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ANTIOCH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
TOM TOM
VOL. 61. ISSUE 2. OCTOBER 2022

THE STUDENT VOICE OF ACHS

BRETT BROSE | writer
Tom Tom Staff

Antioch: a quiet town where students live carefree, and nothing out of the ordinary ever happens. Perhaps this was once true when the ignorance of childhood shielded against whispers of dreary truths that were better left unknown, and the inevitable realizations of adulthood were too distant to ponder. However, at the dawn of adolescence, a temptation known by many and admitted by few introduces itself—drugs.

As the artifacts of the D.A.R.E. program have been refurbished into a fashion of vintage tees that exemplify the failures of scare tactics on teenagers—a triumph for the deviating nature that permeates within these and many similar high school halls—the stark realities begin to unfold of substance abuse and overdose.

For some, unprescribed drug use is a means of escape, to step away from the often tumultuous teenage years. For others, they are simply a means to relax or experiment with something new. What often escapes the minds of teens experimenting with these substances is the dishonest nature of illegally bought narcotics; for those who stumble upon this realization too late, it can be a fatal encounter.

What teens may not be aware of while purchasing opiates or other drugs is the likelihood of tampering. An alarming increase of fentanyl overdoses has ravaged the Lake County area of late in an ever-increasing trend. The Antioch Police Department has been left to grapple with the countless calls of drug overdoses: an unsettling realization that a number of these calls come from teenagers no older than their own children.

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SHOPPING SMALL IN ANTIOCH
Highlighting a few of the local shops that define Antioch's booming shopping scene.
Read staffer Nora Oksanen's story on page 10.

HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS
ACHS continues to carry on another year with its "sweet" traditions during homecoming season.
Read staffer Fiona Serifov's story on page 19.

THE TOM TOM 2022-2023

The Tom Tom is a student-produced magazine that is distributed to students, faculty and staff of Antioch Community High School, as well as the members of the Antioch Community. Members of the Tom Tom staff contribute to sequoitmedia.com, the Sequoit Media website, on a regular basis. The student magazine serves as a public forum and is supported by New Voices legislation in Illinois and policies of Community High School District 117. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of ACHS or D117, nor Antioch Community High School's faculty, staff or administration.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: TO CHALLENGE THE CLASSICS

Unparalleled literature suffers banishment from older generations, but no words could ever rewrite or silence the story.

A book is a physical object held together by thin sheets of paper; it appears harmless. However, some have grown to fear the inevitable truth some stories withhold at first glance, mainly those taught through public education. Most of the books that pertain to the District 117 curriculum fall victim to this unease: "To Kill a Mockingbird," "The Catcher in the Rye," "The Lord of the Flies," "Brave New World" and more. Our world fears showing the incoming generations the historical classics, the fictional literature that may paint a picture of radicalness.

According to the American Library Association, book bans doubled from 2020 to 2021. Some conservative politicians are said to lead the charge, their overbearing and unwavering voices overpowering the writers and readers who are unjustly stripped of their freedom of speech. Libraries may attempt to fight back, expanding access to books, but authority always seems to play a higher role while those less than equal are silenced.

How is it fair and fathomable to take away a piece of artistic vision written into words? Society cannot stop the mental notions we make as individuals but can instantly stop individuality if a singular written word teaches against "normality" or "happiness." Yet, it turns out that reality can be categorized as fiction, too, due to its sometimes false premises.

Though most of my generation cringes away from the idea of reading, the truths and lessons we grasp onto are evident. For example, take into context "Fahrenheit 451." When my English 3 Honors class read this book, the only question revolving around our adolescent minds was, "why would people want to burn books"? The dystopian literature we read about for multiple weeks exemplified that a seemingly ordinary society could fall apart due to oppressiveness over the complexity of the unknown. "Brave New World," the summer novel for AP Literature and Composition, holds similarity: the futuristic society attempts to block humanity from emotions and individuality, banishing books and more from the people. The chaos that ensues at the end of the novel is directly a result of the "happiness" achieved through censorship and supremacy.

Is it blatantly transparent why books like these are effortlessly banished without an utterable word? Can you see where authority figures are taking power from the powerless? Do not let it go unsaid; do not let the younger generations suffer from those who fear the unorthodox, fabricated novels that play no control in our lives. A storybook invention petrifies those who cannot restrain it.

In this edition of The Tom Tom, we shed light on occurring news, whether locally or nationally. Staffer Emma Wagner and Lifestyles Digital Director Aaliyah Lizak introduce the new additions to Antioch Community High School in "New Minds Behind District 117" and "New Faces." Staffer Josie Quirke takes on history versus now with a glimpse into the "Regression of Roe." Pertaining to our community, staffer Brett Brose illustrates a gained insight into the minds of the youth and drug usage in "An Unheeded Warning."

Through this magazine, we hope to bring pressing matters to our readers attention. Newsworthy events that happen in our time sometimes go unnoticed; it is up to us, The Tom Tom, to give our readers insight. As always, we hope you enjoy.

Chloe Barbarise

CHLOE BARBARISE | writer
Editor-in-Chief

TOP 10 BANNED BOOKS OF 2021

1. "Gender Queer" by Maia Kobabe

2. "Lawn Boy" by Jonathan Evison

3. "All Boys Aren't Blue" by George M. Johnson

4. "Out of Darkness" by Ashley Hope Pérez

5. "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas

6. "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie

7. "Me and Earl and the Dying Girl" by Jesse Andrews

8. "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison

9. "This Book Is Gay" by Juno Dawson

10. "Beyond Magenta" by Susan Kuklin

- American Library Association

CHLOE BARBARISE | designer
Editor-in-Chief

STAFF EDITORIAL: ONE IN 1,313

High school can be a place of conflict: different groups of people in a different place for the first time. Do what others do, and say what others say to be a part of a uniformed crowd; however, it may be difficult for those who do not "fit in."

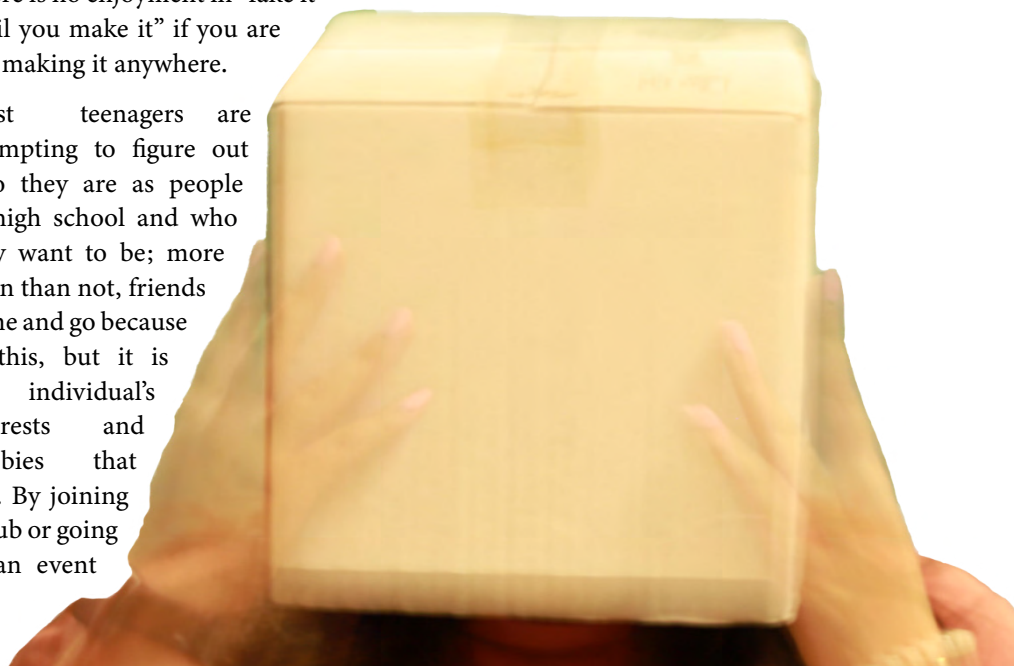
Football games, school dances and extracurricular activities are something that parents and alumni preach to the incoming freshman; even entertainment plays its own role, depicting what high school is "all about." Groups of people may feel like these activities will not change their high school experience entirely— going to all of the games is essential for some students to grasp the perfect painted picture, but that is not everything high school represents. It can give students a sense of nonconformity throughout their time in a place that is a supposed "home" for four years; yet, what happens when "home" becomes "prison" due to these assumptions of student life?

For those indifferent about "Friday Night Lights" during the fall, the difficulty of being a part of the crowd occurs; there are many different cliques in high school, whether wanted or not, and new faces meet others during this event. However, an individual may be indifferent about traveling to a football game when it is not in their sole interest but only in others around them. There is no enjoyment in "fake it until you make it" if you are not making it anywhere.

Most teenagers are attempting to figure out who they are as people in high school and who they want to be; more often than not, friends come and go because of this, but it is an individual's interests and hobbies that last. By joining a club or going to an event that appears personalized for that student, they are introduced to a different setting where they will not feel like an outcast in their own home.

Clubs and sports can offer a sense of community for many students. Whether someone is intrigued by choir, volleyball or even bass fishing, there is a club or sport for all; if not, more can be created if requested. Meeting new people due to these extracurriculars also allows students to meet upperclassmen, who, in turn, can help them throughout their high school journey. Additionally, through these clubs and sports, students can gain a sense of identity and possibly feel a sense of fitting in.

Though the truth is that none of this is needed to have a great high school experience. High school is what the individual makes it, and no outside opinion can warp an already established opinion within the minds of others. Fitting into a crowd is difficult, but there are multiple groups within that overwhelmingly large one where an individual may find their place.



NEW MINDS BEHIND DISTRICT 117

As the 22-23 school year commences, District 117 welcomes new leaders to its administration team.

MICHAEL BERRIE

At the end of the 2021-2022 school year, new administrators were announced at the district office and both high schools. ACHS Principal, Michael Berrie, is now two months into the school year, and his presence is in full force.

Berrie went to Wheeling High School and graduated in 1988. His involvement heavily shaped his high school experience as he was part of the varsity soccer and track team, marching band, student council and many other groups by his sophomore year. Despite not being able to recollect what happened back in his math classes, he could recount all of his games.

After high school, he attended Northern Illinois University in DeKalb County, where he studied political science to become a lawyer. During his junior year, he switched majors, taking education classes, and finishing his undergrad at North Central College in Naperville.

He held many occupations once he graduated, most notably a pro-juvenile probation officer.

"It was nice to get to know students and help the ones that had kind of gone the wrong way," Berrie said.

Before becoming the principal at ACHS, he had been the principal at Round Lake High School for five years and was in the district office for three years prior. As a new individual to the school, Berrie wants the student body to know he will always be there for them.

"I enjoy having conversations with students," Berrie said. "[I'm their] biggest fan; I'm the president of your fan club. I hope to make this place better for everybody, and hopefully, I get a chance to do that in the next couple of years."

One reason Berrie was drawn to apply for the position at ACHS was due to its environment, one that could not compare to any other.

"Being aware of ACHS, it felt that would be home, and so I think it's important to be at a place where you can consider to be home," Berrie said.

JEFF FEUCHT

This year, superintendent Dr. Jeff Feucht was introduced to District 117. Inspired by his passion for writing, Feucht earned his educational doctorate and began teaching freshman and junior English.

"I had an amazing English teacher in high school, Carol Morrison," Feucht said. "She put us in the role of a teacher in high school, and I loved it. That got me really excited about the idea of being a teacher when I went to college."

Throughout his years of education, Feught taught many different classes to various students; however, his philosophy remained the same throughout.

"Over my 25 years of education, what's so exciting about high school is our job as educators is to keep you excited about school, keep you positive about school and open you up to many opportunities," Feucht said.

Feucht also acknowledges what drove him to apply for the position of superintendent of District 117. He met with the previous superintendent, Dr. Jim McKay, in 2018 and 2019, where he found a place of collaboration.

"I got excited about what was going on and just that the district really seems to prioritize students, like making things better for students without being worried about being flashy to the outside world," Feucht said.

He continues to meet with Dr. McKay periodically and remains grateful to him for taking the time to help him understand the district better. These are two of the newest additions to the community, and all are very excited to have them.

LIGHTNING ROUND WITH EMMA WAGNER

BERRIE

Q: Do you like berries?
A: Yes, strawberries.
Q: Rhinos or hippos?
A: Hippos, definitely; hippos are so cute.
Q: If animals could talk who do you think would be the rudest?
A: A giraffe.

FEUCHT

Q: Pineapple on pizza?
A: No.
Q: The most boring superhero?
A: Superman is pretty boring.
Q: Do you own a pair of crocs?
A: Yes, blue.

EMMA WAGNER | writer
Tom Tom Staff
AVA YEAGER | designer
Tom Tom Staff

NEW FACES...

Antioch Community High School expands and strengthens its teaching staff for the school year.

Antioch Community High School has welcomed seven new teachers for the current school year. The new teachers of ACHS have already recognized what being a Sequoit is all about; throughout their beginning, the new hires have noticed a strong sense of community, pride and positivity.

"Ever since I stepped foot in this building, everyone has been so welcoming and has that desire to go out of their way to help you," social studies teacher Jordan Parrot said.

Sequoits strive to accept and support one another. Generally, the Antioch community is closely knit. District 117 English teacher Rachel Laureano values the connection she builds with the school community just as much as she values impacting their educational lives.

"I really want to build relationships with the students, even those that aren't my students," Laureano said.

One of high schools' main purpose is to prepare students for the rest of their lives; whether it be college or any other path they choose to follow, the knowledge one learns during high school is to provide a platform for the real world. In post-high school life, people rely on each other for support. The community inside of ACHS drives to provide one another with the same assistance to better their peers.

"I want to make sure that they are in class learning everything that they should be so that they're able to leave high school with the necessary skills they need to succeed," social studies teacher Hannah Kramer said.

Students are always trying to push themselves to be better, whether academically, athletically or even simply strengthening life skills. Parrot strives to help students become the best possible versions of themselves, which not only betters the individual but the society as a whole.

"I take great pride in knowing I get to shape the future generations to come," Parrot said.

The new teachers are invoked with passion and ultimately want to create an enjoyable learning environment for their students. Parrot and Kramer both expressed that they understand social studies may not be an enjoyable subject for all students; however, they are determined to make the class as entertaining as possible.

"I want to have a positive impact and hopefully leave my students with a positive taste in their mouth of history," Kramer said.

ACHS is a school with an amazing student body and staff. With open arms and amazing opportunities, ACHS would like to welcome the following teachers not previously mentioned: Madeline Lyon (physical education), Alexander Mann (social studies), Andrea Cresco (science) and Makaila House (special education).

AALIYAH LIZAK | writer
Lifestyles Digital Director

& NEW PLACES

The new College and Career Center helps sends Sequoits to a bright future.

As the new school year has begun so have new additions to the school. The Sequoits welcome a helpful place for students of all grades at Antioch Community High School. The College and Career Center is located near the auditorium (some students may know it as the testing center).

The College and Career Center is here to assist all students who may have questions based on their chosen career path. Casillas guides students to use the application, Naviance, to help with the process.

"There is a location for students to access career assessments," Casillas said. "Those assessments can include careers based on your personality type so you have an idea maybe not necessarily a specific career, but an area."

The College and Career Center is not just for those who are choosing a college-bound path. Casillas offers help and benefits in all realms of career choices. Even if there is no set path, the center is the right place to go for guidance.

"We also have lots of opportunities for students who are interested in the military," Casillas said. "We have military representatives coming down to the cafeteria."

Establishing the center was something that was not only needed but wanted by the community of Antioch. Widening the variety of choices and help towards careers offers relief to many; creating a start to postsecondary schooling options can be difficult. With the help of this new edition at ACHS, it allows students to get a head start on personal paths.

"The community has been asking for more access to post-secondary options," Casillas said. "So starting earlier, as a freshman [there is] more exposure."

Postsecondary education involves many different forms of information that can be difficult to take in all at once, especially for seniors who are beginning to make the big decision of what to do once they graduate in the spring.

"I think she is very useful when you have questions about FAFSA or certain requirements for schools," senior Syerra Gilmore said.

The College and Career Center is recommended to all students, especially if there is any uncertainty about the paths of their choices.

FIONA SERIFOV | writer
Tom Tom Staff

The Magic Behind The Fall Play

Another start to the school year means another fall play, but, this time, with a hint of magic.

Fighting evil, going on adventures and casting crazy spells were nothing but the norm for a certain wizard from a certain wizarding school, but what about the other characters? This year's fall play, "Puffs," is a comical parody of the famous book and fim series "Harry Potter."

The play follows the story of Wayne, who is new to the wizarding world. Wayne is assigned to the house of the Puffs and spends his time trying to prove himself. The other houses include the Braves, Smarts, Snakes and Puffs, while the story entails various adventures and spells to change the reputation of the Puff house.

With around 50 people involved in the process, the production is sure to make a statement. Theater teacher Wanda Teddy purposely planned the timing of the play for one reason: the eagerness of winter break allows one last night of amusement to end the fall season.

"This is to be a night to come in and to be able to laugh and have some fun," Teddy said.

During the process of the play, one challenge that occurred was the usage of sound cues. With close to 120 sound cues throughout the play, some difficulties and confusion present themselves.

"I've never directed a play in my 27 years of teaching that has this many sound or light cues," Teddy said. "It is very tech-intensive; there are sound cues for everything."

This play marks junior Redmond Heilig's second year in an Antioch Community High School production. Heilig is cast as one of the main characters, Wayne, in this production, hoping to gain recognition for the cast, as well as the story behind the play.

"If you enjoy Harry Potter, then there is something to get out of this," Heilig said.

The parody play is plentiful in easter eggs and nods to the original franchise, which can be discerned by audience members with keen eyes and past wizarding experiences.

Junior Riley Hughes shares her experience surrounding being one of the main character, Megan, in the play. Normally, Hughes plays characters similar to her; however, to play her character, Hughes had to change her whole personality, which proved to be a challenge.

"She is definitely different from me," Hughes said.

Regarding the cast, there are said to be big things coming from them. As a group the camaraderie shows, allowing each individual to give the production their all.

"Everyone in the show is committed," Teddy said.

With all the details coming from both the cast and crew, this play will put a spell on the audience with its humor and storytelling aspects; make sure to get tickets for this year's magical fall play.

Opening night of "Puffs" will be on Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. It will run through the weekend on Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets will go on sale within the next few weeks.

HANNAH GAYDOVCHIK | writer
Tom Tom Staff

CELEBRATE THE FALL PLAY ALL WEEK LONG

OCTOBER 31
Costume

NOVEMBER 1
Floral

NOVEMBER 2
Pajamas

NOVEMBER 3
Crazy socks or hat

NOVEMBER 4
"House" Colors

CRIME WAVE

Over the years, personal possessions have been stolen more frequently; however, there are steps students can take to prevent this and procedures students should do if someone steals from them.

At Antioch Community High School, especially in the locker rooms, theft is a substantial problem. The lockers in the gym locker room are miniature; backpacks may not always fit inside them. Therefore, backpacks, and everything within them, are obtainable for any lurking individual. Most people understand that it is morally wrong to steal; however, they make the conscious decision to steal anyway. The most common objects stolen are AirPods, money and cameras.

"The times in the year where we see the most theft is right before the holidays, especially around Christmas, then we see a spike again usually right before prom." physical education teacher Jamie Walton said.

Yet, stealing is a problem year-round. If something is stolen, a student should go directly to the dean's office, file a report, know exactly what was stolen, when the last time it was seen and when it went missing. Extra information is always helpful as well.

"I came back from class; we all go in there, and we change, [but] my backpack was open with all my stuff out on the floor, and then my wallet was gone," junior Faith Correa said.

Correa went to the office to report this occurrence, and with help from the resource officer, they found her wallet. Unfortunately, the wallet came back without her fifty dollars.

Aside from wallets and AirPods, there has also been a major problem over the past few years with cameras being stolen. Last year, a stolen camera reappeared in a different state.

"Someone had stolen a camera, left town and later got pulled over randomly by the Arkansas state police who recovered it," photography teacher Samuel Worden said.

In order to keep objects safe, students should lock their belongings in their lockers. If the item is too big to fit in the locker, students can either ask the office for a hall locker or talk to their PE teacher, and they might be able to keep it in the locker room office for the period.

Nevertheless, stealing can be an alarming situation, not just in school but outside, too.

"A month or so ago, my car got broken into while in my garage, and they stole all of my cheer stuff, some clothes and a necklace," junior Kylie Christenson said.

Christenson's situation reveals that stealing is not just a problem in schools. People need to be more cautious at ACHS and in the community.

Teenagers are still developing their moral code while their brains are still developing. Therefore, morals and wise decisions are questionable if a stealer is revealed.

"Morals matter if you get caught," Worden said.

Nowadays, students have realized there are more adolescents than teachers in schools; some believe they can get away with anything. Consequently, lock up all valuable possessions and eliminate the temptation to steal.

LAYLA KANE| writer
Tom Tom Staff

DRINK THE DISCOUNT

Owner Anna Rosberg of The Latte Cafe offers discounts for all students and teachers from anywhere.

Living the student and teacher life is not very easy for some; students and teachers may be stuck with a strict money budget and cannot afford to get expensive meals and drinks daily. Establishments like The Latte Cafe offer a student and teacher discount of 20% to help make meals and drinks a little more affordable.

One of owner Anna Rosberg's biggest inspirations for running her own business was due to her love for baking.

"I have always wanted to be a pastry chef and even went to culinary school," Rosberg said. "[I] have always worked in a small family-owned business and loved that atmosphere."

The Latte Cafe reflects a home-like environment; it is decorated with couches, picture frames hanging on the walls and a rustic interior. The atmosphere of the business was created with one thought in mind: to bring people closer together.

"I was a stay-at-home mom for a few years, and I needed some adult interaction desperately, so I started working here for the old owners," Rosberg said.

Rosberg also has a major sweet tooth and enjoys a variety of sugary goods; she especially loves blondies and usually bakes unique cupcakes and cake flavors for all customers to try. When it comes to ordering at her store, Rosberg has many recommendations for her customers.

"I love the Cuban panini; it's my favorite sandwich," Rosberg said. "Our ultimate grilled cheese is very good— you can put whatever cheese you want and add bacon or guacamole. Our porkers are really popular with younger kids that like barbecue pork and cheddar cheese."

Though Rosberg was not the original implementer of the discount, she felt they continued to belong.

"I cannot take credit for that because of the old owner," Rosberg said. "She was a teacher, and [the discount] was something that she really wanted to offer to students and teachers. I loved the idea of it, so I kept it going."

The discount is offered to all students and teachers, not just ACHS students and teachers. The Latte Cafe also offers a punch card for handcrafted drinks and menu coffees. For every drink purchased, the card receives one punch on the punch card. When the card reaches its total of 10 hole punches, a free drink is awarded.

Before, during or after school, head on over to The Latte Cafe to get a student and teacher discount.

ANTHONY SACCHETTI | writer
Tom Tom Staff

SHOPPING SMALL IN ANTIOCH

Highlighting a few of the local shops that define Antioch's booming shopping scene.

Antioch is home to a variety of small businesses, which create an interesting board of entrepreneurs who are closely interlaced with the community. Complimentary to this is the small population of Antioch, which invites close relationships between buyers and sellers.

One of the most recently-opened stores in Antioch is Little Bean Books, which, along with Little Bean Coffee Company, is owned by Angela Burns. This bookstore offers customers a relaxed, inviting atmosphere tailored to the book-lovers.

Similarly, Toadally Frogs is receiving a lot of buzz regarding its current relocation to the formerly Family Video. Toadally Frogs sells a variety of reptiles, aquatic animals and insects, which supply the people of Antioch with a riveting collection of exotic pets.

One of Antioch's most artisanal shops, Vintage Mercantile, is owned by entrepreneur Debora Winkler. Vintage Mercantile focuses on selling unconventional gifts from craftspeople around the U.S. It caters to an ever-expanding market of handmade-goods enthusiasts.

The Village Thrift Shop is Antioch's local second-hand store. Jennifer Price has owned The Village Thrift Shop for 14 years, partnering with charity organizations, including Open Arms Mission, One Hope United, The Traveling Closet and more, to provide essential goods to those in need. It is especially effective due to the low pricing of thrift shops.

"With inflation and everything that's been going on, thrift shops are affordable and help out families," Price said.

Something Sweet, a local ice-cream parlor and candy store, is run by Lisa Raymond. It is well known for the delightful variety of homemade treats, adding a spoonful of sugar to Antioch.

Further North is Reef Records, which offers customers a relaxed atmosphere and a glimpse into a record-revolving time. They sell new and used vinyl records, CDs, DVDs and audio equipment and are constantly updating their collection to meet customers' needs.

Antioch's Morning Stars, described as a "miscellaneous shop," offers a collection of crystals, tarot cards (and readings), jewelry, tapestries, organic soaps and more. While the shop is small, it offers a diamond-in-the-rough vibe, uniquely fitting indie culture.

Antioch Flower Shop, owned by entrepreneur Heather Feivor, is a local flower and plant shop which has done ample work within the community: it raised money for veterans along with the retirement community and sponsored Antioch Community High School students job assimilation.

"Our goal is to try and bring a little bit of joy and brighten someone's day with flowers," Feivor said.

Another crafty downtown shop is Ms. Peddler's Boutique. Owned by Laura Zombolo Foster, Ms. Peddler's Botique sells products from various artisans. Their shop is a collection of odds and ends which inspire the creative interests of customers.

The vast variety of Antioch shops provides something for everyone. With so many places to shop, the community of Antioch may never run out of reasons to go downtown.

NORA OKSANEN | writer
Tom Tom Staff

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: FORMING A COMMUNITY

Plan of the future village center in downtown Antioch.
Photo from the village website.

> "BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND IN OUR COMMUNITY WILL HELP BREAK DOWN BARRIERS."
>
> MARYELLEN ZIBELL // CHURCH MEMBER

The town of Antioch is hoping to enhance the quality of community life by providing parks, open space and recreational opportunities for residents, while preserving and enhancing the natural benefits of the environment.

For countless years, families all over town have enjoyed the multitude of parks around Antioch, from the humble wooden beams of Centennial to the sprawling playing fields of Tim Osmond. As the village continues to grow, so do the ambitions of the community, setting in motion a plethora of new park renovations and additions led by the Antioch Parks Department.

Most notable among the new developments is a brand new village center located on the corner of Orchard and Main Street. With the famed Sequoit river winding through the park, an inclusive variety of features create an ideal ambiance for families. The village center will include a small amphitheater overlooking walking paths and burn pits, fit for small gatherings and adventurous treks throughout the wooded trails of Antioch.

The village center also boasts a new playground and splash pad for children, encouraging family fun all year round. Paths branching off from the park lead visitors across the street to the bandshell—a popular local venue for live music and entertainment—as well as the bustling and vibrant Main Street. Complete with public parking and empty lots for food trucks and concessions during events, the new village center plans to be a focal point of the community in the coming years.

Director of Parks and Recreation Mary Quilty, alongside the rest of the Antioch Parks Department, is tasked with seeing the project to fruition, balancing budgets and managing timelines for the completion of the village center.

"[The village center] aims to be done by September 2023," Quilty said. "Logistically, anything can happen that can push back construction."

While the village center hopes to bring everyone together, the Antioch Parks Department additionally looks towards the already established and loved parks, hoping to bolster the weathered and long-used grounds.

"Currently, we have a proposal out for our parks Master Plan, which will get us on task to renovate each park budgetarily each year," Quilty said. "Money allocated for [the plan] would upgrade features and landscaping."

As yearly renovations plan to raise the beloved parks of Antioch to new heights, NorthBridge Church focuses on the introduction of the town's very first inclusive playground. With the help of the award-winning non-profit organization, Unlimited Play, specialists in creating universally accessible playgrounds, Northbridge Church has set in motion the construction of a park that hopes to welcome all children and parents.

Maryellen Zibell, along with other members of the Church ministry, works closely with Unlimited Play to raise money and spread the message of inclusivity around Antioch.

"The reason we are building the playground is that in Antioch, statistically, 1 in 10 people have a disability," Zibell said. "Yet, there are no playgrounds here that welcome everyone equally. Building an inclusive playground in our community will help break down barriers and bring people and families together."

Northbridge Church is currently halfway through the completion of its financial goal. Upon fulfillment, the new inclusive park can be realized to its greatest ambitious extent.

BRETT BROSE | writer
Tom Tom Staff

PAOLA PEREZ | designer
Tom Tom Staff

ANTIOCH FIGHTS COMMERCIALIZATION

Antioch, a small, quaint town in northern Illinois, refuses to be commercialized like surrounding towns.

Antioch is known for its welcoming atmosphere and many local businesses, unlike Gurnee or Vernon Hills. Some locals of Antioch prefer the small-town USA feel while others would rather have businesses like Chipotle, Panera and shopping centers; this is where the locally-built establishments of Antioch play a factor. Colleen Kaliakmanis, alongside her husband Alex Kaliakmanis, are the owners of Corniciones. C. Kaliakmanis and A. Kaliakmanis established Corniciones in May of 2018; they saw the building was vacant and decided to start there.

"We're both natives of the east coast in New Jersey," said C. Kaliakmanis. "We thought it would be a great idea to put a different type of food in a different area."

Residing in a small town may bring close relationships with local people, whether with neighbors, peers or families. Kids often grow up in a school system where they will see each other for thirteen years straight, which could produce lifelong friendships. Many kids often become involved in sports programs like Vikings football or cheerleading and grow up playing with the same players and knowing their family members.

"It is huge for the kids," C. Kaliakmanis said. "I have always said 'it takes a village to raise a child.'"

However, there may be downsides to living in a small town. Some citizens of Antioch prefer bigger towns due to schooling, money and business infrastructure. Owning a home in a smaller town may lead to higher taxes and payments due to schools and the town needing money.

"A community needs money, and residents can only shoulder so much burden," A. Kaliakmanis said. "There is a lack of resources, faculty and staff."

Owning a business in a small town can bring people together. Small business owners can gain concords and get ideas from joining a committee. Receiving ideas from other local businesses may help people improve theirs; for instance, the Antioch Chamber of Commerce is a great place to start.

"If I run out of something at the restaurant, I can always call someone in a pinch, and they will always help, as will I," A. Kaliakmanis said

There are stores located in downtown Antioch that sell clothes, crafts and decor: Hannah's is one of the few stores that sells all of these items together. Hannah's is located across the street from Lovin Oven Cakery.

Jane Marski has owned Hannah's for almost 40 years; her husband worked for the old owner of Hannah's through high school and college, and after he graduated, he worked at both the Lake Geneva store and the Antioch store. In Antioch, most establishments have been around for a substantial period of time. Most people enjoy the homey feeling associated with small businesses, such as The Latte Cafe, Little Bean Books, Lovin Oven Cakery and Ms. Peddler's Boutique.

"Everything has its place," Marski said.

Being surrounded by colossal corporations and shopping centers may be suitable for having nearby necessities. Yet, some small-town citizens prefer having small businesses where people can grow connections and close-knit ties with the owners and employees.

CLAIRE POLICHT | writer
Tom Tom Staff

THE 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

It is important to be informed as students become eligible to vote in the upcoming election.

On Nov. 8, 2022, the midterm elections will be held. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the Senate will be contested.

The midterm elections typically get overlooked by most citizens who are able to vote. Voters choose one-third of senators and every member of the House of Representatives. The U.S. presidential election happens every four years, but the midterm elections happen every two. Though the midterm elections are not directly related to the president, the elections have a big impact on the two chambers of congress.

According to Usembassy, the individuals who are in charge in the Senate and in the House of Representatives are the people controlling the majority of what happens in the White House. The majority party gets to decide who will lead the important congressional committees. Appropriate voting for these midterm elections would reach more for the political party affiliated with the president.

With the midterm elections happening every two years, citizens seem to not be educated enough about these elections. Social studies teacher Emma Craig takes a different perspective about how the midterm elections are important locally as well.

"It's a really great way to look at local politics because that tends to be what's more [focused on] for the midterms," Craig said. "Midterms are more local politics versus national, so it's really a great opportunity to see who is running in your town or who's running in your state and how that's going to impact you."

Learning about all the different types of elections before turning 18 can educate more people on what is happening in their own communities. Local politics is usually something that gets overlooked by people in the community, especially by younger voters that are unaware of the local candidates.

The midterm elections usually do not get as much attention as the presidential elections. With presidential elections, there are debates, media attention and primaries that gain more popularity for each candidate running. Most people usually do not know at all or do not realize who is running for the midterm elections. Candidates running for the midterm elections use political ads to campaign for themselves, but it does not appear to grasp voters' attention for the most part.

According to usa.gov, congressional elections will determine who represents the state where voters reside. These elections configure who will win the House of Representatives and the Senate. The elections determine which political party will hold the majority in both chambers of Congress for the upcoming two years.

Getting an early education about all the elections can benefit voters before they turn 18. Being actively engaged in politics at a young age shows more voter participation for the younger generation nationally and locally.

"Illinois also has a unique law; if you're 17, and will be 18 by the time of the general election, or by the time of the election day in November, you can vote in the primaries," Craig said. "In some cases, there are juniors who are going to be able to vote in the primaries in March; [students] have the opportunity to be actively engaged in politics pretty early on."

The midterm elections are often one of the most overlooked elections in politics. As school curriculums focus on government-based actions and observe campaigns nationally and locally, voters, especially younger voters. can get an early start in politics.

CLAIRE POLICHT | designer
Tom Tom Staff

JULIA MATON | writer
Lifestyles Writing Editor

Darren Bailey is a Republican member of the Illinois Senate and was previously a member of the House.

J.B. Pritzker became the 43rd governor of Illinois on Jan. 14, 2019, and represents the Democratic Party.

Where to vote?

Voters can vote online, in person at a polling location or by mail.

When to vote?

Early voting varies, but in-person voting deadlines is Nov. 8.

Why should you vote?

Your voice matters; be the change you want to see in the world.

REGRESSION OF ROE

Roe v. Wade was a fundamental moment in history for all women, delivering the control over their bodies they craved; as of 50 years later, women watch as their rights are slowly stripped away, time seemingly regressing.

Roe v. Wade was a landmark legal decision for the United States made in 1973, where Jane Roe, a woman from Texas, instituted legal action against Henry Wade, the district attorney of Dallas County, Texas, for denying her access to safe abortion. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Roe, granting all women reproductive health rights, succeeding in its main objective: a woman should have every right to terminate a pregnancy, and criminalizing abortions violated a womens constitutional right to privacy.

For ages, women have faced struggles, such as not being able to vote and having job restrictions based on gender, but they persevered through some of the roughest moments in history; yet, abortions have always been a hot topic on someone's tongue. Social Studies Department Chair Anne Eichman is well versed in the topic of women's suffrage, noting that abortion is similar to previous historical tragedies women have faced.

"Women have had to fight for a voice, whether that's a political voice through the voting process [or] fighting for equity and educational opportunities as well as professional opportunities," Eichman said.

The state of Texas argued that a fetus is a human being and should be protected under the 14th Amendment. On the other hand, Roe used the 14th Amendment to state that abortions were constitutional as it safeguards a person's liberty and privacy, which the Texan laws were invading.

As time progressed, women started to feel angrier towards these proclamations surrounding how they handled their bodies, but Roe was able to put some legal action into place. In the end, the Supreme Court ruled that abortions are protected by the constitutional right to privacy.

As the years pass, abortion is still a controversial topic. Since abortions were made legal, action has been implemented in cases such as Planned Parenthood v. Casey, which changed the framework surrounding abortions; it introduced stricter guidelines for state governments to follow. Instead of abortion availability being based on trimester, it was based on fetal viability. Other cases include Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt, which gave states leeway on the number of abortion clinics available.

After the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, many people thought that would be the end of abortion rights; however, it is difficult to predict how any justice will side on a case.

Today, in 2022, abortions have become more disputed than ever. As Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

spearheaded the courtroom, abortions become a common conversation topic, especially on June 24, 2022, when the court officially decided that Roe v. Wade had been overturned. Planned Parenthood of Illinois released a press conference on the day of the overturn; President Jennifer Welch spoke against the ban on abortions.

"I am furious that the ultra-conservative justices have ignored half a century of settled law, as well as the vast majority of Americans who believe that abortion should remain legal," Welch said.

A total of 26 states are predicted to ban abortions; half of those states have "trigger laws," which are unenforceable, but may achieve enforceability if a key change in circumstances occurs. As a society, there is no telling how this will affect the younger generations.

English teacher Kelly Taylor teaches a course that surrounds the concept of equity and is a mother of four, three of which are young girls. Taylor expressed concern for the children that had no say in this decision yet are still reaping the consequences.

"I am absolutely looking out for not only my children but also all [female students]," Taylor said.

Although this ban has been placed upon all women, there are certain communities that this affects more than others. Women who live in lower-income areas, who are a minority or who already struggle with access to healthcare will be more affected than wealthy white women will.

"There are marginalized voices already as people of color are once again being knocked down and overlooked; this is not

equitable, and this is not fair," Taylor said.

Amy Whitaker is the chief medical officer for Planned Parenthood of Illinois; she wrote on the institution's blog about defending abortion access. Whitaker had a patient who traveled to Chicago from Texas to have a safe abortion. In order to get a professional abortion done, she had to travel across the country because she was five days past the legal cutoff date in her home state of Texas.

"This is the loudest alarm yet that abortion rights are in grave danger, in Texas and nationwide," Whitaker said. "We need you to stay in this fight with us and defend abortion access."

Across the nation, younger generations have started to fight against social issues, and this is no exception. Taylor believes she has seen the younger generations take on the world in a more positive light and be more accepting and empowering of one another compared to older generations. The overturning of Roe v. Wade is a monumental moment in America's history as a nation, something that will likely be talked about in future history classes.

"We've seen a lot of new justices taking their place on the Supreme Court in the last couple of years, and that changes the way the court makes its decisions," Eichman said. "I think for a lot of reasons other than just the content of this decision, it will absolutely be a part of future study and discussion".

Roe v. Wade made abortions legal across America back in 1973; in 2022, that has changed. As a society, are we moving in the wrong direction?

ABORTION RATES HAVE INCREASED

IN ILLINOIS

1

"One clinic in the Illinois suburbs of St. Louis saw a nearly 30% increase in those seeking abortions from June to August."

2

"In Chicago, one non-profit abortion support group served 4,000 clients this year, already 1,000 more than all of 2021."

3

"...post-Dobbs, our weekly budget [for financial and logistical support] is between $35,000 and $45,000 each week"

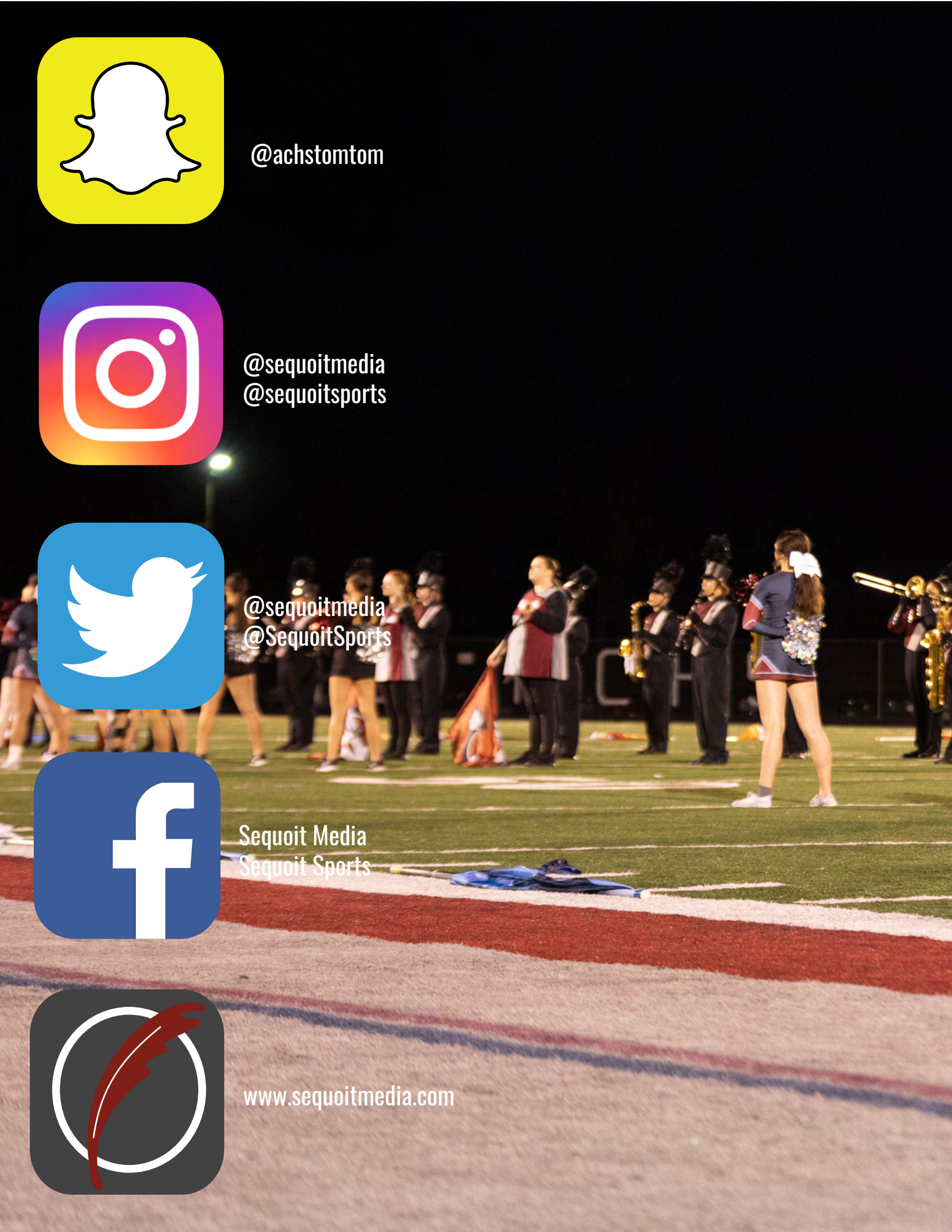
4

"Illinois has become surrounded by states enacting strict restrictions or outrigh bans."

INFO FROM BETTER GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

KLAUDIA DORADO | designer
Tom Tom Staff

JOSIE QUIRKE | writer
Tom Tom Staff



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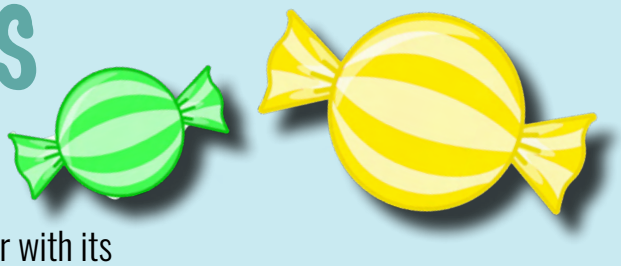
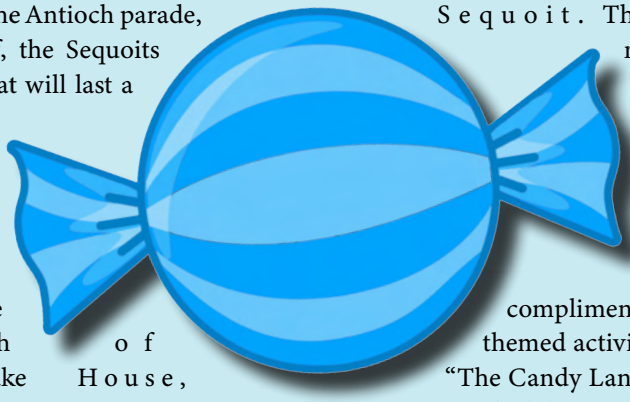
OH, HOW SWEET IT IS TO BE A SEQUOIT



Antioch Community High School continues to carry on another year with its beloved traditions during homecoming season.

It is the most wonderful time to be a part of Antioch Community High School. Homecoming is the annual event that all Sequoits anticipate. Whether it is the Antioch parade, bonfire, assembly or the dance itself, the Sequoits sure know how to make memories that will last a lifetime.



Every year the homecoming festivities are run by the student council also known as the Sequoit Senate. This student-run organization is held responsible for almost the whole week's worth of events. Advisors Laura Tielke, Jake House, Madelynn Soberano and Melissa Garcia assist as the magic is left to the members of Sequoit Senate to make every year better than the last.

"I would say out of all my time here, this was the most successful homecoming week that we have had in terms of just involvement by students," House said. "Hands down the most enthusiastic week."

Involvement is major here at ACHS when it comes to homecoming week. This tradition reaches deep beneath as it is an annual celebration that brings everyone together to feel like a family. As the week goes on, the students have the option and are heavily influenced to dress up for spirit days: Minion vs. Adam Sandler, baby vs. senior citizen, grout-fit, senior toga day or tie-dye and school spirit.

"The halls are filled with a lot of school spirit," Tielke said. "It was really nice to see so many teachers participate this year as well as students. I think Adam Sandler day was huge; that was probably the best theme, and I loved that day."

This year's theme, Candy Land, was produced and voted on by the Sequoit Senate members: Oh, how sweet it is to be a Sequoit. Throughout the week, the members decorated the halls full of candy decorations to boost the thrill and transform the halls into a real-life board game. Bringing the dance to life, these Sequoits worked hard to give it their all for the student body.

"The decorations received many compliments, and people enjoyed the Candy Land themed activities," sophomore Christine Pedrina said. "The Candy Land theme also allowed the Sequoit Senate to easily find decorations for the theme."

The biggest thanks cannot be forgotten to go to House for helping arrange the parade; as Sequoit Senate is the head of the festivities, the man behind it all is him. Whether it is arranging the order of floats, or getting sponsors, he does it all for ACHS, making sure everything will run smoothly for the night.

"I am the parade guy," House said. " That is my biggest responsibility for the year. As far as organization is, we had over 30 individual entries, and it was a big community effort. Everyone got involved."

When it comes to homecoming week, the Sequoits have everything under control. The Sequoit Senate works hard to keep everything in check for every event offered during the week. The 2022 board members, President Brant Becker, Vice President Paola Perez, Secretary Fiona Serifov and Spirit Coordinator Jasmine Fisher, help lead the way.

FIONA SERIFOV | writer
Tom Tom Staff

AALIYAH LIZAK | designer
Lifestyles Digital Director

THE RETURN OF READING

Reading has recently gained popularity with many new authors stepping into the spotlight.

Reading was once looked at as something for "nerds" or only smart people, but as times change, so do perspectives; now, some might say reading is cool again. When the widespread COVID-19 forced everyone to stay inside, reading was seen as something people could do to forget about the stresses of life.

"The last few years have been hard for everyone, and reading allows a safe escape; it allows you to travel without leaving your couch," Little Bean Books store owner Angela Burns said.

Social media has played a big part in the recent popularity of reading. Most of that credit goes to "BookTok," a hashtag that users of TikTok use to reach people who want to learn more about books and authors. Along with that, Barnes & Nobles now has a table at most of their stores that is dedicated to the trending books on "BookTok."

With the help of "BookTok," many people have found a new book or author recommendations. "BookTok" has helped an abundance of authors, old and new, become more popular, such as Colleen Hoover. While she was well known before her popularity spiked, "BookTok" helped her books reach a larger audience. When people search "Colleenhoover" on TikTok, they can see that there are 2.1 billion videos that use that hashtag.

"Colleen Hoover is all over my TikTok right now with women of my age group," math teacher and instructional coach Megan Troyer said.

Not only are authors gaining more traction, but so are certain genres. People have noticed an increase in fantasy and romance books, not just everyday fiction. With these genres becoming more popular, more authors may start writing books that fit into these genres, so they might have a chance of gaining popularity.

With books constantly being published and authors becoming more noticed, the popularity of titles is constantly changing. Many people have different opinions on what books they think are popular and what books they think are good or bad. Freshman Autumn McGrath provided several examples of books she thinks are popular.

"'The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo,' 'The Song of Achilles,' 'It Ends with Us,' 'Normal People' and 'We Were Liars,'" McGrath said.

For those who feel like they cannot find interest in reading, there are plenty of options out there. There are hundreds of resources for audiobooks: Audible, Google Play Books and more. If there is a presence to read books online instead of a hard copy version, that works too. Some places you can find online books are Amazon Kindle, Apple books and Epic.

> "READING ALLOWS A SAFE ESCAPE."
>
> ANGELA BURNS // OWNER OF LITTLE BEAN BOOKS

"I've been able to go through a lot of books, so I usually [like to read] fiction books and audio tapes," assistant Antioch Community High School librarian Kathleen Stewart said.

There are many reasons people read: it could be for relaxation, enjoyment or even for a school assignment. To be able to "escape" into different places is something magical. Some factors that can make the experience of reading even better is the environment one reads in. Everyone has their own preferred time and place of reading, which can make it so much more special because it can be customized to one's specific liking.

"I love stories that are different from my experience," Reading Specialist and English teacher Lindsay Edwardson said. "I feel what the characters are feeling, so I love experiencing all the feelings that I get while reading."

Though it may not always seem popular or cool, reading will never go out of style; it is a way to learn new things, connect with others and even escape reality for a moment.

LIV MARTIN | writer
Tom Tom Staff

PREPARING FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

Juniors and seniors begin planning their journey after high school, staring with applications to prep themselves for college.

Students are growing older and starting their last year or years of high school. They are taking different classes than before, cramming for tests and completing homework that some students dread. Juniors and seniors are beginning the stressful process of college prep and life outside of high school; senior Emily Brecht is exploring her final year of high school and preparing for college. Brecht has already started and has been very successful with preparing her future.

"I'm going to the [University of Illinois Chicago] to play softball," Brecht said. "I'm super excited, but [I'm] stressed from having to live on my own and manage softball and school at the same time."

Brecht did not get into UIC by herself; she had some help along the way from her dad and travel coach, who is a professional player for the USSA Pride. Help from others pushed Brecht to gain interest in the university.

"[My dad and my travel coach's parents] ended up talking to the head coach of UIC, and then I started texting them, eventually going for a visit," Brecht said.

Originally, Brecht was committed to Tennesse Tech in March; however, changes in the coaching staff led Brecht to reopen her recruitment process. She has played softball her whole life, working to play at the collegiate level; Brecht is excited about her future.

> "I WANT TO HEAR WHAT STUDENTS NEED SO THAT I CAN RESPOND TO WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE."
>
> **GENESIS CASILLAS // COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER COUNSELOR**

English teacher Sarah Ogborn teaches AP Language and Composition to juniors. Junior year is the year college becomes a major topic in junior's lives; they must prepare for exams, including SATs, ACTs and more. Ogborn notices the stress and is always there to help her juniors.

"Whatever AP exams they're preparing for, I think a lot of students find it very scary depending on their comfortability with the test," Ogborn said.

Supportive teachers like this may give some juniors hope and confidence that they will actually do well on these tests. Even though junior year is full of difficulty, they do not have to start applications or even have a specific college chosen.

Genesis Casillas is the new College and Career Center counselor at Antioch Community High School for all students to come and figure out what they want to do in college. Casillas is thrilled about new possibilities and changes she can make in students lives.

"I want to hear what students need so that I can respond to what that looks like; if that means students want to hear more about careers, I want to do more exploration of that," Casillas said.

Casillas is ready for students coming in with zero knowledge on what they want to do or where they want to go. She will narrow down the options until students come up with the top five or 10 list of ideas; she works with all grade levels.

College and high school can be stressful for high schoolers, but with the College and Career Center, teachers and family help, students will get the guidance they need for a successful future.

TAYLOR CLARK | writer
Tom Tom Staff

EMMA WAGNER | designer
Tom Tom Staff

AN UNHEEDED WARNING

Teenagers continue to grapple with the increasingly dangerous realm of drug use despite the implores of authority.

Antioch: a quiet town where students live carefree, and nothing out of the ordinary ever happens. Perhaps this was once true when the ignorance of childhood shielded against whispers of dreary truths that were better left unknown, and the inevitable realizations of adulthood were too distant to ponder. However, at the dawn of adolescence, a temptation known by many and admitted by few introduces itself—drugs.

As the artifacts of the D.A.R.E. program have been refurbished into a fashion of vintage tees that exemplify the failures of scare tactics on teenagers—a triumph for the deviating nature that permeates within these and many similar high school halls—the stark realities begin to unfold of substance abuse and overdose.

For some, unprescribed drug use is a means of escape, to step away from the often tumultuous teenage years. For others, they are simply a means to relax or experiment with something new. What often escapes the minds of teens experimenting with these substances is the dishonest nature of illegally bought narcotics; for those who stumble upon this realization too late, it can be a fatal encounter.

What teens may not be aware of while purchasing opiates or other drugs is the likelihood of tampering. An alarming increase of fentanyl overdoses has ravaged the Lake County area of late in an ever-increasing trend. The Antioch Police Department has been left to grapple with the countless calls of drug overdoses: an unsettling realization that a number of these calls come from teenagers no older than their own children.

Antioch Chief of Police, Geoff Guttschow, observes how and why these deadly substances are introduced into the community.

"[Illegal Manufacturers] are cutting [percocet] with fentanyl both to make them less expensive to manufacture but to also increase the addictive properties," Guttschow said. "As a result, kids are going to these parties, and they don't know what they're taking."

Guttschow and the entirety of the Antioch Police Department urge teenagers and students living in Antioch to acknowledge that they are not impervious to these dangers.

"We've [responded to] several kids that have nearly died as a result of taking a very small amount of these fake pills," Guttschow said.

Tragically, these instances have not been exclusive to near-death experiences. Lake County reports to have experienced more than 50 overdose deaths within the first five months of 2022; one fatality was an Antioch Community High School alumni and Antioch resident, 19 years old.

While Antioch is permanently scarred from the tragedies of overdoses, the town is not alone. The neighboring region, McHenry County, details a 250% increase in overdoses in its most recent bulletin, an astounding escalation from previous years. Yet, these numbers mirror an even grander national trend. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States has experienced a 31% increase in drug overdose deaths since 2019, a significant portion of those deaths from fentanyl. The CDC additionally details that the majority of fentanyl deaths reported are an outcome of illicitly-made fentanyl found in heroin and counterfeit pills.

> "AS A RESULT, KIDS ARE GOING TO THESE PARTIES, AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TAKING."
>
> **GEOFF GUTTSCHOW // ANTIOCH CHIEF OF POLICE**

As the grim national trends take root locally, the Antioch Police Department is forced to react with a plethora of precautions. Primarily, Naloxone, or Narcan—commonly employed by first responders—is a fast-acting medication that is extremely effective at reversing an overdose. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Naloxone, when administered, binds itself to opioid receptors to quickly obstruct the effects taking hold in the body.

Due to its consistency and safety, Narcan is at the forefront of the Antioch Police Departments battle against overdose fatalities.

"[In Antioch], every one of our officers carries Narcan," Guttshcow said. "It's safe, effective and relatively inexpensive; there's really no reason not to put it in people's hands."

Students often fear the consequence of involving authority in dire situations; however, when mere minutes can be the deciding

factor of life or death, police and first responders encourage teenagers to report an overdose without wasting any time.

According to The New York State Department of Health, the most telltale signs of an overdose consist of a multitude of symptoms: blue or gray discolored lips, slowness of breath, choking or gurgling sounds and inability to regain consciousness.

Despite the police department's efforts to save overdose victims, employing equipment like Narcan is ultimately a response rather than a preventative measure.

ACHS health teacher Robert Hafer, along with the rest of the health department, has spent countless years attempting to curve students away from drug use, yet efforts in harm reduction and scare tactics show little merit.

"Scare tactics don't always resonate with students, and I think it's important to give students skills that they can use in their life, whether it be strategies and efforts to say no," Hafer said. "Currently, in our curriculum that we do now, we give students experiences that show them the reality behind drug use."

As the dread of overdose deaths increasingly crawls into high schools, it is more important now than ever to understand why many turn to these illicit substances. The aggravation of facing adults who would sooner blindly condemn high schoolers than understand the mental and social health struggles of teens pushes many further down a hole of dependency.

Adolescent drug use can be common ground for individuals who are experiencing depression or anxiety with nowhere else to turn.

"Sometimes students see it as their only way out; it's the only strategy they know about that is easy to fall back on," Hafer said. "I think they'd be wise to find there are better coping strategies, and [teachers] plan to do a better job with that."

Despite an increase in awareness and understanding, reaching students in need can remain an unlikely task for teachers. It is now more essential than ever that students remain diligent about the well-being of their peers.

If you or a peer in need is battling suicidal thoughts or mental illness, text START to 741-741 to reach the Crisis Text Line.

The National Drug Helpline is open to any individual dealing with addiction issues, including family members and other loved ones. Resources are available for those struggling with any addictive substance, including alcohol, and professionals are available to help 24/7/365 at 1-844-289-0879.

BRETT BROSE | writer
Tom Tom Staff

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Visual Director

TORN BETWEEN AP AND DUAL CREDIT

As dual credit classes gained traction from students aspiring to pursue college credits sooner than later, AP classes, once rooms filled, decreased tremendously.

AP and dual credit classes allow students the opportunity to gain college credit. These courses are increasing in popularity and becoming more common in recent years; however, students are now beginning to take fewer AP classes in favor of dual credit classes.

According to ISBE, the state of Illinois viewed a dramatic divide between students enrolled in dual credit classes compared to AP classes. Last year, there was nearly an increase of 9,482 enrolled in dual credit, while AP only saw a lesser increase of 2,885.

Antioch Community High School offers various AP and dual credit classes for everyone. Some AP course examples are AP Language and Composition, AP Government and AP Statistics. As for dual credit, students can take speech, composition, pre-calc and more. Yet, starting this year, biology and senior-level English offers both AP and dual credit simultaneously.

While both may be beneficial for the future of high schoolers, these college courses differ in many ways.

AP classes are less expensive: guardians only pay for the AP exam cost for a chance for their students to earn college credit. However, the payment is mostly covered by ACHS. As for dual credit, it is more expensive than AP, but as long as people receive a grade of a C or higher, they will receive college credit. The only dual credit course that is a full year is pre-calculus; the remainder of the courses are only one semester long.

"One thing that's nice about dual credit is that if you take the class, you're guaranteed that college credit, whereas in AP, you have to get that three, four or five on an AP exam, '' Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction Jaclyn Orlov said. "I think for some students looking for college credit to build some credit if they are not interested in the grade bump of an AP, they might take dual credit."

Getting a feel for college-level classes can be helpful, especially if someone is planning to attend college. For some, AP classes may seem like more work, but it is a college-level class and requires more perseverance.

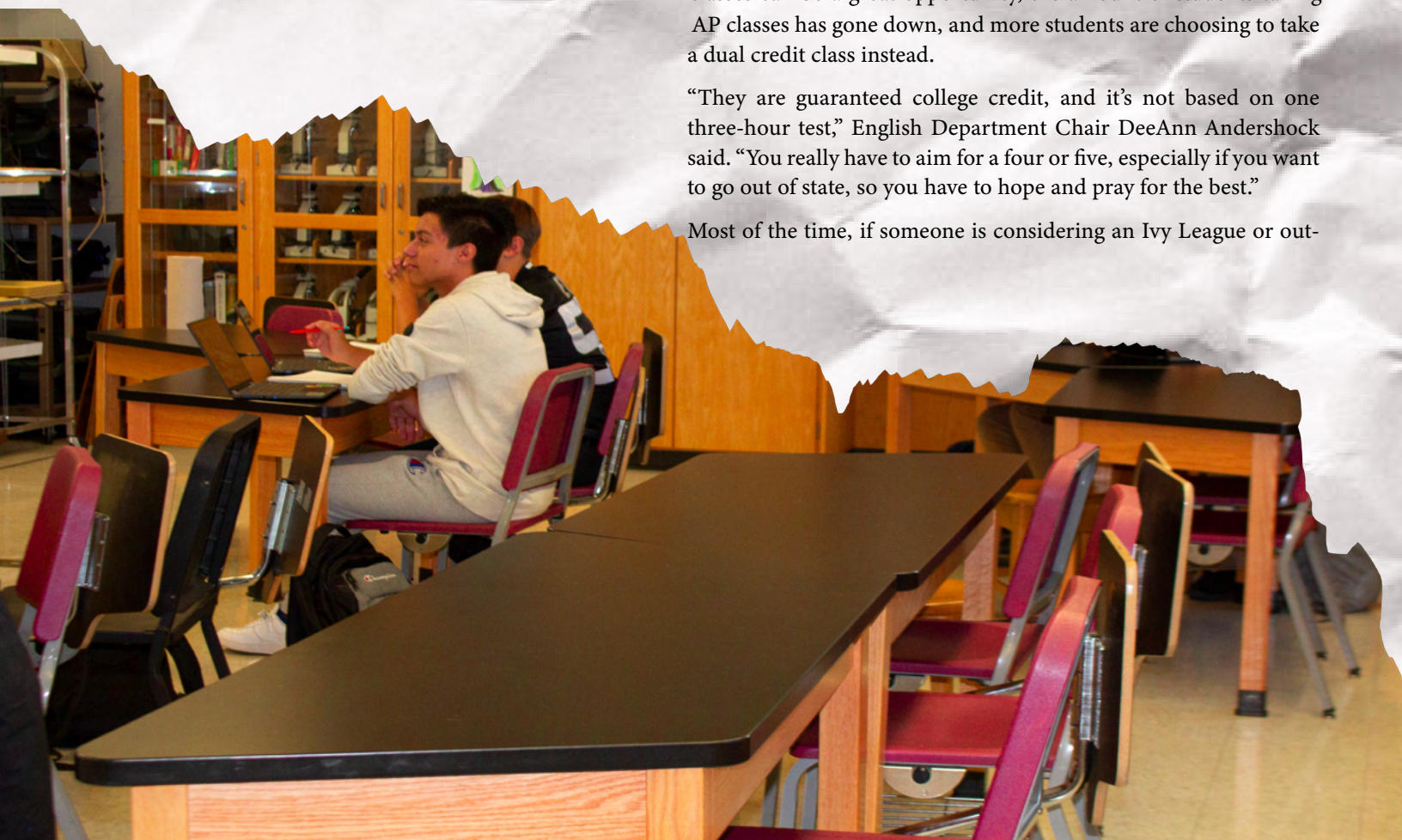
"I really like the rigor of AP classes," senior Lilly McKinney said. "I like how intense the note-taking and the reading can be. I feel like it really prepares you for college for the most part, and there's also the added bonus of the credit for college that you can get."

Students who enjoy more in-depth teaching on material and want college credit may choose AP classes as the better option for them.

Dual credit classes play a similar role as AP, but dual credit may not come off as such an intense class as AP for students. While both classes can be a great opportunity, the amount of students taking AP classes has gone down, and more students are choosing to take a dual credit class instead.

"They are guaranteed college credit, and it's not based on one three-hour test," English Department Chair DeeAnn Andershock said. "You really have to aim for a four or five, especially if you want to go out of state, so you have to hope and pray for the best."

Most of the time, if someone is considering an Ivy League or out-



of-state school, they will only approve those higher scores. Whereas for dual credit classes, students pay a $300 fee to receive college credit. Some people may take the dual credit class as a simpler way around the credit.

"It is kind of the easy way out," senior Morgan Poulos said. "If you don't think you can pass an AP test, then obviously, it's the better option, but if you think you can do the AP class, then I think you should."

AP classes have been around longer than dual credit classes. Even though dual credit classes are more expensive, they have been a safer route for students who want that college credit but do not have or want the opportunity for a full-year course of AP.

AP classes are full-year courses and can feel just as rewarding as a college class would feel. The classes normally require a more rigorous work ethic than other high school level classes, but making the time and effort for the class can pay off.

"Very often, it's not really the class or the content [that students struggle with], it's something else going on with that student," Orlov said. "Whether they are struggling with life, they're busy, they have a job or have serious sports."

While both courses are college level, some find that AP is more work than dual credit, but nothing is impossible, and if the time is right, either class courses are great opportunities.

UW OshKosh grants students who are in a dual credit class college credit. ACHS also offers more English dual credit courses than any other department. Students continuing their education after high school will often need English courses as a gen-ed unless someone plans to major in English; it may be wiser to get it done now.

ACHS has very few requirements for dual credit courses. The pre-calculus dual credit class does require a placement test, but the others do not. The more dual credit classes that are offered are senior English: Literature and Composition, AP Biology, and CADD.

"If you're already taking the class, you might as well just take a dual credit," Poulos said. "If you're planning on going to college, you're gonna have to take [those classes] anyways, and it'll be a lot cheaper to just take the dual credit class in high school."

Taking dual credit classes in high school guarantees students college credit, gives students a feel for college-level classes and financially, it is cheaper than it will be in any college.

More people are realizing what dual credit means and how it can benefit students. While AP provides possible college credit and a grade bump, students have shown more interest in the dual credit programs, especially this year.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

CARTER WEBB | photographer
Tom Tom Staff

Senior Allie Curry defends the goal alongside her teammate Kelsie MacMillan. The team went on to defeat their crosstown rivals, Lake Community High School.

SEQUOIT SOUNDOFF

"MY COUSIN, OLIVIA DUEHR, IS ON THE WALL OF FAME WHEN YOU WALK INTO SCHOOL. I ASKED COACH P WHAT IT WOULD TAKE FOR ME TO COVER OLIVIA'S SPOT, AND SHE TOLD ME I HAD TO COME IN THE TOP FIVE AT STATE. I HOPE THAT I CAN'T COVER HER PICTURE OR WE BOTH GET OUR OWN SPOT."

DONALD BARNETT
SENIOR VARSITY GOLFER

BY THE NUMBERS

360 FALL ATHLETES

Antioch Community High School values its athletics as its participants in fall sports surpasses 300.

THE JOURNEY OF A FUTURE BIG 10 GOALIE

The Sequoit athletics program is packed with dedicated and competitive athletes, many of whom are planning to continue their careers in college.

Senior Allie Curry is one of those athletes; Curry verbally committed to the University of Iowa to play Division 1 field hockey in September. Curry has been playing field hockey all four years of her high school career.

"My father and uncle inspired me to play field hockey," Curry said. "They told me to go play field hockey and try it, so I did."

In April 2021, Curry faced a major ACL and meniscus injury that forced her to battle through multiple rounds of physical therapy and the inability to play the sports she loves. However, Curry never gave up throughout this process, and she was able to make a full comeback and continue to pursue her dreams of playing collegiate field hockey.

"ALLIE, WE LOVE YOU."

KELSIE MACMILLAN // CLASS OF 2023

"I'm most looking forward to playing at a higher level and being able to possibly win a Big 10 championship and possibly a national championship," Curry said.

Senior Kelsie MacMillan has accompanied Curry throughout her Sequoit field hockey career. They have been playing together since freshman year, bringing them closer as friends.

"She has pushed all of us to be our best selves and to perform at the top of our abilities," MacMillan said.

As the field hockey season slowly comes to a close in mid-October, Curry and MacMillan have minimal time left to play with each other and has some parting words for Curry.

"Allie, we love you; don't screw up in college," MacMillan said.

Alongside the continuous support from Curry's teammates, field hockey head coach Terry Dewing has also helped Curry through every step of her journey.

Dewing has been Curry's coach since the beginning of her freshman year and has been able to watch Curry's passion, skill and competitiveness grow throughout the years.

"She's a pretty upbeat person in general; I think that's part of the reason why she was voted as captain of the team this year," Dewing said. "She generally has a positive attitude."

Curry continues to help lead the team to victory at each of their games. She is a crucial asset to the team, and without her hard work and diligence, field hockey will not be the same.

Dewing expressed how proud she was of Curry's comeback after her ACL injury; she also believes it is a crucial moment that motivated Curry toward her dreams of playing Division 1 field hockey.

"I think she thought at that point that the hopes of her playing D1 hockey maybe went down the drain a little bit," Dewing said. "I think that pushed her to work really hard at her rehab for her knee that got her back to pretty much full strength, which allowed her to pursue and what her goal was all along: to play college field hockey."

ACHS is ready to see what Curry will do in college, but first, the field hockey season continues for the Sequoits.

LAILA SALATA | writer
Tom Tom Staff

SEQUOIA PHOTO OF THE MONTH

SEQUOIT SNAPSHOT

Senior Lexi Dalton cheers on the Antioch Community High School varsity football team before their home opener against Morris.

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