

# The REDHAWK REVIEW



Seniors Jenna Heigel and Willow Hoins expertly sail their craft, against a quintessential Port Townsend backdrop. (Photo by Alyce Flanigan)

## End of A Season for the PTHS Sailing Team

By Virginia Su

**S**ail Fast and Have Fun!—That's the motto of the Port Townsend High School Sailing Team.

The PTHS Sailing Team's fall season ended recently. Like

many other activities this year, the spring and summer seasons were cancelled for the team. "Spring season did get canceled because of COVID, so did any hope of a summer practice," said freshman Fiona Skidmore. Normally, many would be eagerly anticipating the

new season to come, but due to COVID-19, the following seasons have not been planned yet, as our life's our ever-changing recently.

The team usually has their races on the weekend. Almost every year, the PTHSST competes in sailing races called regattas, which

are the events that sailors on the team look forward to the most. On weekends, they compete in other places with many high school sailing teams that come from all over the Peninsula. Sadly, due to COVID-19 this year, the regattas have all been canceled. Not only

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# First Time Voters

By Melanie Bakin

Voting for the first time is an experience one will never forget, especially when their first vote is cast in the momentous 2020 presidential election. The 2020 election will change the way America is run for future generations. Whether that be striking down the Affordable Care Act versus strengthening it or protecting LGBTQ+ rights versus tearing them away, this election will set long-lasting laws into place. Social media has played a central role in young voter turnout, as its ability to mobilize the younger generation is powerful. Students' social media and online platforms have been filled with information about voting and reminders to vote.

As of October 30th, seven million young people (ages 18-29) have voted early or absentee in the 2020 elections. Over four million of those votes are in fourteen states that play a key role in deciding who wins the presidency and takes control of the United States Senate. Some students in the PTHS Class of 2021 are part of the seven million young people who voted early.

Casting your first ballot is an inspiring moment. Sophia Morris, who turned 18 at the beginning of September, said, "I voted because I don't like how the country is right now and I would like some change. Voting made me feel like I had a voice to make a change which I loved. Now that I'm 18, I feel like I could do more to influence our future, especially with voting." People vote for many reasons, but the primary one is to let their voices be heard. In America, we have a democracy—a privilege that comes along with that democracy is voting.

Another first-time voter was Nylah Garling. Nylah voted because she thinks that, as a citizen of the United States, it is important to exercise your right to vote. She encouraged, "We have the opportunity to vote for people who represent our values and needs. Especially in times like these, not having an opinion is having an opinion. We must stand up for what we believe in order to create change. Even if you feel your vote doesn't count, it's important to take a stance for your beliefs and pay attention to what is going on in our government. So, if you can, vote! And if not, pay attention to what is going on around you.

Protest, stand up for your beliefs, and make your voices heard!"



Nylah Garling drops off ballots for her family.  
(Photo by Gia Garling)

# Return of Redhawk Sports?

By Sorina Johnston

Daylight saving begins and our evenings are spent inside: reading books, watching movies, and video chatting friends. This pandemic means we're going to have to get creative about what we do during the dark hours of winter. Typically, winter time means basketball season to me. I think of friends and families gathering in our gym to cheer for our student athletes.

This year, it's different. The Washington State Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) has developed a protocol for athletics

based on Governor Jay Inslee's safe start plan. Sports have been split into four seasons and PTHS is working with our school district to plan for wrestling and basketball seasons, slotted to begin December 28th.

Patrick Gaffney, Logan Stegner, and Gabe Montoya have put together a strength and conditioning program for PTHS students. Gaffney describes it as "the first step in getting athletics back." It's an opportunity for any student to "do something fun while improving their physical and mental health." It's a test run for future sports programs at the high school, equipped with social distancing, temperature monitoring, health screening, and mask wearing.

After the first two weeks of the strength and conditioning program, I've gotten stronger. I've also been reminded of the value of team sports. The first day of the program was easy for me. The third was not. I was tired, unfocused, slow, unmotivated. I was reminded of the reality of basketball practice. Not every practice or game is a win. They're challenging, but athletes get through them with a team. We hold each other accountable and support one another. That's what team athletics means to me.

According to Gaffney, having students in the gym is "more valuable than I could have ever imagined." He's received many comments from students on "how great it is to do something and see other kids." Sports don't just build our muscles. They teach us how to handle both wins and losses. They teach us how to create community and build friendships. "Sports are about teaching young people to become better people and building character," according to Gaffney. The strength and conditioning program is a step towards bringing back athletics, something integral to our Redhawk community.

When I get back in the gym, I'm reminded of the people I share the school with. I see Michael Scott's quote written on the wall and my classmates' handprints placed around the wings of a redhawk. I think of the lip syncs performed and layups scored. I see the gym as a gathering place for our school community. We're not going to hold 300-person assemblies or have packed basketball games, but we're hoping to find a way to begin sports seasons at the high school. The strength and conditioning program is one piece in the puzzle of safely beginning Redhawk athletics.



Students practice distancing and mask wearing during a trial Strength and Conditioning program. (Photo by Sorina Johnston)



# Restaurant Reviews

By River Kisler

We are back! River's Restaurant Reviews have returned, takeout style. After a brief hiatus to cover some more important topics, I am back to doing what I love the most: using this publication as an excuse to eat food (mostly sushi). Things have changed slightly; obviously the indoor, sit-down dining experience I wrote about in my last two articles is no longer available at most restaurants. So I am going to focus on the food as well as the ease and safety of the takeout procedures. Incidentally, most of you reading this have almost certainly eaten at this restaurant before, but I really like it and I want to go through all the restaurants I know I like before moving on to more obscure ones. As always, each issue (sometimes) I choose one or two restaurants to visit and write about, evaluating them on a rigorous set of criteria, or in other words, whether or not I liked the food. My opinions and commentary are my own, so don't take them too seriously.

In this issue, we are visiting, or really stopping by, Hanazono. A staple of life in Port Townsend since as long as I can remember, Hanazono began serving their popular Asain noodle soups, fresh sushi rolls, and perfectly portioned appetizers in 2005. Their location downtown, right next to the Rose Theatre, another PT landmark, adds to the appeal and makes them a popular pre or post movie destination. But the real draw, and the reason it's always my first choice, is the food, which we will get into shortly. Before we get to that, it's worth mentioning some other aspects of the restaurant. Pre-COVID, Hanazono's small size and cozy atmosphere were always comforting, but never the main attraction. Since the pandemic, they have gone fully takeout: when I ordered, I simply placed an order over the phone, and picked up my food through a small window cut into a plexiglass plate. It goes without saying, but all the staff were masked and sanitized the payment equipment. As far as safety goes, it is probably the least exposure I've experienced ordering food recently. One note: I recommend planning and calling in ahead, especially for larger orders, because good food can take time. Because of its position right on Taylor Street, the outdoor seating is minimal and very exposed, so I wouldn't plan on eating al fresco.

Ok, let's talk about the food. It's worth noting that Hanazono is known for its

freshness, and that has been apparent every time I have eaten there. All the food on the menu is made to order, and local ingredients are prioritized. The menu consists of mainly sushi rolls, soups, stir fries, fresh salads, and bespoke desserts. And if that doesn't sound quite adventurous enough for you, the rotating specials board features some more unique and inventive offerings. Additionally, if you are of age, I've been told the sake selection is not lacking. As for my order, I kept it classic: edamame and a miso soup to start things off. The miso is great: not too diluted or strong, right ratio of tofu to seaweed to broth. The edamame is, well, edamame. Always fun, hard to mess up. For the main course, I went with the Hanazono Roll, the Zen Roll, and an order of Agedashi Tofu. The Hanazono roll is my ideal sushi: raw fish, a light vegetable, and not too many garnishes to distract. This roll has spicy albacore tuna, cucumber, and sprouts on the inside, with the same tuna and a spicy garlic chili sauce on top. The Zen Roll is another classic, but is controversial in my

family due to the presence of eggplant. It has tempura tofu, green beans, and sprouts inside, with deep-fried eggplant, avocado, and sesame seeds on top. Eel sauce is optional, but I highly recommend it. It sounds more intimidating than it is. Last but not least, the Agedashi Tofu. For those who are not familiar, Agedashi Tofu is just tempura tofu soaked in a fish broth. It soaks up the fish broth without becoming too soft and is a delicious addition to any meal. While it's technically an appetizer, I usually order two and eat it with my sushi.

As usual, my trip to Hanazono left me very satisfied. The food is delicious, the location's convenient when you are downtown, and I was fully reassured by their COVID protocols. I recommend Hanazono to anyone looking for a moderately priced, high quality sushi and Japanese food experience in Port Townsend. The food is filling but also light and fresh, well-seasoned but not distracting, and there is a good selection of dishes for any palate. For the price, there is no better place to eat in Port Townsend than Hanazono.



Hanazono's takeout window, complete with a plexiglass screen between servers and the public. (Photo by River Kisler)

# The Welfare Campaign of the Southern Resident Orcas: Fighting for Life

By Willow Hoins

For centuries, the Southern Resident orcas of Puget Sound have battled for survival. In the past 100 years alone, they have faced more severe challenges than ever. Currently, these orcas consist of three pods: J (population 24), K (population 17), and L (population 33)—barely surpassing their 30 year low of 70 whales.

Essentially, they are starving. The Chinook salmon population, the main food source of the whales, is rapidly decreasing due to overfishing, pollution, and migratory challenges, leaving the pods' stomachs empty. Aside from malnourishment, chemicals accumulated in adipose tissue from polluted Salish waters are detrimental. Extended exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls, (PCBs), induces long term complications of suppressed reproduction rates and immune systems, with damage surfacing decades later and in offspring. Previously, with abundant salmon populations, the consequences of pollution were more veiled. However, now often relying on their fat stores, toxins leach into their bloodstream during ketosis, disrupting immune and endocrine systems to further compromise survivability.

Despite PCBs being banned in 1979, Paul Jepson, from the Zoological Society of London, stated that killer whales have “the highest exposures now of any species.” Unfortunately, seawater contamination is a constant issue, but fostering a safer food source could mitigate further harm. According to Howard Garrett of the Orca Network, orcas face a miscarriage rate of 70% and, in pregnancies brought to term, calves face a 40% survival rate in their first year. While

chemical and noise pollution remain a substantial problem, the paramount issue today is starvation. Multiple conservation and research coalitions are working together with tribal, local, state, and federal members for salmon habitat restoration to benefit both local salmon and whales.

Was the dilapidation of Southern Resident orcas accelerated well before the pronounced impacts of pollution? Absolutely. Between 1965 and 1976, over 270 orcas were captured in hunts led by SeaWorld. Failed attempts at corporate cover-ups horrifically revealed many slaughtered whales. The last surviving orca of the subjugated members of

local pods is Tokitae. Renamed Lolita by Miami Seaquarium, in captivity for half a century, she is imprisoned alone in an 80'x35'x20' deep tank (violating Animal Welfare Act requirements). Her family and mother, Ocean Sun, still inhabit Puget Sound. Recently, Dateline NBC played familial calls to Tokitae and notwithstanding 50 years of separation, she responded with the L Pod's distinct language.

The Orca Network proposed Tokitae's return home. An interim protective cove has been prepared for her rehabilitation and retirement, while the already prepped transport, marine biologists, and veterinarians remain on standby to facilitate her homecoming. So what's the

hold-up? The Miami Seaquarium refuses to acknowledge the thousands pleading Toki's release. A new tactic has emerged. In May, intent to sue the Seaquarium was filed. The Lummi Nation believes Tokitae's capture and internment violated their treaty rights, a federal offense. On her September 24th anniversary of capture, the Lummis gathered in peaceful protest and prayer outside the Seaquarium to bring their relative home. Stolen from her family in 1970, illegally confined, and isolated for 50 years as the amusement, or rather, “abusement,” for human profit, Tokitae signifies yet another battle for Orca welfare.



The orca Tahlequah and her new calf, designated J57, one of two newborns this year. (Katie Jones / Center for Whale Research)



# Changing With the Seasons: Aldrich's Reopens

By Julia Neville

It's that time of the year again, when the leaves are in the midst of a noticeable transformation; between the neutral tones of fall attire gracing every street corner and the brisk air, autumn's presence is undeniable. You happen to be uptown on a particularly chilly day, and, perhaps, you're craving a fresh coffee or a seat atop the familiar wooden chairs in the upstairs of Aldrich's. Oh, how much you've missed it all—the quaint, small-town feel of customer-to-cashier interactions, the diverse representation of items, the festive attributes of the store during holiday seasons, and, of course, the phenomenal sushi from the Ichiba Sushi Bar—all facets of “the heartbeat of Uptown,” as new owner Yos Ligtenberg describes Aldrich's Market. In other words, not to fret: Aldrich's has been resurrected, and is now in the hands of the sibling trio of co-owners: Yos, Rachel, and Christa Ligtenberg.

Yos, who manages the business's day-to-day operation with the help of his sisters, charac-

terized the transformative process of becoming an entrepreneur as inadvertent. “Seven months ago, we certainly had no intention of operating a grocery store,” he confessed, “Us siblings had long discussed doing something together... nothing specific, but surmised that something might happen at some point. A family friend somewhat jokingly said to me ‘you guys should buy Aldrich's.’ A few days later, we were on the phone with the building owner and kind of sensed from that initial connection that this was meant to be... and so it was.”

In many regards, even after facing renovations and under new ownership, Aldrich's remains at its core unchanged. “I'd say the intent is the same: a community market with the community in mind, first and foremost. Aldrich's needs to be more than just a convenience—it needs to be an experience, and we wanted to create a place where we'd want to spend time and money,” Yos concluded. Through collaborations with Grace Love, Tomoko Tolson, and Jeanette Stengel, among other local artists,

the Ligtenberg siblings have been successful in revitalizing a town treasure. “Every employee is an artist in their own right, whether it be crafting something amazingly delicious or utilizing their deft interpersonal skills and kindness,” Yos remarked, expressing his gratitude for the representation of all sorts of abilities and talents within the store.

Hearing from Grace Love herself, the artist revealed similar takeaways in her own experience as a chef and a singer. “Some of the differences [between the two careers] are levels of anxieties in the kitchen. I'm like, ‘maybe

this will work, and if it does, yes, and if it doesn't, no sweat,’ but on stage, I don't plan a set list. Some of the similarities are just, magic. Much of the time, I have no clue what I am doing and I wing it, and that's when the universe meets me and things work. There's nothing that can explain it, only magic.”

The same can be said about the miraculous follow-through of Yos, Rachel and Christa Ligtenberg in their efforts to reopen Aldrich's: the alignment of the opportunity itself and the perfect timing were, simply explained, magic.



Aldrich's has become especially supportive of the crafts and trades of local artists, and now designates certain sections of the store for the work of artistic entrepreneurs. (Photo by Julia Neville)

## Pride

By Zinnia Hansen

I have had a headache all day.  
It throbs with the seconds,  
and headlines.

I have taken to looking at my  
toes,  
just to reassure myself that they  
are still there.

I have been thinking about  
pride.

It feels like a cold pistol  
becoming hot.

like tears right before they stain  
your coat.

Proud Boys.  
American Cheese.  
American Flags.  
American Guns.

I am not thinking in numbers,  
or even outcomes,  
just pride.

Proud Boys.  
Boys.

They pull their triggers,

They suppress their tears.

I have been thinking about  
vulnerability.

My female body.  
My cis body.  
My gay body.  
My white body.

Guns ravage bodies,  
so do tears,  
and people,  
and poems,  
and pride.



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# Cinematic Review



## Fright Night

By Finn O'Donnell

While this review comes a little after Halloween, *Fright Night* is still worth watching. The film follows Charley Brewster, an “average kid” with a horror movie obsession, as he tries to kill the hot, creepy, homoerotic vampire next door.

Like almost all 80s movies, this film features some problematic elements. Many of the female characters are one-dimensional and objectified, so *Fright Night* certainly doesn't pass the Bechdel test. In fact, there's a scene or two of a thousand-year-old vampire kissing a high school student of an unnamed age. While relationships between 15-18 year old girls and men fifty or sixty times their age may have been alright in 1985, I found these scenes somewhat disturbing.

On to the less offensive elements of *Fright Night*. The vampire, Jerry Dandrige, is portrayed excellently by Chris Sarandon. With fantastic style and flair, Jerry and his guardian/handyman/pet zombie/boyfriend Billy Cole are just the right amount of sexy and scary for a vampire movie. While they're

often a little over the top, the characters' absurdity feels like an intentional decision from director Tom Holland (no, not that Tom Holland) and plays well with the overall “fun” vibe of the movie.

That really goes for all of the characters. Peter Vincent, the aged TV horror host that helps Charlie with his vampire problem, is as goofy and extravagant as possible. Amy, Charlie's girlfriend, is innocent and pliable, but turns strong and powerful later in the film. And Evil Ed, Charley's best friend, is so character-y and obnoxious that you're almost glad when he d\*\*\* (no spoilers here).

*Fright Night* feels like it's making fun of 80s horror in the best way possible. The intentional homoerotic dynamic between Charley and Jerry, and Jerry and Billy, as well as the clearly inappropriate relationship between Jerry and Amy, mock the absurdity of 80s pop culture. If you could remove the especially troublesome parts from *Fright Night*, it would be fantastic and just the right amount of camp. Instead, you're left with an entertaining and sarcastic take on old horror with some problematic scenes.



## Artemis Fowl

By Finn O'Donnell

We all have a favorite series as kids. I can distinctly remember a good friend being scarily excited for the newest Percy Jackson release every year, and hardly being able to contain his excitement when the movie came out. Of course, the movies were terrible. Like so many other successful YA series, Percy Jackson's film career was short-lived and poorly received. But when I heard the announcement that an *Artemis Fowl* movie would be made, I was both scared and excited. The *Artemis Fowl* books were my bread and butter growing up, and I couldn't wait to see the movie. I even reactivated my Disney+ subscription to watch it.

It seemed like an easy win. Butler, Artemis's mountainous and near-silent bodyguard, should be played by The Rock. Holly Short, a young fairy police officer and member of the L.E.P. (Lower Elements Police) Recon unit, could be played by Zendaya. And Artemis could be played by literally any *Stranger Things* cast member.

But this isn't what we got.

Instead of paying for quality acting, Disney splashed out on director Kenneth Branagh and we witnessed a trend that's all too common with cult book series. Like Tim Burton with *Ms. Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, or Chris Columbus with *Percy Jackson*, an antiquated 90s director was paid an exorbitant amount of money to direct something that he has no passion for.

So here's where we land: *Artemis Fowl* is a terrible movie. There's almost no plot, the acting is terrible, and the CGI is overdone. It's poorly written, confusing, and honestly ugly.

Movies based on popular series are successful only when they stick to the script laid out in the book: that's why *Harry Potter* did so well. And, when *The Hunger Games* strayed too far from the novels, fans made themselves heard and the series was finished instead of abandoned halfway through. This will happen to *Artemis Fowl*.

If you've read the books, don't watch it. If you haven't, it's still an objectively terrible film.

# PTHS Then and Now: A Conversation with Profé Aubin

By Maggie Emery

“There were some things about back then that were harder. But, in my mind, it was a golden time,” Mr. Aubin declared. Mr. Aubin grew up in Port Townsend, graduating from PTHS in 1998. His journey through high school was a bit different from ours. Some parts were easier, and others were harder.

For one, Mr. Aubin’s day started earlier. “School started at 7:45,” said Mr. Aubin. Research has shown that teenagers are wired to stay up later and sleep in for longer. With school starting at 7:45, teenagers’ sleep time got cut off and prevented the needed 8-10 hours. This could be why Mr. Aubin was late to class almost every day. We are so lucky now to be able to sleep for that extra 45 minutes.

Mr. Aubin took many different electives. “I did photography. I took French and Spanish. And then I was an exchange student in Argentina and that added a lot of electives,” listed Mr. Aubin. From this impressive list, the only class no longer available is French. Plus, we also have many more electives such as yearbook, maritime studies, band, and orchestra. On the topic of band and orchestra, Mr. Aubin says that back in the ’90s, “The band and the orchestra were really competitive at the state level and the programs were really big.” Mr. Aubin’s class alone had around 200 kids, many of which participated in the

music programs. Our orchestra and band are still phenomenal, but there aren’t as many kids in each program. It is likely that having more students in the band and orchestra helped to create a fuller sound and encouraged the students to work harder.

The social environment was much the same, but Mr. Aubin has a wise view of the different social groups and popularity struggles of being a teen. “One thing about high school social dynamics and cliques is that, by the time I was a senior, it was already kind of evaporating and then, by the time you get out of high school, none of that matters anymore to anybody. It was amazing to me how it seemed so important in middle school and high school and then suddenly it was not important to anybody anymore. It’s hard to even remember what that was like, but I know it’s real,” reflected Aubin. Popularity and the struggle of trying to make every person like you is still such a prevalent thing that almost every person experiences some time around their teenage years.

After school, Mr. Aubin would either play sports or walk around town with his friends. Aubin says, “I played varsity soccer in ninth, tenth, and twelfth grade. I played JV baseball in ninth grade.” As for the other after-school activities, Mr. Aubin explained, “there was lots of walking around downtown, going to friends’ houses, eating snacks.” This was the regular day-to-day after-school routine.

The change over 22 years at PTHS has been immense, but some things never change. Electives are mostly the same now and, though class sizes are different, social dynamics haven’t changed one bit. I can only imagine what Mr. Aubin’s newborn daughter Ruby’s high school experience will be like before she graduates in 2038, 40 years after her dad’s time as a PTHS student.



Profé Aubin, during his high school years.  
(Photo contributed by Reed Aubin)

## On the Age of Social Media in Our Politics

By Grace Wentzel

Instagram stories of reshared posts telling us to sign this petition and care about this issue are a large part of our generation’s way of participating in politics. But how effective are the actions we’re taking online, especially if what we see is limited to our individual environments, an echo-chamber of people who, for the most part, share our exact visions and ideals? And how can we be thoughtful about the decisions we make in our attempts to make the world a better place?

There is a lot of information out there: not all of it is completely

factual. It can be easy to take an opinion at face value and spread that opinion as fact, even if it wasn’t intended to be so. The mess of half-truths mixed with hate speech mixed with researched fact is nearly impossible to decipher. While there are reputable organizations who mobilize through platforms, it is important to not rely solely on Instagram and Twitter when reading news. Going back and forth between your feed and the New York Times (free through your school Google account!) is a great way to ensure that the stream of disinformation is disrupted.

There are real consequences

to the lack of fact-checking and regulation. The popularity of the QAnon conspiracy illustrates a powerful example of how insane ideas can be widely spread and accepted over the internet. Representative Derek Kilmer, when asked about the connection between our phones and our current, often toxic, political climate, talked about sensationalism in media news, “it amplifies some of the more extreme voices on both sides of the spectrum.” He commented on how the idea of “viral” connects with the division between political parties in the radical ideas shared online: “the algorithms in our social media

don’t amplify that [pragmatism and civility].” As Twitter stated, “Our focus is on providing context, not fact-checking.”

In these posts, perfectly engineered to incite strong emotions, the truth is not always clear. Even with some steps forward, notably Twitter’s decision to label some especially influential and unsupported claims as dangerous or disputed. A recent example of this can be found on Trump’s tweet exclaiming, “I won the Election!” Directly below, a special warning, linking to the AP, NBC, and other news sources announcing the Biden victory, was placed. Vigilance and careful

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# End of A Season for the PTHS Sailing Team, Cont.

that, but a number of related activities were also put on hold.

This year to ensure that everyone is safe, precautions are taken during their practices. Fiona explained, "Fall practice was not affected too much. We just wore masks on the dock, and some of us wore them on the water too." The team had what they called "staggered rigging times" on the dock to make sure that not everyone was standing together. Similarly, to ensure the safety of the others around, sailors sailed in two-person boats called FJs. In past seasons, partners would usually swap crewmates, but, in this season, every individual had a single partner the whole time. "It definitely means I talk to a lot less people" added Ava Butterfield, who's also a freshman at PTHS and new to the team.

Even with these complicated measures being taken,

everyone was still able to enjoy themselves out on the water. For the team members, there's always something to look forward to during practices. Ava most enjoyed "doing practice races during practices. I love how it's always fun and competitive." Another team member, Fiona stated, "I love and look forward to the days when the wind is very strong because you can go really fast."

While the cancellation of both the spring and the summer seasons were unfortunate, the existence of their fall season was anything but that. Ava summed it up by saying: "[Even though this year's spring and summer season was cancelled] I'm very glad we were able to get on the water for a fall season! We're not sure if we are having a 2021 spring season, but I'm holding out hope!"

## Graphic design for this issue by Maya Dow.

### *The Redhawk Review*

I hope you've enjoyed your peruse through this issue of the 2020/2021 Redhawk Review! This paper began two years ago, and by continuing it this year I'm hoping it will become a regular and lasting piece of our school. It is written and produced by students, for students. Its aim is to both inform our student body about current events in our school and community and to provide an opportunity for students to get involved with journalism. We are always looking for more students to work with us, either as committed staff members or as contributors of single articles addressing topics writers are passionate about. We'd also love to work with students interested in creative writing, photography, or other art forms. If you're interested in journalism, or just in learning more, please let me know! We'd love to have you on board. We are creating this with the ideas and interests of students in mind, so feedback and thoughts for the future are always happily accepted! Thanks for reading,

Stella Jorgensen (360) 821-1578

# Social Media, Cont.

consumption of media is difficult with such provocative topics at the top of every feed, but it is necessary in order to work against harmful dissention.

Social media is a strong mobilizing agent in our world today. Shared information about protests, GoFundMes, and other steps to action on stories and popular feeds have been shown to increase the movement on important issues. Hashtags about the BLM movement and the election trended for weeks, showing the overwhelming presence these topics have in our everyday usage of social media. A widely shared Change.org petition demanding justice for Breonna Taylor, has reached over eleven million signatures since its posting in May. The public's message about her killing was loud and clear, leading to "Breonna's Law," a ban on no-knock warrants in Kentucky.

This barrage of pleas and infographics however, can be incredibly overwhelming and anxiety-producing. The world is going through a difficult time, and the spread of knowledge, while so important in addressing the issues we face, is a lot to handle. Mental health during this pandemic is ever-crucial, and recognizing when to take a break or find other ways of beneficial input (such as an NPR podcast or NYT article) is a huge relief.

Outside of individual action, however, social media can be limited in its power. On one end of the spectrum, it gives voices to those who are traditionally under-represented by our media, giving a platform of change to incredible leaders and allowing for a totally new meaning of community activism. Unfortunately, our platforms often fail to reach a chief part of our current system of change: politicians. Finn O'Donnell, who interned with Rep. Kilmer's 2020 campaign, pontificated about the effect of our repostings, "it was really difficult to see all of [the shared Instagram content on students' stories] and know that people are not calling their representatives, people are not mailing letters, and people are not doing their best to get the attention of our congress people. Because guess what? Our congress people aren't looking at our social media feeds. It's not a good way to get attention." While social media is a good place to start, it's not the end; it's not the complete solution.

We are all learning how to be in this ever-changing world that exists within our phones. Instead of seeing our personal accounts as the platform, perhaps we should think of them as a learning device that, when used responsibly, can supply us with diverse opinions about our world to spur us into further action.

## Rotting Gold

By Zinnia Hansen

Empty streets  
swell with contemptuous  
pride.

I placed my heart in my chest  
and told it to wait  
till spring comes again.

But a heart contained,  
hears its own rhythm echo.  
And sings the many sad  
shapes  
of a smile.

We are gently screaming  
and violently humming  
into a complicated silence.