

What's Inside
Opioid Awareness at Three Rivers
Norwich City Flag Retirement Box
Could Apple Buy Out Tesla?
And Much More...



The 
Current

*Spring 2019
March 20th
Volume 20, Issue #4*

Table of Contents

Community

Kela Noré Sets to Bring Her Passion for Music to the Big Stage	4
Norwich City Flag Retirement Box	6
Why the Sudden Rise in Coyotes in Connecticut?	7
Connecticut's 5th Season	8
Norwich Points of Interest: Aroogas Grille House & Sports Bar	10
Soda Sin Tax	11
Mental Help for Police Officers	12

College Life

Page to Poet Artist Talk Returns	14
Three Rivers Engages Families in Read Across America	15
Sharing Textbooks Online: An Editorial	16
Professor Mark Vesligaj Receives A Fulbright Award	18
Opioid Awareness at Three Rivers (Front cover)	19
Clubs Enhance College Life at Club Carnival	20

Entertainment

Anthropocene Review: Standardized Time	22
Could Apple Buy Out Tesla?	24
Amiibo: The Ultimate Plastic Fighter	25
Netflix Gems: Must Watch Shows and Movies in 2019	26

Advisor

Kevin Amenta

Editor

Hope Whiteley

Staff

Rachael Burton
 Bridney Casillas
 Michelle Chenail
 Kenzie Costello
 Miranda Cote
 Drew Denis
 Melissa Kuster
 Tyler Riddle
 Hope Whiteley
 Nicholas Zujus

Front Cover Photo: Kenzie Costello
 Back cover artwork: Rebekah Church

The Current is the official student publication of Three Rivers Community College. The Current is written, edited, and designed solely by students. The Current staff is producing five issues this Spring which are free of charge. We encourage students, faculty, staff, and other readers to contribute to future issues.

Email submissions, responses, and ideas to:
trccnewspaper@gmail.com

Only submissions with proper contact information will be accepted. In the case of editorials, responses must be sent in the same format as the editorial. The Current reserves the right to edit submissions. Views expressed are those of the writers and are not to be considered those of The Current, TRCC, the faculty, staff, or administration.

Find and Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/TRCCTheCurrent

DR. JOEL ZUCKERBRAUN PC

Optometrist

COMPREHENSIVE
EYE EXAMINATIONS

Family Practice • Children & Adults



OPTOMETRIST

- Computer Assisted Examination
- Diagnosis & Treatment Of The Eye
- Medicare-Participating Provider
- Laser Surgery Evaluation
- Insurance Programs Accepted
- Discounts For Senior Citizens
- Fashionable Eyewear For The Entire Family
- Contact Lenses

Office Hours
By Appointment

860-376-2848

8 North Main Street • Jewett City

www.drjoelzuckerbraun.com



●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●
PURE ROMANCE
 BY JADA

Empower. Educate. Entertain.

PURE ROMANCE
 BY JADA
 Get 25% OFF YOUR
 FIRST PURCHASE! ANY
 ITEM!
 CONTACT JADA ● ENDS APRIL 30, 2019

Book a Party With Me!
 Jada Mercado
 Bath & Beauty Independent Business Owner
 TEL: (860) 334-6251
 EMAIL: jadamercado.pureromance@gmail.com
 WEB: pureromance.com/JadaMercado

●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

Kela Noré Sets to Bring Her Passion for Music to the Big Stage

Local Teen R&B Sensation Gears Up for Her Performance at the Garde Theatre

By Bridney Casillas

Photos by La Shale René

Courtesy of Kela Noré

"I want to inspire others after me and inspire my peers to just get out and perform," says Kela Noré a 17-year-old singer based in New London. Noré is going to sing on stage at the Garde Theatre along with many other featured local artists in the New London Talent Show on April 6th at 7PM.

She will be singing her own original song, titled "Ou La La," during this year's showcase. Her musical sound, which is a modern R&B type feel mixed in with pop sounds, has gained a following in the past year. She has been participating in the New London Talent Show for seven years as way to gain exposure as a local artist.

Lately, Noré has been performing at various open mic events in the area in order to get rid of the stage fright she says still has.

Her real name is Mykela Parker, a local singer who came up with her stage name Kela Noré from Noré-Ann which is her middle name. She began singing since childhood and recorded her first song in January of 2017.

Noré comes from a musical family and background. Noré writes her own songs while her manager, a cousin of hers from Providence, Rhode Island, engineers her music. Her mother produces music as well and is currently creating the instrumentals for her upcoming album consisting of 10-12 songs.



Kela Noré Boldly Strikes a Pose at a Promotional

Noré's musical influences include R&B artists such as Luther Vandross, Kehlani, Lionel Richie and Brent Faiyaz. She cites her siblings, grandfather, and singing coach Shaniece Garcia as being her inspiration, but says her mom is her main inspiration, sharing, "whenever she wants to do something she makes sure to dedicate herself towards making it happen so it motivates me."

Kela Noré elaborates on her musical process, "I like to be able to have a relation with people. Like when I create my music, I like to tell a story by using the combination of my vocals and inspiration. As well as the chords in my songs when I pick out a beat, and it's all about the vibes."

Students at Three Rivers who have heard of Kela Noré expressed interest in seeing her perform at the Garde Theatre. Devon Rose, a Sophomore majoring in Human Services who attended Fitch High School with Noré, states "I would see her performance and she sounds really amazing! It's very important to have local talented artists."

Darryl Gallardo, a Sophomore majoring in Graphic Design, says "I would go there to watch her, she has a wonderful voice, and it would be refreshing to hear more local talent. We as people who live near the local talent should give her recognition."

Tyler Riddle, a Sophomore majoring Graphic Design believes, "If we don't pay attention to the talent we have in front of us, we could be overlooking a legend. What's important is recognizing those who will make it and help them along."

She considers her music to be self-reflective, saying "I feel like it is, because even though some of my songs are just stories that are inspired by movies, I tend to be a jinx and some situations end up being like the ones I write in my songs."

Noré pursues her music career full time as of now, although she plans on majoring in Psychology while attending community college later on this year. Noré completed high school two months ago in January, and has already received her high school diploma.



Noré Fiercely Stares Into the Camera in a Selfie.

In the future, Noré hopes to collaborate with local artists Shemmy, Andre, Erycka Ortiz, and a friend of hers, Menelik. She also looks forward to networking with other artists who would like to expand on their craft.



"There's art in every sense that's we use whether it's hearing, seeing, or even tasting and touching. Me discovering different perspectives in different forms of art will allow me to expand my creativity," says Kela Noré.

And what about those who may want to pursue any goal they have? Kela Noré states, "for the people that are aiming for a big goal to achieve... All I have to say is make sure you have an organized plan. Start off with small goals that build up to what you want. Patience is key. And law of attraction is everything!"

In the meantime, you can listen to her music on Soundcloud under Kela Nore' and Spotify under the name Kelanore'.

Norwich City Flag Retirement Box

By Hope Whiteley



Mayor Nystrom (Right) and Mason McMahon (left) at the dedication ceremony

At the Norwich Town Hall between the ATM and the Information Desk is a box where residents of Norwich and the surrounding towns can bring their worn out American flags so they can be properly retired.

The young man behind the Flag Retirement Box is 17-year-old Mason McMahon of the Young Marines, a national youth organization chartered by the Marine Corps League.

Mason McMahon caused the installation of the Flag Retirement Box in order to complete his final project in the Young Marines which raised him to the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. He explained "The project is the highest award you can earn and I've reached the highest rank you can get, so all I have left to do is retire from the program."

When asked how he came up with the idea he said, "I thought of this with my family because I've seen cardboard ones around some [Veterans of Foreign War]s and I thought that having one in a central place like City Hall would be perfect. I also thought that it would mean a lot to the flag to be retired the right way because my unit retires them every year on flag day, so I thought it was a perfect idea."

When asked his opinion, Norwich Mayor Peter Nystrom said, "I think it's a wonderful project for the city of Norwich. It demonstrates the city's respect for the American flag. It also provides an opportunity to help our citizens provide the proper retirement for a flag, which is burning."

While supplies last, when you bring your old flag to the Town Hall and put it in the retirement box, you can go to the Mayor's office and receive a replacement flag provided by Master Gunnery Sergeant McMahon and his project.

Master Gunnery Sergeant McMahon's final statement on the Flag Retirement Box was "I'm just happy that there's a place in the city where people can place worn out flags to be retired properly."



Flag Retirement Box at the Norwich Town Hall

Why the Sudden Rise in Coyotes in Connecticut?

By Rebekah Church

Nearly a hundred years ago, coyotes weren't considered a native Connecticut species. Recently, coyote sightings have been reported throughout many human populated areas (suburban areas, parks, etc.). Originally, coyotes were only native to Alaska, the Midwest, and western plains here in America. Yet these crafty and adaptable creatures' populations managed to expand all throughout America and Canada. Each Connecticut town has their own different sets of rules when responding to and managing wildlife crisis calls.

Sean Stevens, a licensed trapper and faculty member of Nuisance Wildlife Control, reports, for him, growing up in the early 1970s, he had never heard of any coyote sightings in Connecticut. He explains that in recent decades, agricultural-land has lessened, thus making reforestation increase. These forests gave coyotes new homes and food sources to thrive in. Stevens states, "a lot of the nuisance wildlife creatures I get are suburban and nocturnal."

Coyotes can be sighted living in or near rural neighborhoods, often eating human garbage just like any other wild animal such as skunks and raccoons.

Coyotes are crafty in their intelligence and highly adaptable to multiple ecosystems. Animal Control won't usually get involved with coyote sightings unless reports of coyotes appear to have rabies, near death, or have attacked a pet or person.

Peter Reid, an animal control officer from Wildlife in Crisis in Weston, CT, explains that there are two contributing facts to the rise in the coyote population in Connecticut. First, coyotes may be forced into migration due to human interferences (deforestation, pollution, and agriculture), that spoil the coyote pack's original natural habitats. Secondly, larger litters of coyote cubs are produced under these pressures. Reid states, "coyotes are here to stay...the best way to handle coyotes is to learn to live with them."

Pet owners of cats and small dogs (less than 25 pounds), and parents of small children, often become worried for the safety of their pets and children when a coyote sighting is reported nearby. However, there are ways to minimize interactions between humans and coyotes such as to not hang up bird feeders in their backyards, especially in the winter time, which is during the coyote's breeding season.



Coyote- submitted by Rebekah Church

Seeds from the bird feeders drop to the ground by birds and end up being eaten by rodents. These birds and rodents attract hungry predators like coyotes which are a part of their diet. Wildlife experts say that the best way for people to protect themselves from coyotes is to never feed them; including all wildlife.

If a coyote does appear, most wildlife experts advise for people to act assertively by standing their ground, make loud noises, and only if necessary, to throw sticks and rocks at the creature. People should never try running away or turning their backs on a coyote or any wild predator. For protecting pets, cat owners should bring their outdoor cats in before nighttime because coyotes are most active at night. Dog owners should keep their dogs on short leashes and steer clear of dark areas when walking at night.

Again, Reid states, "coyotes are here to stay." Over all, coyotes contribute a great cause for Connecticut. They manage the ecosystems by controlling rodent and deer populations from becoming too big. Coyotes are intelligent creatures that maintain the natural balance of life here in Connecticut. Learning to avoid and preventing encounters with coyotes will help in the safety and well-being of both humans and pets.

Connecticut's "Fifth" Season

Pothole season is back with a vengeance

By Melissa Kuster

Students who commute to and from Three Rivers Community College are all too familiar with pothole season. Luke Shea, a part-time student and student worker at TRCC commutes from Lisbon to the college almost every day. "Potholes are definitely a problem that's been ignored," Shea stated. "I definitely know areas where it's really bad."

"Potholes we jokingly refer to as the fifth Connecticut season," Kevin Nursick spokesman for the Connecticut Department of Transportation said. "It's unfortunately a reality that all winter weather states have to deal with."



Spread Potholes courtesy of Hope Whiteley

Although the CT DOT have crews on the road a minimum 5 days a week identifying and patching potholes, the continuous freezing and thawing cycles New Englanders face are causing old potholes to reopen and new ones to form.

According to Nursick, "Patching potholes is almost like mowing the grass." Lawns can constantly be mowed; however, the grass will always grow back. This is like how potholes behave, although they're constantly being patched, they'll always return with a vengeance.

Since all TRCC students are commuters, potholes are a large obstacle in getting to and from class. Kiersten Galloway, a full-time student and student worker at the college, finds the plethora of potholes on East Main Street in Norwich troubling. "Driving on that road is like riding a roller coaster," Galloway said. "The road's really narrow, and no one follows the speed limit there."



Pothole with ice courtesy of Hope Whiteley

According to Nursick, potholes are generally seen in older asphalt, however, after a couple of seasons they start occurring in newer asphalt too. Another challenge CT DOT crews' face when working on potholes during the winter is that there is no permanent solution to repairing them until the spring. During the winter, cold patches are used to repair potholes as opposed to hot asphalt since the cold temperatures prevent it from being able to set properly. "You're not getting a permanent fix with a cold patch" Nursick said.

While potholes are a fact of everyday life during a Connecticut winter, there are precautions drivers can take to avoid damage to their cars during pothole season: reduce speeds, carefully maneuver around potholes if possible and avoid tailgating. "If you tailgate you have no opportunity to take a safe maneuver to avoid it," Nursick said.



Pothole courtesy of Hope Whiteley



Little Potholes courtesy of Hope Whiteley

Other precautions drivers can take to protect their cars during pothole season come from AAA, who recommends inspecting your vehicles tires, which means making sure they have enough tread and are properly inflated. This ensures that there's enough cushion between the car and the pothole. You should also check your vehicles suspension and alignment and be wary of potholes disguised as puddles.

Potholes may be back with a vengeance this winter, but the good news is with spring right around the corner potholes can be tended to with a more permanent solution.

To report a pothole, visit www.dotdata.ct.gov/contacts/contactus.aspx?topic=34.

Norwich Points of Interest: Aroogas Grille House & Sports Bar

By Tyler Riddle

Although technically located in Uncasville, the Aroogas at 32 Sandy Desert Rd is one of the hottest restaurants in the Norwich area. This bar and grill has everything you could want in a sports-themed eatery, from its cushioned round tables to its plethora of televisions hanging on the walls (with a personal tv at nearly every table), it is the perfect spot for a group to catch up, eat, and enjoy a game together.

Their menu includes shareable appetizers, soups, salads, Wagyu burgers (Japanese cattle beef), wings, flatbreads, sandwiches, ribs, skillet, and more. There are also vegetarian options, including their plant-based Impossible Burger, Veggie Boli, Veggie Flatbread, and other options that could please the pickiest of eaters.

Getting there from Three Rivers is a cinch. Simply turn left when leaving the college and follow New London Tpke till you see the Mohegan Sun, Aroogas is just uphill route 32 on the Left. The trip is a mere 4-minute drive from campus, making it an easy choice for a lunch break between classes.

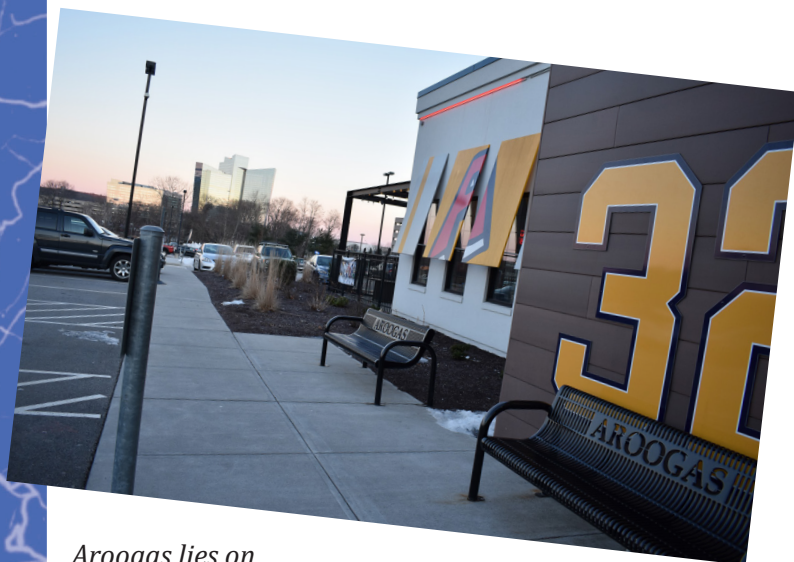


Entrance to Aroogas Grille House & Sports Bar

Their pricing is decent with the average meal costing around 11 bucks. However, during happy hour (between the times of 3 pm to 6 pm and 9 pm to close), wings cost 50 cents each, Making Aroogas your goto for cheap (but tasty) wings.

After enjoying a meal at Aroogas, there's no reason to leave in a hurry. Within walking distance is the expansive Mohegan Sun, with plenty of shops to browse and sights to see. Plus it makes for a great place to walk off the food you've eaten with your friends.

Aroogas atmosphere is geared towards sports, fun, and conversation. It's a place best enjoyed in the company of others, although it can be a spot to just catch a game on your own. Chris Boyle, a student at Three Rivers and an Aroogas regular says "I like making moves and I like Mango Habanero (wings). Nothing like some boys and some spice that'll put some hair on your chest". Next time you're looking for a bite to eat after class, try Aroogas before you head to the cafeteria.



Aroogas lies on the edge of the Mohegan Sun property

Soda Sin Tax

By Michelle Chenail

Connecticut's new Governor, Ned Lamont, has created a proposition to introduce a tax on sugar sweetened beverages sold in the state. While Connecticut currently exempts most groceries from its 6.5% sales tax, the sugar tax would add a 1.5% charge to the cost of soft drinks, sweetened teas, energy drinks and sports drinks.

Lamont has included this tax with a group of other proposals for raising Connecticut's revenue, which include a seventy-five percent tax on the sale of electronic cigarettes, a twenty-five cent bottle deposit on wine and liquor containers, a five cent deposit on 50 ml liquor containers, and a ten cent tax on the usage of plastic bags in grocery stores.

The taxation of sugary drinks, commonly called a 'sugar tax,' has been a subject of controversy in the United States. There are no taxes at a national level for sugary drinks, but cities such as Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle have successfully passed sugar taxes that are currently active in their states. The instatement of sugar taxation in these areas resulted in millions of dollars being collected as tax revenue, albeit at the cost of consumers buying less sugary drinks or making purchases elsewhere to avoid the increased cost.

According to his spokeswoman Maribel La Luz, Lamont believes that a sugar tax implemented at the state level would deter residents from traveling to neighboring areas to purchase drinks and help discourage unhealthy behaviors. The consumption of soft drinks and beverages with excessive amounts of added sugar are considered to be contributors to the rise of obesity and diabetes rates in the United States.

The beverage manufacturing industry in Connecticut includes distribution facilities for Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, and Red Bull, with approximately 2600 jobs. A taxation on sugary drinks may have an affect on these businesses, such as downsizing and employees receiving layoffs. Distributors for Coca-Cola and PepsiCo have blamed sugar taxes on the loss of over 130 employees in Pennsylvania after the passing of Philadelphia's soda tax.

If approved, Lamont's soda tax would charge an extra 1.5 cents per ounce on beverages that fall under its guidelines, and is expected to generate \$163 million in revenue during its first fiscal year



Image courtesy of pixabay.com

Mental Health H.E.L.P For Police Officers

By Nicholas Zujus

Since January of 2016, 460 police officers have committed suicide in the United States. Of these officers, thirteen were from Connecticut.

Police officers deal with situations every day that can take a toll physically, and mentally.

With daily exposure to car crashes, drug overdoses and even murder scenes, it doesn't seem unlikely that a police officer would experience symptoms of depression and anxiety.

For Senator Heather Somers, Connecticut's Representative for Groton, help should be given to these officers to stay mentally healthy without any repercussions to their job. Somers proposed a bill that would offer mental help to officers dealing with these issues.



Image courtesy of pixabay.com

With the stigma around police officers all over the country being mentally unstable, the bill proposed by Somers would allow for Connecticut officers to get mental help without losing time from their job. This would help in all areas of the force, and less mistakes would be made on the job.

Due to the current law, having any officers take at least six months off the force for seeking help for depression, departments have been forced to send their officers out of state to get help, so that they would not miss time from work. With Somer's proposed law, officers would be able to get help and be properly evaluated without having to take six months off.

Officers can experience PTSD, or post-traumatic stress disorder, from the sights they see at work. Whether it be seeing teenage suicides on train tracks, or murders of innocent people in their own homes, these images can scar any human and stick with them forever. Without being able to talk about it, officers have to bottle it up and resort to finding some other way to deal with the pain.

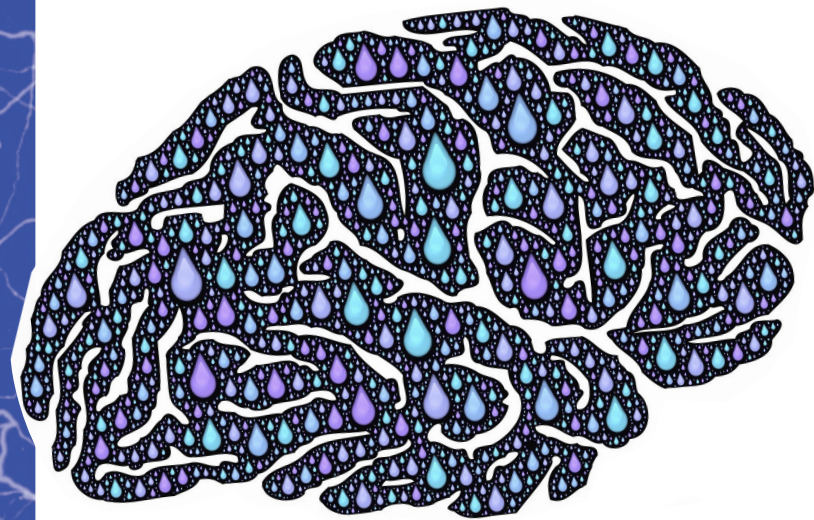


Image courtesy of pixabay.com

Suicide in police officers is a serious issue. Whether it be based on the scenes they see during work or other situations outside of work, officers are not being treated properly for the problems they are dealing with.

According to Blue H.E.L.P, a Massachusetts organization devoted to recording information about suicide in police officers, more officers have died from suicide in the past three years than officers have died on duty.

The help for police officers is needed dearly, and Somers hopes to provide that with the new bill.

Senate Bill 380 was proposed on February 8th at a public hearing, and officers and union representatives spoke highly in favor of the bill. Firefighters present indicated their wish that they be included in the bill as well.

Specifically, the bill will change the way police officers deal with the trauma from work a getaway from everything. Instead of having to take it out on something else or bottling it up and causing more problems, officers will be able to speak about what they see and deal with it in a reasonable manner.

The bill is based on a similar law passed in Illinois in August of last year, and Connecticut joining in the battle could start a chain reaction. As we see more and more officers in the news losing their lives or acting erratically at work, this bill could help make the world a better place.

The next step after the bill is passed is to remove the misconception that police officers have to be tough enough to deal with anything they see. As the community opens up and supports the idea of giving officers the help they need, change in the mentality of the public towards how mentally tough officers should be is helping to end this stigma.

As 31 police officers have committed suicide nationally this year already, Senate Bill 380 is here to help end the suffering in a more logical manner. Information regarding statistics in officer suicides provided by <https://bluehelp.org/>.



Image courtesy of pixabay.com

Page to Poet Artist Talk Returns

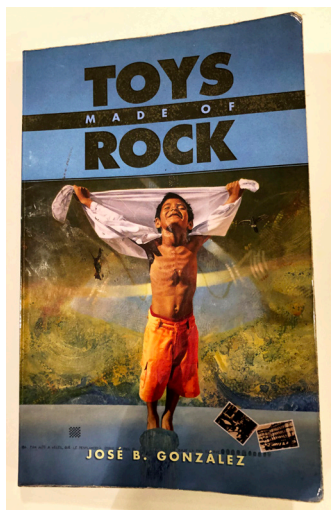
Students gather to hear Jose B. Gonzalez's poetry
By Melissa Kuster

On March 4th students gathered in Three Rivers Community College's Cyber Café in anticipation of hearing Jose B. Gonzalez, an award-winning poet and speaker, read poetry from his book *Toys Made of Rock* (2015). Associate Professor Frederick-Douglass Knowles II started the Page to Poet series to bring local authors to the school to share their work.

Knowles is also utilizing Gonzalez's book, *Toys Made of Rock*, by teaching it to his Literature & Composition class. Knowles believes that by teaching from a book by a local author it'll help students be more engaged in the reading. "We can find a piece of ourselves in the writing," Knowles said.

Gonzalez began by introducing himself to the audience. He was born in San Salvador, El Salvador and immigrated to New London, CT when he was eight years old. He currently teaches for the U.S. Coast Guard and a correctional institution, however he previously taught full-time at TRCC. "I love coming to Three Rivers," Gonzalez said. "Every time I come here I get energized."

Gonzalez read a total of eight poems the majority of which came from his book *Toys Made of Rock*. Many of Gonzalez's poems discuss his life as an immigrant in the U.S. and growing up in New London, CT. The first poem Gonzalez read, "Fleeing for Work", talks about his father and how he went from selling soap on the street in El Salvador to coming to the U.S. to find work to better provide for his family. He also discussed the very little education his father had. "By 2nd grade he had stopped going to school altogether," Gonzalez said. Gonzalez dedicated the last 30 minutes for the audience to ask questions or provide comments and to sign his book. Many of the members of the audience said that they could relate to Gonzalez's poetry.



Jose B. Gonzalez's book *Toys Made of Rock*



Frederick Knowles (left) and Jose B. Gonzalez (right) happily stand together after the Page to Poet Artist Talk

One student mentioned that she was Salvadorian and that she easily connected with Gonzalez's work. Another student revealed that she's from New London and could envision all the places Gonzalez described in his poems.

Although this is only the 2nd Page to Poet Artist Talk, Knowles plans on having many more in the future which will allow attendees to hear work done by local artists and ask them questions. Knowles, a local writer himself, stated, "We have something to say as well."

For more information on Jose B. Gonzalez visit www.josebgonzalez.com.

Three Rivers Engages Families in Read Across America

By Miranda Cote

On Friday, March 1, 2019, students, staff, and families came together to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday at the Three Rivers event, Read Across America. There were many activities at the event such as bird feeder making, balloon pop, coloring, decorating cupcakes, learning activities, face painting, fishing for magnetic fish, balloon animals, and a raffle for Dr. Seuss books. There was music and free food as well.

Alycia Ziegler, the Acting Director of Student Activities, said, "This marks about the 15th year of Read Across America."



Rebekah Church does "face" painting

This event is important to Three Rivers because it is a mission of the school to find a way include families in school events. While some students do not have children, for the students who are parents, there are not many events that they can attend with their families.

Katie, the sister of a Three Rivers Student, who attended the event said "My son loves to read and we encourage it for both of our kids. As an added bonus the event was about Dr. Seuss!" Katie is just one of many people who found that this event both allowed for the inclusion of family in college events and getting the younger generations to love reading at an early age.

Kenzie Costello, a student at Three Rivers who attended the event, said "what I enjoyed most was how engaged everyone got with the kids, it was an open space for fun and lots of opportunities to learn."



Beautiful Doctor Seuss cake

While this event has been around for so long, it has evolved over the years. As new clubs are created, they bring fresh energy to the event. This year the clubs involved were T.R.U.E., S.I.G.M.A., Anime Club, Video Game Club, Veterans Organization, Mind Your Mental Health, Art Club, Trailblazers, Baseball Club, Exercise Science.



Making bird treats

Sharing Textbooks Online

An Editorial By Kenzie Costello

Controlled Digital Lending (CDL) is a method that allows libraries to loan print books to digital patrons. This is just like going to the library and renting a book without the physical action of going to the library. This is a legal theory to allow libraries to justify the scanning of print book. I believe that CDL is not something that should be used for renting books because it is not controlled, it is illegal and it takes away pay from the authors.

While the title states that it is “controlled”, it is far from being controlled. Being able to go around corners when obtaining a book without authorization from the copyright owners gets dangerous. The library circulates the exact number of copies of each title it owns, despite the format. This violates the existing copyright law.

To put CDL into perspective: the printed book is considered copy 1, which is paper and is physical storage. It is then scanned to a digital copy known as copy 2 and is placed onto a web server. Then it is distributed to the “borrowers” with copy 3, copy 4 and copy 5, all digital versions. This leads to another copy for each new reader that decides to read that book.

Students going to college have to buy or rent textbooks. It is copyright infringement to scan or photocopy more than 10% of a textbook at a time. The case is then furthered when given to a classmate. No one may find out the first time, but it’s still against the law. The way I see this, if I have to buy a textbook, so do others. This is how the world works, nothing is free.

Authors write books typically for a living. The Copyright helps the authors get paid with their work being out in the public and each reader individually purchasing it. When renting through a library in person, it makes it easy to avoid any legal complications by having a return date, and if it is late or has damages, there is a fee.

With Controlled Digital Lending, despite efforts to supposedly block any downloading and other ways around copyright infringement, there is still possibility for the book to be obtained illegally.

In today’s society, individuals are very attached to screen time. According to a study performed at the University of Maryland of college students, digital media only has the ability to retain information in most students minds if there is not a lot of scrolling ahead of them. This meaning, in an informational text of about 450 words, both groups of print and digital readers got the idea of the passages. But, when asked about the key points and further details, the information was retained more from the print readers.

In all, Authors are workers, too, and need to be compensated for their work that is enjoyed by all to continue writing and circulating their works. Copyright is the authors only currency due to no salaries and fixed compensations. CDL is disrespectful to the authors and does not support progressivism in any form.

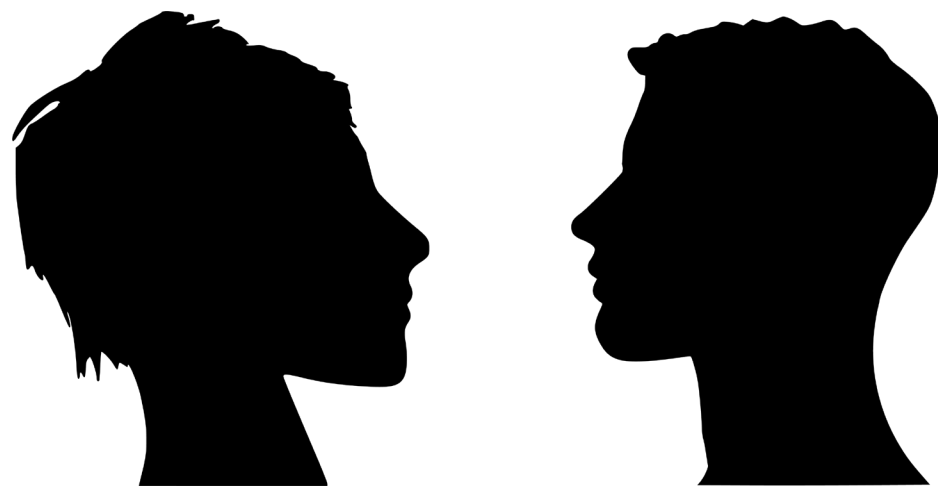


Image courtesy of Google Images

The Rebuttal By Nicholas Zujus

The life of a college student is usually defined by one trait: broke.

Working a full-time job to keep up with bills while also taking a full course load can be a lot. Budgets are tight, and money is usually short.

Student debt continues to rise year to year, and adding in the price of textbooks makes it worse. As publishing companies thrive from making students pay hundreds of dollars for a book that costs little to make, and these books are required for courses, college students have a difficult time scraping by without taking out loans.

Being able to share and resell textbooks is something that students should be able to do. Every dollar counts, and if students can make more money off of selling textbooks they paid hundreds for online or selling a textbook to a friend, it needs to be done.

But with current copyright laws, this isn’t possible. As the ASMP joins the opposition of Controlled Digital Lending, it makes the textbooks pretty much useless after the 4-month course comes to an end.

Online book sharing is simply taking the physical book, scanning it into digital form, and sharing it online. Students cannot do this with the current laws, even after they have paid for the book.

When students purchase a textbook for upwards of \$300, it doesn’t make sense to have to hold onto it without making your money back. Other students will need the textbook at some point, and being able to share it online may not only benefit the owner, but the buyer.

Students need another outlet instead of buying books from a bookstore. Being able to use a textbook online for less money would help students to stay on track in class without spending so much money.

A lot of students also have to wait until the course starts to buy books in order to save money. If books were to be resold online, they would be cheaper and it would allow students to keep up to date with reading and homework assignments early in the semester.

As most of the college world goes digital, it makes sense to have books online. While students type essays or homework assignments up, it would be substantially easier to have a digital version of any textbook they have to look at instead of having to go through a paper book while on the computer.

As textbooks also become less available due to the increase in students, they are put on order which can take weeks to get in. Being able to get the book online instantly for a lower price would help students to not only do their assignments quickly, it would save money for things like gas and food.

Money is a necessity to college students. Not being able to work as much as someone outside of college means much less money in their pocket to begin with, and paying absurd prices for textbooks when they’ve already paid for the course is a slap in the face.

It’s no wonder the younger generations are in debt once they are out of school. Companies are profiting immensely off of the books needed for college courses, which very well should be included in the price of the course.

On a different level, students putting these textbooks online can help the environment. If fewer paper books are being bought, fewer books will be produced to put on the market. Considering the size and length of college textbooks, online book sharing could lower the amount of paper used significantly.

As the world deteriorates day by day, a problem that pops up is air quality. Continuing to cut down trees to make textbooks hurts the environment and helps to lower the air quality.

With more and more students going to school every year, the amount of textbooks continues to increase. If saving \$300 on a book means being able to get one online from someone who has already purchased the book, it’s a no brainer.

If textbook companies just decided to lower the prices of their textbooks and make them more affordable to college students, they wouldn’t have this problem.

Professor Mark Vesligaj Receives A Fulbright Award

By Kenzie Costello

Three Rivers Community College Professor of Engineering Science, Mark Vesligaj has been awarded a Fulbright International Education Administrators Seminar award to Russia. The Fulbright program is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

The Fulbright program has had approximately 370,000 participants since the program launched in 1946. Fulbright alumni include Pulitzer Prize winners and Nobel laureates. President Mary Ellen Jukoski guided Vesligaj in the process to help get him on track, due to knowing that Vesligaj is an international program reviewer for an engineering school in Ireland.

Professor Vesligaj will travel with four other American scholars to St. Petersburg, Moscow and Tver in March. This trip will focus on the role of community colleges in higher education and within the local community.

Vesligaj and the other scholars will work with Russian administrators in postsecondary education and go over the key information for institutional relationship and collaborations. The Fulbright Scholar program prepares US and Russian institutions to internationalize their campuses, broaden the scope of programs and provide mobility opportunities.

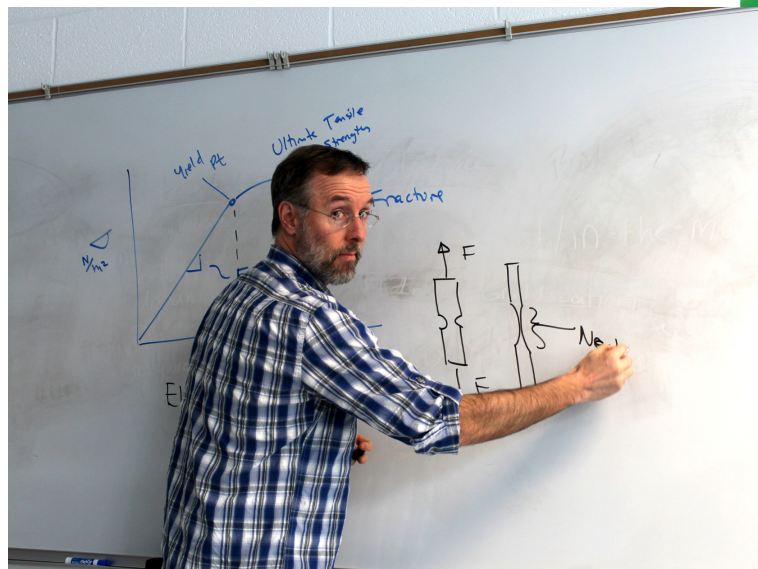
The US scholars are given the opportunity to visit Russian institutions of higher education, giving the scholars the chance to meet senior administrators, government officials and community representatives. This gives the scholars the ability to explain to the Russian population how the US community college system develops educational programs that combine workforce training and civic education, while also preparing students for additional higher education, such as four year colleges.

Hunter Novak, one of Vesligaj's students, said "Mark is a pleasure to have class with, he keeps things interesting with hands-on activities and real world applications for the topics he covers".

Professor Vesligaj has been a Professor of Engineering Science and Technology Studies at Three Rivers Community College since 2016. At the College, he also serves as the Campus Director for the Connecticut Advanced Manufacturing Council, the Program Coordinator of the CT College of Technology and the Campus Director of the NASA CT Space Grant Consortium.

Prior to TRCC, Vesligaj held a similar position at Quinebaug Valley Community College after ten years working as an engineer in the private sector. Vesligaj is the holder of four patents; has been the recipient of over \$7,000,000 in grants and funding awards to support his higher education work; and has been twice recognized with the Connecticut Congress Merit Award.

Vesligaj holds a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University and a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State University.



Professor Mark Vesligaj

Opioid Awareness at Three Rivers

By Michelle Chenail

On the evening of February 28th, members of Three Rivers' student body and residents of Eastern Connecticut gathered on campus for an educational discussion on the prevalence of opioid abuse in the United States. With a presentation on the usage of prescription painkiller usage, CVS pharmacist Christina Fullerton kicked off the first of three opioid-focused events at Three Rivers.

The night began with a video provided by CVS Pharmacy that featured the stories of victims of opioid abuse, which included persons who had become addicted to opioids and family members directly affected by the drug abuse of relatives. Like many other citizens in the US, their cycles of drug use began after becoming victims of circumstance.

The main cause of opioid abuse stems from the misuse of strong prescription drugs containing narcotics like hydrocodone, which are commonly diagnosed by doctors for pain relief. Using these drugs when they are not necessary, or using medications prescribed to other people can quickly lead to drug addiction and accidental overdosing. At their worst, opioid overdoses impede breathing and can cause death if the victim does not receive medical assistance.

As the frequency of overdoses from misuse of opioids has increased the usage of Narcan, a drug that reverses the effects of narcotics, has become available in pharmacies with a certified Narcan prescriber. With a prescription provided by a doctor Narcan can be purchased as a nasal spray or in an auto-injector device and is covered by some insurance companies. Public accessibility to Narcan, as well as proper training on how to administer the drug, has proven to be an important facet to fighting opioid overdoses.

Throughout her demonstration Fullerton emphasized the importance of avoiding stigmatism that is attached to drug abuse - misuse can initially begin as experimentation with street drugs or prescription medication, but quickly transforms into a cycle an affected person cannot break from.



Christina Fullerton presenting to audience in C-101 about opioid related overdoses.

Reaching out to those who show signs of abusing drugs, and contacting their family or care providers can be pivotal to receiving treatment.

After Fullerton's presentation, attendees discussed the effects opioid usage caused on their friends and family. Alternatives to the use of opioids for pain relief were also exchanged, including the usage of hydrotherapy, occupational therapy, and surgery. Due to the number of opioid-related overdoses in the US and growing awareness of prescription drug misuse, states such as Connecticut have passed laws that restrict the amount of opioids that can be distributed with a prescription, and some doctors have completely omitted prescribing opioids at their offices.

Three Rivers Pathways to Opioid Awareness is an ongoing series of events at the college focusing the usage of narcotics. Upcoming events for the Spring semester include a panel discussion on Thursday, March 28th and Narcan administration training on Thursday, April 4th. The Narcan training event will also include a drug take-back hosted by the Norwich Police Department. Both events require registration prior to attendance.

Clubs Enhance College Life at Club Carnival

Student Clubs Attract Prospective Members at the On-Campus Event By Bridney Casillas

Student clubs and organizations allow students at Three Rivers Community College to meet new friends in a comfortable, open space to escape the daily pressures of college. On Wednesday, February 20th the college campus held an event called Club Carnival in the multipurpose room.

Club Carnival is used to promote the student clubs and organizations in an effort to recruit prospective students. It has completely replaced the former Get the Scoop ice-cream social events as a recruitment event for students and clubs to better interact with each other.

Alycia Ziegler, the Director of Student Activities, who was one of the coordinators of the event, says, "We came up with Club Carnival as like a fun way to celebrate Mardi Gras, but also engage students in different activities."

Inside, the Multipurpose Room was decorated with purple lights and Mardi Gras mask cut-outs while jazz music such as "When the Saints Come Marching In" played on the speakers in the background. Before going inside the Multipurpose Room, students were greeted by Sam Bartosiak, a student employee from SPO who handed them an activity card and Mardi Gras beads.



Colorful Mardi Gras Beads Caught Student's Eyes While Sam Bartosiak (Left) Greeted Them Upon Walking In

There was also free food such as baked potatoes from Spuds Your Way, a catering service located in Hamden, Connecticut, and delicious snacks such as cake, moon pies, and Italian ices being handed out to all who attended the event. There were also various games students could play, including a whack-a-mole type game that allowed players to tap on drums with long Styrofoam tubes while playing against each other.

Tables were lined up throughout the Multipurpose Room featuring various student clubs that gave all attendees a chance to find out more information and inquire about what they offer. Student clubs such as the Student Performing Arts Guild, Anime Club, and Karaoke Club were among the represented clubs sitting at the tables at the event.

Ziegler adds, "The ultimate goal is for students to see what clubs we have on campus, to see the different activities they have to offer, and to also hopefully get them some new membership."

Elise Sperry, a Sophomore majoring in Liberal Arts and member of the Student Performing Art Group (SPAG) said, "I think there can be a lot of pressure just from randomly showing up to a club's meeting without really knowing what it is you're walking into, so it [Club Carnival] is a really great way to see what the clubs are about."



Jordan Judge (Left) and Jaleel Beddoe (Right) Pose Happily for a Picture While Mingling with Students at the Karaoke Club Table.

Many of the clubs organized activities for students to engage in when they approached their table. For example, the Anime Club created their own jeopardy game in which students had to guess correct answers relating to questions about anime television shows.

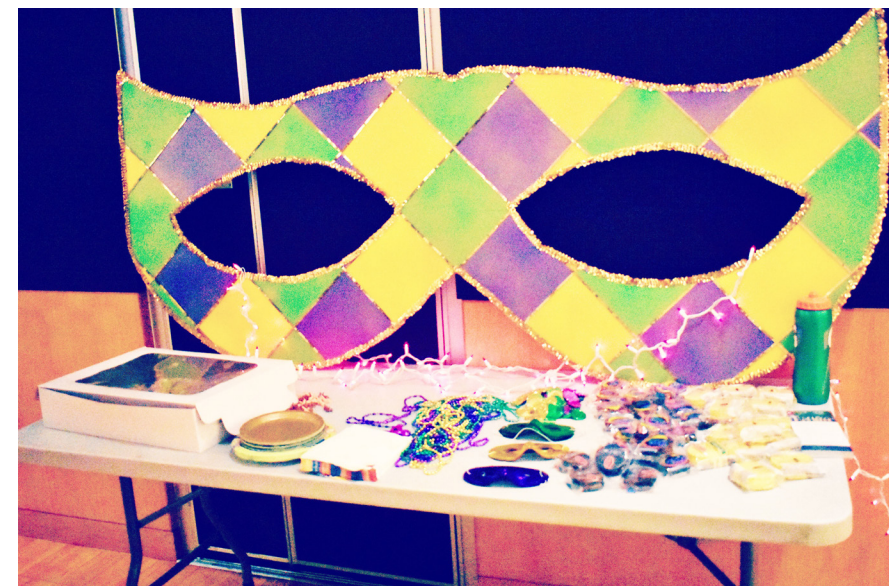
"We want our students to get involved, and it is statistically proven that students who are involved on campus are more successful," said Ziegler. A study conducted at California State University, Sacramento concluded that "students who got involved on campus had higher rates of retention and graduation as well as higher GPAs."

Joshua Curry, a Sophomore majoring in Business and a member of the Anime Club, says "involvement in school activities, involvement in clubs, and involvement in student government encourages better grades and higher performance make a student more likely to succeed."

Club Carnival was coordinated by the Student Programs Office (SPO). The event was also organized by Rhonda Spaziani and the student employees at SPO.



Cody Sowell, a Student Employee from SPO Shows Off His Festive Mardi Gras Outfit



A Table Decorated With A Huge Mardi Gras Mask Cut Out, Along With Cake and Snacks for Students to Eat and Enjoy.

Anthropocene Review: Standardized Time

Rating the human-centric world on a 5-star scale
By Hope Whiteley

Time is a very human concept. Humans have been trying to break up their lives into basic and more manageable chunks for a very long time.

Solar time, based on the movement of the sun, is terribly unreliable because there is an entire minute difference between each about 11 miles in east-west divisions. This means that until the 1800s, it could be 4:00 P.M. but be 4:03 in the next town over.

According to the Canadian Encyclopedia, standardized time was actually invented by several different people at different times, but mostly in the mid to late 1800s.

The first standardized time system was not actually put into practice until the 1840s, when the Great Western Railway adopted London time to ensure their trains were able to arrive and leave when expected.

Also according to the Canadian Encyclopedia, there was much resistance to this ordering of time in their day because they did not want London to be responsible for ordering their day.

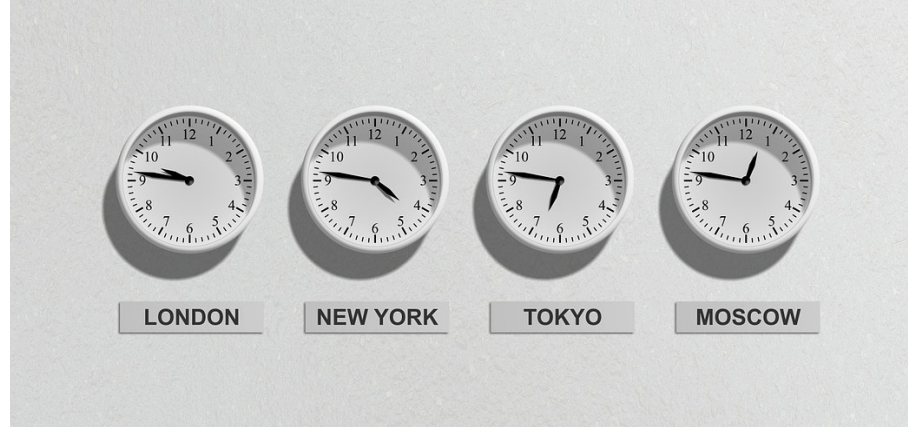


Image courtesy of pixabay.com

A Chemist and Physicist by the name of William Wollaston was the first person to come up with the concept of standardized time in England, but the concept was not put into true practice until a man named Abraham Osler.

Osler too thought that London was not the best place to base the time, and that Greenwich made more sense as Birmingham was a whole 7 minutes earlier than London time, according to the sun. However, he was unsure how he was going to get the citizens of Birmingham and the surrounding area to adjust their clocks.

Because he was in charge of the accuracy of The Clock at the Philosophical Institute in Birmingham, the local churches would adjust their clocks to the institute's clock every Sunday which was adjusted by Osler based on astronomical observations.

One Sunday Osler decided to set the clock seven minutes early. The churches and business followed suit. This led workers being late and much complaining on Monday.

There was a boom in clock making/fixing companies as the populous seamlessly adapted to Greenwich Mean Time, the standardized time we use today.



Image courtesy of pixabay.com

As described in the Smithsonian Magazine, in U.S.A., however, standardized time was instituted across the entire country at noon on November 18, 1883 by the railway systems, much later than in England, but all across the country.

Standardized time has made coordinating meetings, appointments, classes, and other things that require being "on time."

Standardized time has also has given us the ability to "kill" time, "make" time, "spend" time, etc.

I give Standardized Time 4 stars.



Image courtesy of pixabay.com



Chelsea Groton is proud to introduce our new complimentary e-learning platform. Take financial courses, review articles, watch videos, use calculators and more. Register today at chelseagroton.enrich.org and begin working toward achieving your goals.

Chelsea Groton



Could Apple Buy Out Tesla?

By Drew Denis

The initial response to this idea of a massive tech company such as Apple absorbing the Automotive company Tesla has been split. For the most part the general public seems to think it's a smart move by Apple and people have every right to think just that. Recently, other corporations like Google and Amazon have been trying to enter the world of autonomous vehicles so it makes sense that Apple would do the same.



Elon Musk, owner and product architect of Tesla. Image from The Independent.

On the other hand, the chances of Elon Musk, owner and product architect of Tesla, may not be willing to sell. In this case, the only way Musk would be willing to give over the company would be if he feels he has done all that he can with the company.

As of early February, Tesla is said to be worth around \$64 Billion, with a price of \$100 a share. If the deal were to go through, it's predicted that the worth could increase by 40% being at \$90 Billion and shares being raised to \$520-per-share. -Forbes



Apple was reported to be developing a smart car by the name "Project Titan".

While Amazon has seen some success in developing drones to send packages quicker and more efficiently, Apple has been working on an actual car under the name Project Titan. Not only are they trying to develop their own car, but it's been said to have a self-driving system included as well. (9to5mac.com)

It is unclear if the project is still in production, but so far it's been reported that the prototypes have been insufficient and have led to over 200 layoffs. For Apple, this move makes sense and if they're failing in creating their own vehicles why not just take an already successful and luxurious car company like Tesla and just integrate your own tech inside.



Tesla, Inc. is an American automotive and energy company based in Palo Alto, California.

Amiibo: The Ultimate Plastic Fighter

By Tyler Riddle

The latest edition of Nintendo's Smash Brothers, "Super Smash Bros. Ultimate" (commonly referred to as Smash Ultimate), has quickly become the top selling game of the series as well as the fastest selling Nintendo game of all time. Selling over 12 million copies, the game currently sits in third place for top sold game for its respective console, the Nintendo Switch.

With the success of Smash Ultimate, Nintendo has also seen a rise in the sales of their character figurines coined Amiibo. Amiibo are small (typically a few inches tall) plastic representations of a large assortment of Nintendo characters and, in the case of Smash Bros, some third-party characters such as Namco's Pacman.

These figurines are not just for show, and each of them serves a purpose in their respective game. Whether it's getting a unique costume or gaining a special power-up, Nintendo has made sure that these figures serve a purpose beyond looking good on a shelf.

Smash Ultimate (and its predecessor) takes this concept to the next level, giving the Amiibo a more active role in gameplay than ever before. When the Amiibo of a playable fighter is used ingame, a virtual version of that character will appear on screen.



Amiibo Logo

Once an Amiibo has been summoned and given a name, it can be battled and taught how to fight, leveling it up in the process. The Amiibo will learn from the player's movements and mimic their personal playstyle, granting them a truly unique Amiibo once it's reached the maximum level of 50.

Once the player has trained their Amiibo, its progress is saved into the base of the figure itself. From there it can be given to a friend to battle, be put against another Amiibo, or even be placed in a tournament to fight against players and Amiibo alike.

However, Amiibo are not very easy to come by, and stores that hold them such as Target, Walmart, and Gamestop often sell out quickly. When asked about Amiibo, Erin, a Gamestop employee, said "I've had a lot of people come in looking for those, we have a lot of animal crossing characters... people have been looking for the super smash bros".

If one planned on getting an Amiibo, their best chance of obtaining the one they want is to order it online. Searching for specific Amiibo in stores is akin to finding needles in a haystack.



Pikachu Amiibo



Kirby Amiibo

Netflix Gems: Must Watch Shows and Movies in 2019

By Drew Denis

Nowadays there's just so much to choose from when it comes to finding something on Netflix. Even with talk of other companies like Disney developing their own streaming service, Netflix still remains the most common platform for college students and the general public. Here are the hidden gems you can binge watch on Netflix right now.

Hardcore Henry:
Director: Ilya Naishuller
Starring: Sharlto Copley, Danila, Kozlovsky, Haley Bennett

While the story of this film can be hard to follow it's definitely worth the watch just for the first person point of view throughout the film. The action set pieces and planning can be appreciated as well, and the production crew did a great job with making it look as real as possible in most instances. Keep in mind however that it's filled with blood and gore, so if you have a weak stomach do not watch this. Anybody interested in pursuing film as a career should definitely give this movie a chance just for the first person experience alone.

"Shot entirely like a first-person shooter video game, this film tracks Henry, a cyborg racing to save his wife from a villain with paranormal powers." -Netflix



Hardcore Henry: Movie poster from IMDB.com

Daredevil Season 3:
Starring: Charlie Cox, Deborah Ann Woll, Elden Henson, Vincent D'Onofrio

The newest season of Daredevil does not disappoint. While it has a bit of a slow start, it definitely delivers by the middle to end of the season. The main protagonist has an enemy that is simply trying to ruin his good name by framing our hero and making him out to be the villain. Actor Charlie Cox, who plays the titular character, gives a great performance that helps the audience understand how frustrating the situation is and makes the audience wonder if he should even be considered a hero anymore.

"The first in a planned series of shows detailing the Marvel universe, "Daredevil" follows Matt Murdock, attorney by day and vigilante by night. Blinded in an accident as a child, Murdock uses his heightened senses as Daredevil to fight crime on the streets of New York after the sun goes down. While Murdock's day job requires him to believe in the criminal justice system, his alter ego does not follow suit, leading him to take the law into his own hands to protect his Hell's Kitchen neighborhood and the surrounding communities." (Netflix)

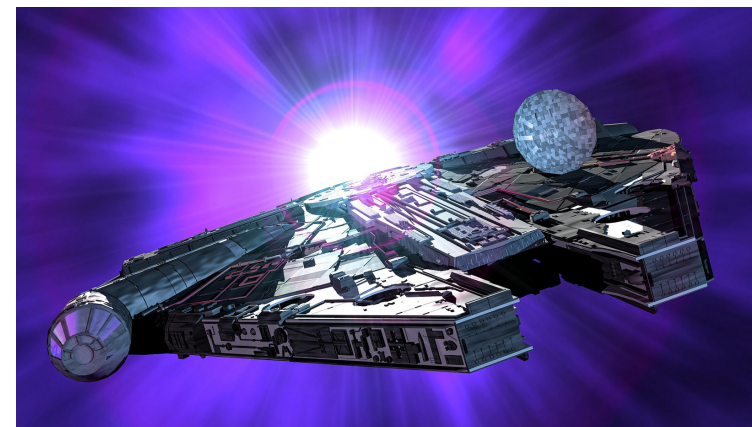


Daredevil: Artwork by Marvel's Chief Creative Officer Joe Quesada

Solo: A Star Wars Story:
Director: Ron Howard
Starring: Alden Ehrenreich, Emilia Clarke, Donald Glover

In the oversaturated realm which is currently the Star Wars franchise, it's becoming more and more exhausting with the countless spin-offs and talks of new trilogies being developed by Disney. Solo: A Star Wars Story is definitely worth the watch for new and old fans of the franchise. Finally, the backstory of the character made famous by actor Harrison Ford is revealed. Alden Ehrenreich does an excellent job trying to fill the shoes of Ford but be prepared, this isn't the same Han Solo that you know and love. However, throughout the film you start to see him slowly starting to act more and more like the Han Solo fans are familiar with.

"Young Han Solo finds adventure when he joins forces with a gang of galactic smugglers and a 190-year-old Wookiee named Chewbacca. Indebted to the gangster Dryden Vos, the crew devises a daring plan to travel to the mining planet Kessel to steal a batch of valuable coaxium. In need of a fast ship, Solo meets Lando Calrissian, the suave owner of the perfect vessel for the dangerous mission -- the Millennium Falcon." (Netflix)



Solo A Star Wars Story: Solo is an American Space Western that shows the origins of the beloved character Han Solo

Marvel's Iron Fist Season 2:
Starring: Finn Jones, Jessica Henwick, Jessica Stroup

While the first season of Iron Fist was a hit or miss with most viewers it still can be enjoyed by Marvel purists and casual viewers. With the second season however it's almost as if the show has been completely rebooted. With new writers, showrunners, as well as new fight choreographers. The show feels fresh and much more interesting. While the fight scenes in the first season were average it's clear now that they learned from their mistakes and are giving fans exactly what they want.

"When Danny Rand was 10-years old, he survived a mysterious plane crash that claimed the lives of his extremely wealthy parents. Rescued by warrior monks, Danny grew up in the of city of K'un-Lun, where he endured harsh conditions, but also trained to be a fierce warrior. Years later, Danny returns home to New York, where he wants to reconnect with his past and take his rightful place at his family's company, which is being run by his father's former business partner. Danny hopes to restore his family legacy by defeating the people who threaten it." (Netflix)



IronFist: Artwork by Marvel's Chief Creative Officer Joe Quesada



Rebekah
Church '19