



# EL DIABLO

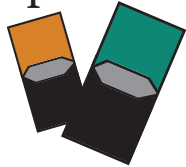
Voice of the Students

## FRESH START!

Durango High School Issue 3 Volume 66 January 2019

**3 FEATURES**

- juul pod flavor ban



- Snowdown!!

**12 SPORTS**

- the nordic and alpine ski teams



- dance around durango

**20 OPINION**

- harassment in the restaurant industry

**28 ARTS & LIT**

- Bohemian Rhapsody:

Movie Review

**QUEEN****36 LIFESTYLES**

- daily workout winter routines

**Letter from the editors,**

The new year has just begun, and already we're off to a rock-in' beginning. The government may be shut down, but we're sure as h\*ll not! In this issue, we will be discussing new movies, controversy regarding teen vaping, and we will also look at older ideas with new angles. Feel free to send in any submissions or opinions about issues that we write about, whether you agree or disagree, and we may print what you write! We encourage you to use the new year and new semester to stay on top of schoolwork, be organized, and stick to your resolutions. And to all the seniors with one semester left of high school: keep on keeping on. If we can do it, you can do it. Send in your final college and scholarship applications, and hold out until May 1st. But don't forget to have fun! Snowdown and Winter Week are coming up quick, and they are both great excuses to let down your hair and paint the town red. Cut yourself a break, and enjoy our snowy Durango winter.

Sincerely,

Emma Jaber, Caroline Knight, &amp; Haley Szczech

**Cover photo by Cassandra Blau*****El Diablo***

Voice of the students and official newspaper of Durango High School.

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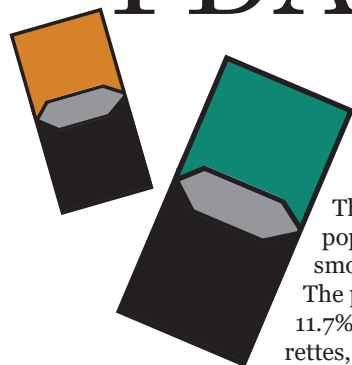
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# FDA takes an L: teens still vaping



JACK WHISTLER  
Reporter

There's no denying that JUUL Lab's extremely popular JUUL e-cigarettes aren't just used by adult smokers who are on the road to a nicotine free life. The product has blown up in the past two years with 11.7% of high schools students currently using e-cigarettes, according to the 2017 National Youth Tobacco Survey. In 2011, just 1.5% of high school students used

JUUL products. JUUL Labs has been the fastest company ever to reach deacon status, which is a company worth ten billion or more.

After the FDA announced an underaged vaping epidemic, JUUL Labs pulled mango, fruit, creme, and cucumber flavored "pods" of shelves of 90,000 retailers. JUUL Labs also deleted its Instagram and Facebook accounts to remove its online presence in order to further combat underage nicotine usage..

JUUL stated that the flavors will still be available online for anyone 21 and over. JUUL also confirmed that they plan to bring the flavors back into retail stores as soon as there are stricter age-verification policies put in place.

With JUULs and other vaping devices being used by about 2 million teens nationwide, there is no doubt that they are at DHS as well. How does this ban effect JUUL's largest sale group? Is the ban effective? Due to the nature of this article, all interviews and interviewees are kept anonymous. The following content does not reflect the views of El Diablo or its staff members.

There is no doubt there are students that are juuling at Durango High School. "In the bathrooms, in the parking lot, they are too easy to hide," reports one DHS student. A JUUL's appearance has often been compared to a USB drive and the device's small, lightweight, and discreet design makes it easily concealable from parents and educators. Although not every adult is clueless, "Administration has really been cracking down this year. I know a lot of people who have been searched and suspended for having a JUUL on school grounds."

When asked if the discontinuation of popular flavors was effective in eliminating underaged use, many DHS students, with no surprise, had very different views than the FDA

"Almost everyone who JUULs has a nicotine addiction and banning flavors won't stop them from getting what they need," one DHS student reports. One JUUL pod

has an amount of nicotine equivalent to one pack of cigarettes, so it's no wonder many teens have found themselves addicted. JUUL left mint, methanol, and tobacco flavors on shelves.

"I don't feel discouraged because there are other flavors and even though they might not taste as good, they accomplish the same thing," said another student.

"Honestly I'm fine with this whole ban thing. Everyone has found a way around the rules in the first place and mint has always been my favorite, I thought some of the flavors that were banned are pretty gross," said another student.

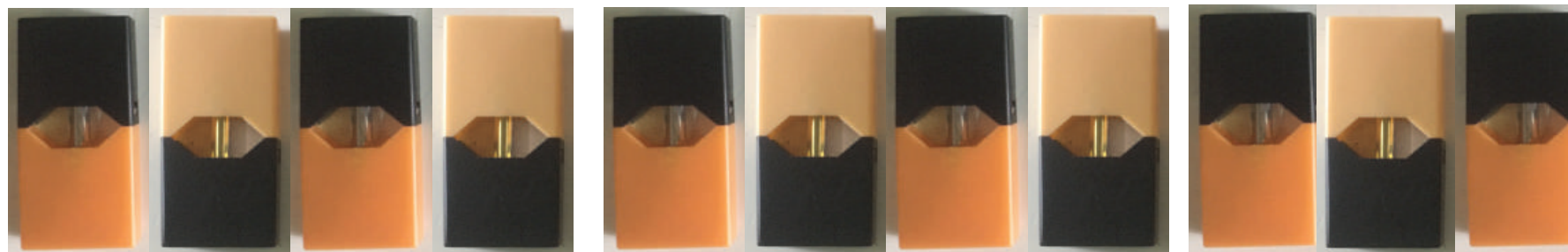
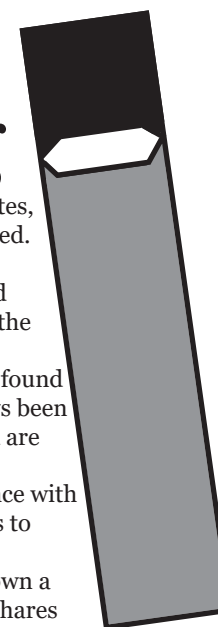
On the other hand, one student speaks about their experience with JUUL use and how the ban seems to have encouraged users to stop, or move to another product.

"With the banning, I definitely don't really see a reason to own a JUUL anymore, and I was really wanting to quit anyway," shares one student, who was seemingly affected in the way that FDA and JUUL Labs intended. "However, I still know a lot of people that got around the banning... whether they bought in bulk or are getting it online... and it's still really hard to quit because it's still really present around me," they share further. A true statement, with many underaged users getting and buying JUUL products from older students and friends who are of age.

Even with some teen users being encouraged to quit with the ban, it seems that the use of vape products around teens is still continuing to expand.

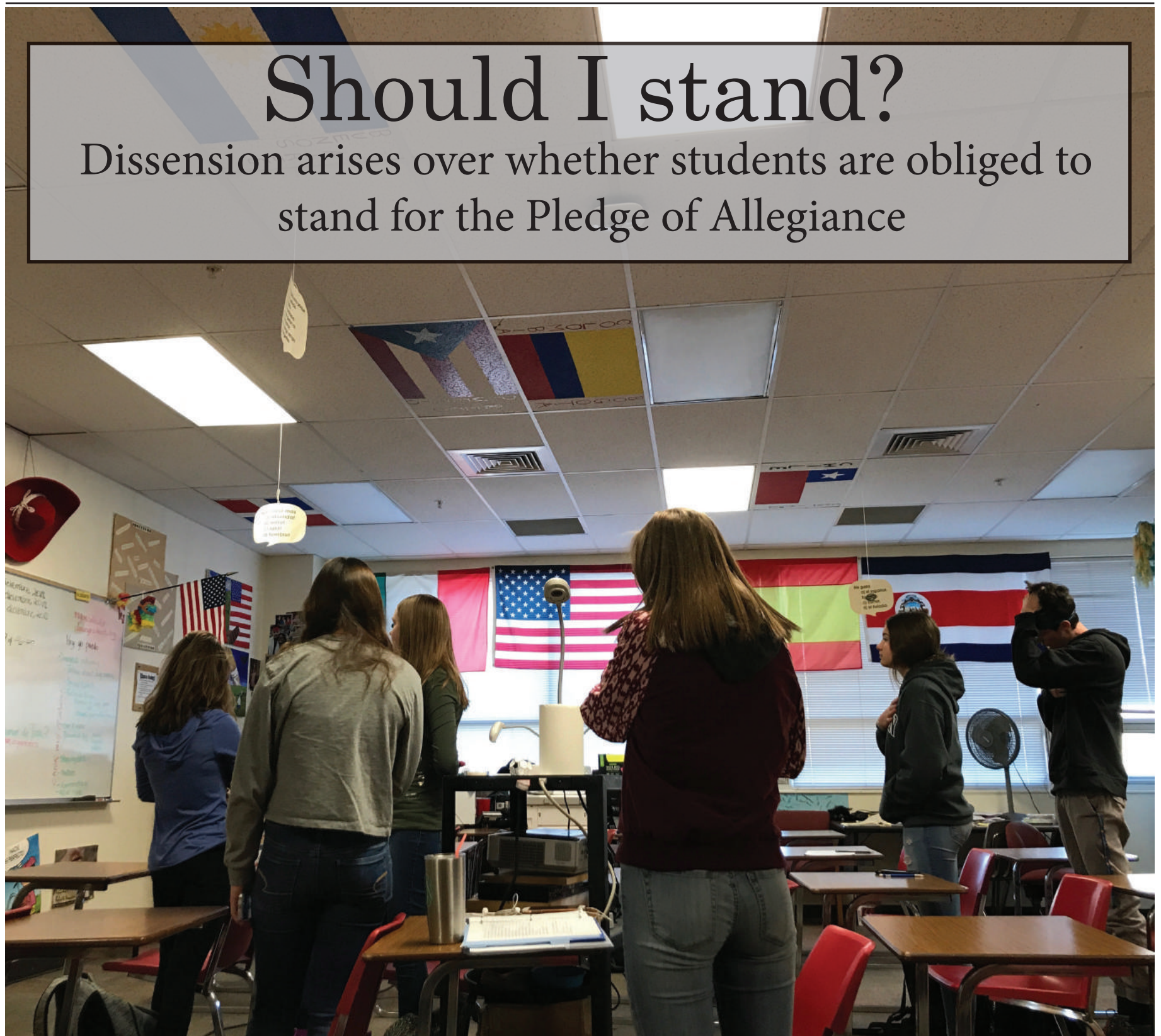
"I would say that the tactics are working with me, but as I said, a lot of people are still managing to get pods. Right when the ban hit, I knew a ton of people who just switched to Sourin, Blu, and Innokin," said the same student. The products referenced are all vape products, some very similar to JUUL that offer the same fruity and teen-favorite flavors JUUL Labs and the FDA is trying to eliminate in order to get teens to quit.

With the market for vape products so vast, and flavors that teens enjoy, it appears that vaping will not leave the parking lots and hallways of high schools anytime soon. Though it appears JUUL Labs and the FDA have made some progress toward their goal, teens continue to find ways around it. The problem? JUUL Labs is too large of a company and distributes 73% of vape products in the U.S. Until it and the FDA find a way to manage teen vaping in a more effective way, students will continue to "feen" off of each other's vape products in the bathroom during passing period.



## Should I stand?

Dissension arises over whether students are obliged to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance





CHLOE RAGSDALE  
*Head Lifestyle Editor*

In schools across the country, every student begins their day repeating the same phrases about the history and strength of the United States of America. Despite this seemingly ideal way of instilling patriotism and the positive aspects of American culture and present day life into the students' minds, the pledge of allegiance has caused controversy throughout American history, and continues to do so today.

"I just wanted [the pledge of allegiance] once a week so we could do it a little bit more thoughtfully," states Sabine Furtauer, a robotics and aerospace teacher at DHS, commenting on how the repeated integration of the pledge of allegiance into schools and students across the US has created a void of meaning, replacing it with boredom and questioning.

In order to support the diversity of students in her classes, Furtauer provides an open minded and equally opportune classroom. Her beliefs on the pledge of allegiance are similar to a growing number of students and teachers across the US, and the derivatives of their reasons to sit or stand vary.

Many people believe that standing for the pledge of allegiance shows respect to the entirety of our country, whether it be respect for those who fight for our country, the incomparable opportunities and freedoms that we are given in our country, or those who lead our country.

"Standing for thirty seconds in the morning and looking at the flag has way more meaning of just that. Not only are you honoring the men and women who still serve but the men and women who died in trying to protect us," says Jr. Hannah Coster, corroborating the fact that standing for the pledge is essential in high schools because it shows respect for those who sacrifice their lives for our country.

However, one of the foundational conflicts in saying the pledge of allegiance today is with our current leader, President Donald Trump.

"How could I pledge my loyalty to a country that can't promise equality? The pledge of allegiance talks about 'liberty and justice for all', but I feel like there is really no liberty or justice in this country; if there's truly justice why is there still discrimination?" says So. Ani'ya Richards, underlining the social and political reasons that draw her to sit for the pledge.

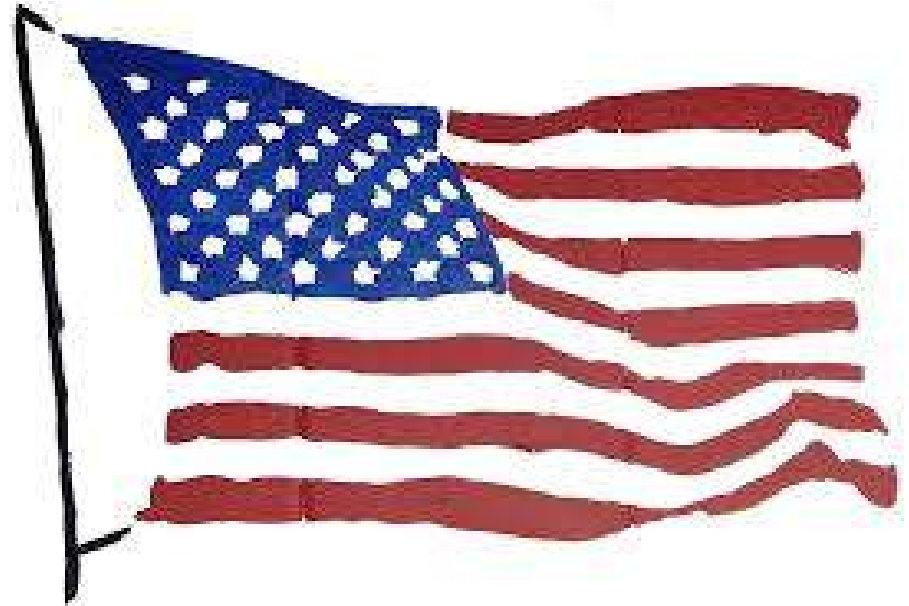
President Trump has actively been against those who don't acknowledge the traditional ways that Americans support their country, whether it's standing for the pledge of allegiance or the national anthem. This issue has been especially prominent with the act of kneeling during the national anthem, where NFL football player Colin Kaepernick sparked the controversy in order to bring light to frequent and increasing racial injustices in the US, while receiving backlash from President Trump that he is spreading a "terrible message" to those watching.

The controversy thickened as Kaepernick wasn't drafted into the NFL this year, drawing attention to the legal aspects of his protest: did exercising his first amendment right ultimately lead to his career downfall?

This same issue connects to students today, where the line between first amendment rights and disrespectfulness towards the United States seems to blur.

Some students have commented that certain teachers have been opposed to their stance on the pledge of allegiance, whether it's by docking their participation grades or threatening to talk with them after class. Students are not legally required to say the pledge of allegiance in most states in the US, with the majority of those schools giving their students the option of whether or not to sit or stand, with the exception being Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Virginia.

Out of 101 students polled from Durango High School, 63 said that they stood for the pledge, and 38 of them did not. This minority still receives encouragement from



some teachers to participate, whether it's because of their personal background or personal political opinions.

"I think that I owe respect to this country and that's why I want to do the pledge of allegiance," shares Seydie Coronado, a Spanish teacher at DHS and an immigrant from Costa Rica, on why she encourages students to stand for the pledge due to the bountiful opportunities and freedoms provided to all citizens. Some teachers follow the foundational law that is required in most all American states, which is that the pledge must be said in public schools.

"I don't really care if you say it or not, but you have to stand for the pledge," said science teacher Ty Flom.

Other teachers contrast from Coronado and Flom, choosing to exercise their first amendment rights to bring more meaning to the pledge of allegiance.

"I think it's important that whenever we make a pledge that we are speaking those words with intentionality and conviction, and if I'm in the middle of doing attendance or getting papers ready for the class, I would be mindlessly saying the pledge," says AP Psychology and AP US History teacher Leigh Gozigian.

Religious implications in the pledge of allegiance also stimulate backlash and disengagement in reciting it.

The phrase "under God" of the pledge of allegiance wasn't even implemented until 1954, when President Eisenhower decided that this phrase would unite American citizens against communism during the Cold War. This phrase also appears on the American bill, though receives much less controversy and debate due to the fact that it simply goes unnoticed in our society compared to the pledge, which is recited everyday by every student for eighteen years of their lives.

Another pressing question arises from the "under God" conflict: should certain aspects of our pledge be updated to fit our modern society, just like the debate on certain aspects of our constitution, such as the second amendment right?

Whatever the implications or the main goals of reciting the pledge of allegiance may be, it still receives heavy discussion in today's society as religion and political stance more prominently influence students actions and ideas. Despite the conflicts found in reciting the pledge of allegiance, it is still a way to show respect and honor towards the entirety of our country, while still proving our unparalleled rights as Americans to exercise the freedom of speech in every aspect of our lives.



## Bubbles Up!

### Everything you need to know about scuba club



*Special thanks to Scuba club*

RUSH WEBSTER  
Reporter

While many of you have certainly heard about the DHS scuba club, many aspects of this club are a mystery due to its seemingly far-fetched interests and unique premise. If you wish to learn more about this adventure-seeking and educational club, look no further, because here you will find everything that you need to know about one of the most interesting and anomalous clubs at DHS.

Having been a part of DHS for four years now, scuba club has unsurprisingly attracted many members due to its promise of deep sea exploration and new fascinating experiences; scuba diving provides the opportunity to discover an entirely unique underwater world.

“I got the idea [to start scuba club] when I got certified to be a scuba diver, I liked it so much that I wanted to share it with other people,” says club advisor Dale Garland.

Uniting the club members is a common appreciation for discovery and adventure; and true to the club’s origins, one of the first tasks tackled each year is to get all new members certified to dive.

“The activities that we usually start off with is getting all the members certified who want to be certified,” said club president Quinn Griswold, “I got certified within two months of joining the club.”

In fact, if you are not comfortable or not available to go on the club’s annual scuba diving trip over spring break, you can join the club simply to learn to scuba dive through the club’s thorough certification process.

“Not everyone who is in scuba club is going on the trip; some people will ask, ‘Well if I’m not going on the trip? Can I still be in scuba club?’ and of course, because there’s other things [you can] do,” said Garland.

If you do not want to attend the trip, you can not only become certified, but there

are many environmentally conscious service and research projects that the club focuses on throughout the year that you can participate in. From research projects to raising awareness about pressing issues threatening marine environments and organisms, members of scuba club have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities.

“It’s always about educating ourselves about things in the marine environment,” said Garland.

However, for those who are interested in attending the club’s annual scuba diving excursion, fundraising is a major activity and commitment involved. And while on the topic of fundraising, scuba club will be hosting multiple events and organising numerous projects to raise money for their overseas expedition.

“We are trying to partner with East by Southwest to do a lionfish dinner. We are also working on selling pura vida bracelets, where we would customize a bracelet to match the color of an organization that helps clean up plastic within the ocean, and a portion of the money would go to the [organization] and the rest would go towards our trip,” said Griswold.

Make sure to attend these events to support both your peers in scuba club as well as the preservation of our oceans. The main goal, however, of all this fundraising is to enable members to attend the club’s annual quest to explore an aquatic environment and utilize the scuba diving skills that they have cultivated throughout the year.

“The next trip is to a place called Roatan, it’s in Honduras; we’re going there over spring break. Roatan sits on the second largest reef in the world, so there’s a lot of good diving,” said Garland.

With all of these exciting experiences and opportunities, it’s not difficult to comprehend why scuba club is so well liked and thoroughly enjoyed by its members. If you are searching for a new adventure or extracurricular activity, then feel free to head over to Dale Garland’s room 2070 to get more details about the club.

“I think people should join this club because it’s a great community, and the thing about scuba diving is that it’s a totally different world underwater, and there’s so many different organisms that you can see and learn about. It’s also just a great time to make friends, you end up spending a lot of time together,” says Griswold.

So if you are interested in bringing awareness to environmental issues, exploring our oceans, travelling the world, and making new friends within a fun and close

community, then Scuba club could be right for you!





# Microplastics Cause Macro-Problems



Photo by Cassandra Blau

HALEIGH HARPER  
Reporter

Do you know that you have been eating and drinking plastic without knowing it? Microplastics are very small pieces of plastic, which are now starting to be discovered in the food and water people consume. With- microplastics come possible health hazards, and although scientists aren't completely sure of what the long term effects of microplastics ingested by organisms are, these hazards are predicted to get worse and worse.

Scientists have found plastic fibers in human stool samples, because people cannot digest plastic and it usually goes straight through them, but some particles are small enough to enter the bloodstream. When inhaling, if the particles haven't reached the lungs through the bloodstream, the small fibers start to enter the lungs, which causes particles to build up and create respiratory issues.

"The fibers will build up more and more in our lungs and breathing will be a struggle as time goes on," said DHS Science teacher, Eric Jackson. Asthma is built up in the lungs' airways and it causes a person to have a harder time breathing. Seven percent of people in the US have asthma, and that number keeps growing. As of 2009, eight percent of people have been diagnosed with asthma. If no action is taken to reduce the amount of microplastics, or even regular plastic consumption that will eventually become microplastics, general human health will begin to deteriorate.

"Many aquatic animals are found with plastic in them. Many people are concerned with the sea turtles. There was that whale that was found a few weeks ago with about twenty pounds of plastic in it," said Jackson.

Fish are one of peoples' main food source, and since so many fish are found with tons of plastic in them, people are then eating the plastic which goes into their bodies.

93% of bottled water has microplastic fibers in it, according to a study by Fredonia State University of New York.

"A total of 259 individual bottles from across 11 different brands were analyzed," according to Fredonia. Only seventeen bottles were found without any microplastics. Only 7% of bottled water is not contaminated with microplastics.

There are many eco friendly steps that people can take to reduce the amount of plastic intake. People don't have to make huge steps, either. They can take small steps, which does make a difference. For example, many people are giving up the use of plastic straws. The small amounts of plastic adds up overtime. One person uses, on average, 1.6 straws per day. Many people have started using reusable bags while grocery shopping and use reusable bottles for water and drinks.

Many people just don't think that their simple actions will help the environment or plastic intake, but overtime all their actions can help. Added up, a person uses many, many pounds of regular "small" plastics, like bags and straws, each year. People don't want to have to make a drastic change in their life that won't affect them in the far future when they're dead and the future generations have to deal with long term problems.



## WINTER WEEK

Dance On February 2nd

### WINTER FORMAL

Annual Talent Show open to all students

### DHS ROCKS TALENT SHOW

DHS Rocks on February 1st

### INTRAMURAL SPORTS EVENTS

Co-Ed sports events

### DRESS UP WEEK

Each day will have a dress up theme

# Winter Week

## Celebrating Snowdown at DHS

HAVENS WEBSTER  
Reporter

The upcoming 2019 Winter Week, filled with exciting activities surrounding Winter Formal, will be a great kickstarter into the New Year and a great way to get DHS pumped for the second semester. Winter week will be a winter themed spirit week for the New Year. The events occurring during winter week will include intramural sports events, DHS Rocks, and at the end of the week, the annual Winter Formal dance.

“Winter formal this year will be on February 2 with the week before filled with fun activity filled days leading up to it,” said Jr. Kaylan Wait.

There have been many polls and questions asked to all the DHS students to decide the dress up days of the week, and some results were pajama day, meme day, twin day, and since the snowdown theme this year is comic con, that will also be a theme. All activities will be based off winter and snow and so will the theme of the Winter Formal dance.

“There will be a potential rail jam on February 15th at Chapman Hill,” said Kaylan.

The intramural game for this years winter week will be on Wednesday which will be girls playing boy sports and boys playing girl sports. The intramural sports events will be either on Wednesday or throughout the week and will be either volleyball, dodgeball, map ball, etc. The rail jam will be the first ever ski event hosted by DHS at Chapman Hill.

“Winter Formal is a mid-year dance to bridge homecoming and prom together,” said Dale Garland, the advisor of student council.

Winter week acts as a re-energizer for second semester after students are drained from finals week. It acts as a more scaled down homecoming week still full of fun events, but with a winter theme. For the Winter Formal dance, student council will nominate upperclassmen and underclassmen royalty. It will be held at the Double Tree hotel with winter themed decorations.

“There are various committees in student council, including the Winter Formal committee, DHS Rocks committee, and Winter Week committee” said So. Jade Pruet.

These committees are designed to make teams that focus on specific events of this special week. Student council is excited for this winter week since they haven’t happened or have not been successful every year, this one is well planned out, will have lots of fun events, and an amazing Winter Formal dance.

## Come to Winter Formal!

**Where:** The Doubletree

**When:** Feb. 2  
8:30 PM

Number of Sexual Partners	SEXUAL EXPOSURE CHART (If every person has only the same number of partners as you)	Number of People Exposed to
1		1
2		3
3		7
4		15
5		31
6		63
7		127
8		255
9		511
10		1023

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STEVI CAMERON  
*Reporter*

Ready to represent your favorite comic, movie, or sci-fi fandom at this year's Comic-Con Snowdown? Here's a look at this year's agenda for the annual Durango event that gets people outside, and involved with their community in the winter season.

This year Durango will be hosting a Comic-Con Snowdown, an event that focuses on comic book stories and is also known as a popular sci-fi convention. This year we will be seeing costumes ranging from superheroes to time travellers to the greatest villains in the comic book world.

Jr. Grace Meyer is looking forward to this year's Snowdown festivities, and especially to celebrate the theme. She explains that the theme is one of the easier ones for high schoolers to be involved with and is creating more enthusiasm in students.

"I'm a big marvel fan so I'm excited to see everyone dressed up," said Meyer.

Along with a new theme that has locals excited, several new events are scheduled for the snow down week as well as the return of others. Chip Lile, president of the snowdown planning board, provides insight on some of these special events.

"There are the bed races this year, which aren't new, but they haven't been done in many years so we're reviving those," said Lile. He explains that Tracy Barnes will be in charge of the bed races.

Additionally, the Follies and Kids Follies, which have always been a popular event during the week, will be changing as well. Emily Simpson, the coordinator of the kids follies, has created a completely separate follies for teenagers.

"It will be just teenagers so it should be much better. The teens will have time between school and there will be less chaos onstage and backstage," said Simpson.

She is hoping this will make the Follies more enjoyable for everyone. It will be more entertaining for the age group it involves so high schoolers will be more likely

to watch the teen follies because their peers are involved.

"The Kids Follies are important to Durango in general because it brings together all different kids from all different schools to make one big fun show," said Simpson.

However, the Follies are only one of the many snowdown events that locals enjoy every year.

"This year there are 150 events!" said Lile, and there are several events that stand out. He mentions that he enjoys the lip sync battle, the golf tournament, along with the parade and the follies. Others express similar views.

I go to the parade every year. That's probably one of my favorite events," said Meyer.

Meyer explains that although she is not old enough to participate in some of the events, she really appreciates seeing everyone involved in their community in a positive way. Snowdown is one of the most popular events in Durango and its goal is to "bring enterprise to the land and raise up the people in their time of need." In other words, Snowdown is a winter celebration to put community members back into high spirits, boost business in Durango, and bring the community together.

"I like taking part in the snowdown planning because it's great community service and it does a lot for the entire community," said Lile. It involves people from all different crowds bringing together people in a very unique way, including several opportunities for high schoolers to get involved.

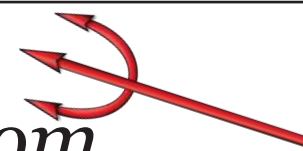
"It would be really cool to see just our high school getting involved and representing DHS in our community," said Meyer.

"This is a community event and we want everyone to come together and just have fun!" said Simpson.





## Demons of the decades: *treasured teachers spread wisdom*



### BRENDA DOWNS

Brenda Downs, a chemistry teacher at DHS, has been a teacher for 32 years and has taught at DHS for **29 years**.

“The overall climate at DHS with the positive students and my colleagues is wonderful,” said Downs.

Downs loves seeing her students want to learn something.

There have been many significant changes at DHS in the past 29 years that she has experienced. Many teachers who have been at DHS for a long time have seen the student population change a lot.

“The number of students has definitely changed since I’ve been here,” said Downs, “technology [has changed], good and bad, [it] has good parts, and then it has the phone part.”

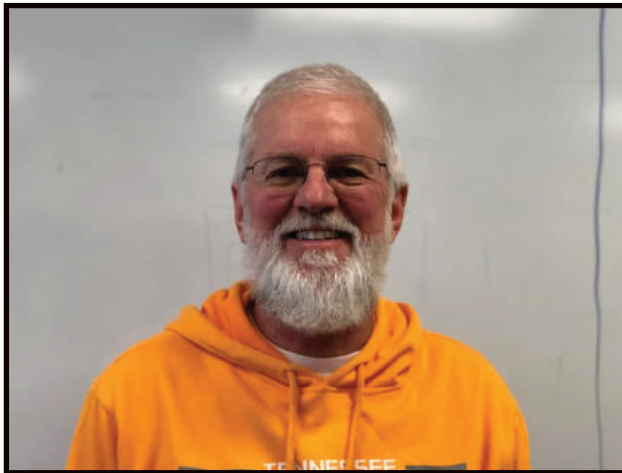
Downs had planned to be a doctor, and was studying chemistry in her undergraduate.

“Then my professor said I wouldn’t be a good doctor because I couldn’t handle death,” said Downs. She then moved on to teach a nursing chemistry class.

“I loved teaching the nursing chemistry and seeing the faces of the older nurses that I was teaching get it, so I thought, well that’s a good way to go,” said Downs.

Outside of school, Mrs. Downs likes to camp, hike, and read. “I like any outdoor activities,” said Downs.

Downs loves the positive energy from the students and staff at DHS, “it’s a safe place to work, it’s a good place to work, and I’ve enjoyed every minute of it.”



### ED CASH

Edward Cash, or Ed, is an AP World History and Modern U.S. History teacher at DHS. He has been teaching for **29 years**, 26 of those in the 9R District and 24 at DHS.

Cash has seen multiple changes at DHS in the 24 years he’s been teaching here. Specifically, Cash has noticed that DHS has been focusing more on struggling students lately.

“I think that’s a really good thing to do. We’re trying our best to help every student here get a good education,” said Cash.

Cash taught in South Carolina for three years before coming to DHS and he described it as being very “difficult to get students engaged.”

“Durango students, for the most part, like to learn and like to know about a bunch of stuff,” said Cash.

“My mom told me when I was 14 I’d be a history teacher and I thought she was crazy,” said Cash. After going to graduate school in Political Science, “[he] switched to education and really just loved being with teenagers.”

Outside of teaching, Mr. Cash likes to read, snowshoe, ski, hike, camp, and be in the canyons. He loves being with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

“I like doing everything that there is to do here,” said Cash.

Cash thinks the staff is highly professional and loves living in Durango and all the activities it brings.

“The kids are great, we’ve always been a really good high school, and Durango’s just a great place to be,” said Cash.



### ZOA STUNTZ

Zoa Stuntz is currently a French teacher at DHS.

She has been a teacher for **32 years**.

In the middle of her career, she took several years off to be with her three young daughters and then came back to DHS to resume her teaching career. During the 29 years Stuntz has been in the classroom, she has experienced many changes.

“Teaching French in Durango was my first job and my only job. It’s almost like you forget about the past in a way, you forget about what it used to be like, you just continue to adjust year after year” said Stuntz.

Stuntz got her degree in French, but didn’t know she wanted to be a French teacher initially. “In college when I was studying French, I thought, well maybe I could teach French, ...once I tried it, I loved it,” said Stuntz.

One of the reasons Stuntz enjoys teaching is at the end of each year, she can choose to change careers or teach for another year. “In other jobs, you just kind of work day after day, and maybe one day you say ‘OK I’m over it, I’m going to give my two weeks notice and I’m going to leave.’”

Stuntz loves her subject matter, her students, and the environment at DHS. Outside of teaching, Mrs. Stuntz likes to travel, fly fish, go to the lake, sing, spend time with her family, and listen to live music.

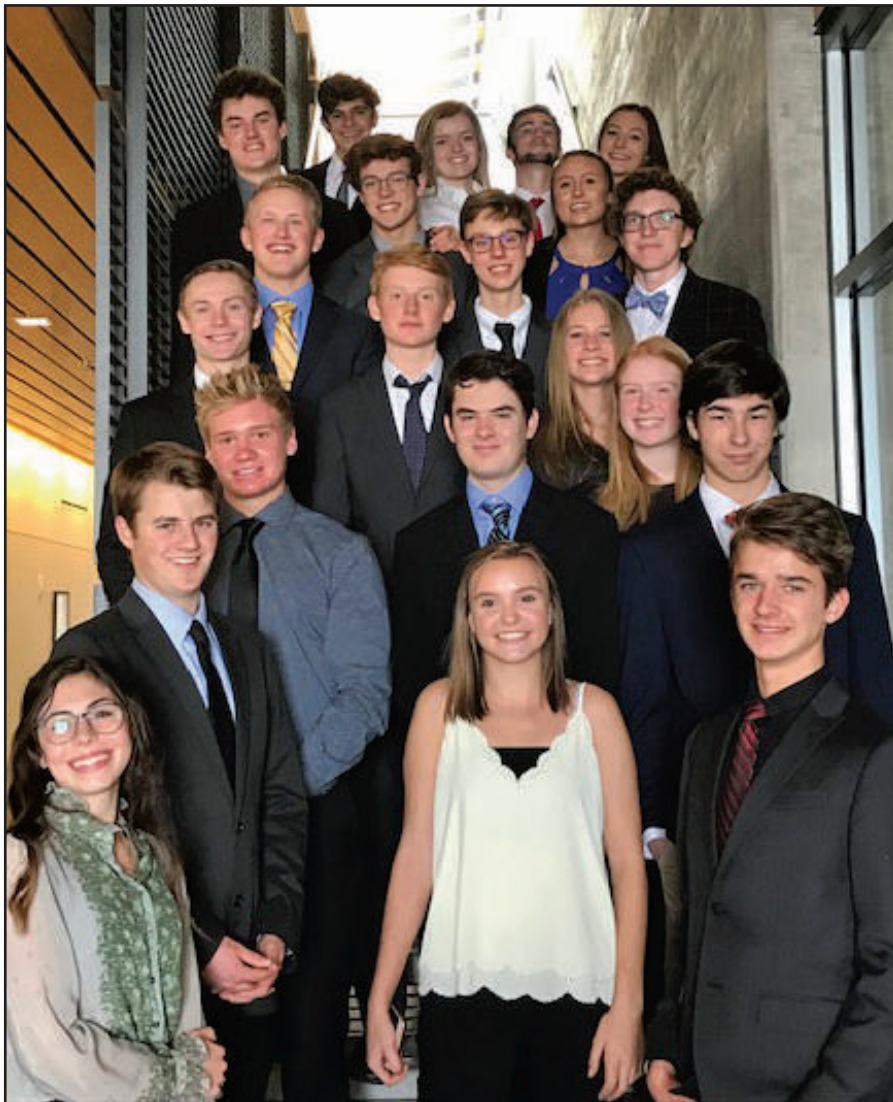
Margaux Newby  
Reporter



# 2019 DECA spotlight: progress report on business club



ABBEY HUNT  
*Reporter*



*Courtesy of Jessica Bright*

Durango High School's DECA club seems to be succeeding in their goals so far into the school year. Nine students on the team this semester qualified for state in December, and they have their advisor Mrs. Bright to thank.

"This is my first year with DECA here, but I have done FBLA, which is Future Business Leaders of America at another school. I love it because it's competitive. The more that high school students have an opportunity to interact with other students and business people around the community gives them the confidence that they can build on themselves to get them where they want to go," explains Bright.

"Other than just practicing how well you can speak, it doesn't take a lot of time. But there's also written events where you obviously write the event. It depends on how much you want to be involved and that depicts how much time it takes out of your daily life," Bright continues.

Joining the club should be something on your bucket list, as it gives you everyday skills, builds relationships, and is a fun way to get involved at DHS.

"I highly recommend joining the club to any students thinking about it," said So. Jake Genualdi. "It may sound a little bland, but we have a lot of fun on our trips. We do fun things like bowling, laser tag, and playing games. It also looks really good when you apply for colleges, as well as teaching you how to communicate properly."

Not only does the club give you useful life skills, it also gives you life long memories with friends.

I would definitely recommend it to other students. It's a good learning experience and pushes you to think outside the box and get creative," said Sr. Rachel Flora.

Flora joined the club this year and has been so successful that she already qualified for state.

"DECA is really easy to pick up and it's totally worth taking the risk to do it. I was really interested in business as a possible major and I thought that would be a cool introduction to what that would be like. It definitely helps with your communication skills and how to be professional," said Flora. "I got closer with people I already knew. I think its cool because you aren't necessarily competing against each other but you get to talk about you eperiences and how you did and stuff like that."

The factors of having Mrs. Bright as a new coach, a hard-working group of kids, and their success thus far sets the DECA team up for a long period of future accomplishments. The DECA team looks forward to further success in the second semester.





# Girls' Basketball: *push it to the limit*

STEVIE CAMERON  
Reporter  
Photo by Alyssa Robertson



**G**irls Basketball season has begun and everyone is looking forward to the outcome of the season. Now more than every, the team is ready to take on the challenge of a new season with the support of their fans.

As they gear up for a long season, everyone involved is looking forward to the new talent and the development of the team as a whole.

Sr. Emma Hackett has been playing since sixth grade and is optimistic about the season. "I am looking forward to this season because I feel like our team has so much potential and we all know each other so well and how we play that we can hopefully come together and be really successful this year," said Hackett. Growth appeared multiple times in the players agenda for this year.

So, Maddy McManus, a varsity player, shares Hackett's enthusiasm for the overall growth of the team. "For our team, since it's a growing year, we need to step out of our comfort zones and really try to do the best that we can. Right now our mentality is to leave it all out there and take risks" said McManus, expressing some of the ways the team can truly enhance their game.

She explains that though they lost some very valuable players after last season, it has given the rest of the team an incentive to step up, fill the roles of leadership that have been vacated, and learn to work together as a team in a new way. Because they no longer have a single teammate that they can rely on to make the basket every time, they are adapting to being able to rely on themselves.

"They are working really hard. they are progressing and improving and they seem really connected," said Coach Fitzpatrick. The girls head basketball coach describes the dynamics of the team and how they are very close as a team, as they are striving to work as cohesively as possible.

## **Taylor Dossey was named Most Valuable Player in a December Rumble in the Jungle Tournament , held in Aztec .**

"What I like about my team is that no matter the outcome of the game, we always stay positive and lift each other up," said So. Ana Cuntz. Cuntz plays on both varsity and JV and stresses the importance of the teams positivity and connectedness.

The leadership provided by both by coaches and this year's seniors has a significant impact on the players' attitudes and performance as well. Although Coach Fitz has been coaching other sports even longer, he explains why he is drawn to coaching girls basketball.

"I really appreciate how coachable they are and their strong work ethic. Girls are tough," said Fitzpatrick. His experience and passion for coaching the sport has had influence on the team and brings out the best in the players, especially seniors who lead the team.

"My role this year as a senior is to hold everyone accountable and be a leader on and off the court. All the seniors really do a good job at this," said Hackett. If anyone can help the team reach their goals to improve, it will be their peers and role models on the team who can inspire them.

"We plan to compete hard in every game. We don't really talk about wins and losses, we just concentrate on ourselves at least in early season," said Coach Fitzpatrick. He emphasizes the importance of the team's self improvement over the course of the season. However, in the end , the team hopes that all their hard work will pay off and help them compete at their best in league championships.

"Our ultimate goal is to win the league championships and qualify for the state tournament," said McManus. While the overall goal for the teams performance is clear, Coach Fitz presents his primary expectation of the season.

"I predict that the girls will play hard and that they will give each other their best effort. We really believe in this team and its exciting to see where we can go. We haven't even reached our full potential yet," said Fitz.



**T**

he DHS boys basketball team unfortunately did not fulfill their hope of making it to the playoffs last year. However, the Demons will not let one rocky season define who they are as a team. Instead, they will define themselves based on how they come back and fight. The team has started a new chapter with different goals, and expect to have a successful 2018-19 season.

The boys put in a lot of work during the off season in order to be ready for the season as soon as it started. The team worked out in the weight room and did cardio on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday the team worked on skills like shooting and dribbling.

“Offseason is always kind of hard because for one, we’re all usually out of shape, and two because everyone just wants to get on the court and start the season. But I think we did a really good job this year of staying focused,” said Sr. Cullen Robinette. Robinette is a captain this year along with Sr. Al Hurworth and Sr. Lance Kemp. All three boys have played basketball as long as they can remember and are ready to leave their mark this season.

“It feels good to finally be a senior. It comes with a lot more responsibility and I hold myself to higher standard. I want to be an example to the younger kids so I try my best to be a leader,” said Kemp.

Basketball is more than just a sport at DHS. It brings students together, prepares kids for the future, and most importantly, teaches kids life skills they will remember forever.

“Basketball has taught me self discipline. It’s also taught me how to push myself and work towards a goal. I never really give up on anything because basketball taught me to never stop. Always drive and push until you reach your goal,” said Hurworth.

Late nights, early mornings, strenuous training and continuous hard work are just some of the things that have gone into the basketball season so far. Every player on the team has so much passion for the sport and benefits from it not only physically, but also mentally.

“Basketball is like an escape for me. Every time I’m super stressed about things like getting into college or social stuff, I just go hoop. It takes my mind off everything. That’s honestly one of the main reasons I play basketball,” said Robinette.

Last year the team went 4 and 18. The boys are not looking to repeat last year. They are eager to open a new chapter and start fresh. One of their main goals is to play as a team and work use each other to be successful.

“Our goal is to work on our character. We lost a lot of games last year and I think that sometimes had to do with our ego. We don’t want to play as 5 individual players, we want to play as one team,” said head coach Alan Batiste.

Batiste seems to have a lot of faith in this years team. He has been coaching for seven years and is looked up to by all of his players. In past seasons, the Demons main competition has been Fruita Monument, but this year things may change.

“Our league games are always tough because all the players know each other pretty well. I don’t think we have a specific team that is going to be a challenge. All the teams we play are going to be hard in their own way,” said Batiste.

The Demons have a fresh and surprising face to the team. As only a freshman, Anthony Flint made varsity and has been in the starting lineup for all the games so far. In a recent game, Flint led the demons to a victory against Montrose with 20 points, 6 of them being three pointers. Flint has played basketball since elementary school and absolutely loves it.

“When I tried out for the team I was really hoping to be put on varsity but I didn’t think it was going to happen. When I found out I did actually make it, I was stoked,” said Flint.

The Demons have a pretty wide variety of ages on the team. This could potentially make it hard to have chemistry on the court. According to players this is not the case.

“Everyone on the team is super fun. They were all really welcoming when I joined and I love hanging out with them. I don’t think the age difference limits us from playing our best at all,” Flint said.

Each individual person on the basketball team has a lot of talent. One player can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one player cannot make a team. The Demons are all working toward a common goal this year; making it to the playoffs in late February. They are ready to focus and work hard to achieve this goal.

# Boys’ Basketball: *ringing in a new season*

GEORGIA MYNATT

Reporter



Photo by Georgia Mynatt



# Girls' Swim Makes a Splash

EMILY FIALA  
Reporter



Photo Courtesy of Emily Fiala

**T**he 2018-2019 girls swim team is off to a great start this season, working very hard, putting effort into all practices, and already making the podium at different meets.

“There’s a lot of passion, strength, and commitment on the team for the 2018-2019 season,” said Jr. Kaitlyn Ashburn, who has been a part of the DHS swim team for three years.

Sr. Riley Mata, who is one of the captains of the team and who has competed since freshman year, is eager to start the season and is confident in this year’s team. “All in all, I feel like it is a very well-rounded and optimistic team,” said Mata.

Head coach, Tom Joyner, is very proud how the team has been faring this year, “Every one of our athletes has done well so far. If we continue our hard work with practice and technique, I know we will continue to do well,” said Joyner. He is excited for the season and believes that with hard work and dedication, every member on the team can accomplish a lot.

So far, the team has gone to three meets, and every time they have reached the podium, getting rewarded for their hard work and dedication during practice.

The team’s first meet was in Delta, CO on November 30th, where they placed second out of six teams who competed there. Their next meet was on December 1st in Grand Junction, CO, where they placed third out of ten teams.

Up next was a home meet, where they competed at the Rec Center against Pagosa. They finished strong, and placed first out of the two.

There are many goals that Joyner has for the team, along with some for each individual, one of them of course being able to qualify

and compete at the state level. “My main goal is for all of the swimmers and divers to feel part of something bigger and to have everyone feel they have something to contribute,” said Joyner.

Members on the team not only have personal goals for the rest of the season, but have broad goals for the whole team.

“I really hope that we are in the top five for the Colorado State Championship meet in Fort Collins, CO,” said Mata. However, the most important goal for the members is to have fun, work hard, and do their best in every meet.

“Personally, at the beginning of the season I made a team goal for not only myself but the other girls, to just have fun with it and not get too much in your head. Swimming is a very mental sport and you can’t over think it or else it’s very easy to get overwhelmed,” said Mata. Older members of the DHS swim team are also excited for the new season and are eager to welcome new “guppies” to the team.

“I do feel like we have a strong and confident team this year. I am so happy with all the girls who came out and tried the sport just to try something new,” said Mata. New members of the team are thrilled to be a part of the team, learning new skills and making new friends.

“I love being a part of the swim team. I feel like with a smaller team you can really connect with everyone. When I first joined swim everyone including the captains and upper classmen were extremely nice,” said So. Natalie DeBelina, who is new to the team.

Overall, this has been a great start to the 2018-2019 swim season, with the members taking top spots at meets and strong relationships being made. “I hope to see the team continue you to bond together, support each other, and continue pushing ourselves towards greatness,” said Ashburn.



# The slopes are calling: *Alpine and Nordic Ski Teams*

CORBIN MILLER  
Reporter

As incoming snow storms approach the state of Colorado, many ski resorts and mountains begin to open. Skiing is a very popular activity that surrounds the Durango community, and it is beginning to grow within Durango High School.

Two years ago, DHS brought back the Alpine ski racing team. Alpine ski racing has embedded itself as one of Durango High Schools 26 sports, along with Nordic ski racing. This year, the DHS Nordic Team returned to the plentiful choices of sports available at the school, after both the Alpine and Nordic teams were cut in the early 80's.

Having snow only during one-fourth of the year, it can difficult for many skiers to practice annually. Many of the returning Alpine ski racers, like So. Harold Lesage, are eager to return to the slopes. "I'm excited to get back into the high school racing season. Its super mellow and fun, and has a really great social environment," said Lesage.

This season, Lesage is a captain of the Alpine ski team, alongside Jr. Maddie Jo Robbins. Both Robbins and Lesage have been skiing since they were young and have a lot of racing experience.

On the contrary, there are many skiers on the Alpine and Nordic teams who have no past racing experience, but the coaches of both teams highly encourage those athletes to try out for Alpine or Nordic racing with the high school, especially those who can't afford the gear.

Robbins recently injured her wrist, which is holding her back from competing this year, but she still plans on helping out with both teams as much as she can.

"I hope to make sure that everyone enjoys the ski season. I won't be able to compete, but I'm hoping that I can help both the Alpine and Nordic teams in many ways, especially because we are hosting state this year," said Robbins.

After having really successful run at State last year, Durango is honored to host the State Championships for both Alpine and Nordic ski racing this year. State Championships will take place at Purgatory and the Durango Nordic Center.

In order for ski teams to qualify to win state in Colorado, they must have both an Alpine and Nordic team. Head Alpine Ski coach, Leah Lesage, is very excited that DHS skiing is now qualified to win state, especially because it is hosted at home.

"Last year our girls team got second at state. We weren't able to win state because we didn't have a nordic team. In order to win state you need to have a nordic team, which we now have," said L. Lesage

Being the third year that DHS has had an Alpine Ski Team, its members have grown from 15 to 30 athletes over the past three seasons.

With a Nordic team available to students, there are a small amount of athletes, like junior Miles Bronson, who participate with both teams. "I think it's the teams flexibility that help me to do both. I'm really excited to be apart of and travel with both teams," said Bronson.

Head Nordic Ski coach, Evan Elliott, has been coaching since he was 21 years old. He's coached as the assistant head coach for the Nordic teams in Boulder and in Vail, at both the high school and club levels. He attended DHS for High School, but never got to Nordic ski for the school, as there was not a Nordic team available. "I'm very excited that a nordic team is at DHS now. I was a student at DHS and we never had a ski team, so I'm really happy I can help out coach this team," said Elliott.

Elliott has a tremendous amount of experience that will aid the team in this seasons hope for success. Elliott has also worked with Olympic skiers at waxing booths, and has helped out at many ski camps.

Being the first year that DHS has a Nordic team, Elliott plans on having fun with all the athletes, while developing their racing skills. "At practice we plan on working a lot on technique (skating and classic skiing) and fitness. I plan on having a lot of fun games to help us practice our techniques and get prepared for races," said Elliott.

Similar to the Nordic team, the Alpine team is developing the skills in the returning and new skiers. "At practices we work a lot on tactics for racing, like where turns start and end, and getting more familiar with the courses," said L. Lesage

With many new athletes joining the ski teams, both coaches want to help them be as successful as possible.

"My goal for this season is to help the athletes achieve their goals. I want to provide them with the most help I can to make them successful," said Elliott.





# Dancing around Durango

STEVI CAMERON

Reporter

Photo Courtesy of Stevi Cameron

**T**hough students involved in dancing in Durango is a small minority and the amount that pursue dancing beyond high school is even smaller, Durango is not the small midwestern town from Footloose. There are plenty of outlets for dancers in the Durango community with several dance studios and events.

Several students in Durango High School are involved with dance or are a part of a studio. The various studios in Durango have their differences, for example Jr. Emma Hallin dances for Ballet Durango.

"I love ballet primarily, I know other studios are extremely talented in other areas of dance but I would love to focus on ballet and Ballet Durango has one of the strongest ballet programs. It's in the name!" said Hallin.

Ballet Durango is only one of the many studios however and is more specific to just ballet.

Other studios have broader focuses, for example, Jr. Sophie Kairella Dances for Dance in the Rockies. "Dance in the Rockies is very well rounded and just a safe environment and a good option if you want to have a high level of dancing," said Kairella.

Each studio has its own singularities however they all share dancers with a strong passion for their sport. "One of my favorite things about dancing is that you can lose yourself in a way. It's just so athletic, which a lot of people don't recognize," said Hallin.

She emphasizes the true athleticism of dancing and clarifies what is and isn't true in the common stereotypes people have of dancers.

So. Clarise Hise, who dances for Bella Dance shares a similar devotion and enjoyment for the challenge of the sport.



"I love how it pushes me, not only physically but mentally too" said Hise.

She explains how, like other sports, there are many barriers dancers need to overcome and times when they are measured by their skill and improvements through competitions and performances. However, Dance is described as a form of art as well.

"Beyond the physical realm, when taught properly, dance can be a vehicle for emotional and creative expression" said Jessica Perino, a Dance teacher in Durango.

For teenagers, she says this can be very important as it can teach empathy by exploring different human emotions. "I like being able to express myself without words... and dance gives you a way to dance how you feel, it's good exercise, and it's fun," said Kairella.

She expresses her love for dance and shares a common desire to continue to dance throughout her life in one way or another, though she notes the careers competitiveness and that its complexity may be realistically difficult to commit to.

Perino, a dance teacher and still in the midst of pursuing her dance career, explains that dance can stay in a person's life in the simplest ways. "If you love to dance, find every way you can to keep it in your life - there are so many possibilities!" said Perino.

She provides a list of ways dance can be pursued from dancing in your kitchen or watching dance performances to joining a professional dance company or becoming a choreographer.

Hallin has hopes to continue dance as a career for her life. "In the future I would love to join a professional dance company however it is a hard working job because it does take a toll on the body. But your job would be performing, which is what I love to do." said Hallin. The steps to get here would be to study it in college and try to become an apprentice in a dance company.

Fortunately, we have a chance to appreciate our peer's dancing before they become professionals. While there are several competitions coming up for the various dance studios, we have the chance to see them in their spring recitals which they put time and hard work into.

"Having 12 pieces in the same show, each with different choreography, is challenging to do, but makes you feel proud after" said Hise. Overall, dance opportunities are something our small Durango community excels at providing and is a way teenagers can challenge themselves, express themselves, and have fun doing so to set themselves up for a future of dancing that can last them their whole lives.

"I think there is more dance here than people realize at first glance!" Said Perino.





# Boys' Wrestling:

## *stomping the competition*

MIA WHISTLER  
Reporter



**T**he DHS wrestling team is ready to tackle this year's season with strong goals and ambitions.

"The team is getting in good wrestling shape, I look forward to this season being a good one" said Marc Cuenca, head coach of the wrestling team.

Sr. Pablo Smagacz has been wrestling since his freshman year and continues to have a love for the sport. "Wrestling is almost like an escape for me, a way to take my mind off things" said Smagacz.

While Smagacz has been wrestling for the high school for some time, this year the team adds some new members showing great potential, including freshman Ben Belt. "I have been wrestling since 6th grade, but high school is a whole new experience. At first I was really intimidated by the older wrestlers but we have really bonded by working hard together and I can feel myself improving everyday with hard work. I think my first season here is going to be a successful one for me and the team," said Belt.

Smagacz has been a top wrestler for a while, successfully winning many of his matches. This year he plans to continue working hard but has also set personal goals on being a leader for the new members of the team.

"I've always tried to be an example for the rest of my team, whether it's winning matches by hard work or helping them in study hall I always try my best to make it a good team environment. Since it's my senior year I really want to focus on the team aspect, being successful as a team and not just individuals," said Smagacz.

This ambitious senior is not the only one wanting to focus on being a team, win or lose. Head coach Marc Cuenca is already working hard at team bonding and a positive atmosphere, despite it being

a more individual sport. "In the past the team has sort of been just a bunch of wrestlers doing their own thing, and I think that it's a bit challenging to have a really good team atmosphere when everyone is in their own world. But this year I really want the team to learn how to be successful with each other and not just by themselves," said Cuenca

In order to be successful the team has to get ready for the competition headed their way. During the offseason they have been keeping busy in the weight rooms, preparing for their first matches.

"The way I see it wrestling is all about the effort and time you are willing to put into it" said Smagacz.

Even though the team strives for success, it isn't always all about winning. The team is able to find fun and enjoy the season win or lose. "The most enjoyable thing about wrestling for me is being with the team, even though I just met them this year and I'm new to the program it already feels like a family to me and I just couldn't be more excited," said Belt.

Belt isn't the only one who enjoys the sport for more than just winning, Cuenca has his own reasons for excitement about the upcoming season. "I think the best thing about

the season and what I look forward to most is getting the opportunity to watch the team grow, and really get to know them on a personal level, during wrestling and out of it. Wrestling tends to be more of a smaller team sport so I really get that quality one on one time with the athletes," said Cuenca.

The team can't wait to kick off the season with high hopes and a diligent mindset. They plan to have one of the best seasons yet, succeeding competitively and team-wise.

**"I always try my best to make it a good team environment. Since it's my senior year I really want to focus on the team aspect, being successful as a team and not just individuals"**



*Catacombs*  
CROSSFIT CATACOMBS, DURANGO

# Life of a Sports Fan: Are you (cross) fit enough?

BEKAH MOENNING  
Sports Editor

**F**all sports seasons have come to an end, and the cold wintery days are passing by slowly. For those of you who are bored with no sport to participate in and getting in shape is important to you, then I suggest you try out crossfit. Crossfit is a really effective, fast way to become fit. It involves a variety of fast paced movements in a timed work out setting.

In Durango, Crossfit Catacombs is a locally owned crossfit center whose employees welcome every individual with open arms. This winter, some people from the track team have taken advantage of their program, and the results are already quite impressive. Young athletes are ready to become the strongest they can be for their next season of sports.

Off-season training may not always seem very important because you get in shape while in season, however, going into your season already in shape is extremely beneficial because you aren't wasting any time. I myself have struggled with motivating myself to begin working out with no structure and because of this I have come into many cross-country and track seasons unprepared.

Structure is crucial for a lot of individuals who can't find the strength to workout on their own, and crossfit provides that. Everyday you go in, a workout is pre planned for you by the outstanding coaches and they plan it based on what you need to be most successful in the season you are training for. The workouts in crossfit are endurance based while adding in some weight lifting. Many times the work outs are designed as AMRAPs (As Many Rounds As Possible), where you are given different workout activities to do in a round, and when you are finished you keep going until the time runs out.

The idea behind this is to build your endurance while still getting stronger with the activities given. On top of that, athletes get to learn great form for lifting weights, and figure out what helps them each get stronger as individuals. As an extra incentive, it's always a lot of fun with music and the encouragement from the coaches.

I get it, working out really is never fun until after you're finished but crossfit truly does make it worth it. It'll allow you to be around people on the same journey and you will become stronger because of it. That's a promise. Consistency is key. *Photo Courtesy of Crossfit Catacombs*



# YOU CAN'T HAVE MY NUMBER

**Minors working in the restaurant industry are often faced with a difficult choice: receive tips or speak up**

BRYN VALDEZ  
*Head Sports Editor*

For women working in the restaurant industry, it is hardly uncommon to have sexual advances made on them and be interrogated for personal details multiple times throughout a shift. Something about the food service industry makes some customers, usually, but not limited to men, feel entitled to encroach on their server's private life.

It is clear that there is a romantic connotation around dining, however it becomes dangerous for employees when customers overstep this boundary, and assume that their servers should participate in creating this mood. Rarely will advances at work be perceived positively, and the fact is that it is never okay for a customer to put an employee in this position, as they are expected to treat all customers with respect, regardless of their personal intuition.

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**“The mentality of “the customer always being right” is especially harmful to younger employees, who are commonly faced with advances from customers 50 years or more their senior.”**

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In fact, a 2014 study from the Restaurant Opportunities Center United reported that 90% of women and 70% of men working in the service industry had experienced sexual harassment at some point in their career. The fact is that this behavior is unacceptable, and creates an unsafe environment in which women feel threatened.

While seemingly alarming, this has become a reality that women are expected to anticipate as “part of the job”.

The mentality of “the customer always being right” is especially harmful to younger employees, who are commonly faced with advances

from customers 50 years or more their senior. If they doubt the incident will be taken seriously, or fear for their job security, servers may fail to inform a manager of the incident.

Women of color also face a severely disproportionate number of harassment incidents, with the National Women's Law Center finding that black women filed three times the number claims for workplace sexual harassment between 2012 and 2016. Following closely behind, were Latina women, who are subject to a similar disregard for appropriate conduct, based on racially biased a lack of respect.

Tips are another reason many instances of harassment go unreported, seeing as servers make less than standard minimum wage, forcing them to make up for the remainder through tips. In Colorado, the minimum wage for servers is \$7.18 an hour, as opposed to the \$10.20 earned in other positions.

Though tips do often account for the disparity, it is up to the server to earn them through good customer service, and if a customer's advances are declined or reported, they often choose not to tip at all. For servers who depend on their tips to survive, this leaves them no choice but to tolerate this intrusion of privacy, and treat the customer with respect.

Should a server choose to forgo their tips and report the incident to a manager, there is always a chance that they may not see any action taken, although employers are legally obligated to.

According to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, “It is unlawful to harass a person (an applicant or employee) because of that person's sex. Harassment can include “sexual harassment” or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature.”

Although it is nearly impossible to predict and change the character of customers without changing the entire restaurant culture, responsibility falls on employers in taking action to protect their servers. In order to maintain a safe work environment, managers should always intervene appropriately, whether it be adjusting a table's server, to removing the customer from the establishment.

Not only will this help to destigmatize the report of harassment, but it will prevent many potentially dangerous situations.



## Experiences of DHS students

“A couple weeks ago I was waitressing at my work, Griegos. I had three tables, one including an elderly man who is a regular at Griegos.

As I was taking orders from my other tables, my boss caught him taking pictures of my butt. She continued to watch him to make sure and saw that as I was standing at my other tables and walking back and forth from the register, **the elderly man was zooming in and taking photos of my butt.** I had no idea until my boss confronted him. He told her he was just taking random photographs, obviously a little embarrassed to be caught. My boss then explained to me what was happening and it made me very uncomfortable and sad. Especially since it wasn't the first or last time it would happen at my work.”

- Jr. Jamie Hitti

“I work at Steamworks and I was hosting. These two older men walked in who looked to be about 50-60. One of them was eyeing me up and down and the other one said **“I've heard that women in Durango are beautiful, you definitely prove that.”** I was trying to be nice so I just awkwardly laughed but it made me really uncomfortable. I didn't tell my manager though because it happens all the time so I guess it's not a big deal.”

- Jr. Jaclyn Govreau

“A while back, I worked for this company called the yellow carrot. We had just gotten back from a catering gig and we were unloading things from the truck like we usually did. This guy who looked a little rough, maybe in late 30s early 40s was sitting outside the store next to us, I thought nothing of it. He came up and offered and to help, but I politely declined. He proceeded to attempt conversation with me, but I tried to avoid it. Just before leaving the area **he tells me how I am “beautiful” and “have a wonderful body”.** I didn't respond and went back into our shop and didn't come back out until he was gone.”

- So. Ella Reynolds



# Why can't we be friends:

## Baby boomers and Gen Z teens can learn from each other

MIA BOUDREAU  
*Lifestyle Editor*

In today's digital age of technology, it can be easy to become absorbed with the virtual world. Technology, specifically iPhones, offer some people a distraction, some an escape, and some an addiction.

Highly prevalent in the younger generations, technology serves as more than just a tool and has quickly become a way of life. While this is normal for these younger generations, it can be confusing and seemingly unnecessary in the eyes of older generations who did not grow up with a touch screen under their fingertips.

This creates a generational gap that can be hard to bridge from both sides. Older generations see the younger generations as lazy, phone-absorbed, and disconnected, whereas the younger generations perceive technology as a way to connect, learn, and find entertainment.

While excessive phone usage is an issue in our society, it doesn't mean that it leads to laziness or a lack of potential and drive. It can be easy for assumptions to be made about teens and their observed overuse of phones causing them to lose touch with reality, or personal interactions, but this isn't necessarily what's happening.

What sometimes isn't acknowledged is all of the progress these younger generations have made in today's society. With school shootings and gun violence being a very debated and emotional topic in 2018, teens and young adults took a stand. Organizing walk-outs, marches, and more, they were able to surround the issue with a call and a demand for action, one that got many people talking and sparked a lot of change.

The potential of younger generations, specifically Generation Z, or "iGen" (born 1995-2012), is being overlooked and dismissed as accusations of laziness, mindless behavior, disconnectedness, and self-absorption cloud the positives.

While some people still reminisce about the times when there wasn't so much technology, the reality is that our society and world is advancing. In some cases, what hasn't advanced with the times are the mindsets of generations who came of age during a significantly less technological world. Having technology as a part of everyday life is now a norm, but it sometimes abused and overused. And while it is sad to see real-life interaction and connections decline due to the readily available convenience of the phone, it doesn't mean that the "iGen" has lost the capability of bringing back the normalcy of interacting without a screen barrier.

There is a lot to be learned from both sides of the age/generation spectrum. For older generations, they can learn more about technology to gain an understanding of what it's like to grow up in a society where technology plays such a big role. And for younger generations, they can learn how to take more breaks from the screen and technology to value real human connections and interactions that don't form from behind a screen. This could help eliminate possibly damaging stereotypes about young people and teens that allow for more of their potential to be acknowledged and explored.



# My SAT scores = my business

## Students should not feel obligated to share test results

MADDY GLEASON  
*Head Features Editor*

Nationally, roughly 3.5 million students take the PSAT annually, and over 2 million students take the SAT. Both of these exams are massively stressful during the actual exam and for the following few weeks while scores are eagerly awaited.

Few students recognize an issue in the stigma revolving college-acceptance tests, but there really is a problem residing around the expectation to share.

If a student is eager to share their score and wants to confide in their friends or family, that is completely acceptable. However, if a student did poorly or did less than they would have liked, they should not be obliged to share that information.

We all know students who love to share their scores, and that's great! It's wonderful that students in the community are able to thrive in the test taking arena.

However, many students don't feel like they need to share their scores, and it's a variety of students who feel this way. It may be someone who is not a good test taker, or regardless of their score feel uncomfortable disclosing the information. Many students feel pressured by their parents to succeed as well. Often, both parents got an exceptional score in high school and there's a sort of legacy that students have to live up to. Often, there is lots of pressure to be the first person in the family to succeed or get into a good college, and sometimes kids just feel more comfortable keeping to themselves.

In reality, these scores are pretty important, but there's so much talk revolving around them that sometimes people forget the significance. These tests are what colleges look at to decide if you are a good fit.

The truth is, this expectation exists after any big test. A calculus test, a language arts essay, or any AP exam is something that students are excited to learn their scores.

The biggest issue is the double standard that exists. If you do well on a test, you will be ridiculed for succeeding because you're "too smart." But if you didn't happen to do so well, you will also be looked down upon because you "aren't smart enough"

It's not a realistic request to ask all students to keep their scores completely to themselves, because many people do enjoy sharing their scores. If someone wants to reveal their score, they will, but it's unhealthy to force this information out of them.

It can be quite invasive when a student is asked multiple times "what did you get on the PSAT?" and to some, it's not a big deal, but make sure the person you're asking is ok with it. The information can be embarrassing and not something a student wants to share, and that is perfectly ok!

Mutual agreement is essential not just when discussing test scores, but regarding any information that someone might not just want to disclose. No matter how persuasive you think you may be, consider the fact that it's a personal preference.

It comes down to the fact that if someone wants to share, they will, but don't ridicule them or pester them about it. It's a choice that each person gets to make when they do anything, basically, and it's not an opportunity to tease or manipulate them until they tell you: respect their boundaries and recognize the fact that nobody is obliged to publicize their test scores.

The societal stigma of discussing scores is pretty strong, but no one is at fault. It's fun to talk about scores, but we all have to remember that some people just don't want to discuss that.

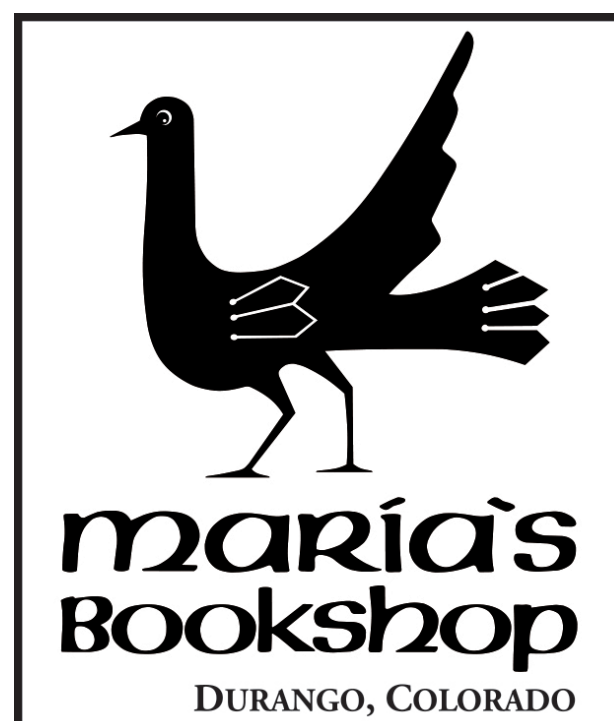


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# FDA doesn't care about teen health

IRIE SENTER  
Features Editor

JUUL, the manufacturer of the sleek, flash drive-esque nicotine vaporizers that are becoming an epidemic in schools nationwide, made headlines when they agreed to restrict the sales of mango, cucumber, and creme flavored JUUL pods in their latest effort to reduce adolescent use of their product. It is the latest promise in a long line of changes that the company is making to comply with the FDA's crackdown on teen nicotine use. JUUL's strategy looks good on paper: they've pledged \$30 million over the next three years on independent research and community engagement, are working with Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller and his group of public health officials and tobacco experts, and have even amended their marketing and social media code to "not feature images or situations intended for a youth audience". These brand promises are flashy (JUUL's website advertises their youth prevention efforts on a banner almost as large as the one that reads "WARNING: This product contains nicotine. Nicotine is an addictive chemical.") and seemingly responsible. Yet JUUL doesn't really care about reducing teen vaping. Teens are JUUL's main demographic, and they don't want to lose the lifelong customers they've already created.

It's simple economics: teens across the country are buying JUULs, and JUUL is profiting from it. A 2017 study by the Truth Initiative Schroeder Institute discovered that 10 percent of young adults have used a JUUL in the last 30 days. Assuming that there are approximately 42 million people in the United States between the ages of 13 and 19, that means that JUUL products are used by over 4 million teenagers per month. If just 10% of these individuals actually buy replacement pods on a monthly basis, JUUL receives a conservative \$6,400,000 in revenue per month -- and \$76,800,000 yearly -- from their teenage customers.

JUUL knows the value of its teenage demographic and is only pledging to change in order to maintain brand appearance. JUUL's marketing activities have always focused on young adults, investing in social media advertising featuring young, hip looking models and catchy hashtags like #JUULmoment. The advertising was also purposefully misleading; 63% of underage JUUL users were unaware that JUUL products always contain nicotine. Even JUUL's chemical formula is designed to be attractive to young buyers: their patented nicotine salts release the drug in a smooth, satisfying way compared to cigarettes and other vaporizer brands whose sharp and bitter entry would turn off non-smokers. Additionally, JUUL's decision to stop selling flavored pods at retail stores initially appears to decrease their product's accessibility, yet over 52% of teens reported getting their JUULs from a social (non-retail) source and 6% received their products online. JUUL has created a dependency among teens and is completely aware that they don't need to walk into a retail store in order to get their hands on their products.

JUUL understands the value of its teenage customers. They've crept into teen culture, promoting the cool, fun, stylish activity of "JUULing". They purposely targeted GenZ through social media advertising, getting an entire generation hooked on their nicotine salts. To JUUL, teens represent a number -- a number that is much larger than the amount they've pledged to spend to reduce teen vaping. JUUL's efforts at curbing teen use are cursory at best and contradictory at worst. As far as I'm concerned, their teen-health headlines do nothing but blow smoke.

# Vapers gonna vape: FDA efforts noble but useless against teen addiction

EMMA JABER  
Head Editor

Last year, I wrote a story on the prevalence of juuling, vaping, and the long extinct popularity of vibing. This story featured some of the dangers of the devices that line the pockets of many teenagers, making it obvious that this is an epidemic. Similar to my story, only a small news piece in a small student newspaper, articles and studies on a national scale began to pop up. Some argued that simply because of its infancy, the health risks of vaping could not be properly addressed. Others said that this argument was exactly the issue: there was no information on what this was doing to the body. The numbers of teens vaping began to skyrocket purely, in my opinion, because of a fascination with seeing smoke come out of your mouth. People were beginning to abandon the reality of health risks and popcorn lungs to blow smoke rings for snapchat stories.

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## "Age limits, flavor bans, two factor identification, and higher online age restrictions have not stopped young kids so far, so what makes us think they will begin to work now?"

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Following the acknowledgment of juul, the FDA began a crack down. They claimed that taking away the flavored versions of the product such as creme and mango would begin to solve the problem of a teen vaping epidemic. After the mango juul pods had been expelled from the shelves of gas stations all over town, I began to notice the rhetoric of my peers shifting. They all, incredibly quickly might I add, had found loopholes that would help fuel their addiction at an even cheaper price. The cheaper prices were key as well, because one of the main complaints was the monetary strain a juul addiction had on students. Now, out of fear of retaliation from my classmates and of the administration milking me for my knowledge, I will refrain from naming the many loopholes that popped up after the FDA so lovingly claimed to care for the health of teenagers around the country.

The real point I want to make here is that apparently there is no stopping determined teenagers from getting their fix. It's already been proven with the recall of vibes just over a year ago. Vibe came and went, and at least three more discreet vape devices popped up in its place.

Basically what I'm trying to say is that teenagers will outsmart the FDA at the end of this. Age limits, flavor bans, two factor identification, and higher online age restrictions, to name just a few, have not stopped young kids so far, so what makes us think they will begin to work now?

Quite literally since the beginning of time, loopholes have been created for those who want access, to gain access. I mean, remember Prohibition? However less extreme, the juul controversy resembles many historical bans. What the people want, the people will find a way to get, it truly is that simple. So juul and the FDA, all I can say to you in this time of crisis (as you view it) is that your efforts are valiant, but the brains of adolescents, however affected by your product, will always prevail.

# US should take action in response to murder of Jamal Khashoggi

GRACE SWANSON  
*Features Editor*

“I can’t breathe,” were Jamal Khashoggi’s last words, moments before he was dismembered with a chainsaw inside the Saudi Arabia consulate in Istanbul.

Khashoggi first visited the Saudi Arabia Consulate on September 28th to gather divorce papers so he could remarry. On October 2nd he would be brutally assassinated with orders from the highest levels of the Saudi government, the crowned Prince himself, Mohammed bin Salman, known as MBS.

Jamal, who used to have close ties with the royal family, “Fell out of favour and went into self-imposed exile in the US last year. From there, he wrote a monthly column in the Washington Post in which he criticised the policies of Crown Prince” according to BBC.

This murder case has been an ongoing mystery with lies and accusations that just keep going.

Saudi officials gave numerous conflicting explanations for what happened. Many explanations had no evidence to back it up.

“That Khashoggi had died in a chokehold after resisting attempts to return him to Saudi Arabia. There were also reports that a Saudi operative had donned his clothing and left the premises. More than a month later, on 15 November, the Saudi public prosecutor said Khashoggi was given a lethal injection after a struggle and his body was dismembered inside the consulate after his death. The body parts were then handed over to a local “collaborator” outside the grounds, he added.” stated BBC.

Eventually the CIA had direct evidence that MBS was in charge or this premeditated murder through two audio recordings, one of the actual murder, and one of them reviewing the plan and each person’s job. Yet in the eyes of our president, this “accusation” will remain unsure.

“Maybe he did and maybe he didn’t! That being said, we may never know all of

the facts surrounding the murder of Mr. Jamal Khashoggi,” stated President Trump.

The CIA provided audio evidence of the murder that Turkey gave to them. Yet President Trump refused to listen to it because, “it’s a suffering tape, it’s a terrible tape.”

France says they will set up sanctions against Jamal’s Murders, Germany has imposed a schengen-wide entry ban on 18 Saudi’s because they are suspected to be linked to his murder. Yet there is no word from the US except to insure our continuing partnership.

“The United States intends to remain a steadfast partner of Saudi Arabia to ensure the interests of our country, Israel and all other partners in the region,” said President Trump.

Our president needs to acknowledge the connections to his prized ally and this heinous crime, and take steps to show that the extreme disrespect of human rights, and human lives, will not be swept under the carpet.

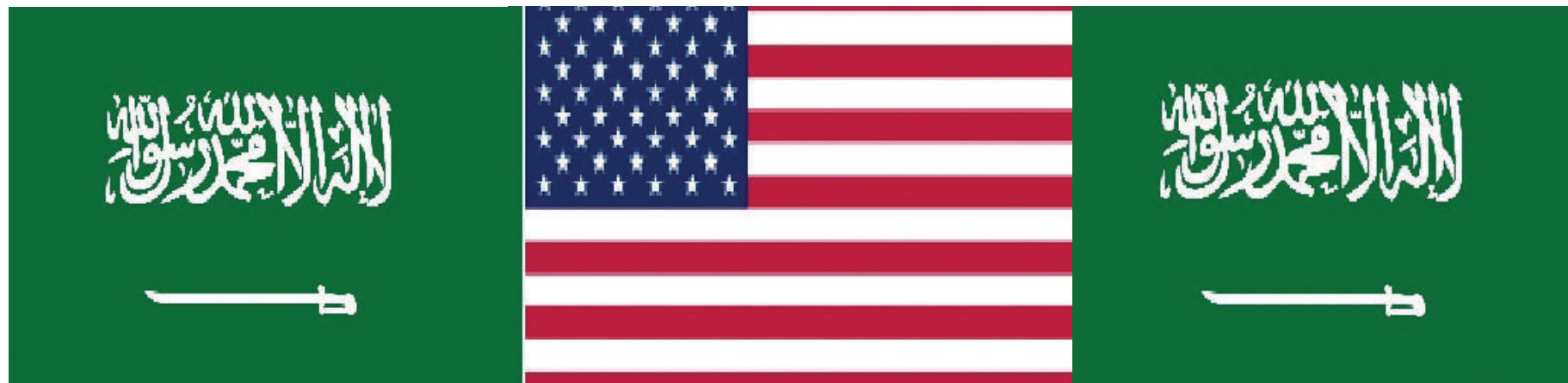
More lies spewed from President Trump’s mouth as he dis-proportionalized the amount of money we have tied to the Saudis.

“Punishing Saudi Arabia, Mr. Trump said, would put at risk \$110 billion in military sales to Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and other military contractors, as well as \$340 billion in other investments, which the Saudis have agreed to make since he became president,” said the New York Times.

Later economists and military analysts said those numbers were so extremely exaggerated that they were unrealistic.

Weapon purchases and investments from Saudi through the US, has been put on a higher pedestal than human rights.

“I think the US is moving away from actually protecting human rights around the world. It’s partly because the US is no longer the dominant global power that can just order people around,” stated Vox news.





# TWO YEARS IN REVIEW: a reflection of America under the Trump administration



AUSTIN SWAN  
*Reporter*

While mainstream popular left-wing agenda plagued news outlets such as NBC, MSNBC, CNN, and many more attempt to convince the general public that that the Trump presidency has been a complete disaster since day one, it has been a busy two years for the president, and he's accomplished a fairly large amount.

In just the first two years of his presidency, Trump has moved the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, passed tax cuts, pulled our country out of the non-binding Paris Accords, pulled out of the Iran Deal, and dropped the unemployment rate to record lows.

The moving of our embassy in Israel to Jerusalem is something many presidents have stated as a goal, but none before Trump were willing to be bold because it was right.

His smaller achievements include the two supreme court picks, putting pressure on the countries involved in NATO that weren't paying to support the organization, picking Nikki Haley to be our UN ambassador, pulling troops out of Syria and targeting unfair and unethical applications of affirmative action in the college application process.

Not everything Trump has done was good, it is important to not only reflect on his accomplishments but also on the hiccups of the administration.

So far, Trump has shown no desire to pursue bipartisanship, maligned the intelligence agencies as well as many of our other institutions, said many things that have

not manifested into action in any way whatsoever, and worst of all, tweeted relentlessly.

Although his achievements are by all historical standards newsworthy, Trump managed to always draw the news stories off of his actions, and onto his tweets. If Trump was capable of staying off twitter, the media wouldn't be able to avoid covering his accomplishments.

Unfortunately, this president loves tweeting, and loves attempting to "troll" the mainstream media, which allows them to focus solely on his tweets.

The majority of Trump's presidency was accompanied by a thriving economy, but December was a bad month for the stock market.

The midterm elections went poorly for the republican party, but midterm elections almost always favor the party not in control of the presidency.

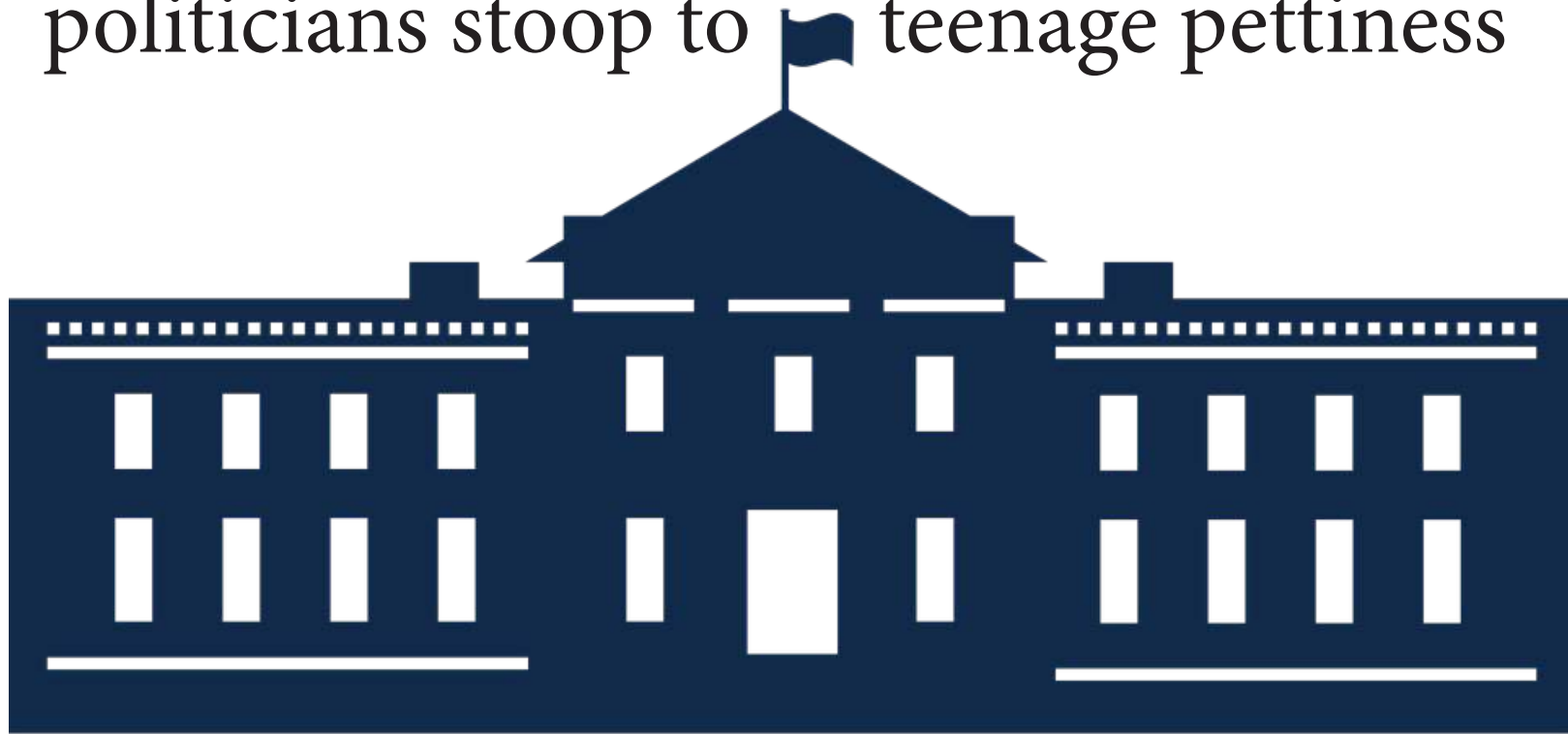
Democrats took control of the house with a 36 seat majority, but the Republicans maintained the senate with a 5 seat majority.

Trump finished out 2018 weak with a measly 39% approval rating according to Gallup. The president's approval rating bounced around between the mid 30's and mid 40's throughout these first two years.

While 39% is far below average approval rating of presidents at the end of their second year in office, most republicans are content with it, understanding that Trump is a polarizing figure.

Overall, if you look past the rhetoric, and look towards his actions, these past two years have been good for the Trump administration.

# White House High: politicians stoop to teenage pettiness



LUKE SWIFT  
*Reporter*

“Why are you so afraid of a socialist economy?” Said Rep. elect Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, “Because Americans want to walk their dogs, not eat them.” Said President Donald Trump. With a new age of politics comes a new wave of extreme politicians and the way they use political rhetoric is no longer about inspiring the American people but simply attacking one another to divide and convince each other their way is the best way.

In George Washington’s Farewell Address, he advised his fellow Americans to stay away from the formation of political parties. He feared that our young nation would become divided, but as soon as he retired, politicians of the time period went their separate ways and created parties favoring their agendas, fostering a vast amount of division in our nation that would continue for centuries into today and forward.

With the recent midterms it’s hard to ignore all of the reports on the first victories for women, minorities and age groups, all claiming to be “progressive” in their own nature. However, I often find it hard to see the progressiveness in it all when these new elects fight their way through the election by simply attacking one another and showing no interest in working with their opposing peers to fix the problems they promised to address.

I notice a lot of this cliquish nature in high school, I see groups of students join

together with others who share the same interests, passions, and most of the time, shared political opinions. And the rest, well they are often “attacked” out of the group due to their differing ideas and opinions. But the difference between young, immature, cliquish high schoolers and well educated Washington politicians is that they have the resources to apply their differences and work together to fix the problems they face, or at least they should.

I often look forward to when I grow into an adult and don’t have to deal with all the drama of being apart of a group, but I have suddenly found myself struck with the reality that I may never escape it.

My mom always get so frustrated when me and my brother argue as she would say, “Y’all would argue whether the sky was blue or not.” As I see these politicians bicker with each other over the smallest things like my brother and I do, I begin to see no hope for me to grow and learn from different people if these leaders can’t even do it.

Our politicians are supposed to support the differences our nation was built on and encourage healthy debates to fix problems we face, not attack each other like a bunch of high school kids. In a political climate such as this one, our nation needs a strong set of leaders that can put their biases aside and agree with each other to fix the problems they promised to address in their campaign. All I can hope for is that one day a brave politician will be elected and he or she will dare to find a way to compromise with their counterparts and fix issues the nation faces, together.



## Underclassmen have Talent?! A insider's look at the Underclassmen Showcase.

GWEN STODDARD  
*Head Arts Editor*

The Underclassmen Showcase is an assortment of short plays put on by Durango High School Troupe 1096. They are directed by Juniors and Seniors and cast with Freshmen and Sophomores at DHS. Some plays are purchased by the upperclassmen from different playwriting companies, and some are written by the students. DHS students performed their shows on January 10th and January 11th.

### 1. ROYGBV

Directed and written by Sophie Hughes and co-director Luke Nicholson, Stage Manager: Lily Sturm- This play is about a group of high school kids in a GSA (Gay Straight Alliance club). It includes a series of vignettes about LGBTQ experiences.

### 2. Wake up call

Directed by Tierney and Haley Szczech- "Wake up Call" is about a kid who thinks that he is in a dream, but keeps waking up in another dream.

### 3. Roses

Written and Directed by Colson Parker and Nathan Parker- The play "Roses" is about the story of a girl who for every birthday receives a rose from her mother. As her mother develops a sickness, she comes to realize the importance of love and her mother. All of the mother's lines are in poetry, so the play becomes very artistic and poetic.



### 4. 10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse

Directed by Dylan Baken and Maggie Bachman, Stage Manager: Lola Thomas- This show is a comedy that will be sure to keep you laughing. It is about a group of kids who are experimenting with different ways to survive the Zombie Apocalypse.

## 5. Lockdown

Directed by Siena Widen and Stella Potemkin- “Lockdown” takes place in a modern-day high school as a group of kids sit in fear during a lockdown that lasts for several hours. The catch is that the entire time they are not sure if it is a real threat or not.

## 6. Tracks

Directed by Carter Marshall the Stage Manager is Shelby with assistant Stage Manager Zayla- A group of random strangers suddenly appear in a subway platform, and it is definitely not Platform 9 ¾ . The story follows their story as they realize they are all dead and have no way of getting out other than boarding a train that will either take them to Heaven or Hell.

## 7. Help Me

Directed and written by Lana Patterson, with Samantha Udero as Stage Manager- This play follows the story of a group of college freshman that decide to go on a trip to a cabin in the woods that they have been visiting since they were kids. It is discovered that one of them ends up being a serial killer, the only choice they all have is to figure out who it is before everyone is dead.

Director Sr. Lana Patterson expresses her excitement about her play, “I started writing this play when I was a freshman in high school and I’ve been working with it since then with my father. I’m really excited to showcase these young actors and their talents, and it doesn’t hurt that it shows off my writing skills!” said Patterson.

## 8. Thats a Wrap

Written and directed by Ron Ortiz- This play is about a cast of people that are working on a movie, and in the middle of the production, a new director is hired that does not agree with the rest of the cast on anything. Will the movie be produced in time?!



Photos by: Sam Udero



# 30 Arts & Literature



























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January 2019



Students perform in the annual Underclassmen Gala, photos courtesy of Haley Szczech and Stella Potemkin



# ARTCHART

BY: JESSIE & GWEN	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	MISC.	OUR OPINION	OVERALL RATING
<b>Food</b> Gianni's 	It is super close to the High School.	Some of the food is greasy. 	It's one of the only Italian restaurants in Durango.	It's a perfect High School lunch place.	 
<b>Movies</b> Birdbox	Sandra Bullock is the star actress.	Now the "Birdbox" challenge exists.	It is a Netflix Original.	You will like it if you like apocalypse movies.	   
<b>Women's Fashion</b> Carhartt 	It lasts forever!	Your dad probably owns Carhartt.	Carhartt was founded in 1889.	Comfortable, Affordable, & Adorable!	    
<b>Men's Fashion</b> Art Socks	You can have Mona Lisa on your feet.	They are a little bit pricey.	They go great with white shoes!	So much cooler than Nike Crews!	    
<b>Music</b> Lip Sync Battles	People that can't sing suddenly do!	They can be cringy, even with celebrities. 	Worst battle was Nina Dobrev VS Tim Tebow.	Singing should be saved for Singers.	
<b>Activities</b> Split-boarding 	You can snowboard & XC ski at the same time!	You may get crap for being a snowboarder.	Each board costs around \$800.	If you have the time, go for it! 	  



# Enduring the test of time: Lansing's riveting work impresses readers

JACK BREEZLEY  
*Reporter*

The will to live is one of the strongest forces imaginable. Everyone has heard about incredible survival stories such as survivors of the Titanic, or of war, but this wilderness survival story sends shivers down your spine. *Endurance* by Alfred Lansing is the name of this book, and is it a fun one for adventure lovers.

"My initial thought of the story was quite simply, Oh my god!" said Mrs. Thyfault, the outdoor education teacher here at DHS. And so was mine, as this story is one of the most outrageous and against the odds survival stories.

The story of *Endurance* starts in 1912, when by Ernest Shackleton's orders, he had a new ship built and named the *Endurance*. Shackleton was a British polar explorer, who had lost past races to the North and South poles, so he was determined to accomplish something big: the first Trans-Antarctic crossing.

With a crew of 28, he set sail from Great Britain in 1914, traveling to Buenos Aires, Argentina to pick up more crew, then to a British wailing island titled South Georgia Island. His stop at South Georgia island would be the last time Shackleton and his crew would experience civilization for 2 years.

From South Georgia Island begins Shackleton's amazing voyage. The original plan was for the crew to dock in Vasahl Bay, and with the use of dog sleds, travel the frozen barren landscapes of the southernmost continent until they reached the other side, at which point another ship would pick them up. Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

On December 11, 1914, the crew of the *Endurance* entered the ice pack, which was the beginning of their demise. The crew could not get to Vasahl Bay when stuck in the ice, so the ship and the crew of 28, were subject to all Mother Nature could throw at them.

In January 1915, after their first month in the ice, the crew found site of land, but they were hopeless to get there. Two months later in the ice pack, they lost sight of land.

For months, the ship endured the ice pack. The crew withered through the long polar night, a nickname for the 60 days of summer where the sun doesn't rise. According to some, men lose some sanity when subject to this so called "Polar Night". One year after leaving South Georgia island, in November of 1915, the *Endurance* was crushed by the ice, resulting in the crew of 28 having to live on the ice with very minimal supplies. Problems quickly arose, food ran short, and the thoughts of the long run lowered moral.

"During times like this, food runs short and the crew will have to resort to anything, you'll always be thinking about food in this situation," said Mrs. Thyfault. Along with food, you are always thinking about how to stay warm and not get hypothermia.

"They would have to make fires, and sleep close together, such as penguins huddle together" said Mrs. Thyfault.

Shackleton never gave up though, throughout the ordeal he had commanded his men, managed to keep all in as good of shape as possible, and had earned the trust of others.

They eventually reached the end of the ice pack, and ended up in the open ocean. Having past other landing spots for their life boats like Paluet Island, there were slim options left.

They could sail to Elephant Island, or make a 2,000 mile gamble of a sail, to South Georgia Island. But again another problem arose, the Drake Passage.

The Drake Passage is one of the most dangerous sections of sea in the World, and it happened to lay between Shackleton and the nearest sites of civilization. So what would Shackleton do?

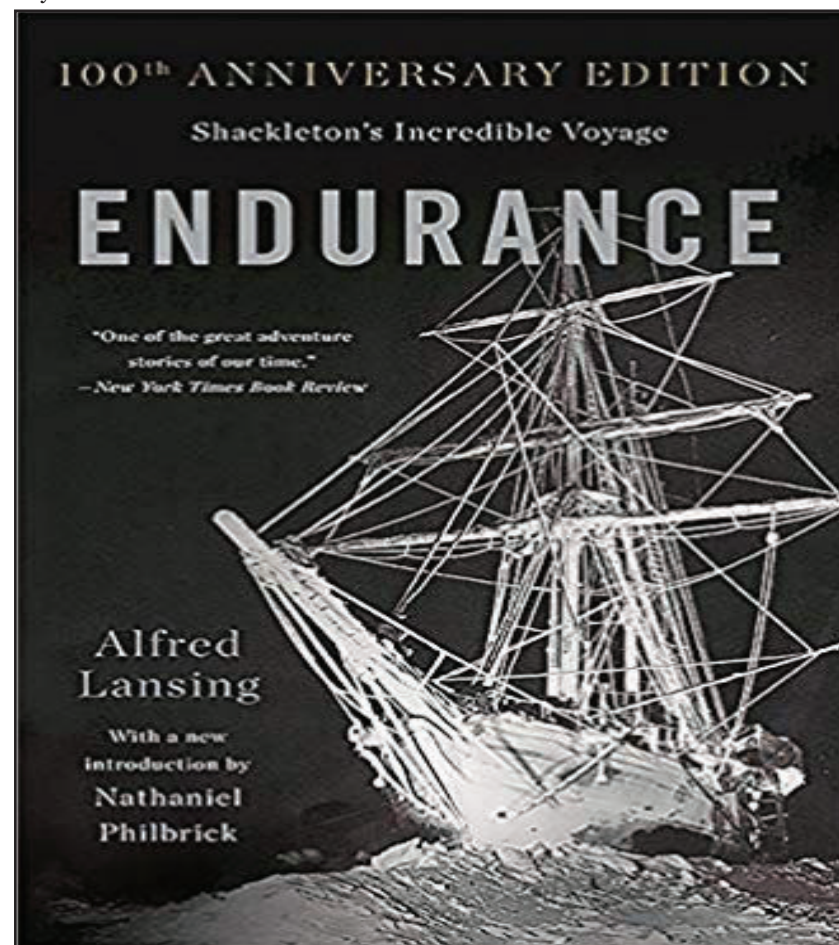
The book *Endurance* builds up suspense, whilst having fun moments as well. For example, while stuck on the ice pack, one crew member is chased by an elephant seal while riding a bike, the book has its fare share of innovations and tricks up its sleeves. So how is the book overall?

In my personal opinion, the book delivers a stunning tale of survival that compares to no other. And the fact that this story is vastly unknown, only adds to the amount of "Wow!" If you factor in the type of equipment and the time period as well (1914-1916) it only intensifies the "Wow!"

*Endurance* is guaranteed to leave you with an jaw-dropped mouth after reading it, and will make you love to read even more! The adventure these men endured needs to be rediscovered again and again by modern day society, and that's exactly what this book does.

On a scale of one to ten, it's a 100!

I guarantee the book will leave you satisfied, and emotional, as this is one heck of a story!



# Article 13: Destroying the meme empire in one fell swoop



TODD MURRAY  
*Reporter*

Article 13 is a copyright law amendment created by the European Union (EU) that if passed could remove memes from all social media platforms because of copyright infringement.

Boiled down, Article 13 directs for online service providers to remove any unprotected works or subject matter if they aren't in partnership with the original creator of said subject. For example, if someone posted a SpongeBob meme on Instagram and they aren't partnered with Nickelodeon than it would be Instagram's job to remove it with, most likely, an automated filter.

Most social media websites and big companies such as Google, Youtube, Facebook, and Netflix are against this copyright law because of content creators and everyday users creative freedom being threatened to be shut down. Youtube CEO Susan Wojcicki even promoted people on all social media platforms to spread the hashtag #SaveYourInternet.

Meme-loving students at DHS that know about the potential ban, aren't too psyched about the future of social media if the law is passed. DHS Jr. Lukas Minerich thinks social media without memes would be an unfunny wasteland.

"I find a lot of humor from memes and I believe without them, it would be hard to find any humor on social media, it would be a pretty stale place," said Minerich. Not only would everyday Instagram users not be able to see a meme pop up on the explore page but famous YouTubers that base their channels around memes would be out of content to create, causing them to lose their primary source of

income.

It's also a problem for young rappers that use different meme samples in their songs and music videos, surprisingly, there is a substantial amount of musicians pushing for the law to be passed because of the issue with the value gap. The value gap was mostly vocalized negatively from Beatles singer Sir Paul McCartney, as a problem with user-upload services like youtube not fairly returning enough revenue to the original creator of the songs.

"Seize the chance to restore fairness," said McCartney.

Article 13 would solve the value gap and it's why McCartney is very expressive about it being passed.

An issue with memes online to some is when it comes to original meme creators not getting the rightful credit for the meme that they created. According to DHS So. Ian Swan, he thinks credit is due but it isn't always a necessity.

"Memes would never spread if consent was necessary every time one was re-posted, completely ruining the point creating the meme," said Swan.

If the point of Article 13 is to give the original content creators full control of their pieces of work than it seems meme creators would want the same, but according to the over four million opposing signatures delivered to the European Parliament, the common people of Europe are highly against it.

Article 13 is a clear controversial plan that if passed will be a way to fairly pay musicians but result in a complete loss of creative freedom to everyday people across the internet. January 2019 is the EU's final vote so if you don't see your favorite meme account while scrolling through your Instagram feed, you'll know the winning team.



# Author's critique: Kurt Vonnegut

JACK SLUIS  
*Reporter*

Kurt Vonnegut was born in Indianapolis, 1922, being the youngest of his three siblings to Kurt Vonnegut Sr. and his wife Edith. Vonnegut grew up at the beginning of the great depression, leading to economic misfortune in his family, considering both other siblings attended private schools, while Kurt attended a public school. Vonnegut then proceeded to go to WWII after graduating from high school and getting kicked out of Cornell university. He returned to later live on his career as a writer in America.

Kurt Vonnegut undoubtedly has a dreary background to his fame as a writer, most likely attributed to his satirical and black-humor style. With this in mind, Vonnegut's intelligence in literature and unique and approachable writing style took a shell shocked America after WWII by hold.

His writings are still incredibly influential to this date, and easily hold the position as revolutionary pieces of literature for American society. When you read one of his books, it is fairly apparent why. Kurt Vonnegut draws from his personal experiences in his books, as emphasized with "Slaughterhouse 5" alluding to his time in WWII, to create a vivid and colorful depiction of key events, generally leading to a sense of discovery for the reader in which the various metaphors and analogies are recognized with events..

From this, Vonnegut is able to break the line between the reader and author, with various breakings of 4th walls, etc., to inexplicably make it feel as if you are in the room with him. This kind of interpersonal connection is typically strived for by all authors, and Vonnegut's captivity in his perfected blend of intellectual writing and personal ramblings only further accentuates his ability to connect with his reader. However, when you spend enough time with an author in a metaphorical room, you get to know them, and but after reading Vonnegut's books, I can't help realize a few fundamental flaws with Vonnegut himself.

Vonnegut appeals to the side of humanity which feeds itself into the everyday struggles and stresses faced by the comings of life, ultimately succumbing to fatigue and sadness. Coming from Vonnegut's perspective, this aforementioned defeat was probably one of the few things he knew all too well, given such harsh factors such as his mother's ultimately depressive/schizophrenic tendencies leading to her suicide

in 1944 leading to a warranted bleak outlook on life. Because of this, obtaining the messages from Vonnegut's book is typically accompanied by the pre-prescribed amounts of fatalistic detachment.

Vonnegut promotes through his books, especially in "Slaughterhouse 5", what I like to call a point of view of "absolute relativism", whereas everything has no value, given that no one absolute truth exists between two different people and their perspectives/interpretations. I imagine this partially takes from the idea that reality is wholly mental, and nothing can be proven except the experiences you have, and the thoughts you experience, however it's intended effect seems to be lost in the lack of hindsight required to adopt it.

This perspective, while they derive from a course of intellectual thought, do nothing more but create the inability to act, if you will. If everything is absolutely relative and I can't prove that what I experience is real, then what is the point of doing anything in a false reality? Perhaps Kurt's literature was his only method of talking about the one thing consistent throughout his life, his failures and his deposition to reality. Perhaps my criticism of Kurt's books takes away any already diminished appreciation to the ideas Kurt initially held for his books.

Perhaps my criticism of his books also takes away the possibility of his messages to resonate with me beyond my initial appreciation for it being detrimental to a positive outlook on life. The unrivaled connection and emphasis on Kurt's actual message resonate create an interpersonal and indescribably fantastic story for each of Kurt's books, and I highly recommend any and all to read at least one of his books. Keep in mind that I have only personally read 3 of Kurt Vonnegut's books, so I imagine this criticism should be taken with a fairly large grain of salt.



# The Queen Reigns: Bohemian Rhapsody will blow you away

KENDALL FLOYD  
*Reporter*

Whether you're Queen's biggest fan or you've never heard of them in your life, *Bohemian Rhapsody* is a must see. As you're watching, you will become so engulfed in the drama that you feel as if you're along for the journey, and not just watching from an outsider's perspective. By the end of this movie you'll have gained a massive amount of appreciation for the tragedies that fame can bring about.

Rami Malek, a 37 year old American Egyptian actor, was chosen to play Freddie Mercury—the lead singer of Queen. Everyone who has seen the movie agrees this choice couldn't have been more spot on. The way he embodies the complicated but passionate soul of Freddie will leave you speechless.

No band is complete without a guitarist, drummer, and bassist. In *Bohemian Rhapsody* these characters play only minor roles, but nevertheless they are essential elements to the band. Without them, Queen would not be Queen as we know it. English actor Gwilym Lee plays Brian May, who is regarded as one of the best guitarists in the world. Ben Hardy, another English actor, takes on the role of Roger Taylor, an extraordinary drummer. Queen's bassist, John Deacon, is played by Joseph Mazzello who does an excellent job in this film as well.

In *Bohemian Rhapsody*, the song "Love of my Life" is especially highlighted as it had a special meaning in Freddie Mercury's life. It was written for his then fiancé Mary Austin. The two met when the band was first starting out, and they soon began living together.

After a few years together, Freddie proposed and they were engaged for a time. But, as Queen became more and more successful, Freddie was forced to confront the fact that he was gay. When he broke the news to Mary Austin, she was very understanding and they remained lifelong friends.

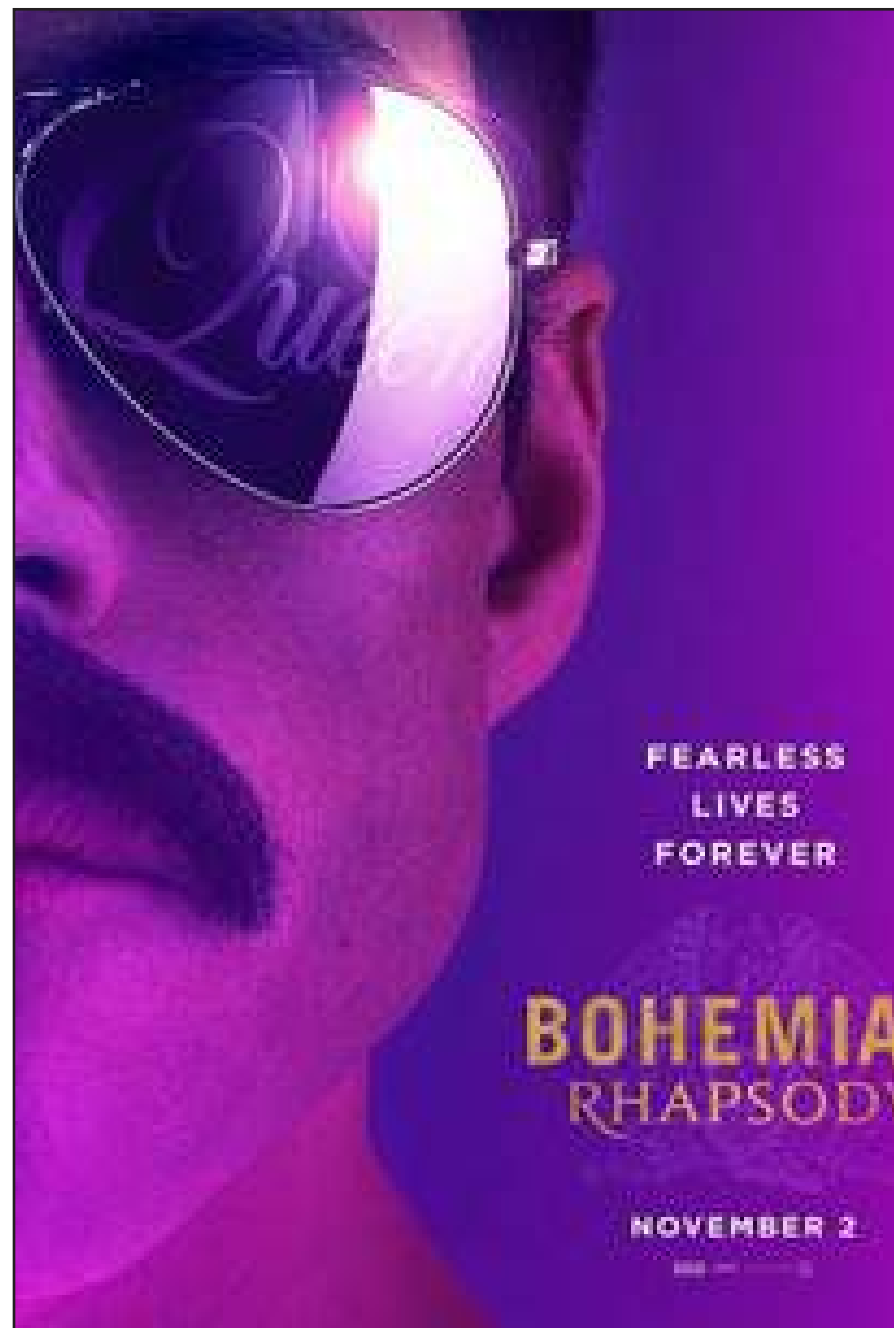
Towards the end of the movie, things were not looking great for Queen. The band has been disputing frequently, and it looks as if they'll be torn apart for good. Freddie, who had pushed his band members away, becomes ill and tragically gets diagnosed with AIDS, unsure of how long he has left to live.

Things only start to turn around when Freddie breaks the news of his illness to the band. Through this trauma, they reconcile and agree to get back together. They play at a concert called Live Aid, which was a massive charity event for famine support in Africa.

Live Aid, which took place in 1985, ended up being one of Queen's biggest concerts. The real concert was in Wembley stadium, but since then it has been demolished. In order to recreate a similar experience to the actual concert, Wembley stadium was rebuilt to scale on an old air strip in London.

Rebuilding this concert venue was important because it closes out the movie. It serves as a way to leave you feeling energized and uplifted, rather than emotional about Freddie's diagnosis with AIDS.

*Bohemian Rhapsody* went on to win best drama at the golden globes. This is unsurprising because in the movie, not only do you learn more about Queen, but you also gain an appreciation for music that you didn't know was possible; it forces you to realize how short life can be, and teaches you to make the best of every day.





# 2019 HOROSCOPES

## YOUR ASTROLOGICAL PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

SOPHIA ADAMSKI, *Reporter*

### **Aries (21 March - 20 April):**

It wouldn't be a stretch to say that your usual boldness, love for adventure has been dampened significantly. The past year likely had its host of challenges and setbacks. 2019 is sure to bring out your competitive best, as well as rekindle your dynamic energy and enthusiasm, but only if a large amount of time is spent on improving yourself.

### **Leo (23 July - 21 August):**

It's no secret that 2018 had its hardships. Focus on rebuilding relationships that were previously abandoned or severed, learning how to accept issues and differing opinions without making a scene, and taking up hobbies that you once found comfort in.

### **Sagittarius (23 November - 22 September):**

Your straightforwardness has probably diffused situations that would have otherwise proven to be explosive, drawn-out arguments. This is a trait you'll use time and time again. 2019 is a perfect time to refine this ability and ditch one that's been weighing you down this past year; your restlessness.

### **Taurus (21 April - May 21):**

Self-indulgence and greed may have bested you many times over the course of the past year, but 2019 will be the perfect opportunity to showcase your patience and resilience to your peers, and most importantly, to yourself. A much-needed period of philosophical reflection will also make itself apparent sometime during the year.

### **Virgo (22 August - 23 September):**

Your pragmatic nature likely served you well over the the past few months, or year. While this attribute isn't something you should let go of, some traits that can afford to go are your inclinations of being harsh, fussy, and conservative. Learning how to step back and let situations play out naturally is critical in the coming year.

### **Capricorn (23 December - 20 January):**

Ambition, punctuality, and patience became close companions over the year. You may have furthered a life goal or set sights on a new one. The only thing holding you back is a habit of holding grudges for so long they become toxic. Taking time to work through issues that have been bothering you will be beneficial in all areas of life.

### **Gemini (22 May - 21 June):**

2018 likely harbored a period of superficial changes. This isn't cause for alarm, but when small tweaks in daily life occur continuously over long stretches, it has the ability to cause strain in all facets of life. Spending at least a month sticking to a certain routines and habits can help center your overall sense of well-being.

### **Libra (24 September - 23 October):**

Your natural charisma definitely scored you some unique opportunities and genuine relationships in 2018. What likely shut down other valuable events is how you leaned towards being easily influenced. Learning how to be assertive will expand your current life and reveal pathways you were previously oblivious to.

### **Aquarius (21 January - 19 February):**

You tend to beat to the sound of your own drum; you don't always care about what others think. Your originality and honesty have earned you respect over the years, and continuing to foster these behaviors will be nothing but good. These penchants, when taken to the extreme, can cause other people to see you as cumbersome.

### **Cancer (22 June - 22 July):**

With the sympathy that you've expressed over the course of the year, some level of sensitivity also touched your life and the lives of those around you. Getting rid of over emotional thoughts is ill-advised, as these feelings will bottle up and inevitably turn into something bitter. 2019 is the perfect opportunity to find an outlet.

### **Scorpio (24 October - 22 November):**

Stubbornness can be both a blessing and a curse. However, fighting your way through every situation will likely get you nowhere these coming months. Learning how to be lenient, even if this change is slight, and diplomatic will reward you with instant and lasting gratification.

### **Pisces (20 February - 20 March):**

2018 presented opportunities with which your selflessness and compassion was essential to finding solutions. On the other end of the spectrum, your clinging onto escapist, idealistic fantasies, which force you to appear vague and detached, find ways to land you in tough situations. 2019 will force you to limit these states





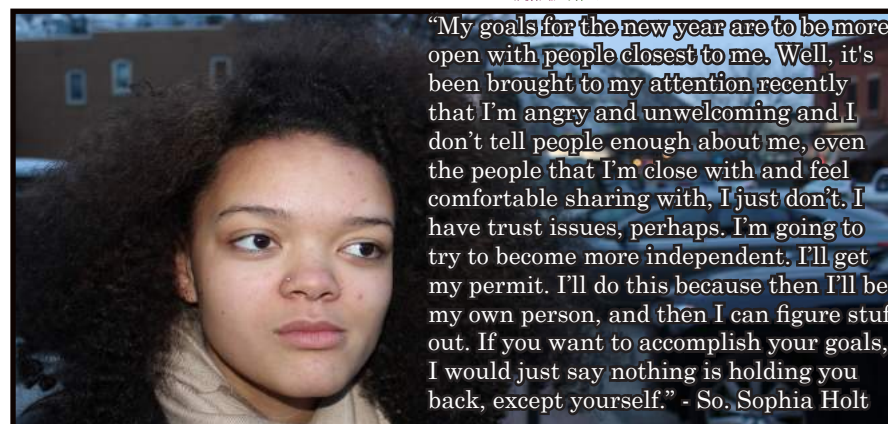
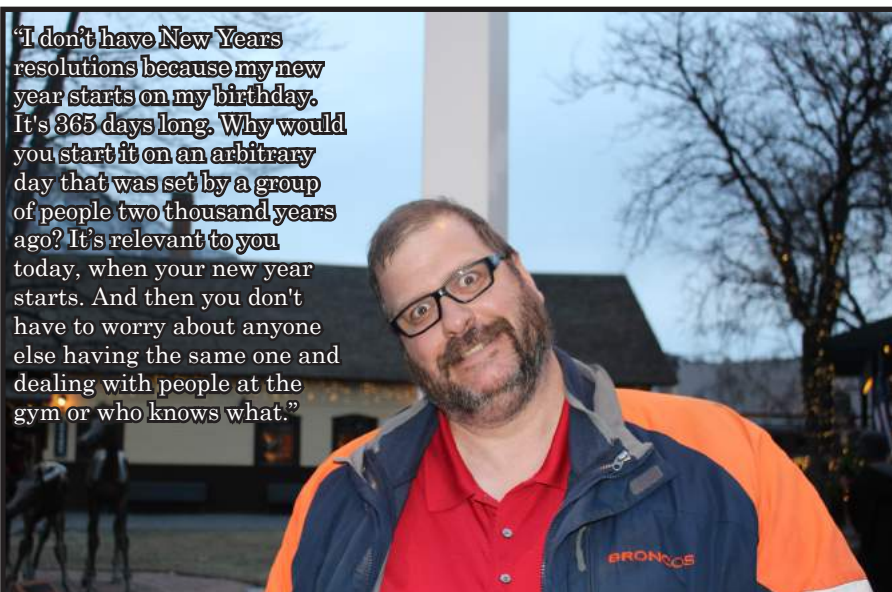
# Humans of Durango



The possibility of reflection and change are some of the great opportunities presented as the clock strikes twelve on New Year's Eve. These aspirations that we include at the start of our new year seemingly bind the world together, the idea of shared improvements and objectives providing hope and meaning to our futures. For this issue, El Diablo asks random people in Durango what their goals for the New Year are and how they will accomplish them, aiming to bring prosperity and inspiration to its readers.

CHLOE RAGSDALE, *Lifestyle Editor*

**"I don't have New Years resolutions because my new year starts on my birthday. It's 365 days long. Why would you start it on an arbitrary day that was set by a group of people two thousand years ago? It's relevant to you today, when your new year starts. And then you don't have to worry about anyone else having the same one and dealing with people at the gym or who knows what."**



**"My goals for the new year are to be more open with people closest to me. Well, it's been brought to my attention recently that I'm angry and unwelcoming and I don't tell people enough about me, even the people that I'm close with and feel comfortable sharing with, I just don't. I have trust issues, perhaps. I'm going to try to become more independent. I'll get my permit. I'll do this because then I'll be my own person, and then I can figure stuff out. If you want to accomplish your goals, I would just say nothing is holding you back, except yourself."** - So, Sophia Holt

**"Frick. I just wrote a list, I have to remember. I guess I want to spend my time more wisely, stay focused. I guess I just do a lot of different things, a lot of different creative endeavours and jobs, and sometimes it's just like I put too much on my plate. So I just want to stay focused. I guess just pausing is good, just reflecting more if not you just get caught up in stuff. That'd be it. Keep a list of it your goals in your bedroom or on your mirror, it's just nice sometimes."**



## Demon's Advocate

CAROLINE KNIGHT, *Head Editor*

This issue, I'm interrupting the advice column you know and love to address an issue it seems that everyone could use advice on: the art of conversation. I'd like to dedicate this column to my mother, Renee Knight, who used to bribe me (with cold, hard, cash) to talk to people at parties so I wouldn't become an introvert. I'm an introvert anyway, but if I wanted to talk to people, I could, and she taught me everything I know. Here are a few tips she's offered me as she's pushed me into a group of strangers playing frisbee at the park and crammed a 5 dollar bill into my fist:

### 1. People love talking about themselves.

Questions are your friend, ask them! Unless you are the most interesting man in the world (and you aren't), a conversation that's completely about you is a boring conversation. I stopped listening. I'm nodding and smiling. I'm thinking about how excited I am to go hang out by myself. Ask me about me!

### 2. That doesn't mean you don't get to talk about yourself at all.

Because that would be weird. Life is all about balance, and conversation is a delicate balancing act of give and take. Give me some information about who you are, or I'll get suspicious and Google you.

### 3. Remember to always ~be yourself~

~everyone else is already taken~



I know this sounds like impressively lame advice, but that's literally all it takes. The best things in life are simple, and the number of quiet lunch dates I've been on makes me think it's something we could all use a refresher on. Good luck and happy small talk!



## HOW TO KEEP YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

MIA BOUDREAU, *Lifestyles Editor*

### 1. START SMALL

Set a goal for yourself and slowly work at it. Taking baby steps will make your goal feel more achievable and will also keep you focused and motivated. Don't try to accomplish all of your resolutions in one day, instead work at them in sections and you will be surprised at how much is possible.

### 2. SUPPORT

Having a strong support network is helpful when it comes to accomplishing your goals. These people keep you motivated and provide guidance if you need it.

### 3. KEEP IT SIMPLE

Remember to stay realistic when committing to a resolution. A complex goal may be more difficult to achieve at first. So, try starting with simpler goals that ultimately lead you to a bigger, or more complex goal.

### 4. PLANNING

Planning is crucial when keeping a goal and achieving it. Setting an overall goal as well as smaller goals can help you stay on track and focused. Try setting monthly, weekly, or even daily goals for yourself that get you closer to your overall goal. This will ensure that you are constantly working towards your goal and taking steps in the right direction.

### 5. MOTIVATION

Look for inspiration to remind yourself why you want to achieve your goals. Find people who have achieved the same goals that you aspire to and get insight from them. Remember why you started working towards your goal and what the end outcome will be.

### 6. STAY POSITIVE

It may be difficult, but try to remember all of the progress you've made and how far you've come. Reinspire yourself and call upon your support network to help clear your head. Try to accomplish something that gets you closer towards your goal, no matter how small it is. This will help you feel productive and motivated to continue working towards your goal.

#### SOURCES

<https://psychcentral.com/lib/10-sure-ways-to-keep-your-new-years-resolutions/>  
<https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/resolution.aspx>

# Horsing Around in 2019

CHLOE BOWEN  
*Reporter*

Durango is best known for its unique western history, back when dirt roads and saddles were the way to travel. Today many people in our community still enjoy the subtle art of horsemanship.

Kicking up the old cowboy boots and enjoying the company of a loving animal doesn't come without hard work in the stables and beyond.

"To own a horse, it takes so much responsibility. That horse becomes more important to you than yourself. You have to make sure everything is going smooth. You have to make sure they have plenty of water, hay or feed, and make sure they are truly cared for," said Fr. Olivia Coster.

Besides caring for the horse and making sure the animal is happy, commitment is a big part of owning a horse as well.

"It takes a lot of devotion because you can't just drop what you're doing you have to care for the animal every single day. You have to make sure that you are caring for the horse correctly and to always confirm that the horse is performing the best it can, as well as having the best life possible and reaching their fullest potential. Most people don't realize the effort and opportunities present through horses," said Fr. Annie Somrak.

In fact, only six out of 48 voters on the El Diablo Instagram have thought about a future with horses.

"I think that horses as a sport are not recognized enough throughout the DHS student community and that might be why we don't have many horse activities through DHS," said Somrak. Besides the absence of recognition, having an equestrian sport through DHS depends on the numbers of people who are willing to participate.

"I've tried to get a rodeo team started at DHS and there are not enough people you could say that do it. We go to a school that is really populated and unfortunately, nobody has any interest. If we could get more people and kids that share the same interests it maybe could be possible," said Sr. Sophia Belk.

The sport of riding horses, whether it's racing, English riding, Western riding, or rodeo, can end up being expensive and hard to maintain. Even though having a horse and owning a big animal can be fun the expense of buying a horse can range from 100 dollars to 1,500 dollars per horse.

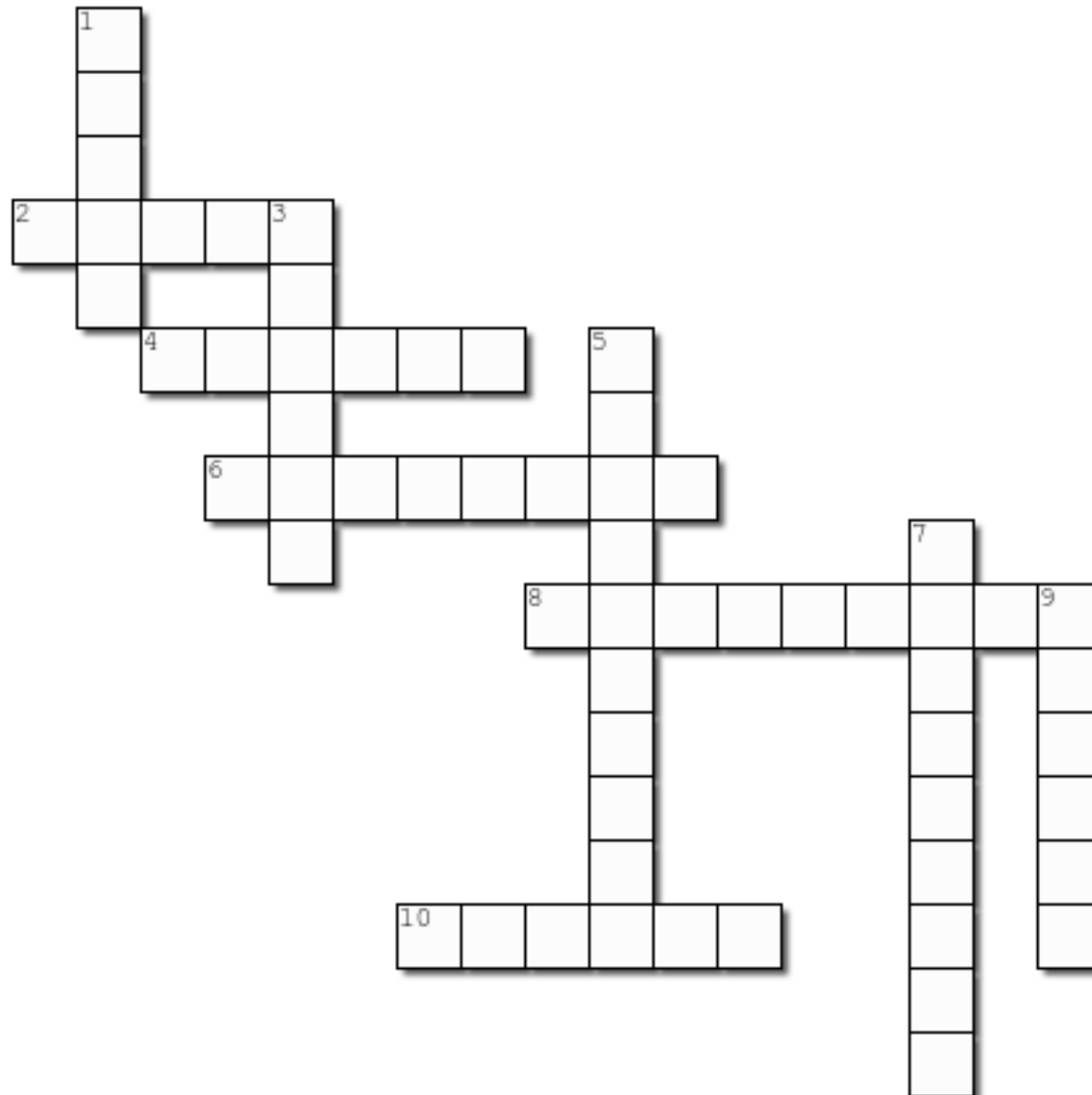
"One big thing with getting into the sport of horses for me and many others, in my opinion, is the cost of the animal and the equipment all of which cost a lot more than your average high school sport making it hard to start," said So. Lilly Lacey.

The passion for riding horses for most comes with hard work and motivation, making it no different from other sports and activities "People tend to underestimate a horseback rider's skills, but you should never underestimate the love they have for their horse, for me my horse is more than my animal it's my life," said Coster.





# Crossing Into the New Year



Created using [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net) [Crossword Puzzle Maker](#)

## **Across**

- 2. Keep your toes toasty
- 4. They hang down from the roof
- 6. Throw them at your friends
- 8. There isn't one alike
- 10. Famous snowman

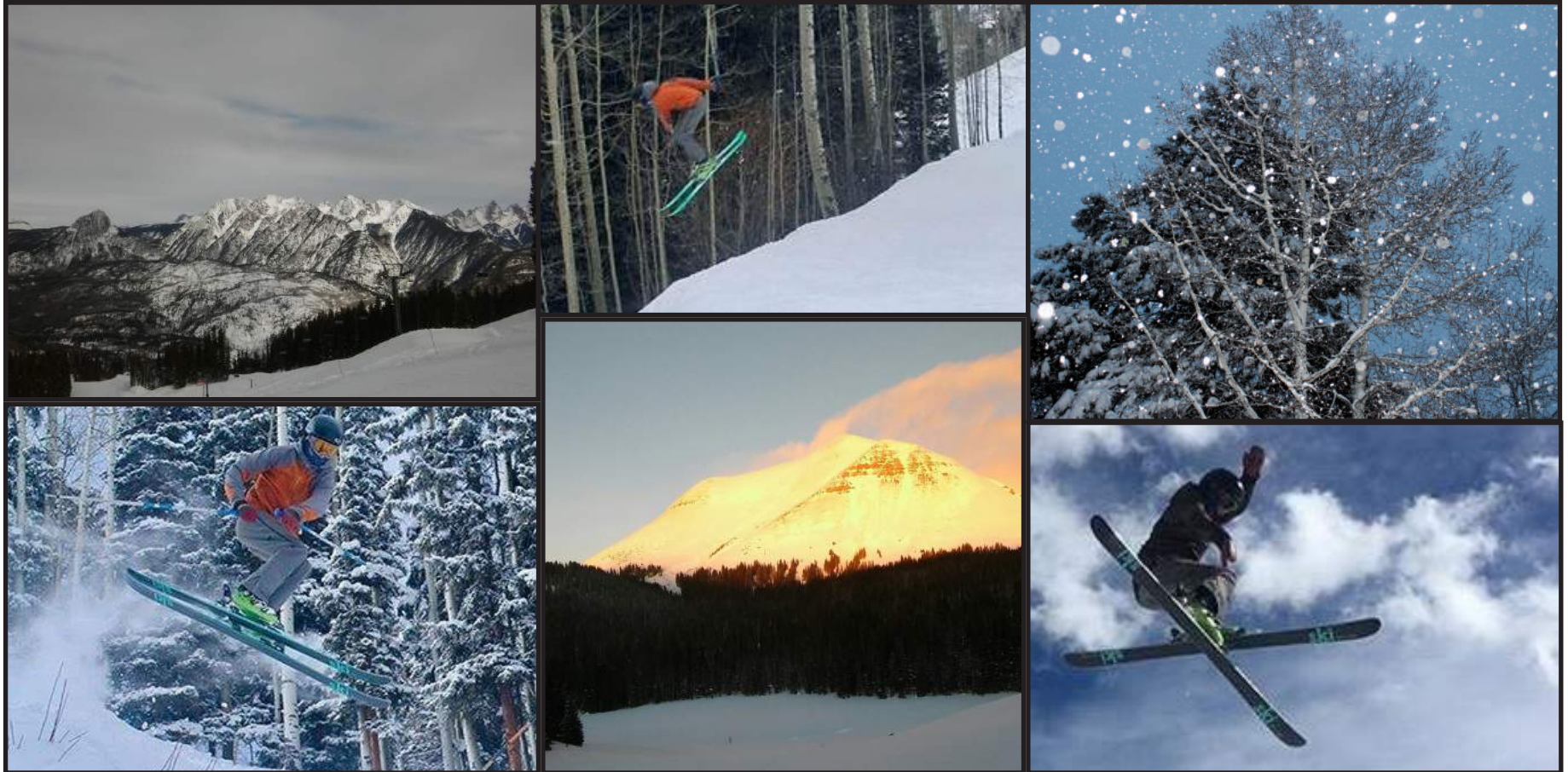
## **Down**

- 1. Where Eskimos live
- 3. Shred the pow
- 5. Holiday in February
- 7. Red and white candy
- 9. Popular winter drink



# LET IT SNOW!

PHOTOS BY CASSANDRA BLAU AND OLIVIA MUMMERY



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