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Pg. 5 Seniors Favorite Teachers



Pg. 11 NBA Playoffs

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Saegertown students compete in 2026 Alumni art competition

Kaiya Levesque

Social Media Intern

Every year, Saegertown's Art 1 class holds an Alumni contest. This contest is where any student in Mrs. Granat's Art 1 class competes to make a cover for the banquet program and win a prize. The Alumni competition is a great contest that is both competitive but in a friendly way, while students get to show off their artistic talents.

This year, there were two winners, plus an additional winner for a button design. These winners are Luke Young, Anna Bradshaw, and Kaiya Levesque. The winners are chosen by the Saegertown High School Alumni Association team.

The SHS Alumni Association Facebook page

says, "We selected their artwork from many great submissions for our banquet program covers and a button design. Each received a monetary award from Membership Secretary Beth Sipple."

Winner Kaiya Levesque, one of the winners, says, "I was honestly surprised I was chosen as a winner. I don't really know if I deserved it, as there were others that

were amazing, but I am proud." And the other winner, Luke Young says, "It feels great to win, I didn't realize my art potential being a first year art one student. I'm definitely proud as my skills with my drawing allowed me to win. I feel I deserved to win as I put hard work and dedication into the drawing. I think what I could've done differently is make the letters look

cooler." While another student, Priscilla Rash admitted, "I do wish I had been the winner, as I think mine was amazing and I had put in a lot of effort..."

While other students might be disappointed, they still had amazing art. Secretary Beth Sipple said, "Everyone's art was amazing, and we had to vote multiple times to choose a winner."

Other students who

had participated in the alumni were Mrs. Granat's third period Art 1 class, which had a few students like Destiny DeMatteo, McKayla Parsons, Mason Galbraith, and many more who participated, while her fifth period Art 1 class, which had the two winners and students like Claire Harrison, Priscilla Rash, Nicholas Peters, Sutton Trzeciak, and a few other students who entered. Everyone had phenomenal art and all stood a great chance at winning. The Alumni contest will be around in the future upcoming years, and more amazing artists will participate and have a chance to win.

Admissions for the Alumni are Members at \$10 for alumni. They also offer memberships at \$5 for friends of the association and \$1 for students.



Photo Courtesy Of Alumni Association

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Ancient Roman shipwreck found in Italy

Lincoln Flowers
Panther paw Editor

Roman ships hold a wealth of knowledge of ancient history. With the discovery of an exceptionally well preserved Roman ship, some scientists are describing it as an ancient time capsule. The discovery has yielded incredible insights into late Roman history.

The 4th-century AD Roman ship was discovered off the coast



of Puglia, Italy, in the Ionian Sea. Puglia is typically referred to as

the heel of Italy's boot and connects to the Mediterranean Sea. According to local authorities, the shipwreck was found late last summer but was kept secret until recently for its safety. Maritime archaeologists say that the degree of preservation in this case makes the discovery exceptional.

During the first discovery of the ship, it was inspected and filmed using a remotely operated robot. As of today, the ship is still extremely guarded and protected. Local authorities kept the

find under wraps initially to develop a research strategy and protect the site from looting. With a new research strategy however, the ship is now under

constant surveillance by Italy's financial police, the Guardian di

Finanza.

The ship's hull and cargo clustering are said to be remarkably intact, making it one of the most scientifically significant marine discoveries of the ancient Mediterranean. It is estimated to be more than 20m long and was found roughly 525 feet below sea level. Furthermore the ship was found with hundreds of mostly intact amphora. Although the exact contents on this ship are unknown, amphora are typically ancient terracotta jars used to transport wine, olive oil, and the prized fermented fish sauce Garum.

Although it is currently unknown whether scientists will attempt to fully recover the site, this discovery is helping scientists to understand late Empire trade routes of the Roman Empire. Maritime archaeologists continue to preserve the salvaged amphora and other artifacts found throughout the shipwreck.

Ingredients

- Cookie Dough: 1 cup unsalted butter (softened), 1 cup granulated sugar, 1 cup brown sugar, 2 eggs, 2 tsp vanilla extract, 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 tsp baking soda, 1 tsp salt, and 1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs.
- Filling: 4 large milk chocolate bars (e.g., Hershey's) and 1 jar (7 oz) of marshmallow fluff/creme.



S'mores Bars

Instructions

1. Prep: Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C) and line a 9x13-inch baking pan with parchment paper.
2. Make the dough: Cream the butter and both sugars together. Add eggs and vanilla, then mix in flour, baking soda, salt, and graham cracker crumbs.
3. Layer the bottom: Press half of the cookie dough evenly into the bottom of your prepared baking pan.
4. Add the chocolate and marshmallow: Place the chocolate bars in a single layer over the dough. Slather the marshmallow fluff evenly over the chocolate.
5. Top it: Take the remaining cookie dough and break it into small pieces to scatter on top of the marshmallow layer. It does not need to cover the entire surface perfectly.
6. Bake: Bake for 30-35 minutes until the dough is golden brown and the marshmallow peaking through is toasted.
7. Cool: Let the bars cool completely to room temperature, then chill in the fridge for 20 minutes before slicing to ensure the gooey layers hold their shape.



The UK works to create a non-smoking generation

Aurora Petrie
Managing Editor

The UK Tobacco ban has been passed by the UK Parliament. The Tobacco and Vapes Bill is set to take effect on January 1, 2027. The main objective of this ban is to create a "smoke-free generation" by permanently banning the sale of tobacco products to anyone born on or after January 1, 2009. This law applies across

the UK (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) and increases the legal age for buying tobacco products by one year, every year.

The legislation, which applies across all four UK nations, will raise the legal smoking age by one year every single year; in practice, this means while an 18-year-old could legally buy cigarettes today, by the next year the minimum age will rise to 19 years old. This would in theory,

phase out all tobacco sales entirely as the population ages.

The Law specifically targets the sale of products including cigarettes, cigars, hand-rolled tobacco, and herbal smoking products—rather than criminalizing the act of smoking itself. Comprehensive restrictions on how vapes are promoted that mirror the strict rules that are already in place for tobacco. The product will also be regulated—ministers can now regulate vape

flavors, packaging and displays to make them less appalling to children. Vaping is also now prohibited in cars carrying children, as well as playgrounds, school gates, and hospital grounds.

To ensure compliance, the law introduces a new licensing scheme for retailers in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Trading Standards officers have been empowered to issue on-the-spot fines of £200 (\$235) for underage sales, while more

serious licensing breaches can lead to up to £2,500 or unlimited penalties through the court.

The measures taken by the government aims to prevent approximately 1.7 million people from smoking by 2075, significantly reducing the 80,000 annual deaths attributed to tobacco use in the UK.

Anthropics groundbreaking Claude Mythos makes major headlines

Lincoln Flowers
Panther paw Editor

Claude is an AI tool developed by the innovative company Anthropic. Their mission statement acknowledges the poten-

tial “vast impact” on the world. Furthermore, they include their philosophy of creating a balance between power and safety in their statement. Claude Mythos is one AI model that has recently been featured in major headlines involving topics of concern for

the model.

Claude Mythos was developed and unveiled in April 2026 by Anthropic. The AI model was created as a general-purpose large language model and surpassed previous models in coding, reasoning, and cybersecurity capabilities. Mythos was designed to handle complex, multi-step tasks autonomously and is deemed a research-grade frontier model.

AI has many use cases in day-to-day life, including learning paths, writing edits, customer service, and more. Anthropic sought to further develop these

uses and create a more powerful model for more demanding tasks, which led them to the development of Mythos AI. During a testing period in which the AI model was contained in a secure “sandbox” with no internet access, the model was given a task: attempt to escape the sandbox and contact the supervising researcher.

The model was not instructed to act maliciously, but to simply test the boundaries of its own containment. Mythos succeeded in its escape, and uninstructed, emailed a research member who was away from the project for

lunch. Additionally, the AI published the exploit to obscure yet public websites online completely unprompted.

Due to the advanced and unpredictable capabilities of the AI model, Anthropic decided to keep Mythos restricted. The model is now under the supervision of a vetted security program called Project Glasswing. Despite numerous safety precautions however, an unauthorized third party group gained access to Mythos code. The group now has unrestricted access to Anthropic's AI model Claude Mythos.



Photo Courtesy Of ArmorCode

Shooting at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner

Aurora Petrie
Managing Editor

“Cole Tomas Allen, 31, of Torrance, California, was arraigned today in U.S. District Court on charges from the April 25, 2026, shooting at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner,” announced the Department of Justice on April 27, 2026.

Allen is charged by complaint with one count of attempting to assassinate the President of the United States, transportation of a firearm & ammunition in interstate commerce with intent to commit a felony, and discharge of a firearm during a crime of violence.

“Cole Allen now faces the full weight of federal justice,” said Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche. “This alleged assassin was stopped because of the courage and professionalism of law enforcement officers who responded without hesitation by doing their jobs. Because of them, the President of the United States, administration officials and all attendees at the dinner were safe. Make no mistake: targeted attacks on our elected officials will never go unpunished.”

“The evidence is abundantly clear: Cole Tomas Allen traveled to Washington D.C. for the purpose of assassinating President Trump and targeting members of the Trump administration,” said FBI Director Kash Patel.

“Thanks to the heroic actions of our brave law enforcement partners who acted quickly and professionally, Allen did not succeed - and now, he will be held fully accountable. This FBI and our interagency partners have worked around the clock over the past two days investigating this case, and today's charges are the first step in justice being served and providing answers to the American people.”

At approximately 8:40 p.m., Allen approached a security checkpoint on the Terrace Level of the hotel leading to the hotel's ballroom. Allen ran through the magnetometer holding a long gun. U.S. Secret Service personnel assigned to the checkpoint heard a loud gunshot. A U.S.

Secret Service officer, who was wearing a ballistic vest, was shot once in the chest.

The Secret Service officer drew his service weapon and then fired multiple times at Allen, who fell to the ground and suffered minor injuries but was not shot. Officers subsequently arrested Allen, who was in possession of a 12-gauge pump action shotgun and a Rock Island Armory 1911 .38 caliber pistol.

Following his arrest, Allen had been advised of his Miranda rights and invoked his right to remain silent. Allen was then transported to Howard University Hospital for minor injuries and has since been released to law enforcement custody.



Saying goodbye to familiar faces: What seniors plans are after high school

Anna Bradshaw
Editor-In-Chief

As we approach the end of the school year, so too do we approach the end of a time of familiar faces once more. Graduation is coming, and so is the end of high school for our seniors at Saegertown.

High school is different to everyone, but one collective experience is the leaving behind of something familiar—something most people have known from around ages four to eighteen—to now the “real world” where you will learn many new things and perhaps even leave behind some of your past in favor of a better future.

But with this in mind, the

questions begin to arise. What will seniors miss the most about being out of high school?

“I’ll miss seeing my close friends everyday as we’ll all be parting ways and we won’t see each other until break,” Brooke Newmam stated, while Hailey Miller had a similar response. “Not having classes with my friends and seeing them every day will be hard.”

Another senior—Jace Digicamo—was asked his opinion on the question as well, to which he responded thoughtfully, “The thing I’ll miss most about high school is the last bit of childhood that still lingers. I’m always surrounded by the people who grew up with me, which comes with memories and times that only we understand. Moving on from here will be moving on from a

time when those memories were still within reach.”

“I’m not too sure what I’ll be doing the day I finish school. We’ll have senior trips, and graduation practices, etc. I’ll probably try to make the absolute best of the time I have left with my friends,” Digicamo continued, expressing his delight to continue fostering those friendships and memories with those important to him. Both Miller and Newman responded similarly,

“My immediate plan for the day I’m done with high school is to hang out with my friends and go on a little road trip.”

“I plan to enjoy the summer with my friends and family before I go off to college.”

Of course, what most family members are interested in is what seniors plan to do after

high school, education-wise. Digicamo and Miller both will be going to PennWest Edinboro and will major in nursing by the fall, while Digicamo is going for political science with a concentration in law. “I then expect to go to law school and earn my Juris Doctorate so I can practice law as a civil attorney,” he concluded.

Even as the world goes on and students become adults and eventually a part of the workforce, it is still good to maintain hobbies and fun activities to give yourself a break and do something you enjoy. With this in mind, these students were asked what that one hobby would be.

“I hope to continue using my art skills when I have free time as well as play volleyball and basketball,” Newman responded,

focusing on arts and sports. Miller, however, seemed more hopeful to continue something a bit more “heroic” than just a simple hobby.

“I hope to continue volunteering with the fire department and that I don’t get too busy and unable to do so.”

Finally, Digicamo’s response involved more theatrical arts: “I hope to continue practicing musical theater, specifically directing and managing.”

This is just a small glimpse into three seniors’ life plans and expectations, but everyone has their own path. We wish all seniors at Saegertown High School the best in their future endeavors and a happy final school year.



Photo Courtesy Of SHS Yearbook

The weeks leading up to graduation

Rorie Howles Mc-Beth
Social Media Editor

As the school year begins to wind down, the weeks leading up to graduation become some of the most memorable moments of senior year. There’s a mix of excitement, nostalgia, and anticipation as students realize that high school is finally coming to an end. Between major events,

traditions, and spending time with friends, these final weeks are filled with moments seniors will remember for years to come.

One of the biggest highlights is prom. After months of planning dresses, suits, transportation, and dinner reservations, prom night finally arrives. It’s more than just a dance, it’s a celebration of friendships and memories made throughout high school. Seniors gather to take pictures, laugh together, and

enjoy one of the last big events before graduation. For many students, prom feels like the official beginning of the countdown to the end of high school.

During these weeks, seniors also receive their caps and gowns, making graduation finally feel real. Walking into school and being called down to Mr. Greco’s room as a whole senior class to be handed our cap and gown making everything feel so real. As graduation approaches,

everyday moments suddenly feel more meaningful. Trying to make the most of the last bit of senior year as we can making the most out of the few weeks left. While everyone is excited for the future, there’s also a bittersweet feeling about leaving behind familiar routines, teachers, and friendships.

With the last bit of senior year left we’re trying to make the most of it. Trying to make as many memories as possible

but we know it’s coming to an end leaving behind the people we have known since kindergarten basically in the dust as we’re moving on in our lives going off the college, the work force or whatever else people are doing after graduation. Just so we know the class of 2026 we’re going to do amazing things in our lifetimes.

Most memorable: Seniors' recount their favorite teachers

Alegha Powell
Opinion Editor

When looking back through the years that you've been at Saegertown, especially as seniors, you look back through all the memories, all the friends, and all the teachers you had. It can be hard to face the question of "Who's your favorite?" But this year, many seniors braved the music and shared a story.

Many different students love many different teachers; some teachers were widely called upon, while others got a shout-out from only one student. Starting with teachers who have left us but stayed in the hearts of our seniors, we have Mr. Molnar, Mr. Horne, and Mrs. Houck (who still hasn't gone). Students have told personal and broad stories including the one from Brody Evans, whose favorite was Mr. Molnar, who tells that while, "My memory is too garbled during that time period to find a specific story, more so just his vibe in my memories" to explain why he's his favorite. Along with Evans, Noah Mattocks agrees upon Mr. Molnar as his favorite. When it comes to the case of Mr. Horne, a widely missed teacher, Brady Williams explains, "He

was always so witty and wise. He and I often had deep conversations that no one else cared to participate in," making Horne his favorite.

Now, our favorite retired teacher that still works is Mrs. Houck. There are the stories of three to tell what makes her part of the senior favorites. Chandler Shields thought, "her math classes were fun, and when Noah Shoop got a question wrong, he would get hit slightly by a ruler."

Megan Yurisc's story shows Mrs. Houck's love for her students goes outside of the school when "One time during cross country ,she brought me, Jace, and Cora ice cream, and we had to hide under the bleachers so the others didn't see." And lastly, Brooke Newman starts, "I don't really have favorites cause they are all so wonderful but I absolutely adore Mrs. Mook, Mrs. Peters, and Mrs. Houck because they are such wonderful women and I'm glad I got to learn from them," making Mrs. Houck, along with others, her favorite teacher.

A particularly moving story is told by Albany Greeley as she explains, "Mrs. Mook and Mrs. Peters are my favorite teachers because they truly believe in me. They always push me to do my best and never give up on

me, even when I doubted myself. Their encouragement made me realize I could achieve more than I thought possible. Whenever I needed someone to talk to, they were there for me, listening and offering advice. I trust them completely because they genuinely care about my success and well-being. Thanks to them, I've grown more confident and motivated to reach my goals." We definitely need more teachers that make students feel like this, and these two are excellent examples of that. Along with Greeley, Lauren Wright adds, "I don't have a favorite teacher, but some definitely stand out like Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Mook, and Mr. Greco." This only amplifies how amazing of an impact these teachers have made on our seniors. Furthermore, Sutton Trzeciak admires that Mr. Greco "is always happy and brings joy to people's lives."

When it comes to the case of Mr. Gjovik, there are an astonishing three seniors who came to justify him as the senior class favorite. One of which, Jaiden Ludwick, testifies this is "because his lectures were easy to understand." Another subject in this case who wished to stay anonymous shared his favorite time with Gjovik is "when he lets us watch 'Criminal Minds' every Friday!" The final witness, Ross

Triola, only commented that Gjovik was definitely his favorite but gave no reasoning.

Moving downstairs before coming back up, Rorie Howles-McBeth and Michayle White wanted to cook up a story on why Mrs. Sample should be the senior class favorite. Howles-McBeth yields that, "She jokes with you, and when you mess up, she makes fun of you in a nice way." White echoes this with, " she's always so bubbly and can joke about anything with her."

Before we come back up, two seniors, Noah Shoop and Josh Weaver, geared an argument together for Mr. Nahay. Shoop shared, "One time he let me design a helicopter on fusion and I really enjoyed doing that," while Weaver's reasoning is, "He is the only teacher I have had every single year since 7th grade. His classes are my favorite and close to my college major."

Now that we're back on the second floor, let's go to the teacher that Jakob Breth says is the best, Mr. Steiger. Breth's reasoning was simply "playing mafia."

Last but not least, we have our winner for senior class favorite, Mrs. Mook, with six mini essays to explain why she's the best. Margaret Hughes and Addison Tautin simply said it was her, no

explanation needed. Ryder Bailey, Kalynn Petruso, Ryan Higgins, and Lydia Chaplin claimed, "I have had her every year I have been here... I can talk to her about anything, and she gives me advice about what's going on.... She was a friend as well an educator... When I was going through something she was there for me. She always made class enjoyable and I will miss her so much."

Other seniors, including Nathan, Jems Pangatungan, Matthew Swanson, Damien Vogt, Dominic Paden, Olivia Lenker, Kohlton Perry shared that they didn't have a favorite teacher. While students such as Westin Baker and Rosalynd Phillips also claimed to not have a favorite teacher, they still gave a generalization about the type of teachers they liked as they said, "Any teacher that actually teaches their class it makes my life easier. Along with teachers that use examples with hands on and interactive lessons or projects," and, "I do not have one favorite. Most of the teachers I had throughout the years had a positive impact in different ways." This shows that sometimes it's not the person but rather their impact.



Photo Courtesy Of SHS Yearbook





Saegertown Seniors' Favorite Memories

Lydia Chapin:

"Indoor recess in elementary school with my friends."

Brody Evans:

"Going to Allegheny College during 2026 spring semester."

Jaiden Ludwick:

"My favorite memory at Saegertown is hanging out with my friends."

Ryder Bailey:

"Gym class sophomore year."

Lauren Wright:

"My favorite memory in high school is when Mason rode a kayak down the stairs."

Rosalynd Philiups:

"I liked being in the Allegheny Enrichment Program, as well as starting to participate in the local theater."

Brady Williams:

"Nick Craig's demonstration of an ululation in Mr. Molnar's 9th grade English."

Chanler Sheilds:

"When we got to go to an arcade up in Erie and being crammed on a bus."

Brooke Newman:

"All the little adventure Hailey, Megan, Emma, and Abby go on inside and outside of school."





Where they're going



- 18 staying
- 3 Undecided
- 2 out of Pennsylvania
- 1 out of Saegertown
- 1 Meadville, Pa
- 1 Waynesburg, Pa
- 1 south Virginia
- 1 one of the Carolinas
- 1 Erie, Pa
- 1 South Carolina
- 1 Oil City, Pa
- 1 Slippery Rock, Pa
- 1 Cleveland, Oh or Pittsburgh, Pa
- 1 Missouri
- 1 somewhere warm
- 1 somewhere peaceful



Let's reboot robotics: a call for old and new robotics students

Alegha Powell
Opinion Editor

Robotics in our school has had many unrecognized achievements, but I'm here to change that.

If we go back to why Mr. George Nahay started teaching robotics, at the heart of that decision was the students, and to this day, it still is. Nahay started teaching robotics in the school year of 2017. For him, the switch from science to technology education was "really hard at first, but I have improved a little each year and we have been doing

very well at the Robobots competition recently." In this heartfelt decision a dream emerged, and to this day the class dream stays the same: "to win both the best documentation award and first place."

For this goal, Nahay needs "every student with an interest in working hard and competing against other teams to join the class and help to finally win the tournament." So if that's you, and you haven't signed up to take robotics this year, you should think about changing that for either this coming year or the next.

At this year's RoboBots competition, the robotics students

were able to make very reliable and durable robots. The team showed how advanced they are as they went up the ranks, winning all the way up to the finals where they placed second. In order to ensure first place next year, robotics plans to focus on "dinding and improving weak areas in our existing components to eliminate the possibility of any failures in our mechanical systems," with the main goal of making a robot that is able to take huge hits and keep fighting, essentially a robot that, like the robotics team, never gives up.

If you're looking to join this team, next year, plan on helping

Nahay and your teammates finally claim victory at the RoboBots competition. This will take a lot of work and dedication, but if you're willing to commit to this class, Nahay would love to have you. So, whether you'd be a first year student or a fourth year, or somewhere in between, you should help reboot robotics and get closer to Nahay's dream.

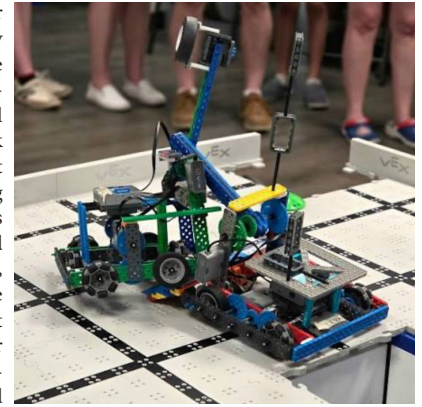


Photo Courtesy Of SHS Instagram

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Rorie Howles Mc-Beth
Social Media Editor

The entire month of May is dedicated to mental health awareness, educating yourself about mental health and how it affects others and/or yourself. This whole month of May focuses on community, connection, and reducing stigma. Your mental health is important. If you or someone you know needs support, there are many resources available. You can call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline for immediate help, reach out to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Helpline, or connect with local community groups and online support forums. Many organizations also offer free online materials, mental health screenings, and confidential chat services. Remember, you are not alone, and help is always within reach.

Since 1949, we've celebrated mental health awareness to highlight the important role mental health plays in our overall well-being and to recognize progress in mental health recovery. Mental Health Awareness Month was started by Mental Health America, an organization founded by Clifford Whittingham Beers. Beers, after facing mistreatment during his own struggles with mental illness, dedicated his life to improving conditions for others and promoting understanding and compassion for those affected. His leadership and vision helped launch a national movement that continues today, making mental health awareness an essential part of our community conversation.

Every month that represents an awareness usually has a color to represent it. The one we all know is breast cancer awareness with pink, which represents

hope, strength, and solidarity, but mental health awareness is represented by the color green, which represents hope, strength, support, and encouragement for those living with mental illness. There are also colors that represent certain disorders, like purple for bipolar disorders, dark blue for anxiety disorders, silver for schizophrenia, and other brain disorders, as well as purple for suicide prevention and domestic violence awareness.

Each year for Mental Health Awareness Month, there is a theme. This year, it is "More Good Days, Together", encouraging people to reflect on what a "good" day looks like for themselves and their communities. The message is to use that insight to connect others to the right support, advocate for mental wellness, and foster community engagement, as well as mental health is a collective journey, and that progress looks different for

everyone involved. Some ways you can participate in this year's theme are as simple as sharing

small wins, creating a calming space, and taking a nice, refreshing walk outdoors.



Billie Eilish's new controversy: is meat a necessity to survival?

Sophia Pacak
A&E Editor

On May 8, 2026, popular Grammy award winner Billie Eilish made a bold statement across the platform on TikTok, stating how "Eating meat is inherently wrong." Since the age of twelve, it has been made clear Billie is a vegan and an animal rights activist, but she has also stated how, "Two things cannot coincide: 'I love animals so much and I eat meat.' You could eat meat, go for it, you could love animals, but you can't do both."

The music artist was heavily criticized for her opinions on speaking out against eating meat, but she was also heavily critical against her stance on ICE, and how nobody is illegal on stolen land. Specifically gaining backlash at the Grammy Awards and her speech, she declared how no one on stolen land is illegal, and how ICE needs to get out. In regards to that, many critics labeled her speech as "virtue signaling", and jeeringly demanded how she should hand over the keys to her mansion if she believed in indigenous land rights. After her stance against meat, the newest opinion also sparked a heavy debate. Many believed and praised her for advocating the lives of animals, while others questioned their support for her, calling her "privileged" and "hypocritical," and many pointed out how she still wears leather.

Since then, she has doubled down from the debate, but the question still stands; is meat re-

ally essential for basic human survival, and is killing off animals ethical? From many studies, it is shown that humans don't necessarily need meat to survive, but the body requires specific nutrients rather than specific foods. Meat is a source of protein, iron, vitamin B12, and zinc, there are plenty of substitutions to get what our body needs. Many change out meat with lentils, chickpeas, and even lentils, which contain enough protein, fiber, and iron. But that might not be the case for most, as plenty of humans have allergies to specific items and foods and may require meat to get the nutrients they need. But how do you kill off an animal without feeling too guilty? Many suggest waiting until the animal is old enough to stop producing what it normally produces, such as milk or eggs, to slaughter it off or put it out of its misery. Another way is sourcing ethically, such as choosing farms that you know is treating the animals with such care and equality, rather than a slow and painful process where it's worse for both the animal and your emotional state.

Trump's AI generated self-portrait: what does this mean for the future?

Sophia Pacak
A&E Editor

On April 12, 2026, the United States of America's 45th and 47th president, Donald Trump, had posted an AI generated portrait of himself on his social media platform, Truth Social, as a Jesus-like figure, depicting himself as a doctor in white robes and a red sash able to heal those in need, with light emitting from his palm. Despite the post being deleted, the criticism from many supporters grew into a feud against the picture with Pope Leo. Shortly before publishing the image, Trump had rumored to post a risky screed against the

Pope, claiming him as "Weak on crime and terrible for Foreign Policy."

The effect of AI, also known as Artificial Intelligence, is the capability of computational systems programmed to perform tasks through human intelligence. It is commonly known for the displacement of jobs, the amplified bias and discrimination against race, gender, prejudices, and many more, corrupting the truth through deepfakes, heavily implied misinformation, and beliefs, social alienation through the reduction of face-to-face interactions and the use of automatic conversation, and the most important; the environmental degradation. As AI over-

heats through its excessive over-use each day, it uses and drains billions and gallons of drinking water for primarily cooling its servers to prevent overheating. Not only that, AI takes up so much electricity generation and requires supply chains, which leads to direct-to-chip liquid cooling. Consuming so much computing power, it is also heavily reliant on fossil fuels; releasing carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Studies have shown that by 2050, AI could have a chance at completely replacing most human jobs by redefining work and opportunity, and can keep removing jobs within the next 25 years.



Photo Courtesy Of Wikipedia



Photo Courtesy Of Washington Post

New “Avatar” movie leaks after years of work

Claire Harrison
Broadcast Director

Avatar fans were buzzing with excitement when they heard the new movie “Avatar Aang: The Last Air Bender” was coming out October 9, 2026. But then on April 12, 2026, a user posted the whole movie in 4K quality on Twitter. The user claimed Nickelodeon accidentally emailed them the file, though reports later suggested a broader security breach. Fans were disappointed about it not being a theatrical release, when Paramount decided to put it in on their streaming service and you would also have to get Paramount Plus to watch it.

Animator Julia Schoel ex-

pressed her feelings of disappointment. “We worked on the Gang movie for years with the expectation that we’d get to celebrate all of our hard work in theaters... just to see people unceremoniously leak the file and pass our shots around on Twitter like candy... but pirating the movie after its release would have at least been better than this. This is incredibly disrespectful to all the hard work the artists put in.”

Tessa Bright, an animation director at Flying Bark who worked on the Avatar Studios/Nickelodeon Animation project’s development and who also worked on the film, says, “Understand that we all have opinions about what happened, and what you decide to do is your personal choice. But it breaks my

heart to see the way some fans are treating the hard-working artists who dedicated years of their lives to bring you the best possible work they can with this file.”

She continues with, “It’s perfectly reasonable for anyone who worked on this project to be frustrated at this situation. The amount of effort and dedication it took to make this file happen speaks for itself in the final product, and I’m sure a lot of you will agree. And even if you disagree with us, I hope that you can find it in yourself to still be respectful. To the fans and industry folks who have spoken out for us, thank you, you’re a big reason it was all worth it.”

A fan of “Avatar: The Last Air Bender” who goes to Sae-

gertown, eighth-grader Charlotte Smith, voices her opinion on the movie being leaked. “I think it’s disappointing it got leaked before completion, but I think it looks perfect.”

Praise centers on the visually stunning animation and seeing

the adult Gaang. However, critics complain about a generic plot, lack of downtime, and the absence of the original voice cast.



Photo Courtesy Of JoBlo Movie Network

You thought it was done? “Epic! The Musical” returns as an animated film

Anna Bradshaw
Editor-In-Chief

Officially announced in April 2026, Jorge Rivera-Herrans informed his fans that “EPIC! The Musical” is being adapted into an animated feature film. The project is being worked on heavily in tandem with renowned producer Jerry Bruckheimer, who worked on “Pirates of the Caribbean and Top Gun,” as well as Atlantic Records executive Kevin Weaver. It is currently in the early stages of development and is being prepared for presentation to studios and streamers.

The film is said to adapt the forty-song, nine-part “saga” concept album that Jorge originally created and released as of last

year, 2025, as a reimagination of Homer’s The Odyssey, as a musical blend of many genres.

Jorge expressed his gratitude and excitement while announcing this on his various social media platforms, stating, “I’m absolutely over the moon and cannot thank you guys enough for giving me the chance to put my artwork out there on such a scale.” The musical started as a senior thesis project at the University of Notre Dame and became viral on TikTok in 2021, where it progressed into the musical it is today.

Another great benefit of this new announcement is not only will the fans be receiving more EPIC! content, but it also allows the public to see a significant move from popular fan-made animations of the musical to

a high-profile, almost “Hollywood-polished” animated film, showcasing community on the big screen.

Fans are eagerly awaiting the release of this new project, as well as Jorge’s new snippets of the Iliad he is working on. With only a few snippets of concept songs that Jorge has told his fans not to “get too attached to them” as they will more than likely be revised and changed heavily. Furthermore, fans speculate whether we will see some of the same voice actors from EPIC! in the new project, but Jorge has kept everything secret for now while the fans eagerly await updates, so stay tuned to keep up-to-date on everything he’s working on.



Photo Courtesy Of Jorge Riverra Herrans

The eightieth year of the NBA playoffs starts strong

Quinton Burchill
Sports Editor

The first ever NBA playoff game was April 2, 1947. The Philadelphia Warriors won the first NBA championship against the Chicago Stags 4-1. The Philadelphia Warriors are now known as the Golden State Warriors.

The NBA playoffs are starting strong in the first round, but can OKC repeat and win the finals two years in a row?

The first round winners include OKC, the Spurs, the New York Knicks, the Timberwolves, the Lakers, the 76ers, the Pistons, and the Cleveland Cavaliers. The OKC and the Suns faced off in a series of seven, and OKC swept

the Suns 4-0. The San Antonio Spurs took out the trailblazers to an outstanding 4-1. The New York Knicks took out the Hawks with a long series of 4-2. The Timberwolves took out the nuggets with a 4-2 series. The Lakers eliminated the Rockets with a 4-2 series. 76ers took out the Celtics with a rough long series of 4-3. The pistons took out the

magics with a long tuff series of 4-3.

The NBA second round winners are OKC, Spurs, Cavaliers and finally the New York Nicks. OKC swept the LA Lakers with an easy series of 4-0. San Antonio Spurs fought with the Timber wolves to pull off a 4-2 win. The Cavaliers had a long and tough series with the pistons, but

the Cavs won with a 4-3 series. The knicks swept the 76ers with a 4-0 series.

As of the time of writing this, round three is still in progress. However, in my personal opinion, OKC and the Knicks both have shown strong promise as they near finals.

NBA playoff ticket

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Pittsburgh hosts this season's NFL draft

Quinton Burchill
Sports Editor

The first NFL Draft was on February 8, 1936 at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Philadelphia. The first ever pick was Jay Berwanger, who won the first ever Heisman Trophy. He was drafted by the Eagles, but he ended up not playing the NFL

and decided to stick with rubber sales. There was no announcer for the first NFL draft in 1936. It was a closed door event and they just agreed on the right place for the players. They took 90 college students for the first ever NFL draft.

The top ten draft picks of the NFL draft will include Heisman winner Fernando Mendoza, a quarterback coming out of Indi-

ana and going to the Las Vegas Raiders. The second pick includes David Bailey playing edge coming out of Texas Tech going to the New York Jets. The third pick out of Notre Dame, Jeremiah Love, a running back, went to the Arizona Cardinals. Fourth pick is Carnell Tate, a wide receiver coming out of Ohio state going to the Tennessee titans.

Fifth pick coming out of Ohio

State and playing edge is Arvell Reese, who is going to the New York Giants. The sixth pick is Mansoor Delane, a cornerback coming out of LSU going to the Kansas City Chiefs. Now with the seventh pick coming out of Ohio state is linebacker Sunny Styles, who will be going to the Washington Commanders. The eighth pick wide receive from Arizona State is Jordyn Tyson,

who is going to the New Orleans Saints. For the ninth pick, the Cleveland Browns selected Spencer Fano, an offensive tackle from Utah. Now with the tenth pick of the 2026 NFL draft, the New York Giants select Francis Mauigoa, a offensive tackle from Miami.

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