

The Gator Gazette

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Trend or foe: JUUL infiltrates local high school scene

By: Caleb Fields

Throughout the country, parents, teachers, and students alike have testified against the addictive nature of e-cigarettes and vapes.

Story after story portrays the nicotine laden invention as a blight on modern society and a threat to our youth. Initially, the device was made with good intentions, it was originally meant to help people kick their smoking addictions by using a sort of “weaning” method. However, the real question is how reservoir students are affected by this device?

Officer Hall, stationed at Reservoir, said that the popularity has gone down quite a bit from a year ago, however, the situation is far from ideal. He claimed that over time, more and more students had some sort of stake in juuls, and that was made evident by the sheer



Photo by Ritik Saini

amount of students who would cut class to do it.

“More kids were getting addicted more and more...” he said “...and cutting classes several times a day.”

This, Officer Hall feared, would show the early evidence of nicotine addiction, even though companies and local governments were all taking some sort of action to curb it.

Mr. McDuffie, Reservoir security guard,

also had some words on the subject.

“It is harder to track while [students] are vaping so they feel that they can just get rid of it without real consequence.”

Another reason he called juuling the biggest problem facing the school is because the rooms smell of fruit flavors and hints of bad breath after they are done, which can make it harder to track and fight as an administration.

Mr. McDuffie be-

lieves that their best way to combat this outbreak is for parents and guardians to spend time with their high schoolers and explain the dangers, especially doing it in school.

As can be seen from the experts on the issue, juuling should never be done on school property because not only will the school be held responsible if something happens, but it may disrupt the learning environment that Reservoir tries to cultivate. Addition-

ally, it could cause health issues that the school is not prepared to handle, like nicotine addiction.

Reservoir’s issues dealing with the national trend is consistent with other high schools across the county.

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Allison Alston wins Howard County Student Member Of the Board: Reservoir’s First

By: Hunter Craig

On February 28th, 2019, The Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC), hosted the 2nd annual Student Member of the Board Convention at Wilde Lake High School.

At the convention, 132 student delegates from every middle and high school throughout county were able to vote on who they wanted to see as the two finalists for SMOB. Each middle school has gets three delegates (one from each grade) and every high school gets six delegates, at least one being from 9th 10th or 11th grade.

At the end of the day, the 14 candidates were narrowed down to two. Allison Alston from Reservoir HS, and Hannah Witkin from Long Reach HS. This was historic as neither high school has had a student

from their school be nominated to be the next Student Member of the Board.

We asked Hannah what she wants to do if elected as the next SMOB;

“My main message is about recognizing all students equitably. I want to reach out to underrepresented populations (not just the typical student leaders) about the issues which concern them. I want to help students find and advocate for the things they’re passionate about, as well as empower them to address these issues. If elected, I aim to create an advisory council with students from every middle and high school who can help inform my decisions. I also aim to use canvas to provide quick and easy access to resources to help every student identify

issues, speak up for them, and actually be heard.”

We spoke with Allison afterwards to find out what it’s like being a candidate and what her plans are if elected.

She said “[Going from school to school] is rewarding and it gives flashbacks when visiting the middle schools. [If elected as the SMOB] I really want to focus on mental health. I wanna have mental health awareness night, and I want to implement polling through canvas because it’s important to listen to all voices.” When asked about what changes she’d like to see, she responded with “the big issue I’ve been pressing is mental health. No one knows the answer to the resources that are available

except counselors. Also, if you’re a student of color, you are four times more likely to be suspended as a white kid for the same issue. We need to change the wording in disciplinary reforms. Being “disruptive” could be different for every teacher and leaves room for bias.”

Allison also mentioned how she wants to send messages through canvas with bi-weekly updates about what’s new and going on in the county, upcoming policies, etc. Lastly, Allison finished off by telling us who inspired her for this position.

“A group of students suggested I run when I was a delegate at the SMOB convention last year. Also exploring my career path kind of inspired me to look into that. Since we as students

spend so much time in the school system, we should enjoy it. If I can be the person to make their experiences better than I would want to be the person to do that.”

In March, Allison was able to meet some of the current Board of Education Members at the People Acting Together in Howard forum which was about equity and mental health awareness. She was able to speak with Superintendent Martirano, Chairwoman Ellis, and Board Member Taj.

Allison has one last message to RHS: “Reservoir, I want you to know me as someone who is willing to listen as best as I am willing to speak. I am outspoken, relatable and determined.”

Flextime fasco: county schools face changes

By: Mario Morais

Gator break was a time where we, as students, are able to spend time with friends, meet with clubs, promote activities, and host events. However, new Gator break structure has changed. Formerly, Gator break allowed students to move through the school freely. Now Reservoir's administration has put into place a new system. This new system came shortly after a series of incidents between Reservoir's students.

The administrators' message to the students is that "we really want to ensure that we are maintaining a safe school environment and by putting these structure into place promote student safety." Many of the students felt like the actions of a few students were being used to judge the entire student population. The frustration by many students led a teacher to take action. They decided to create a town-hall meeting for students to come and express their opinion on school issues.

Summer safety tips

Summer can be a time filled with family, friends, and new adventures. However, there are also moments that can be lost to boredom. Here are some ideas as to how to get over that summer slump.

1. Find a new book
2. Update your playlists!
3. Find a new show to watch on Netflix
4. Find a new friend

5. Make homemade ice cream
6. Go Geocaching (Download the Geocaching app)
7. Make art
8. Visit the Howard County Fair

The True Image Behind Aunt Becky

By: Esha Bhatti

Remember Aunt Becky, Uncle Jessis's wife, from the show "Full House" and, the more recent "Freaky House"?

Weeks ago, the nation was shocked to discover that the Pull House actress, Lori Loughlin, and her husband had paid \$500,000 to send their daughter to to their dream school, University of South Carolina.

But Loughlin, who has now been fired by Netflix, wasn't the only parent who used their wealth to cheat the system.

Forty-nine other parents were also charged with buying their children's way to prestigious colleges including "Deperate Housewives" star

This way students are able to have an open forum to voice their opinions on school issues.

Many students wonder if things will go back to the way they were. The administration is currently coordinating efforts with other high schools across the county. Students are going to have try an move forward from here and try to find new ways to make up for the aspects of Gator break we as students currently no longer have.

That we will be a bit more stressed cause students won't have time to get out of the class." Their message to the administration is

standardized test cheating parents paid \$15,000 to largest college admissions scam in U.S. history. All parents committed the crime through William Rick Singer, CEO of The Key, a college admission prep company who pleaded guilty to four charges so far.

One of the children, Jack Buckingham, who was unknowingly involved in the scandal, concurs with our feelings saying, "I am upset that I was unknowingly involved in a large scheme that helps give kids who may not work as hard as others an advantage over those who truly deserve those spots. For that I am sorry."

It is extremely sad to witness the increasing num-

Ask CJ

By: CJ McDowell

Dear CJ: My friends say that I've changed. How do you deal with peer pressure?

You have to find the difference in yourself. You shouldn't try to do things that would be acceptable to people because then you're just trying to please people. This whole hood thing persona that people carry around, it's not really them.

It's because of the environment that they're in...it's the environment from their peers, what they see on tv, on social media. It's what they see that influences them. They change the way they dress, they talk, their attitudes. They're trying out to find out who they are but it doesn't go well all the time. It can take a regression. Because it's who you're trying to be -- it's

you wearing a mask. People feel like they have to change themselves to feel respected. Other people shouldn't have to be the reason why you change. You have to do that within yourself. Try new things. See what you love best and what makes you happy, comfortable, you.

When I was in fifth grade, I had this one friend and we were super close. We would do everything together. We would try to sneak outside to see each other, go to the park. We were like brothers. And then he started to try new things with different people.

He started to distance himself. He was never mean to me. He always treated me with respect. He opened up to me about everything, he was really easy to talk to. When he started hanging out with other people, everything changed.

Next Gen Technology Bytes

By: Madeline Kim

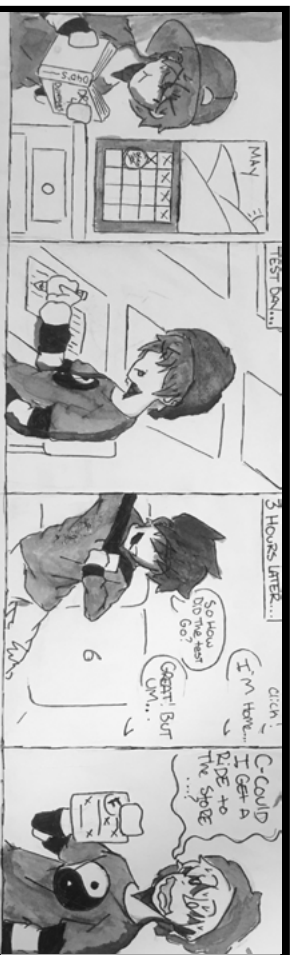
It's crazy to remember that Apple first released AirPods in December of 2016. These wireless, Bluetooth headphones weren't too popular when first sold because of the price (\$169). Because headphones already came with the purchase of an iPhone, AirPods went ignored for quite a long time. But with the arrival of the iPhone X and Xr which lacked a headphone jack, Apple made a large profit on selling AirPods to consumers. Companies like Amazon are already inventing similar products, noticing the consumer interest.

If you haven't seen somebody wear them around school by now, AirPods literally resemble regular white headphones but with the wires cut off. The rectangular case is small and sleek, but it's easy to lose if you aren't careful enough. In addition, some consumers have complained about the Bluetooth earbuds, saying that it falls out of their ears and that there isn't much of a range when listening to music/talking on the phone. Additionally, playing/skipping/pausing your music isn't the most convenient, as you have to double-tap on one headphone to access Siri. Personally, I just find it easier to take my phone out and control my music from there.

However, I can say that if you're a student athlete or exercises frequently, AirPods are very helpful in not soaking your wires in sweat or having to disentangle them. In addition, they're comfortable and oftentimes, I forget that I have them in my ears. Although I do agree that it's very pricey, I wouldn't expect anything less than Apple, as their new phones cost around \$1,000. But if you experience problems with your product, their customer service is truly attentive and incredible. On the website called Tech Review, Olivia Tambini writes, "They sound great, their battery life and charging speeds run laps around the competition, and it's hard to overstate just how seamless the pairing process is. But ultimately the AirPods end up disappointing because other headphones allow you to control your music more quickly, and more easily."

Secondly, the updated version of AirPods was recently released, which claims to have a greater range and battery life. However, the cost is even more expensive than the first (\$199). Strictly regarding appearance, the two sets of AirPods literally look the exact same and are impossible to tell apart. In my opinion, if you're interested in buying a pair, I would buy the first one. It's cheaper and re-charging the case isn't that difficult to do.

It's really cool to see how technology is advancing in our society along with the pros/cons. To close, I would say that yes, AirPods are definitely worth it.



ACT SAT: letters we all fear

By: Aminah Malik

The educational system has repeatedly emphasized that one single test score will determine whether you get into a prestigious college. Have an impressive GPA but achieved less than a 1350 on the SAT? Say goodbye to Harvard. It's saddening that most admission boards won't even give another application a second glance after looking at his or her score. And this stress is constantly rising, pressuring students to overwork themselves to the point of exhaustion.

The SAT and ACT, which were created in the early and mid 1900s, are standardized tests that high school upperclassmen must take in order to get accepted into most colleges.

By League colleges, like Yale and Princeton, require perfection and excellence in order to be accepted. And this level of competition is only going to get worse, as the level of student depression has risen over the past years in places like Columbia University.

I don't find it fair at all that a student's level of intelligence is judged by a number, as there are other talents that people could

By: Anna Rollins

Avengers: Endgame is easily the most anticipated movie of 2019 with fans breaking the pre-sale box office records in just under six hours, managing to crush several ticket sites, like Fandango. In the process, despite the film's massive build-up, very little has been revealed in the trailers and interviews, leading many to begin theorizing their own ideas for how the movie will go.

One of the strongest theories is that the original six Avengers will survive heroes will learn up to visit past events from previous movies, creating a sort of time loop. This theory has heightened in popularity because not only could it possibly end in reuniting Thanos's snap, it could also

have that overlooked. And moreover, some people just aren't very good test takers.

It's also important to know that there are many different options after graduating high school, like becoming an apprentice, taking a gap year, or deciding to attend a community college. According to the classroom.com, "In 2016, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 69.7 percent of students who graduated high school in 2016 were enrolled in college. About 49 percent of these students are enrolled in community colleges, according to a 2017 report issued by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center."

Community colleges appeal to many students who don't have the luxury of student aid because after the two years of school are completed, students can transfer to actual universities at a cheaper cost.

However, some universities and colleges are already on their way to change.

The University of Chicago gained lots of public attention when it eliminated the ACTs and SATs altogether on admissions, and personally, I think they're on the



right path. If only colleges realized that so many more people have potential to be successful, then our educational system would be very, very different.

According to PBS, "Standardized testing may now be hurting rather than helping disenfranchised students. The study found that non-submitting students were more likely to be minorities, women, students with Learning Differences, Pell Grant recipients and

first-generation college-goers. I'm certainly not saying people have potential to be that you shouldn't try on the SATs and ACTs. By all means, you should definitely try your best to fulfill your potential. But if you're not happy with your score, don't let it bring you down because you're worth more than a set of numbers. Ivy Leagues aren't for everyone, and most jobs focus on graduate school, anyways. High school is more than a

single test and your GPA.

It's trying things you've never attempted before, or developing relationships with people that you never thought you could.

Some: The Mind Stone is not seen being retrieved by Thanos in any MCU film; he's seen controlling it in his very first cameo, the Avengers mid-credit scene. Numerous clues hinting towards time travel have been dropped. Multiple photos were leaked from the set months ago, showing Steve Rogers in his old-fashioned costume from the first Avengers movie, further implying a return to the Battle of New York. In the trailers, returning heroes are pictured in what are speculated to be quantum-realm time travel suits.

Of course, all theories are to be taken with a grain of salt. Robert Downey Jr. he even gets the Mind



be used to fix several MCU plot holes.

One of said plot-holes is why Hank Pym so trusting Scott Lang, a criminal, right off the bat in 'Ant Man.' Fans speculate that Scott Lang uses the quantum realm suit to go back in time before the two of them meet and convinces Pym to trust him com-

End of an era

plately ensuring that he eventually gets the suit. Some fans also believe that Lang will go back into time to trust Scott Lang, a criminal, right off the bat in 'Ant Man.' Fans speculate that Scott Lang uses the quantum realm suit to go back into time in order to stop them meet and convinces Pym to trust him com-

plately ensuring that he eventually gets the suit. Some fans also believe that Lang will go back into time to trust Scott Lang, a criminal, right off the bat in 'Ant Man.' Fans speculate that Scott Lang uses the quantum realm time travel suits.

Of course, all theories are to be taken with a grain of salt. Robert Downey Jr.

New murals' originality captures community attention and showcases RHS talents



By: Leann Alhasshi

2019 SUMMER PLAYLIST

Although spring has just begun, summer fever is already getting the best of us. As we gear up for the upcoming season, what better way to prepare than to have a summer playlist ready at all times?

1. Zedd and Katy Perry, "365"
The pop-house love song from an unexpected pairing is first on this list for a reason. It's hard-hitting chorus and hypnotic verses make for a fresh summer track.

2. Benny Blanco, Tainy, Selena Gomez, J Balvin, "I Can't Get Enough"
Gomez and the crew deliver yet another alluring english-spanish track. Going for a more laid back electronic style, the focus is more on the catchy repeated line "I can't get enough" that'll be stuck in all our heads.

3. Jonas Brothers, "Sucker"
Despite their grand comeback being a total surprise to everyone, it was not shocking at all that the song is a complete smash-hit. With its pop-rock instrumental and lyrics that never make you want to stop singing, the song will definitely lead the summer.

4. Hozier, "Almost Sweet Music"
This song is the epitome of the calm feeling you get after rolling down your windows on a hot summer evening while driving to nowhere. The lyrical guitar goes hand in hand with Hozier's pleasing and inviting vocals to make for a perfect summer-ready track.

5. Silk City, Dua Lipa, Diplo, Mark Ronson, "Electricity"
The addicting piano that leads into a dance-floor smash plus Dua Lipa's inviting voice is a recipe for success.

6. Dua Lipa, Blackpink, "Kiss and Make Up"
Lipa makes another appearance in this playlist, but can we blame her? This time she teams up with the female quartet Blackpink for a tropical bilingual banger.

7. SG Lewis and Clairo, "Thrownaway"
This dreamy pop song mixed with electronic undertones feels like it was made just for those last days of summer with nostalgia written all over them.

8. Doja Cat feat. Rico Nasty, "Ta Ta Tamera"
The dynamic duo gives us a comedic trap track that's filled with pop culture references and funny one-liner lyrics. This single is perfect for yelling the lyrics out with your friends all summer.

9. Mabel, "Don't Call Me Up"
This upcoming pop star gifts us with an amazing tropical house anthem. The line "Don't call me up" will be sung by everyone, single or not.

10. Sam Smith, Normani, "Dancing With A Stranger"
With the hard-hitting bass and Smith's vocals, the song is already packaged and ready for those "surrounded by people yet still lonely" weekends. It gets even

better, though. Normani adds an alluring twist to the song with her almost hypnotic vocals.

11. Bebe Rexha, "Last Hurrah"
This classic pop hit with lyrics about having fun one last time before giving up her habits is perfect to blast in any party or get-together with friends during the summer.

12. Lauryn & Troye Sivan, "I'm so tired..."
For the newly single readers that are "so tired of love songs" in this playlist, this song is perfect for you. The single has an addicting beat that pairs along with lyrics about not being able to escape love on the radio.

Arts and Entertainment

Book review: "The Phases"

Ridrah Kaja

"Walk Two Moons" by Sharon Creech is a 1995 Newbery Medal award winning book that tells an amazing story of a little girl named Sal.

The whole book is from Sal's point of view and she tells the story of her life to her grandparents while they are taking a road trip to Lewiston, Idaho. She connects this to her experience as well. After Sal's mother lost her child during childbirth, she was quiet shaken up about it so she decided to take a trip alone to have time to think and clear her head. While doing so, she got in a terrible accident, killing her. The road trip itself is important because the

three are going to visit Sal's mother's final resting place, as her whole story revolves around how her mother left her. Sal starts off her story with introducing her best friend Phoebe, who's mother also left her at a young age.

Throughout the whole book, Sal introduces several characters that fit into the story. Many of which help explain how she met Phoebe and their childhood adventures. Although this book is mostly set in the past tense because Sal is telling a story, there are some parts where the narrator switches to the present tense. After attending to her grandfather, Sal continues her story and leads into the story of how Phoebe's mother left randomly without any

warning. She connects this to her experience as well. After Sal's mother lost her child during childbirth, she was quiet shaken up about it so she decided to take a trip alone to have time to think and clear her head.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed this book, not only because of the storyline but also the unique format. Instead of having a third person view that narrates the story, the author chose to have the Sal narrate her own story which makes the book more personal and interesting to read. Sal's story in itself is quite complicated because there are so many characters that fit into her life. Through-

out each chapter, you see each character develop and realize how they fit into the storyline. The interesting part of all these characters is that you have to make sure to remember them because they all come back in the conclusion one way or another. This book also has a very small aspect of mystery because in the beginning of book we read that Sal's mother has passed so they are going to visit her grave, however we do not know the full story until later on, and this kept me interested in the story. This book has so many different different genre aspects to it and is really well-rounded. It is funny, emotional, heartwarming, and just

overall a great read. All in all I thought "Walk Two Moons" was an incredible book and I'd were to rate it I would give it a solid 9 out of 10.

Mega Musician

By:

The Music Department at Reservoir is filled with many talented musicians who participate in many of the ensembles. One musician who stands out is Bruce Perry. He is the section leader of the percussion section and the drumline captain during marching band season. As well as participating in the symphonic, concert, jazz, and marching bands, he also participates in the symphonic orchestra. He provides the percussion accompaniment for the choral performances and participates in pit orchestras, which does the music for the Reservoir theatrical productions.

One of Bruce's favorite things about the music department at Reservoir is how close the directors are with each other. In an interview, he said, "You can be in multiple groups due to how close the directors are." Because the directors work closely together, they are able to intertwine the ensembles and groups together. Having so much overlap in the groups allows for a tight-knit community, making the experience in the department more enjoyable. Another one of

his favorite things about the music department is getting to play in the pit orchestra during the musicals at Reservoir. He says, "I get to play a variety of instruments," which is something that is a rare experience for many musicians, but it is useful for improving as a musician because it forces you to become more versatile.

The music teachers play a large role in his growth as a musician. Bruce said, "They got me out of my comfort zone and had me try new things that I would not have thought about doing." The teachers push him to become more versatile in the music disciplines and active in the music department.

"All of my teachers, private instructors, parents, and even friends have inspired me to keep going and to put myself out there," and Bruce gives a lot of the credit to them for keeping him motivated.

Bruce plans to actively participate in music after high school and will attend the University of Maryland to study percussion. He would like to thank Mr. Bacon, Mr. O'Bryan, Dr. Knauf, and his friends and family for supporting him, and



Approximately 300 art students worked with HCAC Artist in Residence Michael Owen to create our original mural that shows "Unlimited Possibilities."

Arts and Entertainment

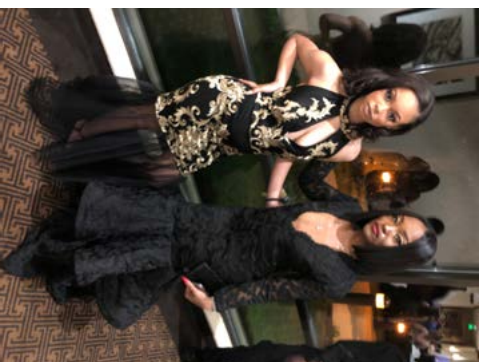
Prom Highlights Beauty in Strength



Jessie and Jenny Marchino



Valeria Espada Urbina and friends



Zhalia Claggett and Chloe Hudgins

Sports

New Lacrosse Coach Spotlight

By Isabella Brown

This year, Reservoir welcomed a new member to the girls' lacrosse team. Coach Bebko, a PE teacher here, is determined to make this season the girls' best yet. She used to coach at Manchester Valley High School in Carroll County, and before that she played attack for Temple University's lacrosse team. She says the season is going well so far. Rather than focusing on individual wins and losses, her main goal for the team is to grow. She wants the team to learn from mistakes and change the culture around the lacrosse team. Her focus is

to build up a reputation for the team, to make them a force to be reckoned with.

The girls on the team come everyday wanting to work hard and improve, which is "all a coach could ask for." Her favorite thing about Reservoir is the students because they make it a fun place to come work. There are many different kinds of students, all with different kinds of interests and opinions, making the school a very unique place to come to everyday. The lacrosse teams head into playoffs the week of May 6th.

LAX Community Support

By Isabella Brown

The JV Girls Lacrosse team visited the Sunrise retirement home on Friday. They went to give back to the community as they gave potted plants and bouquets of flowers to the elderly for Mother's day. They also talked to the elderly to learn about

their lives and also several students ended up joining multiple games of uno. The elderly seemed happy for the company and the students also enjoyed the experience accompanying the elderly. They can't wait to visit the elderly home next year.

RHS Lax Superstar

By Camilla Mendez and Madison Bloodworth

Annabelle Salkeld is a senior at Reservoir and has been playing on the lacrosse team throughout high school. Annabelle began playing lacrosse in kindergarten, and has continued to ever since.

Ms. Bebko, head coach of varsity lacrosse, appreciates Annabelle's attitude saying, "She has an amazing, amazing, amazing, attitude. She is the captain and her attitude spreads throughout the team."

Annabelle recently signed to play lacrosse at Catholic University of America, and has been practicing shots and stick-

skills in hopes of playing midfield, rather than defense.

Coach Bebko comments on her hard work saying, "When asked to play midfield from defense, she stepped up. Since she is intending to play for college, she is trying to work on her skills defensively. She has put in the extra time to get better."

Annabelle has been a great asset to the Reservoir Lacrosse Team, and it will be worth following her as she leaves to make her impact at the collegiate level.

Spring Forward: Stand Out Players

By: Desi Hatzakos, Maddy Jones

Maddy Jones and Desi Hatzakos are both seniors at Reservoir and play for the Gators' softball and soccer team.

Maddy and Desi have been best friends and teammates long before high school. "Whether it's on or off the field: we've always been there for each other," said Desi.

Earlier this season, Maddy and Desi both signed to play softball in college this upcoming year, with Maddy attending Marietta College and Desi attending George Mason. "In furthering my career at the collegiate level, I hope that I just get better as a player and a teammate and to continue my love for the game!" said Maddy. Both players cite winning the regional champion-



Photo courtesy of NCAA

ship in May 2018 as their favorite memory playing softball. "Actually winning regionals was so surreal," said Desi, "Having a team goal and working so hard towards it to then achieve it is a crazy feeling. The entire team had worked so hard to dominate the season and we did." Coach Frizvold, head coach of

Varsity Softball, has been a huge influence for both Desi and Maddy by motivating them to do well both on and off the field. Maddy said, "I think my biggest influence in my high school career is definitely Coach Friz! ... She has taught me everything I know and has helped me get to where I am today."

Sports Trivia

Q1: Hitting 406 in 1941, who was Major League Baseball's 400 hitter?

Ted Williams

Q2: Who won the title for the men's singles of the 2011 Australian Open Championship?

Novak Djokovic

Q3: The 100 metres dash is the first event on day one of the decathlon. On which part of the track is it run?

The home straight



Photo courtesy Allyson Sears

Reservoir tennis girls doubles pictured right to left: Grace Tao and Allyson Sears qualified for states after placing second in regionals, losing to Centennial. On Saturday May 25, they placed 3rd in 3A for states and are the first females on the Reservoir tennis team to qualify and win a state title.