

CHRONICLE

NEW YORK STATE CHAMPIONS! GIRLS BASKETBALL TAKES THE TITLE

by David Mooradian

The run to this year's New York State title may have started on March 10, 2020, when the girls basketball team found themselves on a Yankee Trails bus, heartbroken despite their 30 point dominating victory at SUNY Potsdam. The adage goes "win or go home," but this team was forced to do both. This was because the world around them was being shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They had ended their season with a win, but also with emotions that do not come normally with winning. This was because they never got the opportunity to continue to compete for a state championship.

Assistant Coach Mr. Keegan felt that the team was "Final Four good" that year. The season may not have gone completely

to waste, however, because the Warriors used it as motiva-



tion this year.

Several players on the current team were on that bus two years ago, including

seniors Michelina Lombardi and Amelia Wood. Two years

later they found themselves on a similar bus ride again returning from SUNY Canton with a win, but now with a

pandemic that was under control, and a state championship tournament that was on as scheduled.

The Warriors were determined this year, battling both their opponents and the pandemic, yet only losing twice in the season. They entered the Impact Tournament to play against the state's toughest competition, which included Pittsford Mendon and Shenendehowa. In that tournament, the Warriors were not at full strength due to COVID and lost their only two games of the season.

The Warriors followed the tournament with a strong attitude and positive disposition, showcased in wins against both North and South Colonie. Keegan added that both he and Coach Organ felt the team exhibited "strong perseverance" in the aftermath of the Impact Tourna-

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STUDENTS NOT HAPPY WITH PAPERLESS PASS SYSTEM

by Caroline Nero

Over the past month, Averill Park High School has piloted a new online hall pass system. Students access hall passes through their electronic devices, so paper passes are no

longer needed. This new system was created in the hopes of giving students more freedom and becoming more eco-friendly.

As stated by administrators, the new system was created for "increased flexibility and responsibility." Howev-

er, many students aren't happy with this new program.

Out of 64 APHS students, 63 (98%) of them stated they prefer paper passes over the new electronic ones. Whether it's because of the

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STATE TITLE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ment, and that was capped off when a fully healthy team defeated Shenendehowa, a feat that hadn't been done in seven years and one that Keegan described as a "turning point" of the season.

The Warriors earned the number one seed in Section 2 for Class A and rolled into the section final game against Burnt Hills with a lot of momentum.

On Saturday March 5, they returned to their "home away from home" at Hudson Valley Community College and defeated Burnt Hills 61-46, capturing their eighth sectional title in a row and 13th in the past 16 seasons. Sophomore Taylor Holohan was named MVP of the game due to her 19 point performance. But the Warriors were far from satisfied; in fact, their playoff quest had just begun.

You may as well call them the "Weekend" Warriors, because the next Saturday in Syracuse they would capture a regional championship after defeating Bishop Ludden 67-43. Senior Amelia Wood led the team that game with 22 points, followed by Taylor Holohan's 11. The Warriors now had the opportunity to return to the Capital District and compete for a state championship on their home turf, a "special" opportunity according to Keegan to win that state championship they didn't get to compete for two years prior.

After the Averill Park School District granted all middle and high school a half day on Friday the 18 to go support the girls, there was no question that the

The Warriors would fuel off of the electric crowd from the end of the second quarter through the third quarter, when they outscored West Babylon 25-0 in the

The stage was now set for a historic matchup in the state title game for two reasons: one being the obvious, that Averill Park could capture its second girls basket-



ball state title in school history, and the other reason being that Wood had the opportunity to break former AP player Katie Duma's all-time scoring record

Warriors would have quite a bit of support at H.V.C.C. The turnout and atmosphere for Averill Park's semifinal game was near unprecedented, described by WNY-

state semifinal game en route to another double digit victory.

In that game, Holohan played a key role in the effort, scoring 19 points and grabbing 13 rebounds and 6

in her last game as a Warrior if she scored 14 or more points. The only problem was that Section 1 team Tappan Zee was, according to Keegan, "checking a lot of boxes of being a very difficult team to play."

Keegan's prediction was certainly true, as the first half was hard fought and very evenly contested. Even so, the score was tied at 23 at the halfway mark. But the Warriors came out at halftime with a 12-0 run, taking a 35-23 lead. The Dutchwomen of Tappan Zee were not going down without a fight, however, as they crawled back with their own 17-3 run and took a 40-38 lead early in the final quarter.

The Warriors, backed by a contingent of fans that might have exceeded the population of Averill Park, were resilient, and didn't blink after losing their lead, going on to outscore Tappan Zee 16-8 in the closing five minutes. The Warriors won by a score of 54-48, fueled by Lombardi's 11 points and Wood's record-



T's Lexi Swatt as "the most electric high school student section ever."

blocks. Wood, a Sacred Heart commit, had an additional 12 points and 13 rebounds.

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TOMORROW'S LEADERS, TODAY!

STUDENTS ATTEND YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

by Emma Hanlon

After two years of microphone malfunctions, internet crashes, and pets blocking camera views, New York State YMCA Youth and Government has finally reunited with 400 students across the state for its annual state conference.

Youth and Government is a model state government program that allows students to further their education of the government process by becoming members of the judicial, legislative, press, or executive branches.

Members of the program spend the year preparing cases, bills, or articles for the state conference in March — an opportunity to finally reunite the branches at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. This year's state conference allowed students to stay overnight at the Desmond from March 18 - 20.

Averill Park High School sent nearly 20 students to the conference this year as members of the legislative branch. Delegates are responsible for researching and drafting their own new legislation in the form of a bill or resolution, with the hopes of it being passed and signed by the Youth Governor. Each bill is presented in our Senate and Assembly chambers by bill sponsors and is debated and voted on by the dele-

gates in that chamber.

A large part of the YMCA's mission is to empower youth to be functional members of society through giving them an opportunity to

day's youth and what changes should be made to help New York State thrive.

"Seeing what you worked so hard on finally being put into action is a

Many students feel that Youth and Government is a great tool to improve social and public speaking skills, especially due to extensive practice presenting and debating with your peers.

"There has been no experience in my life that has improved my ability to stand up in front of a crowd and speak my mind like the state conference," said sophomore Cavan Hicks.

Conference attendees were able to enjoy 3-4 event-packed days ranging from debate in chambers to karaoke and High School

Musical song parodies put on by the conference leadership team.

Unsurprisingly, APHS had high representation in leadership, with five juniors serving in a variety of roles in the conference. Tyler Michaels and Emma Hanlon served as Deputy Protomptore and Assembly Speaker on the 2022 Presiding Officer team, and were able to organize the inner workings of club meetings at the local and state level. Isabelle Relyea served on the Governor's Cabinet as Commissioner of Environmental Conservation; Owen Perala and Jason Strickland lead committee meetings as committee chairs.

"It was an amazing

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use their voice on issues that are important to us. Every bill reflects on the values of to-

great feeling," said Matt Frost, a junior who attended the conference in March.

STATE TITLE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

breaking 20 point performance, which solidified her as Averill Park's new all-time leading scorer with 1544 career points.

Wood also contributed 20 rebounds, and subsequently was named MVP of the game. The Weekend Warriors accomplished the

feat of winning the sectional title, regional title, and state title in three consecutive Saturdays. In addition to that, they also had the privilege and advantage of playing the majority of their playoff games at H.V.C.C. in front of an impressive and passionate community base.

They served their people and their fanatics rejoiced.

The 2021-22 Warriors can now say they are forever cemented in Averill Park history as the only Class A team in all of New York State to have ended their season with a win. For seniors Lombardi and Wood,

their last game with Averill Park will certainly be a memorable one.



PAPERLESS PASS SYSTEM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

time limit, the new technology, glitches, or accessibility, students aren't too fond of online passes.

When asked why she prefers paper passes, sophomore Ellie Garrison explained, "Online passes invade students' privacy and take up valuable time from students and teachers."

Many teachers and students still haven't gotten the hang of this new technology, and while it may come with practice, for now paper passes are much easier to use.

Along with that, some students don't appreci-



ate the time limit assigned to each pass. It can be stressful for students to have a time limit, especially when going to the bathroom. While it's understandable why administrators don't want students to leave class for long periods of time, having a timer count down the seconds while you're on the pass can cause stress.

As with everything, there are positives to the situation. Using online passes instead of paper ones is more eco-friendly as less paper is more economically friendly. Also, students can make appointment passes through the

website. This allows them to easily schedule a meeting with their counselor if necessary, rather than having to go down to the office and fill out a form.

When it comes down to what students prefer, paper passes are the clear answer. The online program may become easier with time, but for now the majority of students aren't on board with this new system. As sophomore Sam Hart stated, "I think we should listen to the students. I don't see how the old system was broken, so why should we change it?"

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

experience to be a leader at conference and to be able to see the results of everyone's hard work. The other officers and I got to see our efforts come to fruition with every smile and every time someone made a new friend," commented Michaels, "and it was awesome to see how invested everyone was and see what they had been working on."

The Youth and Government State Conference is an unforgettable experience that truly



cannot be described eloquently with words. Even after two years apart, it felt to the participants as if they had never left when reunited again.

If you are interested in joining Youth and Government, you can keep up with the organization on its social media page @aphsyouthandgovernment on Instagram.

THUMBPRINTS AND CRIMINALISTICS

ONE STUDENT'S STUDY AT AVERILL PARK HIGH SCHOOL

by Carly Antolick

Everyone likely knows that their fingerprints are unique identifiers that belong only to them, and that they're often used as key evidence in the world of forensic science. Turn on an episode of *Criminal Minds* or *CSI* and you'll likely see fingerprints being used as evidence to bring a criminal to justice. The TV-show investi-

gators wave a brush over a surface and bam – a suspect's fingerprint appears, just like magic. The print is lifted and identified as belonging to a suspect, and the episode wraps up neatly as the case is closed.

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processing techniques to identify the unique characteristics on a fingerprint lifted from a crime scene and match it to an individual, often providing forensic scientists with crucial evidence that can be used to convict a criminal. While this is impressive and fascinating technology, it has its limitations; not everyone's fingerprints are in AFIS. Contrary

However, the "match not found" message is exactly where my study comes in. Earlier this year, I worked with APHS's very own Dr. Panzanaro to identify a forensic science question that had never been definitively answered – and we found fingerprints. While so much scientific research has been conducted about fingerprints, from Sir Francis Galton's breakthrough back

study will determine if a certain class of fingerprint appears more on individuals with a certain gender, age, or dominant hand. The second part will look at ridge density (basically, how close together the lines, or ridges, on your fingerprints are) and determine the associations there as well. However, in order for the results of the study to be deemed statistically signifi-



gators wave a brush over a surface and bam – a suspect's fingerprint appears, just like magic. The print is lifted and identified as belonging to a suspect, and the episode wraps up neatly as the case is closed.

In these shows, you'll probably find a scene where an investigator uploads a print onto a computer and is almost immediately rewarded with the identity of the person who left it behind. This on-screen system mimics the FBI's database – the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, or AFIS – which stores millions of fingerprints and can identify their matches just like you see on-screen. AFIS uses advanced image-

to what some people might believe, we're not fingerprinted at birth – even though your fingerprints remain the same from "womb to tomb," this would likely be considered an invasion of privacy. While convicts, government employees, military members, law enforcement officers, and educators – and even some Boy Scouts – submit their fingerprints into AFIS, many citizens have never even been fingerprinted. So it's entirely possible that entering a fingerprint found at a crime scene into AFIS will spit out the dreaded message of, "match not found," and investigators will be forced to go back to square one.

in 1892 to Jan Halánek's more recent discoveries at SUNY Albany, no method of identifying the gender, age, or dominant hand of a suspect from an unidentified print has ever been definitively accepted.

My study will analyze the class patterns and ridge densities of thumbprints, and determine if the frequencies of their occurrence can play any role in determining the gender, age, or dominant hand of an individual.

While that may sound like scientific gibberish to many people, it's actually quite simple. There are three main "classes" of fingerprints: loops, whorls, and arches. The first part of the

cant, and in order to obtain more accurate results, I'll need to collect hundreds of thumbprints – and this is

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We Want Your IDEAS

The Averill Park Chronicle wants your story ideas. Send them to any Journalism Club member, or to Mr. Strich, The Chronicle's advisor.

RAFFLES OF A LIFETIME NO LONGER LEGAL

WHY RAFFLES WERE OUTLAWED IN THE HIGH SCHOOL

by Julie Hale

Clubs have been fundraising since the dawn of time, and they've only gotten more sophisticated at it as various attempts have been made. Among all types of fundraising, though, the major money maker has always been raffles.

Raffles bring in everyone, usually helping support a non-profit organization or charity, changing the lives of those in need of donations. However, APHS's history of countless raffles has come to an abrupt halt, due to new specifications from the business department. This news came as a shock to the members of the International Club, since they had planned and organized a raffle set to launch before February break. Everyone in the club was confused as to why raffles weren't allowed all of a

sudden, but advisor Mrs. Yost was able to provide some insight. She had done countless raffles in the past for the junior class - and for which their proms heavily depended

hadn't affected raffles until early February - which is when many fundraisers were going to be launched.

While Averill Park is fortunate the new business

er's "right of passage," and technically the raffles had always been illegal on school grounds since one needs to be at least 18 years old to gamble. And raffles are considered gambling, even the 50/50 drawings that used to be promoted at most sporting events. Anything that involves paying for a chance is considered gambling by New York State, and is therefore prohibited in school.

So the next time you feel like taking a chance, you're better off taking those extra couple

minutes of sleep vs giving \$1 for a cause with a chance at a basket filled with goodies, because you and/or the school could be fined for around \$100.

Raffles are now a thing of the past for students, who should be looking forward to new kinds of fundraisers - or participating in a raffle when of age.



upon. Without them, they had to resort to other, less effective fundraisers.

According to Yost, our school isn't the only one reeling from the shock, as this is a new state mandate needed to be regulated by new hires. Averill Park's new business manager was hired around December of last year, but the work they produced

manager makes sure school activities follow new regulations, the timing of the state to institute this change right after pandemic restrictions were being lifted and things were starting to become "normal" again interferes with fundraising efforts.

Ironically, taking chances and risks are considered a part of every teenag-

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FINGERPRINTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

where all of Averill Park comes in. I've already begun visiting advisories to collect thumbprints from those willing to volunteer. You don't have to worry about me giving your fingerprints to the government (I've been asked that question more times than you'd think), as I don't collect your name, and your prints cannot be connected back to

you specifically.

Over the next few months, I will hopefully be able to visit every advisory in the school and collect prints from many APHS students. Then I'll move into the analysis stage, which will compile all of the collected data into understandable results. Once the results are analyzed and I've been able to draw conclu-

sions, I hope to be able to publish the study in a scientific journal, which would hopefully provide forensic scientists with further data to support their crime-fighting efforts.

So when you see me heading into your advisory with a fingerprint pad and a stack of papers - don't hesitate to volunteer your prints!

EDITORIAL PAGES

SUPPORT UKRAINE AS IT FIGHTS FOR ITS LIFE

by Sam Bonesteel

Over a month ago, Vladimir Putin claimed he had no intention of invading Ukraine, even after massing troops on three sides of the European nation. The world held its breath, hoping this claim would prove to be true, all the while not trusting the despotic leader. However, the “peacekeeping operations” in eastern Ukraine soon turned into a large-scale attack on the country, and suspicions were proven correct as eastern Ukraine descended into chaos.

Now people from all corners of the world watch as Russian soldiers are ordered on a mission: to strip Ukrainians of everything they have come to know. A mission that serves nothing but the twist-

ed desires of one corrupt ruler, and which faces the unforeseen resolve of a very stubborn country.



Russia attacked from the North, East, and South, and surrounded and besieged many cities such as Kyiv, Mariupol, and Melitopol.

Russian forces have effectively maintained control of a large piece of land in eastern Ukraine, and continue to slowly push forward. However, recently Ukrainians have made increasing counterattacks, and have even forced their opponents to retreat in the North, especially around the capital city of Kyiv. While Russian forces continue to advance in some parts, a large portion is stalled, with some even retreating, which signals hope for Ukraine.

Unfortunately, part of Russia’s progress includes bombing not only civilian housing, but maternity and children’s hospitals. This is an abomination, and shows how cruel and devastating

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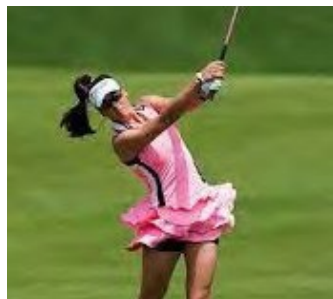
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GIRLS’ SPORTS FACE TOO MANY INEQUALITIES

by Bella Bernstein and Simone Schwarz Eise

Female students rummage through their closet every day finding clothes that are “school appropriate,” not for themselves, but for the male student body. For years the education system has defended the dress code rules by covering it with the blatant excuse of male students being “distracted.” The school dress code by itself is extremely controversial, but what shouldn’t be is a woman comfortable within her own body.

Many female athletes at Averill Park have spoken out about the discomfort they feel wearing the short



skirts and uncomfortable dresses that constitute their athletic uniforms. It is the 21st century and our school is

still proclaiming gender norms.

We spoke to girls from the Averill Park lacrosse team and the only female who was on the golf team to understand more. These students are done being silent; their discomfort in their own body is distracting them from succeeding in their sport.

“I am not very confident in my body” commented a student who wished to remain anonymous. “Having to wear a skirt makes me hate the sport I love.” The outfits girls are made to wear are so against the school dress code

that the athletes are not allowed to wear them to school on game day.

For years now the girls have been asking to get jerseys that have a shorts option, but the district refuses with the excuse of a lack of funding. This is far from the truth, as the school is willing to spend an excessive amount on the football team’s new jerseys. This year the football team got over 37 new jerseys (each at about \$150), but the district will not fund the girls lacrosse team enough money to buy

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EDITORIAL PAGES

UKRAINE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

the Russian offensive has been to Ukraine, making it nearly impossible for civilians to find safety, and actively targeting women and children in hospitals. Russia is causing havoc and devastation left and right. The Kremlin is notorious for its extortion, but the killing of innocent women and children who were in need of medical attention shows the true malicious intent of Putin.

This conflict has pitted two extremely different leaders against each other, showing the world a sharp contrast between the evil, corrupt leader of Russia, and the courageous, selfless President of Ukraine. Both Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelenskyy have become symbols across the globe in the past few months, but the two symbols could not have more different meanings.

On one hand there is a man who has caused nothing but pain and desolation, an infamous man who is racking up war crimes by the minute. This is a man who is driving his country's economy into the ground, giving Russia its worst reputation since the Cold War, and choking his nation to death. This is a man who has launched a large-scale invasion on his neighbor with no support from his own people, many who are quickly turning against him. What sort of leader forces innocent, unsuspecting soldiers to kill for no apparent reason?

On the other hand, there is a leader who the world looks up to. Instead of taking the easy way out and

getting a cushy ride to Washington, Zelenskyy chose to stay and fight for his country, becoming a symbol of pride and motivation for Ukrainian soldiers and civilians alike. Unlike his adversary, who is dragging his own country down with him, Zelenskyy is



fighting for everything his country stands for, fighting for the freedom and spirit of Ukraine. An unlikely leader through these dark times, a prior comedian taking on the role of president, he has shown the world that he is a great man, with unbelievable bravery and dauntlessness throughout the conflict. Zelenskyy's perseverance has shown the world that Ukraine is not simply a Russian pawn; it has the culture and will to outlast and thwart Putin.

If there were real elections in Russia, like Putin claims, he assuredly would not be up for reelection. His fighter jets aren't the only things spiraling

out of control; at the moment he's not exactly the hottest stuff in the eyes of his people. Luckily for him, though, a drop of novichok nerve agent can get Putin through more than just the preliminaries. Unlike his biggest fan, Donald Trump,

guided, coerced into fighting by a selfish man with his own motives, the hearts of all Ukrainian citizens are full of the will to fight. The war that Putin hoped would be over in a matter of two weeks has lasted much longer than expected. And while peace talks haven't been completely successful and we have yet to see the withdrawal of Russian troops, it isn't looking too bright for Putin.

The people of Ukraine are willing to fight even when outnumbered, putting their lives on the line, and dying for their nation. They are losing their homes, their families and friends, their world as they know it, but you can help them. By donating to charities that help provide medical supplies, food, and clothing to refugees and soldiers, you can

make their fight your fight. New York is welcoming more refugees through its doors than any other state. By welcoming all Ukrainian people, you can help ease the pain of loss, and help them find a new home here.

The invasion Russia has launched has shown us not only the corruption and oppression of its government, but also the will and spirit of Ukraine. Zelenskyy has become a beaming beacon of hope for his soldiers and the world, and that beacon will take more than Putin has bargained for to break. Our hopes and prayers go out to the Ukrainian people, as they fight against the brutality of Russia's regime.

Putin can get away with a bit of election fraud and totalitarianism. While Russians are probably annoyed that they can't see major blockbusters, post Instagram pics, or have any of those boring First Amendment rights, they also don't appreciate the cold iron cuffs that greet them when speaking up. The amount of censorship and suppression seen in Russia is unbelievable, and its own people risk a lot just by acknowledging the war.

Aided by NATO's resources and its fiscal warfare with Russia, Ukraine has proved to be a worthy opponent of the largest country in the world. Where Russian soldiers are confused, be-

EDITORIAL PAGES

RATING THE SCHOOL BATHROOMS

by Teddy Dangler

There are many very important events going on in the world currently, such as the fiasco between Russia and Ukraine, or what we're all going to do after COVID-19. Seeing all of these terrible events, I have taken it upon myself to write about something not even close to as important or necessary: my personal opinion on which bathrooms at the high school are the best and which are the worst. You know, something that isn't important in any way, but interesting enough for someone to be able to read and think to themselves, "Why am I still reading this after I just saw the title of this article?"

In this piece, I will be judging both the girls and boys bathrooms as a collective for some obvious reasons, but since I didn't go into a girls bathroom I'm going to take a very uneducated guess that they're built pretty similar, if not the same. I will also not be counting the faculty restrooms for the reason that I am not of the physical or mental age requirement to enter one. Now, I will be ranking the 10 bathrooms at this school from worst to not as bad and mixing it with my very biased opinion to create the unappealing list you are about to read.

To kick things off, I'd like to start with the worst, number 10, the bathroom in the art wing right near the staircase. One of the most prominent reasons why this facility is on the bottom of this list is because clearly the

stalls were accidentally made for toddlers instead of grown teenagers. For instance, when you are in the stall, you can easily peek your head into the one next to it, meaning that the architect must have mistaken this building for an elemen-

while relieving yourself at the same time.

Next up we have bathroom number 9, the facility across the hall from the global and other history-related classes. Is there a specific name for that area of the school? Probably. Do I

session in their mid-thirties. I only say this because of the stall all the way in the back of the bathroom.

Sure, if you want to feel any bit of privacy or security this would be where you would go. But the moment you close that stall door you are just praying that something doesn't crawl over it, leaving you helpless. It might be the fact that the lighting is the same as in the scary movies we watched as little kids. Or it could all just be in my head and I just have major undiagnosed trust issues. But whatever it is, it makes you regret your decision to eat that expired sandwich right before class in an attempt to get out of having to attend it. There are more reasons why this bathroom is at the bottom of this list, but because of my very arguable opinions and your lack of patience for this piece, I'm just going to move on to the next facility.

I have decided to make number 8 the so-called "bathrooms in the locker rooms." I have decided to clump all of these together as one, because no matter what locker room you are in, whether it be the girls or boys, varsity or not, nobody enjoys using these when other people are changing right next to them. Let's say that it's the beginning of gym class and everyone is changing to get ready, but all of a sudden you have to go. The only

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tary school. For parents who wonder why their kids are coming home and immediately using the bathroom, just know that this bathroom is the reason. On the bright side, at least now you can make new friends

really care? Not at all. Anyway, I have decided to put this bathroom as number 9 because it is the reason that kids are scared of the dark, or it's where they start developing trauma that they are going to talk about in their therapy

EDITORIAL PAGES

BATHROOMS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

thing you can do now is use the toilet that is about 10 feet away from everyone else. Now you have a problem; people can hear everything that is happening and now you're too embarrassed to come out, knowing that you are being laughed at and silently judged. How could you ever look at your friends the same knowing that they heard and smelled what you were doing in there?

Next up we have numbers 7, 6, and 5, the three bathrooms that are located in the building but the only way to get to them is from the outside or crawling through a vent, your choice. Located near the concession stand and the track, these three bathrooms are close in ranking but each one has something that makes one feel worse than the others. Let's start with 7, the middle one. Now this one is interesting; it is cold and dark and it does smell a little, but don't let this distract you from the major problem at hand. That would be the fact that you have a 50% chance of the door actually locking. So you could be in there and you would have a 50/50 chance of someone walking in on you because nobody knocks anymore.

Number 6 would be the one all the way on the left. This one is a little bit better but still bad. The reason for this is because it happens to be located just outside of the boys locker room. This just leads to you being able to hear most things happening in there, all the conversations, and all the things they say about you behind your back. But nobody knows what they

hear on their side.

Finally, we have the bathroom all the way to the right. This bathroom is better than the other two for a few reasons. First off, it doesn't look nearly as

like most bathrooms here at Averill Park... cold and unappealing to the human eye. I only say this because I have only ever been in it once, but that one time was very inter-

shouldn't be there to begin with, either.

Now we are down to our top 3. If you are still with me, then good job, we're almost done. For this next one I have decided to make the bathroom right by the cafeteria third. This facility is good for when it comes to crying alone because nobody will sit with you at lunch, or when it comes to throwing up in the toilet because you found a sandwich nobody ate and thought that it would be fine if you did. Either way, this is a good go-to restroom because of its semi-private stalls and its "colorful" paint job. Just be aware of the weird kids who go in there who are socially awkward and talk to the walls.

Anyways, onto number 2, the bathroom upstairs in the science wing. I have to save this one for second because of its lack of odor and its stalls. I'd give the privacy a 6/10 on any days where creeps don't try to climb under them or look through the cracks. This bathroom is equivalent to a bathroom at an amusement park; both are unreliable and full of disappointment.

Finally, the moment you have all been waiting for... number 1, the bathroom near the gym. I have saved this one for last because, in my opinion, it is the cleanest and most reliable. Reliable how, you may ask? Well, there is the obvious reason that the toilets and sinks work, but if you are ever in need of pretty much anything, chances are it's



worn down, and there are usually no more than two spider webs in the corners. There are some other things about it that I'm not going to get into right now, but you get the idea.

Next up we have number 4, the bathroom upstairs in the math wing. This bathroom is

interesting. It might have something to do with the fact that it's a little cramped, especially when there are 8 people in it at the same time. I only rank this as number 4 because I wouldn't say there are too many things wrong with it, but I wouldn't say it

(continued on page 11)

EDITORIAL PAGES

TEACHERS SHOULD HAVE TO LEARN FIRST AID

by Bailey Vooris

Medical situations are bound to occur in children of all ages, but are the teachers prepared to deal with these situations? That's the question we should all be asking ourselves.

Averill Park School District does NOT currently mandate teachers to be trained in first-aid. That means that we are relying on the nurse to take care of any incidents that can occur to any of the approximately 1200 students. What happens if the nurse is not in the building, or preoccupied with another situation? What happens when we are on a field trip and the nurse is not present? The next best solution is for the gym coaches and first responder Mr. Organ to step in. However, that puts a time delay in providing medical care to the student or teacher experiencing the medical emergency.

First aid and CPR training requires only 6-8 hours of a teacher or staff member's time, but could ultimately make a difference in saving a student's or teacher's life. It only requires recertification

every two years and is offered virtually everywhere. We, as students, are required to take health in order to graduate. In that health curriculum, we are required to learn hands-

agency arises, meaning every second counts when administering first aid.

Let's start simple; first aid is basic medical attention or treatment that is



on CPR as well as First Aid, so I ask you, why aren't our teachers required to learn the same skills? If the teachers and other staff members are trained in proper first-aid skills, they would be able to act immediately when a situation presents itself and know the warning signs of certain medical emergencies. Time is of the essence when an emer-

gency arises, meaning every second counts when administering first aid. It requires little training and skills to provide adequate care to the victim. The care provided by the bystanders (teachers and staff) lasts long enough until EMS (emergency medical technicians and paramedics) can arrive.

On average, it can take between 3-10 minutes,

sometimes even longer, for first responders to arrive at an emergency scene. The time frame from witnessing the medical emergency, to calling for the nurse, to calling 911, to dispatching first responders, to the first responders arriving at the school, can take up a crucial amount of time. That time is needed to ensure the best possible outcome for the victim. For example, if someone having a cardiac arrest emergency, performing CPR in the first few minutes can double or even triple the chance of survival for that person, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

There are numerous instances in our school where medical emergencies can arise. Autotech class incidents, minor chemical burns in science classes, undiagnosed medical conditions, or even strenuous exercise could result in a situation where first aid or CPR could be life-saving. If all teachers were required to take this short class, they would be better prepared to deal with such situations when the time arises.

BATHROOMS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

been shoved down the toilet. For example, I went to use the bathroom the other day and I opened the stall and to my lovely surprise I found a half eaten cheeseburger in the toilet. And it's not just food that winds up in the sewage

system. You can find Match Box cars, a roll of toilet paper, a whole roll of paper towels, a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and even someone's math homework. It's like that one section in the back of Walmart that nobody goes to

threw up in our very own toilets.

Congratulations, you have made it to the end of this monstrosity of a list. If you are still reading this then I applaud your patience and ability to finish things to the very end. So

congrats on allowing me to waste 3-5 minutes of your life that you will never get back, and you should probably go get some help if you did actually read this and thought that it was a productive use of your time.

GUEST EDITORIAL

THE HORROR OF IT ALL!

THE EVOLUTION OF HORROR MOVIES

by Garry Stone

Movies are a part of life, right? And your choices are unlimited, since there are so many different genres of movies. There's drama, suspense, comedy, and romance, but one stands out among all others; my personal favorite, horror.

The horror movie genre started in 1896 with a film called *The House of the Devil*. It was a 3 minute silent movie. Back then many horror films focused on haunted houses and the devil.

As the early 1900's were underway, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* was introduced; *Frankenstein* was released around the same time.

Even though movie critics consider the 1930's to be the horror movie "boom" (with *Dracula*, *Frankenstein* and *The Mummy*), I wouldn't know because I'm not too interested in your classic 80-year old horror flick.

The 50's got underway, and during that decade many "monster" films were released that were considered horror (think of *Godzilla*, *King Kong* and *War of the Gargan-*

tuas). Now, these films are not considered to be horror movies.

In the late 1960's, *Night of the Living Dead* was released, and this movie paved the way for the modern-day "zombie"

if they had named it *The Babysitter Murders*, which almost happened?).

The 80's took off and slasher films were still pretty much a big favorite (especially in my house) and *Halloween* was copied,

for this type of slasher film, maybe you would enjoy an evil doll as the slasher (*Child's Play* in 1988) or a bunch of cursed little murdering dolls (*The Puppet Master* in 1989), or even a little town named Gatlin

taken over by a brainwashed religious cult all under the age of 19 (*Children of the Corn* in 1984)?

90's horror films such as *Misery*, *Final Destination* and *The Blair Witch Project* were made, and yet another type of horror was unleashed - the psychological thriller. There were these kinds of movies made way before the 1990's, but these are examples of the modern day type.



film. Many, many have followed, and for the most part if you have seen one, you have seen them all (basically they're dead, they run, and they look ugly and smelly). In *Night of the Living Dead* though (as well others, including *Psycho*), they might not have smelled bad, as chocolate syrup was used as blood.

The late 70's was the start of my personal favorite type of horror - the "slasher" film. In 1978, Michael Myers was introduced on film, and *Halloween* movies are still being made to this day (though would we like them as much

ripped off by the creators of *Friday the 13th* (whose main character, Jason Voorhees, was almost named Josh). Many similar movies followed after this.

Then, in 1984, something interesting and innovative took place. A movie by the name of *Nightmare on Elm Street* was released in theatres, and this different kind of "twisted" horror had a guy named Freddy Krueger entering people's dreams and killing them; the victim would die in their sleep of natural causes. To me, that's terrifying.

But if you're not

While not every great horror movie fits with the evolution I provided (other greats include *Psycho* (1960), *The Birds* (1963), *The Exorcist* (1973), *Jaws* (1975), *Salem's Lot* (1979), and *The Shining* (1980)), generally many do. When you find a horror film you like, it's easy to find similar movies by looking at other films that premiered in that decade.

So when you want to kick back on a Friday night to watch a scary movie with a loved one, remember to enjoy yourself, and more importantly, to lock your doors.

REVIEWS

OBP PERFORMS LAST SHOW OF SCHOOL YEAR SAYS FAREWELL TO ITS SENIORS

by Egan Johnson

Averill Park's own Off Broadway Players (OBP) performed its final show of the school year on the 25 and 26 of March. The production was Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's 1939 play *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and it was a fitting chance for

Walsh, and a local newspaperman, played by sophomore Ryan Fleming. The plot thickens through the antics that ensue when Whiteside decides that the romance is interfering with her duties and intervenes. Throughout the play, it becomes evident that he has overstayed his welcome with the Stanleys.

comically cynical note - effective in its delivery of the play's overall message.

The actors' convincing portrayal of their characters showed an acute understanding of their highly interpretable roles, lending to the overall experience for the audience who may have missed out on the humor

and numerous donated antique set pieces to handle, kept set builders and stage crew on their toes.

Following the second and final show, members saw off the graduating members in an OBP tradition called "senior roses", in which a younger peer presents each senior with a



seniors to showcase their talents for the Averill Park community one last time.

The play is a comedy revolving around the eccentric, temperamental and "famously outlandish" radio show host Sheridan Whiteside, played by senior Wolfgang "Wolfy" Balga. He is temporarily wheelchair-bound due to a fall on the icy steps of the Stanley family residence, where he is staying until recovery under doctor's orders. The plot develops around an emerging romance between Whiteside's secretary, played by senior Emily

The story of each individual character and their relationships are told through witty social commentary about the results of misused influence in high society. The writing portrays this with Whiteside's extensive meddling in the private affairs of others, an ability only afforded to him by his wealth and renown. The far reaching effects of his actions become most apparent in the final act, in which the characters scramble to reverse the damage done, albeit without much success, closing curtains on a

and depth of character presented if not for the former. One stagehand noted how senior Lauren Wicks' skillful direction gave the actors the orchestration they needed to collaborate in an effective way.

On a technical level, this was an ambitious production; its dialogue-heavy scenes and lengthy runtime made for a difficult undertaking on part of the actors. The complex set, which included a small second story, fifteen-foot tree, patterned walling that required building from scratch,

congratulatory rose for completing their last ever show at APHS and delivers a short speech. It was an emotional event for those involved, with one speech including mentions of losing a "soulmate, best friend, and sister" to graduation. Averill Park is sad to see these members' involvement in OBP come to an end.

A big thank you is extended to the club officers, advisors, and show sponsors for making this production possible and the best it could be.

REVIEWS

BUSY AND BALANCED: MUSIC PERFORMS AT MULTIPLE EVENTS

by Chava Thiehl

The Averill Park music department has been increasingly busy as the year continues; perhaps the height of its activity came this past month when ensembles performed at several concerts, joined by eighth grade students, and in front of audiences at the Empire State Plaza as part of Music in Our Schools Month.

The instrumental concert took place on Tuesday, March 9, beginning at 6:30 pm. The program consisted first of the woodwind-heavy "Drums of the Saamis," where flutists showcased their abilities. The eighth grade musicians then joined them for their final piece, "Onslaught," where percussionists took center stage.

The orchestra then performed "Yesterday" by The Beatles, "Mambo Incognito," which captured audiences with its intriguing rhythm, and "Variations on a Ground" by Marsha Chusmir Shapiro.

The final performances of the night were led by the jazz ensemble, who, on a suggestion from a member, spontaneously began with a number titled "Blues by Five" where several players were chosen at random to improvise. They then moved onto their piece titled "The Jazz Police," where trumpets and low brass led to mimic sirens. Seventh and eighth graders joined for their final piece, an upbeat Latin groove titled "Señor

Banana."

The choral concert took place on Tuesday, March 15, where the concert and treble choirs performed several pieces, from stunning a

solos.

Following the concerts, the ensembles took a joint field trip to the Empire State Plaza on Friday, March 18, a busy day for the dis-

ed music students boarded buses to the state capital, beginning performances shortly after arrival.

Starting with the concert choir's renditions of, "And So it Goes" by Billy Joel, they then performed "Tarekita," "Oh Love," and were joined by members of the treble choir for their closing, "Indonana," which changed the dynamics of the piece and intrigued audiences all the more.

The concert band followed by performing the two pieces previously played at the concert. The group grew with intensity and the percussion thundered through the large space.

The orchestra then went on to perform their pieces. Their playing of "Yesterday" brought a level of calm to the concert, while "Mambo Incognito" provided an exciting contrast.

Jazz ensemble followed the orchestra, playing a short blues number and their two pieces, while the drums took control of the space during impressive solos in "The Jazz



cappella pop pieces to somber lullabies and solos, including, "And So it Goes" by Billy Joel, performed by the con-

duct; the girls' basketball team headed to Hudson Valley Community College to play in the state semifinals,



cert choir, "Indonana" by both members of treble and concert choirs, and "Royals" by Lorde, making the program diverse and entertaining, with harmonies, beatboxing, and

while the Youth and Government club headed to Albany to present their bills. Meticulously planned, the groups worked together for an organized sendoff, and 89 excit-

(continued on page 15)

REVIEWS

POPULARITY OF SPARKLING ICE ON THE RISE

by Owen Perala

There have always been great snack options in the cafeteria – for example, no one in their right mind would pass up one of those sugar cookies. This year, though, a new popular option has emerged: Sparkling ICE drinks.

For \$1.50, students can get 16 fluid ounces of these tasty drinks, whether it's in a caffeinated can or in a non-caffeinated bottle. The caffeinated cans have been sold in six flavors here at APHS: Cherry Vanilla, Black Raspberry, Blue Raspberry, Citrus Twist, Orange Passion Fruit, and Strawberry Citrus.

The non-caffeinated bottles also come in a variety of flavors. 18 flavors are listed on Sparkling ICE's website for these bottles, and there is always a solid selection available in the cafeteria.



What makes these drinks so popular? When asked, several students cited the lack of other flavored beverages sold in the cafeteria. As one student said: "We're teenagers, we are constantly seeking out flavored and sugary things. These are the closest things to soda that we have here, so naturally students are going to want them."

On top of this, some students also cited the caffeine the drinks contain as a reason for their popularity. One student said, "My last two classes of the day are not the most enjoyable. So normally I'll grab an ICE, and that helps me get through them."

On top of this, sparkling ICE drinks seemingly offer a relatively healthy option to satisfy teenagers' desire for flavor. The drinks are at most 5 calories, and contain an impressive amount of vitamins and antioxidants. Their only

downside is the 70mg of caffeine they contain. While some students cite this as a reason why they buy them, it is generally thought that a teenager should have under 100mg of caffeine a day. This means that just one drink can make up more than two-thirds of your daily caffeine intake.

I think it is safe to say that Sparkling ICE drinks will not be going anywhere anytime soon. They are a decently healthy option for students, with a variety of flavors, and their popularity is only continuing to rise. I tried to get a quote from Sparkling ICE on Instagram, and when I told them about the popularity of the drinks here at APHS, they simply responded with, "Love to hear it, keep buying our drinks." Something I'm sure the student body will continue to do.

PERFORMANCES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

Police."

To cap off the event, the treble choir concluded with "Hamisha Asar," "Hebè," "Seal Lullaby," and an epic a capella performance of "Royals" by Lorde, combining beatboxing with incredible harmonies, ensuring a whopping round of applause from audience members.

Both Ms. Christy and Mr. Blostein were awarded plaques for their participation in the event. Members of the audience included teachers, staff,



ty with impressive musical performances.

Congratulations to everyone who participated.

parents, and state Senator Daphne Jordan. It was a successful day for the district, with the music department representing APHS well and providing the local communi-



REVIEWS

EIGHT TALENTED SENIORS COMPETE...

by Egan Johnson

In the evening hours of April 9, Averill Park High School carried out its beloved annual tradition, Mr. AP. Thomas Nero emerged victorious and now proudly possesses the Mr. AP spirit stick.

For those who are new to this tradition, Mr. AP is a fundraising event taking the form of a pageant-like talent show, the winner being dubbed "Mr. AP".

A Mr. AP competition has been held every year since 2004, with the exception of 2020. Last year's competition, won by August Johnson, was held outside, masked, with a significantly reduced audience, making the return to a full, indoors, and mask-optional attendance all the more significant. It was as close to a pre-pandemic indoors event as APHS has hosted. "Masters of the Ceremony" Nick Carbone and Isaac Joseph remarked on multiple occasions what a pleasant sight the packed auditorium was after so long running on diminished capacity.

The eight contestants were: Wolfy Balga, Silvio D'Arcangelis, Asher Hall, Ahaz Naranjo, Thomas Nero, Aidan McCue, Zach Ryan, and Alex Yash.

The show kicked off with an introduction and opening number in which all contestants and their escorts took to the stage and performed a dance. Mara and Mario then made an appearance to talk about what Mr. AP means to the community and hype up the crowd for the



competition. Next were the "Activity and Career-Wear" sections, which featured the

contestants clad in outfits related to some of their favorite activities and prospec-



tive careers.

At this point, the "Talent" section commenced; this is where all contestants perform a unique skill. All but two were music acts, the outliers being Nero's stand-up and McCue's magic act. There was a tremendous amount of talent displayed by the contestants. Hall put his production and music skills on display as the first of the acts, followed by McCue's magic act, Bolga on acoustic guitar and vocals, Naranjo on electric guitar and vocals accompanied by his band, Nero's stand-up, Ryan's acoustic guitar and keyboard manipulated by a looper and topped with vocals, D'Arcangelis with his acapela group, and Yash on drums with an accompanying band.

The "Talent" section was followed by the "Girls' Dance," and then intermission, during which baked goods and other refreshments were available in the lobby.

When the show resumed, the contestants participated in the section titled "Can These Boys Dance?" Contestant Hall later joked in his speech, "To think that teaching a group of stupid high school boys to dance was impossible, and it damn near was."

Ellie Garrison performed "Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing" at this time, rising to the Mr. AP committee's request for filler acts.

The "Formal Wear" section followed, including a speech from each contestant, preceded by a speech

REVIEWS

...AS NERO CLAIMS THE 2022 MR. AP TITLE

from their escort. Though they varied in specifics, all touched on themes of community, driving home the event's symbolism: the winner is the chosen internal representative of the community.

The Averill Park High School Jazz Ensemble then performed before the first elimination and round one of "Question and Answer."

The "Question and Answer" portion allows for each contestant to present their opinions, personality, and reflections on the Averill Park community, all important to the judge's decision.

The Averill Park Treble Choir then performed an acapella version of "Royals," after which came the second elimination, leaving only finalists Hall,

D'Arcangelis, and Nero to face the "Final Question," which is the last factor in determining the winner.

The question posed was, "From your

experience at Averill Park, what will you take to share with others outside of our



community?" Nero responded with the "sense of community" present, and stated later in his response, "I love this community so much. I'll go off to college, you know,

go do real things in life, but I'll always come back to my hometown and you know, maybe catch a basketball game, or a football game...hopefully see teachers that I love and cherish



(Mrs. Mouzakas, Mrs. Stern, and Mr. Zehnder) deliberated over their final decision, a "behind the scenes" video created by Lauren Wicks was played. Soon it was time to name the winner,



memories with them...I'll definitely be back."

While the judges

and Nero was crowned Mr. AP of 2022.

A special thanks goes out to the Mr. AP Steering Committee and Stage Crew, who made the show run as smoothly as it did and provided the needed direction to the participants. Mr. AP came only two weeks after the spring play *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and given the numerous participants in the play who worked on Mr. AP as well, the production's temporal proximity is even more impressive.

The school also thanks attendees for coming to the show to support the senior class.

HUMOR

WHAT'S A LITTLE INSURRECTION?

by Sam Bonesteel

Everyone has different political ideas, perspectives, and opinions. The United States is an extremely diverse country, full of people from all over the world with different backgrounds and different beliefs. However, despite this diversity, the Constitution provides for the protection of the rights and liberties of everyone. Or at least it used to.

It is rare to see everyone happy with the government; that's just how the world works. Because of this, America was founded on grounds where people could protest freely. The First Amendment makes it possible for citizens of the United States to speak freely, write satirical articles, or dress in animal furs and drive to Washington, D.C. Granted, the Bill of Rights assures everyone the right to express their beliefs in many interesting forms. So why were hundreds of innocent protestors, simply trying to exercise their first amendment rights at the Capitol of our country, arrested?

America has descended into an era where democracy is being limited at every turn by radical liberal media and policies. The three American necessities — gas, guns, and gold — are being taken away from respectable people through taxes, regulations, and more taxes. Not only are we losing the very core of our nation

to a bureaucracy built on a leftist ideology, we are losing the ability to protest that loss.

Last year, thousands of protestors gathered

had the right intention. They were trying to make their voices heard above the roar of delusion, to advocate for their beliefs and inspire all, to

bright red “traitor”, “heretic”, “insurgent”, or “fat blond baboon” painted on their faces in public, on their careers, on their reputations.

As a result of their legitimate political discourse, seven hundred sixty-nine benign protestors were arrested. Forget democracy, the rights and liberties listed in the Constitution, and everything our country stands for. Haters will say that the protest threatened democracy, and that such activities are repulsive and need repercussions. What's repulsive, though, is how quick the people are to scorn the bravery of heroes who know what it takes to right America. These arrests are not only an act of tyranny, they are part of a widespread movement to control the public for the needs of the government.

The corrupt liberal ideology that is now misguided America continues to punish people for political demonstration, deny a great leader his presidential rights, and combat respectability with oppression time and time again. The people behind this need to be called out and stopped, before the American dream and opportunity is completely lost in a tide of suppression.

Uncle Sam with a megaphone auditioning for the next Broadway show, “A Crumbling America”, may be an unlikely hero, but these advocates for democracy are the saviors our country may need.



at the Capitol to express their love of cosplay and American freedom. Although these brave men and women missed Halloween by about

change the world.

The reward for these vigilantes? Financial implications forcing their families into a state of crippling fiscal



three months, the star-spangled eagles, righteous cowboys, and rough-hewn Vikings they brought along all

instability were forced upon them, a cold cell welcomed them, and a title was stamped over their names. A

HUMOR

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

by Max Miller and Dane Wiedman

Dane: I can't believe they finally got rid of the mask mandate.

Max: Yeah, I guess so. What was that silly Hochul lady even thinking?

Dane: I guess we'll never know... but what about all the benefits of the masks? I think we should write her a letter to complain about this change.

Dear Governor Hochul,

How I will miss:

The difficulty that I faced trying to breath while working out. Sitting alone in the lunch room because everyone has to take off their masks to eat anyway. Spilling something on my mask during lunch and being able to taste that thing all day long. Not having to worry about looking at some-



thing stuck in somebody else's teeth. Not having to deal with filthy mouth breathers. Not having to smell my teacher's unnaturally penetrating coffee breath while talking about corrections, but being unable to see because of the tears in my eyes. Having to look at all the politically offensive and crude

masks. Being unable to hear the quiet kid's answers every time they are called on. Seeing the people who wear masks that look like their faces, causing everyone to be even more anxious than they already are. Walking out of the locker room having forgotten to put my mask on and

everyone looking at me as though I had three nostrils. Having my mask ride high on my face making me go cross-eyed. Having the strings tied too tight and ending my day with unbearable ear pain. Putting on my sunglasses just to have them fog up and I walk into a wall...again. Being able to have my face get warmer in the winter and sweatier in the summer. Having a stuffy nose and feeling faint from the lack of oxygen. Seeing the people who only wear the masks over their mouths giving the germaphobes extreme frustration. But most importantly, I will miss being able to use mask acne as the excuse for why women keep turning me down.

Dane: On second thought, maybe this no mask thing isn't so bad.

Max: I'll get the shredder...

FIRST THERE WAS eHALLPASS, NOW...eLUNCH!

by Cooper Smith

Say hello to the future! Averill Park High School is planning to introduce a new e-lunch system. This system will have a student send a lunch order from their device to be approved by a lunch lady. Once approved, the student can enjoy a holographic projection of APHS's famous school lunch.

Among its benefits, the new system promises to



reduce garbage accumulation in the cafeteria and allow staff and students to be more "flexible."

Most cafeteria staff approve of this great step forward. "I like this new system," said one anonymous lunch lady. "We won't have to make a mess while cooking or deal with the long lunch lines we've had. And if some kid is acting up, we can just deny them lunch. Looking at you, Jimmy."

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INEQUALITIES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

roughly \$20-25 pairs of shorts to help their players feel less uncomfortable.

We interviewed a few players on the Averill Park lacrosse team to get a better understanding of how they feel. One student stated, "I wish we could be more physical; the skirt is very uncomfortable and I am consciously pulling it down."

Sophomore Mikayla Malenfant explained to me that the skirts are actually against the school dress code. On game day, every other team gets to wear their uniform to school, but the girls lacrosse team is not allowed to.

"I think a lot of us would just want to wear the tank top to school on game days," said sophomore Emma Doyle, "or they can supply us with a shirt that we can wear on game day."

Many girls are perfectly fine with the skirts. They just would like to have the same support throughout the day that other teams get on game day when "repping" their uniform.

The school dress code was partly developed to try to keep males engaged in school. So what is the big difference when a female isn't fully engaged in her sport because she isn't fully confident in the way she looks? As we interviewed more players on the lacrosse team, they all generally made the same comments.

"I feel like they're really short or super inconvenient when you're stretching or running," said junior Gwen Jamison. Even though much of the women's lacrosse team is perfectly fine with the skirts, many would appreciate more size options. There is one size for everyone, but not everyone has the exact same body.

Gender norms are turning females away from

sports. Our school also doesn't offer a female golf team because they believe not many girls will be interested. We believe this is an unfair assessment; there have never been the choices for a women's golf team, so how can we make such a vital assumption? In order to be part of the change in society, we must at least



give fair opportunities to both genders. This could start in the fall with the option of a female golf team.

In addition to the differences in athletic uniforms, many sports have a divide that is created from a young age. In our youth, most kids play co-ed sports until they decide which sport they want to continue playing (or none at all). In middle school, when modified sports become an option for students to participate in, this divide becomes more prevalent. Yet the divide between women's and men's sports has faded into the distance and is very rarely something you read in the headlines of the media.

When a student athlete reaches high school, the lack of support in most

women's sports is obvious to us female athletes. For those of us who play many sports at the high school level, it becomes even more obvious and is a common topic of discussion amongst our teammates.

Averill Park High School has always done an exemplary job attempting to give support for all of the

only wear goggles and a mouth guard, they're like 'Wow, so does that mean you can't touch each other?' and I'm like 'Yeah, pretty much'."

Something anyone can see from just watching a few minutes of men's and women's lacrosse is the difference in gear that is worn while playing the game. Men's lacrosse players wear helmets, padding, and their sticks can vary in length depending on their position on the field. Not only do their sticks vary in size, but they also have a deep pocket that holds the ball easily.

During our women's lacrosse practices at APHS, most of our drills focus on stick skills and being able to cradle the ball easily. Unfortunately, our sticks do not have as deep a pocket as the men's do.

When we step onto the field, we carry our sticks, goggles and mouth guard; this difference is something anyone can see with the naked eye when comparing the two sports. The rules themselves are very different, as Jamison mentioned. Men's lacrosse players can "whack" other players with their sticks and run into other players without getting a card. This isn't tolerated in women's lacrosse, and running into an opponent will sometimes get you carded depending on the referee. In our personal opinion, we believe that many disregard women's lacrosse because of the lack of major physicality.

In our interview with Averill Park women's varsity lacrosse goalkeeper Eleanor Garrison, a sophomore, she mentioned that the disregard of our sport initially comes down to the rules. Garrison said, "A lot of guys have told us that they

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sports offered at AP, but there is still a divide that stays in the minds of our female athletes.

As girls' lacrosse players on the varsity team for APHS, we feel strongly about this topic. We interviewed a few of our teammates on the team to see how they feel about the biases towards women's sports specifically at Averill Park and in the sports world. Gwen Jamison, a junior on the team, discussed the general rules of girls lacrosse and how the rules alone create biases. Jamison said that, "when I'm explaining the sport to someone else who doesn't know the rules of the girls sport, they're often surprised at the lack of physicality compared to boys. If you tell them that you

THE HISTORY OF THE APHS JOURNALISM CLUB

DESPITE MANY CHANGES, HONEST REPORTING STILL A PRIORITY

by Catherine Hughes

The Journalism Club at APHS has seen many changes over the years. It has been both an official, teacher-run club, and an unofficial student-run gathering, as well as having been both budgeted by school funds and as a volunteer-run club. Before it was under teacher supervision, the paper was called *The Centralian*, *The Warrior*, *The AP Press*, and most memorably, *The Pravda*.

The Journalism Club we know today began when APHS principal Lonnie Palmer became irritated by the student-run newspaper, then called *The Pravda*, or "truth," in Russian. He suggested that the school create a club to encourage students to continue writing, while at the same time regulating what they published. Mr. Fairchild volunteered to create such a club, and there began the official Journalism Club.

Under Mr. Fairchild's supervision, the paper was called *The Warrior Beat*. It has since also been named *The Pulse*, as well as its current title, *The Averill Park Chronicle*, familiarly known as "*The Chronicle*."

Fairchild's earliest memory of the club revolves around the technologies available during the time. Oftentimes the members of the club were athletes, so they would be up "until all hours of the night publishing the newspaper," he said. After sports ended around 5 pm, students would gather at the school, often ending up staying until 12 am just photocopying the paper.

Fairchild also distinctly remembers the

day they got one of the first digital cameras, a model that had maybe up to 128 pixels, a few thousand pixels less than our cameras have today.

improved. "It looked awful in the first year," he said, and the photocopier made publishing take much longer, so as technology has evolved,



A fond memory of Fairchild's are the anonymous letters which used to be printed in the papers. He said the paper was sold in the cafeteria for a dime every other week, and every time it was put out, a fight would start during lunch because of an editorial or letter written about someone. The beginnings of Journalism Club were "wild," he said; students and the paper took more risks than they do today.

According to Fairchild, over the years editorials evolved to have names attached to them, and the overall look of the newspaper

the appearance of the paper has evolved with it.

Mr. Strich, the current advisor, has been in charge of the school paper for 13 years now. Starting in the fall of 2008 and continuing until spring of 2012, Strich advised *The Averill Park Pulse*. At that time the school offered a journalism class, and since those students were required to contribute to the paper, "most of the writing was produced by those students." Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, the newspaper, the journalism class and Journalism Club were cut in 2013.

In the fall of 2015, Strich was given permission to "restart" the newspaper through an all-volunteer club, which is how it currently operates.

Over the years, things such as the number of student editors and issues produced per year have changed, along with the name change to *The Averill Park Chronicle*, as selected by student vote, in 2017. However, in Strich's point of view, the biggest change that has occurred is the length of the paper, thanks to the high number of student volunteers. Throughout these changes, he is proud that the "quality of student writing has remained consistently high throughout all the years."

Strich hopes that someone will continue to run the club upon his retirement. The members of Journalism Club share this sentiment.

Look for issues of *The Chronicle* on-line!

Go to the APHS webpage on the APHS District website, go to the high school page, and click on "News" in the right column.

-In Color-

A DAY IN THE LIFE: TEACHER'S EDITION

MRS. OLDENDORF REVEALS ALL

by Veronica Cardillo

Ever wonder why a teacher doesn't respond to an email in an instant or why a quiz or test grade isn't in SchoolTool right away? Well, there's a simple answer to that — teachers have lives, too.

Your English, Global, Science, and Math teachers all have lives, and trust me, they're just like you and me. So we should always remember that, especially when we come back from breaks missing all the relaxation that we had.

But let's get back to the topic here, a day in a teacher's life. And the teacher whose day we're going to hear about today is Mrs. Oldendorf, Averill

Park's molecular biology, and AP biology teacher.

When I interviewed Oldendorf I asked what she does as a morning

routine for school days. She said that her alarm would go off and she hits snooze, then she hits snooze again, and then she gets up at six in the morning. After getting up she

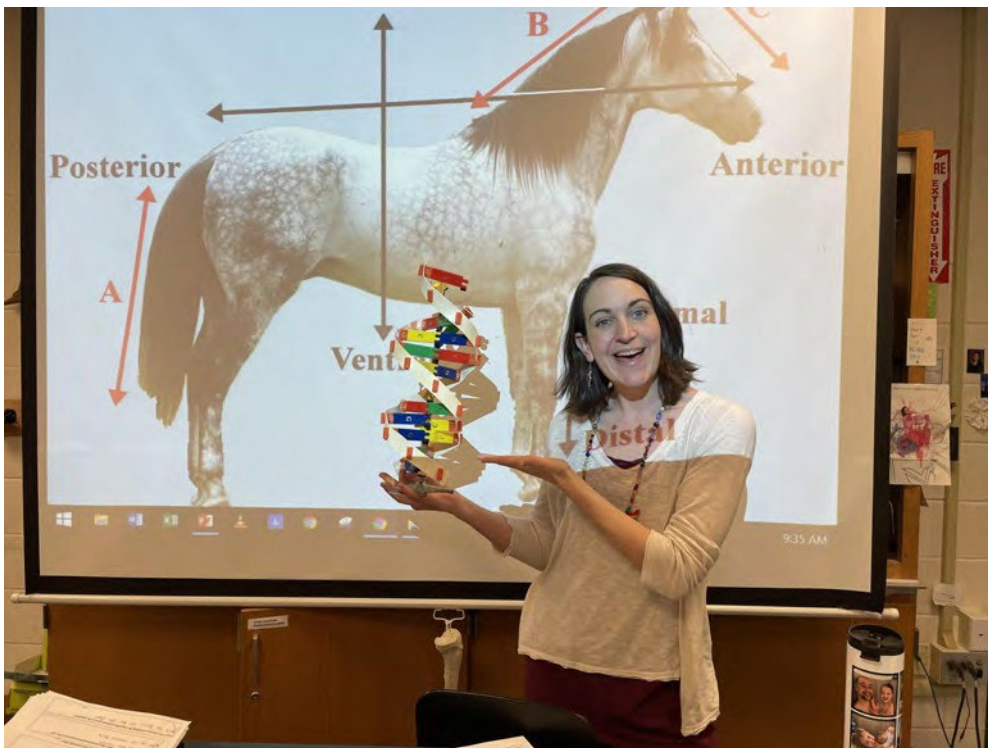
As the interview went on I asked about what she does first when she gets to her classroom. She replied by saying she starts up her computer and opens the classroom door be-

As a student, I know how hard it is to finish assignments for classes, especially if it's a project or an essay, but somehow our teachers find the time to make a lesson plan and teach multiple classes.

We all have things that make a day great at school, and for Oldendorf, having her students be engaged, having general positivity, having lesson plans go well, and having cookies and popcorn make for an amazing day at school. It's also beneficial to all of us students if there's a general positivity in a classroom, because having positivity helps us keep our thoughts opti-

mistic.

Oldendorf is one of many teachers in our school. We should take the time to thank one today!



gets the coffee ready and then she gets ready. After that, she heads off to school and arrives at an exciting 7:20 am.

cause students will be coming in. I also asked where she does her lesson plans, and Oldendorf said that she does it at her desk in her classroom.

INEQUALITIES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

think girls' lacrosse is easier because we don't have rules that allow physicality like the boys' rules." Not only did Garrison mention the rules of the game, she mentioned how the school and other teams look at girls lacrosse.

Garrison brought up a frustrating situation from last season, in which the girls' lacrosse team won

Sectionals in spring of 2021 and didn't get a lot of support from the student body.

"When we won the Sectionals Championship, we were pretty much discredited for that because we were not allowed to 'attack each other'."

We remember being in the Sectional final and looking over to see a

student section of about 15 students; this lack of support didn't get in the way of our play, but instead it was a surprise to see we had a small student section! This is nothing in comparison to the student sections of the men's team sports at AHS, but for a girls sport this was a big deal.

Representing the female athlete body at Averill

Park High School, we can confidently say, WE WANT MORE SUPPORT! We want to look over at our student sections before a game and get "hyped" by the student body! We dream of the day we step onto the soccer and lacrosse field and will be able to see our classmates excited to watch a great game!

YETIS ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON

APHS STUDENT SHARES HIS INSPIRING STORY

by Sophia Maddalone

Justin O'Donnell, a tenth grader here at Averill Park High School, has an inspiring story that is unknown to many. When Odonnell was five years old he was diagnosed with bone cancer. He was treated at the St. Jude's Children's Hospital and cured when he was seven years old. That year, his family held a fundraiser at Poestenkill Elementary School for the St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

When he turned nine, O'Donnell came up with a different and unique way to raise money for children's cancer treatments at the St. Jude's Children's hospital where he received his treatment. His fundraiser is called Expedition Yeti.

"Every weekend my Dad and I have been snowmobiling in Old Forge, New York on Tug Hill," said O'Donnell. "I came up with the crazy idea for my Dad to dress up in a Yeti costume and charge people one dollar for a picture. All the money we raise goes to the Children's Hospital."

O'Donnell's unique fundraiser has taken off, "Every year we have raised

more and more money. When we started out we maybe raised a couple hun-

dred dollars, but this past year we raised \$45,000," said O'Donnell.

The O'Donnell's even keep the fundraiser going all year long, past the snowmobiling season, by attending different snowmobiling events.

O'Donnell explained that Expedition Yeti does not only raise money from the in-person pictures, but the group receives donations from businesses and through a GoFundMe that can be accessed through the Facebook group. The Facebook group is called EXPEDITION YETI and anyone is welcome to join.

He further explained that their marketing strategy is to get the word out to the snowmobiling community and anyone who would be interested in donating. "Recently we have had a commercial air on Spectrum News," said O'Donnell.

O'Donnell and his family plan on continuing the fundraiser in the future. "I didn't think it would actually come together and work," he said, "but it did and we have been doing it ever since."



ELUNCH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

As for the students, most are ecstatic about the new, high-tech plan. However, some have raised concerns. "My friend doesn't like it. He says stuff like 'It's literally not food' and 'It's just a holographic projection.' I don't get it," said Dudley McAmadan, a 10¾ grader. I keep having to remind him that holographs are awesome.

Despite the naysayers, this new system is a huge step



forward for APHS. Gone are the ages of icky, expensive physical lunches and here are the days of sleek, high-tech holograph lunches.

In fact, APHS is planning future projects like this, and students can expect an announcement soon for the brand new e-bathrooms! This new technology makes it feel like we're in *Star Wars*! Or *Star Trek*! Or some other *Star*-related media franchise!

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

GARY DAKE, HEAD OF STEWART'S, PAYS APHS A VISIT

Note – This article was written as a collaborative effort during a 30 minute in-person Journalism Club meeting on March 2..

by Members of the Averill Park Journalism Club

Students clap as he enters the classroom. After the interview, many gather for autographs. Some ask if he would consent to a selfie. Was this a rock star visiting Averill Park? Well... sort of. Considering how popular the guest's business is, it's no wonder some of the APHS students were a bit in awe of Gary Dake, the president of Stewart's Shops Corporation. On March 2, Dake attended an APHS Journalism Club meeting for an in-depth interview.

To understand how Dake arrived at the head of Stewart's, it helps to understand the history of the business. In 1921 two Dake brothers started selling "Dake's Delicious Ice Cream" throughout the Capital Region out of a Model-T delivery truck. In the 1940's, the brothers purchased a dairy and ice cream business from Don Stewart (hence the name Stewart's), where they opened their first physical store. Since then, Stewart's has grown. And grown. Presently, there are 354 stores, employing roughly 5,000 people in New York and Vermont.

When asked how old he was when he first started participating in the family business, Dake, who comes across as a well-mannered and astute speaker, responded, "That's a tricky question." He first started working summer jobs when he was 12, but due to a fami-

ly rule that required family members to work somewhere else for three years, after graduating from St. Lawrence University in 1982 with an economics major Dake found employment with Agway in southwestern Pennsylvania.

At 25 years of age, Dake joined Stewart's, and he has now been working for the company for 36 years, serving as president for the past 19 years. He is also president of the Stewart's Processing Corpora-

tion, a separate dairy manufacturing and processing company.

times when they buy a flavor it comes with a name, while other times they'll come up with a name then find a flavor to match it. Asked by one student, "Would you consider naming an ice cream flavor after a dedicated high school journalist?" Dake replied since so much cost is involved in getting a flavor to the packaging stage, "You have to be pretty darn sure (it will be popular) when you are packaging something." He gave two reasons for Birthday Cake flavor being discontinued. The first: "Obviously not enough people bought it," said Dake. "Another reason is the cost of the ingredients." When ingredients get too expensive, Stewart's may change the ingredients, but "that gets people just as angry as discontinuing a flavor," he said.

"Putting something at the cone counter makes it much easier to change it rather than packaging many boxes with the name." Any hope for that "dedicated journalist" flavor coming out ended when the student had to leave before the interview was over. "There goes your ice cream flavor," Dake joked.

DAILY ROUTINE

Dake calls his day-to-day schedule "kind of boring." There's "lots of reading involved," he said. "First thing I come in and do, I spend the first hour of my day checking emails." He also reads news websites and local papers each morning to see stories about gas prices and competitors. He also has meetings two times a week; this includes meeting with vice presidents to see what's happening in their sections.

(continued on page 25)



"I was doing records and taxes...meeting a lot of dairy farmers," Dake said, and was then asked to come back to learn the dairy side of Stewart's business. Even though it was a family business, Dake had to decide if he was "going to step up" and take on higher responsibilities, considering all the employees and "all those customers" he would be responsible for. "That's a lot of weight on your shoulders," he said.

Enough of that - on to the important stuff, like what Dake's favorite ice cream flavor is: chocolate peanut butter cup. His least favorite: cotton candy ("it's too sweet"). With flavor names like Adirondack Bear Paw, Happy Camper and Crumbs Along The Mohawk, you know there's a naming process for the flavors. Dake said some-

STEWART'S (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24)

In order to help his business stay strong and out-perform competition, Dake says he constantly tinkers with new products (specifically mentioning a spicy crunchy chicken sandwich food item), continually introducing new flavors of ice cream and milks, and keeping variety in the store. Dake said the biggest impact he has had on Stewart's has been instituting the "far greater effort to have prepared foods." He discussed Stewart's progression originally from a dairy shop to mini mart to now a business with more hot food choices; "That growth into a little bit of a restaurant is probably the biggest change." He acknowledged that introducing more "restaurant" items has a large risk and reward factor. "It definitely does, but we're always evaluating what products are successful and which ones are not."

The replacement and improvement of their physical buildings was brought up, but to Dake it makes good business sense. "Return on investment (in buildings) is strong because it's like building a newer store, but you already own the land, have control of the gas and have the logistics of the store figured out," Dake said. "They often pay for themselves despite costing 3 or 4 million a pop."

When asked if Stewart's had thoughts on expanding to other parts of the country, Dake said since Stewart's distributes 80% of their products from their trucks that ship from Greenfield, NY, "this model presents a problem for expanding into new areas." At present Dake said they are "actively trying to expand into Western Massachusetts." He acknowledged it takes a long time for customers to "know how to shop a Stewart's" when entering a

new market, as the business might not seem intuitive to people in new areas. How many people expect a gas station to be the place to go for ice cream and milk, he asked?

Stewart's stands out among businesses as a rare third-generation privately held company. Only about 10% of

bit from where they were," Dake said, due to cutting corners after their recent sale.

It might be the "little things" that make Stewart's Shops stand out. For example, in the early 1980's a law was enacted requiring air be available wherever gasoline was sold. While most stations installed coin-operated air

replace the revenue lost if cars don't need gasoline. Presently, 15 Stewart stores have a charging station, but in every case "we are just the landlord," he said. "You can't make enough money right now (putting in charging stations); you can't offset the price it takes to install and use the electricity. We do not have an answer but we are looking towards it."

In response to a question about Stewart's Shops' main selling points, Dake said "I think it's a couple of things. Primarily the friendly people. We employ friendly people. We treat employees well and they are great employees... We treat them nicely so they treat you nicely."

He also said of the company, "We take philanthropy very seriously. We do about 9 million dollars a year of charitable giving. We are more likely to get approval to build more stores if we are supportive of the community." Many of Dake's remarks were connected to

(continued on page 26)



businesses in the U.S. achieve this. When asked if Stewart's being family owned has changed the model of the business, Dake said the continuity allows him to think in the long-term. "If you have different people coming in and changing course every six years I think you lose a little something." For example, he sees Stewart's as far superior to Cumberland Farms, which was recently sold to a European company. "They're a very good company still, but I think they're on the decline a little

pumps, "my father decided, let's just give away free air," Dake said. He reflected that they still get many positive letters from customers about free air, and cites it as part of Stewart's "long-term view; being part of the community."

As for the future, the biggest challenge and solution Dake and his employees face is "trying to find what happens when cars transfer from gas to electric." He stated that Stewart's sells 6 million gallons of gas per week, yet wonders how they will

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STEWART'S (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25)

the community. He stressed, "We are only as strong as our community, and that's our customers"

CHALLENGES

As for the biggest challenges he's faced, Dake said that the last two years dealing with COVID has been a real challenge, mentioning everything from the various regulations on masks to employees getting sick. "The number of rule changes has been incredible," he said of COVID-related regulation. Dake also doesn't think those challenges are close to being done.

The pandemic did affect the company's bottom line. "With people not going to work (due to the shutdown) we've noticed our coffee sales and prices dropped, and gas prices and purchases dropped," citing it as a "basic example of supply and demand." One item did show an increase, however; "Ice cream sales were through the roof" during the pandemic, he said.

There have been other challenges previous to the pandemic. When asked about small missteps, Dake recalled when Stewart's opened a store in Mexico, New York, and they created a tie-in product. "Margarita ice cream didn't work," he said. Another product that didn't take was a plastic cup called a "quick cup" with a plastic seal. "That was not a winner," he added. Stewart's also discontinued their Mountain Brew beer, which Dake said was, "ounce-for-ounce the cheapest drink in the store, cheaper than water," but was taken out of their stores when they needed the space for craft beers.

The weirdest items, according to Dake, are the small dog bones Stewart's sells. "We sell a ton of those little dog bones," he said. "Why we sell so many of those things, I'm mystified."

One item Dake did not think would work, but has, is pizza. "I was hesitant to go



into pizza, thinking 'what does Stewart's have to do with pizza'? I was dead wrong."

Another success was implementing chocolate peanut butter milk, which Dake himself was never notified of and said he would have shut down, but "which ended up being a large seller."

Dake shared much of the credit for Stewart's continued success, saying it's a team effort. This includes every employee at Stewart's, and that means every employee. Each worker who works for a set amount of time per year, no matter their job, becomes part of Stewart's Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). The ESOP gives each employee part ownership of the corporation. Employees

own 40% of the company through the ESOP program, and since it was instituted, the program has created 90 millionaires. That's right, the program has created 90 MILLIONAIRES.

When asked if there were any drawbacks to having the employees own part of the company, Dake replied, "To my family, no. The mentality of owning a part of the company keeps it so that employees are much more likely to work towards the growth of the company." Dake said the company has benefited from the program, including crediting some of the rise in the value of the company to ESOP. The only issue he stated was in order to sell the company, the Dake's would need to get the employees to agree to a sale.

And is selling Stewart's a possibility? After all, there's no guarantee there will be a fourth generation ownership. Ownership is divided among Dake, three siblings, and two cousins, but he's the only one living in New York State. He has two sons, neither which are involved in the business. "As I get older, my thinking is 'When I retire, what am I going to do'," Dake said. "ESOP is a real benefit" here," he added, and though he still has years of work ahead of him, the plans for deciding what to do are "in the process right now."

For now, though, Dake has to focus on keeping Stewart's strong. When asked his thoughts on the

current gas situation due to Russia entering Ukraine, Dake responded, "It's horrible. We watch them all day. It was up 15 cents a gallon yesterday and another 10 cents today. When sanctions occur, it's not just going to hurt the country you are sanctioning. Europe has suffered even worse than us. I don't know where it ends and it is pretty brutal, and is going to affect a lot of people."

ADVICE

When asked for any advice he would give to the younger generation, Dake had a few things to offer. He told the group "to be very aware of what your online presence is, because when I go to hire people, I Google them." He spoke of a recent interview where he found them on Instagram and Twitter before the interview. "Be very aware of it for college or job applications," he stressed. When asked, Dake admitted, "I have googled myself. I don't do it often, but it's probably not a bad thing to do."

Concerning a person's character, Dake said, "To always try to be as honest as you can possibly be. Be honest respectfully; if you don't like something, don't lie, but be polite and honest."

As for leadership advice, Dake offered, "Listen a lot, really listen," and mentioned "the old story: two ears, one mouth." Dake admitted the "biggest mistakes I made came from me deciding too quickly, and not listening to all points of view. This is a major mistake that people make. The secret is to just listen."

Dake must have been listening well over the last 19 years, as Stewart's has prospered, and now serves roughly 2 million customers per week.

LOOK FOR THOSE HIDDEN HOLIDAYS

NON-TRADITIONAL DAYS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

by Lindsay Agro

Many people know of holidays such as Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Hanukkah (along with others), and that we celebrate them by spending time with friends and family, enjoying food, helping others, and much more. However, there are numerous holidays — called “non-traditional holidays”— that many people do not know exist.

For example, April 6 is Sorry Charlie Day. It is a day for you and others to reflect on the rejection that you have faced, and help each other get through it. The phrase comes from the Starkist company where Charlie the Tuna, who was a “spokes-tuna”, is known for having good taste rather than being a tuna that tasted good. Charlie would receive a rejection note on a fish hook that said “Sorry Charlie,” but that never stopped him from giving up. Hence, the reason that you and others should not give up, but celebrate your ability to get past rejection on April 6.

I believe one of the oddest non-traditional holidays to be Put a Pillow on Your Fridge Day. It is celebrated on May 29 by putting a pillow on your fridge — hence the name. This is believed to bring you prosperity and good fortune. Although the origin of this holiday is uncertain, some people believe it is the modern version of the old tradition where people put linens in their pantries to bring good luck. However, no matter what someone believes, this day can be celebrated not only by putting a pillow on your fridge, but also by having a pillow fight.

On July 4, in addition to celebrating our coun-



try, a non-traditional holiday is Sidewalk Egg Frying Day, which is a celebration of summer. During this time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere it is typically hot enough outside to cook an egg, hence the name. However,

a swim, having a popsicle, enjoying the sun outside, or sleeping until noon. No matter how you celebrate this holiday, this is a day to appreciate summer and the warm weather that comes with it.



There are also many holidays that inspire people to do good deeds and appreciate what they have. For example, Happiness Happens Day (August 8) is meant to persuade people to spread kindness and think positively. To do this, people can give a



er, since the sidewalk is not a good conductor, it will most likely not cook an egg alone—but with the help of tinfoil, it is possible. If you are not in the mood to fry an egg, you can celebrate this day by doing whatever you view as a summer activity, such as going for



smile to someone, volunteer, spend time with friends and family, and much more. Other holidays that focus on brightening people's day include Compliment Day (January 24), Card Making Day (the first Saturday in October) and Thank Your Mailman Day (February 4). These days

for kindness not only can brighten someone's day, but they can also encourage others to repeat them.

Non-traditional holidays can be days to celebrate something specific, and although they are not official holidays, they have become more popular over the years, most of the time adding humor to someone's day. In the end, non-traditional holidays may not be well known, but they can celebrate various things and spread kindness.

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HIGH HOPES FOR UPCOMING SEASON

BASEBALL TEAM AIMING FOR SECTION 2 TITLE

by Joe Parrottino

Baseball has become one of the staple sports here at Averill Park High School. Over the past five years, Coach Brooks has built the program up, along with the tremendous hard work and talent of the Averill Park athletes.

This season, the Warriors are expecting great things after coming up short last year to South Glens Falls. The Warriors finished last season with an acceptable 12-9 overall record, yet hopes to do better this year.

The team is in great hands this year, led by eight returning players, including five seniors.

Still, the Warriors needed some support, and got just that, adding twelve new players to the roster, including eleven juniors and one sophomore.

The Warriors only have one goal in mind this season: a Section 2 championship. Achieving this will not be easy with teams like

Ballston Spa and Burnt Hills to compete against.

Although the boys' baseball team has never won a sectional championship, the drive to do so has never been higher. In recent years, Brooks has instilled in the players a drive to want to get better and win. He has always used the sectional championship as a motivator. Every day of practice isn't a practice but just the next step to a Section 2 championship.

Good luck to the team this spring.



SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED

DAWSON TO CONTINUE SOFTBALL PLAY AT BELMONT UNIVERSITY

by Mia Lucey

When you graduate high school, you want people to remember your name. Whether it's because you were Valedictorian, or because you pulled off the best senior prank, everyone wants to leave a legacy. One special junior has already done something that will make us remember her when she graduates.

Maisie Dawson, a member of the class of '23, plays on a travel softball team based out of Georgia. She has played against the best teams from all over the country. Starting her softball career at the young age

of 4 and becoming a catcher at the age of 10, Dawson has built up quite the softball

resume for herself over the past few years. In 2021, she was awarded Suburban Council

Catcher of the Year, coupled with being named 2nd Team All-New York State. She also hit five home runs in the 2021 school ball season.

Having already played at such a high level, it was only natural for Dawson to consider playing at the collegiate level. Dawson made it official last month, and committed to her soon-to-be-new home. She will continue her academic and athletic career playing Division I softball at Belmont University in



(continued on page 29)

CONCUSSIONS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30)

stretching practices, and why each of the players became interested in football in the first place.

The whole team joined because they wanted to something fun, but two of the boys shared something even further than that. Junior Mason Brown said that

football was "something fun to do after school" and junior Vinny Maggio said that his older brother played football, which was a large influence on him picking up the ball himself. They both have gotten concussions in the past because they weren't wearing helmets.

According to the team, the helmet is not comfortable on your head but you "get used to it." The helmet is heavy and your neck hurts by the end of a practice session. I actually got to try on a helmet during the interview and it was not that comfortable to get on. It was very heavy, too.

The helmet is used to protect your head, an important consideration when realizing some players on the APHS football team started playing football as early as

fourth grade. The team tries to keep injuries out of play as much as possible; they wear a chin strap, mouth guard and a helmet to stay safe. Surprisingly, most have never been too concerned about the safety risks of football, stressing that they trust the safety precautions the school has in

helmets are tight and uncomfortable but they wouldn't trade football for anything else in the world.

I was really curious if the team had any favorite teams or players. The Warriors favorite football teams are the Giants, the New England Patriots and the Lions. Their favor-

that, "They are willing to sacrifice for each other and willing to put team success above personal success."

According to Gobel, the best part about being a coach is "seeing the students work hard and succeed at something they've worked for."

Gobel said he wanted to become a coach because coaching allowed him to do what he loves most: working with students while still being involved in athletics. His favorite football player is Dan Marino from the Miami Dolphins, and Gobel's favorite professional football team is the Miami Dolphins. His favorite college team is Navy.

As you can probably see, our football team is very passionate about being a team and will do anything to play. They should just make sure they keep their helmets on.



place. The team believes that the helmet is the most important piece of equipment.

Before a game, the team does speed drills and stand in place. I learned that most football players play two sports; some play baseball while others do basketball or track. The team said that the

ite players consist of Rob Gronkowski, or "Gronk," from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Johnny Manziel who has played for multiple teams.

We of course can't forget Coach Gobel. I asked Gobel some questions, the first being "what makes this team a team?" Gobel shared

SIGNED (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28)

Nashville, Tennessee. As well as being an extremely talented softball player, Dawson was also part of the girls' basketball team

that recently claimed the title of New York State Class A Girls' Basketball Champions a few short weeks ago.

This summer, Daw-

son will continue to travel around the U.S. to states like Colorado, California, Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee to take on the best

competition softball has to offer. When you see Dawson around, make sure to give her a big congratulation...and go Bruins!

The Averill Park Chronicle

The Danger Of Concussions

Football Players Should Weigh The Risks

by Sydney Davey

What do you think of when someone says the New England Patriots, Green Bay Packers or the Giants?

If you said football, you're right. Football is one of the most well-known American sports.

Football was created in America and founded in Canton, Ohio. Canton is home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, which honors former players, coaches and personnel like Steve Young (2005), Willie Wood (1989), Ron Wolf (2015) and Vince Lombardi (1971), to name a few.

Football originated from the sports of rugby and soccer. The first football game was held Novem-

ber 6, 1869 against two different colleges, Rutgers and Princeton. The teams used the rules of soccer. The NFL started on September 26, 1920. In the middle of

the 1940's, leather helmets were required in the NFL. In 1949 the NFL adopted plastic helmets. Single face bars were added to the helmets to protect more of the face in

the middle of the 1950's. We have James Naismith (yes, the father of American basketball) to thank for making the first football helmet. That first football helmet was created in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The NFL currently has 32 teams, with the 49ers, Chicago Bears, Green Bay Packers and the Bengals, to name a few. But, what about our school football team, the Warriors?

I had the pleasure of being able to speak with some of the players. I told them my story and got to ask them some questions about head injuries. My questions focused on the safety elements of helmets,

(continued on page 29)



PET NAME

CROSSWORD

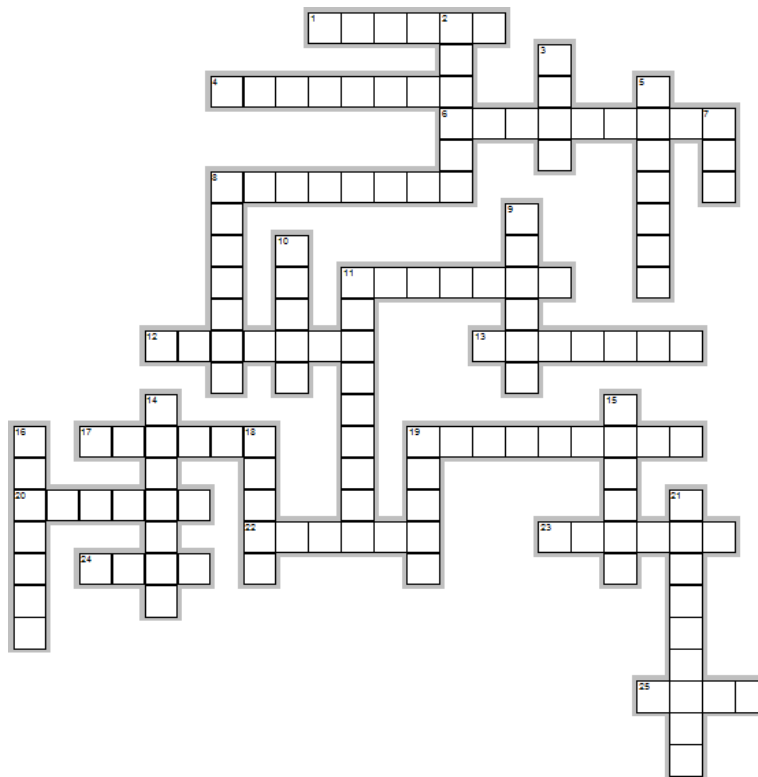
Match the STAFF MEMBERS

with one of their
PET'S NAMES

BAILEY
EMMONS
FAIRCHILD
FORD
GIERTHY
HUNTER
MALENFANT
MILLER V
MOUZAKES
PANZANARO
POLLOCK
QUESNEL
REES
SHUPE

DUTCHER M
ENGEL B
FINK
FOX
GLUNK
KEEGAN
MILLER T
MINKLER
OLDENDORF
PERRY
PORTER
QUILES
SCHMIDT
STRICH

Note—Don't skip spaces in puzzle



Down

2. Bear
3. Sylvester
5. Catfish
7. Foxy
8. Bear
9. Goobie
10. Bridgete
11. Buck
14. Fred
15. Justin
16. Cthulu
18. Charlotte
19. Mouse
21. Mikasa

Across

1. Gypsy Kitty
4. Gizmo
6. Sugar
8. Adam
11. Toby
12. Georgia
13. Randy
17. Abel
19. Max
20. Dutchess
22. Scooter
23. Sadie
24. Jasmine
25. Luna