

# THE PONY EXPRESS

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By Mairin Torgerson

An 8 a.m. wake up call had the class of 2021 bundled up in jackets and blankets to gather on the football field to enjoy donuts and watch the sunrise together. Labeled the “Senior Sunrise,” it was the first of its kind to happen at Stillwater Oct. 2. The student council planned it in an effort to celebrate the seniors and be able to bring them together while being able to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

With the recent announcement that the football season was to return with the stipulation of no fans besides family, many seniors and students were left disappointed. Attending football games is a longstanding tradition and for seniors, “making it to the fence” is a right of passage. Due to COVID-19, students have had to get innovative with how to celebrate.

“I think that the seniors need to, including myself, create their own fun. It is not going to be at all like last year with no school dances or football games,” senior Holly Knowlan said.

Students of all grades have been affected, but specifically the seniors of 2021 have had it hard with their junior prom being cancelled last year, and their entire senior year being changed. Not being able to have school events has been tough for many, but students are trying to make the most of it nonetheless.

“If I could tell my freshman self one thing as a senior it would be to truly ‘live in the moment’ because you never know if it might be your last,” senior Jackson Wertish explained.

Many showed up for the event with a positive attitude and smiles, ready to enjoy whatever they can, however they can. An important aspect of being a senior is trying to make the most of what is offered, as reality sets in that it is the last year of high school.

Longtime and beloved business teacher Debbie Drommerhausen felt, “So proud of everybody and how we are making this work,” and realizes how tough COVID-19 has been on everyone, but at least the community is working together.

The senior sunrise marked how the district is working to still create a fun environment for celebration while

## “Senior Sunrise”

### New event celebrates COVID-19 Style



by Mairin Torgerson

Seniors of the class of 2021 gather on the football field on Oct. 2 in order to celebrate senior year and hang out. Masks were worn and social distancing guidelines were enforced.

adapting to regulations. It was able to be outside where students could spread out, but still be with friends.

Wertish thought it was a well put-together and nice gesture for the seniors of 2021 who are truly missing out on numerous activities and memories that come along with a normal senior year. Being able to hangout with friends is something most students look forward to and this event allowed them to do so. The event fostered school spirit and the students who used it as an opportunity to have fun benefitted from themselves.

“Some people will have negative attitudes about this stuff and say it is dumb, but when you got a group to go it was fun,” Knowlan added.

“People are doing it, they are wearing their masks, and they are walking the one-ways, I think the students are getting it,” Drommerhausen

said. Though not every senior showed up for the event, the ones who did represented the spirit still ingrained in the graduating class and

the willingness they have to work around their obstacles and stay safe. COVID-19 rages on, but Stillwater is pushing through as best they can.



Photo by Mairin Torgerson

The event was organized by student council with help from marketing teacher Debbie Drommerhausen in order to make up for special events seniors would not be able to enjoy.



Learn about administrations plan to fight for racial justice. Page 2



Learn about Ana Weaver's impact on the cross country team. Page 4



Learn about new club focused on fighting for the environment. Page 11

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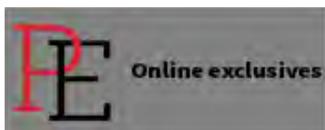


PHOTO BY JOHN PIEKARSKI

### Debate team begins their season online

The Stillwater debate team has found success in recent years, and with new COVID-19 guidelines, debate has been forced to adapt and change how they operate. As of now, all debate team competitions will be held exclusively online. Debate participants are working with NSDA's (National Speech and Debate Association) Campus and Tabroom to compete each Saturday.

Senior Allison Shore has reservations about the new format. "There are so many little intricacies that go into every single debate round, it's just going to be made so much more difficult to pick up on your opponent's usual vocal or facial tells," Shore explained.



### Granger Taft joins English department

The school recently added a new member to their English team, Granger Taft, who teaches English 9. Taft taught at Dakota Hills Middle School and Park High School for a few years before joining Stillwater. He knew the school was a good fit for him because he believes in the vision that teachers and administrative team have as they know what education should look like.

Taft explained the vision, "Challenging students with learning experiences that foster the kind of curiosity and excitement that sends them out into the post-high-school world hungry to learn more."

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# Administration takes step towards racial equality

By Cassidy Gilliam

In response to students' push for racial justice, administration implemented a new 2020-2023 Achievement and Integration Plan with five main areas of focus. The first area of focus is student programming, which deals with meeting the needs of the students and bringing more representation to the school district.

One part of the student programming portion is the Summer Success program, where AVID students who are interested in being teachers work with elementary children over the summer who may need extra help.

"Our teaching staff is not representative of the students and families that we serve," Integration Specialist Eric Anderson said. "One of the ways that we're addressing this is by working with our high school AVID students that are even interested in exploring the teaching profession. And we're giving them the opportunity to work as what we call a student leader, student teachers in our summer success, elementary summer school program."

This program helps with engaging the elementary students while also bringing more BIPOC representation into the district. Senior Olivia Hovland is one of these student leaders who worked directly with students doing interactive activities and projects.

"The kids are really engaging with the teachers more and the actual curriculum," Hovland said. "I noticed that they grew really attached to the student leaders and it helped motivate them."

Another factor of Student Programming is self-identity. Cultural liaison Cornelius Rish is leading a curriculum in which he goes to English classes and teaches an activity called "My Multicultural Self".

"A lot of times kids don't understand that they have culture, especially kids from a Caucasian, white or European background," Rish explained. "So this activity talked about multicultural selves, and then also embedded in that, cultural conflict and conflict and how to resolve those when my identity clashes with yours, and how can we work through those pieces."

Along with the classroom curriculum, Rish is going to be working with an advisory group of students to work directly with administration on their policies and protocols with racial inequity and how they are implemented within the district.



Photo by Cassidy Gilliam

Cultural Liaison Cornelius Rish presents a piece as Tom Robinson from 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee in the Main Forum. He presented to a ninth-grade class to help teach the history of race and the significance of slurs used in books.

## Cornelius Rish

What is he looking forward to?

- 1) Building genuine, authentic relationships with students and staff!
- 2) Helping our students and staff be their best selves!
- 3) Working, Coaching, Advising, and Creating in a great district that has wonderful traditions.

Read more online at <https://sahsportyexpress.com/>

# Nutrition Services team provides free meals through December

By Sophia Arndt

The Nutrition Services Staff work tirelessly to provide free healthy meals to the students and families of the Stillwater District. These meals are provided through the Congress approved United States Department of Agriculture grant that expires Dec. 31. As the deadline approaches, schools hasten to cement a plan for student meals.

In a public statement, the USDA stated they would extend the deadline of the grant until Dec. 31 or until funding runs out. These flexibilities allow summer meal programs to continue to provide free meals for students into the fall semester and for hybrid and online students to receive "grab-and-go" meals.

### USDA free and reduced lunch program

Students participating in free/reduced lunch in the Stillwater Area district: 8,250

USDA has delivered almost 40 million meals to low-income families

Students participating in free/reduced lunch in MN: 39,822

Average meal price:  
Elementary school \$2.48  
High school \$2.74

Approximately 29% of public school students in Minnesota are eligible for free lunch

Graphic by Abby Thibodeau

Made to order burritos, in Downtown Stillwater

RIVER MARKET Community Co-op

"We are distributing meals on Fridays for distance learners but this is open to the entire district and may include kids not in school or not even in our district," Kelley Linquist, supervisor of nutrition services, said. "We provide pre-packaged meals to go at the high school for students leaving for early dismissal, as well as to go to the container in the cafeteria if they want to grab something from there. We are also providing grab and go breakfast in the rotunda to help ensure all students have access to meals."

Recently, new concerns have emerged about what will happen after the deadline is reached, especially by families who are currently relying on these meals. Once the grant has expired, meals will no longer be free to students and schools must now make the transition back to paid meals smoothly.

Stillwater Nutrition Services plan on immediately moving to Student Nutrition Program, meaning students will pay for their meal.

"After the waivers expire, we will move to the SNP. This will be the same model we've always followed while school is in session," Linquist said. "We will have students scan their bar codes and students who are approved for free/reduced meals will receive breakfast and lunch for free, students who have not been approved will be charged for the meals."

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# Weaver helps inspire a character upcoming

Bella Godfrey

Science teacher Andrew Weaver has a character based on him in the upcoming film "Clouds", which is being released Oct. 16 on Disney+ about the inspirational life of former graduate Zach Sobiech. Weaver has inspired a role as Sobiech's favorite teacher and someone who helped him push to live his best life.

Andrew's character is being played by Lil Rel Howery. The producers did use Andrew's name, however the teacher in the film will be an English teacher rather than a science teacher.

"Lil Rel was not at the party, but Justin Baldoni called him and Mr. Weaver was able to leave him a message," guidance counselor and wife, Sandra Weaver said. "Of course encouraging him to make him proud of his character representation. As we met each of the cast members, Justin introduced Mr. Weaver as 'The Real Mr. Weaver' and everyone seemed genuinely impressed to meet him."

Andrew and Sobiech also made the music connection. The both of them played the guitar and wrote songs

"Mr. Weaver planned a little concert for his classes in the spring of Zach's sen-

ior year and, although Zach was struggling with his health, he made a special trip into the high school to watch it. That said a lot to me about the importance Mr. Weaver played in Zach's life. Mr. Weaver was so touched by that event," Sandra said.

In 2009, at age 14, Sobiech was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma. He had a very strong family behind him. Laura Sobiech, his mother, wrote a memoir called "Fly a Little Higher" on which the film is based.

Andrew said Zach had a great family to support him. His mother wrote a very honest and courageous book about her journey in Zach's life. He was loved by many great family and friends.

Sobiech's song, "Clouds" was created to spread his musical gift and awareness. The song even hit #1 on iTunes seven years ago.

"I learned about how to be humble and make the most of your time. Zach did great things like creating awareness for cancer with a beautiful song," Andrew explained. "One of my favorite experiences with Zach was attending a musical party which he planned and played at when things seemed at their worst."

Sobiech was a huge inspiration to everyone



Photo by Cassidy Gilliam

Science teacher Andrew Weaver holds a quail egg in his classroom. Weaver inspired a role in the movie "Clouds," a movie based on former student Zach Sobiech.

who knew him. One of his biggest messages was to live your best life and not wait to do it. Therefore inspiring a wide range of people.

"To me living your best life is taking what life gets you and making it yours. You cannot control what you get in life, but what you make of it is up to you," senior Liv Myers said. "People who live their best lives live deliberately in the moment and

make something incredible out of what they are given. Everyone's 'best life' is completely different, but equally inspiring."

On Andrew's science side of things, Weaver heads the Raptor Propagation Program. He has permits in Stillwater for raptor propagation, radio telemetry of wildlife and scientific collections. He also is a member of Marine and Fire rescue.

Myers said Andrew push-

es her and other students to "connect what we learn in class about the natural world to our lives." His class has a heavy emphasis on hands-on activities, challenging his students to "really dig deep and apply our knowledge to real studies." Myers explained. "His sheer knowledge on the subject also stands out to me. You never know where his lectures will take you, but it's always super interesting and opens your eyes to something new."

## C-day, 100% online learning effects remote learners

Nissa Wilcox

For the 2020-2021 school year, students have a new option called C-day, a 100% online learning option to reduce social interactions with other students to prevent COVID-19. Although C-day students have little to no risk of catching COVID-19, their learning and interactions may not be the same. C-day students will have no in-person learning and teachers will not meet students in person. Instruction will be completely online although the platform may mirror the Hybrid model with the Schoology curriculum. One hundred percent of online students have three classes and virtual interaction with teachers.

This year, the C-day option is available to students in any grade and can even be teachers, the option of C-day is available to anyone looking to stay safe from COVID-19, or possibly even looking for more flexibility in their school schedule. C-day students have a three-period schedule like hybrid A and B students and have either hybrid teachers or C-day teachers.

English teacher Jessica Booker, a 100% online teacher, holds "one synchronous lesson a week via Zoom with both English 12 and English 10E. I also do several video lessons

a week that I upload onto YouTube and that students have access to from Schoology. This makes me feel like it is a more 'typical' school experience, and my students have indicated that they like the video lessons and verbal directions to go alongside the written directions."

"I have had to be adaptable with both my curriculum and how I deliver the content. Many things are simply better equipped to be done in person/in the classroom."

Jessica Booker

C-day is a completely new option this year, aside from distance learning last spring, the effectiveness of a completely online schedule is unknown. The type of learner a student is and their ability to comprehend information without as much teacher support a hybrid student may receive will have a considerable impact on

the success a student has with C-day.

"I struggle sometimes. I have lots of questions and sometimes teachers can't answer them that fast. I'll email that would take like sometimes even days for a response to just one question. Without as much support it is harder than when I was physically in class," sophomore Kate Sabbling said.

Unlike distance learning last spring, C-day students did not have the opportunity to meet their teachers in person before starting the school year. Although most students and teachers have met over zoom, the student-teacher relationship may not be the same as in previous years.

Booker said this has been the hardest part of having 100% online classes. Last spring when the district had to move into emergency distance teaching, teachers had the benefit of knowing their students and classes so the connections were already there. With 100% online at the onset of the year, there are some students Booker has not gotten to know as well because of the nature of how the learning is taking place. She values the synchronous lessons and office hours she has so she can connect with her students.

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# Cross country star Ana Weaver leaves lasting impact on team

## Weaver leads the team in a strong season

Marisa Fredrickson

Senior Ana Weaver is a well known athlete and has been in cross country since freshman year. She used to play soccer and she wanted a little change. She chose cross country because it was a fall sport to take the place of soccer, and she enjoyed running during soccer practice.

This season is a little bit different, but that is not going to stop her. This season she has been practicing with the boys cross country team.

“Scott Christensen has really helped me develop deeper as an athlete. Being able to work hard in training next to the best ranked boys team in the state is really a privilege

that I am so thankful for. The guys push me mentally and physically and have really helped me improve my speed, but mainly they have helped me by being there and working hard. When you know others are working just as hard as you, it allows you to push yourself even more,” Weaver said.

Cross country has brought Weaver many friendships like sophomore Avery Braunshausen. Weaver and Braunshausen have been running with each other for four years. Weaver has influenced Braunshausen to stay motivated and inspired her to be her best.

According to Braunshausen, Weaver is inspirational and motivational be-

cause she is always pushing the team to be their best. Braunshausen said in her opinion, Weaver has accomplished every runner’s dream in high school.

Not only has cross country given Weaver multiple different friendships, it also has pushed her to be successful. It has proven to her that hard work and determination pays off. She loves training and seeing others work hard with her.

“The sport has also pushed me to a limit that I never thought was possible, and helped me succeed and achieve goals higher and I would’ve ever imagined. It has really defined well I value most in my athletics, and has proven that hard work

and determination pay off,” Weaver said. “Cross country this season has been different- but it has brought me something to look forward to everyday.”

Weaver raced a 16:42 in a 5k on Oct. 1. That is a brand new record for a 5k in the state of Minnesota.

“I am proud of Ana for getting the all-time state record. It was a goal. People will remember her for that. Performance and records are just numbers on paper to people on the outside. I see the thousands of little things that most athletes would never think of doing, but Ana does, when I see that time of 16:42,” Christensen said.

Weaver is fully committed to BYU university in Utah and is looking forward to competing there next fall. BYU is a Division 1 school, and in early October of 2019 BYU’s cross country team placed 1st place in the Pre-Nationals Invitational.

Weaver chose BYU because of “many factors, but mainly their coach and their past history of outstanding performances at national meets. I believe their program will continue to improve and help me improve and reach my potential.”

Two and a half percent of women cross country players continue on to playing in the NCAA division 1 colleges. Weaver plans on continuing to participate in cross country, even after college.

“I plan on running my whole life and sharing my passion with others around me who enjoy the sport as well,” Weaver said about plans to continue on with cross country.

“Cross country this season has been different- but it has brought me something to look forward to everyday. I love training and seeing others work hard with me,” Weaver added.



Photos by Abby Anderson

Senior Ana Weaver runs the section 4AA Championship at Highland National Golf Course against Roseville, Highland and White Bear.

### Ana Weaver Race Times

Mounds View vs. Stillwater  
Sept. 4  
1st place  
Race time 11:11.0

Woodbury vs. Stillwater  
Sept. 11  
1st place  
Race time 18:01.9

Forest Lake vs. Stillwater vs. Park  
Oct. 24  
1st place  
Race time 16:42.6

Conference Meet  
Oct. 7  
1st place  
Race time 17:14.9



# Volleyball team permitted to hold fall season

Nick Koehn

The Minnesota High School volleyball league was originally set to be played in the spring because of Covid-19 restrictions. Two weeks ago, they got permission to have a fall season with a few rule changes.

With the season now being held in the fall, there are new rules to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. The coaches and players have to wear masks on the bench.

“I am just thankful that we get to have a season. If that means girls and coaches have to wear masks, then that is what we have to do,” varsity coach Sara Biermaier said.

Another rule being introduced that will feel foreign to the players is there will be no fans allowed at the games. That means no parents and no fans for the games and practices. They will have a season with online fans.

“The crowd makes a huge

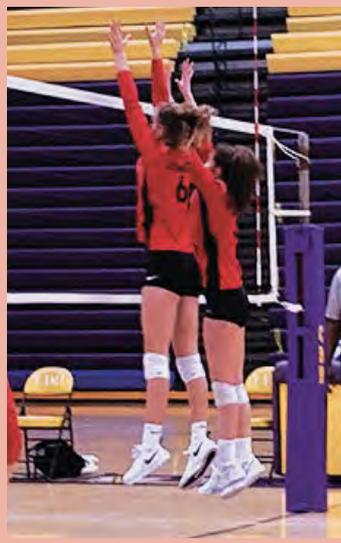
impact on the game. I still remember section finals my sophomore year and we were down and the student section started singing Sweet Caroline and we ended up winning the game because they helped us win the game and make it to state,” senior Sydney De-jarnett said.

They also are not allowed to have tournaments and are not competing against teams from other conferences. They are stuck in their own conference for competition. They also cannot have state at this moment, but the rules could change.

“State and conference games are a huge part of the season. It gives us the chance to really work hard and prove ourselves as a hard-working, skilled team. It’s hard to just stay in our conference since there isn’t really a big way to end the season with a bang,” junior Marena Sagear said.

They also will not be able to end the year with a big

occasion like state, but Biermaier said, “I think we will do well! We are young, which is exciting. We have a lot of young talent in the gym.”



Photos by Abby Anderson

Stillwater varsity volleyball team faces Cretin Durham Hall Oct. 13. The team rallies together as they face their next point.

# A SUMMER FOR JUSTICE

## Civil rights remembrance: how it changed America

### Rep. Cummings and March on Washington effect civil unrest

By Jay Lohr

“Our children are the living messages we send to a future we will ever see... Will we rob them of their destiny? Will we rob them of their dreams? No - we will not do that.” This is the message former Representative Elijah Cummings gave while fighting for civil rights in the United States. Cummings was not the only one to push for civil rights, everyday citizens had the courage to March on Washington 63 years ago, in remembrance of those who fought for civil rights, those who fought for a better life.

Over the course of Cummings’ career, he was an advocate for lowering the price of prescription drugs, the fight of addiction, pushing for gun control and bettering the justice system. Cummings was a strong African American man who fought for civil rights and spent his life doing what was right for the children of the future. On Oct. 17, it will be the one year anniversary of Cummings’ passing.

“He [Elijah Cummings] didn’t allow life circumstances to stop him from achieving greatness. I think a lot of times, when unfair things happen to us our human nature allows that to stop us from doing the things we desire to do,” Cultural Liaison Cornelius Rish said. “If he did that, we would not have the things that he has been able to accomplish. One thing that I admire about Elijah Cummings is that his whole life he had to overcome discrimination, unfair practices, and poverty to become a great congressman.”

Although Cummings’ journey has come to an end, he inspired many people. Through

his words and actions, Cummings made a change in our country that influenced us in one way or another. Even through his long standing health challenges, Cummings took on challenges and faced problems to better the future as citizens of the United States.

To Rish, Elijah Cummings and all the civil rights icons, representative John Lewis, all of them have inspired him because they put their lives on the line during a period where literally “Just speaking out could get you killed.” But yet, they were willing to sacrifice their life, lively hoods, or even their families so that they could create a better country for everyone.

Similarly, many people fought for their civil rights like Rep. Cummings. One demonstration of this is the March on Washington. Although the first march took place in 1963, the spirit and message of the march is long gone. Even in 2020, there are people who took to Washington to voice their opinions on how America has to change.

Sophomore Flora Montcho said the march happened for one, “black voices were heard” and two to “show unity in the nation.”

In the light of the events that occurred this year, the March on Washington the past summer was tremendous in the likes of BIPOC. The movement played a strong role in the message of the March on Washington: advocating for non-violent civil disobedience in protest against incidents of police brutality and all racially motivated violence against black people.

“I feel like many people had opened their eyes, and tried to

become more educated on the discrimination towards black people,” Montcho said. “This summer was rough for everyone, but it did start a conversation about BLM, and what it really stands for. The march helped strengthen conversations and discover answers.”

Together with the thousands of people who Marched on Washington, students have taken it upon themselves to have an impact on our district or community. They have participated and organized the peaceful protests in both Woodbury and Stillwater. Many students have spread their message through social media as well, promoting awareness.

“Many students became more active about this topic on their social media by spreading awareness,” junior Ariam Mussiel said. “Some students began to have difficult conversations with their families, regarding white privilege.”

Anyone is able to help make a change just like these brave men and women have. To help further the progression of civil rights and Black Lives Matter, students can bring these topics into other aspects of their life where they are not spoken about.

Mussiel said students can post on their social media, talk to their families about police brutality, or even create conversations about these difficult topics in class with students and teachers. Students may also attend local protests and protests in the city.

People like Cummings and the thousands who marched on Washington will not be forgotten.

“Without the majority’s support, the minorities won’t be heard,” Mussiel added.



PHOTO BY MAIRIN TORGERSON

A tribute mural of George Floyd was painted next to Cup Foods in Minneapolis. This has become a spot for memorialization.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY EMMA WAGNER

Senior Emma Wagner sits at a protest after the death of George Floyd. The protests took place in Minneapolis for days after the tragedy.



PHOTO BY MAIRIN TORGERSON

A pop-up memorial for George Floyd is placed in Minneapolis. It reads “Rest In Power” to pay remembrance.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY STELLA BERTSCH

Senior Joe Krenz stands with a sign in his protest of police brutality toward black citizens. He stands next to a wall spray painted as a memorial.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY STELLA BERTSCH

Seniors Stella Bertsch and Tori Wyffels join Joe Krenz in protesting. They are allies to the Black Lives Matter movement.

## Breonna Taylor’s death: story impacts many across country

By Luci Miller

Breonna Taylor was shot and killed in her own home March 13. Taylor was a 26-year-old full-time ER technician from Kentucky. She was fatally shot by police when they entered her apartment for a search warrant regarding her ex-boyfriend. Taylor’s death had a huge impact on a lot of people across the country. Many continue to advocate and protest in light of her passing.

Eleven witnesses including Taylor’s boyfriend said they heard no knock or announcement from the police. They barged into Taylor’s apartment using a battering ram. This created confusion for Taylor and her boyfriend.

“The boyfriend thought someone was breaking into the apartment so he fired ONE shot with a registered gun. The police returned gunfire - the police shot 32 times into Breonna Taylor’s apartment. One police officer shot blindly into Breonna Taylor’s apartment - which is against department protocol. The random bullets also flew into Taylor neighbor’s apartments,” Cultural Liaison Cornelius Rish explained.

As of now, only one of the three police officers has been charged. The officer who was

charged, was charged with first-degree wanton endangerment. This brought up questions about racial inequities happening in the judicial system.

“To have only one cop charged and it not being a murder charge is very sad. It also shows how unjust it is because if we go back to the Justine Diamond case in 2017 when she was innocently murdered by a BIPOC police officer, the police officer was charged with second-degree manslaughter,” senior Gianna Carr added.

In addition, Taylor’s story has grown to a worldwide phenomenon and drawn awareness to racial inequality around the country. Protests have spread around the world following her case and demanding justice for Taylor.

Junior Ariam Mussiel added that there was recently a protest regarding Taylor Sept. 26 in Minneapolis. Though she was not able to attend the protest, she is using social media platforms to inform others and spread awareness. She also mentioned she had been going to protests this past summer surrounding Taylor as well.

After the shooting, Taylor, who was asleep, lied in a pool of blood. The police officers gave medical attention to the police officer who was shot in the leg.

“The police did not render aid to Taylor. She laid dying for 20 minutes before any aid was given to her. That’s Negligence,” Rish added.

As of now, the verdict of Taylor’s case was three counts of wanton endangerment. Wanton endangerment is a charge of physical property. The shots were fired into Taylor’s neighbor’s walls, thus creating physical damage and that is what the officer was charged for.

“They like ruled it not a murder. It was like endangerment... endangering the physical wall got more justice than she did,” Mussiel said.

Nevertheless, Taylor’s death has grabbed the attention of people all over the world. People continue every day to spread awareness and inform others on the racial injustice people of color face.

Student activist Carr is “signing petitions like the case of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and many other black people that have been a victim of police brutality. I’ve also posted things on social media about how we need change” to spread awareness and make a change for racial injustice.

“Historically, Black lives have not mattered in our Judicial System and that sad reality still continues today!” Rish added.

## George Floyd’s story erupts protests through America

By Emma Wagner

George Floyd is now a name familiar with nearly every American, and not for a good reason. Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis police officers. Protests erupted throughout the country after a video surfaced of the officer kneeling on Floyd’s neck for 7 minutes and 46 seconds.

“Everyone saw the video, and with seeing it came the undeniable truth that our country has a racism problem,” senior Missa Lunzer said. Following the video, people took to the streets to protest the unlawful killing of Floyd. Some protests were violent, others peaceful. Whatever the case, the people who attended these protests wanted to see change and claim justice for Floyd.

“The reason why I went to the protests was to use my voice for those who go unheard. I also want to be a part of the solution, not the problem, and the first step to do that is to take action in any way possible,” graduate Hannah Robbles said.

Robbles said she witnessed riots and looting, but her main experience was seeing a lot of peaceful protestors with tape over their mouths, holding signs, creating murals and altars for Floyd and walking

around with wagons with free water and milk to help people after being tear gassed.

Robbles said she “did not support the rioting and looting, but did understand where the anger and frustration came from.” Stepping out into the streets full of shattered glass and fire was devastating and showed how upset and angry the people were. The protesters’ reality was ghastly as the

“What I gained from going to the protests was a lot of compassion and a new perspective.”

Hannah Robbles

tensions heightened between the police and the protestors.

“The burning building made us have to push back because the police started using it as their way to throw tear gas at us and shoot us with rubber bullets,” North St. Paul resident Brian Genis said. “The cops there were kind of frightening,” Lunzer said. “They obviously had to put up an authoritative stance, but there was a thick line between us and it was almost as if going near them or helping them in any way would be seen as affiliation and you could risk getting blacklisted.”

There are mixed opinions on whether or not it is appropriate to attend the protests. However, people who attended them have spoken out on why it is necessary to join the cause.

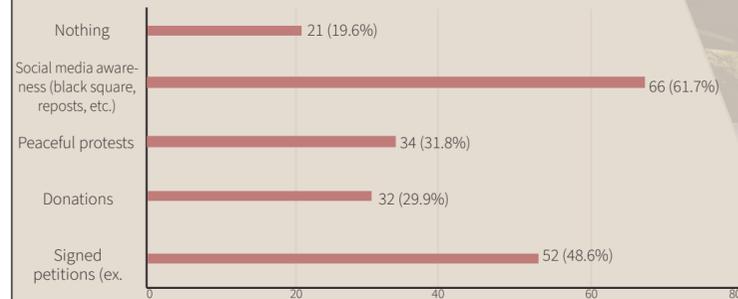
“When I told friends and family members that I was going to stand for justice, I did not receive good feedback. Instead, I received a lot of judgement and close minded opinions. I was told not to go, but if you stay silent in times where people need a voice, you are a part of the problem,” Robbles said.

The officer that knelt on Floyd’s neck was charged with third degree murder, yet the people still protest and call for change. Most of the protests today revolve around a push towards police reform.

“Yes, that officer deserves to rot in a cell and go nuts, but as for the entire police system, there needs to be reform and more extensive training, psychologically, physically and mentally,” Lunzer said.

“What I gained from going to the protests was a lot of compassion and a new perspective. I gained pride in our community by seeing how many people were able to recognize that we are run on a broken system and take advantage of it to help those who are overlooked,” Robbles said.

### Which of these activities did you participate in?



SURVEY TAKEN BY 107 STUDENTS

GRAPHIC BY Elaina Mankowski

PHOTOS BY MAIRIN TORGERSON

# Masks are easiest way to slow spread of COVID-19

Ava Fugate

Masks are the most effective and easily available solution to slowing down the spread of COVID-19, yet wearing them is still not mandatory everywhere because of the controversy surrounding mask wearing. Masks need to be made mandatory to control this pandemic.

Those not in favor of masks believe it is against their rights. Many restaurants post a sign that reads, "No shirt, No shoes, No service". If that is not against anyone's rights, then wearing a mask should also not be a problem.

"There's evidence emerging that mask wearing may decrease viral load, thus boosting immunity," science teacher Stacy Barlett said. This contradicts the thought of mask wearing not being beneficial to the wearer.

Some researchers believe wearing a mask can expose wearers to smaller, less harmful doses of COVID-19, which sparks an immune response. Without the masks, people are coming in contact with much larger doses of COVID-19, causing contraction and then passing it on. Wearing the mask is beneficial by boosting immunity, keeping safe those around from the mask wearer and can possibly keep the mask wearer safe from contracting it.

Junior Marly Boules said she thinks masks are effective because the N-95 masks are designed to block 95% of small particles.

Masks are a form of source control from the mask wearer. It controls the amount of particles coming out of and onto or into those around. Although

people can benefit from wearing a mask, it is more effective in keeping others safe. Masks prevent larger expelled droplets from becoming smaller droplets that will travel farther, thus keeping those around them safe.

Barlett explained whether masks are effective in keeping the community safe, "Yes. And the fact that we are still operating in hybrid mode in a school with over 2000 kids is pretty strong evidence."

"Life is full of gives-and-takes and when it comes to safety (like wearing shoes or a seat belt), it doesn't take a scientist to see the benefit to the greater good."

**Barlett**

The strongest evidence of showing masks effectiveness is real life instances. Without masks being required at schools, all would be shut down and only online. There are 115,000 cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota right now and over 2,000 deaths. All the precautions to slow down the spread need to be taken or this number will increase. Wearing a mask is one of the easiest precautions to take and has lots of scientific evidence to support it.

"Masks should be required in public in order to keep everyone safe and lower the chance of in-

fecting everyone," Boules said. She believes it is the best way to protect everyone from infection.

In a case recently looked at in late May, two hair stylists in Missouri had close contact with 140 clients while sick with COVID-19. Everyone including them had worn a mask and all of the clients tested negative for COVID-19.

Jason Dixon shared a differing perspective on requiring masks, "It's made up by politicians it will be over when the election is."

COVID-19 being a hoax has been a very popular conspiracy amongst anti-maskers. In the beginning of the pandemic, the CDC did not enforce wearing a mask and has now switched guidance and in recommending it saying the more people wearing masks the better.

That could be quite confusing and Dixon asked, "If they say you have to wear one, why have we not had to wear one in March to keep people safe?"

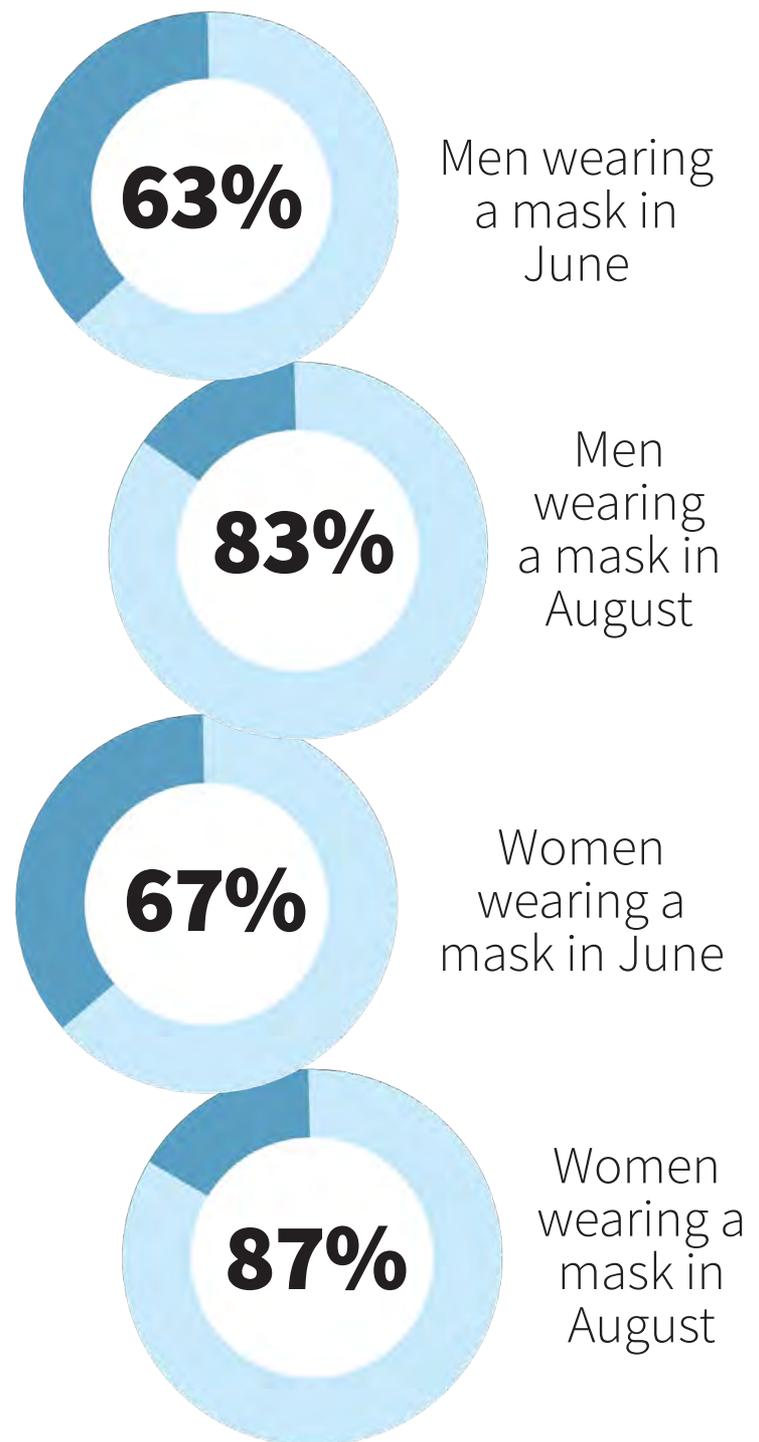
For the sole purpose of a better and healthier future, making a mask mandate is the best option for the United States. It will slow the spread of COVID-19 tremendously. For this pandemic to end the necessary precautions need to be taken to keep people safe.

As Barlett said, "Life is full of gives-and-takes and when it comes to safety (like wearing shoes or a seat belt), it doesn't take a scientist to see the benefit to the greater good."

Graphic by Kady Peltier

Information from Pew Research Center

## Percentage of adults wearing masks in U.S.



# Trump nominates new Supreme Court Justice

Morgan Delaney

With the recent passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, there has been a lot of controversy surrounding her seat on the Supreme Court and who should choose who gets to fill her seat. Current President Donald J. Trump should be the one to nominate the new Supreme Court Justice.

It is in his presidential duties to "nominate someone for a vacancy on the Court" as detailed on the Supreme Court Government website. Many people think the newly elected president should be the one that nominates a new justice, but that is 4 months away and Trump should not stop doing his presidential duties 4 months before his term ends.

"I believe the current President of the United States should nominate a justice of the Supreme Court, which is currently Donald J. Trump," owner of Miami Productions Heather Maas said.

In the Constitution, Article II / Section 2 / Paragraph 2 states: "He [The President] shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate... and he shall nominate... and shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for."

The Constitution states the current President will nominate the justice in the case of an absence. The nominee is then voted on by the Senate to ensure both branches are in agreement on who is given that power. For the nominee to be elected, there must be a "simple majority" vote by the Senate.

"Although both are monumentally important, I would have to say the Supreme Court Justice is more important at this time... considering the volatility of this year's Pres-

idential election and possible delay and/or challenges facing this election, who exactly wins the Presidential election could be delayed or too close to call. It is critical the Supreme Court have a full 9 members if the court is called upon to rule on the winning candidate," Maas said.

If Americans decide to wait for the newly elected president to nominate the new justice and the Supreme Court votes on the president, there could be a tie and the election would be further delayed.

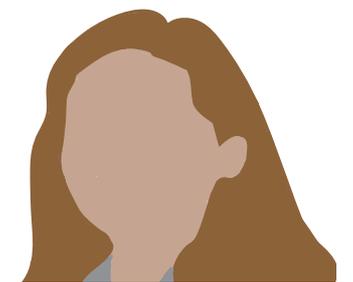
"The cons would be that the nomination process would not necessarily be followed as it is stated in the constitution. Timing is everything with Supreme Court nominations. A president needs the opportunity of a vacancy to fill and the benefit of enough support in the senate to back their nominee," government teacher Ryan Miller said.

"Both gender and ethnicity

are important if the Supreme Court is to reflect a true America. Of course, being female, I support adding more women! But when it comes right down to it all we can hope is that they are good and fair men and women who will uphold the constitution and not be swayed by political dogma," local business owner Loann Stokes said.

If the current president nominates somebody who does their jobs as the constitution states, it should not matter whether or not someone supports the current president.

There are some people that firmly believe they should wait for the newly elected president to nominate the next justice. Since, in 2016, there was a vacancy on the supreme court and the Senate Judiciary Committee decided to wait for the newly elected president to nominate a justice, which was against the Constitution and should not have happened. However, be-



**Amy Coney Barrett**

Graphic by Kady Peltier

cause there has been an issue like this before, Americans should not go against the constitution again. In order to follow what the Constitution clearly laid out, the current president should nominate a new justice.

Since the Constitution states that the current president is the one to nominate in the case of an absence, Trump should be able to nominate the next Supreme Court Justice since he is the current President of the United States.

## EIC COLUMN



### Pony Clapback

Stella Bertsch

There is a statewide mask mandate in Minnesota and in 33 other states. While disposable masks are convenient, they have a harsh impact on the environment. They can end up in the ocean small sea animals can get tangled up in the elastics, animals may also eat them thinking they are food and this can cause them to choke on it. The majority of disposable masks are made from plastic, which will stay around on the earth for hundreds of years.

Americans put 129 billion masks into the environment each month we deal with COVID-19. Even if people throw them away in the trash, they can still make their way into the ocean and hurt marine life. Sales for plastic masks are estimated to be \$166 billion by the end of the year.

It is predicted that 75% of masks, gloves and other pandemic related waste is going to end up in landfills or floating in the oceans. Not only can this harm marine life, and just animals in general, it can be quite harmful to humans as well. Used and infected masks can be sometimes burned, releasing harmful toxins into the air, or if humans are to interact with the used masks it can lead to secondary transmissions of a disease.

Disposable masks and other pandemic waste are making a bigger impact on our Earth than people realize. Animals often mistake masks and gloves for food filling their stomachs with plastic giving them no nutrients at all. Disposable masks that end up in the ocean can harm marine life, they can get tangled in the elastics on masks, or even try to eat them and choke. Although animals are being harmed, humans are actually being harmed as well. COVID-19 and other viruses can stay on a disposable mask for up to a week. People could spread a virus from their masks without even knowing when they pick them off the group to throw away or when they reuse a disposable mask.

Read more online at

<https://sahsponyexpress.com/>



# Staff Ed: working teaches students skills they do not learn at school

Brynn Winter

Now that students are part time or fully online, many have considered taking shifts in the morning when school would normally take place. Online days have given students a bit of freedom on when to complete their assignments. This new opportunity may come with some pros and cons.

Although having extra money to spend may be important to students, their focus and work ethic may be shifted. Working during the morning and coming home to school work could leave students feeling unmotivated and tired. Without having the responsibility of being present in class, many students take advantage of completing assignments and participating virtually in class.

Students who work during school hours end up sacrificing their time in the mornings, making it crucial to complete school work during the evening. Depending on the student, some may find it overwhelming and stressful, and others may find it necessary and beneficial.

Each student's situation is different, it may be beneficial to work in the morning for some students as it teaches them time management skills and gives a sense of freedom and responsibility. Others may find it overbearing as the evening is a time for them to relax and unwind from the day. However, it boils down to how it is affecting their academic performance. The

main issue with working during school hours is that many students come home unwilling to check daily assignments, making it challenging for teachers.

Most students who work 15-20 hours a week have seen a decrease in their academics. Having to manage work, school and extracurriculars is a lot for students to handle.

When working 15-plus hours, it is hard for students to put as much time and effort into school, as someone without a job would. Sleep is also a big factor as students with an overwhelming schedule are more likely to sleep less.

Students who are successful in their job are teaching themselves responsibility. They benefit from making relationships with other employees by creating a productive and positive working environment.

When students feel confident at what they are doing it affects their life in many ways. It improves family life and education as well as their workdays. Confidence fuels students and encourages them to continue their best.

Having a job sets students up for a bright future. They learn how to manage and keep track of their time to avoid conflict. Time management is important, it helps avoid stress and keep students motivated.

Planning to avoid conflict is an important skill for teens to learn. It helps teens think ahead and properly space out what they have going on during the week.



GRAPHIC BY ELAINA MANKOWSKI

Due to a hybrid model of school this year, students are trying to rebalance school and work. Many students are working more and pushing school to the side.

This limits the amount of stress students bear because they are not crunching the last minute to finish assignments that are due.

The percentage of high school students in 1990 with a job was about 32%, an all-time high. High school employment has decreased to now 16% according to The Washington Times. The decline in student employment is due to the fact that more students are now enrolled in school.

Not only has school enrollment increased, but also the demand for more students wanting

to attend college. The pressure of teens wanting to succeed so they can attend college is tremendous this desire has fewer teens focusing on working and more about their education.

It is appropriate for high school students to have a job. Having a job teaches students a lot about managing time along with learning how to stay focused and handling multiple things thrown at them. Communication is key and if students are conveying their availability, work should not stand in the way of academics.

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# Disney + releases Zach Sobiech

Macy Gonnion

“You don’t have to find out you’re dying to start living,” 17 year old Zach Sobiech said. At the age of 14, this Oak-Land Junior High School student was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, a rare type of bone cancer that eventually took his life.

Sobiech’s main goal was to live like there was no tomorrow, while being as positive as he could considering the circumstances. Throughout his challenges he shared his thoughts through music, which led to several songs written and performed during his short time.

“What he did in his short life was more impactful than many of us who get to live longer,” science teacher Andrew Weaver said.

Sobiech’s positivity was so impactful that millions of people around the globe started to recognize him as a true inspiration. He now has a movie being made about his life journey through cancer and his music career which included a best-selling single by the same name “Clouds” which will be released Oct. 15.

When asked about the

upcoming movie release, Maddi Bohan, who is a 2013 SAHS graduate and former classmate of Sobiech shared, “I think that Clouds will be received with more of an open mind and open heart since the pandemic has made many people’s lives simpler and more appreciative.”

In this song Clouds, Sobiech shares how God had a plan for him and how he was not afraid to go. He wanted to embrace everyday with hope and optimism. In 2012, when the song Clouds was released, it hit number one on iTunes. Currently, the song has more than eight million listens and Sobiech has more than 26,000 listeners per month.

“He created great power and emotion in his music for people of all ages (mostly a passionate goodbye for his friends and family),” Weaver said.

When Sobiech was 14 he was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, which means he had cancerous tumours in his bones which led to tremendous pain and his eventual death in 2013. During his battle, Sobiech took part in many treatments and finally decided to stop further medical procedures to focus on living the last few months to

his best ability. After Sobiech passed, his family established The Zach Sobiech Osteosarcoma Fund which has raised millions of dollars for Children’s Cancer Research Fund.

“What affected me and most everyone I know was his positive attitude even though he knew he was facing death,” sophomore Lauren Klancher said about the impact Sobiech’s story has had on current students.

The movie Clouds is based on Sobiech’s story including his life as a high school student where he built many friendships including his high school girlfriend Amy Adamle, played by Madison Iseman. Sobiech also had a really close friend named Sammy Brown, who is played by Sabrina Carpenter.

Counselor Dan Ralston thinks that since the movie Clouds will be on Disney+, it will receive a lot of atten-

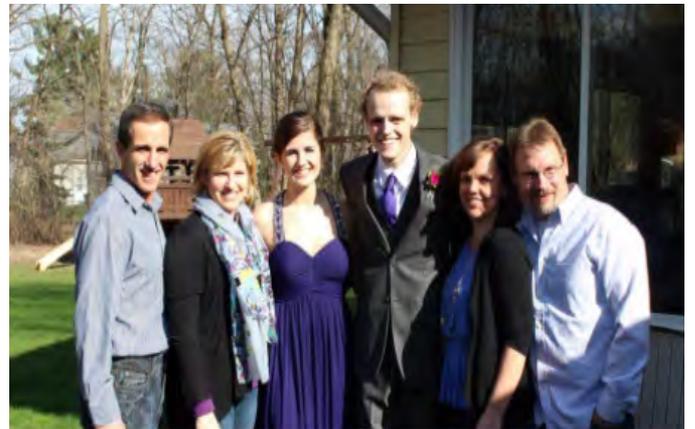


Photo submitted by Emily Kueppers

This picture showcases (from left to right) Vic, Mary, and Amy Adamle, along with Zach, Laura, and Rob Sobiech. It is taken right after Zach turned 18. It shows Zach and Amy on their prom night with their support from their families.

tion and the Stillwater community will be “enormously entertained”. While also continuing to be inspired by a former Pony who made a big difference in our world.

Bohan explained, “Zach Soiech’s message has taught me to live each day to the fullest. It is truly remarkable how many people his story has touched.”

# TikTok creates community among teens

Katie Kangas

Students have used Tik Tok as a way to come together and create these last few years. With the threat of Tik Tok being banned by the U.S. government for security concerns, people have been left wondering what will happen to the community created on the app and what will replace it.

Tik Tok creates a lot of connections within the app. Having Tik Tok banned

Junior Amelia Bretl added, “it just brings up what you have in common with other people. There’s definitely a community.”

Tik Tok has been one of the most prominent platforms of entertainment for the younger generation over the last two years. Not only is the app used as a space to share creative ideas, but as a place to communicate with others.

“A lot of my communication between my friends right now is like jokes, almost like surrounding Tik Tok,”

“I was able to go viral on one of my videos of me dancing, and that honestly brought up my self confidence about dancing,” junior Samuel Ness said.

Bretl explained that Tik Tok, “let’s me have a brain break.”

Ness added that it can provide, “a break that I need.”

Along with the ban, students predict that other media platforms will come along to fill the empty space left by Tik Tok. Just as what happened when

he would, “just replace it with YouTube.”

Braunshausen added that the absence of Tik Tok would, “be a promotion to Instagram reels,” and that’s where, “a lot of the content would switch over too.”

Although many see the ban of Tik Tok as a negative experience, it may have a positive effect on the students who use it.

As Braunshausen explained, she “might feel a little more productive and proactive,” if she is no longer able to use the app.

“I was able to go viral on one of my videos of me dancing and that honestly brought up my self confidence about dancing,” said Samuel Ness

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“A lot of my communication between my friends right now is like jokes, almost like surrounding Tik Tok,” Braunshausen said. “It’s one of my main sources of like, entertainment, especially like social media wise.”

With the community of

the app, there comes a lot of support. It can become a platform that boosts self confidence and helps people come out of their shell.

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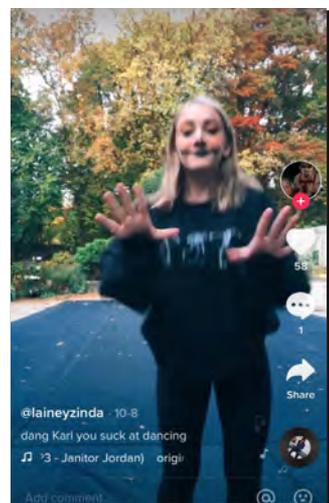
Along with the ban, students predict that other media platforms will come along to fill the empty space left by Tik Tok. Just as what happened when Vine, Musically and other media platforms that disappeared. Either new apps will come to take the space, or preexisting apps will just become more prominent.

Ness believes that he would, “just replace it with YouTube.”

Braunshausen added that the absence of Tik Tok would, “be a promotion to Instagram reels,” and that’s where, “a lot of the content would switch over too.”

Although many see the ban of Tik Tok as a negative experience, it may have a positive effect on the students who use it.

As Braunshausen explained, she “might feel a little more productive and proactive,” if she is no longer able to use the app.



## We’ve got talent

Sophomores Sumer Harrington and Gracie Johnston are two of many that participate in Tik Tok dances (bottom right). 8th grader Lainey Zinda adds flare to a dance with some Halloween themed make-up (left). The Stillwater Chev’s dance team (top right) does a dance called the ‘Renegade’ at one of their competitions. Doing these dances brought everyone on the team together to do something fun.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ELAINA MANKOWSKI

could lead to loss of community between people that would not otherwise talk, meet or share their content.

Sophomore Avery Braunshausen said the app creates, “a lot of relatable content,” and students can come together over things that they mutually enjoy.

Braunshausen said. “It’s one of my main sources of like, entertainment, especially like social media wise.”

With the community of the app, there comes a lot of support. It can become a platform that boosts self confidence and helps people come out of their shell.

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# COVID-19 restrictions create setbacks for seniors' college plans

by Ella Gag

Due to COVID-19, seniors are behind on important steps on the college application process like touring colleges and taking the ACT. Seniors have deadlines to meet, and with these setbacks, it is harder to complete them in a timely manner.

Senior Ava Nyberg explained that there is definitely stress for seniors because many of them are behind on

the process due to the ACT being postponed many times and their junior year being moved to online, meaning they do not have the strongest transcripts to send in. There are also deadlines to meet, and being this is the first time she will take the ACT in October, she does not have much time to retake it, in order to improve her score for the chance for scholarships.

Covid has created barriers within the college application process. Usually, students

tend to take the ACT in the spring, allowing time to retake and improve a score to meet college deadlines. When Gov. Walz extended the stay-at-home order, ACT dates were cancelled state-wide.

A handful of universities are taking note of seniors setbacks with the ACT, now leading to the test-optional route. The test-optional route is to ease the stress on the applicants and focus on other factors like GPA and extracurriculars. Students are debating

whether it is worth taking the ACT due to having colleges being test-optional.

“Do your research, meet your deadlines, and trust the process. There are many people and programs available to help support this process.”

**Counselor Sarah Hopper**

“I have not taken the ACT, the colleges I am looking at are going test-optional, which helps a lot in my situation. However, my grades and extracurriculars have met the requirements for the schools I would like to apply to, but having the ACT score that I would like to have to represent myself, would benefit me,” Nyberg added.

Along with the ACT being postponed creating an application setback, in-person tours are adding to the stress as well. A college visit is an important part of the decision making process. However, only a few colleges are accepting in-person tours and some are guided through a

cellular device. Colleges are trying to connect with students via Zoom, which is different from an in-person atmosphere. Seeing the atmosphere at a college could be a deciding factor and most classes are moved to online at universities. Students may want to go far for college but the travel may be difficult with Covid-19 restrictions meaning they may not even be able to step foot on the campus.

“Not being able to have in-person tours is a huge setback, although I was given the chance to tour some colleges when my older sister did, many schools have improved since then and I won't be able to experience that. Since I am not able to see where I feel the sense of home and the connection I want to feel, while being on a campus, many of us may just have to travel in order to see some parts of campus,” Nyberg explained.

Senior Alex Pagnucco explained not knowing what to expect right now for what college will be like stresses him out. He does not know when he will be accepted, if he can go to the actual campus in the fall or if it will be fully online next year.

“Do your research, meet your deadlines, and trust the process. There are many people and programs available to help support this process,” Hopper added.

Graphic by Drew Jurek

# New Environmental Club forms to better protect Forest Life: fight climate change

by Kady Peltier

This year, students came together to form a new club to help improve the environment. This club was formed because these students want to save and preserve the environment locally and around the world.

Two students, juniors Claire Abbott and Addie Foote, formed a club around environmental concerns. They started this club with a common interest of wanting to improve and focus more on projects helping the environment.

Foote does a lot of volunteering but wants “to be involved in environmental improvement projects” specifically focused on helping the environment. Abbott also had the same interest so they worked together.

Currently the club is working on some different projects such as collecting wildflower seeds, participating in the Project Green Challenge, building a butterfly garden, and in the future working

to install solar panels in the community. Together these projects will help the environment and natural habitats.

“In order to help local natural habitats we have collected wildflower seeds for prairie restoration,” junior Abby Thibodeau said. “Some of us are also participating in the Project Green Challenge to help bring awareness to environmental challenges facing people across the globe.”

The group members are cautious and considerate to the environment when buying products. Buying local products helps the environment and the community. It has many benefits such as increasing community health, agriculture, decreasing the amount of fossil fuels, and less plastic is being used.

“I personally help the environment by being more aware of both where I shop and what I get, as my family and I like to support locally grown foods, like for example we try to go to our local Farmers market and buy home grown produce,



Photo by Kady Peltier

Seniors Ben Abbott, Allison Blatter, Esther Steinke, juniors Claire Abbott, Addie Foote and freshman Ethan Foote are all a part of the Environmental conservation club. On Oct. 12, they went out and gathered wildflower seeds for prairie restoration.

even selling some of our own produce in the summer,” senior Esther Steinke said.

“I think students can make a difference in the community, we intend to provide

students with opportunities to be involved in environmental improvement. We want this to have fun volunteering opportunities and reach many students,” Foote added.

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# Disney's live-action version 'Mulan' faces controversy

The release of 'Mulan' causes comparisons to be made to the original

Adrianna Garcia

Remaking original movies can come with the conflict of comparison, and other difficulties that can cause criticism. The 1998 version of the movie "Mulan", was recently remade as a live-action film. It was released Sept. 4 on Disney+. Many fans are disappointed in this new version, as it lacks some of the same aspects that were originally important to the movie storyline. Along with the backlash of a storyline change, the movie comes at a higher price, which is very a topic many audience members are unhappy with.

Unlike the 1998 animated original film, the new live version lacks the songs and a musical aspect that fans truly loved. The new live version does include various intense action scenes, but still misses out on the original musical style.

"There was no music, there were no songs," Movie Critic parent Tom Chang said. "There's no Mooshu the dragon which was a great character. It was a little disappointing."

"Mulan" carries an important message amongst both versions, and that would be the power of a strong woman who truly fights for, and carries herself confidently and bravely. The new version tends to focus more on physical fighting, instead of the emotional message that should be portrayed.

Chang said that they



GRAPHIC BY Elaina Mankowski

The Disney film "Mulan" was released on Sept. 4 on Disney+. Fans criticize the new version and compare it to the original that was released in 1998.

should have included a great message and have better-hidden teachings right on how women have strength.

Due to COVID-19, the new live version of "Mulan" was not released in theatres. Because of this, it was released on Disney+, for an additional \$30 on top of the \$6.99 subscription rate. Many believe this \$30 charge for the movie was unnecessary,

and disappointed many fans.

"Personally, I think that any family should be able to afford a movie, especially during the tough time we're in. You already have to pay for Disney Plus itself," senior Owen Kuckler said.

With remaking a movie, there comes criticism amongst fans due to plot change, character removal, and overall small differences

that mean a lot to the audience. Remakes of movies can hold controversy, and the difference in opinions, according to someone's personal liking and enjoyment.

Although many reviews of the new "Mulan" have been negative, there are various thoughts that the new version was just as good, or even better than the original. Live-action films tend to

have more action, which certain audiences really enjoy.

"Personally, I like the new one better. Cartoons are more entertaining when you are young, but the new one just makes more sense to me," freshman Lauren Laier said. "It's a lot more descriptive, and I think it includes a lot more detail and action."

"It didn't have the same storyline and had different characters," Kuckler added. It was disappointing that some characters were missing because they added humor that the new version just lacked."

Many movie companies remake versions of original films. This can be very controversial, especially for films that are known to be classics. Disney specifically, is known for turning cartoon films into live-action films.

"I think it is a cool thing when movies are remade into new versions. I think it adds excitement to be able and watch both versions and compare the two. I think the directors of 'Mulan' did a good job of keeping the action and overall storyline exciting and entertaining," Laier said.

Despite the mixed feelings towards this beautifully scripted movie, "Mulan" still portrays a message for all young women, proving that women can be just as strong and powerful as a man. The new version has brought a lot of controversy and backlash for its lack of message portrayal, but gains praise for its highly entertaining fight scenes.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY Chelsea Stahl

Rachel Palmer

"Live music... has a powerful message of unity between all people that is very important during these times", music student Ella Goette said.

Students feel online concerts during the COVID-19 pandemic have had some up sides and some definite downsides to them. There is something about the buzz of an actual concert that can not be replaced by a screen, and sitting at home. There are many ways to show unity and one of those ways is feeling like music is normal again.

Different musicians have come together to create an online experience for the world duets like John Legend and Sam Smith singing "Stand by Me" for the One World Together at Home concert in the beginning of quarantine showed people, it is ok to be alone, but there is always someone to finish their duet out there and they need to reach out.

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as if this performance really highlighted that change. John Legend and Sam Smith are both incredibly talented artists, but they may have never collaborated had it not been for the limited performance opportunities available during

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Katie Liss

ing the pandemic. 'Stand by me' has a powerful message of unity between all people that is very important during these times," Goette said.

She's right, keeping people together in this impossible time is one of the most important things we can do. Even though most teenagers have not been to a live concert many students agree on a common view of concerts, they are incomplete if they are not in person. All of the students said in some way a

big part of the concert is actually being there and that being online could not replace that.

Junior Katie Liss is no stranger to the concert scene being to around 12 concerts at just 16, she said, "Yes I do [think concerts have something to them that you can't experience through a screen]. I think that experiencing the electricity and energy that flows through a concert arena is the most magical part. Even seeing the musician from the highest seats in the venue is still worth it. Being there and getting even the opportunity to be there in person is so special to me. I think online concerts wouldn't be the same but at least it would try to restore some type of normalcy for musicians."

Through this difficult time some students feel people will change how they see concerts going forward, whether for the better or the worse, the overall view of a concert will be changed forever. Some people do feel like having their own space during a concert is a nice change and other people like being thrown

around with dozens of people smushed into one small space singing a song you all love at the top of your lungs.

When asked how he thinks people will react to the new way of concerts senior Jacob Helke thinks people will be unhappy with the fact that we can not be in person, but will understand.

"Being in person is an important part of the concert, online doesn't have the same effect, but it is a good substitute for the time being during the pandemic," Helke added.

Sharing music one way, many screens during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The moving music from Billie Eilish, Taylor Swift, John Legend, Sam Smith, and many more talented artists have touched the hearts of millions as an attempt to keep people connected. Although the message of unity is

clear there is nothing that could replace the feel the energy of the crowd reacting to the art being performed right in front of them. There is no like button for the real world and people need to keep that in mind if they think about changing concerts for good.

Live music has obviously changed immensely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I feel as if this performance really highlighted that change. John Legend and Sam Smith are both incredibly talented artist, but they may have never collaborated had it not been for the limited performance opportunities available during the pandemic. "Stand by me" has a powerful message of unity between all people that is very important during these times."



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