



THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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The Current is the official student publication of Three Rivers Community College.

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# A New Change For The Whaling City

State Pier and Crystal Avenue are Under Construction to Modernize

Story by: Jaizier St.Hilaire

The city of New London is now starting to experience modernization. One of the many new projects to further improve the city is the newly constructed apartment complexes on Bank Street. Crystal Avenue and State Pier are the next victims for reconstruction.

The plans for the Pier have been going on since early 2021. The State Department and Energy and

Environmental Protection (DEEP) had approved the Connecticut Port Authority to fill in about seven cubic acres in between the 2 piers. The end result of this project is to have State Pier become a hub for offshore wind power and other marine innovations along the East coast.

Not everyone is in agreement with this plan. Organizations like DRVN Enterprises tried

to stop the permit from being approved but unfortunately failed.

Construction is set to be completed by the end of 2022. The project leaders say that the enhancement of the port will create 400 construction jobs and 100 permanent jobs. This project cost about \$235.5 million.

Another project underway is the demolition of the Thames River Apartments on Crystal Avenue. According to the city, the court agreed in 2014 that the residents were living in sub-standard housing. The apartments have been closed down since 2018, and the tenants had been given vouchers and were relocated.

Mayor Passero said that the state had provided \$3.7 million to help the demolition of the apartments and the city provided an extra \$700,000. The first phase of the demolition consisted of addressing environmental concerns.

Background Photo: Thames River Apartments  
Photo Courtesy: The Day



New State Pier Concept  
Photo Courtesy: statepiernewlondon

The demolition began on February 9th. The mayor believes that the clean-up should be completed around May. "It's been rezoned for commercial industrial and we expect it to find a good reuse in that sector," said Passero.

Efrain Dominguez Jr., who is the city's council president, who grew up in these apartments, agreed with Passero. "Something commercial, something industrial that we can add to the grand list to bring revenue into our city and help people affected by this," said Dominguez.



# Social Injustice

## Social Injustice Discussions

### Event

Story by: Davon Brown

On February the 23rd, Asnuntuck Community College in association with their student government, presented their fourth and final live discussion for the month of February under the topic of Black History Month.

The speaker of the night was Rev. Maurice S. Porter, who is the founder and reverend of Impact Church in Hartford Connecticut. The speech was about 30 mins with an almost 30 min open questions and comments at the end of Rev. Porter's speech.

Rev. Porter made some string points on breaking barriers as it pertains to not only the Black community but all minorities in general. Opening with, "we have to start looking beyond our own culture, religion, political stance, and be more human to live and exist peacefully."

In other words we must put aside all differences and make sure we as a human population are okay and not letting other things cloud our judgement in terms of helping or talking with others.

Rev. Porter's speech was heavily based on the education system, mainly middle school and high school, and the curriculum it has and what it needs to incorporate. Rev. Porter argues to ensure having no single persons) discriminated against, we need to have antiracism curriculum in our school systems.

"Antiracism is a communal issue and not and individual preference and needs to be curriculum based classes that teaches all students about this topic and," as Rev. Porter repeated over and over, "how to be more human with each other and understanding."



Rev. Porter  
Photo Courtesy:  
ImpactChurchNow.org

Perhaps one of the biggest highlights of the night and a quote that was even praised by the Q&A, as Rev. Porter referred to the O&A, was: "be much more dedicated to the process, than the promise."

Also going on to say having this curriculum in schools is not going to be an over night process or maybe not even in his lifetime, but being the start and voice of It, Is just important to the cause.

That quote that perfectly sums up this discussion of breaking barriers as it pertains to minorities, but even a general life lesson, as well. It's always said its about the journey not the destination, this is because if society didn't care about any journey there would be no destination.

Being dedicated to the cause of discrimination and racism is critical if society wants a lasting change for a better future for the generations to come.



# Diversity In The Court

Judge Kentaji Brown Jackson is the First Black Female in the Supreme Court

Story by: Jaizier St.Hilaire

President of the United States, Joe Biden, has nominated Judge Kentaji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court. For the first time in history, a black female will be in the highest position in the Judicial System. With the current Judge, Justice Stephen Breyer set to step down for retirement this summer, this opens the window for Jackson to be able to put her mark on the history books.

"I believe it's time that we have a court that reflects the full talents and greatness of our nation with a nominee of extraordinary qualifications that we inspire all young people to believe that they can one day serve their country at the highest level," President Biden had said during an announcement on Friday. He continues on saying how Jackson steps up to fill in Justice Breyer's place with her "uniquely accomplished and wide-ranging background."

Jackson's skills that she brings to the table prove that she is worthy enough to sit in the highest position of the court. This is a breath of fresh air for the Black community, and other minorities, since Kamala Harris became Vice President.



Judge Kentaj Brown Jackson  
Photo Courtesy: Getty Images

# The Newest Member of the Family

A new sub-variant of the Covid-19 Omicron variant appears

Story by: Jaizier St.Hilaire

Just when we thought it couldn't get any worse, another member of the COVID-19 variant family comes to say hello.

The Omicron variant, also known as BA.1 has been seen to have a sub-variant: BA.2. This sub-variant has been seen to be able to spread quicker than its sibling and is said to become the dominant version of COVID-19.

According to CNBC, "It's now the top variant in at least 18 countries and rapidly spreading, representing 35% of all new cases that have been genetically sequenced worldwide, up from 10 countries and 21% of cases the week before, according to new data from the World Health Organization."

Though it sounds scary, will this version bring more severe and dangerous infection and bring more people to the hospital? Though the research is not conclusive, it is said that BA.2 is shown to have the same symptoms as BA.1.

The sub-variant, while not being more severe, can still reinfect people who have caught the Omicron variant before, but it seems rare for it to happen.

The COVID-19 virus is still dangerous and many should be aware of the new versions that may appear whether more dangerous or not.

Stay safe everyone!

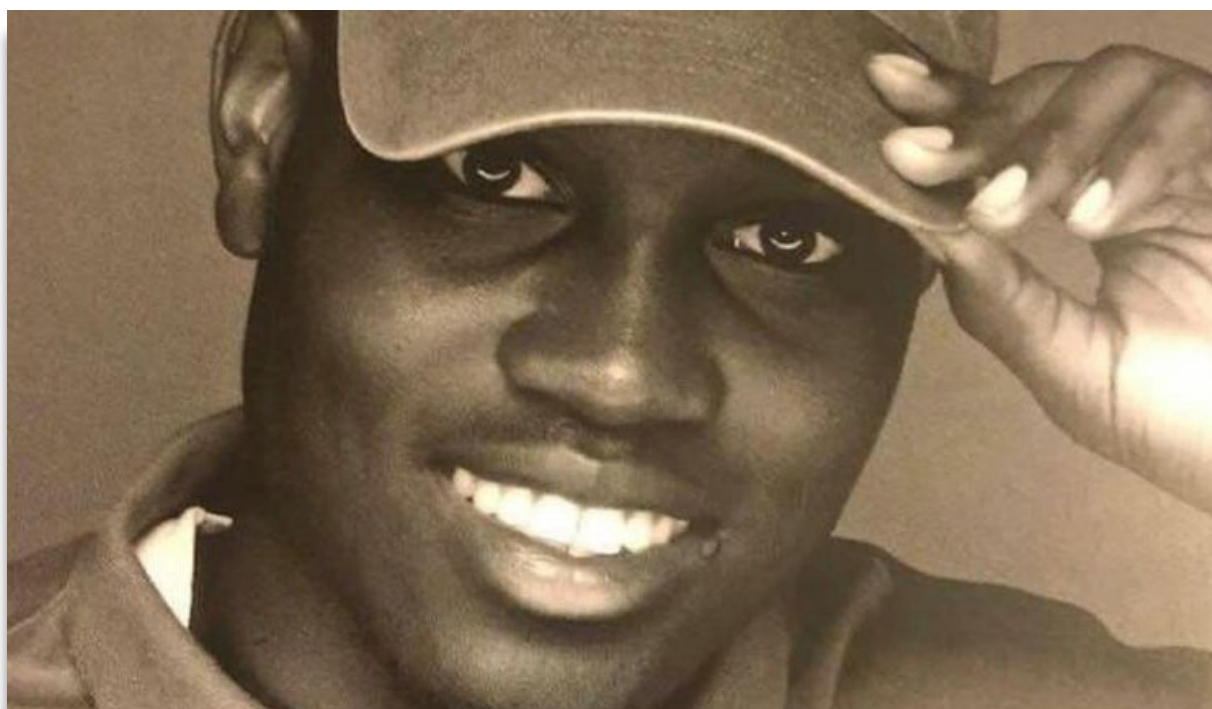


# Remembering Ahmaud Arbery

Story by: Melissa Tucker

February 23, 2022, marks 2 years after the murder of Ahmaud Arbery, a young 25-year-old black man who was gunned down by men claiming to be conducting a citizen's arrest during a jog in Georgia.

On February 22, Arbery's killers, Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael and William "Roddie" Bryan were found guilty on all counts in a federal hate crime trial. Prosecutors won the case that the three men chased Arbery through the streets because he was black. They are already serving life sentences for his murder.



The loss of Arbery was felt around the world with Black Lives Matter protests popping up in his name.

There has been a lot of change since his death two years ago. Months after the shooting the governor of Georgia, Brian Kemp, signed a hate crime bill into law that allows judges to "increase punishment against those who target victims based on perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, mental disability or physical disability."

Ahmaud Arbery. Photo Courtesy: The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

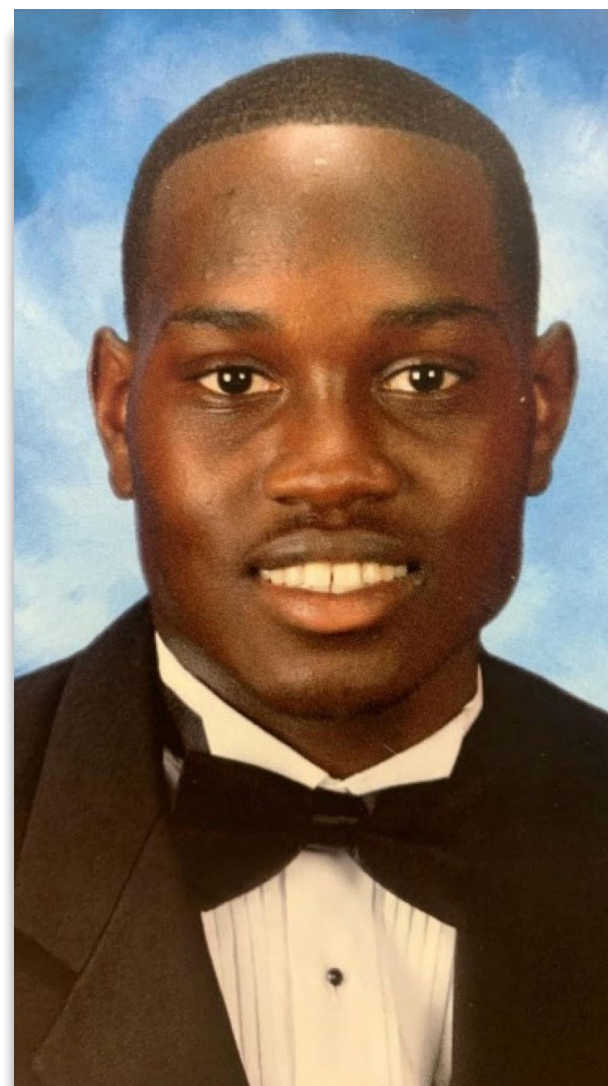
## Reflecting on The Change Since His Passing

In addition to this Kemp introduced a revision to the state's citizen arrest law in response to Arbery's murder. According to CNN, "The new law requires that a person attempting to carry out a citizen's arrest must call authorities

within an hour or release the detained offender. If law enforcement does not arrive within the hour, the detainee must be released."

Wanda Cooper-Jones, Arbery's mother founded the Ahmaud Arbery Foundation in his honor. The foundation aims to support the mental wellness of Black boys who lack access to mental health resources. The foundation rewards six \$3,000 scholarships to seniors from the high school where Arbery graduated from.

"Justice goes beyond judgment made in a courtroom," Cooper-Jones told CNN. "Justice ensures every child, no matter of his skin color, his socioeconomic situation, is safe and has equal opportunities to realize their dreams."



Ahmaud Arbery  
Photo Courtesy:  
New York Times



# Our Hearts Are With Ukraine

Story by: Davon Brown

## Meaningless War and the Devastation of Ukrainian Lives

There is no doubt what is happening in Ukraine at the moment by the hands of Putin and the Russian army is nothing more than heartbreakingly devastating, and with every passing day the stories continue to pile up as the countless citizens fall victim of this meaningless war.

As of Monday, February 28th, it is reported that at least 102 civilians in Ukraine have been killed since Russia launched its invasion. A further 304 are injured, but the real figure is feared to be "considerably higher," U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said.

Currently in Ukraine there is a ban on men from the ages of 18 to 60 from passing and leaving the border, in the need to fight. In response to this ban, a 38 year old man and his two younger children were trying to get out of Ukraine to meet his wife, the kids moms, coming from Italy.

The ban on the Ukrainian border left the father at a standstill with his two kids until Nataliya Ableyeva, a Ukrainian women crossing the border, saw the desperate father and his two children.

"Their father simply handed over the two kids to me, and trusted me, giving me their passports to bring them over," Ableyeva said.

The father saying goodbye as they crossed the border into the Hungarian side at Beregsurany, waited for their mother. Anna Semyuk, the mother, arrived quickly embracing the children.

"All I can say to my kids now, is that everything will be alright," said Semyuk. Thanks to Ableyeva, the children were brought to the safety of their mothers arms.



Ukrainian Mother & Her Children. Photo Courtesy: The Guardian

This article was meant to bring a uplifting light on a darken shadow Russia has put over Ukraine and their citizens. While this may be heartwarming, let us not forget the reason this story is a gem in the piles of ash. What Russia is doing is disturbing and in the words of a Twitter user by the handle of 'FredTJoseph,' "this war, like most wars, is a fire that was lit and fanned by the ego and paranoia of weak men."

On the other side of the spectrum, military tanks are running over and flattening cars, for no apparent reason, citizens hiding in bunkers afraid of being

bombed, and soldiers being murdered on the battlefields fighting for their country, amongst many other horrible realities the citizen of Ukraine are undergoing.

Our thoughts go out to the Ukrainian children, women, and men as they continue to fight. Ukraine and their citizens remain in my heart, The Current's heart, and the heart of the Three Rivers Community College community.



# TRCC Upcoming Events Spotlight

What's Going on Around Campus

Story by: Melissa Tucker

Three Rivers has a lot of fun and interesting events going on that you might not know about. A good way to keep up with the latest events is to sign up for TRCCConnect.

TRCCConnect has all the latest information about clubs and events that you can sign in to make a RSVP and keep track of all the events you want to attend.

So, here are some of the upcoming events going on around campus!

Every Tuesday and Thursday Three Rivers offers free yoga classes with instructor Sue. Tuesday classes are in the Fitness Studio at 12:30 to 1:30 pm and Thursdays are virtual from 7:30 to 8:30 am. Classes are open to all, no matter what skill level.

Thursday March 10th there will be a Diabetes Awareness event from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. If you're seeking resources, support, or information about diabetes, stop by their table in the TRCC lobby!



Yoga at Fitness Studio



Blood Drive

Origami Flower Night will be held on Thursday March 10th at 5:00 to 6:30 over Zoom. The Student Programs Office will be teaching you how to make origami flowers! RSVP by March 3 to be sent supplies.

There will be a Read Across America virtual event on March 11th at 6 pm to 7:30 pm. This event is for students with kids! Help celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday by attending this virtual read along with one of his characters. RVSP by noon on 3/3/22 to receive a package for your little one with bookmarks, coloring pages, and more goodies.

A Red Cross Blood Drive hosted by the Student Nurses Association is happening on April 1st from 10 am to 3 pm in the multipurpose room. Register to donate by using sponsor code TRCC at [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org)

Background:  
Origami Flower Night



# Resolving Polluted Stormwater Runoff by MS4s

An Environmental Issue Seminar  
Presented by Bob Russo

Story by: Jordan Leroy

This semester, Three Rivers Community College offers free seminars related to environmental issues. The topic for the class on February 23 regarded an issue that many are not aware of; polluted stormwater runoff into local water bodies.

Bob Russo, who works for CLA Engineers as a soil scientist, gave the presentation to a roomful of students and members of the community who were interested in the subject. Before the seminar began, Russo encouraged everyone to ask questions at any point during the presentation.

Russo's presentation involved a PowerPoint slideshow, which highlighted the different aspects of polluted stormwater runoff. He spoke about municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), which are the primary transport for polluted stormwater runoff.

MS4s are designed or used to collect stormwater. Storm drains and pipes are commonly known as MS4s. When the polluted stormwater runs through these MS4s, it is often discharged, untreated, into local water bodies.

Russo provided information about the six minimum control measures a public entity should have in place in regards to MS4s:

- Public education  
Utilizing websites, mailings, and science classes for outreach to keep the public aware of these issues



MS4 Storm Sewer  
System Diagram

1952 Cuyahoga River Fire  
Background Photo Courtesy:  
Cleveland State University Library

- Public involvement  
Providing opportunities for the public to participate in program development and implementation, including effectively publicizing public hearings and/or encouraging citizen representatives on a storm water management panel
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)  
Implementing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system
- Construction  
Developing, implementing, and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land
- Post-construction  
Developing, implementing, and enforcing a program to address discharges of post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment areas.
- Pollution prevention  
Developing and implementing a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The program must include municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques.

I attended the seminar virtually, and it was well done in my opinion. Russo did a great job in his preparation for the seminar, giving his audience an insightful perspective on an issue that some of us may have not known about

There were also helpful discussions between Russo and his audience, with an additional half hour at the end of the seminar specifically for questions.

If you would like to educate yourself about environmental issues in our community, I strongly encourage you to attend one of these seminars.

The college has them available every Wednesday at 6pm through May 11, and you can join in-person or virtually.



# Spring 2022

## Environmental Issues Seminar



Room C101 or <https://tinyurl.com/Environmental-Seminar-SP22>

Wednesday classes start at 6 PM and will be followed with Q&A. Noncredit students/guests are also invited. Free to everyone unless you want credit!

<p>For more info, email Professor Diba Khan-Bureau at <a href="mailto:dkhan-bureau@threeivers.edu">dkhan-bureau@threeivers.edu</a></p>		<p><b>JANUARY</b></p>		<p><b>FEBRUARY</b></p>	
<p><b>26</b> Dr. John Lane, United States Geological Survey (USGS) – Water Resources in the Developing World.</p>		<p><b>2</b> Dr. Gary Robbins, Professor Geology &amp; Hydrology UConn – What we can learn from the water systems of ancient Rome?</p>		<p><b>2</b> Judy Preston, UConn Sea Grant – The History of the Green Lawn Dilemma: Coastal water quality challenges in Connecticut.</p>	
<p><b>9</b> Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Audubon Connecticut – Bird Conservation across Connecticut.</p>		<p><b>16</b> Dr. James O'Donnell, Professor of Marine Science UConn, Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) – Global climate change abroad, in Connecticut; consequences and remedies.</p>		<p><b>23</b> Bob Russo, CLA Engineers, Soil Scientist – MS4 Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Sources. How to resolve polluted stormwater runoff into local water bodies.</p>	
<p><b>9</b> Dr. Christian Bruckner, Professor and Head of Chemistry, UConn – The chemistry and biology of eggshells and eggshell pigments focusing on how the environment influences both of them.</p>		<p><b>23</b> Greg Bugbee and Summer Stebbins, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station – Invasive Aquatic Plants in Connecticut's Lakes, Rivers, and Ponds.</p>		<p><b>30</b> Dr. Stephen Axon, Professor of Geography Sustainability, SCSU – Socio-cultural community sustainability: Implications for transformational change.</p>	
<p><b>6</b> Kim Hargrave, Director of Education Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center – Connecticut habitat management and conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians.</p>		<p><b>13</b> Dr. Tom Meyer, UConn Professor Geomatics – Using GPS to reveal the secret lives of mountain lions.</p>		<p><b>20</b> Dr. Peter Siver, Professor of Botany and Environmental Studies Director of Environmental Studies Program, Connecticut College – Our Ancient Climate.</p>	
<p><b>4</b> Dr. William Ouimet, Associate Professor of Geography, UConn – The UCONN Sediment Coring Facility: Geological and Environmental Analysis of Rivers, Lakes, Reservoirs, Wetlands and Estuaries in Connecticut.</p>		<p><b>11</b> Kevin Franklin, Licensed Land Surveyor, Professor TRCC – Surveying the Earth! Using GIS and drones for surveying.</p>			
<p><b>MAY</b></p>		<p><b>APRIL</b></p>		<p><b>MARCH</b></p>	

Schedule for Free Environmental Seminars. Courtesy: TRCC

## Astronomy Course Review

### Being Honest About AST K101

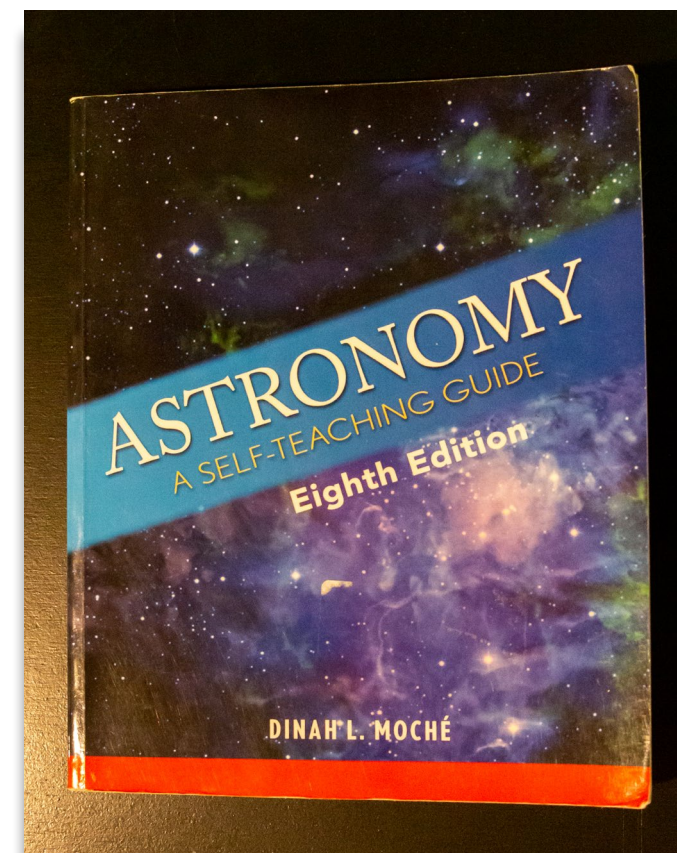
Story and Photos by: Joe Barberi

Astronomy is a subject that I've always wanted to learn about, studying the stars and our solar system was always intriguing to me. For reference, the course that I took was AST K101, Principles of Astronomy. It was a 12-week course that was all online.

This course teaches students the basics of Astronomy, such as time zones, the temperatures and brightness of stars/H-R diagram, and moons motion/phases. I had some basic knowledge on these subjects; however, the course goes more in depth and gives a good amount of information. Throughout the course, learning about all the different subjects really gave me a sense of what Astronomy really is.

The textbook that is required is titled, *Astronomy: A self-teaching guide. 8th edition* by Moche, Dinah L. And a tool that isn't required, but is a Miller Planisphere. A planisphere shows you what the view overhead will look like on any night throughout a year.

There are 12 weeks for students to learn and take tests/quizzes about the subjects that are learned each week. Every week the professor goes over a good chunk of information within a 3-hour online lecture, and students will be quizzed at the end of each week.



Astronomy Textbook



There are 12 weeks for students to learn and take tests/quizzes about the subjects that are learned each week. Every week the professor goes over a good chunk of information within a 3-hour online lecture, and students will be quizzed at the end of each week.

This structure is great for someone who can pick up on things fast and prefers to learn more independently. On week 6 students take a midterm, and on week 12 they take a final exam.

I enjoyed taking this course, however, I sometimes found the online lectures to be too lengthy and jam packed with information. The professor, William Dopirak made lectures entertaining by incorporating stories which would make sitting through a lengthy lecture more tolerable.



Planisphere

## CSCU Board Increases College Tuition

An inevitable outcome due to the pandemic

Story and Photos by: Dustin Durham

Tuition will be on the rise at the state's 12 community colleges as the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system governing board, voted to increase tuition for the upcoming academic year.

Tuition and mandatory fees at the state's community colleges are currently \$4,476 but will increase to \$4,700 for full-time students for the 2022-23 academic year.

CSCU leaders say the decision to raise tuition at the colleges is due to factors including increasing labor costs, the system running out of federal funds, and colleges continuing to see a drop in enrollment due to the pandemic.

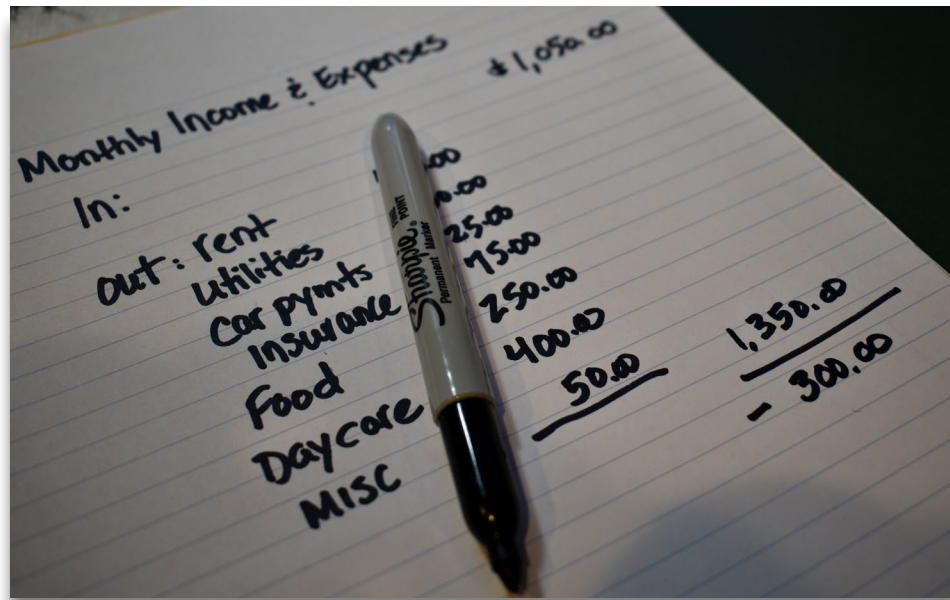
Ben Barnes, CSCU chief financial officer, explained that before the pandemic, the system's finances were already substantially depleted. But since the pandemic, he said, revenue has dropped across the system by over \$80 million a year.

"We estimate, between this year's shortfall and next year, we have a deficit of about \$270 million. The Governor's proposal would have provided close to \$100 million of that. We've asked the appropriations committee to give us \$175 million in additional aid to get us through '23. So, we're in deep trouble," Barnes said.



College funds.





Monthly expenses

For the last three years, tuition at community colleges has remained for the most part consistent. But Barnes said that while it was a difficult decision to make, one of the reasons they thought increasing tuition now was reasonable is because of the implementation of resources like the PACT program.

In Connecticut, PACT funding covers the gap between federal and state grants you receive, and community college tuition and mandatory fees for eligible high school graduates who enroll at any community college in the state full-time.

This is about 25% of the CSCU population, Barnes added.

During Thursday's February 24 board meeting, students, faculty, and a few board members raised concerns about the tuition increase, saying that since a large number of

the students at the community colleges come from low-income or working-class families, this decision could bring on significant financial stress for many students within the CSCU student population.

"I've spoken to many fellow students about this proposal to increase tuition. This increase will prohibit them to continue their college education due to the financial disadvantages it will pose," Jamie Czikowsky, a student at Tunxis Community College, said during the meeting. "Students [then] will have to choose between paying for their education, or putting food on the table, paying for childcare, or other basic needs that the extra \$224 had provided them ... From my conversations with students, these hikes will directly result in more enrollment decline."

Richard Balducci, chairman of the Board of Regents finance committee, said most students still aren't going to see any

out-of-pocket costs even with the \$224 increase, because 71% of the students who apply for financial aid at the colleges pay close to nothing for tuition and fees because of grants including PACT, Pell, Roberta Willis, or a combination.

As a student that receives financial aid myself, I do not feel the \$224 increase will affect me as I mercifully fall within the 71% cited above.

However, I cannot speak for the single mothers who must struggle while trying to balance a full-time job, and choose between paying for their education, or putting food on the table as Czikowsky stated.

There is a fine line, and CSCU board members must continue to have these conversations in order to properly allocate funds to those that need it most.

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# Texas Chainsaw Massacre (2022)

## Can Netflix Continue the Saga?

Story by: Joe Barberi

On Friday February 18th, Netflix alongside with Legendary Pictures, Bad Hombre, and Exurbia Films released their highly anticipated horror film, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. For context, the film is based on the original movie, *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* from 1974.

In the original, Sally and her friends go to see her grandfather's grave, but they stop to pick up a hitchhiker. However, something goes wrong, and the hitchhiker is dead. The group needs to figure out what to do with the body when they stumble upon an old farmhouse. That's when the group meets Leatherface and his estranged cannibal family. The group then fights for their life to escape.

The new *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* is set in 2022, 50 years after the tragic events of the first couple of movies. In the beginning, the viewer meets Melody and Dante, two entrepreneurs, Lila who is Melody's sister, and Ruth who is Dante's girlfriend. The group is traveling to Harlow, a small ghost town in Texas to auction off property to make the town a trendy place for people to get away from their regular life.

However, there's trouble when a mother and her adopted son are still living in the ghost town. After a fight between Dante and the mother, she has a heart attack and is rushed to the hospital. From there the infamous killer, Leatherface is triggered again to murder anyone in the small town of Harlow.

In the beginning of *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, I was excited, as someone who loved the first couple movies, I felt that Netflix would give the franchise a breath of fresh air. The characters were decent, the plot doesn't stray away from the previous movies, and to a point there was a good amount of overlap plot wise.

As the film continued, I started to feel that the breath of fresh air I wanted, gave the movie too much of a new feeling. Meaning, one or two of the jokes were cringey and felt forced due to the era the film is set in, and the story progression was a little fast compared to the other movies.

Towards the end of film, I was pleasantly surprised with the use of classic horror suspense, that made some of the final scenes very entertaining and left me wondering what is going to happen next. This is exercised in one of the last scenes, the feeling that the movie is wrapping up and then there is a sudden thrill which led my imagination to see what will happen in the next movie if there is one.

I was decently pleased how the film came out, it wasn't perfect, but would you expect any movie to be after countless continuations and remakes? I feel that fans of the *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* films will be mostly neutral on whether this movie was good or bad. And for people who've only seen this film and not the original, will be happy to possibly watch the other ones, but this film might leave a bad taste in their mouth.

My honest opinion is to watch the film yourself with no distractions and see how you feel about it. They are all equally the same length, so binge watching all three movies is more than possible in a weekend off. Netflix is also adding *Texas Chainsaw 3D* to their collection soon.

Horror movies have a special place in my heart, even though Netflix's rendition isn't as good as I hoped it would be, I'm still pleased with how it was able to combine classic and modern horror to create a film that is almost as spine chilling as the original.



Official Movie Poster. Credit: IMDB

For the love of Leatherface, leave this massacre alone once and for all. It's time to put the chainsaw down and walk away.

David Fear - Rolling Stone

Background:  
Promotional Cast Photo  
Credit: Official Movie IMDB Webpage



# Kanye West's Stem Player

Story by: Melissa Tucker

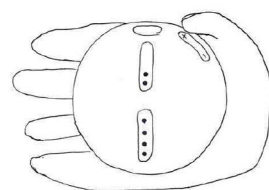
Kanye West has released his album *Donda 2* solely through his new pocket-sized Stem Player. Kanye announced that he would not be putting his album on streaming services like Apple and Spotify, rejecting a \$100 million deal with Apple Music. The album would solely be available through his new Stem Player.

Kanye made the move in frustration with the pay artists get from streaming. "Today artists get 12% of the money the industry makes. It's time to free music from this oppressive system. It's time to take control and build our own," West said.

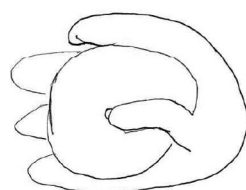
The Stem Player costs \$200 and comes with Kanye's albums *Donda* and *Donda 2* preinstalled. The Stem Player is an mp3 player that works as a portable mixer. The light strips are controls that allow the user to isolate and manipulate parts of the songs such as the drums, vocals, bass and samples. Users can also add effects, make loops, split any songs into stems, change the pitch, and do audio mixes.

**"Today artists get 12% of the money the industry makes."**

- Kanye



VOLUME



LOOP



RECORD



ISOLATE STEM

**How to use the Stem Player**

Photo Courtesy: PC Mag

## Revolutionary New Way to Listen to Music?

To add the effects, users press the top button of the Stem Player, then either of the volume buttons to enter the effects page. Some effects include Echo, Feedback, and Gate which you select by sliding up and down.

Users are able to upload and mix their own music other than Kanye's as well.

The player is clearly a hit, having made \$2.2 million dollars in just one day, which an artist would never have been able to achieve through streaming. Kanye wrote on Instagram, "To earn the \$2.2 million we made on the first day on the stem player the album would have had to stream 500 million times." The Stem Player is available on [stemplayer.com](http://stemplayer.com)



Stem Player  
Photo Courtesy: The Verge



# Earthbath Dog Shampoo & Conditioner

Story and Photo by: Dustin Durham

There are thousands of pet grooming products out there that claim to be all natural and free from soap, gluten, DEA, parabens, synthetic dyes, sulfates or phthalates, and other animal cruelty ingredients that could potentially harm your pet or their skin. The question is, are they actually?

A recent study conducted by the American Kennel Club showed that 43% of pet grooming products actually contained small trace amounts of the ingredients their product packaging claimed to be free of.

What does that mean? It means that if an ingredient is less than 3% of the total sum of ingredients, the FDA does not require it to be listed on the packaging.

As pet owners, we must put trust in the companies we rely on as consumers to provide us with the honest products 100% free from the toxic ingredients they advertise. This is where a veterinarian's advice is key in keeping our pets safe and providing us with the information needed to do our own research and find the products and companies that we feel are right for our pets.

Top groomers and veterinary hospitals know and trust the Earthbath line of products because they use them. For me, that's important because I would not want to use a product just because a vet told me it was the best, just to find out they use a different product other than the one they're promoting.

I have an American Pit Bull Terrier by the name of Arlo who has extremely dry skin during the winter months. So much so that skin rashes will develop between his hind legs and his stomach that he will lick non-stop to the point they become raw and very irritated.

Earthbath's Oatmeal & Aloe shampoo and conditioner really seems to do the trick in minimizing the itch so that he will leave those spots alone so they can heal organically.

## The Best Dog Shampoo Around!

Earthbath specifically formulated the Oatmeal & Aloe itch relief shampoo and conditioner to address the needs of pets with dry, itchy skin. Colloidal oatmeal and organic aloe vera help combat skin irritation, promote healing, and re-moisturize sensitive, dry skin.

Another important aspect when considering which shampoo to choose for your furry friend is the acidity and alkalinity levels, most commonly referred to as the pH balance. Earthbath's products are pH-balanced to clean and deodorize safely and thoroughly.

The smell really surprised me.

It is a sweet almond scent that is very subtle, yet it completely neutralizes that wet dog smell. If you have a dog, you know what smell I'm talking about. I would also like to add that Arlo loves taking baths. I do not know if Earthbath has anything to do with that, but it is all I have ever used on him since a vet recommended it on his first visit.

Earthbath's line of products are also 100% biodegradable. So, if you're looking to lessen your carbon footprint, or your dog's carbon pawprint, Earthbath is an excellent choice.



Earthbath Oatmeal & Aloe Shampoo and Conditioner



# Celebrity Big Brother Season 3 Recap

## The Winner & the Season's Biggest Drama

Story by: Davon Brown

A season that was filled with many twist and turns, as is every season but especially for this season of *Celebrity Big Brother*. We were welcomed with a MMA fighter, NBA star Lamar Odom, housewives, YouTube star, and personality Carson Kressley.

Notable off the bat, Miesha Tate, the MMA fighter, wife, and mom of two, was hands down the biggest competition in the game, as she was the entire game. She had won HOH (head of household) twice and countless veto competitions making her, one if not the biggest threat to the game.

She also had a ride or die teammate, Todrick Hall the YouTube star, who was down to do anything to ensure his and Tate's safety.

The winner of *Celebrity Big Brother* was, with no surprise to the viewers ... Miesha Tate. But actually it might have been a little bit of a surprise.

Hall, again Tate's ride or die, went with her right into the top two spots, and was shocked to see he lost at a 1-7 votes from the jury.

In the regular *Big Brother* house, not with celebrities, the contestants that leave the house and then are the jury for the winning player don't get to watch or see what the two finalist had to say throughout the season before giving the verdict.

In *Celebrity Big Brother*, that bet is off, so being able to watch the show before the verdict really gave the jury the insight of the nasty game, some would say, Hall played toward everyone.

He said some things about race, his fans, shamming another player about her clothes, amongst other things Hall's other house guests had to say after leaving the house, such as he was always playing the victim.

While Hall has backed out of every interview after winning second place on season 3 *Celebrity Big Brother*, his fans and his former house guests are waiting

and hoping for an apology on his nasty behavior towards the house mates throughout the season.

Tate in an interview had this to say about her ride or die teammate, "I think some people forget this is a game, and is not real life."

Hall's fans had the same things to say, stating that he played a very good *Big Brother* game.



Cast Photo. Photo Courtesy: Cynthia Bailey Instagram



# HyperX Cloud Flight Wireless

## Headset Review

Story by: **Dustin Durham**

Whether you're a hardcore PC gamer like me or a console peasant much like yourself, eventually the people you live with get annoyed at the various diegetic sounds coming from your video games. Maybe you've already got a great pair of headphones and a spotty webcam with a terrible mic to cover your multiplayer needs but sometimes it's nice to have it all in one place. That's where a gaming headset comes in.

When it comes to gaming peripherals, a quality headset is arguably one of the most important purchases a gamer can make. And believe me, I have had my ears tucked between quite a few of them in my 36 years of polishing a sword that will never be used in the real world.

There are many reasons you may choose one headset over another. Such as comfort, noise isolation, build quality, wired or wireless functionality, and of course, price.

If you're an audiophile and you're interested in better sound staging and other intricate

aspects that could make a difference in hearing the slightest foot shuffle or picking out the softest musical chord, a gaming headset is not for you.

However, if you're looking for a quality wireless gaming headset at a reasonable price point, the HyperX Cloud Flight Wireless is an excellent place to start.

The Cloud Flight Wireless sports a mostly plastic build, with a stainless-steel strip running through the headband. It connects to the platform of your choice using a USB-A dongle. There's also a 3.5mm port, so you can connect it to something with a headphone jack too.

The memory foam cushions are covered in a soft leatherette like material, and the ear pads are both wide and deep enough to accommodate a variety of ear shapes and sizes. They fit my head quite well with just the right amount of pressure to keep them in place.



Regarding functionality, using the headset is quite simple. There are two on-ear control features aside from the power button, a volume dial at the back edge of the right ear cup, and the side panel on the left ear cup to mute the detachable microphone.

HyperX has been killing the wired headset market in the last year or so. All that they seem to have been missing was a suitable wireless option that could compete with companies like Logitech, Corsair or Razer in terms of comfort and affordability – the quality has always been top tier.

Due to a great combination of sound, build quality, comfort, and at a price point of \$119.99, I would rate the Cloud Flight Wireless a solid 8 out of 10. Gaming with the Cloud Flight Wireless is a seamless,

straightforward experience. The headset is comfortable enough for long gaming sessions and it has more than enough battery life to fit a couple hours in before charging. What the Cloud Flight Wireless does, it does well.

If you're looking for a few more bells and whistles than what the Cloud Flight Wireless has to offer, check out the Cloud Orbit S planar magnetic headphones featuring HyperX's new head tracking 3D audio technology.



# T AT&T is Ending Their 3G Service

Is this the end of 3G?

Story by: Joe Barberi

3G has been around since 2001 and has given millions of people the ability to call or text anyone and use the internet anywhere in the world. However, in the last 15 years 4G and 5G have taken over and has become the new standard for cell service. Due to that, AT&T has issued a statement that they are no longer supporting 3G services in 2022.

On February 22, the company issued a statement that explained why they are no longer supporting 3G, and how their customers can continue to have cellular service. AT&T explained saying, “to bring you faster speeds and new features, we’re excited to upgrade America’s best network.”

AT&T didn’t explain further why it was necessary to shut down their 3G network, but this is an exciting moment for their customers. New and faster network speeds mean there are more possibilities for their cellular service.

Within the same statement, AT&T lists steps for how customers can check to see if their current phone is compatible with the new network. “It’s important to check the model numbers next to your device to make sure it’s still supported since the 3G network shutdown. Once you know your device still works, you may need to restart your device or check the VoLTE or LTE status.”

AT&T also has a link to a PDF listing all the devices that are still compatible. For the most part, if a customer has a device that is from 2016 or newer, they are in the clear.

AT&T also has options for customers that are currently under the 3G service, they include upgrading your phone online or in store, or swapping to a compatible device.

AT&T is making big moves this year and shutting down their 3G service is a big step that could impact many customers who have an older phone. But AT&T has answers for customers who are afraid of losing service.

For more in depth on more unique information and questions regarding this, here is the link to the statement:

<https://www.att.com/support/article/wireless/KM1324171/>

AT&T Central Office  
Photo Courtesy:  
Bill Bradford on Flickr

# MacOS Monterey Update

Apple Introduces New Changes and Features for Macintosh Computers

Story by: Jordan Leroy

The latest update for Macintosh computers, macOS Monterey, offers Mac users new features such as SharePlay, Shortcuts, and Shared with You. Since macOS Monterey was released back in October of 2021, there has been a good amount of time for users to assess the update.

It is not uncommon for Mac users to want to wait to update their devices, as certain problems can only be rooted out through user and developer experience. So far, there have been five known reported issues that Apple has resolved:

- Problems with trackpads, such as tap-to-click not working and gestures being misinterpreted (fixed with 12.1 update)
- Inability to use Bluetooth PAN (feature removed)
- Laptops unable to boot (fixed with 12.0.1 update)
- Inability to charge sleeping laptops with MagSafe. (fixed with 12.1)
- Battery draining issues (fixed with 12.1)

Moving on from the negative side, let’s get into the features users have enjoyed from macOS Monterey. Some of the key features and enhancements include:

SharePlay over FaceTime:

- Watch movies and shows, listen to music together with your friends
- Share your screen
- Synced playback
- Shared music queue

Shortcuts :

- Find new prebuilt, customizable shortcuts, made just for Mac
- Shortcuts automatically sync across all Apple devices

Shared :

- Content sent over Messages automatically appears in a new Shared with You section in the corresponding app
- Photos sent over Messages automatically appear in Photos app
- Alongside shared content in the corresponding apps, you can see who sent it and open the associated conversation in Messages

Focus:

- Create a custom Focus to filter notifications based on what you’re currently doing
- Set allowed interruptions so that the most important notifications from people or apps will get through to you while focusing
- When using a Focus on one device, it’s automatically set on other devices

These are only a few of the many features that came along with macOS Monterey. If you want a rundown on every feature or change, I recommend visiting [apple.com/macos/monterey/features/](https://apple.com/macos/monterey/features/).

To update or not to update?

The answer relies on your own personal weighing of what you believe the pros and cons of macOS Monterey are.

Background:  
macOS Monterey  
Photo Courtesy:  
Apple



# VIRTUAL TRANSFER FAIR

March 24th, 2022  
10am-1pm | 4pm-7pm

## Are you planning to transfer?

Please join the New England Transfer Association for our fully online Spring Transfer Fair to learn more about the transfer admissions process, financial aid, and scholarships, plus meet with Admissions Counselors from over 30 schools from across New England during our morning or evening session. Admission is free and open to all students considering transfer to a 4-year institution!

Register today for a chance to win a  
\$250 Amazon Gift Card

