



Trio of juniors wins national award for designing application

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Spring sports return after cancellation of 2020 season

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Robbinsdale Cooper High School

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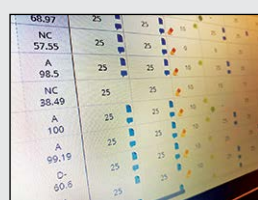


Students prepare for annual IB tests

More than 100 Cooper juniors and seniors will be taking tests across multiple subject areas between April 30 and May 20

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Grading system benefits Hawks

Although some students might exploit the fact that 50 percent is the lowest score on unfinished assignments, the policy gives other students hope

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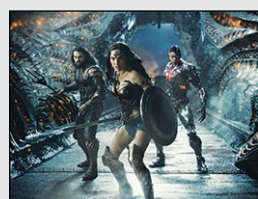


Theater show provides laughs

Lights, Camera, Action!, which debuted on March 13, features a Cooper cast performing online in a show viewers can still stream

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Snyder cut brings justice to *League*

Zach Snyder's *Justice League* is an expanded, revised version of original theatrical release, which was a commercial and critical failure

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Sports



Basketball team has great season

The Hawks boys basketball squad fell one game short of the state tournament after a regular season record of 15-3

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U.S. REP. ILHAN OMAR VISITS HAWK GOVERNMENT CLASS

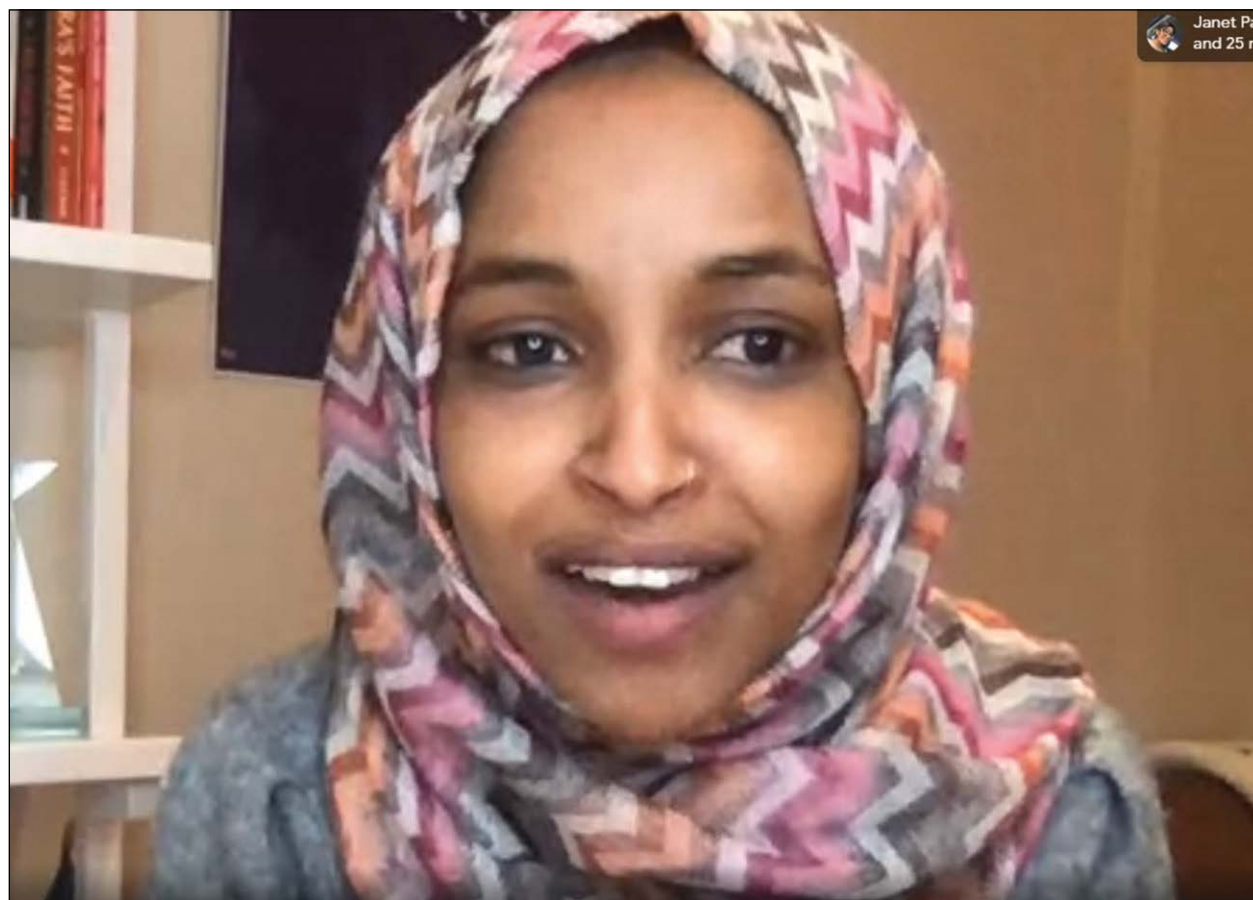


Photo by DERRICK WILLIAMS

Helping make U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar's appearance possible was the fact that Cooper was still in distance learning.

By MAX REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

Students in Ms. Huebsch's seventh period government class spoke to U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar via a Google Meet on February 18.

According to Huebsch,

Omar's staff reached out to the Robbinsdale School District office to express interest in visiting a classroom virtually at Cooper. Head Principal Mr. Herman forwarded that request to the government teachers and Huebsch was able to have Omar visit her

seventh period class.

In preparation for Omar's visit, Huebsch had students learn about the legislative branch of the government.

"I had students identify their congressional districts and look up their current elected officials in order to

know whether or not she is their federal representative," Huebsch said.

Huebsch also had students in her seventh period class identify issues that were important to them and researched Omar's positions on those issues.

Students in Ms. Huebsch's course had a chance to hear from, and ask questions of, the local congresswoman

Huebsch said the visit helped her students understand more about who Omar is and what role she plays in the government.

"The students absolutely benefited from [Omar's] visit," Huebsch said. "It was especially great because it was such a small group of people in which she answered questions directly."

Jaxson Ratliff (12), a student in Huebsch's seventh hour class, said he enjoyed the chance to hear from Omar.

"I know I benefited from her visit because it showed that politicians aren't just the people who we vote for, but people we can relate to as a whole," Ratliff said.

Ratliff added that Omar's visit gave him more perspective on what life is like for a politician, and, more specifically, Omar herself.

"It's amazing what she's been able to accomplish," Ratliff said. "Talking to her was a really positive experience for me."

Huebsch said if she had another opportunity to have her students speak with an elected official, she would do so without question.

"I would welcome any elected official into my government class," Huebsch said.

Andrea Tribble named Athena Award winner

The annual award recognizes an outstanding female athlete from each of the 50 Minneapolis area city, suburban and private schools

By YORDANOSE MULAT
Quill staff writer

Cooper named basketball player Andrea Tribble (12) as the winner of the 2020-2021 Athena Award on March 5. The Athena Award recognizes one outstanding senior female athlete from each of the 50 Minneapolis metropolitan area city, suburban and private schools in order to honor their achievements in one or several sports.

"It's very exciting and I'm very happy to have received this award. I'm grateful that my hard work and dedication on and off the court is appreciated by those around me," Tribble said.

Nominating Tribble for the Athena Award was basketball coach Mr. Simmons. "[Tribble] is reliable, consistent and always engaged with her teammates," he said. "She works with the younger players outside of practice to understand what they can do to improve. She demonstrates what it means to be a student athlete."

The process through which the Athena Award winner was selected took several weeks. After the senior student athletes were nominated, they had several steps to complete.

"We all had to complete a form stating our athletic and scholastic accomplishments, along with any community service," Tribble said. "After winning the award, I had to submit another form to the Athena committee with similar prompts and also a head shot and in-game photo."

In a typical year, the Athena Award winners are recognized at a luncheon in early May. However, due to COVID, last year's luncheon was canceled and this year's may be canceled as well.

"Due to COVID, there was not an in-school ceremony. There is usually a luncheon with Athena winners from all over, but as of right now there is no update to if that is happening or not. Hopefully, COVID restrictions continue to soften up and we're able to safely have a proper ceremony," Tribble said.

Although she has joined the Cooper track team this spring, Tribble's primary sport throughout high school has been basketball.

"The thing I've enjoyed most about playing basketball is all the connections I've made and all the lessons playing has taught me," she said.

One of the biggest moments during Tribble's high school basketball career came during ninth grade.

"My favorite memory is winning a state championship my freshman year,"



Photo by MS. THURSTON

Andrea Tribble was part of Cooper's state-winning girls basketball team.

Tribble said.

Outside of her interest in sports, Tribble said she enjoys reading and getting involved in the community.

"I get a great sense of pride being a part of constructive conversations and events that bring people together," she said.

ATHENA AWARD continues on page 6

Robbinsdale approves annual audit of district finances

State law requires that all school districts go through an external examination of their financial processes, actions

By SANDY VUE
Quill staff writer

The Robbinsdale School District approved the annual external audit of its finances at a school board meeting on February 1.

According to the district's Executive Director of Finance Mr. Hein, there were several positive remarks on certain areas of the audit. One of them is that the district's general fund saw its total balance increase by \$1.6 million during the last year, which means the balance is now positive. The audit also reported that there were no deficiencies in the district's control over financial reporting. In addition, the district won the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials for last year's financial report.

The annual audit is an examination of the district's financial information. Per Minnesota law, all school districts are required to have a financial audit performed each year. MMKR is the firm that performed the audit of the Robbinsdale School District.

"MMKR follows practices outlined in a guide that is authored and updated each year by the Minnesota State Auditor's Office," Hein said in a released statement. "They review internal financial and accounting controls to ensure processes are working properly and report on any areas needing improvement."

According to Hein's statement, the district was issued an "unmodified opinion" by MMKR, which is "the highest opinion they can give."

One area for improvement cited in the audit relates to nutrition services. The audit found that some goods and services that are suspended or banned from

being in contracts involving the spending of federal program funds were not documented. As a result, the district took steps to check and document the list of vendors who are suspended to correct this problem.

At the school board meeting during which the report was reviewed, a representative from MMKR spoke about the state auditor's petition report. This petition asked the state auditor to examine the books, accounts and affairs of the Robbinsdale School District from 2015 to 2019. The MMKR representative stated that the state auditor did not find anything that wasn't being properly addressed by the district.

"The findings of this report should give comfort to the petitioners, as no deep systemic problems were

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