



Volume XLVII Issue I

Oakland Mills High School

October 28, 2022

## Beneath The Headlines



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## No More Snow Days? New HCPSS Policy



**Theresa Eru**  
*Staff Writer*  
In September, the Howard County Board of Education revealed that up to three inclement weather days can be substituted for asynchronous learning days. This decision came after the Maryland State Department of Education allowed local schools to implement asynchronous learning for inclement weather days.

According to the official Howard coun-

ty website HCPSS.org, asynchronous learning expectation will be that work must be completed and submitted in exchange for attendance. As for special education students, they will also be pro-

vided with asynchronous assignments that will accommodate their learning needs.

As for HCPSS staff, they will have responsibilities to uphold depending on the level they teach. Some of those re-

sponsibilities include surveying families to see which student will need hard copies of assignments, posting assignments within two hours of the beginning of the regular start time for students, and teaching a continuation of current content and not new topics.

The good news is, synchronous sessions are off the table. We will still have the freedom and flexibility of traditional snow days.

## Rescheduled Renovations for OMHS Community Members Advocate for a Better Future

**Vic Burch**  
*News Editor*  
Since 2009, OMHS has been scheduled to receive renovations, yet, renovations have continuously been delayed. Most recently, the renovations scheduled for 2026 were delayed until 2033. On September 21, the OMHS Student Executive Board held an assembly explaining exactly what that would mean for the school, urging students to testify at the HCPSS Board of Education meeting with their perspectives. Hundreds of students signed a petition to get the school renovated as soon as

possible.

At the HCPSS Board of Education meeting on September 22, 2022, numerous OM community members testified. The OMHS Student Executive Board

and panels are falling out. Another 10 years will exacerbate these problems." Many OMHS students describe feeling unsafe at school and worried for their health. One student testified



representatives stated that "The county has already deferred our school for so long that our HVAC system now requires a full replacement, our ceilings are leaking,

"As a student, I do not feel safe going to school everyday knowing that we do not have the airflow to combat viruses like COVID-19. I also do not feel safe knowing

that mold has formed because the HVAC system cannot mix in fresh air while keeping humidity down."

On September 29, 2022, the Board of Education voted 4-3 to make OM a priority. It was later announced that Oakland Mills was again scheduled for renovations in 2026. But, to many community members, the proposition to postpone the renovations to the school building even further was still another sign of the county's willingness to neglect the needs of Oakland Mills High School students and staff members.

# International News

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## The Invasion of Armenia 2022 Azerbaijani Illegal Action

**Carter Keenan**

*Staff Writer*

Recently, on September 12th 2022, the armed forces of Azerbaijan renewed their war with Armenia, leaving a trail of blood and death in their path. This causes a humanitarian disaster in the small country of Armenia.

This conflict is not new and has its roots in the fall of the Soviet Union where both countries fought over the land of Nagorno-Karabakh, a region legally inside of Azerbaijan but ethnically Armenian.

The first conflict ended with a ceasefire in 1994. In 2020, the two sides started fighting again, this time ending with neither side victorious. However, Armenian territory in Nagorno-Karabakh was lost to Azerbaijan.

The conflict re-ignited after Azerbaijani troops began firing and advancing through the mountains towards Armenian towns. After these first few clashes, it was discovered that Azerbaijani troops had massacred civilians and executed

Armenian prisoners of war. This led Armenia to call on the UN to denounce Azerbaijan's blatant war crimes while simultaneously calling on Russia and the Collective Security Treaty Organization to come to Armenia's aid. Yet, very limited action has been taken. Russia has refused to honor its alliance with their justification being that it can not spare resources due to the war in Ukraine. The UN has been quietly looking into Armenia's claims as more and more evi-

dence comes out, including videos spread by Azerbaijani soldiers proudly boasting about beheading and murdering Armenian civilians. Though many countries have stayed silent, the US has been vocal about how it will not let Armenia be trampled on easily and has sent several Delegates to Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, to discuss both humanitarian and military aid.

Although this is a heavy military conflict, it is important not to forget (*Continued on page 3*)

## Protests in Iran: Supporting Mahsa Amini

**Amy Dominguez**  
*Features Editor*

On September 16, 2022, 22-year old Mahsa Amini died in police custody in Iran. Three days before her death, Amini was arrested by the morality police of Iran for violating Iran's conservative dress code. She was in police custody for two hours until she was transported to the Kasra hospital where she was declared brain dead. Authorities have denied beating Amini and have stated that the cause of her death was sudden heart failure, but her family members have denied that she ever had any prior health conditions that could have led to heart failure. Amini's sudden death

has since resulted in worldwide protests against the Iranian government.

This incident happened in the capital city of Iran, Tehran. Some of us may recognize this name as the setting of the 10th grade graphic novel, *Persepolis*. Like the graphic novel displays, Iran has a very conservative and strict dress code, especially towards women. Unfortunately, Amini was arrested because authorities had accused her of not wearing her hijab properly. During her funeral, her mother



stated, "Why, why? My daughter had a proper Hijab and her coat was long and black, but I don't know why she was arrested." Authorities told Amini's family to not speak about her case, but that has not stopped the media from talking about it.

Many Iranians protesting Amini's wrongful death have faced deadly violence, internet restrictions, and mass arrests. The protests started in September, and have continued to this day. In order

to protest against the injustice, many young ladies have taken off their hijab and are waving them in Iranian schools and streets. They have also been chanting, "death to the director," towards Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

It is estimated that around 215 people have been killed during the protests since they started. Not only are many people getting arrested, but children who protest are being taken to psychological institutions. As more and more protests continue to rise, violence also rises. Although violence is rising, Iranian women continue to stand together in order to fight injustice.

## Souls of The Scroll

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*Jordyn Gittens*

*Juel Collins*

*Tay Washington*

*Oba Aofolaju*

*Theresa Eru*

## Midterm Elections 2022

### *What Outcomes to Expect*

**Kylee Hoffman**

*Editor in Chief*

On Tuesday, November 8, The United States will hold the 2022 Midterm Elections to fill the seats opening in Congress in the 2024 terms. This year, 35 senate seats and 435 House of Representatives seats will be changed, turned, and filled. Two-year House terms are coming to a close as well as some six-year senate terms, causing much anticipation within the country.

Historically speaking, it is common for the majority of Congress to be made up of the party opposite of the President. President Biden is a Democrat, meaning that if Congress followed historic patterns, Republicans would be the primary party representative in Congress. However, since the pushback surrounding the overturn of Roe v Wade in June, it is looking that Democrats may control Congress for another term.

Seats in both institutions

**Armenia** civilians nowhere (continued from page 2) those civilians on both sides who are living through a challenge nobody should have to live through. Every day and every night, innocent

are having their homes taken by soldiers to use as makeshift camps, their cities bombed, their kids killed, and some even being forced out of their homes with

to go in an unescapable war.

Though this conflict has just started, it is proving to be one of the worst humanitarians crises in the region's history.

are very likely to flip this year, meaning occupants will switch from Democratic party to GOP and vice versa. Eric Garcia reporting for The Independent has predicted the top five states with the highest possibility of flipping seats in the Senate.

Nevada, currently represented by Democrats, is expected to flip to Adam Lexalt, a Republican. Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman (D) of Pennsylvania is expected to replace current PA Senator Dr. Mehmet Oz (R). In Georgia, Herschel Walker (R) is leading Raphael Warnock (D) and is expected to take over the Senate seat. Wisconsin will likely be turning Democrat with Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes leading well ahead of the pri-

mary elections. North Carolina is witnessing the tightest race in the country between Cheryl Beasley (D) and Todd Budd (R), with Beasley in the lead at the time of publication

As for Maryland, Chris Van Hollen (D) is running for

his second term against Chris Chaffee (R) with polls on ballotpedia.org showing

favor towards Van Hollen. Current Governor Larry Hogan is finishing up his second and final term as the third most popular Governor in the United States, according to Morning Consult. The pre-election polls are favoring Democratic candidate Wes Moore over Republican Dan Cox to take Hogan's seat in office in 2023. According to WBALTV, "At this time



eight years ago, the New York Times-CBS poll showed Anthony Brown up 22 points over Larry Hogan. Hogan went on to win," showing that it is still possible for Cox to make a comeback.

In terms of the House of Representatives, many two year terms are up, meaning it is time to fill the House. Democrats have held the majority since January of 2019, and are predicted to hold it through this next election season. On The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, current House speaker Nancy Pelosi said, "I believe that we will win the House—hold the House...And we will hold the House—by winning more seats."

Elections will take place November 8 with results being updated live. Stay tuned for election results and to see who takes Hogan's seat!

## World Cup 2022

### *What to Expect*

**Bo Omidiran**  
*Staff Writer*

The 2022 World Cup will be hosted in Qatar, which will be the second World Cup to be hosted in Asia. This World Cup will be the 22nd World Cup, scheduled to take place from November 20 to December 18.. The tournament will have 32 teams involved from 5 different Confederations, of which there will be 8 groups, A to H. The tournament will have football stars from everywhere in the world, like Lionel Messi, Christiano Ronaldo, Robert Lewandowski, Sadio Mane, and more. People from all



over the World are excited because it is the first World Cup hosted in the Winter instead of the Summer. It was supposed to be held this Summer but was postponed due to the weather in the host country.

The first match that will be played in the 2022 World Cup is the host nation, Qatar, VS Ecuador at Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor. There will

be 5 African teams, 6 Asian teams, 2 Central American teams, 2 North American teams, 4 South American teams, and 13 European teams. The teams that finish 1st and 2nd for each group will advance to the Round 16.

The artist performing the World Cup anthem will be Lil Baby, an American professional rapper and songwriter. There will be 8 stadiums used for the Qatar 2022 World Cup this year. People from all over the world are very excited for the Qatar 2022 World Cup and cannot wait to see which nation will be crowned champions of the tournament this year.

# Featured Food

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## Becca Bakes: Easy Fall Soup

### Easy and Cozy Dinner for a Beautiful Fall Evening

**Rebecca Fairbanks**

*Managing Editor*

Becca Bakes is back from a long summer break! In this edition of Becca Bakes, I will be sharing a recipe for a very delicious and easy fall soup that can be paired with biscuits. This recipe was passed down to me from my mother and grandmother and has been a staple in my house my entire life during the fall season. It is super easy to make and is perfect for a fall party or a cozy family dinner. Let me explain how it is made!

The soup is mainly a vegetable-based soup and can be made with any variety of vegetables that you prefer. For my recipe, I make it with my favorite fall vegetables which are green squash, butternut squash, red and yellow onions, carrots, celery, yellow



squash, and broccoli. I cut the vegetables into one-inch chunks and place them on cookie sheets which are lined with parchment paper. After all the veggies are cut and placed on the cookie sheets, I coat them generously with extra virgin olive oil, salt, pepper, garlic powder, paprika, onion powder, and a very tiny sprinkle of nutmeg. I use my hands, that are washed and clean, to mix the veggies together with all of the oil and spices. To my oven that is pre-heated to 400 degrees Fahrenheit, I put the vegetables

in and let them cook for about 30 minutes or until the veggies are soft and cooked through.

After the veggies are cooked thoroughly, I take them out of the oven and begin to prepare to make the soup. To prepare, I take out a large pot, a blender, chicken bone broth, and light cream. I begin making the soup by adding increments of vegetables and a splash of bone broth to the blender. I blend the veggies and broth until the soup is smooth and there are no chunks of veggies. I then pour the soup into my pot and set the heat to low to keep the soup warm as I blend the remaining veggies and broth. There are no exact measurements for this soup, therefore

you can make as much or as little as you would like. After all the veggies have been blended and the soup is in the pot, I like to taste the soup and season to my preference as well as add a splash of light cream to make the soup creamier.

Ta da! The soup is done! This soup can be paired with biscuits or little sandwiches to make this a complete dinner. I love this recipe and how delicious and easy it is to make. In my house, my family calls this soup "Grampy's Soup" since it was made by my great-grandfather. I hope that this recipe gives you an easy dinner idea that really amplifies the amazing feelings of the fall season! Until next time, stay tuned for more from Becca Bakes!

## Spooky Vegan Dishes

### Scarily Good Animal-free foods

**Jada Fowler**

*Photography Manager*

Have you ever gone to a party that has nothing you can eat there, whether it is because there are dairy, nuts, or meat in the food? Well, that's how vegans feel at parties that don't have any plant based foods. I do understand when people hear "vegan," they only think of vegetables on a plate. Thankfully, because of the modern world we live in, vegans have alternative food choices. To help out the people trying to include their vegan friends, I can show you five recipes that vegans can eat.

The first recipe will be Potato Skins; this is a simple recipe. To start off, preheat the oven to 400 degrees. After preheating the oven, cut the potatoes in half. Then, you can either scoop out the potato until there is only a thin

layer of potato skin or you can scoop only part of the potato out. After doing so, pour some pizza sauce into the newly



made potato dent. Then use some type of vegan cheese to place on the top of the pizza sauce. You can either leave the pizza that way or add vegan pepperoni, vegan sausage, or veggie toppings. When done personalizing your potato skins, put them in the oven for 20 minutes. After 20 minutes, your potato skins are finished and ready for the party.

Sweets are loved by many, including vegans! That is why the next recipe is Rice Krisp

ie Treats. Making vegan Rice Krispie treats is a little different from regular ones as you have to make them with other

ingredients. The first thing you want to do is add vegan butter to a medium heated pan. After the butter has melted, add vegan marshmallows. Stir them together until the marshmallows look gooey. In a separate bowl, add one tablespoon of almond milk or oat milk, along with a pinch of salt. When that is done, add the gooey marshmallows to the bowl. Then stir until everything is mixed well. Add the mixture to your preferred tray (you can add food col-

oring to the rice krispies to make them look different). Wait a couple minutes for the marshmallows to set, then they are good to eat.

There are so many pizza places around the world, but pizza is better when made at home, since you can change or design it anyway you want to. The next recipe is mini halloween pizzas. First, preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Then get pizza crust that does not have eggs or milk in it, and cut it into mini shapes. When you are done cutting, find your pizza sauce and evenly spread it around your crust. Then, get the vegan cheese of your choice and put it on the top of the sauce. Place the pizza in the oven for 12 minutes. After 12 minutes have passed, your mini halloween pizzas are ready! (continued on page 5)

## Black Panther

### *The Legacy Continues*

**Oba Afolaju**

*Staff Writer*

The Marvel cinematic universe is vast and filled with many superheroes. A fan favorite has been Black Panther, the king of Wakanda who also goes by the name of T'Challa.

The first installment of the movie was a major hit as it grossed 700 million when it was released on February 16, 2018. The movie had a huge impact in pop-culture as it brought more representation for black people in the media. The ability to have representation in the media is such an important thing for all groups, but the fact that the movie was released during Black



History Month is what made it a statement.

The director, Ryan Coogler, is known for his renowned movie *Fruitvale Station*, the story of Oscar Grant, killed in 2009 by Bay Area Rapid Transit police officer

Johannes Mehserle in Oakland, California.

The standards are high for the new Black Panther sequel. In the hearts of many Marvel fans is Chadwick Boseman, who played T'Challa, as he passed away just two years after the first movie. Boseman had a very close relationship with his co-stars on and off screen. Micheal B Jordan and Lupita Nyong'o, his co-stars mourned him greatly as did Coogler. Boseman's passing took a huge toll on Coogler to the point where he had to rewrite the entire script

for the movie. They chose to respect the great actor and not replace his role. Instead, Letitia Wright, who plays Shuri, will become the next Black Panther.

Actor Tenoch Huerta is another milestone for representation in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. He is among the few latin actors to have a big role in a Marvel movie. In the new Black Panther movie, he will play the role of Namor the sea king of Atlantis. The movie is highly anticipated and it is set to release on November 11th, 2022. Tickets are available for presale on Fandango and AMC websites.

## Deadpool 3

### *With Hugh Jackman as Wolverine*

**Aidan Humphrey**

*Staff Writer*

The hype around Deadpool 3 continues to grow as new updates and clips reveal exciting information. Fans of the Marvel Cinematic Universe have seen the clips and updates and have so many questions for what is to come next for Deadpool 3.

The original Deadpool, and Deadpool 2, were both very popular at the time they were released with both earning upwards of \$780 million. These movies were known for their R-rated jokes and action packed scenes. These last two Deadpool movies have not been a part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) with characters from the X-Men series appearing. However, the upcoming Dead-



pool 3 movie will be taking place inside the Marvel Cinematic Universe sparking lots of ideas that could occur throughout the movie. The most important news of it all is Deadpool 3 will be starring Hugh Jackman as Wolverine.

Jackman has starred in many movies, but the most memorable movies have to be the Wolverine series. He has played in nine films in the X-men series, Wolverine movies, and Logan, movies all playing the role of Wolverine which has become iconic to Jackman. Jackman has also played in a variety of other mov-

ies such as *The Greatest Showman*, *Reminiscence*, *Free Guy*, and many more.

Ryan Reynolds is also returning from the past two Deadpool movies as he is the star of this series. With his comedic effect and acting skills, the MCU had to bring him back for this third Deadpool movie. Reynolds and Jack-

man have made videos announcing Jackman in the movie and have also revealed more comedic scenes.

There have been rumors that there will be more short clips revealing more information leading up to the movie. With many fans still wondering what is to come next for Deadpool 3, only time can tell.

**Vegan**  
*(continued from page 4)*

When Halloween rolls around there are always fake eyeballs, mummy's, ghosts, and severed finger snacks. Using crescent dough sheets we are going to make severed fingers. Preheat your oven to 325 degrees. Then cut horizontally four inches of dough (depending on how long your dough sheet is you might have to cut it in half). After that you want to get about two or three tablespoons of strawberry jam and equally spread it in the middle of your cut dough square. You then want to

roll the dough into a cylinder shape with the jam in the middle. Once you have done that you want to pinch the ends together so the jam does not leak out. Then put it into the oven for 30 minutes. When time is up let the finger's sit for about five to ten minutes, then you want to put a little bit of jam on one end of the finger so it looks severed. On the other end you want to push the crust down with a spoon. Then you want to put a pinch of jam on the part of the crust you just pushed down. You will then need to find an almond and cut it in

half. You want to take  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the almond and place it on the dented part of the finger. Place the  $\frac{1}{2}$  almond (white side up) gently on top of the pinch of jam so it looks like a fingernail. Then that is it, you are all done!

These recipes should help you include your vegan friends in the fun while at a party. Nobody likes being hungry at an entire party as it makes people want to leave so they can get something to eat. So make sure to include all your friends during your Halloween parties!

# Features

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## Homecoming Dance Wrap Up Hoco Week 2022

**Janiyah O'Brien**

*Staff Writer*

Homecoming week is one of the most awaited events for a high school student. The theme for this year's homecoming was video games. For the days of spirit week, we had themes which were:

**Monday- PJ day**

**Tuesday- Character/celebrity day**

**Wednesday- Wear pink**

**Thursday- Adam Sandler day**

**Friday- Class color day**

Not only was Friday class color day, but the pep rally was also held in the football stadium. Each grade wore their assigned colors in which the Freshmen wore gray, Sophomores wore orange, Juniors wore black, and Seniors wore white. The pep rally was filled with a lot of excitement and class spirit as grade levels fought to be champions of various games and activities. On Friday morning, we held the Hallway Decorating Competition. Every grade

decorates part of the hallway according to the homecoming theme. The competition this year was very fierce. Here are our winners:

**1st- Seniors**

**2nd-Sophomores**

**3rd- Freshmen**

**4th- Juniors**

Along with the Hallway Decorating Competition, the Homecoming Court was also announced. The winners were:

**Hoco Royalty: Allen Simon and Aliyah Murray**

**12th grade: Shannon Bache and Cassidy Vines**

**11th grade: Alyssa Ball and Fisayo Sule**

**10th grade: Promise Achoronye and Naloni Macentire-Mfume**

**9th grade: Shamar Johnson and Ya'Niyah Kpodi**

On October 15, the homecoming dance was held. Many students wore their best dresses and suits to the dance which started at 7:00pm. When students first walked through the door, after

checking in, they would see the well decorated SGA hallway before entering the gym. Teachers were also handing out glow sticks. On the side, there was one table full of different types of candies as well as pizza which was available at the snack stand.

Coming inside, there was a line of friends waiting to take pictures at the photo booth. It was a long line towards the beginning but shortened up while everybody was getting pizza, outside dancing, chilling on the bleachers, or talking with friends.

Some students sat on the bleachers and some headed outside to where the Kona Ice truck, dance floor, and DJ were. In the gym students could also play MarioKart since a Nintendo Switch was set up. The aux gym was where the break area was. Many would rest their feet and hang out with their friends until making their way back to the dance floor.

Midway into hoco they played

the song "Cha Cha Slide" and nearly everybody came together and did the dance. It was a night to remember. Before the dance many students were hoping for the dance to be like the dance from last year, but with more dancing songs and a lot more energy. One song that people wanted to be played was "Dreams and Nightmares" by Meek Mills. At first many students believed that the song was not going to be played, but towards the end of the night the DJ played the song and the crowd went crazy!

"It was very successful and it was the biggest homecoming they had in recent years," Ms. Florida stated. She was very pleased to know that the majority of students had stayed until the end. Homecoming was a very enjoyable event for many. New memories were made and everyone had a blast!

Photo Cred: Xavier Doctor



Photo Cred: Allen Simon



Photo Cred: Treasure Olasore

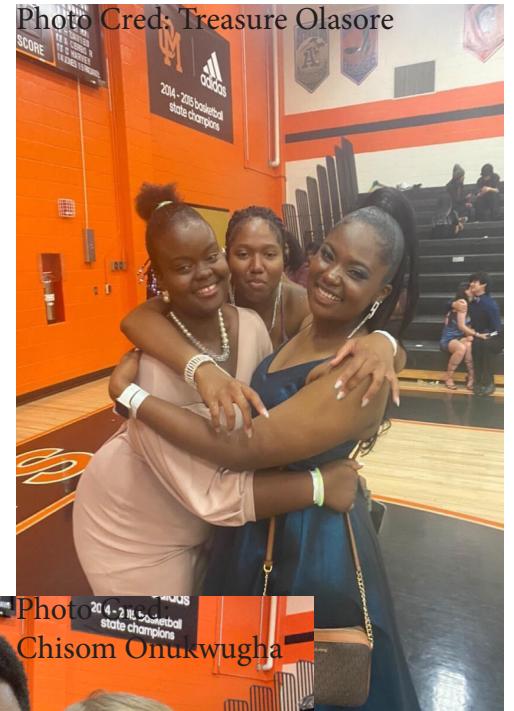


Photo Cred: Rohan Warrier



Photo Cred: Allen Simon



Photo 2014-2015 basketball state champions Chisom Ohukwugha



# Features

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## Celebrating El Dia de Los Muertos *The Day of The Dead.*

**Nancy Barrazo**

*Staff Writer*

Día de los Muertos, the day of the dead, is a special holiday for Latin American countries. This holiday celebrates loved ones who have passed away. It allows Latin countries to express themselves and show off their love for a lost one. Many Latin American countries such as Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, El Salvador, and Peru all join to celebrate this Mexican holiday on November 1st.

Some ways that people celebrate El Día de los Muertos, is by making an ofrenda, also known as an altar. An altar is a stand that consists photos of family and friends, flowers, candles pan de muerto,



personal belongings, incense, paper cutted flowers, as well as candies. Family and friends get together to cook and reunite in order to celebrate the dead. While many people make their own altars, many also sell them, and some only use them for decorations.

El día de los muertos has dancing as well. Men and women dress up before the

dancing starts. Women will usually wear a long skirt and shirt, with their hair tied up in either a bun or

braids. This is known as Frida Kahlo style. Many of them also wear colorful necklaces and a headband full of flowers as well as a skull painting on their face. The male dancers will most likely have on brown pants with a white long loose sleeve shirt, and most importantly is the sombrero that completes the outfit! Little kids also join all of the

dancing as well. These dancers dance to celebrate the loss of their loved ones, or dance to let the dead know that they have not been forgotten.

Mr. de la Mar, the Hispanic Achievement Liaison at Oakland Mills, discussed the meaning of the holiday saying, "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." No matter how many loved ones we have lost, they will always be remembered in our hearts. Their spirits will also be alive, although they are no longer with us. El Día de Los Muertos will always be a special holiday to the Latin community. It is a special event to celebrate our lost loved ones, as if they were still here.

## The History of Comic Books *And Graphic Novels*

**Jordyn Gittens**

*Staff Writer*

### INTRODUCTION

Do you read comic books? What is your favorite genre? What would you rate the illustrations? I hope you love them as much as I do, because I am about to tell you the entire (or as much as I can) history of comic books and graphic novels!

### Chapter 1: The Origin



Surprisingly, yet not so surprising, comics were first used in newspaper articles. They were small strips, usually less than six panels long. This became a trend for journalists and writers since they soon realized that putting small cartoons in their articles made them more money. Not too long after, many journal-

ists and writers started making those strips into albums, then into books. 1938 was a peak for comic books as they grew in popularity.

### Chapter 2: Popularity

From 1897-1938, comic books had taken the world by storm. The Yellow Kid in McFadden's Flats was known to be the world's first official comic book. It even had "comic book" printed on the cover... pretty official. It's known that illustrations in general date back to millions of years; however, putting them in books was certainly different.

Soon, speech bubbles were added along with sound effects. Eventually, comic books were being presented in full color. Even the old black and white newspaper comic strips were fully colored with astounding details. Soon enough, political cartoons were used to portray messages about government and other



social issues.

### Chapter 3: Then vs. Now

Comic books back then usually came out monthly along with the newspapers. They were titled "Monthly Comics" and it began in 1922 before more modern novels (6 5/8 x 10 1/4 inches). Then came the era of DC and Marvel comics, two of my personal favorites.

The "Golden Age" of graphic novels reigned for 19 years. Superman comics were very

popular during this time period. In 1939, Timmy Publications, a Marvel comic predecessor, released a series of comics featuring Human Torch, Angel, and Prince Namor, just to name a few. Graphic novels have progressed a lot since the 1900's. They are laminated and fully colored with many different mediums and art styles.

The beautiful thing about comics is that they give artists the opportunity to share their words and art with the world.

# Halloween

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## Popular Halloween Costumes

### Last Minute Ideas 2022

**Beatriz Alves**

*Staff Writer*

Halloween is one of the most popular and celebrated holidays over the United States of America. Millions of people across the country and the world celebrate Halloween.

According to a Halloween article by The Guardian Newspaper, Halloween is celebrated by 93% of kids and 68% of adults celebrate or participate in Halloween activities. This makes Halloween the third biggest party day of the year, next to New Year's Eve and Super Bowl Sunday.

A holiday where people dress up as whoever they want to be. Kids go trick-or-treating, people watch scary movies, and many more spooky activities. Halloween is right around the corner and people are preparing themselves for one of the most celebrated holidays around the world. But of course there are people who are still confused and not completely ready for halloween. If you are someone who has not decided on a Halloween costume yet, this article is for you.

Here are the most popular Halloween costumes for 2022:

**She-Hulk :**



She-Hulk: Attorney at Law has been a very popular show since it came out on Disney Plus. Marvel has always been popular as millions of people dress up as Marvel characters every year. This year since She-Hulk: Attorney at Law came out, you can bet there will be many people dressed

up as the famous main character on the show. Dressing up as Jennifer Walters, who plays She-Hulk, is a great idea.

**The Batman characters:**

Not only is the character Batman very popular, but so are the comic books, shows, and movies as well. In 2022 the DC movie came out which was very successful and it is still popular now. Dressing up as Batman, Catwoman, Robin, The Penguin, or The Riddler is a perfect Halloween costume.

**Stranger Things characters:**



Stranger Things has been a very popular show ever since it was released in 2016. People have been dressing up as Eleven, Mike, Dustin, Lucas, Steve, Nancy, the Demogorgon and all of the other popular characters. Since the fourth season came out in 2022, you can bet many people will dress up as them again, especially since the new season introduced new characters who have been very famous such as Eddie, Christy, and Vecna. Dressing up as any Stranger Things character is a great idea.

**Characters from Bridgerton:**



Bridgerton, the series that first started as books then turned into an original series on Netflix has been very popular since the first season came out in 2020. One of the most watched series on Netflix ever since the second season came out in 2022. The

show brought much attention as it is set in the 1800s. The beautiful dresses the ladies wear and the famous British accent. What is there to not like? Dressing up as a character from the show will bring you back to the past.

**Characters from Euphoria:**

Euphoria is another popular show since it was first released in 2019. Mainly watched by young people, the show talks about teenage issues such as drug issues, friendship and love. Memes have been going viral about the show and the characters. The most popular characters Maddy, Cassie, Rue, Jules, Kat, Lexi and Nate Jacobs are great characters to dress up as for halloween.

**Characters from Squid Game:**



Even though Squid Game was released in 2021, it has not stopped being popular ever since. One of the most famous Kdramas ever released on Netflix, you can bet people will still dress up as the characters this year. Specifically, the guards' outfits have been going viral on social media making it a great idea for a costume.

**Attack On Titan characters:**



Attack On Titan, also known as AOT, is a very popular anime around the world since first released around 2013. The new seasons which came out in 2021-2022, and many more episodes to be released in 2023 are very

popular. Many of the characters have been very popular for cosplayers such as Eren, Mikasa, Armin, Levi, Hange, and many more.

**Little Mermaid characters:**

One of the most popular Disney movies has been remade as a live action movie which is set to be released in 2023. Although the live action movie itself has not been released, it has become very popular in the media. If you ever want to feel as if you are in a Disney movie, dress up as Ariel, Ursula, Prince Eric, or King Triton.

**Hocus Pocus characters:**



The first Hocus Pocus movie was released in 1993 and the second movie was released in 2022. What's not to like about witches, especially on Halloween? Dressing up as the witches from the movie is a simple yet spooky costume.

**Encanto Characters:**

Another Disney movie that was very successful, not only with children but with young and older people, is Encanto. Even though the movie came out in November of 2021, it was very popular in the media. Thankfully this year people will have a chance to dress up as them for this year's Halloween. A movie with great characters and very cool and funny stories.

So this is it, but of course you can dress up for Halloween as anything you want, but if you were still indecisive about it and didn't know what to wear, hopefully this list helped you and gave you an idea for your costumes for Halloween. Enjoy Halloween and have fun!

# Halloween

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## Dangerous Treats

### *Harmful Drugs Found in Halloween candy*

**Nicholas Garcias Solis**  
*Staff Writer*

Halloween is right around the corner. Everyone is excited about all the new costumes, tricks, and especially treats. Many are excited for treats, especially the king sized candies such as Hershey's, KitKats, and many more. While we all are excited about Halloween, there are some things we should keep in mind and be careful of. Surprisingly, one of the main things we should watch out for is candy!

Taking candy from strangers can be a huge risk. Many candies have been laced with fentanyl prompting a lot of news coverage towards those



candies. These fentanyl laced candies are fooling everyone, especially the young trick-or-treaters. The fentanyl laced

candies are known to have a bright colored coating that is ultimately used to trick the treaters into thinking the

bright colored coating is just another safe candy to consume. Fentanyl laced candies are known to cause health hazards and even death with just ONE candy known to kill a person.

Overall it is important to keep in mind and be careful of the candies that you, your friends, and your family will be getting while trick-or-treating this Halloween. Most importantly, stay safe while eating and consuming candies from strangers and make sure not to trust any candy that you may believe has been tampered with.

Double check your candy and be safe!! Happy Halloween!

## Spooky Season Has Arrived

### *Four Fun Activities for Halloween Weekend*

**Victoria Williams**  
*Editorials Editor*

Fall has officially arrived! Brightly colored leaves cover the ground, chilly/foggy mornings begin, and exciting holidays grow near, among those holidays is Halloween! Do not have any plans? Do not worry I have you covered.

#### **Haunted House Attractions**

The Markoff's Haunted Forest, located in Montgomery County, Maryland, is a fantastic choice if you are seeking to visit one of the many haunted attractions in the DMV region. The annual Haunted Forest is being held by the Markoff brothers. During this time, on selected days they will have The Haunted Trail, The Cursed Village, and The Town, where they provide a "creative, dramatic, and terrifying haunt experience". Many have described this experience as "incredible" and "impressive". One frequent visitor expressed their opinion of Markoff's in a google review saying, "Mar-



koff's haunted forest is one of the most fun activities my husband and I and our friends look forward to every year! It's always a really good time and the haunted forest layout is always amazingly put together... It never disappoints and always gives us a fright!"

#### **Zombie Hayride**

Central Avenue Paintball Park in Bowie, Maryland, is hosting a zombie thrill ride one October 28th and October 29th from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. You can ride a 15-20 minute two-tier hayride while

shooting "real" zombies! This event has been deemed as safe, enjoyable, and appropriate for all ages. Reviews claim that it is inexpensive, has helpful staff, and has been described as a hidden gem. So, go to Bowie if you want the chance to "prevent the spread of angry, erratic zombies and save mankind!"

#### **The "Boo" Basket**

An amazing and creative idea, The "Boo" Basket is a fun holiday tradition where people buy baskets and fill them with different types of goodies which you can give to friends, family, neighbors, and acquaintances. The best part about this gift is how inexpensive it can be! Simply head over to the nearest dollar store and pick up some Halloween essentials, such as festive decor, themed treats and snacks, and activities they can do all month long. Then leave the basket of goodies somewhere they will find it and once they have been 'Booed' they can have the pleasure of carrying

on the fun!

#### **DIY costumes**

When all the stores are crowded and all the good costumes are gone, DIY costumes are your best friend. There are countless costume ideas available that only require a few basic supplies. For example, Captain Underpants is a great and easy costume that only requires two materials, white shorts, and a cape. Additionally, The Rock's iconic black turtleneck and jeans outfit can become a simple, but terrific costume. Simply add a silver chain and fanny pack to complete the look and you are set! For more inspiration check out "Popular Halloween Costumes" by Beatriz Alves on the previous page.

So there you have it, four fantastic activities to enjoy this Halloween weekend! Whether you choose to do these spooky activities, I wish you all a spooktober!

# Editorials

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## Halloween Ends Movie Review *A Lackluster Finale*

**Gabe Jimenez**

*Staff Writer*

With the spookiest day of the year coming right around the corner there are many different types of media and traditions to go along with it. I have decided to review one of the most iconic movie franchises to date for this special occasion. I will be reviewing the award winning film franchise Halloween and more specifically the newest addition to the new remade trilogy, Halloween Ends.

Halloween Ends is an American psychological horror film directed by David Gordon Green that was released on October 14th. It is the thirteenth installment in the Halloween franchise and the final movie in a trilogy of Halloween sequels that started in 2018. It is the direct sequel to Halloween Kills which came out in 2021.

Halloween Ends takes place four years after the tragic events of Halloween Kills and continues to be located



in Haddonfield, Illinois, the hometown of Laurie, the main character from the first film. Laurie is still trying to recover after the death of her daughter, Karen, which took place in the previous movie. Laurie is trying to move forward in life and unpack her trauma while also looking after her granddaughter, Allyson, after Karen was tragically stabbed to death by Michael Myers at the very end of Halloween Kills. Obviously Laurie's new happy family life is short-lived since Michael Myers returns once again, ready to have a final face off with his rival who he has been chasing for over 40 years.

The film itself was interesting and pretty good when it came to introducing new character arcs for characters from

the previous installment. But, if I'm being honest, most people went to watch this movie for the kills/deaths from Michael Myers himself, and I will say they delivered. The issue I have, though, is that Halloween Kills had over 30 deaths, whereas, despite being imaginative and wonderfully crafted, Michael only manages to kill two people during the entire film. To be fair, both of the kills were acceptable enough but I felt like more should've been done especially for the finale of the trilogy with Myers himself.

If I'm being completely honest, the movie was pretty average and boring for an almost two hour long movie. Instead of focusing on Michael Myers, the movie ends up focusing more on a new character named Corey. It lacked the action and suspense the two previous movies had and felt more like a B-grade horror film rather than a Halloween movie. The movie's climax certainly contained the most

action, but had such an abrupt and laughable ending that it made me regret even watching it on opening night. Not to my surprise, Halloween has gotten negative feedback from audiences and critics alike. Hitting a 40% on rotten tomatoes and an almost laughable 1.8/5 stars from audience reviews on google. One review stated "Who ultimately survives Michael's rumble with Laurie ends up not mattering, since the film itself shows such little signs of life," which I can not agree with more. It seems like almost no one liked how they ended the horror legacy of Michael Myers and I can obviously say the same.

The film is decent as a horror film but is a huge disappointment as a Halloween film. If you are looking for a fun and gory slasher this isn't the movie for you. Unless you're a die hard Halloween enthusiast save yourself the trouble of seeing this disappointing finale of a trilogy.

## Spirit Weeks

### *Let's Find More Time To Show OM Pride*

**Lauren Kai Kai**

*Staff Writer*

Over the course of my four years at Oakland Mills, I have noticed that there are never enough spirit weeks. The excitement surrounding the spirit days is evident as soon as October arrives. Decorating, preparing for the dance, and practicing before powderpuff are all large parts of what I love about fall. I have never felt a sense of community and pride like I do during this time. The significance of this type of excitement is underrated, it encourages people to come out of their shell and dress up to show support for our school. This is exactly what is lacking for the rest of the year. In the end, the solution is clear, Oakland Mills needs to have more spirit weeks and activities.

Over the years, The Mill has made great progress in the process, but is it enough to satisfy the student

body? Clubs have started to have their own spirit weeks to encourage participation in their organization, but this still leaves gaps in the year where students do not have the chance to unwind. After a stressful week of midterms, it would be refreshing to start off the next week in your pajamas. Spreading the activities throughout the year or planning them strategically so they line up with stressful periods in the student's lives would significantly improve the wellbeing of the student body.

In addition to promoting school spirit, the spirit weeks would also provide an opportunity for fund-raising events. Holding gatherings occasionally is certain to raise money while also allowing people to socialize. My freshman year at OM, I attended a movie night after school in the library and watched *Harriet* for a chance to get extra credit for a class. Going into the

event I expected to get in, get the credit, and leave. However, I ended up really enjoying the experience because it provided me the chance to explore a different film genre while also gaining a good understanding of a significant period in US history. This would be a unique way to celebrate the end of heritage or culture spirit weeks; showing movies occasionally that stick to a theme would be both educational and fun. Therefore, it is clear to me that Oakland Mills is perfectly capable of hosting interesting events that cater to the student's interests, it is just a matter of planning. Although this planning may take a while, it is an important discussion that is worth having.

I spoke with Mrs. Florida to learn more about the preparation for spirit week. She explained that she loves the idea of more spirit days or weeks throughout the year, it is just a matter of student

involvement and time dedicated to planning. In her experience, student-led events have been possible as long as there are interested parties willing to talk to existing organizations about opportunities to hold events. "There is a lot of pressure on students to apply to college, do well on the SAT, be in upper level classes, and get all of your homework done on time. School feels like work and this is your primary goal right now as a student, to be educating yourself. But, any little things we can add in like spirit days to just have a breath of fun, I feel like it's really good for everybody's mental health," said Ms. Florida.

After all is said and done, more spirit weeks are within reach. We, as students, must work to make our voices heard by the executives. It is time for the student body to speak up about what we want to see in the future.

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## CyberPunk Edgerunners *It's Really Good!*

**James Wheelock**

*Staff Writer*

Cyberpunk: Edgerunners is a show based on the game Cyberpunk 2077. Despite being years after the game's original release, this show has surprisingly proven to be a great addition to the Cyberpunk universe. Main character David Martinez, is a resident of Night City and a student at the prestigious Arasaka Academy. Night City is a futuristic city where practically every modern technology has been updated. He lives only with his mom who works hard to keep him in this expensive school despite their financial struggle. David struggles a lot in school due to his prowess for technology which makes him somewhat of an outcast.. Lots of crime happens in this city and that is what leads to his mother's death. You'll quickly discover from watching that Night City is a horrible place filled with crime that



never has a good ending. David's mother's death is a significant turning point in his life. His mother dies as a result of the family's inability to pay for better healthcare, showing how truly rotten the city is. David is suddenly made an orphan after she deteriorates in the hospital, without even a goodbye from her son. After her death, David begins getting into trouble. One of his classmates starts an altercation with him and beats him severely. When he arrives home that night he begins to realize how

much he is struggling financially and this leads him into more trouble and to a ripper-doc(someone that sells and installs body enhancements.) David's mother made a lot of money by selling cybernetic enhancements under the table and David decides to use it for himself. It just so happens the part she left behind is one of the best enhancements out there.

David acquiring this piece is what really helps the story take off and pretty much guides it up until the end. Although it might initially

appear to be a plot device, this story's pacing ends up being quite good for a ten-episode series. The show has tons of action and not to mention is animated by one of the best animation studios, TRIGGER. They have made many other popular anime like Kill la Kill and Akame ga Kill.

The studio does an excellent job of capturing the action and bringing the show to life. The soundtrack of the show also came as a nice surprise as it used music from the game and the songs seemed to fit the show perfectly. I recommend that you watch Cyberpunk: Edgerunners because it has a fantastic plot. I think that it has something for everyone, and I believe it's more than enough to at least get you interested in what it's about. Be sure to check out Cyberpunk: Edgerunners!

## OM Renovations

### *We Need a Change*

**Juel Collins**  
*Staff Writer*

Oakland Mills High School was built in 1973, and it shows. For one, the very obvious elephant in the room, or in this case the school, is the lack of space we have. Causing problems like too many students in classrooms and hallways, not enough gathering spaces for students, and even getting to the point of overcrowding. With such little space you would think it is easier to watch over students, however we have a very outdated security system that requires some upgrading as well. Not to mention our poor building and environment conditions, such as mold, leaky ceilings, unsafe air quality, and very poor requirements for the auditorium, all



things that are hazards to the school community. Originally, Oakland Mills High School was due to be renovated around 2009, and after many pushed back dates later we have yet to see any changes. So, what do we want to see? After asking many students from the OM community this same question, they have some opinions of their own. Many said they would love

to see, the very obvious answer, bigger space within the school. Not only because of the tight space we

have to travel through, but it would also help it become more organized. If you have ever traveled through Oakland Mills you know it can be kind of confusing with the mixed pattern of numbers on the doors, due to the later added wings. Some said they would love to see a bigger library that can supply more books and mangas to read.

"Maybe adding a pool for more extracurricular activities for students," said Kennedy Wright. Zahra Johnson added, "Better locker rooms, because the ones we have now are really run-down." I personally would love to see a bigger gym, to allow for a higher capacity, or a better AC and heat system, because it can get really cold.

Even though we have been put back on the list to be renovated on schedule, this is way overdue. Many children and teachers have gone in and out of Oakland Mills High school without seeing any sort of changes or renovations, and finally we will see a difference!

## Big Win! Scorpions Sting the Lions

### Varsity Football Beats Howard on Hoco Night

**Avery Oduro- Domphre**

*Staff Writer*

Preceding the Homecoming showdown, Oakland Mills High School Varsity Football was sitting just at .500, with a record of 3-3, making the homecoming game imperative for the team to get over the hump. Contrastingly, Howard High School was on a four game winning streak and had only lost one game, being 5-1. Despite their differing records, this game was destined to be competitive off the strength of playstyle and personnel alone.

Howard sports one of the best, if not the best, running games in the county, putting opponents on their heels and grinding their way to touchdowns. Additionally, Howard had the leading tackler in the county heading into week six, Alex Dua, who was joined by multiple other leading tacklers such as: Blake Stolarik, Ben Ansley and Connor Hunter. Not to be bested, OM is also known for its running game and has leading tacklers of their own in Kharles Ngansi, reigning Defensive Player of the Year, and Xavier Patterson.

Not to mention Bliden Elung, who boasted an impressive four interceptions in only six games. This



Photo Cred: K. Baus

similar clash of talent and playstyle was bound for an entertaining and thrilling game that would go down to the wire.

To begin, OM came out scorching in the first quarter with Patterson completing an impressive 84 yard touchdown with a two point conversion. Howard punched back with a touchdown drive of their own and a successful kick, moving the score to 8-7 for the first quarter. Following the end of the first quarter, OM and Howard battled it out with neither gaining solid ground, except for Howard's 16 yard touchdown in the beginning of the second quarter, thus rewarding them with a 13-8 lead at the

end of halftime.

The following kickoff landed in the hot hands of Patterson, who took it for 48 yards, giving the Scorpions

a great deal of momentum and energy to start off the second half. After multiple runs, quarterback Cyrus Thomas-Ray threw a touchdown to Elung. Then, Patterson completed the full cycle of this offensive possession by scoring the two point conversion. The rest of the quarter was dominated by OM's suffocating defense, which gave the Scorpions a 16-8 lead at the end of the third quarter. The fourth quarter was much of the same with determined defense locking the Lions down, only allowing them to score a field goal early in the quarter, putting the score at 16-13. The rest of the quarter was an unyielding battle for

both teams. This led to Howard trying to decide their own fate near the end of the fourth, right outside of the red zone. When Howard attempted a touchdown pass, it was picked off by Elung! An incredibly clutch play, which undoubtedly saved the game for the Scorpions and displayed an extensive amount of IQ and skill.

Heading into this game, OM was definitely doubted to come out the victor. They were at risk of a disappointing loss in our Homecoming game, which would tack on another tough loss to a shaky start to the season. However, in this high stakes game, the entire unit came out to play and shut down Howard by making them work for every point they gained and by keeping up with their high octane offense. When asked to describe the outcome of the game, OM Athletic Director, Troy Stevenson, said the teams "...were evenly matched, but the better team prevailed." Overall, this game was incredibly important for Oakland Mills and may assist in sparking a much needed win streak for the team.

## MLB Playoffs

### What Has Happened and What is Next

**Malcolm Brooks**

*Sports Editor*

#### Wild Card Round:

This year's MLB playoffs started with the Wild Card Round on October 7.. The Wild Card Round included eight teams all playing in three game series. Once one team won two out of the three games, they advanced on to the next round of the playoffs, the Divisional Round. This year the matchups were the Rays vs the Guardians, the Phillies vs the Cardinals, the Mariners vs the Blue Jays, and the Padres vs. the Mets. The Guardians, Phillies, and Mariners all won their series

within two games, whereas the Padres beat the Mets within three..

#### Divisional Round:

The Divisional Round of the playoffs faced some upsets. The matchups for this round were the Phillies vs the Braves, the Mariners vs the Astros, the Guardians vs the Yankees, and the Padres vs the Dodgers. The Braves and Dodgers both went into this round as heavy favorites, yet both lost to their opponents with comparably inferior records. The Astros were able to keep their recent playoff success going, returning to the

American League Champion Series for their sixth straight year. The Yankees beat the Guardians within five games in an electric series run.

#### Championship Round:

The first matchup in the Championship Round was the Yankees vs the Astros. This was not a surprise to most, as the teams were the first and second seeds, meaning that they won the most games in their conferences. The other matchup was the Padres vs the Phillies, which was surprising since they sat as the fifth and sixth seeds in their respective conferences. The

Astros swept their opponent, and beat the Yankees within four games to return to the World Series for the second year in a row. The Astros have yet to lose a game this entire postseason, and look very promising going into the final round of the Playoffs. The Phillies were able to keep their hot streak going, and eliminated the Padres within five games following an excellent performance from their former MVP star player, Bryce Harper. The Astros and the Phillies will now face off in a seven game series that starts Friday, October 28th.