

# The Gator Gazette

The Reservoir High School Newspaper  
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www.rhs.hcpss.org

## Recapping the 2018 Midterms in the Swamp

By Allyson Sears

After a record setting Midterm race, Larry Hogan has claimed the seat of governor for a second term, which has only happened once in the past 65 years. Current Governor Larry Hogan (R) and Ben Jealous (D) went head to head in this year's midterms.

Larry Hogan has made many changes while in office for our school systems: he has spent a record amount of money on funding, changed start and ending times of our school year, and proposed new plans. One of Hogan's

main issues he'll be focusing on this election will be the amount of money that is spent on school, and teacher funding.

Hogan has mentioned in the past that the state does not use funding for school wisely and he plans to change that. He wants to offer parents tax refunds and give them more school options such as charter schools. Hogan has allowed high school students to start college before they get their diplo-



Photo by Ritik Saini

mas, and has demanded that state, and county delegates focus on the issue of air conditioning in schools. Hogan has also planned to address the issue of accountability in

school when it comes to the misuse of spending and grade fixing.

While both candidates have views that will better our school systems, it all came down to the voters. Hogan won all Maryland counties except for Baltimore City, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County. In the end Hogan won with 56.2 percent which is a total of 1,196,993 votes, while Jealous followed with 42.8 percent which is a total of 910,890 votes.

Previous County Executive Allan Kittleman, lost to Calvin Ball by 4.7 percent of the county votes. Ball is also another candidate who is strongly dedicated to the school system, and changing it for the better.

While there was a major change in the County Executive position, the council remained relatively similar. The democrats still hold control over the council with only one republican, David Youngman, winning County Council District 5.

### Inside

#### School News

Pages 1-2  
Meet Reservoir's new Assistant Principals

Building RHS Robotics

#### Columns

Pages 3-4  
Advice column:  
Ask CJ

Ellicott City Opinion Column

#### Arts & Entertainment

Pages 5-7  
Movie Review:  
*Venom*

Look into A Christmas Carol

Thanksgiving Food Croosword

#### Sports

Page 8  
Athelete of the Fall

Pving the Path to Future Playoffs

and more...

## Storm Surge: Ellicott City Flooding Aftermath

By Maria Newell

After trying to overcome the devastation from the 2016 flood, another flash flood rolled through Ellicott City. On May 27, 2018 the Ellicott City community had a major flood that quickly turned deadly. There was several feet of water that came rolling down the streets carrying debris with it.

After the flood, there was an extreme amount of damage to all the buildings. This flood costs millions in damages. Ellicott City was still trying to recover from the last flood with the support they received from Howard County and surrounding communities.

This time many of the building owners had pressure from the county to rebuild and many did close down for good. Kara Brook Brown owns two stores on Main Street and felt the pressure from the county. "We had an emergency and it needed to be treated as such," she stated. "I'm not an engineer. I can't tell you how much they need to spend. But they need to do more than they did."



Photo by

A boarded up shop in historic Ellicott City after being destroyed by the floods.

Many people also did not want to shutter thier businesses, but Ellicott City is so below sea level that they are extremely vulnerable to to floods and heavy rain. Meteorologists say that storms will hit them more often.

David Mullen has lived there for 48 years and held a one person protest to get the county to acknowledge the damage that has happened. "I'm here to try to do something to save the town I love, the town I grew up in. I don't want to see a ghost town" he said.

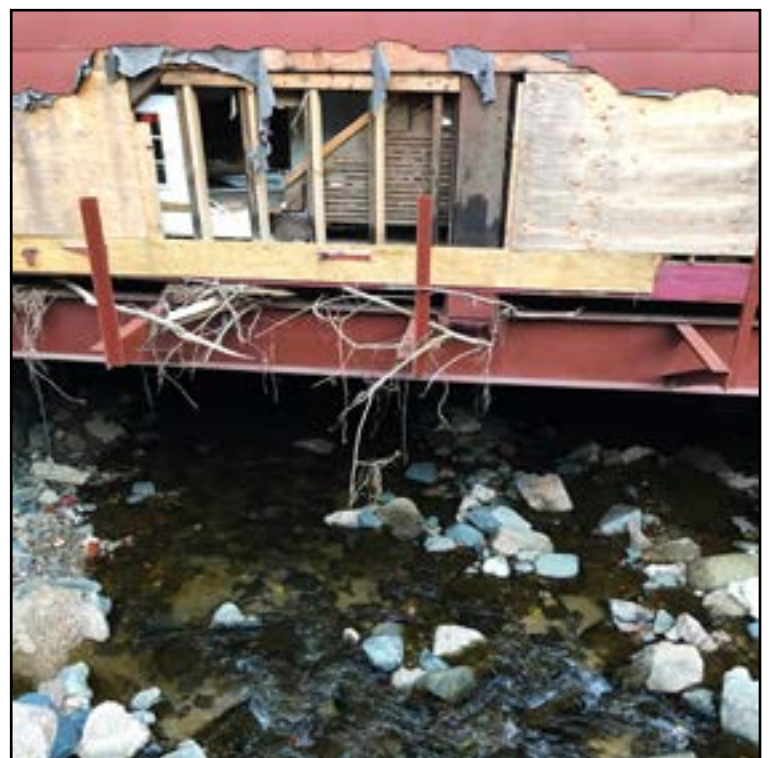


Photo by

Water remains on streets as closed shops sit abandoned.

# School News

# Columns

## An Amped A-Team: Meet the Assistant Principals

By Clare Chung, Madison Bloodworth, Elena Charalambous, Mario Morais

### Mr. Cometa

Mr. Cometa is one of the three new Assistant Principals of Reservoir High this year. Although new to Reservoir, he has been teaching for over 8 years in Howard and Anne Arundel County. Last year, he was a Vice Principal at Patapsco Middle School. He has been a part of the Howard County public school system not only as an administrator, but also as a student. He attended high school at Oakland Mills in Columbia. Mr. Cometa describes his high school experience, "I loved the diversity of the school and the opportunity that it gave me at an impressionable period in my life". During high school he was involved in school sports along with having interests engineering and wanted to pursue career in that field. However, he was motivated to become an administrator after seeing how important good instructional leadership is. Mr. Cometa says he hopes to "gain perspective by listening to the students, teachers, and parents... to connect myself to the work that needs to be done". His advice to high schoolers at RHS is to "use this time in your life to discover what it is you are passionate about and find ways to pursue that passion.". He says about RHS, "I feel very fortunate to be here, and working with this community."



Caption

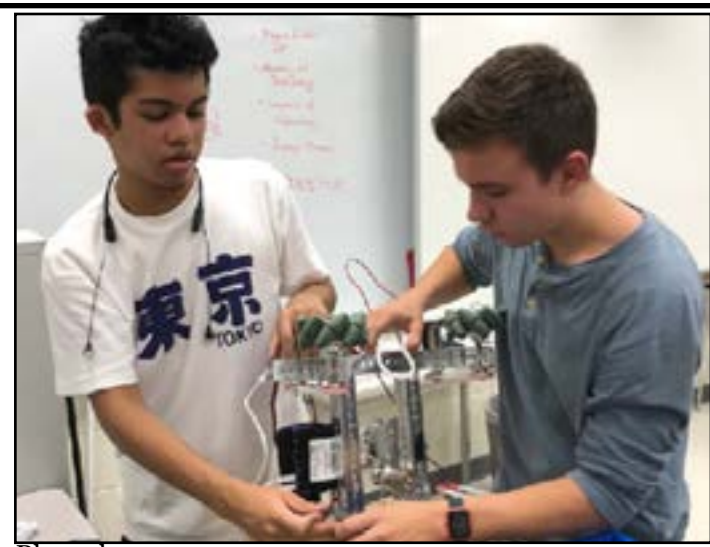


Photo by

### Looking into Robotics

By Mario Morais

When you think of a competition, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Sometimes this could be a sporting event, a singing competition, a spelling bee.

The competitions this Reservoir team competes in is unlike the one you would expect. For eight years, the Reservoir robotics team has competed in the First Tech Challenge. This competition is made up of middle and high school robotics teams that compete in different challenges every year. So far they have attended 16 regional qualifiers and progressed to four state championships. The team is composed of members who have interests in certain or many areas of STEM.

These members include software engineers, mechanical engineers, and communications and outreach specialists.

The team is headed by Mr. Wally who founded and currently mentors the team.

He believes in hands-off approach when coaching and mentoring the team. He tries to let the members brainstorm their own ideas before sometimes stepping in to provide guidance.

He enjoys seeing the success of students solving their own problems. He recalls one of his proudest moments as a mentor to be when the team went to states for the first time. The team is currently designing their robot for this year's game and is working hard to have a functional robot come competition season.

The team is always looking for new members, especially those who have an interest in communications and software engineering. Reservoir's team is looking forward to a successful season this year, and many more in the years to come.

The team is headed by Mr. Wally who founded and currently mentors the team.

### Ms. Senisi

Ms.Sensi grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania, where she attended school with the same people from preschool to high school. She then graduated high school and went on to attend the University of Delaware for four years. The first high school she had worked at as a teacher, was Centennial High School. According to Ms.Sensi, her favorite aspect of working at Centennial High School was being the SGA advisor, where she loved having the chance to meet new students. Coming to Reservoir, it was very important for Ms.Sensi to get to know her students. Ms.Sensi tries to visit various clubs and classes to see how they learn. When asked what she wanted her students to know about her, she said she loved watching her students grow throughout their four years high school. Overall, Ms.Sensi wants her students to know how welcoming she is and how her door is always open.

### Ms. Levy

Have you met Mrs. Levy? She has served as an assistant principal at Reservoir for the past two years and looks forward to getting to know this year's new students. She truly enjoys Reservoir's "staff, students, and community." Before joining Reservoir, Mrs. Levy taught social studies at Centennial High School for 16 years. In addition, she has worked as a teacher's secretary, substitute teacher, and paraeducator. Outside of school, Mrs. Levy likes to knit, bike, and spend time with her grandchildren. Mrs. Levy looks forward to an exciting rest of the school year.

### Ms. Swartz

During her career, Ms.Swartz has been a media specialist and a high school English teacher. She has received education at many different schools. She has attended Michigan State University, Glenville State College, Hood College, and Drexel University. She currently lives on a "farmette" where she has many different animals and like to spend her free time reading. She enjoys the learning process of becoming an administrator at such a large school and has fallen in love with the culture here at Reservoir. In addition, she has taken an active role in her new position by trying to have students voices heard. Ms. Swartz has started an initiative in an attempt to have "students having an active voice in policy." She will continue to do the best she can to work with both students and staff. She is hoping for a successful implementation of her new initiative and a productive and exciting school year.

## Ask CJ

By CJ McDowell

*Dear CJ: One of my best friends, someone that I've known since elementary school, has started acting differently this year. She's being mean to a lot of people and picking at other people's insecurities in our friend group. I want to tell her she's being rude and annoying and we don't have to hang with her anymore. But I don't want to seem petty or insensitive. What should I do?*

You should tell her that the way she's acting is toxic. And you don't want to be in an unhealthy environment! It can mess with your aura. Suggest to her that you are looking for peace, especially from one of your best friends.

This is an example of people being insensitive to other people's feelings. If she had a lot of confidence, then she wouldn't have to talk down to other people.

I used to be called bad names and that would wear me down. Every-

body would have their own opinions of me. They wouldn't think about how it makes me feel, they'd only think about how they feel. Usually people say these things because they're not happy or have low confidence themselves and are looking for recognition from their friends. The hate that you give when you think it's fun and jokes can affect the person in front of you. You know, people like to hold in their anger until a certain point in their life. At that time, all the things they've been through catches up to them. They own up to their morals. I heard something not too long ago about a girl who was in a mall. A stranger came up and said, "Hi, how are you?" She was confused because she had never seen this person before. She didn't recognize him. Until the stranger explained that he used to bully her in elementary school. And when she heard those words it really affected her. She recognized him and it took her back. It made her think of how all the times

she actually bullied other people and were mean to them. She realized that although someone did her wrong in the past, she had moved past it. She decided that she was too mature to hold things against them. So she forgave them.

Sometimes people need just one positive voice to help them through their days. During my harder times, I had one voice, one person to tell me that I was a strong person. This person told me that I shouldn't care about how people think about me. She protected me. Told people to back off. She was a good friend because she made me feel safe. My advice is to be honest and surround yourself with caring people who uplift you.

Every day we're given an opportunity to impact other people's lives. We can correct other people's wrongs by doing something good.

## In Depth: Ellicott City Flooding Aftermath

By

Ellicott City was flooded on May 27, 2018 for the second time in the past two years. Home and store owners watched as water streamed down cracked sidewalks, overflowing historical shops breaking many hearts.

The state and local governments are attempting to get approved funding to install 3 large ponds to prevent future floods. The expected cost will most likely be \$165 million. Former executive Kittleman, and governor Hogan have estimated funding and are waiting on approval.

And yes, it would indeed cost millions of dollars to fix the damage. But is refusing to pay that money worth risking the lives of the visitors and residents of Ellicott City? Is it worth wiping out precious history? No, it's not, because you can't put a price on someone's life.

In the most recent flooding Eddison Hermond was pulled away by the water in the streets, when he was trying to save another person's life. If the use of money can ensure that no innocent lives are lost, then I strongly believe that this must be done.



The devastation was not only to the buildings and structures, but also to people's livelihoods. Shops and restaurants that had just been rebuilt from the last flood were once again either damaged or destroyed. Devastated shop owners are now left wondering if their shops have the chance to be built again. The whole area still buzzes with frustration today, as two floods have taken their toll and nothing has been done for the community.

One of the proposed plans has been to place buildings on stilts to avoid water damage for a future flood. Additionally, it was suggested that businesses and homes move up higher on hills. On the contrary, not only would this plan be time-consuming and difficult, but it would take away the historical charm of Ellicott City. With hurricane season coming soon and an expected increase of rainfall, a plan needs to be made.

I do know one thing, however. These innocent lives and historical businesses hold too many memories to be easily washed away.

## The Gator Gazette Policy

The Gator Gazette Newspaper is a student run extra curricular activity at Reservoir High School. It is the goal of The Gator Gazette to report important subjects in a journalistic fashion. We strive to recognize all points of view and hear every voice. It is our policy to accept written opinions from readers that may be printed in the Opinions section, but names may be withheld upon request. Letters may be submitted to any newspaper editor or placed in Ms. Goldberg's mailbox in the front office. Except for clearly marked staff editorials, the articles appearing in the Opinions section do not reflect the views of the Gator Gazette or Reservoir High School, but rather those of the individual reporter.

## Mook's World by Noire Lineberry



# Arts & Entertainment

## Don't Be A Scrooge, 'A Christmas Carol' Gifts

By Camille Williams & Katie Estep

The Reservoir Theatre Department will present Patrick Barlow's comedy adaption of Charles Dickens's beloved story, A Christmas Carol. The story of Ebenezer Scrooge, played by Garrett Jacob, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. They will be performing on November 15-17 at 7:00pm, as well as the 17th at 2:00pm. Tickets will be on sale online for \$12 or at the door for \$14.

This show, like many of Reservoir's past productions, is a comedic interpretation of the original work. However, there are several unique aspects, such as the use of puppets and the idea of actors "be-



coming the furniture."

"It is the story of A Christmas Carol, but it's also so much more," says Ms. Binder, the director of the show. The cast features many of Reservoir's returning theatre performers, as well as some new faces. As Garrett Jacob, who plays Ebenezer Scrooge, said, "The cast is always different from year to year, so different people get different

parts, and we get to explore how those people do those parts."

A Christmas Carol has a small cast, which creates a warm, inviting environment.

Brooke Miller, the Ghost of Christmas Present, said, "We all come together to bring this magical, wacky creation to life and being out on stage for something like that gives you such a rush."

**Reservoir High School  
Theatre Department Presents**

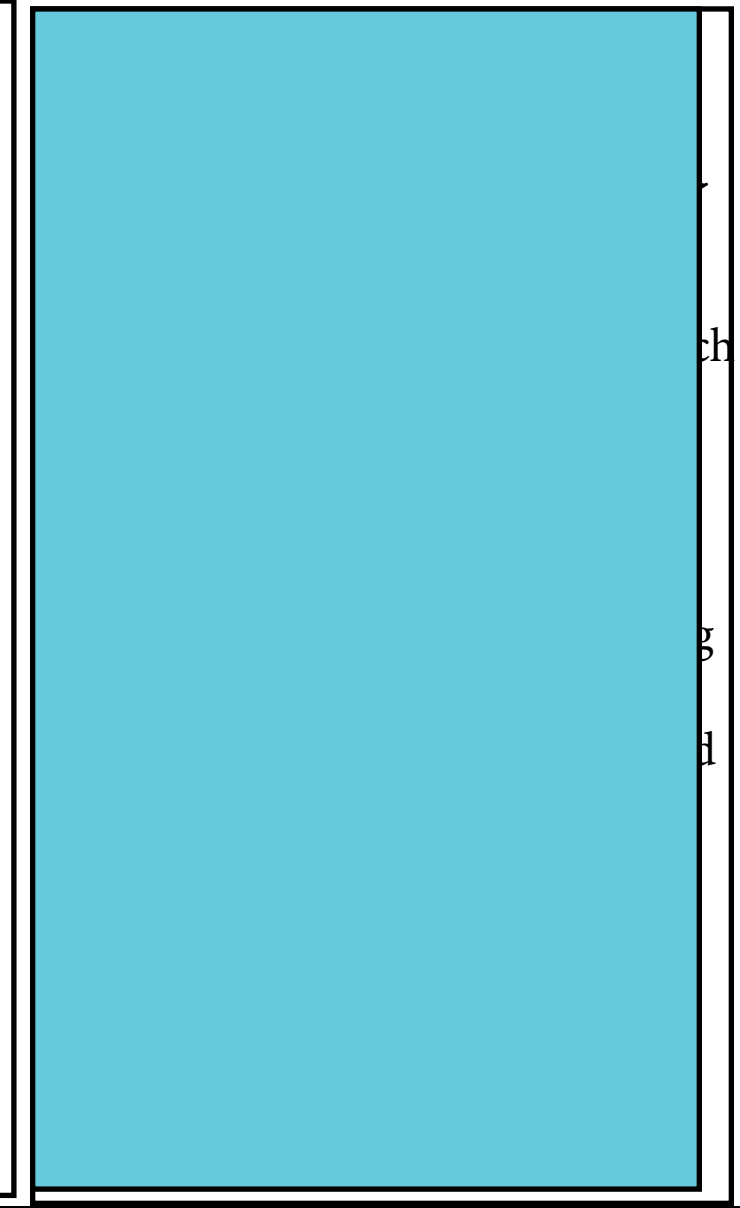
# A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens  
A Comedic Adaptation by Patrick Barlow

**Show Dates:**  
Nov 15-16 @ 7pm  
Nov 17 @ 2pm & 7pm

**Ticket Prices:**  
\$12 pre-sales general admission online:  
<https://rhsstage.booktix.com/>  
\$14 at the door

"A Christmas Carol (Barlow)" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.



## Hamilton is coming to RHS

By Maria Newell

Not every high school has an award winning score both on and off the field.

Reservoir has decided to have a Hamilton song as the halftime show. Mr. Bacon was preparing the band over the summer to play during the football game. This feature was the first time that vocals were added to the entertainment, in pace with trends in performing bands across the country.

Mr. Bacon, the band director, added vocalists to the show. But why did he want to do Hamilton? "The last few years, we have been trying to make sure we pick music that the crowd (both students and parents) will appreciate," he

said. "Hamilton had been taking the world by storm. We hope that our audience members that are familiar with the musical will be inspired to check it out."

Hamilton is known for the music and the lyrics so "it became very obvious that to do it right [they] needed to have a great vocalist (or two)" he added. It's true! They made it sound amazing. One band member added "vocals add another depth to the show." The vocals definitely shocked a lot of people. No one expected it, but were very excited to hear it.

Hopefully next year we can have a vocalist in the show. What songs would you want to see?

### Get Published!

*Love to write? Put it in print!  
Don't wait!*

The Swamp, Reservoir's Literary Magazine, is collecting submissions through December 1, 2018. Submit your poems, short stories, lyrics, art, or photography to their website. All work is student selected through anonymous submission process.

<http://rhslitmag.weebly.com>

# Arts & Entertainment

## Venom: The messy yet entertaining parasite film

By Leann Alhashishi

Hero and villain characters alike have been plastered in just about any place you can imagine. They're in comics, TV shows, books, movies, and more. So, what's the next best thing? Anti-Heroes. That's where Sony's latest production 'Venom' comes along.

What are Anti-Heroes to be exact? To put it simply, they're protagonists with no real "heroic" characteristics, but rather the opposite. De-

spite this, they still end up doing the right thing. The title character of 'Venom' fits this role rather perfectly. He doesn't quite look like a typical hero with his goopy skin, large eyes, and terrifying teeth. He also doesn't quite act like a typical hero either with his constant remarks about eating people. Despite all this, Venom still manages to save the world, exactly how an Anti-Hero would.

Characters are central to

Venom's box office charisma. Venom has an impressive character structure. However, what's not so impressive is how just about every character has close to no character development whatsoever throughout the film. Despite how much the main character went through in the movie, his personality and the way he treats the other characters stayed the exact same from beginning to end with no real growth.

On the other side, some-

thing I really enjoyed while watching the movie was the acting. All of the actors, especially Tom Hardy, did an amazing job in their roles. For most of the movie, I felt like I was watching something happen in real life. That was mostly thanks to Hardy's great performance.

That acting helped in making the action scenes jaw-droppingly entertaining. The CG used for Venom was extremely realistic which made the scenes that

much more stunning. Although some of the action scenes did feel rushed to cut time, the majority were definitely the highlights of the film.

Overall, 'Venom' had its good sides and its bad sides as well. If entertainment was all you were looking for in this movie, then you've hit jackpot. For the people that want a great and developed story, I don't think this film delivers that.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Thanksgiving Food!

The clues below are teachers, and the answers are their favorite foods! Do not use spaces or punctuation

Created with [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net) Crossword Puzzle Generator

**Across**

8. Dr. Yienger (7, 5, 6)
9. Mr. Edlowitz, Mr. Morton, Ms. Grassi, Coach Rogers (8)

**Down**

1. Ms. Lin (6, 6)
2. Mr. Valvano, Mr. Chishti, Mr. Bacon, and Ms. Lee (7, 3)
3. Ms. Frisvold (9, 5)
4. Ms. Kohout (6, 8)
5. Ms. Goldberg and Ms. Carl (5, 8)
6. Mr. Dudley and Ms. Binder (5, 3)
7. Mr. Sullivan (5, 6)

# Crunch Time: Apple Products Shine

By Caleb Fields

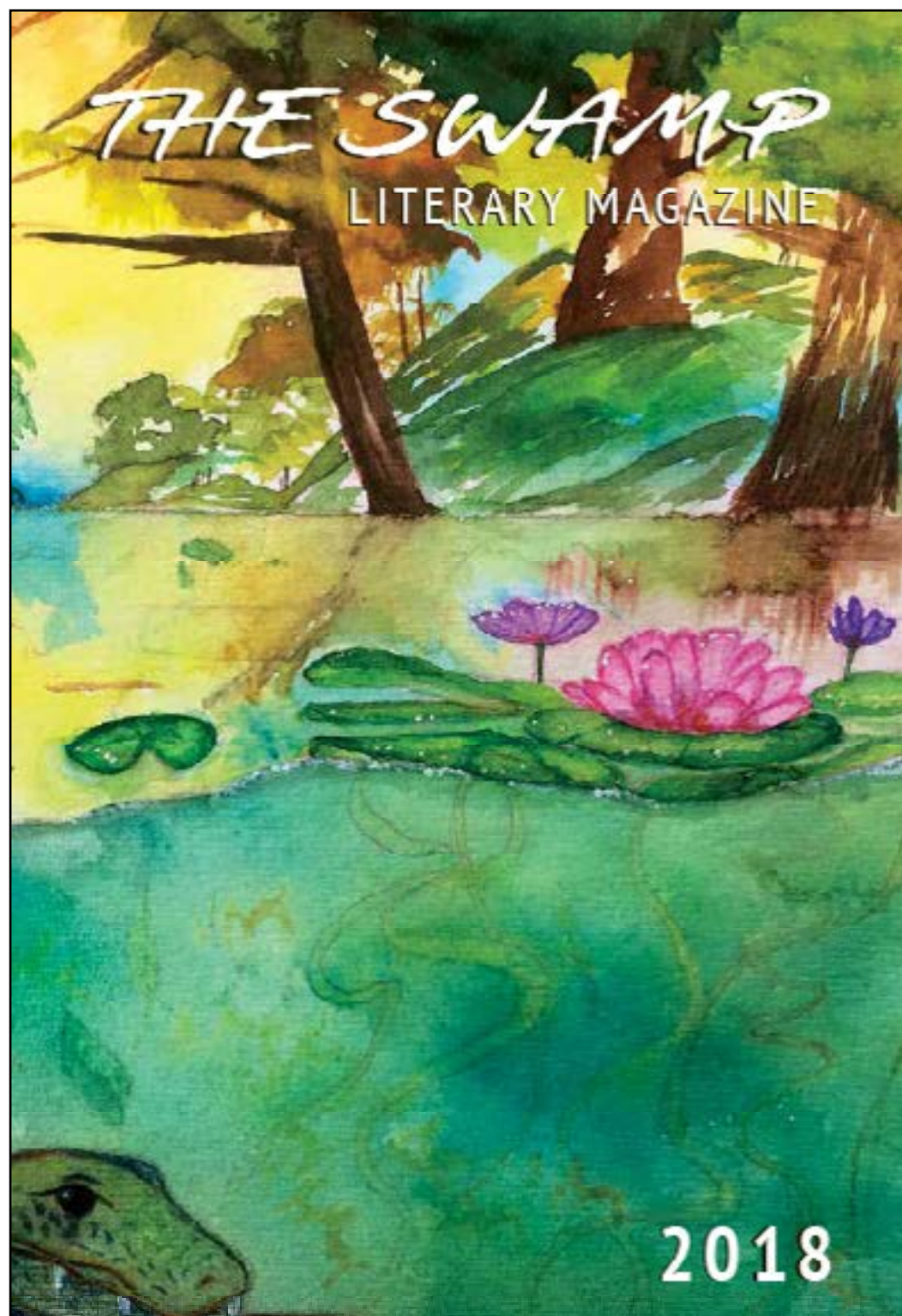
Apple products are used by many people in today's world (myself included), and it's easy to look at the advancement record of the company and see why that is. They have gone from an underdog startup company to a giant in the tech industry that sells millions of units every year. Apple has been hailed as a major innovator and the force that caused the boom in demand for "smartphones" in the market. However, the recent announcement for the iPhone XS, XS Max, and XR reveal a disturbing pattern of focusing less on innovation, and more on "copy and paste".

Every year, the newer additions to the Apple product line tend to be advertised as having a specific feature or stylistic change that is supposed to make it stand out from the other phones being released at that time. For example, the iPhone 6 and 6s both had a sleek and slim design which not only was aesthetically pleasing, but provided a larger screen for video streaming and mobile games. The iPhone X made a bold move by completely removing the home button and instead allowed for the screen to cover the entire front side of the device. While the X

was considered a financial failure for the company, the new look received positive feedback overall.

With that being said, what features do the new iPhones bring to the table? With every release, Apple boasts of a better camera and a battery with a larger capacity, and this addition is no exception. The one main difference between the X and its newer models is that there is room for dual sim card compatibility. Aside from that, it is merely an iPhone X with a Nikon quality camera and an additional \$50. Honestly, anyone would be better off just buying the X.

## Reservoir's New Literary Magazine Publishes Student Work



More than 400 copies of The Swamp Literary Magazine were distributed in May.

# Date Highlight

Friday, November 16 at 7:00pm  
Fall Play: A Christmas Carol

Friday November 30th at 7:00pm  
Winter Concert #1

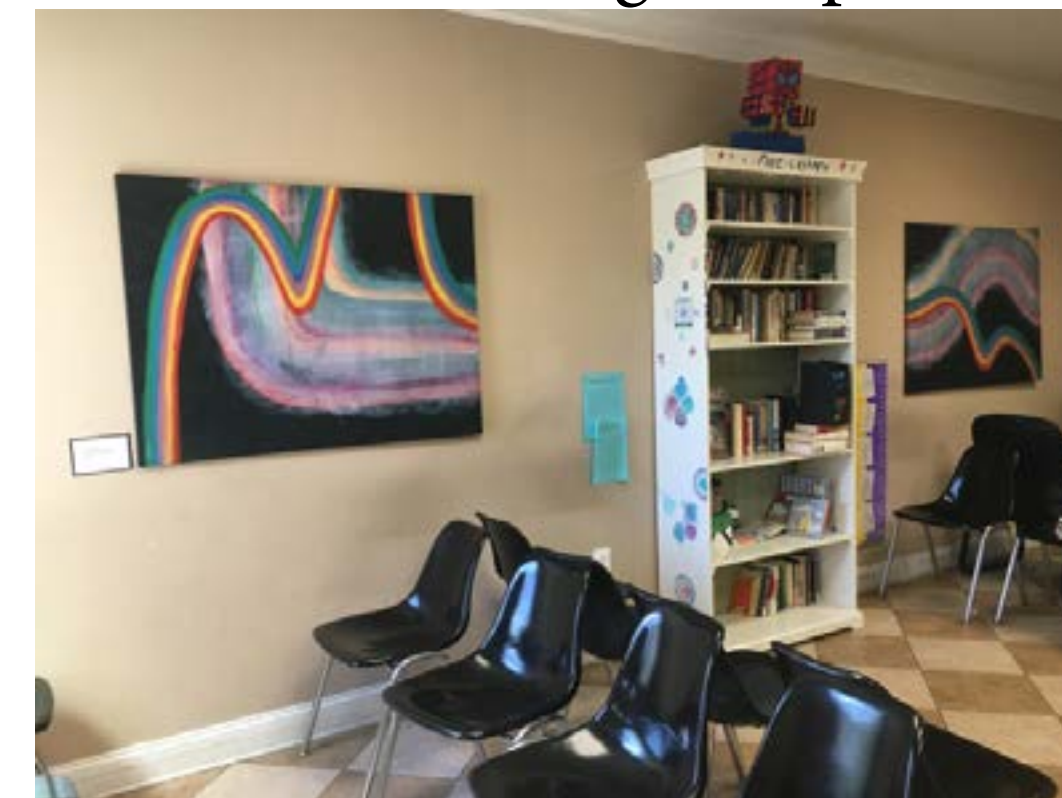
Wednesday December 5th at 7:00pm  
Winter Concert #2

Thursday December 6th  
Senior Portrait Makeup

Thursday December 6th at 7:00pm  
NHS Induction Ceremony

Wednesday December 19th at 7:00pm  
GT Program Information Night

## Senior's Artwork Lights Up LARS



Snior Sophie Striegel's artwork was exhibited at the laurel Advocacy Referel services from July through November in their main lobby.

Five Mile Review...

## New Mall Features

By

### Be A Champ

CHAMPS-(3.8 stars) The wide selection of sneakers ranged from mediocre to amazing in craftsmanship and had such an array of styles that it could leave anyone paralysed in a paradox of choice. The area itself was sizable enough and there was enough room to properly try on a selected pair. The customer service was lacking, more specifically, the employees didn't say anything while ringing me up. However, there are some consumers who don't mind that sort of service.

### Strike! At Main Event

Main Event- (4 stars) There is not much to say about this store in particular. The ambiance is quite similar to most arcades designed for an older audience. It's Dave & Buster's mixed with Bowling. That's to say that it has the updated arcade format and the built in restaurant. The addition of several bowling alley honestly enriches experience and makes it stand out.

## Swirling Options

Shake Shack-(4.5 stars) There is a reason this restaurant always has such a long line (aside from convenient placement). I ordered a cheeseburger with shack sauce and crinkle fries. This meal was sublime in both taste and presentation. The employees were laughing and having fun behind the counter, but still being cordial to customers and productive in their jobs. The atmosphere, and customer service, made the experience even more enjoyable.

## Sweet Treats

Lolli & Pops-(4.8 stars) Lolli & Pops is located on the first floor and often has an energetic employee standing outside. Lolli & Pops creates an old-time aesthetic that won't soon be forgotten and offers the products to match. They sell candy that ranges from foreign gummies, european chocolate, freshly made macarons and truffles. As for the customer service, it gives Chick-fil-a a run for its money, and I look forward to visiting it again.

## Looking into Jake Paul: Review of Shane Dawson's Miniseries

By Ridah Raja

Famous Youtuber Shane Dawson has recently released his next series on his channel starring Youtuber, Jake Paul, and his videos have stirred conversation between his viewers. Jake Paul is a 20 year old Youtuber who lives in LA and isn't exactly loved by the general public. There is a lot of controversy around Jake as a person, and Shane wanted to explore that. The main idea of Shane's videos has been trying to diagnose

Jake as a sociopath. He went as far as sitting down with a professional therapist to talk about Jake and if he matches the title of a sociopath. So far Shane has released three videos, each analyzing a different aspect of Jake's life. Shane has been researching Jake's business: Team 10, his friends and even his family. Since Jake's older brother, Logan Paul, is also a Youtuber, the two relate quite a bit which is why Shane mentions him throughout the videos as

well. Through these videos Shane has hinted that he believes Jake to be a sociopath through different subliminal messages and images. These accusations have bothered a great deal of both Youtuber's followers. People are claiming Shane to be insensitive because he made such a big accusation without any experience of studying mental health. Their arguments are that mental health is a serious issue and no one should have

the right to go around diagnosing others. In Shane's videos he made sociopaths look like monsters that everyone should fear which has bothered a ton of people. Millions of people have tweeted Shane sharing their opinions. Other Youtubers have even stepped in and made videos voicing their opinions on the issue. Even Jake's brother made a video trying to explain how Shane took a wrong approach on this topic. Logan claims that no one is a full on so-

ciopath, everyone lies on a spectrum, including himself. He tries to explain that people can have sociopathic tendencies, like his brother but not be a total sociopath. Although this was one side of the argument, other believed that Shanes videos were not interesting enough. Many people claimed that he was acting too dramatic in the videos even though there wasn't much exciting footage. After receiving this mixed backlash, Shane first apol-

# Sports

## Cross Country with Coach Gessler

By Maggie Dickie

The cross country team at Reservoir has been around for many years supported by Phillip Rogers. A few years ago a new coach, to work with Coach Rogers, was hired, Dr. Robert “Bobby” Gessler. Coach Gessler is not only a coach at Reservoir, but has also been a coach for the Howard County Junior Striders for the past 17 years. Additionally, he teaches coaching certification classes for the Road Runners Club of America and for USA Track and Field. Coach Gessler is inspiring to the cross country team and to anyone who knows him. An interview was conducted to find out some more information about him. Included are some important quotes from the interview.

When asked what made him want to become a coach he said, “I think what I enjoyed the most was actually being a runner, and I got interested in coaching after getting interested in what makes a runner run faster, ‘how can we run faster?’” He also added, “It’s one of those things that once you start anybody who’s a runner feels the same way as when you finish a race or you finish a run you think ‘I can do better, I can do better.’”

Coach Gessler is also a doctor and when asked how his background has helped him become a better coach he said, “I think that just using my science background helps me putting all of that together and formulating plans and programs for the athletes to get better, and I just enjoy watching the athletes improve.” He added, “I love it with the high schoolers because that’s a group that you see their going through a lot of different changes.”

He highlighted what he

likes about being a coach, “My favorite part of being a coach is when athletes are able to accomplish something that they never thought they would be able to do... pushing your body in a way that they’ve not done before... The beauty of distance running is you can use this in other parts of your life because you have to be dedicated, motivated, disciplined, you have to put in the work because if you don’t put in the work you’re not going to get better. It’s the same thing with anything you do in life.”

When asked how he encourages athletes, he said, “Motivation partly comes from the inside, but my role as a coach is to try to even out the bad patches because any runner has a bad patch... So for me it’s just try to encourage the athletes to keep going one leg in front of the other just keep onward and upward... There’s ways we can encourage athletes so that they just don’t dwell on the negatives, there’s always positives, even in the worst of circumstances you can find something positive in what somebody does.... Once they believe in themselves then I think that the motivation happens from the inside because once that’s there then part of my job is done. They’re already motivated now it’s to get them better and to get them faster.”

On how being a coach at Reservoir has affected his life he said, “The kids work hard... but you know what the goal is, [it] is to get better to do things that you haven’t done before, be cohesive as a team. That’s what I really like about cross country is it has a lot more of a team aspect.” One other thing he added was, “I always try to learn from every season, every athlete, every day [I] try to learn something new and that’s the way it makes life interesting.”

## Athlete of the Fall: Caroline Rosenberry

By Camila Mendez

Caroline Rosenberry is making tracks at Reservoir. Her biggest influences are her two brothers. They allowed her to understand the importance of being part of a Reservoir team. She currently runs cross country, plays lacrosse, and does horseback riding.

Caroline ran her first 5k in fifth grade while participating in Girls on the Run. She then went on to join the Howard County Striders, a cross-country running program, every fall year up to eighth grade. She shares that one of her favorite memories so far has been competing at the Bull Run Invitational. “It was a meet at Hereford High School, and I remember being energized because of the cool weather. I was excited to see the course since its field and infamous hills are used for the Maryland State XC championships. It was my second invitational and being with the team was really fun. Once I finished racing I felt enthusiastic since I had my best time of the season so far.”

Throughout this season, Caroline has trained intensely. She became more Her goal this fall season was to improve her times at each



Photo by

meet.

“Coach Rogers has instilled a great training ethic. He really emphasizes that being idle won’t get you anywhere, and that without training hard you can’t improve your time. He encourages us to be passionate about running,” Caroline said. Caroline also iterates one of the important things taught in cross country “Excuses will always be there for you, but opportunities won’t.” To her, this was important “because in running, and other sports, once you’ve already raced and you didn’t try your hardest, you can’t get that opportunity back.”

She describes her own self to be her worst enemy. “Sometimes while racing in a meet I’ll think that I’m not able to make it to the finish line and I’ll lose some motivation.”

In order to overcome

this, she writes: “I always try focusing my attention on something else to distract me from thinking about what’s happening in the race, and that has helped me finish faster.”

Her teammates have also been able to help her and each other during difficult times. Caroline describes the team as “a really close group and very supportive of each other.”

She iterates their importance to her by writing, “This has impacted me because they’ve helped me during tough meets and practices. They’re experiencing the same thing as I am, which makes it easier to work through.”

Caroline placed third overall in the Bull Run Invitational with a time of :23:37. for the 3 mile run. At the Frank Keyser Invitational, one of the recent races, Caroline earned a personal best time of 21:11.5 for the same run. For the 5000 meter race, she has a personal record of 23:38.7. All the hard work she puts into running reflects on her times.

As a first year student, Caroline appears to be on track to becoming a great asset to high school teams and keeping a family tradition.

## Paving the Path to Playoffs

By Aminah Malik

The girls varsity soccer team has always been one of Reservoir’s top athletic teams. The girls are determined to have a great season, and their sights are set on states. With their current record, as of October 9th, of 7 wins, 1 loss, and 2 ties, the team is already off to an exceptional start.

The girls came up with a big win against Atholton, emerging as one of the school’s only varsity teams to take down our biggest rivals. After being knocked out of the playoffs by them last season, the team was eager to play well that game. Tapping into their best moments, they earned a great 2-1 victory.

Unlike the typical team, ours boasts talented players from all four grades. The girls all have wonderful personalities that really



Caption

bring them together. Head coach Ranker emphasizes that the greatest thing about the team is the players themselves. They all come “everyday ready to work hard and pick each other up in their moments of need,” he says. Through injuries, illnesses, and other issues, everyone is determined to stick together and succeed as a team.

The regular season is coming to a close, but the team has achieved a nice point to enter the playoffs into. Everyday they improve and everyday they get closer to the perfect team. With them playing at their best, there really are very few teams that could challenge them.

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