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Legislative Breakfast



Dean's List Reception



Sheila Skahan's Retirement



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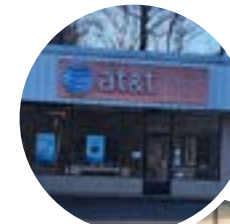
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The Current is the official student publication of Three Rivers Community College. The Current is written, edited and designed by students.

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Legislative Breakfast: Building Bridges for Student Success

TRCC meets with local legislators and CT State representatives to discuss the importance of Three Rivers

Article by: Derek Denis

On March 1st, students, local legislators, and CT State representatives met for the Three Rivers Legislative Breakfast. The Connecticut State legislators had the opportunity to learn about all the great things Three Rivers does to contribute to the community. The event was hosted in the multi-purpose room and featured coffee, pastries, and other foods catered by the campus cafeteria.

Throughout the morning CT State representatives and local legislators continued their dialogue regarding the current state of the college. The Three Rivers Dean, Kem Barfield, noted the importance of this dialogue, stating that, “The legislators are the ones who approve our budget. That’s been one of our main issues with the enrollment changes. Enrollment shifts the importance of providing a budget to the campuses to CT State that

actually help us to continue our program, continue our service to our communities and that’s all-encompassing right now.”

It is no secret that the budget has been an ongoing issue for Three Rivers. In light of the recent budget cuts, this meeting provided hope for the community.

“Without the work that this campus does, there would be a huge hole in this community and in this region.” - Terrence Cheng



Senator Martha Marx conversing with local legislators.



Mary Ellen Jukoski, Martha Marx, John Meduko, Catherine Osten, Heather Summers, Terrence Cheng, and Aundre Bumgarder.

During the breakfast, representatives of CT State expressed the importance that Three Rivers has to the community. CSCU Chancellor Terrence Cheng advocated for the school, saying, “Without the work that this campus does, there would be a huge hole in this community and in this region. [...] So that dialogue is key in terms of letting them know the value that CT State, Three Rivers, and our entire system bring to the state.”

Terrence Cheng also shared his perspective on the current state of the budget, expressing that, “We are in such a hard position because the budget that was passed by the state has put so much kind of constraint on our operation. [...] We have been told over and over again that we need to live within our means. Meaning, [...] ‘this is the budget you got. Go make it work.’ Well to make it work, we’ve had to make some really painful reductions.



CT State President Dr. John Meduko giving a presentation to local legislators and TRCC representatives.

We've had to increase tuition, and it puts even more burden on the backs of students. [...] It's horrible. And we've been very communicative and clear about that impact with our legislators and with our state leaders. [...] What we're trying to do is basically say, 'OK, we need more. We cannot continue to cut our way to success. [...] If you want Connecticut people to stay here and live here and work here, we got to do better. [...] We got to do right by them.' And so, we're trying to carry that message with as much kind of volume and ferocity as we can because that's what our folks deserve. So that's not always seen in self, but that's our job and we're out there doing what we can." Both parties are currently working to strengthen

their relationship, so additional communication can be made. A major issue is that problems within the school system are being addressed to the legislature too late. This complicates finding solutions to state-wide problems, such as the CT State budget. State Senator Catherine Osten gave light to this issue, stating, "What I would like to see is an ongoing relationship so that [we're] not meeting whenever there's a big problem, so that people understand the legislative process. [...] Without understanding that legislative process, you bring a problem to someone that's in the legislature often too late for it to be dealt with. And I think that that's really what we have to start looking at is: how do you have that ongoing relationship with people so that everybody understands the whole legislative process?" Senator Osten noted that the legislature is currently

midway in the budget adjustment. Osten expressed that she has two top priorities, non-profits and community colleges, because they impact people directly. According to Osten, the Connecticut General Assembly is currently, "[...] gathering all the data and trying to make a decision on where [the legislature] can best move things around. But anything that we put into community colleges comes from another part of the budget, and not a non-using part of the budget. So, anything that we put in is going to be a cut someplace else."

CT State has recently opened PACT to students outside of Connecticut, in hopes to improve student enrollment. Osten explains, "If we had more students in seats that solves a lot of the problems. [...] If we can get more people to come here to go to school, then we increase the revenue that the system is getting [...]. I'd like to see it build back up to what it was pre pandemic, [...] in regards to number of students. And I think that that will help us get things back up. But we really need to open up the schools and get more people interested in taking courses in higher education, and right now the country is turning away from higher education. [We have] to figure out why."

The Dean's List Reception

A celebration of excellence

Article by: Derek Denis



Dean Kem Barfield congratulating an honor's student.

On February 12th, students who were placed on the Fall 2023 semester Honors List had the pleasure of celebrating their achievements at the Dean's List Reception Ceremony.

The event was hosted in the multi-purpose room and Honors students were treated with light refreshments catered by the campus cafeteria. Students were welcomed by the Three Rivers President Jukoski, as she expressed her admiration for the hard work the student body has put in. Her welcoming speech was

followed by a congratulations from Dean Barfield, who also introduced the event's guest speakers. Professor Kevin Amenta spoke about the importance of the Honors Program. Professor Todd Barry informed students about Phi Theta Kappa, and Professor James Sherrard talked about how Epsilon Pi Tau promotes excellence in technology and engineering.

Following the guest speakers, each honors student was individually recognized for their excellence and shook hands with the Dean, Kem Barfield. Barfield shows a

high level of respect for the honors students, stating, "[...] When you get a certificate from us or when you get a degree from us, it shows that you can take a road map and follow the road map. Whatever that plan is, you have the ability to follow the plan. And so the Dean's list is an early thing that recognizes that kind of student. [...] The person that can take the plan and follow the plan, those are the leaders. [...] Those are people who go on to other colleges and they not only succeed, but they lead."

Recognizing the next generation of leaders is important to the staff of Three Rivers. Dr. Becca Kitchell, the Associate Dean of Student Development, highlights the significance of the Dean's List Reception, saying the award is more than, "just a piece of paper." She states, "It shows that you have perseverance, resilience, [and] academic achievement. It's a matter of accomplishment that deserves to be celebrated."

The staff at Three Rivers dedicate themselves to pushing their students forward in their academic career. This event serves as a way to celebrate high achieving students, as well as motivate others to become high achievers.

When asked what a student should do to make the Dean's List, Barfield himself stated, "Come in, figure out the big picture. [...] What do you want to gain from this experience here in your classroom? [...] With that goal, then expand and figure out what the steps are that need to happen to achieve that goal. Second, we've got a lot of resources. Don't necessarily try to do it all on your own. Talk to others you know. Figure out who your crew is. Talk to the professors. Utilize their office hours, utilize the tutoring center when you need it, form peer groups and work together in those peer groups. [...] Students that do those things [...] will persevere."



Dean's list recipients celebrating their accomplishment.

Sheila Skahan's Retirement

An impactful career in early childhood education

Article by: Jonathon Santangelo

In the world of early childhood education, Sheila Skahan's journey stands as a testament to resilience and determination. Her path wasn't paved with privilege, but rather forged through 12-hour workdays to secure access to quality education.

As she retires from her role as an early childhood educator at TRCC, her career is a living embodiment of the "grit" emphasized by TRCC Middle College Principal, Brad Columbus. Sheila's career didn't start at TRCC; it began in the vibrant city of Boston. Armed with an undergraduate degree from Lesley University and a graduate degree from Wheelock College, she immersed herself in diverse educational experiences.

From researching with Dr. Brazelton to working at IBM's pioneering Work/Family Directions, her journey took her from "ideal" child care programs to chasing chickens on Head Start playgrounds in Guam. The turning point came when she worked at Connecticut College's Lab School, setting the stage for her eventual move to TRCC.



Sheila Skahan grading an assignment.

"When I started in this field, child care was novel."
- Sheila Skahan

Reflecting on her decades-long career, Sheila's advice to aspiring early childhood educators is profound. In a field that has evolved from a "gold rush" era, she encourages future educators to roll up their sleeves, emphasizing the dire need for passionate individuals. "When I started in this field, child care was novel", Sheila reflects on the beginning of her field.

Sheila's stories, like that of a child with an incarcerated father, serve as a poignant reminder of the impact educators can have on young lives.

"I asked, as the class was creating family portraits, 'Who else lives with you?'"

His response, 'My dad doesn't live in my house, [because] he is in jail.'

My response, 'Do you ever get to see him?'

His response, 'Only in my dreams.'"

Sheila addresses the challenges faced both as an early childhood preschool teacher and a college professor. From minimal pay and respect in the preschool setting to navigating accreditation complexities and a declining student population in academia, her journey hasn't been without hurdles.

Sheila spoke on the rapid decline in the ECE field, "Statewide, the numbers of those enrolled in ECE had dropped 65%. Our program had 160 students, and now we have 60. Why? In the last decades, students often want to be behavioral interventionists, A.B.A. certified, certified teachers- and who can blame them?" She elaborates, "This trend is not representative of only TRCC, but this is a country wide crisis."

However, she also speaks of the rewards - the simple yet profound gift of spending an hour with a child, understanding their world, and seeing it as a precious opportunity.

As Sheila steps into retirement, she humbly shies away from grandiose notions of leaving a legacy. Instead, she sees humility as a virtue. Her impact, however, is undeniable. In the face of statewide declines in early childhood education enrollment, Sheila's work stands as a beacon.



Sarah Price teaching her students how to paint.



Cassie Walton conversing with her students.

Her dedication has not only shaped the TRCC ECE department but has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless students. Sheila Skahan's journey in early childhood education is a narrative of perseverance, passion, and humility. As she takes a well-deserved step back, her impact on the field and the lives she touched will undoubtedly resonate for years to come.

We appreciate Sheila for opening up for this interview, and we hope to shine a spotlight because of her valuable time here at TRCC. Once again, from the early childhood department & everyone else, thank you Sheila!



Rows of students gaze on the powerful Harriet Tubman act. Courtesy of Maximillian Hillyer.

Harriet Tubman Reenactment

A symbol of endurance and liberation

Article by: Benjamin Garay

This February, we celebrated Black History Month by remembering the arduous journey that black people had to go through. We also remember several characters who were pillars for the development of the freedom of African American slaves and the rights of black people. One of the most notable people of this time was Harriet Tubman. By freeing many slaves, she became a symbol of hope and freedom for African Americans.

Harriet Tubman was a social activist who, upon escaping slavery, dedicated herself to rescuing other slaves, including her family. She led 13 rescue missions to save slaves in Maryland. She later participated in the

"There will be no progress without strength."

- Adwoa Eandele-Asante

American Civil War. She rescued 700 slaves during this time. She worked as a cook, nurse, and spy. Tubman achieved what was impossible at that time, especially as a woman, which at the time was frowned upon, but she demonstrated that women can also leave a mark on history.

On Wednesday, February 28, at CT State Three Rivers College, a reenactment was organized to remember the legacy of Harriet Tubman. At 12:30, the talk began, and a woman representing Harriet Tubman appeared, singing the song "This train is bound for glory." It recounted the life of this incredible woman through the singing of songs of the time.

Speaking with gentleness and serenity, she said inspiring phrases like, "There will be no progress without strength." Everyone present could not stop admiring the woman. Many college students and

members of the community attended the event and were impressed by the performance. People did not expect the reenactor to convey Tubman's message through song. Laura-Lillian Best, an attendee of the

event, was inspired by the performance, stating, "Music is powerful. Music binds us all together. It's an earthly tether. So really, I'm impressed with her ability to sing."

With loud applause, the speech ended by giving us a message of

victory in the face of adversity. This event deepened our appreciation for the significance of Black History Month and allowed us to delve into the lives of those who bravely fought for the rights and well-being of their community. Even in the bleakest of times, they were beacons of hope, inspiring us to reflect on their courage and resilience.

"Music is powerful. Music binds us all together. It's an earthly tether. So really, I'm impressed with her ability to sing."

- Laura-Lillian Best



Adwoa Eandele-Asante. Courtesy of Maximillian Hillyer.



Event-goers Habibah Abdul-Hakaeem and Laura-Lillian Best. Courtesy of Maximillian Hillyer.



AT&T Network Outage

Service disruption sparks frustration

Article by: Jesse Bisunia

On February 22nd, one of the nation's largest and most dependable cellular carriers had a sudden outage that affected tens of thousands of Americans in an instant and lasted almost the entire day. This nation-wide malfunction had a huge impact on personal and business relations.

A local resident of New London and AT&T customer stated they had no way of communicating with their workplace or their children while they were out. "It was frustrating, for sure. I felt like we were back in the 1970s. We as a society have gotten so glued to these [devices], that we don't know what to do when we lose [the] internet."

It's a cold, hard fact in the world we know today that we've come to learn that the ubiquitousness of smartphones means a feeling of total isolation and helplessness. We do everything on them, including communications, entertainment, banking, educational productivity, and much more. Losing service leaves people cut off from their social circles and impairs their work-related affairs by inhibiting prompt response rates, or lack thereof.

AT&T customers experienced this dissatisfaction on that Friday, and as a result, AT&T has decided to reimburse the affected customers with a \$5 credit, which would essentially apply to their next billing cycle. This number was the estimated cost that the duration of the outage would've cost the average citizen to use the cellular data.



The vice president of public policy, telecommunications, and fraud, John Breyault, urged citizens affected to proactively claim the value that they lost, as companies will not automatically reimburse the credit nor are they obligated to if nobody pursues the case. When the customers take legal matters into their own hands, the job will get done, and sometimes with urgency.

Breyault proclaimed, "My advice to consumers is, if you were impacted by this, don't wait for AT&T to make the determination" as to whether you qualify for a credit. "Call and say, 'I was impacted by this. I want to make sure I get the credit,'" he added. Breyault continued with a comparison of various services and

their reimbursement policies. The federal law that governs the airline industry entitles consumers to a full refund in the case of flight cancellations, yet a consumer protection policy doesn't exist in the wireless field.

"It was frustrating, for sure. I felt like we were back in the 1970s."

- New London Resident

The Federal Communications Commission in January proposed a policy that would require rebates for consumers who encounter blackouts on cable or satellite television subscriptions, and rightfully so. Susan Weinstock is the CEO of the Consumer Federation of America and a huge advocate for consumers getting their money's worth. In the wake of the cellular outage, she stated, "It's a time thing... I think it'd be worth it to always contact your carrier and say, 'I had an outage. It wasn't my fault; you owe me money. You should cover the cost of this.'"

The rapidly increasing dependence of internet and mobile communication emphasizes the severity of disconnection from the world, downplaying the importance of strong digital infrastructure while reminding us about challenges associated with unequal access to technology.



Local AT&T retailer.



Article by: Johnathon Santangelo

As college students have experienced, embarking on the journey of higher education is a pivotal moment in one’s life. Now, as TRCC students, we often think if we’ve made the correct decision or forget how fortunate we are to be taking classes at a community college in the landscape of higher education, community colleges and universities serve as two prominent pillars.

Understanding the differences between these institutions is essential for making an informed opinion that aligns with individual aspirations, goals, and circumstances. Let’s delve into the specific benefits that make community colleges stand out as dynamic institutions, offering a springboard to success for those embarking on their educational pursuits.

Affordability and Accessibility:

As we all know, community colleges have long been recognized as beacons of affordability, which makes quality education accessible to a wide range of students. Here at TRCC, incoming and current students are fortunate enough to qualify for the PACT program.

The Pledge to Advance CT (PACT) funding bridges the gap between federal and state grants, community college tuition, and extra mandatory fees. Many students coming into Three Rivers and other CT State community colleges, or even the ones reading right now, have an immense weight lifted off their shoulders due to this program.

Compared to traditional universities around Connecticut, such as UCONN, Eastern State University, and Central State University, their tuition costs alone reach upwards into 5 figures. With tuition costs often significantly lower than those universities, community colleges ensure that financial barriers don’t hinder the pursuit of a degree.

Flexibility in Scheduling:

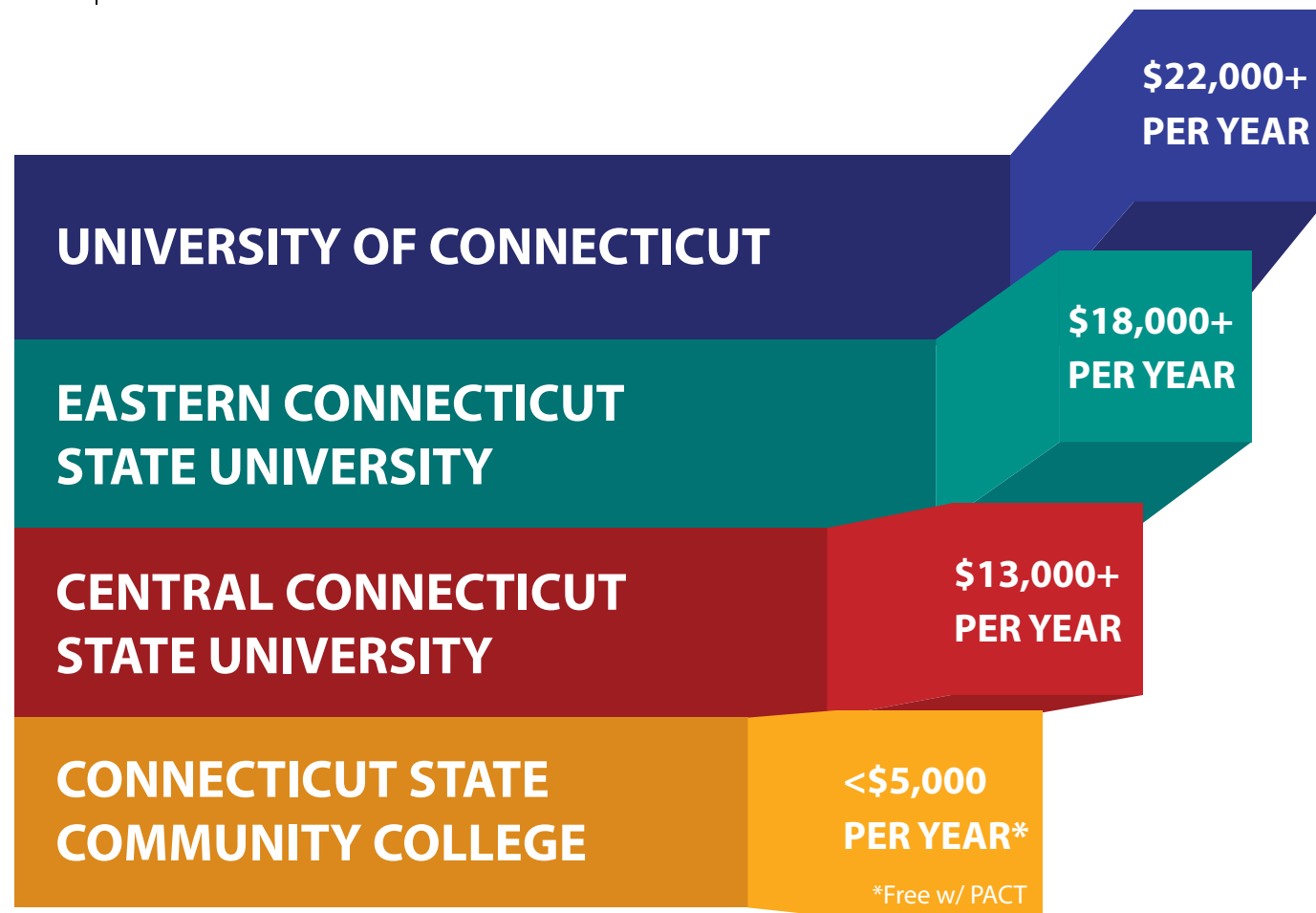
Our community college embraces the reality that education is not one-size-fits-all. Community colleges promote a flexible class schedule, including evening and online options. Especially in Connecticut’s case, students have been granted the option to take more classes due to the merger of other community colleges. For instance, one class that isn’t offered at Three Rivers could be seamlessly completed online at another campus, such as Tunxis.

It is also not required to have a full-time schedule, which means students integrate education into their lives, whether they are working professionals, parents, or individuals with unique scheduling needs. While there are somewhat flexible options for universities, there are certain restrictions that start to deplete the purpose of going to a traditional university. One glaring example is that living in a dorm is usually only accessible to full-time students, which could be an inconvenience to those having to commute a long distance. Community colleges understand each unique living situation and offer many avenues to progress a higher education.

Personalized Attention in Small Class Sizes:

One of the hallmarks of community college education is the intimate learning environment. Due to community colleges’ smaller enrollment numbers, the class sizes foster meaningful connections between students and instructors, creating an atmosphere where questions are encouraged and personalized guidance is readily available. This close-knit community ensures that no student feels lost in the crowd.

While this benefit is nice, it’s ultimately a personal preference whether a student is more independent or requires more help. Some people may enjoy the fact that universities offer larger class sizes, whether to meet more friends or an easier opportunity to start a study group.



Seamless Transfer Opportunities:

While the community college option is a much more attractive option for the reasons said above, students can only achieve an associate's degree until they are left with their decision: continue their education or pursue the workforce.

Places like Three Rivers is a great stepping stone to starting a higher education, allowing students to complete their gen-ed courses for little to no cost.

Logistics aside, it's also a misconception that community college is "easier" than university. A survey of 143 campus administrators was conducted, and it was found that "roughly a quarter of transfer students perform better than

their native students, while about half perform as well." It's safe to say that if you are transferring to a university after the spring semester, you are already well-equipped with the endurance and knowledge required to excel in a 4-year program.

Community colleges serve as launch pads for ambitious individuals aiming to pursue a bachelor's degree at another campus. Three Rivers has established strong transfer agreements with esteemed universities, enabling students to smoothly transition from community college to the next phase of their academic journey.

Mohegan Sun Cannabis Expo

The growth of New England's marijuana industry continues

Article by: Jesse Bisunia



Mohegan Sun Expo Center.

The Mohegan Sun's third annual cannabis expo, since the state-wide legalization, took place February 24th through the 25th and it featured a cannabis business convention, trade show and the X Cup, which was a judged cannabis competition.

Visitors were offered networking opportunities, learned more about the production of marijuana, cannabis, hemp, and CBD products by attending educational and informative seminars, and partook in panel discussions about the current cannabis political climate, existing legislation, and new business opportunities.

The award ceremony for the X Cup, described as "New England's most rigorously tested and judged cannabis competition" with seven categories of entry, took place on that Sunday, which recognized some of the top cannabis products from the region. The seven categories include Indica, Sativa, Pre-Roll, Pre-Roll enhanced, concentrates, edibles and tinctures/capsules.

These categories can be broken down even more into subcategories and so on. This was a very lively event for the stoner community.

For anyone interested in a small history lesson, the backstory of marijuana spans a millennia, with Cannabis sativa having been utilized by various cultures specifically in the far east for medicinal, recreational and industrial purposes. From ancient China to the Middle East, marijuana has played a significant role in society throughout history. In more recent times it became associated with counterculture movements before experiencing periods of prohibition and stigma due to its complicated journey through legal systems from country to country. The plant is now seeing greater acceptance worldwide thanks to potential therapeutic benefits being recognized alongside cultural practices and societal attitudes contributing towards an evolving reputation surrounding cannabis today.

Saint Patrick's Day

From patron saint to global cultural phenomenon

Article by: Benjamin Garay



Saint Patrick's Day celebration in downtown Norwich. Courtesy of Drew Denis.

Every year, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated, a day where people organize various stops in their cities, decorating and dressing in green and playing music in an Irish style. Many Americans already take this holiday as a tradition; just like Christmas or Halloween, St. Patrick's Day has become an important holiday in American culture. But why do they celebrate an Irish tradition in the United States?

The story takes place many years ago, with the arrival of the Irish migrants. But here we will also include its origin and how it ended up influencing the United States. The celebration originates in the 5th century and is associated with the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. Born in Britain but kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland, he was a pastor for a few years until he escaped and returned to Britain to become a clergyman and much later a bishop. In the end, he

decided to return to Ireland to share Christianity with the community. They say that he used the 3-leaf clover to explain the concept of the divine trinity, which is where the iconic symbol of the clover comes from. St. Patrick was highly respected, and until the day of his death, people dedicated a festival to him on March 17 as a tribute.

As time went by, St. Patrick's Day evolved into a more cultural holiday, representing Ireland. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Irish immigrants arrived in the US. They were mainly found in cities like New York, Boston, Chicago, etc. In later times, large communities of Irish had been established in many areas of the United States. As the Irish population had grown. More places began to celebrate this holiday. Thus, the Irish were able to maintain their customs by locating themselves in different environments. As time went by, the holiday became more general, including many other people from other cultures. Nowadays, the holiday has gained another meaning: the welcome of spring. Now many cities organize parades on Sundays, and the atmosphere is transformed with green nature decorations. Finally, they prepare dinners with typical Irish food, such as spring lamb. Many people enjoy this day, and that is what must be appreciated—the cultural value that St. Patrick Day has for all people.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Article by: Maximillian Hillyer

March is here, and with that, are a few holidays to celebrate. Women's History Month marks the importance of women's contributions to our society, culture, and history. This holiday was founded on March 8th, 1911. The purpose of this was to focus on the demands for better working conditions, and issues affecting women.

The day celebration later became a week-long celebration during the week of March 8th. This later became a nation-wide holiday and celebration. In 1987, congress passed the petition for the entire month of March to celebrate women.

Topics involving women's struggles, experiences, history, and achievements are brought to light during this month. March expresses the work that has been done with gender equality, and the work that needs to continue. This article will talk about important inspirational women who have made huge accomplishments throughout history.



Prudence Crandall (1803-1890)

Prudence Crandall was an important abolitionist and teacher for young African American girls during the time of slavery. Born in Rhode Island in 1803; Crandall was raised in a Quaker family. When she was ten years old, she moved to Canterbury, CT. In 1831, Crandall would soon open an all-girls private academy.

Crandall would admit Sarah Harris, an African American girl, into the school. This would spark outrage and anger in the town of Canterbury. Residents of Canterbury would gather into a mob and vandalize and damage the academy. Prudence would close down the school, worrying about the children at stake.

Crandall moved to Illinois where she ran a school and participated in the women's suffrage movement.



Prudence Crandal, courtesy of *Connecticut History*.

Harriet Tubman (1822-1913)

Harriet Tubman, like Crandall, was an abolitionist who was born into slavery in 1822. Soon escaping to the North around 1849, she would later go back to help in rescuing more slaves.

Known as one of the most famous underground railroad conductors, Tubman would make around thirteen separate trips to the south to rescue around seventy enslaved people.

During the war, she would become a nurse and spy for the union army. Tubman would be the first woman to lead an expedition and guide the Combahee River Raid. This event would free and liberate over 700 enslaved people. After the war, Tubman would continue to fight against African American Rights, and women's suffrage.



Harriet Tubman, courtesy of *Battlefields*.



Amelia Earhart, courtesy of Britannica.

Amelia Earhart (1897-1937)

Amelia Earhart was known as a world-renowned American aviator. In her life, she gained numerous achievements, breaking several records in aviation.

Records of altitude and speed were broken by her. This would pave the way and promote the advancement of women's roles in piloting. One of her most notable accomplishments was her being the only woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

Seeking to be the first woman to fly around the world, Earhart would go missing on an expedition on July 2, 1937. It is presumed that she had crashed in some part of the ocean near the equator. To this day her plane and body has never been found or recovered. This is one of the greatest mysteries in aviation history.

Helen Keller (1880-1968)

Helen Keller, a humanitarian, educator, and writer, did not let any disability stop her from accomplishing her goals. Born deaf and blind, Keller worked around these disabilities. She was the first blind-deaf person to receive a bachelors of Arts degree. This gave inspiration to many others with the same difficulties, proving that anything is possible.

Throughout her life, Keller would write many books, one of which was autobiographies about her life and experiences. In 1964, Keller would receive The Presidential medal of Freedom, which is one of the highest civilian honors.

Keller would continue her life advocating and promoting disability rights, striving for equality for all. Her legacy and what she left behind became a symbol of equality and inspiration that anything is possible.



Helen Keller, courtesy of Britannica.



Rosa Parks, courtesy of New York Times.

Rosa Parks (1913-2005)

Rosa Parks is one of the most important people in the Civil Rights Movement. A notable event that she sparked was the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Parks defied the norms, and did not let her seat get taken by a white man when asked to move. Due to this courageous act, she was later arrested. This sparked the boycott where many saw her as a symbol to go against racial discrimination, and segregation. Her act led people to rebel.

She would soon be a part of the civil rights movement working alongside major leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. Throughout the rest of her life, she would continue to stand up and resist oppression. Parks would fight against issues involving social justice, voting rights, and racism.

Learn more about
Women's History:





The 2024 MLB Season

Spring training is in full swing

Editorial by: Jesse Bisunia

It seems like just yesterday the 2023 MLB season concluded with a historic run as Texas claimed their first championship in team history, but here we find ourselves at the dawn of a new baseball season in its 121 year history. It's been a wild offseason leading up to this point from Juan Soto heading across the country to the Big Apple to Japan's two most premier athletes reuniting in Los Angeles, there's so much to unpack and the big question lies ahead. Who will come out on top?







As last season slowly came to end, it was apparent in every sportsbook that the Los Angeles Dodgers are clear favorites to win the 2024 World Series, and those odds became more prominent as they added several aces to the mound including Tyler Glasnow, Yoshinobu

Yamamoto, and baseball's dual threat sensation Shohei Ohtani, but this tune has been sung before. Can the Dodgers finally get over that hill, or is the playoff thorn going to get the best of them once again. The Dodgers won their first chip since 1988 back in 2020 but many baseball fans questioned the legitimacy of the championship since it was won during the shortened season. Long story short, yes, they earned it fair and square because all other 29 teams had the same fair shot to win it, but regardless of that thought-process, the Dodgers are poised to win one in a full season once again so they can get over that hump. Who are their biggest threats in the NL though? For starters, we don't even need to travel that far from Greater Los Angeles to recognize a potential threat. The NL was represented by one of the league's scariest underdogs coming out





of the same division, the Arizona Diamondbacks. Can they replicate a similar strong playoff run this season? Who's to say they can't? No title is guaranteed, that's why we play the games, but we all know a Cinderella story when we see one and if you had to put down \$100 on who will be crowned king of the NL West, there's no debate you have to roll with men in blue. Traveling across the country to the east, we come across LA's biggest threat in the conference, the Atlanta Braves, who have been head and shoulders the lions of the league for several years now. Only 2 teams in the MLB have recorded triple digits in the win column the previous two seasons. Yes, you guessed it. The Dodgers and the Braves. With these two powerhouses running the NL, with a little bit of the Mets, Phillies and Padres sprinkled over the top, there's no doubt in my mind the NL is going to be a heck of a show.

Shifting gears to the opposing conference, the AL has had their own little powerhouse running the show down in Houston for several years and the question was raised every year. Who will knock them off?

American League picks

- 1  **NEW YORK YANKEES**
- 2  **TEXAS RANGERS**
- 3  **MINNESOTA TWINS**
- 4  **HOUSTON ASTROS**
- 5  **BALTIMORE ORIOLES**
- 6  **TAMPA BAY RAYS**

National League picks

- 1  **LOS ANGELES DODGERS**
- 2  **ATLANTA BRAVES**
- 3  **CHICAGO CUBS**
- 4  **PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**
- 5  **ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS**
- 6  **SAN DIEGO PADRES**

On paper, the New York Yankees seemed best fitted to complete that mission for the past decade but the Astros have had their number the whole time, having routed the Yankees the last four times they met in the playoffs dating back to 2015. So all seemed hopeless and it appeared to be Houston's league to lose, until perhaps the recent emergence of teams like the Tampa Bay Rays, the Baltimore Orioles and cross state rivals and defending World Series champs Texas Rangers. Even the Boston Red Sox have had their couple years of glory here and there, having recently won a championship in 2018 and coming up a series shy in 2021 against the Astros. With so much young raw talent around the American League, it's hard to say which teams will be the last ones standing but there's a definitive pool of select teams that will surely make a push for it.

"Dune: Part Two" Review

Review by: Lee Metzger

If I hear one more person say they didn't read the books because they were too dry, I am going to lose it.

DUNE pt. II is Denis Villeneuve's continuation of his series centering on the incredibly complicated and nuanced galaxy-spanning fantasy/sci-fi source material originally penned by Frank Herbert and published from 1942-1993.

Widely considered to be an "unfilmable" property a la the Watchmen series, Villeneuve's second crack at displaying the property on screen has been as masterful as the first DUNE film from 2021.

With the cast expanding to include newcomers Christopher Walken, Florence Pugh, Austin Butler, and more, DUNE pt. II set out to expand the narrative from the titular DUNE to the far reaches of space and examine the "plans within plans" of the galactic empire.

From a narrative storytelling standpoint, DUNE pt. II excels tremendously. The scale of the story cannot be overstated. Where Star Wars can sometimes seem like a story of one family's turmoil and the galaxy the story takes place in can feel diminutive, DUNE truly feels massive. From the sand dunes of Arrakis (the empirical name given to the planet Dune) to the infrared-washed wastes of the Harkonnen homeworld of Giedi Prime, the magnitude of the narrative never feels less than immense. Especially with the introduction of Walken's Emperor storyline. What was a story between two feuding houses in the first DUNE? The expansion into the politics of the imperium in the second film fleshes out the machinations that the Atreides and Harkonnen houses were fighting against, and perhaps with.



"Dune: Part Two" promotional poster.

The new characters in this film are also welcome additions. Florence Pugh's Princess Irulan is a breath of fresh air in a film so polluted by rotten schemes planned by an emperor light years away from where any bloodshed may occur. This altruism was also immediately counteracted by Austin Butler's Feyd Rautha, a sadomasochist obsessed with power and humiliation. Both characters are so much more than these distillations, however. Where Pugh's Irulan may seem naive in one scene, she is also depicted as wise and discerning in the next. And Butler's Rautha is not just a hulk of murderous flesh but also an extremely clever antagonist.

These put against our returning heroes from the first DUNE make for a fabulous movie about trust, lies, heresy, and the power of religion in a way that I have never seen explored in a film, much less a fantasy or sci-fi flick. The way religion was depicted and analyzed in this film had me particularly intrigued. Paul Atriedes, along with his mother, the lone survivor of the Harkonnen-led genocide of House Atreides, elucidates the intricacies of being put onto a pedestal as a prophet, savior, and messiah to the people of Arrakis. His mother, Lady Jessica, is one of a millenia-spanning sect of religious zealots called the Bene Gesserit. Through mental conditioning over thousands of years, the Bene Gesserit have unlocked superhuman powers, like being able to command people to do things through the power of their voice. They have also participated in the planned procreation of the main powerful houses throughout the galaxy to enact their plan of religious engineering. Through a machination called "Missionaria Protectiva," the Bene Gesserit would spread to underdeveloped planets and cultures and spread infectious superstitions, which would make these regions susceptible to exploitation by the Bene Gesserit. It's quite an ingenious use of weaponized religion. If you had the ability to convince a region of a coming prophet by saying "the prophet will come to you from another land, be wearing blue, and be able to speak your native tongue," and then just teach somebody to speak the language and wear

blue robes when you send them to this new region—boom, you've got a prophet. It is this practice and the ideology behind it that really take center stage in this film. Paul knows of the "Missionaria Protectiva" when they land on Arrakis in Villeneuve's first film and detests the notion that these people look to him as their coming savior. They are an oppressed people, beaten down by the Harkonnens for decades, and with the arrival of this new, more honorable house, they see their salvation. But it is all a ruse, as placed carefully by the Bene Gesserit. And it is the main idea that Paul fights against. Paul is a good man who wants to do right by the people who sheltered him and his mother after his family was wiped out. But the idea that he is some sort of messianic figure disgusts him. He wants these people to be free of the lies of the Bene Gesserit, while also, just by virtue of being a good person who is well educated and a competent fighter, slowly fulfilling the prophecies manufactured by his mother and her religious sect. It is an incredible meditation on the exploitative nature of religion, and I highly recommend anyone go and see this tremendous film.

9/10 highly recommend.

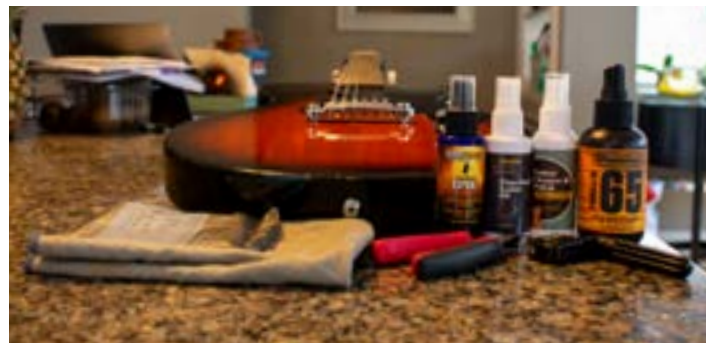
According to
Rotten Tomatoes: 98%

Audience Score: 95%

Guitar Restring Lesson

Written by: Maximillian Hillyer

Learning guitar can be really fun and enjoyable, but there are sometimes things like cleaning and restringing that aren't too fun. Yet, they are so crucial for your guitar and your playing. Bad old strings will build up grime and dirt from your fingers, and will start to make the guitar feel worse than it is. Cleaning the guitar keeps it at a fresh look, and just as good as when you got it. This lesson will have a step step process on how to restring and clean your guitar so you can keep rocking out.



This is a display of all the materials and supplies you would need to get started. It is good to layout everything in front or near you, as it makes the process easier. Cleaners used for this are the guitar body polish, and lemon oil for the fretboard. Materials being used are a string cutter, string winder, a cloth to wipe down the cleaners, and of course, new strings. Guitar or online stores will have restring and cleaning bundles ready to go with all this content inside.



Use the string winder to loosen up all the strings before cutting them. If the strings were put on correctly, moving your hand clockwise should loosen them.

After loosening the strings, use the string cutter to cut all the strings. Cut in the middle and unwrap all of them from the tuning heads, and remove from the bridge. Strings have sharp pointy edges, so carefully wrap them up in a coil and throw them out.



Once there are no strings on the guitar, now starts the cleaning process. Grab your cloth and guitar body polish, and spray and wipe. It is ok to spray directly on the guitar, but spraying on the cloth is just as fine. Go in a circular motion to get rid of all the dust and dirt. Make sure to get all the corners and spots. Don't forget to clean the headstock of the guitar.

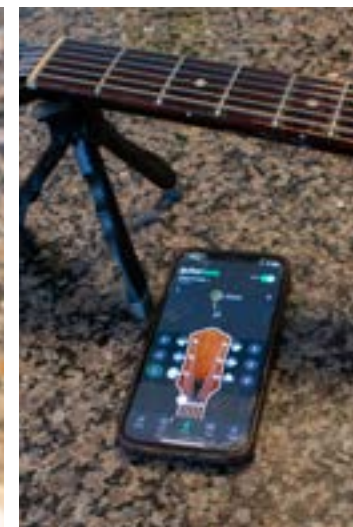


After cleaning the body and headstock of the guitar, let's move on to the neck. Make sure to use a lemon oil fretboard cleaner. This will not only clean, but hydrate your guitar's fretboard. The color of the fretboard immediately darkens when applied, making it look healthier right off the bat. Wipe in a circular motion to, and make sure to get all of the frets. If you added too much just wipe down the excess with a cloth.

Apply all of the strings to the bridge of the guitar to get ready to restring. Some players just do one sting at a time, but that's up to you. Keeping everything together makes it a little easier.

Guitar bridges also vary, as there are some that would need the string to go through the body from the backside. This guitar just needs everything done from the top.

A neat trick is to extend all the strings two tuning pegs away from the one you are working on and use the string cutter to cut there. This is about the perfect amount of length, so when the strings wrap around the tuning machine, there isn't too much or too little.



While you are restringing, make sure you are using the string winder, and going in a counterclockwise direction. To know if you are doing it right, the strings will be wrapped from the inside of the headstock shown in the picture.

Once all the strings are on the guitar, grab any sort of tuner and tune up. The strings are new so they are going to need time, playing, and stretching for them to keep tune. Best thing for you to do to new strings is just play. After a couple of days, they should keep at the same note.



CT State Community College

Academic Calender

Written by: Jesse Bisunia

You're not alone. It's okay to fall short. It's not the end of the world. If you feel like you're struggling this late into the semester, approach your professors and academic advisors about any solutions to help put you back on track. Assess whether withdrawing from a class is the best option for you without affecting your GPA. If you're planning to return after the spring semester, be cognizant of registration protocols. Classes fill up quickly, and you don't want any holds preventing you from signing up for your classes in order to graduate at your planned pace.

- March 5 - Registration for Summer 2024 Opens at 9 a.m.
- March 11 - March 17: Spring Break Recess (NO CLASSES)
- March 29 - Incomplete Deadline
Last day for students to complete their course work for their Fall 2023 course(s)
- March 29 - March 31: Good Friday/Day of Reflection (NO CLASSES)
- April 1: Registration for Fall 2024 Semester Opens at 9 a.m.
- April 12: Withdraw Deadline
- May 6: Last Day of Classes
- May 27: Memorial Day (College Closed)

Word Search / Issue #5

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

Word Bank

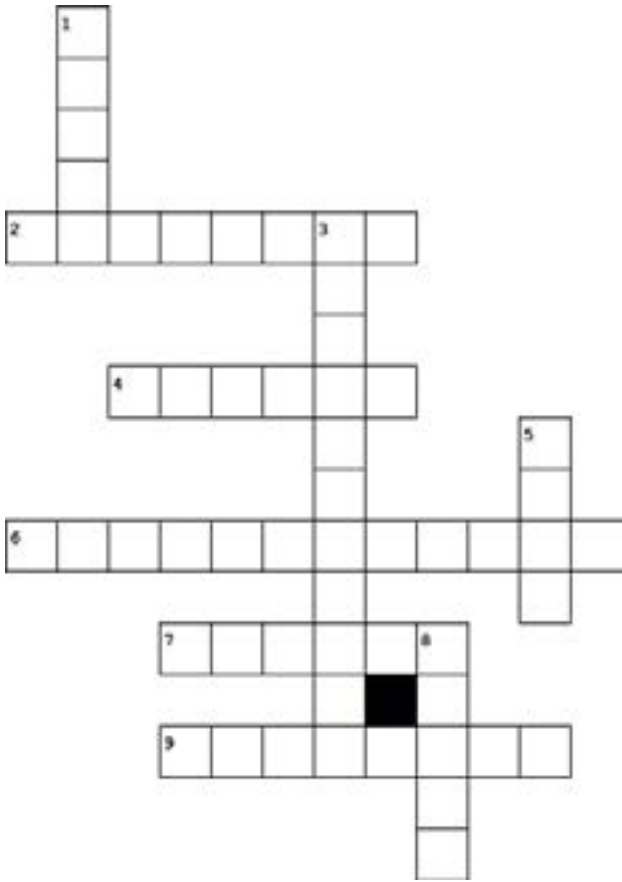
- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. BUNNY | 6. BREEZE |
| 2. FLOWER | 7. EASTER |
| 3. BLOSSOM | 8. SUNLIGHT |
| 4. MEADOW | 9. WARMTH |
| 5. MARCH | 10. LEPRECHAUN |

Scavenger Hunt / Issue #5

Find the hidden LEPRECHAUN in this issue of The Current and e-mail the answer to thecurrentspring2024@gmail.com. Find the hidden items in all 6 issues of the 2024 Spring Semester for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon giftcard!



Crossword Puzzle / Issue #5



Across

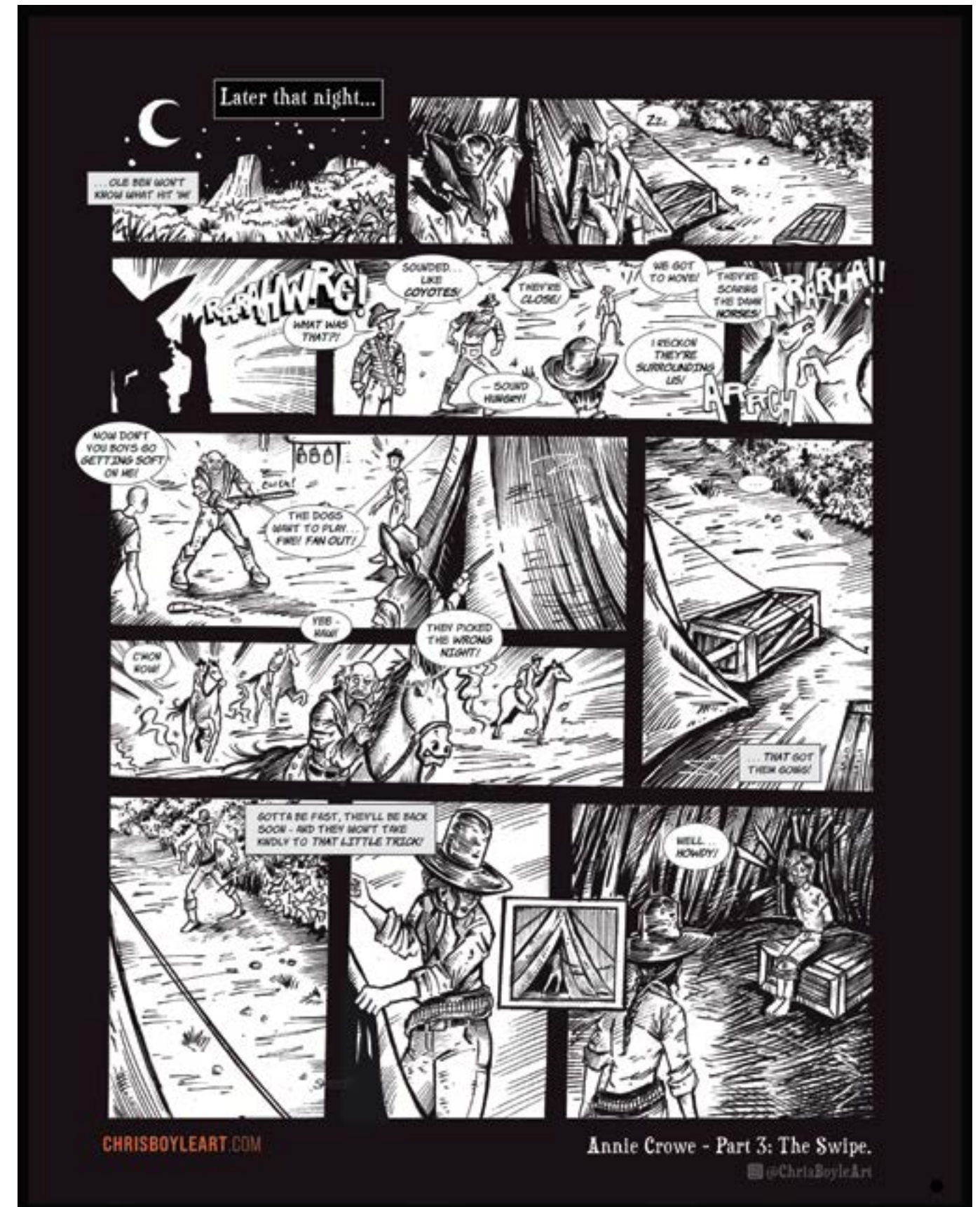
- 2. Symbol of luck with three leaves
- 4. Another term for a shamrock
- 6. Patron Saint of Ireland
- 7. A time or season of growth or development
- 9. Famous Irish stout

Down

- 1. Month when Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated
- 3. A party or festive event
- 5. What finding a four-leaf clover brings
- 8. Color associated with Saint Patrick's day

ACROSS: 1. MARCH, 2. SHAMROCK, 3. CELEBRATION, 4. CLOVER, 5. LUCK, 6. SAINT PATRICK, 7. SPRING, 8. GREEN, 9. GUINNESS

Wyoming, February, 1876.



CHRISBOYLEART.COM

Annie Crowe - Part 3: The Swipe.

@ChrisBoyleArt



NORWICH FITNESS CENTER

STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

3-Months Upfront

This membership is 3 months upfront for the front gym and basketball courts

\$150

1-Month

This membership is 1 month for the front gym and basketball courts

\$55

CrossFit M2M

This is a month to month membership for Crossfit, Front gym and the basketball courts

\$105/per month

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our website

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