

By Elana Ho



Freshmen students at Lawrence Free State High School socially distance in the Commons. Lawrence public schools have been in hybrid since the beginning of November.

Hybrid or Bust

Local students share opinions on COVID learning systems

By Katie Eckert

Everyone was interested to see what developments schools would make to adapt to new safety regulations and also minimize losses to curriculum and the school community. Now, eight months later, Lawrence schools have returned to in-person schooling with various hybrid systems.

While Seabury has been doing in-person school for months, Lawrence public schools opted to do a hybrid learning system with each student attending in-person school once a week. Schools have also gradually decreased the pool of exclusively live learners over the past couple of months. Both systems work to keep students safe while attempting to maintain the quality of

education, but not everybody agrees on how well they reach these standards.

Seabury eighth grader Eni Wintoki, for example, feels that online learning is harder. "It is definitely harder to learn while we're online," she says. "I just didn't feel like I was getting anything, and that I was mostly just reading stuff and trying to memorize it." Although Wintoki appreciates the efforts to keep students safe, she also feels that some factors of Seabury's system, like the numbered release, could be improved. "It feels nice to be able to walk to class with your friend, but I still feel like there's a lot of congregation at the doors and our lockers and stuff."

Lawrence Free State Highschool sophomore Evie Stull feels that her school's hybrid learning system is greatly inferior to an in-person education. "I definitely feel safe," she says, but, "I feel like I'm not being checked up on as much. My teachers are less likely to know if I don't understand things."

Similarly, Diego Klish, a current junior at Lawrence High School and a former member of the Seabury class of 2022 also agrees that he feels "extremely safe," and thinks the system is "very effective" at preventing transmission. However, he wishes that he could be in person more: "If I could change anything, obviously

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Bishop Seabubble

Basketball players discuss the season in the pandemic

By Jonah Kim

With COVID-19 concerns shutting down all American sports leagues, it seemed like they would never resume play. However, with the installment of bubble systems in the NBA and NHL they were able to continue their seasons, and with positive tests seemingly everyday coming out of the NFL, bubble systems seems to be the only effective way to cancel out the spread. With basketball season approaching for the high school boys team, there were questions on how they could play as safely as possible. The players ended up in a system where they take all of their classes online and only come to school for practice in their own mini bubble system.

Being under these unique circumstances, some players have noticed the effects of being in a bubble-like system. Sophomore Shamus Sawyer explains, "Live really has affected the team dynamic to the point where we only see some guys at practice. So it has been a little harder to figure out everybody's dynamic and how they fit into the team, but for the most part we have worked those problems out."

Junior Sam Hertzog also feels that it was hard at first to come together as a team. "I think the lack of interaction throughout the day makes it more tough for us to grow as a team," he says. "All the older guys know each other pretty well, but it's difficult to introduce new people and get them caught up to speed when we have a very limited amount

of time." The team's games slotted in December have been rescheduled, so the players are free to return to in school activities, hoping to form more of a bond with teammates.

Hertzog also adds on the topic of safety precautions being taken: "I wish I could say that all the other teams are taking this as seriously as we are, but I can't say for sure. We understand that we should take every precaution possible to prevent any potential spread, and isolating is just one of those many precautions." The players feel like they have to be as safe as possible, as positive cases around the league could result in the cancellation of the season.

With the team losing two all-state players during the offseason, some of the team's returning veterans are taking up leadership roles on the team. Senior and 2A all-state first team guard Stavian Jones is one of those returning players. "I could've left like Zach and Juju if I wanted to, but I stayed and worked hard during the offseason physically and mentally to be prepared to lead this team to a championship no matter the circumstances," he says. "There is no reason why we shouldn't be able to accomplish what we want to accomplish."

Hertzog adds onto the idea of stepping up to the occasion: "I am ready," he says. "I have been working very hard to take a big step forward, and I know Coach Mel and my teammates will put me in the best

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mates will put me in the best position to be successful as an individual, and more importantly for the team."

With the loss of talent there also comes adapting to playing without it. Sawyer mentions, "I would have to say that this year is definitely going to be harder on us as a whole. We are going to have to be tougher overall on both sides of the ball and fight for those loose ball opportunities."

Hertzog adds, "We are going to have to be much more solid fundamentally this year. We have to be quicker as a unit and we can't afford to make bad mistakes. Obviously we lost a lot of talented players, but effort and intensity can be replaced, and those are aspects of the game that I am confident this team can excel at."

Although the team struggles when they first came together, they have already begun to see massive improvement all around. They are practicing every day of the week and will begin to play games in January. Coming so close to a state title last year, and shattering records every week, it seems almost impossible to replicate. However, it would be unwise to count this team out, as they are ready to fight and give all they have to get back. Jones explains, "Me and just about everyone else knows we would've won state last year, and that is something that still resonates with

all of us. It's something that has fueled me and the guys to work hard this off season . . . As long as we want it badly enough and are willing to make the sacrifices it takes to get back to that stage, I don't see anything holding us back."



Copy Christsmas List

Lyle: All I want for Christmas is for a pack of weasels to pull me in a sled. They will be long and sleek, and we will fly far and fast together, skimming over the snow like long geese.

Jonah: I really want the new VR Jackie Chan game so I can be Jackie Chan all day, and do things like steal all of the beef jerky from the Hy-Vee gas station.. They'll let me do it because I'm Jackie Chan.

Evan: I would be simply overjoyed to be inundated with copious amounts of Swedish Fish. I am a simple man, with simple needs. Alternatively, I wouldn't mind a sexy new Elkay LZS EZH2O Bottle Filling Station with Single ADA Cooler.

Marie: I'd like a jazzy meerkat trio, specifically one trumpeter, one pianist, and one meerkaxaphonist. They'd better have some snazzy sequined fedoras too.

Katie: I would like a slightly larger than average ceramic gravy boat purchased from H*bby L*bby that pours out an infinite amount of herbal cinnamon orange tea and the tears of Fred Phelps himself, and, if I don't get that, I'm not sure anything's worth it anymore.

Catharine: I would like a sheep please. A pink one is most preferable.

BSA POV: Thanksgiving and Travel

By Matthew Petillo

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and Christmas is right around the corner. With the pandemic, a lot of people were forced to change their plans, whether they stayed at home and cooked their own Thanksgiving dinner or tried something other than the traditional turkey.

Take eighth grader Eliza Brockhoff, for example. She and her family stayed home, but they missed none of the traditional fun and feasting: "We all helped out and made a big feast at home. We wound up having four pies."

Senior Catherine Timkar, however, did something slightly different: she decided to help those who could not or chose not to travel for the holidays. "For Thanksgiving, my family hosted a socially distant (and mask bearing) Thanksgiving for some college students and young adults who could not go home due to COVID-19," says Timkar. "Originally, we were planning on hosting my grandparents, but my grandma is significantly compromised, so we decided not to risk it."

Seventh grader Xeva Oldridge also had her plans changed: "I am simply having dinner with my close family, nothing much. It's a drastic

change because last year I did things like go to Mexico with a large part of my family, so it's very different."

Senior Abigail Baldwin's family celebrated Thanksgiving with a fun twist: "I spent thanksgiving with my immediate family, [and] we had Nachos! I didn't see my extended family which kind of bummed me out, but I still had fun! Most of my extended family lives out of state, so I usually only have it with my immediate family." Still, Baldwin managed to get some virtual family time in: "I did have a Zoom call with my dad's extended family."

Sixth grader Charlie Maples' family downsized their Thanksgiving. "I had a smaller Thanksgiving feast at home," says Maples. "It was just my mom, dad, and pesky little brother instead of the usual half the family, which is way too many for our four person house."

Even though the CDC recommended that Americans cancel their Thanksgiving travel and community plans, the airline industry saw the busiest travel season since the start of the pandemic more than 9.1 million people traveled by plane from the 20th to the 27th of November. It

is unknown what the impact of this travel is yet. What we do know, however, is that the spike in travel indicates that the Christmas holiday season will be similar.

Brockhoff had this to say about people traveling: "I think it's a bad idea. I know it's hard to stay away from loved ones, but by traveling, you put both theirs and your safety at risk."

Baldwin echoed her: "I can understand wanting to see family on thanksgiving. It is part of the holiday. However, the pandemic is real, and spreading it, especially to elderly family members is unthinkable."

Maples had a different opinion than most: "I think we could have traveled to some family outside of town with proper precautions."

Timkar agreed "I think it's fine to travel as long as you take the necessary precautions to keep everyone safe."

No matter your opinion on traveling during a pandemic, or specifically for holidays, we all had something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving and have a universal gift coming to us for Christmas: this year is almost over.



Editorials

The War On Christmas

Is our beloved holiday under attack?

By Lyle Griggs

Shortly before Thanksgiving, Texas Senator Ted Cruz tweeted a puzzling graphic. Above a clip art turkey and a lone Texas star, it bore the phrase “COME AND TAKE IT” in large block letters. When I first saw said inscrutable tweet, I was confused. The phrase is common enough fierce opponents of stricter gun laws often use it but it seemed out of place above a large trussed bird. Last I checked, no American politician has introduced a plan to confiscate turkeys, nor has anyone proposed a ban on semiautomatic turkeys or assault turkeys. If they wanted, the City of Lawrence could confiscate my turkey, Jonathan Vegas/Mr. Pulsinelli, but that city ordinance is likely not what Cruz’s ominous graphic referred to.

Joking aside, the senator’s niche meme was part of a substantial messaging campaign by American conservatives that blamed COVID-19 restrictions for ruining Thanksgiving. In the weeks leading up to the celebration of gluttony, health professionals and political leaders urged Americans not to travel or

gather in groups for Thanksgiving. These recommendations were no campaign of tyranny people simply hoped to minimize the already-accelerating community spread of the coronavirus. Seeing a political opportunity, anti-lockdown conservatives condemned their political opponents for destroying a cherished tradition for ruining everything, basically. These mixed partisan messages likely helped ensure that millions of Americans still traveled for the holiday and that many more gathered in groups. Ted Cruz’s weird meme probably helped justify a super-spreader or two.

Unfortunately, we haven’t seen the last of this sort of thing. And to make matters worse, the coming storm of odd social media content and overwrought attacks will be even worse. For years, a strange “War on Christmas” narrative has dominated Fox News coverage in December. Before this year, this narrative has focused on efforts to make the season more inclusive. Every time a television ad or corporate marketing cam-



paign uses the phrase “happy holidays” instead of “merry Christmas,” for example, conservative pundits go absolutely nuts. In the pre-Christmas weeks, hosts paint “the Left” as a gang of grinchers hoping to brutally murder the Christmas spirit. This year, when health guidelines and travel restrictions will actually affect how people celebrate Christmas, I assume that the old narrative will return, stronger than ever.

The “War on Christmas” narrative just like Ted Cruz’s odd turkey meme has always been silly, but this time it will have serious consequences. As with wildly different opinions on masks that perplexed us earlier this year, disparate messaging on holiday gath-

**Middle School Editorial
coming next issue!**

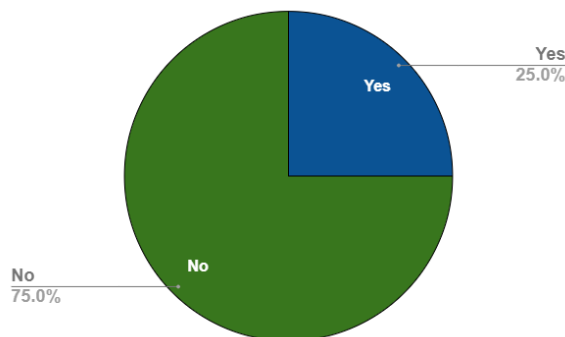
erings will confuse, divide, and imperil Americans. We should all come together to keep our communities safe, even if that means kicking extended family off the Christmas guest list. And news outlets and politicians should help encourage safe practices; a unified message could go a long way towards preventing holiday community spread. Unfortunately, no Chronicle-to-major-news-outlet pipeline exists, and the “War on Christmas” narrative will rage on in the imaginations of conservative pundits.

One last thing: losing a few Christmas traditions is no catastrophe. I’m no Ebenezer Scrooge; I love Christmas and look forward to every holiday season. Still, I can take a bit of

necessary, temporary change. To those who plan to resist guidelines or protest travel restrictions, I say this: you aren’t children anymore. There are bigger things to worry about than grandma’s apple pie. Grow up.

So when Ted Cruz again screams “COME AND TAKE IT” on social media, using a tree or stocking this time for his strange meme, I’ll be chilling at home with my feet up, drinking eggnog by the fire, staying far from maskless crowds and certainly not fighting in the trenches of the “War on Christmas.”

Seabury Statistics

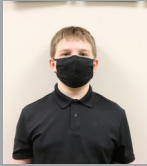


Do you plan on visiting family and/or traveling for Christmas?



In the Halls

If you were an octopus what would you do or hold?



6th Grade
Ethan Smith

"I would strangle people on 4 different parts of their body!"



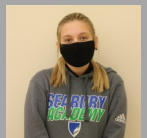
7th Grade
Ruby Flanner

"Food item, phone, a book, TV remote, hand sanitizer, backup unhealthy food, water, and, a mask."



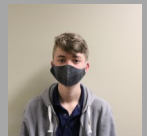
8th Grade
Giova Rubenstein

"I'd definitely watch a bunch of movies at once, or the same movie on eight screens so I'd have surround sound."



9th Grade
Lexi Mattern

"I'd be able to juggle a lot, and paint a lot!"



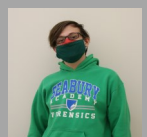
10th Grade
AJ Brewer

"It'd be nice to be able to do stuff while driving."



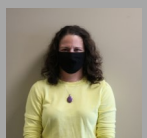
11th Grade
Gobind Singh

"Eight way Rock Paper Scissors."



12th Grade
Max Akers

"Bounce on two pogo sticks at once."



Faculty
Amy Meyers

"Finally catch up on my household chores. . . It would go so much faster with eight arms; you could just go Boom, clean."

Aidan Page

By Andrew Lang

Although many students dread the transfer to high school from middle school, the change has not been the same for freshman Aidan Page. Starting at Seabury this year, Page was worried about teachers and students that awaited him, which both ended up pleasantly surprising him.

To answer "do you think Seabury has been a good fit for you?" Page states, "Yes." So far this year, Page has made his presence known through the ninth grade ranks, and stands out as a friendly and respectful student.

Page is playing in boys basketball this year, and has shown passion for it all through the year. When asked about hobbies, Page laughs, "My only real hobby is basketball."

Besides basketball, Page has shown interest in Seabury's Diversity Club. Though unrelated to any hobbies, Page states that his dream job would be, "Traffic coordinator on the moon. That would be epic," he



By Catherine Chang

Freshman Aidan Page writes for an in class activity. Page says he knew Seabury was a perfect school for him right when he walked through the doors.

says with enthusiasm.

Page has also shown a monomaniacal favor for Chipotle. "I love Chipotle, and I'm willing to go to some extreme lengths," he says, in a serious tone.

Page has also shown interest in pets, of which he currently has none of. "I want a dog, but my mom does NOT

like dogs and she gets mad when I bring it up," Page says with dismay.

Although being overly obsessed with Chipotle, Page has demonstrated kindness and respect to both students and teachers alike, and will no doubt continue to be a valuable member of the Seabury community.

Katie Mastrosimone

By Marie Brockhoff



By Hannah Messenger

Seventh grader Katie Mastrosimone participates in the middle school play for the first time. Mastrosimone also loves to spend time outside riding her bike.

Of the many masks in the hallways this year, one stands out: emblazoned across it is the word "VOTE." That mask, which she wore leading up to the election, belongs to seventh grader Katie Mastrosimone. "I'm trying to help in any way I can, because I can't vote yet," she says as to why she selected her mask. In addition to voting, she is passionate about activities ranging

from theatre to coding. She attended Raintree Montessori School before transferring to Seabury this year. "Transitioning between classes is probably the biggest difference," she says, comparing the two.

Mastrosimone wasted no time joining Seabury activities. She performed in the Lower School play this fall, presumably the first of many showcases of her talents. "[The

play's] been pretty good; it's been a bit of a learning curve with COVID," she says. She played several roles, as well as singing and playing guitar. Mastrosimone is no stranger to theatre, having performed in nearly a dozen productions. She loves "Being someone else and telling a story."

The Middle School Youth Coding League also gained Mastrosimone as a member. "I've done [coding] a few times in the past," she says of why she chose to participate. "It's a fun activity, and it's helpful later in life."

To pass the endless quarantine hours, Mastrosimone has many hobbies. "I got a rock tumbler, and I just started tumbling rocks and making necklaces," she says of one calming pastime. "Sometimes I'll look up actors in shows I watch and see what other things they've been in," she says of another. Mastrosimone may be somewhat quiet, but she is marvelously talented and an overall wonderful addition to the Seabury community.

Transitioning Traditions

Pandemic puts Christmas traditions on hold.

By Campbell Helling

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, many cancellations have occurred because of safety issues. Many have experienced vacations, camps, concerts and more called off throughout the spring, summer and fall. In the winter, with the holidays taking place, many traditions, both nationwide and local, help people celebrate this time of year. However, due to the ongoing crisis, some are on hold. Annual Seabury traditions such as Winter Formal have met a similar pandemic fate.

Margie Lawrence, director of the Seabury choirs, describes how Lessons and Carols would have gone this year: “[We would have been] doing it in the commons, so we [wouldn’t] be at a church this year,” she says. To make it as pandemic-friendly as possible, “The students would have to be six feet apart,” and “we [wouldn’t] have an audience.” Despite these severe limitations, Lawrence did have a plan to make the concert accessible: “We [were] going to record all the choir singing their songs,” she says.

With the concert cancelled, the students are doing a different project: “Each of them individually are going to design their own Lessons and Carols program,” says Lawrence, meaning that they “have to research to find carols” and “they’re assigning who the speakers will be, and they can assign any speaker they want, still living.” Students are usually the centerpiece of the annual Christmas choral tradition, but this year they get to look behind the scenes.

The decision to cancel the concert was not an easy one: “I was very sad,” Lawrence says, because “we’ve been

working on it with the idea that we would do it.” There is a spark of hope, though: “We could still record our music in January too.” The spring concert is also a spark, as she has high hopes for next semester. “I would like very much to do [the spring concert].”

Freshman Spencer Timkar explains how he feels about the cancellation of the Christmas concert: “It kind of sucks, but you know, it’s not really safe to sing inside. I guess it was the more recent decision. I always think the Christmas concerts are fun, because it’s an accumulation of all the [year’s] work.” Fortunately, there will be some traditions that his family will continue this year: “We’re going to go and get a Christmas tree and decorate that,” and “I get to have Christmas with my family, as usual,” he says.

Sixth-grader Lillian Meier is disappointed that the concert had to be called off: “I am a little sad about that,” she says. Along with the Christmas concert, there are many holiday traditions that she hates to miss: “Well, I like having Christmas parties with my friends, but obviously we can’t do that.” To resolve this, she says, “I’m probably going to Zoom with them and we’ll just talk and eat food.” Meier also ponders what will stay the same about the holidays this year: “You eat dinner with your family, sometimes you open presents if you celebrate Christmas, you open some presents every day with Hanukkah.” But in the end, she says, “you still celebrate with family.”



By Anna Johnson

Senior Alex White composes a list of songs to add to his own Christmas Carol concert idea. This year the performance was cancelled and replaced by each person’s own version of the concert.

Slaughterhouse 4120

Students get closer to their food

By Evan McHenry

Most Americans, statistically speaking, are meat-eaters, but the majority of them will never come close to the processes that prepare their food. “I tried to break down that barrier,” says faculty member Eric Nelson, who is teaching Wilderness Biology this semester. Last Tuesday, Nelson hosted an optional chicken-harvesting event outside of school; there, if the students wanted to, they had the opportunity to help slaughter and process chickens.

“By slaughtering the chickens yourself, you really get to know your food,” says senior Brayden Shumaker. It was a hands-on—or hands-in—experience for the students, with some reaching into the

cavities of the slaughtered chickens to remove viscera. Shumaker was one of the students who opted to actually slaughter the chickens himself. As an upside, “You get to know they were raised and killed humanely, unlike factory chickens,” says Shumaker. “You also get fresher and tastier meat.”

The event was certainly unique, and for most of the students who chose to attend, it was a new experience as well. Nelson adds, “The goal [of Wilderness Biology] has been to expand the horizons of the kids in the class... to take them out of their comfort zones, and to have some fun.”

“Hybrid or Bust”

Continued from page 1

I would want more hybrid, because I like hybrid. It helps me to focus better.”

Students also struggle with maintaining social relationships in this climate. “It’s harder, I feel, to take initiative to go and see someone, because I can really only talk to people on zoom calls most of the time,” says Wintoki. “In the classroom, since we’re not at one table, I also feel a bit less connected to all the other people in my class . . . But it’s still good to see them everyday since it’s kind of annoying being at your house all the time,” she says.

Even at much larger schools, students are faring no better: “I feel like my social circle is shrinking and I’m losing relationships because I just can’t see and talk to people,” says Stull. Free State and Lawrence High may have several times as many students as Seabury, but Stull says the hybrid learning system still leaves halls empty: “Normally where you’d be rubbing elbows with people in the common spaces, there’s no one. The school is like a ghost town.” Although an empty hallway is definitely safer than a crowded one, it is much lonelier.

Klish also finds the emptiness of classrooms strange, saying, “There’s hardly anyone in my classes because of how they’ve been divided up.” Klish, however, feels like his social life is not being negatively impacted. “I ran cross country; I have friends all on the team now, so it really has not

impacted my sports or social life at all,” he says.

Now, for all the things that are less than satisfactory, there are some benefits to hybrid learning systems. “The amount of stress is better, I have a lot less stress,” says Stull. Part of this is due to the decreased workload, but learning from home can also be a less frantic work environment that offers comforts regular school cannot.

Klish also feels that his workload is better with hybrid learning. “Homework is not as bad, because a lot of times you can do homework during class,” he says.

There is a tradeoff with every compromise, and while online and hybrid learning may prevent the spread of Covid-19 on school grounds and decrease homework-related stress, many students feel that they are sacrificing the quality of their education and school community in the process. Obviously, this is a necessary compromise, as students’ health and safety should be everyone’s top priority, but students certainly have a right to be frustrated.



Reviews

"The Mandalorian" Season 2

By Catharine Richards

Show



Star Wars fans were definitely elated to hear about the release of a new series last year, and quite the anticipation had been built about the return of "The Mandalorian" for a second season this winter. The special effects, visuals and actors earned many accolades for their work in the first season, and personally I think that the brilliance has carried well into the second season. The special effects, sets and costume designs are all up to the quality of the Star Wars movies and make for an incredible viewing experience. While not all the episodes have been released as of this publication date, I have no doubt that the concluding episodes of the season will be just as excellent.

As for the plot, the Mandalorian has been tasked with finding other Mandalorians across the galaxy to help him return the Child (a very young yoda) to others of his kind, and of course they run into a few adventures along the way.

While most viewers already know and love "baby Yoda," I feel that other characters in the show that make more than a one-time appearance are built up very well. To the delight of many fans, certain characters from various parts of the Star Wars franchise (specifically the "Star Wars: The Clone Wars" animated series) have made long awaited appearances thus far (I'm really trying to be vague here for those who haven't caught up yet, but I think you catch my drift).

Pedro Pascal, who plays the Mandalorian, deserves all the praise for being able to express such clear emotions while wearing a helmet 99.9% of the time. Acting through body language rather than facial expressions creates a unique experience for the viewers that is very rarely seen.

Anyone can enjoy this TV show, whether a casual fan or super fan. "The Mandalorian" series offers us another fascinating look into the beloved Star Wars universe, and it's certainly worth watching.

Tokyo Sushi

By Edie Patterson

Restaurant



Tokyo Sushi recently opened in the location formerly owned by the Levee Cafe, right across the street from the Kansas River. There are various other sushi places in downtown Lawrence and across the city, but Tokyo Sushi offers some unique options. The North Lawrence restaurant offers ingredients such as tempura vegetables and seafood, pickled red cabbage, raw seafood, avocado, mango and more in addition to sushi burritos. This restaurant isn't the first to sell recipes like these, but their ingredients and ideas stand out from other Japanese restaurants in Lawrence. In addition to that, the sushi and chicken teriyaki was very good -- it was flavorful and it tasted fresh and all in all, there were no issues with the food.

The interior of Tokyo Sushi is small and nondescript, featuring only a few indoor tables for people to eat at and a carry-out counter. Their online ordering was easy and the food was

ready right on time, making the carry-out process time efficient and low-stress. The restaurant also features an outdoor seating area, closed off from the sidewalk but still open-air to provide a safe dining experience, and the area has heat lamps so it can function in the winter. The space was small, which seemed to work for now, but if it continues to grow, the space might get cramped.

Overall, Tokyo Sushi was a good dining experience. The food, service and location were consistently good without any real downsides, but with competition from similar restaurants, Tokyo Sushi probably needs to grow in popularity before it expands its menu and interior, which might not happen until in-person dining is recommended. However, their sushi and other food was fresh and very good, and the restaurant is a good place to eat even during the pandemic.

Argana Café

By Sage McHenry

Restaurant



Argana Cafe, located at 7 E 7th Street in downtown Lawrence, has brought some Moroccan representation to the community. The restaurant has a Mediterranean-inspired design, and with sea blue walls, gold detailing and beautiful Middle Eastern wall hangings, it looks as if it provides a very enjoyable atmosphere for your dining experience. The restaurant provides separate rooms available for reservation as well as the main dining area and outdoor seating. I used the carry out service, so unfortunately I was not able to go into the restaurant myself. Fortunately, pictures of the space can be found on Argana Cafe's Facebook page.

The restaurant specializes in Mediterranean cuisine with flavors from Morocco, the Middle East and more. They also offer gluten free, vegetarian and vegan dishes. I ordered the Chicken Shawarma which came with sides of hummus, pita, Argana salad and soup and was served on top

of spiced rice. I must say it was quite good, although I wish the chicken had included some more spices to amp up the flavor. The hummus and pita were good, and I would eat them again. The Argana salad was also tasty. The soup, on the other hand, was slightly underwhelming and bland. For dessert I ordered the Argana baklava, which was filled with peanuts. Personally I am not the biggest fan of peanuts, but overall this dessert was really good.

The carry-out process was easy to use, and the worker who brought out my food was very nice. My only complaint is that the online menu does not provide very detailed descriptions of the dishes, so it was slightly difficult to see from the picture what I was really ordering. Other than that, Argana Cafe was definitely a win, and I am glad some Moroccan representation has been brought to Lawrence's downtown restaurant scene.

Cuttin' Grass

By Lyle Griggs

Album



Two weeks before my first college application deadline, I was in a dark place. Anxiety consumed me; waves of stress washed over me; 10,000 bees buzzed in the Jeep Grand Cherokee of my mind. And then, just when I thought that nothing would improve, Sturgill Simpson dropped a bluegrass album.

While there are no new tracks on "Cuttin' Grass Vol 1: The Butcher Shoppe Sessions" (it recycles tunes from Simpson's earlier albums), the album certainly shows a new musical direction for the artist. A far cry from his last album, "Sound and Fury," a furious and metallic rock record that surprised some of the artist's country-loving fans, "Cuttin' Grass" is strictly acoustic, and it reimagines Nashville's roots rather than pushing its boundaries as Simpson is wont to do.

Musically, the album is a masterpiece. Simpson is backed by a talented cast of bluegrass musicians, including banjo player Scott Vestal and mando-

lin player and vocalist Sierra Hull. As always, Simpson himself is a star: his voice, while not a traditional bluegrass timbre, is somehow perfect for his new genre.

Although the album is musically masterful, not all tracks on "Cuttin' Grass" are created equal. Some of Simpson's original songs are difficult to adapt to acoustic bluegrass, and the higher cadence that the genre demands makes some of his songs sound odd. Still, many interpretations rival their original versions; the opening song, "All Around You," for example, makes a somewhat dull original song spectacular. My favorite track is "Turtles All the Way Down," a tear-jerking, soaring bluegrass take on Simpson's breakout single.

As with any twenty-track album, not every song on "Cuttin' Grass" is perfect. Still, its release was probably the best moment of 2020. My only complaint is cosmetic: I preferred Simpson's former shaggy haircut, and I hope he grows it back while recording "Cuttin' Grass Vol. 2."

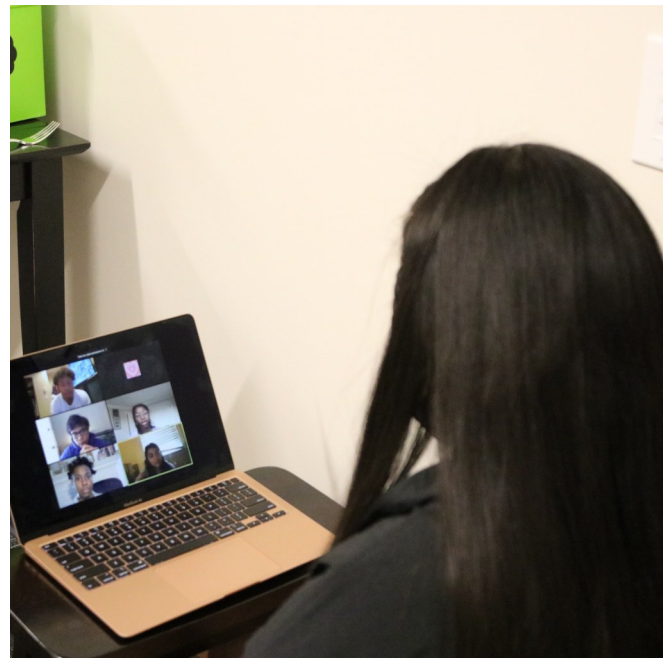
Photos of the Issue

By Anna Johnson



Senior Harrison Hartzler holds up decorated ornaments for the senior Christmas tree. The class of 2021 took a day off to find a tree for Christmas, which has been a tradition for quite some time.

By Enzo Karam



Freshman Emma Roman Nose sits in on her Diversity Club Zoom meeting. Some of the diversity club members have been taking advantage of the new conference rooms in the office areas for their meeting places.

By Cadence Cheng



Junior Marie Brockhoff plays Becky Thatcher in "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer". Brockhoff, as Thatcher, responded in the negative when asked if she loved dead rats during this scene.

By Anna Johnson



Eighth grader Kiefer Bullock lifts up the ball to pitch it for an out. As faculty Bryan Rios has discovered, the eighth grade boys have a lot of energy.

Horoscopes



Aquarius

Aquarius (January 20-February 18):
help. Im. stuck in printer....



Pisces

Pisces (February 19-March 20):
Secret exposed: headmaster Don Schawang ordered the construction company to build the new school out of balsa wood and metal scraps, siphoning the unused money into his personal bank account to finance the expansion of his secret underground whale farm.



Aries

Aries (March 21-April 19):
Each morning, Eric Clapton spends up to an hour putting little tiny tennis shoes on each of the hundreds of tiny feet that cover his torso. Clapton credits his guitar talent to this morning manual exercise.



Taurus

Taurus (April 20-May 20):
You think Rudolph's nose is natural?? It's watermelon guts. It's allllll watermelon guts.



Gemini

Gemini (May 21-June 20):
Life Doesn't Get Easier, You Just **Become Albanian**



Cancer

Cancer (June 21-July 22):
Easy way to double your money - start eating candy canes until you see double, then go broke spending it on donations to Alf Alpha's Christmas Cringle.



Leo

Leo (July 23-August 22):
Don't talk to me until you've located a fossil sample of the extinct species of monk seal, eomonachus belegaerensis.



Virgo

Virgo (August 23-September 22):
New rapper idea: Venezuelan 50 Cent, better known as \$169,304.92



Libra

Libra (September 23-October 22):
Try a new game called "seeing double," where you drive down the highway without your glasses on while trying to decide whether that sign leads to your child's custody hearing or the baked bean factory.



Scorpio

Scorpio (October 23-November 21):
This Christmas, start a new tradition of composing epic poems thousands of lines long with your family and closest friends, only to take all the credit under the nom de plume of a famous Kidz Bop star.



Sagittarius

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):
Yes I am hooked on chloroform...ation of the first triumvirate.



Capricorn

Capricorn (Dec. 22-January 19):
this horoscope has been designated as a culturally significant item and has been added to the national registry as of 2:45 PM on 12/4/2020



Sagittarius (Dec. 34-January 97.5):
Urinarium

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Comic



**The views and opinions expressed in this comic do not necessarily represent the views of the author or the Seabury Chronicle as a whole.*

By Katie Eckert



By Andrew Lang



The Chronicle

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