



WELCOME TO

The Thunder Gazette

we're so glad you're here!



OUR TEAM'S MISSION IS TO KEEP OUR DHMS FAMILY INFORMED WITH RELEVANT INFORMATION, EYE-OPENING INTERVIEWS, CLEVER INSIGHTS, AND AMUSING IDEAS.

In this issue

AI and the Future- Opinion

By: Eliza Fullmer

Artificial Intelligence, also known as AI, has many uses in modern society, but some of its abilities should not be utilized because of the dangerous power it holds. Some uses include facial recognition, virtual assistants such as Alexa and Siri, diagnoses for health, predictions for crops, gaming, and even GPS (Continued on pg 3.)

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The Football Features

Written By Kayson Donk

Football has been around for many decades and may continue to be around for many more years. The NFL has been around in Canton, OH since September 17, 1920. The first Super Bowl was on January 15, 1967. In the student interviews I asked, "Do you like or play football?" and "Do you have a favorite football team?" (Continued on page 13)

Please zoom in for better view :)

OCTOBER 2023

By Caitlin Dunn

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Picture retakes	3 Freshman volleyball @ Pine View- 5:45pm	4 Picture Retakes 6pm Choir Concert	5 Freshman FB @ Hurricane- 4:30pm Freshman VB vs Snow Canyon- 5:45pm Shakespeare Competition Oct 5-7 In Cedar	6	7
8	9	10	11 Q1 End Of Term	12 Fall Break-No School	13	14
15	16 Teacher Prep Day- No School	17 Freshman VB vs Cedar- 5:45pm	18 Freshman Region VB Tournament	19 Dhms Fall Party- 1:43pm	20	21
22	23	24	25 DHMS Book Club- Library @ 2:45	26	27	28
29	30	31 Happy Halloween	-----Red Ribbon Week DHMS-----Oct 30-Nov 3			

Articles

AI and the Future-Opinion

By: Eliza Fullmer

Artificial Intelligence, also known as AI, has many uses in modern society, but some of its abilities should not be utilized because of the dangerous power it holds. Some uses include facial recognition, virtual assistants such as Alexa and Siri, diagnoses for health, predictions for crops, gaming, and even GPS. But what about AI platforms such as ChatGPT or Microsoft Bing? These platforms specialize in writing and composing content for blogs, marketing, essays, and articles. After doing some research on these platforms, it is more obvious how much AI can do, and it's alarming how real its fabricated works can seem.

While AI is useful for many purposes, tasks such as writing, posts, and composing music should be left up to humans. This is because the greatest asset of the human race is our ability to feel. When our media is being generated by callous robots, freedom of speech and self expression is lost. Although it may seem real and possibly more swaying than the work of real authors, there is something that AI lacks: true emotion. There is value in authenticity, and true talent does not come from typing a prompt into an AI platform.

Artificial intelligence may seem like a useful appliance, but it can also be taken advantage of. Recently, companies like Amazon have seen an increase in AI written books. With this advanced technology, ordinary people can type a prompt and write a book in a matter of hours. They will receive credit and money for works they did not create, and those who write without the help of robots will be overwhelmed by the stream of rapidly generated bestsellers. As the world grows more dependent on these AI platforms, we must draw a line between convenience and laziness. If our society continues to excessively use machines to do their work, true talent will be wasted as jobs for humans plummet.

Thankfully, not everyone is pushing for AI generated media, especially in music. In an interview with Fox News, America's Got Talent judge Simon Cowell shares his view on AI in the music industry, "I personally am not a fan of it ... anything faking it is going to be a problem." Genuine success takes hard work, it's true. But those who are willing to make the effort will be respected.

In the end, the future is uncertain on the fate of talented writers, bloggers, and music artists. However, if there are boundaries set so that AI is not taken advantage of, it can be used in addition to real talent. However, machines should not replace the strengths of humans who portray their actual emotions and ideas. If society is being run by robots, there is no human in humanity. In summary, AI is a useful instrument when used properly, but we need to be careful to not let it control us.



Jewel of the Desert

BY: ANDREA ANGELES

ST. GEORGE'S UTAH TECH UNIVERSITY, HOME OF OUR PROUD TRAILBLAZERS, AS OF JANUARY 1ST, 2024, IS RENOVATING THE M.K. COX PERFORMING ARTS CENTER! THIS IS EXCITING BECAUSE IT HAS HOUSED THE SOUTHWEST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND SOUTHERN UTAH HERITAGE CHOIR SINCE 1987! IT'S ALSO WHERE UTAH TECH'S UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA, UT SYMPHONIC BAND, UT LIVE!, THE CELEBRITY CONCERT SERIES PERFORM. ANY PERFORMING ARTS STUDENT EVENTS ARE HELD THERE TOO, INCLUDING DANCE, CHOIR, BAND, ORCHESTRA, AND DRAMA. THE EXPANSION WILL HELP ATTRACT TALENT AND WORLD-CLASS GUESTS TO OUR CORNER OF UTAH, AND BE A STRONGER BEACON FOR THE ARTS.

SO FAR, A TOTAL OF \$28 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOTTED TO THE "JEWEL OF THE DESERT" PROJECT SO FAR, AND THE GORGEOUS NAME IS WELL-FITTING FOR THE PLANS! THE REMODEL WILL VASTLY EXPAND THE LOBBY, AUDITORIUM, REHEARSAL SPACES, BOX OFFICE, CONCESSIONS, AND BATHROOMS. THE AUDITORIUM'S MAKE-OVER WILL MAKE SPACE FOR BOX SEATS TO FIT MANY TIMES OVER THE USUAL AUDIENCE MEMBERS! IT WILL ALSO HAVE A CENTER AISLE FOR EASIER ACCESS TO SEATS AND UPGRADED LIGHTING AND SOUND PROJECTION EQUIPMENT.

THE CHAIR OF THE SOUTHERN UTAH PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION, LOWRY SNOW, SAYS, "WE ARE THRILLED WITH THIS INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY, AND BELIEVE IT WILL BENEFIT GENERATIONS OF SOUTHERN UTAHNS FOR YEARS TO COME. A RENOVATED FACILITY WILL PROVIDE A GATHERING PLACE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ENRICH EACH OTHER THROUGH THE ARTS." THE PRESIDENT OF UTAH TECH UNIVERSITY, DR. RICHARD B. WILLIAMS ALSO TALKS ABOUT HIS GRATITUDE TO THE UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE FOR BEING AN ULTIMATE ALLY AND CULTIVATOR OF THE ARTS, PUTTING UNWAVERING SUPPORT IN THIS AMBITIOUS PROJECT. THE ARTS ARE NOTORIOUS FOR BEING UNDERFUNDED IN EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY, SO IT IS TRULY A CELEBRATION TO BE ABLE TO DEFY THAT WITH A RENOVATION THAT WILL BRING SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES. THIS WILL NOT ONLY ENRICH THE ARTISTIC CULTURE OF THE COMMUNITY BUT ALSO BRING POSITIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH TO ST. GEORGE.

WE HOPE TO HEAR MORE UPDATES ABOUT THE RENOVATION COMING SOON AND SEE THE "JEWEL OF THE DESERT" ITSELF!



PICTURE PROVIDED BY ST. GEORGE NEWS.

SOURCES:

[HTTPS://WWW.STGEORGEUTAH.COM/NEWS/ARCHIVE/2023/05/15/PRC-UTAH-TECH-SUU-PARTNER-TO-RENOVATE-COX-PERFORMING-ARTS-CENTER/](https://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2023/05/15/prc-utah-tech-suu-partner-to-renovate-cox-performing-arts-center/)

School's pros and cons

By: Chloe Christensen and Ella Gallagher

LONGER LUNCH

PROS: STUDENTS GET MORE REST TIME/ BRAIN BREAK, TALK TO FRIENDS AND MEET NEW PEOPLE. THEY ALSO GET MORE TIME OUTSIDE IN THE SUN. TEACHERS CAN HAVE A BREAK AND HAVE TIME TO GRADE AND PLAN. KAMRIE FLITON SAID, "YES, I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE LONGER LUNCHES AND THEY SHOULD BE AN HOUR, BECAUSE YOU GET TO TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS DURING LUNCH."

CONS: THE DAY WOULD BE LONGER, AND FOR SOME IT COULD BE BORING, IF THEY DON'T HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS OR DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO FOR THE REST OF THE TIME. IT GIVES MORE TIME FOR STUDENTS TO MAKE A MESS AND, POSSIBLY, NOT CLEAN IT.



HOMEROOM

PROS: PEOPLE WHO ARE BEHIND CAN WORK ON ASSIGNMENTS. IT'S NICE TO HAVE A BREAK BETWEEN CLASSES.

CONS: MANY PEOPLE WASTE A LOT OF TIME, AND IT MAY BE BORING FOR SOME STUDENTS. WITHOUT HOMEROOM STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WOULDN'T HAVE TO HAVE AS LONG OF A SCHOOL DAY, STUDENTS COULD JUST DO THEIR WORK AT HOME.

SCHOOL ON FRIDAY

PROS: STUDENTS WILL HAVE A LITTLE EXTRA TIME TO WORK ON HOMEWORK, OR JUST SEE THEIR FRIENDS. EMERI FANKHAUSER SAYS, "FRIDAYS GIVE PEOPLE SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO, BECAUSE IT'S THE END OF THE WEEK AND IT IS A SHORT DAY."

CONS: ANONYMOUS STUDENT SAID, "IT DOESN'T SEEM WORTH IT TO GO TO SCHOOL ONLY TO LEAVE AFTER 4 HOURS." IF THERE WEREN'T SCHOOL ON FRIDAYS IT WOULD BE LIKE AN EXTRA SATURDAY, GIVING EVERYONE MORE TIME TO UNWIND.



LISTENING TO MUSIC IN CLASS

PROS: SOME PEOPLE CAN FOCUS BETTER WHILE LISTENING TO MUSIC. IT MAY HELP ON BAD DAYS FOR SOME, BECAUSE IT CAN BE UPLIFTING. MUSIC-LOVERS WOULD HAVE MORE TIME TO LISTEN TO MUSIC.

CONS: SOMETIMES PEOPLE GET DISTRACTED BY THEIR MUSIC. STUDENTS MAY NOT LISTEN TO THEIR TEACHERS IN DIRECTIONS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T HEAR THEM.



MORE TIME BETWEEN CLASSES

PROS: STUDENTS WOULD HAVE MORE TIME TO TALK TO PEOPLE, GO TO THE BATHROOM, AND, IF IT WERE OPEN BETWEEN CLASSES, GO TO THE LIBRARY. CAITLIN DUNN SAYS THAT "HAVING 6 MINUTES BETWEEN CLASSES WOULD GIVE EVERYONE MORE TIME TO GO TO THEIR LOCKERS AND GET TO CLASSES."

CONS: SCHOOL DAYS WOULD HAVE TO BE LONGER, OR CLASSES SHORTER, WHICH WOULD GIVE TEACHERS LESS TIME TO GET THROUGH THE MATERIAL.



LIBRARY OPEN DURING LUNCH AND BETWEEN CLASSES

PROS: THE LIBRARY IS ONLY OPEN BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL, WHICH DOESN'T GIVE PEOPLE MUCH TIME TO LOOK FOR BOOKS, TURN THEM IN, AND PAY FINES, SO HAVING MORE TIME WOULD HELP A LOT. THE LIBRARY IS A GREAT PLACE TO RELAX, SO IT COULD SERVE AS A ROOM SIMILAR TO THE "BEACH HOUSE" THAT WAS AT SUNRISE RIDGE INTERMEDIATE, WHERE PEOPLE WHO NEEDED A BREAK COULD RELAX.

CONS: THE LIBRARIANS WOULDN'T GET A BREAK. PEOPLE MIGHT WASTE TIME BY PRETENDING TO NEED A BREAK IF THE LIBRARY WERE OPEN TO GO TO DURING CLASSES.

Anonymous Q&A

Q: "I'M NEW TO THIS SCHOOL. HOW DO I MAKE NEW FRIENDS?"



A: Hello! Friends are very important, especially in places like school. One way to make friends is to socialize in classes. You might not "click" with someone right away, but the best things take time. If you open your options with someone who may not have the same hobbies or opinions as you, it creates a more special friendship from being so different. Thank you for the question!



The National debt:

Jonah Saling

The United States has owed countries like China money for a while now, and people may ask how much money the U.S. is in debt. Now the United States is over \$33 trillion in debt. This number goes over \$100 trillion in debt when all the debt in the United States is calculated. The article states that "The federal government needs to borrow money to pay its bills when its ongoing spending activities and investments cannot be funded by federal revenues alone. Decreases in federal revenue are largely due to either a decrease in tax rates or individuals or corporations making less money", there are many reasons why this is happening.

Interviews

Questions:

(1): "What is your name?"

(2): "Recently the United States hit 100 trillion dollars in total debt, what are your feelings on that?"

(3): "If you wanted \forced to celebrate this, how would you?"

(4): "What's your favorite color?" (For fun)

(1) Cole Kitchell

(2) "I don't like it but it doesn't really matter because the government isn't going to pay it off."

(2) "We could have a party at my house."

(3) "Green."

(1) Daniel Morris

(2) "We better shape up."

(3) "I would not celebrate that."

(4) "I love all colors equally."

(1) Dustin Stanworth

(2) "Very disappointed."

(3) "I'd have a party"

(4) "Purple."

(1) Kenneth (Bradley) Wiley

(2) "They need to be wiser with their money."

(3) "A bankruptcy party."

(4) "Blue."

(1) Carter McMillan

(2) "Literally just stop shutting down our oil rigs so then we would not have to buy oil off of other countries."

(3) "Also a bankruptcy party, in a dumpster."

(4) "Pink or red."

(1) George Kapp (goes by Mitchell)

(2) "That's a lot of money, where is it going and why am I paying for it."

(3) "Over the hill party, black and gold decoration."

(4) "Blue."

(1) Ms. Pen

(2) "That's a lot, and we need to figure out ways to use money effectively, so we don't go deeper into debt. So we need to vote for more effective lawmakers."

(3) "I would have a party with pizza with stuffed crust."

(4) "Light blue."

Works Cited:

[national debt clock](https://nationaldebtclock.com) fiscaldata.treasury.gov

Trends Among American Teens

Written By Skylar A.

As teenagers, you're at an age where you're becoming more aware of the world around you, including the trends that shape the community, state, and country. Teenagers in the United States are constantly shaping and reshaping the landscape of popular trends. From fashion to technology, their interests and preferences have a significant influence on our culture. Let's take a closer look at some of the latest trends among American teens.

Social Media Dominance:

Today's teens are growing up in a digital world, and their need for technology is stronger than ever. Smartphones, social media platforms, and online gaming are huge parts of their daily lives. They use these tools for communication, entertainment, and education. Social media continues to be a major player in the lives of American teens. Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat are where they connect with friends, share their lives, and stay updated on trends. Influencers and viral challenges play a significant role in shaping their interests.

Sustainable Fashion:

Environmental consciousness is on the rise among teens. Many are opting for sustainable and eco-friendly fashion choices, such as thrifting, upcycling, and supporting brands that prioritize ethical and eco-conscious practices. This reflects their commitment to making a positive impact on the planet.

Mental Health Awareness:

Teenagers are increasingly recognizing the importance of mental health. They are open to discussing their struggles with anxiety, depression, and stress. Schools and communities are providing more resources to support their emotional well-being, and destigmatizing mental health issues is becoming a priority.

Fitness and Wellness:

Health and wellness are a growing concern among American teens. Many are engaging in physical activities like running, and team sports to stay fit and reduce stress. They are also becoming more conscious of their diets and seeking nutritious food options.

Streaming and Entertainment:

Traditional TV is losing its appeal among teens, who prefer streaming services like Netflix, Hulu, and Disney+. They have a diverse taste in entertainment, ranging from binge-watching series to following YouTube creators and gaming content.

The War in Ukraine

By Jackson Bird

So far, the war in Ukraine has been raging for more than 1 year and has been affecting lots of things like gas prices, refugees, and so much more. Did you know that Ukraine has been using so many drones that they must have air traffic control? The Insider states, "Ukrainian forces are sending so many drones to the front line in its war with Russia that they've developed a dispatch system akin to air traffic control". This means that Ukraine has been using a lot of drones. Also, did you know that if we never put sanctions on gas for Russia our gas prices would be around 3.50 a gallon. That's almost 50 cents less. It is the same because Biden still promotes electric cars. In the war, there have been more than 6.2 million refugees fleeing from Ukraine this year. There have been lots of missile strikes, but one of the devastating attacks was a missile strike on Russia's headquarters, killing 34 officers. Another large strike was when Russia missiles hit energy facilities in Ukraine.



Unreasonable Exchanges

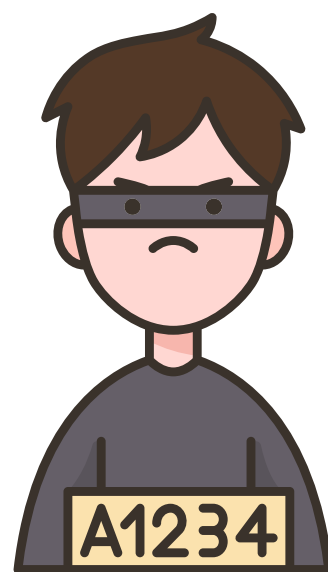
Gia F.

Most people have heard about prisoner exchange, but most do not know how unreasonable these exchanges can be. Recently the United States brought back 5 American citizens from Iran. The 5 people were Siamak Namazi, Morad Tahbaz, Emad Shargi, and two unnamed persons. Just in this one single exchange the United States gave Iran five to six billion dollars in a trade for their release. In an NPR article it states that Namazi was sentenced to 10 years in 2015 and while he was there he was physically and mentally tortured. Namazi was the longest held Iranian American hostage in history and all for the crime of cooperating with a hostile government. The next prisoner was Tahbaz, who was arrested in 2018 and sentenced to 10 years for suspicion of spying. Tahbaz was working on a conservation project where he had to track animals with cameras, later on eight of Tahbaz colleagues were also arrested. Tahbaz had a past of cancer and was ill while imprisoned. His wife was also punished, she remained stuck in Iran because the government withheld her passport. In the end, she did return with her husband back to the U.S. The last named prisoner was Shargi, who was born in Iran but left as a young boy. Shargi was first arrested in 2018 and was able to get out on bail 8 months later. The Iranian government withheld his passport and he was arrested once again in 2020, this time sentenced to 10 years for espionage. Exchanging isn't free; it is actually very VERY expensive. This costly exchange was not the first time the United States had saved innocent people from being imprisoned and it won't be the last.

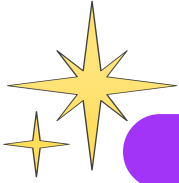
The original prisoner exchange started during the Civil War in 1862; it was how the Americans and the opposing side showed an act of humanity. In the last ten years, the U.S. has successfully executed many exchanges. In 2014, there was an exchange with the Taliban. In 2016 and 2019 the US cooperated with Iran on an exchange. In 2022 an exchange took place with Russia and finally the one mentioned above with Iran. Perhaps the most talked about exchange was probably the one in Russia, which included a WNBA player named Brittney Griner and a Russian arms dealer named Viktor Bout. Brittney was arrested under charges of smuggling cannabis oil into the country and was sentenced to nine years. While Viktor Bout, on the other hand, was convicted in 2011 of conspiracy to have killed American citizens. When the U.S. exchanged Bout for Griner, the majority opinion argued that the crimes could not be comparable, Bout could be held responsible for helping to end thousands of lives, yet Griner broke a simple law many would consider harmless. In this instance the U.S. exchanged a murder for a drug user, outrage followed what seemed to be a very obvious uneven trade. The most recent exchange with Iran is estimated to have cost the U.S. five to six billion dollars. People's lives aren't cheap but shouldn't the gravity of peoples' crimes matter when considering these exchanges?

The United States is known as the freest country in the world but we still have laws and rules. Singapore is known as the strictest country in the world with Japan following in second and China coming in third. Some rules these places have are very strict and harsh, unimaginable to foreigners. This makes it very easy to do something that might be legal in one country but not another. One such rule exists in Singapore where a law against chewing gum exists. The punishment for this simple act is a big fine. Up to 100,000 dollars can be lost over a 99 cent pack of gum. Japan also has very upsetting rules, one example being that parents have restrictions on what they can name their own child. This is also a rule in China. There is Chinese law stating that Russians must announce their presence out loud. As ridiculous as these laws may seem, there is always a reason to follow them, that is- punishment.

Exchanging one prisoner who smokes weed for another who is a murderer is unfair to the country and its people. Just like how it is wrong to imprison innocent people for a crime that isn't that big of a deal. These prisoner exchanges can be unreasonable, unfair, and very expensive. But in the end it is worth it for the person who is freed.



Sibylla Anderson



THEN VS NOW

1970

MOST FAMOUS MOVIES

The Exorcist
American graffiti
Paper Moon
Halloween
Blazing saddles

2023

MOST POPULAR MOVIES

BARBIE
The Super Mario Bros . Movie
Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse
Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol.3

1970's MOVIES

The 1970's is also known as the golden age of film.

Due to the fact that during the 70's the movies started to shift to more relistic portrayles of life. the movie that were coming out went from fantasy and all of the classics we know and love, To crime-drama, Blockbusters, and war.

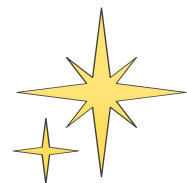
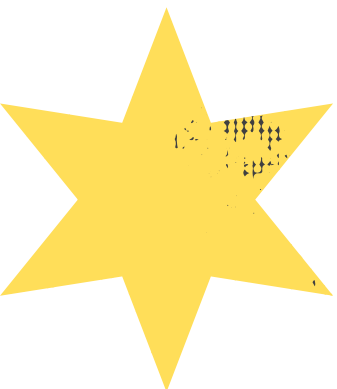
Not only were the genres and the messages of the movies, a lot changed for the directors to! Because of the fall of the sterio sytem and the Hays Code Movies were made with far less restrictions on topics and oversight for directors.

2023 MOVIES

This year is a HUGE year for movies, And not just due to the fact that we have we have major hits such as The BARBIE Movie, live action Little Mermaid, Avatar Way Of Water, Spider-Man Into The Spider-Verse. The AI this year has gone from insane to mindblowing. Another huge step that movies are taking this year is now movies are being made in a manner that is called " Movies In Your Brains" ,which is saying that they are now they are filming in a way that draws you in more, because it is more friendly to your perceptual and cognitive processing.



VS



Sports

Desert Hills Girls Soccer

Izzy Miller

The Desert Hills Girls Soccer Varsity team took a big win against Crimson last week, on the 28th of September. "It was an intense game with a lot of good saves from both sides," Mrs. Hoyt stated. With this win, Desert Hills was ranked higher than every other team in the region. Being ranked 6th in the entire state, Desert Hills was given a BYE, letting them automatically advance into the second round. Their next games are to be determined.

Losing only to Ridgeline, Skyline, Snow Canyon, and Crimson, Desert Hills Varsity has an overall record of 13-4. With Junior Varsity winning 8 games, they have a record of 8-5-4. The freshmen team with only 3 losses, their record is 3-4-3.

"Our team is full of energy, talent, and entertainment," Nichole Cano stated. With the hard work put in, Desert Hills might just have a chance at winning state for the first time in history.

As our high school girls soccer team goes on striving to win state, they can use all the support they can get. Desert Hills is full of hard workers, so let's show some support for the last part of the season!

The Football Features

Football has been around for many decades and may continue to be around for many more years. The NFL has been around in Canton, OH since September 17, 1920. The first Super Bowl was on January 15, 1967. In the student interviews I asked, "Do you like or play football?" and "Do you have a favorite football team?" Most of the people that I questioned did play football or watched football. . When I talked to Braden Bolin he said he liked the same NFL team as Mr. Kapp and Mrs. Bambrough, the Philadelphia Eagles, who was the most agreed upon team. Everyone that I talked to liked football except for Mr. Kitchell, who says he prefers soccer because there are lots of pauses in Football. He still thinks that it is an interesting sport.

I spoke to Drew Robertson and Ej Sipili, and I asked them what they like about football and they said that they like to hit and be physical with other people. This is the opposite of what Lincoln McKim, Lincoln Hillyard, Isaac Andresen, and Eli Riddle said: they love that it is a team sport and the bonds they build while playing. They all have different opinions on NFL or college football teams.

Written By Kayson Donk

Girls Volleyball

The Desert Hills Volleyball program has very talented and dedicated girls. The volleyball team shows great teamwork and effort. Practices are two and a half hours of hard work. Practices consist of conditioning, working on skills, and scrimmaging the sophomore team. The girls on the Desert Hills Freshman team are very dedicated and show a true love for their sport.

The Freshman team's record is 6-2. They have done very well this season and are excited to play the teams they have lost to again. The girls are very determined to work even harder to pull out the wins that they couldn't before. I asked Gia Fleming, a player on the freshman volleyball team, "Do you think you guys have a good chance at winning the region tournament?" She said, "I do! We've only lost two of our games and we did not play our best." Hopefully, we will pull out the win and win region.

The Desert Hills Varsity Team is such an inspiration to the rest of the program. They have all put in so much time and effort to be where they are at. This shows in their record of 9-0 in region. I asked Lucy Bergquist, "How does varsity inspire you?" She said, "It makes me want to improve and to be the best I can, so one day I will be in varsity."

Written by Samantha Spencer

What are the main things going on in the community

Arabella Knowles

After interviewing a variety of people at Desert Hills Middle School, The main topic in our community would be sports, this includes our recent home football games. We've been having Girls volleyball, Cross Country, and Girls Soccer. Recently the Desert Hills Swim team has been open for tryouts. An article on the St. George community news states, on Oct. 4, there was a 66 year old woman who was rescued after breaking an arm while hiking near Kanarraville falls. "The patient was escorted out of the falls and transported to Cedar City Hospital to be treated for her injuries," Humphries added. On Sep 24th, The little girl, Emery Burrows, only 7 years old was chasing a soccer ball into the road and was hit by a truck over on morning side drive here in St. George Utah. She was flown to a trauma center in Las Vegas the night of the 24th. Over the weekend, she was released and on her way home she was surprised with a parade/celebration by family, friends, and neighbors to welcome her back home.



A Deep Dive Into Competitive Swimming, and Its Benefits

By Walker Chalk

SEPT. 27, 2023 – Did you know that there are roughly 8 boys' high school football players for every boy's high school swimmer in the United States? Swimming and Diving ranked 10th out of the top 10 most popular High School Sports among boys in the U.S. by Statista, and because of swimming's low popularity, some students may be hesitant to join. However, competitive swimming is a sport with unique benefits that set it apart from other athletic pursuits. If you are interested in competitive swimming, but unsure, or just curious, read on!

The Unique Benefits of Competitive Swimming

Just as any sport, swimming has its own unique benefits. First and foremost, you can swim for your entire life; while many land sports, like football, soccer, basketball, etc., you may not be able to do when you are old. Second, swimming is very low impact, meaning it is easy on the joints and minimizes the risk of frequent impact-related injuries. Swimmers will also build up breath control, massive cardiovascular endurance, and breath control. Some swimmers may learn water safety skills and can make good lifeguards. Finally, repetitive, rhythmic, motions of swimming, and being underwater, many people may find stress relieving and relaxing.

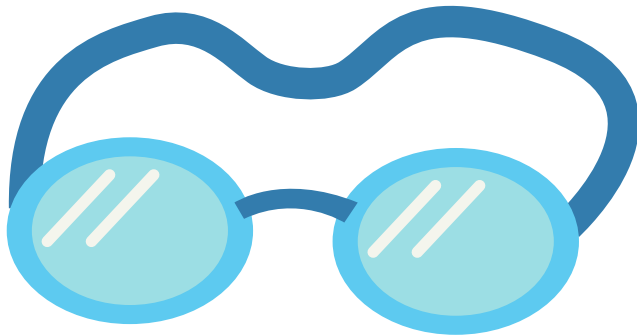
Misconceptions Debunked

1. "Swimming isn't a real sport." – The definition of sport is "an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment." Competitive swimming fits this description and is even included in the Olympics, so it can certainly be considered a legitimate sport.
2. "Swimming is easy because it is low impact." – While swimming is low impact because you are moving through the water rather than colliding with others or the land, it uses many muscles at a time, and requires lots of strength, endurance, and lung capacity, making it relatively hard.
3. "It's a solo sport only." – Swimming is mostly considered an individual sport, but you are on a team! You can also do team relay races, making it a team sport occasionally.
4. "Swimmers don't need strength training." – Swimmers absolutely do participate in strength training, they just might not be lifting a ton of weights like the football team would.
5. "Swimmers don't need mental toughness." – Mental toughness applies to all sports, and swimmers will have to face opposition.
6. "It's just for athletes with natural talent." – Many swimmers have had to work for years to nail down proper technique and speed.



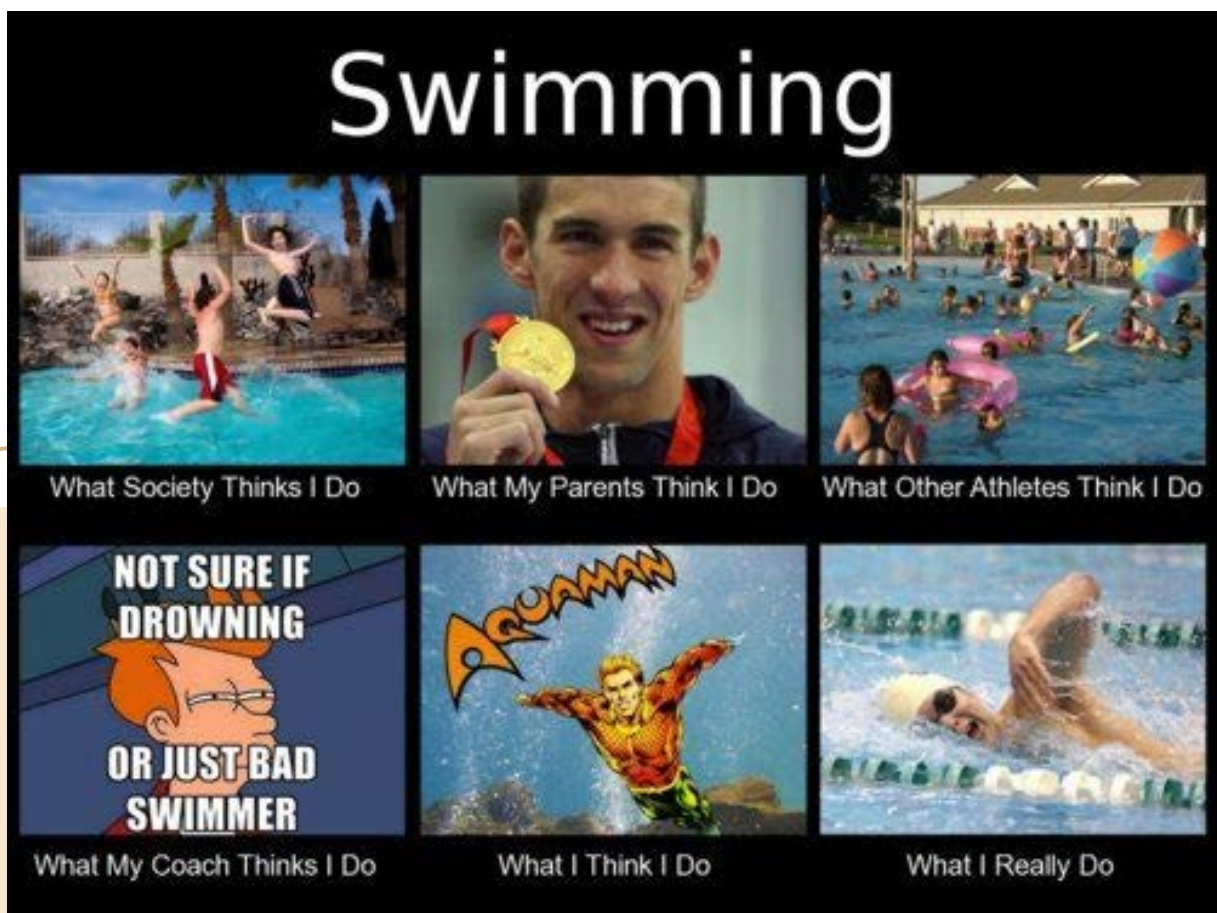
My Experience on a Competitive Swim Team

I experienced 5 1-2 hour practices on my club team during the week. These sessions included rigorous lap swimming, dry-land exercises, sprints, breath control training, and technique work. Discipline was essential because attending practices and meets throughout the season was crucial. Swim meets could be a few hours long and take place at different locations throughout Utah. It's worth noting, however, that according to Coach Tammy at a high school swim meet, some of the longest or more extreme events you'd see at a club meet, such as the 400 Individual Medley, won't take place. Excelling in the pool required lots of practice, dedication, and hard work, just as with any other sport.



2023 DHHS Early Swimming Season Info

1. Our Head Coach this year is Tammy Reavis (or Coach Tammy).
2. Swim practices are Monday through Thursday, at the Washington Community Center, from 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm.
3. Monday, Oct. 2nd - Official beginning of the statewide High School season. Tryouts all of this week @ The Washington Rec Center.
4. First Team Lunch: Tuesday, October 24th



The Arts

The Book Blog

Written By: Kara Blakely

Hey guys, and welcome to The Book Blog!

Each month, DHMS - or specifically the head librarian, Mr. Larson - hosts a book club. Usually it's held on the last Wednesday every month at around 2:45, however, October's book club date was changed a bit. It will instead be held on Wednesday, November 1st. Be sure to come if you're interested, and if you need more incentive, Mr. Larson always brings treats to eat while sharing opinions.

Whether you're an avid reader, or perhaps someone who doesn't enjoy reading, these books are typically always a great choice. Many people don't know about book club, so each month I will review the book, and from there hopefully you will find some new things to read (and actually enjoy!). This month's book is Frankenstein, written by Mary Shelley. It's a horror book mixed with a bit of science fiction, and a pretty exceptional one, too. This book is a classic, as it was written in the early 1800's. Because of that it's more of a challenge to readers, mainly due to the words and phrases that are no longer used in the present. Regardless, anyone with a dictionary handy and a determined mindset can pick up this novel.



Personally, I enjoyed reading Frankenstein. In simple terms, it's a story about a man named Victor Frankenstein, who tells the tale of how he gave life to a being of his own creation. Due to its hideous appearance, Frankenstein's monster is rejected by his own creator, and also mankind in general. It shows how this affects the monster, and in turn, how the monster affects other people's lives. The main thing I liked was all the themes conveyed in the book; it wasn't just a story about a scary monster but something deeper that showed the flaws of society. In comparison, my least favorite part is probably the fear factor of the book. The story itself didn't seem absolutely terrifying, despite it being one of the most prominent horror stories today. In the beginning, the story did seem slightly confusing with the way it was written, but as the book progressed I began to actually understand what was happening. At times, it also seemed like there was excessive dialogue or description in one part of the story, but this just helps to paint a vibrant picture in the reader's mind. Of course, it paints a frightening picture, as Frankenstein is filled with surprising twists and turns that add to the horror concept. If this sounds like the book for you, go ahead and give it a try; Shelley's novel is certainly worth your time.

Popular Movies, Music, and Concerts

lexi E.

There are many movies that come out weekly to monthly in theaters. These movies consist of horror, comedy, thriller, romantic, musicals, and much more. For example, in 2019 alone, 873 movies came out. Some new movies that have come out in 2023 would be The Jester, The Mean One, TalkToMe, and King of Kotha. For music lovers, The Eras Tour movie | is coming out October 13, 2023.

This movie stars Taylor Swift and is a full movie presenting her most recent tour. This is the first Taylor Swift movie, as Ms. Americana and The Reputation Tour are documentaries on Netflix. The Eras Tour is the ongoing sixth concert tour by Taylor, who described it as a journey through all of her musical "eras". An homage to her albums, the Eras Tour is her most expansive tour yet, with 146 dates across five continents. A student at DHMS says, "I'm very excited for this movie to come out because I am personally a huge fan and she has never done something like this other than documentaries."



Student Short Stories

Brianna McGary, 9th

"So why did you want me?" I asked.

"Oh, yes, right. I asked you to come here because I want you to capture the Solar Princess."

I frowned. "Why?"

"My reasons are my own."

"What do I get out of this?"

The Queen suddenly became stern. "Must you be so wary? I thought pirates enjoyed things like this."

"I'm wondering why you wish to anger the Solars. You're asking for war!"

"Hush," she said, "as I said before, my reasons are my own. All I ask is that you complete this task for me."

I fell silent. Why would the Lunar Queen want this? And why am I the one she asked to do it?

"Bring the Solar Princess to me. Then you're free to do whatever you pirates like to do."

I folded my arms. "And if I refuse?"

The Queen turned to face the docks. "See, down there? There's a magnificent boat just waiting for me to board it. The only thing in my way is you." She eyed me. "So, do you choose adventure? Or prison?"

I straightened my shoulders. Keeping a glare on her I said, "Fine. I'll bring you war, Your Majesty, but I will not be a part of it."

Without a response, I turned back toward my ship. When I boarded, my quartermaster confronted me.

"You look a good deal more sour than when you left. What happened?"

"Make course for Alynthor," I said. "We're going to begin a war."

Emily Thacker, 9th

That's when I noticed something. The notebook. It was on the shelf upside down. I had put it back right side up.

I grabbed the notebook and flipped past my first entry. Then my second. Then I saw a third entry. One I didn't write.

Dear JDA,

Sorry.

I know I might sound like a big snoop for reading your entries, but I don't want to make fun of your writing or tease you at all. I wouldn't even think about doing that.

I just want to talk. I came to the library for a break, and then I saw this neat notebook and saw what you wrote.

Number one! I'm glad your parents took the week off. My mom and Dad hover over me like two crazy helicopters so I don't really relate. But I can imagine that it would stink to never see them.

Number two! Mr. Sullivan is a bit of a science nerd. Maybe if you wrote an official sounding note or something, Mr. Sullivan will realize that he should be an only science teacher.

Number three! Maybe this school isn't ALL bad. Maybe you're just having a REALLY bad day.

I have a lot of bad days, so maybe I relate to that...

Number four! I'm so sorry about your bully and your one friend. Maybe, if things don't work out with her, I can be your friend.

Number five! Did you know that empty notebooks have no mistakes?

-SEA

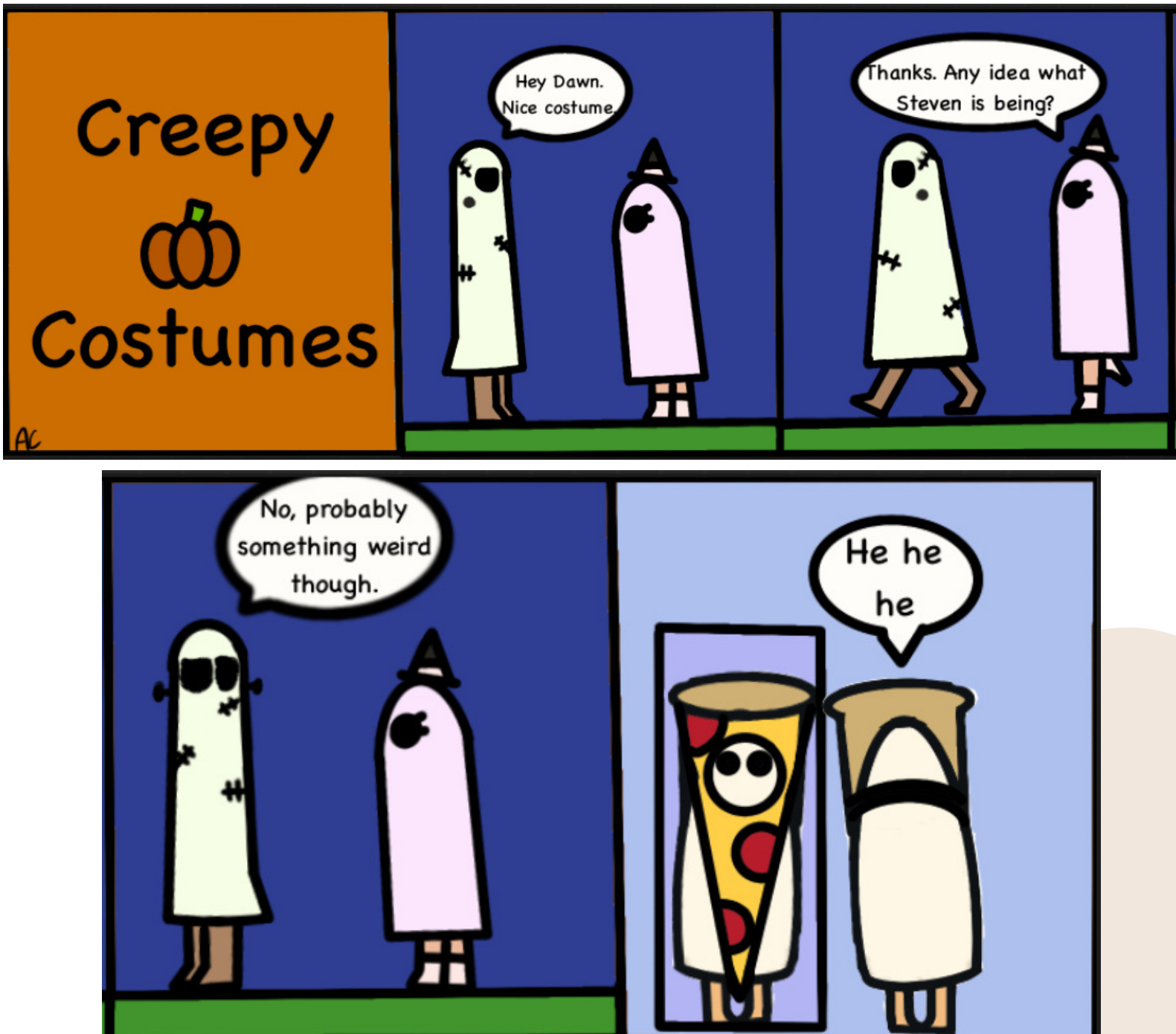
Audrey Carlson, 9th

My name is Drewina B. and my life was perfect. Great relationship with my mom, All A's, amazing friends, and a steady job. Now I'm in a world where the grass is purple and whales fly. Not only that but I have to accept the fact that I'm never going home.

Have a short story or snippet? Send it to us at 27carlsaud@washk12.org or 27thackemim@washk12.org
(We ask for no more than four or five paragraphs.)

The Ghosts

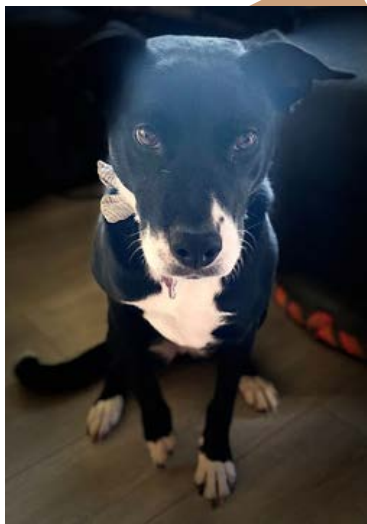
By: Audrey Carlson



Thunder submitted photo section

These are photos that are submitted by students or people around our school. Anyone is welcome to email pictures to me via the email below! I will be choosing 8-10 photos per issue to be placed into this section :) Names will be displayed if given permission.

This month's pictures are from Caitlin Dunn!



This is Oreo, a border collie labrador!

Taken on the way to Salt Lake City, Utah!



Taken on my sidewalk, of a sparkler on July 4th!

Taken: The clouds over North Carolina in an airplane



Taken: Massacre at Mountain Meadows Memorial

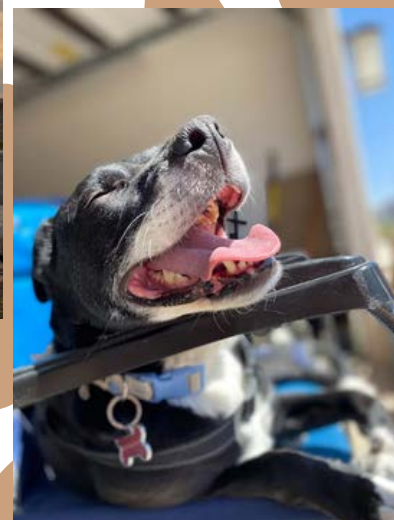


Taken: Massacre at Mountain Meadows Memorial



Taken: Sunset on Utah-Arizona border

Taken: Portrait photo of Oreo!



Taken: Heading to Cape Canaveral in Florida!

Created by Caitlin D.
Please send in your pictures to be put in the next issue here!
27dunncaie@washk12.org