

THE COUNTY CHRONICLE

LOUDOUN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL'S NEWSPAPER



HOMECOMING WEEK RETURNS

Football games, spirit days, and school dances are back: homecoming was another step in the return to normalcy. *page 10*

WHAT'S INSIDE...



Student Council Plans for the Future

With new staff advisors and student members, take a look ahead at what the SCA has planned for this year. *page 4*



2020-2021 Hall of Fame Inductees

Nine accomplished Loudoun County High School alumni athletes were inducted into the Hall of Fame. *page 20*



Crew Leaders Elevate Season

Student section leaders bring students together to cheer on varsity teams after a year of empty bleachers. *page 12*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

opinion

3 | DANIEL DELARGY | asynchronous Mondays

news

4 | CAT PIZZARELLO | sca plans for the future

6 | MAGGIE SHERIDAN | new school year challenges

8 | MAGGIE SHERIDAN | new assistant principal

student life

10 | EVELYN KUZMINSKI | homecoming week

12 | MICHAELA SCOTT | captains crew leaders

14 | MICHAELA SCOTT | senior sunrise

16 | MAGGIE SHERIDAN | homecoming photo spread

athletics

18 | EVELYN KUZMINSKI | vaccination policy

20 | MATT STARCHVILLE | hall of fame inductees

22 | MATT STARCHVILLE | captains play for fans

arts & entertainment

23 | DANIEL DELARGY | great gatsby production

24 | OLIVIA DEWAN | halsey's new album

downtown leesburg

26 | CAT PIZZARELLO | students' favorite stores



THE COUNTY CHRONICLE

Loudoun County High School
415 Dry Mill Rd., SW
Leesburg, Virginia 20175
phone: 571-252-2000
fax: 571-252-2001

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

MICHAELA SCOTT
MAGGIE SHERIDAN

ONLINE EDITOR

OLIVIA DEWAN

LAYOUT EDITOR

EVELYN KUZMINSKI

STAFF

CAT PIZZARELLO
CRAWFORD HOLMES
DANIEL DELARGY
LIBERTY HARRISON
JEVONTE HERRON
LORENZO SALAS
ALEXIS SHUGARS
HANNAH WINEGAR
ETHAN WEISS
MATTHEW STARCHVILLE

ADVISER

VALERIE EGGER

EDITORIAL POLICY

The County Chronicle is produced by students in Newspaper Journalism I, II, and III under the direction of an adviser. Topics are student-chosen, student-researched, and student-driven, but all content is subject to administrator review.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The staff of The County Chronicle welcomes guest opinion pieces and letters to the editor. Pieces should be less than 400 words and must be founded on researched fact. Any student, faculty, staff, or alumni interested in contributing to the newspaper should contact the adviser, Valerie Egger, at valerie.egger@lcps.org.

Last year, asynchronous Mondays saved my life.

WHAT NOW?

Daniel Delargy | Staff Writer

Asynchronous Mondays were the first step to world peace. It was beautiful, an extra day to reach out to teachers, finish homework, explore nature, and enjoy what the world has to offer. There's nothing quite like that Sunday night knowing that I have a relaxing, productive Asynchronous Monday the next day.

This absence of the Asynchronous Monday for this 2021-2022 school year has been a gaping hole in my life. Doing homework on Sunday night is depressing. You know what the best part of my day is? Waking up and forgetting that I had Asynchronous Mondays taken from me.

The naysayers are the worst part. See, what my parents and **Beth Barts** could never understand, is that it wasn't about the three day weekend or procrastination or a four day week every week. No, absolutely not. It was about the blissful connections of intellectualism.

I won't say that every Monday I went to Rust Library and read novels while wearing my

tweed jacket. But I would catch a train to the city and go to museums of art and history. It was one of the most deeply intellectual experiences I have ever had, and Asynchronous Mondays made that possible. Whether in person or online, school could not come close to the amazement of seeing a mummified pharaoh on loan from the Museum of Cairo or the awe of seeing the actual hand-annotated speech of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** on full display. See that's what the school board never can understand, you can't get that experience anywhere else. Asynchronous Monday, in my mind, was more of a movement and idea, I'll remember that day forever, nobody can take the thespianastic museum trip away from me.

But now, things are different. I have to wake up and go to school every Monday like a schmuck. My vessel of creativity, thoughts, and ideas has sunken to the bottom of the ocean. Every Monday when I walk into the building and see my fellow students, I'm reminded of what they took from us.

In discussing this with the

Newspaper staff, fellow thespian **Maggie Sheridan**, senior, said she felt "sense of defeat," Knowing I have this limited time to complete my work is stressful, Sheridan said. "These Administrators can not relate to us, they have never walked in my Air Force Ones," Sheridan said.

School can be very stressful. The thing about stress is that it follows you everywhere, in cars, streets and sidewalks. It follows you everywhere, there's no escape. The grindstone of school and applying to colleges can be very overwhelming.

Seventeen colleges to apply to on the CommonApp, six hours of homework everyday, and I'm supposed to handle that? Frankly, It's a disgrace!

Our hope was an innocent lamb, beautiful and wanted wear; It was led to the harsh ever going slaughter that is life.

Now Asynchronous Mondays, they fixed that. It was the wild west. But it's gone now, and I have to go to school on Mondays like a schmuck. That, in itself, mirrors the tragedy that is the human existence. •

Student Council plans for the future

Cat Pizzarello | Staff Writer

The Student Council Association is finally back in our school building and ready for the new 2021 school year. As students adjust to being back in school, SCA is making plans to make it feel more normal.

“We are trying to create that unity and culture after this year,” said **Jamee Robinson**, Social Sciences teacher and new SCA Sponsor. SCA has original ideas, new group members and sponsors, and an abundance of events awaiting the year ahead.

“They’re all from really different parts of the school... it’s really just a big friend group,” said **Kenly Howerter**, SCA President. SCA’s motto for this year is “Inclusivity” and they show that accordingly in the members that make up their group.

Currently SCA is focused on County’s 2021 Homecoming week, the theme for this year being “Make your mark on the world!” Homecoming will be held outside on the County’s football field, as long as the weather cooperates. They have also planned for a spirit week leading up to homecoming.

“We also want to make homecoming as inclusive and genderless as possible,” Howerter said.

During homecoming week SCA will be decorating County’s hall ways as places from all over the

world, continuing to show inclusivity.

SCA is also planning to do many more spirit events and spirit weeks to keep students excited in a COVID friendly way. “Now more than ever we need to have opportunities for students to be a part of the school, and that’s exciting,” Bryant said.

Besides it being a new year back for all of our SCA students, we have two new teacher SCA sponsors, English teacher **Jason Bryant** and Robinson. Both sponsors are excited to help SCA this year and spread Captain’s spirit.

“The school as a whole needs to be more aware of what a kids’ daily life is like,” Robinson said. Both sponsors want to make SCA more of a student government this year and a place where students can help our school grow.

“We are trying to create that unity and culture after this year away,” Robinson said. “We have to learn how to be people again,” Bryant said.

“SCA is really excited to partner with other departments this year... willing to help everyone,” Howerter said. •

Members of the SCA meet on September 30 to discuss homecoming. SCA meets every A day during 2nd block. Photo by Cat Pizzarello.



Association ture



Shrunken classrooms and no HVAC: the new school year is already faced with many challenges

Maggie Sheridan | Co-Editor-in-Chief

With the start of a brand new school year upon us, change is already occurring all around the school, particularly, classroom sizes. In order to account for the number of students at school, the county decided to split four of our largest classrooms into two.

“We are the second largest over-capacitated school in the County. The County said we couldn’t build anymore, so we had to find a way to create more classrooms with our existing space,” said Assistant Principal **Katie Post**.

“I believe that both Heritage and Tuscora are under capacitated, so in order to accomodate for the number of kids we have, they will eventually have to change the boundary lines because we keep building more housing developments,” Post said.

The school decided to choose the classrooms which had the most amount of space and already included two doors, one on either side. The decision was officially made before students came back to school for hybrid learning last year.

Teachers were told whether or not their class would move to one of these rooms before the summer break. In order to group departments close together, the World Language and English classes

were chosen to move to these areas.

“We decided it was an opportunity to move departments and consolidate them so they could work together,” Post said. “Math, Science, and History have always had their own hallways and spaces, so it was really a move to get these other departments to finally be together,” Post said.

However, the school has had several struggles with creating these new rooms. “It’s much smaller than my previous room, it hasn’t been fully painted, and the Air Conditioning doesn’t work, so it has been a tough adjustment,” said Spanish teacher **Matthew Landers**.

Because the rooms were split in half, they had to take out the AC units that used to be right in the center of the old rooms. “We haven’t been specifically told when they will fix the AC,” Landers said.

“It’s just one of many challenges associated with being in an older school, but we are learning to work with it,” Landers said.

These classes were given temporary air conditioning units until the AC was fixed. “They are very loud and make it difficult to speak and to listen to others, in addition to the masks,” Landers said.

Landers sometimes has to turn off this unit when he wants to have conversations with his students and

be heard as well as hear them clearly. “I can only keep it off for about five minutes before it becomes too hot,” Landers said.

Besides Landers, other teachers have also struggled with the transition to a smaller classroom. “I don’t mind the classes being split, the thing that frustrates me is the lack of finishing the job and the delay in construction,” said English teacher **Beth Williams**.

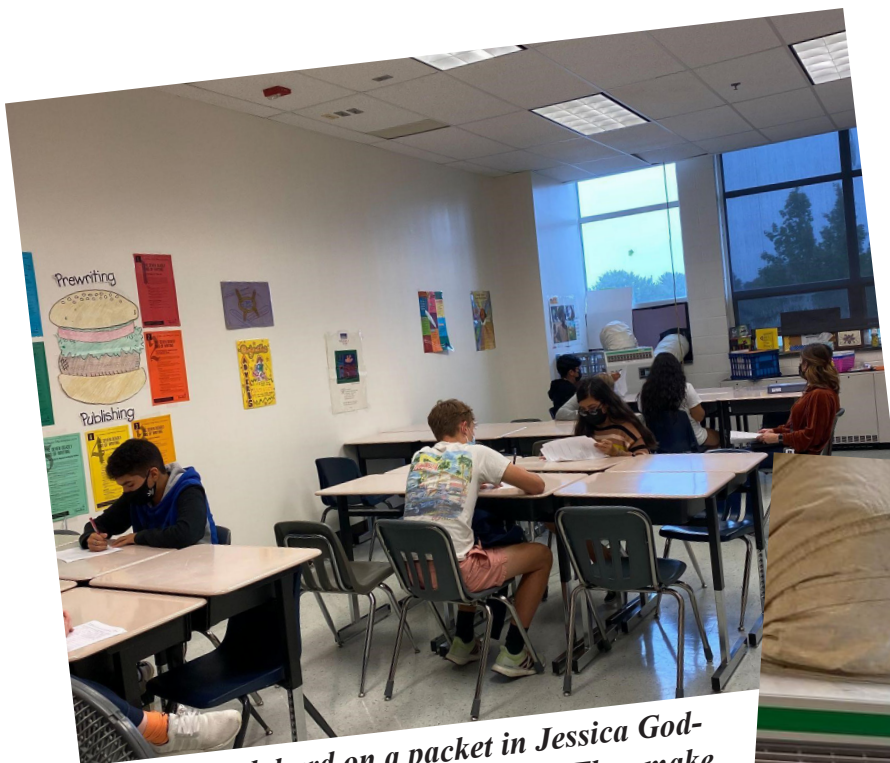
The temporary AC has also been a source of stress for Williams in her classes. “When they first brought in the new AC, it would blow fuses and we would not have power in this room,” Williams said.

“Now, there is an extension cord attached to them that runs up in the ceiling under the ceiling tiles and comes out on the other end of the room, which I’m pretty sure is an issue.”

The school just brought in a new permanent AC unit for Williams’ room and the other rooms as well, but they have yet to install them.

“When I walked in this morning it was sitting here, but they told us these were supposed to be installed last Friday, so I don’t know when they are going to hook it up,” Williams said.

“It is extremely frustrating for everyone. We haven’t been told when the county is going to send people in to fix it, but we remind



Students work hard on a packet in Jessica Goddard's Academic World History class. They make the most of the limited space they have to complete their work.



The chunky temporary AC unit located in William's and Goddard's shared classroom sits in the corner taking up space.

them on a daily basis," said Assistant Principal Kristyn Inman.

In some of Williams' classes, every desk is taken up by a student in the room. "It's a tight squeeze for sure, and some students who are sitting in a certain cluster of desks aren't able to see the board," Williams said.

The PA systems are also not installed yet, so teachers cannot hear any announcements in these rooms. "There have definitely been some frustrations and growing pains that have come along with this change," Post said.

Landers tends to agree. "It is what it is, but it would be nice to see some equity from the newer

schools and have a more equal playing field," Landers said.

"We are aware of the problems and hope to get them fixed soon, this is just something we have to deal with while working in an older school and despite these issues, this change has overall caused a lot of beneficial movement for the departments, teachers, and kids," Post said.

Even though these departments have faced many problems with the transition, the Spanish department decided to work hard in order to make it comfortable for students and Landers worked with fellow Spanish teacher Bryan Boening to spice up their room.

"My old students painted the ceiling tiles in our old classroom with flags and other designs for my classes to see, so we decided to move these tiles into our new room," Landers said.

Boening and Landers removed all of the ceiling tiles and replaced them right before school started. "We wanted to bring that old environment to the new room," Landers said.

"The classroom does not necessarily make up the class, it's the students that make the class, so it doesn't matter where I teach if the kids make it worthwhile," Landers said. •

New assistant principal Inman

Maggie Sheridan | Co-Editor-in-Chief

When students came back from summer break this school year and noticed a new administrator at the bus loop every morning and football game every Friday, the question in everyone's mind was, who is this new woman and what is she like?

"I've always been interested in leadership, I know it sounds cheesy, but I really just enjoy helping people," said Inman.

"Through these various leadership roles in the classroom, I came to understand how passionate I was about taking it on, making a difference, and impacting the school in a different way."

Kristyn Inman was recently hired to take over the position of an Assistant Principal following the retirement of Rick Brown. Before this year, she worked for thirteen years at Loudoun Valley High School as an English teacher. She also held various positions of leadership such as the SCA sponsor and summer school Principal for the county.

Inman grew up in Sterling and has lived in Loudoun County her whole life. "I've always known Loudoun County High School to be a great place to go to school and know many people who graduated from here," Inman said. "I know it's a special school and I feel really lucky to have landed here because it seems like a really good fit for me and has a rich sense of tradition as well as diversity."

She has always known she wanted to become a teacher. She took Teacher Cadet in high school in order to prepare herself and majored in English at Virginia Tech.

"I was that cliché little kid that would always make my brother play school with me," Inman said. "I think there's people like me, who loved school growing up, but I think there's also people who hated school, and both very important and a good balance of educators that can relate to students."

Inman hopes to make connections with everyone at school and does not want students to fear her. "The stereotype is that administrators only deal with the kids who are in trouble, but I see it more as kids who are in need or kids who have an op-

portunity for growth, and we are there to help them through that," Inman said.

"When I was growing up, Assistant Principals were just the people you went to when you were in trouble and that's the only time you ever talked to them, and I really think that this idea has shifted."

Her day to day schedule is always full of different activities, and new surprises constantly occur. "While it can be a bit stressful not knowing what the day holds, I also think that it creates excitement and a challenge," Inman said.

She enjoys working together with the other assistant principals and believes they are a good team. "We each have our strengths and unique capabilities, but we also generally have the same philosophy about what's best for the kids and teachers," Inman said.

Throughout the day, primarily attends Collaborative Learning Training with teachers in order to support teachers and work with them through instructional aspects of school.

"I also like to get into classrooms and do walk-throughs to not necessarily be evaluative, but just be a presence and see what teachers and kids are doing and see students outside of the office," Inman said.

Another part of Inman's job is to evaluate certain teachers assigned to her during the year. "Each of us Assistant Principal's monitors the growth and development of them as educators, they also set goals that we help them achieve and give them different feedback on how they are doing from a place of support," Inman said.

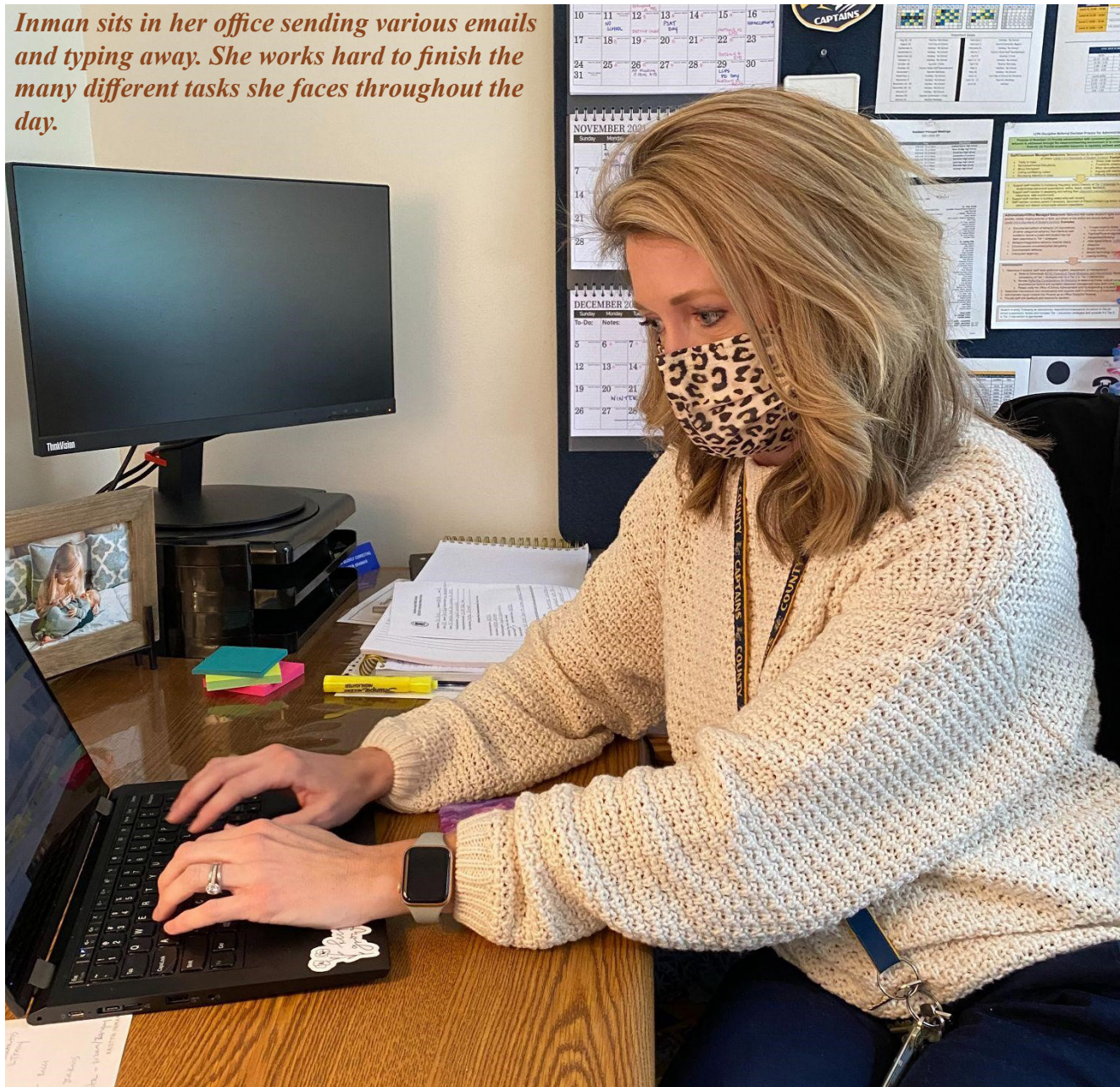
As an Assistant Principal, Inman helps cover athletic events, drama and music events, and any other activities occurring at school. "We are not only there to supervise it, but also just to be that form of support," Inman said.

Inman describes the importance of supporting teachers, getting teachers the resources they need to help students, and making students aware that there are boundaries and rules.

"Helping teachers create an environment where students want to come in and learn is a huge priority and one of our main objectives," Inman said.

is already making an impact

Inman sits in her office sending various emails and typing away. She works hard to finish the many different tasks she faces throughout the day.



Inman also deals with students and their families who are in need of help. “I don’t like the word ‘discipline’ because although kids do something and get into trouble, I see it more as opportunities for these kids,” Inman said.

She also establishes that her main goal is to help kids through their situation. “Maybe there is something else going on with the student that is making them struggle with rules, but my job is to come up with a specific plan for each specific student to help them,” Inman said.

“You guys are kids, you are going to make mistakes and get into trouble, if you didn’t there would be no point in me being here, and my job is really just to help them through that, instead of treating it as something that is irreversible.”

Although Inman is unsure of what the future holds, she is ready to work her way through the school year. “I’m excited to continue to be here and get to know kids more and create new bonds with them,” Inman said. •

HOMECOMING WEEK RETURNS

bringing with it school spirit and a semblance of normalcy

Evelyn Kuzminski | staff writer

In-person learning is back. Five day weeks are back. Athletics are back. And now, homecoming is back too.

Last year, these traditions were one of the many social sacrifices made due to COVID. But the return to school in August brought revised policies that allowed many of these losses to be brought back, including homecoming week in its entirety. At County, the semi formal homecoming dance is preceded by themed spirit days, a school-wide pep rally, and a varsity football game.

The dance itself took place on October 16 this year, and was held in the gym. It was planned to be held on the football field, but weather forecasts prompted a change in venue. The SCA managed the set up and take down of decorations before and after the dance. They also sold tickets and advertised the dance around the school and over social media.

“We make a lot of posters that we put around the school, handmade and on the computer,” **Camryn Peoples**, a sophomore on the SCA homecoming committee, said. “We dealt with tickets, all of us signing up to sell tickets during lunch.”

For the most part, freshmen

are usually the only students to be new to high school traditions and routines. But such an abnormal year last year meant that not only the freshmen but also the sophomore class had not had the opportunity to participate in a homecoming. “Most of the people going will be underclassmen, and they’ve never been to a real one,” junior **Maddi Potts** said. Potts remembered her own freshman homecoming: “It was fun, my favorite part was definitely the music and the dancing.”

Although the dance was back on this year, there wasn’t a unanimous resolve to attend. “I think not as many people will be there as usual,” sophomore **Ellie Moravek** said. “But I think a lot of people will be really excited, just because it hasn’t happened like that in so long.”

Moravek and Potts both opted to repeat the at-home celebrations they had last year instead of attending the dance.

“I’m taking pictures and going to dinner and everything, but I’m not going to the dance,” Moravek said. Potts said she and her friends had existing plans to do the same sort of thing as last year. “It’s just easier for us.”

But the decision not to attend the dance generally was not made

because of any feelings against the dance; rather, it depended on what a friend group as a whole was doing. “I just do whatever my friends do,” Potts said.

Last year, there was no choice to be made when it came to attending the homecoming dance: no dance was held. In the absence of a typical “hoco,” many students celebrated with an at-home version, a “foco.” This revised version of homecoming included many of the same traditions, but with the exception of the dance itself.

“We just went to dinner, took pictures, and then hung out after,” Moravek said.

This approach to foco was common; Potts and her friends followed a similar line of events. “We all went over to my friend’s house beforehand and we got ready, and then we went to my other friend’s house, took pictures, and then just had an after-party,” Potts said.

Students missed having a school dance to attend, but also understood the health and safety issues hosting an event may have caused.

“I feel like it’s just a tradition to have it,” Potts said. “But... we wouldn’t have gone anyways.”

“I think it would’ve been hard,

but if they could've found a way I thought they should've [had a homecoming]," Moravek said, adding that she would have attended a dance if there was one.

Spirit week also fell short last year. The SCA held virtual spirit weeks and some students posted pictures of their outfits on social media, but many chose not to participate.

"It was online and there was just no point," Potts said.

But this year, students embraced the challenge wholeheartedly, pulling out various clothes and accessories to put together outfits matching the themes, which included Decades Day, Out of this World Day, Career Day, and Hawaiian Out.

"It's fun making the outfits, and it's just fun being dressed up all day," Potts said. "I like it when I can participate in the themes easily. I go all in on the days that I have stuff, but if I don't have stuff, I'm not going to go all out for it, I'll just wear whatever I have."

Potts was most excited about her Career Day outfit: "I'm being a lifeguard. I have the fanny pack, the whistle, I have it all." Moravek said one her favorite days was Decades Day. "I dressed up as a hippie and I thought that was fun."

Homecoming is often widely considered a social highlight of high school, with the week leading up to the dance itself building anticipation, spirit, and excitement among the student body.

"I think homecoming is a great experience, and you should at least go once during your high school experience, because it's worth it," Potts said. •

H
O
C
O

W
E
E
K

F
A
V
O
R
I
T
E
S



"I love football games, and I love being a part of the student section." -Maddi Potts, junior



"My favorite part of being on the homecoming court was either getting some laughs at some of the ridiculous costumes, or when I fell out of a trash can." -Brighton Lieu, senior



"I love pictures. Pictures are my favorite. I'm a big picture person." -Ellie Moravek, sophomore

STUDENT LIFE

CAPTAINS' CREW LEADERS ELEVATE THE 2021-22 ATHLETIC SEASON

Michaela Scott | Co-Editor-in-Chief

As the football season has gone into full swing, two sport enthusiasts from the senior class have taken it upon themselves to lead the Captains' Crew student section. "We're the energy," Captains' Crew leader Connor Kilbey said. "We are the ones who have to keep our student body hyped, regardless of the scoreboard, or our opponents. We are here to support the team and help them elevate their game."

After several discussions with athletes and peers, senior Bennett Vaughan and Kilbey mutually decided that they would take on this leadership role for the 2021-22 athletic season. Other than bringing the spirit, Kilbey and Vaughan are in charge of coordinating the themes, creating student section signs, and encouraging participation at each event.

"We have a little bit of pressure on us now that we are the Captains," Kilbey said. "We've got to make new traditionals, new chants, but our main goal is to be

the loudest and craziest student section in Loudoun County."

The two leaders' main initiative is maximizing the student outcome at each event; Vaughan noted that they have been very active with their announcements to the student body through their Instagram, @LCHSCAPTAINSCREW.

Vaughan explained that they are still working on original chants, while recognizing the importance of keeping previous chants that students remember, and changing it up to suit the new mascot. "There's no other feeling like being on the field and hearing the whole stadium chanting," senior left tackle Michael Gillis said. "Compared to last year, the game's were not nearly as fun, the student section's energy encourages us to be more aggressive."

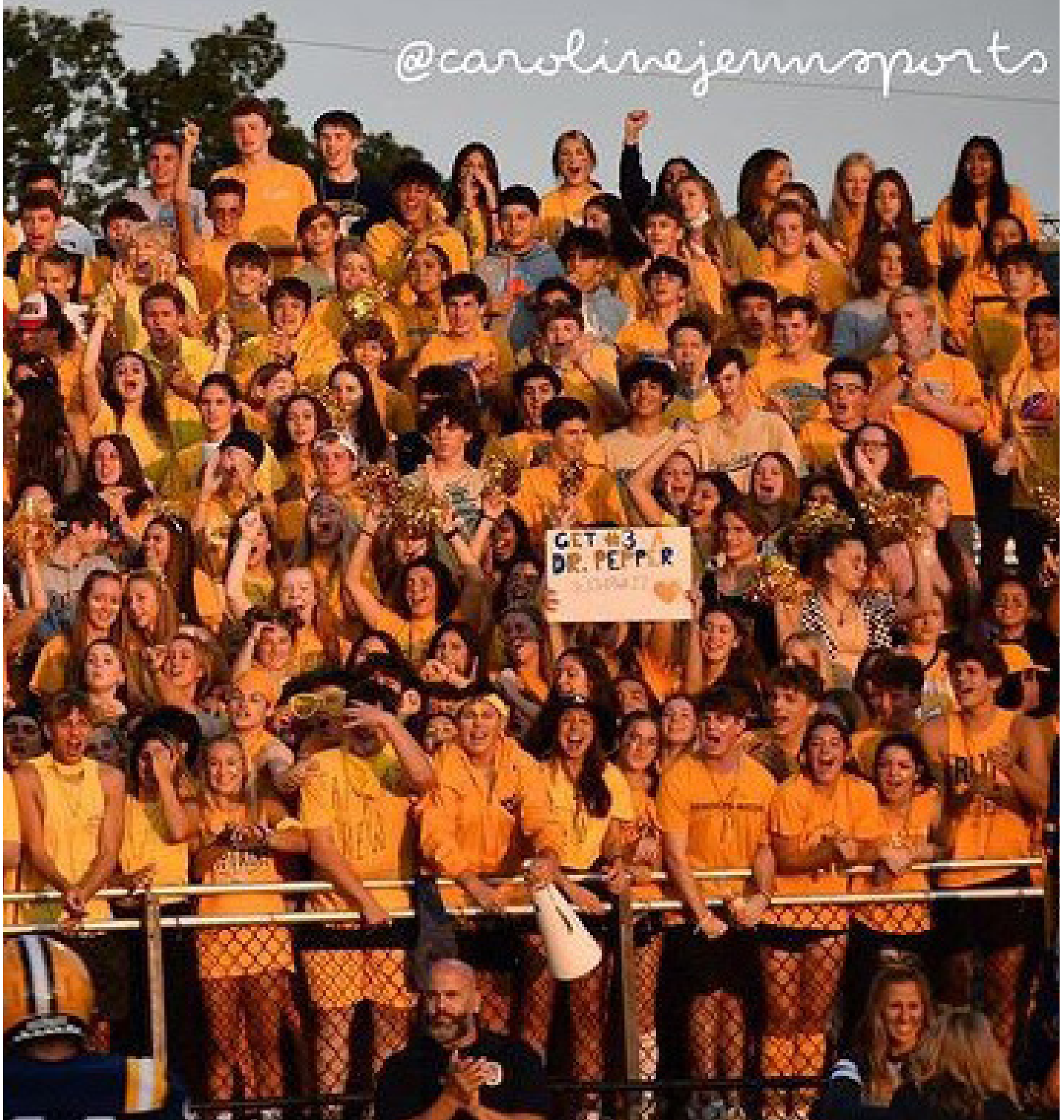
Vaughan agrees that the pandemic has had a significant impact regarding student spirit at games and events. "We have definitely seen a big increase in student participation," Vaughan said. "Two years ago, we played Millbrook High School, which

is about forty-five minutes away, and there were about four people who showed up; this year, we played them for our first game of the season and we had over seventy-five students cheering in the bleachers."

The Captains' Crew leaders have made it their mission to make everyone feel included in the school community after a year of athletic games consisting of empty bleachers. "Everyone has been containing their spirit because we have all been quarantining alone for such a long time," Kilbey said. "Everyone has a place now, and we can all go all out to each game, getting hype for our team."

Overall, Vaughan and Kilbey expressed their gratitude to the student body for showing out at each game so far this year. "Shout-out to all the students who are coming out, because we couldn't do it without all of you," Kilbey said. "People taking the time out of their days to support our teams gives us the energy to be the craziest student section in all of Loudoun County." •

The student section cheering on the Captains at the first varsity football home game against Potomac Falls High School. Connor Kilbey and Bennett Vaughan led the crew as the football team won with a final score 50-7. Photo by Caroline Jenn.





STUDENT LIFE

SENIOR SUNRISE MARKS THE BEGINNING OF SENIORS' LAST FIRST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL

Michaela Scott | Co-Editor-in-Chief

To kick off the start of the class of 2022's last year of high school, seniors **Kenly Howerter** and **Jiya Manalel** coordinated the senior sunrise in a vacant field at Ida Lee Park Recreation Center. "It was really important to me to make my last first day of school memorable," senior **Charlotte Penberthy** said. "So this was a really fun opportunity for me to commemorate that."

The senior sunrise was a non-school sponsored event coordinated by students to get together before their final year. "In previous school years, the PTSA were in charge of this event, but chose not to host it this year," Howerter said. "Jiya and I had so many people asking us about the activity, so we just went ahead and planned it ourselves."

Manalel and Howerter promoted

this event by creating Instagram pages and posting through their personal social media pages. To encourage participation, other senior class members also reposted this information on their accounts. "We were uncertain what the turn out would look like because there was no sign-up sheet and it was organized at the last minute," Howerter said. "But we had about thirty-five students who showed up and we all got to enjoy the sunrise together."

Students who attended the senior sunrise were told to bring their own breakfast and any other equipment they would need to watch the sunrise, such as blankets and lawn chairs. "I drove myself and met up with my friends, then we all sat on the front lawn," Penberthy said. "We got the best view of the sunrise; it happened pretty slowly and it seemed like every minute

that went by the sunrise got even prettier."

Howerter and Manalel indicated that this experience was significant because they got to make an impact on the student body without the help or affiliation to the school. "That morning felt like an introduction for me as President of the Student Council Association," Howerter said. "Organizing something that means something to our class and making it happen was really important to me."

The two student council members also expressed their interest in correlating an end of the year event, similar to the sunrise. "I think it would be really cool to do a big senior barbecue once we are all in Captains' Outreach," Howerter said. "I'd love to have one last experience with our peers to have a day filled with fun and eating." •

Seniors Mairenn Blest and Kenly Howerter sit on the Ida Lee field as they watch the sunrise. At approximately 6:45 a.m. seniors met at the Ida Lee Recreation Center to celebrate their last first day of high school and watch the sunrise. Photo courtesy of Kenly Howerter.





Homecoming Spirit Week

Maggie Sheridan | Co-Editor-in-Chief

1) Seniors **Molly Seventko, Wilson Kern, Lillian Kern, and Taylor Simmons** dress out for day one of spirit week, Decades Day. They are all dressed in their best 90s wear.

2) Seniors **Kenly Howerter** and **Nina Segura** dress up for two very different decades. Howerter as a Pilgrim, and Segura as a hippie.

3) Seniors **Marienn Blest, Sarah Jordan, and Rachel Meyers** show off their Decades fits inspired by the 70s and 80s. They were very motivated to get the spirit week points in order to win for the senior class.

4) Juniors **Joce Ortiz** and **EJ Faal** pose for day one in the school library. Faal, dressed up as hippie, and Ortiz as a colonial.

5) Freshman **Ethan Kopp** goes all out with an inflatable alien suit, who appears to be taking him away, for Out of This World Day.

6) Junior **Meredith Allmond** and sophomore **Jacob Buscher** match outfits for day two, Out of This World Day, while eating lunch on the lawn.

7) Junior **Jenna Downer** and sophomore **Grace Porter** dress up as an alien and Buzz Lightyear for spirit week day two, while spending time outside.

8) Juniors **Kristy Cam, Amy Cox, Quinn Keyes, Jessica Adissi, and Lorelei Murphy** smile for Out of This World Day. Cam, Coz, and Keyes as aliens, and Adissi and Murphy as planets.

9) Seniors **Bella Sierra, Ruby Whiteley, and Jordan Cheshire** take a mirror selfie for spirit week day three, Career Day. Sierra is dressed as a tourist, and Cheshire as Flo from Progressive.

10) Seniors **Ashley Lawlor** and **Kenly Howerter** sit in Latin and celebrate Career Day. Lawlor dressed as a businessman and Howerter as a construction worker.

11) Senior **Molly Seventko** and sophomore **Charlie Seventko** take a selfie in their matching Hawaiian shirts for the last day to dress up.

12) Seniors **Aria Mercorelli** and **Jenny Allen** are dressed up for spirit week day five, Hawaiian out, to prepare for the big homecoming football game.

13) Seniors **Anthony Pellegrino, Jordan Cheshire, Michaela Scott, and Grayson Blake** show out in Hawaiian gear for Friday night lights.

(Photos courtesy of LCHSSCA)

Student-athlete vaccination policy draws mixed feelings

ahead of winter and spring seasons

Evelyn Kuzminski | Staff Writer

After very unusual and unpredictable sports seasons last year, student-athletes have been hopeful for a bit more normalcy this year. Last year, COVID delayed seasons, forced athletes to quarantine, and limited spectators. Some mitigation strategies and effects remain, but overall, many things are returning to normal.

“Last year, we had to do daily temperature checks and COVID screenings,” **Kate Cassidy**, athletic director, said. “We’ve moved away from those, so we just ask that kids, if they’re sick, stay home, and get in touch with us. So we’re starting to relax those a little bit.”

Masks are no longer required to be worn while physically participating in a sport, as they were last year. However, they are still required at all other times while indoors, including in team huddles, on the bench, and in the locker room. The county also has policies that all schools are required to follow, such as disinfecting equipment, Cassidy said.

For the winter and spring seasons, those mitigations are expected to remain in place. “I don’t see those strategies changing at all,” Cassidy said.

There will be one major difference between the fall season and

the winter and spring seasons this year, though: vaccination requirements. In late August, superintendent **Scott Ziegler** announced that student-athletes will be required to be vaccinated to participate in winter and spring sports, taking effect November 8. The two exceptions to this are for students who cannot be vaccinated for a medical or religious reason.

“We haven’t been given the definition of what a medical exemption or religious exemption is yet, but those kids would have to test weekly, and get a negative test,” Cassidy said. Unvaccinated students will also be required to test negative before returning to play after exposure to COVID, according to the LCPS announcement.

LCPS employees - which includes coaches - are also required to be vaccinated, starting November 1, according to a different LCPS announcement, also in late August. After October 1, staff that have not shown proof of partial or full vaccination will be required to submit weekly COVID tests. Both announcements note LCPS’s prioritization of the safety and health of staff and students.

COVID has brought about many changes and caused many disturbances to athletics, but so far, it’s

hard to tell if there have been less disturbances to sports seasons this year than there were last year, Cassidy said, although she’s hopeful that that will be the case.

“Breakthroughs are still positive cases, and can still happen even if you’re vaccinated,” Cassidy said. “But if everyone on the team is vaccinated, and testing, I think we’ll see less shut downs.”

COVID has had an effect on teams so far this year, though. Two teams have had to be temporarily put on pause, Cassidy said, meaning someone on the team - including coaches, managers, and players - tested positive. When teams are paused, contact tracers from the county then determine if anyone had close contact with the individual and if they have to quarantine before the team can resume.

“The difference between this year and last year is if you were a close contact last year, you automatically quarantined for two weeks,” Cassidy said. “Now, if you’re vaccinated, you no longer have to quarantine, we just still have to watch you for symptoms and if symptoms arise, then we have to have you get tested.”

Although a positive case impacts the entire team through the temporary shut down, it doesn’t nec-

essarily impact other teams in the same sport. However, if the teams interacted with each other, such as scrimmaging or practicing together, both teams could be put on pause, Cassidy said.

“But we encourage most of our teams to try to separate as much as possible, so that if there is an exposure, let’s say on the freshman team, it doesn’t shut down the JV and the varsity,” Cassidy said.

There has been a mixed response to the new policy, with strong feelings on both sides. Some are glad that the county is taking action, and others think they are overstepping, according to Cassidy.

“I would say people are either really happy about it or really unhappy about it - there’s no middle ground,” Cassidy said.

For **Ellison Taliaferro**, the new policy is causing a significant change. Taliaferro, a sophomore on the lacrosse team, was not planning on getting the vaccine. She expressed concerns that she said her mom was anxious about regarding the vaccine, including how new it is and the lack of knowledge about long-term effects.

However, in light of the new requirement, Taliaferro says she will now get vaccinated in order to be eligible to play lacrosse in the spring,

“I’m going to get vaccinated because I love the sport and I want to play it, but it’s definitely going to affect my parents,” Taliaferro said.

Overall, though, she doesn’t agree with the requirement. Many parents are concerned about how a COVID vaccination will affect their children in the long run, and she doesn’t think the decision to vaccinate or not should be made for them, with the opportunity to play sports - something Taliaferro says

is a distraction for a lot of students, and something that they love - at stake. “It’s going to be a hard decision for parents, and it shouldn’t be mandated.”

Taliaferro also cited worries about what would happen if parents do not allow their kids to be vaccinated, and therefore prevent them from participating in sports.

“If their parents don’t let them play because they won’t let them get the vaccine, that’s going to be really detrimental to a lot of kids’ mental health,” Taliaferro said.

Furthermore, according to Cassidy, participation has decreased since the pandemic began, and Taliaferro is concerned about how those lower numbers will affect sports programs that are relatively new or small and trying to establish themselves, such as lacrosse.

Taliaferro does think that if more players are vaccinated, teams will face less disturbances due to COVID, but she also acknowledges that vaccinated individuals can still get infected with and spread the virus, even if it doesn’t affect them as severely.

As a player, Taliaferro has experienced the effects of a COVID-caused disruption firsthand. Last year, she had to quarantine for two weeks after an exposure to COVID at the beginning of her freshman season of volleyball.

She described how an interruption to the season can affect a team: missing players can necessitate lineup changes or position changes, and there may not even be enough players to play. The team’s playing and chemistry are also affected, Taliaferro said. “It’s definitely really hard.”

Sophomore **Madison Ruff** also knows what it’s like to be on a team that has been directly affected

by COVID. Two of her teammates tested positive earlier this season, causing concern for both the health of the players as well as the opportunity to participate in an upcoming scrimmage, Ruff said.

But for Ruff, the policy is a relief. “Personally, I’m happy about it,” she said. “I wish they had implemented it at the beginning of my volleyball season.”

Ruff thinks the policy will relieve some of the concerns surrounding sports teams in regard to COVID. “I think teams will have to worry less about teammates getting positive results and the whole team having to quarantine,” she said.

The policy won’t have as much of an effect on Ruff as it might on other players, like Taliaferro. Ruff plays a fall sport, so the policy will not take effect until her season is over. Ruff also said that she is already fully vaccinated, so if she does decide to play another sport, it won’t be a big deal for her.

However, although it doesn’t have a direct major impact on Ruff, she does think her mom will appreciate the mandate. “I know this requirement will help put some of my mom’s worries at ease,” Ruff said. “She was already worried about the risk of me playing sports.”

Overall, many athletes are back on the court or field with some semblance of normalcy this year, and the policy is another item on the ever-growing list of ways COVID has impacted sports. Many expect that impact to be continued, with the virus prompting changes to policies and norms in unknown ways.

“I think as long as COVID’s around, there’s going to be changes,” Cassidy said. Taliaferro iterated the same point: “It’s still going to affect teams until this pandemic is over.” •

2020-2021 Hall of Fame Inductees



The 2020-2021 Hall of Fame class is recognized at half time against the Tuscarora Huskies at home. John Bryant, John Murphy III, Lawrence Dolby, Adina Trammel, Amanda Arbogast, Marguerite Lewis, Kerry Fur, Shaylin O'Connell, Julie Strange

Matt Starchville | Staff Writer

The Loudoun County Hall of Fame Induction sheds light on the exceptional athletes that have come through this school. Due to COVID, this year we inducted the 2020 and 2021 Hall of Fame classes. These athletes were inducted due their stellar performance on the field while at Loudoun County. They were inducted at half time during the Loudoun County vs Tuscarora football game.

2020 Hall of Fame Inductee Class

John Bryant

Class of 1969

Football, Basketball, & Track

Bryant was a three-sport athlete who earned nine varsity letters for the Raiders. Bryant started both ways in football and earned 2nd Team All-District honors at defensive back (1967) and quarterback (1968). In basketball, Bryant helped the Raiders to a State Runner-Up finish in 1967 and earned 1st Team All-District honors in 1968 and 1969. Bryant accrued school records for points per game and assists.

John “Bunky” Murphy, III

Class of 1976

Football, Wrestling, & Baseball

Murphy earned nine varsity letters while playing for the Raiders. He was the starting quarterback in football as a senior and earned the team MVP in 1975. A four-year wrestler, Murphy twice

won the District title in his weight class. On the baseball diamond, he played catcher and 3rd base and batted .476 as a junior and .485 as a senior. In addition, he was the team MVP as a junior.

Lawrence “Fella” Dolby

Class of 1992

Football & Baseball

Dolby was a five-time letter winner for the Raiders. He was the punter for the football team and earned First Team All-District honors in 1990 and 1991 and 2nd Team All-Region honors in 1991. On the diamond, Dolby played catcher and was named 2nd Team All-District in 1991. As a senior in 1992, he batted .460 and had a slugging percentage of .711 and earned First Team All-District, All-Region, and All-Met.

Adina Trammel*Class of 1998
Girls' Basketball*

A four-year starter and letter winner in basketball, Trammel served as team captain as a junior and senior. She was twice named First Team All-District and led the 1996 Raiders to the school's first 20-win season and state tournament appearance. As a junior, she averaged 12.1 PPG, 4.2 assists, and amassed 193 rebounds. As a senior, the Raiders started the season 10-0 before she tore her ACL and ended her high school career with just under 960 points.

Amanda Arbogast*Class of 2007
Volleyball & Softball*

Arbogast earned seven varsity letters while serving as captain for both volleyball and softball. As a junior, she earned First Team All-District and Second Team All-Region honors while leading the team in kills, service points, solo blocks, block assists, and aces. In her senior year, she helped lead the team to a District and Region Championship and a State-Runner-Up title. She led the team in blocks and block assists and was second in kills and service aces.

Marguerite (Hanna) Lewis*Class of 2008
Volleyball*

Lewis, formerly Hanna, was a four-time letter winner in volleyball. She helped the team to a District and Region Championship and a State Runner-Up title in 2006. As a senior in 2007, she led the team to a District, Region, and State Title. For her play she was named First Team All-District,

First Team All-Region, and 2nd Team All-State as a junior. As a senior she was First Team All-District, First Team All-Region, First Team All-State and Second Team All-Met. She finished her career as the Raider record holder in aces in a season (135), aces per set (1.48), and aces in a career (193) which were not surpassed until 2018.

Kerry (Sarver) Furr*Class of 2010
Volleyball, Girls' Basketball, & Tennis*

Furr, formerly Sarver, earned 11 varsity letters for the Raiders and played on teams that won six Regular Season District Championships, Seven District Tournament Championships, Four Region Championships, and Three State Championships (two in volleyball and one in basketball which was the first in school history). In addition, she won a District Championship playing tennis doubles. She served as captain of all three teams and left the basketball program as the single season (184) and career (339) record holder in assists. In 2009, she was named the LCHS Senior Female Athlete of the Year.

2021 Hall of Fame Inductee Class

Shaylin O'Connell*Class of 2009*

O'Connell earned 6 varsity letters playing volleyball, basketball, and lacrosse. O'Connell was a four-year varsity starter for the volleyball program and amassed 729 kills and 354 blocks in her

career. She helped lead County to three consecutive District Regular Season Titles (2006-2008), District Tournament Titles (2006-2008), Region Titles (2006-2008), one State Runner-up Title (2006) and back-to-back State Titles (2007/2008). For her play, O'Connell earned first team All-District, All-Region, All-State, and All-Met honors. In addition, Prep Volleyball named her an Academic All-American as well as All-American for her play.

Julie Strange*Class of 2010*

Strange earned 12 varsity letters and qualified for states in all 12 seasons of her high school career while doing Cross Country, Swim, and Track & Field. As a swimmer, Strange competed at the VHSL AA State meet all four swim seasons and helped set records in the 200- and 400-meter free relays as well as earned All-District individual swimming accolades. She was awarded the Female Coach's Award at the end of her sophomore year swim season. Her senior year, Strange was selected as a captain of her cross country, swimming, and track teams. In cross country and track, she was a 12-time All-District, 10-time All-Region and five-time All-State award winner. •



Captains prepare to play in front of fans for the first time since 2019



The Captain leaders #1 Jimmy Kibble, #63 Evan Stanley, #40 Jack Snyder, and #26 Matt Jackmore approach the logo at the fifty yard line for the coin toss, prior to their first home game since 2019. Photo by John Klimavicz.

Matt Starchville | Staff Writer

The Loudoun County Captains football team hasn't played in front of fans in over a year. The Captains' Crew, which is the Loudoun County Student Section, is a major part in all sporting events, especially football. With their loud cheers and coordinating colors, the crew doesn't make the games easy for opposing teams.

Junior linebacker Jack Snyder said, "I'm excited to play in front of fans, it gives me a little more motivation."

Head Coach Reidenbaugh added, "We are extremely excited to have fans back. Our school spirit and student section is one of the best things about the County."

At the beginning of every new season questions are always going to be asked about how the current team will stack up against past teams.

"I think we are looking good," Snyder said. "We have a strong defense and a good offense. We've had some good teams in the past, but I think this team is different. We are starting to connect and play as a team and we just keep getting better."

"We have a long way to go to accomplish our goals, but I believe that the boys can get there," Reidenbaugh said

Coming off a shortened season due to COVID, the Captains look forward to getting a full season again.

"I'm excited for a full season because last season was too short, it felt like it flew by," Snyder said.

"We're extremely excited to have a full season again," Reidenbaugh said. "Playing in the spring last year didn't feel right."

Having a full season not only provides more games for the Captains, but also more time to develop and improve.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the team improve after every week," Snyder said. "We look good right now but there is still more we can improve on."

The Captains are 4-0 and have outscored opponents 181-38 to begin their season. •

Students retell legendary “Great Gatsby” novel on stage

Daniel R DeLargy | Staff Writer

This year's school play is set to be an exciting student-written adaptation of the 1925 iconic novel *The Great Gatsby*. Fitzgerald's novel's style, beauty, and storytelling is being transferred to the stage.

“The *Great Gatsby*” became public domain at the start of 2021. That means that all of the licensing that prevented people from creating adaptations of the work has expired. Now, anybody can do what they want with the book,” said senior **Anna Diem**, publicity manager of the Captains' production.

“So I proposed the idea to our director, if we could do the show, considering we could have the opportunity to write it,” Diem said.

With COVID-19 stopping performance last year, this is County's first in-person show in over a year. “We were kind of in a limbo where it's like, well, we can't perform, so what can we do?” Diem said.

This creative process started last May, according to senior **Sophie Hilton**, stage manager.

“Before we were able to come back to school, we would hop on a Google meet, we'd come up with a game plan, say what we wanted to tackle, then we would come into the building,” Hilton said. “And we'd sit and this is our board and emphasize our goals for the story.”

The writing group for this script consists of three seniors, Diem, Hilton, and **Elaine Arrington**.

This was a very creative process, according to Arrington. “Everybody was so sick and tired of not doing any-

thing due to COVID,” said Arrington.

With the group all being seniors, there is a lot of chemistry between everyone involved.

The *Great Gatsby* takes place in 1920s New York and we watch Jay Gatsby try to reconnect with his former lover Daisy Buchanan.

“I play Daisy in the show,” Diem said. “And my two love interests are my two best friends. So it's just kind of one of those things where I've been so gracious, and lucky to have chemistry with all of the people that I'm interacting with, good, bad or indifferent onstage.”

With this adaptation and its unique take on this classic novel, audiences have a lot to look forward to. “The plot is very dynamic. The characters are very interesting. There's so much that happens in this show. There's never a dull moment,” said Hilton.

The drama department has new lighting equipment in the auditorium and the show is going to have a lot of color, according to Hilton.

Returning members of the cast are ecstatic to get back on stage. While underclassmen are having their first opportunity to participate in high school theatre.

“I was so pleasantly surprised, because that's taking a leap of faith. They missed their first two years of school, they are kind of just jumping blind into the department. I think that was really lovely to see that so many people were willing to give it a shot,” Diem said.

This opportunity to get back on-stage excites everyone in the County's theatre department. Audiences can expect an accurate recapture of the *Great Gatsby* on November 11.

“It is good for you as a student body or a staff member, as a person in this community, to support other members of your community who have been working hard to get something done. That is their passion, says Hilton. She and the other theatre students can't wait to perform and let audiences see what they have been working so hard on. •



Members of Theatre 2, 3, and 4 discuss ideas during the third block. Although the play is open to all students, theatre students in Theatre 2, 3, and 4 are primarily responsible for producing and performing the show.

New album by “Halsey” made possible with help from the “Nine Inch Nails” and other artists

Olivia DeWan | Staff Writer

Famous popstar **Ashley Nichollette Frangipane**, better known as **Halsey**, released a brand new album with a completely different sound. On August, 27, “If I Can’t Have Love, I Want Power” slammed into the world with a sharp vigor.

Her album consists of thirteen songs, “The Tradition”, “Bells in Santa Fe”, “Easier than Lying”, “Lilith”, “Girl Is A Gun”, “You Asked For This”, “Darling”, “1121”, “honey”, “Whispers”, “I am not a woman, I’m a god”, “The Lighthouse”, and “Ya’aburnee”.

As a mix of punk-rock, rock, and pop, Halsey pulled together an album of the likes she’d never attempted before.

Halsey spoke of her source of inspiration, which was the opposite from her previous work “Hopeless Fountain Kingdom” and “BADLANDS”.

“This is a concept album about the joys and horrors of pregnancy and childbirth,” Halsey said in an interview with Zane Low on Apple Music.

She announced her pregnancy in January, expecting her very first child who was born on July 14, and named **Ender Ridley Aydin**.

The art on the album cover displays Halsey on a golden throne, dressed in a blue gown with a child on her hip while one side of her chest is exposed.

“My body has belonged to the world in many different ways the past few years, and this image is my means of reclaiming my au-

tonomy and establishing my pride and strength as a life force for my human being,” Halsey wrote in one of her Instagram posts. “This cover image celebrates pregnant and postpartum bodies as something beautiful, to be admired. We have a long way to go with eradicating the social stigma around bodies & breastfeeding. I hope this can be a step in the right direction!”

“If I Can’t Have Love, I Want Power” will help other mothers have courage and pride in their bodies again after childbirth. It is also a step into normalizing breastfeeding and hitting back the negative comments that surround it.

With her work doubling in speaking about the wonders and pains of childbirth, Halsey brought a powerful collection of songs to the world of music, but she didn’t do it alone.

Collaborating with **Trent Reznor**, who is the lead vocalist for the “Nine Inch Nails”, they crafted “If I Can’t Have Love, I Want Power”. Reznor rose to fame through the “Nine Inch Nails” and is now known as a top-tier music producer. She also worked with Atticus Ross, who is also part of the “Nine Inch Nails”.

Why did Halsey want to collaborate? The answer is clear; the “Nine Inch Nails” are one of the world’s most popular rock bands. Their song “Closer”, often referred to as “Closer To God”, got close to 100,000,000 plays on Spotify. Similarly, one of their slower pieces called “Hurt” received 62,962,293 plays.

Known for their dark and tor-

mented industrial rock songs, the “Nine Inch Nails” conquered the world of rock for several years. Their influence in “If I Can’t Have Love, I Want Power” is clearly audible in “Whispers”, which is the tenth song on the album.

“Whispers” starts off quietly with Reznor’s piano, similar in sound to the “Nine Inch Nails” song “Hurt”, released in 1994.

In contrast, “The Lighthouse”, which is by far the darkest sounding song on her album, fully ties the “Nine Inch Nails” with Halsey’s enraged lyrics. This track is more like Halsey’s music she created in the past, consisting of deep lyrics that ruthlessly call out someone who has wronged her.

For example, in “The Lighthouse” she sings, “Well, that should teach a man to mess with me/He was never seen again and I’m still wanderin’ the beach/And I’m glad I met the Devil ‘cause he showed me I was weak/And a little piece of him is in a little piece of me”.

“The Lighthouse” consists of heavy guitar riffs and a deep bass, which lead to a haunting tone.

Another one of her songs that strikes a powerful image is “Ya’aburnee”, which is a term in Arabic that directly translates to “you bury me”. It’s often used to tell a loved one that they hope to die first, as living without their partner would be too much to bear.

This another song more heavily influenced with Reznor and Ross’s work, due to the grave meaning.

The “Nine Inch Nails” worked with Halsey over a long distance,

recording their backing tracks in Los Angeles while Halsey added vocals from the Turks and Caicos islands.

But Reznor and Ross weren't the only huge musicians who contributed to Halsey's female-empowerment album.

Dave Grohl, the lead singer of "The Foo Fighters" and the previous drummer for "Nirvana," is featured on drums in the song "honey".

Grohl's formidable style of drumming fits right into the rest of the album. He adds a strong force that solidifies the meaning of the song, which is a homage to a former lover.

In addition to Grohl, **Lindsey Buckingham** makes an appearance in "Darling". Buckingham is the lead guitarist for the band "Fleetwood" and is known for his daring and difficult riffs.

"Darling" starts off with a light and airy sequence of a complicated, yet simple sounding, guitar riff, which repeats throughout the song. "Darling" finishes with Halsey's classic harmonizing of her vocals, which appears consistently throughout the album.

On a different note, many artists showed their support for Halsey and her work.

"I'm blown away by Halsey's artistry and commitment to taking risks," popstar **Taylor Swift** tweeted. "Giving us all a brave new era to dive into and explore together. If I can't have love, I want power is out now- please stream and buy the album!!"

Reviews have said that "If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power" is a "smashing success" and "some of Halsey's best work yet". Halsey expanded herself as an musician, as all great artists should

aim to do. By taking this bold risk, she challenged herself, and it will only positively affect her work.

She is an inspiration to women everywhere, especially mothers, and this album is a much needed look at the challenges of motherhood.

Will Halsey continue to create record breaking music? Only time will tell, but all evidence points to the fact that "If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power", is a new chapter for the artist. •

Halsey wears a white dress in the two-minute video that was used to promote her new album "If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power". She walks through a museum while admiring a portrait of herself that is used as her album cover. Photo by Colin Tilley.



What are our Captains' Favorite Stores in downtown Leesburg?

Cat Pizzarello | Staff Writer

With its bubble-gum pink interior, friendly staff & exquisite selection of soft serve flavors, cones & topics, it's no wonder Gruto's is the winner of best shop downtown. Just minutes from campus downtown Leesburg is a favorite hangout for Captains & their families.

Loudoun County students were surveyed to see what their favorite shop is Downtown Leesburg and overwhelmingly, Grutos Soft Serve was the winner. Outside of school, sports, and clubs some of our Captains visit Downtown Leesburg with their friends.

Leesburg was established in 1758 and since then Downtown Leesburg has evolved and grown. Now there are over 20 different shops, some old and some new, for people to visit and shop. Our winning downtown Leesburg shop, Gruto's, opened in 2018, but Grutos Soft Serve has been a business since 2007.

"It's a great place to hang out with friends and their ice cream is delicious," junior **Jillian Zaepfel** said. Gruto's welcomes every

customer and a "see you tomorrow" when you leave.

"It has the best ice cream ever," freshman **Joshua Taylor** said. Gruto's offers a variety of flavors including classics like chocolate and vanilla, and some of our students' favorites like banana and raspberry.

Although Gruto's was the typical favorite, the Sunflower Shack was a close second. The Sunflower Shack is an old-fashioned candy and soda pop gift shop in downtown Leesburg.

"It has a good vibe to it and has fun items," sophomore **Finleigh Roscoe** said. Along with candy and sodas, the Sunflower Shack also sells jewelry, stickers, home decor, games, local art and other knick-knacks.

Some of our students' other top picks downtown include our local record store, DIG! and Mocatina's, a gourmet sweets shop. Both of these shops are fairly new to the downtown area, but they are some of our students' favorites.

"I like the decorations, old records, and upstairs with vintage clothes," sophomore **Ava Pietrzak** said of DIG!, which is owned by sophomore **Sienna Longendyke's**

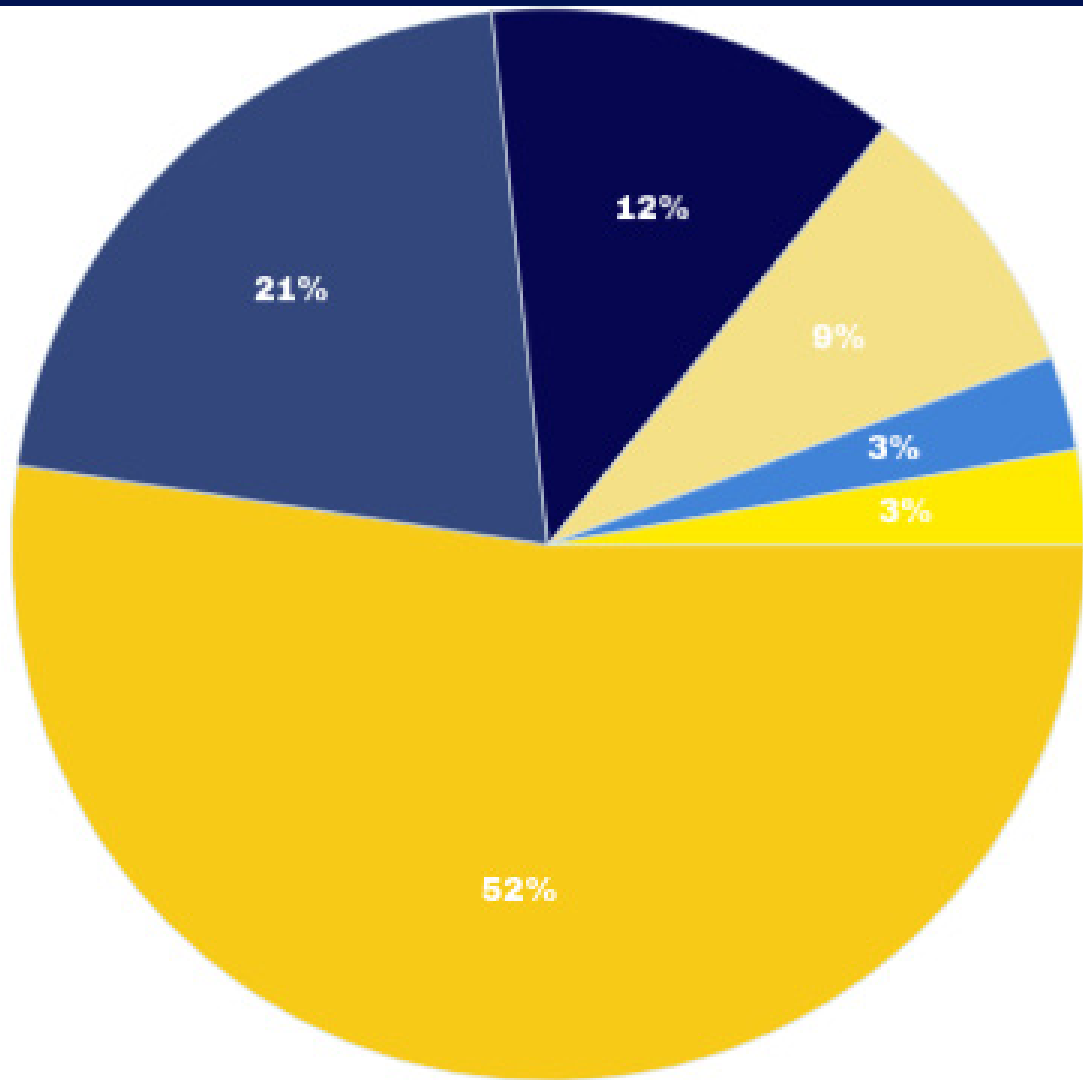
aunt and uncle.

Freshman **Abi Long** described Mocatina's as having "Good ice cream and a very happy environment." Along with ice cream, Mocatina's sells local sodas, gourmet cotton candy and their famous macaroons.

Other student favorites are Brick & Mortar, Books & Other found things and the Black Shutter Antique store. Sophomore **Katherine Garvey** compared the local antique store to "Narnia" because of how small it looks on the outside, but how easily you can get lost in its many rooms.

Students were also asked if they thought Downtown Leesburg has improved in the past years and most said they believe that it has, but many were quite unsure. Freshman **Will Senge** was thoroughly disappointed that Bites is gone, a grilled cheese restaurant that went out of business.

Downtown Leesburg will continue to be a place that our students enjoy visiting from time to time. What is your favorite shop in Downtown Leesburg? Tweet your response to <https://twitter.com/countychron> •



■ Gruto's Soft Serve 39
 ■ Sunflower Shack 16
 ■ Mocatinas 9

■ DIG! Records & Vintage 6
 ■ Books & Other Found Things 2
 ■ Brick & Mortar 2

A Google Form was sent to English teachers to share with their students, where they could then vote for their favorite Downtown Leesburg shop. Infographic by Cat Pizzarello.

The County Chronicle IS ONLINE!

Visit countychronicle.org for more
from the County Chronicle!



SCA Showcases Club Holiday Trees

Decorating trees gives club members an opportunity to be creative while also promoting their club to potential new students.



New Bins Prevent Leftover Waste

Unopened and uneaten food can now be put in bins in the cafeteria to be donated to Loudoun Hunger Relief.



PEER's Paws Up for Positivity

PEER increased participation of lunch on the lawn this semester by bringing in dogs for World Kindness Day.

Scan the QR code on the right
or visit the URL above for more
news, features, and photos!

