



THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SURRENT

Spring 2022 April 11 Volume 24 Issue #10



Spring Into
Spring Cleaning
p 18

Dog Treat
Cookie Recipe
p 40

7 Trailblazing Women
p 14

CONTENTS

Editor

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Jordan Leroy

Jaizier St.Hilaire

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

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Campus

No More Masks for Connecticut College Students p 4

Community

New Development?

New York Developer Gets Green Light for Construction on Bank St in Downtown New London p 6

Coast Guard Museum?

Coast Guard Museum on set for construction in New London p 8

Educational

Permanent Daylights Savings Time p 10

Honoring Strong Women p 12

7 Trailblazing Women in History p 14

Spring Into Spring Cleaning p 18

5 Ways to Add Greenery to Your Home p 20

Monsters Inside Us

Microplastics have been found in human blood for the first time p 22

Entertainment

The Andy Warhol Diaries Review p 24

Inventing Anna Review p 26

Kingdom Hearts Nintendo Switch Review p 28

Fortnite Removes Building - Uplifts Ukraine p 30

Is Animal Crossing: New Horizons Really Dead!? p 32

Editorial

Was Will Smith Right at the Oscars? p 34

Tech

Understanding Web 3.0 p 36

Apple Unveils their "Studio"

Product Line p 38

Recipes

Dog Treat Recipe p 40

Deviled Eggs Recipe p 42



No More Masks for Connecticut College Students

Story by Davon Brown

You read the headline correctly. Starting April 4th, 2022 for all the CSCU institutions the mandate on mask wearing within the colleges will end.

On Thursday, March 10th the CSCU office of the president came out with a statement, on the two year mark of the official WHO declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, that stated, "I am pleased to say that the state is turning the corner on the virus, and we therefore can relax our pandemic response..."

The CSCU campuses will shift from "pandemic emergency response to routine disease prevention," said Terrence Cheng, president of CSCU, she continues to say, "campus leader and their teams will continue to monitor state and federal guidance and the community versus conditions."

Cheng also stated the lifted masks mandate will be revised if COVID-19 upticks happen in the current or future semesters.



Photo Courtesy: Davon Brown

Effective immediately on April 4th, the campuses will shift to a mask optional protocol and will remove the physical distancing restrictions in all areas such as the cafeterias and lounges.

The good news for the staff and employees of CSCU campuses, you will no longer have to test weekly in response to the virus. While they will continue to have testing available for those concerned about exposure, both staff and students, weekly testing is no longer required as of April 4th.

CSCU president still asks all students and employees to continue to self-monitor their health and stay home whenever they have COVID like symptoms and follow the CDC guidance to isolate and quarantine.

They also ask to please still follow the campus process for notification if you happen to test positive for COVID, who will confirm when it is safe to return to campus as well as letting your peers know about the contact.

While masking everywhere seems to be a thing of the past, please continue to stay aware and stay safe.

New Development?

New York Developer Gets Green Light for Construction on Bank St in Downtown New London

Story by Jaizier St.Hilaire

On January 22, a New York developer was given the green light to construct a 5-story, 20-unit apartment building on an empty spot on 174 Bank Street in Downtown, New London. This lot in the downtown area is not only empty property but is also a "gaping hole in the middle of downtown," said William Sweeney, the developer's attorney. Sweeney is a representative of Vessel Technologies Inc., which had a contract to purchase the area to begin the construction. They plan to use a proprietary modular system to make the building at a quicker speed than traditional construction.

The empty site has remains of a concrete foundation from a failed project that was blocked off from Bank Street. The building itself may be 5-stories tall, but it will look like it is 6-stories from behind, for it will have parking underneath the building. The lower level will have about 20 spaces.

The building would house 10 one-bedrooms



Vessel

174 Bank St.
New London, CT

No.	Description
1	
2	
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7	
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and 10 two-bedrooms that will be marketed as luxury units. Sweeney expects rent to be at \$1,400, which is below the market rate for similar new units being built in the city.

Though it is a new sight to see in the city, the modern look and gray color theme of the building has mixed reactions and has been a topic of debate from the Historic District Commission and the public. Don Presely, a member of the District Commission, said "going up five stories at that particular location, will mean (it'll) be the tallest building basically on the street." He has also commented that the design doesn't especially fit the criteria of the city's design review guidelines that recommend buildings complement the existing streetscape.

Susan Tamulevich, executive director of the Custom House Maritime Museum two buildings away from the project, said "I love modern architecture". However, she also said, "I don't find anything commendable in this design."

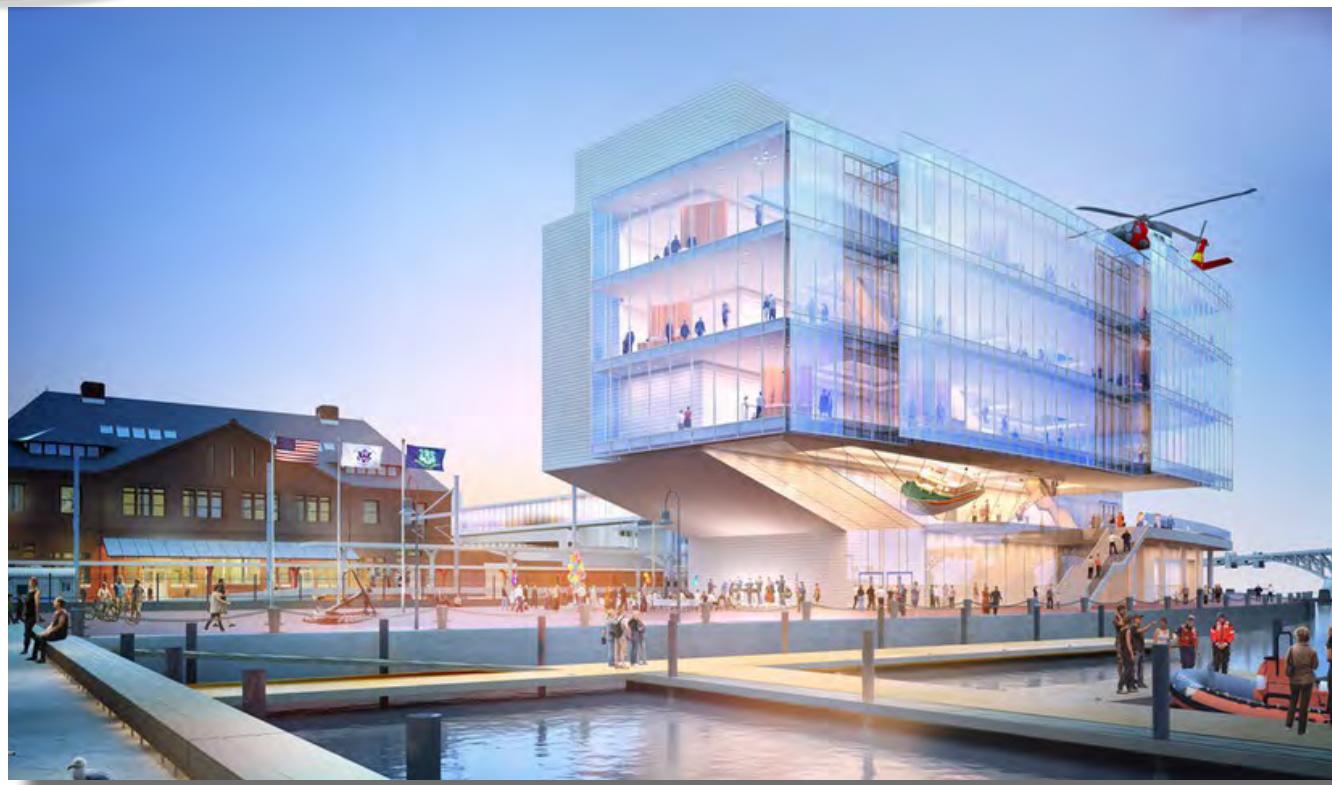
No construction timeline has been set.



Coast Guard Museum?

Coast Guard Museum on set for construction in New London

Story by Jaizier St.Hilaire



It seems that New London is about to see some new things in the city. Senator Chris Murphy announced on Wednesday, March 9th that the fiscal year 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill will include \$50 million for the National Coast Guard Museum. Murphy said in a statement, "After years of plans and proposals, hopes and expectations, the Coast Guard Museum is going to be built with construction to begin next year...the \$50 million included in this budget, and the removal of the previous prohibition of federal funds being used for construction costs, represents a breakthrough for the Coast Guard, for New London and for southeastern Connecticut. This project will not only create hundreds of jobs and annually pump

millions into the local economy, but also inspire the next generation to serve."

Murphy continued, stating that the Coast Guard is the only long-standing branch of the armed services without a national museum. "We owe it to the brave men and women of the Coast Guard – past, present, and future – to finally make the museum a reality, and today is a tremendous step toward fulfilling that commitment." Wes Pulver, who is the president of the National Coast Guard Museum Association, called the funds for this project a "game changer". Construction of the project will begin in 2023.



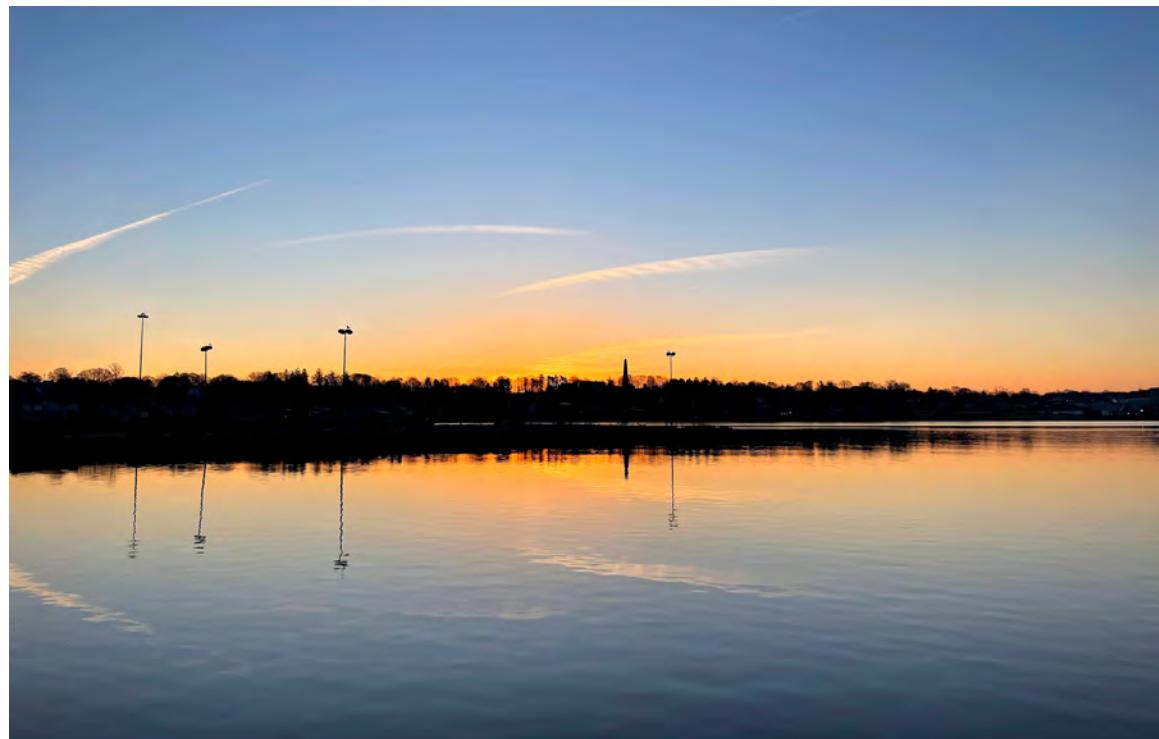
Coast Guard Museum Concept 2: Very modern for the Whaling City
(Photo Courtesy: Payette)

E

Permanent Daylight Saving Time

U.S. Senate approves The Sunshine Protection Act

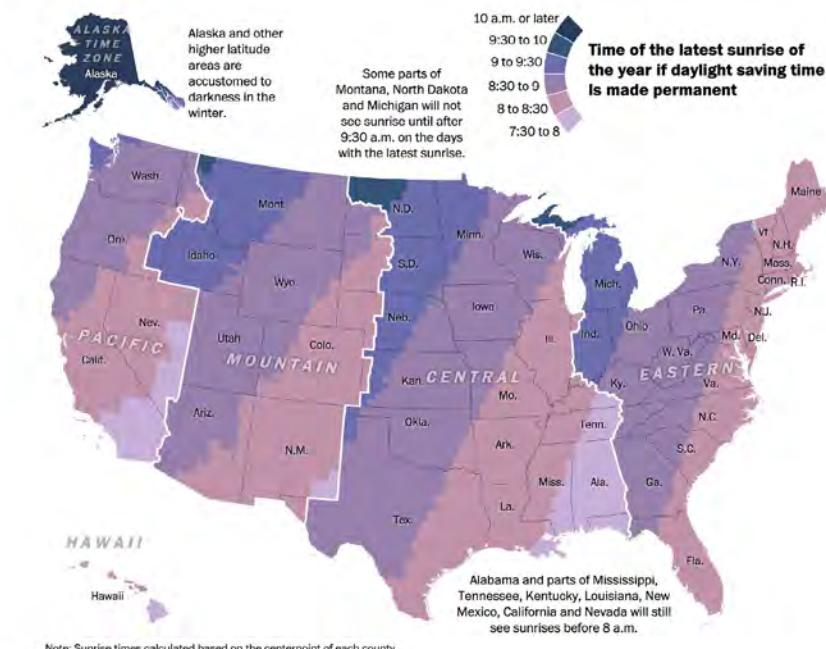
Written by Jordan Leroy



Sunrise overlooking the Thames River, towards Fort Griswold.

On March 15, 2022, the United States Senate approved legislation that would make daylight saving time permanent, starting in 2023. This would put an end to the "fall back" and "spring forward" agendas we have to readjust to every year. But will this change have any negative impacts?

The Sunshine Protection Act was first introduced in 2018 by Florida Republican Senator Marco Rubio. This legislation would establish permanent daylight saving time in the U.S., meaning that there would be less sunlight in the morning and more in



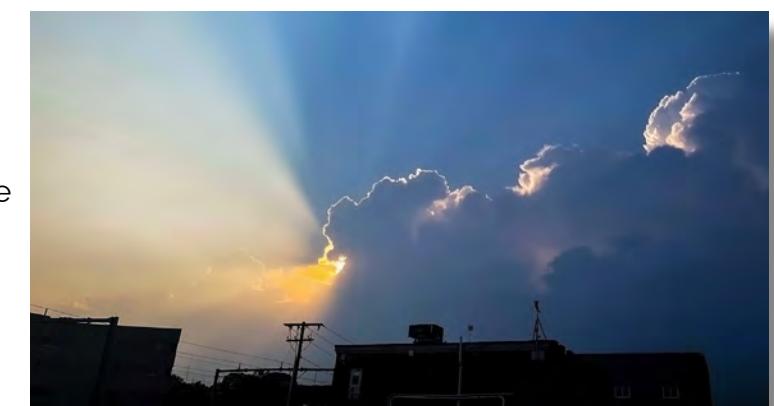
United States map showing how permanent daylight saving time would affect certain areas.

Photo Courtesy:
The Washington Post

the evening. Although the bill was passed by the Senate, it still needs to go through the House of Representatives before it gets signed by President Joe Biden.

Supporters of The Sunshine Protection Act state that the bill would reduce seasonal depression, as well as allow children to play outside longer after school. "I know this is not the most important issue confronting America, but it's one of those issues where there's a lot of agreement," Rubio said. "If we can get this passed, we don't have to do this stupidity anymore... Pardon the pun, but this is an idea whose time has come."

The greatest reason for opposition to this bill is that parents do not want their children going to school in the dark. If daylight saving time is made permanent, some places in the U.S. may see a sunrise as late as ten in the morning.



Sunshine peeking out from behind the clouds.

Honoring Strong Women

Influential women from Connecticut

Story by Dustin Durham

March is Women's History Month – the month is set aside to commemorate and encourage the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role women have and continue to play throughout American history.

A strong woman is defined by many things, her emotional strength, her ability to get back up when life has knocked her down, and her denial to never settle for less than she deserves. Courage, independence, self-worth, all while remaining uninfluenced, a true trailblazer by her own decree. A strong woman knows she has enough strength for the journey ahead, but a woman of strength knows it is in the journey where she will become a strong woman.

"There will be people who say to you, 'You are out of your lane.' They are burdened by only having the capacity to see what has always been, instead of what can be. But don't you let that

burden you." — Vice President Kamala Harris

The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame honors the achievements of women by celebrating their legacies and telling their powerful stories, inspiring women, and girls to realize their own limitless potential.

Adrienne Baughns-Wallace

Adrienne Baughns-Wallace was the first female news anchor in Connecticut and the first African American female news anchor in New England. She hosted Public Affairs programs, narrated documentaries for Connecticut Public Television, conducted interviews for EssenceTelevision, and hosted a syndicated program for WPIX-TV in New York City.



Fidelia Hoscott Fielding

Fidelia Hoscott is considered the last speaker and preserver of the Mohegan Pequot language. She and her grandmother, Martha Uncas, conversed in their native language and Fidelia called herself Djits Bud dnaca, or "Flying Bird."



Florence Griswold

Florence Griswold helped cultivate American Impressionism by hosting painters in her home in Old Lyme, turning the little town into a thriving artists' colony in the late 19th century. Today, the Florence Griswold Museum, housed in Griswold's former home, presents an outstanding collection of American Impressionist Art and preserves Griswold's legacy as a patron of the arts.



Theodate Pope Riddle

In a field long dominated by men, self-taught Theodate Pope Riddle emerged as an important and influential architect whose designs included the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington and the college preparatory school Avon Old Farms. Riddle's architectural designs reflected her progressive philosophy and her legacy as an important architect of the early twentieth century.

Jewel Plummer Cobb

As a ground-breaking researcher, distinguished professor, and top university administrator, Jewel Plummer Cobb has forever changed the face of the scientific community. Not only has her research advanced our understanding of the skin cells that produce melanin and how those cells become cancerous, but she has also led the way for equal access to education and professional opportunities for women and minorities.

Teresa C. Younger

Teresa C. Younger is an activist, advocate, renowned public speaker, organizational strategist, and a proven leader in the philanthropic and policy sectors. Having spent over 20 years on the frontlines of some of the most critical battles for comprehensive equity and the elimination of institutionalized oppression, she now serves as the President and CEO of the Ms. Foundation for Women.



Harriet Beecher Stowe

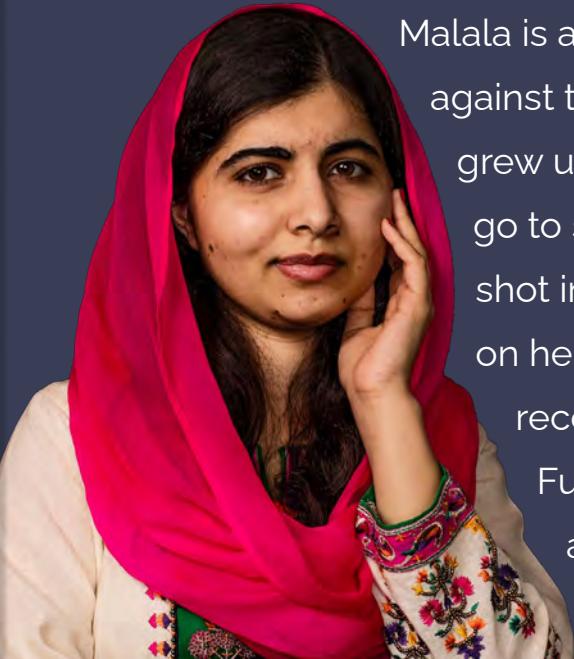
Harriet Beecher Stowe was an abolitionist author that rose to fame in 1851 with the publication of her best-selling book, Uncle Tom's Cabin, which highlighted the evils of slavery, angered the slaveholding South.

7 Trailblazing Women in History

Women who have paved the way for others today

Written by Melissa Tucker

Malala Yousafzai



Malala is a young trailblazer who began speaking out against the Taliban at just 11 years old on a blog. Malala grew up in Pakistan where girls were not allowed to go to school after the Taliban took control. She was shot in the head by a member of the Taliban at age 15 on her way home from school in 2012 after receiving recognition for her work. She started the Malala Fund, a charity that fights for the education of girl after her recovery in the UK. Malala became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner ever in 2014 at just 17 years old.

Photo Courtesy: Insider

Susan B Anthony



Susan B. Anthony was a women's rights activist who played a pivotal role in the women's suffragette movement. She dedicated her life to getting women the right to vote. The movement gained attention in 1872 when Anthony was arrested for voting.

Photo Courtesy: Wikipedia



Photo Courtesy: Vox

Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish climate change activist diagnosed with Asperger syndrome. Thunberg founded the 2018 movement known as Fridays for Future (also known as School Strike for Climate) in an attempt to spur lawmakers into doing something about climate change. She has raised awareness about climate change and Asperger's.



Photo Courtesy: Biography

Madam C.J. Walker

Madam C.J. Walker became the first female self-made millionaire in the U.S. when she created her own line of hair-care products in 1905. She invented a treatment for hair loss, selling it as the Walker system and marketed it to African American women. She overcame sexism and racism with the success of her business. Walker used her wealth to fund a YMCA in Indianapolis and donated to NAACP. Walker has paved the way for women business owners around the world.

7 Trailblazing Women in History

Frida Kahlo

Frida Kahlo was a feminist and LGBTQ icon. She is one of Mexico's most famous painters. She was in a bus accident in 1925 that caused her to need over 30 surgeries throughout her lifetime, during her recovery she learned to paint. Kahlo was known for surrealist self-portraits that celebrated the female form and Mexican culture.



Photo Courtesy: Vogue

Junko Tabei

Junko Tabei was the first woman to climb Mount Everest in 1975. She was a Japanese mountaineer, an author, and a teacher. She also became the first woman to ascend the Seven Summits, the highest peak on every continent before her death in 2016. She formed the Ladies Climbing Club in 1969 which was an all-women mountaineering club that climbed Mount Everest together in 1975 which broke gender norms in Japan where it was believed women should be at home caring for their families.



Photo Courtesy NPR



Photo Courtesy: Literary Hub

Marie Curie

Marie Curie was the first woman to ever win the Nobel Prize and to win it twice when she won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903 and in Chemistry in 1911. Marie Curie was a trailblazer; women today have opportunities in STEM fields thanks in part to the perseverance and dedication of Curie and her groundbreaking discoveries that led to the use of radiation to treat illness.

Spring Into Spring Cleaning

Sweeping winter right out the door

Written by Jordan Leroy

It's time to wake up and smell the floral-scented cleaning spray! Springtime is finally here, which means it is time to break out the dusters, brooms, and mops and get ready to do some spring cleaning.

Personally, there is no greater feeling of accomplishment for me than when I have spent multiple hours cleaning my house. I know that feeling may not be shared by many, but it makes me feel good about myself. Seeing the results of my hard work firsthand is a beauty to behold.

Cleaning is not everyone's strong suit, I get that. Sometimes it's a challenge just figuring out where to start! It is very easy to get overwhelmed with cleaning before you even start, and I think that is why people avoid doing it.

I want to make it clear that I am no professional in cleaning, just an enthusiast. Spring cleaning is a great way to channel your energy into something productive, so here are a few tips to get you started:

1. Make sure you are in the mood to clean.
If you start cleaning and dread every minute of it, it will just be another chore. In

my opinion, spring cleaning should be an almost therapeutic practice. If it is warm enough, open up the windows! Let that fresh air in. Maybe throw on a show or play some music for background noise. If you find you are still not in the mood after all that, then take a rain check and try again some other time.

2. Don't look at the big picture, focus on small parts one at a time.

I can assure you that if you break up your space into individual pieces, it will be much easier for you to get your cleaning done. This can be done in multiple ways! Sometimes I divide my cleaning up based on the product. For example, I'll take the glass cleaner around the house and clean all the windows and mirrors first. Then I can move on to sweeping, and so on. You could also break your cleaning down by rooms (bathroom, living room, bedrooms, etc).

3. Take breaks!

Try not to push yourself too hard, you don't want to suffer from burnout.



The cleaning products that I use, but by all means use whatever product you are comfortable with.

If you are starting to feel worn out, sit down and relax. If the weather is nice enough, sit outside and enjoy the sun. Make sure to stay hydrated!

4. One floor at a time.

If your house has multiple floors, I have found that starting from the top

and making your way downstairs is the best way to clean. Make sure you have all the products you need though, as you will get tired easily from going back and forth. Or, if that is too much cleaning for you all at once, give each floor its own day for cleaning.

5. No animals!

As a person who lives with two dogs, I am constantly surrounded by dog hair. If you are in the same situation, you probably have to sweep every day because of the amount of hair that sheds. For spring cleaning purposes, I suggest kicking the dogs out of the house if you can. I know we love our pups, but they tend to get in the way sometimes, and if you are on a cleaning expedition you probably do not want them in the way.

These are the fundamentals I try to stick to when I'm cleaning. I have found that following these steps has proven to be the most beneficial for me, so here's hoping they can help you!

Happy spring cleaning!

5 Ways to Add Greenery to Your Home

5 Plants for beginners to work with

Written by Melissa Tucker

Adding greenery to your home can provide a nice pop of color and help usher in spring into your living space. Here are five easy ways to add pops of green with easy to take care of plants, perfect for beginners.



Snake Plant

The snake plant is another resilient and tolerant plant perfect for beginners. They can be neglected for weeks and still look fresh. They don't require a ton of light and can survive low level indirect sunlight. Research from NASA has shown that snake plants are able to clean the air inside your home, removing toxins like formaldehyde and benzene. Put your snake plant in indirect sunlight and don't water it too much as these plants do better when they have time to dry out between watering.

Spider Plant

The spider plant is great for beginners because it is one of the easiest to grow and one of the most adaptable as well. Caring for spider plants is very easy, all they need is well-drained soil and bright indirect light! Make sure not to over water as that could cause root rot. In spring, as daylight increases spring plants produce flowers, spider plant spiderettes.



Aloe Vera

Aloe vera is not only a beautiful plant but it's useful as well, as the juice from the leaves can be used to relieve pain from burns and scrapes when you apply topically. Aloe vera needs indirect sunlight and needs to be watered deeply but infrequently. Allow the soil to dry between watering. Note: Aloe vera is toxic to animals, so it's best to keep your aloe plant out of reach. A hanging planter would be a good option.

Monstera

The monstera plant is a beautiful plant to add to your home. They thrive in bright to medium indirect light and require watering every 1-2 weeks. Allow the soil to dry out between watering. Monstera can be irritating to animals and humans if consumed.



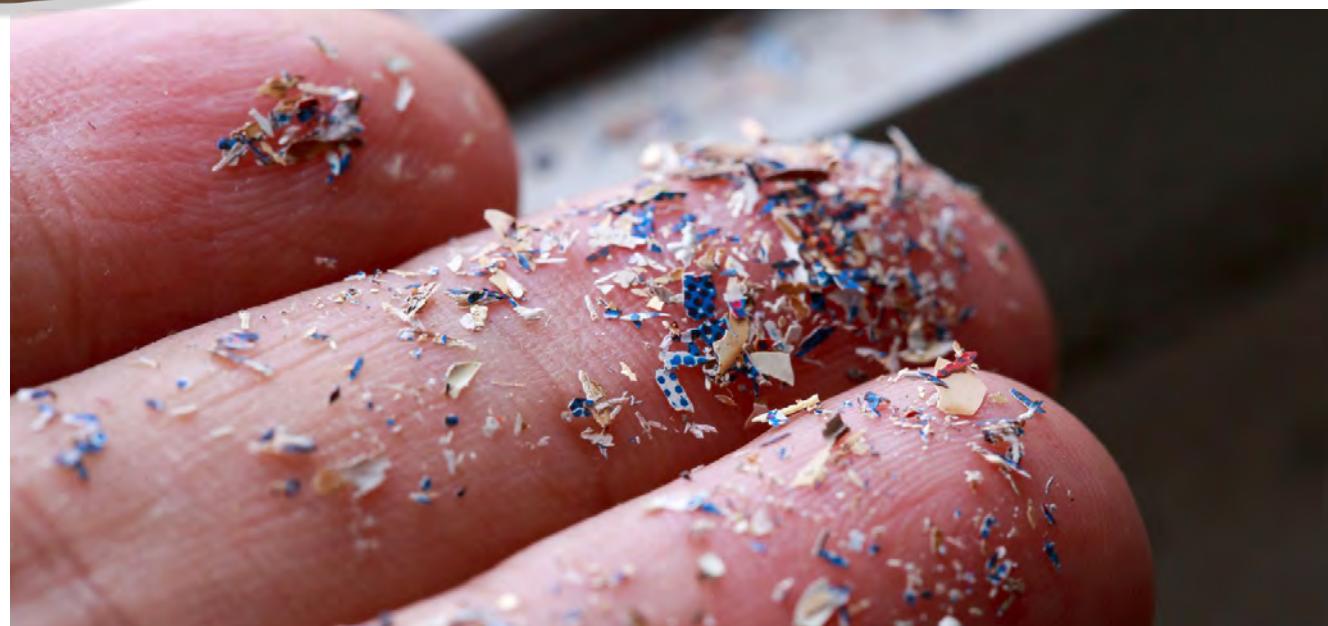
Succulents

Succulents are a great no fuss way to add color to your home. Keep a few key things in mind when caring for your succulents and you should be good to go! Succulents need a lot of sunlight, about six hours a day but make sure to rotate your plant if it is sitting in the same spot every day as it might only be getting sun on one side. Make sure to water the soil directly, soaking the soil until the water runs out of the drainage holes. Drainage is important because succulents don't like to sit in waterlogged soil. Terra-cotta pots are ideal.

Monsters Inside Us

Microplastics have been found in human blood for the first time

By Jaizier St.Hilaire



Microplastic: A dangerous threat

A new threat has emerged this year. With the current battle against Covid-19 and its many variations, a new micro threat has appeared to join in the fun. For the first time, it was discovered that microplastics are now in human blood. What are microplastics? For those who may not know what these are, according to the National Geographic Society, Microplastics are tiny plastic particles that result from both commercial product development and the breakdown of larger plastics.

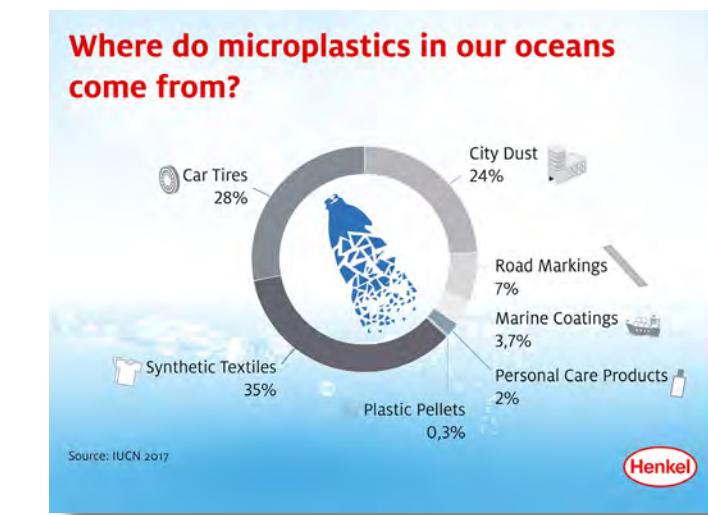
This discovery shows that the particles can travel around the body and may lodge in organs. The impact on our health is not yet known, but there are concerns from researchers, as they say, that microplastics cause damage to human cells in the laboratory, and air pollution particles are already known to enter the body can cause millions of early deaths a year.

The tiny particles are known to be consumed via food and water, as well as breathing them in. Scientists had analyzed blood samples from 22 anonymous, adult, healthy donors, and found plastic particles in 17. According to the scientist, half of the samples

contained PET plastic, which is commonly used in drinks bottles. A third of the blood contained polystyrene, which is used for packaging food and other products. A quarter of the blood samples contained polyethylene, which plastic carrier bags are made from.

"Our study is the first indication that we have polymer particles in our blood – it's a breakthrough result," said Prof Dick Vethaak, an ecotoxicologist at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Vethaak said previous works show microplastics were 10 times higher in the feces of babies compared to adults, and that babies fed with plastic bottles are swallowing millions of microplastic particles a day. The new research is published in the journal Environment International and adapted existing techniques to detect and analyze particles as small as 0.0007mm. As a method to avoid contamination, Vethaak's team used steel syringe needles and glass tubes and tested for background levels of microplastics using blank samples.

This new research is being funded by the Dutch National Organization for Health Research and



Development and Common Seas, a social enterprise working to reduce plastic pollution. "Plastic production is set to double by 2040," said Jo Royle, founder of the charity Common Seas. "We have a right to know what all this plastic is doing to our bodies." Multiple organizations and the EU are already funding the research to look into this matter.

A review paper that was published Tuesday the 22nd, which was co-authored by Vethaak, concluded: "More detailed research on how micro-and nano-plastics affect the structures and processes of the human body, and whether and how they can transform cells and induce carcinogenesis, is urgently needed, particularly in light of the exponential increase in plastic production. The problem is becoming more urgent with each day."

E

The Andy Warhol Diaries Review

Uncovering the mystery of Warhol

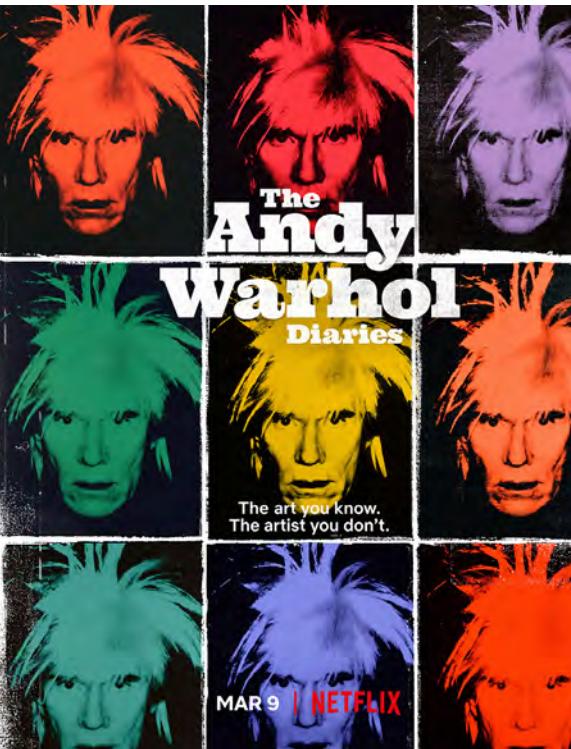
Story By: Joe Barberi

On March 9th, Netflix released their docuseries titled The Warhol Diaries. The series goes through Andy Warhol's diary that was published in 1989, soon after his death in 1987.

This review will not spoil the docuseries but gives the basic idea of the show along with my opinion.

Warhol was known as an ad illustrator, pop artist, filmmaker, and a variety of different mediums of art. Warhol changed the way people thought about art in the 1960's with his pop art.

The docuseries has a total of 6 episodes ranging from 40 minutes to an hour, and each episode is packed full of information.



Credit: Entertainment Weekly

This series goes over Warhol's early life, the relationships he had (friendships and partners), how he dealt with becoming internationally famous, and confronting his sexuality.

My overall opinion of the docuseries is that it was excellent, to put it bluntly. As someone who loves the art and the artists that came from New York in the 1960's to the 1980's, this series was a must watch.

I feel that the pacing was solid, and the direction of it was spot on. The way Netflix handled telling Warhol's story was superb. The series didn't feel like it was only focused on Warhol, it concentrated on key people that were close to him as well.

If you're someone who likes art history and likes to know artists on a deeper level, this docuseries is one of the more well put together documentaries on Warhol. You'll be surprised how much more you learn about Andy Warhol than you ever have before.



There's only one thing better than experiencing 40 restaurants, a 10,000-seat Arena, thrilling nightlife, and world-class hotel accommodations at Mohegan Sun. And that's experiencing them all over again.

MOHEGANSUN.COM

Inventing Anna Review

A review of one of Netflix's new top new shows.

Written by Melissa Tucker

Inventing Anna is a nine-episode Netflix mini-series by show creator Shonda Rhimes about real life scammer Anna Delvey, who was really Anna Sorokin played by Julia Garner. Garner does a great job playing Anna, her accent a strange blend of German and Russian. She plays Anna perfectly, bratty and privileged and yet fiercely determined. The show is based on New York magazine's popular profile on Anna Sorokin in 2018.

It is the story of a fake German Heiress who scams her way into the New York elite. Anna Delvey as she goes by is hell bent on scamming her way to the top with the end goal being to buy a multimillion-dollar building.

The show seems to take a sympathetic tone when it comes to Sorokin, even as it shows all of her victims caught in her web of lies and cons. Admittedly it is hard not to feel a grudging sense



watch and great food for thought. Is Anna a misunderstood brilliant feminist girl boss or did she just want the money and was willing to do whatever to get it?

of admiration for Anna as she really takes the idea of "fake it till you make it" to a sociopathic new level. Ruining people's livelihoods just seems to be an inconvenience to Anna, in the long run she is going to get what she wants.

It is interesting to consider the odds stacked against Anna. The constraints of a patriarchal and capitalistic society are what make it easy to root for Anna in this story. As the viewer you almost want to see Anna win against the uber rich New York elite men she's up against. Anna in actuality is not a German heiress but instead an immigrant from Russia trying to make something of herself in America, which at its core is something the viewer can empathize with. The only problem is that she is terrible.

Inventing Anna is an interesting series where the con artist is not strictly vilified. It makes for an interesting



Photos Courtesy: Us Weekly & IMDB

E

Kingdom Hearts Nintendo Switch Review

The saga makes its way to the Switch,
gameplay via the cloud

Written by Jordan Leroy

If you are a Nintendo Switch player and a Disney fan, I may have just the game for you. The long-anticipated Kingdom Hearts series for the Switch console is finally out, ending the wait for many who grew up playing the games. However, this is not just a praise piece for the games; I have some criticisms as well.

Kingdom Hearts is a franchise of adventure/action role-playing games, based in a fictional universe with Disney crossovers. It is a collaboration between Square Enix and The Walt Disney Company.

In the games, you follow the main protagonist, Sora, and his adventures in several Pixar and Disney worlds. As you progress through each game, you will fight enemies and bosses, buy and sell items, and interact with the world and characters around you. There are also side quests and cutscenes that help break up the games.

Even though the Kingdom Hearts games are available for several different platforms (Playstation, Xbox, etc), and have been for a long time, the Nintendo Switch version was just released back in February 2022. By this point, they have addressed several issues



The third collection,
KINGDOM HEARTS
III + Re Mind (DLC)
CLOUD VERSION,
featuring
KINGDOM HEARTS
III and a DLC game
for extra content.
Photo Courtesy:
Square Enix



The main protagonists of Kingdom Hearts; Sora, Donald, and Goofy. Photo Courtesy: Square Enix

that were occurring, so the game has run well thus far. The only problem is that the games for the Switch are in a cloud version.

I am no expert when it comes to developing video games, but I think they could have easily found a way to release Kingdom Hearts without needing the Internet. Making these games cloud dependent means that if you have a weaker Internet connection, your game will severely lag, and may even send you back to the menu screen. This can be pretty upsetting if you have made considerable progress without saving.

As someone who played the Kingdom Hearts games when I was younger, I think overall I give the Nintendo Switch experience with them a 7/10. The cloud side of it is a bit annoying, but seeing the game on a higher resolution (rather than the pixelated screen of my Nintendo DS) makes for nice gameplay. The nostalgia part of it is really what matters most to me.

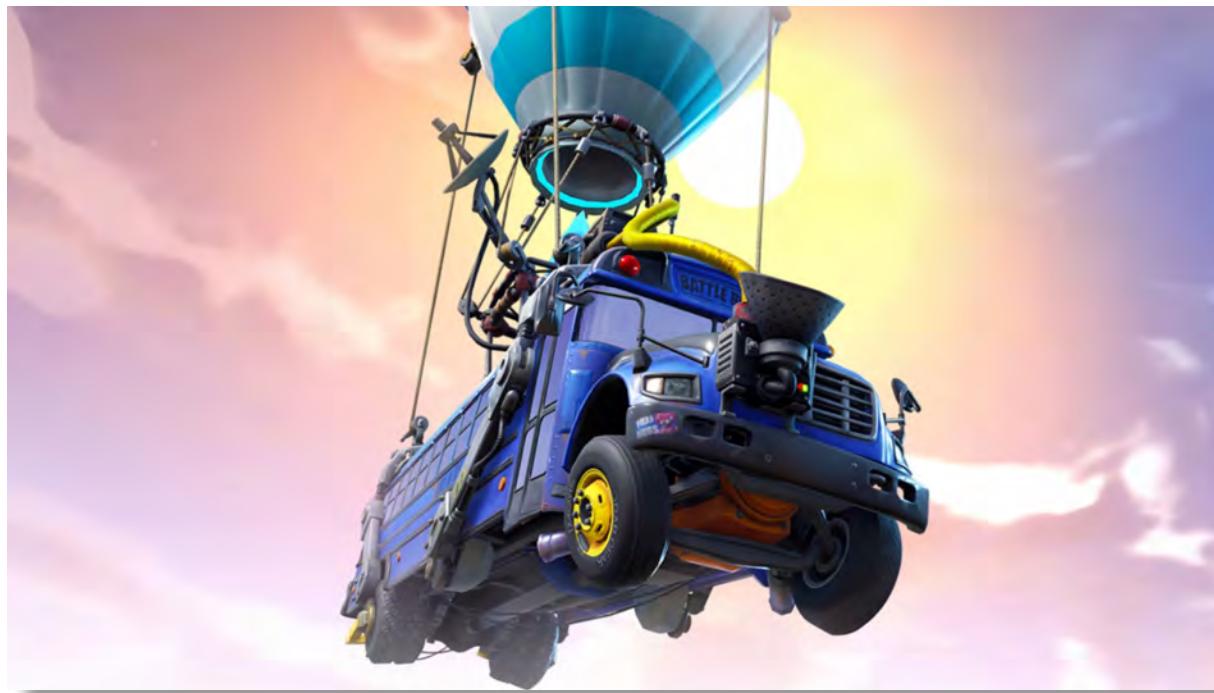
In short, I recommend checking these games out only if you have a somewhat stable internet connection. The Kingdom Hearts games are fun and have a great storyline to them, but it will not make for a good experience if the game does nothing but lag. I suggest looking into the regular (non-cloud) versions of the games on other platforms if you are interested, but don't have the patience for lagging.

There are ten Kingdom Hearts games available for the Nintendo Switch, available through three standalone games: KINGDOM HEARTS HD 1.5 + 2.5 ReMIX CLOUD VERSION, KINGDOM HEARTS HD 2.8 Final Chapter Prologue CLOUD VERSION and KINGDOM HEARTS III + Re Mind (DLC) CLOUD VERSION.

Fortnite Removes Building – Uplifts Ukraine

The single biggest corporate donor to Ukraine.

Story by Dustin Durham



Fortnite Chapter 3 Bus – Photo courtesy of Epic Games

Fortnite took the gaming world by storm upon releasing its battle royale mode in September of 2017. Now, Fortnite is a vast community builder filled with an abundance of different experiences.

You can drop onto the Island and compete to be the last player – or team – standing in a variety of Fortnite's competitive modes. If that's not really your thing, you can relax in a discord call and hang out with friends to catch a concert or a movie or create a world of your own with your own rules and limitations.

Fortnite kicked off Chapter 3, Season 2 on March 20th with an unusual change to its core mechanic that distinctly separated it from other battle royale titles – building. By stripping Fortnite of this core mechanic, the battle royale is unrecognizable for some.

For others like myself, it has been an amazing experience. By removing the ability

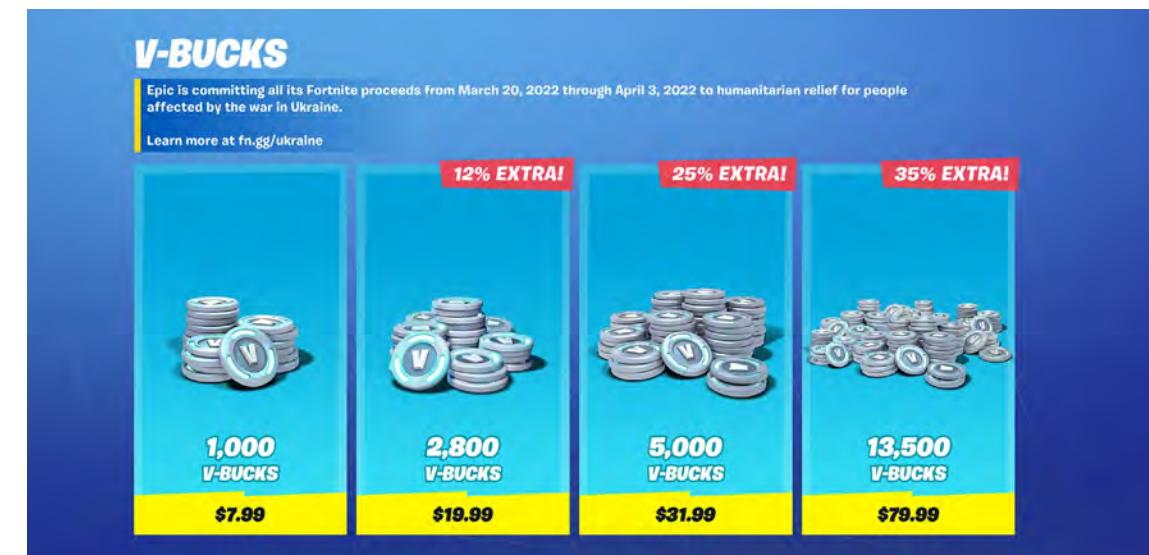
to build, Fortnite has changed the entire complexion of its gun fights. It is not a permanent fixture in the game as many expect building mechanics to return very soon to coincide with the game's on-going storyline.

Only time will tell if Fortnite plans to retain this play-style in the form of another game mode available to its vast community of all ages. Yet, no-building was not Fortnite's only recognizable feat this season. The game also showcased unwavering support for Ukraine.

Epic Games and Microsoft have, through Fortnite in-game purchases, raised over \$80 million to be donated towards humanitarian relief in the ongoing invasion of Ukraine. And it's not over yet, there is still a week left to go on the campaign.

Epic has pledged that, from March 20 until April 3, all proceeds from real-money purchases in Fortnite would be donated to four humanitarian organizations currently operating in Ukraine: Direct Relief, UNICEF, the UN World Food Programme and the UN Refugee Agency. Epic Games says, "more organizations will be added to this list in the coming weeks."

Xbox agreed to partner-up with Epic on this and has committed its net proceeds from Fortnite's in-game purchases during this period. It is highly likely that we will see Sony PlayStation and many other gaming platforms follow suit in the coming days.



Fortnite V-Bucks Screenshot – Screenshot from in-game V-Bucks menu courtesy of Dustin Durham

Is Animal Crossing: New Horizons Really Dead!?

Story by Davon Brown



Photo Courtesy Nintendo

With the recent passing of the game's second anniversary, Animal Crossing: New Horizons fans were hopeful to get a small little birthday celebratory update even if it just featured a cake with a number "2."

Back in October Nintendo announced that they would be releasing their last free update to the game alongside the new DLC Animal Crossing: Happy Home Paradise, and while Nintendo did say that was the last update to the game, fans were hopeful to have a birthday update, even if just a cake.

Dating back to March 2020 when we were all stuck at home, this game quickly became the world's new obsession by selling just under 40 million copies

Why would Nintendo discount support to a high paying game?

worldwide. The fans were addicted to the creativity and the down-right fun this game gave from the drag that was quarantine.

The fan base was, and still kind of is, so huge it made a few gamers on YouTube famous and become advocates for the game and Nintendo as a whole. So you can see why not getting an update or any involvement at all after just two years is kind of bizarre, especially with the success.

Nintendo has a phone application version of Animal Crossing that is still receiving updates to this day, which has fans like SwitchForce on YouTube wondering, if stopping all ties with the Switch game could be their intent to focus on making another, better, version of the game all together.

While this is a great theory, as New Horizons is just one of many entities of the Animal Crossing franchise, is it actually Nintendo's plan? Or are the fans of the beloved game, just looking for a way to hold on to the game as long as they can.



Photo Courtesy CNN

Was Will Smith in the Right at the Oscars?

Editorial by Davon Brown

In case you missed the Oscars, the countless memes, TikTok's, or retweets of the video about Will Smith punching Chris Rock over Rock's joke at the expense of Smith's wife, Jada, here is a slight recap.

Jada has an autoimmune disease that causes hair loss. It is often lost in circular patches, ranging from small to large areas, and because of this Mrs. Smith decided to shave her head.

Rock, while announcing the award for best documentary, made a joke about Mrs. Smith, saying he "couldn't wait to see her in G.I. Jane 2." At first glance you saw Smith laughing but Mrs. Smith instantly rolling her eyes.

This quickly escalated to Smith walking up on the stage and punching Rock in front of the whole room of Oscar nominated actors, guests, and friends.

To the audience, at least to me and the people I have chatted with over the topic, thought the punch may have been staged



Photo Courtesy Us Weekly

and was meant to be a little comedic banter, for the angle of the camera was fixed in a way that gave off the sense contact was not actually made.

The words after the contact however, thanks to a twitter user overseas who shared the unmuted version, were definitely confirmation that the punch was in fact real and nothing to add to the comedian's act.

It set a weird atmosphere for the remainder of the Oscar night, and even a little more so with Smith's first Oscar win speech. On its own it was very heartwarming and well rounded speech that would have been impactful.

Was it still impactful yes I think his words definitely had a lasting mark with the younger Black community and actors, but in my own opinion it was very much upstaged by the actions and the altercation previously with Rock.

The altercation right or wrong, the Oscars stage was not the time nor the place. This was not a quick reaction to the situation, Smith had to think about it for a second, walk on stage, and hit Rock. He should have kept his cool, for the lack of a better term, and handled the situation on the outside.

Understanding Web 3.0

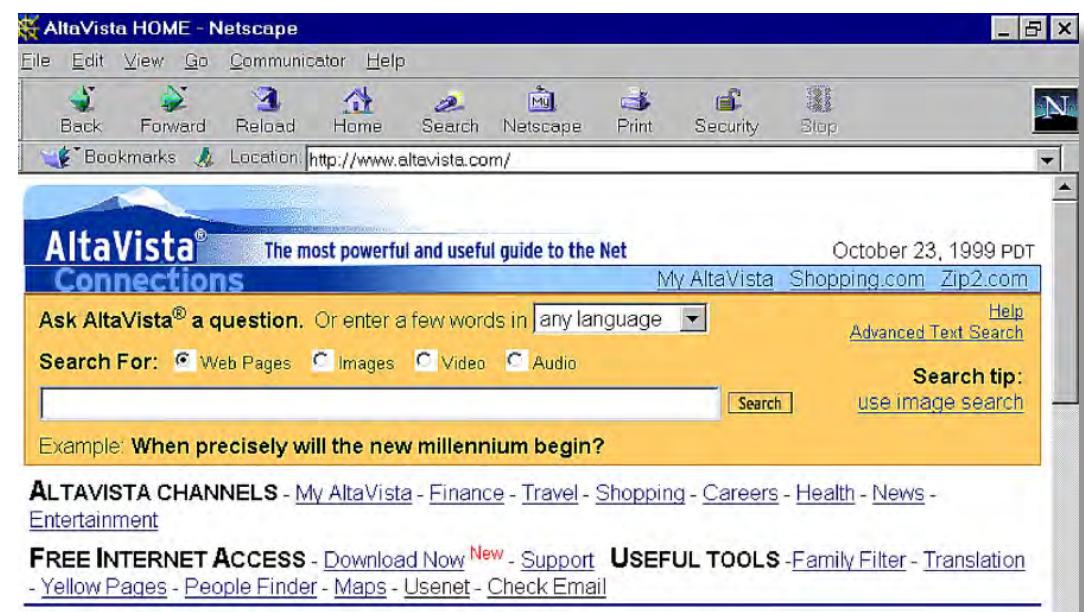
The Forever Evolving Internet

Story by: Joe Barberi

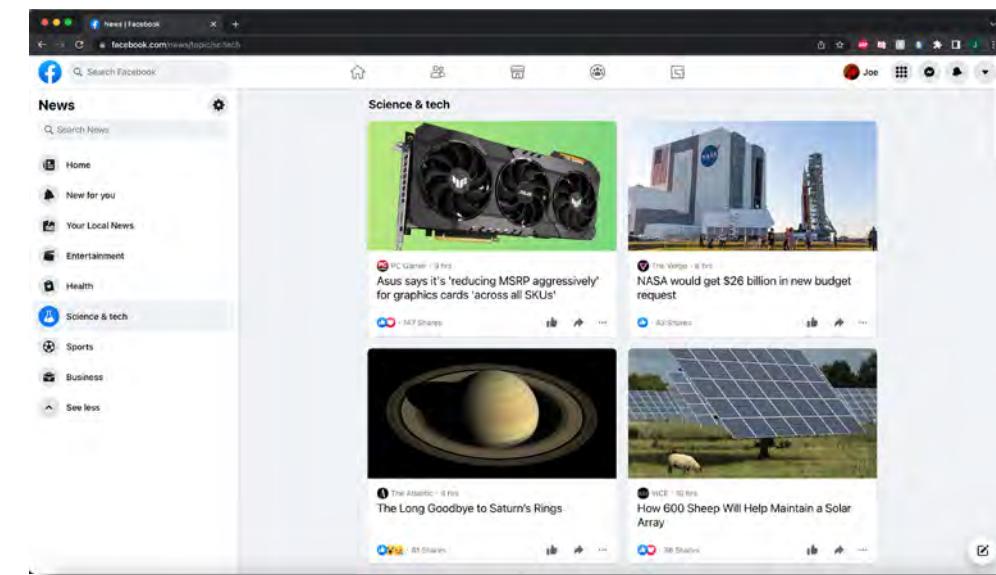
Ever since the start of the internet, it has been flourishing. In today's world someone can get lost in the endless loopholes of information. But what is Web 3.0?

To understand Web 3.0, knowledge of what Webs 2.0 and 1.0 are essential. Web 1.0 was the beginning of the internet, it consisted of personal web pages with no big companies like Google, Facebook, or Amazon. There were also a handful of content creators on Web 1.0, but many people were just starting to learn how the internet worked.

Web 2.0 started in the early 2000's and is still the current version of the internet today. All major social medias and big companies such as Google



Example of Web 1.0 Design
Credit: Tech Radar



Example of Web 2.0 Design
Credit: Joe Barberi

and Facebook are a part of this version. Basically, anything that is currently accessible on the internet right now is a part of Web 2.0.

Web 3.0 is more of a concept of the future of the internet and is complex to define currently. However, Web 3.0 is known as a version of the internet that doesn't have to completely rely on companies like Google and Amazon for it to work. It also relates a lot to the new technology of NFT's and the blockchain.

"In a Web3 world, people control their own data and bounce around from social media to email to shopping using a single personalized account, creating a public record on the blockchain of all of that activity," said Bobby Allyn, a business reporter for NPR.

As time goes on and technology keeps advancing, Web 3.0 will become more of a reality, and who knows what the future will hold for the internet?

Apple Unveils their “Studio” Product Line

An overview of Mac Studio and Studio Display

Story by: Joe Barberi



On March 8th, Apple held an event where they showed off some of their new products. They introduced the new iPad Air, an updated version of the iPhone SE, and the iPhone 13 Pro and Pro Max in the new color Alpine Green.

However, the last two products that Apple unveiled were the Mac Studio and Studio display. Both products are upgraded versions of already existing ones. The difference is, their studio line is targeted more towards creatives such as, filmmakers, photographer, web designers, etc.

The Mac Studio comes with Apple's M1 Max chip or their M1 Ultra chip, 36GB to 128GB of memory, and a 512GB SSD or up to an 8TB SSD. Also, the computer is 7.7 inches for width and depth, and 3.7 inches high. For the lower end Mac Studio, it costs \$1999 and for the higher end model, \$3,999.

The Studio Display is 27 inches diagonally, boasts a 5K Retina Display, has a resolution of 5120 by 2880 pixels, and gets up to 600 nits of brightness. Also, the display has 3 different kinds of stand that can be purchased, a tilt-adjustable stand, tilt-and height-adjustable stand, and a VESA mount adapter. The Studio Display can be purchased for \$1599 as the standard glass model, and \$1899 for the nano-texture glass model.

More details about the Mac Studio can be found here: <https://www.apple.com/mac-studio/>. And more details on the Studio Display can be found here: <https://www.apple.com/studio-display/>.

A black rectangular advertisement with gold text and graphics. In the center is a stylized gold triangle composed of nested lines. Below the triangle, the letters "SXY" are written in a large, bold, gold serif font. Underneath "SXY", the text "Sexual Radiance Coaching" is written in a smaller gold sans-serif font, followed by "with Angelica Gutierrez". At the bottom, there is more gold text: "For an appointment, email info@sxyradiance.com" and "Or visit our website at sxyradiance.com".



Dog Treat Recipe

Not-Chocolate Chip Cookies

Story by Dustin Durham



This simple and easy carob cookie recipe is one of my dog's favorite treats. In as little as 25 minutes, your dog can enjoy these drool worthy cocoa-free cookies too!

Dry cocoa powder contains up to 26mg of theobromine per gram which is highly toxic to dogs. Carob chips are made with carob powder and have an earthy, cocoa-like flavor that's more mellow than chocolate. Carob powder comes from the pod of the Mediterranean carob tree. The pod is seeded, then the fruit pulp is dried, roasted, and ground to a fine powder.

Most importantly, carob chips are non-toxic for dogs!

INGREDIENTS

1 1/4 C. Coconut Flour
1 Tsp. Baking Soda
1/2 C. Coconut Oil
2 Eggs
1/4 C. Natural Peanut Butter
1/2 C. Unsweetened Carob Chips

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together coconut flour and baking soda.
3. Stir in eggs, coconut oil, peanut butter, and carob chips. Dough will be crumbly but should be able to clump when squeezed together. If it does not, add more peanut butter.
4. Squeeze dough together to form heaping-teaspoon-size balls of dough.
5. Bake for 10-12 minutes and then allow to cool on the cookie sheet.
6. Watch your pup enjoy the treats!

NOTES:

When making dog treats, always check that your peanut butter is free of Xylitol, which is highly toxic for dogs.





Deviled Eggs Recipe

An easy, delicious appetizer for Easter

Written by Jordan Leroy

Personally, I do not like eggs all too much, but deviled eggs are an exception. This tasty horsd'oeuvre is a staple in my family. No matter the occasion, there is always a plate out showcasing them, and they taste great every time.

Deviled eggs are also a lovely on-theme idea for any Easter event that you have coming up.

I love this recipe because the final product comes out amazing with very minimal work required. You can also tweak this recipe based on taste/textured preference.

Ingredients:

- ❑ 12 eggs (hard boiled and peeled)
- ❑ mayonnaise
- ❑ yellow mustard
- ❑ paprika

Instructions:

1. Place eggs into a pot, covering them with water so that they are fully submerged. Heat on high until water begins to boil, then cover, turn the heat to low, and cook for 1 minute.
Remove from heat and leave covered for 15 minutes, then rinse under cold water.
2. Carefully peel each egg and dry with a paper towel.
3. Cut each egg in half (length-wise) and remove egg yolks. Transfer egg yolks to a separate bowl, set egg whites onto a separate platter.
4. Mash the egg yolks with a fork until you reach a crumble texture.
5. In the egg yolk bowl, mix the following one at time:
 - a. 3 spoonfuls mayonnaise
 - b. 2 spoonfuls yellow mustard
 - c. 3 dashes of paprika
6. Using a spoon, evenly disperse yolk mixture into the center of the egg whites.
7. Sprinkle paprika over your deviled eggs and enjoy!
I recommend serving deviled eggs sooner rather than later. However, you can store them in a sealed container (refrigerated) for up to two days.

TRANSFER TIMELINE

1ST SEMESTER

✓ Get to know your advisor

Research 4-year Colleges

Learn about transfer agreements

3RD SEMESTER

Research cost of colleges/financial aid

Look for scholarships

Apply to 4-year colleges

2ND SEMESTER

Choose a major

Contact Transfer Adimssions offices at 4-year colleges

Consider early transfer if your program is not offered



4TH SEMESTER

Submit required forms for transfer

Pay your deposit
Send final transcripts