Lavender Thao feels similarly, “I think she’s just so real in general. I feel like I could talk to her about anything. She’s very understanding, and she understands if I can’t submit something on time. She’s just very real, you know?”

Alysha has touched the hearts and sincerely guided many students in her short time at OWL. “I’m so sad, like I was bawling my eyes out for like fourth hour yesterday, and I don’t know, I feel like I’m just gonna miss her a lot, and she’s only been here for how many years, like two years, yes, two years, and I was gone for one year, so like high key, I’m gonna miss her a lot,” said Lavender.

Similar sentiments are

shared by Lauren. “I feel very, very sad. I do not want her to leave. She’s one of my favorite teachers at this school, and I think a lot of things will change when she leaves.”

Alysha is excited about going back to a school she

helped build, but also sad about leaving. “I am going to miss so many things about OWL. This is probably my favorite in-person school I have ever been at. The students are amazing, the amount of community and stewardship they show. I liked

the cool projects we get to do, like interim and fall field work. I really enjoyed being a part of a whole student school instead of just an education focused school.”

Now that she’s moving to a farm upstate, OWL will once again need a new teacher in classroom 2114. Many OWL students are hoping that the new teacher will live up to her legacy, are sending many well wishes for Alysha’s future endeavors, and will always remember her guidance.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Alysha helps a student with their work.

ACROSS

- 1 ___ Allan Poe
 6 OWL Teacher Leone-Getten
 9 "We'll take care of that"
 14 City home to the NFL's Dolphins
 15 Ten minus nine
 16 Smooths out - or the last name of actor Jeremy who starred in "The Lion King" and "Lolita"
 17 *Warm getaways to the wilderness up north
 20 "On your mark, get ___, go!"
 21 "Say it ain't so!"
 22 Starts anew
 23 Soul singer Redding
 24 Popular series of movies starring Timothee Chalamet as Paul Atreides that has a third movie coming out on Christmas
 25 Tallies
 28 Takes a drink of
 29 With whom you might have a Snapchat streak, informally
 32 1/2 or 3/5, say
 33 *Gathering at which you may find corn dogs, carnival rides, Pronto Pups, and deep-fried Oreos
 35 "Just give me ___!"
 36 April ___ Day
 37 Popular supermarket chain
 38 *Pyrotechnic devices first invented in China over 2,000 years ago
 40 Thought about
 41 General ___'s chicken
 42 East, in Spanish
 43 Peace activist Yousafzai

- 44 Back muscles, for short
 45 Smartphone message
 46 Dissimilar to
 49 Group born between baby boomers and millenials
 50 Comprehended
 53 Yearly warm-weather ritual... or what
 17-Across, 33-Across, and 38-Across all are, to many Minnesotans
 56 Bagel variety
 57 "Every cloud ___ a silver lining"
 58 Elie Wiesel memoir chronicling his experience with the Holocaust
 59 Machines at the casinos
 60 They can be blue, green and brown
 61 Cinderella's slipper material

DOWN

- 1 Gives off
 2 Urgent
 3 Walking style
 4 Electric guitar hookup
 5 Creamy Italian dish made with Arborio rice
 6 Bugs Bunny and Homer Simpson, e.g.
 7 "Spider-Man: ___ the Spider-Verse"
 8 Slangy word of indifference
 9 Rite of passage for many OWL students, among others, in high school
 10 Shake an Etch-A-Sketch
 11 "___ or not ___..."
 12 The "U" in I.C.U.

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- 13 Strings with the pattern XXX-XX-XXXX, in brief
 18 "Get a load of ___!"
 19 Explodes, as a volcano
 23 In the cooler
 24 Calls
 25 Make a greeting card or quilt, say
 26 1990s British band with the hit "Wonderwall" who are often called a copy of The Beatles
 27 "In ___" (Nirvana album)
 28 Feed, as a fire
 29 Spanish word for "raft" that is also a type of wood commonly used for model airplanes
 30 Castro who was the Communist leader of Cuba from 1965-2011
 31 Mexican artist Kahlo
 33 Puts in order
 34 Blame
 36 Oscar winner Jodie
 39 Loses strength
 40 Popular internet suffix that is used to describe the act of optimizing or obsessing over a specific trait or action, such as looks or sleep
 43 Repair
 44 "The sky's the ___!"
 45 Toy with
 46 Mail letters
 47 ___ and void
 48 ROFL alternative
 49 Neutral hue
 50 Prefix with -byte
 51 Sounds of amazement
 52 Demolition supplies
 54 Most common English word
 55 "___ death do us part"

Graduation for OWL's Class of 2026



Brian Blakely

Graduates applaud while principal Dave Gundale gives a speech during graduation.



Brian Blakely

Kate Houle walks across the stage during graduation.



Brian Blakely

Halie Karre giving a speech at graduation.



Brian Blakely

Isiah Molina giving a speech at graduation.



Brian Blakely

Ellie and Eden walking across the stage.



Brian Blakely

Choir seniors sing at the graduation ceremony.



Brian Blakely

OWL's Class of 2026 poses for a group photo outside of the auditorium.