



SALT: Supporting Students in Style

With increased federal activity near Amundsen and nearby areas, how are students and staff responding?

By Griffin White



Photos courtesy of S.A.L.T (Students & Allies Linking Together).

You may have noticed new posters on the walls with messages of support for students with families being targeted by the government. These posters were made by a brand-new club formed only a few weeks ago. Dubbed Students and Allies Linking Together, SALT is a conglomerate of cultural clubs who came together with the purpose of standing behind all members of Amundsen's student body.

On October 8th, Hellenic Club discussed their goals for the future, coming to the conclusion that they

wanted to advocate for students and bring the community together. To do this, they invited Key Club, AAPI Club, Jewish Heritage Club, Latin American Club, Student Voice, and the Muslim Student Association to their meeting on October 15th. At this meeting, they met to create the posters in the halls, and have since gotten together to create care packages and information sheets for students as well.

On October 22th, this new group of students decided to call themselves SALT, to demonstrate

their goal of connecting the school by letting students support students. The club provides a way for students to actively engage with the Amundsen community where there were not opportunities before.

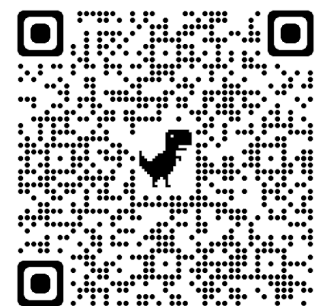
Now, if you too want to become a part of and help our community, come to 316 on Wednesday or speak to Mrs. Poulos for information on meetings.

AP Testing Changes
pg. 3

The Recycling Bin Hoax
pg. 4

Word Search
pg. 8

Fall Sports Recap starts
pg. 10



Continued on next page...

The Peoples' Shutdown

By Luis Fernandez

October 1, 2025, 12:01 AM, the US government shut down. This was a result of the Democratic and Republican parties being unable to agree on a budget for the federal government. Already, 80,000 state workers have been furloughed (suspended) or are working without pay. Unemployment has increased by 1,700 workers. Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) programs have already been suspended, putting 169,000 WIC recipients at risk.

Since the shutdown began, the state of Illinois has been losing 596 million dollars each week (as of October 22). This is equivalent to 2.6 billion dollars lost per month. In addition, on Halloween, nearly two million Illinoisans - nearly seventeen percent of Illinois - lost

their SNAP benefits, and millions more Americans have been left in similar states. 729,000 of the 1,880,000 of people that rely on SNAP benefits are children.

Statistically speaking, there could be tens or even hundreds of students at Amundsen that could be or have already been affected by the government shutdown. It could be a wide range of programs that they rely on, such as on WIC programs or SNAP benefits. If Congress refuses to pass a bipartisan budget bill that allows both sides to agree on a budget plan, the lives and livelihoods of millions of Illinoisans and Americans will continue to be on the line.

K-pop Dance Club

Time: 3:10-4pm

Come And Join Amundsen's New K-pop Dance Club!

What Is It About? The K-pop Dance Club Is About Learning Korean Pop! In Addition, We Will Also Be Doing Some Thai-pop Because It Similar To K-pop Dances But A Bit Different!

Location: Room 101! Our Sponsor- Ms. Rodriguez!

Our First Meeting Will Be On October 15!

NMIXX

BLACK PINK

it7v

ENHYPEN

NEW JEANS

Big Beautiful Barriers

By Griffin White

On July 4, 2025, Donald Trump signed the "Big Beautiful Bill", which is planned to go into effect July 1, 2026. The general aim of the bill was to reduce federal spending through significantly reducing Medicaid and decreasing the social safety net. One aspect significant to Amundsen students will be the changes made to student aid.

The main changes involve placing limits on borrowing

amounts for students and reducing options for paying back student loans. As of July 1st, 2026, applying to the class of 2026 and all years to follow, borrowing limits in federal loans (annually) will be set to 20,500 for grad students and 50,000 for professional students (such as those enrolled in medical or law school). Grad students will be able to borrow up to 100,000 dollars, and professional students 200,000, for

all of their studies. Part-time students will be capped to certain borrowing limits relative to how close to full-time their studies are, such as half of the regular cap for half of the regular credit hours.

The Pell Grant, a large federal grant given to low-income students, has been mostly untouched. The budget of 10.5 billion dollars, set by Congress, will remain for the next 10 years. The bill added a cap on eligibility, limiting how much a student must need aid to receive the grant. However, a new grant based around working students will be created to support short-term job training, allowing low-income students the opportunity to do small-scale job training amidst classes.

Finally, students will be required to pay back their federal loans based either on a standard or income-based repayment plan. The standard repayment plan allows the student to pay back their loan in 10

to 25 years. The income-based repayment plan takes family income into account, allowing more leniency to those who use it.

While the borrowing caps on these loans seem quite limiting, they only apply to federal aid. If you're worried about how the "Big Beautiful Bill" might affect you as a student in the coming years, you can make use of the many scholarships given out to students every year by various organizations to pay for your education in lieu of federal aid. These can be for grades, extracurricular activities, sports, passions, skills, or knowledge. You can find them on Schoollinks or the internet, with most only requiring a short essay or questionnaire. While these caps may be setbacks, they will not stop students from getting their education.

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

CollegeScholarships@cps.edu

[@CpsScholarships](https://www.instagram.com/CpsScholarships)



WEEKLY SCHOLARSHIP ALERTS
Sign-up to receive weekly updates on scholarships



SCHOLARSHIP ALERT WORKBOOK
Scan to view all available scholarships broken down by monthly deadlines



CPS GOOGLE CALENDAR
Follow our official calendar to view scholarship deadlines and scholarship events



CPS SCHOLARSHIP PLATFORM
Scan to complete the general application, that will connect you to over 300 internal and external scholarships

Scan these codes to discover new scholarships and their deadlines!

Behind the Bell Song

By Lilah Lehner

Amundsen's bell song has been somewhat of an enigma for staff and students as of late. It's often a daily mystery as to whether the bell song - or the bell itself - will be present during the day, and most students head off to first period uncertain if they'll hear the music they've come to expect. But why is it like this?

The bell song itself is not a new concept; Ms. Ortiz, the assistant principal and overseer of the climate and culture department, came up with the idea of the bell song when she came to Amundsen as a way to encourage student punctuality. The bell song has been a feature at Amundsen for over a

decade, but during that time it hasn't had a real system. During regular weeks of the school year, songs are chosen by random staff and students who have requests. During weeks and months belonging to a specific theme (like Halloween or AAPI month), representatives from clubs associated with those themes chose songs.

The reason why the bell song (and the bell itself) have been so irregular, is due to the machine operating them. The machine used for the bell song is the same one used for the intercom system throughout the school. The system is incredibly old, predating much

of the current Amundsen faculty, and is prone to malfunctions. Unfortunately, maintenance on a system that runs through the whole school is infrequent and expensive. While it would be beneficial to have the whole system replaced altogether, to do so would cost tens of thousands of dollars that the school does not have.

Though the future may seem grim for Amundsen's bell song, the faculty have plans for when it eventually comes back to life. An initiative is being launched to allow students to submit their own suggestions for the weekly bell song. So if you have one minute of an appropriate, clean, upbeat song

with a positive message (that you won't mind hearing eight times a day for a week straight) submit your ideas in the form linked through the QR code below! In the meantime, we'll all pray that our bell song will be back to normal in no time.



AP Testing Sees Big Changes from CPS By Stella DiGangi



In May, Amundsen students will be AP & IB testing— make sure to pay for your exams or submit a fee waiver beforehand!

Students of AP classes this year are about to face a big change. In 2020, CPS received a huge boost to its budget to help cover rapid

economic changes due to COVID. This boost was used for a variety of things around CPS, including buying new technology for online

school, personnel additions and, notably, covering AP testing fees. This waiving of AP fees made it much more accessible for all students to take AP classes, and lowered the stakes if they needed to redo tests. The class of 2025 saved more than \$10 million in college tuition through early college credits (like AP classes).

However, the COVID budget boost ended this fiscal year. Along with this stoppage of certain funds, CPS is currently in a massive deficit. Chicago Public Schools can no longer afford to cover the cost

of waiving AP testing fees. Tests now cost \$99 per, with added fees for late orders or retakes. This change in cost makes AP tests far more inaccessible for those who cannot afford their new prices. There is certain financial aid to be made available to students who apply. However, this will only reduce the fees, not waive them entirely. To get information or help regarding AP testing fees, reach out to your counselor or AP teachers.

Presented by Taste The Difference

Gratitude GOODIES

SOLD DURING ALL LUNCH PERIODS
DATES:
WEEK 1: 11/12-11/14 | Wednesday - Friday
WEEK 2: 11/17-11/18 | Monday - Tuesday
DELIVERED ON 11/20 - 8TH PERIOD

\$3 PER BAG

A festive illustration featuring a turkey, pumpkins, and autumn leaves, promoting the Gratitude Goodies sale.

TRYOUTS!!!

A logo featuring a Viking helmet with horns, used for the Amundsen Viking Girls Bowling team.

AMUNDSEN VIKING GIRLS BOWLING

TRYOUTS!
WAVELAND BOWL
3700 N WESTERN NOVEMBER 13 & 20th

QUESTIONS?
Coach: O'Brien
ccobrien@cps.edu

An illustration of a watercolor palette and brushes, used for the Palette Pals art club advertisement.

Palette Pals

Art club

A club where you can express yourself through different media

- Painting
- Drawing
- Doodle
- Etc.

•Thursday's from 3-4
•In room 303
•join the Google classroom: uacamids

Calling All Artists at Amundsen!

Showcase your works at no cost through these fantastic opportunities! (Bonus: it looks great on college applications.)

EXTRA / ORDINARY

AN EXHIBITION OF 3D WORKS
BY PREK-12 CPS STUDENTS
AT THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO



APPLY NOW!

APPLICATIONS CLOSE JANUARY 16

Accepting Sculpture, Jewelry, Paper Mache, 3D Printing, Textiles, Origami, Dioramas, Miniatures, and More!

LEARN MORE AND APPLY AT [CPS.EDU/ACVA](https://cps.edu/acva)

ALL CITY CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARTS

APPLY TO THE ALL-CITY VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION

Applications Close February 22nd, 2026



AN EXHIBITION OF 2D, 3D + TIME-BASED WORKS
BY PREK-12 CPS STUDENTS
AT THE DESIGN MUSEUM OF CHICAGO

LEARN MORE AND APPLY AT [CPS.EDU/ACVA](https://cps.edu/acva)

ALL CITY CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARTS

The Recycling Bin Hoax

By Summer Danek

As an Amundsen student, you may have seen the blue recycling bins in many classrooms and assumed that they were used to recycle Amundsen's waste - but this would be a lie. Unlike what the blue bins lead students to believe, CPS does not recycle. Speculation on the "why" of the topic has yielded a variety of answers, like the reduced janitorial staff or improper sorting of bins, but these are not the cause. The real reason is much simpler, and has to do with the way Chicago utilities function as a whole.

Chicago's trash and recycling collection services work differently than most major cities. Single-family residences and apartments of 4 units or less receive trash and recycling services for free via the Blue Cart Residential Recycling and Trash Program. However, commercial businesses, large apartment complexes, and schools are not eligible for this program, and have to hire private contractors for these services. CPS schools are not eligible for the Blue Cart

Program, so CPS is left to pay for their schools' utilities. Due to tight budgets and other recent monetary limitations, CPS only commissions trash collection to its schools.

In an attempt to resolve this issue, a city-wide recycling mandate went into effect in 2017, aiming to get commercial businesses to start recycling. However, the mandate has been loosely enforced since its instatement, allowing organizations like CPS to fly under the radar and continue paying only for trash collection.

The presence of the recycling bins at Amundsen was a previous attempt by the Environmental Club to encourage recycling at Amundsen. The contents of these bins, however, cannot and will not be recycled, since those services are not offered or paid for by CPS. Individual schools can make the decision to hire recycling services, separate from the trash collection that CPS pays for, but Amundsen has not. The recent

The Great Chocolate Mystery

By Stella DiGangi

It's that time of year again. The leaves are falling, clubs are gearing up for their busiest seasons, and big, blue chocolate boxes can be spotted all through the hallways. Once-ignored students now become wandering merchants, pandering chocolate bars for only a dollar to their pupils. Discarded almond bars waste away in dark corners until bought by a pitying teacher or parent, while caramel and wafer bars are bought faster than any student could blink.

World's Finest Chocolate is truly a scholastic anomaly. If most people were asked why this company decided to do what it does or even what it is, nobody would have a straight answer; it's seen only as a fundraiser comes and goes with the seasons. But it seems the answer is a lot more local and a lot more heartwarming.

Ed Opler Sr. started off as a wagon boy at a chocolate company in Hinsdale, IL, at the age of 13. From there, he began a steady career in the chocolate industry, eventually creating his own

company in 1939. And thus, "World's Finest Chocolate" was created as a division of his central company in order to help fundraise and give to charity.

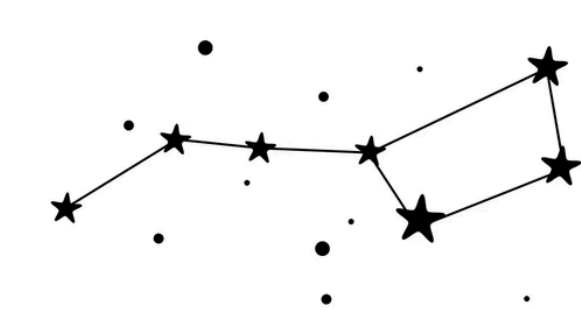
All of the processing and shipping is done right here in Chicago, sourced from a small cacao plantation in St. Lucia. World's Finest is a company that only uses ethically-grown cacao, an aspect of chocolate production that is incredibly uncommon. Since its creation in 1949, World's Finest has helped raise over \$4.4 billion for those in need. So this chocolate box season, consider buying a bar or two more from your local club member roaming the hallways with those big blue boxes. Because the chocolate you are buying is child-labor free, made in Chicago and sold for a (surely) great cause.

Magnetic Tensions: Opposing Forces

* OBERSTEN IN THIS SCENARIO HAS THE ABILITY TO GENERATE HEAT WITHOUT HARM OVER 1000°C

Autumn Horoscope

By Mystic M

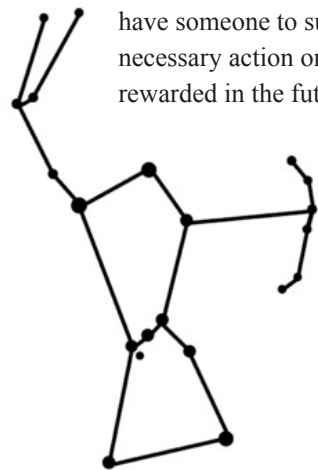


Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18
Powerful Numbers: 2, 4, 5, 20, 24
Unlucky Item: Ununiform stripes
Advice: This month, you will complete control, this is especially important as new beginnings are approaching. This is not something to be used carelessly, as your actions will not only influence the people around you, but you and your own future. A knife does need to turn far to prick its handler.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19
Powerful Numbers: 4, 6, 30, 40
Lucky Item: Black and Silver
Advice: Your future is neutral until one considers the act of giving. Many in this time are experiencing hardship and could use help in any form. Remember to be generous, even if you do not feel it, as long as the receiver does it will be okay. With this in mind, you will find your own future will lean positive.

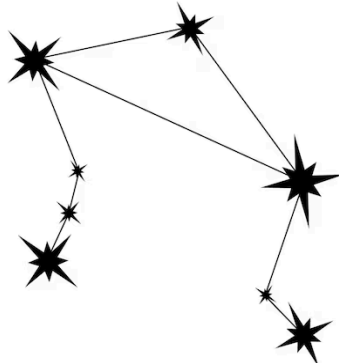
Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21
Powerful Numbers: 2, 6, 8, 20, 24, 57
Unlucky Item: Podiums
Advice: Teams are meant to be supported by all participants. Some chairs can work with only 2 legs, but not all are made too. Though you should always keep trust in your fellows, remember that everyone has agreed to do their fair share, including you. Remember not all outcomes have a singular true reason behind them. If this is not followed, success is sure to crumble down the line.

Scorpio: Oct 23 - Nov 21
Powerful Numbers: 14, 17, 45, 67
Unlucky Item: Children. (12 and under)
Advice: Loyalty is a trait that many admire and struggle to stay true to. People around you may be in need of support. Remember to be there for people, without being overbearing. Many people only need a reminder that they have someone to support them, not any necessary action or gift. This will be rewarded in the future.



Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20
Powerful Numbers: 5, 19, 23, 60
Unlucky Item: Comic Strips
Advice: Effort goes a long way in the future. Though your current actions may seem small, this time is where new beginnings start. What you do now could ripple out into your whole future, affecting you in many different ways. Hard work shall be returned, but so will the lack of it.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19
Powerful Numbers: 1, 37, 41, 15, 90
Unlucky Item: Lay's Baked Chips
Advice: You will soon have to put forth tremendous effort. In your life soon there will be a cause or reason for which you will have to fight, even if you do not wish to. Remember though you must have passion and strength, do not become obsessed and let this consume you or your life.

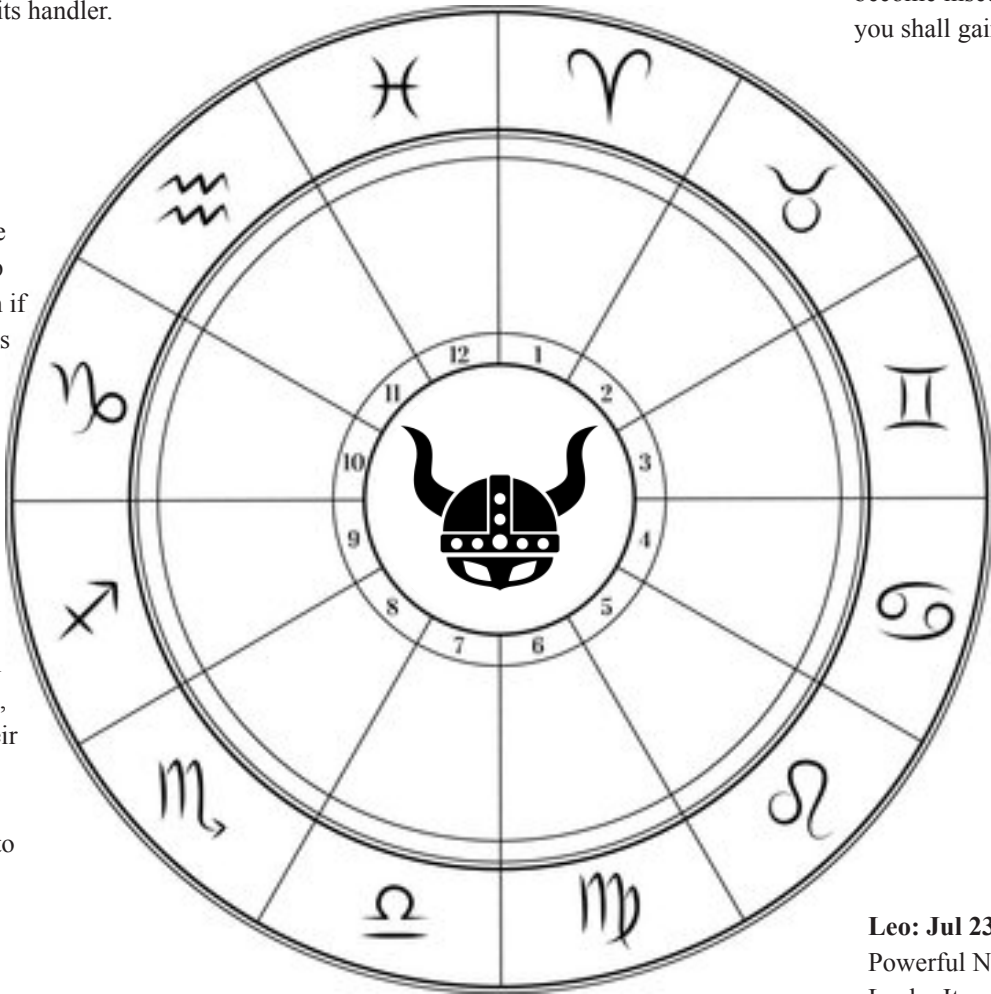


Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20
Powerful Numbers: 15, 17, 35, 58, 70
Unlucky Item: Inaccurate heart drawings
Advice: An exchange approaches you. Soon you will gain something and lose something in turn, though this does not have to be an actual transaction between people, think of it as such. Will what you give up be worth what you earn? But you must not become insecure, be certain of what you want and you shall gain it.

Gemini: May 21 - Jun 20
Powerful Numbers: 16, 19, 33, 15, 122
Lucky Item: Red Clipboards
Advice: Loss will soon approach you. Though closely connected to life and death, not all loss involves such high stakes. You might lose a connection, opportunity, or a grudge and source of evil. Losing something isn't always negative, so be sure to react appropriately.

Cancer: Jun 21 - Aug 22
Powerful Numbers: 1, 3, 11, 32
Unlucky Item: Zebra Mildliners
Advice: A person, typically of opposite gender, will come forth with good news. This news may be true, but not as concrete as it seems. Trust and have faith, but remember to consider all avenues before committing.

Leo: Jul 23 - Aug 22
Powerful Numbers: 8, 12, 13, 28, 40
Lucky Item: Legos
Advice: You are being drained, like a cup with a crack, energy and motivation slowly flow out. Many people and opportunities may beckon you closer, but remember to think most about your own stability and self. Not all opportunities should be skipped over, but some may only make the situation worse, widening the crack rather than sealing.



Libra: Sep 23 - Oct 22
Powerful Numbers: 1, 13, 22, 66, 90
Unlucky Item: Fantastical creatures
Advice: Optimism is a powerful and important trait, you should never lose trust in yourself or the people you choose to surround yourself with. Having been reminded of this, remember not all outcomes are positive or assured.. This is not a failing on anyone's part, but rather a necessity of life. A reminder that for there to be good, there must be bad. And also that not all problems can be solved by one person, namely you.

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sep 22
Powerful Numbers: 1, 3, 4, 8, 14, 50, 84
Unlucky Item: Orange and Blue
Advice: Unfortunately the future is obscured for you. A person or instinct may be hiding the truth about the future to you. This is not a signal to lose faith or give up, but remember to consider all possibilities, even the less than desired ones. Once you figure out the truth, consider how it was hidden from you.

Amundsen Land Acknowledgement

By Wren Tatel

In honor of Indigenous Heritage Month, many institutions and companies across the country are issuing land acknowledgments. But what exactly is a land acknowledgment, and what purpose does it serve? Typically, a land acknowledgment is a formal statement made by an organization that recognizes Indigenous peoples as the original inhabitants of a specific area and pays tribute to their ongoing relationship with the land. However, many critics argue that land acknowledgments can be more harmful than helpful, as they may perpetuate ignorant stereotypes about Indigenous groups active today. .

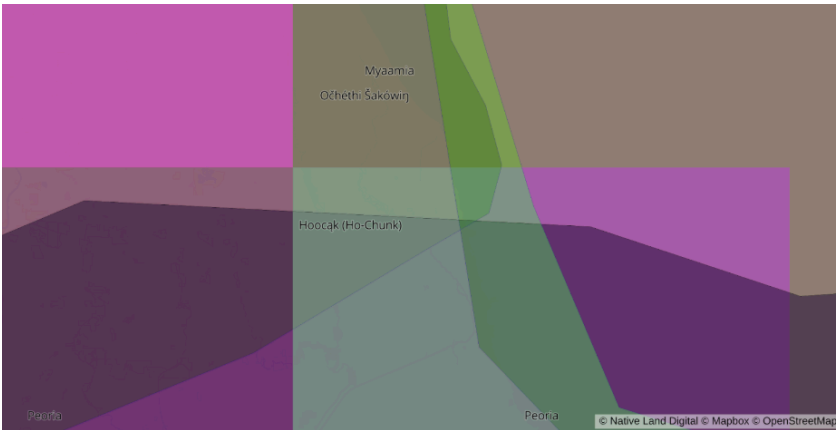
The question of harm vs. help takes on particular meaning here at Amundsen, which sits on land that was once home to several Indigenous nations, including the Myaamia, Ojibwe, Shawnee, and Peoria.

Hoocak (Ho-Chunk), Bodewadmi (Potawatomi), Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), and Peoria peoples. Each tribe has a unique connection to the land where Amundsen sits, using it for things such as gathering herbs, hunting, spiritual practices, and caring for the graves of ancestors. Even though Amundsen recognizes these relationships with the current land, it still begs the question of whether or not a land acknowledgment actually does anything. Does saying that a crime was committed alleviate the guilt of the perpetrator? In this way, does admitting that land was stolen help the people it was stolen from? These tribes still face individual struggles related to their lands, such as the Myaamia people's fight for federal recognition and reparations following their tribe's separation in the 1980s. A passive

form of action, such as a land acknowledgment, doesn't necessarily help their cause, but it can bring awareness to past injustices done to Native communities.

However, it is important to not only recognize past tragedy, but also to celebrate the present and future of Native people. Indigenous communities still exist in the Amundsen area, and their culture and experiences are still important to recognize. Native communities

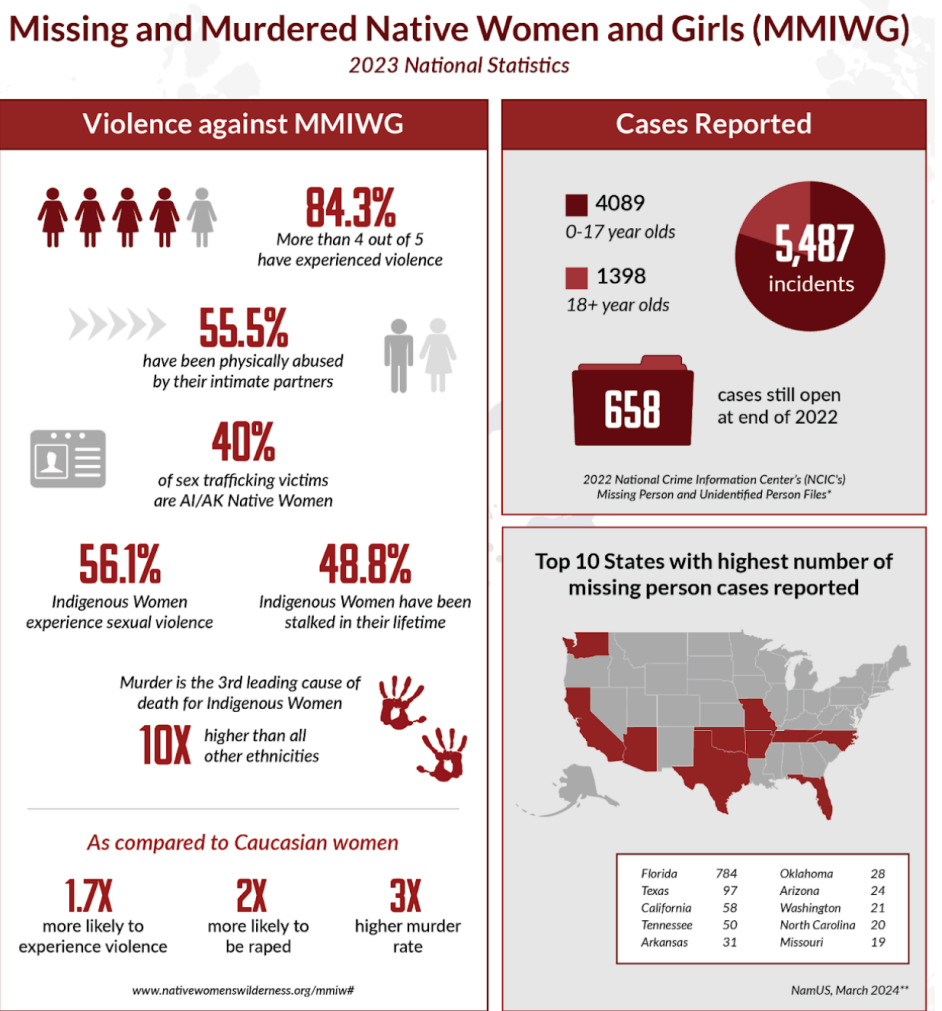
are not a thing of the past; they live and grow in our very backyards. Ultimately, a land acknowledgment is only as meaningful as the understanding and action that follow from the surrounding community. Recognizing the original inhabitants of the land is not the end of a conversation, but a reminder to support Indigenous communities, learn their histories, and honor their presence today.



Map of native tribes in the Amundsen Area.

Beyond the Great Feast: The Bloody History of Thanksgiving

By Summer Danek



American Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and with it comes the same manipulated stories, watered-down truths, and blatant lies told each holiday. At some point during their education, most people are fed one story or another about the peaceful and harmonious “first Thanksgiving” between the Pilgrims and the Indigenous people of modern-day Massachusetts.

The Thanksgiving story goes that in 1621, the Pilgrims and Wampanoag people held a harvest feast to celebrate a fruitful first year for the colonists. It was a representation of the sharing of cultures, and the start to a peaceful alliance between the Pilgrims and Wampanoag. However, this story is a fictionalization of the real events of that first year, and the real story is far more gruesome.

The indigenous peoples, of what is now modern-day Massachusetts, met English settlers 6 years prior to the pilgrims' landing in 1620. In 1614, an English explorer named Captain Thomas Hunt landed in Patuxet (the name of the Wampanoag's land, and what is modern-day Plymouth, Massachusetts) and kidnapped and sold more than 20 Wampanoag tribespeople into Spanish slavery. Among those 20 individuals was Tisquantum (known as Squanto in english stories), a man said to have been a pioneer in helping the pilgrims farm and hunt in Thanksgiving stories. This kidnapping instilled a rational fear of new settlers in the Wampanoag people, and when the pilgrims arrived in 1620, they were not welcome.

Continued on next page...

Along with their boat, the Mayflower, the pilgrims brought diseases like smallpox, measles, typhus, and whooping cough, all new diseases to the indigenous peoples. Exposure to foreign diseases led to an epidemic across the Wampanoag and Nauset peoples, wiping out over 90% of the population. While this outbreak was happening, the pilgrims raided Wampanoag villages, stole goods, and raped tribe members. In addition, between 1620-1621,

English fishermen and traders came to Patuxet and continued the kidnapping of Indigenous people for slavery back in Europe. This further decreased Indigenous populations and scared many tribes into cooperation. The popular Thanksgiving story was adopted by Abraham Lincoln during reconstruction in the U.S. after the Civil War in 1863, with the hope of reconnecting northern and southern states. The story of the “great Thanksgiving feast” was

used as a way to justify the brutal colonization of the U.S., and to give the illusion that it was mostly peaceful and harmonious. The lasting impacts of the falsehoods surrounding Thanksgiving can be seen to this day. Indigenous people are 10 times more likely to be trafficked and kidnapped. Homicide is the 6th leading cause of death for Indigenous women, and 4 out of 5 Indigenous women will experience violence in their lifetime. Violence

against the Indigenous people of the U.S. is deeply rooted in our country’s foundation, and the story of Thanksgiving only serves to gloss over the atrocities committed against these peoples. This Thanksgiving, educate yourselves about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Crisis in the U.S. and other western countries, and the deep-rooted lies told on this bloody holiday.

The Key to a Better Amundsen

By Lilah Lehner

Volunteer work is a part of almost every students’ high school experience. Teachers assign civic engagement projects, and colleges want to see dozens of volunteer hours as part of a well-rounded application. It can seem overwhelming to many, but Amundsen’s student body has come up with a solution: Key Club. Key Club is a volunteer-based, student-led organization that aims to inform students of volunteer opportunities inside and outside Amundsen’s campus to take part in throughout their week. The club’s goal is to help students get their service hours in, without requiring an application, and while also making positive change in and around Amundsen. Although Key Club only came to fruition at the beginning

of this year - the program itself has been around since 1925 - its members have already been hard at work. They’ve partnered with Students and Allies Linking Together (SALT), a program recently started at Amundsen to help people who are currently being impacted by ICE, to make care packages and put up posters around the school. Key Club also plans to make cards and bracelets for hospitalized children, volunteer at a trunk or treat, and visit nursing homes. As Nhi Le, a junior and one of the four student officers of the club states, “We want to make an impact - not just around Amundsen, but within the community.” If you’d like to get service hours and get involved with your community, Key Club meets every Wednesday in room 115!



Autumn Word Search

By Wren Tatel

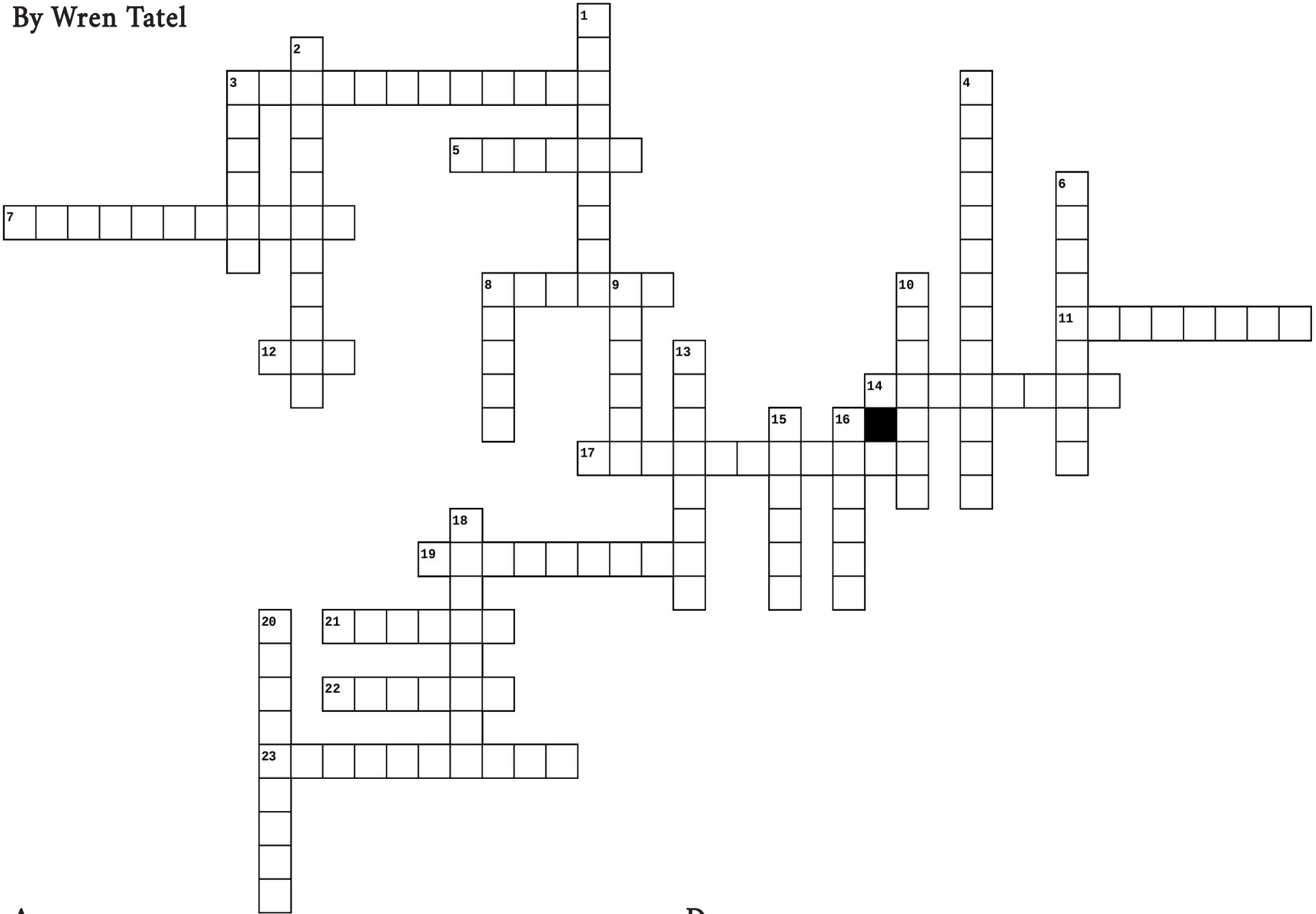
W	W	Q	Q	F	S	E	Y	Q	W	I	D	D	T	N
U	S	H	S	A	G	I	T	T	A	R	I	U	S	Z
I	C	X	T	R	I	C	K	O	R	T	R	E	A	T
C	A	T	E	Z	G	T	J	L	M	M	R	U	Q	Y
S	R	O	N	E	E	W	O	L	L	A	H	T	M	D
H	E	Y	S	C	O	R	P	I	O	P	U	C	C	A
S	C	Z	F	I	S	L	D	N	K	R	S	R	A	Y
A	R	O	M	A	E	T	V	C	K	L	E	I	N	R
U	O	C	S	A	C	B	O	E	V	O	M	S	D	R
Q	W	G	V	C	R	O	Y	O	W	D	U	P	Y	E
S	P	E	Q	N	A	F	R	C	B	O	T	K	C	B
H	S	A	N	C	O	R	R	N	J	T	S	D	M	N
S	L	E	N	N	A	L	F	J	I	E	O	Y	C	A
A	U	T	U	M	N	D	Y	Y	E	U	C	A	F	R
U	G	N	I	V	I	G	S	K	N	A	H	T	I	C

Word Bank

Autumn	Turkey	Candy
Acorn	Cranberry	Squash
Scarecrow	Flannel	TrickorTreat
Scarf	Boots	
Cozy	Leaves	
Crisp	Scorpio	
Halloween	Sagittarius	
Thanksgiving	Costumes	

Autumn Crossword

By Wren Tatel



Across

3. Holiday of Gratitude
5. Dodgers player who recently pitched 6 innings with 10 strikeouts
7. This famous statue was unveiled on October 28th in 1886
8. The Festival of Lights
11. Halftime show headliner
12. Famous dinosaur housed at the Field Museum
14. A popular Halloween candy
17. Award given to a senior
19. Three sisters in a classic Halloween movie
21. Horror movie with a masked killer
22. Drink consumed by "performative males"
23. Holiday on October 13th with a name change

Down

1. Newest Pokemon Game
2. November Zodiac Sign
3. Something you can carve at the table
4. Cause of long lines
6. Sauce paried with Turkey on Thanksgiving
8. Popular Halloween Costume
9. Collectible plush toy created in Hong Kong
10. Classic jacket worn in fall
13. Day that honors those who served in the US armed forces
15. Parade viewed on Thanksgiving
16. Movie adaptation of a famous musical
18. A legendary 42.195 km run by the Greek messenger Pheidippides
20. Winter show at Lincoln Park Zoo

Thank you to the
Illinois Press
Foundation for
sponsoring this
issue!



The Amundsen Explorer Team

Ms. KC
Ms. Widman
Mr. Caswell
Izabel Dawod
Summer Danek
Aaron Gerios

Lilah Lehner
Mari Bahnfleth
Wren Tatel
Griffin White
Jack Bloom
Stella DiGangi

Luis Hernandez
Justin Vo
Jude Lamotta

Amundsen

Sports Section

Fall Sports 2025 Recap

By Aaron Gerios and Jack Bloom

Fall sports at Amundsen are coming to an end, and the Explorer would like to highlight all of the amazing sports we offer here at Amundsen. This is the 2025 Amundsen High School fall sports recap. Some sports haven't yet finished, so they will be written with a holistic view of the season so far. All stats and schedules are as of October 27, 2025.

Girls' Swimming



Girls' Swim Media Day; Photo courtesy of Selena M.

Girls' Swimming had one of their best performances of the last 5 years, with a trophy at each level at the Conference Championship meet. The two teams earned a combined 32 medals, and they performed extremely well considering their circumstances. The team practices in a small pool, while teams like Lane, Whitney, and Westinghouse have full pools eligible to host meets. This team works hard, and they have earned their victories this year. This is definitely a squad that deserves more recognition as they are a top team at AHS.

Girls' Tennis

Girls' Tennis had their first season as a completely separate team from Senn. And, for a first season, it was a major success. The girls won multiple matches in a row throughout the year, including wins over rival schools like Von Steuben. They also beat established programs such as Taft. The team showed great versatility, still competing at a high level even when the lineup was switched around. With an unfortunate loss in the first round of playoffs the girls hope to be even better next year. Overall, this was a great first season and girls tennis looks to be another one of the best teams Amundsen has to offer.

Boys' Golf

Boys' Golf made a nice run into the state playoffs and beat some strong teams like Lane Tech. They also won the CPL championship behind exceptional play from freshman Ben Nick. Overall the season was a great success and the team should continue to grow with plenty of young players on Varsity. The team started just 4 years ago with around 5 people, and has already grown to having both a Varsity, JV, and club level team. This staggering growth should be a good sign of the health of the program for years to come.



Boys' Golf Media Day; Photo courtesy of Lucy Loevner.

Cross Country



9/30 Legion Park Cross Country Meet; Photo courtesy of Kaya Bolliger.



9/13 Depaul Cross Country Meet; Photo courtesy of Kaya Bolliger.

Cross Country had a good season highlighted by some strong individual performances. The girls team made it to sectional championships and the boys had individual runners qualify as well. The whole team made great strides as the season went on. In addition, the team gained recognition by being invited to the Brooks running Chicago marathon event with Olympic Medalist Kara Goucher. Overall, this was a great season for the team and they should continue to get better in the coming seasons.

Continued on next page...

Girls' Golf



Match at Robert A. Black; Photos courtesy of Lucy Loevner.



Girls' Golf had a similarly strong performance to Boys' Golf this year. They had two team members qualify for Illinois state Sectionals, one of which was a freshman. This team has plenty of room to grow, as they currently only have 6 players. Similarly to boys golf, this is also a young team with a very bright future, and they should continue to get better and better as time goes on. This could very quickly become a sport that is one of Amundsen's best.

Boys' Soccer

Our Boys' team had a tough year facing multiple playoff bound teams throughout the regular season. They were able to keep it close in their regional semi final against Payton but it unfortunately ended in a loss for the guys. This was a rebuild year and it looks like there are many talented young players who will be able to help push this team over the edge in the coming years. One of those players, Ethan Figueroa scored 6 goals this season and looks like he will be a key player for the rest of his Amundsen career.

Girls' Volleyball

Girls' Volleyball had a decent season entering their senior night with a 11-19 record which included a comeback win against Mather. They were fortunate to draw Mather again in the first round of city playoffs and swept them this time around. The players were able to pick up another playoff win against Chicago Agricultural Science, but unfortunately lost to Lane in the next round. With 5 seniors graduating the team, there will be some holes to fill. Luckily the JV team had a great season and has good talent that will be moving to the varsity roster next year. They are set to play Northside in the first round of state playoffs on 10/28.



Girls' Volleyball Media Day; Photo courtesy of Lucy Loevner.



8/29 Varsity vs. Von Stueben; Photo courtesy of Morgan Gaietto.

16-inch Softball



9/29 Game vs Prosser; Photos courtesy of Kaya Bolliger and Quinn Burns.

16-inch had an amazing regular season with a record of 9-0-1. In those 9 wins, they were able to mercy rule four of their opponents. Unfortunately, the team was overmatched by Solorio and drew their first loss of the season in the city playoffs. It will be interesting to see where this team goes next season. With the loss of their main pitcher, someone will have to step up to fill his shoes. Despite the loss, this is clearly still a great season.

Continued on next page...

Fall Sports 2025 Recap continued...

Flag Football

Flag Football had a rough go of it throughout the year. However, as with any season, there are silver linings to be found. First, and most importantly, most of these losses came against established programs like Lane, Taft, and Whitney Young. This team is developing and is simply out-resourced by these other schools. Lane has 4000 more people and more funding. With some development and some time, this program can become a fully flourished powerhouse.



(Above, right) Flag Football Media Day; Photos courtesy of Lucy Loevner.



Football



9/25 Homecoming Game vs. Taft; Photos courtesy of Peter Tolzmann.

The Vikings had a bit of a disappointing season, moving backwards from last year. Execution troubles plagued the team, with tackling issues in important games against King and Kenwood. The team showed flashes, including going up 14-0 against Kenwood. However, the lack of execution caught up to them in most games. These disappointing losses could have kept them out of contention, but the team rallied and beat Lincoln Park on senior night to make the city playoffs. We saw similar tough challenges last year which were followed by a deep playoff run, so I am excited to see what this team can do to round out their season.

Other Photos from the Year So Far...



Drone view of the 2025 Pep Rally; Photo courtesy of Lucy Loevner.

Photos courtesy of Kylie Alexis Martinez.