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Nancy Barrozo
Staff Writer

Oakland Mills High School's prom will be held next month on Saturday, May 11th, 2024, at Port Discovery in Downtown Baltimore from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Additionally, there will be an after-party at Port Discovery as well, from 12:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Port Discovery is a children's museum "Featuring hands-on experiences, interactive exhibits, and entertaining programs all designed to spark imaginations and help children and

OM Prom 2024 Details

An evening downtown



adults connect, discover, and learn through play," boasts their website. Outside of operating hours, the museum opens its unique space to private events and parties, like proms!

All prom tickets will be

around \$70, and you can purchase them online at the OMHS website. If you are planning to bring a guest, they will need a ticket as well. You will need to make sure that your family file is completed and that you

fill out a guest form with the front office. All juniors and seniors are invited to attend and are allowed one guest.

Attendees can expect plenty of food and refreshments, as well as a DJ to liven up the dance floor! If you have any prom-related

questions, please see Ms. Brown-Fordham (room 206), Ms. Demery (room 809), or Ms. Riche in the front office.

Check out page 10 to see your favorite teacher's on their prom night!

Testing Season Approaches

Info about upcoming exams and tests

Julianne Healy
Features Editor

As spring approaches so does the ever-stressful season of exams. AP Exams are standardized tests given out as a chance to prove how well students know the material within a college-level (AP) class and allow them to potentially earn college credit depending on how high they score. AP Exams take place over two weeks in May. A five is the highest you can score on these exams, but most schools will give you credit or accept a score of at least three on an AP Exam. The pressure and chatter surrounding these exams can be overwhelming, but AP Exams are just one type of

exam available for students to take.

The other major exam that is coming up is the SAT. The dates for the SAT



are March 9th, May 4th, and June 1st, with registration deadlines falling on April 23rd and May 16th for the remaining test dates. The range of scores on this test goes from 400 to 1600 and is determined by your

performance within two sections. These sections consist of four modules and a break, two reading and writing modules, and two

about the individual's performance. Another helpful feature incorporated within this all-digital version of the SAT is the built-in graphing calculator which uses the platform Desmos. All of these adaptations will help test takers on whatever date they plan to take the SAT.

If you have any testing-related questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Ms. Dellinger or Ms. Jackson.

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30 Scholarships for High School Students

30 ways to save on tuition!

Victoria Williams
Editor-in-Chief

It is no secret that college is expensive, and as time goes on, the more the prices rise. While nobody wants to be in debt for the rest of their lives, it is equally daunting to consider turning down your top colleges because of astronomical tuition.

Scholarships serve as beacons of hope, bridging the gap between unattainable tuition and achievable dreams. Below is a list of scholarships tailored to various ethnicities, grade levels, future career paths, and academic achievements. Some require essays, while others offer alternative paths to eligibility. For more information about each opportunity, be sure to go to our school home page under the student services tab. There you will find a lot of great and

useful resources including other scholarship links. Don't forget you can also check in with your school counselor to see if they know of any opportunities that you may qualify for.

1. Kappa Alpha Psi Scholarship Foundation of Columbia MD
2. MedStar Montgomery Medical Center Women's Scholarship
3. Bowen Leadership Group Scholarship
4. Vincent James Award
5. Tristar Academy Real Estate Scholarship
6. Norfolk State University Scholarship
7. Future Planner Scholarship
8. "I Matter" Scholarship
9. Phil Murphy Technical Theater Scholarship
10. Loreen K. Odemu Memorial Nursing Scholarship
11. Hubert Colangelo Literacy Scholarship
12. 1989 (Taylor's Version) Fan
13. Coca-Cola Scholars Scholarship
14. Regeneron Science Talent Search
15. BigFuture Scholarships: Start Your Career List (Class of 2024)
16. BigFuture Scholarships: Build Your College List
17. Eon Essay Contest on The Precipice
18. Bank of America Scholarships
19. BigFuture Scholarships: Start Your Career List (Class of 2024)
20. BigFuture Scholarships: Start Your Career List (Class of 2025)
21. BigFuture Scholarships: Start Your Career List (Class of 2026)
22. BigFuture Scholarships: Build Your College List
23. Herb Block Scholarship
24. James T. and Rose



Hayes Bishop
Staff Writer

A solar eclipse is an astronomical event that occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the Earth. When this happens, the moon blocks the sun's light from reaching Earth. In some cases, the moon does not block out all of the light, which is called a partial solar eclipse. Even though there are total eclipses, the sun is not completely blocked out everywhere worldwide when this happens. The places where people cannot see the sun at all are in what is called the "path of totality." During these events, the sun is blocked out but there is still some light that can be seen; this is called the corona, which is the sun's atmosphere. Since the only light that can be seen is the corona, scientists use this to their advantage to study the sun's atmosphere during eclipses.

Soon there will be a solar eclipse happening on Monday, April 8th, and the path of totality will start in Southwestern Texas, then proceed to move northeast, going over the northern part of Illinois, central and southern Indiana, Cleveland, Ohio, Buffalo, New York, and into some parts of Maine. Since we live in Maryland, we are not in the path of totality. In Baltimore areas in Maryland, the eclipse can be seen at 3:21 PM with an 88.7 percent totality, which means that the sun will not be entirely covered, but most of it will be.

Warning: Do not look at the eclipse without the proper protection; NASA-approved sunglasses can be easily found on Amazon. After you have those glasses, you



may look at the eclipse.

In years before solar eclipses were explained, many different cultures had different ideas of what was hap-

pening and why. In China, solar eclipses were explained as the sun being eaten by a celestial dragon. During these eclipses, the people in China would make loud noises and bang drums in an attempt to scare off the dragon from eating the sun. It seemed like it worked every time since the sun kept coming back.

In old Hindu culture, it was believed that a demon named Rahu had sought out the nectar of the gods so that he could gain immortality, but he was discovered by the god Vishnu. After this discovery, Vishnu chopped off Ra-

hu's head and sent his head flying around the Earth, always chasing after the sun. It has been said that sometimes Rahu will catch up to the sun and attempt to eat it, but the sun always returns because Rahu did not have a throat.

In some old Native American cultures, there was a legend about a huge mischievous black squirrel that would attempt to gnaw away at the sun, similar to the ancient Chinese beliefs. In other Native American legends, a boy got burnt by the sun and wanted his revenge. After catching the sun with a snare (a type of trap used to be thrown around an animal's neck and tightened) and causing an eclipse, he would lose it because the animals of the forest would chew the trap to release the sun.

Don't forget to get out and see the eclipse after school on Monday, April 8th. According to the NASA website, the U.S. will not see another total eclipse until 2044!

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Autism Awareness Month

How to spread awareness

Belma Respa
Staff Writer

The month of April is World Autism Awareness Month, but what exactly is autism? Autism is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave. This month is an opportunity to raise awareness of how we can all be sensitive and allies to those who have autism.

Here at OM, we have numerous staff members who help out with students with autism. One of our staff members, Nicole Pickett, has experience working in our special education department, as well as coaching allied sports. I asked her how we can all help show awareness to kids with autism this

month and she said, "Talk to them. Treat them how you would anyone else. They are still people. Don't just make it a one-month out-of-the-year thing. Talk to them all the time, every time you pass in the hallway or see them at lunch. Say 'hi.'"

People with autism all have different qualities, some even have

exceptional skills that they are extra good at, such as art, math, memory, and being athletic. There are many more gifts people with autism could possess, and if you take the opportunity to say hi in the hallway, you may learn more about the autistic students here at OM.

We also should be aware of



How to Make a Club at OM

The process of getting a club started

Julian Williams
Staff Writer

Getting involved in high school is something every student aims to achieve, whether it's through sports, arts, or clubs. There are currently many clubs at OM, like anime club, gaming club, astrology club, plus many more. But what if none of the current topics interest you? What do you do? Just give up? Don't join any? Well, instead of that, why not make your own? What if you're interested in biking, music, roller skating, or any different activities that OM does not currently offer? Just do it yourself: get an idea, find a friend, start this simple process, and leave a permanent mark on OM.

The first thing you will want to do is get an idea of what you want. Whatever you're interested in and would like to make a club out of, find that idea. For me and my friend Zach, we are working on making a roller-skating club.

We found a bunch of people who would be interested in a roller-skating club and that was the beginning of this idea. The next step would be finding a sponsor. A sponsor could be any type of teacher or adult in the building who would want to supervise your club after school hours. Zach and I were able to find a teacher, but then we came into a bigger issue, which is the next step of this process.

A place to host your club is the next hurdle to figure out. Usually, this is easy, just the classroom of the teacher who is hosting your club would work if your club is simple. If your club isn't as simple, you might find this more chal-

lenging. For example, if you want to start a biking club, where would you meet and bike? Although it might prove a problem, it's not too much work to solve, especially if you are working with a teacher to

help you through the process. For me and Zach, this part proved to be difficult because you can't just roller-skate anywhere. There are certain materials that you shouldn't



skate on. Some places are already being used, so it was challenging to find a suitable place. Mrs. Florida told us about a person

how a school setting can affect someone with autism. Big crowds, big classrooms, and lots of noise can make a student with autism get overwhelmed. "These things could cause sensory overload and negatively impact the student's day," according to Ms. Pickett. But these things could also be helpful to some students who have less severe autism because social interactions and talking to their peers can be beneficial.

At the end of the day, it's nice to bring awareness to any group that is different from the norm so we can all learn how to best support and be helpful allies to all of our peers. However, it is important to not only show awareness and kindness during this month but to always be kind no matter the day.

who works at the East Columbia Library who could help us with our goal of making the skating club a reality, so that is where we are in the process at the time of this article being written. We are hoping to make our idea a county-wide club!

Once you find a sponsor, an interest, a place and a time when you will meet, the next part of this process is just planning what you want to do at your club. If you're in a biking club, maybe you'll just ride your bike around cones and create obstacles. Or, if you are in a poetry club, maybe you'll study and write poems, or a music club where you listen to music and discuss it. Just keep it as fun as possible so people want to join and come back in the following years.

Starting a club will also look good on resumes and college applications! So if you don't think there's any club for you here, just make it yourself! Grab a friend, and go on an adventure to make your club a reality.

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I'm Sorry, Ms. Jackson

The story behind the lyrics

Antoine Hodges
Staff Writer

If you wanted to make an apology and didn't know how to make one, how would you do it? "Ms. Jackson" is a hit song of a popular group of the 2000s, OutKast. The song details a man apologizing to his ex-girlfriend's mother.

The lyrics of the song were written as a message to the mother of Erykah Badu by Andre 3000, one of the members of OutKast. Badu and Andre 3000 dated for a while and ended up having a child together. They eventually broke up, and he wanted Ms. Jackson (her actual name is Kollen Wright) to hear his side of the story and apologize for what went down. Andre 3000 felt he was being por-

trayed as a bad father and also felt that Badu was keeping him from meeting his baby on purpose. Andre further explained in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, "I probably would never come out and tell Erykah's mom, 'I'm sorry for what went down.' But music gives you the chance to say what you want to say. And her mom loved it. She's like, 'Where's my publishing check?'"



The intro at the beginning of the song was dedicated to her from the line, "This one goes out to all the baby's mamas' mamas". "Ms. Jackson" is underpinned with an entire track that was played back in reverse, giving it an unusual, distorted feel to mesh with the disquieting lyrics. The reverse effect is most prominent in the percussion, especially the congas. The song won a Grammy in 2002 and

OutKast performed live with a complete band, backup singers, and a stage full of children playing on a playground.

In 2016, Erykah Badu admitted the song hit kind of a sore spot about what went down between them, but she also added, "I didn't wanna hear that, especially when I heard Big Boi's verse. When I heard Andre's verse, I felt very good because his verse was really, really inspiring. He just said how he felt and it was his honest feelings and I always respected that and listened to what he felt and appreciated it." She also said, "How did my mama feel? Baby, she bought herself a 'Ms. Jackson's license plate,'" Badu told Fact magazine. "She had the mug, she had the ink pen, she had the headband, everything. That's who loved it."

Spring Effects on Depression

How weather may be affecting you

new plants to grow. It is a season of hope and possibility, reminding us that no matter how cold and dark winter is, brighter days are ahead.

This transition into spring can bring about a sense of renewal and hope, making it easier for some

people to cope with their symptoms of depression. According

to the CDC (Center of Disease Control), the increase of sunlight can help regulate mood and improve feelings of well-being. Also,

with the weather being more pleasant, there are more opportunities for individuals to engage in activities



that can help ease the symptoms of depression. Whether it's going for

a walk in nature, spending time in the sun, or playing outdoor sports, being active and getting outdoors can have a positive effect on one's mental health. The fresh air and sunshine can boost serotonin levels and reduce stress, which contribute to overall well-being.

Overall, spring can be a time of transformation and growth for those struggling with depression. The endearing life of nature and amazing weather can help individuals connect with their surroundings, and or find a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

Contact us at:



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And see more articles at:



omsroll.com

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Reflecting on the Mill

Opinions of recently graduated OM alumni

Abyenezer Taye
Staff Writer

As the school year draws to a close, the end of the year is coming with many mixed emotions from students. Many seniors are either excited and filled with anticipation or petrified and fearful of what is to come after high school. Most juniors are fretting over AP exams and the SATs, and are starting to think seriously about what they want to do with their lives. Many underclassmen are either cruising through or struggling to maintain their coursework and extracurriculars. So I wanted to ask, can former alumni give us any pointers to make the journey easier?

Shannon Bache, Class of '23 Graduate, OM NHS & BSAP member, current freshman at Towson University majoring in Political Science



"My high school years at OMHS were some of the best that a girl could ask for. I was supported by a community that welcomed me with open arms. I was a transfer to the school and it felt like I had been there since my freshman year. There were a lot of ups and downs but [I had the] opportunity to be a mentor to underclassmen, a leader on the board of scholars leadership, a finalist for OM's Student Maryland Assembly, speaking at my graduation, winning Homecoming and Prom court, and making friendships and connections that I hope last a lifetime. With all the good there was also some bad, but there was staff at OM that made me feel so safe and protected. I personally do not think anything can prepare you for college because everyone's journey is going to be different and they are going to endure their trials and tribulations. But there are people who you can talk to at OM who are there to support you through the transition of 'child' to 'adult.' Mr. McCaskill once shared a quote with me [...] about how students are supposed to feel prepared for adulthood and complete self-reliance when only a couple of months prior they still had to raise their hand to use the bathroom. That has stuck with me ever since because even for the short time I've been here, nothing's ever rung truer to my ears. College readiness can only

happen if you make it happen and remember that you don't have to rush to do everything. Opportunities will come to you when it is your time to receive them. So, make the most of what you have, and don't be scared to make mistakes because that is how we learn. Also, always carry OM with you... it is hOME and you should be proud that you graduated from such a one-of-a-kind high school." (Bache's Instagram: @shannon-bache_).

Annmarie Weaver, Class of '23 Graduate, current freshman at UMBC



bad, and the real ugly (COVID) that I'd have to weather, but never alone. Enjoy your high school years while you still can, kids! I'm hardly even a grown woman who peaked in high school myself, and I'm still regretting not cherishing my time to the absolute fullest." (@annmarieweave)

Ethan Neylan, Class of '23 Graduate, freshman year at UMD



"Blissful ignorance and practically no responsibilities is the greatest thing kids have that we never really treasure until it's lost forever. Even just the starting stages of freshman year in college can be so incredibly overwhelming and a stark departure from even the absolute worst-case scenarios you ran over in your head. I still love UMD and I don't want to be a kid forever, but fool around as much you can in your school years so you can lock in when the going gets tougher." (@ethanneylan)

Family, Friends, and Supporters of Oakland Mills High School Newspaper,

We are officially kicking off our fundraiser with Charleston Wrap® – and we need YOUR help! To reach our goals and make this fundraiser a success, we need everyone to do their part. Luckily, it's super easy! Just use the link (https://shopcharlestonwrap.com/planters/#/cw_token=2024S7DsSew_0beeUp_O--L8rg) and shop away! We receive 40% of all profits which will help us print more editions of The Scroll. We appreciate all of your support and encourage you to spread the word to your friends & family, near and far! The more people who shop, the more money we can raise for our organization! Together, we can ensure our organization reaches its goal – and even surpasses it! You can also find the link on our Instagram: @omscroll.

Thank you for your help!
- Oakland Mills High School Newspaper, The Scroll

Hooray for Earth Day!

Ways we can help save the Earth this April 22nd

Lyric Owens
Staff Writer

Everyone knows that Earth's condition is continuing to decrease with time. From excessive population to the extinction of species, the planet we all rely on is suffering at our hands.

Earth Day's origin revolves around the first observation in 1970. The date emerged as a way to increase awareness about environmental challenges. Over time, it evolved into a worldwide event that mobilizes millions of people to raise awareness about environmental issues, climate change, and the importance of pitching in. It's an encouragement to reflect on the ecological footprint of each individual and make conscious choices to reduce their impact on the environment. We all need to pitch in - not just for you, but for

the whole human race in general, as we all reside and rely on Earth for survival and the resources it provides.

There's no doubt almost everyone has heard about the planet's decreasing condition. Yet surprisingly, people proceed to ignore this reality with the mindset of, "Someone else is going to do something," or "What can I do about it?" The answer is a lot more simple than you may think. There is so much that each person can do, not just on the annual date of April 22, but every day. Everyone can put in a fair amount of effort in participating in Earth's recovery. If everyone did, that would be over 8 billion people doing at the very least the bare minimum.



Think about it!

The phrase, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, is a familiar one but people do not truly comprehend the significance of it. Minimizing waste by choosing reusable items, and recycling materials like plastics, paper, and glass seems small, but once again, if 8 billion people are doing it all over the world, the influence it has on the environment is drastic, and not in a bad way for once!

Trying sustainable transportation like walking and cycling is always a great idea. If unable

using public transportation or carpooling is the next best option as it reduces the pollution released into

the air if people ride individually.

Even educating and advocat-

ing for the environment is doing something. Spreading awareness makes people reflect on themselves and change their mindset considering how taking these little steps can have a large result. It's common knowledge that conserving water and energy use is a great idea as well. Simply unplugging unused appliances at home is doing your part for the environment.

Earth Day serves as a reminder that each individual's actions, no matter how small, contribute to the greater goal of creating a sustainable future. By simply being more environmentally conscious and adopting these habits, we as a population can make a positive impact on the health of our planet. This Earth Day, let's renew our commitment to preserving the Earth for future generations and not push our failures onto them. Let actions speak louder than words ever can in a journey to a greener and more sustainable world.

How exactly do people celebrate Eid?

Two OM students share how they spend the special day

Kira Hatcher
Editorials Editor

Eid al-Fitr, more widely known as just Eid, is an internationally celebrated holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. Ramadan brings forth a month of fasting, praying, and spiritual reflection for Muslims all around the world. This year, Ramadan begins on Sunday, March 10th, and ends on Tuesday, April 9th, when Eid commences. Millions start the day with early prayers that are then followed by a big meal and celebration among friends and family. But these celebrations can differ from country to country and culture to culture, so let's see how two students at OM spend this wondrous day!

First up is Amira Kazi, a sophomore here, who said Eid is: "A celebration Muslims have after Ramadan. To me, it means family, friends, and spirituality."

She went on to explain how her family celebrates the day, "We first go to Masjid and pray; I wear traditional clothing too. Later we spend time with family and friends and eat lots of delicious foods!" I asked her if she had any favorite activities or traditions she partakes in during Eid. "We go to Six Flags every year," she said. "But last year we went to Hershey and that was fun too." To Amira, Eid is about those she cares about as well as a reflection of her spirituality!

Ishmal Choudhary, another OM sophomore, said Eid to her is, "A fun day that you celebrate at the end of Ramadan and get to eat whatever you want after a month. You get to dress up and take lots of pictures and meet family," she continued. "It's a surreal day where you kind of just get to dress up, have fun, and forget about problems." For Ishmal, Eid is also full of traditions and a little chaos, "A week before Eid, our family and friends make desserts or

meals. Then, the night before, everyone gets their henna done and figures out their outfits; it's a lot of fun. We all wake up between four and five AM to get ready and go to the Mosque for prayer. It's all very chaotic," she laughed. "We later go to greet everyone and the kids get money from the adults. We eat lots of amazing foods and take lots of pictures." She also mentioned two of her favorite memories she has of Eid: one from this year and another from many years ago. "Last year, I really liked my outfit, and I helped make a kid wonderland at the Mosque. When I was younger, I got a thousand dollars after getting money from adults." Ishmal also highlighted how fun it is to take photos with friends and families while dressed up. It makes for quite an amazing photobook years later.

Both Ishmal and Amira spoke about outfits, prayers, friends, family, photos, food, and their traditions on the day. These experi-

ences give insight into how culture and family may impact how you celebrate a holiday unique to your religion. Though not everyone celebrates Eid, it would be cool if everyone spent time learning a little about it and maybe even tried something new! If you have a Muslim friend, ask them how you could celebrate with them! Happy Eid to all! ﴿لِكَرَابِمْ دِيَع﴾ (Have a blessed Eid)



Spring Fashion Trends

Out with the old and in with the new!

Helen Villatoro
Staff Writer

Getting attached to your clothes is a real thing, especially the ones you have created many memories in. However, it's important to let go of the things you don't need anymore and not hold onto unnecessary, unused pieces that can clutter your closet and make it difficult to find what you need. By cleaning out your closet, you'll not only organize your space, but you'll also make it easier to locate your favorite items. Remember, letting go of the old can make room for the new.

Once you've completed your spring cleaning, you may want to update your wardrobe with some new seasonal favorites. One piece you may want to add to your closet is a cropped cardigan, which you can throw onto any basic outfit to dress it up. You can put it over a dress, a body suit, or a shirt with jeans. A cropped cardigan is a versatile piece that you should add to your wardrobe since they are perfect for springtime. They keep you warm without being too heavy, and with the ever-changing

Maryland weather, cardigans are helpful since you can just throw on another layer if you get too chilly.

Another clothing option you could add to your wardrobe this spring is tracksuits or any matching sets. If you're looking to add some versatile pieces to your wardrobe, consider investing in these. These clothing items are perfect for those days when you're in a hurry and don't have the time or energy to put together an outfit. Not only are they comfortable, but they also look stylish and well put together. Tracksuits, in particular, are a great option for casual occasions such as running errands, going for a walk, or hitting the gym. The matching top and bottoms create a cohesive look that's effortless yet fashionable. Plus, the material is usually lightweight and breathable, making them perfect for warmer weather. On the other hand, any matching set can be dressed up or down depending on the occasion. They're perfect for events like weddings, or a night out with friends. You can choose from a variety of styles, from sets made of silk or satin to more casual options made of denim or cotton. No matter what your

personal style is, there's a matching set out there that's perfect for you. Overall, investing in tracksuits or matching sets is a smart choice for anyone looking to simplify their wardrobe while still looking fashionable.

If you're looking to add some variety to your wardrobe for the upcoming spring season, consider adding boho dresses or midi skirts to your collection. These pieces are not only cute and stylish, but they can also easily be worn well into the summer months. Boho dresses come in a range of styles, from flowy maxi dresses to more form-fitting options, perfect for anywhere you go. Midi skirts are also a great option and can be paired with many tops to create different looks. Whether you're dressing up for a night out or keeping it casual for a daytime event, these pieces are a great addition to any wardrobe.

Spring is a great time to refresh



your wardrobe with some new trendy outfits. There are plenty of stylish options out there that will help you look chic and comfortable while battling the unpredictable spring weather. From cute sundresses and skirts to light jackets and lightweight cardigans, there are lots of options to choose from. With so many new styles and designs available this year, there is no excuse not to clean out your closet and make room for fresh items that reflect your personal style. Whether you prefer bold prints, bright colors, or classic neutrals, there's something for everyone. So, go ahead and explore the latest fashion trends and find the perfect outfits that will make you feel confident and beautiful this spring season!

Women's History Month

Why it's important to celebrate each March

Morgan Williams
Staff Writer

As you may or may not have known, last month was Women's History Month or International Women's Month. Whatever you want to call it, the point stays the



same: it is a month about honoring the achievements and contributions of women throughout history, despite being on unequal footing for most of history.

Before it was a month, it was a week. This week was known as "Women's History Week," and was only a community celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The week of March 8th was chosen to go along with the previously established International Women's Day. This celebration began to receive recognition nationwide as other communities began to celebrate their own Women's History Week.

In 1980, the National Women's History Alliance fought for national acknowledgment, and in February 1980, President Jimmy Carter established that March 2nd-8th would be National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress passed the law 100-9, declaring March Women's History Month.

For a significant part of history, women have been deprived of certain resources and rights: the right to vote, to work, to own property, and to have a bank account, just to name a few. Women's History Month gives us a chance to acknowledge all of the contributions women have made to society

despite those setbacks. People like Marie Curie, who is known for her studies in radium and finding cancer treatments. Or, Harriet Tubman, known for her bravery in escaping slavery and helping others escape from it. Or even Susan B. Anthony, who played a huge role in the women's suffrage movement.

There are many ways to celebrate Women's History Month each year. You can read books by female authors, support businesses owned by women, listen to TED talks or podcasts from women, or maybe just educate yourself about important female figures.

Phở Restaurant Review

A local restaurant to try!

Carly Arauz
Staff Writer

You might have heard about phở before, but have you ever tried it? Well, if you don't already know, phở, pronounced FUH, is Vietnamese cuisine. It contains broth, noodles, herbs, and meat, and is served as a main course. Vietnamese cuisine contains many other delectable dishes. In the Ellicott City area, the restaurant Viet Pearl is a great place to go and try to start your Asian cuisine journey! Viet Pearl is an upbeat bar/grill that offers phở, noodles, and seafood.

When I got to the restaurant, a kind server named Vy, who herself is from Saigon, Vietnam, recommended five different dishes. The first two appetizers were spring rolls and egg rolls. She then recommended the traditional beef eye round phở soup that is highly popular within the restaurant. She specifically explained how she recommends the following dishes for after the phở soup because in

Vietnam the soup would come first. She then recommended the combination vermicelli which contained egg rolls, shrimp, chicken, beef, and noodles! She also said the sauteed diced beef was one she enjoyed and wanted me to try. She recommended the freshly made lemonade drink and Vietnamese coffee.

The spring rolls which contained minced pork, shrimp, egg, vegetables, glass noodles, and other spices were the first thing I tried. The rolls were clear and soft and came with the thick brown peanut dipping sauce which was one of the highlights of my dining experience. The spring rolls paired well with the dipping sauce. The sauce was sweet and savory and brought out the taste of the shrimp in the spring rolls which I very much enjoyed.

The next thing I tried was the egg rolls, which contained shredded cabbage, pork, shrimp, and so much more. It was really like nothing I had tasted before. The egg rolls on the other hand were a lot crispier and served with light yellow fish sauce which was also

very sweet and gave the egg rolls a crispy sweet taste. The next thing to come was the beef phở soup. The soup came with fresh herbs on top with the beef cooking inside the steaming hot soup. I continued to add a generous amount of sauces to the soup which were sriracha and hoisin sauce. The noodles in the soup were extremely soft and full of the flavor from the broth itself. The soup itself was sweet and had a kick of spice. There is an option to add more veggies, but I decided to add no more since the ones in the soup were enough for me.

The next thing I tried was the combination vermicelli, which was brought with fish oil that gets poured on top. The noodles that were in the dish were extremely soft and complemented the sauce with it. The pork on the noodles tasted so good with the noodles as well! I then tried the sauteed diced beef. I was very surprised when I saw that there was combination fried rice that contained eggs in the dish. When I tried the beef, it reminded me of the dishes from my home country, Nicaragua. It

brought me home. It was sweet but also had a tiny kick of spiciness. You can tell it was still warm from the skillet, which I adored. Vietnamese coffee was one of the drinks that were brought. It was very bitter, but good for those who love coffee, as it is very strong. The lemonade on the other hand was super sweet and had a taste of sparkling water in it which was a kick to give to a simple lemonade.

I would 100% recommend these dishes to everyone! This restaurant is definitely in my top five. Go ahead and visit Viet Pearl in Ellicott City and order these dishes! For a more local option, I recommend phở Dat Thanh in Columbia, which is also extremely good!



The Dangers of Using ChatGPT

The potential dangers in AI

Ryan Malinowski
Staff Writer

Using ChatGPT, like any other technology, carries certain risks and potential dangers, particularly when used irresponsibly or without proper oversight. Some of the dangers associated with using ChatGPT include:

1. Spread of Misinformation: ChatGPT generates responses based on patterns in its training data, which may include inaccuracies, biases, or misinformation. If users rely solely on ChatGPT for information, there's a risk of spreading false or misleading information.

2. Privacy Concerns: Interactions with ChatGPT may involve sharing personal or sensitive information. Without proper safeguards in place, there's a risk of this

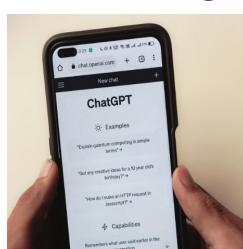
information being misused or compromised, leading to privacy violations.

3. Lack of Accountability: ChatGPT operates based on pre-existing data and algorithms, without a sense of

accountability or responsibility for its responses. This lack of accountability can lead to inappropriate or harmful responses, especially in sensitive or complex situations.

4. Bias and Discrimination: ChatGPT may inadvertently perpetuate biases present in its training data, leading to discriminatory or prejudiced responses. This can reinforce harmful stereotypes and contribute to societal inequalities.

5. Dependence and Disengagement: Over-reliance on ChatGPT for information or decision-mak-



ing can lead to a lack of critical thinking skills and independence. Users may become dependent on ChatGPT and disengaged from developing their own problem-solving abilities.

6. Manipulation and Abuse: ChatGPT can be manipulated or abused by malicious actors to generate harmful content, spread propaganda, or engage in unethical behaviors such as phishing or scamming.

7. Emotional Impact: ChatGPT's responses may lack empathy or sensitivity, particularly in discussions about sensitive topics or mental health issues. This can potentially have a negative emotional impact on users, especially if they perceive the responses as dismissive or insensitive.

8. Security Vulnerabilities: Like any software, ChatGPT may be vulnerable to security exploits or hacking attempts. Unauthorized access to ChatGPT systems could lead to data breaches or other security incidents.

To mitigate these dangers, it's essential to use ChatGPT responsibly, implement appropriate safeguards and guidelines for its use, and critically evaluate its responses. Educating users about the limitations of ChatGPT and promoting digital literacy skills can also help mitigate risks associated with its use. Additionally, developers should continuously work to improve ChatGPT's algorithms to reduce biases and enhance its ability to provide accurate and helpful responses.

By the way, this article was completely generated by ChatGPT.

Affordable Cars for Teens

Find out which car is best for you

on either of those," he said.

I am also a fan of the Subaru, but I would recommend the Subaru Impreza. Before we get into this car, I'd like to note that it's important to stay away from high-mileage cars. Seriously. Do not let the low prices tempt you. You must fight it. Sure, the car may look nice and it may be cheap, but it's probably got high mileage and it won't last you long. This is why the Subaru Impreza is such a good car because you can get a brand new one for cheap. It's a neat-looking compact car, nothing too basic, nothing too fancy. Subaru models also always make the top charts for car safety. A new Subaru Impreza will cost you around \$22,995, and used ones are usually extremely affordable.

Even cheaper is the 2024 Nissan Sentra at \$20,890. This is a smooth, nice-looking car that is known to have "dynamic driving,"

"enhanced control," and "enhanced for comfort," according to various reviews around the web.

The second car brand suggestion is an older, used BMW. "Be careful with this one, but older BMWs are a good choice. Look for ones with under 100,000 miles. But usually, the 2007 or 2011 models are pretty good if you can get them in good condition. They're also a pretty common car brand and most companies know how to fix a BMW, so you can go to multiple repair shops. They also can come in manual or automatic if you want to learn either one," Carter explained about BMWs.

Now these last two cars are where we take it up a notch. The previous two cars mentioned were new compact cars in the low 20k price range. These next two car options are sports cars in the 40k price range, brand new. Though 40k may seem like a lot, these are

pretty cheap for sports cars. Up first is the 2024 Toyota GR Supra. The transmission is an 8-speed automatic, with horsepower 255 hp, the engine is a 2.0 L 4-cylinder, and it costs about 46k. Honestly, this car looks hot, just like you. This is a car you have to save in advance unless you have money like that. Sure, you can get this car for much cheaper with high mileage but remember what we told you. High mileage is bad; don't fall into the temptation.

Not as nice looking as the Toyota GR Supra (but way cheaper) is the 2024 Mazda MX-5 Miata. You can get this as cheap as 28k which is impressive for such a nice-looking and fast car. It runs on the same engine as the previous car, its horsepower is 181 hp, and transmission options are 6-speed automatic and 6-speed manual. Overall, it's a beautiful car with a surprising price.

The main focus right now is saving. That's the most important thing you can do for your future car. Sure, these cars are cheap compared to most, but we are living in a time where everything is expensive. Get your money up, not your funny up. Stop reading this article NOW and find you some motion. Go study finance in an ancient Himalayan cave with an ancient Himalayan man. Or, maybe start with a part-time job after school. Do whatever it takes to start saving now so you can afford the first car of your dreams before you even leave high school.



HCPSS COURSES:

If you are interested in the agricultural part of this cluster the Agricultural Science Academy might be for you. There are a number of JumpStart/Dual Enrollment courses relating to this cluster available as well once you meet one of the three benchmarks starting next year. Talk with your school counselor or CRA's for more information about both options!

Prom Throwbacks

April 2, 2024

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In honor of the upcoming prom date, here's a look back at some of the OM staff from their prom days.



Mr. McCaskill

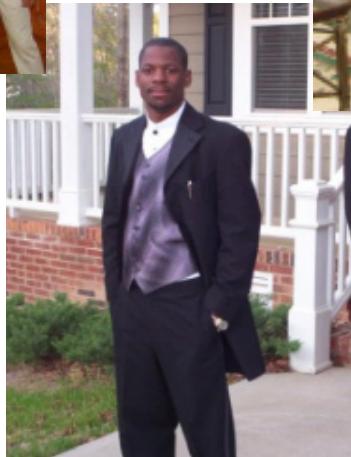


Mrs. Hall



Ms. Veltre

Mr. Loyola



Ms. Moore



CAREER

**ENVIRONMENTAL,
AGRICULTURAL & NATURAL
RESOURCE SYSTEMS**

spotlight

INTERESTED IN IT?

Are you interested in protecting our environment? The environmental, agricultural & natural resource systems cluster is all about that, plus recycling, rehabing contaminated land sites & reducing pollution. Whether you want to work with humans or animals, maybe just the environment, this cluster has something for you!



April Fools'

April 2, 2024

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Iconic April Fools' Pranks

Hoaxes through history

Nomtai Kurmi
Staff Writer

1. Big Ben goes digital: On April 1st, 1980, the BBC in the UK announced on its radio station that the iconic clock tower, Big Ben, would be replaced by a digital clock. They even promised to give away the clock hands to the first four listeners who called in. However, the announcement turned out to be a prank, and many people fell for it, leading to widespread anger and confusion. The BBC had to quickly clarify that it was just a joke.



2. Eruption in Alaska?: In 1974, the residents of Sitka, Alaska were alarmed when they noticed signs of eruption activity from their long-dormant volcano neighbor, Mount Edgecumbe. They immediately contacted the local authorities and the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard sent a chopper to investigate the situation, but instead of finding lava, the pilot discovered a pile of old tires burning, with the words "APRIL FOOLS" spray-painted



beside it. It turned out that local prankster Oliver "Porky" Bickar had executed this hoax, which he had planned for three years. Although Porky had informed the local authorities about his prank, he had forgotten to notify the Coast Guard. Fortunately, the residents and the Coast Guard took the joke positively since it was nice to know no actual threat was in place.

3. The Taco Liberty Bell: In April 1996, Taco Bell made an announcement claiming to have purchased a symbol of freedom in America: The Liberty Bell. They published this statement as full-page ads in notable newspapers, citing the reason for their decision as the debt crisis. The U.S. was going through a debt crisis and had decided to close all monuments to the public to reduce expenses. Taco Bell wanted to make it easier for the government and even renamed the bell the Taco Liberty Bell. However, this move was met with negative reactions from the public, who criticized the fast food chain for dishonoring the nation. Some people were still impressed by the news and flooded the Taco Bell Headquarters and the National Park Service with

calls and complaints. The commotion was so much that PepsiCo., Taco Bell's partners, had to clarify that the company did not buy the bell and that it was a prank. Freshman Abi Maja commented, "That's disappointing, I wish they actually bought it." However, they did want to help the national debt by raising funds to support the Liberty Bell. The funniest part is that even some government



officials believed that this hoax was real.

4. Colored TV Hack: In 1962, Swedish television provider, Sveriges Television (SVT), proposed a way to transform black and white televisions into TVs with wide color ranges. The hoax was carried out by Kjell Stensson, as the station presented him as the expert who would broadcast this breakthrough to Sweden. He acted effectively, looked serious, and presented numerous scientific facts and theories to make the hoax seem real. He then proposed that to make TVs colored, they'll have to use nylon stockings and tape it on the screen, claiming that due to its tiny holes, it can alter

the wavelength of the colors. Funny enough, people believed him, and Swedish people still give an account of how family members



were fooled as they scavenged for stockings.

5. Spaghetti trees: In 1957, the BBC aired an episode entitled "Panorama" featuring a group of spaghetti farmers in Switzerland. During the episode, the farmers discussed how to harvest the crops and what to do afterward. They even made up traditions and pests associated with the crop. The hoax was successful, as numerous viewers called the BBC for tips on cultivating the crop. One reason for the hoax's success was the limited knowledge of pasta in the UK at that time. Ms. Benson, an OM science teacher, commented, "To be honest, I think I would fall for this. I never grew up on a farm or had a garden. You could convince me spaghetti grew on trees any day of the week."



GURSOS HGPSS:

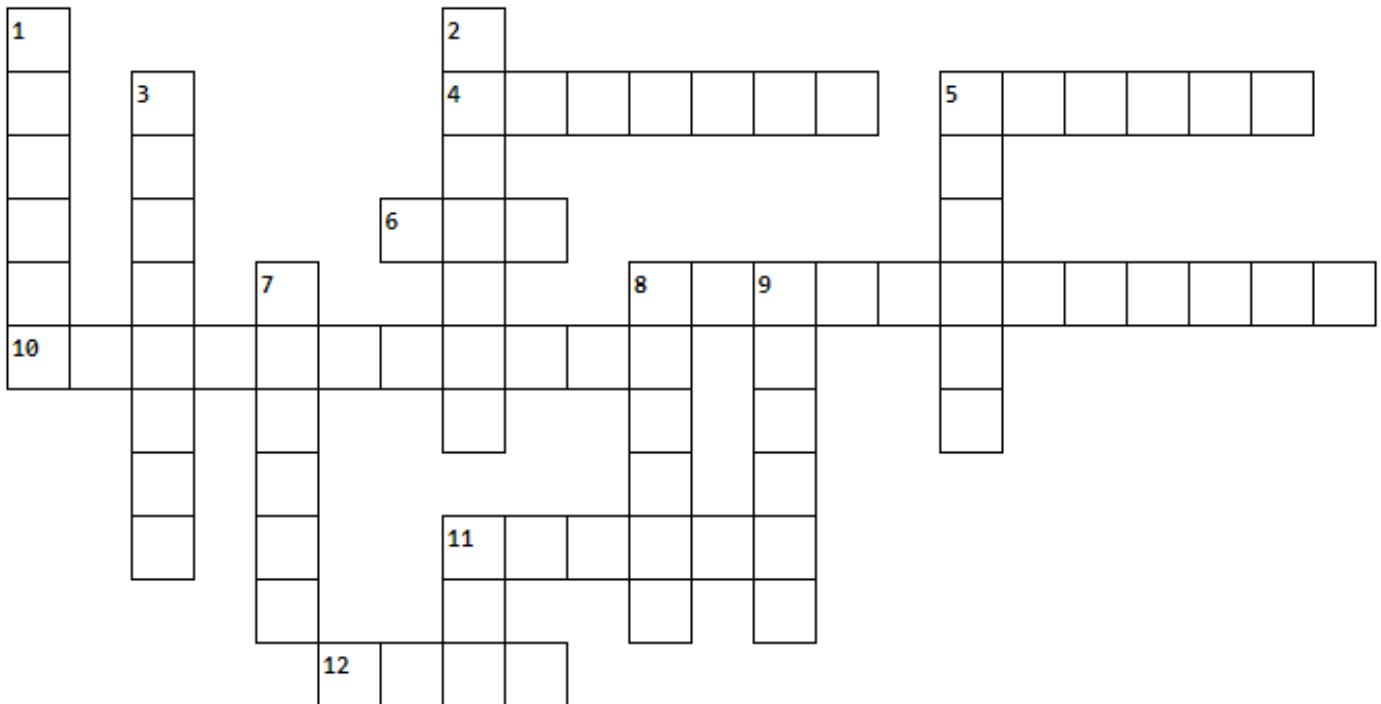
Si está interesado en la parte agrícola de este grupo, la Academia de Ciencias Agrícolas podría ser para usted. También hay una serie de cursos JumpStart/Dual Enrollment relacionados con este grupo disponibles una vez que cumpla con uno de los tres puntos de referencia a partir del próximo año.

¡Hable con su consejero escolar o CRA para obtener más información sobre ambas opciones!

Puzzle Games

April 2, 2024

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Across

4. The most common generative AI technology
5. The OM school newspaper, The _____
6. Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan
8. AP Exams and the SAT are examples of this kind of testing
10. A grant given for academic or other achievements
11. How people celebrate April Fools' Day
12. The annual formal dance on May 11th this year

Down

1. March is _____ History Month
2. A solar event where the moon passes between the Earth and the Sun
3. Celebrated every year on April 22nd (2 words)
5. An affordable car brand
7. OM graduates are called _____
8. Allergy season
9. A spectrum disorder that affects how people interact and communicate
11. Vietnamese soup dish

4/3- Varsity Lacrosse Home Game vs Glen
Burnie High School

4/5- Varsity Baseball Home Game Vs Glenelg

4/5 - Varsity Softball Home Game Vs Glenelg

4/8 -Varsity Tennis Home Game vs Guilford

4/9- Last day of the quarter

4/10- No school-Professional workday

4/17- Report Cards Issued

4/18 and 4/24- Orchestra and Band Concerts

5/3-5/4 Dance concerts

5/9- OMHS performing arts showcase