

THE MAMMOTH TRIBUNE

"MADE BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS"



VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS



- 5 **Halloween**
A recap of WCA's annual Halloween, a battle between houses

- 9 **Hansel, And, Gretel**
Our theatre departments german-esque play loosely based on the famous tale "Hansel and Gretel"

- 11 **Keeping Up With the Herd**
Keeping up with WCA alumni Jake Ressler and his college life at Southern Utah University

- 13 **Agatha All Along**
A review of the new Disney+ series Agatha All Along and how it adds to the Marvel Cinematic Universe

- 22 **A Chance at Freedom**
A look into the Menendez Brothers case as well as their current resentencing

- 23 **Climate Change and War**
Informative article about the effects war has on the climate due to factors like emissions



- 3-4 **Around Campus**
7 **DTASC**
8 **Broadway Romeo and Juliet**
14 **Beyond Beyond Beyond**
15 **Youtuber Products**
16 **Fortnite Chapter 2 Remix**
17 **Playstation 5 Pro**
18 **The Future of Tesla**
19 **California Video Game Law**
20 **World Series**
21 **The Surge of Hurricanes**
25 **Word Games**





THE TRIBUNE STAFF



Back Row: Lucas Land, Zeydi Ponce, Melody Cortez, Kolton Klug, Gabriela Ordaz, Jayla Moss, Lily Hawkinson, Maddox McAvaney, Gabriela Sagastume, Alejandro Pena, Yaretzi Gutierrez

Front Row: Lovina Seelhofer, Vivianna Ugarte, Adriana Ordaz, McKayla Binette, Kaisara Arambula

Not Pictured: Kaylei Davis

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Hello Mammoths,

Welcome to our fall issue of *The Mammoth Tribune*. In this season of Thanksgiving, we would like to stress the importance of acknowledging and appreciating those for whom you're grateful. As for *The Mammoth Tribune*, our staff is entirely grateful for all of our readers as well as our amazing school that keeps our publication going. In honor of this, we've provided you with some wonderful articles in this issue, including a review of theater's most recent play, *Hansel and Gretel*, an update on the Menendez brothers, a World Series recap, as well as the usual articles on climate change, the tech world, pop culture, and the goings on at the WCA. We hope you enjoy reading this issue and that you will have a fabulous Thanksgiving break!

- Jayla Moss, Design Layout Editor

"Made By Students For Students."



Haunting Around Campus

By Lily Hawkinson

The night before Halloween, Oct. 30, Link Crew and ASB collaborated to host a school-wide Trunk or Treat event for all Western Center students. The event included a variety of decorated trunks and activities for kids to enjoy. Trunks were themed from Scooby Doo, Monsters Inc., and even Minions, and featured various carnival style games to earn a candy reward. Students from WCA's Rock Band also performed a variety of indie, rock, metal, and Halloween music.

During Halloween's competition from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, ASB held a Diaper Drive to show support for **Mr. Brandt's** newborn twins and **Mrs. Hartigan's** expected baby. Each diaper donated was worth one point for the respective Hogwarts house, resulting in a total of 748 diapers collected by the end of the week.





HALLOWEEK

By Lovina Seelhofer

As you all know we celebrated Halloween Spirit Week from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1. Here is a quick recap. Monday was Quidditch Day, where students wore jerseys, or if you didn't own one, you could print a design to make your shirt look like a jersey. The lunchtime activity was dodgeball. On Tuesday students dressed like a famous portrait. Wednesday was Mismatched Clothing Day, where students wore crazy patterns and non-uniform jeans, and the lunchtime activity was musical chairs. Students dressed in their Halloween costumes on Thursday and competed in a costume contest during lunch. Finally, Friday was Hogwarts House Colors Day. Students wore the colors of their Hogwarts houses: Gryffindor (red and gold), Slytherin (green and silver), Hufflepuff (yellow and black), and Ravenclaw (blue and bronze). The lunchtime activity was pumpkin painting. Thanks to everyone for participating and making Halloween Spirit Week a success!





Mammoths at DTASC

By Melody Cortez

On Oct. 19, Calabasas High School held the semi-annual DTASC competition (Drama Teachers Association of Southern California). Over 50 schools came together to compete for the best scene in different categories ranging from drama to comedy. Students perform their scenes in their category and judges decide which version of the scene was communicated best.

Due to their hard work, one WCA group made it to finals and was awarded honorable mention for their scene from *Steel Magnolias*. One *Steel Magnolias* performer **Abigail McClymont (2025)** said, “Everyone was super supportive and it made me excited to join DTASC again next semester. I am so happy to have a great community around me and I’m looking forward to the next one.” The rest of the cast included **Melanie Wainaina (2027)**, **Abigail Brady (2025)**, and **Samantha Hoggan (2025)**. They entered under the category “female centric” which means the scene is centered around female characters.

Another WCA group made it to the semi-finals and did a “large group comedy,” which could be a maximum of eight minutes, and have three-to-six performers. Their act, called *Madea*, was a comedy about a woman who seeks revenge on her husband after he left her for another woman. *Madea* actor **Jazmyn Jimenez (2027)** said, “I really enjoyed performing this scene as it was very dramatic and funny. I am so proud of my group and I for all of our hard work because our determination to succeed in the competition got us all the way into the semi-finals, meaning that our group did amazing!” Other actors in the group included **Morgan Munnell (2025)**, **Khloe Watkins (2027)**, **Annabella Anderson (2028)**, and **Lucas Land (2026)**.



The overall outcome of this year's DTASC was spectacular, leaving many of the performers excited to come back and do it again next semester. Many students who aren't even interested in drama still join for the skills and experience that it provides. The event hopefully inspired new members to join the Theatre program and compete in DTASC.



Romeo and Juliet on Broadway

By Kaisara Arambula

The Broadway adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*, featuring Kit Connor as Romeo and Rachel Zegler as Juliet, is a contemporary reimagining of William Shakespeare's timeless tragedy. This production officially debuted on Oct. 24, 2024 and will continue its run on Broadway until Feb. 16, 2025. Ticket prices range from \$84 to \$599.

This production blends traditional elements with modern sensibilities, appealing to classic theater enthusiasts and new audiences as stated by the director Sam Gold. The casting of Connor has generated significant excitement due to his rising star status in the entertainment industry.

Kit Connor, known for his roles in popular series such as "Heartstopper". The show's preview reveals Connor's youthful yet profound interpretation of Romeo. His ability to convey deep emotions while maintaining a relatable persona makes him an ideal fit for the role. Rachel Zegler, who gained fame through her performance in Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story*, portrays Juliet with a perspective that resonates with contemporary themes of love, identity, and conflict. Many users on the "Romeo and Juliet (Broadway) NYC Reviews" website highlight the on-stage chemistry as a standout feature of the production, creating excitement among the audience.

The 2024 production of *Romeo and Juliet*, particularly in its reimagining for a Gen Z audience, has had a significant impact on how this classic story resonates with younger viewers. The "Romeo and Juliet NYC" official website points out the incorporation of contemporary elements such as modern music, relatable dialogue, and visual aesthetics that appeal to Gen Z sensibilities.

Jack Antonoff, the music producer of *Romeo and Juliet*, has established himself in the music industry through his work with various artists across genres, including Taylor Swift, Lana Del Rey, and Lorde. His signature sound often blends pop sensibilities with introspective lyrics and rich instrumentation. Fans have been acknowledging Antonoff's contributions and ability to blend different musical styles, such as contemporary music with classical storytelling. According to the audience this allows him to create emotionally charged compositions that enhance the story through music. Antonoff's music in *Romeo and Juliet* is designed to engage a diverse audience.

The direction of this adaptation is expected to emphasize dynamic staging and innovative choreography, which are crucial for bringing Shakespeare's language to life in a way that feels accessible. Additionally, the use of music—the blend of contemporary styles—will enhance the emotional depth of key scenes.



Image Credit: Matthew Murphy & Evan Zimmerman



Image Credit: Sara Krulwich/NYT



Hansel, And, Gretel

By **Vivianna Ugarte**

From Nov. 13 to Nov. 15 the WCA Players showcased their Winter play *Hansel, And, Gretel*, an adaptation of the original story with some minor changes to ensure the audience gets an experience unlike any other. The play follows the story of three young children, Hansel played by **Lucas Land (2026)**, Gretel played by **Samantha Hoggan (2025)**, and their younger sibling And played by **Sadee Packham (2025)**, as they find themselves in the difficult situation of trying to save their stepmother. With a blend of comedy, suspense, and continuous audience interaction, the actors fully immersed the audience in every scene.

Jayda Bass (2027) stars as Elka, the stepmother of Hansel, And, and Gretel, whose life is thrown into chaos when her evil twin sister, Elsa, played by **Morgan Munnel (2025)**, unexpectedly shows up. Elsa, determined to take over Elka's life, employs her accomplices, **Abigail McClymont (2025)** and **Peyton Her (2027)**, to help remove Elka from the picture. Once she has Elka out of the way, Elsa sets her sights on getting rid of the children so she can live happily ever after with their father. Despite multiple attempts to abandon Hansel, And, and Gretel in the woods or have her goons deal with them, the clever children manage to turn each of Elsa's schemes against her. In the end, they convince their father of Elsa's deception, revealing that his "wife" is actually her evil twin.



During their antics to reveal the truth of what is going on to their father, Hansel, And, and Gretel also manage to find their mother through the help of their beloved dog **Abigail Brady (2025)**. However, throughout the play many of the actors have intentional mishaps adding a comedic aspect of the story. These staged errors lead to Morgan Munnell getting injured forcing background actor **Alan Trejo (2025)** to step up and take her place. Despite continued accidents, the play goes on, with Alan Trejo also getting injured. This allows Abigail Brady to retake her spot that had initially been “stolen” from her by Morgan Munnell creating plenty of “tension” on and off the set.

By the end of the play all three actors portraying Elsa appear on the set attempting to take down their sister Elka after they have reunited. This leads to an intense fight scene, culminating in all three Elsas being pushed into an oven and baked alive. Hansel, And, and Gretel are left to celebrate a renewed sense of happiness with their family.

This play was especially difficult to produce because so many things are meant to go wrong on purpose, requiring the actors to perform everything perfectly. Yet, they did an amazing job with their performances and were able to bring to life exactly what they had envisioned. The performance was filled with laughter, gasps, and excitement, earning rave reviews and leaving the audience overjoyed with this unique adaptation.



Keeping Up With the Herd: Jake Ressler

By Jayla Moss

Former Western Center Academy Student **Jake Ressler** is attending Southern Utah University and majoring in mechanical engineering. He intends to graduate in 2027 and is currently registered as a senior at the university. Jake graduated from WCA in 2023 and during his time here, he was the president of Mammoth Time and an avid member of ASB. *The Mammoth Tribune* asked him some questions about college life as well as his time here at WCA.

What is your favorite memory of your time at WCA?

My favorite memory from WCA is the time spent with my friends. Whether it's something simple like the lunchtime conversations, or something monumental like graduation night, the one thing I always remember is in that moment I was glad to be with my friends. Looking back I can't remember every event or every class, but I can remember who I was with. Through it all, I had a great group of friends, and they are what shaped my high school experience, and are what made it so memorable. As my one friend Max once said "At the time we didn't know the memories we were making, looking back, we wish we had cherished them more."

How did WCA prepare you for college?

WCA prepared me in many ways for college. One such way was by providing so many opportunities to earn college credit. In my second year at SUU, I am already registered as a Senior and have finished all my general education credits, which means I registered before almost everyone else in my major, helping me to get the classes I need. WCA also taught me how to balance life in and out of the classroom. My classes at WCA prepared me for the workload I would face in college, how college courses are formatted, and how to use Canvas, which has been a lifesaver. WCA also taught me the importance of enjoying the moment and going to school events, as this is what you remember.

What extracurricular activities or clubs are you involved in at your college?

In college, I am the team captain of our Baja Racing team. As a team, we design, build, and race a Baja buggy at an annual competition against 100 other colleges. This event includes obstacle courses, a hill climb, a series of vehicle tests and inspections, as well as a 4-hour endurance race on a technical track that challenges all vehicles. I also serve as a council member to the senator over the College of Engineering and Computational Sciences. In this role, I am responsible for representing not only the Baja racing team but also all the mechanical engineering students currently at SUU.



What is college life like outside of the classroom?

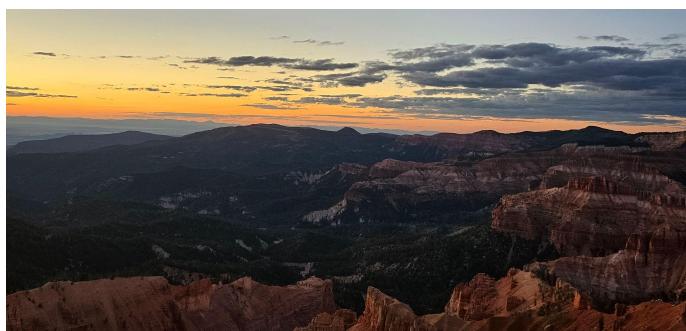
College life outside the classroom is a blast. Getting involved in a team or club outside of the classroom is something I highly recommend students do. It helps develop a sense of belonging and also helps grow new friendships. I have found this in the Baja team. I have met some of my best friends because of this group. Outside of classes I also enjoy exploring my surroundings with my friends, whether it's going out for a drive to explore a new road, or finding a new hiking trail to check out. School social events are also a great time, whether it's a full-blown concert for homecoming week or just a simple movie night on the quad, it's a chance to get out there and meet new people or hang out with the friends you have already. Hosting social events is also a fun time. My dorm room has game and movie nights almost every other week with the other rooms on our floor, just to meet new people and have a good time together. College isn't just about the classes and work, it's also about the experiences you have, the memories you make, and the friendships you develop - so don't be afraid to try new things and meet new people outside the classroom.

What are some of your plans for the future?

My plan for the future is to graduate from SUU with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Physics. After this I hope to enter into the engineering industry, working in the automotive sector. Ultimately I plan to secure an engineering position that allows me to explore my passion for engineering, specifically automotive design, and the development of new systems for vehicles to increase performance and safety.

How did you know the college you're attending was the right choice for you?

I knew Southern Utah University was the right choice for me after visiting one of our Red Riots. These are overnight events where high school students get to experience the fun of college for a weekend. I fell in love with the surrounding area, the people, and the culture of SUU. It's a smaller school, in a small town, and felt welcoming. It was because of my Red Riot experience that I knew this was the right choice for me.



What is your favorite part about the college you attend?

My favorite part about the college I attend is the people. I've met so many incredible professors here who wish to see you succeed, much like the teachers at WCA. The professors and other faculty are supportive, encouraging, and always willing to help however they can. I've also met some great people I am lucky to call my friends at SUU. I've met these friends through classes, dorm life, and Baja; my life is better off because of them. They've helped me grow as an individual and have shown me things about myself that I may not have otherwise known. I'm sure that they will be lifelong friends.

What advice can you give to WCA students preparing for or applying to college?

My advice for students preparing to or applying to college is to think about what you want to get out of your college experience. You want to tell the school about how amazing you are, but something arguably more important is telling them what you wish to achieve and gain by attending their school. This also helps you when the time comes to decide which college to choose. Once you know what you're looking for in a school the decision becomes clear as to which is the right choice for you. Remember college isn't only about classes, it's about the people you meet, the support you receive, the environment around you, and ultimately what will give you the best experience over the next 4 years of your life.



Agatha All Along

By McKayla “Sarinya” Binette

Kathryn Hahn is back as Agatha Harkness in *Agatha All Along*, the first spin-off show of *WandaVision*. Streaming on Disney+, *Agatha All Along* follows this centuries-old witch after her twisting encounter with Wanda Maximoff, aka the Scarlet Witch, in the fictional town of Westview, New Jersey, three years before *Agatha All Along* takes place in 2026. After being put in her own magical spell by Wanda, Agatha is freed by Teen, played by Joe Locke, with a mysterious sigil protecting his identity and a goal to get to the Witches’ Road.

The first episode of the season acts as a stepping stone from the sitcom style of *WandaVision* and places Agatha in a show-like environment similar to the entirety of *WandaVision*. This first episode is less action packed than the rest of the series and could be quickly overshadowed by other episodes, but it’s important to remember that the series needed a good transition from *WandaVision*. However, this episode did set up questions that weren’t answered by the conclusion of the series.

At the end of the first episode, Aubrey Plaza’s character, Rio Vidal, is introduced when her and Agatha have the first major fight of the season. Because of the structure of the show, there aren’t many physical fights between characters until the penultimate episode between Agatha, Rio, and Teen. This structure is similar to *WandaVision* but unlike other Marvel Studios series’ such as *Moon Knight* and *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*. However, I found that less physical fighting contributed greatly to the sisterhood nature of the show and that issues don’t always have to end with a physical victor.

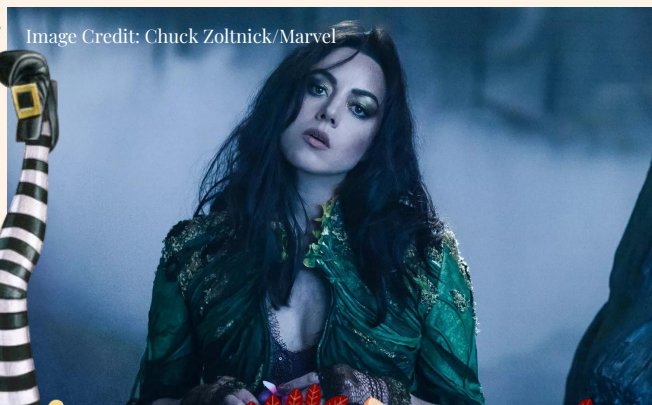


Image Credit: Chuck Zoltnick/Marvel



Throughout the episodes, each member of the coven is put through a trial based on their own witchy speciality: protection, potions, divination, spirit, and nature. Each trial did an amazing job of spotlighting each witch of the coven with episode 7 being the overall best episode among many fans. This tracks with how well the writing, technicality, and performance of each actor was executed in this episode. My personal favorite episode was episode 9, the finale, centered around Agatha and her history with the Witches’ Road. The use of practical effects over CGI reminded me of the practicality of old Hollywood, especially since CGI is something that Marvel Studios has gotten pushback about in recent years. From the themes of sisterhood, magic, and mystery, *Agatha All Along* is worth anyone’s time.

Image Credit: Chuck Zoltnick/Marvel



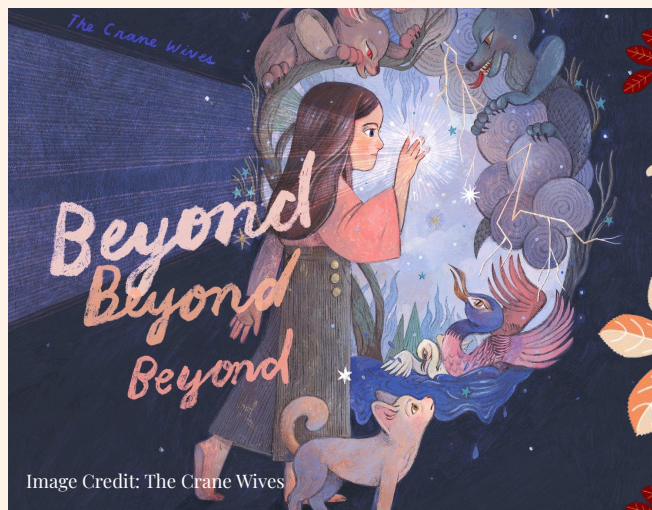
Beyond Beyond Beyond

By Gabriela Ordaz

After eight long years since their last album, the Crane Wives released *Beyond Beyond Beyond* on Sept. 6, 2024. The band consists of Emilee Petersmark as guitarist and lead vocalist, guitarist Kate Pillsbury and drum player Dan Rickabus also lending their vocals to the band, and Ben Zito on the bass guitar. The Crane Wives debuted their first album, *Safe Ship, Harbored*, in 2011. Their rapid growth in popularity was attributed to their addictive folk-rock sound. After their first release, the band continued, with *The Fool in Her Wedding Gown* in 2012, *Coyote Stories* in 2015—their most popular album to date— and *Foxlore* in 2016. While they have released live recordings over the years, *Beyond Beyond Beyond* is their first full studio album since 2016.

From the first song on the album, “Scars,” it’s clear that The Crane Wives have changed their sound. *Beyond Beyond Beyond* takes on a more “alt-rock” sound than their previous albums, a shift that, according to band member Kate Pillsbury, felt natural. “We wanted to dig into guitar and take it more seriously,” Pillsbury explained in an interview with John Sinkevics for the *Record-Eagle*, a Traverse City, Michigan newspaper. “Once we found that new form of self-expression, it just kind of led the way.”

As someone who has been following the Crane Wives since the release of *Coyote Stories* in 2015, *Beyond Beyond Beyond* was a highly anticipated album for me. The Crane Wives had announced the release during their live shows, and had been playing the songs for the first time, and I was even more excited after hearing them. When I finally had the chance to listen to the album in full, I was enthralled. *Beyond Beyond Beyond* is, at its core, a story that explores anger, regret, and hope.



The first track, and also my favorite on the album, “Scars,” sets the tone for the underlying rage and helplessness expressed throughout the rest of the album, when Petersmark sings in a resigned tone, “Was I born with a hole in my heart/A fatal fault at the start/Tell me that it’s inevitable that I end up with scars.” Yet the album tells listeners that there is hope and joy to be found in life. In “Arcturus Breathing,” Petersmark implores the audience, “There’s more to life than suffering/But there’s still time, it’s not too late/Nothing will change until I change.”

Beyond Beyond Beyond is a welcome addition to my playlists, and I would recommend anyone who is a fan of indie music to listen to the album and the rest of The Crane Wives’ repertoire.





YouTuber Products

By Maddox McAvaney

Over the past few years, popular YouTubers have launched food and beverage products that are now available in local supermarkets. With millions of subscribers, these creators use their platforms to promote these items, generating significant revenue. Some well-known products are consumables, like Prime, Feastables, and Lunchly.

Prime is an energy drink sold by popular YouTubers KSI and Logan Paul. With a wide range of flavors and high demand, it's only available in the United States and the UK, leading some people to go to great lengths to get it. In the first few weeks after launch, Prime nearly sold out, turning the drink into a rarity. Although it initially seemed like just a trend, Prime remains widely available and highly sought after by the public.

MrBeast, a philanthropic YouTuber and the most-subscribed creator with 327 million followers, recently launched a chocolate bar brand called Feastables, aimed at competing directly with Hershey's. He frequently encourages people to try Feastables over Hershey's, emphasizing that his bars contain only five ingredients. I've tried the chocolate myself, and while it's well-made, it doesn't taste significantly different from other chocolate bars.



Lunchly, a joint venture between the creators of Prime and Feastables, has launched a direct competitor to Lunchables. Unlike Lunchables, which must label their cheese as a "Pasteurized Prepared Cheese Product," Lunchly promotes its use of real cheese and real ham. However, a recurring issue has emerged: many reviewers report that the ham and the cheese often arrives moldy, making it inedible. These allegations could potentially see them removed from store shelves.

Lunchly has several different meals similar to Lunchables, such as mini pizzas or crackers, ham, and cheese, but they also include a Prime drink and a Feastables bar. When I tried it, I was pleasantly surprised—the ham was fresh, and the overall experience was enjoyable.

Overall, I don't believe people should object to these YouTuber products. While they're often not the highest quality, they provide revenue that helps YouTubers continue their careers and increase their video budgets.





FORTNITE



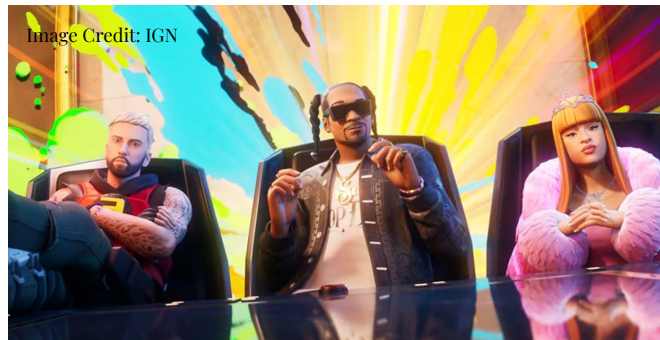
Fortnite Chapter 2 Remix

By **Alejandro (AJ) Pena**

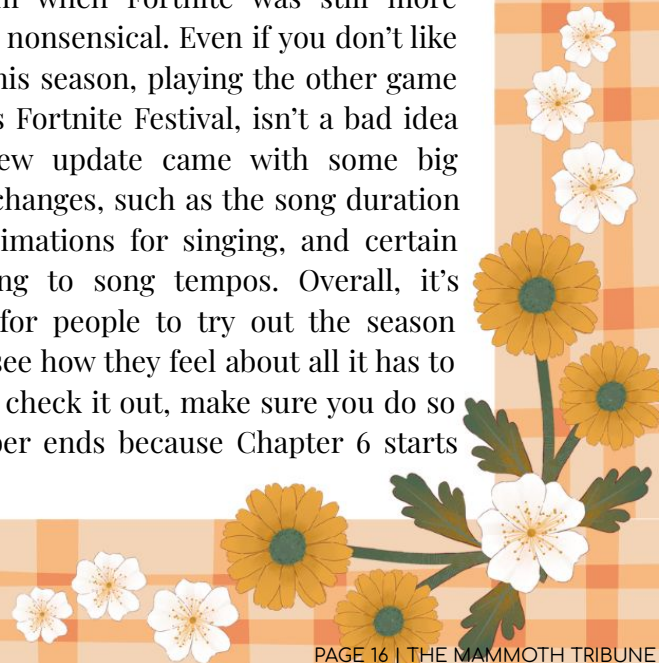
Fortnite Chapter 2 is finally back after almost three years, but this time, with a Remix. Similar to last November, Fortnite has gone back in time to one of its classic maps to fuel nostalgia for long-time players, as well as giving new players a taste of the game's roots. The map isn't completely the same as it was before, though, with "The Agency" now being overrun by hip-hop artist Snoop Dogg, and becoming "The Doggpound." As the chapter continues on throughout the rest of the month, it's also said that other points of interests (POIs) such as "The Shark" and "The Grotto" will be revamped by Ice Spice and Eminem as well.

The battle pass for this mini season has mixed opinions on its content. To start off, Fortnite has made a very widely accepted decision to incorporate more rewards for Fortnite Festival, Lego Fortnite, and Rocket Racing into the general Battle Pass. This change has been requested by the Fortnite community ever since the game modes were first implemented. Now that it's here, this update is expected to unify the modes and make progression more rewarding.

Along with changes to how the battle pass functions, this season's pass itself has generated discussion. Similar to the Chapter 1 Fortnite OG pass, this season also provides alternate, renewed versions of old skins from their original chapter. While some players love these new takes, others feel they don't quite measure up to the Chapter 1 Fortnite OG pass. Whether you decide to buy the battle pass or not, leveling up won't be a struggle this season since XP is being given out like candy, especially if you play other game modes other than Battle Royale.



Speaking of Battle Royale, it's pretty fun so far. The old hitscan loot pool is great to have back, even if the bloom feels a little weird at times. It's also just a great breath of fresh air to have the old map back from when Fortnite was still more cartoonish and nonsensical. Even if you don't like Battle Royale this season, playing the other game modes, such as Fortnite Festival, isn't a bad idea either. This new update came with some big additions and changes, such as the song duration meter, new animations for singing, and certain emotes adapting to song tempos. Overall, it's probably best for people to try out the season themselves to see how they feel about all it has to offer. If you do check it out, make sure you do so before November ends because Chapter 6 starts on Dec. 1.



The Playstation 5 Pro: Worth the Purchase?

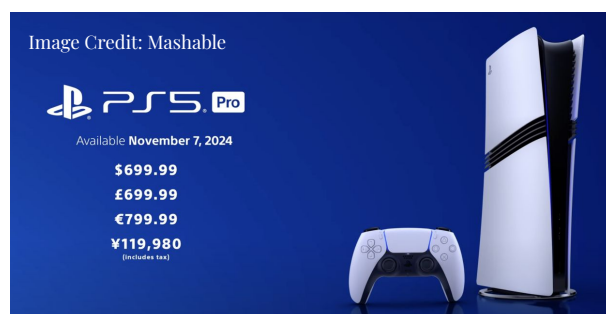
By Kolton Klug

On Nov. 7, Sony released their newest console; an upgrade of the Playstation 5 with better graphics and GPU processing capabilities. Since its announcement, the console has sparked controversy over whether it is worth upgrading from a normal Playstation 5, or if it was just another cash-grab from Sony.

The Playstation 5 Pro is very similar to the original Playstation 5, but with smoother graphics and a stronger GPU. Sony showcased these new features at the Playstation 5 Pro Technical Presentation, where they compared gameplay from the original PS5 to its Pro counterpart. This is where all of the backlash stems from.

A majority of the showcase had little to no noticeable differences to the gameplay and performance between the two, despite a \$200 price difference, which is a 40% increase in price for what is perceived as the exact same thing. Although visually identical, the GPU increase is substantial on paper. It adds 67% more computing units, which in turn creates a 47% faster rendering rate. This means that the capabilities of the PS5 Pro were showcased poorly, and instead of showing basic scenes on the same settings and resolutions, it should have showcased more GPU-intensive scenes and settings showing what the PS5 Pro excels at. Regardless, for the average gamer it is not worth the upgrade, and it is only worth buying for those dedicated enough to notice the frame bump and smoothness of more intensive games.

At the time this article was written, the PS5 Pro had not officially been released, but some tech-reviewers and YouTubers were given early access to the game console. It still stands that the new PS5 Pro is only meant to improve on things that the original PS5 lacked. As per *IGN*, "Put simply, at a hardware level, the PS5 Pro is a PS5 with a more powerful GPU." It has also been noted that this upgrade could be underwhelming in comparison to the base PS5, with *ScreenRant* saying that "although there's nothing wrong with chasing the best way to play games, anyone currently on the fence might not have enough of a reason to commit to a PlayStation 5 Pro upgrade." Overall though, it is still your choice on whether you want to buy the new PlayStation 5 console.



The Future of Tesla

By Kaylei Davis

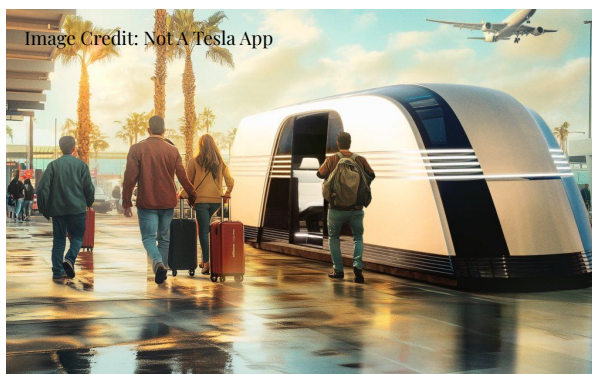
On Oct. 9, Elon Musk, founder and CEO of Tesla, announced three new products at his We Robot event: the Tesla Bot, Cybercab and Robovan, all aimed to help humanity.

Tesla Bot: Tesla Bots, also known as Optimus, are humanoid robots that are designed to do anything humans can do. The Optimus bots were first introduced in a way a lot of people didn't take seriously. Elon Musk was quoted in *The Verge* that the Optimus would be "fundamental transformation for civilization." The bot is said to be able to perform repetitive or boring tasks and can also perform tasks such as babysitting. Musk expects the Optimus bots to cost \$20,000 to \$30,000, less than many cars.



Cybercab: At the unveiling event, Elon Musk introduced the Cybercab, also known as the Robotaxi, a new electric vehicle designed to be fully autonomous. This vehicle, intended to operate without a steering wheel or pedals, will require extensive regulation before production. Unlike traditional electric cars, it has no plug-in capability; instead, it charges wirelessly through induction, as reported by *The Verge*. Musk also claims that the car is expected to be much safer than human driven vehicles, and plans to start fully autonomous driving in California and Texas next year. The car's futuristic design—featuring upward-swinging doors and a sleek, modern aesthetic—embodies the vision many have of transportation in the future.

Robovan: The Tesla Robovan is the highlight of Tesla's collection for the future. Similar to the cybercab, the sleek, train-like design of the Robovan looks like something straight out of our imaginations. The Robovan can carry up to 20 passengers and can be used to transport goods. According to *The Verge*, the Robovan is intended to be used for the company's own autonomous ride hailing service and for Tesla customer's personally owned vehicles.



TESLA



TESLA



You've Never Owned A Video Game

By Lucas Land

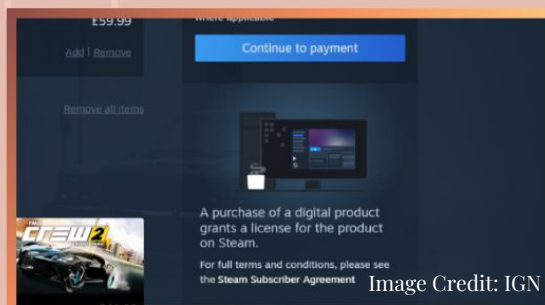
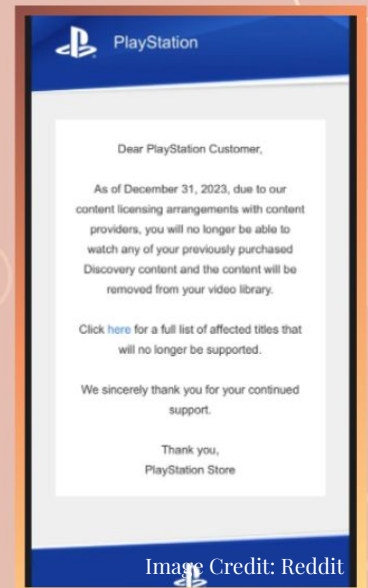
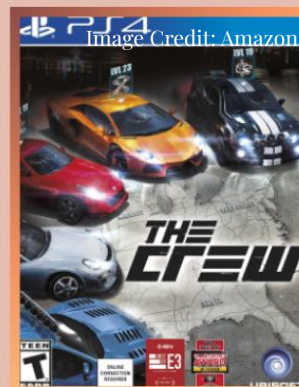
On Sept. 24, 2024, Senator Gavin Newsom signed a bill stating that all sellers of any digital goods, whether it be games, movies, or books, cannot use terms such as “buy” or “purchase” during checkout without warning the buyers that they are getting a license to the product, and not buying the product itself. Exceptions to this are goods that the seller cannot revoke access to after the transaction, along with games advertised as free and subscription based services. The law plans to take effect in January 2025.

Sony announced at the end of last year that all digital copies of purchased content from Discovery would be removed on PlayStation. Alongside this issue, Ubisoft removed purchased copies of *The Crew* from players' accounts, and doubled down by delisting the game in late 2023, ensuring that it would no longer be playable. To help ensure consumer rights were protected

The law was introduced by California Assembly member, Jacqui Irwin, to prevent false advertising. The new law forces anyone in California who buys a game, or any digital good that has an internet connection, must be shown a “clear and conspicuous warning” that fully tells the buyer that they are buying or purchasing a license for the digital good. The seller also needs to provide information with the conditions of the license, alongside the fact that this license could be removed at any point in time. There are exceptions to this, as games without DRM, or digital rights management, are counted as permanent offline downloads, and are exempt

from this law. Any game seller that does not follow these rules can face fines of \$2,500 for each non compliant listing and sale.

At first I thought the law was dumb, as I had never read anywhere that game sellers would label digital games as “licenses,” but after reading through the entire steam subscriber agreement, both the recent and older versions, they have always labeled digital goods as buying licenses, so it wasn't as bad as I thought. Unfortunately, the law does not prevent sellers from taking away these “licenses,” but it does give fair warning on games whose services won't always last forever.



LA Dodgers Bring Home 8th Title

By Zeydi Ponce

On Oct. 30, in New York City, the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the New York Yankees and became the 2024 MLB World Series champions. This is the Dodgers 8th World Series title in franchise history.

The World Series went on for five games, with the Dodgers winning the first three games, the Yankees winning the fourth, and the Dodgers wrapping it up by winning the fifth and deciding game. The Dodgers' Freddie Freeman was awarded the MVP of the World Series, highlighted by hitting an historic walk-off grand slam in Game 1, leaving Dodgers fans ecstatic and Yankees fans stunned. The Dodgers manager, Dave Roberts, stated in the postgame press conference that it was the "greatest baseball moment I've ever witnessed."

There were a couple of controversies during the World Series, one at Dodger Stadium and one at Yankee stadium. In Game 1 in Los Angeles, Yankees player Gleyber Torres hit an apparent homerun, but a Dodgers fan interfered with a ball. The ball, which would likely have bounced off the wall, was ruled a homerun on the field. The call was reversed and ruled fan interference, and Torres was placed on second base with a ground rule double. NBC News reported that the fan who interfered was quickly escorted out of Dodger Stadium by security.

A similar incident occurred during Game 4 at Yankee stadium when Torres hit a foul ball that Dodger Mookie Betts caught near the stands.



Image Credit: USA TODAY Sports via Reuters Con

Two Yankees fans, who had made it their goal to help their team however they could, attempted to interfere. One fan grabbed Betts' glove, trying to pry it open to take the ball, while the other restrained Betts' hand. As a result, Torres was ruled out, and both fans were ejected from the stadium and banned from attending future games.

The 2024 MLB season has been a big year of accomplishments for the Dodgers. Teoscar Hernandez, who became a Dodger this year, won the Homerun Derby, becoming the first ever Dodger to do so. Another record-breaking standout was Shohei Ohtani. Ohtani was signed to the Dodgers in 2024 with a 10-year, \$700 million contract. After much anticipation, he proved himself to be worthy of the hype dominating the National League throughout the season. On Sept. 19, 2024, Shohei Ohtani became the first and only player in MLB history to hit 50 home runs and steal 50 bases in one season. Along with being a great hitter, Ohtani is a talented pitcher. Due to his elbow and shoulder injuries, he had to take a break from pitching this year, but he is expected to resume pitching in the 2025 season.

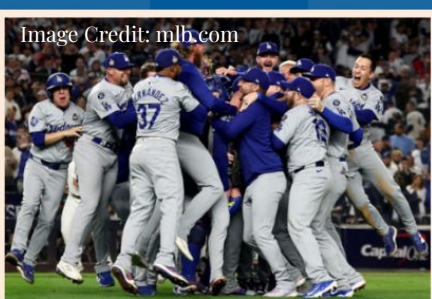


Image Credit: mlb.com



Image Credit: Getty Images

The Surge of Hurricanes

By Yaretzi Gutierrez

We are currently in hurricane season which lasts from June to November. Hurricanes are tropical cyclones that form over the ocean, beginning first as a tropical wave, which is an elongated area of low pressure that travels east to west through tropics according to the National Weather Service. As these tropical waves move warm air into the system, the ocean rises within the storm forming areas of low pressure which causes even more air to rise into the storm. This air cools creating thunderclouds. Within these clouds, the water condenses and forms water droplets that serve as energy for hurricanes. Once wind speeds reach 74 miles per hour, the storm is officially classified as a hurricane, as defined by the National Ocean Service.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the frequency and intensity of hurricanes, largely due to climate change. Warmer weather leads to more evaporation causing storms to absorb more water vapor and heat which results in hurricanes that are more powerful and more frequent. Climate change is also accelerating hurricane speeds, a trend which has been observed since the 1980's. Another factor is the rise in sea levels allowing storm surges to push more water onto land during hurricanes, intensifying their impact.



Image Credit: Otis Imoden

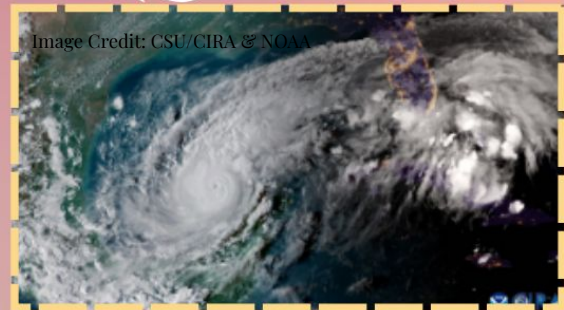


Image Credit: CSU/CIRA & NOAA

On average, there are about ten storms that form over the ocean each year, six of those turn into hurricanes with only around two becoming major as reported by *weather.gov*. However, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that there is an 85% chance of an above average season during this hurricane season. Also according to the Environmental Defense Fund, researchers claim that hurricanes in the U.S. that do more damage are said to be three times more common today than they were 100 years ago. To give a comparison, the NOAA is expecting to see 17 to 25 storms this season, with at least eight to turn into hurricanes, and four to seven to become major hurricanes--a notable increase.

Climate change continues to have consequential effects on the globe. With the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Milton, the potential for more hurricanes is increasingly concerning. Recognizing climate change as a real and urgent issue is essential if we hope to shape our future for the better.



Image Credit: FitzRoofing.com

A Chance at Freedom

By Em Sagastume



After spending nearly 35 years in prison, the Menendez brothers may be granted freedom with the upcoming re-examination of their case.

In 1989, Lyle Menendez, then 21, and Erik Menendez, then 18, admitted to purchasing shotguns and fatally shooting their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez. Prosecutors argued that the brothers killed their wealthy parents for money, while the defense claimed they acted in self-defense, alleging years of sexual abuse by their father. In their initial trial, separate juries for each brother failed to reach verdicts, resulting in mistrials. A second trial in 1996, where much of the abuse evidence was excluded, ultimately led to the brothers' conviction for murder and conspiracy to murder, sentencing them to life in prison without parole.

As one of the first cases to be televised, the trial attracted a lot of attention. Over the years, the Menendez brothers gained increasing support as more evidence of sexual abuse within their household came to light. On Oct. 24, 2024, LA District Attorney George Gascón recommended that Lyle and Erik, now 56 and 53, receive a revised sentence of 50 years to life in prison, stating that the brothers have "paid their debts to society." Given that both of the brothers were under 26 years of age at the time of the crime, they would be immediately eligible for parole under the new sentence.



While in prison, Lyle and Erik have focused on rehabilitating themselves and supporting other inmates. They have pursued further education and initiated programs to assist fellow victims of sexual abuse. According to their attorney, Erik has provided hospice care to other inmates, and Lyle has been

elected by his peers to serve as a representative to the prison administration.



Image Credit: CBS News

With this petition, there are now three potential avenues to secure the freedom these brothers seek: clemency, resentencing, and a habeas corpus petition. California Governor Gavin Newsom has already been approached regarding clemency, and while his decision is still pending, he emphasized on ABC News that this review will be conducted "like any other case" and that "nobody is getting special treatment."

In the upcoming December hearing, the Los Angeles Superior Court judge will consider the brothers' behavior and positive influence while incarcerated, as well as factors related to the crime, such as their age, history of abuse, and trauma. The judge will also review evidence that was unavailable during their original trial. If resentencing is granted, the case will move forward to parole review.

Last year, a habeas corpus petition was submitted to introduce new evidence that was not presented at trial. With new testimonies from family members and former Menudo band member Roy Rosselló, many believe this new evidence could impact the court's convictions at the next hearing on Nov. 25.

With these new plans set in motion, it's possible that Lyle and Erik will soon be free, reintegrated into society, and reunited with their families. Menendez family members and many people across the nation believe that these brothers have served their time and deserve a chance to rebuild their lives. Others believe that a life sentence is what the Menendez brothers deserved.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WAR

By Adriana Ordaz

Violent conflicts are known to cause civilian unrest and fear. Infrastructure is often destroyed, essential resources like water and food become scarce, requiring rationing. Resources are diverted from other industries to help with supplying the army with food, clothes, defenses, and weapons. But war doesn't just affect the people, it affects the planet as well.

While there are numerous conflicts happening globally, the war between Russia and Ukraine is one many Americans are familiar with. The war began in 2014 following Russia's annexation of Crimea, according to the Council on Foreign Relations. Russia's President, Vladimir Putin had cited the need to protect the rights of Russian citizens and Russian speakers in Crimea and southeastern Ukraine. Armed conflict quickly broke out between Russian-backed forces and the Ukrainian military, and in February 2022 the war escalated dramatically as Russia initiated a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

	Emissions, th. tCO ₂ e	Emissions, %
Internal displacements	50	3.6
International refugees	539	38.6
Transports returning empty	539	38.6
Refugees returning	215	15.4
Refugees visiting	54	3.7
TOTAL	1,397	100.0

Image Credit: Climate Damage Caused by Ukraine's war in Russia/Initiative on GHG accounting of war

F-16 Fighting Falcon

Role: air defence, air-to-ground and air-to-air combat

Max speed: c.1,300 mph (2,120 km/h)

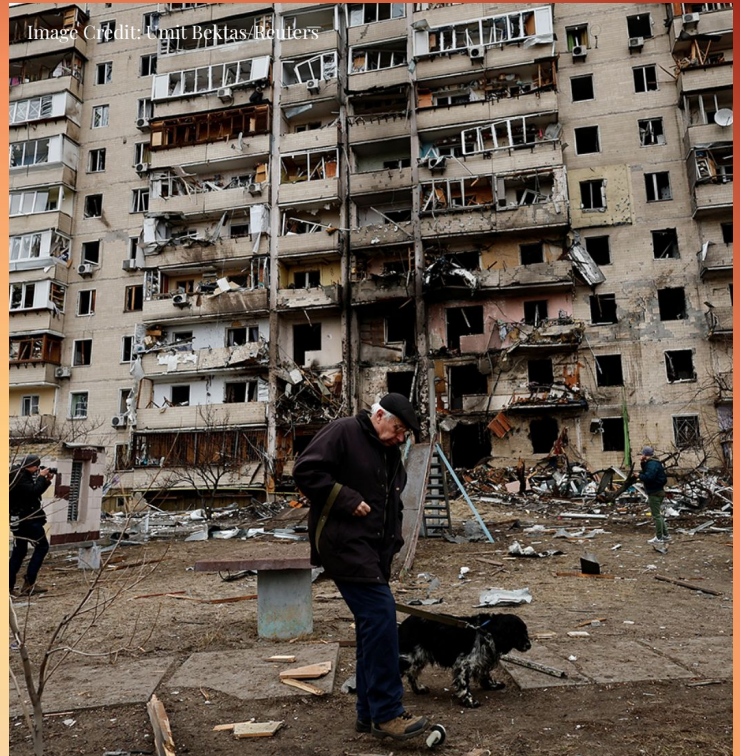
Max range: 1,260 miles (2,030 km)



Both sides of the war are currently using many different kinds of tanks, drones, missiles, bombs, and other violent weapons, all of which emit a vast amount of greenhouse gasses (GHG) and carbon emissions to make, ship, and use. According to the Initiative on GHG Accounting of War's report *Climate Change Caused by Russia's War in Ukraine*, these 152 mm calibers can deliver a projectile of about 40 kg to ranges of 17 to 40 km, or 10.57 to 24.56 miles. The report also adds that significant greenhouse gas emissions come from manufacturing, transportation, and use of the shells with 918,000 metric tons from manufacturing, 19,778 metric tons at the point of firing and point of impact, 1,283 metric tons from detonation at the point of impact, and 18,131 metric ton from transportation, for a total of one million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). According to *CNN*, the amount of artillery used per day as of March, 2024 is around 12,000 rounds, with 10,000 of which being Russian.



According to the BBC, at the end of July of 2024, Ukraine received their first batch of F-16 fighter jets from the west, with NATO countries like Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Norway pledging to give Ukraine 65 or more of the fighter jets, which were going to be retired from military use. Even discarding the making of the US-made fighter jets, its internal fuel capacity is 7,000 pounds with an external fuel capacity, with two tanks, of 12,000 pounds, according to the Air Force. Even without doing high-intensity maneuvers, *Fly a Jet Fighter.com* notes that the F-16 Fighter Falcon consumes about 2,800 liters an hour without the use of afterburner, or about 102 pounds a minute. The fuel used in these fighter jets is JP-8, a kerosene-based fuel. According to Science Direct, while JP-8 has a decreased amount of particulate matter emissions, almost no other emissions decreased or increased from its parent fuel, Jet A-1 fuel which emits 3.16 kg, or 3,160 g, per kilogram, or 1,000 grams, of jet fuel combustion.



Weapons are not the only source of GHG emissions in war. Immediately after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, many Ukrainians made the difficult decision of leaving their homes, either by simply escaping to another part of Ukraine or going abroad. As of February 2024, there are 6.5 million recorded Ukrainian refugees worldwide with 3.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Just on transportation, that is 538 metric tons of CO₂e with the number possibly being greater in cases of non recorded refugees. Some refugees and IDPs returned to their homes after Russian forces stopped posing an immediate threat to civilians, according to the Initiative on GHG Accounting of War's Report, which added another 215 metric tons of CO₂e.

War not only affects people's lives, but the environment as well, contributing to our planet's slow deterioration. According to *Climate.Gov*, the ten warmest years recorded in history have all occurred in the decade between 2014-2024, with 2023 being the warmest year by a wide margin since humans started recording global temperatures in 1850. In addition, the rate of warming since 1982 is currently more than three times as fast, with an increase of 0.36 degrees Fahrenheit per decade. Of course, war is not the only reason global warming is happening, but it is continuously being proven to contribute heavily to the speed of climate change.



Fall Mazes

By Lily Hawkinson



Western Center Word Search

By Lily Hawkinson

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

Max
WCA
Mammoth
Museum
Piazza
Theatre
ASB
Journalism
Link Crew
Science Olympiad
NHS
Yearbook
Academic
Decathlon
Pep Rally
Morp
Boat Regatta
Mammoth Time
The Mammoth
Tribune
Prom
Back to School
Winter Formal
Club Rush
Halloweek
Bailey
Horton



The Mammoth Tribune
Made by Students for Students

Western Center Academy