

# THE CORRESPONDENT BY DISPATCH

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 3. JOHN HERSEY HIGH SCHOOL, MARCH 19, 2021

## A Year After the Pandemic Starts, District 214 Welcomes All Students Back

BY JENNY AN

The 2021 school year has consisted of various types of learning – fully remote, hybrid, and about 25% of students being fully in person – but beginning April 5, full time in-person learning is now being extended to all students. With just 7 weeks remaining in the school year, students are invited to attend all classes in person with the option to stay remote.

It is expected that all students return to in person learning, but those who want to stay remote were asked to fill out an exemption form by March 15. The exemption form asked for the students' information and their reason for wanting to stay remote. Although the district is required by the directive of the State Superintendent to not require a reason for students wanting to stay remote, the district's exemption form asked if students were staying remote for student medical reasons, family medical reasons or other familial accommodations.

"The only reason we did that [ask for a reason for exemption] is because we believe that at some point the state is going to require us to break out who is out for which exemption," District 214 Superintendent David Schuler said.

The exemption form is being used to plan and to prepare the school buildings for the appropriate number of students. The district administration is welcoming a large number of students back into the building for the first time since the pandemic hit in a safe manner.

All teachers in the district, with the exception of fewer than 5 who have medical needs, are going to be fully vaccinated through partnership with the Greater Elgin Family Care Center by the end of spring break. Additional



All juniors at Hersey were required to take the Illinois Science Assessment in person on March 17, 2021, providing some insight into what having all students back on April 5 might look like.

PHOTO BY JENNY AN

safety precautions such as masks, social distancing, temperature checks, self checks, increased air ventilation, hand sanitizer in classrooms and microfiber cloths with disinfectant spray to clean off desks are being put in place in preparation for the reopening.

"If students don't wear a mask, they won't be allowed to be in person – there is no flexibility there. As for social distancing, the Division Head for Student Success and Wellness will remind people to keep their distance. If there's not some self correction, they would be handled like a disciplinary infraction," said Schuler.

But despite the measures taken by administration to ensure safety measures, students are still wary about returning.

"I don't feel entirely safe going back; I'm sure the school follows all social distance rules and sanitation rules, but I always

think there's still a risk of an outbreak," senior Victoria Glowacka said.

"It's kinda dumb [to return to being in person] because we only have a month left," junior Melody Delia said.

"It's a good idea [to fully reopen the schools], but I don't know how they [staff] are going to enforce social distancing because the whole point of school is not just to learn but to also be social," junior Skylar Min said.

On the other hand, some students find being at school in person more beneficial.

"In-person is a lot easier to understand, and the teachers focus on you and the in person class more. In person also allows for better social skills and easier learning," junior Natalia Reyes said.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## With Narrow Vote, Hersey Switches to Block Schedule

BY AMELIA ZOLLNER

After a narrow vote among staff, Hersey will be moving to a pilot program to test a block schedule. The decision comes after Hersey implemented a block schedule in response to COVID-19 last March, when learning was moved to an online platform. After many students responded positively to this schedule change, District 214 decided to make the temporary block schedule a permanent option for the future. "I prefer a block schedule because I can pace out homework," junior Adam Stanhope said. "I like the variation of having different classes on different days."

The majority of students shared these same views. Finance teacher Dan Vesper, who wanted to properly represent his students while making his vote, took a small survey of students to help him decide on his own vote and, out of 194 students, 62.9% said they prefer a block schedule. "As a dorky business teacher, I consider my students my 'customers' and I want to make my 'customers' as happy as possible and give them what they want," Vesper said.

However, many teachers did not share the same views as their students, with many on the fence until the last minute. "I see both sides of the issue," math teacher Jessica Brtva, who ultimately voted to move to a block schedule, said. "There are definite benefits to going back to the 'normal' schedule in terms of instructional minutes and

seeing our students each day."

Because of this, the final vote was narrow, only passing by three out of 121 cast votes. Although parents and students received a survey regarding the block schedule in late January, the opinions reflected by those who took this survey never directly influenced Hersey's vote to move to a block schedule, leading many students to wonder if their voices were properly heard. "I think there should have been a more open line of discussion between the administration and the students, who are probably the ones most affected by the schedule change," sophomore Jessica Brandvold said.

Regardless of this, the vote that was made ultimately agreed with the majority of students, and educators and students alike are looking forward to experimenting with the block schedule. "The administration is excited about the opportunity to explore new ways to deliver education to our students in a user-friendly model," Principal Gordon Sisson said.

District 214 Reopens

STORY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“I prefer in person learning; I can't focus online, and I don't like staying at my house

all day,” junior Vanessa Pop said. Although there are varying opinions amongst the students, each student has the choice of returning to school in person or staying remote. If at any point an in-person student wants to return to remote learning, they can do so after contacting their school's Division Head for Student Success and Wellness. Regardless of who is or is not able to attend in person, the staff is excited to have more students returning for the remainder of the year and being able to slowly return to some normalcy.

“Because of the new guidelines, I can evision students being able to meet in the stadium outside the football field, sitting three feet apart, holding pep rallies, and help students feel the lifeblood of a high school experience,” Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Lazaro Lopez said.

“I really wanted to provide an opportunity for students who wanted to be in person safely to be in person, and end the year with some great celebration, and hopefully use that as a crescendo for an awesome start to the 2021/22 school year,” Schuler said.

The district's reopening is the first step to gain back some of the experiences students and staff lost to COVID-19. The 2020-2021 school year has been turbulent, but everyone is holding strong in hopes of a better future. Students and staff have differing pathways but are still striving for the same end goal.

The Challenges of Staying Safe in a World That Wants to Reopen

BY DENNIS SIMIC

Most people have had enough of the COVID-19 pandemic, and many have been eager to do more activities that used to be done. But although the U.S. has developed a working vaccine, it seems like it will still be a while before we can have activities with no risk of transmitting the virus.

In a bold decision, the governor of Texas decided that the state would be removing its mask mandate, allowing people to go into crowded areas without masks. If there seems to be no drastic difference in the number of cases Texas has, it's possible that other states may follow Texas's lead.

As of right now, it seems that many states will continue to take a slower route to opening up. For example, in Illinois high schools, sports are restarting back up.

Hersey is expected to reopen completely on April 5. All students are expected to come to Hersey, but due to medical reasons and different circumstances, by completing a form, some can stay home and continue to learn remotely. Here, we are taking some steps to try and reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

One of the main things that we are doing, is to make sure that students who travel to areas with more cases, aren't infected with the virus. “Should your student travel to a state on the Orange list, make sure to follow the travel guidelines posted by CCDPH and the City of Chicago,” Assistant Principal Joseph Krajacic said in a statement on March 18. The Orange list is a list created by the CCDPH that is defined by any state that has an average of 15.0 cases per 100k people or more. The travel guidelines state that if someone comes from a state listed in the Orange list, they must either quarantine for at least 10 days, be fully vaccinated, or have a negative COVID test before they can

go back to doing some activities.

Some people are optimistic about the path that the virus is taking, and it is safe to say that the vaccines are effective, as of now. COVID-19 cases in the US, peaked around the beginning of January. Around this time, the vaccine was starting to be given out, and the US saw its cases numbers continue to drop. In Illinois, it seems that we have passed a major outbreak, and the state's numbers are staying relatively low compared to when it had over 5,000 daily cases.

But when will the majority of the population be vaccinated? In a statement, Joe Biden said that there will be vaccines for every adult in the U.S. by the end of May. Pfizer and Moderna said that they would have 220 million vaccines by March 31. If this is true, then that would provide 110 million people with both shots. The companies also pledged to ramp up production.

Even after every adult is vaccinated, will it be safe to go back to normal? Simply put: the answer is yes. Because kids are generally less affected by COVID-19 than adults, unless they have an underlying condition, it would seem that if every adult were vaccinated, there would be little to worry about. However, we may need to wait a little longer to be sure that we are safe. COVID-19 will likely become something like the flu, as people will have to get a shot regularly. After most people are vaccinated, the virus will likely start to die out. However, we might not be completely COVID-19 free for a while.

So it would seem that the virus is slowing down, but will it stay this way? With the numbers of vaccines being made available, it would seem so. It is probable that we will see numbers diminish and activities to return to normal.

The World's A Little Blurry for Billie Eilish

BY MOSELLE KURTH

Apple TV+ gives us a thorough look into Billie Eilish's world in its new documentary, *Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry*. Director R. J. Cutler had the idea to make a documentary on the indie artist a few years ago, but little did anyone know her album would debut at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 chart as well as earn five Grammy awards. But with that, Cutler's brilliant directing does wonders for the audience in making the writing experience for Eilish's album debut as intriguing as possible.

The Los Angeles native introduces us to what is her childhood home, as well as her recording studio. Eilish shows how she managed to write and sketch her vision for her album, *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*, doing so in her own home, and recording these songs with her brother, Finneas, in his old bedroom. Eilish shows inspiration for her album through her writing journal that also includes visuals for the art of the album. Along with the creation of these songs, we get a closer look at Eilish's music video for “When the Party's Over” as well as a montage of Eilish eventually directing her own music videos for the album. She and Finneas showcase the recordings of her popular tracks, even while she's still performing for fans songs from her previous EP, *Don't Smile at Me*. Whilst performing for her fans, however, we see Eilish's struggles with performing on the stage after many physical injuries related to her ankle and knees.

While the creation of art and music is interesting in itself, what makes Eilish's music so fascinating is that she connects with her listeners by having her songs dive into the aspect of mental health. Having to be a part of the music industry is a struggle alone, especially for a younger artist like Eilish. But her bravery to reflect on mental illnesses like depression and anxiety is comforting for her fans who can re-

late.

Along with the making of her album, the documentary reviews Eilish's Coachella performance in 2019. Her performance included much promotional value for her newly released album, but was also met with technical difficulties as well. However, Eilish was in a better mindset the following day when she finally met her idol, Justin Bieber, during Ariana Grande's headlined Coachella performance. Eilish discusses throughout the film how Justin has been such an inspiration to her since childhood and how she was always a huge fan.

One of Eilish's biggest highlights in the documentary – and her life – was earning her five Grammys at the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards including: Best New Artist, Best Album, Best Song, Best Record, and Best Pop Vocal Album. This record-breaking event occurred at her first Grammy ceremony ever, with a total of six nominations. However, as of 2021, Eilish has managed to win a total of seven Grammys so far.

Overall, Cutler's documentary gives us an interesting closer look at the artists' creation of her debut album, along with showing the hectic livelihood of being in the music industry. The documentary was beautifully directed in showing the vulnerable but nostalgic side of Eilish's world in her LA home.



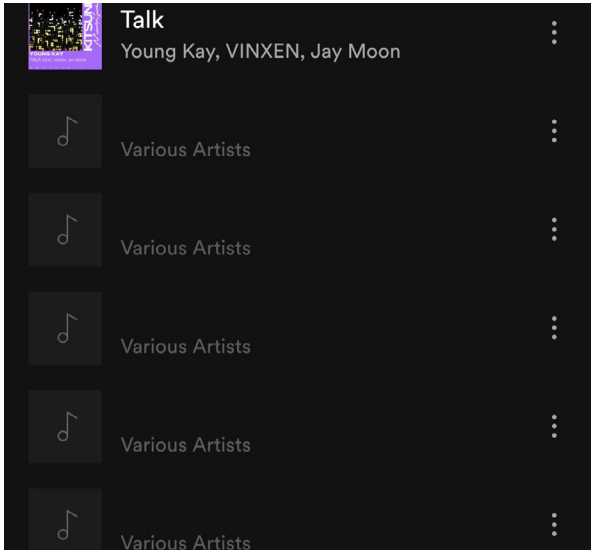
On January 26, 2020, Billie Eilish happily received a total of five Grammys because of her debut album.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AP PHOTO

Commotion Occurs After Hundreds of Korean Artists' Songs Removed From Spotify

BY JENNY AN

On Feb. 28, 2021, many Spotify users were alarmed due to large gaps in their playlists. To their surprise, a majority of songs by Korean artists had vanished from their playlists overnight. On the following day, all Korean songs distributed by Kakao M, a branch of Kakao Corporation, were removed from Spotify. Kakao M, a major entertainment company in South Korea, runs the streaming site Melon, one of the largest music platforms in South Korea, and is a major competitor of Spotify.



SCREENSHOT BY JENNY AN

Head to our website to read about why so many Spotify users' playlists were empty

ENTERTAINMENT

'WandaVision': A Dark Story That Differs From Past MCU Works

BY ALEXIS SANTIAGO

With months of not having any Marvel-related content after *Avengers Endgame*, many fans were distraught when Marvel had to halt their scheduled releases for the Black Widow movie and *Falcon and The Winter Soldier* for 2020 due to COVID. Marvel had to reschedule all of its showings and move all of them to 2021. *WandaVision* was the first TV show to come out on Disney+ in January and released all of their episodes every Friday.

Wanda and Vision have appeared in many Marvel movies in the past but they haven't been able to develop their love storyline or Wanda's character arc since the Avengers movies mostly covered the main and original characters. This TV show format for Wanda and Vision was perfect for them instead of doing a movie. We get to have a more in-depth story about Wanda – specifically, her

backstory and how she got her powers. And we get to see Wanda finally accept who she is and become the Scarlet Witch herself.

As I watched the show, I started to form a lot of questions – things like “How is Vision still alive?” This makes it more interesting and leaves us on edge for more *WandaVision* content. Even with the show finished, we still have more questions for the show.

The only issue with this show is how formed a habit of hyping up certain unknown characters that we hope would appear on the show. However, once we get to see this person, we become disappointed because it's nothing important. For example, Monica teased in two episodes that she knew a person that can help her get back inside the hex and many fans started to come up with theories on who it is. Many thought it could've been a Fantastic Four person like

Richard Reeds, since they are also coming out soon with a Fantastic Four movie, or a Skrull. However, we were disappointed to find out that it was just a random soldier that we never knew about and was not really an important character.

With the show now finally finished, on March 19, Marvel will finally release *Falcon and The Winter Soldier*. It's good that Marvel is still able to release its content on Disney+. However, this is not the end for Wanda Maximoff. Elizabeth Olsen will appear in *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse Madness* on March 25, 2022. In this movie, we will follow Doctor Strange as he continues his studies with the time stone. The audience hopes it gets to see Wanda get her kids back or at least finally able to be happy again soon.

'Akira': Eternal Game Changer

BY ETHAN BANG

Quarantine has left us with a lot of free time, considering we can't really go out anymore. So to pass the time, I decided to watch some movies over the summer. My dad, being the movie nut he is, has collected a ton of DVDs over the years, with classics like the Star Wars Sequel and Prequel Trilogies, a bunch of Bond 007 movies, and more. One movie that I didn't expect to see in our movie cabinet was the Japanese animated movie, *Akira*, released in Japan in 1988. It was a movie that I had heard of from tons of people on the internet and some family, yet I knew next to nothing about it. So I decided to give it a whirl, and what I saw forever changed the way I looked at animated movies.

*Akira* is set in a dystopian 2019, after a nuclear bomb destroyed all of Tokyo in 1988 in a perceived World War III. Taking place in a rebuilt city known as Neo-Tokyo, which is plagued with political corruption, anti-government protests, terrorism and gang violence, it follows the hot headed leader of a biker gang named Kaneda. After a scuffle with another biker gang, his best friend Tetsuo is injured after crashing his bike into a strange looking boy, who is somehow unscathed by the explosion caused by Tetsuo's

bike. As the military goes to investigate the scene, Tetsuo is taken by them to be experimented on, and discovers that he has latent psychic abilities. The movie from there on out follows Kaneda trying to save his best friend, while Tetsuo begins to get the hang of his psychic powers, but for his own selfish reasons. Little do they know, however, the events that transpire will forever change the world as they know it.

For a movie that was made in 1988, the animation is still absolutely stellar even for today's standards. The movie was animated at 24 frames per second, which was double the standard frame rate of the average Japanese animation at the time, and it really shows. With vibrant colors, near perfect lighting, and amazing use of negative space, the movie's visuals pop out wonderfully, making it an absolute joy to just look at. So much detail is given in the backgrounds, and is animated with a fluidity that almost seems realistic. Even the smallest details, like a motorcycle seat reclining, is animated with detail that really shows the weight being pressed upon it. And the most impressive part: the entire movie was drawn completely by hand. That is dedication and hard work any artist or animator could admire today. *Akira* would

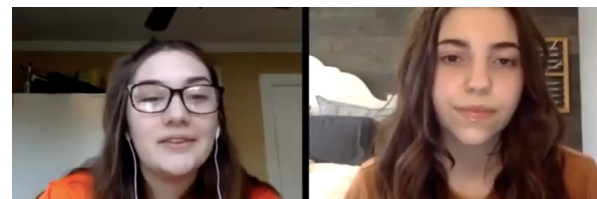
forever set the standard for how animation should be handled in not only Japanese animation, but animation in general, as now most, if not all animated movies have a framerate of 24 frames per second.

*Akira* is not for the faint of heart, as it is an R-rated animated film, one of the first of its kind. However, the film was able to show the general audience that animation doesn't have to necessarily be for kids, and that it could also tell more mature subjects and themes for a mature audience, especially when it came to America, where Disney was mostly the norm. It's also a very confusing movie, with vague themes, symbolism, complex storylines and just flat out exotic scenes. However, multiple viewings of the film will allow for better understanding of exactly those vague themes and symbolism, and will absolutely enhance the experience and appreciation for the film.

All in all, *Akira* is a movie that is still absolutely a game changer in today's day in age. It will absolutely dazzle with its jaw dropping visuals, and intrigue with its deep themes and storytelling. It is a movie that every fan of animation absolutely owes themselves to watch, and will continue to influence for years to come.

# PODCASTS

## 1. TOO MUCH INFORMATION EPISODE 1



Listen in as sophomores Makayla Furrey and Tina Krasniqi celebrate the coronavirus' first birthday with their new podcast: Too Much Information.

LISTEN AND  
WATCH HERE

PODCAST BY:  
MAKAYLA FURREY & TINA KRASNIQI

## 2. HERSEY HOOPS EPISODE 5

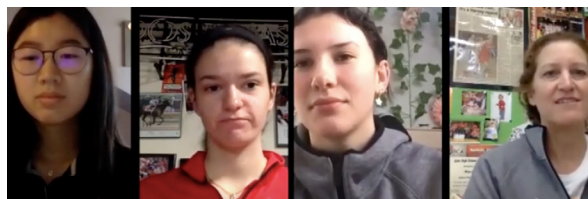


In this edition of Hersey hoops, we sat down with seniors Ben Randall and Jack Muglia to discuss the ending to a shortened COVID season.

LISTEN AND  
WATCH HERE

PODCAST BY:  
CONNOR DURKIN & CONNER KREBS

## 3. HERSEY GIRLS HOOPS EPISODE 3



Our hosts sit down with Coach Fendley and Senior Natalia Kubsik to talk about her stellar defense, the experiences she's had being on the varsity team and the senior-ship Hersey has this season.

LISTEN AND  
WATCH HERE

PODCAST BY:  
JIA SKRUDLAND & MEGAN KLEVE

# OPINIONS



BY NATALIE  
WOZY

## Reasons to Dress Up During a Pandemic

The winter has a habit of putting a lot of us in a funk. Everyday pressures are emphasized by the icy weather, only adding to the appeal of sweatpants and sleep. It often takes extra motivation to gather the energy to make exciting plans or simply avoid staying cooped up. Repeating the same day and getting into a sluggish routine is even more excusable due to COVID-19, which slims down opportunities to leave the house.

In order to feel more put together, dressing the part is something simple that can be overlooked. Everyone has heard "Fake it till you make it," but have you ever tried legitimately applying this to your life? Pajamas are great – for sleeping. Spending too many days in go to comfort outfits can create a subconscious lazy feeling. Unfortunately, life is not what it used to be and finding reasons to throw on a dress, or even a pair of jeans, takes a bit more effort.

Luckily, spring is just around the corner. Being able to walk out the door without that bulky jacket feels like a relief. The sun has begun to make its appearance and has opened up new possibilities. The negative energy of the winter always seems to fade in the coming months, but finding reasons to look your best speeds up the process. Occasions to try a new hair-do or pull the button up from the back of your closet do not appear as naturally or as often, but your favorite outfit shouldn't need an occasion. Dressing good makes you feel good. Nonetheless, the warmer weather does make it easier to create your own occasion.

Wearing a fun outfit, to buy more outfits,

just makes sense. A quick trip to an indoor mall like Woodfield may not seem very exciting, so plan to do some retail therapy at an outdoor mall like Old Orchard or Oakbrook. Personally, it is a change of scenery, which allows for more time to explore. Even though the individual stores are clearly indoors, walking through the whole plaza outdoors can be a change from your usual routine. Outdoor malls are also accompanied by plenty of places to grab something to eat, whether you just want a dessert, something quick, or are in the mood to sit down. Malls are always buzzing with people, so no matter what you have on, strangers will be minding their own business.

Making an event out of getting a meal is a go to. You can make a trip out of it by heading down to Chicago, where there are plenty of restaurants with rooftops or live music, both of which are not everyday dining experiences. Finding a new cafe or coffee shop in nearby areas may seem too simple, but it is what you make of it. Dress up, get some energy, and spend some time getting work done, and you will leave feeling super productive. If going in public doesn't sound appealing, grab some friends and pack a picnic! The grass is starting to grow and the snow is melting.

Things are looking up, and more places with museums and exhibits are beginning to open. Planning a day filled with art and culture is definitely not an everyday thing, so make the most of it! Not only larger galleries can be fun, but exploring your local outdoor farmer's and art markets feels refreshing. Places filled with people who love

to express themselves should inspire you to express yourself and wear an ambitious outfit.

Often it is easy to complain about how boring many lives have gotten in the past year, especially during the past few months and in the suburbs. However, if you get a little creative it is not that difficult to find ways to spice up your routine. Leaving the house and showing off to the world only adds to the excitement because everyday should be a reason to dress up. You owe it to yourself



Your closet might surprise you — even Hersey's own colors can put together the right outfit.

PHOTO BY NATALIE WOZY

# Bubble Tea Restaurants You Must Try

Chicago has been known for its variety of bubble teas. Bubble tea originated in Asia, specifically Taiwan, and these colorful drinks with tapioca come in a variety of flavors and styles that are perfect for any season and can suit anybody's taste. We decided to review four popular bubble tea places that have been gaining popularity on social media and were recommended by friends.

## Bearology

Bearology has recently been all over TikTok. I just had to go try it and see what all the hype was about.

There are only Bearology stores in Illinois and California. The only spots in Illinois are in Champaign and Schaumburg. There was a grand opening in Schaumburg on Jan. 30 and 31. The lines for this place are insanely long almost every day.

On Feb. 20, I went to Bearology for the first time and there were 20 people in line before me. Only 10 people were allowed in the building due to COVID-19. The line moved fairly quickly, but more and more people showed up behind me.

I tried the Huckleberry Lemonade Tea, which seemed to be a popular choice for people that day. It has huckleberry syrup with lemonade and butterfly-pea extract. I added aloe vera cubes to it and it was delicious, it tasted like heaven. I'd definitely go back, but their prices are very expensive, so it wouldn't be an everyday place. Their most expensive drinks are the shimmering drinks at \$9.



The Huckleberry Lemonade Tea with aloe vera cubes from Bearology in Schaumburg.

PHOTO BY MADISEN ANDERSKOW

## Brew Lounge

Brew Lounge is a small coffee and bubble tea place that is located in Des Plaines. Brew Lounge is one of the places that has gotten huge on TikTok due to its unique flavors and drinks that they offer. What made me want to really go there was to try their Filipino fused drinks like the Ube Latte and Calamansi with Lychee Jelly.

Arriving at the location, I was con-

fused on where it's located because there wasn't a huge sign to show where it is. I got a little skeptical at first because I thought I was at the wrong place due to it being small. When more teens and adults are seen going into the building, that's a sign that this is the right place. The scenery of the place is very chill, and it's the perfect place for students to study or chill with their friends during their free time.

The first item I tried is their Ube Latte. Ube is a Filipino dessert made from crushed boiled purple yam. It can be used as a cake flavoring or as an ice cream flavor, but as a latte was something I've never seen before. Ube isn't that sweet, so I wasn't sure if it would provide much flavor to the drink since espresso is supposed to be somewhat bitter tasting.

The next item that I got was the Calamansi Lychee Jelly. Calamansi is kind of like a hybrid of lime and lemon that is native to the Philippines. It's usually used for cooking or making dipping sauces, but mostly it's a drink that you would get.

This was my favorite drink out of what I bought since I really like Calamansi juice and it was my go-to drink when I was in the Philippines. Their drink wasn't too sour and it wasn't too sweet, unlike some branded drinks that would have their calamansi too sour or too sweet. Also, the lychee jelly was really chewy and good, but as a Filipino who loves calamansi, it would be better if they used coconut jelly since that's another popular dessert in the Philippines.

The prices for the drink weren't too expensive since it's mostly just coffee and bubble tea. Overall, I think this place is worth it but personally, I wouldn't go there all the time as a regular to get a bubble tea drink, but I still would like to try more of their drinks in the future.

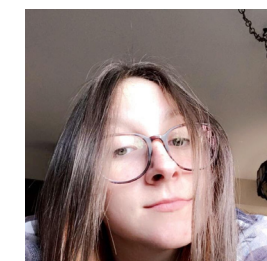
## Kung Fu Tea

Kung Fu Tea is another bubble tea place that has already established its popularity here in Chicago with most of its locations being in Chinatown and Evanston. However, they recently decided to open another location in Rolling Meadows.

Since this place was recently just opened, they were having a buy one get one free promotion on certain drinks throughout the weekend. The first drink I got from the promotion was the Cocoa Cream Wow with a milk cap. This drink was basically milk with cocoa powder and tapioca. I was disappointed in how it wasn't very sweet even though I mixed the syrup thoroughly.

In the end, it just tasted like whole milk. However, I found out that customers are able to customize the sweetness of their drinks or the type of milk. If I were to order this drink again, I would probably ask them to make it extra sweet.

The last drink that I got that was also part of the promotion was the Mango Iced Green Tea. Personally, like the last drink, I would've asked them to make it extra sweet. I don't usually drink a lot of green



BY MADISEN  
ANDERSKOW



BY ALEXIS  
SANTIAGO

tea, so this was very new for me to get.

However, with both of these drinks, I really do love their tapioca and I would ask for extra with my drinks next time. Their tapioca is very soft and chewy, but also, most importantly, it has this sweet flavor to it that helps add to the drink especially if it doesn't have much flavor.



The Cocoa Cream Wow Milk Cap from Kung Fu Tea, which is in Rolling Meadows.

PHOTO COURTESY OF YELP

One thing to think about with Kung Fu Tea is that there are many different locations, so each place makes its drinks differently. People's opinions can vary depending on where they go. However, with their huge selection of drinks, teas, and slushies, I will be going back to try more of their drinks (and also to hopefully earn more points to get a free drink).

## Liquid Fusion

Liquid Fusion is another popular place. There are locations all over but the closest is in Northbrook. My sister and I go there all the time and there are always people in there. I've tried a lot of products on the menu, but my favorite is the Fruit Freeze with mango, peach and strawberry boba. They also have tapioca, not just boba. All of their drinks are like a burst of flavor when you take a sip.

I really recommend going to any of these places. No way anyone will regret going.

## CANNABIS CONFLICT

Recently, Zen Leaf, a chain that supplies medical and recreational cannabis, opened a new location's doors a few blocks away from Hersey. Despite the fact that students cannot purchase products at this store due to its age restriction, students, parents and teachers have voiced a wide variety of opinions about the store's opening in the vicinity of a high school. We spoke to members of the community to find out why the store was built so close to Hersey, what the business has been up to so far, and how people feel about it.

## Zen Leaf Store Sparks Debate Among Students

BY BRIA BARRY

Zen Leaf is a cannabis store which recently opened in Prospect Heights. Dispensaries are very common nowadays, with products being sold both medically and recreationally. However, this cannabis store has stirred up controversy in the area due to its location. Zen Leaf is located off Rand Road and happens to be just a few blocks away from John Hersey High School, and a lot of Hersey students seem to have an opinion about this dispensary.

"I THINK IT'S A COOL IDEA AND GIVES MORE INCLUSIVITY INTO WHAT PEOPLE LIKE," SENIOR COLLEEN TWOHIG SAID.

more inclusivity into what people like. I don't think the location of Zen Leaf will affect students that much because people are going to find ways to get whatever they want regardless of the placement of where a dispensary would be. I don't think the dispensary being near schools will affect business, either because high schoolers can't purchase marijuana legally, so it wouldn't have an affect on Zen Leaf's sales."

After speaking with several Hersey students, it is clear that Hersey stu-

"IT IS LITERALLY A DISPENSARY NEXT TO A HIGH SCHOOL. DOES THAT SOUND LIKE A GOOD IDEA?" SOPHOMORE REAGAN BARR SAID.

to a high school. Does that sound like a good idea? The high schoolers are going to buy products, which is bad for the high school. I think Zen Leaf's business will go up, which is good for their marketing, but bad for the schools because students will be getting cannabis products. High school kids are wild, and a lot of them have fake IDs, and people can get fake IDs really easily." Rivera and Barr agree with each other's perspectives and see a dispensary near a school as a potential harm to students.

However, senior Colleen Twohig has a different outlook. "I'm all for dispensaries and I think it's a cool idea and gives

"IT SHOULDN'T BE LEGAL AND IT'S TOO CLOSE TO SCHOOLS," HERSEY PARENT JULIE SACCONE SAID.

PUTTING THAT BUSINESS THERE IS A TACIT APPROVAL OF THE BEHAVIOR, WHETHER IT IS INTENTIONAL OR NOT," CHEMISTRY TEACHER THOMAS DAVIDSMEIER SAID.

dents have different views on Zen Leaf. However, many agree that another location, farther from schools, would fit the dispensary's target audience more properly. Cannabis stores are growing by the day and are most certainly not going away. The public is learning to adapt to this. Perhaps the more distance a dispensary has from schools, the more support the businesses will have from locals. However, with Zen Leaf doing its part to sell cannabis products strictly to those 21 and older, cannabis users and students can keep a safe distance without conflict.

Students from all grades have noticed Zen Leaf and have their own opinions on the dispensary. Junior Mila Rivera voiced her opinion on the dispensary's location. "I think the town chose an inappropriate location for a dispensary because students are passing the dispensary everyday on their way to and from school, and it could make underage students curious about marijuana. It's also right by Tony's and Target, which are two popular hangout spots for teenagers. Marijuana shouldn't be sold near schools, and I think a better location for a dispensary would be Downtown Arlington Heights or Downtown Mount Prospect."

Sophomore Reagan Barr had a similar viewpoint to Rivera's. "I think a dispensary being near Hersey is an awful idea because it is literally a dispensary next

## Behind the Decision to Open a Cannabis Shop

BY TINA KRASNIQI

The cannabis shop Zen Leaf recently opened in the proximity of Hersey. The shop is located on the southwest corner of Rand Road and Thomas Street. Zen Leaf opened in December and has sparked much controversy amongst the residents in the Arlington Heights and Prospect Heights neighborhoods. The idea of Prospect Heights having a cannabis shop came across to the village many years ago, "It's a state-wide and country-wide movement," Prospect Heights Mayor Nicholas Helmer said. Dispensaries are becoming more common nationally, bringing forth significant revenue through the recreational marijuana tax.

The village trustees came together about a year and a half ago to discuss the idea of Prospect Heights having a dispensary. After several meetings, as well as Governor J.B. Pritzker's legalization of marijuana use, they decided it was a legal situation and voted yes mid-2020. A location was not determined when it was voted yes – specialized zoning is required in order to place a new shop in the city. When discussing the location of the shop, three places were brought up: one on Rand Road, one on Route 83, and one on Milwaukee Avenue. The owners were given three choices for their location of the shop to improve the chances of a dispensary opening up in Prospect Heights. The company Verano, which owns Zen Leaf, wanted stronger traffic patterns by being on a main road and a place where car exposure would bring them business.

Midwest Bank had been on the market and was in need of renovations, which was perfect for Verano, so they chose the location on Rand Road as they would get more exposure to street traffic and they didn't want to be in the middle of Route 83. As the city dedicated three locations towards opening up a cannabis shop those locations would only be approved if a cannabis company was interested. Since no cannabis companies were interested in those other two locations,

they were not approved, leaving Prospect Heights with just one dispensary. As Midwest Bank had been a vacant place for many years and Verano was interested in it, the approval of that location was a quick process.

While the company not only had to renovate the building entirely from scratch, it also had to keep in mind the regulations

well over 750 feet away from Hersey, sitting at roughly about 2100 feet, and the location was approved. The only thing it needed was security. They put in over a million dollars to help ensure the restriction for underage customers. "As you probably know, you have to be 21 years old to even participate. And every qualification the state had, we met and that place beats," Helmer said.

Zen Leaf kept the structure of the bank alive in commerce. Customers when they get inside go to a counter and "check in" just like at a bank, and then they're brought to another counter to select their item of choice, while they are being escorted by a security guard the entire time.

Zen Leaf is looking to bring forth a revenue of \$500,000 back to Prospect Heights within a year. They plan on doing that because, in Illinois, products with THC are taxed significantly. As Prospect Heights is a non-home rule city – a city with less than 25,000 residents that needs state approval before making any decisions – most of the money brought from Zen Leaf will go to the state. The revenue that will be going to the city next December will help Prospect Heights greatly.

Prospect Heights lost a lot of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Helmer, 28% of stores that were generating revenue for Prospect Heights went out of business and the 6 hotels in Prospect Heights went from having a 70% occupancy rate to 13%. The city of Prospect Heights also plans on spending that tax money to pay citizens as well as fix the flooding problem that has been a recurring issue.

Zen Leaf has sprung much controversy in the neighborhoods as it's near Hersey and Thomas Middle School. While Zen Leaf prioritizes maintaining a 21 and older age restriction, it is possible that it will normalize the use of marijuana and perhaps ingrain the use of marijuana into teens.



Zen Leaf's Prospect Heights location sits just a few blocks away from Hersey.

PHOTO BY BRIA BARRY

"YOU HAVE TO BE 21 YEARS OLD TO EVEN PARTICIPATE," PROSPECT HEIGHTS MAYOR NICHOLAS HELMER SAID.

for the proximity of the schools. "There was a requirement, a state requirement, that anything could not be located less than 750 feet from the front door of any school. The location is a qualification and just in general the ability put in security needed [to restrict anyone under 21]," Helmer stated. Verano had 2 out of the 3 already checked off. The location was

## ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



## Mary Kate Fahey

BY JIA SKRUDLAND

Senior Mary Kate Fahey has built an illustrious career with the Hersey Girls Basketball program. During her four years, she's won the MSL East three out of four years, two crossover conference championships, the Buffalo Grove Thanksgiving Tournament and has been a part of two teams that won regional championships. Recently, she joined the 1,000 point club at the beginning of the month.

Fahey first discovered that she enjoyed basketball around 5 years old when her dad brought her to one of her older sister's practices and started practicing with them. Likewise, she credits her parents as two people who have had an immense impact on her basketball career. "They coached me when I was younger, taught me how to play the game the right way, and support me in all that I do. They never miss a game and couldn't be more supportive of me," Fahey said.

She's been in the starting lineup since her freshman year, and that move by Coach Fendley and Coach Barthel meant a great deal to her. "When I was a freshman, I was a bit tentative and nervous to make a mistake on the court, but when she put me in the starting lineup it showed me that she had faith in me as a player. This helped me raise my confidence." To this day, Fahey's grateful for the belief they had in her three years ago.

The constant push by Fendley and Barthel allowed Fahey to develop her game to the best of her ability. "There is no 'good enough' when you are playing in the Hersey Program. They constantly challenge us at practice and in games which is what helped me grow as a player the past four years," Fahey said.

With the rearrangements of sport seasons due to COVID-19, Fahey continued to keep her skills sharp. "During the layoff when everyone was quarantined, I practiced just about every day at any outdoor court I could find. When it was still really cold, I did Zoom training in my garage to keep my ball handling sharp, and once it warmed up I was able to go to numerous outdoor courts and scrimmage/train daily," Fahey said. Her hard work and dedication propelled her to be one of the best guards in the state, if not the best.

Despite the back and forth decisions of whether or not basketball was going to happen this year, she's grateful that she was able to have her senior season. "I just kept the hope that someday they would announce that we could play, and am so thankful that we got this opportunity."

Fahey has committed to play collegiate level basketball next year at New York University.



## Ethan Roberts

BY TYLER BEDNAR

Hersey basketball has turned out to be a powerhouse this year. Senior Ethan Roberts is one of the main reasons for this turnaround. Roberts, transferring from Memphis, Tennessee his junior year, has developed into a superstar this season. He played for the Huskies last season and averaged 13.2 points per game, leading the team. This season, he averaged 19 points per game, a huge increase from last season.

A team's success often comes from practice. Practice creates bonds and can have a huge impact on how the season turns out. Due to the coronavirus, everyone in the school is required to wear masks indoors, athletes included. According to Roberts, though, masks have a small impact in practices. "Practices really aren't much different. The only thing different is we have to wear masks. Practices are still insanely intense."

It's always smart for athletes to have goals set for themselves. Roberts definitely did. "A goal for myself this season was to just have a memorable, enjoyable season, one that I can look back on and smile and know I gave it my everything..I reached that goal," Roberts said.

The members of the team had a goal for this group of guys. Roberts reflects on what that was. "This team is different in almost every category. ...starters from last year were juniors, so it's almost like we got a do-over to accomplish the things we wanted and play to our potential." Roberts said. The team definitely met these goals as they finished at 13-3, second in the MSL East.

Roberts reflects on how difficult the transition was. Roberts states, "The transition definitely wasn't easy. Change is hard. The kids were different here, basketball was different, almost everything was different from the south. In almost all aspects, this move has helped me greatly in the long run as a person and for my career," Roberts said.

From a basketball perspective, play is way different. "Basketball is way slower here. In Memphis, it was much more fast-paced, get-up the court style, where here, it's way more strategic and defense oriented."

Roberts has some huge aspirations. "My goal my whole life has been to play Division 1 basketball and go to March Madness. I'm happy to say I accomplished the first part of it and beyond excited to start my college career and hopefully make a run in March," Roberts said.

Ethan has been one of the key players in changing Hersey basketball for the better this season. Hersey turned into a powerhouse this season and is now one of the best teams in the MSL East and West. In addition to being a ferocious athlete, he's a perfect example of what a Huskie should be. His story is one we can all learn from. Change is definitely hard, but Ethan said it best. "Everything happens for a reason."

## 1,000 Points for Fahey

BY JIA SKRUDLAND

There was a new addition to the 1,000 point club earlier this month for girls basketball. Who would it be? None other than senior Mary Kate Fahey.

Fahey has been a vital piece for the Hersey team, both offensively and defensively, and the growth in her game was just one factor that kept the possibility of accomplishing this feat alive. "She is a complete player. She has always been an incredible ball-handler, but now her scoring and defense are equally impressive," Coach Fendley said about the improvements in Fahey's game over the past four years.

Going into her freshman season, though, scoring points wasn't the biggest aspiration for her. "Honestly, I don't think scoring 1,000 points ever crossed my mind when I was 14. I have never thought too much about scoring points, but rather about how our team could win and be successful overall," Fahey said.

Of course, any athlete is going to be aware when they're on the verge of achieving any reputable high school athletic accomplishment, but, again, scoring wasn't Fahey's top priority going into the game on March 1. "My mindset going into the game was not on scoring points at all. I knew how close I was, but I also knew that Maine South is a very talented team and winning was the most important thing that night," Fahey said. She got the best of both worlds as Hersey won against Maine South 50-57, and she scored 14 points in the game, leaving her with 1,001 total points at the end of the night.

Fahey plays point guard, which means that she's the one with the best ball handling skills and best passer on the court. She essentially creates the plays that al-

low her teammates to rack up points. With this being said, the main statistical category she should lead in is assists because the point guard provides the pass for a shooter to shoot. Her role on the court makes this accomplishment more impressive, "I am just astonished at what an achievement this is for a point guard. For the past 4 years, MK has led our team in assists. So, to also get 1,000 points is such a statement of what a well-rounded player she is," Coach Mary Fendley said.

Although this was solely her own accomplishment, she praises her family, friends, teammates, and coaches for allowing her to reach the 1,000 points mark because without them she wouldn't have a support system. "They [teammates and fans] were so supportive and accomplishing something like this does not happen without incredible teammates and coaches all four years," Fahey said about how special it was to see her teammates and the fans in the stands celebrate.

She and her trainer, John Jacobs, train year round, so it's unquestionable that accomplishing this feat is a testament of her hard work, dedication and leadership.

Since COVID-19 has caused seasons to be shortened, Fahey might've not been able to accomplish this which is what makes it more extraordinary, "I think we all have a different kind of appreciation for playing the sport we love and to achieve anything this season. Reaching this milestone would be special at any time, but I definitely have taken time to look back on how lucky I was to have the opportunity."



Fahey displays the sign in front of her teammates and parents as she celebrates her 1,000+ points.

PHOTO BY TINA KRASNIQI



Fahey brings the ball up court to start Hersey's superb offense against the Hawks' defense.

PHOTO BY TINA KRASNIQI

## The End of the 2021 Bowling Season

BY MADISEN ANDERSKOW

The Hersey Varsity Bowling girls faced Buffalo Grove on March 11. They were tied and needed to win their 2 games and Baker match to get into first place. A Baker match is where the whole team plays as one person. Each girl bowls two frames, but they go in order from whoever is the first bowler to the fifth bowler. Sadly, they did not beat Buffalo Grove and therefore came in second place in the MSL East.

Coming in second place in Conference was not going to stop them from fighting their hardest in their games on March 12 and March 13. On March 12, they played the second placed team of the MSL West division and won. They then had awards night and seniors were all recognized. Amy Dreli-charz got the Spirit of the Game award. Madisen Anderskow got the Harmonizer and Most Improved award, Molly Leno got the Love of the Game award, Emily Madden got the Teammate of the Year award and Lauren Brown got the MVP award. Both Brown and Anderskow got athletic scholarships for bowling. Brown will be attending Calumet College and Anderskow will be going to

Saint Ambrose University next year.

On March 14, the Huskies played in a virtual sectional and state tournament. There were 81 teams competing in this tournament. They had to play six games and afterwards they were placed within their sectional and then placed within the state rankings. Hersey placed 3rd in the Conant sectional and placed 15th out of 81 schools in the state. Brown finished 20th in the individual category which is against all the girls in the tournament.

In their 6th game, the girls had an outstanding game. Junior Anna Wennerberg scored a 171, Brown scored a 214, Madden scored a 221, Anderskow scored a 221 and Leno scored a 243. That gave them a total of 1,060, beating the school record of a 1,055 high game. The 2021 girls varsity team now holds Hersey's high game in bowling of 1,060.

"What an exciting and fitting way for an amazing senior class to finish off their season and bowling careers at Hersey," Coach Mark Gunther said.



The girls bowling team poses at the state tournament.

PHOTO BY JOHN ANDERSKOW

# PHOTOS

Senior Griffin Ginder denies Prospect's defense and dunks over a Knight.



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY PAK



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY PAK

Sophomore Sophie Lee playing first singles against Wheeling High School.

Junior Eliana Arana gets ready to return the birdie back to the Wheeling side.



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY PAK

Junior Charlie Schmidt competes at the MSL Championship.



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY PAK

Senior Drew Zagorski slam dunks against Conant during his last game as a Huskie.



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY PAK

Senior Dylan Kase competes at his final MSL Championship.



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY PAK

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