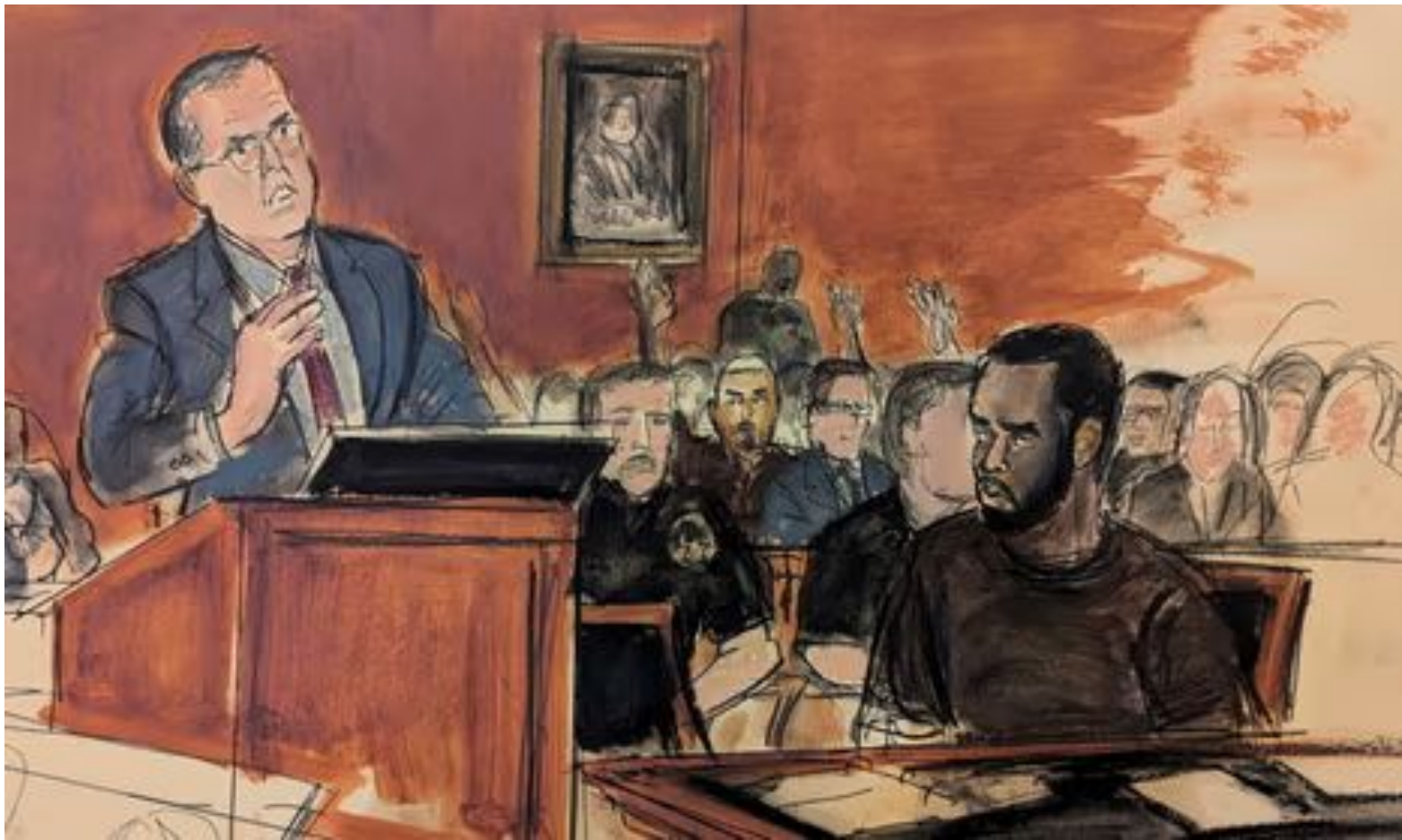


# Chronicle

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## *P. Diddy v. Averill Park*

By Bailey Vincent

Sean Combs, a man otherwise known as P. Diddy has been going viral over the past couple months. The discussion of this man has not sparked from a new song release or some crazy PR stunt. Instead, the internet has been completely taken over by the disgusting and degenerate allegations brought against him. These include sexual misconduct, grooming and sex-trafficking. Even with these appalling accusations going to court and the disgusting things found in Combs' house, teenagers everywhere

are choosing him to be the face of a new wave of memes and trends. This paper serves to prove why these jokes are tone deaf, ignorant, and in all honesty, not funny.

On February 26, 2024, Rodney Jones filed a lawsuit against Combs, accusing him of sexual misconduct and grooming, along with engaging in sex-trafficking activity. While Combs' lawyers claim this is false, it seems less and less like that is the case. The Department of Homeland Security executed search warrants for

properties that belong to Combs. In these raids, the following was found; narcotics, multiple firearms, ammunition, but most notably, over 1,000 bottles of baby oil and lubricant.

These items were used for the infamous "Freak Offs" or in other words, sex parties. These were not harmless fun however, instead victims have come forward with claims of being raped, drugged and  
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# The Witch’s Princess: Behind the Scenes

By Naomi Harris

The fall show actors and staff are working hard bringing Don Zolidis’s *The Witch’s Princess* to life. They’ve created a passionate atmosphere within the rehearsal space and I could see the dedication in all of the actors’ performances. Mrs. Monroe has given me exclusive access to rehearsals of the fall show and I was charmed.

The play is a stereotypical hero vs. monster story, including a noble quest with a modern twist. I was pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed the show even without all of the costumes, backgrounds, etc. I found the script comedic, but what really drove it home was the incredible acting. I found the few emotional moments very impressive and interesting to watch.

The environment always starts off genial and entertaining with a “warm up” of stretching and an icebreaker question bringing the group closer together. Then they go straight into a real rehearsal  
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## P. Diddy v. Averill Park (continued from page 1)

nonconsensually recorded in intimate situations.

These events could last for days, often fueled by drugs and alcohol, and once they finished, many victims had to recover via IV drip. Since then, Combs has been charged with racketeering conspiracy, sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion, and transportation to engage in prostitution.

As a girl living in America, I have grown up being reminded that this world is not a safe place for me. Since a young age I have been told not to walk to places alone, especially not at night. I have been taught to cover my drink at parties and bars. And I have been advised to keep pepper spray or some self defense tool on my person at all times.



All of these are actions that I have to take as a woman to not get added to the statistic of women in America that have been sexually assaulted, raped, or god forbid, trafficked. This is a sentiment I’m sure most women can relate to: the fear that if you are not careful enough, you could leave yourself vulnerable to a person with sinister intentions. And yes, I understand that this statement may upset some men. I understand that not all men are rapists and this could be seen as a broad generalization. Women can be perpetrators and men can be victims, I will never try to invalidate anyone’s experiences. However when I make statements like this, they are based on real statistics and fact. 1 in 5 women will be raped in their lifetime compared to 1 in 71 men. 91% of victims of rape and or sexual assault are women. The reality that these statistics present makes me believe that there must be a non-trivial amount of men who commit these crimes. I again acknowledge that this may be seen as a generalization, but I’d like to ask my own question in response. How exactly should women avoid these dangerous men? Do they look different? Maybe they walk differently or talk funny. The thing is, most perpetrators are virtually indistinguishable from a crowd. With no way to tell who is dangerous, women are just left to assume the worst out of most men to mitigate risk.

Most of the people who are making jokes along the lines of freeing P. Diddy are boys. When speaking with my brothers or many of my male friends, I find that they weren’t raised with warnings of being drugged, raped, or trafficked. They don’t have to live in the same fear as women do, it’s as if they live in a different world entirely. So when I hear them joke about freeing this disgusting man, I can’t help but feel rage and disdain for these men’s ignorance. They don’t empathize with the victims of P. Diddy’s case because that is not a position they have ever had to think of themselves in.

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# New Assistant Principal “Embraces the Struggle” as He Steps Into New Role

By Skylar Quackenbush

Averill Park High School’s new assistant principal Mr. Klauber has one piece of advice for the student body: “Embrace the struggle.” His journey from being a teenager who “wore a different Metallica shirt every day” to Averill Park’s assistant principal is one of success, effort, and embracing a positive mindset. To put it in Mr. Klauber’s words, “good things take struggle and patience.”

Before his years as an administrator, Mr. Klauber ran a school newspaper under the name “The Bullseye.” He even spent time building a TV studio from the ground up for his previous school’s announcements. He has had a love of writing and journalism for years, and even states its importance

during our meeting - “an effective democracy relies on journalism.” He makes a point to read at least one book a month and even admits his guilty pleasures are Stephen King and horror novels. He also enjoys video games with the Switch and Zelda being his favorites.

When the Journalism Club interviewed Mr. Klauber in early October, it was clear that he was excited to take on his new role. But to get to this point, we have to go back to where it all began. Mr. Klauber recalls that it wasn’t until college that he realized he wanted to be a teacher. He started out by taking English and Journalism classes, simply because he enjoyed the topics, but soon

enough this interest evolved into a career. He spent a majority of his life before becoming an administrator teaching English and Journalism at various grade levels from seventh and eighth graders to seniors in high school. He feels passionate about working with high school students, as he jokes “they’re closer to being real people.” As time went on, Mr. Klauber pursued more leadership roles in his department, and worked his way up to administration in another district. If you’re wondering what drew him to Averill Park, it had part to do with our slogan with Mr. Klauber saying in wholehearted truth that “it is a good place to be.”

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## Nice To Meet You!

By Morgan Dier and Katie Dees

As you may have noticed, this new school year has brought with it a bunch of new teachers and faculty. As much as we’ll miss our retirees, we’re excited to welcome new teachers into our school. We asked each teacher three questions: What drew them to this school? How has their experience been at Averill Park so far? What were they looking forward to this year?

The first of the many new faculty members we interviewed is Ms. Houser who took the place of Ms. Fink who worked in the Counseling Center. Her kids going to our school and living close were both factors that drew her to this job. Ms. Houser said she’s had a positive experience so far in the district and has found the faculty members and students to be very nice.

Mr. Donovan is a teacher in the special education department who's replacing Mr. Quinn. Mr. Donovan's

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## The Witch’s Princess: Behind the Scenes (continued from page 2)

with props on stage. The talented student director, Maya Love, watches the performance and takes detailed notes that are read out after the rehearsal. This is also when actors and actresses can ask questions or introduce new ideas to the production. Everyone is very open to new stage directions and adapts to changes very well.

The directors have decided to enlist the help of a fight coordinator to make the many fight scenes more realistic and add to the believability of the play. This has caused a few obstacles for the production, such as time management. Sometimes full rehearsals need to be spent on the fight scenes leaving less time for the rest of the play, and it’s the same with build days.

The crew needs to spend time building the sets and backgrounds to really transport the audience into the story. I can’t say I’m not a little worried for the final product, but I’m positive they’ll pull it together for the debut of this play. While in rehearsal I watched the kids not on stage reading their lines, memorizing cues, and remembering notes given to them by Maya and Mrs. Monroe from previous rehearsals. Maya provides skillful direction with the play and helps students to see her vision. She left a very positive impression on me and I hope she continues with this endeavor.

Like I said, I found the actors very charming and funny, but serious when the script demanded it. The commitment from these students is inspirational and I know I’ll see a lovely performance once it’s finished.

# What's Cooking In The Kitchen?

By Sarah Hurst



For most of us, the school cafeteria is somewhere we go at least once every school day. As such, you may have noticed that our lunchroom has undergone some pretty significant changes since the beginning of last year. For starters, we have upgraded from the traditional divided plastic lunch trays to more homestyle plates, and the serving lines were given more efficient setups with shelving units and coolers.

Likewise, the food itself has changed somewhat, with a wider variety of fruit and vegetable options being provided, as well as a few other menu changes. In this new setup, fruit is provided in a self-serve style that allows students to take as much or as

little as they want. This succeeds both in reducing waste by students who do not want to eat fruits or vegetables, as well as providing the opportunity to expand one's meal size with something other than a snack from the snackbar.

To get an inside perspective on these changes, I talked to our food services director, Ricky Welling. Mr. Welling began working at Averill Park in 2022, and since then has been working to make the food service programs throughout the district feel more inviting and on "trend." He said that he wants our school cafeteria to feel more like that of a college or other real-world environments, and the changes that he has helped facilitate are working towards that end. Even referring to the space as

the "Student Union" was meant to make it feel a little more welcoming. Welling acknowledged that school food is not always the greatest (largely due to dietary guidelines, as well as financial and practical constraints), but he is enthusiastic about improving our system to make it as enjoyable for us as it can be.

In this spirit, Welling arranged for our school to participate in the statewide "Big Apple Crunch" program this October. Elementary, middle, and high school students were surprised to walk into lunch on the week of the 20th to find food service staff handing out free fresh apples, cider, and cider donuts, courtesy of Golden Harvest Farms in Valatie. Welling saw participating in (continued on page 6)

## Nice To Meet You! (continued from page 3)

experience had a different start from some of the other new faculty. He taught at Averill Park seven years ago for a teacher who is retired now. He said that his reason for coming back to teach at our school was because when he taught here "it was a very warm atmosphere where people came together and took care of each other." His start in the district came later than other teachers, so the work that he would have done in June instead had to be done through September and October. Though it has been very busy he said that he's had a lot of help and students have been very kind to him. This year Mr Donovan is looking forward to "making connections with students and getting to know them better."

Mrs. Eliashuk transferred to Averill Park from the smaller school district of Berlin. Her past students miss her dearly, but we're excited to have her as our new choir teacher, taking over for the beloved Mrs. Christy. Ms. E. is a load of fun, and if you ever have a class with her you can immediately recognize her sincere passion for her students and music. When prompted about her experience at our school so far, she responded by (continued on page 6)

## Mr. Klauber Steps Into New Role (continued from page 3)

The positivity and welcoming energy is something he admires, and is special to Averill Park.

Trajectory is what matters for Mr. Klauber, but these things change over time. The metalhead teenager of Mr. Klauber's past had no idea he would pursue a career in high school administration, as did his college journalistically inclined self. It's clear that Mr. Klauber brings valuable insights to Averill Park, and will welcome an era of positive mindset, encouragement, and growth. Welcome to Averill Park Mr. Klauber! We're happy to have you!





# Is That Dribbling I Hear?

By Veronica Cardillo

Recently, I interviewed the Coach of the Girls' Basketball Team, Mr. Organ. In our interview, we highlight memories from last year's season, goals for this year, what qualities make an athlete successful, and the inspiration for becoming a coach. The Girls' Basketball Team has become a strong component of the fabric of the high school and the community, so let's take a moment to recognize this amazing team

. To start off the interview, I posed the question "what are your prospects/goals for the season?" To this question, Mr. Organ said that in the absence of last year's players, who had brought leadership, confidence, and stability, he hopes that the seniors this year can continue the strong leadership from the previous year.

Moreover, Mr. Organ mentioned how this was his twenty-first year as a coach, and how every team has a different identity from year to year, therefore making it hard to predict how the season will go. Goals are constantly evolving with guidance and work ethic, for instance. He added how it's more about each player working as hard as they can, pushing their teammates, and challenging them to get better. Additionally, he spoke about how you want to very quickly become the best defense. To wrap up this question, Mr. Organ stated that how quick this process goes will determine the season.

During the interview, we took a trip down memory lane with a question  
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## The HSMTA's And What They Could Mean for AP

By Vivian Savage

In the last two years, the musical theater program at Averill Park has blossomed quite a bit. If our theater department decided to participate in the High School Musical Theatre Awards at Proctors, it would be a major step to guarantee even more success.

The High School Musical Theatre Awards is a program put on by the Collaborative School of the Arts. It is essentially made to celebrate the talent and dedication of high school students and teachers across 14 counties. Each school that enters must compete with a show from the Jimmy Awards Qualifying Shows list. If a school is participating, three judges come to score their performance. All aspects of the production are given an award, from the orchestra to the set construction. The award categories consist of four group awards and four individual awards, including Outstanding Lead Performer 1 & 2.

The two winners of this award go on to New York City to compete nationally for Best Actor and Best Actress at the Jimmy Awards. Many Jimmy Awards Alumni have gone on to have successful careers in musical theater, like Andrew Barth Feldman, Reneé Rapp, Eva Noblezada, and Ryan McCartan. The Jimmy Awards resemble the Tony Awards, but for high-schoolers. The awards ceremony at Proctors is conducted by theater professionals, so the students can get a taste of what the industry is like on a professional level.

The High School Musical Theatre Awards create a healthy learning environment and offer many opportunities for young actors. According to Shai Davenport, the Education Programs Manager at Collaborative School of the Arts, "This program also offers the chance for students from smaller districts to be recognized and introduced to more theater experiences." If Averill Park

decided to enter, it would allow our students to showcase their abilities to the greater community. "Students connect with each other and become a support system, getting the chance to be in an environment with people who share the same passions," states Davenport. Our students would learn from the other performances and be influenced by the network of other kids who have a passion for theater. This would also encourage our theater department to put on better shows to make a competitive run at the HSMTAs . It would help our students learn and develop their skills at a faster rate due to the more competitive atmosphere. Overall, our school should participate in the High School Musical Theatre Awards because it brings people together in a positive space to create and do what they love.



# Nice To Meet You!

(continued from page 4)

saying, “I love the kids, I love my classes. My concert choir is so much fun and the faculty is all really sweet and supportive.” She also mentioned that she cannot wait for our first concert, and to see the product of the hard work the music department has put into it.

Mrs. Dunne, the new ELA teacher in 135, is here because “they had an opening.” Joking aside, she seems to be an amazing person with a great sense of humor. She first came to Averill Park for track sectionals while she coached at another school and heard many good things about the district. She loves the students and the people here. “Everyone has been willing to go the extra mile and help a new teacher out,” she said. “It’s a breath of fresh air.” She’s most excited about being able to stop getting lost in the hallways.

We’re so excited to have Mrs. Willoughby as our newest Spanish teacher in room 157. She was drawn to Averill Park by our astounding world language system, and liked the classes that we offered. Although she loves the students and teachers here, she’s still getting used to our Block Schedule, which is entirely fair. Like the rest of us, Mrs. Willoughby is excited for the World Language Lip Sync Competition in the spring! If it’s anything like last year, it will be a lot of fun.

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# What’s Cooking In The Kitchen?

(continued from page 4)

this program as an opportunity for us to take "a bite into [our] local farms."

The changes that we have seen thus far are not the end of Welling's plans for our food service program here at AP. He is looking into expanding the alternative lunch line, revamping the snackbar, and no, he hasn't forgotten about that long-forsaken vending machine. Ultimately, Welling wants to create a space that feels like it is designed for us. So whatever changes occur in the upcoming months and years, we can be assured that they are made with our best interest at heart.

So here's a big "thank you!" to Ricky Welling and the rest of our hardworking food services staff who have dedicated so much of their time and effort into ensuring we have a good lunchroom experience each day.



## AP Teachers Take on APs

By Eva Sollohub Lopez

Stories of difficulties in advanced placement (AP) classes are not uncommonly heard from students at the high school. Junior year, in all of its academic rigor, forces many into reevaluating their limits, and frequently results in previously unimaginable states of entropy. But students aren’t the only ones affected by AP coursework. And now that Mr. McPartlin’s retired, the College Board curriculum has sunk its fangs into one new victim: Mr. Smith.

In an interview, Mr. Smith stated that one’s first year of teaching AP Government and Politics (APGAP) comes with hurdles, like learning parameters of the curriculum. By the way, when he answered the interview questions, it seems that he is stepping over them just fine.

Q: How did you prepare to teach APGAP?

A: “I’ve been doing a lot of reading, and spending a lot of time on the College Board website to understand what is expected of students to know by the end of the year. But the College Board website has been ... unhelpful. Mr. McPartlin and Mr. Goodnow, though, have both been

very helpful. I’ve been good friends with Mr. Goodnow for about 20 years now, and we have a good working relationship. He helped me figure out in the spring a broad idea of what I should be looking at, and now is helping me refine.”

Q: So far, how would you describe APGAP?

A: Teaching AP Government and Politics so far has been exhilarating. The students are phenomenal, and very helpful. I’m having a great time.

Q: What’s your favorite part about teaching APGAP?

A: My favorite part about teaching APGAP is the conversations we’ve had so far. They’ve been incredible.

Mr. Smith is not the only teacher to have recently taken on an AP class. This is Mrs. Rees 3rd year teaching AP Physics, and she has faced hurdles as well – some, regardless of their subjects being polar opposites, very similar to Mr. Smith’s. Like Mr. Smith, Mrs. Rees had to become familiar with College Board’s website,

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# AP Teachers Take on APs (continued from page 6)

and refine the structure of her class so that she could teach all the content existing on the AP exam. Also like him, she enjoys the “intellectual challenge” of teaching AP classes. In her interview, I asked some extra questions.

Q: How do you feel you’ve overcome the struggles you had at the beginning?

A: Recognizing that there were a couple things going on with students was important. Many of them were skipping two grade levels and needed to recognize the amount of independent work they had to do to keep up. In AP Physics, it takes a lot more time studying to achieve what students are used to achieving. I also searched and found questions and solutions that were repetitive practice.

Q: What advice would you give to Mr. Smith?

A: Practice those FRQs as much as you can.

As a student, I appreciate both Mrs. Rees’ advocacy for repetition, and Mr. Smith’s determination to make APGAP both informative and entertaining. I’m confident that he will take Mrs. Rees’ advice, that his class conversations will continue to be engaging, and that it will get even better with time.



***Join  
Journalism  
Club!  
We meet on  
the first  
Wednesday of  
each month  
from 2:15 -  
3:00 in room  
159!***

## AP Classes: How Are You Doing?

**By Veronica Cardillo**

AP classes offer a wonderful opportunity for students to get a taste of the college experience, receive college credit, and zone in on personal areas of interest. However, even though AP classes have these pros, they also have the potential to evoke stress in students. Sometimes the pressure of an AP class can get to you so much so that you feel like you’re in a whirlwind. Or, sometimes it can feel like you’re the only one confused on what you’re learning in class, which can feel isolating. But you’re not the only one – it’s a shared experience; everyone is in it together. So, to quell these stressful feelings I thought I’d go right to the teachers themselves and gather some tips on how to handle AP classes.

To start off, I interviewed Mr. Zehnder, who teaches AP Calc, and I asked him some questions pertaining to the topic of AP classes. The interview started off with the question of, “what are some tips that you have about AP classes in general and/or about AP Calc specifically?” In response, Mr. Zehnder gave the advice of “Don’t bite off more than you can chew,” adding that three to four AP classes can create a heavy

workload. He mentioned that a good strategy to handling AP classes is to communicate well with your teacher, and to be willing to stay after school or come into advisory for help. Another question I asked was, “How do you (as a teacher) handle AP classes?” To this question Mr. Zehnder said that he makes sure that his class’s curriculum is planned well so there’s time to prepare for the AP exam. Adding on to this, he mentioned that he wanted his students to have enough practice, so they feel well prepared going into the exam. As a reminder, Mr. Zehnder advises students to realize that no matter the score they get on the AP exam, AP classes are a good experience for college.

Toward the end of our interview I asked, “what should people take into consideration when considering AP Classes?” Responding to this, Mr. Zehnder suggested that students should consider if the class will be useful for the student’s future, and specifically ask themselves the question of “does this class fit into my career/college choice after high school?”

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# Is That Dribbling I Hear?

## (continued from page 5)

pertaining to the highlights of last season. Mr. Organ mentioned that last season was the second season to get to the NYS Semifinals, but they couldn't get over the top. However, he highlighted how the team had an undefeated regular season which never happens, mentioning that they won 24 straight games before losing to Hilton in the Semifinals. On top of that, he recognized that they were Class AA, which was a great improvement upon their Class C title from the year before.

Another question I asked was "what qualities do you believe are essential for a successful high school athlete?" To this question, Mr. Organ said that it takes a combination of qualities to be successful, touching on how the term "successful" can be a broad phrase. He mentioned that being successful means that you're dedicated to the sport you play, a good citizen at school (with classes and all), and that outside of class you're training, putting in the time to get better outside of

season, and giving up a lot of personal time. He also mentioned that representing your school and team, which aren't shown through games won, or points players earn, is the best way to be a "successful" high school athlete.

Towards the end of the interview, I asked, "what inspired you to become a coach, and what do you most enjoy about coaching at the high school level?" To this question, Mr. Organ responded by saying how he was fortunate in middle and high school to have great coaches for soccer, baseball, and basketball. He highlighted how his coaches had a profound impact on him and made him love the sport that he was playing. Adding onto this, he mentioned that their abilities as both coaches and teachers meant a lot and was inspiring. He also stated that his coaches at The College of Saint Rose had a big impact on him. Coming back to his coaching and teaching, he mentioned that both he and Coach

Keegan are teachers before coaches, and if they could have a positive impact on their players like they had experienced, they would be very happy. Furthermore, he mentioned how there's not too many things that he can envision himself doing, other than being a teacher and coach - teaching is truly a passion. Adding on to this, he stated that he wants students to feel excited about learning, and feel the passion. He also highlighted how rewarding it is to see the personal growth in athletes from where they made the team as freshmen, to their senior years.

In the end of the interview, he mentioned how pre-season workouts have already started for anyone who wants to play seventh to twelfth. He also emphasized how the players have been working especially hard this year and that they're excited for the season.

With this I would like to wish the Girls' Basketball Team an amazing season, filled with many memories. Good luck with the new season!





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## Nice To Meet You! (continued from page 6)

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Nate and Nick Middleton's grandmother, Donna Holt, has become the school-wide grandma. Despite only taking the position this year, Mrs. Holt has developed strong connections with all types of students throughout the school. She graduated from Averill Park in 1977, so she already had a positive opinion about the school. "We have a good sports team, everybody is wonderful," she says, "it's just a great place to be." Mrs. Holt has been a much appreciated addition to the community. She is kind to everyone in the hallways, and treats everyone with respect. We're truly grateful to have her here.

Mr. Keller joins us in place of Mr. Speirs in room 170. Like a few of the other new teachers, he graduated from Averill Park. He has some friends among the current staff members and community, so hopefully it hasn't been too hard for him to settle in. "The students have been really fun to work with, the staff have been really welcoming, and it feels really good to be back where I started," he responded when asked about his experience so far. He's looking forward to meeting new people, so stop by 170 sometime throughout the year and make sure to say hi.

Mr. Burns is joining our Social Studies team taking the place of Mrs. Rosemarino. Mr. Burns came to Averill Park

because "it just has a history of being a great district for both students and teachers," making it a place he was excited to join. He's loving all of the teachers and students and loves the spirit found within the school. Mr. Burns is looking forward to getting to know the students better throughout the year.

Mr. Giannone is taking the place of Mr. McPartlin as a Social Studies teacher in room 168. Mr. G is an alumnus of the district and is much more than just a teacher in the school. "Coming home" to all of the things he was involved in the district with is what drew him back to our school. Mr. G is looking forward to having students find a love for his classes. He wants students to find joy in Social Studies and find joy in coming to his classroom.

He's noticed that "pretty much all the time people are happy to be here and there's always smiles on peoples faces." We can't wait to get to know Mr. G better as the year goes on and see what else he can do to better our school!

We're so excited to welcome our newest teachers to Averill Park. We hope the rest of their year is just as warm and kind as it has been so far! Try to stop by to meet and talk to our new staff - they're such great people!!

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## AP Classes: How Are You Doing? (continued from page 7)

He also added that students should realize that they could get college credit out of the course. We then wrapped up the interview with the advice that if any student is curious about an AP class, then they should find the teacher who teaches it and ask them questions about the class.

Another teacher I interviewed on how to handle AP classes was Mrs. Garrison, who teaches AP English 11 (Literature and Composition). Mrs. Garrison said that "students can reduce their stress in AP classes by letting go of the pressure to be perfect." Adding on to this she said that "by dropping the focus on numeric grades and coming at the literature (or whatever subject) from a place of interest and curiosity, they will approach the learning in such a way that they will inevitably do well." Mrs. Garrison also mentioned that "planning ahead, addressing missed classes promptly and understanding the importance of class time will help students feel settled. Students should always be actively always be actively listening to class discussions and

participating in class discussions!" Mrs. Garrison shared that "a good study tip is to take the initiative to review your work and compare it to examples shared in class. Try to identify for yourself what you most want to improve. It's also beneficial to continue to read on your own outside of class as much as possible. Being an attentive reader is an invaluable way to learn so many skills: how to punctuate properly, how to make long and interesting sentences, and how to improve your own vocabulary."

AP classes can be stressful but you'll be fine. You've got this, just take a deep breath and let that sink in. Besides, no one wants you to burnout over an AP class, or any class.

# Incident Surrounding Pledge of Allegiance Demonstrates Culture of Polarization in Averill Park

By Chava Thiel

As students sat in advisory on October 24th, announcers for WAPH-TV took to the loudspeakers to begin the daily announcements. As they began, one announcer took to leading the Pledge of Allegiance. In a momentary blunder, the announcer stumbled and accidentally omitted the word “indivisible” from the pledge. For many students this went unnoticed, or simply viewed as what it was: an honest mistake. Meanwhile, other students grew angry about what had happened and believed the announcer had not only omitted the one word, but the entire segment of the pledge including the words, “under God.”

This phrase, not inserted into the Pledge of Allegiance until 1954 under the Eisenhower administration, has been a growing source of contention in the debate about religion in public schools. Some argue that mentioning God could potentially be

unconstitutional, as it violates the principles of separation of church and state. Others argue that the phrase embodies the values that America as a nation has always held and is simply a recitation of these values. In the situation previously described, this was not a political statement and simply no more than an honest mistake, as said by the announcer themselves. Compounded with growing misunderstanding about what exactly happened, misinformation was quick to spread. Some students grew observably upset about the situation, arguing that the pledge should not be subject to mistake and viewed the announcer’s stumble as a sign of disrespect. But why exactly did this trigger the response from the student body that it did?

Averill Park has been experiencing change on multiple fronts over the past few years, and with the hyper-politicization of public education in previous years,

Averill Park has not been immune to controversy. For example, the district has been under scrutiny over the state-mandated mascot change, with lots of frustration surrounding the issue coming from both sides. Additionally, cultural shifts and national trends have come to the district’s attention as issues, such as book challenges and opposition to greater attempts at diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) education. This bit of uproar surrounding the Pledge of Allegiance is only one of many in a string of events demonstrating the growing political tension in Averill Park, specifically within the school community.

Administrators and teachers have been working to service all members of the Averill Park community, regardless of political opinion. However, this can result in stagnancy on various issues, some of which are pressing. For instance, the issue of renaming and finding a new mascot must be fully implemented by the 2025-2026 school year. If this is not accomplished, the district could face a withdrawal of state funds, which could dramatically affect the  
**(continued on page 12)**

## The Division Amongst Us

By Jacob Hanlon, Wyatt Relyea, and Cole Thompson

Schools across the country have an imbalance. Those who are in advanced classes typically have more influence than others. They are involved more within the school through clubs, leadership roles, and other activities. In contrast, those in non-advanced classes are less likely to participate as much, due to less attention and support, which creates a disproportion in effort. This isn’t to say that all students should be placed into advanced classes, but that there is a need to create a culture where students are challenged, and where they will achieve anything that they put 100% of their effort towards. The help of parents and teachers can cultivate a child’s motivation and build up a stable support system from a young age, all to inspire a child to work harder, for the rest of their life.

Students enrolled in advanced classes often

hold significant status within schools, meaning they have more access to opportunities than those in non-advanced classes. This advantage comes from the challenging coursework provided by advanced classes, which helps them grow as students, and learn important skills along the way. In return, teachers and other administrators frequently look to these students for roles that involve leadership, and for special projects, almost placing them even higher on the pedestal. This environment where the advanced students are overly celebrated, makes everyone else seem overlooked and underappreciated. This can create a reduction in motivation for students who aren’t getting enough attention, which emphasizes the need to formulate a better approach to fostering effort and encouragement across all academics. The current system not only  
**(continued on page 11)**



# The Division Amongst Us

## (continued from page 10)

diminishes the achievements of students in non-advanced classes, but also brings attention to their backgrounds within the education system.

Furthermore, many students in non-advanced classes face challenges that students in advanced classes do not. Teachers are people just like everyone else, and teachers that proctor an advanced class, as compared to a normal class, seem to behave differently. Burnout occurs in teachers who push their students to their max, but the students either don't try hard enough or simply just can't reach their teachers' high expectations. In these situations,

teachers have to lower the bar for their students. Teachers instructing advanced classes, however, are able to maintain these high expectations, because their students will push themselves harder to reach higher goals. So in return, the teacher will raise expectations for those students, giving them a lot more to work for. There may be students who seem to not care about being overlooked, but they still want the encouragement and appreciation that advanced students receive. This lack of recognition in schools reflects a much bigger issue. Where an elite class controls politics, media, and business. The imbalance of

power will pose a large hurdle for those with bright ideas but who don't possess the platform to express them. Sustaining the cycle that the elite will stay in power, just like the school system. Those who can contribute to society or the school are quite often ignored – which then starts the whole thing over again. The student becomes unplugged from their goals all because they don't have a support system.

A student's support system is essential for their ability to strive and succeed. It provides the encouragement and motivational development needed for them to grow. The role a parent plays is crucial within (continued on page 17)

# Your Vote Matters - The 2024 Assembly Elections

## By Catherine Hughes

The Presidential Election has passed, and the media and communities continue to swarm. Why don't local elections get this much buzz?

Commentaries about candidates, debates, morals, and policies fill the media and minds of voters and non-voters alike. Many Americans are, in one way or another, involved in the federal election conversation. But when it comes to midterms, state, local, and school-board elections, the turnout and conversation is significantly reduced. Around 66% of eligible voters participated in the 2020 presidential election, about 50% for the 2018 midterms, less than 15% in municipal elections, and only around 5-10% of eligible voters participated in local school board elections.

In Averill Park, our most recent school district vote has passed, approving the \$39.9 million 2024 Capital Project. Now, the November 5 elections have passed, let's get to know our assemblyman and his former opponent. Since 2023, the 107th district of New York has been represented by republican assemblyman Scott Bendett, who just ran as incumbent against democrat Chloe Pierce.

Before taking up office as NYS Assemblyman, Bendett served as a Rensselaer County legislator and Averill Park Education Foundation President and was a member of the Sand Lake Zoning Board of Appeals. He owns two businesses: Habana Premium Cigar Shoppe, (continued on page 13)

# Should Teenagers Be Allowed To Vote?

## By Gideon Covert

The voting age in the US is quite the controversial issue. Should it be lowered, kept the same, or adapted for changing times? It's a contentious issue, and in a country with sometimes violent political polarization, a dangerous one to be considered. But if we step back and take a better look at the topic as a whole, it seems like there is a clear solution. In essence, if at 16-17 depending on the state, a teen can work, drive a car, pay taxes and bills, be self-sufficient, and have an ability to understand the government with their beliefs and give thoughtful feedback to the US political system, then they should be allowed to vote.

Now this is a bit of a biased answer I admit, as it comes from my own beliefs and the fact that I am a teen. However, I as well as many of my fellow teens do have experience that does support this notion. Last summer I and around 700 fellow teens participated in the New York State Boys State program, where boys between 16-17 were taken for a week and taught the functions of government, the US political process, and how to not only model it, but effectively participate in it. In less than a week, we had managed to make a cohesive and coherent political system from the city level to the state level, where our decisions and choices were rooted in important beliefs and issues that we sought to change and address. And at the end, the issues we sought to solve were sent to the New York State Congress for review. (continued on page 14)

# Why Should Or Should You Not Consider Community College?

By Spencer Sweet

There are countless reasons why you should, or why you shouldn't consider community college after high school. One of the largest reasons people have a tough time choosing between committing to a community college versus a four year college is the social aspect of each. For many people, the ability to be away from your parents and mature by yourself is an intriguing part of attending a 4 year college. For others, it is a large jump to have lived with your parents for your entire life, then suddenly not. Some people simply need more time to adjust to having a roommate or taking on the new responsibilities of living by yourself. Many people are also discouraged by the fact that community colleges lack competitive sports. If you are a skilled high school athlete, a sports-based scholarship may benefit you financially when considering a 4 year college. Community colleges also have fewer on-campus housing and meal plan options, meaning if you have a farther commute, you may have to consider apartments and rely on food that isn't within a prepaid meal plan. Unfortunately, many community colleges focus more on basic education that offer associates degrees and career certifications, often lowering career opportunities .

There are many pros to attending community colleges, most notably being the costs. You will pay much less to attend a community college. You'll still want to budget for textbooks and other fees according to your classes though. When

attending community colleges you will have the opportunity to get closer to classmates and have more individualized attention from your teacher because of the smaller class sizes. This does mean that if you transfer, you'll be in an environment where you have to make entirely new friends. The application process of community colleges are almost always easier than those for a four year college, plus they don't require SAT or ACT scores.

Even if you transfer, most four year colleges don't require you to submit SAT or ACT scores since you are a transfer student. Many high paying jobs don't require bachelor degrees, such as radiation therapists, automotive technicians, and paralegals. Additionally, attending a community college means you can still experiment with what you want to pursue with the flexibility that community colleges offer. One of the largest reasons people go to a community college is to transfer their credits and attend a college or university where they may finish their education. You can use your time at a community college to increase your GPA, get adjusted to college life, and more.

In conclusion, I would say going to a community college after high school is worth it. But it ultimately depends on who you are as a person. College is a different experience for everyone. You must consider both the pros and cons of community college and a four year college or university.

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## Incident Surrounding Pledge of Allegiance Demonstrates Culture of Polarization in Averill Park (continued from page 10)

district and its various programs. As such, it is of the utmost importance that the district adheres to the mandate, but more importantly, that the community encourages the district's rollout of the new mascot so as to ensure that students do not face repercussions in the form of monetary and program cuts.

Ultimately, what happened on the 24th was forgotten (or went unnoticed) by most. A simple mistake and misinformation quickly revealed the state of polarization and political divisiveness in Averill Park. As the district prepares for a year of change and upheaval, it must brace for turmoil and potential controversy as the community grows more ideologically diverse, encountering various challenges along the way.

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## Dam It! Burden Lake Road Closure Hits 3 Year Mark - When Will We Cross Over?

By Naomi Harris and Morgan Dier

A road in Sand Lake has been closed for years causing extreme inconvenience for many that live there. Part of Burden Lake Road has been closed due to the conditions of the Burden Lake dam, yet it's never been fixed. According to the Burden Lake Conservation Association (BLCA) they had applied for a grant in 2021 and have still not gotten a response. They haven't acted on any plans since December of 2023, nor have they informed anyone of any new ones. They don't know the exact conditions of the dam, but many people who live around here can see the damaged infrastructure.

There are many stress cracks on the road above the dam. As a resident of Burden Lake, I can attest that many cars would go flying down the road, far past the speed limit the majority of the time. On multiple occasions, we've had

(continued on page 18)



# Your Vote Matters - The 2024 Assembly Elections (continued from page 11)

which began as a mall kiosk, and Bendett Investment Group, a real estate development corporation. Bendett claims to be “committed to common-sense and effective solutions,” and aims to lower tax burdens on New Yorkers. Throughout his time in the assembly, Bendett has sponsored many bills amending educational policies in favor of increased aid and required teacher training, as well as public health laws in regards to insurance and step therapy. He has voted against abortion and mental hygiene protection bills, and has been loud about his disdain for immigrant protections, specifically in terms of food resources. Bendetts’s cornerstone issues of tax cuts and financial equity drive many of his decisions in policy making.

Chloe Pierce was the democratic candidate in this year’s assembly election. She has lived in Albany County for her entire life, and works in government affairs for non-profit organizations. Throughout her campaign, Pierce emphasized the importance of representation for the underrepresented, women’s rights, healthcare access, affordable education, environmental conservation, and more. Pierce highlights transparency, accountability, and ethics, acknowledging the distrust in government that runs rampant in our state, country, and world. Pierce touches on the idea that some government officials believe they may be above the law, and how that is far from the case for her. Pierce claimed that if NYS District 107 were flipped blue, she would remain on the same playing field as the rest of us, and would commit to making the state a more equitable place.



In a democracy, voting is crucial in determining how schools, communities, states, and the country make decisions. Local elections are more likely to affect the everyday lives of community members than the presidential election, let's give them the credit they deserve. Get out and vote! This election has passed, but the future will hold many more. Do your own research, determine which candidates speak to you personally, who best represents your beliefs, and who will make the most positive impact on policy decisions. Choosing the best candidate is always better than choosing no one at all.

Vote for your school boards, your municipalities, your state representatives, *and* your president. It is crucial.

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## *P. Diddy v. Averill Park* (continued from page 2)

I understand they are jokes, in reality I'm aware nobody would genuinely choose to let this man go free. However, when a group of boys in my class are joking about protesting for his freedom, I can't just hold my tongue and stay silent. And when a boy chooses to ignore the fact that the man he is rallying behind, even if it is a joke, is a sex trafficker, I can't help but feel anger and frustration build in my stomach. Especially when that boy looks me in the face, in my eyes, and with the wave of a hand, belittles and diminishes the whole situation. With the wave of a hand I think it is absurd how they have turned a situation as disgusting as P. Diddy’s into a joke, and it's even more absurd how much traction is behind it. You do not understand rage until your own brother waves off your discomfort with defending a known sex trafficker with “It’s not a big deal. It's just some jokes on the internet.”

I wonder if the victims or their families think it's just jokes. I wonder if they think it is funny to see the man who haunts their nightmares being publicly defended to the point of staged walk-outs in protest of him being locked up. I'm sure they find it hilarious.

I'm sure there is a group of boys that when they read this, I'll be labeled as some sensitive feminist snowflake. That I get offended at everything and that I'm allergic to jokes. It is those boys that I am most scared for. I don't know how a human being can hear the facts of the situation and the effects on the victims and be able to even joke about this man being free, joke about him doing nothing wrong. I'm sure they won't listen to my points, or see it from my perspective, and there is nothing I can do about that. It's hard for women to believe that it is “not all men” when sex traffickers and rapists can be defended at such a high caliber. As a society, we need to bridge this gap between the male and female experience so things like this won't happen again. In the meantime, I think I'm going to invest in some pepper spray.

# Whose Body is it Anyway?

By Veronica Cardillo

Just take a moment. Imagine you found out that your neighbor was *just* diagnosed with a terminal illness and they were tackling the decision on if they should pursue treatment or not. Would you feel comfortable making the decision for them? What if the roles were reversed, would you feel comfortable with someone else, especially someone you don't know, making the decision for you? Now, take another moment, to shift to another topic - the one of abortion - while still maintaining the same ethical questions. Imagine if your daughter, sister, or any female in your life, were to be raped and impregnated, would you feel it right for them not to have a decision whether to abort or not? Would you feel it unfair to decide for them? When the matter hits close to home, one's viewpoint and feelings on the issue might change.

If we take another quiet moment, and clear our minds of our prejudices, and allow ourselves to take in all the various views on abortion then maybe we'll be able to grasp a fuller, more realistic view on the situation. No one – besides the individual themselves – should be making the declarative decision for a woman on how they should handle their body. For, the phrase that's ricocheted through society of "my body, my choice" couldn't be more true. Because it *is* my body and I should be able to make the final decision on how I am to handle my personal matters. I should be the one with say over *my own* body and reproductive rights, and *you* should have say over *your* body and reproductive rights, without the clashing of opinions.

Why has such a personal decision been made so open to the public? It's a personal, and private decision with the answer varying amongst people. Picture it, a woman – let's name her person one – who's been trying to get pregnant and start a family, and when she finally does, euphoria moves through her and her family.  
(continued on page 15)

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## Chronic Illness: How it Affects Patients and the Term "Invisible Disabilities"

By Emma Hotaling

You're 10 years old playing on the trampoline with your neighbors when you jump off to get down. A sharp pain cuts through your right ankle, up your right leg, and into your hip. All you think is maybe you landed wrong, so you keep using it for the next week. The issue at hand is that the pain goes from a 3 to a 10 in 4 days. You go to the doctor and find that there's a stress fracture on your heel- so that's all you think it is. They cast your leg and tell you to be more careful next time. What if the pain continues? Surely it's just the fracture getting worse, right? Wrong. You end up going back to the doctors multiple times, spending thousands of dollars just to find nothing. Every day you're left thinking that you're making up the feeling. It is a harsh pain, but you feel like you're overreacting, so you brush it off and continue walking on your ankle. Then it swells, becoming so unbearable that you can no longer walk. This time they do blood tests and you test positive for Rheumatoid Arthritis. How? How can someone so young get such a crippling disease? Will it last forever? The sad reality is yes. It will most likely affect you for your whole life. And it does not discriminate based on age.

Growing up with a chronic illness is different than without one mainly because people don't even know you have it. They will never understand the constant agonizing pain of walking when it flares, and that's not their fault, but it's hard to empathize with them. Knowing about the pain and knowing how it actually feels are completely different, and people like to think that you are overreacting due to the mere fact that they can't see what's wrong.

This really takes a toll on your mental health, not only your physical health. What should happen more are opportunities to learn about such diseases in a mandatory manner at school, whether it be in primary or secondary school. This way, people have a better understanding of "invisible disabilities." This includes mental disabilities too!

So next time someone is complaining about pain, especially a pain you have never felt, take a moment to think of all the reasons that may be. You may not have certain disabilities, but others do, and they cannot control that. Be aware of the things you cannot see, as you do not know what's going on in their lives!

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## Should Teenagers Be Allowed To Vote? (continued from page 11)

While my experience may be selective, it does show that a determined teen or group of teens who want to participate/contribute to the government, really can rationally and reasonably fight for change in a constructive and coherent manner. It is important to note that this isn't an easy topic to address and come up with change for; one must consider the legality of this idea and how many people are willing to push it forward. It is definitely an idea worth considering, as teenagers are at an age  
(continued on page 15)



# Whose Body is it Anyway?

## (continued from page 14)

Then there could be a woman— let’s name her person two (or for goodness sakes, even a *child*, named person three)— who has been raped and the news of pregnancy comes with fear, dread, panic, and weariness. Just imagine how amplified these feelings must be in states with abortion bans. Consider another scenario with person four, who is pregnant, with two young children already, and then gets a cancer diagnosis. What will happen to the woman if she lives in a state with abortion bans? What will her and her child’s chances of survival be now? If she were to die then the unborn child’s life would cease to exist as well. Four separate females; four separate situations. Yet, while looking at a general profile of a state, or a country, or judging others on getting an abortion, you do not see these details of individual lives.

As a young woman, living in the year 2024, I never thought that I’d have to be concerned over the rights and privacy of my own body. But ever since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the topic of abortion and a woman’s choice concerning her own body have once again become a relevant topic for the public, politicians, and unfortunately so, the government. But why has a decision, so personal, so private, become such a widely talked about topic with almost everyone having an opinion on the issue? Why has such an important decision fallen into the hands of state governments? And how is it better to have such a decision be made by the government— federal or state?

To answer the question on how government involvement on the subject of abortion can better the decision made, the answer is, it ultimately can’t. Honestly, abortion bans, whether they be full or go up to a certain amount of weeks can make decisions harder. For, the decision of abortion is already hard enough without government involvement, and the contending factor of governments implementing abortion bans only makes the decision more challenging. Even though I myself have never been in the position to make such a decision, and don’t live in a state where there are abortion bans, I can only imagine the stress that comes with the situation, and how that stress must be heightened when in one of the many states with such bans. Can *you* imagine even half of the amount of the stress that a female must feel when in this situation?

Often, the debate over abortion comes down to vital questions such as: Where does human life begin, and how can it be protected? A humane society should ask such questions. Yet perhaps women— *and women alone*— as the carriers and deliverers of human life, should be the ones to answer these deeply important questions. Even then, there likely will be debate, but that is the issue: women having the right to choose. After all, females are human beings who have grown and birthed every human on earth - so I do trust that we can make these decisions ourselves. When we are no longer in each other's private business perhaps less conflict will arise— I mind my business, and you mind your business. This could reduce political and social dispute and allow for society as a whole to reach equilibrium. Let that sink in for a minute.

# The Halloween Costume Contest!

## By Harper and Vivian Savage

Halloween is taken very seriously by many students at APHS. That’s why every year, The Chronicle hosts the Halloween Costume Contest during the school day. Students have the opportunity to dress up as whatever they want, as long as it’s school appropriate, and compete in this entertaining competition for various prizes.

We noticed that most people who participated this year were dressed as characters from various TV shows, movies, and even apps, as opposed to the classic ghost or skeleton costume. Students felt empowered in their costumes. One student stated, “I wanna be as hot as Billie Eilish, so I might as well be Billie Eilish.”

This year, we had 5 main categories: Funniest, Scariest, Most Unique, Best Duo, and Best Teacher. The winners for each category were Roy Wajda as the Duolingo Owl for Funniest, Halle Carpenter as a dead gunslinger for Scariest, Lilah Ruggiero as the Phantom of the Opera for Most Unique, Samantha Alberino and Marguerite Guerrero as Dipper and Mabel from Gravity Falls for Best Duo, and Ms. Bailey as the Mad Hatter for Best Teacher.

(continued on page 17)

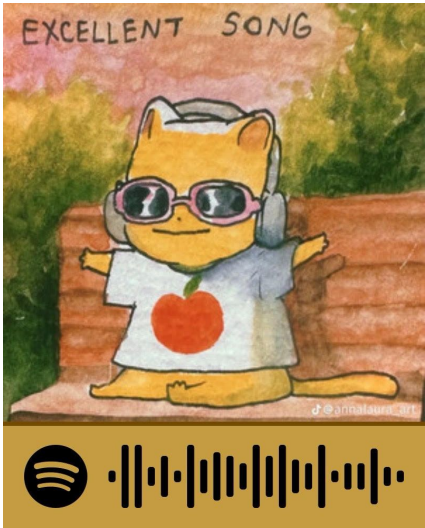
# Should Teenagers Be Allowed To Vote?

## (continued from page 14)

where they are becoming more and more adultlike by the month rather than year. They develop the skills for their adult lives, be it working, studying in school, apprentice work, and so on. Teenagers are adults in all but law, however, an issue many opposing this idea put forth is that teenagers brains aren’t fully developed. Sometimes they are reckless, stupid, endanger others, and break the laws set by this country. All of these points are true and fair, but consider for a moment the fact that many adults, regardless of age, do the same things at some point in their lives. Both as adults and when they were teens as well. It is important not to stereotype all teens under the same veil of irresponsibility when everyone is their own unique and special person, different from some stereotype that is bought into. However, it is important to also take teenagers as growing adults, and rather than shutting them out totally from politics, slowly introduce them and give them an ability to participate so that they’re more willing to want to (continued on page 18)

# Music of the Month

By Eva Santacroce



## Top Albums of the Month

### Beautifully Broken - Jelly Roll

This album is definitely not a light album to listen to. The lyrics are well written and deep, and the song that opens the album, “Winning Streak,” feels like an introduction to the main theme of the album: getting sober. If you're looking for a folky emotional album, this is the one for you.

### BRAT - Charli xcx

BRAT has held its top spot for officially 19 weeks. If you're on any form of social media you've heard of BRAT: a hyper pop club album with plenty of hits. The first song, “360,” sets the tone for the whole album. Although the lyrics aren't as deep as some, the album definitely has some catchy lyrics. It's one of those albums you listen to when you need to get hyped or are in a good mood.

### Short n’ Sweet - Sabrina Carpenter

“Short n’ Sweet” is Sabrina's 6th album to be released. It definitely falls into the pop category that has been trending recently. It is an excellent girly pop album with two great ballads: “Dumb & Poetic” and “Lie to Girls.” The album is super upbeat with lots of love songs, similar to her previous album, “emails i can’t send”. The lyrics are very poetic and well written.

### The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess - Chappell Roan

“The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess” is the album that took Chappell Roan to fame. The pop album blew up this spring, and has held its spot for 30 weeks straight. It is an album that ties hyper pop to more queer pop. The songs “HOT TO GO!,” “Pink Pony Club,” and “Casual” are the most popular songs of the album.

### HIT ME HARD AND SOFT - Billie Eilish

“HIT ME HARD AND SOFT” kept Billie's electronic sound with new, more true lyrics. The album has songs that feel more personal, taking you farther into her love life than before. As always, her lyrics are well written and very deep. The song “THE GREATEST” is an honest and true song, and is beautifully written.

## Eva’s top songs this month

1. Ain't That Peculiar - Fanny
2. That's So True - Gracie Abrams
3. Lover, You Should've Come Over - Jeff Buckley
4. You Could Start A Cult - Niall Horan
5. doomsday - Lizzy McAlpine
6. Disco - Surf Curse
7. Bags - Clairo
8. Girl Crush - Harry Styles
9. American Teenager - Ethel Cain
10. SKINNY - Billie Eilish
11. Footsteps - Pearl Jam

We hope you enjoy our newest column, look for Eva’s music in each issue this year!

## Trivia!

- 1) Who is the only APHS teacher who studied at the undergraduate level at an Ivy League school?
- 2) What is Mr. Quiles’ side hustle?
- 3) Where is the only shiny gold colored door knob at APHS?
- 4) In terms of vehicle use, what do Mr. Goodnow, Mr. Blostein, and Mr. Giannone all have in common?
- 5) Which APHS staff member’s name comes last alphabetically?
- 6) Which current APHS teacher has taught here the longest?
- 7) What purpose did the library space serve before it became the library?
- 8) How many varsity sports teams does APHS have?
- 9) How much is the current Averill Park Central School District budget?
- 10) How many feet above sea level is APHS ?

answers on page 17!



# The Halloween Costume Contest! (continued from page 15)

“My favorite part, no doubt, is seeing the students and the teachers all come in dressed up, and deciding what they want to be in another world,” says winner Ms. Bailey when asked her favorite aspects of the Halloween Costume Contest.

The winners were awarded prizes including gift cards from Gipfel and the Sand Lake Merchant, and a coupon for a free six-inch sub from Subway. Some of our personal favorites, or honorable mentions, were Evalyn Craney as the Lorax, Eva Santacroce, Payton Santacroce, and Skylar Quackenbush as Billie Eilish, Troye Sivan, and Charli XCX, Jackson Simard as Napoleon Dynamite, Jack Fagan and Ethan Hirokawa as the Tyler Durden and the Narrator from Fight Club, and Kayleigh South as Draculaura from Monster High.



# The Division Amongst Us (continued from page 11)

this system. Parents who are extensively involved in a child's education create kids who synthesize their confidence/motivation, all because of the parent's encouragement early on. Instilling a sense of responsibility, propelling their ideas and goals. Fair treatment across all academic tracks will be much easier if all students work harder for their goals.

Teachers also have a responsibility to bring up the potential in all students, regardless of their educational path. Unfair treatment of students will eventually lead to withdrawal and hopelessness, which reinforce the divide in society that happens beyond the classroom. To incorporate newer, inclusive educational systems, we need to establish more policies and applications so students receive the support they're in search of. The parent's role in this process is

probably the most important. It's all a large collaborative effort including teachers and parents to install a stronger and more supportive environment for all students.

All in all, the imbalance in the education system is not just affecting the students but it's creating much larger societal polarities. The stated goal is to be completely inclusive, recognizing the achievements of everyone, and pushing all students to their full potential. Schools need to place more emphasis on the need for a supportive environment that involves not just teachers, but parents too: encouraging an environment where everyone is achieving the best possible outcomes they can produce; ignoring the academic classes that students are enrolled in; and embodying collaborative and equal exercises unveils a student's true potential and how meaningful they are.

# Trivia Answers!

- 1) Mr. McKeeby (University of Pennsylvania)
- 2) Beekeeper/apiarist
- 3) Room 159 (Mr. Brown's room)
- 4) They all ride motorcycles to school
- 5) Mrs. Zeiser (formerly Ms. Stone)
- 6) Dr. Perry (31 years)
- 7) Gymnasium
- 8) 25
- 9) \$66,600,000
- 10) 784 feet

If you are interested in writing for The Chronicle, please contact Mr. Brown, Catherine Hughes, or Chava Thiell!

# Should Teenagers Be Allowed To Vote?

## (continued from page 15)



participate and advocate for changes they wish to see.

To take a light jab at the politicians and those who staunchly defend this topic, what was this country founded upon? What ideals were so extreme that our colonist ancestors fought a 7 year blood soaked war to defend? Well, the ideals of fair and just representation, more well known as “no taxation without representation”. That’s a part of the core of this issue. A teenager is a person who can rationally and logically think at a degree close to adults. They can work, pay taxes, drive, and open bank accounts without parental consent. If that’s the case, then why can’t they get the representation that they deserve in government? They’re being taxed as well and have ideals they would like represented in government, so why should they be denied the ability to vote on issues that affect them?

What needs to happen here, to bring both sides into a common ground is to remember why this country was made. Everybody who contributes with taxes and is affected by the government. Everybody who contributes with taxes and is

affected by the government. If they are aware enough to understand and make thoughtful, logical decisions, then they should be able to vote. Teens should be louder, more active in programs that further their knowledge of our government, more vocal of their demographic– because they and their fellow teens will be the adults of tomorrow. Teens should be more included when considering new policies, should be allowed to experience the world of politics, and also participate thoughtfully in it. For this group will be the future, and should be able to set the framework for younger generations as active participants in the government that generations before us fought and died to create and defend.

# Dam It! Burden Lake Road Closure Hits 3 Year Mark - When Will We Cross Over?

## (continued from page 12)

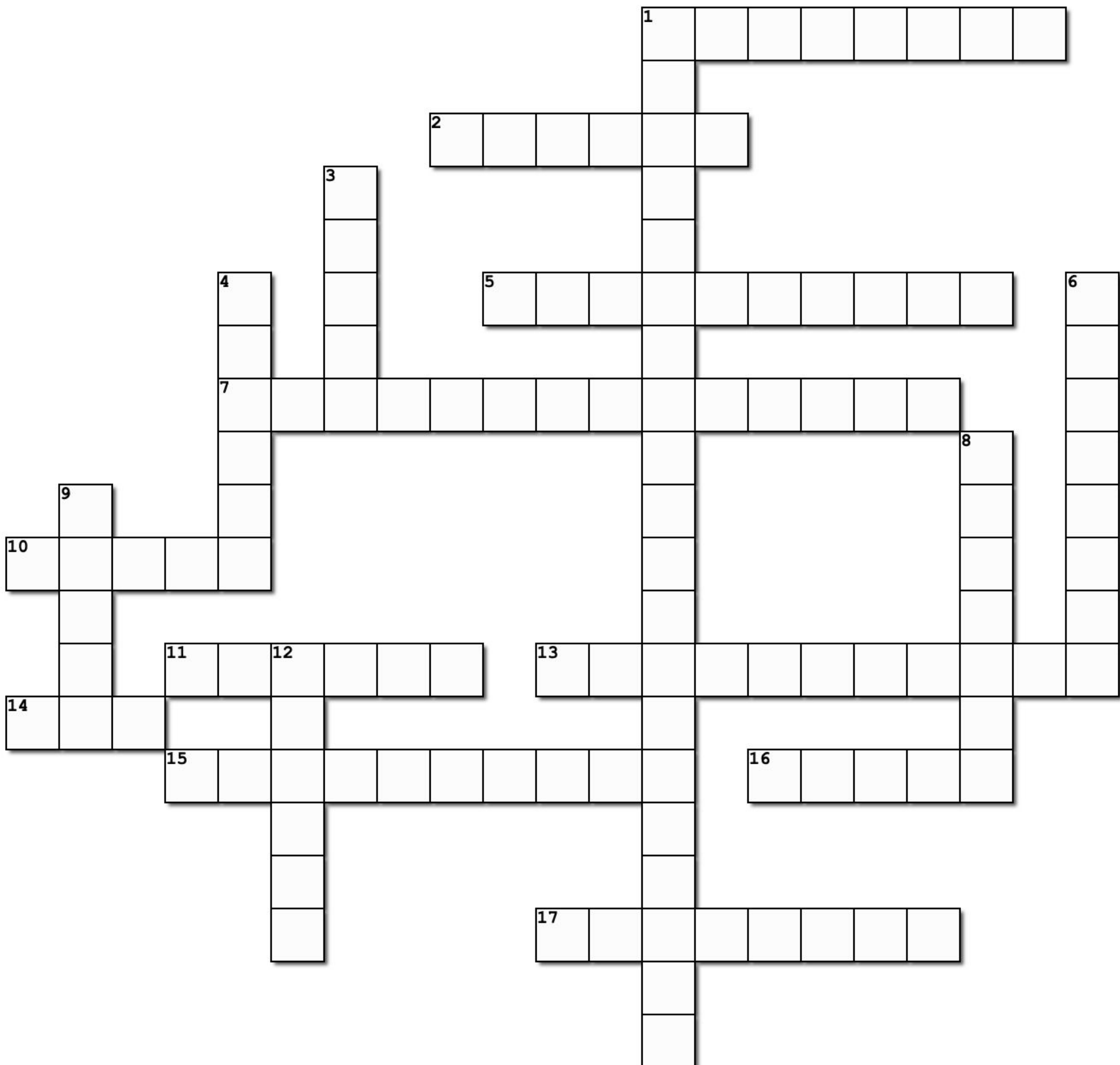
people hit the brick wall surrounding our front yard. To this day, two plus years after the dam’s closure, we still have people trying to go down Burden Lake Road, just to be stopped by the concrete blockades. It’s gotten to the point where residents are putting up not-so-friendly signs to further inform drivers that the road is still closed.

Oddly enough, many of the people living on this road are relieved by the road closure, as the traffic has immensely decreased. However, non-residents find it to be more of an inconvenience to their everyday lives. Having to take the detour around the dam approximately adds 5 more minutes to a drive rather than being able to cross the dam. We are currently unaware of any plans to fix the dam that holds together the entirety of Burden lake. If the dam stays in its current condition, there’s no telling what could happen. Further natural erosion could fully break down the dam, leading to extreme flooding of the area. It may not happen now, but it’s something to keep in mind for the residents of the future.

*Join  
Journalism  
Club!  
We meet on  
the first  
Wednesday of  
each month  
from 2:15 -  
3:00 in room  
159!*



# Thanksgiving Crossword!



## **Across**

1. It goes in the turkey.
2. The bird.
5. An iconic fall flavor has its origins in this food.
7. These root vegetables were once thriving.
10. This belongs on the mashed potatoes.
11. your parents' brothers
13. For some reason, we make a sauce out of these on Thanksgiving.
14. In the ~~club~~ pig pen, we all \_\_\_\_.
15. Objectively, these are disgusting. Sometimes, though, they are in a casserole.
16. What a wheel does.
17. It's on TV.

## **Down**

1. Sometimes, this dish has marshmallows in it.
3. your parents' sisters
4. all of the relatives
6. The cause for at least 1/2 of Thanksgiving family drama.
8. your aunt's children
9. An inevitable outcome of the entire family meeting yearly at grandma's house.
12. Mice eat this too.