News



How COVID-19 has affected Southwestern:

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Reviews

Review of "Outer Banks" Season 2: See pg. D1



Graphic by Andrew Lindboom

Fall/Winter 2021 Edition

Southwestern High School's Student Newspaper

PASS THE BLUE RAZ:

Evaluating the Vaping Problem at Southwestern

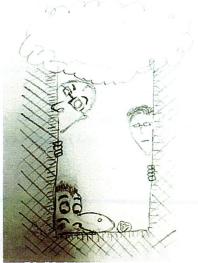
An Op-Ed By: Dontae Hoose and McKay Young

WEST ELLICOTT, NY- Piña colada, strawberry, mango ice, mint, blue raspberry, propylene glycol, carcinogens, lead, benzene, diethylene glycol, and nicotine: it's all a part of vape culture. Here at Southwestern, the clouds are forming as vaping issues precipitate in the school.

These fruity flavors are leading to a disciplinary catastrophe in the bathrooms. Not only are kids finding it hard to use the restroom, but teachers are also concerned.

In a recent interview, Adam Frisbee, math teacher at Southwestern High School said, "It is difficult to find a time when you go into the bath-room where you are not running into kids who are vaping and trying to hide it. It is very frustrating as a teacher."

Mr. Frisbee has seen the recent struggles with vaping as Southwestern came back from remote learning. The school's recent measures for dealing with vaping include OSS, confiscation and sports or extracurricular suspensions. The first infraction of possession or use of a vape also results in ISS. Furthermore, the school is relying upon Prevention Works and the counseling department to fight vaping. However, with continued misbehavior, the question must be asked: are these measures simply not enough to deter students from the dangerous habit?



"Boys Bathroom."

Illustrated by Dontae Hoose.

It's not uncommon to see a young student waiting outside the bathroom trying to avoid aggressive vapers.

An upperclassman at the school, who requested anonymity, had this to say on the matter: "If you catch a kid vaping, take them straight down to the office instead of telling them to go to the office. When they can just walk around the school for twenty minutes... maybe give them detention or ISS [instead of OSS], because if you take them out of school, what are they going to do? They are just going to keep vaping."

That's the real issue with vaping in school. The school is using disciplinary measures when they should be using preventive measures by educating young vapers or possible vapers. The school could prevent problems in the future.

As a ninth grader seeing the upperclassmen vaping without a single thought and not understanding the consequences and dangers of their actions may be inclined to try and be one of the "cool" kids. Young students can be impressionable and without a proper base and education on the dangers they can fall. Another factor as the school had previous been remote learning, we believe some are still adjusting to social situations. By educating them on these such situations we can help prevent future problems with vaping and not just remove them from school.

As an effort to alleviate the problem, the student council has been working closely with administration to create a better environment in the school. Student council plans to come out with an anonymous hotline where students can text and let administration know if there are people vaping in the bathrooms. Not only does the benefit the students, but it also benefits the teachers as well.

"I'm finding myself waiting at the restroom in an effort to make it into the bathrooms in between classes whereas I could be standing at my door greeting students where that kind of valuable interaction is being taken," Mr. Frisbee said.

As upperclassmen, we believe that if we come together as a school and work with outside resources, the school can become what Southwestern was and should be.

XC Runners: Runners-Up At State



The Southwestern boys cross-country team poses at the state meet finish line. Photo by Ethan Luce.

By: Ethan Luce

CHENANGO, N.Y. - It was cold at Chenango Valley State Park. Good thing the Trojans brought the heat.

The boys cross-country team claimed a second-place finish at the New York State Championship this November; The best any cross-country team has done in school history.

The team finished with 80 points, edging out Fonda-Fultonville with 86. The Trojans were led by Ethan Luce (21st) and Nate Lewis (22nd) followed by Trenton Shutters (24th). Trey Faulk (55th), Donavin Brown (62nd), Lukas Svenson (83rd), and Brendan Luce (103rd) turned in great performances as well.

"Going in we were predicted to finish second and that's exactly where we ended up. I was really happy with that result," Coach Lewis said.

The second-place finish at States was a fairy-tale ending, but the season leading up to it was nothing short of outstanding. The boys claimed the Section VI title at the state qualifier meet with top 10 finishes from Ethan Luce, Nate Lewis, and Shutters. Faulk turned in a massive personal best and Brown ran a great race as well to secure the win. See STATE, Page B1

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COVID-19's Impact on Southwestern

By: Oliver Hagel

WEST ELLICOTT, N.Y.- More and more COVID-19 issues seem to be popping up around the school and community. From COVID-19 cases to quarantines to vaccinations, it seems every passing day there is a new topic to discuss.

Our school and community, like many others, is struggling with COVID-19. Students are struggling with masking mandates and quarantines, while teachers are having difficulties enforcing the rules with their disobeying students. This year has been extremely difficult for everyone.

Since the beginning of school this year, 34 students and 13 staff have tested positive for COVID-19 in the elementary school, 30 students and three staff have tested positive in the middle school, and 32 students and six staff have tested positive in the senior high school. Additionally, in the past week, a community member has passed away.

Sports and clubs are other topics of great concern among the students of the school. They are very important to the population of students and the school culture.

"Our goal is to maintain as many activities as we possibly can, safely," said Mrs. Donahue, Superintendent of Southwestern.

The jobs of teachers have also been greatly affected by the pandemic. They now have the added burden of enforcing mask policies and keeping their students safe. The teachers are having to push to make sure the students are staying masked and making sure their students are following mandates.

"I think it's 24/7," Mrs. Donahue said. "Seven days a week you're worried about your kids and making sure they're safe and healthy, and that they're getting all of the academics that they need... I don't think it ever leaves our thinking."



Maureen Donahue, Superintendent of Southwestern.
Photo submitted by Pamela SaGurney.

Students have been rebelling against the masks and vaccines; however, Mrs. Donahue says these methods are the best ways to combat the virus. According to Mrs. Donahue, when students are universally masked, there have been zero cases of transmission of the virus in the school.

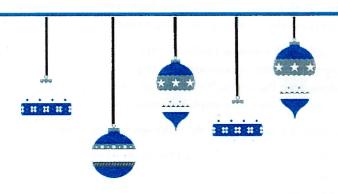
In the community around Southwestern, the vaccination rates for everyone eligible are 77.8 percent in Lakewood, 51.9 percent in Celeron, and 56.8 percent in Jamestown and Busti. These vaccination rates play a vital role in the transmission rates of COVID-19. See COVID, page C2

Has COVID-19 Impacted our Student Body's Mental Health?



Sophomore Reece Beaver reflects on how COVID-19 quarantines have affected her life.

Photo by Mia Turnbull.



By: Mia Turnbull

WEST ELLICOTT, N.Y. - Did you ever think you would hate missing school? Sophomore Reece Beaver missed 55 days last year. But Zoom learning, the alternative to in-person education, makes feeling motivated and engaged seem like an impossible task. Southwestern students who missed many days of school due to COVID-19, like Beaver, experienced feelings such as anxiety, isolation from friends, and an increased "fear of missing out" that teenagers already experience.

The pandemic has impacted the current Southwestern senior class for almost two years and the cumulative stress is apparent. Teenagers fear catching COVID-19 or losing a loved one. They have been missing out on key milestone events and remote education has taken away the vital structure of their daily routine.

"Being quarantined made it hard to keep up with my school, and missing basketball was extremely difficult," Beaver said. "I even went virtual for basketball season to avoid being quarantined."

Making such a difficult decision at her age was extremely difficult because each choice signified a loss of normalcy. These feelings of anxiety and depression cannot be compared to or explained away as normal teenage moodiness. This level of stress and anxiety requires support from friends, trusted adults, and possibly a mental health professional.

Southwestern's newest school counselor, Alexis Crytzer, has much experience in mental health counseling. Mrs. Crytzer has offered insight on how to best help students cope during these difficult time.

"One coping mechanism that can be beneficial in any circumstance is knowing who your supports are," Mrs. Crytzer said. "Recognizing those you can trust and talk to can help you feel like you don't have to do everything alone."

Other coping mechanisms are distracting yourself with sports, exercise, crafts, and spending time with family and friends. There are also ways to improve your daily routines by learning and setting aside time for deep breathing, meditation, yoga, mindfulness, or other calming activities.

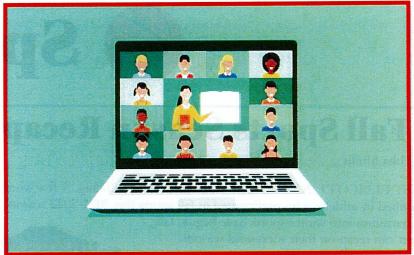
It's important to realize that we are all in this together. We need to check on and support each other. If you or a friend are struggling, please know that help is available right here at school.

Are Students' Educations Recoverable?

By Brendan Luce

WEST ELLICOTT, N.Y.- BREAKING NEWS! There's a new disease called Corona virus sweeping across the nation and breathing chaos into everyone's lives and--- oh, wait, you already knew this. You've seen and felt the struggle against COVID-19 in all areas of your life. You've seen the way it shattered our society and left the world broken. Education systems have taken severe tolls as well, and it will leave gaps in our education for years to come.

When everyone went into lockdown, students missed out on so much of their education. Americans are, on average, four to five months behind in their subjects based on a study by Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). The gap could be even larger and potentially irreversible for a majority of students. So what happened within the education system that caused this amount of damage? The solution to the lockdown: virtual learning.



Schools had to video chats and other distance communication methods to keep education going. Stock photo.

When students and teachers had to communicate from home over various digital platforms, neither students nor faculty were equipped with the knowledge of how classes should be conducted over video calls. As a result, many students disengaged from school altogether and rapidly lost the knowledge they once had.

Mr. Pagett, Southwestern High School's physics teacher, elaborated on the events leading up to today, saying there was a huge loss of accountability and work ethic. Emma Anderson, a senior at Southwestern, said that teachers "lightened up the workload for students... it's also stunted our learning and we've gotten lazy." Students stopped participating in school, and the repercussions might be destroying their futures. It's been a huge struggle to try and revert back to the "normal" way of life pre-COVID.

"I know that's how life was supposed to be, so we have to get used to it, but we were just kind of thrown into it again," Anderson said, when talking about coming back to school full time.

The mental health of students has also become tainted by COVID-19. Everyone was isolated, no one could see their friends and family face to face, and social interactions frosted over completely. Depression and anxiety rates in young adults have skyrocketed according to the KFF, and they probably won't go down to what they were pre-COVID.

Reconnection is helping in some ways, but it's also harming," Mrs. Pagett said. "People have lived online and on social media, so they could say whatever they wanted and not face the consequences. So now they've come back to school and the students don't know how to play well with others."

The real question is: are students and teachers ever going to get back to normal? Probably not, or at least not in the next few years.

"I don't know if we ever will," Mr. Pagett said.

"What is 'normal,' honestly?" Anderson said.

The world was shaken, and students and teachers alike are all weighed down by it. How can anyone return to "normal" if they don't know what "normal" is? Is there even a chance that they can go back to normal? The road ahead is unclear, but because students are now in back to school full-time or at least part-time, the effects of virtual learning can be reversed. The future of students may not ever go back to normal, but that doesn't mean it can't create a new and improved normal.



Mr. Kindberg is Here to Stay!

By Ezekiel Passanise

WEST ELLICOTT, N.Y.- After nearly two years of switching between being the assistant principal of both the high and elementary schools, Matthew Kindberg has decided to focus completely on the high school.

Mr. Kindberg has stated that in mid-January he will step down from being the assistant principal in the elementary school and someone new will fill in his absence.

"It was a very difficult decision," Mr. Kindberg stated.

He said that his long background in teaching high school social studies was a big influence on his decision. Mr. Kindberg also stated that the change will allow him to have greater focus while working in the high school.

Mr. Kindberg has been an assistant principal for over two years and hopes that this development will allow him to focus more on the students in the high school.

"I'm excited to forge new relationships with the high schoolers," he expressed.

The identity of the new assistant principal for the elementary school is currently unknown but will be chosen by Mrs. Donahue before the winter break and is expected to start working in January.



Mr. Kindberg will become the full-time assistant principal of the high school this January.

Photo submitted via Mr. Kindberg.



Fall Sports Season Recap

By: Hiba Munir

WEST ELLICOTT, NY— Vigorous, family, chaos, fulfilling. A few words described by athletes who participated in fall sports this 2021-2022 season. As the transition into winter sports have begun, fall sports can recap on their successful seasons.

Many highlights were captured this season, but the varsity boys cross country team was by far the most successful team this season with an undefeated league record of 32-0. They had an astounding first-place team win at sectionals and placed second at the state's competition as a team. See (XC Runners: Runners-Ups at State).



The boys' cross country team after their win at sectionals. Submitted by Ethan Luce.

FALL SPORTS SEASON RESULTS:

Varsity Boys Football: League Record: 6-4, Overall: 4-2 Pulled out a win against Depew in the first playoff game but lost in their second playoff game against Fredonia.

Boys Varsity Soccer: Overall, 12-5-1, League 7-2

Took a first-round win against Eden but lost in the second round of sectional playoffs to Lackawanna.

Girls' varsity Soccer: Overall Record: 8-10-1, League: 7-9-1



Photo Submitted by Dontae Hoose

In the first playoff game they took a win against JFK, had another win against Allegany-Limestone and lost to Roy-hart in the semi-finals of sectional playoffs.

Girls Swimming and Diving: Combined with Jamestown this year and pulled out a league with only one loss throughout their regular season and with placed fifth in Class A.

Girls Tennis: Finished the season undefeated and with a league win for the second year in a row.

Hiba Munir and Elizabeth Kane took the first seed at counties and went into the Sectional VI tournament as the number one seed for the second time from CCAA where they made quarterfinals and ended their season.

Girls Cross Country: League Record: 13-3

Gabby Wigren placed in the top 20 at sectionals where the teams season came to an end.

Girls Varsity Volleyball: League Record: 6-8

Ended their season in their first playoff game in a loss to Eden .

Senior cross country runner Ethan Luce sums up his season in three words: "surreal, satisfying and teamwork." The sentiment captures most athletes' feelings about this sports season.

State

Continued from page A1: During their season, the Trojans went 32-0 in the

league and 157-2 overall. The team claimed wins at the County Championship, Red Dragon Invite, Bulldog Stampede, and Sunset Stampede. One of their biggest feats this year was winning the varsity and JV races at McQuaid Invitational, the biggest race on the East Coast. Varsity boys were led by Nate Lewis's impressive fifth place finish and Faulk won the JV race out of 610 runners. The other JV boys included Sam Kautzman (fifth), Zach Bishop (sixth), Logan Wren (10th), Kenji Walters (17th), Ebaad Meer (27th), and John Conley (35th). The varsity boys were made up of the state team with help from Jake Johnson.



Photo submitted by Ethan Luce.

"Only losing two meets the entire year, including invitationals, is quite impressive," Nate Lewis said. "The team was really deep this year and we had guys step up that needed to which was really good."

The Trojans know what it's like to win, but they couldn't have done it without each other. Their depth made it hard for other teams match up against them and the team comradery left them optimistic for the obstacles ahead.

"I had a really fun time with the guys the entire season, having fun but yet working hard," Coach Lewis said. "It was a great group of guys to work with."

"One of the best teams we've ever had," Nate Lewis said, commenting on the team atmosphere. "We worked well together, had a lot of fun doing so, and are really going to miss the guys that are leaving."

Winter Sports Season Schedules

Girls Basketball

| Dec. 17. | Holland |
|----------|------------|
| Dec. 20. | Frewsburg |
| Dec. 22. | Panama |
| Dec. 30. | Chautauqua |
| Jan. 5. | @Frewbrug |

Boys Basketball

| Dec. 13. | Sherman |
|----------|------------|
| Dec. 17. | @Jamestown |
| Dec. 27. | (a)Sherman |
| Jan. 4. | @Frewburg |
| Jan. 6. | @Dunkirk |

Wrestling

| Dec. 23. | Dunkirk |
|----------|-------------|
| Jan. 5. | Falconer |
| Jan. 8. | @Ripley |
| Jan. 12. | Fredonia |
| Jan. 14. | (a)Falconer |

Boys Swimming

| Dec. 16. | @Dunkirk |
|----------|-----------|
| Dec. 22. | Panama |
| Jan. 6. | @Olean |
| Jan. 7. | Jamestown |
| Jan. 13. | Dunkirk |

Bowling

| Dec. 14. | Silver Creek |
|----------|--------------|
| Dec. 15. | Fredonia |
| Jan. 4. | @Falconer |
| Jan. 12. | Jamestown |
| Jan. 19. | Dunkirk |

Come support winter teams this 2021-2022 season!

Зу:

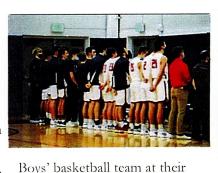




Tipping off Winter Sports

By: Gabby Wigren

WEST ELLICOT, NY—As the sun bounces off the bright white snow, basketballs are beginning to bounce on the hard gym floors as winter sports begin to flurry here at Southwestern. Due to the recent pandemic, these athletes have been longing for a normal season and this year they will finally achieve somewhat of that.



The winter sports offered at Southwestern are boys' and girls' basketball, wrestling,

first home game. Photo submitted McKay Young.

bowling and boys swimming. These teams have been training and preparing for their upcoming seasons for a while now and to have their hard work pay off.

Senior Aidan Kennedy gave his insight on this coming basketball season.

"I feel pretty good about this season, we have a very good team with depth," Kennedy said. "I'm very confident in this team and am excited on how this season will go!"

Last year's winter sports seasons was moved to the spring and spectators were not allowed until the end of the seasons, where two guests were allowed per athlete. Now this year spectators are allowed at the games and matches.

"I am very excited to have a full gym of spectators back this year," Kennedy said. "Last year we were lucky towards the end of the year to be allowed two per player, but this year I think having the crowd could have a huge impact and just helps the team play better having everyone watching."

All winter teams are required to wear masks while they participate and spectators are required to wear masks as well. Come support the Trojans at their events this winter!

A preview of the schedules is given above.

Courageous Kimball

By: Teagan Shedd

WEST ELLICOT, NY- Meredith Kimball is a student at Southwestern who is an advocate for change in the community and is not afraid to be different from the norm. Kimball is a freshman who stood out to the guidance counselors as a person to interview due to her courage and involvement in the school.

Since becoming a freshman, Kimball has been excited to take advantage of the many clubs the high school has to offer, like Allies for Diversity. One of Kimball's biggest priorities is to make Southwestern a safe space for all races and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Kimball wants to help her friends and others who are a part of these communities in the best way possible - "Which usually means reporting incidents when they happen and trying to figure out a solution to comfort my friends," she said.

Kimball has since become a strong leader in Allies for Diversity to further her desire for change.

She loves to come up with big ideas and hopes to get the Progress Flag hung up at the front of our school to help promote a more progressive community acceptable to new ideas.

In Kimball's opinion, she believes COVID-19 has made it harder to process and learn new information and has negatively affected society's communication skills.

Despite the negative effects of COVID-19, Kimball said, "I got to experiment with want I wanted to do and wear last year because I had half of the grade, so I saw it as half of the grade reacting." This allowed her to transition to the new school year with her new style.



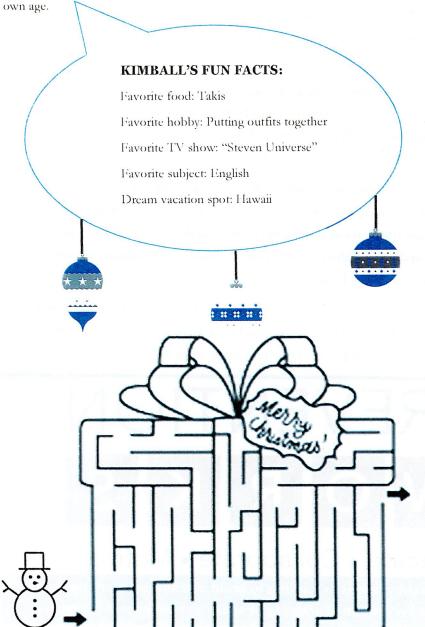
Kimball with her "Kandi" art

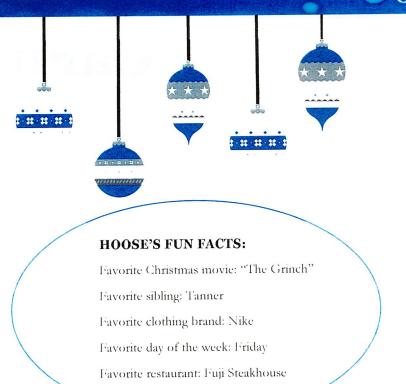
Photo submitted by Kimball.

Kimball has also loved to express herself through art since she was younger and it has helped her get into new forms of art like beaded projects, also known as Kandi, and wants to start crocheting and sewing.

Due to her love for art, Kimball said, "I can transition into what I want career-wise, like fashion and design would be really fun."

Kimball has a big voice in a small town and sets a great example for others of her





Kick it with Hoose

By: Emily Kimball

JAMESTOWN, NY -Do you know the seventh Hoose? What's seven spelled backwards? Who raised a substantial sum of money towards a good cause?

It's Neves Hoose.

Hoose kicked off his sophomore football season with his fundraiser, "Kick it with Hoose," to raise money for pediatric cancer. Along with the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, Southwestern football fans, and Buffalo Bills linebacker Tremaine Edmunds, Hoose was able to raise \$1,788 towards pediatric cancer.

Members of the community pledged \$1 for every successful extra point and \$4 for every successful field goal made by Hoose, the kicker on the Southwestern varsity football team. In addition, according to the ALSF website, amounts ranging from \$1 to nearly \$700 were put towards the charitable cause.

As someone who had dealt with family deaths due to cancer, Hoose was inspired to start his fundraiser.

"I went to a camp this past summer and they had told me about [Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation] ... it was an opportunity to help kids with cancer," Hoose said. "I have had relatives of my own who have died to cancer."

According to Hoose, one of his biggest supporters throughout his endeavors was Southwestern football parent Michael Strong Butterfield. Butterfield was able to provide Hoose with the opportunity to advertise his foundation through Butterfield's connection with Shults Auto Group.

With Butterfield, Hoose was granted the opportunity to connect with Buffalo Bills linebacker Tremaine Edmunds, helping to further promote his fundraiser towards pediatric cancer.

Pertaining to his experience with Edmunds, Hoose said, "my experience with [Edmunds] was amazing."



Hoose says Edmunds "is really chill, a great person to talk to, and extremely motivat-

Neves Hoose with Bills' liinebacker Tremaine Edmunds.

Photo submitted by Hoose.

Hoose crushed his original goal of \$1,000 and 30 points by raising a significant \$1,788

and 33 points. The donations were given directly to Alex's Lemonade Stand, a foundation for childhood cancer.

Thanks to his efforts, Hoose was able to raise money for an important cause. According to Global Burden of Disease, cancer is the second leading cause of death in children ages 5 to 14. Hence, organizations such as Alex's Lemonade Stand work to fund impactful research, raise awareness, and empower everyone to help cure childhood cancer.

"Next season I plan on continuing the same fundraiser," Hoose said.

For those willing and able to support the cause, donations of any quantity can be made in the upcoming season to help Hoose continue the fight against pediatric cancer.

Hoose would like to give a specific shoutout to Butterfield and his mother, Johneen Hoose, for their support throughout the fundraiser.

"A huge thank you to both of them," Hoose said.

Caring Crytzer

By: Ella White

Personal Profile

WEST ELLICOT, N.Y. - Numerous individuals were sent into a tailspin when former counselor, Mrs. Kayner, announced her retirement. Unaware of the person that would take over the position, the student body was concerned for their future. Would applying for college or

The New Counselor

seeking opportunities ever be the same?

In July, the individual fulfilling the open position was publicized: Alexis Crytzer. Mrs. Crytzer applied for the spot as she believed Southwestern High School provided opportunities that were not present at other locations. Along with an abundance of opportunities, she appreciated the short commute, too.

"I wanted to be a part of a school that provides a plethora of academic and extracurricular opportunities for students, high success rates for high school and collegiate academics, and that encompasses a positive and teamoriented environment," Mrs. Crytzer stated.

The Best Part

This school year has not been easy for faculty; however, Mrs. Crytzer has found joy in helping students prosper. She adores creating opportunities for individuals that do not realize their potential. She is capable of assisting in the college application process or finding classes to create a pathway of interest.

"I want students to feel like they have options and that the options they have can be tailored to them uniquely," Mrs. Crytzer said. "Sometimes young individuals don't have the resources or realize the resources they have to be able to achieve more."

Reach Out

As time passes, Mrs. Crytzer hopes to build stronger relationships. She has worked wonders for a number of students and is ready to help any individual. The initial thought of losing Mrs. Kayner was frightening; however, Mrs. Crytzer has gone above and beyond for our school. She aims to better not only Southwestern High School, but every student, too.

"I look forward to continuing to build connections and getting even more comfortable in my role," Mrs. Crytzer stated



Mrs. Crytzer, the new counselor at Southwestern High School.

Photo by Ella White.

Mrs. Crytzer's Fun Facts

Favorite Movie: "Forest Gump"

Favorite Season: Fall

Favorite Candy: Anything Reese's

Favorite Color: Green





Reading the Trojan Times? We would love your feedback!

Scan the QR code below to leave us feedback about what you liked in this issue, what you didn't like, or what you'd like to see next.



COVID

Continued from page A2: "One of the things that our health department has been very clear on, on the national and state level, is that the best defense [against COVID-19] is the vaccine," Mrs. Donahue said.

The vaccination rates of the community are extremely important to limiting spread of the virus, and with the booster shots now approved and being administered, people are becoming further immunized against COVID-19. As people become further immunized, it begs the question: how much longer until we're out of this?

Another factor playing into Southwestern's relatively low transmission rates is its exceptional air circulation and ventilation, according to Mrs. Donahue. This can also help with asthma and allergies, which are two of the most prevalent reasons students stay home from school. While it is great, Mrs. Donahue said there is still room to improve ventilation in our school and we're always working to make it better.

We hear so much bad news regarding COVID-19; however, with vaccination rates increasing and booster vaccinations being administered, maybe we have reason to be optimistic. We might not be so far away from getting out of this pandemic after all.

PREVENTION WORKS

Educate - Collaborate - Motivate

Struggling to quit unhealthy habits or looking to build a healthier, more productive lifestyle? Check out Prevention-Works.org or speak to your school counselor.

REVIEW: "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the 10 Rings"

By: Tucker Gesing

As a massive superfan of Marvel, I might be a little biased in this review due to my overall love of all Marvel movies. But this one still adds a much-needed dive

into the Marvel universe: "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the 10 Rings."

The movie has grossed over \$431 million worldwide and has been on the top 10 charts for weeks, and it was a thrill to watch. The film is filled to the brim with action and fights, containing a mix of martial arts and other traditional Chinese fighting styles. The cast was wellbuilt, with true and native actors and actresses that show and represent the Chinese communities in the film. Overall, I think Disney did a wonderful job on representation for this film.

The plot is a great story based around the main character Shang-Chi (Simu Liu) and his interactions with his sister Xialing (Meng'er Zhang) and his power-hungry father



Movie Poster for "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the 10 Rings." Photo by Disney.

Xu Wenwu (Tony Chiu-Wai Leung). The story is based around the 10 rings and how Shang-Chi must confront his past after being drawn into his father's organization of the Ten Rings. The cinematography by Bill Pope is amazingly beautiful and full of wonderful scene sets and background effects. The soundtrack of the film, produced by Joel P. West, adds a needed boost to pull together all the scenes. The overall success in the timing and suspense created by the music was amazing.

This film, with its countless action scenes and fights, along with the amazing music and cinematography is a must-see for any Marvel or action fan. The movie is led by a great cast and director and will be cemented into the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It did come up short in some areas, such as the overall plot, but movies are never perfect. Disney did an amazing job with this film and it deserves all the Rating: 9/10, would recommend. praise and respect it has gotten.



Catch Season 2 of "Outer Banks" today!

REVIEW: "Outer Banks," Season 2

By: Spencer Kane

After we all experienced the beautiful masterpiece that was "Outer Banks" Season 1, there was no thought in our minds that it could possibly get better, right? Aired on July 30, 2021, "Outer Banks" Season 2 sparked a craze amongst Netflix subscribers all over the world. Being the favorite choice for a quarantine binge led John B. and Sarah Cameron fans to prepare for another adventure in Season 2.

After John B. and Sarah Cameron's fortunate rescue, barring their shipwreck, the couple take to the Bahamas to follow the gold. After extreme conflicts, the duo finds themselves back in the Outer Banks being Pogues and solving the mystery of the Royal Merchant. When problems arise, will the group remain persistent and avenge Sheriff Peterkin? Or will they suffer the rath of Ward and Rafe Cameron?

Season 2 of "Outer Banks" brought me extreme satisfaction as a fan of Season 1. The character development and plot of the story awarded me a sense of eagerness to continue watching. Along with the quality acting done in Season 1, the actors continued to amaze with their passion and ability to fill their respected roles. Season 2 left me with the same feeling that followed my binge watching of Season 1, and I believe Season 3 will do the same.

I would recommend "Outer Banks," and specifically Season 2, to anyone looking for a binge-worthy TV show that incorporates mystery, history, and action. I think the intended audience would range between ages 12 and 30, but I feel as if it's a show for almost all ages. It contains a sense of feeling and friendship that teenagers can relate to, but also for adults to reminisce about. All in all, I really enjoyed Season 2 of "Outer Banks" and cannot wait for Season 3. If you too would like to experience "Outer Banks," Seasons 1 and 2 are available on Netflix. Rating: 9/10, would recommend.

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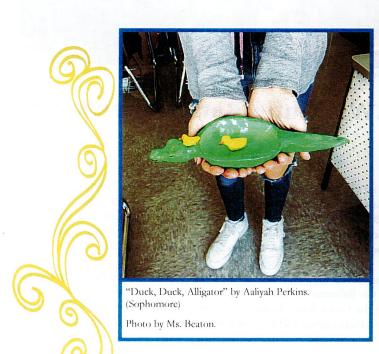


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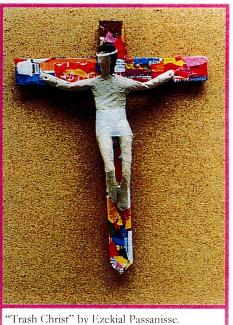


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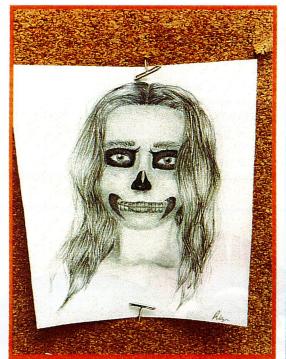
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