

# THE GRIZZLY GROWLER

SERVING SPRING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
3750 S. BUFFALO DRIVE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89147

## Seniors mourn the loss of high school experiences



*Coronavirus concerns cause cancellation of major senior events*

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# Foreign exchange programs end early

## *Senior from northern Italy sad to leave, but also sad to stay*

Isabel Hillers  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The promise of a fun, major life change drew senior Leliah Tiranti to leave her quiet home in Bra, Italy, to come to study in America. Although Tiranti said her time in the U.S. has been fun, the chaos the coronavirus has brought to both of her homes has changed the exchange student's experience in ways she never would have imagined. Tiranti ultimately had to cut her time short, leaving America on April 1 for an extended journey home.

"It's obviously not what I was expecting to end my experience ... but I'm trying to see the bright side of everything," Tiranti said.

Tiranti's host family, Tiffany and Billy Hemberger, are both teachers at Spring Valley, which brought Tiranti to the school in the first place. Panic over Covid-19 in Italy and Las Vegas has left her frightened for her family.

"I'm obviously worried and scared [about the virus], but I'm ... talking with my family and friends, and they are in quarantine, and they are fine," Tiranti said. "The whole situation, it's really scary, and I just feel like, in this moment, I'm always thinking about it. I'm worried to hear bad news."

Tiranti's home is in northern Italy, where the coronavirus initially broke out.

"They don't seem like they are [scared], or at least, when I'm FaceTiming them, they look happy and with positive thoughts," Tiranti said. "I know they are following all the procedures that are necessary [to] be safe."

Tiranti, who is on the school's cheer team and in student council, said she has fallen in love with her school and classmates in America. The coronavirus has made it hard to continue enjoying a social life in Vegas, but she still has no regrets over coming in the first place.

Returning to Italy, however, will result in Tiranti being quarantined on a military base in Milan for 14 to 30 days.

The fear Tiranti feels for her family makes her upset about how she feels the United States is disregarding Covid-19. Hemberger said she has noticed a change in Tiranti's mindset on the virus after seeing how Italy was impacted by it.

"So initially, I think that she was just like us and thought, 'it's no worse than the flu, and everyone suffers with the flu,'" Hemberger said. "People are just



Courtesy of Tiffany Hemberger

Foreign exchange student Leliah Tiranti spent eight months as a senior at Spring Valley High School, living with teachers Billy and Tiffany Hemberger and their daughter Sydney. Tiranti returned home to Bra, Italy, on April 1, due to the coronavirus outbreak ending her exchange program early.

being hysterical and listening too much to the news or social media.' But now that it has really impacted her family, I think that there's a more serious nature to it in that her parents are unable to work, and the kids have been out of school for a month."

Tiranti said that young people should start taking the virus more seriously so that the country doesn't end up in the same position as Italy. Tiranti's fears have come to life in recent weeks, however.

"I think some people still see [the coronavirus] as a joke or still they think

it's just like the flu," Tiranti said. "I see my home in lockdown and all the hospitals overcrowded. ... America should handle it better because they had the opportunity to see what this virus can do, but in my opinion they are not taking this seriously."

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# Seniors to miss traditional graduation, prom

Laura Solsona & Jessica Cabrera  
News and Web Editors

Jayden Pene, like most seniors, looked forward to following all the traditions that would have led him to his May 21 graduation. But now, hopes of attending prom, Disney Grad Night, and even the final day of school to say goodbye, are all gone.

When Governor Steve Sisolak announced the cancellation of school until April 30 due to COVID-19, seniors like Pene were faced with the realization that they would miss out on many senior traditions they had looked forward to for years.

"[Senior year] to me was supposed to be the year where I find who my real friends are," Pene said. "It was supposed to be the time to make as many experiences with my friends who might be going away from Las Vegas after school. It was supposed to be a year where we finally find ourselves in this chapter of our lives and find how to grow into the next stage of our life."

Coming of age events including Prom, Disney Grad Night, Senior Awards Night and even graduation have all been canceled due to social distancing measures. The governor's closure of schools is not unexpected, as most physical campuses across the country have closed, and the United States is now the most infected country in the world.. Even with hopes to hold an alternative graduation ceremony, such as a virtual commencement or smaller one on campus, students and faculty are devastated.

"I just can't think of anything worse than canceling graduation ceremonies [in] a student's senior year," Principal Tam Larnerd said. "My step son is actually graduating this year from Foothill, my son graduates from Coronado next year....you wait your entire life to watch your kid watch across that stage, and that's the parent's point of view, and for a student....most students want to walk and they want that experience of wearing the cap and gown and marching in and crossing the stage."

Spring Valley administration said they are continuing to seek ways to recognize students' accomplishments, even though there most likely cannot be a traditional ceremony.

"It continues to seem more and more unlikely that we will be able to have a traditional commencement ceremony on May 21," Larnerd wrote in an email sent out to parents and students on March 31.

Senior Spencer Dee said that while he is disappointed, he trusts the Spring Valley staff to come up with the best option for students.

"These events meant a lot to me and many of my peers because it represents a celebration of our hard work and achievements," Dee said. "Now that these events are likely canceled, the senior experience is merely our bonding as a class among past activists, namely senior sunrise and assemblies... I have good faith that the school will try their absolute best to recognize student accomplishments."

Many seniors are also dwelling on the reality that they can no longer celebrate with friends before they go to college.

"My idea was to leave the year with a boom, doing most of the activities I love



Courtesy of Tam Larnerd

Seniors from the 2019 class board a bus to participate in the annual Gradwalk for neighboring middle and elementary schools. The tradition allows students to walk the halls of Spring Valley, and many of their former schools wearing their cap and gown. The class of 2020's Gradwalk was canceled due to coronavirus concerns.

and relaxing," senior Ronnie Tran said. "It was important because it felt like the 12 years of school [had] led up to this big ceremony and experience with prom and all. ... I love the traditions of senior year because it feels like a reward for accomplishing the year."

Pene agreed, noting that many of his friends will leave Las Vegas for college.

"It was supposed to be the time to make experiences with my friends who might be [leaving] Las Vegas after school [ends]," Pene said. "It was supposed to be a year where we finally find ourselves in this chapter of our lives and find how to grow into the next stage of our life. Now that the 'Senior Experience' is gone, I'm a little sad that I'll get to miss out on high school experiences such as prom, grad nite and maybe graduation too."

Senior grad night, the yearly tradition in which seniors go to Disneyland for a day was the first of the cancellations, followed closely by prom..

"This has greatly impacted my senior year in a negative way," Pene said. "Senior year is supposed to be the best time of high school and the year we cherish most. Now, I lost two months' worth of time seeing my friends before we all go our separate ways after school."

The Senior Grad Walk, an event in which seniors had the opportunity to parade around Spring Valley in their cap and gown, and which many looked forward to has been canceled. With no celebrations to look forward to, many seniors said they struggle to find meaning in completing the rest of their classes

"For me, school feels like a drag that I don't feel compelled to interact with anymore, as all extracurriculars are canceled," Tran said. "I can't find the motivation to really continue since



Courtesy of Tam Larnerd

Student council members lead the class of 2019 in turning their tassels at their graduation ceremony on May 24, 2019. Though no official plans have been announced, the school district has stated a traditional graduation ceremony is unlikely for the class of 2020.

there's not much for me to look forward [to] in school."

Pene, who says it's been hard to keep up with distance learning, agreed

"Now that I'm home every second of the day, I don't feel as motivated to complete my work," Pene said. "Another reason is that, since the assignments are just posted, it's hard to fully understand them since I don't have the teacher present to help me. Although we do have access to emailing, it still is really hard to express my inquiries about an assignment to its full extent."

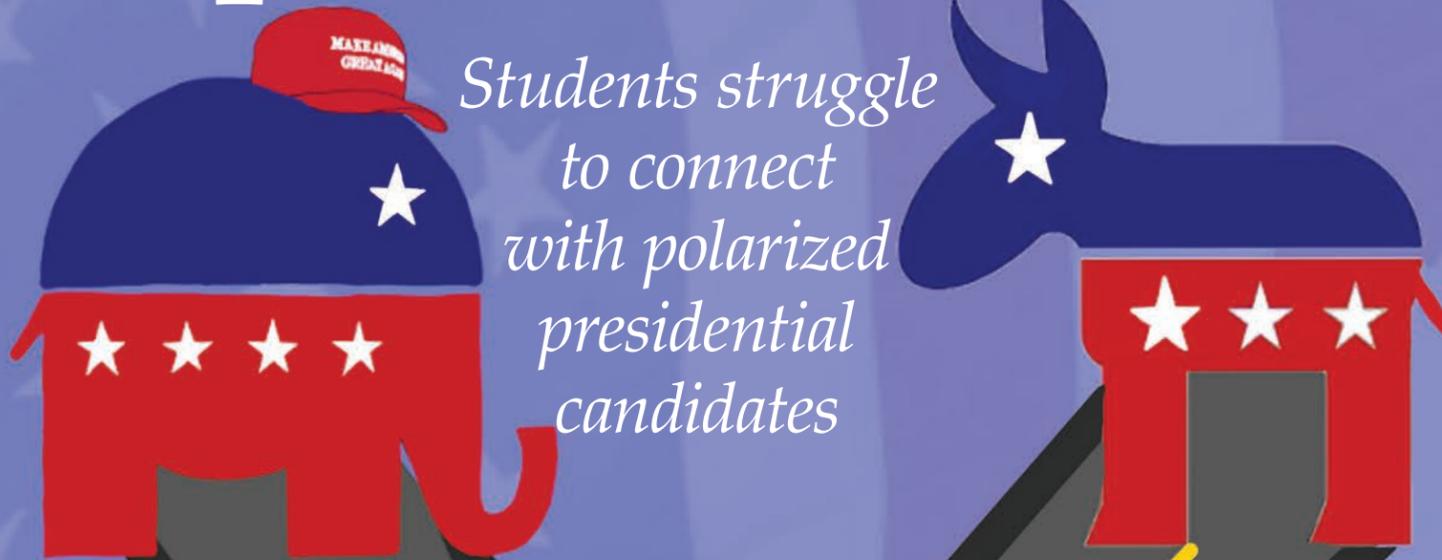
Although the feeling of sadness is

common among seniors, most said they still understand why all the cancellations continue to take place.

"I feel that things may not be perfect, but at least we can appreciate the health of our family and friends," senior Andres Carrasco said. "Knowing the caring staff at SV, they will ensure we still have a prom, graduation and [some sort of] a senior night. So I feel we all should be patient, and what happens happens. It's no one's fault that this pandemic has affected all of us in several ways. The class of 2020 will get through this, and we will still do big things."



# A political crossroad:



*Students struggle to connect with polarized presidential candidates*

**Laura Solsona**  
News Editor

Gianna Viterna is not sure whether she will vote in the 2020 presidential election. Viterna said that she understands the importance of voting — she has extensively researched the candidates — but none of the options on either side of the political spectrum represent what she wants in a president. “I think some of their views just don’t align with what I believe in,” Viterna said. “A bunch of their views are very extreme, and I know I can’t agree with them.”

When thrust into the world of politics, many teenagers feel unrepresented by the politicians of the United States. A common reason for students not feeling represented is because middle ground candidates disappear as extreme candidates get louder and more publicized.

The conflicting politics are especially highlighted between current Republican President Donald Trump and Senator Bernie Sanders, one of two remaining in the Democratic primary. The ideals of President Trump, most famously his right-leaning opinions on immigration blockades and waterboarding, are almost entirely opposite of Sanders, whose Democratic socialist plans include completely eliminating college debt and allowing Dreamers to gain full citizenship. The two sides continuously lean farther away from one another while simultaneously not allowing for a more middle ground candidate to take over.

Senior Tristan Gorst believes that it’s the lack of representation in politics that steers future voters away.

“[It’s] seen on both sides; you’ll see people who are perhaps extreme far right or far left supporting their respective candidates,” Gorst said. “They speak the loudest; they make the most noise; they get the most attention, and that

helps [candidates] eventually in [their] campaign, but what’s lost is the voice of moderates in the middle.”

Though current high school seniors were unable to vote in the 2016 election, they appear to be on the same path as previous generations.

“It’s about fear for me,” senior Megan Rubio said. “I know I’m not as knowledgeable as I could be about what’s going on in politics right now. ... I feel like, in my head, politics are so complex. It’s hard to even, like, start off understanding it since it’s so intense. ... It’s hard to find it appealing, even if it’ll affect me.”

Millennials (ages 25-39) and Generation Z (ages 4-24) are one-third of the eligible voting population for the 2020 election. However, according to the U.S. Census in the 2016 election, ages 18-29 had the lowest voter turnout with only 46.1% casting their votes. Despite this, a 2019 Harvard School of Government study showed that 58% of young people under the age of 30 feel like President Trump should be impeached and removed from office.

Gorst also attributes voter uninvolvement to the “business” that has been made out of American politics.

“Myself and ... a vast majority of Americans ... don’t necessarily share all the same radical views, but again, it’s about the attention, the popularity contest to be reelected,” Gorst said. “So it’s almost an institutional thing where the structure of how this ‘forever campaign’ I’m talking about has been allowed. ... And how ... people act and what people are attracted to has definitely contributed to that divide.”

According to teachers, the divide between two extremes has been coming for a long time, even before President Barack Obama and the social changes that his presidency triggered.

“I think the election of Barack Obama really shook things up,” English teacher Amy Devaul said, “because at the same time you had [him], you had the #metoo movement, Black Lives Matter, you had this huge social upheaval and that rapid change scared people who were comfortable or benefited from the traditional way of life in this country.... It meant maybe they were going to have to give up some control or power. And so they retreated back into ‘you’re bad I’m good’, kind of thing... We started to see people not listening to each other.”



Millennials and Generation Z are widely known for their left leaning ideals and sometimes intense forms of expressing them.

"I lean towards being more liberal....not only because I'm young and people tend to be more progressive than older people, but I'm also a minority as a person of color, Asian, as a gay person," Senior Waylan Gaspar said. "Democratic seems to be more of like the middle road as opposed to something like libertarian, which is like completely on the left end of the spectrum."

Although Gaspar has been able to see himself in the growing polarized political community, many say they are left without a party that represents them. Many teenagers don't feel strongly enough about the two opposing sides to pick, so they are left in the middle feeling anxious at the idea of having to pick between candidates they don't agree with.

Rubio suggests that the loudest voices leave a lot to be desired, and instead give people that do not agree with a specific party a wrong idea about what they stand for. Other students find themselves fearful of the election process.

"Politics always makes me feel suffocated," Hong said, "because every single time I see a political view, it always feels like too much... people start to get death threats for things that shouldn't really matter. I don't feel like I should immerse myself into politics because I feel like the mindset of people is that [we're] children and that what we think shouldn't matter."

Senior Ethan Hong's feelings match the fears of many young Americans. According to the 2019 Harvard study, 56% of young Americans feel more fear than hope

about the future of America.

Another factor playing a role in pushing teens away from politics is the lack of relatability from one generation to the next. For Viterna, the factors that make her doubt the reliability of the American government are deeper than a political separation.

"The recent way that politics seem to be going are really dividing the country," said Viterna. "It almost seems like no matter who is elected there's still going to be a division within people. Politicians are always like 'oh we have to come together' but we never do that. We just hate each other."

Hate has historically been a factor for triggering social changes, according to Devaul. If Generation Z is able to put their concerns behind them and vote, they may be able to shift the newest sense of growing polarization.

"[The] younger generation... they're much less willing to sit back and just accept the status quo," Devaul said. "They question. I mean, if you look at the climate change movement, that's young people. If you look at the Black Lives Matter movement, that's young people, and even the Second Amendment issues around the Parkland shooting, those were high school kids. And in the 1960s, all of the the anti war movement, the civil rights movement, [those were] young people. So I think we're at that precipice now, and I think it's going to be your generation and the one above you....that really are going to be motivated. And I see it already, and they know what to do, and they know how to do it, and they're willing to put themselves out there."

## GRIZZLIES OF SPRING VALLEY

What do you think of the presidential candidates for 2020?



"All the current candidates are too polarized, and they are not really focused on what ... the small people want. They're more like targeting groups of people who want to vote for them, so much so that they're not really going to get much of an audience."

— Senior Tucker Naylor



"I'd suggest any voters this year look carefully after what [the candidates] have to say and not to be prejudiced toward any party. Also ... look at the policies and remember one thing: The candidates are mainly interested into themselves."

— Peter Josef



"I think that Bernie Sanders has the best chance of beating Trump because he's doing the best in the polls, and he's the best hope for America."

— Shaina Widya



"Throughout the entire election and the political debates, I have realized that my views are very middle ground, and the options for candidates aren't for me. They seem too intense and separated."

— Sieban Woldegiorgish

## Who are the 2020 presidential nominees?



Joe Biden



Donald Trump

- Optional Medicare for All
- Green New Deal framework to fight climate change
- Lower university prices/community college respectable option
- Student loan forgiveness
- Housing for all formerly incarcerated persons
- Secure nation's borders and enforce laws while maintaining national values
- Endorsed by Amy Klobuchar, Pete Buttigieg, Sen. Barbara Boxer, Rep. Veronica Escobar, Mike Bloomberg and more

- Continue to push for healthcare competition to lower prices
- Better U.S. economy by abolishing costly programs
- Build U.S. military to defend America and its allies
- Push the school choice system for education
- Construct the southern border wall and enforce strict immigration policies
- Endorsed by Sen. Ted Cruz, Ben Carson, Sen. Marco Rubio, Gov. Ron DeSantis, Gov. Henry McMaster and more



## Seniors lamentan tradiciones perdidas

Laura Solsona  
News & Español Editor

Jayden Pene, como la mayoría de los seniors, esperaba seguir todas las tradiciones que lo habrían llevado a su graduación el 21 de mayo. Pero ahora, las esperanzas de asistir al baile de graduación, la Noche de Graduación de Disney, e incluso el último día de clases para despedirse, se han ido.

Después de que el gobernador de Nevada, Steve Sisolak, anunció la cancelación de la escuela hasta el 30 de abril como una prevención del COVID-19, los seniors como Pene se dieron cuenta de que todos los eventos anteriores y posteriores a las clases de graduación serían algo que nunca podrían hacer. Antes de esta decisión, se había convenido que todas las actividades extracurriculares y otros eventos importantes, como el baile de graduación y la graduación, se pospondrán.

La mayoría de los eventos más importantes como el baile de graduación, la noche de graduación de Disney, la noche de premios para seniors e incluso la graduación, están en suspenso debido a las medidas de distanciamiento social y al cierre de la mayoría de los campus físicos en todo el país a medida que Estados Unidos se convierte en el país con más casos de COVID-19 en el mundo. La cancelación de los últimos tres meses les quitó la última oportunidad a seniors de aprovechar al máximo su último año.

"No puedo pensar en nada peor que cancelar las ceremonias de graduación [en] el último año de un estudiante", dijo el director Tam Larnered. "Mi hijastro se está graduando este año de Foothill, mi hijo se gradúa de Coronado el próximo año ... esperas toda tu vida para ver que tu hijo a llegado a este momento, y ese es el punto de vista de los padres, y para un estudiante ... casi todos los estudiantes quieren hacerlo y quieren esa experiencia de usar la toga y el birrete y marchar y cruzar el escenario."

La administración de Spring Valley continúa buscando formas de reconocer los logros de los estudiantes, aunque lo más



Cortesía de Tam Larnered.

Los estudiantes de último año de la clase de 2019 se reúnen afuera de Lawrence Junior High School, donde participaron el Gradwalk anual. Muchos estudiantes expresaron orgullosos de poder caminar por los pasillos de su escuela secundaria y demostrar sus logros. La clase de 2020 no podrá participar en el Gradwalk debido a la epidemia de coronavirus.

podamos celebrar una ceremonia de graduación tradicional el 21 de mayo", escribió Larnered en un correo electrónico enviado a padres y estudiantes el 31 de marzo.

Senior Spencer Dee explicó que cuando se le preguntó sobre el tema, confía en que el personal de Spring Valley encuentre la mejor opción para ayudar a la mayoría, si no a todos, los estudiantes.

"Estos eventos significan mucho para mí y muchos de mis compañeros porque representa una celebración de nuestro arduo trabajo y logros", dijo Dee. "Ahora que es probable que estos eventos se cancelen, la experiencia de los seniors es simplemente nuestro vínculo como clase entre activistas anteriores, a saber, el amanecer y las

Muchos senior piensan en todo lo que ha sido cancelado y expresan que estaban esperando terminar su experiencia en la escuela secundaria con una nota alta.

"Mi idea era salir del año con un boom, haciendo la mayoría de las actividades que amo y relajándome", dijo senior Ronnie Tran. "Era importante porque parecía que los 12 años de escuela [habían] conducido a esta gran ceremonia y experiencia con el baile de graduación y todo. ... Me encantan las tradiciones del último año porque se siente como una recompensa por lograr el año."

Los sentimientos de Pene coinciden con los de Tran, ya que esperaba pasar más tiempo con amigos que no verá cuando

la escuela [termina]", dijo Pene. "Se suponía que sería un año en el que finalmente nos encontraríamos en este capítulo de nuestras vidas y descubriríamos cómo llegar a la siguiente etapa de nuestra vida. Ahora que la "Experiencia de los seniors" no resultó ser lo que esperábamos, estoy un poco triste porque podré perderme las experiencias de la escuela secundaria como el baile de graduación y quizás la graduación también"

Noche de graduados, la tradición anual en la que los seniors van a Disneyland por un día fue la primera de las cancelaciones, seguida cerca por el baile de graduación.

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## Estudiantes se esfuerzan para conectar con políticos

Laura Solsona  
News & Español Editor

Gianna Viterna no está segura de si votará en las elecciones presidenciales de 2020. Viterna dijo que entiende la importancia de votar. Ella ha investigado extensamente a los candidatos. Pero a pesar de esto, ninguna de las opciones a ambos lados del espectro político representa lo que quiere en un presidente.

"Creo que algunos de sus puntos de vista simplemente no se alinean con lo que creo", dijo Viterna. "Muchos de sus puntos de vista son muy extremos y sé que no puedo estar de acuerdo con ellos".

Cuando adolescentes se ingresan al mundo de la política, muchos no se sienten representados por los políticos de los Estados Unidos. Una razón común es que los estudiantes no se sienten representados porque los candidatos moderados desaparecen a medida que los candidatos extremos reciben más atención y más

atención de los medios.

Las políticas en conflicto se destacan especialmente entre el actual presidente republicano, Donald Trump, y el senador Bernie Sanders, el candidato presidencial demócrata más popular. Los ideales del presidente Trump, sobre todo sus opiniones de derecha sobre los bloqueos de inmigración y el submarino, son casi completamente opuestos a los de Sanders, cuyos planes socialistas demócratas incluyen eliminar por completo la deuda universitaria y permitir a los Dreamers una oportunidad de obtener la ciudadanía. Las dos partes se inclinan continuamente más lejos una de la otra mientras que simultáneamente no permiten que un candidato más intermedio se haga cargo.

El senior Tristan Gorst cree que la falta de representación en la política es lo que aleja a los futuros votantes.

"[Es] visto en ambos lados; verá personas que tal vez sean de extrema derecha o extrema izquierda apoyando a sus respec-

tivos candidatos", dijo Gorst. "Hablan más fuerte, hacen más ruido, reciben la mayor atención y eso ayuda a [los candidatos] eventualmente en [su] campaña, pero lo que se pierde es la voz de los moderados en el medio".

Aunque los estudiantes de último año de secundaria no pudieron votar en las elecciones de 2016, parecen estar en el mismo camino de generaciones anteriores.

"Se trata de miedo por mí", dijo la estudiante de último año Megan Rubio. "Sé que no estoy tan bien informado como podría estar sobre lo que está sucediendo en la política en este momento ... Siento que en mi cabeza, la política es tan compleja, incluso difícil, como comenzar a entenderlo ya que es tan intenso ... es difícil encontrarlo atrayente incluso si me va a afectar".

Los Millennials (edades 25-39) y la Generación Z (edades 4-24) son un tercio de la población con derecho a voto para las elecciones de 2020. Sin embargo, según

el Censo de EE. UU. en las elecciones de 2016, las edades de 18 a 29 tuvieron la participación electoral más baja, con solo el 46.1% emitiendo sus votos. A pesar de esto, un estudio de la Escuela de Gobierno de Harvard de 2019 mostró que el 58% de los jóvenes menores de 30 años sienten que el presidente Trump debería ser destituido y retirado del cargo.

Gorst también atribuye la falta de participación de los votantes al "negocio" que se ha hecho con la política estadounidense.

"Yo y ... la gran mayoría de los estadounidenses ... no necesariamente compartimos los mismos puntos de vista radicales, pero de nuevo, se trata de la atención, el concurso de popularidad para ser reelegido", dijo Gorst. "Y es casi una cosa institucional donde la estructura de cómo esta 'campaña para siempre' de la que estoy hablando ha sido permitida ... Y cómo ... la gente actúa

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# Hoarding won't save you; stay home!

Jessica Bui  
Copy Editor

There seems to be a new shopping craze that's on the rise, and it's hoarding for the end of the world. The cause? Coronavirus, or COVID-19.

More people are spending money to stock up for the coronavirus in case they'll be quarantined or isolated, but it's to a point where it's emptying the shelves of local grocery stores. Being out of paper towels is scary, but going to Costco is more terrifying than trying to use the bathroom without toilet paper. Families are being affected by the people who feel the need to buy hundreds of packages of water, leaving behind Arrowhead. No one likes Arrowhead.

Stocking up makes sense, but hoarding doesn't. While it's valid to plan for a minimum of two weeks, there's no need to grab four packs of toilet paper from Costco. What is important, though, is to get your shots and vaccines. You know, the things that will actually help lessen the risk of getting the disease, the very reason people are stocking up?

But how much money is someone willing to spend on toilet paper? According to KIRO7, a news and television station, over half a million dollars are being spent weekly on preparation for the coronavirus. The amount of money people are spending for a minimum two-week self-isolation is concerning, considering that other needs are important as well.

First, glance at the economy ever since COVID-19 began; there's a supply shock dilemma happening. Though now, fewer goods and products are being manufactured. As a result of this, commodities won't be touching stores when they're supposed to.

Keep in mind the demand-side regarding the economy. Consumers are currently not going out to buy goods. Consequently, Federal Reserves are cutting rates with the expectation that

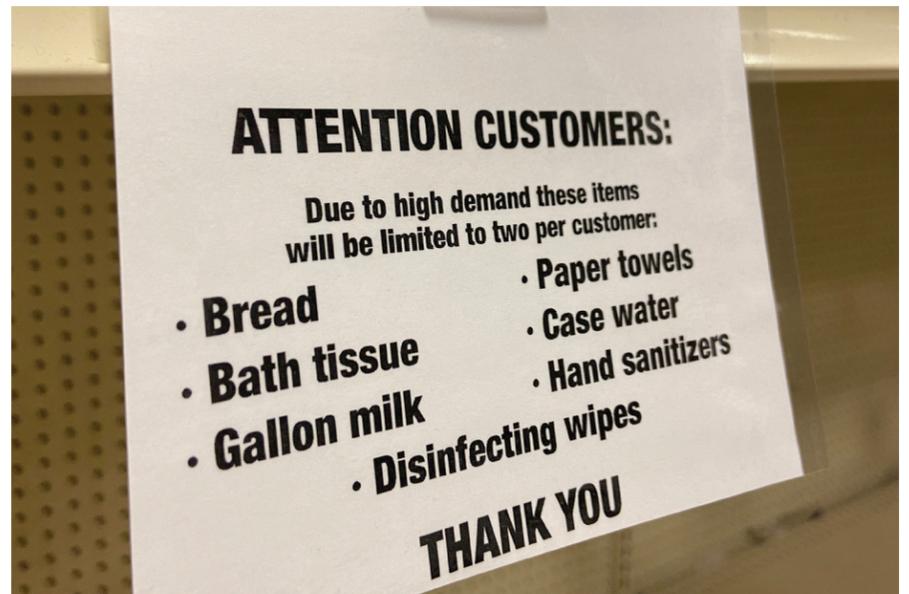


Emilia Mason

Shelves stood empty at the Albertson's on Vegas and Buffalo on March 19. In the early weeks of the coronavirus, shoppers often lined up outside grocery stores in hopes of getting toilet paper, water and cleaning supplies. Many stores limited purchases of these items, but were still left out-of-stock.

According to Axios, 96% of small business owners are now feeling the coronavirus shock. Fifty-one percent of businesses will simply be able to keep working for the next three months or less, while only 13% are positive regarding their emergency procedures to stay on-track. Seeing as it's been over two months, small businesses might not last in this pandemic.

The truth is, hoarding toilet paper, eggs and milk isn't going to save us. We don't know exactly what will, yet. But crowding stores to buy these items, lining up outside for extended periods, and leaving your home will hurt more than running out of eggs. Stay home.



## Middle-ground voters should be represented in politics

Jessica Cabrera  
Web Editor

American politics have become increasingly polarized since the 2016 elections. Regardless of political affiliation, it's clear that both parties are proposing policies that are radically different from the system by which we currently operate.

We are stuck in a perpetual gridlock, constantly battling over legislature without any real results. Regardless of the growing extremes in the United States, people excluding themselves from the political process makes this situation much worse than it needs to be.

Increasing polarization is especially harmful to young voters. Those who will be voting for the first time in 2020 are forced to conform strictly to a single ideology, even if they're still forming their opinions. That decision is not enticing to most citizens, and they instead opt out of voting during

elections.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 18- 29-year-olds had the lowest voting rates in the 2016 elections, with a 46.1% turnout. In comparison, citizens aged 65 and older had a voting rate of 70.9%. This is a split responsibility between parties and voters, but it is clear that only voters can take initiative.

There is no excuse for people to be uninformed about political happenings — the news is filled with politics, and they surround us. Despite the popular idea that "politics don't matter," it absolutely does. The government is relevant in every aspect of our daily lives — federal student aid, basic safety requirements, entitlement programs and other essentials are all controlled by government.

The loud minority of people who support highly polarized candidates control the American government. In the current administration, white supremacists and racists have been

given a platform to spread hatred. It continues the cycle of citizens feeling left out of government decisions, and it strengthens American apathy toward politics.

Some people will go to vote but will feel like their vote doesn't matter. The government certainly does not encourage voting as much as it should, but that is not a reason to not vote in elections. Even if a single vote is out of millions of people, small numbers can add up to something great.

It's no longer simply a matter of political division, as personal relationships are also deeply affected. Families split between Democrat and Republican struggle to maintain healthy relationships. Despite family being one of the most influential factors in determining party alignment, extreme differences in political beliefs raise tensions within families. There is truth to the fact that bringing up politics during the holidays can easily sour the atmosphere of a family party.

Restoring trust in the government is no easy feat. According to a Gallup poll from September 2019, 55% of people had little to no trust in our executive branch. Instead of staying silent during political scandals, citizens should inform themselves and become the ones holding politicians accountable for their actions. If larger masses of people moved against a politician, there would be more pressure for other politicians to express disapproval and deliver punishment.

Regardless of the fact that American politics appear hopeless to most citizens, it is still important for people to become involved. More often than not, there will be a party with which a slim majority of your opinions will fit. It is possible to sway polarization by shaping public opinion. Without political participation, the future of politics is just going to become more polarized. The lack of participation leaves a lack of room for complaints. To be heard, it starts with voting in the next election.



# School's out for ... ever?

## But the parks are still open



Jocelynn Estrada

## Socializing in the time of COVID-19

### Your social life isn't worth suffering and millions of deaths

A raging spring break is often seen as a rite of passage for many American college students, and this year was no different. Fresh-faced 21-year-olds crowded around beaches and drank beverages that tasted like sweet freedom. High schoolers met friends in the park to play basketball, or they snuck out at night to make questionable decisions in the name of a good time.

Now, America leads the nations for coronavirus cases, and it's no surprise why.

With more than 400,000 cases, we have around one-fourth of the world's total sick population, even beating out the country where the virus first appeared four long months ago. We've become the epicenter of a deadly pandemic because we indulge on simple impulses that lead to complicated catastrophes.

As a result, scientists have implemented social distancing guidelines, recommending that gatherings be limited to 10 people or fewer, with people kept six feet apart from each other at all times. An alarming amount of Americans, young and old, have been ignoring these instructions for frivolous reasons.

Those youngins risked their lives for an event that happens every year. They could've made the same drinks, spoken to the same people and had the same good times, all from the comfort of their own homes. Instead, they decided to be reckless, putting themselves,

**“Every time anyone leaves their house, they should picture sitting in a hospital bed with aches, a fever and an elephant sitting on their chest.”**

their parents, their grandparents, immunocompromised relatives and those of all their friends at risk.

While the local governments certainly should've closed the beaches, and parents should stop shoveling their children into sports leagues, the fault still lies with those who thought themselves invincible. The youth are not invincible. According to the Nevada Health Response, as of April 6, 8% of Nevada patients were 19 years old or younger. Another 15% were between 20 to 29 years old. This isn't just an old person's disease; 75% of all Nevada patients were under 60 years old.

Every time anyone leaves their house, they should picture sitting in a hospital bed with aches, a fever and an elephant sitting on their chest. They should picture the worried expressions on their loved ones' faces, as they panic for them and for themselves. They should script out the conversations they'll hear from overwhelmed healthcare workers,

“Who should we let die?” They should imagine their own burial and those of the strangers they encountered on the street, as their families grieve alone because funerals are too risky. They should consider whether or not all those lives are worth it.

Every time anyone leaves the house, it's inherently selfish and careless. While there are valid reasons to expose yourself to an infected world, which is why “essential businesses” remain open, people aren't leaving their houses for essentials.

They're leaving to attend small parties; what if your friend's brother's boss's daughter is a doctor, and the virus carried through all of them to you? They're leaving to stock up on toilet paper; employees at Costco and grocery stores are getting sick and dying, and though they could have spread the virus to you, you could have spread the virus to them — their lives matter too. They're leaving to spite the “shady” government, prove that they're untouchable or forget their woes that they're unwittingly carrying and spreading to everyone within their vicinity. Frankly, they're leaving because they're too egotistical not to.

There may be a fine line between want and need, but there isn't one between altruism and greed. So we beg you, the students and parents of Spring Valley, to practice social distancing.

Save the world — stay at home.

## GRIZZLIES OF SPRING VALLEY

What are you doing during quarantine?



“I feel very bored without being in school. School was a way for me to help waste time throughout the day with my friends, teachers, and also getting an education so it's like doing two things at once. But it's weird, not being able to see my friends in person instead of it being on a screen or a video camera.”

—Junior Brysen Mortensen



“During quarantine, I'm working at the diesel shop since we didn't close, and I'm also keeping up with my school work as much as possible. I try to keep social interaction through gaming with my friends, and FaceTime calls definitely help.”

—Senior Chloe Wiley



“I happen to be fortunate enough to have a home gym, so I have been exercising daily and taking the time to read. Being out of school felt nice at first and was a relaxing break. But about 3 to 4 days in, quarantine got old, and I am ready to go back to school.”

—Junior Evan Simmons



“During my quarantine, I'm spending time bettering myself, my hobbies and trying to stay in touch with my close friends. I miss them a lot, and it really makes me think about how lucky we were to see each other every day.”

—Sophomore Trinity Booth



# First student-produced show canceled

Isabel Hillers

Co-Editor-in-Chief

For Technical Director and IB senior Zoe McCracken, "The Laramie Project" was her project, two years in the making. McCracken first planned to produce the show as a sophomore for her IB Personal Project, and she has been working with a team of her peers to create the performance for her senior year.

The show was scheduled to run April 23 to 25. McCracken admits that she struggled to cope with the cancellation of her project. To her, the show went beyond the theatre and touched on real community issues.

"This whole year had a theme of social issues, and talking about hate crimes is something that hadn't been done," McCracken said, referring to Spring Valley's performance of "Eat (It's Not About Food)." "With this show, I think it would've opened conversations and allowed people to see a different perspective of hate crimes and how one affects an entire community."

"The Laramie Project" follows a theatre troupe in its efforts to document the aftermath of Matthew Shepard's murder in the town of Laramie, Wyoming. Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student, was taken to a remote location and beaten and left to die by two men who claimed Shepard came onto them. The plot centers on the residents of Laramie and their experiences following such a monumental crime.

The show would have made Spring Valley history as the first entirely student-produced show at the school.

"I feel like it is important to have a student run show to move forward," Theatre teacher Anthony Coffield said. "Every year our theatre programs does something new, something that makes our program special. Plus, this gives our students the ability to apply what they have learned through the years and show their peers the abilities that they have."

McCracken also felt her project would bring something new to the table, and she tried to get as many students involved as she could.

"We had over 30 students involved, and that extends to their families and all of the support we received from Mr. Coffield in trying to put this together," McCracken said. "To have it stopped so suddenly was just weird. It meant a lot that I had the opportunity to produce this show after designing it my sophomore year."

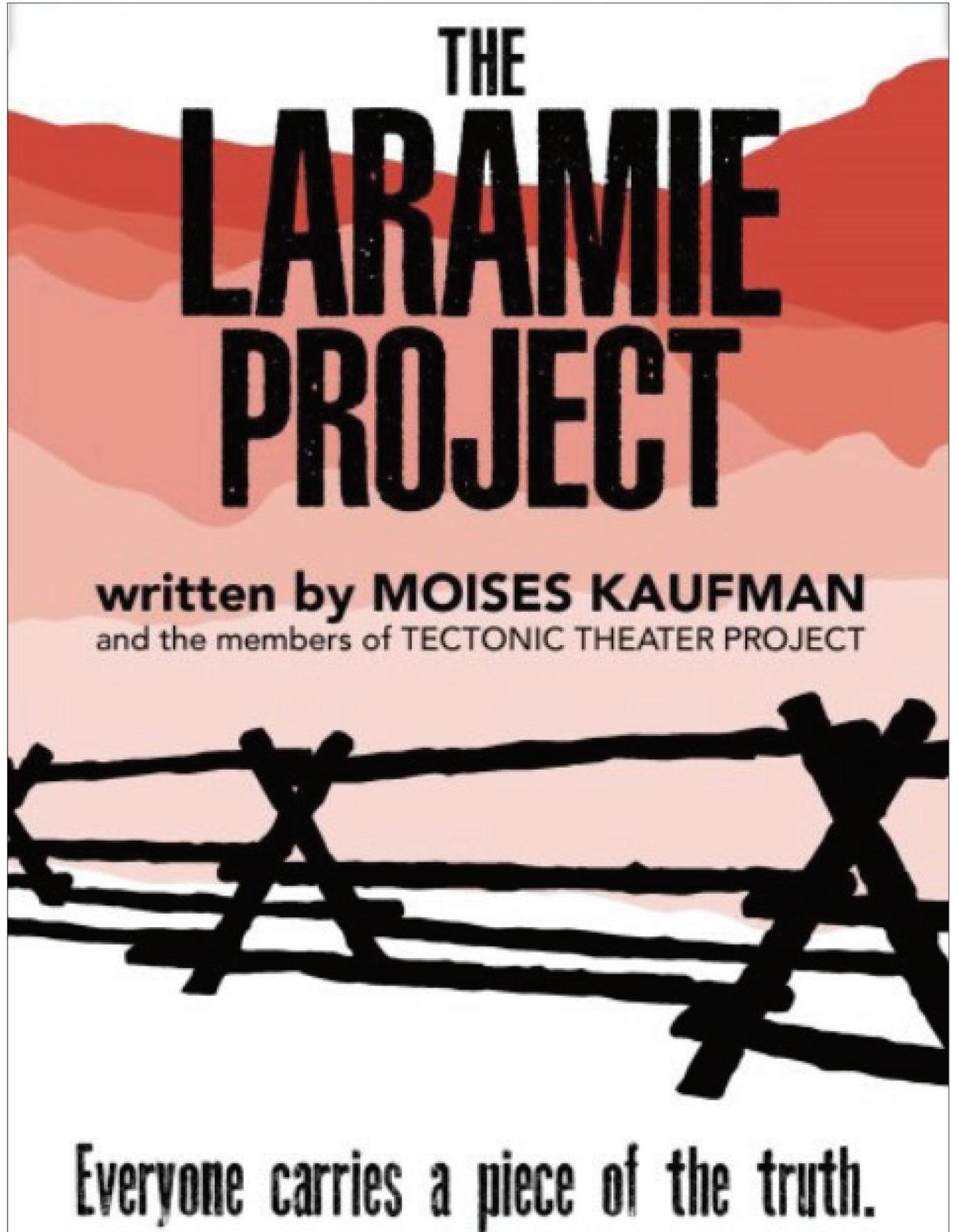
The show's cancellation was difficult for the cast and crew to accept, many said. But some say it hits even harder now, with nothing but time to think during the closure.

Senior and foreign exchange student Seina Honda felt excited to be in his first play. He came to study in the United States so he could practice English and one day become an actor in America.

"When I heard the play would be canceled, simply I was very sad," Honda said. "I'm supposed to go back to Japan on June 1, so this is going to be the first and the last time getting in a play in [an] American high school. I actually ... practiced my lines and my bad pronunciation every night until two [a.m.] since I got in the play to get a little bit better."

In the short time "The Laramie Project" was in session, students still found a silver lining in the fact that their jobs provided a major learning opportunity.

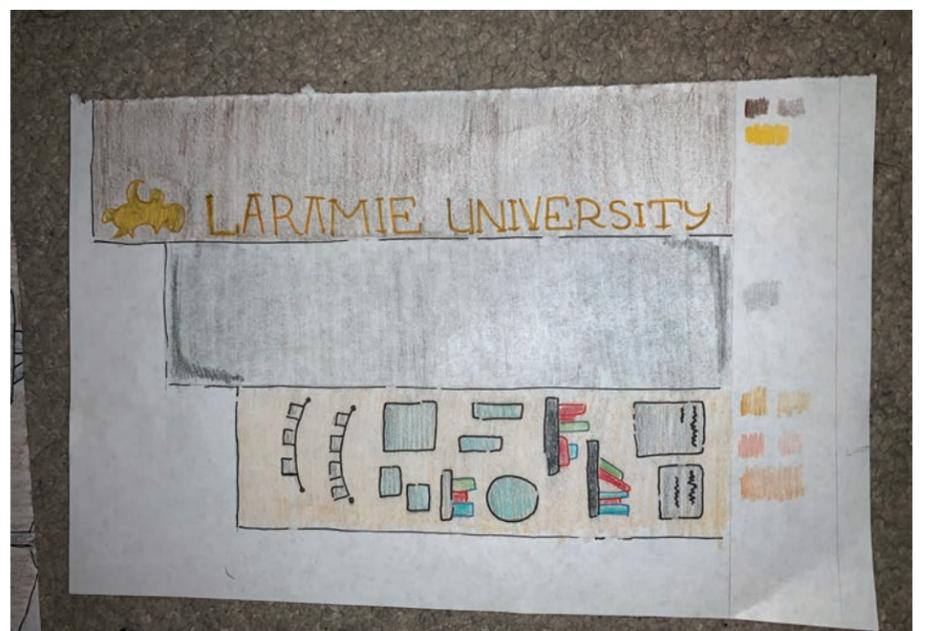
"This project meant a lot to me because it had an important story to tell," said Selestina Segura, the assistant stage manager. "Laramie" would have been



Courtesy of Tectonic Theater Project

the biggest project I ever worked on. ... I learned what it's like to be part of a creative team. I was honestly scared that I would mess something up, but I had my great team to help me along the way." Still, actors and tech share the same disappointment as McCracken, who has worked in theatre for four years now. Everyone remained hopeful for the future of the show despite the cancellation of after-school activities, but once school was canceled completely, the plan seemed to fall apart, according to McCracken.

"I don't think I've really accepted it yet," McCracken said. "I'm hoping there's a solution out there, and I just haven't figured it out yet. I've definitely been emotional about it, and nobody outside of theatre really understands why I'm so attached. But part of me also wants to focus on my family right now, and if canceling this show and school helps to keep everyone safe and healthy — then that's the most important thing."



Courtesy of Zoe McCracken

As part of senior Zoe McCracken's final IB project, she worked with other students to build the first student-produced show in Spring Valley history. Students were responsible for all components of the performance including set design. Pictured above is a set the cast designed, but won't be able to use.



# Businesses adapt for to meet quarantine demands

Ilana Rockwell  
Entertainment Editor

Netflix Party is an easy-to-install free Chrome extension that allows groups of people to watch Netflix shows and movies simultaneously. The application is a costless and uncomplicated service that is especially fun for people who are quarantined and isolated. It's a bridge between people in some of the darkest, loneliest times, and it takes fewer than five minutes to set up.

The extension takes three steps to install and use. The user simply downloads the extension from the Chrome store, then opens Netflix and chooses a title. Then they click on the "NP" logo in the right-hand corner of their screen, which provides them with a link to share with friends. Users can customize their nicknames and logos and chat on the right side of the screen while

the movie or show is playing. If the host of the party does not select exclusive control, then any member can pause or play the show for everyone as well.

Netflix Party works surprisingly well, considering the fact that the host of the party is essentially streaming their screen to everyone else in the party. Although a slight lag or glitch isn't unheard of, the extension's benefits far outweigh its downfalls, and the occasional slipup is entirely forgivable.

The extension allows friends and family to enjoy Netflix together without the hassle of loud FaceTimes that often overbear the sound of the computer, or attempting to synchronize the experience over text. There's also a chat box on the side, so viewers can talk while watching with ease.

Overall, Netflix

Party is an easy way to connect with those you love most while you can't see them in person, and there's not a single reason not to take the time to install it.

### Food Delivery

In quarantine and self-isolation, finding good meals has become increasingly difficult. Grocery stores are completely raided, and most non-essential restaurants are closed or limited, at the very least. Many chains have closed their doors to in-restaurant dining. In the wake of such unusual times, food delivery services, such as UberEats, Postmates, DoorDash and GrubHub, have stepped up to try to help.

Many small businesses struggle to get business because very few customers are comfortable with leaving their isolation, but UberEats has partnered with

over 100,000 independent restaurants to waive all delivery fees. "As more people stay home, local restaurants need your business more than ever," their app says. While the app will still charge service fees, the deal can often save customers up to \$10.

Other apps for delivery have also provided various deals, and many restaurant chains have offered deals specific to them to discount meals or waive charges.

While many may be concerned regarding the handling of food from the drivers, all of the apps are encouraging no-contact delivery. Drivers leave the tightly packaged food at the door and alert the customers only after they have gotten back into their cars.

The various promotions and services are efficient ways to stay healthy and full during times when eating out isn't possible.

For a full list of services, check out: [thegrizzlygrowler.org](http://thegrizzlygrowler.org)

## FOOD DELIVERY SPECIAL OFFERS

Many chains are offering discounts and free services so people can stay safe and fed while practicing social distancing.

- BURGER KING**  
Through Grubhub and Postmates, Burger King is offering free delivery on orders of \$10 or more. They are also offering two free kid's meals with the purchase of an adult meal.
- THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY**  
Through DoorDash, The Cheesecake Factory is offering free delivery on orders of \$15 or more. They also provide a free slice of cheesecake to any orders of pickup over \$30 with the code **FREESLICE**.
- CHIPOTLE**  
Orders of \$10 or more are eligible for free delivery from the Chipotle app. Free delivery is also available through Postmates with the code **CHIPTOLEME**.
- DENNY'S**  
Denny's takes \$5 off of orders of \$20 or more with the code and offers free delivery with the code **5OFF20**.
- DUNKIN' DONUTS**  
Through GrubHub, Dunkin' Donuts offers free delivery and \$3 off of all orders.
- KFC**  
KFC offers free delivery for all food ordered through Grubhub up to April 26. No promo code needed.
- LITTLE CAESER'S**  
Little Caesar's is also offering free delivery for all orders on their app through April 5.
- POPEYES**  
Popeyes is offering free delivery for all orders from their website and app for a limited time.
- SUBWAY**  
Through UberEats, Postmates, DoorDash, Grubhub, and Seamless, delivery is free with the code **SUBWAYNOW**.
- TACO BELL**

## CHANGES TO NETFLIX

APRIL 2020

WHAT'S COMING	WHAT'S LEAVING
The Matrix Trilogy	The Longest Yard
Nailed It! Season 4	A Cinderella Story
The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Friday the 13th
Sherlock Holmes	Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events
The Social Network	Scream 2 + 3
Taxi Driver	The Shawshank Redemption
Despicable Me	Space Jam
The Artist	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
Djanjo Unchained	Spy Kids
Lethal Weapon Series	



## SPORTS COMMENTARY

# Now more than ever, we need sports

Derek Raridon & Austin Davison  
Sports Editor & Staff writer

The power that sports holds is unique, as it is competitive and heavily rooted in communities. After major events that resulted in a large loss of life or a major disaster, people have historically come together through the practice of sports. But with the coronavirus putting an end to sports seasons across the world, people cannot heal as fast without the sense of community that sports bring. A system where professional leagues can resume play must be made in order for the country to unite and heal the nation. The best example of this comes from right here with the Las Vegas Golden Knights.

After the events of the Route 91 shooting on Oct. 1, 2018, which left 58 dead and more than 500 injured, Golden Knights players donated blood to help those injured, even though many players had only been residents of the city for a few months. During their first few games, the team held memorials for the victims.

Throughout the entire inaugural season, the Golden Knights gave people something to cheer for with an amazing performance, making it all the way to the fifth game of the Stanley Cup Finals, just falling to the Washington Capitals. Their performance gave people a reason to support the team and unified the people of Las Vegas after such a terrible tragedy.

Outside of the sport itself, Deryk Engelland, a Vegas Golden Knights defenseman, began his charity named "Engelland's Vegas Born Heroes Foundation" which finds members of the Las Vegas community and donates sums of money to their organizations or the people directly. The people who are often recognized by the charity are law enforcement, first responders and other local heroes.

Another noticeable example of the unifying power of sports is with the New York Yankees, when George W. Bush threw the first pitch only weeks after the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Thousands of Americans gathered at the arena, and millions watched live on television as the president threw the pitch, reassuring the American population that they were all in the fight together, a stance that Americans rallied behind at the time. The sport gave the scared American population hope and strength because it was the first time the sport of baseball returned to New York City since the attacks on 9/11.



FILE photo

The Spring Valley football team kneels down for a prayer before a game, just following the Route 91 shooting that killed 58 people. The team also held a moment of silence before the game.

The Yankees played throughout the rest of the season, making it to the World Series. Facing the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Yankees ended their season in defeat after game seven, after a 3-3 series tie. The ability for the Yankees to provide such a long season and series for the fans in New York gave the people a strong sense of unity after the world-shaking event that happened in their city that same year.

Another major instance comes from Boston, when in 2013, the 116th Boston Marathon was bombed by the terrorist organization Al-Qaeda. After the attack, the city of Boston was devastated, and one of the major ways that the city recovered was through holding another race, with the recovered injured runners from the initial race, finishing. This was symbolic of the struggle that they endured during that bloody day and, in turn, inspired the healing city.

The Olympic Games have been a historic display of national unity behind sports. One of the most famous examples of this national unity at the Olympic Games was between

the United States of America and the Soviet Union in 1980. The Soviet Olympic Hockey team had been gold medalists in every one of their attempts since their conception in 1956. This was until the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympics, where the US and USSR met in the semi-finals in New York. Dubbed the "Miracle on Ice," the US overcame all odds and defeated the Soviet team 4-3, and then the Finnish team at a score of 4-2.

During this time in the United States, the nation was fractured politically due to the Iranian hostage and oil crises, as well as the Cold War nearing its height. The defeat of the Soviet Team by the United States showed not only the citizens of the US, but the world, that people can come together and achieve the impossible. Also, the people of the United States rallied behind the victory and celebrated their superiority over the Soviet Union, strengthening national identity.

That isn't to say that there isn't unity in outlets such as music and movies. But sports are based around competition, and people of cities unite to defeat other cities

in athletic tournaments. This itself gives a reason for unification rather than just for enjoying an art due to the possibility of both loss and victory.

Sadly, in one of the worst pandemics in recent history that was caused by the coronavirus, the sports world has been suspended with no sign of them coming back any time soon. Of course, it is reasonable why: The leagues want to stop the spread of the virus.

But now, the country cannot heal at the same rate as Boston, New York or Las Vegas did with their sports teams due to the suspension. The country needs their teams back as soon as possible.

In order to see this through, the professional leagues need to set up a system where teams can continue to play and not have to worry about anything to do with the virus. Ban fans from being in the arena, or prevent reporters and journalists from entering the locker room — anything. We just need the one thing that can heal and unite the country during the worst pandemic in the 21st century.



## Sports leadership class test-drives first virtual classes

Derek Raridon  
Sports Editor

Twenty-six students in the Sports Leadership program participated in the school's first virtual class discussion on Google Meets on Tuesday. Members of the men's and women's basketball, bowling, cheer, flag football, track and field, and volleyball teams exchanged views on what they learned about the adversity the University of Oregon women's basketball team faced during their 2018-19 season and how they planned to "Rise Above."

"I thought it went very well," Sports Leadership teacher Billy Hemberger said. "It took a little bit of me figuring out [how to run the seminar]. I thought it was very controlled; we got a lot of participation. It

was interesting and successful."

Hemberger said he decided to do the virtual seminar after Principal Tam Larnerd asked him to test out different video conferencing apps.

"I picked [the topic] because it was dealing with adversity and figuring out how to overcome adversity," Hemberger said. "Obviously, it's very relevant to what we're going through right now, and as I always say, sports is a simulation of life. So, it was kind of a way to talk about going through what we're going through without using the coronavirus."

During the test run he scheduled on Monday, Hemberger set standards, like the three-before-me rule (three people must talk before the current speaker can talk again). He also asked for his volunteers to complete

a document that he said would help them prepare for the next day and set up how the discussion was going to run (everyone was to be muted until they are picked to talk, anyone who wanted to talk needed to type 'next' in the chat).

After the test run, he split the 26 volunteers into two groups, each with their own set of questions made by the students and picked by Hemberger based on the four videos.

"Coach H did a phenomenal job at leading the conversation," varsity cheerleader Cody Funk said. "He did an amazing job with setting it up and getting participants for the virtual discussion."

Larnerd said he was impressed with both how Hemberger conducted the seminar and the participation from the students.

"I think it was a perfect example of what great things can happen if a teacher takes the time to plan accordingly prior to the seminar," Larnerd said. "[Hemberger] communicated clear directions regarding online protocols (muted, typing next, snaps, etc). I was thoroughly impressed."

Hemberger said he believes that thanks to his efforts and the 26 students who participated in the seminar, teachers will begin to have online classes and lectures through Google Meets and Zoom during the school closure caused by COVID-19.

"I feel like, as long as the other teachers are as well prepared as Coach H, the discussion will work," varsity basketball guard Garrison Freeman said. "But for certain subjects like math, it would be hard to have a discussion for classes like those."

# Athletics: A luxury of the past

*District cancels spring sports amid coronavirus fears*

Derek Raridon  
Sports Editor

Athletes are feeling the effects of a sport-free spring, both locally and nationally, after the Clark County School District announced that all athletic activities are canceled on March 12, due to the spread of the coronavirus. The decision came after the sports world was rocked by the cancellations of seasons and tournaments, both on the professional and collegiate level.

"When I first heard the spring season was canceled, I was initially in disbelief," sophomore swimmer Stella Gunjevic said. "I knew that the district was taking the coronavirus seriously, but I didn't think they would go this far in fighting it."

Many spring athletes, such as Gunjevic, expressed sadness at the news that their seasons were over. But according to senior softball player Chryshelle Abril-Ryan, the cancellation affects one group of Grizzlies the most: seniors.

For many, this season was their last year playing, and Abril-Ryan, like many others, broke down when she heard the news.

"As a senior, I'm really heartbroken over this," Abril-Ryan said. "My senior year has been something I've been looking forward to for years. I don't think I've been more excited for anything in my life than I have been for this season to start. It just feels like everything has been taken from me."

Senior baseball player Chase Rodriguez also had a similar reaction when he heard the news.

"My initial reaction was just simply sadness," Rodriguez said. "Losing the most important baseball season of my life so far was really heartbreaking when [I] heard."

The district's decision has also impacted possible college scouting opportunities for spring athletes. Many upperclassman athletes, like Abril-Ryan, have not applied to colleges yet and hoped this

**"As a senior, I'm really heartbroken over this. My senior year has been something I've been looking forward to for years... It just feels like something has been taken from me."  
— Senior softball player Chryshelle Abril-Ryan**

season would help them get to the next level.

"I think [the decision] can greatly affect college scouting," Abril-Ryan said. "A lot of people don't get scouted or signed to a school until their senior year. So, if there's no season, when can these college coaches see these kids?"

Other athletes said that they will lose time to develop their in-game skills, which will make it difficult to progress to the next level, due to the cancelation. Freshmen, like volleyball player Yunus Schersel, are now expected to move up to junior varsity next year with no high school game experience.

"Personally, [I] have been training with things like conditioning and small, open-gym practices since about November or December," Schersel said. "I've gone out of my way to go to volleyball gyms up north simply to go practice and perform my best."

Junior pole vaulter Evan Simmons agreed, saying that the district is not justified in canceling the season.

"If you can show me that there's been a case among a singular student and that it may have spread to other students, then maybe you can see that for a cause of concern," Simmons said.

"The coronavirus isn't

worrisome to kids because we all have stronger immune systems that match up to the older generation based on statistics. We feel that officials might be more worried about their own health over a whole generation."

The decision to cancel the athletic activities was made after all professional and college sports organizations either postponed or canceled their tournaments. Even the major tournaments, such as the NCAA March Madness and College World Series tournaments were canceled on the same day. Many, including Abril-Ryan, believe the decisions, which were started by the NBA, were the catalyst for the district to end spring sports.

"I think [the NBA's decision] played a great factor in [the district's] decision," Ryan said. "I don't think if they didn't cancel the pros or college sports, they wouldn't even be thinking about canceling our

