

# current



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THE CURRENT IS  
THE OFFICAL  
STUDENT  
PUBLICATION OF  
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CURRENT IS  
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EDITED,  
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SOLELY BY  
STUDENTS.

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## BOARD OF REGENTS FREEZES TUITION FOR CONNECTICUT

### Here's What This Means For Students

By Brent Meraviglia

All 17 state colleges part of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) will have their tuition costs frozen as well as most mandatory fees. On Thursday, March 25th the Board of Regents for Higher Education announced their decision despite the situation created by the Pandemic.

President of the Board of Regents Jane Gates said the tough decision was made while recognizing the burden on the students during these difficult times. "The institutions within the Connecticut State College and University system are the most affordable, accessible options to get a great education — and we intend to keep it that way," said Gates.

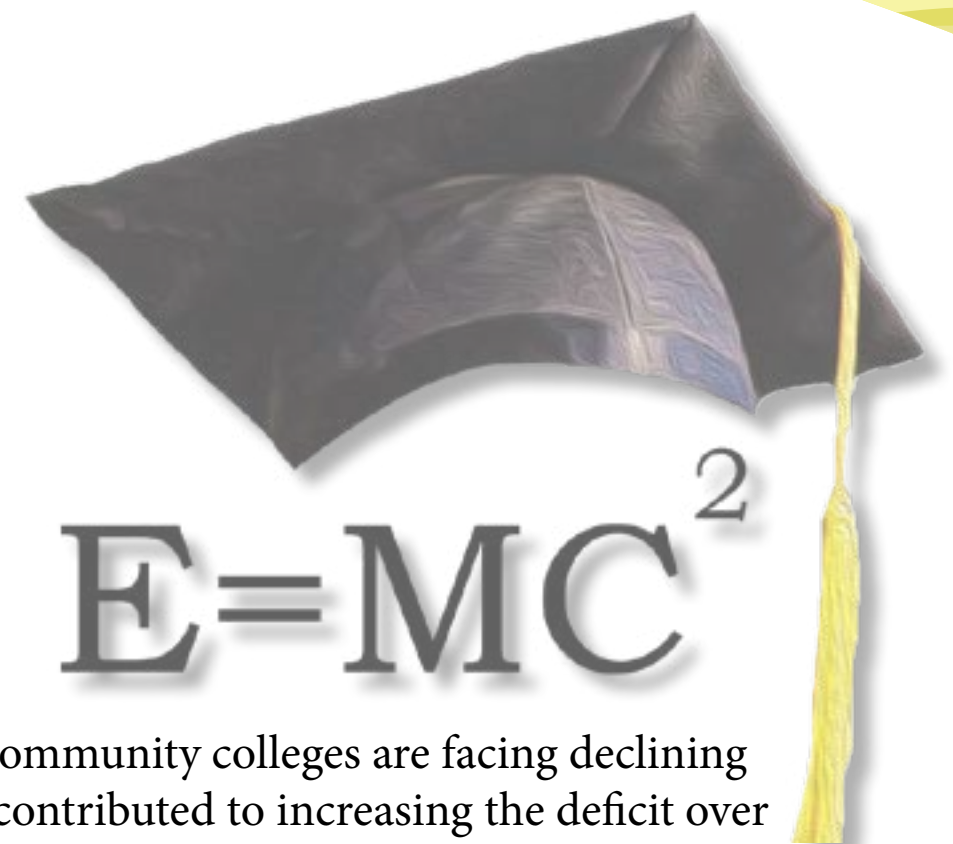
From the same board of regents, Finance Committee Chairman Richard Balducci reported in mid-February that a \$69 million deficit this past fall has gone down to \$58 million due to spending reductions for CSCU. However, this report was system wide. The same report projected Connecticut community colleges deficit to increase by 38%.



CONNECTICUT STATE  
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Board of Regents Logo



$$E=MC^2$$

Connecticut's community colleges are facing declining enrollment and has contributed to increasing the deficit over \$6 million dollars. Steps taken such as freezing the tuition may help with student enrollment immediately but may cause issues in the future.

The ongoing deficit is why CSCU is working towards merging its 12 community colleges. The goal is to share costs and create a smoother operation. Matt Fluery, Chair of The Board of Regents warned despite the current freeze, future tuition increases may occur.

At the Board of Regents meeting on March 25th, it was reported that 31% of colleges have seen a decline in enrollment since 2014 and half of the community colleges are negative in reserves. With other factors such as state funding, the pandemic and ongoing negotiations, a tuition increase may be unavoidable. Fluery said "Our strong position against a tuition increase depends on these things,"



## THE FIRST STEP TO LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

### Governor Lamont's Bill Approved By Judiciary Committee

By Brent Meraviglia

On Tuesday, April 6th, a bill proposed by Governor Ned Lamont that would legalize recreational marijuana passed its first step after the judiciary committee barely approved it by 6 votes. The vote was 22-16 with no republican party members voting in favor. In an interview with NBC Connecticut, Republican Rep. Tom O'Dea of New Canaan presented that he believes it is going to affect the kids. Making marijuana legal presents easier access for kids to get their hands on the drug if more people are buying and using the substance. He believes making the drug usable by those 25 and older would be more comfortable.

However, Democratic Sen. Will Haskell of Westport brought attention to the problem of not regulating the drug. "We know that right now, too many Connecticut residents purchase cannabis on an illicit and illegal market...and when they do so they're consuming an unregulated substance that could be laced with fentanyl". Titled "An Act Responsibly and Equitably Regulating Adult-Use Cannabis", the bill is currently focusing on removing criminal records related to cannabis possession and getting the criminal justice components right.



Democratic Rep. Steven Stafstrom who co-sponsors the legislation stated, "On the criminal justice components of this bill, this bill retains and improves upon the language we've seen for the last couple years on erasure of prior cannabis convictions." Stafstrom also said, "It puts in place what I believe to be an appropriate mechanism to deal with the issue of driving under the influence, something that is I know of particular interest to this committee, particularly given the fact that neighboring states are undertaking legalization."

Lamont proposed a 6.35% sales tax and a 9.5% excise tax on Marijuana which could bring a lot of revenue to Connecticut. Massachusetts reported in November that cannabis retailers hit 1\$ billion dollars in sales.

Republican Rep. Craig Fishbein of Cheshire also reminded others that "Currently this product is illegal. It is an illegal substance under federal law." While some states like Massachusetts have chosen to legalize

the drug, it is still classified as a schedule 1 drug under federal law.

For now, the bill faces regulation and licensing issues, but 19 other states have already legalized Marijuana for recreational use. Residents will have to wait to hear from lawmakers for future updates.



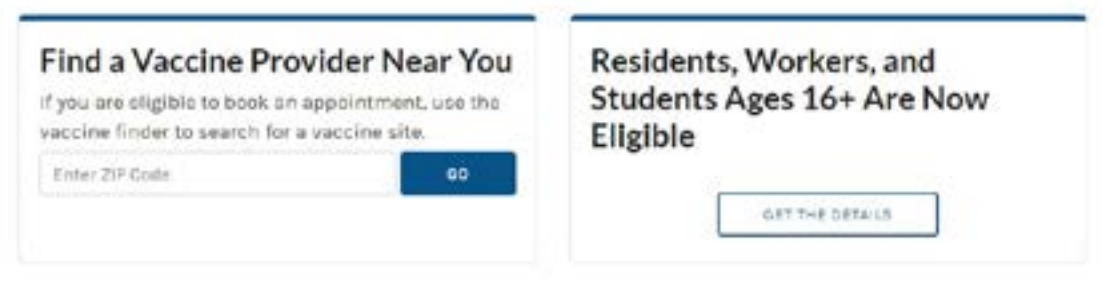
## HOW TO GET THE COVID VACCINE

### A Few Tips On How To Schedule Your Appointment

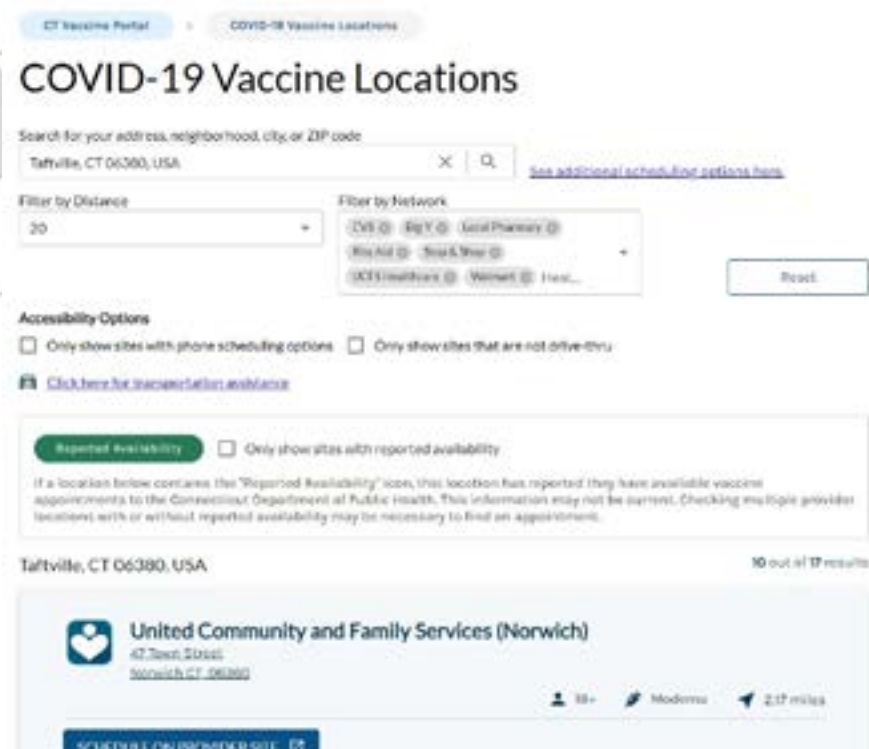
By Gillian Taylor

Vaccine location finder on the CT.gov website

#### How Do I Get the Vaccine?



Since it was announced that anyone above the age of 16 and older can go and get their vaccine, everyone has been searching on how to get theirs. The CDC and the CT.gov website have made it simple on how to find a place to get your vaccine.



Vaccine location finder on the CT.gov website

By simply going on the CDC website, it will give you a link to a website called VaccineFinder.org. This website will help you find specific locations in your area to go and get your vaccine from.

On this website it will bring you to a search menu where it will ask you what brand of vaccine you want, your zip code and how large you want your search radius to be. Once you type in the needed info it will give you a large list of all the places near you that are offering the vaccine.

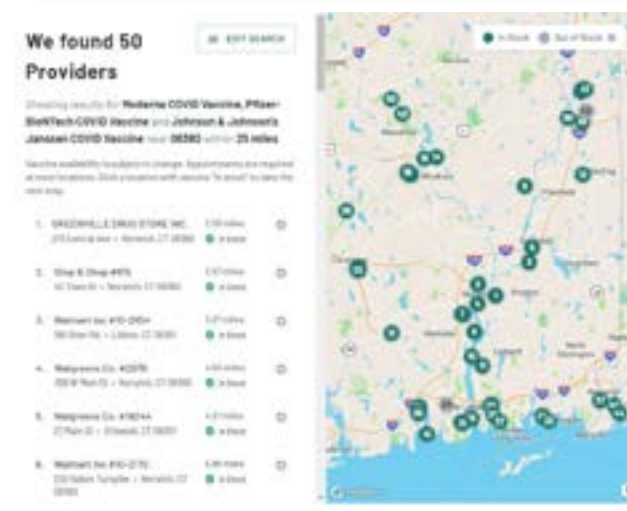
Once you chose the location you want it will bring you to the locations website to schedule an appointment.

Not only can you go through the CDC website, but you can also go through the CT.gov webpage. This website has a similar set up as the CDC. You type in your zip code and it will provide you with a wide variety of places that provide the vaccine. What is nice about the CT.gov search page is you can even filter by the healthcare network you would like to go to, such as CVS, Walmart and Stop and Shop. So that if you have a specific pharmacy you go to you can schedule an appointment there.

Also, each of these websites will tell you what locations have reported availability. But sometimes the pages are not updated frequently. Make sure to go to the specific webpage of the location you want and make sure they have vaccines in stock.

As always, mask up and stay safe!

Vaccine Finder page on the CDC website



A map of providers for vaccine on the CDC website



## SMOOTHIE RECIPES

An Easy Way To Have Fruit

By Will Silva

With Summer around the corner, now is the time that people are starting to get ready for the summer time. This means having that perfect beach body, and the only way to get there is to pick up some healthy eating habits. Here are three different ways to make healthy smoothies that taste even better than they



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### STRAWBERRY BANANA:

- 1 cup strawberries
- 1 cup bananas
- 1 cup apple juice
- ½ cup strawberry banana yogurt

**\*This is the sweetest smoothie.\***



The Strawberry Banana Smoothie

### Dairy Free:

### TROPICAL BLEND:

- 1 cup strawberries
- ½ cup mangos
- ½ cup pineapple
- 1 cup pineapple juice

**\*This smoothie has a sweet citrus flavor\***



The Tropical Blend Smoothie

### BERRY BLEND:

- ½ cup strawberries
- ½ cup blackberries
- ½ cup blueberries
- ½ cup raspberries
- 1 cup apple cider

**\*This smoothie is very tart and has a sour kick to it\***



The Berry Blend Smoothie



## OPERATION VARSITY BLUES

### A Documentary On One of the Biggest Scandals of the Last Decade

By Emme Romanelli

The College Admissions Scandal was a unique and complicated way around traditional college admissions, as well as the law. It landed many well known names with a lot of money attached behind bars as punishment for giving their kids a loophole into college.

The documentary offered a direct look into the reality of how the offense was done, as well as how it went somewhat unnoticed. There were so many complicated directions this went and dozens of people involved, so the film gave an easier understanding of what happened.

The only person featured in the film who was prosecuted for accepting any money was a now former Stanford sailing coach, John Vandemoer. He was the only individual who seemed completely innocent as he put all “bribe” money toward the team he coached.

The entire scandal was very in depth in terms of what Rick Singer was doing. He had what he called a “side-door” method, which guaranteed admission to anyone willing to provide a several million dollar donation.

The process also involved beefing up the resume of the students, including a show of these students being athletes. For the most part, the money would open up a spot on a smaller sports team, and with the money provided the student would be admitted.

Alongside fake athletic skills, parents also paid an SAT test “proctor” who would take the test for them and provide near perfect test results.

Overall, the blame falls on the schools for accepting the bribes and really coming away unscathed. The parents should have had better morals in terms of how they set their kids up for the future, but it

was known that colleges for elite socialites are more of a status symbol than education.

As for how the movie was set up, it went between being informational and providing reenactments. There was also a deep dive into the history of the man behind the entire scandal, Rick Singer.

The film provided a myriad of information on his “side-door” method, as well as his overbearing attitude towards everything he sets his energy to. He was a mastermind in terms of getting parents what they wanted for their kids.

Part of the documentary that really stood out was that all the reenactment showed only parents doing this business. It subtly said that the kids had no idea they were bribed into these schools.

The movie really gave great insight and an easy way to understand the very complicated process of this scandal. It was difficult to get the full picture as this information came out over the span of several months and involved dozens of different people and trials.



Poster for Operation Varsity Blues

One of the most admirable things about the documentary was that it highlighted why the scandal was so wrong, and that was the students who worked their tails off, just to be overshadowed by someone with money. They utilized the true reactions of students with real test scores and drive to be a great asset to the school, but didn't make the cut as they couldn't “donate” their way in.

The movie was great overall, I highly recommend to anyone who wants to just know how it all worked. It showed how much college is a business and highlighted what extent people will go to in order to get something they really don't deserve.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

**It's Only Natural (ION)**

By Alex Slane

Supporting small businesses has never been more important than it is right now. Many small restaurants were forced to close their doors following the pandemic and some never were able to return. By ordering from local eatery, we can help these businesses stay afloat during these hard times. There's plenty of local restaurants to choose from, each with their own unique taste. One town that is especially abundant is Middletown, Connecticut.

Today we'll be visiting and eating at the 100% plant-based restaurant located in Middletown, CT, It's Only Natural. It's Only Natural, also referred to as ION, is a small eatery located on Main Street, along with many other local businesses. When you live somewhere that isn't considered a large city, finding places to eat with a vegan and vegetarian diet can be hard sometimes. In cities like Los Angeles, CA or Austin, TX, vegan eatery is much more prominent. While ION is 100% vegan, the customer base contains people from all walks of life. Many older people eat there as a way to live a healthier lifestyle and maintain a healthier diet. Some people simply try it just because it's a type of food they are not familiar with. This restaurant normalizes vegan diet and showcases the potential of a fully plant-based lifestyle.

We visited It's Only Natural on a Sunday, meaning we chose from the brunch menu. We chose from an impressive menu and decided on the Southern Benedict and the Pancakes. The Southern Benedict contains crispy chickpea cutlets with a seasoned soy egg over cornbread, gravy, and something they call cracklin'. We chose this meal as it was one of the more intriguing menu items from the non-vegan standpoint. Seeing how the soy egg compared to real eggs and the chickpea cutlets compared to chicken really made this an interesting pick. After trying the dish, we're very impressed. The cutlets were crispy and certainly filled the place where chicken would be very well. The soy egg was good as well. The consistency was actually very similar to real eggs. What really brought everything together was the gravy. Good gravy is typically hard to find as a vegan because it's normally made with meat, but this gravy was great. It added a needed moisture to the dish as well. The mystery cracklin' turned out to be some sort of large homemade chip. The taste and crunch were similar to a tortilla chip.

The Southern Benedict (left) Pancakes (middle) and a side of Home Fries (right)



The pancakes came and were also very good! Pancakes are a little easier to make vegan as normally you can just replace the milk with a plant-based substitute and use an egg substitute, but you have to keep in mind all the food here is also organic! The incredible ingredients made these pancakes better than any we've made in the past. It was no box mix,

that's for sure. The pancakes also came with bacon and fresh fruit. Their bacon was essentially a seasoned chip that was broken into pieces. The seasoning really did taste like bacon, while the texture was far crunchier than bacon. The fruit contained some strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries.

We also tried the Maple latte while we waited for the food. Made with organic maple syrup and espresso, this was an incredibly tasty drink.

Overall, It's Only Natural is a must eat if you are in the area. For vegans and nonvegans alike, this restaurant delivers high quality food made with all natural and organic ingredients.



Middletown, Conn.



## MINNESOTA RIOTS

### Chaos Breaking Out After A Murder

By Will Silva

On Sunday April 11th, a black man was fatally shot during a traffic stop in a suburb of Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis. The city's police chief said the police officer who fired the shot apparently intended to fire a taser, not a handgun. Chief Tim Gannon described the shooting death of 20-year-old Daunte Wright as "an accidental discharge." The shooting took place as police were trying to arrest Wright on an outstanding warrant.

The shooting sparked protests and rioting in the metropolitan area. This area was already on edge due to the ongoing trial of the first four police officers charged in the trial of the George Floyd shooting. On the body cam footage the officer yells that she is reaching for her taser. She draws her weapon after the man breaks free from police outside his car and gets back behind the wheel. After firing a single shot from her handgun, the car speeds away, and the officer is heard saying, "Holy (expletive)! I shot him."

Following this incident the governor instituted a dusk-to-dawn curfew, but hundreds of people gathered outside the Brooklyn Center police station Monday night well past the 7 p.m. deadline. They were separated from dozens of officers by a chain-link fence. A drum beat continuously, and the crowd broke into frequent chants of "Daunte Wright!" Some shouted obscenities at officers

The crowds stayed in place even after police gave them orders to disperse. After this officers fired what appeared to be small containers of gas into the crowd. At least one protester could be heard dissipating the smoke with a leaf blower. Law enforcement agencies increased their presence across the Minneapolis area. By Monday night the number of Minnesota National Guard troops was expected to more than double to over 1,000.

Several celebrities and political figures have spoken out against the shooting demanding justice. Brooklyn Center Mayor Mike Elliott called the shooting "deeply tragic" and said the officer should be fired. "We cannot afford to make mistakes that lead to the loss of life of other people," he said. "We're going to do everything we can to ensure that justice is done and our communities are made whole."



A Photo of Daunte Wright with His Son  
Posted by Jamie Foxx

## NEW COVID RULES FOR MLB

### How Major League Baseball Will Look Coming Out of a Pandemic

By Emme Romanelli

The MLB is set to look different again this year as Covid continues through a second season. Fenway Park plans on opening up to fans, as well as being used for a vaccination site in the meantime.

The guidelines for this year are a bit more lenient than last season, as vaccines have begun to be rolled out.

The guidelines for this year include reduced capacity in order to keep fans a safe distance away from each other. As well as digital tickets, rather than paper which could pick up bacteria.

A Standard Baseball



Baseball Cleats on a Field



There are also specific measures which will be taken by Fenway Staff. These include:  
Extra Sanitation  
Facility Modifications  
Technology Enhancements  
and  
Staff Training  
Hopefully as the season progresses, these measures will get Fenway full again.



## NEW CDC GUIDELINES

### Updates On How To Stay Safe

By Will Silva

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting people from getting sick. Based on what the CDC knows about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

The CDC is still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19. They stated that even after being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, people should still continue with taking precautions. These precautions involve wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces in public places until we know more. These recommendations can help people make decisions about daily activities after they are fully vaccinated. They are not intended for healthcare settings.



A Mask Used To Protect People From Covid-19

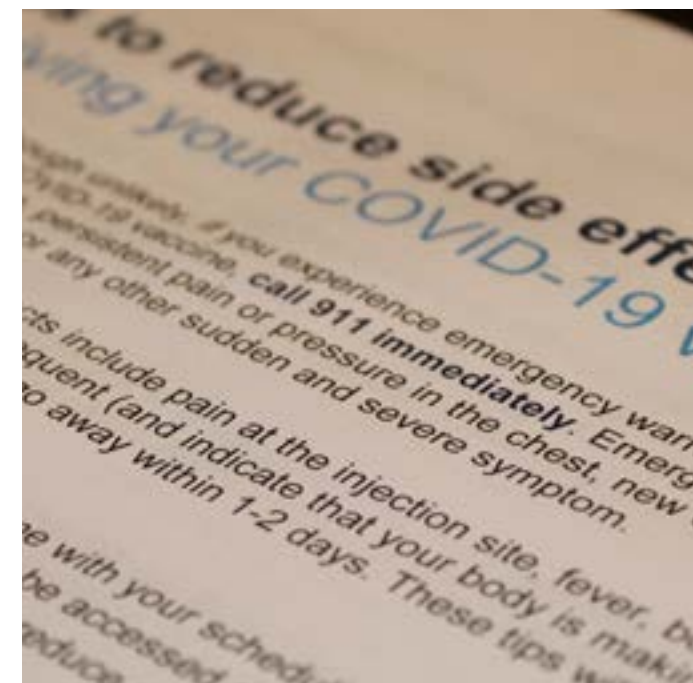
According to the CDC people are considered fully vaccinated when 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. They say that "if you don't meet these requirements, you are not fully vaccinated" and they encourage people to keep taking all precautions until you are fully vaccinated. Once fully vaccinated there are activities you can do and activities that you still should not do.

#### You Can:

- Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with other fully vaccinated people of any age
- Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with one household of unvaccinated people who are not at risk for severe illness
- Travel domestically without a pre- or post-travel test
- Travel domestically without quarantining after travel
- Travel internationally without a pre-travel test depending on destination
- Travel internationally without quarantining after travel

#### You Shouldn't:

- Visit indoors, without a mask, with people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19
- Attend medium or large gatherings





## INNOVATION IN THE DIGITAL ART WORLD

### Are iPads A Valid Option For Artists?

By Alex Slane

For a long time now, digital art has become wildly popular among artists. One of the main reasons for this is the accessibility that comes with it. Not only can physical art be expensive due to cost of materials, it also is less forgiving when it comes to making mistakes. When it comes to digital art, artists can simply undo their mistakes. There is also an incredible amount of control when making digital art. You can select certain aspects of your piece and move, rotate, and even resize them with ease. So, is physical or digital art better? Well, that is entirely dependent on personal opinion as its really about what you're comfortable with.

There are expenses that come with digital art as well, however. Artists would need a computer, software, and typically some form of drawing tablet. As many know, these things can get expensive. In recent years, a new option has revealed itself. Instead of gathering all of those things, you could just buy a tablet and a stylus! For many years, the quality of the tablets and styluses has varied greatly. But thanks to everyone's favorite technology conglomerate, Apple, the definitive option may have just been realized.

Back in 2015, Apple released the first-generation Apple Pencil. The Apple Pencil was built to be the ultimate stylus for the iPad. The Apple Pencil was targeted at students and artists alike. Now that there was a good stylus out there, artists considered making the jump. Next comes the software. There are many apps out there, but not all of them are hits. The best by far being Procreate. Procreate launched on the app store back in 2011, but it's really taken off since the iPad Pro released.

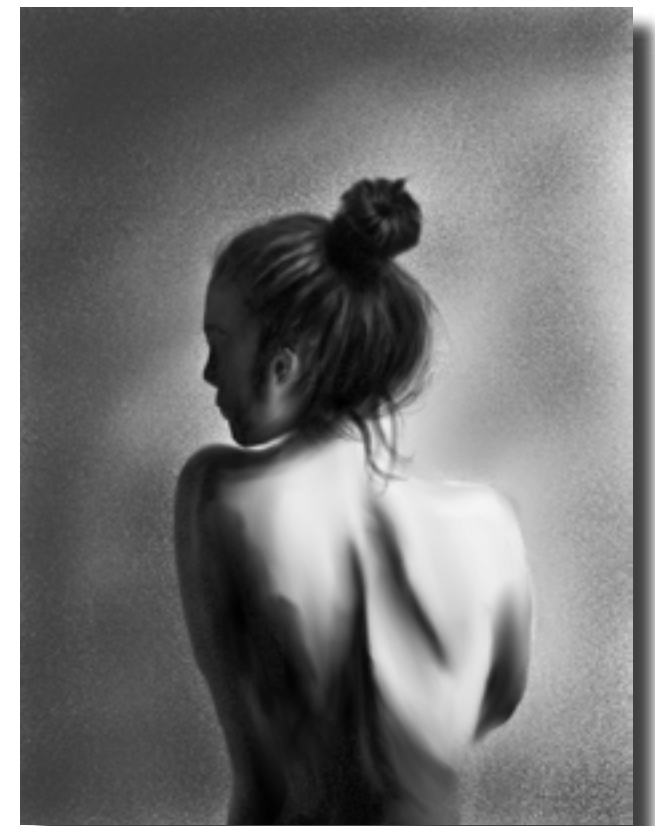


The Apple Pencil 2nd Generation

With the iPad Pro, the recently released Apple Pencil 2, and Procreate, you're ready to create some awesome pieces. Procreate works like a charm and has tons of features available to use. There are 100+ brushes to choose from and even options for shape creating. It has the digital art must-haves like layers and masks and is truly the number one choice for art on the iPad. The only real downside is that in order to preserve screen space, many actions are gesture based. With no real user guide, it may take some messing around and research to learn how to perform some tasks. On the bright side, the customer service is awesome. In fact, people often simply tweet their questions and the official procreate twitter account helps them out.

Of course, that doesn't mean that procreate is the only software to use. Adobe actually has a large list of software built for artists on the iPad. Photoshop and Illustrator have been fleshed out to attempt to make versions that work similarly to the desktop versions. While they are not bad, these "full" versions are definitely missing some important features. For Photoshop, you have a wide range of options for editing your photos and using layer masks. However, that's about all you can do within it. While you can use the brush tool and some others, many features are currently missing including layer FX. Illustrator does allow you to create objects using vectors and does a pretty good job in that regard. Some of the more advanced features are missing unfortunately.

If you choose to go the iPad Pro route, it may cost you a lot to create digital art this way. However, you don't actually need the best of the best iPad to use the pencil and software. Apple offers cheaper alternatives to the iPad Pro that work well also. Procreate has so much to offer that any digital artist will certainly enjoy it.



Procreate Art by Emme Romanelli



## 2021 IS A CICADA YEAR

### Billions of Insects Are On Thier Way

By Alex Slane

The year is 2004, The New England Patriots have won Super Bowl XXXVIII and the finale of friends was airing for the first time, but that's not all. Billions of bugs emerged from the ground and sang their song, only to die and leave their offspring to do the same 17 years later. Cicadas, particularly periodical cicadas, repeat this cycle on the easter half of the United States every 17 years. It's all a part of their life cycle and is a very special event considering how long the cycle lasts.

This year, the babies of the 2004 cicadas, known as Brood X or the Great Eastern Brood, will rise from underground and mature into adults. When the first emerge, they are very small, even as small as a grain of rice. They will immediately climb to vegetation and begin to molt. This molting process only takes an hour and they come out very white and pale. Within the next few hours, the cicadas will have expanded their bodies and taken on the coloration of an adult. They spend the next week maturing into their final stage, mating.

This is where the iconic song sang by the cicadas will be heard. The males use their tymbals and their hollow body to create a song to attract mates. This mating song can be extremely loud, so watch out and I'm sure you'll catch an earful!

## TRCC Student Government Open Elections

### Positions To Vote On

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- College Congress
- Student Advisory Council
- Campus Activity Board



When the males successfully find a partner and mate, the cycle restarts. The females lay eggs in the trees and other plant life. These eggs live above the surface with the adults for four to six weeks. After that, the adults die and leave corpses and molted shells littered about. Then the larvae of the next generation of cicadas go underground, where they will stay for a long while.

After this season, the cicada's song won't be heard until 2038, meaning this is an extremely special moment. While the noise may seem annoying, keep in mind that the opportunity to listen to them sing only comes a few times in your lifetime!

The cicadas don't really cause any major damage despite coming by the billions. Smaller and more delicate plants may need to be covered to preserve them. It's hard to predict exactly how many will be emerging, but researchers estimate it's in the billions, at least 1.5 million per acre. It's a very interesting and unique act of nature!



## 5 EASY AT-HOME YOGA POSES

By Gillian Taylor

During these trying times we have all felt down in the dumps or stressed. Doing a couple of yoga poses could help you feel more grounded and give you a moment of peace.

Not taking time for yourself can be super draining. Just by taking the time to do some yoga could help you release some tension and help you relax. For at home yoga, you do not need any fancy equipment or even a mat. All you need is yourself and a large enough area.



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### 1. Mountain Pose

Although this is a very simple pose it helps you ground yourself and begin to relax your body. The heels root down, the muscles of the legs are engaged, the bones are stacked with the shoulders directly over the hips, the shoulder blades slide down the back, and the crown of the head rises. And of course, do not forget to breathe.

### 2. Raised Arms Pose

Inhale and bring your arms up and over your head. Raised arms pose is your basic morning stretch but make sure you keep the good alignment you established in mountain pose. Stay grounded in the heels and keep your shoulders moving away from your ears while you reach up through your fingertips.



Raised Arm Pose

### 3. Standing Forward Bend

Exhale and fold over your legs into a forward bend. If the hamstrings feel a little tight at first, bend the knees so that you can release your spine. Let the head hang heavy and keep the legs gently bent with feet hip-width apart for better stability. Allowing your head to hang will relieve tension from your neck and back, it will feel like a weight being lifted off your shoulders.

### 4. Childs Pose

Get down on your knees and sit on your feet. You are then going to bend forward and reach your arms out. Doing this pose gently stretches your lower back, hips, thighs, knees and relaxes your spine, shoulders and neck. You can do this pose when you need a nice gentle stretch from your neck all the way through your spine and hips.



Childs Pose

### 5. Corpse Pose

This pose is very simple, you lay flat on your back with your legs and arms flat on the floor. Doing this pose at the end of your session will put you into a very meditative and relaxing state.



## HILLBILLY ELEGY: A MOVIE REVIEW

**A Movie Based Off A Critically Adored 2016 Memoir**

By Brent Meraviglia

### About:

Hillbilly Elogy is a drama film following a man named J.D Vance. It was released in November of 2020 and is based on a 2016 memoir written by Vance himself. During the film, J.D is a Yale law student that suddenly has to travel back to his family in Ohio.

The film starts in Jackson, Kentucky where a retrospect of J.D Vance's teenage years begins. The movie goes through where he started and presented J.D as a current college student with a problem. J.D is attending Yale law school with three jobs, a girlfriend and upcoming internship interviews. While going through this, J.D's mother, Bev overdosed on Heroin. From here the movie transitions back and forth between 2011 and 1997. J.D's story with his problematic mother is told throughout the rest of the film.

Hillbilly Elogy is currently available on Netflix. The movie was directed by Ron Howard who also directed other notable movies such as Apollo 13, A Beautiful Mind and The Da Vinci Code. In an interview with CBS This Morning, Howard mentioned that his goal was to be authentic in creating a truthful family drama. Howard said, "I also felt it was an interesting emotional rescue and survival story that really celebrated the women in [Vance's] life." Hillbilly Elogy was nominated for two academy awards and a Golden Globe Award.



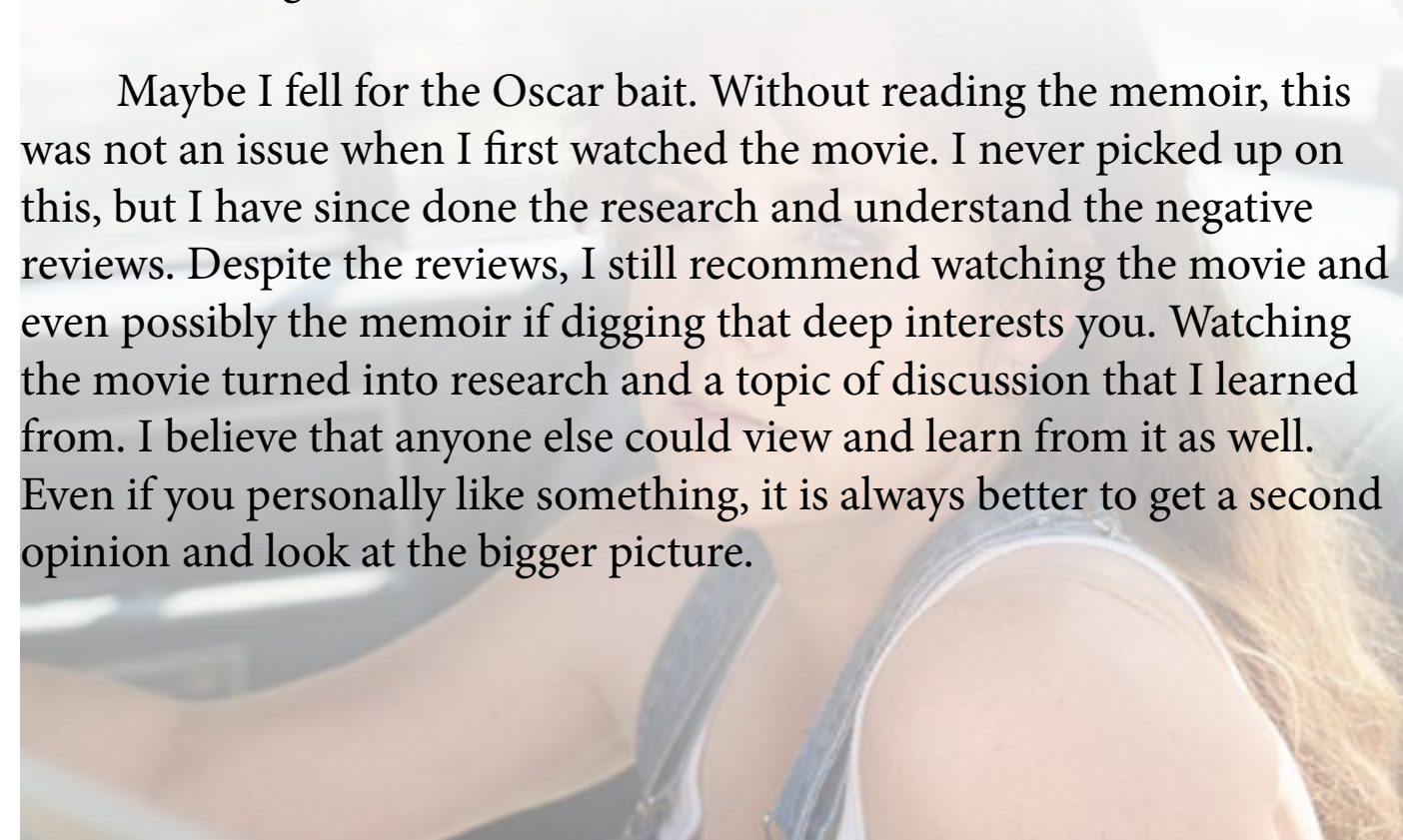
Movie Poster featuring Amy Adams (right) and Glenn Close (left)

### Review:

I personally found Hillbilly Elogy very interesting when I first watched it. I felt like my 115 minutes of time was well spent. It is a story of drug abuse, poverty, generational trauma and more that I feel viewers can gain insight on. The actors in this movie also played their roles well. If you wish to watch a soulful movie that puts you in the shoes of another person, I recommend this movie to you.

However, a quick google search of the movie online can come up with negative reviews. I wanted to see a second opinion. The memoir has great reviews, and the movie features some well-known actors. However, many feel that the American working class wasn't shown in the right way. The original memoir was subtitled a culture crisis, so critics went into this movie focusing on more than just J.D Vance's story. Throughout the film, there was not much interest in covering "culture crisis". It mostly covered J.D's story. The original memoir had more to do with politics than the movie itself and the negative reviews show that. Vanity Fair has even gone as far as to label it "Shameless Oscar Bait".

Maybe I fell for the Oscar bait. Without reading the memoir, this was not an issue when I first watched the movie. I never picked up on this, but I have since done the research and understand the negative reviews. Despite the reviews, I still recommend watching the movie and even possibly the memoir if digging that deep interests you. Watching the movie turned into research and a topic of discussion that I learned from. I believe that anyone else could view and learn from it as well. Even if you personally like something, it is always better to get a second opinion and look at the bigger picture.





## THE REALITY OF HAVING A PUPPY

### What Its Really Like Training A Puppy

By Gillian Taylor

They are loud, smelly, dirty and require a lot of attention, and no I am not referring to a kid. I am talking about puppies. About a month ago my family got a new puppy. His name is Dill, and he is a lab/hound mix and is filled with lots of energy.

With having a puppy comes a lot of responsibility and takes quiet a bit of patience. Dill wakes up around five in the morning every day, at first, he would pee on the floor, but he has gotten good at whining at the door when he needs to go. Dill is only 4 months old but, he is very smart. He already knows sit and paw. Dill can also play fetch and he understand the word NO.



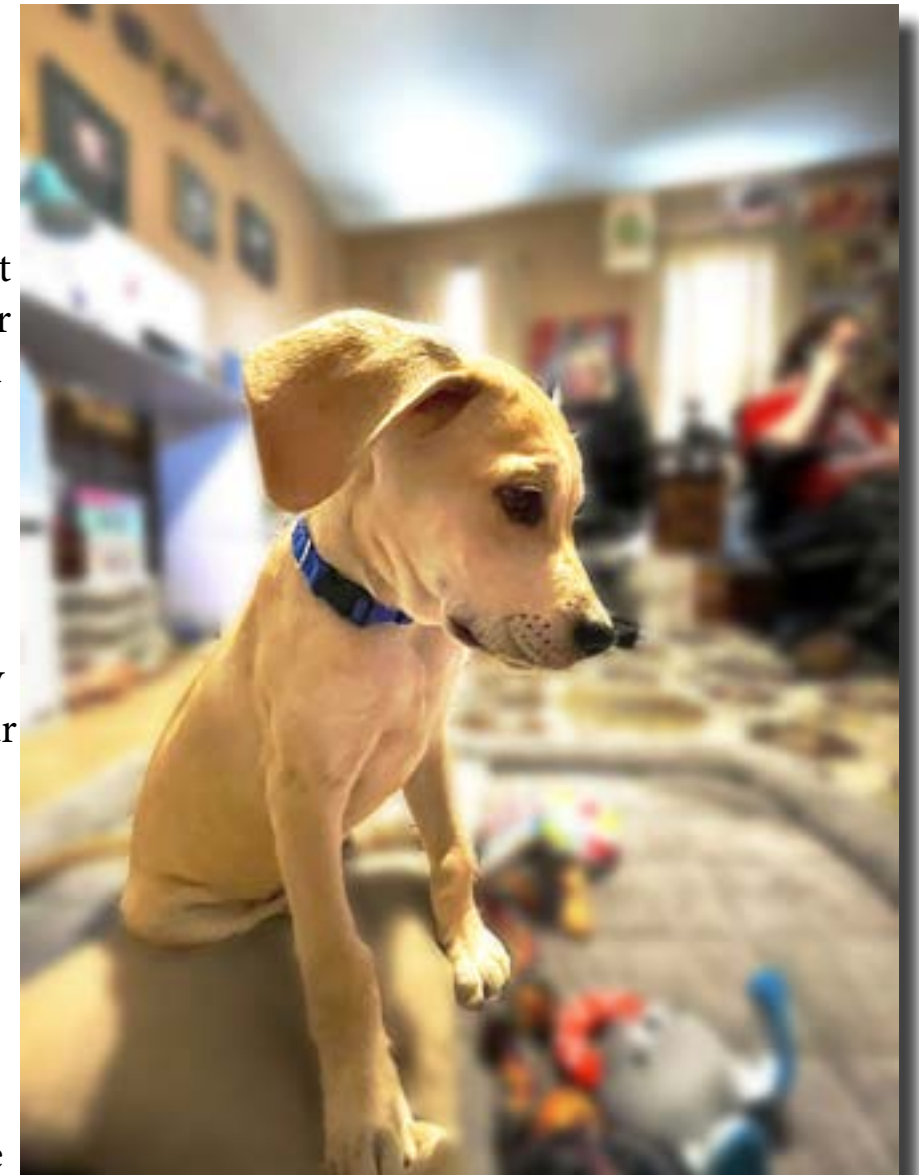
A puppy laying in his toys

That is the word we chose to train dill with. A simple no and he understands what he is doing is wrong. Just like human babies, puppies are teething. Since we got dill, he has been gifted a multitude of toys, but he still wants to chew on hands. Puppies tend to have very sharp teeth, so when he choses to chew on someone's hand he is told no, and he understands what he is doing is wrong and we substitute the hand with one of his many toys.

One of the things that has been a real motivator for dill is his treats. After he uses the bathroom, he knows he is to receive a treat, after doing a trick he waits patiently for his tiny bones. Training dogs with treats is one of the easiest ways to get them to remember. Since only having Dill for a month, he has progressed immensely, all because he is treat motivated.

Not only does having a puppy come with the headache of potty training and watching them at almost every waking moment, but it comes with a lot of great things as well. Having evening snuggles and waking up every morning to someone who missed you is a great feeling. During these trying times during COVID and being home all the time as brought on a wave of depression over the country. But having a puppy will keep your mind busy and will bring you so much joy. Not only will having a puppy boost your mental health but, it will also boost your physical health. Having to bring the puppy on walks multiple times a day and playing with them in your backyard is a good way to get outside. Even if your allergic to dogs, you could get a cat, a bunny, even a fish and you could form a lifelong bond with them.

So, although Dill can be quite a pain, he is also a huge source of happiness in my family's life. Being able to take him on walks and bring him to Petco to get treats brings so much joy to my parents.



A puppy sitting up

## HOW TO PAINT ON DENIM

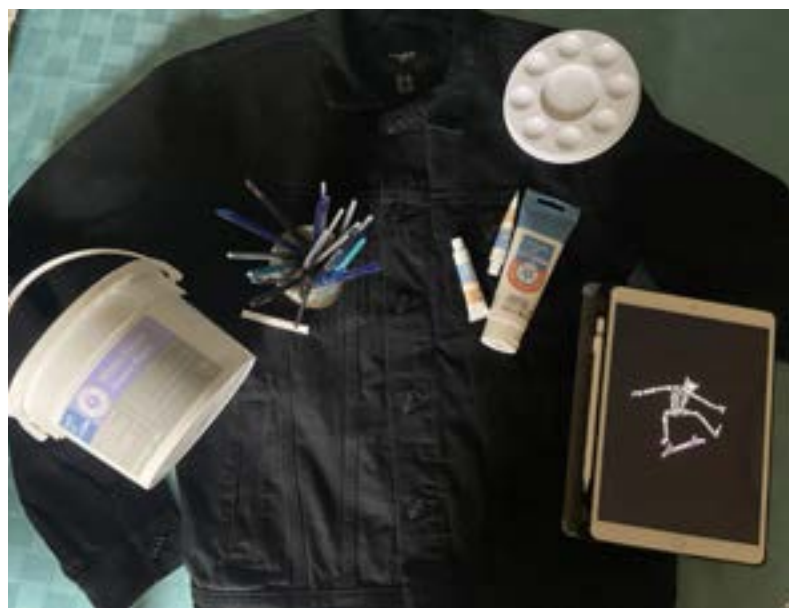
### Tips To Get The Best Wearable Art Possible

By Emme Romanelli

Fashion has utilized denim liberally since the eighties, and many have found that it can be a great canvas for any artist. While it is a great place for paint, it can be tricky.

Part of the difficulty with denim is the texture of the fabric. Usually the way it is made up is with diagonal lines with a pretty deep indent in between.

The texture makes it difficult to get paint to stick to the fabric effectively as well as be as bright as possible. I follow a couple of steps when it comes to making art something I can wear.



Materials used

The Materials I use include:  
Mod Podge  
A White Chalk Pastel  
A Denim Jacket  
Gesso  
White Paint (for this piece)  
Brushes  
Palette  
and  
Reference Photo

## Steps to Take to Get the Best Results

1. After finding and editing a reference photo to use as a guide, outline your design in a white or black chalk pastel, this doesn't have to be perfect
2. Use gesso, which is what canvasses are covered with, to either outline a design, or simply make a rectangle or square to fill
3. After two coats of gesso, you can paint right over the gesso for a bright color profile. You may have to do two coats of paint and I recommend using acrylic.
4. Once the paint has dried, seal it with fabric Mod Podge to be sure the paint stays on the jacket.



The first coat of gesso



The final piece



# current

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CONTRIBUTE TO THE  
CURRENT**

**Email submissions, responses, and  
ideas to:**

**[trccnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:trccnewspaper@gmail.com)**

**[kamenta@threerivers.edu](mailto:kamenta@threerivers.edu)**