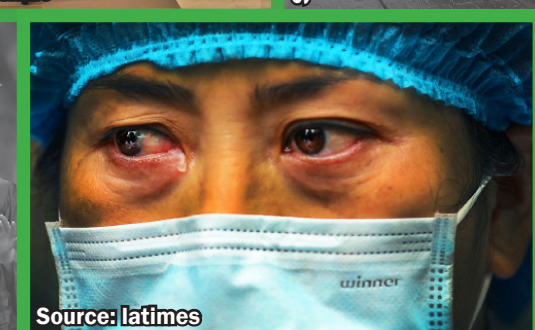
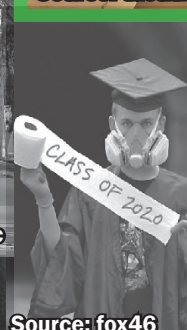


The Pandemic That Stopped the World:

As of Sept. 30, six students in the Delaware Valley School District have tested positive for COVID-19.

Visit the "District News" section of dvsd.org for COVID-19 related information.

COVID-19



GLOBAL HEALTH ALERT: COVID-19

This year, life took a halting stop as the virus, COVID-19, rippled through every corner of the world, producing a costly global pandemic. Soon, life as everyone once knew changed completely. Travel bans, lockdowns, closures of schools, stores, companies and mandated quarantines quickly and eerily became the new norm. In just a short period of time, 992,000 people have died and over 28.2 million others have been infected. In this speciality edition produced by the *Del.Aware* staff, learn about how our school, students and staff, community, sports and world have been affected by COVID-19.

~ Victoria Hoffmann

COVID-19 EDITION**School News****Admin, board members make difficult decisions**

By EMILY HEROLD

News Editor

For as long as the administrators and Board of Education members have been in their positions, they have had to make important decisions that impact the school and community in many ways. In making these decisions, their main goal has always been what is best for the students and staff.

Since March, the board members and administrators have worked to come up with solutions to make sure each and every student and staff member is safe and healthy, but also getting the quality education they are promised.

"Our fundamental purpose as a school district is the education of our students. I do not think there is anyone who would argue that the best education that our students can receive is face to face with the amazing teachers and staff at Delaware Valley. Obviously though, this year is unprecedented, and there were many imperative considerations in order to ensure the safety of everyone in the buildings," said Jessica Decker, vice president of the Board of Education.

Over the summer, superintendent Dr. John Bell has been in contact with the superintendents from not only the surrounding schools in northeast Pennsylvania but also from schools all over the state.

"I was on calls three days a week with all the superintendents in our area and then twice a week I was on calls with superintendents from schools throughout the whole state, talking and laying out different options for returning back to school. Option number one was letting everyone fully come back, and option number five was we let no one back and then there were a bunch of variations in the middle," said Dr. Bell.

On top of the local schools leaning on each other for support, Wayne Memorial Hospital also served

*Contributed Photo*

Cory Homer, president of the Board of Education, prepares to start the Sept. 17 board meeting.

as a huge resource on how to open the schools safely. They gave tons of information to the superintendents and even produced a video about COVID-19 and going back to school for families that can be found on the school's website.

Throughout the time school has been open, the students and staff have tried to make everything work despite the new state mandates, resulting in a great deal of praise from administrators.

"Our students and our staff at the high school have been off to an outstanding start. Even though it looks different, our staff is working to provide the highest level of education

possible regardless of the platform being used," said high school principal Dr. Nicole Cosentino.

What's cancelled at DV

By JOLIE FRAGGETTA

Opinions Editor

Many events that DV hosts every year have been cancelled because of COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines. All indoor activities by outside groups have been cancelled for the first marking period, such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, fundraisers like tricky trays and dance recitals.

Some other events that are cancelled include:

- Warrior Fest
- WBRE early morning pep rally
- Homecoming dance
- Alumni Hall of Fame dinner
- Spirit Games

Although these events are canceled, Spirit Week will still take place during the week of Oct. 13-16. Administrators are trying to plan to have as many events while adhering to Governor Tom Wolf's regulations.

OFF BEAT NEWS

You may have seen tents near the parking lot right before school started. The tents were set up for students to eat lunch under, but the tents had to be taken down. The reason why turns out to be quite simple. The wind had blown them down twice, and therefore other lunch arrangements had to be made.

Contributed Photo / Caption by Kaila Dunn

Anyone walking through the halls of DV can see that students and staff have made the best of the recent addition to the dress code; this includes students like junior Faith Laureanoclaudio, pictured in a mask that reads, "If you're reading this you're too close." From colorful patterns to funny phrases, masks are a great way for students to express themselves.

Contributed Photo / Caption by Stella Tannenbaum



School News

COVID-19 EDITION

District transitions students to 1:1 technology

By MIKAYLA KRISANDA

World News Editor

The 2020-2021 school year has been much different than any other. Because of COVID-19, students must follow social distancing guidelines and wear their masks. Another difference this year was the distribution of chrome books to every student for use in the classroom and at home.

According to the 10th and 11th grade assistant principal Mr. Nathan Kroptavich, approximately 1,000 students both in person and on Zoom have received a district Chromebook. Students also were allowed to utilize their own devices instead of using a device provided by the school. Some of the chrome books distributed did not work, and they were replaced with ones that functioned properly.

"Anytime we have had issues our technology department has really come through for us and resolved

them as quickly as possible. They have done a commendable job considering the volume of chrome books we've had to distribute," said Mr. Kroptavich.

Chromebooks have been provided to students as an attempt to go as paperless as possible and to limit the amount of items being passed from students to teachers. The Chromebooks are also useful in case the school district needs to shut down again. It would make access to schoolwork and school materials much easier for students and faculty.

Every student who received a Chromebook had to sign a loan agreement which laid out rules



Mikayla Krisanda/Del.Aware

Mrs. Eshleman, Mr. Kroptavich and Ms. Shomaker handed out Chromebooks to students.

and expectations for student use. Mr. Kroptavich said that there is leniency regarding any minor damages. If students were negligent or damaged the Chromebook on purpose, then they would be responsible for the costs of damages.

"The important message that we need to send to students is that they are responsible for the equipment," said Mr. Kroptavich. "They have to do their best to take care of it and let us know if something is wrong with it so we can fix it."

Mr. Kroptavich also said that the technology department as well as Mrs. Tamara Eshleman and Ms. Beth Shomaker have been instrumental in distributing and helping solve any issues regarding the Chromebooks.

COLLEGE IN A PANDEMIC



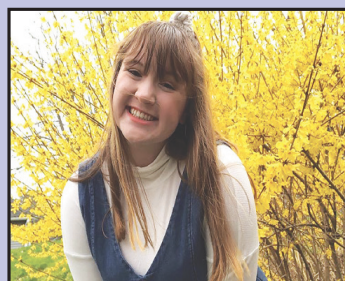
Contributed photo

Class of 2020's Mike Giordano is currently attending Lock Haven University which is online only. "It's hard sitting at home and not being on campus. Looking at everyone having fun at their schools stinks," said Mike.

Class of 2020's Kayla Cassaro is currently attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania which is in person as of right now but still has classes online. "I still get the in-person experiences and connections," said Kayla.



Contributed photo



Contributed photo

Class of 2019's Delaney Etzkorn is attending Gettysburg College, which is currently offering on-campus learning to freshmen only. However, Delaney is a sophomore, but is attending in-person because she is a Resident Assistant.

Compiled by Victoria Hoffmann

Inquiring Photographer

"WHAT ARE YOUR PREDICTIONS ON WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN THIS SCHOOL YEAR AMIDST COVID-19?"
COMPILED BY ADRIENNE GORDON



"I think in the winter there will be an increase in cases, and school will shut down."

Mary Lee
Class of 2021



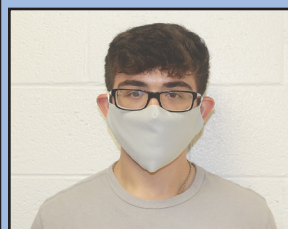
"If we continue doing what we're doing, we'll be able to stay in school."

Señor Gary Cotroneo



"We will handle it properly at DV and go back to 'normal' learning."

Hunter Sickler
Class of 2021



"I think we are going to stay in school."

Vinny Natiello
Class of 2022



"I think we are going into quarantine again."

Amelia Moniot
Class of 2024



"I think we will end up zooming again."

Leanna DeFazio
Class of 2023

COVID-19 EDITION

Community News

Community events impacted by COVID-19

June 21-23 Milford Music Festival <i>Cancelled</i>	July 28- Aug. 1 Pike County Fair <i>Happening</i>	Aug. 1-2 16th annual Festival of Wood <i>Cancelled</i>
Sept. 11-13 Milford's Readers and Writers Festival <i>Cancelled</i>	Sept. 12-17 Wayne County Festival <i>Happening</i>	Sept. 19 Scarecrows-in-the-Park Festival <i>Cancelled</i>
Oct. 10-11 Peter's Valley 50th Annual Craft Fair <i>Cancelled</i>	Oct. 16-18 Blackbear Film Festival <i>Happening</i>	Nov. 14-15 Dance Fest Milford <i>Happening</i>

Compiled by Reilly Ziolkowski

Surrounding schools reveal reopening plans

-Traditional schooling

- Wallenpaupack Area School District
- Western Wayne School District

-Hybrid schooling

- East Stroudsburg Area School District
- Port Jervis City School District
- Carbondale Area School District

-Online schooling

- Pocono Mountain School District
- Scranton School District
- Abington Heights School District

Compiled by Luke Ruggiero

Businesses battered by virus

By JOLIE FRAGGETTA

Opinions Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic put many businesses in places they never would have imagined. Many were forced to shut down, and others lost profit because people were quarantining in their homes and going out only for necessities.

Buzz Cuts Salon and Spa

Buzz Cuts Salon and Spa is located at 1831 PA-739 in Dingmans Ferry. They offer various spa treatments, manicures, pedicures and hair treatments. They were shut down from March 17 through June 19. This closure had an immense impact on the salon because they lost these three months of revenue due to being closed. For the owner of the salon the hardest part of being closed was this lack of income. Luckily, no employees were let go once the salon opened back up in mid June.



Jolie Fraggetta/Del.Aware

Buzz Cuts Salon and Spa is located in Dingmans Ferry at 1831 PA-739.

Naked Bagel Co. & Delicatessen

A bagel and sandwich shop in Milford located at 312 Broad Street known as the Naked Bagel also experienced a decrease in profits from COVID-19. The bagel shop never actually closed but they changed their hours of operation. Their hours shifted from being open every day of the week until 3:30 p.m. to being open Tuesday through Saturday until 2 p.m. This caused a dip in profit and a need to modify the store. They needed to restrict seating and the self service parts of their store, such as the cases that the drinks were in to help prevent the spread of the virus. Even with all the changes, they were just thankful to still be up and running. They lost three to four employees that decided not to work through the pandemic.

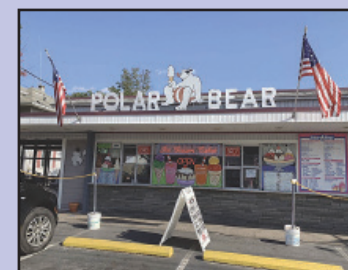


Jolie Fraggetta/Del.Aware

Naked Bagel Co. & Delicatessen is located in Milford at 312 Broad Street.

The Polar Bear

The Polar Bear, located at 1004 Pennsylvania Ave in Matamoras, is a seasonal ice cream shop. Because of COVID-19, they were closed the first month and a half of their season. The Polar Bear was set to open on April 1 but did not open until the second week of May due to COVID-19. Since April and May are their busiest months, they took a big hit from being closed and lost about three months of revenue. Opening the shop back up was difficult because they had to undergo a status change from a specialty business to a specialty business with food. They were short staffed the first couple months. Many employees opted not to come back to work with the fear of contracting COVID-19.



Jolie Fraggetta/Del.Aware

The Polar Bear is located in Matamoras at 1004 Pennsylvania Ave.

World News

COVID-19 EDITION

Pandemic affects ethnic groups differently

By SOPHIA MILLER

Arts & Literature Co-Editor

It has recently been reported by the Centers for Disease Control that COVID-19 affects different ethnicities at higher rates. The three main factors that lead to this are discrimination, housing and their occupations.

The CDC details that a percentage of people of color have been refused care. On the other hand, some do not have the means to pay for care. This is mostly because their

occupation does not pay enough or offers them little to no healthcare.



Source: Pure Wow

According to the CDC, people of color have shown to be more susceptible to COVID-19.

Housing is also a major contributor to the rise of COVID-19 cases among minorities. According to research done by the CDC when reporting on the effects of the virus, they found that many racial and ethnic groups tend to live in smaller housing areas. This often makes it hard to social distance.

African Americans have been found to be impacted by the virus at the highest rate. For

example, from the cases reported in Kansas, nearly one third of the deaths came from African Americans, who only make up 6 percent of the population there. According to the Mayo Clinic, many of these deaths are due to pre-existing conditions in the patients such as diabetes, obesity or heart problems, which are commonly found in African-Americans.

People of color have dealt with COVID-19 with heightened sense of awareness. As the Centers for Disease Control stated, this is most likely due to the fact that they make up a large percentage of essential workers, have an underlying health concern or due to their socioeconomic status.

Global economy impacted by virus

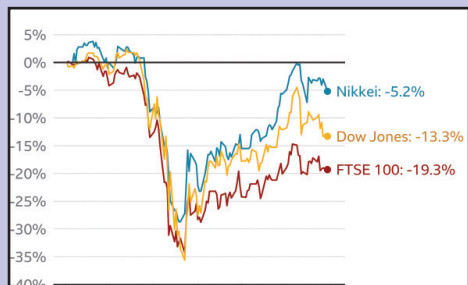
By DANNY ZHIVKOVICH

World News Co-Editor

The coronavirus pandemic, first detected in China, has infected people in 188 countries worldwide. The spread of this novel virus has kept businesses around the world on their toes and economists wondering what recovery may look like.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE), Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nikkei all saw huge falls as the number of coronavirus cases began to grow. The Dow and FTSE saw their largest quarterly drops in the first three months of the year since 1987. In response to this, central banks in various countries, including the UK, slashed their interest rates. That should, in theory, make borrowing of money cheaper and encourage consumers to spend more money in order to boost the economy.

According to BBC News, several global markets have shown signs of recovery as governments intervene, but many analysts fear that a second wave of the pandemic could send the markets back again.



Source: Bloomberg

The stock markets have been impacted since the start of the pandemic.

Many people have lost their jobs or seen a salary cut due to the coronavirus crisis. Unemployment rates in major economies have increased as a result. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the proportion of people out of work has hit 10.4 percent, thus signalling an end to a decade expansion for

the world's largest economy.

However, there have since been signs of recovery in the global economy. The IMF has also stated that China and France have seen increases in hiring rates as shutdowns begin to ease, teachers around the U.S. are going back to work with the reopening of schools and analysts are projecting a 7 percent growth in global GDP in the third quarter of this year.

U.S. implements travel bans amidst COVID-19

By MADISON KELLY

Sports Editor

Restrictions on traveling have increased since the coronavirus pandemic hit to slow the spread. Traveling increases the chance of getting COVID-19 and spreading it to others even without experiencing any symptoms.

On Jan. 31, President Donald Trump barred entry to the U.S. of foreign travelers who had been in China during the previous two weeks, which did not become effective until Feb. 22. The government continuously adds to the list of restricted countries, such as China, Iran, European Schengen area, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and Brazil, that travelers have been to one of these areas within their last 14 days of traveling may not enter the United States.

President Trump says the ban was critical in saving lives early on in the pandemic.

"[W]e saved tens of thousands

of lives, probably hundreds of thousands of lives. And we saved millions of lives by doing the closing and now the opening the way we did it," Trump said at a press conference.



Whether the bans are effective or not has been questioned within the last few months because of reports emerging that tens of thousands of travelers from China were able to still come to the U.S. through loopholes in President Trump's measures.

On Sept. 14, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's arrival restrictions, travelers from one of the banned countries within 14 days of arrival in the U.S. could only land at one of 15 U.S. airports, was terminated. This then reopened airports across the country to international flights and allowed the government to reallocate public health resources to other priorities.

A GLIMPSE INTO



The most popular choice by students was “Avatar: The Last Airbender,” an animated series following 14-year old Aang who has the ability to manipulate water, earth, fire and air. He uses his powers and works together with his friends to restore peace between the four nations of humans.

Others opted for the 15-season crime drama “Criminal Minds.” The show focuses on the personal and professional lives of FBI agents in the Behavioral Analysis Unit.

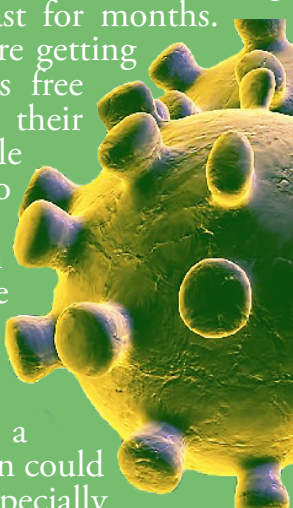


Many students watched “Outer Banks,” a Netflix original series in which a group of four friends living in the Outer Banks search for a hidden treasure connected to the disappearance of one friend’s father.

Shows

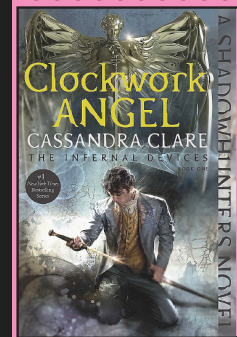
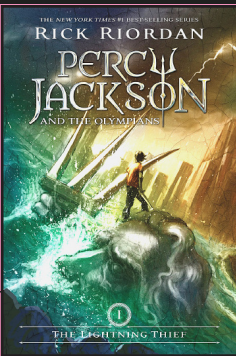
Compiled by Stella Tannenbaum

On March 13, Delaware Valley, were surprised with a two-week-long vacation would last for months. and many of us are getting can. With endless free creative to cure their Many people hobbies to Some people of their time on took advantage the beautiful read books, while binge-watching There was a months of isolation could of people, especially worked through the uncertainty distracting ourselves with different acti



Introduction

The “Percy Jackson” series is a modern take on the classic Greek and Roman mythology. It follows Percy, a young demigod, and his adventures battling monsters, fighting alongside his friends and fulfilling prophecies.



The series “Infernal Devices” is another popular pick among students. It takes place during the Victorian ages and follows a shape-shifting orphan by the name of Tessa Gray.

Other suggestions from students were “Maze Runner” by James Dashner, “They Called Us Enemy” by George Takei and “Everlost” by Neal Shusterman.

Books

Compiled by Sophia Miller

During quara chance to go and bike. On the other hand, many decided to sta inside and spend more time with family cook, watch TikToks, play video games and sleep.



Some othe instrumen

Activities



Mute



Start Video



Invite



Manage Participants



Polls




Share Screen

TO QUARANTINE

and many schools across the country, spring recess. Little did we know, this Some of us are still in quarantine, back to as much normalcy as we time, everyone had to get boredom. tried to find new entertain themselves. spent the majority TikTok, while others of the hiking trails and outdoors. Some people others spent their time shows. concern for the effect that have on the mental health teenagers. In the end, we all of the past few months, amusing and vities.

By MADELINE MALLON
News Co-Editor



Talking to someone like a friend, relative or therapist is the best way to get through stress, anxiety and depression.

Other coping mechanisms include exercising, spending time outdoors, playing with a pet, taking up a hobby or learning something new. It is important to take care of oneself during these difficult times.

As time goes on people will be able to adapt to their surroundings, and the stress behind it will decrease.

When students first went to online learning there was a rise in stress and anxiety for students and staff. Delaware Valley's social worker Ms. Amy Letwinski, recommends the following tips to help students cope with the effects COVID-19 on mental health.

Mental Health

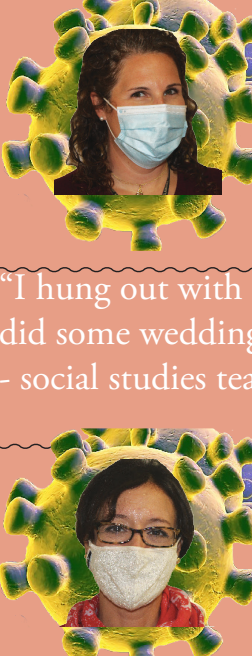
Compiled by Joclyn Irons

ntine, many people decided to take this outside more and hike, swim, work out



er activities done were learning to play ts, yoga and listening to music.

Compiled by Alex Krakowski



"I donated a lot of clothes to Goodwill, postponed and re-planned my wedding, sold my house and bought a new one and rescued a puppy named Cooper."
- science teacher Ms. Lindsay Baker

"I hung out with my dogs, took a lot of hikes and walks and did some wedding planning."
- social studies teacher Ms. Alexis Polanis

"I started practicing yoga, took daily hikes, played some board games and capture the flag. I also did a lot of cooking and baking."
- English teacher Mrs. Crystal Wummer

Teachers & Staff

Compiled by Emily Herold

COVID-19 EDITION

Entertainment

COVID-19 halts productions

BY KAILA DUNN
Managing Editor

COVID-19 has influenced many things in the entertainment world including, premieres, filming, concerts and shows. Producers had to shut down and postpone filming in order to protect everyone on their set. Some shows and movies have begun filming again but have to use proper face coverings and enhanced safety procedures.



"A Quiet Place 2":
Original Release Date: March 20, 2020
Release Date: Sept. 4, 2020



"Grey's Anatomy":
Start Filming: Sept. 7, 2020
Release Date: Nov. 12, 2020



"Wheel of Fortune":
Release Date: Sept. 14, 2020

Celebs impacted by COVID-19

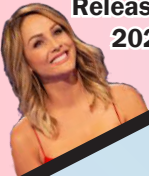
By JOCLYN IRONS
Entertainment Editor

"The Batman":
Start Filming: Early September 2020 after being suspended in March

Release Date: Oct. 1, 2021

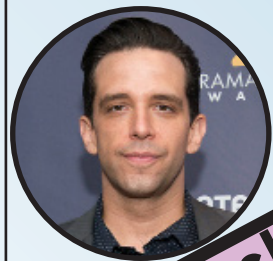


"The Bachelorette":
Start Filming: July 2020 after a two-week quarantine prior to filming
Release Date: Oct. 13, 2020



Nick Cordero

Cordero passed away on July 5 due to complications with COVID-19. He was 41 years old. During his life Cordero was a Tony award nominated Broadway actor. He had a one year old son named Elvis Eduardo Cordero with his wife Amanda Kloots.

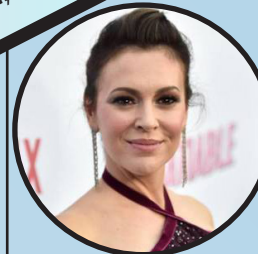


Prince Charles

Prince Charles tested positive for COVID-19 after suffering from minor symptoms. The 71-year-old heir to the throne recovered after quarantining for seven days at his home on the Balmoral estate. His wife the Duchess of Cornwall tested negative.

Pink

Pink and her 3 year old son Jameson tested positive for COVID-19. Pink and her son both suffered from a range of severe symptoms. The singer stated that she was terrified for her child who suffered worse than she did. Both have now fully recovered.



Alyssa Milano

Milano suffered from symptoms of the virus from March to August. Milano reported having almost every symptom of COVID-19 including loss of sense of smell, chest pain, dramatic weight loss, fever, headaches, vertigo, heart palpitations and hair loss.



Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson

Johnson as well as his wife and two daughters were diagnosed with COVID-19. His daughters Jasmine, 4, and Tiana, 2, had minor symptoms while Johnson and his wife Lauren Hashian suffered from more severe symptoms. His family has made a full recovery.

By MIKAYLA KRISANDA
World News Editor

Due to COVID-19, many of America's most anticipated awards shows and events have been postponed, rescheduled or cancelled. From the MTV Video Music Awards to the GRAMMY Awards, COVID-19 has reshaped the awards show season.

Being the first live show since the pandemic began, the VMAs was approached differently. The new safety guidelines led to a ceremony unlike anything viewers had seen before. The event took place Aug. 30 featuring a red carpet following social distancing guidelines, prerecorded performances and interviews with audience presence.

At the VMAs, in the Best Cinematography, Artist and Best Collaboration categories. The Tricon Award honors "highly accomplished artists across three disciplines."



have been rescheduled or scheduled for May 4, has been postponed from its

scheduled for Nov. 7. and the Golden

Awards shows, the effect of COVID-19

Adam Schlesinger

Schlesinger passed away on April 1 at the age of 52 due to complications with COVID-19. Schlesinger was a Grammy, Tony, Oscar and Emmy-nominated musician and songwriter. He co-founded the band Fountains of Wayne, known for their song "Stacy's Mom."

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 31, 2021. The 63rd GRAMMY Awards have been scheduled for Jan. 31, 2021, and the Golden Globes have been scheduled to air Feb. 28, 2021.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

Gaiters

-A Duke University research team found out that neck gaiters allowed 110 percent of droplets that people produce when speaking, through the gaiter and out into the air.

-Researchers found that gaiters made of cotton and are triple-layered are the most effective.

-Better alternatives are cloth masks, paper masks and surgical masks.

-Gaiters could be used for its other uses, keeping the neck, head and face area warm during the colder months of the year.

-In a study, a single-layered gaiter only blocked 10 percent of the smallest particles humans produce.



Compiled by Aidan Fean

Masks

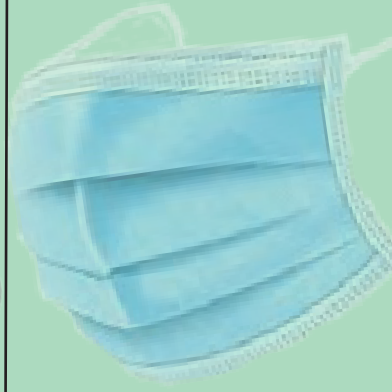
-N95 respirator: best protection and is reserved for healthcare workers and first responders

-Cloth masks: snug fit and has two or more layers that provide moderate protection

-Surgical mask: loose fit but has quality material that provides moderate protection

-Masks with ventilators: low effectiveness because germs are able to escape through the ventilator

-Effectiveness of cloth masks is generally lower than that of medical masks and respirators.



Compiled by Kenzie Panetta

Gloves

-The CDC recommends wearing gloves when caring for someone sick either at home or a non-healthcare setting.

-Gloves are also useful when cleaning or disinfecting your house.

-Gloves are not necessary for most everyday situations such as shopping or any outside activity.

-Remember that the use of gloves is not a substitute for hand washing and you should still wash your hands after removing the gloves.

-Over 80 million gloves have been needed each month by COVID-19 health response teams.



Compiled by Kyla Stead

Wipes

-Clorox disinfecting wipes take 30 seconds to disinfect which is a shorter amount of time to disinfect compared to Lysol, 2 minutes.

-Any wipes are more effective than disinfectant sprays during the first use.

-Disinfecting wipes are the most effective to use in order to kill germs and lower risk of spreading infections.

-Homemade disinfectant wipes need at least 70 percent alcohol to be as effective as Clorox or Lysol wipes.

-Sales of surface disinfectant wipes is expected to grow by 17 percent by the end of 2020.



Compiled by Alex Krakowski

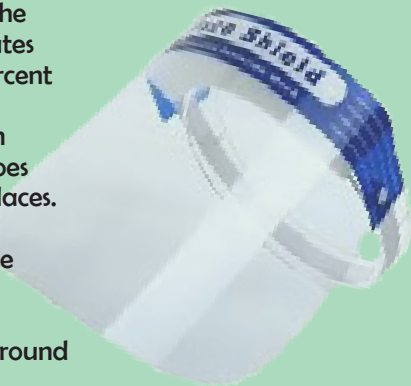
Face Shields

-While wearing a face shield, if someone coughs or sneezes 18 inches from the wearer, viral exposure would be as low as 96 percent. If the wearer stayed near that person for 30 minutes of coughing, the shield would only be 68 percent protective.

-The CDC currently does not have enough information on face shields and therefore does not advocate the usage of them in public places.

-Droplets are still able to spread to the environment around the wearer through the open sides of the shield.

-If face shields are to be worn, the CDC recommends purchasing one that extends around the sides of the face and below the chin.



Compiled by Reilly Ziolkowski

Hand Sanitizer

-In the beginning of the pandemic, there was a shortage of hand sanitizer from people overbuying it. Some people were trying to make their own, but the FDA said homemade hand sanitizer was often ineffective and could cause rashes.

-The World Health Organization recommends using a coin-sized amount.

-Hand sanitizer isn't fully effective unless you let it dry completely.

-Hand sanitizer is not a substitute for soap and water. It cannot get rid of bacteria and dirt the way washing your hands does.

-CDC recommends using hand sanitizer that contains 60% alcohol or more. Most hand sanitizers contain 60-95% alcohol.



Compiled by Madeline Mallon

COVID-19 EDITION

Science & Technology

Companies race to create vaccine

BY MADDY FEDUN
Science & Technology Editor

With one vaccine and one approval from the FDA, the virus that has threatened our nation could possibly be contained. COVID-19 is a newly identified coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, which has caused a global pandemic of respiratory illnesses. The FDA is working vigorously to get in front of the virus that has drastically changed the lives of many.

COVID-19 first appeared in China in December 2019 and soon made its way to the U.S. Symptoms include cough, fever, shortness of breath, body aches and loss of taste or smell. COVID-19 spreads from person to person, and because a vaccine has not yet been discovered, people are asked to practice social distancing and wash hands frequently.

A typical vaccine would require years of testing before it ever reached a medical clinic. However, the work to analyze the genome of COVID-19 began in January 2020, and researchers have already tested over 4 vaccines in clinical trials on humans. However, to distribute a vaccine to the public, there are many phases it must go through before reaching its final stage.

These stages include: preclinical testing,

safety trials, expanded trials, efficacy trials and approval.

Stage one is the preclinical testing, which is the process of developing a vaccine along with its correct dosage. Stage two, known as the safety trials, occurs when the vaccine passes stage one and safety concerns are addressed.

Stage three is the expanded trials, which allows the distribution of a vaccine for testing on human volunteers. Stage four is efficacy trials where the vaccine is released temporarily and eventually leads to the approval stage which grants a vaccine for full-time use. Currently, there are 27 vaccines in phase one, 15 in phase two, nine in phase three, five in limited trials and none have been approved.

Recently, a coronavirus vaccine trial was cut short due to concerning symptoms. AstraZeneca was put on hold at Oxford University phase three trial after discovering a serious illness that involved a patient in the UK. The patient was believed to be suffering from a condition known as transverse myelitis, a rare disease that causes inflammation in the spinal cord. However, the patient's condition was reviewed by safety experts and shortly after, testing resumed in the UK.

Hope for a vaccine will continue as experts attempt to control the virus.

Beneficial machinery aids in COVID-19 testing

BY SOPHIA PERRIN
Science & Technology Co-Editor

The pandemic, COVID-19, has brought about innovations in technology. Since the start, useful inventions and techniques were designed to help everyone stay healthy.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) invested 248.7

million dollars in innovative technology associated with COVID-19. Their latest invention, the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative, makes it possible to get test results quicker and has contracts with seven biomedical diagnostic companies.



Source: Georgia CTSA

Scientists test the abilities of the (RADx), in efforts to rapidly scale-up testing across the country.

"RADx moved incredibly quickly to select promising technologies... investing in technologies that could boost America's best-in-the-world COVID-19 testing capacity by millions more tests per day," said United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar.

NIH launched RADx on April 29, 2020, after receiving a supplemental appropriation of \$1.5 billion from Congress. Which allows advanced technologies to make millions of accelerated COVID-19 tests accessible to Americans by the fall.

New accomplishments in technology are rapidly evolving in society to ensure the health of everyone.

Contact tracing used to manage COVID-19

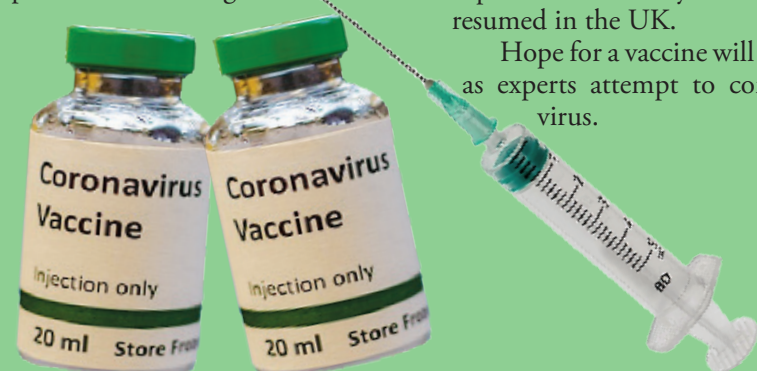
BY MADDY FEDUN
Science & Technology Editor

Contact tracing is crucial to slow the spread of COVID-19 and helps assure the safety of families, communities and the world. A close contact is anyone who has been within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes. COVID-19 can spread two days before symptoms or positive tests appear. If a person has been in contact with someone

diagnosed with COVID-19, he or she is asked to stay home and away from others while monitoring his or her health. It is important to answer the phone if the health

department calls and tell the health department if experiencing signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The CDC is continuing to monitor the situation as it is evolving. For additional information, visit

rapidly additional cdc.gov.



Science & Technology

COVID-19 EDITION

Virus affects those with disabilities

BY KENZIE PANETTA
Community News Editor

Disability alone does not automatically suggest that one is at a higher risk of contracting or becoming severely ill with COVID-19.

However, if an individual with a disability was to have underlying medical conditions, limited mobility, trouble understanding or practicing preventive measures and who may not be able to communicate symptoms of illness, he or she may be more vulnerable.

For example, eighth grade student, DJ Belcher, of the Wallenpaupack Area Middle School, has been diagnosed with autism, ADHD, anxiety and brittle type one diabetes.

Everyday, DJ must wear specialized equipment embedded in his arms that closely monitor his glucose levels and stabilize his blood sugar when necessary. While in school, he must always be accompanied by licensed practical nurse, Kathleen Harris. Harris escorts DJ to school and attends his classes alongside him, always keeping a close eye on his

monitors.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, DJ's mother, Rhonda Belcher, was faced with the extremely difficult decision of whether or not to allow him to learn on campus. DJ directly asked Belcher to attend. Therefore, after carefully weighing her options, Belcher decided she "owed it to him to make the decision for himself." She then contacted the director of special education to

steps to protect her son. Immediately after returning home, he must shower, and she leaves his school bag outside after disinfecting it. She wipes down touched surfaces much more frequently, and she must be particularly mindful in remaining sanitary at her workplace as well.

As the parent of a child with disabilities, Belcher realizes the danger that her son is in.

"I'm terrified all the time. It goes beyond our normal standard just to leave the house."

- Rhonda Belcher

discuss safety precautions.

According to his mother and nurse, the most devastating changes to DJ's school life is not being able to use the playground and show physical affection. He has a difficult time understanding why the pandemic is dangerous and why his routine has been so shaken.

Meanwhile, Belcher is doing her best to maintain a safe, calm and happy home environment for DJ, by taking extra

"I'm terrified all the time. It goes beyond our normal standard just to leave the house."

Despite the constant worry about his health, Belcher realizes that it's in DJ's best interest to attend school. She acknowledges the sacrifices not only she has made to protect him but also the sacrifices and aid of others as well.

Regardless of the ground breaking pandemic devastating the world, Belcher and Harris have agreed that there have been a few positive things to arise. DJ has become more patient and obedient, and people as a whole have become more careful regarding sanitation.

Animals susceptible to COVID-19

BY LIZ KAMEEN
News Co-Editor

The origin of this strain of coronavirus is believed to be spread from bats in Wuhan, China. Since the origin, there has been no other reported evidence of animals spreading the coronavirus to humans; however, they are able to contract it and spread it to other animals.

The first known case of an animal in the United States contracting coronavirus was discovered in April when a four-year-old female Malayan tiger was infected in the Bronx Zoo. She was thought to have spread it to seven other tigers and lions there. These animals had a cough, which led them to be tested. All of these animals have since recovered from their infection.

There are a handful of domestic pets, such as cats, ferrets and hamsters who have been infected with the COVID-19 virus, and researchers believe they are able to spread to the same species. Some animals are currently being studied, after recovering from the COVID-19 infection, to see if they develop antibodies that will help protect them against future infections. Researchers are recommending that pets do not come in contact with other animals from different households

because of the possibility of COVID-19 spreading through different households.

Can antibodies help overcome COVID-19?

BY LIZ KAMEEN
News Co-Editor

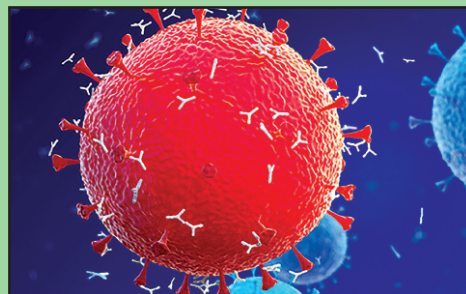
Antibodies play a crucial role in discovering if someone could become immune to this strain of the coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, once one has recovered from the infection.

An article from the National Institute of Health stated, "Although most people who recovered from COVID-19 had low levels of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 in their blood, researchers identified potent infection-blocking antibodies."

Antibody tests, also known as serology tests, examine the blood to determine if one might have a resistance to the COVID-19 virus after recovering from the infection.

Despite the promise that antibodies

have for helping to develop a cure, most researchers are currently unaware if antibodies could give one immunity to



Source: Unity Point Health

COVID-19 has "Y" shaped antibodies that could help create a cure.

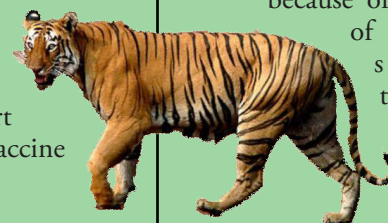
the COVID-19 virus, or how long that immunity could last. However, a recent Iceland study stated that antibodies

may last in one's blood for at least four months.

As of September, Stanford is currently in phase two testing an antibody-based drug to help those currently infected with COVID-19 to see if it may reduce symptoms and shorten one's course with the illness. The early results of this trial will most likely be available later this week.

Andra Blomkalns, professor and chair of emergency medicine, stated, "I think this treatment shows great promise."

If antibodies do make one immune to COVID-19, and they are potent in one's blood, it may prove to be a crucial part of discovering a cure or vaccine for the COVID-19 virus.



COVID-19 EDITION Sports

NFL, NBA, NHL take preventative measures

By AIDAN FEAN
Sports Co-Editor



Each professional sports league handled COVID-19 differently. Some chose different methods to prevent the spread and had varying results.

The NBA and NHL have a bubble, a designated location to stay in throughout the duration of their restart. The athletes aren't allowed to leave the bubble in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These leagues combined only had two athletes test positive during their time in the bubbles.

As for the NFL, their statistics prove that their lack of methods led to more positive cases. The NFL had approximately 110 players placed on the "COVID-19/ Reserve" list, players who either tested positive or were in close contact with somebody who tested positive. The NFL now has wristbands that team personnel must wear at all times to make contact tracing easier in case anyone tests positive.

As of Wednesday Sept. 30, the NBA and NHL have zero cases, but the NFL has at least 9 confirmed.

Colleges face financial struggles

By MADISON KELLY
Sports Editor

The NCAA March Madness tournament is one of the largest sources of revenues for the NCAA, bringing in \$933 million in 2019. This revenue is from media rights fees, ticket sales, corporate sponsorships and an increase of television ads anchored around the three-week-long tournament. The money generated by this event is then divided among the conferences and then into schools.

Because of COVID-19, the 2020 tournament was cancelled to protect players and fans from the risk of contracting the virus. The NCAA was originally scheduled to distribute a total of \$600 million to over 1,200 schools across all divisions before the cancellations, but will now only distribute \$225 million. This loss of money will cause some schools to struggle because many of them depend on events like March Madness to bring in revenue, which then goes towards financial aid, scholarships and many more programs.

For the five wealthiest conferences and member schools - Atlantic Coast Conference, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, Southeastern Conference - they can rely on football to aid them financially, but smaller schools rely on basketball to support them financially.

The cancellation of the NCAA March Madness tournament will cost schools \$375 million.

False positives affect MLB, NFL seasons

By KYLA STEAD
Staff Writer

Among teams in the NFL and the MLB, multiple cases of the coronavirus have been reported and speculated, yet some of these cases have been confirmed as false positives.

In August, the NFL and their testing partner, BioReference Labs, announced the 77 cases distributed between 11 teams were false positives.

According to Dr. Jon Cohen, the executive chairman of BioReference labs, the false positives were, "caused by an isolated contamination during test preparation."

Treatment programs were being put in place then and are still occurring now with any new cases that are reported. As for the MLB, two out of the three cases from the Philadelphia Phillies were false positives as well.

Confidentiality is a priority with players and staff. Permission must be granted in order to release information on their cases to the media, so knowledge at this time is limited.

DV UPDATE

By LUKE RUGGERIO
Sports Co-Editor

With the uncertainty of how students would return to school this year, many doubted that there would be a fall sports season. However, Delaware Valley was able to bring all fall sports back, with some modifications.

Football is set to kickoff Oct. 2, with each DV football player receiving two tickets for family members, and the opposing team receiving 100 tickets in total.

Fans are allowed to watch other outdoor sports because of lower attendance rates. Indoor sports are restricted to 25 spectators, with two tickets given to each DV player and no away fans allowed.

DV's first priority with the return of sports is the safety of every athlete.

According to athletic director Mr. Chris Ross, if an athlete contracts COVID-19, the district would work with the Department of Health to perform contact tracing. The sport the athlete is involved in would also be suspended for 14 days.

Olympic Games postponed until 2021

By ADRIENNE GORDON
Entertainment Co-Editor

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe postponed the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games during an announcement in late March 2020.

Originally scheduled from July 24 to August 9, 2020, the Olympic Games are rescheduled to next year because of COVID-19.

- Although rescheduled to a later date, the name Tokyo 2020 will remain.
- Prime Minister Abe said that Japan and the International Olympic Committee came to an agreement after concerns rose about continuing the games during the pandemic.
- They agreed to postpone, not cancel the games, and that the games will be held, at the latest, in summer 2021.
- The IOC have had concerns over previous health threats in the past. The bird flu before the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics, Zika during the 2016 Rio Olympics and the swine flu before the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.
- This is the third Olympic disruption since World War II when the 1940 and 1944 Summer Olympics were cancelled.

