

THE SPIRIT

SUPERINTENDENT REINHARDT SPEAKS ON CAPITAL PROJECT; ADDRESSES POTENTIAL COVID SHUTDOWN CONFUSION

By Aiden North

The Capital Project

Last Tuesday on the Sawyer News Network, we had the opportunity to speak with our District Superintendent, Kirk Reinhardt. Despite everything going on in the world, he seems determined to always have a plan. Enter - The Capital Project. In essence, it's a bond provided by the State used to fund improvements in a local school district. In this case, it's ours.

About 15 years ago, Saugerties took out their last bond for about 24 million dollars. So, despite everything going on with COVID-19, Superintendent Reinhardt, along with the Board, feels as though it's a good time to take out another one, as the other debt will soon be coming off the books. The reason is to fill the previous "Debt Service" in order to keep our Tax Levy neutral. Who pays for all of this? Well, the taxpayers of course. However, since the payments are over an extended period of time, it will supposedly cost a lot less for said taxpayers. It's also important to note that one of his key points was that for every dollar spent, the school gets 66 cents back. This overall accelerates the process and is more efficient. So, the question is, what gets the attention from the project?

Unfortunately, if you were thinking about swimming pools, field improvements or better sports equipment, you'll be disappointed. The purpose of this bond specifically is to improve the fundamental and basic structure of our school. In speaking with Mr. Reinhardt, he pointed out that gym work needs to be done, as well as the facades in the 100 and 200 wings, work in the auditorium, more privacy stalls, and for all around work, more vestibules in every school for safety reasons. Overall, the work is pretty basic, but it's his belief that it needs to be done to maintain the integrity of our district.



COVID-19 CONFUSION

In light of the Capital Project, the confusion discussed over Social Media about what would happen should we go back to being fully remote needed to be addressed. When asking the Superintendent about what he meant about his announcements, he mentioned that there had been displeasure with the original plan of doing periods 1-4 on a certain day, and 5-8 on another. So, the plan was to have a shortened school day, where all the periods would be involved. At the time, this was all in the category of what we would do if we needed to shut down. Many people assumed that this meant we were going to shut down which caused lots of concern among parents. Unfortunately, moments after we concluded our interview, we received news that Mt. Marion had temporarily shut down. Fortunately, because we all followed the COVID protocol, we were able to reopen them, and any other school that had to go remote shortly thereafter. With that being said, while the future is unclear as to what may happen with COVID, if need be, we do have plans if things take a turn.

Check out this link to the interview!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NV_dm-x0DkZC4je9Jsdyea0mpiX6tB1W/view

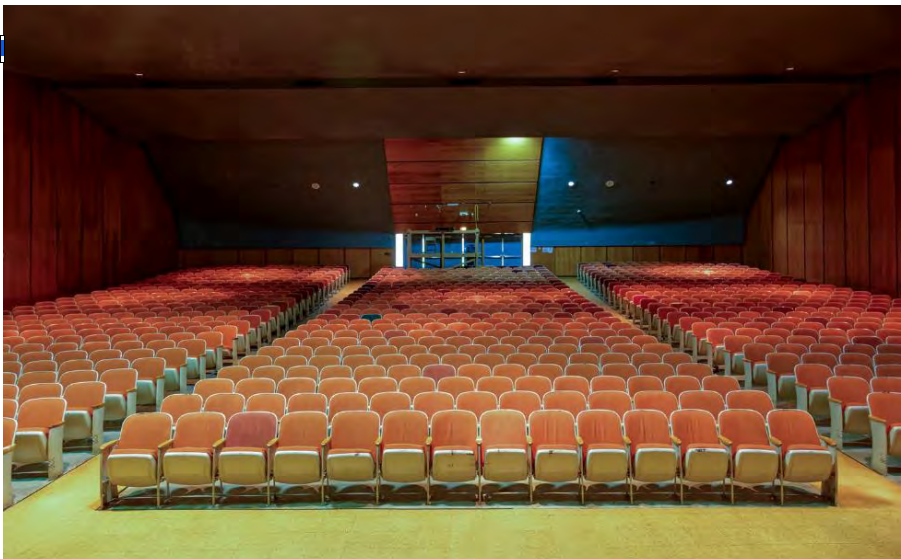
Student Spotlight: **Palak Patel** and the Capital Project By Gabriella DeSantis

Now you may be asking yourself, "What exactly is a Capital Project?" One of the most popular Capital Projects you may have already heard of is the California High-Speed Railway Project that is projected to finish in 2033. This project was started in 2008 and was estimated to cost around 77 billion dollars. That is just one of many examples throughout the world. A Capital Project is a project in which buildings are renovated, improved, and certain areas are replaced to benefit the people working there.

A more comprehensive example of a Capital Project would be the one we are doing right here in Saugerties. In our case, the Capital Project would benefit the students and staff, replacing the old 1950s and 60s appliances and water mains. More specifically, this project would cover fixing potholes in the parking lot, fixing older copper pipes and completing general building maintenance. The project would even replace older classroom doors in the first and second floors (500s & 600s wing) with units that can be better secured in lockdown situations while also complying with ADA requirements.

Even with Covid-19 going around, it was important to also maintain the future health and safety of our building for many years to come. This sort of project is something that needs to be addressed now to provide safe conditions. If these are not addressed, they could lead to more expensive repairs. **Palak Patel**, a student advisor within the project, used a very good example, "If the roof is leaking and you don't address it, the floor is going to be damaged; therefore, you will need to pay for both the roof and floor. By fixing the outdated parts of our schools, we will be creating a better experience for students and staff. No one wants their workplace/school to have a damaged floor or a water stained roof. It is also the right time regarding the tax levy." This highlights why we are still going through with the project. Another reason this project was deemed necessary, is because every five years, New York State mandates that all schools complete a full analysis of the building conditions. Saugerties' last report showed that there needs to be a lot of improvements in the areas of safety/security, infrastructure preservation, code compliance, and building accessibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. These things have to be addressed for the overall well-being and safety of both staff and students of Saugerties Central School District.

You may want to know more about who has to pay for all of these renovations. Well, I'm pleased to inform you that this project does not increase taxes. Palak explained how the Capital Project is funded by NY state when she said, "This project is tax neutral. NY state gives funding to schools for projects like this. \$0.66 of every dollar spent on this project is reimbursed by the state from its budget." In other words, the tax we would normally have to pay for materials and labor is completely covered by the State, as long as we stay within their budget. "Well what about the rest?" you may ask. The district has something called a capital-reserve fund. Several years ago, voters authorized the district to set this fund up to save money for the project. The district has been strategically funding this account whenever they are able to. There is approximately \$395,000 currently in the fund, and most, if not all of that, will be applied to the project.



SPORTS

There is still a lot to talk about!

BY ANTHONY DASILVA

NFL

As we enter week 8 of the NFL season, this is what you need to know. The Pittsburgh Steelers are the only team left without a loss, and the New York Jets are the only team that remain winless. The NFC East is absolutely terrible this year; every team is below .500. The Cowboys did look like they were the leading candidates to win the division until their QB, Dak Prescott, injured his ankle in week 5. The NFC West is the total opposite of the NFC East where they are actually trying to win their division; all teams are above .500 with the Seahawks in first place at 5-1. The Buffalo Bills are easily leading in their division after an impressive season so far by QB Josh Allen.

The NFC North remains competitive with the Green Bay Packers leading the Chicago Bears by half a game. In the AFC North, the 6-0 Steelers lead the 5-1 Baltimore Ravens by one game. There have been some teams that have been disappointments in the first 8 weeks: The Houston Texans (1-6), The Dallas Cowboys (2-5), The New England Patriots (2-4), The Atlanta Falcons (1-6), and The Minnesota Vikings (1-6).

The Houston Texans had a tough schedule to start the season but should've at least won more than 1 game. The Dallas Cowboys defense was a mess from the beginning and now without Dak Prescott, they have no chance of winning. The Patriots new quarterback, Cam Newton, has just not produced, and that is why their record is what it is. The Atlanta Falcons should really be (3-3) but they blew two 15-point 4th-quarter leads to the Bears and Cowboys, respectively. The Vikings have just totally taken a step backward on almost everything. Tom Brady is comfortable already in his new home with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers; they are currently first in their division at (5-2).

College Football

The college football season has begun, but many teams are at different spots in the season. For example, Clemson has played six games, and Michigan has only played one. Because of this, the NCAA has decided that there will be no 6-win bowl requirement. Instead, they will go by winning percentage. Clemson and Alabama are still on track to go to the College Football Playoffs again. Ohio State and Georgia are still in the top five. Oklahoma and LSU are having down years compared to their previous seasons, LSU is unranked after winning the National Championship and Oklahoma is ranked 23rd. Coastal Carolina is Ranked #20, which is the first time in program history that their football team has been ranked in the top 25. Last week, the Big Ten played its first games of the season and the Pac 12 will play its first games of the season on November 7th. QB Trevor Lawrence from Clemson is leading in Heisman voting followed by QB's Mac Jones (Alabama), Justin Fields (Ohio State), Zach Wilson (BYU) and RB's Najee Harris (Alabama) and Travis Etienne (Clemson). Trevor Lawrence, who is a junior at Clemson and anticipated number one overall pick for the upcoming NFL draft, has not completely ruled out staying at Clemson for his senior season.



MLB

This wild and crazy MLB season has finally come to a close. After a shortened 60-game season and extended playoff, the L.A Dodgers defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 4-2 in the World Series. It has been 32 years since the last time the Dodgers won the World Series in 1988. Corey Seager won a World Series MVP and became the eighth player to win League Championship MVP and World Series MVP. Tampa Bay Rays Outfielder, Randy Arozarena, had an outstanding post-season, setting records for hits (29) home runs (10) and total bases (64).

NFL League Leaders

Passing yards- 1. M. Ryan (2,181) 2. D. Watson (2,095) 3. J. Burrow (2,023)
Passing TD- 1. R. Wilson (22) 2. T. Brady (18) A. Rogers (17)
Rushing Yards - 1. D. Henry (663) 2. C. Edwards-Helaire (551) 3. K. Drake (512)
Rushing TD - 1. D. Cook (7) 2. T. Gurley (7) 3. D. Henry (7) Receiving Yards- 1. D. Hopkins (704) 2. R. Anderson (640) 3. C. Ridley (615) Receiving TD - 1. A. Thielen (7) 2. T. Lockett (7), 3. C. Ridley (6) Sacks - 1. M. Garrett (9) 2. A. Donald (8) 3. B. Graham (6)
Interceptions- 1. K. Fuller (4) 2. X. Howard (4) 3. J. Bradberry (3)
Tackles- 1. J. Smith (75) 2. B. Martinez (73) 3. Z. Cunningham (71)



STUDENTS PLAYING SPORTS WHEREVER THEY CAN!

BY MCKENNA ALBERTS

As students slowly return back to school and continue with everyday activities, one major component is still missing from our lives: sports. Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, high-school sports have come to a halt, but that hasn't stopped local travel teams and preparation for upcoming seasons from being in full swing. One of our local travel softball teams, the 16U Mid-Hudson Rebels, has been practicing and participating in tournaments around the area since early July. This team, made up mostly of Saugerties and Kingston girls, has been very competitive, earning their way to the championship and placing 2nd in two big tournaments. The team just finished their fall-ball season this past weekend and will begin playing again starting in April.

One of the Saugerties High School P.E. teachers, Mike Tiano, has started his own travel softball team consisting of girls from Cahill, Grant D. Morse, Mt. Marion, Riccardi, and Saugerties Junior High. The team played a total of 23 games from August 30th through October 24th. Tiano commented, "With no little league this year, it was a great experience to get the girls playing again." The team was coached by Mr. Tiano, Mrs. Vail, and Mr. Stinemire. Saugerties alumni and students such as **Savannah Sirico, Devin Fitzpatrick, Stephanie Cogswell, Natalie Vail, and Natalie Tucker** have volunteered and worked with these girls throughout their season.

Although high-school sports are not scheduled to begin until late this year or possibly early 2021, open gyms for both boys' and girls' basketball are starting to be held in hopes of an upcoming season. The open gyms are for grades 9-12 run by head coaches of both teams, Coach Tiano and Mrs. Fannelli. With Coronavirus limiting our athletic participation, travel teams and open gyms are a great way to keep students in shape, enjoying the games they love, and in hopes for sports to make a comeback very shortly!

REBELS SOFTBALL



SAUGERTIES SONICS SOFTBALL

By Alicia Mooney



From 2012 to now, fall fashion has definitely undergone some changes, but for 2020 it seems that natural tones and accessorizing are prioritized, making way for fashion subcultures such as dark academia. But no matter what aesthetic or style you take inspiration from, having a unique sense of expression is just as significant.

Honorable mentions:
Ben Leon "Why I Run"
Madison Kordich "Why I Skate"
Hannah Knowles "Why I Play Softball"
Jahmelia James "Why I Dance"



WHAT'S BIG ON TV

Big Brother 22, Was the season really worth it?

By Shana Nerone



Big Brother is based on two competitions that take place each week. The Head of Household (HOH) is when one house guest wins a competition, and they are in power for the week. This power gives them the opportunity to put two people up for eviction on the block. Typically, they'll choose two people they aren't aligned with. The other competition is the Power of Veto (POV). The two nominees, the HOH, and three other players selected randomly, battle out. One of the two people up for eviction could win the competition and take themselves off of the block. If this occurs, the HOH would then have to pick another person to take their spot on the block. The final night is when one of the two nominees gets evicted from the house.

The new season of *Big Brother* brought in all previous players of the game who everyone considered "All-Stars." This season was filled with hard competitions, heart-felt talks, and so many fun moments. The game is based around winning half a million dollars in the end, so everyone will do what they have to do in order to win. *Big Brother* fans thought the season wasn't worth it because people who are really good players were evicted so early on that it made the season boring for them. But, in my opinion, the season was very much worth it. The game definitely didn't play out how we all expected it to. Events happened that we didn't think would, but it changed everyone's game play and it was interesting to watch how everybody processed the things that happened and made different moves because of it.

October 29th was the season finale of *Big Brother* and it was an emotional one. Nicole, Enzo, and Cody battled it out to win \$500,000! There was a three-part competition and whoever won the last one was guaranteed a spot in the Final 2 along with \$50,000. Cody won part three and took Enzo along with him, which was a smart choice, because Nicole had won previously in *Big Brother 18*. The game was about to be over with Cody and Enzo as final two!



The jury votes who wins the game. There are nine members of jury. They were the last nine people evicted from the house and they get to vote who should win the whole game. The jury voted 9-0. Cody Califiore won unanimously. The night was bittersweet. I am going to miss the show so much. Every houseguest was able to hug each other after Cody and Enzo walked out the door and then they all went home to their families! There will be a BB23 so stay tuned:)

What's Hot?
And
What's Not?

By Angelina Valles

In this article, we will discuss the trends that are popping, as well as what trends AREN'T anymore. Starting off hot, the apps Tiktok and Instagram, although both having long reached their peaks, are still the biggest way for trends to spread as we approach the end of 2020.

A poll taken via Snapchat showed that trends in clothing include brands like Brandy Melville, Shein, and PacSun. Vintage clothing has become very popular, as well as pairing browns with whites. A primarily-male audience showed popularity in an "e-boy" look.

A trending hairstyle amongst teens is dying the front two strands of hair a contrasting color. Moving on to non-fashion trends, dancing has become a common way for people to become famous. Tiktok users, such as Addison Rae or Charli d'Amelio, are trend-setters for everyday people.

As well as there being amazing trends today, there are also some NOT-so-amazing trends. A group of people were asked about what the worst clothing styles were. Four people said that fringed clothing was the worst! This is very agreeable. Social media dances that have become outdated include the Renegade, animal instagram accounts, and posting "yolo's" on snapchat.

Join the Spirit Newspaper Staff! We need writers, editors and artists.

Sign up on our Google Classroom with code:

np7ndue

Advisors:
Mrs. Murphy
And
Mrs. Jones



Congratulations to the newest SHS Elected Officers:

Student Council:
President – Emma Hallion
VP – Arielle O'Donnell
Treasurer – Jillian Murphy
Secretary – Vaiden Ferraro
Social Director – McKenna Alberts

Individual Class Officers for grades 9-12 TBA in next issue.



The Importance of Mental Health during the Global Pandemic

By: Vaiden Ferraro

Americans are living in unprecedented times; the coronavirus having turned our “normal” lives upside down. Many of us have been negatively impacted by job loss, the closing of schools and businesses, sports and afterschool activities that came to a complete halt, social distancing restrictions that leave us feeling isolated and alone, and an overall feeling that our lives will never return to what they were before COVID-19 became a daily part of our conversations.

In times such as this, our mental, physical, and emotional health is important. As a senior in high school and a fully remote student who has always been involved in multiple school activities and sports, I had to turn to other things to keep myself in shape, not only physically, but mentally and emotionally, as well.

There are many resources available to us (see those listed at the end of this article), and many things we can incorporate into our daily lives to help us during these trying times. One thing that is beneficial to mental health is making a daily schedule. A schedule can reduce stress and anxiety that might be unnecessary due to uncertainties. When creating a schedule, be sure to make time for yourself, even an hour a day, to focus on the things that are important to you. Keeping a routine or making a new one is beneficial to our mental health.

What are some things you can do during this pandemic to sustain or improve physical, emotional, and mental health? According to the World Health Organization, these are just a few suggestions:

- Stay physically active - Incorporate regular physical activity into your daily routine. There are great health benefits to doing this, both mental and physical.
- Keep informed by following trusted news channels and listening to national and local authorities, but at the same time, reduce what you watch, read or listen to if it makes you anxious or upset.
- Keep in contact with friends and family in a responsible way - online or through phone or text.
- Help and support others.
- Monitor your screen time and take regular breaks if you need to.
- Eat a healthy diet to support your immune system.

Maintaining your physical health can benefit your mental health through the release of endorphins. Endorphins are

released through exercise and are beneficial because they boost your energy and it is known as the “happy-hormone.” Exercise may be difficult because the gyms are closed. However, there are many beautiful state parks in our area, some being Overlook Mountain House, Lake Minnewaska, and Falling Waters.

While everyone is experiencing the pandemic in a different way, it’s important to try to remain positive, focus on the good, and take care of your mind and body. Some days may be harder than others but remember to be empathetic and kind to yourself and others.

If you are struggling and need help, reach out. The following are resources to assist:

Suicide Hotline: (800)784-2433
National Mental Health Association Hotline: (800)273-TALK (8255)
National Hopeline Network:
1. (800)784-2433
2. (800)422-HOPE (4673)
Ulster County Mobile Mental Health: 1(845)277-4820
Mental Health Association Wellness Center: (845)399-9090

Source:
https://www.who.int/campaigns/connecting-the-world-to-combat-coronavirus/healthyathome?gclid=CjwKCAjw0On8BRAgEiwAincsHLRPq8cCADICbLuAkZS5opaeFw13T58AQgaU0Cd0YdDxOu3W7qzCehoCrJUQAvD_BwE



Drawing by Madalyn Dodig

Poetry Corner

Autumn.
By Mack Williams

he smells
like rotting leaves
and the sharp bite of pennies.
like burning wood
and the sick scent of liquid latex
and fake blood.
like birthday candles.
and sweet red velvet cake.
he sounds
like the shuffling well-worn tarot cards
and a plastic planchette
gliding over a cheap ouija board.
like synthetic screams
and roaring laughter
and the Monster Mash

playing faintly
from downstairs
in an old friend’s house.
he has
skeleton hands,
chilled to the bones.
past his halloween eyes
the wheel of fortune spins,
as he speaks
to the great beyond,
unsure of what’s there.



December 2020 Horoscope Predictions:

Aries:(Mar 21-Apr 19) - Aries predictions indicate that the month of December will be pretty chaotic. You should be prepared to face new transformations in your life, but with a positive approach. The Lunar eclipse indicates that family finances should improve this month, making your family more cheerful.

Taurus:(Apr 20-May 20) - Taurus horoscopes predict that your life will be impacted by two eclipses this month. The Solar eclipse on the 14th indicates that there will be an important decision you need to make involving a close friend. On the 30th, the lunar eclipse will impact your ruling planet, Venus, causing you to be influenced by personality changes, involving your personal hobbies, and style.

Gemini:(May 21-June 20) - This December, Mars and the influence of the eclipses will impact you positively in school, and work (if you have a job). You should be very sufficient and get all of the things you need done quickly, leaving you time for personal hobbies, and opportunities for new experiences. You will most likely fill your free time to volunteer for tasks your family and friends have, which will cause you to stress out.

Cancer:(Jun 21-Jul 22) - December 2020 Cancer horoscopes predict that you will have great academic growth and do much better than you expected you could in school. Near the 21st planetary influences will cause you to feel

overworked, just remember to set some time aside so that you can relax.

Leo:(Jul 23-Aug 22) - Leo predictions indicate that the solar eclipse on the 14th will cause you to make changes to your personal looks, and personality itself. Your reputation is very important to you, so make sure that you are changing yourself only for yourself, and not for other people.

Virgo:(Aug 23-Sep 22) - Virgo horoscopes for December 2020 indicate that you will be extremely busy. Relationships, friends, family, school, and personal goals are pulling you in different directions. Most likely you feel that you have all the time in the world, and that still isn't enough to fit everything into your schedule.

Libra:(Sep 23-Oct 22)- Just like Taurians, your ruling planet Venus, will be greatly influenced this December, due to the two upcoming eclipses. Predictions for your sign indicate that the solar eclipse on the 14th will bring greater academic growth and increasing positivity for accomplishing any goals that you have.

Scorpio:(Oct 23-Nov 21) - December 2020 Scorpio horoscopes indicate that you will experience many beneficial changes this month. The influence of the position of Mars will have a positive impact on social and personal matters, bringing you much good luck! Your family

should be in good spirits this month, due to the decrease of outside disturbances.

Sagittarius:(Nov 22-Dec 21) - Sagittarius horoscopes predict that the month of December will bring you some troubles, mainly because of the influence of Mars and the two eclipses. You will have to work hard to achieve personal goals, and may be distracted due to family, school, or career issues.

Capricorn:(Dec 22-Jan 19) - Your sign is predicted to be affected spiritually this December due to the impact of the Solar eclipse on the 14th, and the lunar eclipse on the 30th. This month you will likely develop new ideas and beliefs, and you might even discover some new personal interests.

Aquarius:(Jan 20-Feb 18) - Your signs predictions for December 2020 are great! The solar eclipse on the 14th, and the lunar eclipse on the 30th are going to affect your social life, when it comes to friends and family. You will have some new changes in your associations, so you might meet someone new, or there could be a new issue with a friend or a family member.

Pisces: (Feb 19-Mar 20) - December 2020 Pisces horoscopes suggest that the month of December will be rather rough, but with a beneficial outcome in the end. There will be a tendency for conflict and stressful situations, and predictions suggest that most of your actions will be decided with a great sense of independence.

By Katie Cook

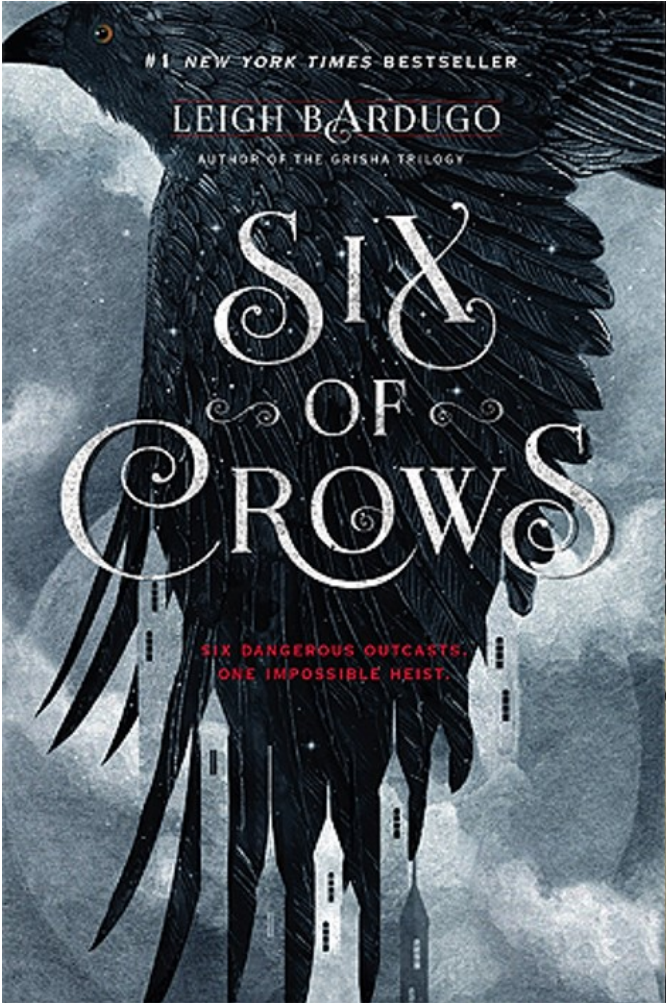
Book Review

Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo
By Hannah Mills

The Six of Crows duology by Leigh Bardugo is a work of fantasy that introduces readers to a unique world known to readers as the Grishaverse. This particular pair of novels stand to be the prequel to the author's other series, the Shadow and Bone trilogy. Inside of the universe Bardough has created, we are introduced to the Grisha, the elite citizens of the country Ravka who generally serve in the country's Second Army. They have the ability to manipulate matter on different levels. In this universe, you could understand it as a magical form of chemistry. While the war is raging on in Ravaka many of its citizens have immigrated to Kerch, a small island nation that holds a very high economic power as it is the international trade hub. Although this island is seen as a golden light in the dark, Kerch is full to the brim of various gangs and criminals. While Grisha people arrive with independence, most of them are bound to be indentured to wealthy businessmen although slavery is formally outlawed in the country.

In this book, we dive into the gangly underbelly of Kerch in a sector called Ketterdam which is also home to the pleasure district known as the Barrel. In this district, we are introduced to Kaz Brekker, the well-known criminal prodigy belonging to a gang called the Dregs. When Kaz is offered a chance at pulling off an almost impossible heist regarding the ruthless Fierdan soldiers called the Druskelle, Kaz knows he'll need the right crew to pull it off. As he assembles the most divergent team of criminals to help him: an acrobatic spy known as the Wraith, a Grisha with the ability to manipulate the human body, a runaway convict, a sharpshooter with a gambling problem, and a wealthy runaway, he knows they might have a shot at pulling it off. As we follow these six criminals into the depths of Ketterdam and across the sea, we get a glimpse into this world in which nothing is as it appears, and everything comes with a price.

The thing I really enjoy about this book is how you get to read from multiple characters' points of view, and as you are reading these different perspectives, it opens up new questions and clues about where the plot is going and how the characters interact with each other. This element of different perspectives also lets the reader know that there are secrets being kept from every character who



is invested in Kaz Brekker's heist, but the main question is, will those secrets affect their plan to pull off the heist? The author lets the voices of all six characters guide readers through this gripping tale of highs and lows, and by doing so, the readers also become aware of the personal struggles that come with each character and the powerful themes they emit from the story that have become very impactful to some readers. This book is action packed and is a really good read if you like a daring adventure with hints of suspense and a heavy dose of criminal teamwork.

Trying To Keep School Spirit Alive

By Anthony DaSilva



The Senior Parade was still loud and colorful as always. We wore our tie-dyed shirts, which we made at Cantine field with our fellow seniors. We heard honking horns, saw students hanging out of car windows, and students in trucks did burnouts to celebrate the start of their senior year. The senior class had to meet at the IXL parking lot at 6:30am on a chilly September morning to take pictures and get lined up for the parade. We were led by a group of students holding a huge Saugerties Sawyers flag. When we got to the school, we were welcomed by all of our teachers, congratulating us and sending words of encouragement. The class of 2021 is now here!

