

THE CORRESPONDENT BY DISPATCH

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PHOTO BY ZELL KURTH

Remembering to Never Forget

BY KELSEY NEARY

This summer I was asked to be a part of something that was to have an effect on the community. Partnering with Salute and A Soldier's Journey Home, I was invited to attend and speak at the Village of Arlington Heights' 20th anniversary 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony at First Presperterian Church. Along with that, I was asked to be a part of the all-school assembly which honored veterans and taught all of Hersey the meaning behind service. I sat next to the gold star families as they were honored and could see how much the younger generations' interest and respect meant to them.

The morning of the ceremony at First Presperterian Church, I delivered a speech I had written over the summer. It was an honor and I'm grateful for the opportunity, but I will forever be grateful for the experiences that came with being a part of that event; I was able to meet, talk with, and learn all about veterans in my community, as well as see first hand the effect these ceremonies had on them. You can read my speech below and watch a portion of the ceremony here.

I was raised in a very patriotic house. Both my grandparents served for this country and both of them returned unharmed. That's not the case for everyone and that's why we are all here. I am 16 years old. I was born after the terrorist acts committed on 9-11. I was told about this day at a very young age. However, I was not told the truth about this day until arriving at John Hersey High School. While working on a class project for Veterans Day, I approached my church pastor with a crazy idea.

At 14-years-old, I had a wish. I had a wish to connect with and interview a Gold Star Family. I wished to sit them down and have a conversation about their lives and how they changed after their loss. My wish was to understand what it means to be a Gold Star Family, both the suffering and healing. My wish was to connect them to the community and help share their story with my generation. To establish a relationship where I could meet with them for a morning coffee. My hope in reaching out to my pastor was to spend the rest of my life remembering their loss and honoring all those who served. Now, two and a half years later, my wish has come true!

I have been blessed with the privilege and honor of having met Kaki Newgard, mother of Fallen Hero, army veteran Will Newgard. The other day Kaki told me the story of being presented with the news of Will's death. She painted the picture for me; gave me a setting, the feelings, emotions, and dialogue that was shared as she saw those uniformed men pull up, get out of the car, and walk closer and closer to her. They came with bad news, the same bad news all of you have once heard. It's her story to tell, and one in which many of you have, and will never forget. I am inspired by Kaki's strength and courage in continuing to honor her son Will and to tell his story. I am also blessed for the relationship I have been able to forge with her and for Kaki turning my wish into a reality.

Another reality, the reason we are gathered today, is the events that took place 20 years ago. Not the actions of the terrorist, but the actions of heroic citizens. The patriotism and unity that followed the days of 9-11 will never be forgotten. Those that were inspired by heroes of this day. Those who followed in first responders' footsteps to join the military. Those who did the little things; checked on their neighbors, flew the flag, will never be forgotten. I and others continue to learn from connections made with people like Kaki.

Nearly a generation apart, Will's patriotic spirit is still carried through Hersey's halls. For many, this day is impossible to forget, for my generation, born after, we will always remember. Today, we look at the portraits of our fallen heroes. We will always remember their service and we will always remember their hearts.



Kelsey Neary gives her speech at the Village of Arlington Heights' 20th Anniversary 9-11 Ceremony at First Presperterian Church on September 11, 2021. [Click here to watch her speech.](#)

PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY MARTIN

What it Takes: A HERO'S POSITION 20 YEARS POST 9/11

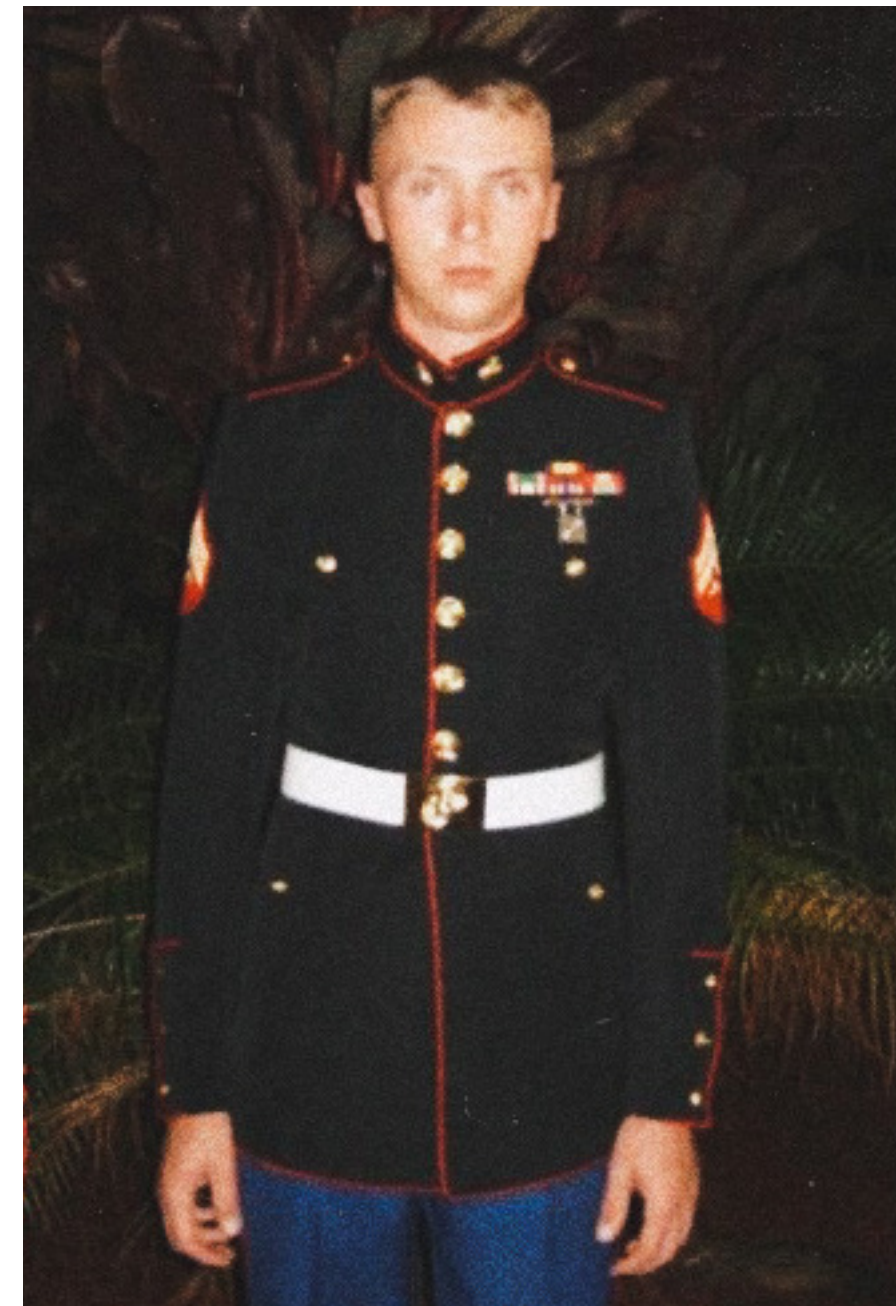
BY REBECCA FEATHERSTONE

Political and moral issues have engulfed the attention of our country in the past couple of years, inciting chaos and division within the nation. At the same time, the United States remembers the 20th anniversary of the tragedy of 9/11.

Our society has been reflecting upon what happened, and what has changed since the event. How has 9/11 affected the level of respect veterans are treated with? The polarized political ideologies existing in the United States most definitely affects how the entire national defense is viewed. Focusing on the concept of considered respect through the specific lens of veterans is most beneficial because with being both a soldier and a civilian at one time or another, these individuals hold a wider perspective.

Exploring the question of respect towards veterans, research and history show it has not been the greatest. Veterans are twice as likely to be homeless than an average American. Substance abuse is also an issue, affecting 70% of veterans. Furthermore, many veterans have died waiting for care at VA facilities. Veterans of war have been blamed for the outcomes of the war in the past, (post Vietnam war) but how do veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan differ?

To see how, John Hersey High students were interviewed for their perspectives on the morality of the armed services in 2021. Receiving opinions about veterans from the pool of our own school provides an honest, first-hand account of ways today's attitude towards veterans may differ



Marine Sergeant Tyler Featherstone in stance for his military personnel photo towards the end of his service.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FEATHERSTONE FAMILY

compared to history.

Tyson Shultz ('23) said, "I show respect to the soldiers by the Pledge of Allegiance every morning and by thanking soldiers if I see them anywhere."

Senior Jack Alesia said, "I believe in dying for one's country, however it does come at the expense of me losing my family for a greater cause."

Callista Mackey ('22) shared, "I'm not willing to risk my life for my country, not my passion" while Noah Banty ('23) shared a different perspective, "I believe in dying for your country."

Underclassmen were interviewed as well. Freshman Linette Velez said, "I respect people who die for their countries. If I personally was in a situation where I had to choose to sacrifice my life, my answer would vary depending on the situation."

Freshman Isabel Hinman expressed, "I think there are other ways to help this country without fighting, when it comes down to it, I don't think I would be able to [sacrifice your life]." These students show a respect for the services, but externalize themselves from the responsibility of a soldier.

Back to the question of the way veterans of 9/11 (stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan) are treated in society today. As shown through the way Hersey members responded, U.S. civilians are generally more supportive of veterans. Washington State University's Alair MacLean conducted research and studied Iraq and Afghanistan veterans coming home. The results showed that veterans today were welcomed home better than those who served in Vietnam.

Regardless of new attitudes and levels of empathy, there still remains the divide between civilians and soldiers. This raises the question, then, what does it take to be a soldier morally?

I asked my brother Tyler Featherstone, Hersey graduate, and veteran. "What drove me to join the military at first was I felt I would be able to positively contribute and become a better individual at the same time, as well as the brotherhood it offered."

He continued on how his service was impacted after September 11th: "9/11 was a day that changed my life in the military. I was never thinking about getting guns or doing jobs that the military does before 9/11. It made me realize that this was going to be an infantry battle. I wanted to be where the military needed me the most. I entered active duty June 10, 2002 and served with the Marine Corps on duty assignments for Headquarters Company. In my primary specialty, 3531 was a Motor Vehicle Operator and was a Roadrunner during Combat Operations. One deployment was with the Navy as an expeditionary force, which was equipped and sent to support defense operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom two."

My brother wanted to serve in Afghanistan, but wasn't able to due to his medical status, he got injured



Since 1776, the flag has signified the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness across the nation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FEATHERSTON FAMILY

on the expeditionary in Iraq. He ended his service July 12, 2009, with a rank of Sergeant.

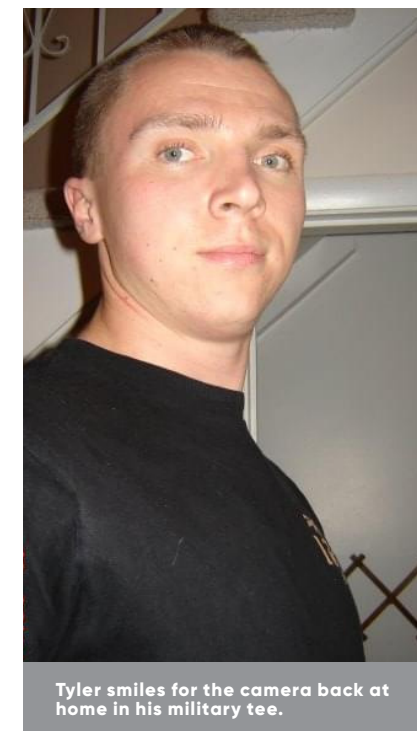
He told me how his service affected his career. "Military careers have lots of valuable skills that employers can use. Mostly, as a veteran, it's a bigger challenge to get hired. The employers need incentives to hire veterans. So yes, it will affect the job you get. It depends if you get another government job [and] it can transfer the benefits for retirement."

He explained his perspective on the traumatic aspects of combat. "Issues for combat like PTSD or depression and anxiety are also common. Knowing that the risk of being hurt in combat and possibly killed can be a traumatic issue." You have

deployments, they don't have leadership that have instructions on how to win the war. It's never sure why people are risking their life for the reason they are. Most of the deployments are to get guys promoted and good jobs done."

Joining the military and putting his life in danger changed him. Everyone in my family knows that he is simply not and will never be the same man that left on June 10, 2002.

The changed man shares what he wishes he knew when he was back in Hersey. "I would tell myself to never cut corners. There are many more wonderful experiences after high school. It's most important to finish well instead of trying to accomplish more."



Tyler smiles for the camera back at home in his military tee.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FEATHERSTON FAMILY

"9/11 WAS A DAY THAT CHANGED MY LIFE."

- TYLER FEATHERSTONE

to handle the stress of knowing you will see people die. During my service, I saw people I know who died, and that was very unfortunate because they are making a sacrifice. It's also not in a situation where you have a lot of comfort. People will be trying to kill you if you are too complacent. From what I see in

Given all of these changes to my brother's emotional well being, morality, career, and general demeanor, it's mind boggling to wrap your head around why someone would do such a thing. What sense that the public is coming to realize presently is that those who choose to enlist in the services

are not just sacrificing their life and their ego. They also have the maturity expanded way beyond themselves and their families. They see the nation as a collective, and themselves as an insignificant piece.

This humble view in addition to the sacrifice each and every soldier incites overwhelming respect, at least in my mind. Though some may disagree with war and physical violence, more Americans are coming to look past those aspects of their morality to respect individual jobs in our armed services.

9/11 was a tragedy that brought the U.S. together through deeper empathy on a collective level, and specifically directed towards veterans as well.



The Road Home Program, located in Chicago, has assembled a world-class team of experts trained in military culture and skilled in the evaluation and treatment of PTSD (posttraumatic stress disorder), depression, and MST (military sexual trauma).

PHOTO BY THE DISPATCH

Take on Principal Rogers' "What Are You Wearing!?!"

BY JENNY AN

Students and staff were excited to finally be back in person after a rough year and a half of holding class over Zoom. One of the changes that a lot of students were particularly looking forward to was the new dress code...until it was revoked. At the beginning of the year, the dress code allowed hats and hoodies and was pretty lenient with short shorts, crop tops, tube tops, and playboy clothing- all items that were strictly regulated in the dress code during past years.

But on August 25th, Principal Rogers asked students to refrain from wearing hats and hoodies due to the concern of student and staff safety.

"We've had a few instances where students engaged in 'tomfoolery,' were caught on video; we were unable to identify the students as a result of them wearing head gear (hats/hoodies) and a mask. Not good." Principal Rogers wrote.

On September 8th, Principal Rogers sent out an additional newsletter that entailed an update to the dress code, titled "What are you wearing!?!". Principal Rogers encouraged students to stray from wearing clothes that reveal undergarments, playboy insignias, t-shirts advertising drug/alcohol and profanity references, crop tops that reveal bra under bands, tank top undershirts with no bras, skirts so short that panties and 1/4 of the lower glutes are hanging out, and sagging pants where underwear are spilling out." He also reminded students that they are not entertainers but they're here to learn. Students, particularly females, as well as Instagram account @jhhs.moxie, were a tad bit mad about the newsletter.

"I think the dress code is sexist and teaches people to be more conscious of what other people are wearing. The main focus in school should be learning. People shouldn't be distracted by any type of clothing," senior Mila Rivera said.

"We're in a completely different generation. I think the people who have to get over it are the older people and the people actually working in the school because, honestly, more kids dress like that than don't. If you're going to school in something, you're comfortable in it. Kids get more distracted by a fly in the classroom than looking at a student. I saw that today. A kid was trying to catch a fly for 20 minutes," senior Natalia Reyes said.

Students believe that the problem lies more with the way students are being viewed by adults in the building rather than the actual garments being worn by students.

In this generation, clothes have become a major part of self-expression. Whether it be grunge, exotic, vintage, cottagecore, dark academia, artsy, etc., these are all styles that students are using to express themselves. There are so many different types of clothing in our generation to the point where a majority of students are barely fazed by the clothes others are wearing. We see it as just normal, everyday wear. We don't constantly stare at each other because someone's wearing something more out there than what is considered 'normal.'

Principal Rogers concluded the newsletter stating, "Let's focus a little more on self-respect and school decorum. Students, you can't hide who you are! No hat, hood, silly cartoon bunny or any other accoutrement is going to change that, and that's fine because you are fantastic just the way you are."

I completely agree with what Principal Rogers is saying here, and I'm sure most students would also agree. No clothes are going to change who we are as a person, so why should it matter what we wear? Are teachers and staff unable to get to know students personally because of the clothes they're wearing? Students don't feel any less self respect when they're wearing a playboy shirt rather than a plain white shirt. We wear our clothes for ourselves, not others.

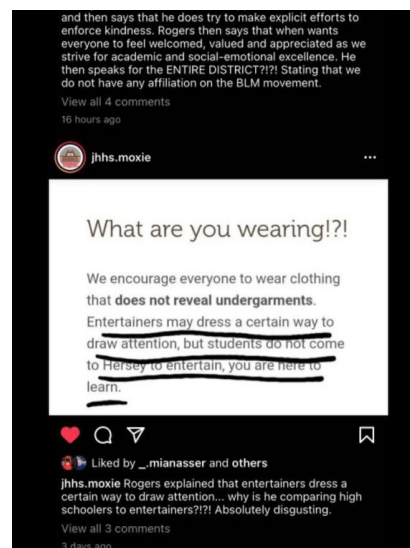
Students of Hersey respect Principal Rogers and acknowledge his efforts in making the school a better place, but the newsletter he sent out could have been executed in a more effective way. Using terms like panties and glutes, comparing students to entertainers, and bringing up self-respect came off as offensive to many students. Instagram account @jhhs.moxie was organizing a protest that was to take place on September 17th, and many students were reposting @jhhs.moxie's posts and stories, as well as participating in the protest. The protest never actually took place, but the fact that many students were spreading the word about the protest speaks levels. There, of course, should be a dress code in place, but it definitely should not have been worded in this manner. There are parts of the dress code that should remain as is, but there are also parts that really shouldn't be included. The wording of the newsletter makes it seem like students are dressing more provocatively than they actually are. We are in a new generation; leave the past in the past.

regarding your school attire. As a senior, I'm sure you have a specific focus for these last eight months of school. I'm curious to know what goals you have set for yourself. Your mother and

An email a student received from Principal Rogers concerning their attire, where Principal Rogers oddly brings up the topic of their goals.



Skylar Min wearing navy colored leggings and a black T-shirt.



Instagram account @jhhs.moxie highlights its problem with Principal Rogers' message in his "What Are You Wearing!?!".



Jillian O'Donnell carrying a brown bag while wearing grey cargo pants and a black hoodie with a yellow smiley face.



Instagram account @jhhs.moxie promotes a protest against the dress code at Hersey on their story.



Natalia Reyes confidently wearing a black skirt with black fishnet paired with a red lace top and red zipup sweater.

Hersey's Mask Mandate

BY ROMAN DEBICKI

With the first quarter of Hersey high school's school year coming to a close, Hersey Dispatch wanted to get different opinions on how students feel about the mask mandate.

On August 4, 2021 Governor Pritzger mandated that all individuals within Illinois school buildings must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

"Take it off all the way as I said I don't really mind wearing it, my preference is to take it off," declared Adomas Mrazauskas. Most students want to take their masks off and they would if they had the option to.

"I think it is important for everyone to be taking care of themselves also worrying about other people some people can't get vaccinated other people are choosing to get vaccinated you know until we can get more children vaccinated and encourage other people who are hesitant to get vaccinated I think masks would be the safest for everyone," said school nurse Julie Denson.

Some vaccinated individuals want to keep their masks on for their own safety and their family's safety. Some students however also believe that masks are bad for your health. "That's not true at all, I don't believe that at all. I personally don't have any difficulty breathing in masks and don't think there is any truth to them harming your health," said Denson.

Still, many students complain that masks re-



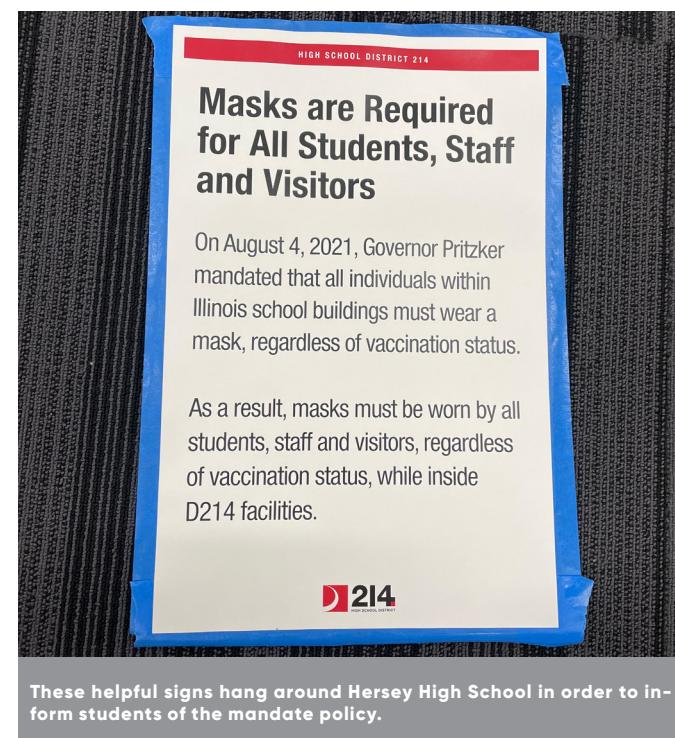
Hersey Students are not required to wear masks while eating in the cafeteria. But this leads to some students taking advantage of it.

PHOTO BY ROMAN DEBICKI

strict their breathing. There are a few areas in the building where the mask mandate softens and breathing can go unrestricted. Physical education students that have their class outside, are able to take off their masks if they prefer. Students also do not need to wear it while eating or drinking.

The reopening of the school without any at home learners has resulted in the traditional Hersey hallway traffic jams. In those situations, students can only question if masks even help. "The information from the CDC, which is that masks are really important in helping prevent the virus, look at last year there were hardly any cases of flu and everyone was masked and that was attributed to everyone wearing masks. And if everyone wears masks properly that will definitely help prevent the spread," said Denson.

In order to stay safe in this continued weird and bizarre time, the school really needs to wear masks. Staff and students alike should come to the conclusion that even though we don't like to wear masks, we need to in order to keep our Hersey family safe.



These helpful signs hang around Hersey High School in order to inform students of the mandate policy.

PHOTO BY ROMAN DEBICKI

What If Season One Review: Enter The Multiverse Of Madness

BY MAX GARCIA

What if Peggy Carter got the Super Soldier Serum? What if T'challa became Star-Lord? What if Zombies!? Marvel Studios "What If?" shows us all of these outcomes. The series has been out for a month, with six out of the nine thirty minute episodes being released at the time of typing this. It's the studios fourth TV series to be released and the studios first animated project to be released. We follow The Watcher, a dimensional being who is beyond space and time and watches over the multiverse, only he cannot get involved, only observe. Instead of following one true main character, each episode follows events that are different from what originally happened, meaning multiple characters can and are in the lead role for every episode. The cast is mostly composed of the same cast as their live screen counterparts, like Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, and Benedict Cumberbatch, reprising their respective roles. However, there are a handful of exceptions: for example, Josh Keaton voices Steve Rogers instead of Chris Evans and Hudson Thames voices Peter Parker/Spider-Man instead of Tom Holland. This isn't a downside at all; in fact, I actually really enjoyed the performances from these actors, and they captured the characters' personalities perfectly, maybe even better than the live action actors.

This series is one of the funnest Marvel Studios projects to be released. The creativity and craziness we've seen is phenomenal, from T'Challa convincing Thanos to become good, all of the Avengers dying by Hank Pym, Ultron winning against the avengers, and Marvel Zombies, which if you're a comic book fan you'll know how insane that is. The best part is that this doesn't affect the main MCU timeline yet, so anything and everything can happen. The animation, while not great at times, is still visually fantastic. When the action scenes begin, the animation quality goes up dramatically, with some fights and scenes being more entertaining and interesting than if they were in live action. With the show not being live action, it also allows for much more creative freedom. This can be seen in episode four, "What If" Doctor Strange Lost His Heart Instead Of His Hands?," where we see, instead of Stephen Strange losing his hands in the car accident, his lover Christine dies in the crash, and Doctor Strange tries everything he can to get her back, even if it means losing his sanity. We then see a clash between an evil Doctor Strange and a good Doctor Strange, with the fight being a visual masterpiece incorporating both of the characters' personalities and goals. "I love the series because it's a way for Marvel to make interesting twists on the stories we're already familiar with. All the voice

actors have done a phenomenal job, and the replacement actors for Captain America, Black Widow, etc. are all great too." Says senior Harry Gillespie.

The show, of course, had its flaws: the thirty minute length for episodes definitely isn't enough time for some of these stories leading to time skips (skipping parts of the story), abrupt endings, and a few plot holes- like in the Zombies episode, we are left on a huge cliff hanger with multiple plot holes in the one ending shot. The animation isn't the best at times and feels very rushed. For example, in the first episode, Steve gets shot in the chest by an undercover Hydra agent when he's about to get the Super Soldier Serum, and when we see him in that same scene, he has no wound from the bullet. This could, of course, be because of censoring and wanting to keep a PG-13 rating, but it's still very jarring. The running animations in the first episode also seem off, along with, in episode 5, Spider-Man's swinging is very stiff. Thankfully most of these moments are short and don't affect the viewing experiences in most cases, but when they're bad, they really take away from the moment. "I would say my favorite episode is What If T'challa became Star-Lord, because it focused on the space side of the MCU, and the shorter pacing was in favor of this story." Says senior Dylan Siena.

I really like where "What If?" is going. Give each episode at least an extended run time of ten minutes and improve the animation for simple shots. This would improve not only the quality of the stories, but the writing as well. With the extended run time, stories could be fleshed out more, and we get to spend more time with these characters and the animation; it just makes the experience more enjoyable. It has been confirmed that "What If" will get another season building upon the first season and introducing more timelines. This would explain the abrupt endings to episode one and episode five, but I would say episodes two, three, and four don't need another episode because their endings give the viewer a clear indication on where the story is going, while the other two leave the viewer with many questions. Especially in episode five, which leaves the viewer on one of the scariest cliffhangers in the entire MCU. "I hope season two offers bigger threats and plot points from upcoming Marvel projects." says senior Tyler Boyko. I would give season one of "What If?" a solid 7/10. The stories are interesting and have fantastic acting and decent animation, but the length of the episodes really affects the writing, and the animation really falls off at some parts. If you're interested in the series, definitely check it out. It's a fun watch!

The #FreeBritney Movement: A Tragic Story

BY ZELL KURTH

With the wake of the Free Britney Movement uprising this year, the public is exposed to the horrors Britney Spears has had to go through for the past 13 years in her conservatorship. The Framing Britney Spears documentary, released to Hulu in February of this year, as well as Spears' public appearance at the June 23rd court hearing, all opened up the limitations the 39-year-old singer is still put upon ever since 2008.

On January 31, 2008, Jamie Spears, Britney Spears' father, petitioned for a conservatorship and as full conservator over it and her daughter after Britney was on 5150 psychiatric holds due to the decline in her mental health. As spoken about in the Framing Britney Spears documentary, Britney's decline in her mental health had much to do with the rise in fame so early in her life, as early as 18 years old with her debut hit, "Baby One More Time." The media, and more significantly, the paparazzi, had traumatized her for years, leaving no privacy in her life and portraying her in a false light to the public. Britney has stated multiple times in her career that she constantly wishes the paparazzi will leave her and her family alone, as they idolize their false interpretations of her for money.

For more background information of what is going on in her life, a conservatorship is a form of legal guardianship of an adult. Under this, the conservator has legal authority over aspects of the conservatee's life. Usually, conservatorships are granted for those who have dementia, Alzheimer's, a genetic disorder, or who are in a coma



On July 14 2021, fans and supporters of the #FreeBritney protested outside of the Los Angeles County Courthouse during one of Britney's hearings over her guardianship

PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

and are under a temporary conservatorship. But countering that, Britney Spears has the full capability to take care of herself and her two kids, so being under a conservatorship in her case is completely unnecessary and unjust for her independence and human rights. One student, Taylor Jansen, even stated that "She's capable, she's healthy, and she can take care of her kids. I don't understand why her father feels the need to have so much power over her. It's ridiculous."

Under her conservatorship, Britney cannot drive a car, vote, get married, have children,

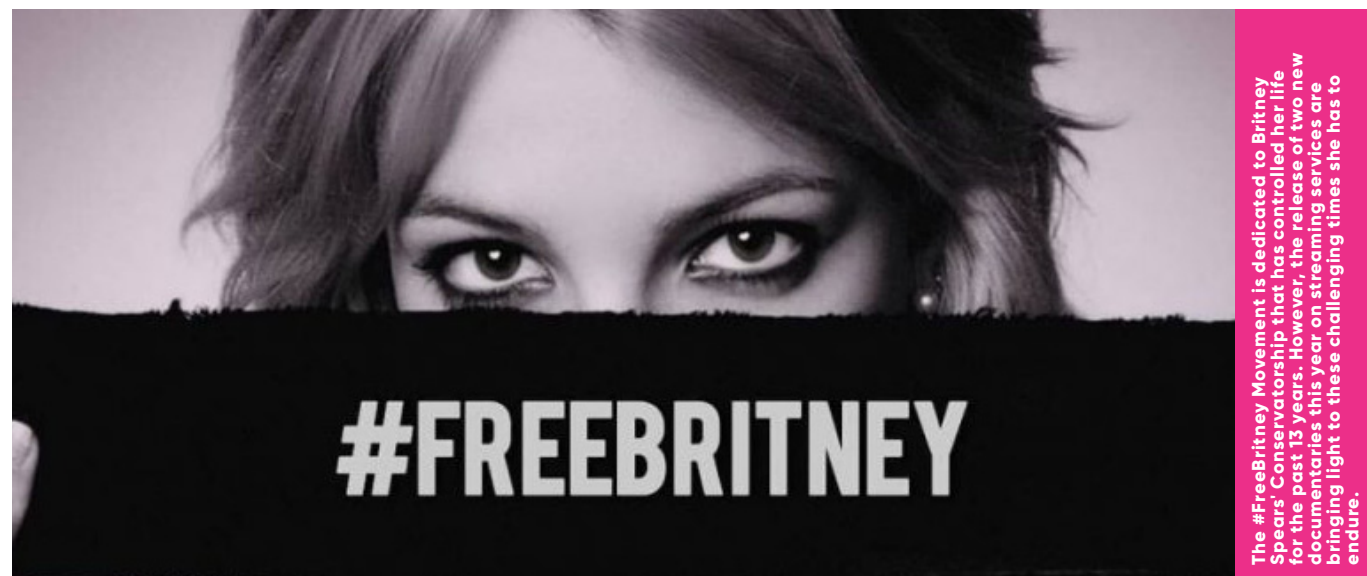


PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

The #FreeBritney Movement is dedicated to Britney Spears' Conservatorship that has controlled her life for the past 13 years. However, the release of two new documentaries this year on streaming services are bringing light to these challenging times she has to endure.

#FREEBRITNEY

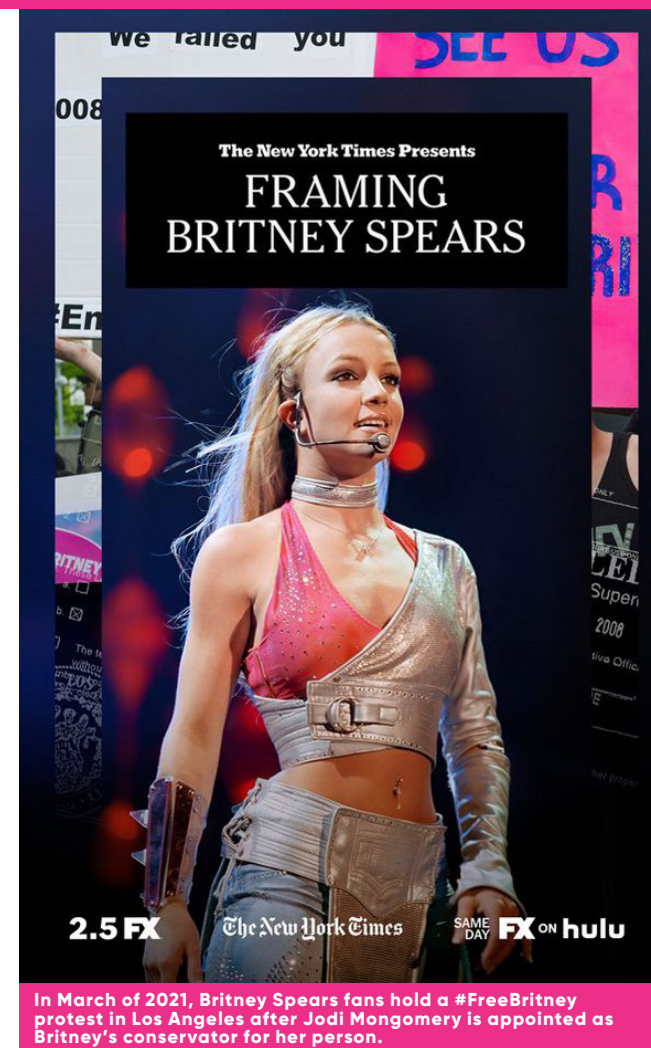
spend her own money, and more without permission. It wasn't until recently that she spoke out about it at the June 23rd court hearing this year. During that session, Britney revealed that she wanted to have more children, but her conservatorship is preventing her from having her IUD surgically removed, thus preventing her from getting pregnant. Furthermore, when preparing for her tour in 2018 - that she was forced to oblige - members from her team were claiming she was never taking her medication during rehearsal, even though she has her medication in the early mornings. Because of this, her therapist prescribed her with lithium, a substantially stronger medication, after being on her regular meds for over five years. Britney said that once she started taking lithium she "felt drunk [and] really couldn't even take up for myself. I couldn't even have a conversation with my mom or dad really about anything." It is also said that you can go mentally impaired if medicated with lithium for more than five months. Britney stated that this was one of the hardest points in her life from the conservatorship as she wasn't allowed any privacy from the nurses and even said she "gave eight vials of blood a week" at the hearing.

However, September of this year is when things are starting to be a bit brighter for Britney Spears. On September 7th, Jamie Spears filed a petition to terminate the conservatorships over Britney's person and her estate and on the 12th, Britney announced her engagement with her long-time boyfriend, Sam Asghari. However, that doesn't mean the conservatorship is necessarily over. Furthermore, the new Britney vs Spears



PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

On February 5th, 2021, The New York Times presented the Framing Britney Spears documentary on Hulu to highlight what has led to the conservatorship over the past three decades.



In March of 2021, Britney Spears fans hold a #FreeBritney protest in Los Angeles after Jodi Montgomery is appointed as Britney's conservator for her person.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW YORK TIMES

documentary premiered on Netflix on September 28, continuing to spread awareness for Britney's situation.

In light of recent events, however, there are upcoming hearings for Britney's conservatorship on September 29 and November 4, 2021. These court hearings that occur in Los Angeles, CA, have led many supporters of the #FreeBritney Movement to protest outside the courthouses for their voices to be heard about saving Britney from this conservatorship. Social media and streaming services are doing their best to do justice for her as this conservatorship has taken a hold on her life for over a decade. As of September 30, 2021, Jamie Spears was suspended as Britney's conservator, but Jodi Montgomery, a woman he describes as Spears' "care manager," was appointed as temporary conservator since September 2019. Hopefully, Britney is able to make another statement at an upcoming hearing, but all we can do for now is hope.

Hersey Takes on LOLLAPALOOZA

BY DAVID MIINIKOV, SARA SEAGRAVES, AND TINA KRASNIQI



A wide view of the T-Mobile Stage on opening day of Lollapalooza as Playboy Carti performs. (photo courtesy Jia Skrudland)



Miley Cyrus performing at Lollapalooza on opening day at the T-Mobile stage. (photo courtesy Jia Skrudland)

Lollapalooza returned for the summer of 2021!!! After a year and a half of chaos, life has slowly started becoming normal again. Social interactions, businesses, and festivals were limited due to precautions. Lollapalooza, an annual 4-day festival held in Chicago, was highly impacted. Lollapalooza is held between the end of July and the beginning of August which in the summer of 2020, was a peaking point for COVID-19. Allowing this festival to happen would have done more harm than good. Those in charge of Lollapalooza decided to hold a virtual event in 2020. Many artists were scared of touring and this virtual event allowed them to perform without fearing for their safety. This event was a free broadcast of artists that were supposed to perform live. This event limited the spread of COVID-19 but sprung sadness to those who were excited to attend the festival.

A year later the festival came back! Increasing precautions allowed for Lollapalooza to occur. With every ticket purchased proof of vaccination was required. For those who weren't vaccinated a negative COVID test was needed. Artists such as Miley Cyrus, Tyler the Creator, Rico Nasty, Post Malone, and many more performed at Grant Park this past summer. With Lollapalooza being back many students were excited to attend after a year of being concertless. Caity Lin Bouris ('23), Maddie Burda ('22), Riya Gandhi ('23), and Anastasia Ferenc ('23) were a few Hersey students who attended Lollapalooza for their first time.



Riya Gandhi



Maddie Burda



Caity Lin Bouris



Anastasia Ferenc

WATCH HERE

PRODUCED BY DAVID MINIKOV, SARA SEAGRAVES, AND TINA KRASNIQI

WHITE SOX- NEW YORK YANKEES PLAYED IN A *FIELD OF DREAMS*

BY JIA SKRUDLAND

Field of Dreams, a 1989 classic baseball film starring Kevin Costner, is one of the highly touted baseball movies of all time. The film starts in Iowa where farmer Ray Kinsella, played by Kostner, hears a voice coming out of his cornfield saying, “If you build it, he will come.” Despite people calling him a lunatic, Ray took the suggestion of the voice and built a baseball field out on his farm with his wife’s support. Ghosts of the 1919 Black Sox appear out of the corn, including White Sox great “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, ready to play ball on his field of dreams. The same voice tells Ray different things and forces him to go on a journey to figure out the meaning behind it all.

The highly anticipated MLB at the Field of Dreams game became a reality on August 12, 2021, played between the Chicago White Sox and the New York Yankees in Dyersville, Iowa. The contest was originally slated to happen August 13, 2020, but due to the shortened season and new travel guidelines for the 2020 campaign, the St. Louis Cardinals replaced the Yankees. However, a month before the game was to be played, the Cardinals had a COVID outbreak, and MLB decided to postpone the game to 2021 with the White Sox vs Yankees playing, as originally planned.

It would’ve been insanely cool if they could play it on the actual movie site, but that field has now turned into a Dyersville tourist attraction. Although the replica site is about 500 ft away from the movie set field, it certainly didn’t take away any feelings of playing a dream baseball game in Iowa. With the White Sox being the home team for the role they played in the film, MLB constructed the field to fit the old dimensions of Comiskey Park as a tribute to the 1919 Black Sox’s field.

One of the most iconic staples of the film are the players coming out from the corn field with Ray standing on the outfield, watching admirably. Kostner experienced déjà vu as he watched the Sox and Yankees wdecked out in Chicago’s 1919 throwback jerseys and distinctive New York jerseys emerge from the corn. Following the ceremonial tribute to that scene, Kostner said one of his most famous and distinctive lines of all time baseball movies, “Is this heaven?”

This game really could have been called “MLB at Field of Dreams: Home Run Derby” because of the multitude of home runs. With the field dimensions being relatively small compared to the average MLB field, it was a given that home runs were likely to be the main source for scoring runs. There were a total of eight home runs at the end of the night, including three pivotal bombs in the latter innings. After the game, Sox pitcher Lance Lynn told the media that he didn’t want to be the first pitcher to give up a homerun in the state of Iowa, and luckily for him, reigning American League Most Valuable Player Jose Abreu made his dream come true. In the bottom of the first inning with an 0-2 count with two outs against Andrew Heany, Abreu barreled the baseball perfectly into the left field corn earning him bragging and history rights of the first professional baseball player to go “corn” in Iowa.

Of course, with it being the first game ever in Iowa, there was going to be history made – first walk, first hit, first strikeout, etc. – but that’s not important. What is important is how the game would play out. It would be the typical MLB game one would expect with hit’s, runs, walks, and all the fun. Here’s the rundown of the first eight innings in Iowa.

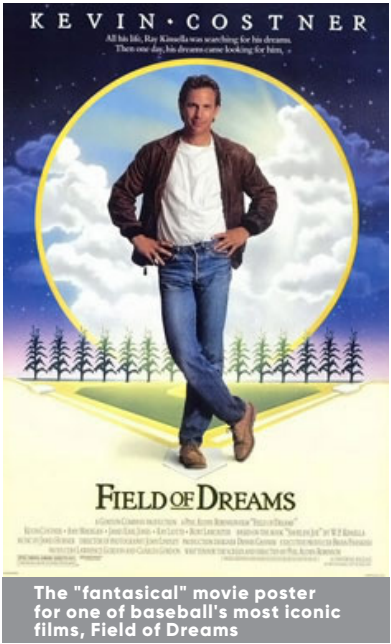


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

| |
|--|
| Top 1: Lynn 2K, LeMahieu H Bottom 1: Abreu HR, Heaney K 0-1, White Sox |
| Top 2: Lynn 2K Bottom 2: Heaney 2K 0-1, White Sox |
| Top 3: Lynn BB, Gardner H, Judge HR, Lynn K Bottom 3: Heaney BB & K, Anderson 2B, Heaney K & BB, Jimenez HR 3-5, White Sox |
| Top 4: GO, FO, GO Bottom 4: Robert 2B, Zavala HR 3-7, White Sox |
| Top 5: Lynn 2K Bottom 5: Heaney BB 3-7, White Sox |
| Top 6: Gardner HR, Lynn K, Kopech 2K Bottom 6: Peralta BB & K 4-7, White Sox |
| Top 7: Kopech BB, Bummer BB Bottom 7: Peralta 2K 4-7, White Sox |
| Top 8: Kimbrel BB & 2K Bottom 8: Jimenez H, Moncada LODP, Vaughn H, Rodriguez K 4-7, White Sox |



White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson drills the low-outside pitch from Andrew Heaney into right field to propel the White Sox to an 8-9 victory against the New York Yankees on August 12

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR



An overview look of the Field of Dreams game site from left field during the latter innings

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

The Yankees kept crawling their way back up on the scoreboard after giving up multiple leads and would flip the script in the bottom of the ninth with two big homers from two big time players. Things started quite well for Australian closer Liam Hendriks getting back to back strikeouts from DJ LeMahieu and Brett Gardner after a leadoff single from Tyler Wade. However, the probable conclusion of the game got shaky when Mr. All Rise, or Aaron Judge, came to the plate. After already hitting a homerun in the third inning, Judge blasted one into the right field corn resulting in a more tense 9th inning with a score of 6-7, Sox. Following the homer, Hendriks proceeded to walk recently acquired Yankee Joey Gallo, resulting in the go-ahead run at the plate with the likes of powerhouse Giancarlo Stanton. All it took was broadcaster Joe Buck to say, “He’s hit 17 home runs, hittles tonight.” before the Yankees would take the lead in the top of the ninth. Stanton blasted one into the left field corn on the first pitch he saw from Hendriks, flipping the score of 8-7, Yankees. Hendriks was able to regroup by striking out Luke Voit, handing it over to the talented and fiery White Sox offense.

With Yankee closer Alrodis Chapman being placed on the COVID-19 Injured List, at the time, manager Aaron Boone referred to lefty Zach Britton to get the job done. Britton would be facing the 8-9-1 hitters: Danny Mendick, Seby Zavala, and Tim Anderson. In a way, these three hitters would make the bottom of the ninth a carbon copy of the top half, except shorter and cut in half. Britton was able to get a quick and easy out from Mendick on a routine ground ball. However, Zavala wasn’t as easy for Britton to be put away after being ahead in the count 0-2. He gave him his money’s worth – or the fans’ money – and drew a seven pitch walk, resulting in the winning run at the plate. With one out, and the possibility of a double play ball to end the game, Britton gave it his best shot to get a ground ball, and it worked well in the Sox’s favor...except it wasn’t a ground ball. Anderson wanted to make the game extra spicy and went oppo-taco on the first pitch he saw to give his team the win in Iowa. The mind blowing fact about this home run? The very first White Sox walk off was hit by none other than “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, who is the main 1919 Black Sox member to be featured in the film. Was it a coincidence or was it meant to be by the baseball gods above?

Whether or not it was meant to be, this game couldn’t have gone any better than it was anticipated to be. From the throwback jerseys to the emotional opening to a wild ending, MLB hit the debut Field of Dreams game out of the park or, well, out of the corn.

HUSKIES FACULTY TAKE

It's not often that a game like this could be so great as it was. Next year, the Chicago Cubs and Cincinnati Reds will be squaring off in Iowa, and it'll be hard for the National League Central rivals to top this game – or this game set some pretty high standards. It may even be one of the best MLB games this season. Either way, it was a Hollywood movie with a Hollywood game.

Here's what Hersey staff members had to say about this dream baseball game. (Quotes were shortened and edited for clarity and purpose)

What do you remember about the movie coming out in 1989?

Sean Gudaitis (SOC): I went to see the movie in the movie theater, and I loved it. I realized that it was, you know, some fantasy involved and believing involved, but that was fine with me because baseball is like that.

Megan Brownley (CLS): I was really young when it came out, so I watched it when I was a kid a few times. It was special to me because my dad loves baseball – my whole family does – and we used to watch it maybe like once a year. So, to me, it was a good childhood memory of my dad and siblings.

Bradley Abel (SOC): I was 8 years old, so I was a little bit younger at the time. I wasn't the biggest baseball fan; the one thing, though, that I always remember about it is the famous quote “If you build it, they will come”.

What was your reaction when MLB came out with the news saying they'd have this game?

SG:. I know I was really excited about it. The whole concept is good, and obviously they made so much money out of it, they're going to do it again

MB: Our whole family was really excited just at the thought of it because we love Field of Dreams and the fact that it was going to be the White Sox and the Yankees like in the movie. We just were pretty excited about it.

BA: The first thing I thought of was with the NHL and how they do those winter classics, and those are really cool. I'm excited. It's a new venue, new place. I think it's going to bring people to watch the game that might not ordinarily watch it. I think it's good for the game

What was your reaction to the opening and the game?

SG: It definitely added to the whole tale and fable type of thing, story type of thing, and to the build up, and the game actually kind of delivered.

MB: I started tearing up and got goosebumps when he came out of the corn because I wasn't expecting that. I didn't even hear he was going to be there, so the whole opening scene was really awesome. When the Sox players came out after him and stuff, it was just really awesome to see. It was done way better than I thought it was going to be done. I don't think you could've scripted it any better: The Sox with the lead, blew it late in the eighth, and then came back to win with Tim Anderson's walk off homer. I don't think you could've scripted it any better, so it was really fun.

BA: It's obviously a marketing tool, but it's a way to bring more people into the game. If it was a regular Yankees, [White] Sox game, I probably wouldn't have watched it. The fact that it was played there, the backdrop of the movie, it made me – who, I'll be honest, is not the biggest baseball fan – definitely watch it, so I thought it was cool in that respect.

Did the game have an impact on you? Why?

MB: I think it caused a lot of conversations and some buzz among baseball fans, amongst my friends and family, and then Sox fans. It was something fun and different that's never been done before, so I think it was fun to talk about for once that wasn't politics or COVID or anything.

BA: It's such an iconic baseball movie. It's definitely up there on my top three baseball movies, so yeah, it brought a little bit of childhood back into when I was watching.

Obviously the leader and the spark of the team, Anderson, hit the walk off, what was your reaction and do you think that left a staple about the White Sox this year?

SG: It was obviously very exciting, and the White Sox have won a lot of games kinda late in a special way, so I'm hoping that means they're a team of destiny

MB: He [Anderson] didn't start playing baseball until he was 16 years old and he's just a really incredibly talented athlete. I think he could reach a lot of people so I think a lot of people watching this game probably was good for him that people finally realized who he was and that he would be a good face for not only the white sox but baseball in general. It caused a stir outside of just Chicagoland White Sox fans to kind of look at the team and realize how good they are, how good he is and get some buzz.

What improvements do you think MLB could make?

SG: I don't think there's really any improvements other than it was way too expensive for the average fan, but it's all supply and demand and they wanted to make money.

MB: If they had more stands, it wouldn't look the same as it did in the movie. With a huge stadium, it wouldn't look the same and then you take out the cornfields, so I think you have to limit the number of people that are going. I liked the way it looked like it was the movie

BA: I don't know. I know it's hard and it's a logistical nightmare especially with COVID and stuff like that, but, I know they do this in other sports, it would be cool to see them play games in other parts of the world. Major League games in different parts of the world. That's what I would like to see. That could even make the game more global or make major league more global, so I'd like to see that happen.

Did the game live up to your expectations? How so?

SG: Yes, it did. Loved the uniforms. I'm a big uniform guy. The whole setting. I think they did it right and it was an exciting game and two good teams.

MB: Yeah, far beyond. Honestly I did not think it was going to be that good of a game. I really didn't expect like the emotions that were involved with Kevin Costner coming out in the beginning and the players coming out of the corn, I didn't expect any of that to happen. I think I cried at that and then cried at Tim Anderson and didn't think I was going to cry watching a baseball game.

It was announced that MLB would have another Field of Dreams game between the Cubs and Reds. Do you think they should continue it every year? How do you think they should choose who plays because obviously the Sox are the main team of the movie?

SG: A baseball game is a baseball game, so they don't really need to be really good teams every year because for them to be good teams it would be important for the fan that's not really a fan. For your average fan that's a fan, it doesn't really matter who's playing as long as it's somebody local and make it doable.

MB: I think so, as long as people are interested in going. I think it's something different than the other sports are doing. NHL has done the outdoor hockey game once a year and that's been a big draw for fans, so this might be MLB's way of doing that. I think it was good that they started with the original teams-- Sox and Yankees--and now the Cubs and Reds. Definitely alternate between American League and National League teams and then you start with the oldest franchises first or some good rivalries.

BA: I'd like to see them do it for at least a couple more seasons and see how it plays out. I would have maybe like they have division rivalries play each other. I'd like to see that– like Cubs- Milwaukee. I think that would have been a better choice. Maybe take last year's world series playoff teams and have them play.

A New Type of Hockey Season

BY VICTOR TODOROV



Buffalo Grove Forward, Max Shukhman ('22), being interviewed after his game against the Predators.



Hersey Forward, Stefan Tujarov ('22), being interviewed after his game against the Predators.



Hersey Defense, Micheal Tsagalis ('22), being interviewed after his game against the Predators.

On Sunday September 19, the BG/H/W hockey team had their first game of the 2021-22 season. It was an exciting matchup against D215 Predators. After the game, forward BG senior Max Shukhman, forward Hersey senior Stefan Tujarov, and defensemen Hersey senior Micheal Tsagalis all sat down for an interview about the upcoming season.

After a confusing COVID-19 season last year, the players are thrilled for this new season. All three of them are now seniors, and as the veterans of this team, it is their job to bring along this young squad to a successful season.

WATCH HERE
PRODUCED BY:
VICTOR TODOROV

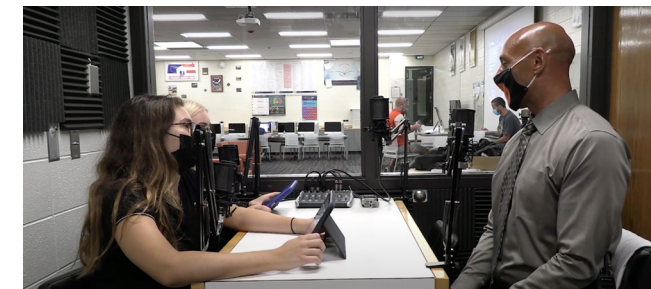


Senior Jack Terson, overlooks his teammates attack D215 in their home opener at West Meadows Ice Arena in Rolling Meadows on a Sept. 19th.

PHOTO BY VICTOR TODOROV

The Howl Presents:

WELCOMING MR. ROGERS TO HERSEY AND THE HOWL



In this episode Tina Krasniqi ('23) and Becca Featherstone ('22) discuss why Principal Rodgers' basketball career and what his long term plans here at Hersey.

WATCH HERE
PODCAST BY TINA KRASNIQI
AND BECCA FEATHERSTONE

TEERING OFF: HERSEY GOLFERS FEAT. SOPHOMORE CHAD TRAMBA



In this episode Hersey golfers Connor Durkin ('22), Jake Cohen ('23), and Chad Tramba ('24) talk about the golf season and how they plan to prepare for the IHSA Regionals.

WATCH HERE
PODCAST BY CONNOR DURKIN
AND JAKE COHEN

FANTASY KINGS: WEEK FOUR MATCHUPS FEAT. SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER CONNOR OILER



Connor Durkin ('22), Jake Cohen ('23), and Jack Conroy ('22) welcome Hersey Cross Country runner Connor Oiler ('22) to talk all things running and fantasy. Make sure to tune in weekly for all your fantasy football news.

WATCH HERE
PODCAST BY CONNOR DURKIN,
JAKE COHEN AND JACK CONROY

HERSEY FOOTBALL: WEEK FIVE MATCHUP FEAT. JOE PARDUN



In this video, Connor Durkin('22) sat down with head football coach Joe Pardun to discuss the past couple of weeks and the upcoming matchup with Elk Grove.

WATCH HERE
PODCAST BY CONNOR DURKIN

Huskie Photobooth



PHOTO BY ZELL KURTH

Left: Ben Meek runs through the tunnel as Hersey Football players cheer him on during the Neurofibromatosis Charity Walk at Lake Arlington on Sept. 25.

Right: Sophomore Alexis Gryfakis and the Cheer Team perform for Hersey Football's first home game.



PHOTO BY ZELL KURTH



Left: Junior Taylor Jansen for the Hersey Varsity Golf Team

Right: Junior Michael Choi playing for the Hersey Varsity Soccer Team

PHOTO BY ROMAN DEBICKI

PHOTO BY JIA SKRUDLAND

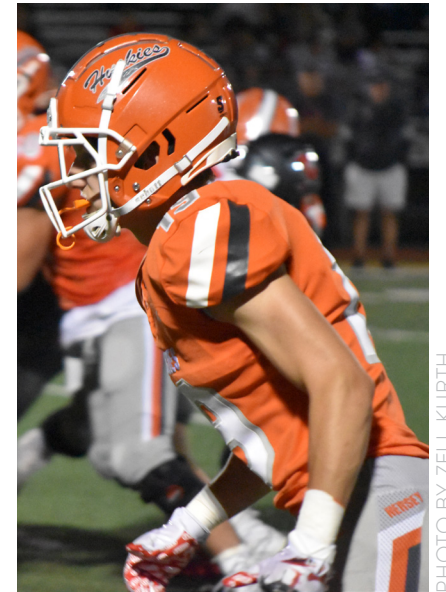


PHOTO BY ZELL KURTH



PHOTO BY ZELL KURTH

On September 10, John Hersey High School holds an emotional, yet powerful 9/11 assembly to honor those we lost. Attendees of this event included our local law enforcement, veterans, and Governor Patrick Quinn



PHOTO BY ZELL KURTH



Top Right: Dylan Carlquist on the move during the first home game for the Varsity Football Team.

Bottom Left: Hersey High School students being excited for the first home Varsity Football game after the Orange Crush Powder Toss



PHOTO BY ZELL KURTH

Left: New principal, Mr. Rogers, speaks at his first school assembly during the 9/11 Assembly held in the main gym

Right: The Buffalo Grove/Wheeling/Hersey Hockey Team skate the ice during their fall season opener on Oct. 13.



PHOTO BY VICTOR TODOROV

Hersey Dispatch produces a variety of mediums for students, staff, and community members to stay up to date on Hersey news. The Dispatch is created by multimedia communication students at John Hersey High School, 1900 East Thomas Street, Arlington Heights, Illinois, 60004. Phone (847) 718-5182. Hersey Dispatch welcomes a free exchange of ideas. Letters to the editor may

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