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Sam and Mae to HD Nationals!

Their senior performance earned 1st at State

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

State History Day was on Saturday, May 4th and one OWL project advanced to nationals. 10th grader Sam Kellar-Long and 9th grader Mae Wrigley's performance on the torches of freedom campaign received 1st place in Minnesota. They will be traveling to Washington D.C. in early June.

Their topic is the 1929 torches of freedom march, where women marched in the Easter Day parade while

smoking cigarettes, convincing women that smoking could benefit the feminist movement. It also brought a lot of sales for the American Tobacco Company and caused bad health effects on women. "Last year Luke showed a video on Edward Bernays in World History. I wrote it down as a potential topic, and when we looked into it this year it seemed like a good choice," said 10th grader Sam Kellar-Long.

"I think the thing that I

found most interesting while researching our topic is that decades after Bernays worked on the torches of freedom campaign and the health effects were more well known, he worked on a anti-smoking campaign. Almost as to reverse the harm he caused in the success of his first smoking campaign," said 9th grader Mae Wrigley.

Social studies teacher Katie Craven likes how interesting their topic is, and how they were able to make it funny. "I

think the humor, the excellent research, and the analysis they've done make them successful - and again the uniqueness of their topic," said Katie.

Sam and Mae have had about a month to revise their project to be nationals-ready. "We're trying to conduct more interviews, and polish the performance aspect of our project so that hopefully we'll have a fighting chance at Nationals," said Sam.



Sam and Mae got first place at state and are going to nationals!



Concert Choir practicing for their performance at Four Rivers Charter School in Greenfield, MA (left), and on a cruise in Boston Harbor (right).



Abby Davis

A week on the East Coast

Helena takes us through concert choir's interim trip

Helena Squires Mosher
Staff Writer

2:14 PM Saturday

We load the buses at school, after meeting with our chaperone groups in the cafeteria. The choir risers are 6 inches too big to fit on the bus, so we're ditching them. The fact that we'll be on this bus for 15 hours hasn't set in yet.

7:15 PM Saturday

Everyone groans when Alex announces we're getting a worksheet. Turns out, because we're seeing Wicked, we're watching the Wizard of Oz in preparation and he wants to make sure we pay attention.

8:43 AM Sunday

We stop for breakfast at McDonalds. The line to order goes around into the seating area, though the employees say they are used to large bus

loads. Some of us brush our teeth in the bathrooms. I have to use my finger because I left my toothbrush in my suitcase. Later today we'll visit Niagara Falls, which I'm still surprised has three A's in it.

12:36 PM Monday

One concert down. We stop for lunch after performing at Four Rivers Charter School. Their school looks like a farm. We gawk at their numerous

Ultimate trophies.

6:30 PM Monday

We unload the buses in a thunderstorm. We're staying at a hotel outside of Boston. Me and other soloists for the Wailin' Jennys song rehearse in Alex's room, and try to figure out how to stay in tune with the guitar. The rest of our group goes to the hotel pool.

10:38 AM Tuesday

On our bus tour of Boston, we ask the tour guide if we have accents. She says we have pretty neutral voices. Upon hearing that we're from Minnesota, she says that she went to a Prince concert in 1981.

5:37 PM Tuesday

At noon we got set free into Beacon Hill, Boston, to find lunch. It's a historic neighborhood, and there were a plethora

Choir, 3

OWL's friendly faces: Caryl
OWL's favorite librarian is known for her kindness.

Ella Pratt
Staff Writer

You walk into the library, nervous to return your book that has somehow become six weeks overdue, until you see librarian Caryl Mousseaux's beaming smile and calm composure. You set your book down on the return rack and try to keep your head down and move fast, but before you can leave Caryl will already have several book recommendations for you and a way to cheer you up.

"Every time I go into the library to say good morning she always has special books recommendations for me," said OWL sophomore Leo Dungan Seaver. Caryl's room is the library but she stays present in many classes, especially English. Caryl also has student helpers throughout the day to help organize book and to help kids who come into the library looking for or to return a

Caryl, 2



Shayla Brooks

OWL's librarian, Caryl Mousseaux.

Budget allows for new staff in 2019-2020

Grace Bellamy
Staff Writer

Next year OWL will have a new assistant principal, due to no budget cuts in the district for the first time in years.

District-wide, the budget increased by \$9.7 million, due to the state legislature's decision to increase education spending by 2% per year for the

next two years. SPSS allowed for a smaller spending increase than what actually happened. Due to debt, this will likely result in close to breaking even within the next years. "We were in a deficit mode, so we will probably come out pretty flat and even," said principal Dave Gundale of the budget increase. Money from the state

is given to school districts based on enrollment counts, and the district gives money to schools based on the same system. Across SPSS, enrollment counts have dropped, however at OWL they remain steady. This means that some schools may not see an increase in their budget like OWL has.

In addition to money from

the state, schools can receive money from the federal government. Schools with a student body where 40% or greater qualify for free or reduced lunch receive Title I funding. In 2018, SPSS received \$29.4 million from Title I. OWL did not meet the threshold this year, but has in the past. Typically OWL chooses to spend

it on extra assistance with math, however other ways that schools spend it include family engagement and after school activities. Districts also receive extra resources for students that are special education, multilingual, or qualify for free and reduced lunch.

At OWL, the increase in

Budget, 3



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Caryl, 1
book with finding a book and checking books in/out.

"Caryl has been vital to my success as a teacher, there's no way that I could be running my expeditions without her help," says Nora Kings, English teacher at OWL. When asked what Caryl does to help out Nora listed various examples ranging from finding experts to come into the school to finding lit circle books. Nora isn't the only teacher who talks highly of Caryl, social studies teacher Luke Turvold says Caryl is "easy to work with and full of creative ideas."

"Caryl got us a really cool book grant, which allows you to request to read any book," says Daniel Meekin, 8th grader at OWL helps Caryl in the library almost every other day. "Caryl is always nice and has something for me to do."

Caryl enjoys being with her crew, Lloyd's lightning llama turtles. She enjoys the students in her crew, as well as the students and staff who come into the library. The genius squad also works in the library as well as her hard working Teacher's assistants. When asked how Caryl stays so friendly all the time she says that she was "highly influenced by my parents" who are present in the school and helped out in the building of the little libraries last interim week.

So if you'd like to make your day a bit more upbeat then I'd recommend stopping into the library for a book and to see Caryl's smiling face.

Competing against the nation's top archers

6th grader Kathryn Totushek went to the national archery championship in May

Emily Yang
Staff Writer

On Friday May 9th, Kathryn Totushek shoots a 269 in Louisville, Kentucky. At the Minnesota state tournament, Kathryn shot a 282. Although there is a 13 point difference between state and nationals, she beat her average score of 262 by 7 points.

"Kind of shocking and I was a little nervous," said Kathryn about her experience.

After placing 3rd place at the state tournament, Kathryn took a fourteen hour long car ride, with a month's worth of practice to Louisville, Kentucky. Nationals is a different experience compared to regular tournaments throughout the season. There are hundreds of teams and hundreds more archers all coming together.



Kathryn with archery coach Tom Totushek at nationals.

"Before I shot it was a little overwhelming, but while I was shooting it wasn't," said Kathryn.

Going to Nationals for the first time can be very exciting, but also a bit overwhelming. Inside the Kentucky Exposition Center, there are a ton of different vendors and teams. Lights There are targets lining

up by the hundreds. Kathryn shot at target number 439 out of 441.

"I didn't focus too much on getting Kathryn to shoot well at Nationals because it was her first time there and her first season overall. I looked at it as a learning opportunity," said coach Tom Totushek.

Boys volleyball recap OWL and Humboldt's inaugural season

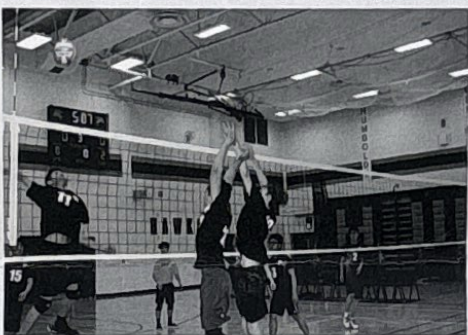
Molly Yang
Staff Writer

This year was the first year for the boys volleyball team at Humboldt and OWL. They went through many experiences as a team, especially as a new team. Lots of the players were new to the game and were inexperienced. They also didn't have many wins, but the students had fun, gained experience and improved as a team throughout the season. There were struggles with funding and finding gym space.

As far as the team's overall season goes, there were many improvements, highlights, and lessons learned from the last few months. This year's team had many players come and go, but there were approximately 17 players on the roster, JV and varsity combined. About 11 of those were OWL students.

Their record was 1 win and 9 losses, but through this, they grew immensely as a team. One of the biggest highlights of the season was the team's first win against Maple Grove. Kou Yang, an 11th grader at OWL, says that "it was really fun and it was our first win so it was nice." Some other highlights were the intensity and effort put into all their games. Though they lost the others, they were all very close and vigorous games and really improved them as a team.

There were many new players with no experience and some players who have played before, outside of school. With this mix experience in the team, "it was a mixed variety of people. But we're always learning and I'm always learning," said Damon. Team chemistry and learning to work together was the biggest improvement in the team. A 10th grader at OWL, Cyrus Slinger, says that "Going into it, I didn't know anyone besides the OWL kids. But I feel like I made a lot of connections



11th grader Jedi Casas hitting the ball (above), varsity warming up for a match (below).

with the Humboldt kids. Everyone was really friendly." "I think as a team we could've done better, but we grew a lot in our own ways. Some got better at the game and others at teamwork," said Kou.

Some of the challenges for coaching and starting a new team was more the coordination and resources available for the team. Damon did not have an athletic director. They also didn't have money and gym space. But many helpful resources at Humboldt such as Dave Mergens and Hannah Osborne helped with these things such as finding gym space and going to meetings for the team. But even with these challenges, it only made the team's successes that much more worth it.

As for what is in store next year for the team, it is still considered a club sport rather

than a varsity sport in Minnesota, but there are conversations being made of the transformation from club to varsity. This change seems to be inevitable with the huge growth of teams across the state having 51 teams and having their first state championship this year. The difference between club and varsity sport is that the school has to provide the funding. But the volleyball club had to find their own funding. "There has to be evidence that there is a need for sports. There have to be arguments that are put forward," says Damon. He says that it won't be a varsity sport as soon as next year, but it may be approved. As for the Humboldt team, it will continue next year and continue to grow as words of it spread throughout our community.

OWLympics

What the heck is it?

Elsa Carlson
Staff Writer

As the school year comes to an end, many students and staff have been counting down the days until June 7th, the last day of school. As I was looking at the calendar on Schoology, I found that something suspicious was planned for June 6th. An unheard of event called "OWLympics."

This event has never been included in any OWL calendar before, and finding out what it is became my top priority. None of my peers knew what OWLlympics was, so I had to turn to a higher power. When I initially asked around, I got the same response from most teachers. I went to the third floor, and walked into science teacher Tien's room. When I asked about OWLlympics, he told me "I've been here for five years and I have no idea what that is." Next, I unintentionally interrupted Rebecca Palmer's earth science class. I was surprised to hear how loud the eighth graders were, because I had to yell in order for Rebecca to hear me. She told me "We talked about it at the staff meeting, I don't really know what it is yet." After that, I gave up on science teachers and went downstairs.

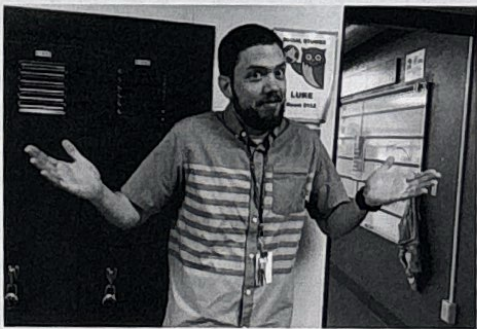
Unfortunately, I struck out again. I went into history teacher Luke Turvold's classroom and saw that he had a prep hour. "If you get to the bottom of it let me know, sure is a mystery," I almost gave up at this point, did ANYBODY know what the OWLlympics was? Well it's a good thing I checked with Dan Sullivan, because he gave me my first clue. "It's a Damon idea," Dan said. "It might be some sort of crew competition thing." Unfortunately, Damon was a working on the site seminar and stressing out about the community meeting, so I couldn't bother him that day.

Now this is where things get complicated. As an investigative reporter, I had to do some background research before interrogating Damon. I realized

that Damon is a very busy teacher; he teaches math classes, runs community meetings, checks the hallways for passes, and is the school athletic director. I could try to set up an interview, but it would probably not fit in his schedule for a couple weeks. This made me think that conducting an interview through email would be a smart decision.

Damon replied to my email right away, with many informative answers. "It was an idea to have crews compete in different events either at Lake Elmo or as an incentive day 2nd to the last day of school." This sentence unfolds almost everything. If you are an longtime OWL student, you understand the excruciating amount of pain of getting incentive days taken away from you. The field trips to the Corn maze, Valley Fair, or Verticals Endeavors was an important part of my middle school years. Could OWLlympics be a way to make up for the current unexciting end of quarter "celebrations?" Damon said that the purpose of the event was "To promote competition and collaboration and increase crew togetherness and pride." After reading this, I can understand how this could actually turn out to be a positive experience. Spending time with your crew is very important, and an all-crew competition leaves nobody feeling left out, and it's just for fun!

After a long investigative process, I finally figured out what this mysterious event is, where it could take place, and when it would happen. The only question remaining is IF it will actually unfold. "I am not sure if it will get cancelled but I think we can make it work. If students want it to happen it will happen. It always can become a reality if a student runs it," Damon concluded in his interview. Whether it happens or not, I hope the last days of school are full of relaxation and crew bonding for everyone.



Social studies teacher Luke Turvold and science teacher Rebecca Palmer are stumped as to what OWLlympics is.

Outward Bound recaps their interim trips

Students work throughout the year to earn a spot on the annual service trips: this year to base camps in Maine and Colorado

Emilie McCormick
Staff Writer

During OWL's interim week, students may stay at school to take part in week long courses where they learn new skills, connect with one another, and do service. Others, especially those in Outward Bound, leave for trips to do the same.

OWL's Outward Bound students work throughout the year to provide service to OWL and the community by organizing and executing dances, volunteering at archery tournaments, making college marches successful, and plenty more. Their volunteer hours and money raised throughout the year allows students to attend the trip of their choice.

This year's trips, Hurricane Island Outward Bound School in Maine and Marble Colorado Outward Bound Basecamp, were attended by 34 of OWL's Outward Bound students. One of Outward Bound's leaders,

Tim Leone-Getten, says from these trips you can expect a week long venture where you perform services for the base camps, with the service helping to prepare the camp for the season. He says this work can be anything, "from painting to cleaning to digging," and besides work, there is an aspect of adventure, such as boat trips or solo nights.

Why did you choose to go to Maine/Colorado?

Jacob Rohde (Colorado): "I went to Colorado because I have been there in the past and want to continue to help the Marble base camp"

Lauren Mitchell (Maine): "I went there two years ago for my first Outward Bound trip and I wanted to go back and experience it again but with a new group of people."

Athena Bolton-Steiner (Maine): "I went to Maine in 10th grade and I had a great experience. It was my favorite

trip and I wanted to go back."

What was the best part of the trip for you?

Lauren: "Getting to know people that I didn't know very well before the trip."

Angelo Carvale (Colorado): "Connecting with people in general." "I definitely think I make some connections in places I didn't think I would."

Jacob: "The best part of the trip is always the friendships that develop through rough circumstances."

What advice do you have for anybody who really wants to go on the trip of their choice?

How do you suggest someone chooses their trip?

Athena: "When you put in the service throughout the year, it pays off when it comes time to choose where to go for interim. I would say pick a trip that challenges you, not somewhere you feel safe."

Lauren: "You have to work re-

ally hard. I think that everyone has strengths and if you take advantage of them, it is much easier to get what you want."

Jacob: "It really doesn't matter where you go or what you're doing there, as long as you try to learn and grow from your experiences you'll enjoy it."

For anybody wishing to secure a spot on an Outward Bound trip in the coming years, Tim suggests you first join the student organization, but to also make sure you participate as much as possible in both volunteering and fundraisers. He says, "some kids have the time and some have the ability to fundraise and some can do both and that's great," saying that busy schedules don't have to stand in the way of you earning a spot on the trips. He also says, "you have to get involved and pay attention, it doesn't just happen without you trying."



Tim Leone-Getten

The Maine group take a group photo at the base camp.



Clara Olson



Tim Leone-Getten

The Maine group on a boat to Hurricane Island.



Clara Olson

The Colorado group poses for a picture (top). Students carry a log in Colorado (bottom).

Budget, 1

funding was allocated towards new positions that SPPS deemed necessary for the school. They include an assistant principal, another counselor, and a part time special education social worker. This money is specifically for employing new staff at OWL, and cannot be moved around towards other needs. "It wasn't just money I got, it was a position allocation," explained Dave.

The annual budget is split into two categories: long-term (like construction and debt) and money for things unrelated to in-school education (like food and community ed), and the General Fund. The General Fund is for paying staff, bus-ing, building maintenance, and other supply costs. Within schools, money is allocated for specific things.

Choir, 1

ra of Italian restaurants. Now, we eat and shop at Quincy Market. My small group play cards, while others get rapped to and become a part of the "swan gang". I don't know what that means, ask someone else.

8:37 PM Tuesday

We go on a boat tour of the Boston harbor. Our tour guide Kevin is an MVP for being entertaining, informative, and putting up with 80 teenagers packed on a boat. Nora pulls a Freya at the Lock and Dam and loses her glasses in the water. She coins the event the "Boston See Party".

11:34 AM Wednesday

We finish our second concert, which we do in a church to a group of 1st through 8th graders from Codman Academy, who sing along to some of our songs. The consensus is that this concert went much better than the first.

11:04 PM Wednesday

At a different hotel in New Jersey. We just saw Wicked, which was amazing and overwhelming at the same time, and then walked around lit-up Time Square. It's a relief no one got lost.

4:10 PM Thursday

The day started off with pouring rain. The hotel lobby TV showed that a tornado hit Missouri. We go to Liberty State Park, where we board a boat to Ellis Island. There, we spend time at the Ellis Island Immigrant Building, which has been transformed into a museum. It's a powerful place to be. Next, we visit the Statue of Liberty, and I can't decide if it's bigger or smaller than I imagined. We also visit the 9/11 Memorial. It's been a good day to reflect. We're currently gathered in a huge clump under scaffolding during a thunderstorm, waiting to go to dinner.

7:31 AM Friday

We eat our last hotel breakfast. All of us St. Paul kids get somewhat culture shocked when we see four MAGA hats in the hotel, worn by kids our own age.

7:44 PM Friday

Our third and final East Coast concert is at the Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School. We're happy that they have CREW too, and talk to them about the differences between their choirs and



ours. After, we begin our bus ride back to St. Paul. We stop in a joint Subway/gas station/Burger King. We all deliriously grab multiple bags of snacks and eat. It's gonna be a long night.

7:30 PM Saturday

After a 21 hour bus ride, we do our last concert in OWL's gym. We sing all of our prepared songs, some of which we never had time to do on the tour. It's an emotional goodbye to the seniors in our choir, but a good way to end this trip. We're all glad to sleep at our own homes again.



Abby Davis

Concert choir performing in a church for Codman Academy, just outside of Boston, MA (above), 9th grader Ryuki Walker and 11th grader Henry Bowring-Mcdonough practicing their solo (below).

Manatee sweep State 2019

Wo-manatee and varsity boys each take D2, and JV wins D4

Noah Morris
Staff Writer

OWL ultimate took home some serious bling this weekend when all three of the high school teams won their respective divisions at the Minnesota state ultimate tournament. The Manatees and Wo-manatees won division two championships, triumphing over Armstrong and Edina respectively. The JV Manatees won division four over Roosevelt.

Sunday was not the first time OWL has won a state ultimate title, but it was the first time the boys and girls teams won on the same day. Previously, the boys team won in 2017 in division three, and the girls team won in 2018 in division two. Following these groundbreaking victories, the teams went into this year with high hopes of glory, and on Sunday those hopes became a reality.

For the second year in a row, the Wo-manatees won the D2 state championship, winning every single game in the tournament, to no one's surprise. They played only two games the first day of the tournament, beating Prior Lake 11-4 and Saint Paul Academy 11-7. On day two of the state tournament, they played Armstrong junior varsity in the quarterfinals, winning 8-6.

The semifinals game against Irondale was a competitive one, with the biggest lead being four points by Irondale. "They were a really tough team, just because we beat them once and lost to them once before and we were only up by one point for like the entire game," said junior Katie Syers. In a great comeback effort, the Wo-manatees pushed through and won the game 8-6.

The victory over Irondale secured a position in the Finals. After lots of anticipation, the other semifinals game was over and they were to face Edina junior varsity. The final was close game, with several long runs pushing both teams.

The Manatees' suc-

cess was also not a surprise, having placed ninth in D2 last year. The Manatees likely would have played D1, except for a missed game over interim. The team wasn't surprised to win the tournament, because "We were good enough for D1," said senior Donald Post. The first game against Central seemed like it was going to be an easy sweep, but Central put up unexpected resistance in the early part of the game. However, they were defeated and the Manatees moved on to play Roseville, getting a by to pass the scheduled second game.

They came into the game against Roseville unprepared, having not warmed up at all. This plus some overconfidence lost them the lead for the early part of the game, but yet again they made a comeback and won. Their third game was against Cooper, which followed the arc of the first two -- an early challenge followed by a late game comeback.

They opened Sunday with an easy victory over Wayzata. Their next game was against Irondale, a game that matched their name for hardness. The Manatees and the Irondale Knights went to universe, meaning that they were tied and the next point would win. The manatees ended up inching ahead to victory when Jedi Casas connected with Tom Hobday for the crucial point. The final game against the team Falcon Punch was a manatee sweep.

The newly formed Manatees junior varsity team also won their division, D4, this year. They went undefeated in all four of their games on the first day, playing the likes of Lakeville JV, SPA JV, Eagan JV and Washburn JV. On day two, Manatee JV beat Maple Grove JV 11-8 in the semifinals. For their final game against Roosevelt, they put up an 11-4 performance, securing a state championship for all of OWL's teams.

Various members of the AP Literature class contributed to this report.



Malachi Raymond, Kate Moe

The Wo-manatees pose for a photo at the state tournament (above). 10th grader Ella Pratt prepares to throw the frisbee in a game against SPA (below, left). Senior Athena Bolton-Steiner throws the frisbee in the game against SPA (below, right).



Malachi Raymond

The Manatee and Wo-manatee seniors (above). The boys varsity team, with some Manatee alums, at the State tournament (below).



Malachi Raymond

10th grader Leo Dungan-Seaver throws the frisbee in the state tournament (above). Senior Liam Gallagher throws the frisbee in the state tournament (below).



They'll Always Come Back: An Interview With Dave

Open World Learning's principal talks about assuming his role of leadership, the joys of working with a younger generation, and the future of OWL in expeditionary learning.

Nik Logue

Staff writer

So when did you start at OWL?

I started at OWL in 2010, and I was a program coordinator for that time. And this is when we were located at the Jefferson building, which is down over by United Hospital. Then when we moved to downtown 65 Kellogg I was Assistant Principal for a couple of years as well as Assistant Principal at Creative Arts. Then five years ago I became principal of OWL when we moved to this building on the west side.

When you started out here, did you have any idea that you might take on that leadership role?

I did not. Actually, when I came to OWL I was doing my internship hours with the principal at the time, and I didn't even know I was going to have a full-time position there when I came back to teaching. I was a teacher at Johnson High

School and Washington Technology Magnet for many years.

What did you teach?

I taught classes like engineering, construction classes, and I ran an academy at Johnson High School based on construction, architecture, and engineering.

What do you think was the most important part of that time leading up to becoming a principal?

The most important part was...just a lot of learning. Adults learn as much as students do, and so my pathway to becoming a principal was a little different than a lot of people's. I was kind of just thrown into the mix and I had to just figure stuff out. I had to figure out processes, I had to figure out district expectations and rules, I had to figure out discipline approaches, and I also had to learn a lot about EL education. What I was lucky about is that I was with a great group

of teachers that were very very smart, had lots of energy and were very positive about where we were hopefully going.

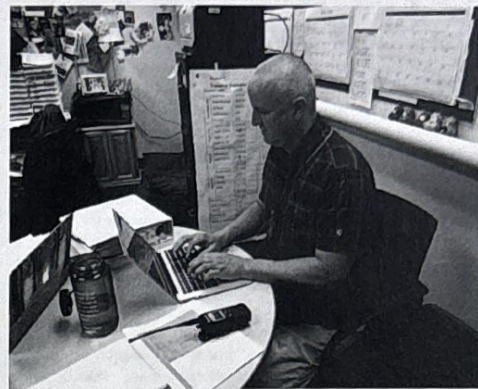
With the unique nature of this school—being very freedom-based—can that be a tough line to walk in your position?

Yeah, I consider a big part of our work to be teaching the balance between rights and responsibilities—that's actually a History Day topic every so often—but we have rights as long as we are responsible. That's the way the world works as well. For example, at school, our responsibilities to be in class, to be getting our work done, to be engaged, and also to be solving problems the right way. Along with that approach comes lots of rights that you have as well. And so—kind of balancing that—freedom is very important and it's a hallmark of our country; but it comes with responsibility, right? I'll give you an exam-

ple, I've been joking about all the plastic we use in our school each and every day, and it goes right to landfills. So we could, I suppose, just go out and get a bunch of stuff, but I think it's our responsibility to recycle, figure out how to reduce. That's what we're made to do, to solve problems like that.

And how do you typically manage the stress that comes along with this job?

Great question. First of all, I feel like I have a great network of people that I can talk with, that I can problem-solve with. But then otherwise, I try to exercise as much as I can, I try to do the things that I enjoy. I love sports, I love to read, I love to go and hear music, so I try to balance it out with that. In that though, it is a very stressful job with a lot of hours in it. Probably sixty to seventy hours a week committed, even though we're only in school for less than forty hours a week. There's about twenty-five ex-



Malachi Raymond

Dave working in his office.

tra hours that go into planning and organizing, getting all that extra stuff done.

Do you feel like EL education is something that other schools could adopt in the future?

I do, and there's already 165 schools. The thing about school is that it's always changing, and it should always change. Sometimes it doesn't change fast enough. But school should reflect a couple things. It should reflect where the world's at, and what its needs are. But it should also go beyond that. It should be, "this is what we want the world to become," based on some real powerful principles. We want equity in the world? well we have to really work and identify what that is. Do we want sustainability in our world? Do we want to limit environmental impact in the world? Then we have to look beyond that and say, "How do we get our people globally ready for that?" And so I think, probably, one of the next steps of education is to try to make things interdisciplinary around authentic projects and problems. So we need to really think outside of just learning English for English's sake or math for math's sake. We need to bring these in to solve problems—and there's going to be a lot of problems. There's going to be a continued problem of global warming, which leads to many things. We're going to have water issues, we have water distribution that's unequal across the world. We're going to have a continued expansion of the population heading up toward 11 billion people. How do you provide food for all those people? How do you continue to be sustainable? There's a lot of stuff out there that education has to prepare people to do.

Do you feel confident that the students you're helping to teach are going to go out into the world and provide resolutions to those issues?

Yeah, that's one thing I'm really confident about. And it's not just my viewpoint, I get a lot of

feedback from people that interact and meet with our students. They are always coming back to tell me, "wow, those people are really involved and engaged in the world." An example is one of our requirements for service work. One of the reasons we do that is that we have to be a service to our world and to others. That just needs to be a part of life, it's a graduation requirement, but it's gotta go beyond that. We need to connect, we need to be seeing "how do I fit in, how do I help, how do I become a problem-solver?"

Is that a more somber experience to say goodbye to people you've seen grow?

It's kind of a mixed thing. Of course there's a sadness, because you get to know people so well. But there's an excitement about what they can do and what they're ready for. And what I've learned is that they'll always come back and stay in touch. It's super cool to see kids that have gone off to college, getting their first job, coming back and checking in and talking about what they're doing. That, to me, is the most awesome thing. And we even hire them sometimes! They come back and work here at OWL!

And do you know what your future might entail?

I mean...I'm in a job that I love. I'm a principal, and that's what I plan to continue doing. I would like to, down the road, perhaps get involved in some more organizations. I'd like to continue looking at how we do science, technology, engineering and math better, and getting more connected back to curriculum and developing some really neat products. I really love that kind of stuff, I love really authentic projects. So I'd like to get back to that more when I get a couple more staff to help us out. Like another assistant principal we're going to get, and some councillors. That will allow me to focus on some of those other things more than I can right now.

Senior Spotlight

Michael Cudahy



How many years have you been at OWL?

Four years, since my freshman year.

What are your plans for next year?

College, conquering New Zealand, ya know, the basics.

What's been your favorite class in high school?

Gotta be one with Leo. Or APUSH.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?

I did Iisbee, lacrosse, not a lot of people know this but I play hockey.

Favorite field work trip and why?

Senior trips, I got to stay in a cabin with all my buddies.

Fav book, movie or TV show?

TV show? Either Lucifer or Batman the animated series

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?

Rock You Like A Hurricane by Scorpions

That One Little Kid

Galadrial Barrett

How tall are you?

I don't know. Am I supposed to know?

What's your favorite fruit?

I told you, I don't know! Most fruits, I guess?

What's your favorite book?

Hunger Games, Harry Potter, I know I have more..

Who's your favorite senior?

Angelo.

Where do you think you're going to college?

I'm supposed to know this?!

What's the weirdest thing about OWL?

Clara.

What's your favorite school lunch?

I don't even know the names of any of them.

What elementary school did you come from?

Nokomis South Elementary



OWL students go to NASA

"It opened up a new perspective"

Maria Garcia
Staff Writer

Florida is known to be one of the most popular places to go during spring break. People go to visit the beach, feel the sun, and just have fun with their families and friends. However this groups of kids went to see spaceships.

60 students from 5 different schools were chosen to go Florida. Upward Bound, a college access program applied for a STEM grant through the US Department of Education. During the fall, they were awarded the STEM grant. Being a one shot deal, they gave students the opportunity to go and learn about aerospace technologies, at Kennedy Space Center during their spring break.

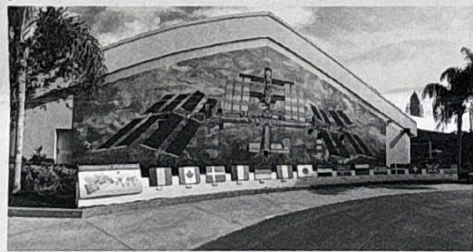
Though this once in a lifetime opportunity, it wasn't easy for these students to go. "The application included a 2 page essay, two teacher nomination forms and a good GPA," said Nou Yang one of Upward Bound advisors. Though this application was quite difficult, 6 students from Open World Learning were accepted and went to Florida. "I felt proud of myself for completing the process that I worked hard for," said 10th grader Treasure Hill.

The trip was during the week of April 2, 2019-April 5, 2019. The students participating experienced astronaut training and were exposed to space and STEM. "It opened up my perspective on STEM

engineering," said 10th grader Molly Yang. During the trip, students saw artifacts, the space shuttles and more.

On the first day, they arrived in Florida, got to their hotels, unpacked and went to the beach. The second day, they headed to Kennedy Space Center where they got to experience astronaut training. They got to experience a simulator where it felt like they were on Mars working on shuttles, then communicate through headphones and computers to the person wearing a VR headset pretending to finish different missions on Mars.

Then they experienced a pre shuttle launch briefing by veteran space shuttle commander, Charles Bolden. The last activity was a talking to a worker who was familiar with what astronauts use, how they do things, explained many different launches and answered questions. The 3rd day, at went to Kennedy Space Center again, they took a bus tour to access the restricted area where America launched to the Moon and where NASA plans to send astronauts into



deep space. After our bus tour they got to experience the countdown to Apollo 8 where the first crewed NASA mission got to orbit the moon in 1968 aboard the massive Saturn V rocket at the Firing Room Theater. Next, we had lunch with an experienced astronaut. On the last day, April 5, we packed up and headed back to Minnesota.

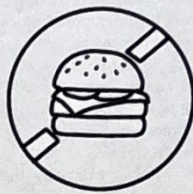
Many of the students really enjoyed this trip. They are now opened up to new ideas about any STEM groups/ programs. "I was never interested on Computer science but after this trip it opened up a new perspective," said 11th grader Chutima Xiong. Many of these students are now preparing for their future. "The Florida trip give me an opportunity to explore the NASA Kennedy Center and learned about how people travel to space. This trip has also gave me an idea of how Florida is and it helps because my future decisions might lead me there," said Humboldt High School student Moo Htoo.

Help the Earth!

Things you can do to help battle climate change

Zoe Camplon
Staff Writer

At this point, I think we've all heard Dave's spiel on how plastic utensils are polluting the earth. Now before you groan and roll your eyes, remember: there's only one Earth and your sitting on it right now. Every one can take part in keeping it clean for yourself and future generations. And I'm sure you've been told like 100 times to turn off the lights to save energy. But right now, carbon dioxide levels in the air are higher than any time in the last 800,000 years. At the rate temperatures are increasing, half of all plants and animals could be at risk of extinction in the near future. And the scariest part, we are racing towards a world where climate change will be irreversible. This should concern everyone out there, so here are some steps that anyone can take to help preserve the earth.



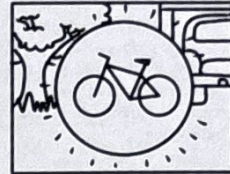
Meatless Mondays

Raising cattle and sheep creates enormous amounts of methane, which is a very powerful greenhouse gas. Now, I like to have a hamburger as much as the next person, so I'm not saying that you need to stop eating meat. But if all Americans didn't eat meat one day a week, you would be surprised about the amount of meat that is reduced. I know it's unreasonable to expect that

all Americans will stop eating meat on Mondays, but even if just you have Meatless Mondays, you will still be a help in reducing levels of methane. Also, eating organic helps support the environment. Buying organic foods helps support local farms and businesses that are more environmentally friendly than large corporations.

Keep your car off the road

Biking, walking, and riding the



bus can be the easiest things to do to reduce carbon emissions. Cars are one of the driving forces of climate change, so unless you have the spare change to go out and buy a Tesla, I suggest to start giving walking and biking a try. Not only is it good for the environment, it's also good for your health. An easy way to start is to map a two mile circle around your house and walk or bike to everything within it. Using public transportation is also a great way to reduce carbon emissions. Maybe instead of driving to your sports practice, try taking the city bus. And even though the school bus can be an annoying, on average, on school bus can take 30 cars off the road. The world is fast moving and it's nice to slow down for a while and take the bus.

Reuse, Recycle, and Compost
America generates 230 million tons of trash every year, and over three fourths of this is



burned or buried in a landfill. But there is little things everyone can do to reduce the amount you waste. A good place to start is to reuse. On average, an American throws away 80 pounds of clothes a year. So reusing clothing can make a huge impact. Instead of buying clothes new, go to a thrift store. Or accept those hand me downs from your cousin. Some companies, like Patagonia, will also repair or recycle your clothing for free. Which leads me into recycling. St. Paul does recycling pick up in alleys now, so that makes it just as easy as throwing away your paper. Composting saves a lot of food waste and has huge benefits to the soil. In fact, 20 to 30% of what we throw away can actually be recycled. Right now there are two organics drop off sites in Saint Paul, but as more people begin to compost, more will open.

Unplug

Leaving devices plugged in can seriously waste energy. Even after your phone as reached 100% charge, energy will be used while your phone is plugged in. This applies to all appliances that are plugged in and may seem like they are turned off. In fact, idle power makes up a fourth of all residential electrical bills, or about \$19 billion. So try unplugging your phone when it reaches above 90% instead of letting it

Climate, 8

Whistleblower

Former White House Manager calls out Trump administration

Kate Moe
Staff Writer

It was a normal day last year when Tricia Newbold walked into a government office. She didn't think anything of it when Carl Kline reportedly moved files she needed to access to a shelf she could not reach.

Tricia Newbold is a 18 year old government veteran, former White House Manager, and graduate from California State University. She has spoken out that Carl Kline had reportedly discriminated against her by putting important files, on a shelf she couldn't reach.

Tricia has been the center of the Trump controversy lately and said she has stated that it has felt like she has discriminated because of her height. Tricia has a rare form of dwarfism (as defined by WebMD is a condition of short stature having an adult height of 4 feet 10 inches or under, diagnosed genetically). When she was getting far into the spotlight and calling out Kline, he reportedly had moved files she needed, to a shelf that was high enough that she couldn't

reach, to mock her stature. "As little as I am, I'm willing to fight and stand up for what I know is right, and they've always respected that about me, well except for Kline," Ms. Newbold told the House committee last week.

From a standpoint of someone with achondroplasia dwarfism, (a more common type but still pretty short) I personally find this very offensive. I feel that people shouldn't mock her height for something she can't control and for something that she shouldn't be ashamed of. In my 16 years of living, I have not been taken seriously far too many times for my height. People think I am 5 or 6 and tend to not listen to things I had to say.

I have realized that it might seem that I do not care when people joke about my height because I myself do. I personally do not enjoy people referring to me as a "midget." I find it funny if people make occasional jokes in context. However, I find it a very offensive term and do not like to hear it being passed around. The

Whistleblower, 7

OWL's Lake Elmo field trip

The annual end of the year trip is a favorite among students

José Daniel Batres-Pearson
Staff Writer

Imagine you're traveling down Interstate 94 on the outskirts of the Twin Cities on the first Friday of June one fine morning. If you were to turn off 94 at Exit 251 and travel northbound, you'd see an area of mostly farmland. But suddenly, a natural park appears ahead. If you kept driving north on Keats Avenue North, with beautiful wilderness around you, and turn right shortly after passing two campground areas, you would come across two picnic shelters with adjoining playgrounds and volleyball squares, just in time to see the area on one side of the access road packed with teenagers and adults. Where are you and what is this event?

Welcome to Lake Elmo Park Reserve, a small natural preserve that sits practically in the center of the rural city of Lake Elmo, Minnesota, about 11 miles east of Saint Paul. The event is a fun-packed field trip done by the entire student and staff community of the famous Open World Learning Community magnet school in West Saint Paul.

This field trip is done annually by OWL on the very last day of the school year. Students and staff bring in the necessary funds for the trip and food for lunch and snacks at the picnic and playground area in the northern section of Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

The purpose of this field trip is to allow students and staff to spend an entire day having fun and chatting with each other one last time before their summer off. It also helps convey a sense of inclusion and bonding together and connection to your community. At the end of the day, it becomes emotional as students and staff say goodbye to each other, sometimes for good, before heading for home. This will be especially true for me as I graduate from OWL.

The picnic pavilion is filled with food, drink, and snacks that the students and staff have brought along to share with the rest of the student and staff body. Students and staff can be seen chatting with one another, playing games they brought along, enjoying their last moments together before their summer off begins, and



Tim Leone-Getten

Students play volleyball at Lake Elmo in 2017.

even bidding farewell to staff members retiring from OWL, students transferring to other schools, or seniors going off to PSEO and college. Feel free to also bring some music of your choice along, play around on the playgrounds, and even enjoy a good game of volleyball on the small volleyball square. I don't think any other high school does this kind of field trip to celebrate the last day of school.

Generally, we expect the last day of school to be sunny and bright. In my experiences, Friday June 10, 2016, and Friday June 9, 2017, were bright, sunny, and hot days. However, on Friday June 8, 2018, it was overcast and a bit rainy. Friday

June 7 this year calls for partly sunny and a high of 80.

But one time, the field trip didn't pan out. I interviewed English and Journalism/Newspaper teacher Leo Bickelhaupt about our expectations for the weather on the last day of school and what has happened with the weather. About seven to ten years ago, back when OWL was on West Seventh Street, a huge rainstorm hit and when the rain didn't let up, the school cancelled the trip and was forced to barbecue on campus.

There is so much to love about this trip! In a convenience sample of OWL students who have enjoyed years

Lake Elmo, 7



Reviews 'n' stuff



Five Feet Apart

Reminiscent of John Green, it's sappy and predictable

Dulce Chautla
Staff Writer

Two teens leave everything behind and risk their health in order to find love

Five Feet Apart by Rachael Lippincott is a young adult romance novel that follows the life of Stella and Will, two teens living with a life threatening condition called cystic fibrosis. This book is written by a Pennsylvania based author, Rachael Lippincott, whose first published book is Five Feet Apart. The book is a fiction story set in modern day and takes place in a hospital. It is 288 pages long and tells a non traditional story of forbidden love.

Stella is a rule follower with control issues, especially when it concerns her disease

She plans for everything in advance, like when to take her medicine or what time to eat. What she doesn't anticipate, is to fall for a boy who could possibly worsen her sickness and risk her spot on the lung transplant list.

Will constantly pushes the limits of his highly infectious Cystic Fibrosis, due to his loss of hope for finding a cure. Most of the time he has to be forced to follow through with his treatments. To stay safe all CF patients must be a distance of six feet apart in order to not infect each other, but how can you love someone if you have never been closer than six feet?

My opinion of the book is that it wasn't that bad but it could have been better. I

think it's interesting that the book can educate the reader about Cystic Fibrosis and bring awareness to the illness. I liked that the main character's relationship was adorable and it felt like they had a lot of chemistry. But there were certain parts where their relationship was too cheesy and got it difficult to read. Another thing I disliked was that the book lacked depth and was predictable. The plot was like any other teen romance book, it was like a mix of The Fault in Our Stars and Everything Everything. The author also didn't put much emotion into the writing of the character or their actions. For example when the book describes a tragic part in Stella's life, I

didn't spark any emotion or make me feel anything. The book made it very hard to connect with any of the characters. There wasn't many characters of color and the only "important" colored character isn't in much of the book.

Five Feet Apart might be interesting to young adults because the book is very brief, which means that teens with little to no time can read this book relatively fast. If you like to criticize movies based on the book, then you might like this story because the movie premiered recently. I also recommend this book for someone who likes books by John Green or just likes sappy romance stories.



Taylor Swift's new song

Me! was released on April 26th

Maggie Morris
Staff Writer

Taylor Swift started teasing a new song on Instagram starting October of last year. She posted homey, throwback images with subtle references only dedicated Swifties would know, captioning them: "4.26." Swifties got their hopes up for for back-to-basics song or video. We wanted something to take us back to the country-pop glory days of "Our Song," and "Love Story." On April 26th, she released a new song called "ME!" It has corny lyrics, pastel sparkles and electro-pop vibe. It might seem far from what we wanted, but if you take a closer look, (and the Swifties have), it actually comes pretty close.

This song was far away from the songs we've come to know Tay-tay for. The lyrics of the song are, frankly, weak and childish. The chorus repeats: "I'm the only one of me, / baby that's the fun of me," which has a cutesy theme of loving yourself. Still, this is from the same woman who wrote the overwhelming epic "Dear John." This isn't to say that she's lost her touch for songwriting, rather that Swift has proven herself a brilliant songwriter, and it's hard to imagine she was unable to write better lyrics to the song. In fact, in an interview with refinery29.com, she explained that "ME!" wasn't supposed to be taken as a serious love song. However, media has assumed she meant to make a bad song lyrically. Regardless of fans' opinions, nobody can argue with the fact that this choice fits well into the overarching narrative Taylor has created for herself.

When Taylor was 16, she dropped out of high school to pursue her music career. Fans got to witness her make three albums of innocent country, only to distance herself from that with the crowd-pleasing Red and 1989. Then she slapped on some black lipstick for the edgy, wannabe-punk Reputation era, and now has invited flowers, butterflies and

electro-pop onto the scene for "ME!" Even if the quality of each of these albums has varied greatly, it's much more interesting and fun than all of the albums being the exact same genre. It makes me think that maybe, as with the lyrics of "ME!", some of these albums were never meant to be fantastic.

Taylor has been planning "ME!" Since she was working on Reputation, (as shown in her promotional Reputation tour calendar.) These genres of Taylors are clearly a marketing choice, rather than just a representation of how she's feeling in the moment. It begs the question: how will this long saga end? I personally think that Taylor will return to country only once she has explored every genre she can. Imagine the hype a country album would warrant in ten years or so after she goes through every reinvention of herself there is.

This current genre of Taylor in "ME!" is characterized by pastel colors, glitter, sequins, hearts, flowers, and thankfully, nostalgia. In the video there is a decorated Christmas tree in the first scene, a possible callback to her time growing up on a Christmas tree farm. She wears a dress that looks suspiciously like one she wore on the 1989 tour, and gestures to a phone that long-time Swifties will recognize from her "our song" music video. Later she wears a marching band uniform, a reference to her "you belong with me" video. The video is jam-packed with other references to songs and videos she's made in the past, leaving fans to wonder if this new Taylor could still slide back towards her country-pop roots. More so, though, this song celebrates all versions and time periods of Taylor.

So what direction will this album take Tay-tay? Will she maintain this bubblegum electro-pop persona, or is there still hope for a return to America's sweetheart? For now, at least, only time will tell.

An Absolutely Remarkable Thing is fun, smart, diverse

A review of Hank Green's debut novel

Shayla Brooks
Staff Writer

When you first start reading "An Absolutely Remarkable Thing" it comes off as a fairly normal coming of age book, and possibly a reflection on internet startups and art. However, by the fifth chapter it becomes very clear it's much more than that. In his debut novel, Hank Green (brother of famous author John Green) takes the reader on a thrilling adventure through a future New York city, weaving in science fiction not to create tension or action, but to shine a light on human nature, prejudice, and fear. This 341 page book is a science fiction novel you don't want to miss.

"An Absolutely Remarkable Thing" (AART) follows a woman who recently graduated college and, as the reader quickly comes to realize, is one of the most important people in human history. As April May is walking home late one night, she encounters a piece

of modern art. The statue stands 10 feet high and is one of the most remarkable things she's ever seen, but she almost walks right past it. Thank goodness she didn't because, as you'll soon find out, it's much more than just a statue.

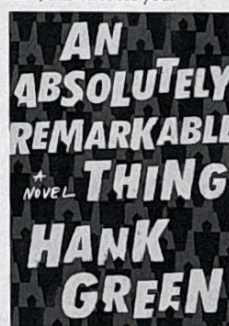
All across the world, in over 60 major cities, identical statues are quickly discovered. Nobody can move them or knows how they got there, and when April May discovers they're all aliens she finds herself thrust to the forefront of a worldwide debate about what to do next. They seem to mean no harm, just silently observing humanity, but some fear them. These "Defenders of the Earth" are becoming increasingly problematic and violent, and April May and her friends end up opposing them and becoming ambassadors for the aliens. But will the Defenders ruin everything the aliens and April May are cultivating?

One of my favorite parts of AART is what's called The

Dream, which was a lot of fun to read about. I'll won't go into further detail to avoid spoiling it, but just know it's very futuristic and cool. Another great part of AART is the representation. The characters' races, sexual orientations, etc., aren't dwelled on too much. Instead these characteristics serve to flesh out the world and characters. It's more productive representation because their identities are not inherently important to the story.

Another great thing is how developed the voice and characters are. It's written somewhat stream-of-consciousness as far as tone goes, but also keeps a practiced, tight leash on plot and narrative tension. AART develops big themes about human nature, both through the flawed, dynamic protagonist, and through the plot and minor characters. If you're looking for a feel-good book about the resilience of the human race I'd definitely suggest it.

When I started reading AART my grades suffered probably more than I'd like to admit. Luckily I was able to get them back up, but the point is I finished it in 2 days and thought about it for much longer. Unfortunately, the sequel isn't published as of now (it's coming July 2020) but the series debut is still more than worth reading. If you're looking for a book with a variety of themes and subjects, from internet fame to morality to the amazingness of the human race, this one's for you.



Whistleblower, 6

term I personally like to hear is "little person" or "person of short stature." The Little People of America has said that calling someone with dwarfism a midget, is a derogatory term and really should never be used.

After Tricia Newbolds report against Carl Kline, there has not yet been many updates on this story. A take away I have though is that this kind of stuff happens to so many people. Discrimination at it's finest. Whether you are short or tall, white or black, etc. It is in our world today and we need to learn to fight to end it.

Lake Elmo, 6

of Lake Elmo outings, they shared these highlights:

- "Hanging out with friends and enjoying the potluck." (Samantha Peden, senior)
- "Being able to run around seeking signatures for my yearbook." (Angelo Carvale, senior)
- "Talking to everybody and bidding farewell to students and teachers who won't be at OWL next year." (Stella Cannon, senior)
- "Volleyball." (Olivia Foster, senior)
- "I love the way the entire school body gets together

on the last day ...one last time before summer begins." (Madigan Lodahl, sophomore)

- "I love sitting down to chat with my Crew and also saying goodbye to friends at the end of the day when everybody leaves." (Milani Dimayuga, sophomore)
- "Eating good food and nice weather." (Lily Deutsch, sophomore)
- "Playing some soccer... and just knowing that the school year's over." (Carlos Santiago, junior)
- "I love relaxing and doing what I please. It's a good way to end the year."

(Shayla Brooks, junior)

As for me, I have been on every Lake Elmo Field Trip since I started attending OWL in ninth grade. I especially love chatting with friends and getting signatures for my yearbook. The barbecue is also fantastic. This year, I'll be bidding farewell to everyone as I graduate and start my college studies. I hope to see you there, with a plate full of good eats and great friends all around. It's a chance for all of us to share our favorite stories from the great year we've had together and make some new memories to kick off the summer. Don't miss it!

An open letter to the Democratic Party

Jonas has a few suggestions

Jonas Kammeyer-Mueller
Staff Writer

Dear Democratic Party, What are you doing? I mean honestly, what are you doing? What made you take this course of action? Why have you been going consistently downhill? But I should probably clarify by what I mean by that.

Let's start at the end of January of this year. A member of the Virginia house is asked if a proposed abortion bill would allow for abortions to occur if the woman requesting them was dilating, to which this member of the Virginia house said yes. Then, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam went on live air and said that if a baby survived the abortion in this hypothetical situation, that they would be kept "nice and comfortable" while the doctor and the parents (one of which would have drugs flowing through their veins) would decide what to do with it. Nevermind that it's exited the womb, nevermind that it's breathing, screaming, and crying from the injuries it's sustained, nev-

ermind that it can reflexively grab your finger, it's just a pile of flesh! Now, many were quick to call this bill 'legalized infanticide', which it was. However, I found no members of your party who were in office denouncing Governor Northam's statement. Despite that many of the citizens who liked you were against the bill, and denouncing the bill might have brought people across party lines to support those

"And get yourself together, because if you don't, Trump is gonna get re-elected in 2020."

members.

Now let's move onto the action that left me disgusted, angry, and downright appalled in your behavior. On April 8th 2019, your congresswoman and public antisemite Ilhan Omar stated that 9/11 was just "some people doing something." This event lead Texas congressman Dan Crenshaw to criticize her for this statement. Your dear darling and destroyer of the NYC Amazon

deal, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, then told Mr. Crenshaw that he needs to "go do something about" domestic terrorism, so he can't criticize Ilhan for this statement, and that he needs to co-sponsor her latest legislation plan. This is disregarding that Mr. Crenshaw served as a Navy SEAL in Afghanistan, and lost an eye to an IED while AOC was busy dancing on rooftops and being a bartender. To this day, AOC

has not apologized for her remarks, and many members of your party went along with this absolute nonsense.

So in conclusion, own up to your mistakes. Get your morals in check. And get yourself together, because if you don't, Trump is gonna get re-elected in 2020.

Hoping you'll do better,
Jonas Kammeyer-Mueller

Home Depot vs Menards

The pros and cons of home improvement stores

Isabella Graziani
Staff Writer

Where do you go to buy construction, repair and landscaping materials? Where do you go to watch your parents buy construction, repair and landscaping materials? There are two main options; Home Depot and Menards, but which is better?

Home Depot is a classic spot for reliable construction and gardening supplies. I'm sure many of us can remember those building workshops they set up for little kids too. It's a family friendly place with high quality products. Home Depot has a fun, bright orange color theme that would be obnoxious most places but in the construction supply setting it works. I struggle to find a complaint with Home Depot but I will say, as a kid I was quite mystified by the spelling of 'depot' (apparently it's french).

Unlike Home Depot, I have a bone to pick with Menards. Menards has a long running history of faulty products e.g. crumbling cinder block. Additionally, the employees at Menards are eager to help yet somewhat clueless. I once

ment filled a generous half of the bucket. Despite these less favorable things, I will say the magic piano and escalator at the local Menards almost outweigh the negatives. However, I fail to understand why

slogan I will say I wouldn't take financial advice from whoever wrote it.

At this point I must draw a conclusion over whether Home Depot or Menards is better. Home Depot is supe-



Menards plays their own ads in their store... they've already gotten you there.

The slogans of the two companies are also interesting to compare. Home Depot's is "Do it right for less," and in my opinion quite boring. On the

rior, in my opinion when it comes to products. However, the Menards stores make for a much more interesting shopping experience, between the escalator and piano. So, in conclusion, they are both good it just depends on what you're

MENARDS®

bought a small bag of cement which the worker helping me predicted would only fill about a sixth of the bucket I was filling. The ce-

other hand Menards' slogan is the iconic "Save BIG money when you shop Menards." While Menards has a much more catchy and recognisable

looking for (personally I generally prefer Home Depot).

Extreme Cheapskates

Extreme Cheapskates may be in the same vein as Marie Kondo, but it's a different beast altogether

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Staff Writer

Here's a lil confession for all you lovely people: I'm one of those people who's into kon-mari and zero waste. Here's another: I can't stop watching TLC's Extreme Cheapskates.

Marie Kondo's recent Netflix show is aspirational; it sells a clean, modern, attractive, and simple way of living. It's tied, in my mind at least, to the long-term movement in hip circles that emphasizes slightly old fashioned but authentic and fetishized ways of doing things (with updated packaging under a noun and noun brand name.)

You reduce your material possessions to the things that reflect your idealized self; one piece from them describes how *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* sparked a coming out. The most high-profile figure of the zero waste movement has an online store with mushroom foraging knives and stainless steel tongue scrapers. This isn't to discount the awareness of and action around materialism and waste these ideas have caused; desire is much more motivating than guilt. But when the knowledge of how dim our future is because of human action becomes crushing they feel like lap belts in a crashing plane.

Extreme Cheapskates is a different beast.

In their pursuit to spend as little as possible, the people on this show cut off their engagement with businesses to monkish levels. There are no cute products to help them do this. They alienate the people around them and get banned from businesses. Some things on the show are obvious stunts, like driving around for hours to collect ketchup packets, but the ones that aren't feel like a glimpse into the future. One man collects drinking water from a stream near his

house and has replaced toilet paper with a homemade bidet. In the southern heat he sits in his yard, covering himself in cornstarch straight from the box. Another person profiled pees in a jar that is used

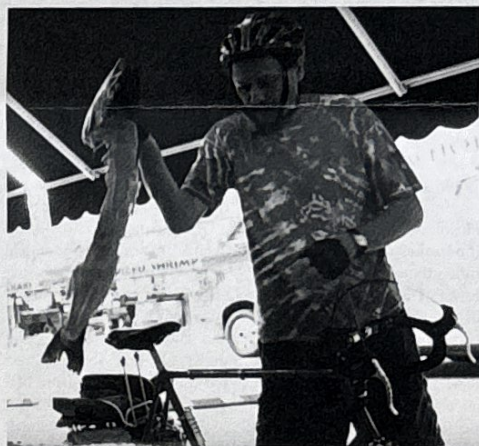


to water her garden and cooks on a homemade outdoor stove. In an offhand remark, her long term boyfriend says "Victoria is the only millionaire that I know that dumpster dives;" she lives as if water waste could cost her life rather than \$10 a month.

Almost everyone seems to be in stable work and roughly middle aged, too young to have baggage from the great depression and too old to be working 4 gig economy jobs to keep a roof and food. They are among the people who might be able to continue to live comfortably for a long time without saving like they do. Because of the shows emphasis on pure voyeurism, the actual financial situation of those profiled is never discussed beyond figures on how much

they save, but it doesn't really matter. In many ways Extreme Cheapskates is a reflection of the cultural obsession with life hacking and increasing financial precarity of everyone but the most wealthy. It's as much a product of our disparate era as Elon Musk's wonderful traffic solution.

A day or so after I started the first draft of this, I broke down about how grim it all seems right now. The truth is, I don't think any meaningful change is going to happen in time to reverse or even stop catastrophic climate change. It's a slow apocalypse, closer to Parable of the Sower than Mad Max. It could take decades to get to full crisis mode. But until then, I'll be stocking up on cornstarch.

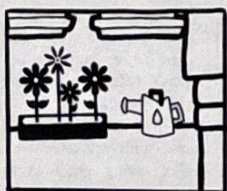


Climate, 6

charge all night long. Or group your chargers on a power strip that you can turn off.

Plant a garden

Gardens are the best! First off, they reduce grass space. Grass is nicer, but it is also the cause of a lot of pollution, such as fertilizers used to keep it alive and green houses gasses



from the lawn mowers used to maintain it. In a world running into a water crisis, people don't need to be using water on their grass, which needs extra water to survive. Secondly, gardens can brighten up your yard and make it look nicer. That reason may not help the environment, but it's definitely a benefit. Finally, you can grow your own food. If you plant a vegetable

garden, instead of buying tomatoes from the store, you can eat them from your own backyard. Depending on where you usually shop, the food you buy could have been sprayed with pesticides, and grown where trees once stood, which all contribute to a changing climate. Also, growing a garden would mean less lawn for you to mow!

Speak up and participate

Speaking up about climate change is very important.



Global warming will affect our generation more than any other in the past, so we have to make sure that the world is a sustainable place for the generations to come. You can call a legislature or go to a protest. It also helps to educate yourself about new bills that could help or hurt the environment.

The more you know, the better you can understand what is going on. Use your voice. It's there for a reason.

Get outside

One of the most valuable thing you can do for the planet is to go outside. Take a walk in a nature reserve. Visit a national park. Enjoying the natural environment can teach you some of the most valuable lessons you will learn about saving the environment. If hearing news and scientific studies about global warming doesn't inspire you to do anything for the environment, listening to a breeze blow through the trees on a scenic path in the wilderness may.

The earth is changing from climate change, and no one can or should deny that. Everyone can make a difference when it comes to global warming. So take some of these steps to become a more environmentally conscious person. Find your own ways to shrink your carbon footprint. Every little thing helps.