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HSW in Quarant-TEEN

By Roundup Staff

That last Friday of school, March 13th, 2020, felt unquestionably eerie. Classes half empty.

Tension in the air. Sanitizer in short supply. Our microscopic enemy was quite the elephant in the room.

Later that afternoon, after much deliberation, Half Hollow Hills announced that its schools would be closed for at least the next two weeks. Little did we know that Friday the 13th would be the last day we would spend in school for the entire spring—and for seniors, maybe ever.

Fast forward to the writing of this article, and New York state had more Coronavirus cases than any nation in the world. The country as a whole was on lockdown as we were dealing with a formidable crisis.

Quite ironically, the most effective way for most of us to help fight for our country's safety was to protect ourselves by staying at home. Living in an unprec-

edented digital age, however, our daily realities were rapidly transformed into virtual alterna-

would like to thank everyone fighting this pandemic on the front lines, including doc-

tors, healthcare workers, essential service employees, researchers searching for a cure, and everyone volunteering their time in any capacity. It truly takes a village to lead the world and our country through these trying times.

While these months have been incredibly frustrating for all, the "stay-at-home" order has also granted us the gift of time. For some, it has been an opportunity to pursue new, creative endeavors. For many, it has been a time to relax, catch up on sleep, and watch documentaries about the culture surrounding captive feline species on Netflix.

Below are some examples of how the Hills

West student community spent its time at home during the early days of the quarantine.



"Staying home has made me so lazy I don't even try to look nice for Zoom calls anymore"
- Kameron I. (11)

"My sister and I are making Oreo Cheesecake from TikTok." - Ally R. (12)

"I have officially begun a new hobby: crocheting!"
- Erica C. (12)

"I ordered Paint By Numbers for adults! It takes a lot of time and patience, but all I have right now is time."
- Hannah S. (12)

"Reading, working on the yearbook, and painting until I ran out of white paint"
- Effat R. (12)

"Sleeping a lot, sitting on my couch, and texting my ex. THIS ISN'T GOING WELL FOR ME!" - Anonymous

"Finishing the work assigned and then playing Xbox with my friends." - Noah C. (12)

"Spending time with family, relaxing, staying in touch with friends, and listening to music."
- Evan M. (12)

"I started a high school scrapbook!"
- Vanessa B. (12)

"Cubing." - Bilal R. (12)

"Doing things I usually hate doing—cleaning my room, washing dishes..."
- Kat C. (12)

"I've been playing PS4 with the boys."
- Brandon B. (12)



NO TESTATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION!

by Poojan Pandya

Let's face it. Midterm exams this year were a mess. For the first time since the 2015–16 school year, the administration decided to do away with “midterm-week.” For the last three years, students have been given a week of no classes in January to study for these cumulative exams, but this year, midterm exams were administered during regular class time.

The change was largely due to complaints from parents of AP students who were concerned that mid-

schedule, the exam had to be split over two days. The first half of the exam was administered before midterm week officially began and the second half was administered in the appropriate time slot for Social Studies midterm exams.

In my AP Calc BC class, a class with alternating single and double periods, the allocated time slot for math midterms happened to fall on a single period day. As a solution, our midterm was administered on the first double period after midterm

instructional time missed in AP courses during midterm week isn't completely essential, considering that we have had the week off for the last three years and consistently have AP scores far above the national average across the board. And in my experience, teachers have finished the curriculum in every AP course I have ever taken. Five days is merely a drop in the bucket.

However, if we determine that we really need that additional class-time, a two-hour delay schedule is



term week would cause students in rigorous courses to miss out on class time. To say the least, it didn't work out very well. Teachers and students alike were frustrated with the change as they were forced to adapt to the altered schedule. One West math teacher said she had already developed a midterm exam designed for the two-hour time slot and meticulously revised it several times. When the change was announced in the middle of the year, the exam had to be scrapped.

Furthermore, while “midterm week” was supposed to last only five school days, restrictions on timing and logistics forced teachers to administer their midterm exams outside of the allocated time slots, extending midterm week for many students. For example, in my AP Economics class, the midterm is traditionally a practice AP Macroeconomics exam—a fitting culmination of the material taught in the first half of the year. With the new

week ended. In any case, a 40-minute class period is not nearly enough time to effectively assess the material from the first five months of the year.

With instructional periods during midterm week, many students also felt that there was a lack of adequate time to prepare for these cumulative exams. Even with the no-homework policy instituted during midterm week, it was difficult to find enough time to effectively study for these exams, given the breadth of information covered. Moreover, the no-homework policy often made in-class instructional time unproductive. In my English class, for example, we were reading a novel and discussing what we had read in class. However, with the no-homework rule, the teacher was forced to designate a full week of class to read the book—an ineffective use of class time. Clearly, the in-class midterm exams are not an effective solution to the issue at hand.

I would argue that the week in-

the perfect middle-of-the-road solution! Students would have a 90-minute cumulative midterm exam in the morning, which could properly assess the material from the first half of the year, and we could still have shortened class periods for the rest of the day.

Upon talking to many teachers and students throughout the school, it seems that almost everyone was frustrated with the administration of midterms this year. In many ways, it has seemed that the people making decisions about the midterm schedule—administrators and parents—have been out of touch with those directly affected by those decisions—teachers and students.

It's time for a better solution to this dilemma. Whether that solution is having a full week of no-class to prepare for midterms, having a two-hour delayed schedule, or scrapping midterms all together, in-class 40-minute midterm exams are clearly not the answer.



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We apologize for the late release of this issue, but we hope that by sharing it now we can still shine a light on issues important to the students of HSW.

The Roundup will not publish any obscene or libelous material, however, The Roundup will not avoid publishing an article solely based on dissent or controversy. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the entire staff.

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FYESTA: THE NEW SOCIAL

For Krish Malholtra and Shameed Job,

what started out as playful brainstorming of ideas for phone applications in their Precalculus class Junior year, turned into their pathway to winning a prestigious national award: the Congressional App Challenge. Throughout the summer before their Senior year, these High School West students had started seriously considering creating an app as a real possibility, what with their advanced skill sets and interest in programming and coding. After many late nights of planning, they represent High School West and Congressional District 3 all across America. In just three months, Krish and Shameed were able to create a phone application that would be viewed by the forefront representatives of this country: **Fyesta**.

The Congressional App Challenge, formed in 2013 by the House of Representatives to foster an interest in STEM fields, is one of the most distinguished awards offered in the field of Computer Science for teenagers across the country. Contestants participate from rural towns, major cities, and even from the suburbs of Long Island. The Congressional App Challenge was formed on the basis of the Congressional Initiative: to cultivate and incorporate a sense of technology and communication to STEM education policy making and government.

In Congressional District NY03, where Krish and Shameed participated, New York Congressional Representative Thomas Suozzi overlooks and leads the process, unifying what it means to be a student and an active participant in our own government. The Congressional App Challenge is supported by big-name companies such as Facebook, Microsoft, and Verizon, further emphasizing Krish and Shameed's accomplishment within our district. This annual competition is open to all high school and middle school students in teams of one to four, with no limitations or guidelines put on the creation of the app. Without prompts or creative restrictions, Krish and Shameed were allowed to explore various ideas before finalizing their app, **Fyesta**. After submission, the app is judged on the incorporation of programming and coding skills along with design and creativity by a panel of local STEM experts.

Fyesta, in Krish's words, is "a social media app that fosters real life interactions." He emphasizes that **Fyesta** combines the technological world into everyday life by creating events and plans with friends and community members nearby. The entire premise of the app is based on local maps, allowing close community events and hanging out with friends much more accessible on one shared platform. With the use of an advanced global system, communities formed in day to day life become present on our mobiles. With innovative features such as account personalization, themes, and a variety of events, **Fyesta** becomes a tool for all types of events and lifestyles.

As of now, the first version is currently available on Apple and Android app stores, but the app is planned for renovations and new features soon. Already, in Version 1.1, Krish and Shameed have been able to fix bugs, roll out new themes, and create interactive profiles.

Fyesta is easily navigated using three main focal points: Share, Search, and Social. The Share aspect focuses on the creation of events, both public and private, but still easily accessible and appealing to friends and community through event tags and custom images. Similarly, Search is based on the geographical map the app is centered around. From a birds eye view of the world and the ability to go in depth in certain areas, **Fyesta** makes finding local events easier and reliable. But what **Fyesta** is most noted for is the Social aspect that allows users to send friend requests, block other users, and inter-

act with a community from the tap of a screen. **Fyesta** resembles popular social media apps such as Instagram and Twitter with the app description reading, "Fyesta is the newest way to find out what is going on around the world."

In fact, as high school students, they were well aware of the problem they were trying to solve: planning and organizing real life events in the digital age. By making their platform a social media app that is easy to follow they appealed to their projected audience, a group they are familiar with: highschoolers. However, they do stress that although this app was created by teenagers, its efficiency and ease of use enables it to reach users of all ages, young or old.

The idea started from one of their classmates, Safa Bilal, a fellow Senior. Safa explained that she interns for Congressman Thomas Suozzi who introduced her to the competition. After hearing about such a prestigious award, Safa immediately thought of Krish and Shameed. "I recommended them because they are both beyond brilliant and work really hard. I'm so proud of them for all that they've done." They originally started working on the project because, "We felt like we could make something impressive with our combined knowledge of computer science," said Krish. Although their programming and computer science history diverged, through different programming languages and projects, they stated, "at the end of the day, we knew that if anyone could use programming to change our community, it would be us."

According to their personal statement for the Congressional App Challenge, "Our inspiration to create this app stemmed from a need. We realized it has become difficult to organize your plans for the weekend and keep track of who was available." A majority of the development happened in September before school started. In fact, by the time they had found out about the contest and seriously committed to the idea of **Fyesta** they only had two weeks to create a presentable project before the deadline. Fortunately, the duo completed everything and submitted the application just hours before the final deadline.

Now, they're working on fixing bugs and creating new features to appeal to a wider audience. These new themes and attractive settings, Shameed explained, "are features that I picked up from video games and social media." Other features they hope to release in the near future is an in-app currency that would allow the user to purchase themes and accessorize their own account along with comments and announcements to enhance user interaction in the app. Their biggest aim with the app Shameed emphasized, "is for the design of the app to be different from the mold of normal social media apps. Moving forward, we want our app to always embody the idea of being fresh and familiar." In a video submitted to the Congressional App Challenge, Krish revealed, "As we were adding some of the final features, we realized how much of an impact this app could make." By realizing the impact their app could have, they added a tool for charities and fundraisers to organize events and receive donations. In a video submitted to the Congressional App Challenge, Krish revealed, "However, creating an app and using designing platforms comes with its costs. To alleviate the financial burdens that can come with designing an app, they planned to implement a tool for event planners to advertise their events on **Fyesta**.

For both of them, programming has been a



By Aleena Paulson

MEDIA PLATFORM

passion of theirs for a long time, starting the basics at a young age. Although interested in programming for most of his life, Krish actively started programming his freshman year when he took Java, a programming language, as an elective. From this elective, his interest moved into other computer science courses offered at our school, until he completed the final course: College Computer Science B his Junior Year.

In October, Krish released an app called “Slidey Ball” on the app store. The recreational app was Krish’s first real project which he said “taught [him] the prerequisites required in releasing an app and made the process more familiar.” Krish is considering majoring in computer science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Moving away from app design, Krish shared that he is planning on focusing on Artificial Intelligence within computer science. Eventually, he plans on starting his own company involved with software development.

For Shameed, it started all the way back in elementary school. In third grade, Shameed began teaching himself how to code, fueling his own interest. He admitted, “Most of my skill has been learned from thinking something is cool and then watching videos until I know how to do it.” This drive eventually led him to develop games once he had a solid grasp of coding. With these years of game development, he was able to pick up 3D Modeling and graphic design skills that became beneficial in the creation of *Fyesta*. Like Krish, Shameed also intends on majoring in computer science with a business minor. He is drawn to NYU because, as he explained, “I want to go to NYU because of the magnitude of the campus and diversity of the students. I really like the idea of collaborating with other like minded and entrepreneurial students to develop projects that can change lives.” At High School West, computer science courses are readily available for prospective students. Mr. Maroney, a Computer Science teacher at Hills West explained, “We live in a technology driven time and for students to thrive and have the skills for today’s and tomorrow’s jobs, computer science should be taken in high school.” He emphasized that taking these classes early on will instill a foundation that will make programming easier for future jobs and careers. Especially looking at the career landscape, these computer science classes, and STEM in general, are highly valued because there is a large shortage of qualified people.

At High School West there are many enriched programs such as AP Computer Principles, Java I and Java II, and AP CS A. These classes in particular were fundamental to the process of app making for Krish and Shameed. Maroney stated, “One of the things that I love about programming is that it is very creative; coming up with ideas to solve problems. There are many solutions to the same problem, analyzing which might be the best and easiest to implement is a skill that takes time and practice to learn.” The programming skills taught at HSW are based on creativity, structure, and algorithm analysis.

Although a lot of their skills can be credited to the wide array of classes available in Computer Science, the creation of the app happened outside of school, through late nights and trying to meet deadlines. For the creation of the app, Shameed chose Flutter SDK, a cross platform development tool, which, simplified, is a collection of commands and tools that help assemble the app into a final project. Flutter SDK utilizes a computer language, named DART, that was easy for Shameed to pick up as his prior experience aided him. Another integral part of *Fyesta* is the community aspect which they incorporated through the use of maps. For the map functionality, the app integrates Google Maps as the foundation for their global connection. Similarly, through Google’s Firebase program, a platform to develop apps, they were able to ensure the safety of the user’s personal data. Likewise, to fit both Android and iOS users and minimize creation time, Flutter SDK ported the code to both operating systems. Doing so, they ensure user consistency on both platforms.

This way, Krish and Shameed would not need to work on two different versions of the app and, essentially, cut development time by half. With Flutter SDK’s efficiency, the duo relied on it’s simplification of complicated steps into just a few simple commands. However, despite the efficiency of Flutter SDK, creating an app meant devoting hours each day, as Shameed admitted, “While *Fyesta* only took about three months to finish, we worked for hours almost every night to make its first version as good as possible.”

Because of their different history and knowledge, their work was geared towards their own interests and specialties. Much like the founders of Apple, Shameed and Krish shared completely different parts in their project just as Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs who co founded Apple. As Wozniak focused on the engineering and computer science aspect of forming Apple from the ground up, Jobs was the business magnate and investor. Krish shared the responsibilities Job had, mainly focusing on the production of *Fyesta*. He prepared for the launch and brainstormed ways to attract users and market the app. In making an app, there’s a lot more to it than the fundamental programming part. Krish managed certain prerequisites required before releasing their app such as setting up a support website and creating a privacy policy, ultimately perfecting the fine details on the app. Despite his focus on the release, Krish worked on optimizing the app for iOS platforms, a

process he was familiar with because of his previous app “Slidey Ball”. Krish mainly focused on iOS testing and dealing with Apple to launch the app. Likewise, Krish has been actively improving and working on the social media accounts, figuring out new, innovative methods to market the app and improve it based on user feedback.

Shameed described his role as, “We never really gave ourselves titles but because of our work load, it ended up that I became the lead designer and programmer.”

The relationship between Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs is well known: Job’s marketing skills and Wozniak’s knowledge on computers and programming created the perfect balance in forming a billion dollar company. In a similar vein, *Fyesta* was created by two like-minded individuals with two completely different skill sets. Shameed shared, “I feel like this dynamic really worked out because I had a lot of freedom to work on anything I thought would be fun and implement it and rely on Krish to make sure that everything was practical and we could publish the app.”

Although Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak’s come-up was an integral part of creating the likes of Silicon Valley and successful, young programmers, our generation would better understand Krish and Shameed’s dynamics with the Disney duo, Phineas and Ferb. Just as Krish and Shameed worked throughout the summer, designing and manufacturing an app, Phineas and Ferb spent their summer vacation creating nanobots and painting an entire continent. Krish, who takes on the role of Phineas, is the face and voice of the projects, following through with them and publicizing it to their peers. On the flipside, Ferb, who is noted to spare few words and spend most of his time tinkering away, reflects Shameed’s own ambitions in *Fyesta*’s creation.

This past February, Krish and Shameed attended an award ceremony in Cold Spring Harbor to commemorate their win in our district. At the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Congressman Tom Suozzi congratulated students on their advanced scientific achievements in his district, notably Krish and Shameed’s advancement in the Congressional App Challenge. Moving forward, they were planned to have the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. on March 24th and present their project for the Congressional Competition in front of Congress, but unfortunately, due to the outbreak of Covid-19, their trip was canceled.

According to the duo, they have not received any information on when the trip will be rescheduled. Despite the setbacks they’ve faced due to the recent pandemic, Mr. Maroney emphasized that, “One of the most important attributes that a programmer can have is perseverance. Writing an app of this magnitude takes many hours of writing, testing and correcting code. It is easy to get discouraged during this process, but they worked through the problems and created a fundamentally working app, which they can be proud of.”



DEFEATING THE STRAW MAN ARGUMENT!

by Ariel Rose



There is common knowledge of the Hydro Flask. Once a simple metal water bottle, now it has evolved into an internet sensation. It was popularized by a teenager on the social media platform of VSCO, who shared deep feelings about protecting the environment. Overnight, Hydro Flasks became the solution to cutting down on single-use plastic water bottles and plastic straws, while also poking fun at the whole VSCO girl phenomena.

2019 had its share of VSCO girl memes, with common phrases such as “And I Oop,” “SKSKSK,” and the famous, “Save the turtles.” Although this meme has faded away with our transition into the new decade, the hype of “Saving the turtles,” and preventing plastic straws from harming our marine life, have created a wave of legislation in our own community.

Since then, two laws have gone into effect on January 1, 2020, with the intent of cutting down on plastic waste. One of the laws prevents all stores and food-service establishments “from the possession, sale, or use of disposable polystyrene foam.” The second law requires that upon a customer’s request, single-use beverage straws and stirrers must be provided. Even though the internet only seems interested in paper straws due to their popularity as a common debate, other products may be removed from the condiment counter.

Another product that serves as an example of the reform is the styrofoam cup. It is a well-known fact that styrofoam is harmful to our environment, but

the cup being able to insulate heat overshadowed the dangers. However, with the new law in effect, common fast-food restaurants such as Chick-Fil-A have gotten rid of their styrofoam cups for the more popular paper cups. As of now, Chick-Fil-A is one of the few establishments that has changed multiple aspects of their Suffolk County businesses to avoid trouble.

As this law is set for Suffolk County, our school community has already seen changes. Before the February break, the district sent out an email informing that the single-use plastic straws in the cafeteria will be removed, due to the new laws. Although the email was sent out well before the change, students were still surprised to see the straws gone from their designated place, and mixed reactions were expressed.

Junior Sahaj Singh said that her usual routine in the cafeteria was now changed, but for a good reason. Singh stated, “It is good that the school is recognizing the needs of the environment and taking the effective steps necessary to help.” However, another fellow Junior felt completely the opposite. Heather Gladstone stated, “I hate the paper straws. If you want to drink, just drink out of the cup instead of trying so hard with the paper straws.”

There will always be people who doubt issues, especially those that pertain to the environment. As the VSCO girl meme with the metal straws and Hydro Flask soared, so did the “counter memes”

that seemed to poke holes into the argument. Some argued that simply changing from plastic to metal or paper straws isn’t enough to really help the environment. Nevertheless, it seems that the movement has had a significant impact on our community.

I believe that if enough people rally together, a really big difference can be made, and this belief was just proven with plastic straws. A former resident of Suffolk County, who would like to remain anonymous, did not understand why everyone was rallying so passionately against plastic straws. They believed that people changing their actions was not enough to reverse the damage that we have had on the environment. It was the big companies that had to change their practices.

Paper straws in Suffolk County have proved the residents wrong. The Suffolk County Department of Health Services put out a warning of how much plastic straws pollute the communities around us and added fuel to the consumer fire. Consumers have been using the internet as their tool, to make a change that will eventually affect the big companies. With combined efforts of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services and everyday consumers, we were able to pass a law that forces fast-food giants such as Chick-Fil-A and McDonald’s and even our high school cafeteria to change their ways. This proves that the internet and the everyday consumer has a powerful voice in our governments and in our community.

Megxit

by Hayley Kalb

What's Going on with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle?

Becoming a princess is every little girl’s dream. I’m sure every girl has happy memories of dressing up in gowns and tiaras and watching fairytales. So, when Megan the Duchess of Sussex decides to give all of that up after a year and a half, it is extremely confusing.

Two years ago, the world watched as Meghan Markle, who some may remember as the girl who held the briefcase on Deal or No Deal, married Prince Harry. Crowds of 100,000 people gathered to see the bride and groom on their wedding day, and the event was broadcast on television for everyone to watch. In New York, broadcasting started at around four in the morning and continued throughout the day. The ceremony was beautiful, and the couple was glowing as they exchanged vows.

Despite the love Harry and Meghan have for each other, Meghan faced harsh criticism from British tabloids, who painted her as a villain who was ruining the royal family. The tabloid coverage became a huge issue, and in October of 2019, Meghan opened up in a documentary about the effects. She said when interviewed about this scrutiny, “If things were fair ... If I’d done something wrong, I’d be the first one to go ‘Oh my gosh, I’m so sorry. I would never do that. But when people are saying things that are just untrue, and they are being told they’re untrue but they’re allowed to still say them—I don’t know anybody in the world who would feel like that’s okay.” This may provide a reason for their decision to take on a new role within the British monarchy.

Prince Harry and Meghan stated that they would be stepping back from their royal duties,

and will become financially independent. In what has now been deemed “Megxit,” the couple and their son Archie will split their time between Britain and Canada and will carve out a progressive new role for royals. This came as a shock to the rest of the royal family, as there were no discussions prior to the decision. In my opinion, decisions like this should be discussed with the entire senior royal family, since one person’s decision can have lasting effects on everyone involved. Nevertheless, the rest of the family was not informed of any such plan, leading to an emergency meeting at Buckingham Palace. The goal of the meeting was to ease the crisis

this bombshell has caused and to find a new arrangement for the Duke and Duchess. However, since the monarchy runs largely based on precedent, the decisions made at this meeting could change the role of royals forever. So, this begs the questions of what does the future hold for the monarchy, and how will this change affect the long-lasting traditions upheld by the royal family?

Even with this unprecedented change, the Queen announced her support of this decision. A statement released from the palace read, “With The Queen’s blessing, the Sussexes will continue to maintain their private patronages and associations. While they can no longer formally represent The Queen, the Sussexes have made clear that everything they do will continue to uphold the values of Her Majesty.”

The Queen understands that Meghan has been under extreme scrutiny, and respects her need for a change. The Duke and Duchess had been separated from the family for a while, and according to the New York Times, have been “dangerously isolated in the House of Windsor.” It has even been reported that many of the prince’s friends do not even have his cell phone number.

That being said, the royal exit goes far beyond just Harry and Meghan. This precedent can shape the future of a monarchy that has remained rather traditional over the years, and it is exciting to see what will happen next.





King of the

By Sam Gold & Ray Chen

Campaign Mountain



Joe Biden was seen as a strong front runner since the start of his campaign in April 2019, but he had a rough start when votes started being cast. With a fourth place finish in Iowa, a fifth place finish in New Hampshire, and a distant second place finish in Nevada, his campaign seemed to be on the verge of ending.

However, he had a tremendous resurgence after South Carolina. Earning more than twice as many votes as Bernie Sanders, he passed Sanders in both delegates and the total popular vote. Then, after South Carolina, both Pete Buttigieg and



Amy Klobuchar suspended their campaigns and endorsed Biden. The Democratic establishment finally coalesced around a candidate after months of splitting the moderate vote between a handful of candidates.

This led to a very strong showing for Biden on Super Tuesday. He won 10 out of the 15 contests, including the second largest prize of the night, Texas. He also over performed in southern states, with gigantic margins against Sanders, Warren, and Bloomberg. Biden seems to have created a coalition of African American voters, suburban voters, and older voters.



Pete Buttigieg was a long shot campaign, who at one point was at the top of the polls. He was attempting to create a generational change with his campaign considering all of the front runners are in their 70s. He finished first in Iowa and second in New Hampshire, but he finished a distant third in Nevada and fifth in South Carolina. His largest obstacle throughout the entire campaign was a lack of support from people of color. He benefited heavily from the mostly white electorate in Iowa and New Hampshire, but floundered when it came to more diverse states. He dropped out the weekend before Super Tuesday and endorsed Biden. Although he's out of the race he made history as the first openly gay candidate.



Elizabeth Warren officially dropped out of the race on Thursday, March 5th. She started off as a long shot campaign but reached the top of the democratic field in the polls around October 2019. She peaked too early though and by the time the first votes were cast in Iowa she fell to the middle of the pack. With a third place finish in Iowa, and fourth place finishes in New Hampshire and Nevada, and a fifth place finish in South Carolina, she needed to perform well on Super Tuesday. She wasn't able to pull it off. She didn't win any states and finished third in her home state of Massachusetts. Warren endorsed Biden.

Bernie Sanders has been seen as the frontrunner for the progressive wing of the party since the beginning. He came in second place in Iowa, first in New Hampshire, and first in Nevada. Despite his early success, he was unable to prevent Biden's landslide victory in South Carolina. Additionally, he severely underperformed on Super Tuesday. He lost in states where he was projected to be a heavy favorite, like Minnesota and Massachusetts. However, he still had a strong performance in western states with wins in Colorado, Utah, and California. His lack of success seems to be because voter turn-



out among his base, which consists of mostly young voters, was not great. He has heavily invested in

turn out the vote efforts to increase participation among voters under 30, but they were not as effective as he needed them to be. Also, his strong performance in California is based on his strong support from Latino voters and young voters. His loss of momentum and lack of support from the South and Midwest caused Biden to win over 300 delegates. With Biden that far ahead, Sanders ended his campaign saying "The path toward victory is virtually impossible." Sanders, after leading and holding out for the progressives, finally endorsed Biden.

Michael Bloomberg was a late entrant to the primaries and had an unconventional strategy. He didn't enter any of the early voting states and invested heavily in Super Tuesday states. It is estimated he spent over \$550 million on ads and staffers. It was not worth it. He didn't win any states and ended the night with only



5% of delegates and the only place he came in first was American Samoa. He promptly ended his campaign and endorsed Biden. He emphasized that he was only running because he didn't think there was anyone who could beat Trump, but after Super Tuesday he was convinced that Biden is that person.

Amy Klobuchar made it much further than anyone expected. She entered the race with virtually no national name recognition, but a series of strong debate performances kept her campaign alive longer than more well known

candidates like Kamala Harris. She didn't have enough support to break into the top tier. Her best

finish was 3rd place in New Hampshire, but after poor performances in Nevada and South Carolina, she dropped out the day before Super Tuesday and endorsed Biden.



BOY'S V. BASKETBALL SEASON RECAP

by Constantine Lambridis

It was a disappointing end to the Colt's season this year, as they fell to King's Park the Suffolk Class A Semi-Finals by a score of 90-74. Kings Park West also handed Hills West their only league loss this season.

Despite the loss, several West players shined, especially Colby Jordan, with 23 points, and Brent Bland with 16 points.

Despite the effort

from Jordan and Bland, the Colt's weren't able to make it through the tough Kingmen squad.

However, instead of letting the loss hurt them, it is motivating them. The Colts started their off-season workouts early to be sure that they'll be in the best shape possible next year. The team's main core is also mostly juniors, so many of the team's key players, such as the top 100 Long Island players Colby Jordan and Brent Bland, as well as big man Zach Seltzer will be back.

This core of juniors has been playing together for a long time, so they have good chemistry, and it will no doubt improve this off-season.

Another key piece of the team that will be staying with the Colts into next season is coach Steve Atkinson. If you're an NBA fan, the name Atkinson sounds familiar, that's because Steve Atkinson, is the brother of Brooklyn Nets Head Coach Kenny Atkinson. Coach Atkinson brings many plays and workouts used by Kenny and the Nets into the Colt's practices, which gives Hills West an advantage that very few teams have.

Despite the main core being intact and experienced, the team is still hurt by the loss of seniors, notably Bryce Bland. Bryce was a vocal leader for the Colts whose

hustle and lockdown defense massively helped the Colts this season by preventing guards from getting the extra space they needed to feel comfortable in order to pass or shoot. Bryce never let opposing guards breathe, so they would be forced to fire off a bad pass, or else Bryce would steal the ball right out of their hands and make them wish someone else was guarding them.

Overall, the Colts bring a large portion of their talent, and a smart and experienced coach, into the next season.

HSW SOCCER STANDOUT, JORDYN LEVY, ANNOUNCED AS ALL-AMERICAN

by Christian Sehlmyer

On December 4th, Hills West Junior, Jordyn Levy, was announced to be on the United Soccer Coaches Girls All-American team for the Fall 2019 season. This is the first time a girl from High School West was put on the All-American team for Soccer.

So what makes this accomplishment so great? The All-American team is selected for Soccer by the United Soccer Coaches, it is a hypothetical team made up of all of the best athletes for each sport. To be an All-American is one of the greatest accomplishments a high school athlete can earn. The last All-American in the district was, Jessica Garziano, a Hills East student in 2018, who went on to play for St. John's University.

The team is usually made for both College and High School athletes for all sports. For There were only 131 soccer players selected to be on the All-American team, with 72 boys and only 59 girls across the Nation.

"To be an All-American, is not only about having the skill set necessary to be recognized, it is also about being a well-rounded person. It is about having strong academics, being coachable, having leadership qualities, and being determined to achieve greatness," said Mrs. Ferry, the district's athletic director

Being on the All-American team was always a goal for Jordyn. "The term All-American just means that I've reached another long term goal that I've set for myself since the

beginning of high school, being named All-American doesn't mean it's time to celebrate or slack off, it's a reminder that I have to keep pushing myself every day to become a better player, and reach other goals I've set for myself.

"I've been working very hard on the varsity soccer team since my freshman year. The feeling is very rewarding, but I have one more year left and can not drop the level."

The coach of the team, Mrs. Verderber said, "The All-American award was a goal of hers. That's what I love the most about that award for her. Jordyn wanted it, worked for it and did it. That's Awesome."

Jordyn clearly stood out through her play as being deserving of the award with her amazing stats through the season. In just 15 games this season she scored 20 goals, with 4 hat-tricks, making her the 3rd highest scorer on Long Island, and got 9 assists.

"I have not coached someone as skillful and determined as Jordyn. She does things that I have not seen others that I have coached do. Jordyn's pursuit of excellence is contagious and elevates us all, that is what is really what is super special. She's influential without even knowing it," said Coach Verderber.

Jordyn looks to take the team to a successful 2020 season in the fall after falling short this season in the first round of playoffs to Harborfields, but finishing first in the league.

"Next year we are losing a lot of key

players. I can't predict how far we are going to go, but we will all work our hardest to go as far as we can to defend our league title."

