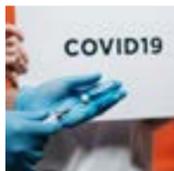




Insurrection reactions
- Page 2



What's up with the vaccine?
- Page 5



How Biden won
- Page 6

Purple Press

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New semester 2 schedule

Quarter three schedule shifts to incorporate in-person academic help

Violet Wright
Staff Writer

Many students may have heard by now about the schedule change for Quarter three. But what's actually going on with that? How is the schedule changing, and why?

The schedule will be changed because the data says that many students are struggling,

and it's obvious that distance learning isn't working for everyone. The quarter three schedule will have the first class of the day from 8:30 to 9:25. The second class will be from 9:30 to 10:25. Crew will be from 10:30 to 11:00 on Mondays and Fridays, so that teachers can have travel time, prep time, and lunch

time before they meet with small groups of students in the building each afternoon. "Teachers are going to need to be able to get to school, they need to have some prep time as well," said Clara Raineri, math teacher and the teacher team leader.

The new learning plan is targeting the students that are

struggling most with distance learning, though the invited students and their families will be allowed to refuse the offer to come to the building for extra support. The current plan is that there will be about 50 students total invited back, split into two groups. One group will be doing in person learning on Monday and Tuesday

afternoons, and the other will be doing it on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Fridays will be completely asynchronous, to give teachers time to prep.

Students will be in the building from 12:15 to 3:00. Bussing will be available, with Humboldt students, as usual. Masks are mandatory, so they

will be available for students to use. Teachers will be wearing both masks and PPE; as Clara said, "They'll look so stylish." There will be a lunch period from 12:15 to 12:45, which will be the only time of day that students can remove masks. There will be a seating chart enforced for the entire day, so

Schedule, 6

Teaching across America



Andy leans on his RV in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota (left), Andy sits at an overlook taking in the scenery at Glacier National Park in Montana (right).

Annika Lofgren
Staff Writer

As you might have seen on Netflix or TikTok, there have been many people who have sold their houses to live in a tiny home, bus, RV, or trailer. Some people just keep the tiny home in a set location (empty plot, parking lot, backyard) but most people have a tiny home so that they can travel.

One of OWL's teachers, special education teacher Andy Kunkel, has been teaching

from his RV this year. He says that "it's been an adventure, it's been really fun, an experience." Andy planned this trip pre-COVID, planning on staying with friends along the way, but now, mainly stays in state and national parks. He started the journey over the summer with his girlfriend, but she flew home, and he's been traveling alone for a while, but occasionally flies home.

His main cons are missing out on human interaction,

some internet hiccups, and time zones. Sometimes when he's out west, a class will start at 8:30 for us, but it will be 6:30 for him.

He has many pros, such as "I've gotten to see lots of things... climb mountains, go on long hikes," and "The Great Sand Dunes National Park is really really amazing, it's pretty otherworldly."

Andy plans to continue traveling as long as he can, but has "a couple of different plans

in mind," for the different stages of hybrid teaching.

He is currently in Texas, but has been in Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. He has been traveling in an RV, and finds it very convenient, because "everything is enclosed," compared to needing to stay at motels on a typical road trip. He is "traveling to travel right now, I really want to get to an area called the Outer Banks, in North Carolina."

Andy says that one thing most people don't realize is "how big the country is," and sums his trip up with "it's been really enjoyable."

If you are interested in learning more about tiny homes or other people's travels, watch Tiny House Nation on Netflix or check out @mindful.in.maine, @sassybus, @happy-homebodies, @courtandnate, @jennifermckechne, and @divineontheroad, all on TikTok.

Working & going to school COVID era makes jobs more complicated

Libby Nelson
Staff Writer

Everyone hates their boss. Whether you're a career oriented capitalist or a free spirited anarchist, it's inevitable. Same goes for our stereotypical hatred for high school. Pair these complicated relationships with the crushing anxiety of COVID-19, and high school students with part time jobs get a lot of responsibility for a teenager to handle.

Many students were working at the frontlines of the pandemic up until the second shutdown, as well as navigating the unfamiliar rules of distance learning. Senior Emma McCarthy said "I was excited to be making money again, but I was also nervous because I work at basically a restaurant and I personally would not make the choice to eat at a restaurant during a pandemic."

Emma has been working two jobs, one at Cooper's Foods and the other with me, at Keg and Case market serving at House of Halva, a Middle Eastern dessert and smoothie stand. As of late, the market has been closed, but before it was, they had fallen back on almost all their original regulations. They opened up indoor seating, as well as



All players are required to wear masks during practice and games this season as a safety precaution against the spread of COVID 19.

Winter sports return

Athletes will mask up for practice and games

Lili Hobday
Staff Writer

The moment that winter sport athletes have been waiting for finally came in the middle of January: Governor Walz announced that he would begin allowing youth sports to resume practices on January 4th.

While many districts throughout the state started on the 4th, SPPS athletic directors decided to take extra precaution and chose a 10 day

wait. This time period was put in place to help minimize the spread of COVID by giving a long enough quarantine for those who traveled and may have been exposed during the holidays.

When asked about if playing sports during COVID worried him, girls basketball coach Tyler Chavez said, "It only worries me when I think of other coaches and schools not sticking to the protocols. I think that if everything is en-

forced well then the kids will adjust and follow the rules."

The season almost being cancelled was a source of stress for a lot of kids, "I think the decision to let high schoolers play basketball was a great idea because a majority of my teammates want to play at the next level so they couldn't quit because of the pandemic. Basketball is a way to get scholarships and taking a year off would be hard. College bas-

Basketball, 5

Student jobs, 6



Purple Press Staff

Adult to Blame

Leo Bickelhaupt

Layout

Paloma Leone-Getten

Writers

Nathaniel Bradpiece

Atticus Brooks-Babcock

Tess Campion

Willa Campion

Auria Cha

Nora Crosby

Joe Deutch

Ted Dobbins

Leo Dungan-Seaver

Noah Johnson

Maxwell Juvland

Gabrielle Her

Danny Hobday

Lili Hobday

Jonas Kammeyer-Mueller

Otis King

Ben Lodahl

Annika Lofgren

Sayen Lundeen-Leiva

Kate Moe

Avery Koll

Hay Ta Kue Moo

Libby Nelson

Anna Nowatzki

Brodie Olmstead

Antonio Rosell

Elly Schibel

Liam Seath

Jacob Steiner

Nicholas Streng

Adajia Torres-McClain

Elzo Van Genderen

Nora Verner

Marshall Wasmund

Hazel Wright

Violet Wright

Chanida Xiong

Hiroko Zeleke

Gideon Zupfer

Insurrection reactions

We've almost become numb to it

Lili Hobday
Staff Writer

The recent events are mind blowing for some people. But for kids my age, it doesn't seem that much different than any other week. This statement is not meant to say that these aren't important events. Many of us are horrified by what happened, and angered by the stark comparisons in police and public reactions to this summer's peaceful BLM protests. But we've lived through so many "where were you" moments that we've almost become numb to it. With the MANY police killings, the

school shootings, and the pandemic shutting down schools and beloved activities, we've lived through what the adults like to tell us is "history." Although it may sound cool to tell our kids in 20 years that we've lived through what is in their history books, right now it's exhausting. While we want to be activists and fight for what we believe in, the school assignments continue to pile up and our mental health deteriorates. We not only have to deal with the typical high school struggles, we also have to deal with living through "history."

Did the Capitol police do enough?

Liam Seath
Staff Writer

On January 6th 2021, close to 80,000 people stormed the capitol building in Washington, with only 12 people being arrested. In addition, it seemed to me that only a few of the hundreds of police officers at the Capitol were helping to defend the senators in the build-

ing. Many police officers went so far as to let in protesters, which resulted in the expulsion of Capitol Police Chief Terrance Gainer. Hopefully this action has reminded all of the officers at the Capitol of their responsibility to protect and serve others, and themselves.



A normal president would accept the loss

Ted Dobbins
Staff Writer

On January 6th, thousands of Trump supporters gathered for former President Donald Trump's "Save America" rally, in support of Trump's false claims that he actually won the election. These pro-Trump insurrectionists then violently stormed the capital.

The thing that made me the most frustrated was how

blatantly wrong these claims were. The results have been proven over and over again that Joe Biden had won the election 306 electoral votes to Trump's 232. Also, Trump had no evidence to support these claims. It was merely his last attempt to stay in office, when any other normal president would accept the loss and see to a peaceful transfer of power.

Another thing that sur-

prised me was that of all the times this could have happened, it happened now. The Capitol has not been stormed since the War of 1812, when it was stormed and burned by British forces. And their reason was because they were at war with the U.S., not because their own country's leader wouldn't accept defeat. These reasons left me in utter shock after the events of January 6th.

Shocked but not surprised

Joe Deutch
Staff Writer

During the events at the Capitol I was very saddened to see something like that. My parents had stopped what

they were working on at the time to come to the basement and watch on our TV. Very few words came out most of the time, it was always my Dad saying "idiots" or another form of profanity to sum up his feelings. My mom was speechless as much as I was.

Eventually they had to go back to work and I had to do other things. We ended up reflecting on it together a day later with a phrase in mind "shocked but not surprised." Everything since the election made us feel as if that the insurrection was bound to happen.

Can we progress past the last four years?

Nora Verner
Staff Writer

On Wednesday January 6th, I spent the larger part of my evening trying to absorb yet another unprecedented event happening in my life before I achieve legal adult status. While I watched the news, despite the historic nature of the event, I couldn't help but not be too surprised. Specifically about one thing: early every last person taking part of the mob was white. It was the greatest display of white privilege I could have imagined. It frustrates me that while the peaceful protesters for Black Lives Matter in Washington DC this past summer were

met with fully armed national guard and policemen, a mob full of white men who publicly threatened violence were met with so little law enforcement that they could breach the national Capital. The insurrection wasn't only a threat to our democracy, but it also served as a blaring spotlight on our country's racism and

hypocrisy. The insurrection left me concerned more than anything else, because it made me wonder if we'll ever be able to progress past what has happened in the last four years. Despite a new administration, there is still permanent damage and this event only made that more obvious.



Police responded differently to BLM

Hiroko Zeleke
Staff Writer

Wednesday, January 6th, 2021 is a day we will never forget. The big news was supposed to be the Georgia senate race. Instead, thousands stormed into the US Capitol in the city of Washington DC. Showing how truly divided this country is.

I was born in DC, and lived there for the first four years of my life. My dad and brother live there. My cousins live there. I'm glad to say they are doing okay. I've been there a couple of times since I moved, but seeing it under attack by many who don't even live in the city hurts to watch. And even though the next day we were all in shock, I have to say, I wasn't surprised. They said on the news that there

was a planned "Save America" march. These people were Trump supporters, and when he tells them to do something, they seem to listen.

Another thing is, a majority of these people were white. When there were Black Lives Matter protests that were peaceful, Trump said they were people who hated our country. When it was white Trump supporters storming the capitol to try and change the election results, he told them to go home, saying "I love you. I know how you feel." I want to know how these people love this country if they were waving confederate flags and wouldn't accept the fact that Donald Trump lost the election? I heard on the news where people were saying would it be different if it was a BLM protest? Police

seemed to respond differently to BLM than to these capitol riots. I feel like it would, which is painful to think about. But in the end, I wouldn't know for sure.

Like I said, I'm not surprised. But a question we all have is why? Why did we let this happen? How did we allow this to happen? Why are we so divided? I really wish I had the answer, but I don't. And while I know it was a horrifying event, it could have been much worse. If you're reading this and don't feel the same way as I do, I completely understand and you are allowed to feel how you feel. But I hope that events like this will bring us closer together as a community.

Elected official would rather point fingers

Jonas Kammeyer-Mueller
Staff Writer

When I first heard about the capital riots, I funnily enough was in journalism already. I remember my dad knocking at my door to tell me about the news, and at first I didn't think it was real, that maybe he had been overreacting to a rowdy protest. When I found an NBC news livestream of it though, I couldn't deny what was happening anymore. I left my breakout room (sorry Leo) to watch it all go down with my undivided attention, since this seemed like it was teetering on the edge. I noticed that one of my friends was in a discord call, also watching the events, since his class had been abruptly declared optional, probably because of the riot. When we were watching a livestream of the riot, it didn't really feel like anything all that extraordinary was going on. Sure, we were concerned about it, and

didn't want it to go any further south, but other than that we were talking and making jokes as if nothing was happening. Only later did it dawn on me that that was a problem. That our country had been in such a downward spiral into disgrace, disrepair, and disorder that an event like the capitol riot would mean almost nothing at the time. Having said that, I very firmly believe that this isn't just the fault of one person, one group of people, or one ideology. The cause of this event, at least in my mind, is a lack of unity in America among Americans. How fitting then, that a flag that can be defined as a symbol of an inability to listen, reason, or show any sort of unity would finally make its way into the halls of the capitol. But in my mind, what is truly tragic and worthy of eternal shame, more so than the capitol riot itself, is that we have seemingly learned noth-

ing. Sure, the headlines may all speak in unison about how terrible and tragic this event was, but they ultimately speak to the people, not from them. When it comes down to it, the overly corrupt, overly ideological, and/or glazed-over figures we have had, currently have, or will have will do and have done anything to remain in power, regardless of how hard it destroys our country from the inside out, and how much it polarizes our politics. Even after we saw where political polarization has gotten us, our elected officials would rather point fingers at who caused the problem rather than do anything about the problem. I've heard "Oh if we bend now, they'll win, we need to be strong in our convictions or else we'll descend into [insert political nightmare scenario here]", and to be quite frank, that's part of the prob-

College: three ways to apply

Early decision, early action, or regular decision?

Kate Moe
Staff Writer

When it comes to applying to college, you have many options; early action, early decision, and regular decision. You may be wondering, what do each of those mean? They all influence the college process for you. The May 1st decision is usually when you decide and do the deposit of where you are going to college, but there are other ways to do it.

Regular decision is probably the most common way to apply. You apply around January and will hear back around March. Every school has Regu-

lar decision.

Then there is early decision. Early decision is when you are ready to commit to a certain school when you get into it. If you are accepted through early decision, you will have to decline all offers from other schools you applied to. When Leo Dungan-Seaver was thinking about applying to colleges, he knew that he wanted to go to Whitman and was ready to enroll. That led him to apply early decision and he is already enrolled there for the fall of 2021. When thinking about Early decision, people normally aim high. Ivy league

schools and other schools with low acceptance rates are common to apply Early decision to due to the fact that the school finds it better that you are already ready to go there.

Early action is another options. EA is a very simple way of applying; you simply apply to the college, but early! Though it is unclear whether or not it helps your chances of getting into a school, colleges do enjoy getting applications Early. Normally you would apply early November and hear back December or January. I find it to be the best way of applying because you hear back

from the college earlier, you don't procrastinate, and most people think that it makes it a little bit easier to get in.

However, not all colleges do EA. In total, there are about 350 colleges that do a combination of early action and early decision. Some schools that do early action are: St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN), Lewis & Clark (Portland OR), University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, WI), and Rhodes College (Memphis, TN). Early Action typically favors liberal arts colleges. I went on the college path typically applying to EA schools and with the 12 schools I have applied to, 8 I have been Early Action to.



Megan Hall

Leo and Megan's kittens when they first arrived in their new home in early October.

Covid brings increased demand for furry friends

Pets are nice, but harder to find

Auria Cha
Staff Writer

When quarantine started, my mom began to ask for a puppy. Once my dad agreed, we finally decided to look around and headed to PetSmart since they were holding an event that day. I spotted three black puppies. As my parents talked to someone, my siblings and I watched the puppies run around and then sleep in a pile together.

My sister insisted that we get the dog named Teddy, who was the biggest out of all his siblings. He was all black with a white underbelly, one small white patch on his front paw, a white tail tip, and a small white line on his forehead. My mom and I wanted his little brother who was also all black, to have a white underbelly, and instead of one paw being white, both front paws were white. It was as if he was wearing socks. In the end, my demanding sister

won since my mom and I gave in. On August 29th, 2020, we brought home our first ever puppy.

Having a new pet can be quite a struggle. For some, it's not their first time but for others like me who have recently adopted (or fostered) their first pet, it can be quite tricky. Junior Cezar Fernandez, who recently started fostering his first-ever dog, said, "I have been working on the new schedule with me and my pup and still find time to have quick chats with my friends." Megan Hall, a science teacher who recently adopted 3 kittens, said, "We share the responsibilities so the work has been pretty doable." Megan is in charge of ordering cat food and scheduling appointments while English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt is in charge of keeping the litter boxes clean. For some families, they all

Pets, 4

How to stay fit during Covid

Athletes are now forced to get creative

Danny Hobday
Staff Writer

How desperate is 9th grade synchronized swimmer Elena Davis to get back in the pool? At one point she even suggested trying it in her bathtub.

It's been 329 days (almost a full year) since Governor Walz first declared a state of emergency. The emergency shut-down things like gyms, pools and basketball courts. Even getting together with your friends to get excessive or just have a good time was discouraged. Since then each family has had decisions if they want to stay inside away from people or be with people. With this lack of time spent outside

or at the gym it's been really hard to stay active. Governor Walz just announced almost a complete shut down to keep people safe but he strongly encouraged not seeing anyone but your immediate family.

Some people have been trying to take runs everyday and stay away from people when they pass them. But a lot of people just don't want to get COVID so they stay inside. So how can you stay active from inside your home? You could do push-ups, sit ups, run on a treadmill if you have one but it's still really hard and it feels like there is less motivation to keep going because we don't know how long this will last.

Senior Haakon Neske is a dual athlete. He is a captain on the frisbee team and also plays high school basketball. Because basketball is inside he can't play often. He and his neighbor sometimes play a couple games together but he can't go to a gym and shoot with COVID. Haakon won't be playing basketball this year. They recently announced basketball players will have to use a mask at all times. Not many people will want to keep it on the whole time he says, and if one person gets it, then the whole team gets it, and then the team that they play gets it. He is looking forward to frisbee in the spring though.

"In my opinion frisbee is one of the safest sports, it's outside and people don't bunch up as much," he said.

9th grader Elena Davis is a synchronized swimmer. Synchronized swimming used to practice 3 days a week and when Elena didn't have practice she trained. That all got shut down in March though and now she takes it online but it's mostly zoom calls. So to keep active she plays with her little neighbors. "It takes a lot out of you to play with a 6 year old," she said. She also said it is a bit annoying that she is not in the pool but she gets the situation. "It's not as much fun as it used to be but hopefully we can get back into the pool soon."

First transgender US Senator elected in Delaware

Sarah McBride now represents district one in her home state



Gideon Zupfer
Staff Writer

On November 3rd, 2020, Sarah McBride became the first openly transgender person to be elected for State Senate in the United States. She is now the State Senator of District One of her home state Delaware, making her the highest ranking transgender official in the country.

Sarah is currently the National Press Secretary of the Human Rights campaign and author of *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the*

Fight for Trans Equality. She assumed office on January 12.

The night she was elected, Sarah tweeted "I hope tonight shows an LGBTQ kid that our democracy is big enough for them, too."

Sarah described "Everyone's journey to coming out as transgender is different. For me, I've known that I was transgender my entire life. I think it's difficult for folks who aren't transgender to really wrap their mind around the feeling of having a gender identity that differs from your

sex assigned at birth, but for me it felt like a constant feeling of homesickness. An unwavering ache in the pit of my stomach that would only go away when I could be seen and affirmed as myself."

Sarah came out as transgender to her parents on Christmas Day of 2011, when she was 21. Her parents met her news with fear, but with support. They were afraid of rejection that Sarah could potentially face due to her identity. Over the next few months, Sarah came out to her friends, family members, and decided that she would come out publicly.

At that time, Sarah was the student body president at American University. She was afraid of the response she would receive from the campus, but the response she got was overwhelmingly positive. She said it demonstrated to her that "when we tell our stories, when we're vulnerable publicly, that's something that can transcend ideology, it can transcend gender, race, religion, geography, and I think it allows people to enter into a story and experience that they may have a difficult time empathizing with."

As a citizen of Delaware, a state of neighbors, Sarah McBride got to know the Bidens

who also reside in Delaware. Sarah even used to work for the late Beau Biden. When Sarah came out, Beau was very happy for her and told her "you are still a part of the Biden family." Joe Biden shared similar statements and eventually wrote the foreword to Sarah's book, *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality*.

After Sarah graduated from college she interned at the White House, making her the first openly transgender person to do so. After interning, Sarah pursued her career and passion, politics. She explains "What excites me about politics, and this is true from my youngest memories, reading about the presidents and learning about history is that politics, for me, was always about fixing society, even if I couldn't, so that other people can live their authentic lives. We often hear that politics are the art of the possible. But I think that politics at its best is the art of making the impossible possible. And I think that's what we've done as an LGBTQ community is that time and time again we have transformed impossibility into possibility into reality. And if we've done it before, we can do it again."

Senate, 6

Distractions of distance learning

Elly Schibel
Staff Writer

Distance learning has been hard for all of us, even teachers.

Lisa Schibel, a middle school English teacher at Capitol Hill Magnet School, was getting ready to go onto her Google Meet for sixth grade English and start the school day when a neighbor walked by with a baby. She excitedly exclaimed to her students, "There's a baby outside!"

If you're struggling with distractions and the like in your home environment, it's perfectly normal. Lisa often gets distracted by "Dogs and babies on my end, construction and siblings/ family members on the students end." After all, most students have, in addition to their iPad, a phone and maybe even a video game system in their room with little or no supervision. Trust me when I say that you are NOT alone if you are struggling with getting even the simplest of assignments done. OWL freshman Jonas Ruberg agrees, "I definitely think it's a lot of work. For me personally,

once I get invested in a project, I find it's a lot easier to focus and stay invested. Really, I find starting to be the hardest part."

Many people think that their environment is to blame. This makes sense, because at school we all have the same environment, but at home we're all in different boats. One example is Anne Osweiler, an OWL freshman. "I mean, the most I can do is just stay in my room all day, which also isn't really helpful, because I have random things that can be distracting."

Some things that have helped people on the other side of the spectrum to make their environment more adequate for distance learning are noise canceling headphones and keeping other devices and distractions in another room.

In my experience, making lists and setting timers to do work and also reminders for when assignments are due really help.

We are all crew, not passengers. There are people willing to help you, all it takes is for you to ask. You got this.

Senior Spotlight

Lucy Mullarky



How many years have you been at OWL?
Since 9th grade.

What are your plans for next year?
Going to college, and majoring in elementary education.

What's been your favorite class in high school?
AP environmental science.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Choir and soccer.

Favorite field work trip and why?
Du Nord in 11th grade.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Thunderstruck by AC/DC.

Favorite book, movie, or TV show?
My favorite movie would be the parent trap.

What do you miss most about in-person learning?
All of the memories, and the people.

That One Little Kid Amaya Simes



How tall are you?
I am five feet three inches.

What's your favorite class so far and why?
My favorite class is Reader's Workshop. Preston tells jokes of the day and he tells us about the Buffer Bill. When we can't find a good book to read, Preston helps us find one. Misha helps me with my work.

Who's your favorite senior?
I don't know any seniors.

Where do you think you're going to go for college?
Savannah College of Art and Design.

What's the best thing about distance learning?
I get to play Among Us with classmates.

What's the worst thing about distance learning?
I have to move my things for class and go to a different areas at home.

Why you should watch Formula 1

Lots of strategy, and very unpredictable racing

Nathaniel Bradpiece
Staff Writer

Oh would you look at that! Hamilton is in championship position again! What am I talking about? Well the year is 2008, and Lewis Hamilton has just taken fifth, which is the exact position he needed to take in order to claim the championship. Man I would hate to be Felipe Massa or anyone in the Ferrari team right now. I mean to lose the championship at the last corner of the session must be absolutely infuriating.

Anyway with that excitement out of the way, I'm going to give you my personal list of the top 5 reasons that you should pay attention to scenes like this and watch Formula One.

The first reason you should watch formula one is that the

racing often is very exciting.

The famed Monaco street circuit or even the outside track at the Bahrain International Circuit are particularly exciting. Bahrain is known for its short laps because of the track's long straights and sweeping corners which causes speeds to increase and lap times to decrease. Which is why the FIA chose Bahrain as the site for F1's third double header in the 2020 session. The race saw a driver missing. Who, you might ask, well it was none other than seven time champion and Mercedes star driver Lewis Hamilton, who tested positive for covid-19. But in his place Mercedes decided to bring Williams driver George Russell in to replace Hamilton in what was an absolutely amazing drive from the young Brit.

The second reason I think you should watch formula one is that the race results are often very unpredictable, especially in the midfield which in the modern v6 turbo hybrid era has become one of if not the most competitive sections of the F1 grid, especially for McLaren and Red Bull, who are the current front runners for the mid field. But if there's one thing the mid field is known for its high competition. One example that comes to mind is the finale of the 2010 session where there was a four way battle for the championship between Red Bull driver Mark Webber and Ferrari driver Fernando Alonso and Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel as well as mclaren emerging.

The third reason I think you should watch formula one is that they travel to different tracks all around the world, such as the famous Monaco street circuit, which has gained fame through being one of the oldest circuits that F1 still travels to. Also Monaco is known for having some of the tightest corners on the F1 calendar. Another track worth mentioning is Silver Stone, which is site of the British Grand Prix.

The fourth reason you should watch formula one is

the drivers. A big part of the appeal of F1 for a lot of fans are the drivers, because often the most fun part of races are the drivers personalities. The comedic activities of Daniel Ricciardo or the absolute comedic gold that we've seen come from a lot of the younger drivers on twitch are good examples.

The fifth reason you should watch F1 is for the strategy. While F1 looks rather simple, it's really not, especially when you consider the various things that could happen during a race and how the weather might change. During one part of the race it's perfectly clear, but then suddenly a storm rolls in and completely changes the characteristics, such as how the tires wear on the track, which affects a team's strategy. It's not just a matter of getting into the car and driving a certain number of laps; it's also about using strategy to help get you as a driver and your car to the front.

In conclusion formula one is a very interesting sport for many different reasons for many different people but for me the interest comes from the skill, because it takes great skill to be able to drive a F1 car around a circuit at 200kmh and at 5gs around corners.



Insurrection, 2
lem. Nobody is willing to bend the knee, put their party politics, their pride, and their egos

aside, and actually work for what the country needs most right now above all else, which is unity. Should we continue

on the path we appear to be on, I believe we will reach an even higher fever-pitch of instability, immovability, and unrea-

son that a substantial amount of people will leave for more stable ground like Europe or Canada.

Midwest COVID surge

Hazel Wright
Staff Writer

As you likely read in the last issue of the Purple Press, there was a lockdown starting November 18, lasting until December 18. This meant a whole lot of restrictions, including no sports for those four weeks. However, the lockdown happened for a reason. And that reason was the Midwest COVID surge. It hit most of the Midwest, including Minnesota, and Midwest COVID cases made up about half the country's cases.

The surge started in October, as people relaxed and started going to small gatherings. No matter how few people there are at a gathering, you can still transmit it. And the more people that keep going to these gatherings, the faster it spreads. So as people relaxed, COVID cases soared, with 8,946 new cases in Minnesota in one day at the peak of the surge in late November.

Iowa started a mask mandate the day before Minnesota started their lockdown, and that helped, with cases lowering throughout the state. The post-Thanksgiving surge that took over most of the country also mostly passed Minnesota by, with no marked increase in cases.

But the lockdown had a lot

to do with that.

Since Governor Walz's executive order made sure that masks were required and there were no social gatherings, meaning no in person gatherings with people outside your household, there was very little way to spread the virus. Which meant that Minnesota largely escaped the post-Thanksgiving surge.

Two weeks post-Thanksgiving, there were 3,129 new cases reported in Minnesota. One week before Thanksgiving, however, was part of the surge, with 7,581 new cases reported. Two weeks post-Christmas, it was down to 2095 new cases reported, which was on the higher end of the average.

Overall, Minnesota has been doing well with new cases, with the number of new cases reported mostly going down. But just because the Midwest COVID surge isn't in the news cycle anymore and the lockdown restrictions have let up, it doesn't mean we can let down our guard. Cases are going down from the middle of the surge, with 1,224 new cases on January 20th, the day of the inauguration. But even if cases are going down, COVID is still dangerous. Follow social distancing guidelines, wear a mask, and stay safe as we head into a new quarter.

Pets, 3

help take care of the pet(s) and sometimes it's just one person.

I realized how lucky we were to even get a puppy. It was quite a struggle when my family and I tried to find dogs online. Everywhere we looked was either closed, busy or just too far for us to travel during the lockdown. At Animal Humane Society, you have to schedule an appointment, all adoption centers are closed to the general public. At PetSmart they have resumed but on a smaller scale. Joe Watson, CEO of Petland, says that demand was strong in May and June. The demands for pets continue to stay strong and rise as many consumers start to look and apply for a pet. Many non-profit groups are overwhelmed by incoming applications. "Having a foster pet makes me feel good knowing my dog (Bolt) does not have to go to the shelter," said Cezar.

Veterinary services and centers still provide service but have limited types of procedures. "It's harder to get to the vet and we have to go to an animal emergency hospital for a few things that normally our regular vet could have taken care of for less money," said Megan. When Governor Tim Walz had the ban in place, all non-essential surgeries were suspended, and when it was lifted, there were flooded with requests for surgical appointments. Many people are starting to pay attention to their animal's behavior thus creating a backlog and long waiting lists of customers. Megan said that her vet is so busy that they aren't accepting new clients!



Auria Cha

The author's dog Teddy poses in his new home.

If you managed to find a pet and adopt, buy, or foster one, there are lots of benefits! "Having a buddy to play and cuddle with is a big stress reliever," said Megan. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), having a pet has health benefits like decreased blood pressure, increased opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities, decreased levels of triglycerides (a type of fat in your body), and more. Dr. Manson says people who are managing with anxiety or depression benefit the most from pet companionship. "Well obviously the pandemic sucks and it's pretty hard for people to deal with but our pets give us a chance to go outside more and spend a lot more time with them which I think they love," said Cezar.

Pets have such a wonderful impact on us during the pandemic, they have helped us with all our stresses and they can tell when you're upset or angry, no matter what species or breed. They can be great listeners, comedic relief, snugglers, and even exercise buddies. Despite the stresses of work, school, or other situations you are going through, pets are always such amazing companions.

The rewriting of the Chilean constitution

Government to be recreated by elected citizens

Sayen Lundeen-Leiva
Staff Writer

In October of 2019, Chile had a huge outburst, leading to riots and protests all over the country. Chileans have been fighting without rest and have finally got what they wanted. A new constitution is the only way to guarantee progress, and all could be lost if a new constitution isn't made.

Chile's current constitution was made by Chile's dictator, Augusto Pinochet, who ruled Chile from 1974-1990, and it hasn't been changed since. The constitution he made in the 1980s was made to privatize

everything and disregard the poor, and this has made Chileans suffer greatly, and there is a widespread belief that it is time for a change.

Constitutions are very important to maintain societal structure in a country and to make sure that social norms are being held accountable. The constitution regulates how the country is governed and assures that individual leaders can't just make up their own rules. Chile would be the first country in the world to accomplish a constitution written by its civilians. This is such a big step, compared to how broken

its system is and it will hopefully help Chile in many ways.

On October 25th, the national plebiscite to approve the writing of a new constitution by the Chilean people was sanctioned. If you approved a new constitution, you had to choose by whom it would be written. The two choices were either constitutional convention or a mixed constitutional convention.

The constitutional convention would be written by citizens with 50% women and 50% men. The mixed constitutional convention would be written by elected politicians because 78% of the voters approved a new constitution, and out of that 78%, 79% opted for a constitutional convention. I also need to include that 51% out of all Chileans voted, which is pretty big considering that only 20% of Chileans voted for a president in 2017.

This was the first, but a big step for what is to come. This process will take many years, but I believe it will be accomplished. Voters will return to the ballot boxes on April 11, 2021 to choose the 155 people who will make up the convention that will draw up the new

constitution.

Any citizens that would like to stand for the election of conventional constituents have to meet the requirements outlined in Article 13 of the constitution, which means they have to be "18 years of age or older and have not been sentenced to afflictive punishment (more than three years' imprisonment)". Voters will then return to vote on April 11, 2021 to choose the 155 people who will make up the convention which will draw up the new constitution.

My grandpa, who lived through Pinochet's dictatorship says "with what I lived as a child is now filled with hope." He also said, "with the younger generation sacrificing their lives for this, this is their achievement, and that is why you are also a part of this, having gone to many protests." He believes that Chile will make it happen and he has hope for his country. My mom also believes the same things and is hopeful for what is to come. She says, "I finally realized that collectivism and courage can face injustice." She also says "the energy of youth has helped me to let go of my fears with hopes that a change towards justice is possible."



Purple Press Staff Photo

Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas is one of the few MLS stadiums allowing a limited number of fans this season.

Sports without fans

"It's just awkward how quiet it gets."

Noah Johnson
Staff Writer

One day, when I'm sitting in my living room, I turn on the television to watch the MNUFC game against the Colorado Rapids. It just seems like a regular soccer game, that is until you look up at the empty stands. The seats are covered with logos such as Adidas or Target or even slogans supporting the front line workers during this pandemic. Some sections are even filled with cardboard cutouts of people. Does playing in an empty stadium change anything?

Back in March, due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, most major sports leagues were closed. As of the last couple of months, they have opened back up, but with a difference: No fans watching from the stands. This may not seem like a huge difference, but it can lead to different experiences for both fans and athletes.

Usually, when you buy a ticket for your local sports team, you go to cheer on and support your team. But ever since the outbreak of COVID-19, sports have been in an interesting situation. Teams usually enjoy playing at the home stadium because of the home-field advantage. Teams tend to win more games and perform better at their home stadium compared to playing away. But ever since sports have resumed, in major leagues such as the NFL or NBA, viewers are not allowed in the stands. This may have many different effects during these games.

Many fans may feel different watching sports from their televisions at home without any fans at the games. With this silence, you can hear almost everything that's happening in the stadium. This means that you can hear more foul language that happens which needs to be censored out which leads to a different viewing experience. For example, at a Brooklyn Nets scrimmage, you could hear Clippers star Kawhi Leonard arguing with the referee about a call. Another difference without fan noise is that it can be hard to tell when to pay attention to a game. Whenever you hear the fans get loud and cheer you know something exciting is about to happen. But without the crowd noise, you don't really get this experience. The fan noise is a crucial part of the viewing experience.

"It's just awkward how quiet it gets," said Lotte (KBO League) Giants pitcher Dan Straily. Many athletes feel very thrown off without fans in the stadium. For Straily, nothing seems as weird as playing without fans. To prevent this some stadiums have built-in crowd noise in an attempt to fill in the silence. Quarterback Tom Brady argues that this artificial noise makes it even more of a challenge because of the constant noise which is different than a real crowd. Fans are a huge part of sports, and without them, it feels more like a high school scrimmage than a professional sports game.

One of the NFL teams with one of the biggest impacts by fans is the Seattle Seahawks, referring to the fans as the "12s." But the lack of fans doesn't seem to be having an effect on the team, who only lost one home game throughout the season. Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, however, says it feels different without the 12s enjoying the game. But data shows that other teams may be performing worse with the lack of fans. The New York Times analyzed data from Germany's top soccer league showing that there has been a noticeable effect on home team victories. The data shows that teams have won 43% of games with fans, but that number drops to 33% inside of empty stadiums. The data showed that it wasn't just that home teams were performing worse, it seemed as the away teams performed better than they usually would have if fans attended the matches. Another variable that could affect the outcome of these matches is the pressure of thousands of fans screaming at the ref for a bad call. This could possibly change the call they make, which could completely change the outcome of a match.

It does seem that many players seem to be performing worse due to lack of a home-field advantage, but also that the opposing teams may be performing better without the other teams' fans. Not having fans in a stadium may have a more drastic effect than you may have thought from the players mental state and decision making to referees making bad calls. The time when things go back to 'normal' and we start seeing fans attending games may be a while from now, so we will have to wait and see.



Sayen Lundeen-Leiva

These statues in Santiago have been spray painted to look like they are bleeding.

Teachers in line for vaccine

Is herd immunity something we can begin to hope for?

Nora Verner
Staff Writer

Saint Paul Public Schools has begun vaccinating teachers as part of the state's recent pilot program, despite chaos across the state with vaccine distribution. As of press time, however, no OWL teachers have received a vaccine.

Two vaccines have already been approved by the FDA, the first one on December 11th is a two dose Pfizer vaccine developed between the company and its partner BioTech. The second vaccine that was approved a week later, was developed by Moderna and also requires two doses. On December 14th the first doses of a Covid vaccine were administered to an American. In the weeks following that the federal government began distributing the vaccines throughout

the country with the first shots going to frontline healthcare workers and persons in elderly care facilities.

Although Minnesota has a strong system in place for vaccine distribution, it's been slowed by a lack of federal communication and their poor distribution plans. As of January 28th, 375,934 Minnesotans had gotten their first vaccine and 73,304 were fully vaccinated. The state's overall small percentage of administered vaccines is due to the frustratingly small allocation given to Minnesota from the federal government.

In January the state was receiving only 60,000 vaccines weekly. Governor Tim Walz had expressed frustration about the low allocations and lack of promised booster shots from the federal government

in mid-January. Since then, Minnesota has started a pilot community site vaccination program to begin the vaccination of citizens 65 years or older. This program opens the doors for more people, including teachers and childcare providers, to receive their shot.

Twenty percent of the state's weekly vaccines were given to the pilot program, but this barely meets necessary levels. The signup for this program was overwhelmed when it launched and many school

districts found themselves with disappointing amounts of vaccines available to their staff, SPPS only getting 88 the first week. However, since the change of administration, there seems to be an encouraging increase in the state's weekly allocation.

The federal government shared that Minnesota should continue to get a 16% increase of vaccines delivered with each coming week. This good news allowed for SPPS to receive an

Vaccine, 11



Basketball, 1

ketball players and the NBA have been playing through the pandemic and that has been a good source of motivation," said senior Elijah Ojo.

Coach Tyler echoed this, saying, "The shortened season is mostly affecting our upperclassmen because they're missing out on potential stats that they could be using to get into colleges."

In addition to the season starting late, other precautions have been put in place. In an attempt to slow the spread of the virus, teams are only playing conference games, there is

a limit of 25 people in the gym, there are no spectators, and in all sports but wrestling, swimming, and cross country skiing athletes are required to wear a mask while competing.

Because middle school basketball was cancelled, 8th grader Danny Hobday decided to try out for high school basketball. When asked about his take on the mask rule he said, "I think it was a good choice. I hated them at first. It was really hard to breathe, it was like you're breathing out air and then sucking back in the same air. But I've grown into it and

it's gotten easier."

Although the medical community agrees that wearing masks reduces the spread of COVID, wearing them during competition remains controversial. Parents and athletes are worried about it affecting players performance and making it hard to breathe.

"Sometimes it feels like my airways are being blocked and I need to take it off to take a breath. But a few practices ago I realized it's just a mindset thing. The airways you breathe through are the same with a mask on or not. Once I stop thinking about it, I can some-

times forget I'm even wearing one," said Elijah.

The mask rule and other COVID related things have lowered the number of athletes this year. The boys basketball team is struggling to make both a c-squad and JV team, and the girls barely have enough for even a varsity team.

"A lot of people aren't playing because of jobs to support their families because of COVID, because they don't want to get sick, and even just because they don't like that we have to wear masks," said Danny.

Socially distanced walk to the mailbox

Covid restrictions make the annual event “bittersweet” for seniors

Tess and Willa Campion
Staff Writer

This year for seniors, the march to the mailbox looked a little different than in past years due to social distancing and covid protocols. Seniors and their families were still able to parade down to the post office to drop off their thank you letters by car, but there were no students to cheer their classmates on. Instead families had to wave signs from cars written with encouraging messages to cheer on their seniors.

In a normal year, crews make signs to celebrate their seniors, students can give speeches in the auditorium and announce where they have applied to college. This year a virtual video was released that included speeches from a few of the seniors, as well as a photo collage of every 12th grader with a sign of the college and universities they applied to.

A car parade was held in place of the march, and although it wasn't the same, many cars adorned signs in the windows and balloons



Photos courtesy of Dave Gundale
Senior Aiko Mattie in the car parade (above), senior Tannushri Buck in the car parade (below).



Photo Courtesy of Dave Gundale

Senior Charlotte Marboe after the college march.

bounced against the sides of a few. Senior Zoe Campion said, “seeing it and being in the moment was kind of sad because you could see what you are missing, celebrate with other students, and hug other seniors. It was bittersweet in a way.”

The distanced march gave seniors a chance to celebrate some of the milestones that haven't happened in person. Due to the pandemic, St. Paul Public School and OWL seniors have not been able to attend any in-person classes this year as their final year of high school unfolds on a screen.

How the map turned blue

Rust belt states key to Dems victory this time

Maxwell Juvland
Staff Writer

So, the 2020 general election is over, with a remarkably messy transition of power concluded and Biden beginning his presidential term. It may have been a traumatic and terrifying couple of months for our nation, but we seem to finally be reaching closure on the 2020 election. With that closure comes something else very significant: data. As we look forward to future elections, these are by far the best stats to use to predict future results. So what sort of trend does this election show, what were the surprises, and what can we expect going forward?

To start off, we need to address the inaccuracies of the polls. As will be clear to anyone who watched the polls leading up to election day, they were very off again. They predicted the winners wrong in Florida and North Carolina, and favored Biden in almost every state in the nation, save some standouts like Colorado and Maryland, in terms of

margins. For many, this will only cement the distrust in the polling industry that began back in 2016 with Trump's big surprise win. One can only hope that the polls may regain a good reputation in future cycles, but as it stands, they've lost quite a bit of legitimacy.

But beyond the polls, what did we see occur? Well, quite a few things. Firstly, as expected, the Rust Belt states of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania flipped back to blue for Biden, while Minnesota increased its Democrat margin from 2016 by over 5 percentage points. This occurred largely because of turnout from minority voters in Milwaukee, Detroit, and Philadelphia. Arizona flipped blue in the culmination of several cycles of leftward drift, only intensified by disparaging comments made by President Trump about the popular late John McCain. This happened because of Maricopa county, which houses Phoenix and looks set to be a future Bellwether (a region that tends to

vote for the election winner) county, flipping blue. Besides just Minnesota, Clinton states like New Hampshire, Colorado, and Virginia solidified for Biden. In fact, the only Clinton Swing State that didn't shift leftwards was Nevada, which stayed roughly the same.

Trump solidified his dominant numbers in states many thought would grow closer over time, such as South Carolina, Missouri, and Montana. Many pundits believed that states like these had a chance of coming within single digits in this election cycle, but that proved quite clearly to be baseless. The only state among formerly solid Trump states that showed a decent amount of promise for Democrats in this election was the state of Alaska, which voted for president trump by only ~10 percentage points. This is a decent improvement upon the 2016 Democratic performance in the state. But this really demonstrates that the swing states for the next several cycles will likely be the ones

many have already seen in the horizon. Perhaps most notably, looking at the results, the Southern state of Georgia.

Georgia flipped blue in somewhat of a surprise, being a state that hasn't voted blue since Bill Clinton won it in the 90's. This mainly came from Fulton county, which contains Atlanta, and the suburban counties surrounding it. There were also some surprises that favored President Trump. Iowa and Ohio remained solidly in the President's camp despite speculation that they would get closer this time around. North Carolina, while it shifted left, did not go blue as many predicted it would. Texas is a similar case, having been expected to be a possible upset that didn't pan out, largely due to unforeseen underperformance among Latinos across the southwest of the state. The 2nd congressional districts of Nebraska and Maine, which are awarded one electoral vote each due to their unique voting system, had their respective surprises. NE-2 voted further left than expected and ME-2 voted further right than expected.

But far and away the biggest upset occurred in the infamous swing state of Florida. The results in Florida totally blew pundits' minds. Instead of flipping to Biden or being a narrow Trump victory, Florida swung to the right, becoming a huge outlier as almost the entire nation swung to the left of the 2016 results. Having won a 3.5% victory in what was supposed to be a blue wave election year, many pundits are wondering if Florida is even truly a swing state at heart anymore, which is an absolutely insane development for

Student jobs, 1

the entire top floor seating area that is non-distanced. They never had any air flow lanes or marks on the halls for distancing which led to customers walking around fully unmasked.

Most of the workers included lower class students, artists, small business owners and individuals over 50 — in other words, people who can't afford nor survive COVID, and can't afford nor survive to be unemployed. “I guess I had some choice, but I definitely felt like I needed to be saving for college and was a bit worried about what I'd do if I didn't have a job,” said Emma.

The U.S census says over 30% of American teenagers have jobs while attending high school. About 5% end up dropping out (that's 1.2 million high schoolers per year) most likely to join the workforce, according to the Department of Education. Unemployment checks have been made available to teens who have lost their jobs, but then again that's peanuts. You're better off just finding another job and piling on the stress like the rest of the workforce.

As for balancing work and school, seniors haven't been getting as much slack as we would like. Right now, I work during school hours as a Personal Care Assistant for a 15 year old boy with Down Syndrome. I'm not always able to attend meetings and that's sometimes frowned upon. Senior Freya Ebbesen stated “I feel like there's a lot of pressure... In my opinion we shouldn't be trying to cover the same amount of stuff we would in a normal year, but I get that it's complicated.”

Complicated is a perfectly fitting word. Since teachers only have so much time, they are forced to give us work for the whole week for just our daily classes. This is the reason-

Schedule, 1

that if there is a COVID-19 outbreak it will be easier to track.

The original projected time for in person help sessions to start was February 16, the Tuesday after President's Day. As of press time, this had been pushed back to February 22, because the COVID case count was not under 30 cases per 100,000 14 days before students would have been allowed to return.

Staff will mostly be doing academic intervention, focusing on things like navigating schoolology, and there will

Senate, 3

Sarah is now making possibility into reality as a State Senator of Delaware. The win in Delaware was a huge step in history for the LGBTQ community everywhere, including students at OWL like those in the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA). Elly Schibel from GSA shared her feelings toward the Delaware election.

“I was personally really proud, because that's really progressive, I was proud of how far we've come from a lot of transphobia to significantly less in a long time. We did it.”

ing behind our “Assignment 1” and “Assignment 2” folders in Schoolology that contain much more than just a lesson. Freya added, “I'm able to balance the two but it can get stressful sometimes, especially with on-line school. I feel like there's a lot more random worksheets that take up a lot of time.”

Senior Leo Dungan Seaver works at ACE Hardware, helping customers and working in the shop. Leo said that last school year, his teachers were much more forgiving when he had a legitimate excuse to fall behind on schoolwork. But with this year's new and “improved” distance learning, he feels he can no longer ask for any help. “Last year at the end of the school year they were very forgiving because I had to cover my elderly coworkers shifts, but now I don't really have an excuse to need more time for anything,” Leo said.

Before distance learning, one could walk up to a teacher, tell a sob story of working till 10 every school night and be met with a warm and understanding smile. Now all they get is a cold email saying that google meets are mandatory and can affect your grade, even if they aren't beneficial to our learning.

Although I would like for school to be my top priority, I am currently looking for a second job to replace my market job. In this dog-eat-dog country, it's pretty much normalized for swamped high schoolers to be taken advantage of by the workforce.

It's draining but making your own money while going to school is very rewarding. Shout out to those of us who have been rocking the school world and the career world — all the while powering through whatever ridiculous current events are shaking up our life. It's amazing what we teens can do. Keep brushing the world off your shoulders and get that dough.

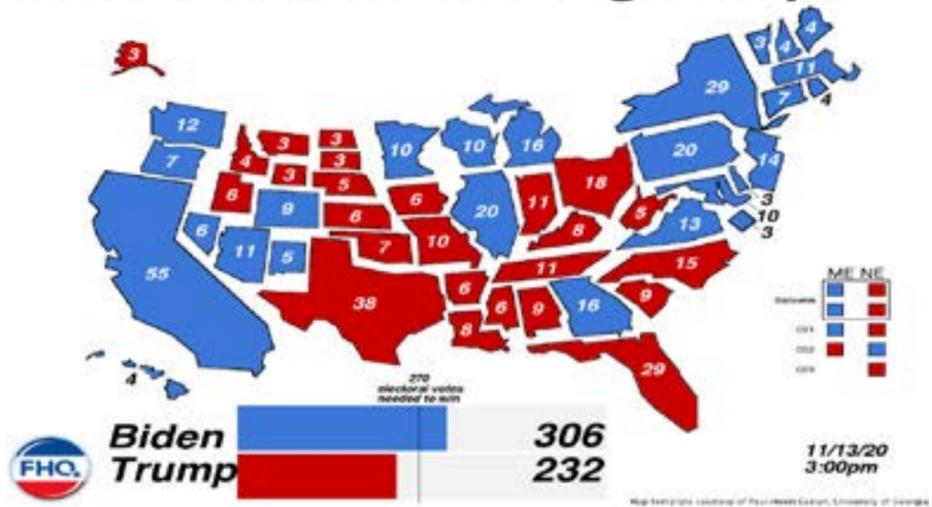
also be work time. “We'll be having them look at making checklists, talking about how to navigate Schoolology effectively, and then it'll be a lot of work time but also time to verbally connect with peers,” said Clara. “The plan is to have groups of between four and six students in a classroom. They'll stay with that teacher the entire time.”

Once this model has been tested, it could be expanded to incorporate more students. However, it will remain by invite only, and numbers will need to remain low enough to keep everyone safe.

“For the future of the US, this means people are going to be hopefully more open minded and more accepting of things that Sarah McBride does to help the US and Delaware. It's definitely good, and I'm happy about that.”

Sarah's campaign focuses on making healthcare more affordable, supporting education in schools and reforming the criminal justice system. Her work in Delaware will hopefully improve the state and change the US as a whole. Sarah and her work will certainly continue to make history.

2020 Electoral College Map





Reviews 'n' stuff



Lightsaber fight hall of fame

What are the top five battles in Star Wars lore?

Anna Nowatzki
Staff Writer

When people hear the words "Star Wars" they think of the lightsaber battles. And I love Star Wars so that means I love lightsaber battles. But what are the best lightsaber battles? Below is a list of the top 5 lightsaber battles in order. And don't get your Jedi robes in a bunch, this is just my opinion. (But I did ask other Star Wars fans and they said it's a pretty solid list.)

#5

Ahsoka Tano vs. Darth Vader - Season 2 Finale of Rebels, Twilight of the Apprentice

Ok ok, I know some of you might not be familiar with this episode or even this show, but when I tell you this lightsaber fight is both amazingly choreographed (it is animation) and holds so much meaning to it, I'm not lying. First, some background. In the Clone Wars Ahsoka was Anakin Skywalker's (soon to turn to the dark side and become Darth Vader) Padawan. The last time they saw each other before Rebels was when Darth Vader still went by the name Anakin Skywalker.

This lightsaber fight takes place in the last episode of season two of Rebels. In the finale of the first season their mysterious correspondent 'Fulcrum' turns out to be Ahsoka Tano. She stays with the Rebel crew throughout the second sea-

son and travels with them to Malachor in the last episode to investigate a mysterious holocron. There, the crew (including Ahsoka) finds Darth Vader. Ahsoka holds him off while the others escape. And she has white lightsabers! It's this super cool black and red color scheme. And at one point she slices open his helmet and sees her Former Masters face staring back at her. It's a confirmation for her that Anakin really did turn into Vader and it's truly heart wrenching to watch. It's hard to explain how much weight and emotion this scene holds (especially if you haven't seen the Clone Wars) but it is spectacular.

#4

Luke Skywalker vs Darth Vader featuring The Emperor - Episode 6, Return of the Jedi

This one is a classic. When Luke finds Vader and attempts to turn him back to the light side it doesn't quite work. Vader turns him in to the Emperor, on the Death Star, who tries to turn him to the dark side like he did Anakin Skywalker. That definitely doesn't work. But Luke does give into his anger by fighting Vader. He almost turns, but at the last second realizes it's not the path he wants to go down. He throws his green lightsaber on the floor and says "I am a Jedi, like my father before me." The Emperor, of course, gets mad and tries to kill him. Before he can, Vader throws him down into the main reactor (which he survived by putting his mind

and powers into a clone of him on Exegol through the Force somehow) and "kills him." So, at the very end of Darth Vader's life, he is Anakin Skywalker again. This scene just holds so much meaning to it. It is truly a Star Wars classic.

#3

Rey (Skywalker) vs Kylo Ren vs The Praetorian Guards (Snoko's Guards) - Episode 8, The Last Jedi

Again with the apprentice betraying the master! At the end of the eighth movie, Rey sacrifices herself to Kylo Ren and Snoko, the Supreme Leader of the First Order. She believed Kylo Ren would turn back to the light. When she arrives on Snoko's ship however, Kylo shows no signs of turning and brings her to Snoko. In Snoko's throne room, Kylo uses Rey as a distraction so he can kill Snoko and take his place as Supreme Leader. Naturally, Snoko's guards start to fight Rey and Kylo. These former(?) enemies then have to work together to fight off the guards. The guards have super cool weapons too. It's not just (basic) lightsaber vs. lightsaber. The red color scheme of Snoko's throne room and the fire all around them makes everything more dramatic. Don't think they work together in the long run though! Once they defeat the guards, they turn on each other, both trying to turn the other to their side. They are both so strong that, when fighting over Luke's lightsaber using the force, they break it in half. This fight is so cool! They have this connection but are still on opposite sides of the war and neither will cave.

#2

Anakin Skywalker/Darth Vader vs Obi Wan Kenobi - Episode 3, Revenge of the Sith

The fight between former master and apprentice has so much emotion. Shortly after Anakin Skywalker turns into Darth Vader (but before he has his suit on) his former master (and best friend) Obi Wan Kenobi tries to turn him back to the light. But Anakin is too far down the path of the dark side because, as Yoda says, "once you start down the dark

path, forever will it dominate your destiny." Not to mention it's on the planet Mustafar, which is covered in lava. It makes it very dramatic and the visuals are *chef's kiss.* Blue lightsaber vs. blue lightsaber with red hot lava all around them. This tear jerking scene is the perfect end to the saddest Star Wars movie. It also has the extremely quotable line "It's over Anakin, I have the high ground!"

#1

Darth Maul vs Obi Wan Kenobi and Qui Gon Jinn - Episode 1, The Phantom Menace

The beginning of this battle isn't rich with meaning but my gosh. The choreography. And the music. And the DOUBLE BLADED LIGHTSABER? It's just so cool to see two Jedi fighting with one Sith but it's still two blades vs two blades. Not to mention the setting is amazing; it's in the Theed Palace on Naboo. And the more specific setting is the plasma refinery, where there are bridges and pits and it all looks so slick and cool! And the most important part to the storyline is when Qui Gon gets stabbed. Obi Wan becomes very angry and fights Maul. His lightsaber falls down a huge pit which he almost falls down as well but he uses the force to jump up, grab Qui Gon's lightsaber and slice Maul clean in half. It causes Maul to fall down the pit (but somehow he still survives, apparently using his hatred against Obi Wan to sustain him. Seriously, what is with these Sith getting thrown down huge pits and surviving?). Like I said. Amazing choreography. As Qui Gon dies he tells Obi Wan "Promise me you will train the boy." That boy being Anakin Skywalker, who eventually leads to Obi Wan and many others' downfall. This is amazing, and if you've never seen it go look it up. You will not regret it. This is the lightsaber battle of all lightsaber battles.

So did you agree with this list? Most of this was me just geeking out about Star Wars but if you're new to the Star Wars fandom these are really great to get into it. I promise, you will not regret checking these out.



Why you should keep watching The Mandalorian only gets better in second full season

Nicholas Streng
Staff Writer

Welcome back to my review of The Mandalorian Season 2. All of the episodes have been released, and I can now give my review of the second half, as well as my final verdict on the season as a whole. And yes, before you ask, yeah, I really am writing this much about one season of a Star Wars spinoff. Let's just jump into it, shall we? If you read part of my review, you know I was liking the show so far, so now to answer how it did overall. Did it successfully continue season one? Was it as good as I hoped it would be?

No.

It was even better.

The last episode of the season hit Disney Plus on December 18, and the whole show now has 16 episodes, with 8 in each season. Many of this season's episodes stick to a formulaic structure in which the Mandalorian and the Child journey to a planet searching for other Mandalorians to tell him where he can deliver the Child to the Jedi, and that was really the premise for the whole season. Sometimes he finds them, sometimes he doesn't, but whoever he meets asks him for help to solve a problem of their own (essentially a side quest), and in return, they usually give a piece of information where he can find another Mandalorian or a Jedi.

The second half of the season stuck to that same structure - for one episode. Then it really changed the game in the last three, which felt much more connected to each other and had surprises at every turn. There were no more side quests because the ending of the show didn't have time for that. It set up a large conflict/plot twist that ended the season with a thrilling and emotional bang. Everything was set up well, with the prominent side characters returning to Mando's side for a big showdown with the show's main antagonist, Moff Gideon, very similar to the ending of season one.

The action and visual effects were taken up a significant notch by increasing the stakes, with excellent directing and acting from the cast and crew. The finale was also very different from the rest of the show, as it felt like I was watching a

Star Wars movie broken into chunks. Up to this point, The Mandalorian was very much a space western show, where the galaxy was the Wild West with little to no laws because the Empire wasn't around anymore, and a lot of elements from old movies are prominent in the show, with Mando being the outlaw whose story we follow. Here at the finale of season two, the Western feel was ditched and the show went full space opera like the other Star Wars movies.

Now onto the full season. As I've said before, the side quest story structure is frustrating and somewhat predictable at times. But to me it really doesn't hurt the show, because each episode still contributes to the overall storyline. The biggest problem I had with season one is that it started out with a strong beginning, but quickly descended into "Weekly Adventures with Mando and Baby Yoda! Where will they go this time?" It deviated from the story being told in the beginning until the last two episodes kicked the show back into gear, and that made many of the episodes just feel like filler to extend the length of the season. While the filler episodes were fun stories on their own, I couldn't help but be frustrated by the fact that the plot was going nowhere. If you asked me to rate the first season, I'd give it a 7/10. Fun episodes, terribly paced story.

The second season is so much better because it has a longer story to tell, having each episode contribute to it in some way. It even manages to take some elements from the filler episodes in season one and add them to the story in a way that makes sense. For instance, Mando hires Mayfeld (a character we met in S1E6) to locate an Imperial cruiser because Mayfeld's ex-Imperial and knows how to. This makes some of the filler elements in season one not feel like filler anymore because we now know they'll eventually link to the main storyline and have a reason for being there.

Now season two has a lot - and I mean, a lot - of side quests, but most of them don't feel like filler, because they exhibit Mando's motivation to find his fellow Mandalorians and the Jedi, to not to men-

Mandalorian, 10



What would Yoda suggest?

Origami Yoda dispenses practical advice to middle schoolers

Jacob Steiner
Staff Writer

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger is a masterpiece. The story is about a weird kid named Dwight who made an origami Yoda that he brings to school, and no one can understand how the Yoda is able to give them actual really good advice on how to solve their problems, like when one kid got

water splashed on his pants which looked like a pee stain, Yoda told him to make all of his pants wet so it doesn't look like he peed himself, thus preventing the kid from making a fool out of himself in front of his classmates.

Because of this unexplainable phenomenon, Tommy decides to gather testimonies from his fellow students who had interactions with the Yoda



Jacob Steiner

Can this piece of folded paper really dispense practical advice?

to find out if it's just Dwight messing with them all or if the origami Yoda is more than just

a folded piece of paper.

What makes this book unique is how the story is told.

Yoda, 8

Hulu is no Netflix

Service has some good exclusives, but overall it falls short

Brodie Olmstead
Staff Writer

In the last decade streaming services have grown immensely in popularity and are by far the most popular way to watch movies and TV. The most popular of those services is Netflix and chances are you own it, with over 50% of the U.S. population owning a subscription.

If you do own Netflix you know that sometimes the movie or show you want to watch isn't on there and you need to look for a different place to watch it. One of the places you've probably come across is Hulu, a Disney owned company that is the second largest streaming service in terms of market share after Netflix. In the article I'll give my opinion on whether or not you should buy Hulu.

Hulu has a pretty wide variety of content to choose from, with movies and shows from all genres being offered. It has titles that cannot be found on Netflix or other streaming services. It also offers Hulu exclusive movies and shows that were produced by the company itself and can only be found on the platform, the most popular being *The Handmaid's Tale* along with *Castle Rock* and *Casual* to name a few.

One of their main selling points is that they are one of the only streaming services to also offer live streaming television. The live TV can be accessed from the main Hulu page where you can access a wide variety of television channels and stations. Hulu offers over 65 on demand channels as well as any local and region-

al channels you may want to watch such as PBS, ABC, CBS, and more.

Now let's talk about cost. Hulu offers four separate payment plans that you can choose from, each one with different features. The first plan you can buy is \$5.99 a month and comes with all of Hulu's content except for the live TV. However, this plan makes it so there are roughly 2-3 ads per 30 minutes throughout whatever you're watching which is quite annoying when trying to immerse yourself in a movie or binge a TV show. The next plan is \$11.99 a month and is the same thing except ad free which comes out slightly cheaper than what Netflix charges. The other two options are \$54.99 and \$60.99 a month which include cable television along with ad free streaming.

Hulu offers a great secondary option for streaming your favorite shows and movies

depending on what you like, but only if you can afford it. I own both a subscription to Netflix and Hulu, and mostly look at Netflix as my primary streaming platform where I go to watch movies, while Hulu is more my second option. The options on Netflix make sense and the amount of content in each category seems right. However, on Hulu the options feel cluttered and strange with what they offer.

Personally I see Netflix as the best streaming service out there and would only recommend buying Hulu if you already have Netflix and want it for the live TV, some of their exclusives or maybe if you find a show you really want to watch.



Yet another streaming service

Peacock lures viewers by stealing The Office

Ted Dobbins
Staff Writer

After they left Netflix, do you miss shows like, *The Office*? Or *Parks and Recreation*? Have you wondered where they went? How can you still watch them? Well there is one answer: Peacock. Peacock is the recently launched NBC streaming service by NBCUniversal. It has gotten much attention recently because of the popular shows that have left other streaming services to join the Peacock library. To the chagrin of many people, numerous shows have left large streaming services to go to Peacock. This brings up a lot of questions, how much is a subscription to Peacock? How many shows and movies does Peacock have? Wait! Peacock is free?

Peacock was recently



Yoda, 7

The book is presented as a case file, with each chapter written as if a specific character wrote it. To help make distinctions, each character has a different font and is written in a different voice, which helps make each character more interesting and unique. Having each chapter written like this also helps with the world building, as we get a better sense of how the world works and the relationships between the characters.

Speaking of characters, there are a lot of them. I'd say the four most important characters are Tommy, Dwight, Kellen, and Harvey. Tommy is the one putting together his case file and you could consider him the main character, Dwight is the main subject of said case file, the social outcast who does things like eat 13 servings of peaches which causes him to throw up, Kellen drew all the pictures, and Harvey is the stick in the mud of

launched over the summer on July 15th 2020. It was launched by Comcast owned NBCUniversal. Peacock has many movies, tv shows, and a good amount of NBC live television. However one of the biggest draws to Peacock is that it is free (yes, you heard me right), Peacock is free to anyone, all you have to do is sign up with your email. However there's a catch, the free version of Peacock does offer a wide selection of movies and tv shows, but there are select titles that are only available on Peacock Premium. What's that? You might ask, there are three tiers to Peacock, first is the free version, this one does have a large amount of content, but some titles aren't available, the free version also has ads/commercials during streaming. The second tier is Peacock Premium, it costs \$4.99 per month and has everything in the normal Peacock and more, it has many exclusives and many shows/movies that are hard to

the group who doesn't believe in Yoda, the antagonist trying to prove that Yoda is a false idol. All four of these characters appear in some form in every chapter, whether it be through comments (every chapter ends with comments from Tommy and Harvey on whether the story helps prove or disprove Yoda) or through the drawings, both of which gives the book more of a personality. There are many, many more characters, but you'll have to read the book yourself to find out about them.

Origami, as we all know, is the greatest thing in the history of everything. And being called the strange case of 'origami' Yoda, you'd expect some origami. This book comes with instructions on how to make your own origami Yoda. The instructions are pretty easy to follow and the end result is a nice representation of Yoda. It's not the one on the cover, but it's still a nice project. I'd recommend it to everyone

find anywhere else, however it still has ads. The third and final tier is Peacock Premium Plus, this is a \$9.99 per month subscription, and it is an ad free version of Peacock Premium.

But how does this compare to other streaming platforms? The free version of Peacock offers 672 films and 249 tv shows, and Peacock Premium offers 730 films and 269 tv shows, whereas Netflix (what's monthly cost does range from \$8.99 to \$15.99) has over 3,800 films. Although it is hard to compare other streaming services to a free platform. However, compared to other streaming platforms, Peacock Premium will have to grow considerably to compare to the gargantuan libraries and subscriber counts of streaming services like Netflix, Amazon Prime and Hulu.

What does Peacock have to offer? Peacock does have popular movies and tv shows, but less than other streaming

just so they can fold the yoda. More people need to fold origami.

There is one tiny little flaw though. This book's target audience is primarily middle schoolers, and just from that you can kind of see what the problem is. The humor is what you'd expect an adult thinks middle schoolers would find funny. Not that the humor is bad --it's one of the reasons you'd want to read this master work-- but it's pretty juvenile. Also, the conflicts are what you'd expect from a story about sixth graders, because the main characters are in 6th grade. If you're a high schooler, just know that it's aimed towards a younger audience, but if you're fine with a more childish tone then I'd recommend it to you. But if you're in middle school, you should read this book because you are the target audience. Also, not that this is a bad thing, but it's a very easy and short read with only 140 or so pages. These ar-

services. However, like other streaming platforms, Peacock has some titles that are so enticing that people might get Peacock just for them. Popular shows like *Parks and Recreation*, *Downton Abbey*, *Psych* and *30 Rock*, are free, and with most of the James Bond movies, there is a lot of free content that people like. Peacock Premium also has many things that might attract subscribers, with shows like *Yellowstone*, many late night talk shows and Premier League soccer. It also offers a vast selection of Alfred Hitchcock movies, which can be very appealing to some people. But in particular, one show that might just have people racing to Peacock Premium is *The Office*, as of January 1st all 9 seasons of the hit NBC show *The Office* left Netflix and headed over to Peacock. Only the first two seasons of *The Office* are on the free version of Peacock, if you want to watch seasons 3-9 you have to sub-

Peacock, 11

Free streaming app delivers, mostly

Tubi has decent anime selections

Hay Ta Kue Moo
Staff Writer

Do you want to watch movies and shows without paying a single dollar? With over 20,000 movies and shows available, and some of them highly rated. Well for those who like saving money, this free streaming app is called Tubi.

Tubi is an app that you can get free on your mobile devices, and you can stream it on your TV. The app has over 40 genres you can explore, it has anime, and a variety of collections that are not on Netflix, but are highly rated on Rotten Tomatoes. It's one of the largest free streaming services with access to over 200 studios, including Warner Brothers, Pixar, MGM, and more. It has features like continue watching which lets you continue where you left off. You can add shows or movies to your list, to make it easier to continue what you're watching. It's occasionally updating, adding or improving its app. Movies and shows are updated usually every week.

Overall, the app is decent. It's simple and easy to use. It has many categories and genres that you can explore. Whenever you watch a movie or a show nothing lags and it plays pretty smoothly. If you're skipping on something you're watching, it usually takes up

to 2-5 seconds for it to load. But it plays out smoothly after the skipping. They have this leaving soon thing where it removes some of the movies that they added, which sucks a bit, but they are usually replaced with new shows and movies they add.

An example for some movie they removed was *How to Train your Dragon*, and one that they added was *Kung Fu Panda*. One small thing I don't like is how you need an account to continue on a show or movie, though it's not a big deal since it's easy to create an account. The ads you get are pretty long, and there are about three ads at least every 45 minutes. Each ad is around 25 seconds totaling 1 minute and 25 seconds.

There's mostly old 80's movies that aren't very relevant, and it has a lot of rip off movies and new releases aren't in this app. Some shows that I've seen have missing seasons, for example they have a missing 3rd season for this anime called *Hunterxhunter*. They don't have original content like Netflix, and again it doesn't have new or much good quality content. What they do have are documentaries and they've recently added a live news section. It's not the best app if you're looking for new releases. It does have tons of stuff you can look for, and it's anime selections aren't too bad.

Discord well worth the cost

App allows you to talk to friends while playing games



Marshall Wasmund
Staff Writer

What is Discord you ask. Discord is a chatting app that can be really useful when you really want to talk to someone when you are playing games and also just regular chatting and calling too. Let me tell you about it.

Discord is a free app that is available on Windows, macOS, Android, and iOS. It was created by a coder named Jason Citron. Discord released as a website in May of 2015. Shortly after its release it became an app. There are over 250 million registered discord users. And the best part is that it is AD FREE.

Discord can be used for many things, like just plain chatting and calling, but it is mostly used for talking while playing video games or streaming video games. Mostly I use it for talking to friends while playing video games

You can also create your own servers and invite friends to it. The layout of a server is not that hard to figure out. All it is is a chat channel and a voice channel and in the voice channel you can facetime. And you can create as many servers as you want for free. There is also a membership you can pay for yearly to get a bunch of things including choosing your own custom tag, larger upload size, make and share custom emojis, and more.

Overall Discord to me is really useful because I can talk to multiple friends at once and I can text them in a single app. It has really helped me communicate to my friends during COVID. "It is Very useful and helps a lot with communicating with my friends," said 7th grader Arlo Northrop-Kiel. I really like everything about Discord, to me there really isn't anything bad about.

I think that everyone should get this if they are having trouble communicating with friends or family. It is really worth the 0 dollars and 0 cents it cost me.

On a mission to find her mom, with detours and turns

Enola Holmes full of twists and turns

Nora Crosby
Staff Writer

How many times can she slip from their grasps? How much longer can she stay one step ahead? Enola stops flailing, she lets her arms and legs go limp, assuming the figure of a dead person. As his grip loosens, she uses the sly corkscrew trick that she learned from her Jiu Jitsu practice, effectively both injuring and confusing him, which gives Enola just enough time to slip away.

Enola (which backward spells alone, as she quite frequently likes to point out) Holmes is a wonderful movie based on the book series by Nancy Springer. It is a humorous, uplifting, and mysterious story all tied together with charismatic characters and a crazy plot. All of the twists and turns creatively intertwined within the story leave you excited and at the edge of your seat. You will continually ask yourself the questions: "What will happen next?" and "How did that happen?" The answer is never very clear.

The movie *Enola Holmes* is directed by Harry Bradbeer and stars multiple famous British actors and actresses. The cast includes Millie Bobby Brown as Enola Holmes, Louis Partridge as Tewkesbury, Henry Cavill as Sherlock Holmes, Sam Claflin as Mycroft Holmes, and Helena Bonham Carter as Eudoria Holmes. The movie was filmed in multiple locations all throughout England. Some of the most notable locations included London, Hertfordshire, and Worcestershire. Filming of the production began in July 2019 and the movie was released in September 2020. According to Sam Claflin, the message from the film, for him, is quite clearly to "embrace your uniqueness."

Enola Holmes is the story of an ambitious and creative young woman, by the same name, who investigates the mysterious disappearance of her mother, Eudoria. On the morning of her sixteenth birthday, Enola awakes to find her mother gone, leaving only the confidence and cleverness she was taught throughout her childhood, along with a few cryptic clues such as "look in my chrysanthemums."

When her two older brothers Sherlock and Mycroft come to send her off to finishing school, Enola realizes that the free and joyous life she led with her mother was disappearing along with her. So she leaves home, disguised as a boy, and sets off on her mission to find her mother. Along the way, Enola meets a young viscount named Tewkesbury who is in the process of running away from his own home and obligations. But his life is also in danger and he desperately needs help. So Enola decides to make a detour and help the floundering viscount with his own mystery, ultimately leading to a larger and more sticky situation than she expected.

Enola faces dangers, excitement, and the thrills of adventure through the fast moving roads of detective work. With the help of some new found friends and convenient disguises, Enola solves not one but two cases. But they aren't necessarily resolved in the way she expected.

I think that *Enola Holmes* is an excellent movie that I greatly enjoyed because it includes a creative plotline, many exciting twists and turns, and intriguing characters.

The plot follows a familiar path of mystery, yet it incorporates new ways of formatting and presenting through the development of the characters and the movement of the story. For example, the story begins with a lighthearted and comical mood but as it progresses and the characters, especially Enola, become more complex, the tone of the story becomes

more exciting and intense. It is well planned out and involves deep thought and consideration, as noticed in the detail of the story. The plotline entices and draws in the viewers using creative elements and story techniques such as multiple forms of viewer interaction.

The story is full of surprising and suspenseful moments that leave you wide eyed and gaping at the screen, like when Enola escapes finishing school (quite fashionably) on a motorbike and redefines the expectations of women and driving. The way the plot and characters move through the story keeps you wondering what happens next. This is represented when parts of the story information are not provided, leaving the viewer to engage themselves in a whole different way. The element of surprise is always used and allows creativity and boldness to present itself in the movie, this is seen when characters or events are not quite up to Enola's unsuspecting standards. The twists and turns keep the movie and its plot original and thought provoking. When you don't exactly know what is going to happen next, the scenes become more enticing; like when Enola tricks her pursuers.

The characters of Enola Holmes present in the story offer a wide variety of personalities, views, and abilities. Multiple beliefs and ways of life are represented; for example, Mycroft has a very traditional view on the different roles men and women should play in society while his mother Eudoria has a very modern and forward thinking view. Each character is well planned out and unique in their performance. Though Enola is based on a book character she was thoughtfully put together while still remaining

Enola Holmes, 10

An unusual adventure

Cucumber Quest is about kids having fun

Chanida Xiong
Staff Writer

The hero always goes on a journey to defeat the villain and save a princess or save the world. That's how a normal adventure story would probably go, but the story *Cucumber Quest* is a little different. When Cucumber receives a letter from his caged up father saying he's the oracle, he doesn't really want to be the chosen one.

Gigi D.G published the *Cucumber Quest* book series in 2011. She shares her art on Twitter and many other platforms. She also sometimes does work for animation and video games. She stated that her work is based on the Paper Mario and Kirby series. She has worked with many

people. For example, she was the writer of the book *Legend of the Fire Princess*, a graphic novel based on the animated TV show *She-Ra, Princesses of Power*. *Cucumber Quest* is her first published book.

"*Cucumber Quest* is a story about kids having fun," is what Gigi D.G said. Cucumber was expected to save the world with a sword and bare hands, when in all honesty he wanted to live as a normal boy who grows up to be a wizard. His sister, Almond, however loves this idea of being a hero to save the world. Cucumber and Almond are like opposites, Cucumber just wants peace and quiet, while Almond searches for adventure and something thrilling to her. Cucumber eventually has to go save the



world either way, with his sister Almond at his side.

As they go around the world to defeat the villain, they are met with the villain's henchmen. They persevere to defeat the villain's subordinates. They meet new people and they find them eventually fighting with the same bad guys all over again.

The characters throughout the story are really loveable, including the villain, and the villain's subordinates. The characters are really well made and thought out. The twist in the characters are really unseen and it has a storyline that covers it. The storyline goes like a regular video game or a normal adventure book, they go on a journey and meet new

Cucumber quest, 10

Two sisters, two moms, one mysterious dad

A cool story written in verse

Antonio Rosell
Staff Writer

Camino and Yahaira are two sisters who never knew each other. They're born to different mothers and live in different countries. Still, they keep in touch with their father. When they lose him in a plane crash, they're equally hurt. "Clap When You Land" by Elizabeth Acevedo is a story about how the sisters react to the situation.

The book is written in verse, and combines poetry with storytelling. Here's an excerpt to give you an understanding of the writing style. This is Camino describing the state of her country.

"I am from a playground place. / Our oceans that we need for fish / are cleared so



extranjeros can kite surf.

Our land, lush & green, is bought / & sold to foreign powers / so they can build / luxury hotels for others to rest their heads.

The bananas & yucca & sugarcane / farmed & harvested, exported, / while kids thank God for every little scrap.

The developed world wastes gas, / raises carbon emissions & water levels / that threaten to disappear us in a single gulp.

Even the women, girls like me, / our mothers & tias, our bodies / are branded jungle gyms."

Each chapter in the book alternates between each sister's point of view. Camino's story takes place in a seaside town in the Dominican Republic, near international hotels and resorts. Yahaira's story takes place in the Morningside Heights neighborhood of New York City.

Camino enjoys swimming and aspires to give her community better access to health care. Yahaira is interested in beauty and fashion. She plays chess. Her father has done a lot for both of them. He helped give Camino access to luxuries like air conditioning & kitchen appliances. He taught

Yahaira how to play chess, and she ended up becoming really good at it.

He was on a plane flight from the United States to the Dominican Republic. The plane crashed, and he didn't survive. The sisters pay attention to the news to try to find out what happened on that flight. Eventually, they find out about each other.

Most of the story has to do with Camino and Yahaira's daily lives, and it felt realistic to me. I felt like the book made me understand what it was like to be these characters. Since the story alternates between Camino and Yahaira, the similarities and differences between the two are evident. For example, Yahaira considers herself more Dominican than American, but Camino thinks the opposite when she finds out about Yahaira.

I thought the story was good. There were one or two things I disagreed with, but they're overshadowed by the rest of the story. It has a very creative and engaging style of writing. This was the first book by Elizabeth Acevedo that I read, and now I'm interested in reading some of her other books.

Forza Horizon 4 review

Not realistic, but a lot of fun

Atticus Brooks-Babcock
Staff Writer

You look through all your cars and you choose a BMW E36. You drive out to the hills of Britain, cruising past big green hills and big forests. You see other cars on the road and join in on them and cruise around.

Forza Horizon 4 was developed by Turn 10 Studios and Playground games. When it came out, it was \$60 for the base game and \$120 for the ultimate edition. All three editions came out on September 28, 2018. You could play it on Xbox or PC.

The game starts out with a long tutorial in which you do races through the four seasons. There really is no story to the game, however, there are businesses that you can buy and they will net you a sum of money every week. FH4's gimmick is that the seasons cycle through summer, fall, winter, and spring. In addition to the seasons changing every week, challenges called "Forza thon live" happen. These challenges consist of tasks such as driving

through a speed camera at a specific speed. If you complete this you will be rewarded with a car or a wheel spin. Wheel spins are kind of like a slot machine, you can get rewards like cars or money. Another new feature from FH4 is that you can buy houses and the aforementioned businesses. There really is no benefit to owning more than one house. You can put all your cars in one house.

The biggest critique I have is that the game isn't realistic. Compared to other more realistic games like *Assetto Corsa* or *RFactor 2*, driving dynamics like body flex, tire grip, and suspension stiffness aren't close at all. But that's not what the game is meant to be really, it's meant to be an accessible multiplayer driving game for people that are looking for fun more than realism. Also if you have a racing wheel the game just isn't good I've tried it but it doesn't feel right. The force feedback settings fall short. The arcade feeling is best paired with a controller.

Overall the positives outweigh the negatives in this

game. The first positive is the amount of cars and car brands right now in game I have about 700 cars. You name it I have it. Whereas in other games like *Assetto Corsa* there are only 70 cars. Another positive is that it is an open world, which means there is so much to do. Right now I have about 600 hours into the game and there is still more to do. Lastly the graphics are amazing. If you're on PC the game looks better than any other game.

Overall I recommend FH4. It is a fun game and I think it's worth \$60. It's an accessible car game for people looking to get into cars, but if you already have many sim games I would say to expect it to feel unrealistic but that doesn't mean it's bad. I have poured hundreds of hours into the game and still play. It's worth the money.



Election, 6

a state known to be the quintessential swing state for two decades. This is mostly thanks to Cubans voting strongly for Trump in Miami Dade county, a historically solid blue county that fell into a single digit margin this year. Trump also replicated a strategy that has served him well throughout the country by running up numbers in rural counties.

In conclusion, there's a lot to be learned from this election. The polls have now underper-

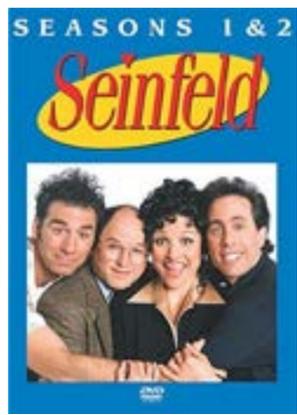
formed expectations twice in a row, which demonstrates them as a less reliable source than previously thought. The Rust Belt states of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania are still winnable for Democrats, but they still have stronger Republican sympathies than many pundits thought. Arizona is following its expected course into swing state territory. Old battlegrounds like Ohio and Colorado are moving strongly towards their respective preferred parties. New battle-

grounds are quietly developing in Texas, North Carolina, and perhaps even Alaska.

Georgia is now instrumental in Democratic national strategy and will remain so for many years to come, and Florida is an even crazier situation than usual as it comes to a crossroads between being a swing state or a GOP stronghold. And these are the things pundits and party leaders alike will be examining tirelessly for the next four years.

The famous show about nothing

90's classic *Seinfeld* is still surprisingly relatable



Otis King
Staff Writer

Okay. This is a challenge. *Seinfeld* is nine seasons and 180 episodes worth of memorable moments and hilarious gags that make this show a completely transcendental experience. Binging this show made me realize two things. Thing 1: I am totally wasting my life away and should instead, be working on my mental health or getting super strong like those cool people from the Instagram I've been hearing about. Thing 2: the '90s were a rockin' good time for Jewish comedians.

This infamous show about nothing that I had heard about for so long proved to be exactly what everyone said it would be from the get-go. Ridiculously

funny nothingness. This stuff doesn't happen yet it feels SO REAL and SO RELATABLE. I was originally going to dedicate this story to write about how the show has held up over the years, but I realize that it would be way too short if I stuck to that. The fact is, as the 90s as this show is, with its crushed velvet, colorful blazers, and weirdly baggy khakis, the stories, and the struggles are still fully applicable and hilarious.

The characters and the chemistry between the actors was one of two main reasons that this show worked so well in the '90s and continues to work well today. It's a special moment when the cast of any great show really clicks for the first time. Sometimes it's earlier and sometimes it's later. In *Seinfeld's* case, I believe it happened for the first time in the season 2 episode "The Jacket."

Like most episodes of this show, the plotline is ridiculously simple on the surface, but when told by the writing geniuses of Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David, it becomes merely a launching point. The episode is about a fancy suede jacket that Jerry happens across, but once he buys it he finds it is ex-

tremely difficult to keep nice, whether it's surprising rain or badly timed spills. But the jacket isn't the only plot point in the episode. Along with trying to guess what Jerry could have possibly paid for the jacket, George (now stuck with me on this) has a song from *Les Misérables* stuck in his head.

I know, I know! Stupidly simple, but just as with the jacket, it's a hilarious jumping-off point for the writers, and by the end of the episode, when Jerry's jacket is ruined and George thinks he's gone insane you will be begging for more. This is the first episode in which we truly see what the show can be and will remain to be at least until season 8. Now this definitely isn't the perfect episode, but to me, it really gives you a taste of what's to come, and that it can only get better with time.

Speaking of getting better with time, I believe (like most people) that season four and five is when the show really peaked. At this point, the writers and the actors had REALLY found their groove, and an Emmy win proves my point. Alright. The Emmy winning episode. Let's talk about that.

The Emmy winning leg-

endary episode of *Seinfeld* is entitled, "The Contest." George, an adult in his thirties, is forced to move back in with his parents. Unfortunately, his mother walks in on her grown adult son in an embarrassing, private moment...alone. When George discusses this horrific experience with his friends, the idea for "The Contest" is proposed: How long can each of them abstain from this very personal activity?

This may seem a little crude for 90's TV, but that is why it was so groundbreaking. Who will win this "contest?" Could it be Elaine, level headed and determined (who also had to put up two one odds), Jerry the antisocial pessimistic comedian (narcissistic to an almost sociopathic degree), George (the most-likely-to-be-single), or Kramer (an erratic walking heart attack of a man)? Hilarity ensues as the guys mostly spiral, especially when spotting a naked woman across the street walking around her apartment. The episode also gave us the legendary quote, "but are you still master of your domain?"

In closing, I definitely recommend this show and it has taken at least the number 3 spot on my favorite tv shows of all time.



The best option

D & D app Roll20 is an okay substitute for the real thing

Elzo Van Genderen
Staff Writer

What does Dungeons & Dragons look like in this quarantine setting? Ever since we've been trapped in our homes, you couldn't go to your friends house and have some snacks and roll some dice. This has left a large community unable to play D&D. The hunt for an easy and fitting role playing website began, and Roll20 came to the rescue.

Roll20 was Originally launched in September 2012, but as of February 2020, when quarantine rolled around, the website now has over one million users. So why is Roll20 so popular? What does it do right?

Well it's very professional with its nice dice system, well made character sheets, and built-in camera so you don't have to use a third party cam-

era system, which is better for the DM's story telling.

Be warned that the website only works on a computer. You can use it on an iPad or phone, but it's hard to get anything done. Rolling dice is somewhat tedious. You can use the chat to roll your dice, but that is a bit confusing and sometimes only stalls the game longer. Also zooming in and out is a nightmare, with it being a browser website. My sister ran into these problems immediately when she was playing with her friends, and she is now using the computer.

With the immense popularity of Roll20 since quarantine started, most likely it will go down in popularity when quarantine ends. Overall the website is good for a D&D session, not as great in person, but it's the best thing out there.

David fights Wall Street Goliath

Reddit group sticks it to the hedge fund folks

Leo Dungan-Seaver
Staff Writer

The modern day David vs Goliath. Wall Street versus the stimulus check Andys. In the past week, the stock market experienced one of the most historic upsets of all time.

Melvin Capital, an investment management firm, took a huge loss, all because of a group on Reddit. R/wallstreetbets, a subreddit dedicated to risky trades, saw that Melvin had shorted -- where a company or firm invests in a stock going down, by borrowing the stock at a set price and selling

it back when the stock has gone down to make the difference in profit -- billions of dollars against Gamestop.

Wallstreetbets (WSB) decided to rally the stock to force the firm to sell the shares back at a higher price, causing a short squeeze. A short squeeze is when a stock that has been shorted begins to spike, causing a scramble from the short sellers (Marvin Capital) forcing them to buy more, which feeds into the rising price.

WSB's push to rally the Gamestop stock gained traction, thanks to tweets from

people like billionaire and Tesla founder Elon Musk. The trend made its way around social media and caused GME to skyrocket from \$20 a share to almost \$170. This spike continued to almost \$250, which caused Melvin Capital to close their short at an unprecedented \$5 billion loss.

Later, widely used brokerage app Robinhood shut down the stock, meaning that people

with shares in the stock could either hold on to their stock or sell it, but no one on the app could buy more, bringing GME's streak to a crashing halt. Multiple class action lawsuits have been filed against Robinhood for market manipulation, as the brokers on wall street could still do whatever they wanted with the stock, but casual traders no longer have complete control over their shares.



tifs/themes of other characters are incredibly well done.

Speaking of other characters, yeah, this show really went overboard with the nostalgic cameos here, and just nostalgia, period. Nostalgia can be fun, but in some cases, like the Star Wars sequel trilogy, such blatant attempts to please the diehard fans can be excruciatingly annoying because essentially it's Disney yelling at us, "Hey, remember this place? Remember this character?" So how the heck did Mandalorian manage to do it so much better? It's simple: the fan service isn't just fan service, it actually works as part of the story.

The nostalgic characters from different Star Wars media, instead of stealing the show and kicking Mando to the side, trigger character growth in him when they interact with each other and their appearance makes sense in the overall storyline. They have connections with Mando and the other characters originating from the show. (If I went into this in greater detail, though, that would be spoiler

territory.) The only problem I see is that some of them get one scene where the spotlight is shown on them alone, but fortunately the spotlight is shifted right back to Mando and the Child afterward. The fan service is also kind of essential to *The Mandalorian*, because it's not just a space western - it's a love letter to the Star Wars franchise and it's fanbase. There's something from just about every area of the franchise's lore to enjoy here, and yet it doesn't confuse the casual audience who's only seen *The Mandalorian* and not much else from Star Wars.

So, yeah, I thought this season was great, in case you couldn't tell that from all my yammering. It's made the whole show go higher on my list of favorite Star Wars stories. What began as a completely unnecessary Baby Yoda spinoff has grown to be something so much more, and yet the story isn't over. I'll give *The Mandalorian* Season 2 an overall score of 8/10 and can't wait to see where this show goes next.

Mandalorian, 7



tion he has a lot more character development during each one, and he gets to interact more with fellow characters instead of beating everyone up and being the action hero. As he travels the galaxy with the Child, he begins to change from a cold and ruthless mercenary to a less hostile character who grows to care deeply for the Child, and he also is challenged by other characters he meets about his Mandalorian origins and what it truly means to be one. At the end of the season, you can tell just how much he's changed from how he was in the beginning of the show, despite barely seeing his face.

Also, I can't leave this review finished without praising the cast for their performances, particularly Pedro Pascal for managing to make a character who wears an emotionless helmet be a surprisingly emotional character, and Giancarlo Esposito for portraying one of the most intimidating villains (Moff Gideon) that I've seen in a while in Star Wars. I already talked about the musical score in part 1 of this review as well, but I'd like to mention it again here. Ludwig Goransson did the impossible by making me sit through every credits sequence to listen to the Mandalorian theme, and his reworkings of the mo-

Women have to be on high alert

Men don't always appreciate how unsafe women may feel

Adajia Torres-McClain
Staff Writer

Each year around 433,648 women become a victims of violence or sexual assault. Women in the age range of 16-19 are four times more likely to be victims of attempted rape, or sexual assault. Women in the age range of 18-24 are three times more likely to experience sexual violence. For years women have been degraded and left feeling like they aren't safe in certain areas.

The female staff at OWL said that they felt prepared to defend themselves if they needed to. Nora Krings, English teacher, said, "I think everyone should have the right to defend themselves if necessary. It would be nice if we didn't have to though." Science teacher Rebecca Palmer said "I feel that i could defend myself to the best of my ability, but men in general are stronger than women so women need to use a variety of resources

that help make up for what they lack in physical ability, such as mace, putting my keys in between my knuckles when I walk alone at night, kicking in certain places, a whistle, or screaming or some sort of panic button, etc."

Sometimes women are scared to walk down the street or hang out with friends and just hang. Women in general feel like they have to be always on high alert. Men, what do you think about women having to feel afraid of on a day-to-day basis? Just imagine if the roles were reversed. Think about what the girls go through or feel when a handful of you take advantage of them.

In summary, guys it's hard for a woman to go through this and it's harder for her to get over it if it happens. I know some members of my family have gone through this. Having to live in constant fear isn't something we ask for.

Enola Holmes, 9

classic and lovable. The variety of aspects each character puts forth provides an exciting movie with characters that the viewers can both love and hate. When there is a mix of

bold, forward thinking, and compassionate characters compared to cruel, disagreeable, and selfish characters it creates a contrast that excites the viewers and keeps them interested.

Cucumber Quest, 9

people who can help them, while they do that they also may have to defeat subordinates of the real villain.

I would definitely recommend this book to people who

like adventure as well as people who like short, small and fun books to read. It's a really fun book to read. It's also an easy read if you're not the reading type of person, it takes a short time to finish it too!



KUWTK canceled

Reality standby delivered 13 years of drama

Gabrielle Her
Staff Writer

The show Keeping up with the Kardashians has officially come to an end after 20 seasons lasting 13 long years. "It is with heavy heart that we've made a difficult decision as a family to say goodbye to Keeping up with the Kardashians," said Kim Kardashian West.

The world was shocked when the Kardashian/Jenner family announced that they would not be continuing. Beauty influencer James Charles said "I was beyond shocked." Just like James Charles the world of reality TV was surprised. KUWTK is a reality TV show showcasing the family's daily life since 2007.

Keeping up with Kardashians is a dramatic, heartfelt reality show. This show is unlike any other in terms of high drama, although Dance Moms is close. The most iconic episode is when Kim Kardashian loses her diamond earring in the ocean in the episode "Trouble in Paradise" during season 6. Kim loses her \$75,000 diamond earring after her then husband Kris Humphries, a former NBA player, throws her in the water. The most iconic line was "OMG my diamond earring, OH MY GOD my earring, OH MY GOD I'm going to cry," Kim says while holding both of hers ears. This was a classic dramatic yet funny moment for viewers, but not so funny for Kim.

Later, Kylie Jenner runs up to her sobbing sister after she finds her diamond earrings in the Bora Bora waters. She said

"I literally found it in two minutes." So Kim's earring isn't in the water anymore, sadly, but I bet there are more fancy items that were lost in the Bora Bora waters.

We love drama, but we also love watching the sisters cat fight. Season 18 episode one, their last filmed season ever, Kim and Kourtney get into this big fight. "I believe me and Khloe do the most for mom," says Kim. Kourtney then comes back up from her seat and ends up rumbling with Kim. One thing leads to another and Kim and Kourtney end up fighting, like fist fighting. They fight until both of their sisters Kendall and Khloe can break them apart. "You're always choosing sides, that's what I hate about you Khloe," says Kourtney. The fight was one of the biggest fights ever between the sisters. It was funny because they started the argument over a trip to Paris. But they later made up and became sisters again and went on a trip to Armenia. Yeah, I know, it's dramatic.

The show made you run through multiple emotions -- funny, cringy, and even sad in parts -- but we'll all miss the drama between the families. I'll for sure miss watching Kim and Kourtney's fights. The show was supported by the channel "E!" E! Is a network channel that has made so many TV reality shows, like Total Divas with Sasha Banks and the Bella twins. But for all and for most KUWTK has been E!'s best show they've ever aired. I'm sure we'll miss the family but we can always keep up with them on the social media platforms TikTok and Instagram.

Peacock, 8

scribe to Peacock Premium.

In my opinion, you should definitely get the free version of Peacock, it offers so many movies and shows for free, and which makes the ads and commercials worth it. However Peacock Premium and Peacock Premium Plus, might not be as worth it. Peacock Premium adds more variety and some very popular titles, but I think subscribing to it is just up to if you like the titles on it. I think Peacock Premium Plus might not be worth it, because \$4.99 more just to remove ads might not be the best investment.

You should get Peacock, it's free and has a decent amount

of good content. However, Peacock Premium and Peacock Premium Plus are up to you, if you want the exclusive titles or you don't want ads, go for it. My overall opinion is, get Peacock.



Parks and Rec is one of the shows available on Peacock.

Lord of the Flies, but girls

Reality show features teens stuck on an island

Ben Lodahl
Staff Writer

Nine teenage, high school girls are signed up for a women's summer empowerment retreat, the "Dawn of Eve" in Hawaii, but end up on a plane falling straight into the sea. They wake up scattered across the ocean, each one trying to make it to the nearby island. They all eventually make it onto the island with what seems like minimal injuries, but that doesn't change the fact that they are stranded on a deserted island, only with the supplies that the ocean tide decides to bring them. That is the simple premise of The Wilds.

The Wilds was released December 11, 2020 onto Amazon Prime video. There are 10 episodes released all at the same time, ranging from 45 minutes to an hour. After its initial release on December 11, it was renewed by Amazon for a second season on December 19, 2020. The show was filmed in various locations across New Zealand. Because of all the COVID-19 restrictions that come with filming and producing a show, the second season isn't expected to come out until late 2021 at the earliest or sometime early 2022.

The Wilds is directed by eight different people, with John Polson directing three episodes and everyone else directing one episode. The show is starring all women with Sophia Ali as Fatin Jadmani, Shannon Berry as Dot Campbell, Jenna Clause as Martha Blackburn, Reign Edwards as Rachel Reid, Helena Howard as Nora Reid, Mia Healey

as Shelby Goodkind, Erana James as Toni Shalifoe, Sarah Pidgeon as Leah Rilke, and Rachel Griffiths as Gretchen Klein.

All the characters meet up on the plane ready for their retreat. Most of the characters already know someone else on the trip. Leah and Fatin were not friends but both went to the same school in California. Shelby and Dot also weren't friends but went to school together in Texas. Rachel and Nora are sisters, not on good terms, from New York City. Toni and Martha are best friends from Minnesota who are as close as sisters. Jeanette is the only one who doesn't know anyone else on the trip, and she's from San Francisco. Shelby suggests an ice breaker of splitting into pairs and telling your partner about yourself, then telling the rest of the group about their partner.

In the middle of the game the plane starts to shake, the lights start to flicker. Everyone knows what is happening but everyone reacts in a different way. Toni immediately runs over to Martha where they sit in a chair hugging each other for comfort, Fatin starts to cry, Jeanette turns up her music all the way, closes her eyes and ears, trying to shut everything out, Dot lights a cigarette and starts to smoke, Rachel shovels as much cake into her mouth as she can, Nora goes into a protective position to brace herself for the crash, Shelby starts to pray, and Leah reads her book.

Everyone comes to, scattered around from the middle

of the ocean to already on the island. Leah wakes up in the middle of the ocean where she sees Jeanette floating next to her. Jeanette has some bad bruising over her stomach and Leah helps drag her to shore. Toni was already on the island and looking for Martha, while Dot tries to comfort Fatin who is crying and in shock. Nora finds Rachel and is trying to comfort her while she throws up. Martha is getting sucked out into the ocean by a current and Shelby runs into the water and saves her but Martha's ankle is in really bad shape. Eventually all the girls convene on the shore and now have to try and survive on a deserted island until they hopefully get rescued.

I really enjoyed watching The Wilds, it had very interesting characters who had deep backstories and complex development throughout the series. Most people don't wear everything about themselves on their shirt and try to keep it inside but considering the intense circumstances it isn't a surprise when some of the characters break their shell and their true personality comes out. For example Leah who initially seems like a calm, quiet person starts to go a little crazy on the island and starts getting mad and accuses people of sending them all to the island on purpose. There is enough of a variety of characters to easily find one or more that you can relate to. The show is very funny with lots of quick witted comments and jokes from the characters. I rate this show five stars out



of five because of the reasons I listed above.

Just as a disclaimer this show is on the mature side. Amazon recommends only watching this show if you are 16 years old or older and I agree with that recommendation. I liked this show a lot and would recommend it to just about anyone who thinks it sounds the littlest bit interesting after reading about it. More specifically I recommend this show to anyone who likes a show with action, drama, and some mystery.

I would say this show is pretty equally split between survival and drama and those two different genres really play off each other. If you've been on a deserted island for weeks and wake up in the middle of the night with your whole camp being flooded, with the few belongings you have floating away because of the tides it is easy to find someone to cast blame onto causing both verbal and physical fights. Overall it was really good and I would watch it again.

Umbrella Academy ready to go

Netflix series begins filming for its third season this February

Avery Koll
Staff Writer

On November 10th 2020, almost five months after season two was aired, the Umbrella Academy accounts on Twitter and Instagram announced that production for season 3 will begin this month.

At the end of season two we were briefly introduced to some new characters, and in January the Umbrella Academy shared who will be playing these new characters on so-

favorite dysfunctional siblings will still be in the show.

Speaking of the dysfunction siblings, in December the person who plays Vanya came out as transgender and non-binary on Instagram and Twitter. Elliott Page will continue to play Vanya on the Umbrella Academy, while most people probably were pleased that Elliott will continue to play Vanya, some still wonder why a trans male would continue to play a female role. Playing a female role as a trans man could possibly lead to dysphoria, but Eliot built the character of

Vanya, and that's their character. Honestly, I think nobody could play Vanya better.



Vaccine, 5

allotment of 2,059 in the final week of January. Walz disclosed on Friday the 22nd that if the Biden administration can achieve its goal of 100 million vaccines in 100 days, the state could be close to reaching herd immunity. This would require 3 million completely vaccinated citizens.

Several parents and relatives of OWL students have received their vaccines already, mainly through healthcare positions or the lottery pilot program. One of these people was Dr. Claudia Cohn MD, Associate Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Minnesota, also known as 11th grader Karina Bary's mom. She received both

doses of the Pfizer vaccine this

winter due to her direct patient contact.

"The first vaccine I got a sore arm and it remained sore for 2-3 days...the second one about 12 hours after receiving the vaccine I had terrible rigors," she said. "Most people I know had something, some people had shaking chills, some people were nauseated, some people had diarrhea, but I know a few people who had nothing." But there's no one way of telling how different people will or won't react to the covid vaccines. In spite of the side effects, Dr. Cohn said, "I trust the science, if Dr. Fauci and Francis Collins tell me it's a safe vaccine then I accept that."

Widespread vaccinations would of course help our

school community get back into in-person learning and push us back into "normal" life. There's still a long way to go before that, but the possibility raises an array of questions. Would students get vaccines? Would they be required? Would everyone need one?

It's unlikely that there would be a law requiring vaccinations because of provisions in our state's laws allowing for opt-outs and medical expectations, however, OWL school nurse Jim Patterson said, "Requiring proof of immunization (unless medically contraindicated) before being allowed to attend school is justified from a public health standpoint because we have eliminated so much misery, prevented disability and death, and avoided the

expenditure of untold sums of money for treatment and rehabilitation through the use of vaccines, which are safe and effective."

As for whether we'd all need a vaccine, that depends on how many other people in the state have been vaccinated and whether or not there is any evidence of herd immunity.

The primary challenge remains ensuring vaccines for teachers, but I know plenty of students are likely eager to receive the vaccine ourselves. This is still an unpredictable issue. What is known so far is that the Pfizer vaccine is authorized for use of 16 year olds and up, and the Moderna vaccine starts at 18. Studies are ongoing to determine if these minimum ages can be lowered.