

Connelly Chronicle



Volume 3, Issue 3

November/December 2019

RING DAY TO REMEMBER

BY ELYSSA SAVELLANO



Junior class shows off their new class rings. Photo by: Anya Ibasco

On November 13th, 2019, Cornelia Connelly School held a beautiful Ring Day ceremony celebrating the Juniors as official upper-class women. Although the day started off gloomy, the glowing smiles and shining new bling made the day exciting and bright.

The ceremony started with all the juniors processing in two-by-two. Parents' phones were out to capture every single moment as their daughters walked to their seats. Speeches, prayers, and oaths were said and the juniors were finally presented their rings and a rose by their Senior sister. After, many pictures were taken as the juniors showed off their rings and personal designs to the other classes. As part of the tradition, they also had to get twenty-one people to spin their ring as they are the class of 2021. A delicious brunch was served by the senior class with tamales, Portos, donuts, and more.



Photo by: Mrs. Werelius

Heartfelt letters written by their fellow sisters were also given to the Juniors. Laughs and sweet conversations could be heard all throughout the school.

The ceremony was short and sweet, and the presentation of the rings was very wholesome, but my personal favorite part were the speeches. The speeches were given by Jessica Ortiz '20 and Gabriela Mercado '21. Their speeches had the whole room silent with love, compassion, and a few tears as well. They both touched on the tough topic of Connelly closing and this being the very last ring day of Cornelia Connelly School, but nevertheless, the Junior class should be the young beautiful (now) upper-class women they are. Congratulations Class of 2021!



Kris Nguyen '20 and her grandparents have lunch together. Photo by: Anya Ibasco

LOVED ONES ON OUR LOVELY CAMPUS

BY ANYA IBASCO



What better way to begin our Thanksgiving break than to spend time and give thanks with the people we love the most? On November 22, the Connelly community welcomed grandparents, family members, and special friends to spend a day with their beloved girls. Students and their loved ones had such a pleasant time going to mass, attending classes, and having lunch together. It was truly a day to be cherished.

On Friday morning, the auditorium was filled with people as eager grandparents arrived early to celebrate mass. It was a beautiful service that focused on our blessings and gratefulness. The music complemented the readings well and it was beautiful to see the Connelly community sharing mass with their loved ones.

During break which directly followed mass, students and loved ones spent time simply enjoying the campus. Some girls took their guests on tours around the school, others snapped pictures together, while most just sat and enjoyed each other's company. Rachel Cabero '21 gladly states that she "had a lot of fun because I got to hang out with my grandmother and talk to her one on one.



Charlotte Werelius '23 having a great time with her grandparents. Photo by: Anya Ibasco

I don't get to speak with her often so this was a great opportunity to do so and I had an amazing time."

Students then took their guests to their next class where they were able to observe their girls in the classroom, meet their teachers, and even participate in the lesson. Many grandparents remarked at how times have changed and so have teaching/learning styles. It was so delightful to see grandparents participate

and get so involved in the classes. "They were very interested in my AP English class where we played a game using rhetorical strategies. They also really liked watching me work on my painting!" says Samie Baclig '21.

Following the two classes, students and loved ones alike had worked up quite an appetite. Thankfully, the whole school was provided with delicious food: sandwiches, pasta, macaroni salad, fruit, and cookies. The auditorium flooded with chatter as conversations occurred among students, grandparents, faculty, and special friends. As lunch continued on, the handbell ensemble and Advanced Women's Ensemble each performed a song from their repertoire. Then, grandparents and special friends got to witness a special edition Connelly



Jessica Ortiz '20 and her grandmother pose for a picture. Photo by: Anya Ibasco

Chronicle TV episode complete with exciting events and a heartfelt message to the guests. A little game was played as well as a raffle drawing where multiple guests won Connelly merchandise.

As lunch came to a close, students thanked their guests for such a special day as they parted ways. A Connelly girl remarked, "It was really nice to have special guests with us to celebrate mass and see what a day in the life of a Connelly girl looks like. I had such a great time it's my grandparents. I love them very much and am grateful for all they do for me." Grandparents and special friends day is always a memorable and cherished time spent with the people we love the most. It is always a joy to see Connelly girls spend quality time with their loved ones, especially right here on our own campus.

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Alumni Spotlight: Zoe Kam '11

BY VALENTINA PEREZ



Zoe Kam and her mother smile together. Photo by: Zoe Kam

This month, the Connelly Community is shining the Alumni Spotlight on Zoe Kam '11! Zoe is not only Mrs. Kam's daughter, but she is also a Connelly legend. Fun fact, Zoe was the last Connelly girl to be crowned Tri-School homecoming queen! Like most of our girls, Zoe was very much involved during her time at Connelly. From ASB to AWE, she did it all. When asked about her favorite high school memory, "It's hard to pick just one," says Miss Kam '11. Though she can go on and on, she wants to emphasize the fun she had decorating the campus as a senior, choir practices, and most importantly, beach day! When it comes to traditions, her favorite has to be Class Plays. "It's such a great bonding experience for each class and it's an awesome opportunity for each girl to get a spot on the stage!"

Miss Kam feels that her time at Connelly helped her develop all of the skills she needed to enter college. "Because Connelly offers so many opportunities beyond just academics, I think Connelly girls tend to go on and successfully juggle heavy class loads, various extracurriculars and work demands," says Miss Kam '11. If she could give any freshmen some advice, it would be to find a subject that fascinates you, a club you're passionate about, a teacher who cares about you, and some friends you can be silly with!

Miss Kam has been doing great things since she graduated from Connelly almost nine years ago. After high school, she went on to double-major in Comparative Literature and History at UCSB. From there, she took on law school at the University of Chicago. Graduating from UChicago in '18 as well as passing the bar exam are two of her top accomplishments since Connelly. Most importantly, she is proud of how hard she worked to do it. Now, Miss Kam works as an attorney in New York City. She's currently employed at White & Case LLP, one of the best law firms in the country. In regards to the future, she plans on staying in New York for the next couple of years to focus on the

Dear Cornelia...

Dear Cornelia is a special feature of the Connelly Chronicle. Questions for Dear Cornelia may be left in the mailbox outside of Classroom 16.



Dear Cornelia,
My homework schedule is very inconsistent coming from the most religious family ever, my mom takes us to church every day and we have night prayer for half an hour. Talking to her isn't an option because I've tried to do that for many years already. I'm also expected to sleep at 11:00 each night. How am I supposed to find time to study and do homework consistently when I feel religiously overwhelmed?

Dear Religiously Overwhelmed,
I am so sorry that you're having to go through this, I know it must be incredibly stressful. Sadly, I cannot override any of your parents decisions. However,

hopefully I can provide you with some advice on how to handle the cards you've been dealt. Thankfully at Connelly, you will only have one class in two days in a row. Therefore, I think it is necessary to start the homework for your more rigorous courses as soon as they are assigned. If you find yourself bored during lunch, do some homework! I do it all the time!! It sounds like what you might need is some more rigorous organization skills. In a perfect world, you would be in bed by 11 pm, however, I completely understand why it feels like you need to stay up and study more. If you plan your study increments accordingly, as soon as it is assigned, you won't need to cram into the late hours of the night.

Main Idea: keep organized!!!

Finally, make sure that if you continue to feel so overwhelmed to go talk to the counselor. High school is hard enough as it is. I'm sorry that you're dealing with this.

XOXO

D.C

ALL SAINTS DAY MASS

BY ALICIA DOFELMIER



On Friday, November 1st, the entire Connelly Community came together to celebrate All Saints Day. With the night before having been Halloween, it was a good way for us to put ourselves back in the presence of God and to be reminded that no matter how tough life may get, God will always be with us. It was also a good time to honor all the Saints who dedicated their lives to serving God. The religion classes worked hard on portraits of different saints that were displayed at the front by the altar during Mass. Chelsea Bartilad '22 described the Mass as "a beautiful celebration to honor the saints". We were blessed to have Father Mike P. Hannifan from St. Joachim Catholic Church in Costa Mesa presiding, and both Mrs. Townsend and Mrs. Perez worked tirelessly to put together a beautiful mass. Mr. Arnold and the second sopranos from AWE were wonderful in providing the Connelly community with calming music. Campus Ministry worked together with Mrs. Perez to make sure that the mass flowed smoothly despite not being able to have Mrs. Townsend there. St. Therese of Lisieux once said, "You cannot be half a saint; you must be a whole saint or no saint at all." Through this celebration of Mass, the Connelly community was reminded of how we must keep God in the center of our lives and honor Him in all that we do as His children.



Zoe Kam smiles happily when she graduated. Photo by: Zoe Kam

career she has built for herself. However, California is always calling her home, and she jokes that her mom is too! Eventually, she sees herself back home. Finally, Zoe Kam would like to share this message with the Connelly Community: "I hope amidst all the challenges you remember to take extra time to cherish your friends, teachers, and all of the special Connelly traditions you'll get to experience. Your Connelly sisters, near and far, are standing with you!"

As always, the Connelly Community is always happy to hear what our alumni are up to! Special thanks to Zoe Kam '11 for taking the time to answer our questions and we wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors. We are all so proud of her!



The beautiful Saint portraits done by the religion classes. Photo by: Alicia Dofelmier '22

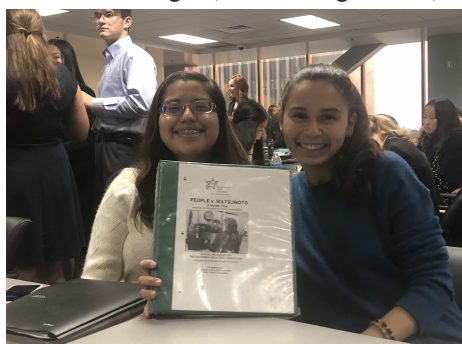
ONE TEAM, ONE FAMILY

BY ALICIA DOFELMIER



The entire Mock Trial team. Photo by: many excited parents of students; ie. Mrs. Arcero, Mr. Dofelmier, Mrs. Garcia and many more

After weeks and weeks of late-night and early morning practices, the Mock Trial team began their competition rounds on November 7th, 2019. The first match was against Fountain Valley and while Connelly's prosecution team fought hard and did their best, it was a sad loss. The team's next match was on November 14th, 2019 and this time it was Connelly's defense team up against one of the best teams in the county, University High School. Once again, after a tough round,



Jocelyn Martinez '21 and Tahila Garcia '21 smile before competition. Photo by Alicia Dofelmier '22 it was a sad defeat. Tuesday, November 19th, brought much needed good news for the Mock Trial team when it was learned on Wednesday morning that their defense team had won! The prosecution team went into their next match on November 21st ready to do their best but after another tough and exciting round, they unfortunately lost. With three losses and one win, this marked the close of another Mock Trial Season.

This year's Mock Trial team had Mrs. Morris as the advisor, and Ms. Christine Albanese and Mr. Chris Zwink as attorney coaches. Tahlia Garcia '21 was PreTrial for Defense and Ariel Hobbs '21 was PreTrial for Prosecution. On Prosecution, Nina Menzagopian '21,

Brooke Medina '22, Emily Arcero '22, and Valentina Perez '20 were attorneys. Raneem Iftekhhar '22, Miranda Becerra '22, Michaela Padilla '23, Ava De' Santos '23, Chloe Webb '20 were witnesses for the Prosecution side. On Defense, Alicia Dofelmier '22, Caitlin Dopudja '22, Jocelyn Martinez '21, and Jessica Ortiz '20 were attorneys. Camilla Zavala '23, Christine Quintanar '22, Nancy Shao '20, Bianca Rodriguez '23, Nicole Ortiz '23, and Sabrina Piazza '23 were all witnesses for the Defense Side. Camilla Zavala '23 was also a Courtroom Journalist and Arielle Hobbs '21 and Raneem Iftekhhar '22 were also Courtroom Artists. Therese Vasquez '22 was the bailiff for the Defense side, and Sarah Akhtar '21 was the timekeeper for the Prosecution side.

By the end of the season, the Mock Trial team had become more than a team; they had become a family. They had carried on even with the sad news of the school's closing looming over them. They laughed together and some even cried together. Even though this year was the last year for Connelly's Mock Trial team it was a memorable one, and the team is sure to remember the joy they had together. They had become more than a team, they were family.



Caitlin Dopudja, Jessica Ortiz, Tahila Garcia, and Alicia Dofelmier smile for a photo after a good competition. Photo by: Mr. Neal Dofelmier

November/December Koala Family Spotlight

BY ANYA IBASCO



For this issue's Koala Family Spotlight, we will be featuring Grace Edwards '20 along with her sisters Anais Jimenez '21, Lindsay Whippler '22, and Karissa Garcia '23. These girls make up such a sweet and caring family. Upon meeting her koala sisters, Anais Jimenez '21 describes them as "so kind and genuine" and she was "happy to be placed with such sweet girls." Karissa Garcia '23 seemed to agree, saying that her family was, "...very funny and willing to listen to anything I had to say."

Although these girls may be similar in personality, they differ greatly in their school-wide activities. Senior, Grace Edwards, is the managing editor for the World News section in Journalism and part of NHS and Social Justice Club. Junior, Anais Jimenez, plays softball and volleyball, is a part of ASB, NHS, Ambassadors, Journalism, and is the co-



Grace Edwards '20 and her koala family dressed as cats for Matching Monday. Photo by: Anya Ibasco founder of the Yoga Club. Sophomore, Lindsay Whippler, along with her sisters Grace and Anais, is a part of Journalism. She is also in Academic Decathlon, Advanced Women's Ensemble, Campus Ministry, and Tri-School Theatre. The newest member of the family, freshman, Karissa Garcia, is involved in AWE and Tri-School as well, and she is also on the soccer team and part of the Eco-Schools club.

Like many other Koala Families, this family's favorite memories all come from Spirit week. Anais and Lindsay both recall matching Monday where their family dressed up as cats, complete with black outfits and of course, the cat ears. Karissa loved when they all had Starbucks on Beach Day. This school year is only halfway through and this family is looking forward to so many more memories together. Lindsay '22 says she "...can't wait to go through the rest of her Connelly career with her family right by her side!"

As the senior sister, Grace kindly has some advice to share with her family and with the school, "Stay organized and plan things out. Being organized will always help in high school and beyond!"

Veteran's Day Service

BY ELYSSA SAVELLANO



Special guest veterans and their Connelly student. Photo by: Elyssa Savellano

Veteran's Day is a day to remember for the great veterans who have served our country. On November 8th, 2019, Cornelia Connelly School honored those veterans with a prayer service. The Connelly Community gathered together singing classic American pieces and joined in prayer. Six special veterans were honored specifically by Connelly as they were invited by students.

Along with the beautiful songs and prayers, a great speech was also given by Connelly's very own veteran and teacher, Mr. David Jueneman. Mr. Jueneman's speech was very heartfelt as he talked about the struggles of staying in touch



Sophia Hagerman '22 and her special guest veterans. Photo by: Elyssa Savellano

with people he met throughout his service. He talked about his lasting friendships and the importance of making conversation and reaching out to people. The speech was very fitting for Connelly as the community will be split in many different directions as the school closes. I, personally, was very touched by the message and felt even more inclined to hold my fellow sisters close to my heart. Happy Veteran's Day Connelly!

SPORTS, ARTS, AND ENTERTAINMENT

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

BY REGINA ZHAO



The Kardashians walking the People's Choice Awards red carpet. Photo Courtesy of E! News.

Celebrities across all genres of entertainment walked the red carpet for the 45th annual E! People's Choice Awards on Sunday, November 10th at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, California.

The awards ceremony celebrates pop culture and the work of some of the biggest stars in Hollywood, ranging from musicians, performers, actors, artists, comedians, fashionistas, social media influencers, and even podcasters.

Containing a wide variety of categories, including music, movies, TV shows, and celebrities, the ceremony included numerous awards, including male and female movie stars of 2019, song of 2019, and the most binge-worthy show of 2019.

Similar to the 2019 Academy Awards and 2019 Emmy Awards, the 2019

People's Choice Awards had no designated host. Instead, several celebrities graced the stage to not only present awards but to walk audience members and viewers through highlights of pop culture's biggest moments of the year.

Altogether, awards were handed out in 43 different categories ranging from the movie of 2019 and the TV show of 2019 down to the pop podcast of 2019 and the Beauty Influencer of 2019.

Dozens of prominent figures were nominated for awards but some of the biggest names included LeBron James, Megan Rapinoe, Ariana Grande, the Jonas Brothers, Lizzo, Taylor Swift, Cardi B, Lil Nas X, Bad Bunny, Drake, Jameela Jamil, Kristen Bell, Sterling K. Brown, Sophie Turner, Cole Sprouse, and several others.



The hosts of panel show "The Real" at the People's Choice Awards. Courtesy of E! News.

Disney Plus THANKSGIVING

BY BETHANIE SANFT

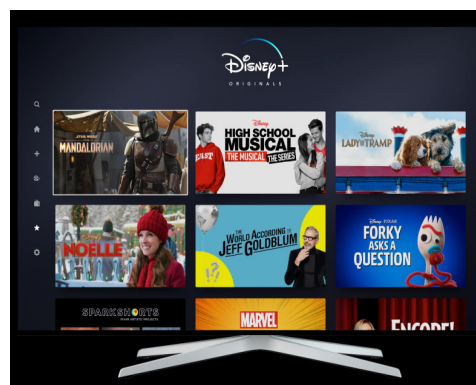


Disney Plus logo. Photo Courtesy of forbes.com

Everyone, especially Disney fans, have been excited about the new Disney streaming app. The Walt Disney Company decided to release a new app called Disney Plus. The app was released on November 12th of this year. There were roughly ten million users as of November 13, the day after the release.

Disney Plus was designed as an exclusive app that is able to stream any and all Disney movies and tv shows, past, present, and future. They also have their own original programming. For example, their Marvel original shows are going to be close to the original guidelines that were played on the big screens in the theatres. They will release new episodes weekly for all new shows, not just Marvel ones!

In order to enjoy Disney Plus, there is a fee of \$7 a month, or you can pay for the whole year for \$70. The cost is less than what you would pay for Netflix. Now that Disney Plus is out and business is booming, they have become a rival to Netflix, another very popular streaming service. To some, Disney Plus includes more perks than Netflix and also costs less, which is part of the cause for their rivalry. Do you think it's worth it?



A small glimpse as to what Disney Plus has to offer. Photo Courtesy of variety.com

BY THERESE ENRIQUEZ



Thanksgiving—the holiday best known for family dinners, turkey, mashed potatoes, and football. Millions of people across the country tuned in to watch the three big NFL games of the holiday.

The first game of the day was a showdown between the Lions and Bears. The two teams faced off last year in which the Bears took a 23-16 win over the Lions. This year, the Bears took the win once again with 24-20. During the halftime performance, the Brothers Osborne experienced a power outage in the middle of their set. Awkwardly enough, the whole thing was also aired on television.

Next was the Bills versus Cowboys game in which the Bills embarrassed the Cowboys 26-15. Cowboys head coach, Jason Garrett, seems to be coming close to the end of his time with the Cowboys, and this Thanksgiving blowout shed some more light on the team's apparent need for a new coach.

The final Thanksgiving game was a battle between the Saints and Falcons. The Saints took home the win with 26-18. In one of the biggest rivalries of the NFL, this game got violent. The Saints were brutal to Matt Ryan and the Falcons. Nine sacks, an interception by a defensive tackle, and a forceful stiffarm by Saints' Shy Tuttle summarized the Falcons' loss.



Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett on the sideline during the Thanksgiving game. Photo Courtesy of The Ringer.

Rocking Around the Christmas Tree



BY THERESE ENRIQUEZ



The annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony at The Grove LA. Photo Courtesy of The Grove.

One of the most recognizable symbols of the Christmas season is the Christmas tree. In almost every home across the country, you could most likely find a tree decked in ornaments and bright lights. These Christmas trees may range from real trees picked out in a tree lot to fake trees that can be found in a variety of colors. Needless to say, each uniquely decorated tree is an artwork in and of itself. Malls and attractions have made a name for themselves around this time of year in their spectacular Christmas tree installations and lighting ceremonies. Here are some of the biggest and most well known Christmas tree displays in the US:

1. Walt Disney World Orlando, Florida
Of course Disney would go all out for Christmastime, but who knew it would be through a 70 foot tree and 11 miles of garland? The tree can be found at the Contemporary Resort in the park.

2. Pioneer Square Portland, Oregon

Portland shows off an impressive 75 foot tree that contains over 14,000 lights strung around it.

3. The Capitol Washington, DC

Every year the Capitol features a beautiful 80 foot Engelmann Spruce.

4. Rockefeller Center New York City, New York

The Rockefeller Center, known for its ice-skating rink and artwork, displays one of the most well-known Christmas trees in the world. It

attracts visitors from around the globe every year.

5. Galleria Mall Dallas, Texas

Known as the largest indoor Christmas tree in the country, the Galleria Mall holds a 95 foot tree surrounded by a skating rink for all to admire.

6. The Grove Los Angeles, California

This California outdoor mall is centered by a 100 foot Christmas tree that can be seen all around the mall. The annual Christmas tree lighting is one of the biggest events at The Grove.

Now that you know where all of the Christmas tree hotspots are, maybe you'll go visit some during the Christmas break!



The world-famous Rockefeller Christmas tree in New York City. Photo Courtesy of The Rockefeller Center.

BLACK FRIDAY



BY REGINA ZHAO



A mall packed with shoppers on Black Friday. Photo Courtesy of www.moneycrashers.com

Black Friday is the famous sales weekend which follows Thanksgiving Day, and fell on November 29 this year. It is a day that a significant amount of shoppers head to high street stores and online brands in an attempt to find the best deals for their holiday shopping.

Black Friday is the biggest shopping event of the year, as many shops cut their prices on a range of products in order to increase the amount of shoppers, boost profits, and officially kick off the festive retail season.

Millions of people hit the shops and search websites to look for the best deals, and retailers often continue their sales throughout the weekend, concluding with online-only offers on Cyber Monday.

Every year, malls and stores are packed with people. With the development of online shopping, most stores will also put sales online in order to increase profit. Although online shopping is convenient, considering the shipping fees, some customers still prefer to shop in person.

We hope you all had safe shopping experiences this Black Friday!

HAILEY'S HOTSPOT

BY HAILEY FROGNER



Recently, Kanye West came back as a born-again Christian and released a Christian influenced album, *Jesus is King*. *Jesus is King* hit number one on charts across major music genres, each song landing in Billboard's Hot 100. He has been open about the transformation in his faith and helping to lead thousands of Christians in the same process.

Kanye attributes his transformation to the Christians in his life who never stopped praying for him. Kanye had reached a low point in his life where he was "all the way gone" and "it was people in [his] family that were praying for [him]" that aided him in his recovery. Kanye has talked about the addictions he had that helped him in this transformation and also hopes that sharing his struggles will help non-believers explore faith, which is his main goal. Kanye explained how he believes God wanted him to suffer more and wanted people to see his suffering and pain to make him go through the human experience.

Kanye now wants to use his career and following to encourage people to follow God's Word and join him in fasting and praying. He made Sunday service with the goal of bringing a more artistic feel and sense of community to Christianity. As for his relationship with his wife, Kim Kardashian, they have learned how to compromise while honoring both their faiths and each others' uniqueness. As a father, he believes it's important to set standards, so he and Kim have removed TV from their kids' rooms and makeup from North, their daughter's, room as well.

I think this journey has been incredible for Kanye, and I think the rest of the world is excited to hear more. Someone who can reach so many people needs to take the role they have in this world extremely seriously, and I believe Kanye has finally realized that, and is taking the role well.



Kanye West at his worship service. Photo Courtesy of nbcnews.com



'Tis the season to be jolly! Photo courtesy of Freeform.go.com

Freeform's Kickoff to Christmas



BY CHELSEA BARTILAD

It is time for Freeform's annual 25 Days of Christmas! To put us in the Christmas spirit, Freeform (formerly known as ABC Family) hosts the 25 Days of Christmas, a holiday movie marathon that takes place every November and December.

Here is a list of some of the movies that will be showing throughout the month of November:

November 27th 11a.m: *Paddington*
 November 28th 1p.m: *Mrs. Doubtfire*
 November 29th 4p.m: *Home Alone*

Some of the upcoming movies that will be shown during the month of December include:

December 1st 9 p.m: *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
 December 2nd 2:05 p.m: *Richie Rich's Christmas Wish*
 December 3rd 2:40 p.m: *Rise of the Guardians*
 December 4th 9 p.m: **Freeform Premiere** *Ghosting: The Spirit of Christmas*
 December 5th 6:40 p.m: *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas*
 December 6th 8 p.m: **Freeform Premiere** *Frosty the Snowman*
 December 7th 12 p.m: *The Santa Clause*
 December 8th 12 p.m: **Freeform Premiere** *Prancer Returns*

December 9th 7:30 a.m: *I'll Be Home for Christmas (1998)*

December 10th 7:30 a.m: *Home Alone: The Holiday Heist*

December 11th 8 p.m: **Freeform Premiere** *Same Time Next Christmas*

December 12th 1:35 p.m: *The Perfect Holiday*

December 13th 6:45 p.m: *Home Alone*

December 14th 11 p.m: *The Simpsons Holiday-thon*

December 15th 7 a.m: *Arthur Christmas*

December 16th 9 p.m: **2 Hour Holiday Special** *Good Trouble*

December 17th 2:40 p.m: *The Holiday*

December 18th 5:40 p.m: *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*

December 19th 8:30 a.m: *Snowglobe*

December 20th 6:15 p.m: *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*

December 21st 7 a.m: *The Little Drummer Boy (1968)*

December 22nd 12:25 p.m: *The Santa Clause 2*

December 23rd 2:05 p.m: *Arthur Christmas*

December 24th 11 a.m: *Kung Fu Panda Holiday*

December 25th 4:45 p.m: *Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town*

Out of all of these Christmas movies, which is your favorite to watch? Happy watching!

Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party



BY HAILEY FROGNER

Disneyland is known as the happiest place on Earth, but with the addition of Christmas, it only gets better! From the Christmas decorations, parades, fireworks, and even Santa, Disneyland really transforms into a place that everyone can enjoy and get into the holiday spirit.

As you walk around the park, you can find thousands of snow covered plants, poinsettias, and pine trees used as decorations for Christmas. At the end of Main Street, in Town Square, there is a 60 foot Christmas tree decorated with lights and ornaments. Behind that, Sleeping Beauty's Castle completes the winter scene with snow-capped turrets and thousands of lights. As you continue to walk through the park, the branches and light poles are even decorated. The fireworks are definitely a favorite though, as at the end, guests can experience snowfall!



Main Street and the castle decorated for the Christmas season. Photo Courtesy of canadiandisneyblog.com

The parades at Disneyland have always been a fan favorite, and the Christmas Parade never disappoints.

The Disneyland Christmas parade features characters in holiday inspired costumes, and the band is styled as a gift box full of tin soldiers. This event gets extremely crowded though, so if you want a good seat you should arrive early! The best, most beautiful place to watch is along Main Street, but it also gets the most crowded. The parade in California Adventure is beautiful because it celebrates not only Christmas, but also Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Diwali as well.

One thing that was a surprise was seeing Santa in California Adventure! Who knew? At the Redwood Creek Challenge, the park is turned into a winter playground for Santa and his elves. Here, people of all ages, even adults, can take pictures with Santa, and he may even tell you your secret elf name.

I really hope you all take the time to visit Disneyland during this holiday season, I promise you will not regret it! The only downfall is the crowds, of course, so I would recommend going some time in November, except the week of Thanksgiving, and the first half of December.

Messi Wins Big



BY THERESE ENRIQUEZ



Lionel Messi with his 6 trophies at the Ballon d'Or gala. Photo Courtesy of metro.co.uk

For the sixth time in his career, Barcelona striker Lionel Messi accepts the Ballon d'Or award for his outstanding performance on the field last season. The Ballon d'Or, translated to "Golden Ball" in English, is an award presented at a Paris gala by France Football every year. The past ten years have been dominated by Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo who have both been nominated for this prestigious award twelve times each. Last year, their streak was broken by Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric, but it seems the two are back for more.

Messi is now the first men's soccer player to win this award six times, followed by Cristiano Ronaldo who holds five wins. He also won the Ballon d'Or four years in a row from 2009 to 2012. It is his first Ballon d'Or since 2015. Last season Messi scored 46 times for club and country and took the title for the Champions League top scorer. In winning this award, Lionel Messi came out on top over Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk, Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo, and Liverpool forward Sadio Mane.

While many fans expected Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk to win this year, there was one reason that the panel of international journalists voted Messi over van Dijk. Though van Dijk was a key player in Liverpool's win in the Champions League, the judges said the unique thing about Messi was that he carried Barcelona through last season.

Lionel Messi is 32 years old and one of the most decorated footballers in the world and in the history of football. His sixth Ballon d'Or award under his belt confirm the greatness of his game, and he is not done yet. Will Messi break his own record and win a seventh Ballon d'Or next year?

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

What Connelly Girls are Thankful For

Thanksgiving is a holiday to be grateful for all we have in our lives. It is important to realize and appreciate all the blessings in our lives. This holiday is a time to be with loved ones and celebrate together and enjoy each others' company. Here is what some students are grateful for in their lives:

I am thankful for...

“My friends” -Jessica Ortiz '20

“My family, friends, my teachers, my dog, and all the blessings God has given me.” -Rachel Cabero '21

“Everybody” - Maya Ordoñez '20

“Friends, dogs, ramen noodles, my Youth Group, and coffee” -Katherine Hyndman '20

The entire connelly community, my family, my grandparents dog duke, and my friends” Alicia Dolfemier '22

“Connelly, family, friends, clothes, shoes, and my home” -Angelica Enriquez '22

“All of my friends and softball!”- Caitlin Dopudja

“My friends, family, and all the people in my life who bring me joy and make me laugh” -Sarah Patin '21

"My mom, my dog, and all my koala sisters" -Skylar Cooper '22

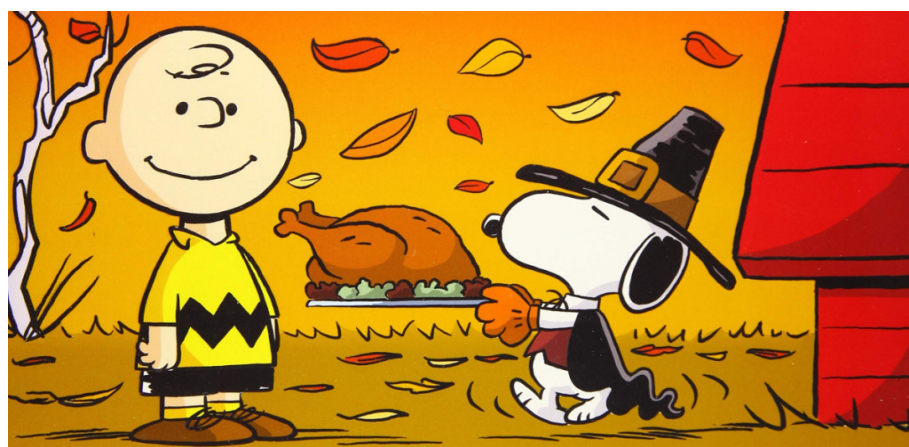
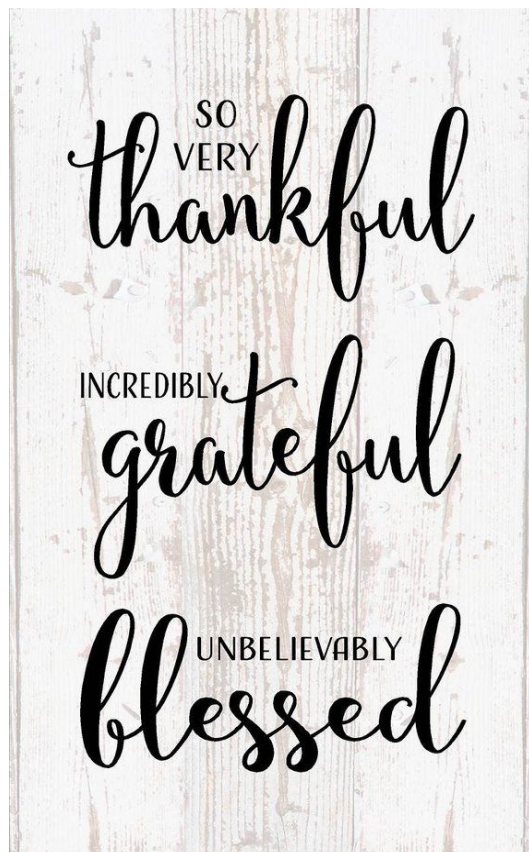


A Thanksgiving dinner is usually plentiful with various delicious foods.



A cornucopia serves as a symbol of abundance and associated with the meaning plentiful.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING CONNELLY!



Charlie Brown Thanksgiving is a family friend movie that you can watch during the holiday.

“If you want to turn your life around, try thankfulness. It will change your life mightily.” -Gerald Good



Hailey Frogner '20

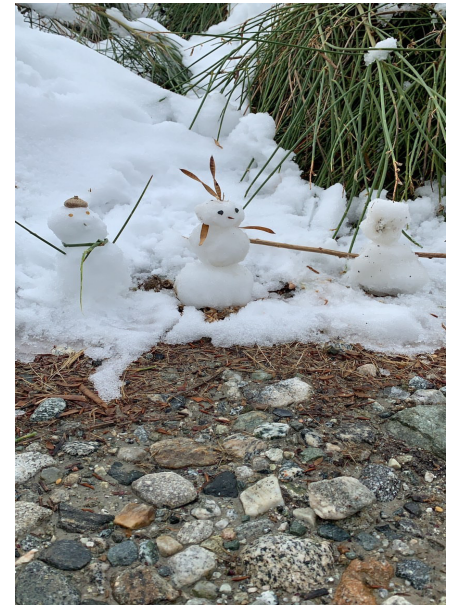
Hailey Frogner, joined by her friends had a Friendsgiving Dinner at the household of Mikaela Corella '20. There, they played games and shared a feast of various delicious foods that everyone enjoyed. They also played games and enjoyed each other's company. Hailey reflects on her experience saying, "The best part was hanging out with everyone and being in a room full of people for that I am so thankful for."

Hailey Froger '20 and Raeanne Marical '20 bring it in for a cute picture.



Regina Zhao '20

Regina went hiking with her host sister Stoddard Peak. Before they went it snowed and there was snow covering the trail as they headed on their hike. While they were having a fun time, they got lost but had a good time anyways. Regina said, "there was snow on the path and we made snowmen and it was a lot of fun but cold."



Regina and her host sister made snowmen on their hike.



Chelsea Le '20, Vanessa Alarcon '20, Raeanne Marcial '20, Hailey Frogner '20, Daisy Ibarra '20, Theresa Perry '20, and Mikaela Corella '20 are all smiles as they pose for a pic.



The view of a snow-covered mountain

Haley Adams '20

Haley Adams, her brother and her mother spent the weekend in Oregon. They visited many amazing sights and were able to be in the snowy weather getting them into the Christmas spirit!



Haley and having a great time together in the snow.



The view Haley had from her plane ride.



The snow with the sun shining above.



Haley and her mother pose happily in their black winter coats.

Christmas Movie Recommendations with Brooke Medina '21

1. *It's A Wonderful Life*

If you are looking for a classic Christmas movie with a heartfelt message, look no further than *It's a Wonderful Life*. This movie tells the story of a man who is at the end of his rope and wishes he had never been born. However, his guardian angel, Clarence, reminds him of the "Wonderful Life" he has lived.

2. *Elf*

Elf is the lighthearted story of a human raised in the North Pole as an elf. When the protagonist, Buddy, finds out his true origins, he decides to seek out his biological father in his birthplace of NYC. There, he has to adjust to the new lifestyle and help others discover the true meaning of Christmas.

3. *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

This movie tells the story of our favorite "blockhead", Charlie Brown, and how in a world of artificial trees and presents there is always a little room for love and friendship.

4. *Home Alone*

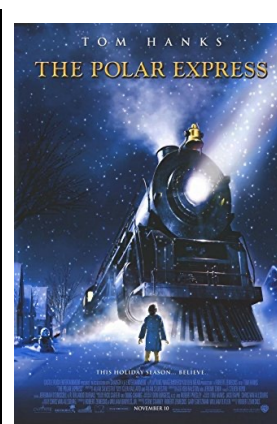
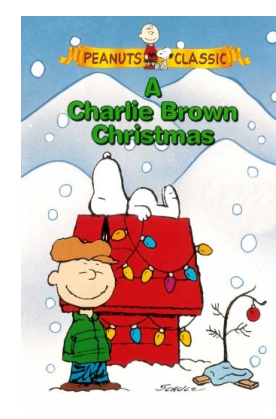
Home Alone is the chaotic tale of how the young, Kevin McAlister, was left home on Christmas to defend his home from some mischievous robbers. This movie is a fun filled ride that will have you laughing out loud.

5.

Polar Express helps you to believe in Christmas spirit and that with a little magic and hot cocoa, anything is possible.

Honorable Mention: *Eloise at Christmastime*

Eloise at Christmastime is set in the heart of New York inside of a grand hotel. It tells of how the young Eloise uses her wit and loving heart to match the young bellhop and beautiful heiress.



Christmas Song Recommendations from Marisa Zavala '20

This is a compilation of Christmas songs that you may listen to to get you into the Christmas spirit. While there are many great versions to these songs, these are some of my favorites.



- All I Want For Christmas Is You- Mariah Carey
- Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree- Brenda Lee
- Jingle Bell Rock- Bobby Helms
- Last Christmas- Wham!
- A Holly Jolly Christmas- Burl Ives
- What Christmas Means to Me- CeeLo Green
- Mary, Did You Know?- Pentatonix
- The Christmas Song- Sheryl Crow
- The Bell of St. Mary's- Sheryl Crow
- Merry Christmas Baby -Sheryl Crow
- Go Tell It On the Mountain- Sheryl Crow
- Underneath the Tree- Kelly Clarkson
- Baby, It's Cold Outside- Kelly Clarkson
- Mr. Heatmiser- Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- Rockabilly Christmas- Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- Is Zat You Santa Claus? -Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- Feliz Navidad- Los Lonely Boys
- Mistletoe- Justin Bieber
- It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year- Andy Williams
- Santa Tell Me- Ariana Grande
- Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)- Darlene Love
- Christmas Time is Here- Vince Guaraldi Trio
- Sleigh Ride- The Ronettes
- When Christmas Comes to Town- Matthew Hall, Meagan Moore
- There's No Place Like Home For the Holidays- Perry Como
- Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas- Judy Garland
- Little Saint Nick- The Beach Boys
- The Little Drummer Boy- Bing Crosby
- Frosty the Snowman- Ella Fitzgerald
- Llegó Navidad- Los Lobos
- Reluciente Sol- Los Lobos
- Santa Claus is Coming to Town- Michael Bublé
- It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas- Bing Crosby
- White Christmas- The Drifters



WORLD NEWS



ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi addresses followers in a video. Photo courtesy of Al-Furqan Media.

US Forces Take Out Leader of ISIS

BY GIGI GALLIANI



ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi died on October 27, 2019, marking the end of a five-year-long hunt to find the most wanted terrorist in the world. The ISIS leader "blew himself up" when cornered by US Special Operations Forces who conducted a two-hour night raid in northern Syria, Trump said, providing a detailed account of the mission.

US Forces closed in on Baghdadi's hideout with approximately 70 members of the US Delta Force and Rangers, who flew in on 6 helicopters. Several members of ISIS either surrendered or were shot and killed. However, Baghdadi ran toward a tunnel, taking three of his own children down with him, and detonated a vest fitted with explosives, killing himself and his three young children. Eleven of his children, found in the residence, were removed from the house in which Baghdadi was hiding and were not injured. "The raid was successful. We pulled our troops out. We had two minor casualties, two minor injuries, to our soldiers but a very successful, flawless raid," announced Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper. However, a military canine did suffer some injuries.

President Trump thanked Russia, Turkey, and Syria for their cooperation and, in particular, the Syrian Kurds for their assistance. Trump declared this a great win for the nation and the world. However, Congress said that they had not been informed about the pending raid. In response, the Trump administration stated that given the number of leaks that have occurred in Washington, they kept silent on the matter as to not jeopardize the raid and successfully locate and exact the planned mission.

The parents of Steven Sotloff, an American who was killed at the hands of ISIS, released a statement thanking all of those involved in the operation, saying, "While this victory will not bring our beloved Steven back to us, it is a significant step in the campaign against ISIS. It is our hope that our son's surviving captors, nicknamed 'the Beatles,' will be brought to justice, that all remaining hostages are returned to safety, and that the United States will take every measure to eliminate the resurgence of ISIS and terror in all forms."

California Ablaze

BY RANEEM IFTEKHAR



The fire season in California this year has included many destructive blazes across the northern and southern regions of the state. More than 6,402 total wildfires have been recorded, and have burned a total of more than 250,000 acres of land within the state, according to Cal Fire, the state's firefighting forces and US Forest Service. Intense seasonal winds like the Diablo winds and the Santa Ana winds have aided fires spreading through the north and south. California is known to have fires as a frequent natural disaster, as the dry land, heat, and winds can propel minor blazes into huge expansive fires that firefighters struggle for weeks to contain. This year, the Kincade and Getty fires in October have especially wrecked havoc and prompted massive, historical electrical blackouts across the region. After the last couple of years, electrical power lines have sometimes started or aided the spread of fires, and electrical companies in California were quick to turn off their utilities for large regions. When the fires made national headlines, the Trump Administration provided federal funding in aid to contain the fires

and help victims. However, the administration continues to deny climate change, which many scientists have linked as a factor to the uptick in California fires.

In the North, in Sonoma County, where the population has barely recovered from the devastating Tubbs fire of 2017, officials were quick to evacuate thousands of people and send frequent alerts when the Kincade fire began to spread. In this way, major casualties were avoided and the devastation did not reach the high level as two years ago. In the region, not as much land was burned as in previous years, but it still neared almost 80,000 acres. In Southern California, the Getty fire set ablaze hills in the Los Angeles area, and at one point surrounded the Ronald Reagan Presidential library.

The state has learned much from the fires in the last couple years and recent months. Everything from timing of alerts, evacuation orders, federal aid and coordinated fire fighting forces is crucial is battling the forces of nature that frequently threaten the state.



Kincade Fire burns through the Jimtown community of Sonoma County, California. Photo courtesy of Noah Berger.

An Impeachment In Search Of A Crime



BY GIGI GALLIANI

The House Intelligence Committee has held public impeachment hearings over the last two weeks on President Trump's phone call with Zelensky.

During these hearings, multiple witnesses, including Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, Presidential Advisor Tim Morrison, and Ambassador Kurt Volker all testified that there was no quid pro quo during the phone call.

The latest witness, Gordon Sondland, US Ambassador to the European Union, failed to provide direct evidence for quid pro quo. Senator Lindsey Graham commented, "I say that he's [Sondland] changed his story several times and one needs to be suspicious of that. But having said that, take what he says, compare it to the facts. I just know this: That [Ukraine] got the money, and Hunter Biden and Joe Biden weren't investigated. That's what I do know."

US Representative of Ohio, Mike Turner, cross-examined the US Ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland, during the hearing. Sondland admitted that "no one on this planet" told him that financial assistance to Ukraine was connected to any investigations.

"After you testified, Chairman [Adam] Schiff ran out and gave a press conference and said he gets to impeach the president of the United States because of your testimony and if you pull up CNN today, right now, their banner says 'Sondland ties Trump to withholding aid,'" Turner said. "Is that your testimony today, Ambassador Sondland? That you have evidence that Donald Trump tied the



Latest witness, Gordon Sondland. Photo courtesy of Andrew Harnik.

investigations to the aid? Because I don't think you're saying that."

"I've said repeatedly Congressman, I was presuming," Sondland replied.

"So, no one told you?" Turner asked. "Giuliani didn't tell you? Mulvaney didn't tell you? Pompeo didn't tell you? Nobody else on this planet told you that Donald Trump was tying aid to these investigations, is that correct?"

"I think I already testified," Sondland responded.



Ohio representative, Mike Turner. Photo courtesy of CNN.

As the exchange was taking place, CNN stated: "SONDLAND: 'YES' THERE WAS QUID PRO QUO IN UKRAINE SCANDAL."

"No, answer the question," said Turner. "Is it correct? No one on this planet told you that Donald Trump was tying aid to the investigations? Because if your answer is 'yes,' then the chairman is wrong and the headline on CNN is wrong. . . No one on this planet told you that President Trump was tying aid to investigations, yes or no?"

"Yes," Sondland responded.

"So, you really have no testimony today that ties President Trump to a scheme to withhold aid from Ukraine in exchange for these investigations?" Turner pressed.

"Other than my own presumption," Sondland replied.

"Which is nothing," returned Turner.

After the 6th key witness at the impeachment hearing, the public continues to wait for direct evidence of an impeachable offense.

It's not a protest, it's a civil war.



BY DAISY LIEN

"Don't shoot our kids!" said the signs the parents of protestors were holding up, begging the police to release their kids, who were trapped in the Polytechnic University. With tear gas, gun shots, violence for months,

Hong Kong has become a disaster. Since the week of November 11, the clash between police and the citizens of Hong Kong has been getting more intense.

On November 11, the police used guns with real bullets to shoot the citizens. Schools had to close due to the protests on the streets. More than 260 people were caught earlier that week.

The protesters chose to use Polytechnic University as a place to hide their weapons. Due to the violence between police and people, the majority of the campus was destroyed. The protesters threw petrol bombs, bricks and even used archery to fight back. "The police fire tear gas and water canon advances, squirting noxious blue liquid," Gabriel Gatehouse, who was at the scene said, according to the BBC. Protesters were crouched behind umbrellas but still threw bombs at the police.

After sunrise, dozens of protesters tried to leave the university but to get out, they had to get through tear gas and rubber bullets from the police.

One student told the Reuters news agency that "At first I felt very scared and panicked staying here, because the police said all of us inside the university would be arrested for charging riots and we will be sentenced for 10 years or above. But now I feel very peaceful because I believe that everyone inside our university will stay together." With all the weapons and violence that happened, nurses were caught and took outside by the police so



A woman and a child protest in the streets of Hong Kong. Photo courtesy of AAP.

that the protesters couldn't be helped by them, according to SBS.

One mother fell to her knees before riot police officers and begged for her daughter's release. The voices of mothers and fathers with fear and anger had risen up on Tuesday, demanding police to release their children.

The president of Polytechnic University, Jin-Guang Teng, has announced that he has negotiated with the police to release the students inside the building, but they have to leave peacefully.

Protesters in Hong Kong and also around the world have written letters for help to England, United States and Australia. Thousands of people in Hong Kong brought the U.S. flag and reached out to the U.S. embassy pleading to Donald Trump to do something about the situation. Donald Trump started a conversation with

Congress about the bill in support with the protesters, but he did not say whether he would sign or not. He also said that "We have to stand with Hong Kong, but I'm also standing with President Xi." Trump said in response to the question about the bill. "He's a friend of mine, he's an incredible guy." The bill has not yet been signed but the world has hope for it to be signed and will always hope for it to be signed in order to protect Hong Kong.



Well Done World!

BY GRACE EDWARDS

Well Done World is a feature of the Connelly Chronicle that hopes to create awareness that we are a nation of people who care about one another... well done world!

In Maryland, an 8 year old boy raised over \$50,000 to help homeless veterans.

- *People Magazine*

In Tennessee, a judge holds a lawyer's baby, as he swears her into the state's bar.

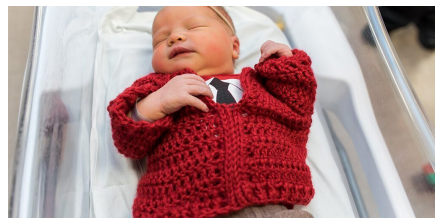
- *The Hill*



Judge Richard Dinkin swears in Juliana Lamar as he holds her baby. Photo courtesy of the Hill.

On World Kindness Day, a hospital in Pennsylvania dressed newborns as Mr. Rogers.

- *FOX News*



Pittsburgh hospital dresses newborns as Mr. Rogers for World Kindness Day. Photo courtesy of FOX News.

At a Waffle House in Alabama, customers helped and employee who was working alone.

- *Today*

Nike designs sneakers for medical professionals who and on their feet everyday.

- *Good News Network*



The new Nike Air Zoom Pulse. Photo courtesy of Nike News.

Woman to Watch

BY DESTINY MARTINEZ



Emma González is an American activist and advocate. Her life as a highschool student took a turn on Feb. 14 in 2018, when a mass shooting occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Shortly after the shooting, González showed courage, bravery, and activism. She created the handle @Emma4Change to promote stricter gun laws and March for Our Lives, a non-profit organization. González delivered a speech that has gained worldwide fame. At the March for Our Lives, González led a moment of silence on stage for six minutes, which was impactful to everyone at the March and who watched her deliver the speech. She was one of Variety's 2018's Power of Women honorees.

In her interview, she was asked if she was hopeful about the future of America. She answered by saying, "I definitely feel



Emma Gonzalez speaks at the March for Our Lives rally in Washington. Photo courtesy of Andrew Harnik.

hopeful because I've met so many people who are ready to engage in our political system, and these are exactly the people we need to engage."

Emma González can be recognized for her inspiration, powerful words and ambition. González has been successful with getting herself heard and it is an

inspiration to see a young female spreading a powerful message and influencing people all around the world. Instead of being silent and being in isolation, Emma González uses her voice to create change. Today, Emma González attends New College of Florida.



Get Brexit Done. Photo courtesy of BBC.

Brexit: An Update

BY LINDSAY WIPPLER



Brexit: the issue that papers will never truly finish covering. The most recent and significant development in the Brexit process is the decision of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has stated that he will bring this process to a close by the end of 2020, his slogan being "get Brexit done". This means that EU and UK negotiators must come to an agreement on an entirely

new trade deal in roughly 12 months. With Brexit's historical slowness (having officially begun in 2017), this is a very large challenge to face. Many citizens fear that this acceleration will not allow for enough time to come to a decision about a transition period. This could be detrimental to the nation's economy. With no transition period, the way that Britain's

economy works will change extremely abruptly. A transition period would allow the UK to follow the original EU rules and change things slowly over a few years. This would allow citizens to easily transition into the new economy.

Ivan Rogers, the UK's former ambassador to the EU, is fighting to extend the decision making period, saying that the Prime Minister's approach is "diplomatic amateurism dressed up domestically as boldness and decisiveness". Those on his side argue that former agreements made by the UK, such as those with Ukraine and South Korea, have taken as much as a decade to be passed, to which a year pales in comparison.

In addition, when trade deals are formed, two parties are generally trying to come closer together. In this situation, two parties are trying to move apart, an unprecedented event. This additional complication will mean that this decision is the most complicated the UK has yet to face, and that will take time. So, at the moment, this means that the UK has two options: leave the EU by the end of 2020 with no transition period, or extend the deadline and come to an agreement and transition. It remains to be seen which they will choose.