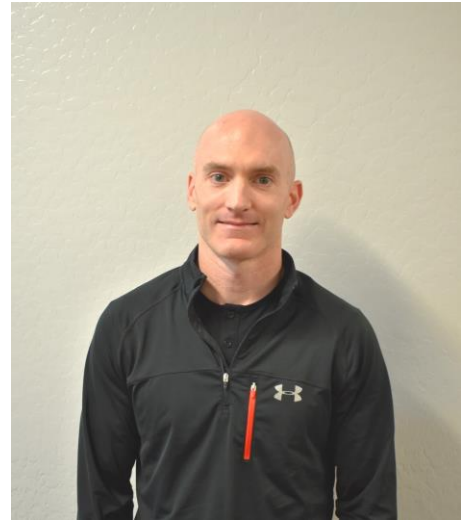


THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

SAYING HELLO TO MR. GARVEY

BY CALISTA WILK &
DERRICK KANG

With Dr. Stumpo leaving almost as quickly as he came, BASIS Scottsdale has seen yet another switch in its leadership this past year. In the process, however, the departure of our previous Head of School has opened up the position for long-time faculty member Mr. Garvey to lead our esteemed institution. Mr. Garvey is a BASIS Scottsdale veteran. Prior to assuming the role of Head of School, he has been a part of the BASIS community as not only a teacher but also a coach and former administrator. In light of Mr. Garvey’s recent ascent to the position of Head of School, many students have become decidedly curious about his BASIS career, so we decided to interview Mr. Garvey to learn more about his history with the school and hear more about his plans for the future of our community.



Source: Derrick Kang

How many years have you worked at BASIS Scottsdale? What have been your past experiences with BASIS?

Mr. Garvey: I have worked at BASIS Scottsdale since 2011 when I started teaching Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus and AP Calculus. Since joining the school, I have also been the NHS advisor and coached the track team.

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SAVE THE DATE

Mar. 4: Middle School Orchestra Concert	Mar. 7-11: Spring Break
Mar. 17: St. Patrick’s Day	Mar. 3-31: Dollars for Dares Fundraiser

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Toner Crisis
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What do you look forward to as the new Head of School?

Mr. Garvey:

As the Head of School, I'm looking forward to working with students and teachers to find ways to improve our school as we try to move on from distance learning.

What do you think will be some of the challenges you face as you take on the role of Head of School? What has been the greatest challenge for you so far?

Mr. Garvey:

The greatest challenge as the Head of School is finding ways to maximize the resources that we have in our building while at the same time recognizing that there are limits to what we can ask everyone to do.

What has been your most memorable moment or experience being a part of BASIS, and why?

Mr. Garvey:

My most memorable year at BASIS was when the 7th graders I started working with graduated a few years ago. The connection you have with a group of students you've known for six years is hard to beat.

When not thoughtfully working with students or filing through an overflowing inbox, how do you like to spend your free time?

Mr. Garvey:

Most of my free time is taken up by our 18-month-old daughter. There's always something to do, but the time I spend with her is the best part of my day.

Is there a message you would like to share with our readers? If so, we would love to hear it.

Mr. Garvey:

As things settle down, I'm looking forward to sitting down with students to hear how things are going and finding ways to improve our school.

At BASIS Gazette, we would again like to congratulate Mr. Garvey on his promotion to Head of School. With his experience and insight, Mr. Garvey is evidently a great fit as the new leader of our community, and we are confident he will direct the school to even greater heights.



Source: BASIS.ed

CAMPUS COMMENTARY

THE SECOND TONER CRISIS

BY SHREYANK
MURALA

On October 18, 2021, the BASIS Scottsdale Admin informed teachers about the most ruinous and catastrophic event at school: the First Toner Crisis. More than 1,200 students, teachers, and faculty members had been affected by this crisis, but luckily, the BASIS Admin had taken action to mitigate the shortage of toner with one *simple* solution: teachers should limit the amount of paper they print until they get more toner. This splendid, carefully considered plan had been effective in combating the First Toner Crisis, but would the BASIS Admin be able to prevent the crisis from repeating itself?

Unfortunately, not. On December 16, 2021, the BASIS Scottsdale Admin informed the teachers about another shortage of toner — the Second Toner Crisis. There's a sequel to everything these days. Will our rocky toner saga be as unpredictable as the Star Wars saga, or will our new administration under Mr. Garvey finally reunite the once glorious BASIS Scottsdale Empire against the Death Star printers? Let's see what the teachers say about the recent toner crises at school.

What are your opinions about the previous toner crises?

Dr. Reeves:

I did not even notice the first toner crisis. Fortunately, I made all my copies ahead of time and was not affected as much. The second toner crisis was very unexpected. I thought that our toner issues were completely resolved. I was worried that I would not be able to print my assessments at all. Luckily, the administration offered to print our assessments at Staples.

Mr. Peacher:

The first toner crisis made sense to me. We signed a contract with this company, and they're providing us with toner. Yet when we called them, they didn't provide us with toner. But that just seems like bad business practice to me. The second one does not make that much sense. Now, it's worse for me since we finished the Calculus book, so I can't even ask students to refer back to the book because we're done with it.

How many toner crises⁷do you think there will be?

Dr. Reeves:

We are currently in the middle of a minor toner crisis [The Third Toner Crisis]. We were asked once again to not print items that are not necessary, especially large packets. We are not completely out of toner, but I am limiting the number of handouts in my classes.

Mr. Peacher:

It sounds like it's going to be until the end of the year. Back during winter break, the BASIS Admin told us to limit the number of copies you make like the bare minimum. And I think that would be possible for classes with one-to-one technology. Like in 6th and 7th grade, they have SPORK tablets where they can upload material directly and tell everyone to look there for classwork. But for upper school and 5th grade, it's harder because not everyone has a laptop they can bring to school, and they're not allowed to take out their phones. So, even if I have a PDF with math problems, I don't know how students can access it. I don't know. I'm a little bit at a loss about what I'm exactly supposed to do and how to support my students. Especially in AP courses, when you get to the end, the students just want to churn through as many problems as they can for practice. So, not the best situation, but we're trying.



Source: Printer Headlines

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What suggestions would you make to the BASIS admin regarding the toner crises?

Dr. Reeves:

The BASIS Administration could include a breach of contract clause in their contract with Konica [the company which BASIS Scottsdale gets toner from]. It should say that Konica must pay for replacement toner if they are not capable of delivering our toner on time.

Mr. Peacher:

Just keep communicating with the teachers when we have toner and when we don't. If there's no communication, it just leaves us behind because we make a plan for tomorrow, and next day, we find out that there's no toner and have to replan. I got to say that the current administration under Mr. Garvey is doing a good job keeping us informed. Yes, I believe that this new administration is doing better than the old administration under Dr. Stumpo.

You heard the teachers yourself, folks! As of January 30, 2022, the Third Toner Crisis has taken place. Like Dr. Reeves and Mr. Peacher stated in their interviews, many of the teachers have also spoken about how BASIS should be compensated by Konica's shortage of toner.

Konica Minolta, a Japanese multinational company, manufactures imaging products such as laser printers, copiers, and our first love toner. Unfortunately, in July and August of 2021, the Tatsuno factory, one of the largest suppliers of Konica's imaging products, in Japan was involved in two incidents of fire and subsequently a dust explosion that resulted in no casualties. Konica reported that they would resume production in November 2021, but unfortunately, they are lagging behind after these events. Keeping this in mind, we cannot fully blame Konica, BASIS admin, teachers, or even students for the toner crisis. Accidents happen, and now, we must move on for the better.



Source: The Recycler

CURRENT EVENTS

MAKE SPACE FOR THIS NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

BY CALISTA WILK

After Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, was launched into space in 1957, the era of rapid development for space exploration began. In the following decades, the use of the space environment ranged from large-budget government missions to, more recently, services like Internet, radio, and satellite TV. With satellites playing an increasingly important role in everyday activities, it becomes of utmost importance to consider and protect the well-being of the orbits they operate in.

This brings to light one clear threat to the well-being of this environment: space debris. Space debris, defined as human-made objects that no longer serve a purpose in Earth's orbits, has been collecting at alarming rates in recent years, with more than 100 million pieces of debris that weigh around 6,300 tons now in orbit. This cluster poses numerous threats for the future security of space exploration and the global economy.

One of the most notable satellites that started raising concerns for the safety of the space environment was Cosmos 954. This nuclear-reactor-based satellite was launched in 1977 by the Soviet Union, and just a few weeks later, it was reporting signs of having an erratic, unstable orbit. In January of 1978, Cosmos 954 entered Earth's atmosphere and broke apart over Canada, its debris scattering across 600 kilometers and costing Canada around \$11 million in clean-up efforts. Although there were no major reported health risks, the reactor fell in the form of radioactive micro particles, raising concerns



Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

for possible larger, more lethal accidents that could occur in the future. The probability of such incidents is only increased by the presence of space debris, which can violently collide with a nuclear-powered satellite at speeds near 15,700 miles per hour and send the spacecraft crashing down to Earth.

The concerns regarding collisions with space debris are not only limited to satellites with a nuclear reactor, as they pose a threat just as alarming to all other types of spacecraft. Given that the global space industry produced \$335 billion in revenue in 2016 and is projected to reach at least \$1 trillion by the 2040s, it becomes clear how essential all space activity is to the health of the global economy. So taking steps to mitigate and reduce the amount of space debris in orbit as soon as possible is crucial since allowing space debris to collect at the rate it is now will render Earth's orbits physically unusable, as predicted by the Kessler Syndrome, effectively shattering the global economy and any chance to venture into space in the future.

From the physical health of communities to the security for future space explorations, space debris poses numerous dangers to the well-being of societies around the world. Although the urgency of addressing space debris can be debated since no major harm caused by it has been documented yet, its implications for the future should not be overlooked. Not taking action now would open the possibility that this issue escalates uncontrollably in the next few decades, echoing the repercussions of the climate change crisis. But this time we wouldn't just be affecting Earth's environment – we'd be affecting the space that stretches from Earth's atmosphere to thousands of kilometers beyond.

So, it becomes paramount to take into consideration not only the effects that space debris has had on society in the past and currently but especially the consequences it will have for the future. Because taking this one step to reflect, to consider, to jot down a new resolution would, truly, be taking a leap for mankind.

WHY RUSSIA “NEEDS” UKRAINE

BY SRIVARUN
VUNGUTUR

History shapes people’s actions. Vladimir Putin has clearly demonstrated this idea throughout his reign of terror, all the way up to his recent invasion of Ukraine. To understand why Putin or Russia “desires” Ukraine, we must recognize that this penchant stems from the historic collapse of the Soviet Union in 1981. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) played a major role in this defeat and became a geopolitically dominating force as it defended against the Soviet Union and its eastward expansion.

The start of the Soviet Union’s territorial conquest can largely be traced to when Ukraine was given the Crimean Peninsula after World War II. The Soviets did not mind until Ukraine voted for independence in 1991. Putin and many Russian nationalists were angered by this, as they saw Ukraine as a part of Russia, with over 40% of the population being Slavs or ethnic Russians. This alone has caused revolts in Ukraine, but it has ultimately only furthered the influence that Russia has over the country.

Putin’s desire for Ukraine stems not only from this ethnic struggle but from the natural resources and trade routes established by Ukraine’s geography, which has given them an upper hand in European politics. For example, Ukraine will now have control of borders such as that with Poland as well as greater access to the Yugoslav region, encroaching on the borders of NATO. Thus, taking over the whole of Ukraine for Putin will lead to having control of many rights to energy sources, such as hydrocarbon energy, and deals with large oil companies, including Exxon, Mobil, and Shell.

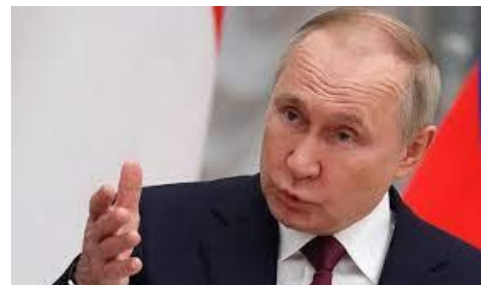
This isn’t the first time that Russia attempted to annex Ukraine, though. Let’s go back 8 years to 2014 to see their first attempt. In February, 2014, Russia took control of a part of the Crimean Peninsula as protests erupted in Ukraine in late 2013 — this was known as the “Maidan Revolution,” or the Revolution of Dignity. Seeing the unrest that followed in the overthrow of the pro-Russian Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich, Putin annexed Crimea, as it had succumbed to chaos by supporting the separatists in the southern provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk. However, separatists in Eastern Ukraine made free-trade pacts with the European Union (EU), and the support Ukraine gained from NATO after the 2014 invasion started to skyrocket.

As a byproduct of this, Russia was hit by hyperinflation and economic sanctions. The resulting economic crisis, topped with the pandemic, has tanked their economy. And as Europe’s top producers of gasoline, Russia will lose all their money from their gas clients if they have an open war with Ukraine. So, why does Russia want Ukraine, even though it’s the EU’s poorest country?

NATO is still a major threat to Russia with the ballistic missiles it can place on the Ukrainian border, and many countries across Europe, especially those close to the Russian border, have joined the alliance. However, Russia also has military bases along its borders near Poland. After placing 100,000 Russian troops across Ukraine’s borders in December 2021, Putin demanded the White House guarantee that NATO will not expand further east and that Ukraine will never become a member of the alliance. With the help of Belarus, who has been “siding” with Russia, troops have been stationed at Ukraine’s borders, only 200 meters from the capital.

As of now, Russia has invaded Ukraine, and the interference by other countries is likely going to be minimal, but as NATO poses continual threats, their movements will be limited to within Ukraine. The U.S. has already placed sanctions on Russia and will place more in order to isolate them from the west and deplete their economy. But even though NATO is a significant threat, they won’t do anything about this situation because they don’t want to risk creating a greater conflict.

In this world where the balance of power can shift in an instant, all we can do is watch and hope that, through all the bombarding attacks on the capital and major cities, the people of Ukraine are safe. With the innocent people that get killed by false values and corruption, we must remember how lucky and grateful we are that we are safe.



Source: NDTV

ARIZONA'S 110TH BIRTHDAY

BY JACOB SHAMOUN

Every year, as February 14th approaches, most people — and some BASIS Scottsdale students — contemplate how to show their love on Valentine's Day. Caught up in Valentine's Day and our own mess, we often forget our beloved state forty-eight's birthday on the same day. This year, as Arizona turns 110 years young, let us look back at the history of our state.

Prior to the journeys of the Portuguese and Spanish to North America, the territory we now live in was occupied by several indigenous peoples, the Pueblos, Hohokam, and more. Today, we can visit the ruins of their civilizations in Flagstaff and in the outskirts of the state. As the United States was dominated by imperialism in the 1800s, it would acquire most of its current southwestern territories, such as New Mexico, Texas, California, and Arizona as part of the Gadsden Purchase. By the beginning of industrialization and the invention of railroads for transport in the late 1800s, the Arizona territory would become independent from other southwestern territories, and despite the warm weather, people migrated for the ever-expanding copper mining industry. President Taft would soon authorize the statehood of Arizona on February 14, 1912, with the word Arizona derived from the native word "Ali-Shonak," meaning "small spring," and Arizona would continue to flourish with new tourism and economic success until the Great Depression. Arizona would slowly recover, and in the 1902 with the invention of air conditioning, the summery, sun-dominated Arizona we still know today would become inhabitable thanks to new housing and attractively low property taxes.

Economically, Arizona has a dominant copper industry, supplying over 65% of the United States' copper, while also housing several air bases due to the state's weather, which I'm sure we are all thankful for—nothing beats sunny skies in the middle of the winter. This weather has historically attracted several snowbirds, and with the low property taxes, several retirees have moved out to our sunny state. Between the low cost of living and favorable weather, many families have moved to Arizona. In the 1930s, Arizona had a population of around 400,000, and now, in 2022, we have well above 7,200,000 people living in the Copper State. What is important is that the population growth has been positive year after year for Arizona; Arizona even looks to attain a 10th seat in the House of Representatives soon because of this unparalleled growth in the state's population, which has gone with its robust economy. Our state's nickname as the Grand Canyon State reminds everyone that Arizona is also home to the eighth wonder of the world, the beautiful Grand Canyon, a lovely representation of Arizona's history, which is engraved in the rust-colored strata of the 6,000-foot-deep canyon.

In terms of sports, most Arizonans are familiar with our Arizona Cardinals and Diamondbacks and Phoenix Suns. While Arizona has had a sizable championship drought, our Suns are showing dominance in the west with the best record in the NBA right now. As for our Cardinals, hopefully next year we will find success and make it to the Super Bowl, which will be played in our state's State Farm Stadium in 2023.

Arizona has played a significant role in politics too, with Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female Supreme Court justice, and John McCain, a senator for over 30 years and presidential candidate, both from the Valley.

All in all, our home state Arizona deserves much appreciation for offering us the clearest skies and warmest winters anyone can find, all at a relatively low cost of living. Our state has grown significantly, so in the years to come, let us acknowledge our state on Valentine's Day and be thankful that we can enjoy summery weather year-round.



Source: Outside Online

PETS AND THE PANDEMIC

BY ANDREW KANG

Due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, people have socially isolated themselves from others to reduce the spread of the disease. As a result, people have spent more time at home with their pets, the majority being cats and dogs, forming stronger bonds with each other. A RestoraPet survey recently discovered that 61% of pet owners spend the same or more on their pet's well-being compared to their own. It also revealed that 43% of pet owners spend more on their pets due to the pandemic.

There has been an increase in pet adoption rates and thus spending as people continue to work from home over the course of the pandemic due to the fact that many experienced separation anxieties as well as boredom. A pet gear brand named Fable claims that they have experienced "unprecedented growth this year with a 12x increase since 2019, surpassing projections by more than three times." Likewise, a well-known pet retail company, Petco, hit nearly \$4 billion dollars in sales in 2020, almost a 10% increase from 2019, and overall, the American Pet Products Association projected that Americans would spend a record-high of \$99 billion in 2020 on pet products illustrating the increased spending on pets by consumers over the pandemic.



Source: The Washingtonian

The pandemic has caused everyone to adapt to their new surroundings and find solutions to alleviate their problem of separation from others. Many have spent more time with their pets and cared for them more, treating them as if they were their children. The strong bond between the owner and the pet along with the increased spending over the course of the pandemic exemplifies how crucial companions are in times of social isolation.



Source: American Animal Hospital Association

SPORTS, ARTS, AND ENTERTAINMENT

GOSSIP WELL TOLD: E. HOWARD HUNT

BY TRISTAN CLARKE

When I say Watergate, you say Richard Nixon. The two are inextricably linked, and for good reason, too: this will not be one of those articles informing you about how the common knowledge is flawed or misrepresents history. Instead, today we're going to discuss someone just as inextricably linked to Watergate, yet far less famous despite how interesting his life really was. Today, we're going to explore the life of one E. Howard Hunt.

E. Howard Hunt was born to a New York Republican attorney family on October 9th, 1918. He graduated from Brown University in 1940 and served in the Navy during the Second World War before transferring to the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor to the CIA. During his years in service, Hunt published several novels, continuing through the late 1940s under his own name and myriad pseudonyms. In the years after the war, Hunt rose to the highest ranks of the CIA and participated in several important efforts, such as anti-Castro subversion and as a personal assistant to Allen Dulles until the failed Bay of Pigs Invasion in 1961. Hunt retired from CIA service in 1970 before he signed on as a Presidential Advisor to President Richard Nixon in 1971.

Watergate, as most know it today, consisted of a planned burglary of the DNC in 1972, but beyond what would famously come to the attention of the world, the scandal eventually came to stand as shorthand for an entire series of crimes and cover-ups in relation to that year's election.



Source: Wikipedia Commons

One such crime would pull Hunt directly back into the covert work he had been used to for much of his life, forcing a downward spiral that would eventually land the now famous author in prison.

Following a failed assassination of Presidential Candidate George Wallace on May 15, 1972, which left its victim paralyzed for life, President Richard Nixon dispatched Hunt to plant evidence in the home of the gunman suggesting the crime had been carried out in order to bolster the Democratic party. The mission had to be called off at the last minute, however, as the FBI had secured the home of the gunman, but this would not be the last piece of campaign espionage Hunt would be tapped for by the then-president.

On June 17, 1972, five burglars broke into the Watergate hotel in order to wiretap the leadership of the Democratic Party. These five burglars were organized by G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt and had acted under the explicit direction of the President of the United States, Richard Nixon.

Within days, all seven men who directly carried out the burglary were arrested and immediately subjected to questioning. Following the arrests of the men, hundreds of thousands of dollars in hush money were transmitted under further orders from the President in an attempt to cover his tracks, but it was too late: the house of cards had already begun to collapse.

Hunt was ultimately sentenced to spend between thirty months and eight years in prison for his role in the Watergate break-ins. He would spend a total of thirty-three months of that time detained before his release. Following his imprisonment, he moved to Mexico and continued to publish novels, ending with a total of 73 published books by the time of his death in 2007. Despite all the facts we know today, so much of his life remains as shrouded in as much mystery as those he would write onto the page, leaving us, the readers of history, to wonder: what more could there be to know about such a mysterious man?

WORDLE'S METEORIC RISE

BY SAHIL SUD

Wardle. No, that's not a typo. It wasn't meant to say "Wordle." Josh Wardle is the brains behind the engrossing game Wordle, the instant hit that has taken the world, and BASIS Scottsdale, by storm.

The game's origins, and its meteoric rise, have made it a darling in the tech industry, particularly on the Internet. Wardle, a Brooklyn-based software engineer, created the game as a gift for his partner, who he knew loved word games, such as the *New York Times' Spelling Bee* and *Daily Crossword*. After the couple enjoyed the game for a few months, it spread to their *WhatsApp* group, where it quickly became an obsession. And by October of 2021, Wardle released it publicly, where it quickly amassed over 10 million players.

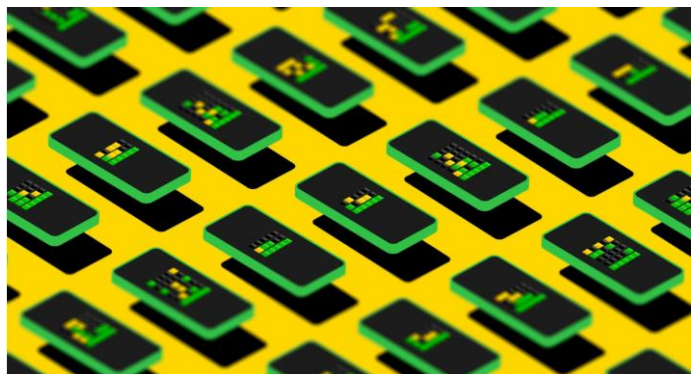
How does Wordle work? The objective of the game is to correctly deduce the five-letter word among 2,500 solution words that can be the solution any day. Initially, the word list included over 12,000 possible solutions, but many of the words were unused in daily conversation and would be difficult to deduce. In an interview with *Slate*, Wardle said if there were one of these words, "I think you would feel cheated. And so we put a fair amount of effort into the filtering." Shah was instrumental in this filtering, as she categorized all 13,000 five-letter words in the dictionary into whether she absolutely knew the word, absolutely didn't, or maybe knew it. Users can play by entering a five-letter word, which will allow them to learn information about the solution from the colors that the letters have. If a letter is highlighted in green, it means the letter is in the word and is in the correct place; if a letter is highlighted in yellow, the letter is included in the word but is in a different place. And if a letter is in gray, it is absent from the word altogether. Players can use this information to better approximate the solution.

So, what makes Wordle such a hit? Why is it so popular? The primary reason, according to Wardle, is the lack of monetization. Wordle remains one of the few areas of the Internet that lacks advertisements of flashing banners, asking for money. As Mr. Wardle puts it, "[Wordle]'s not trying to do anything shady with your data or your eyeballs. It's just a game that's fun." Wordle

represents a breath of fresh air for the Internet: there is no advertising, no data needed, and it can even be played without access to Internet connection. Wordle also stands out on the Internet as it actively seeks to prevent user addiction. Additionally since there is only one word per day, the scarcity leaves users wanting more at all times. Wardle said that, ironically, the game straying away from a blatant advertisement in fact led to greater growth. If Wardle wanted to, when users shared their results, a link to the game could be sent with it. However, Wardle purposely decided not to add a link, simply because he found it more aesthetically pleasing.

Since its inception, the game has undergone many transformations, and has become an important element of popular culture. Players have attempted, many times over, to find the best strategy for their beginning words, creating algorithms to find how to best reduce their possible word choices. Lately, words such as "crane" and "soare" have replaced previously popular words like "adieu" and "pious." The game has even created its own Internet subculture. A January 22 sketch on *Saturday Night Live* featured former president Donald Trump playing Wordle. Even the *New York Times* published a Best Words List.

On January 31, 2022, *The New York Times* acquired Wordle from Josh Wardle for a sum "in the low seven figures." This immediately sparked fears that Wordle would fundamentally change as a result. Fortunately, *The New York Times* has announced no plans to introduce a paywall or advertisements, leaving Wordle as how it was meant to be.



Source: Bryce Durbin, Tech Crunch

ICE-SKATING SCANDAL

BY STEPHANIE
LOBODANESCU

The Olympics, both summer and winter, have given way to an incredible amount of talented prodigies; from Tara Lipinski in ice-skating (age 15, 1994) to Kokona Hiraki in skateboarding (age 12, 2020), athletes are seemingly getting younger and all the more successful. The 2022 Winter Olympics, hosted in Beijing, are certainly no exception, but one athlete seems to stand out among the hordes of new and returning champions: Kamila Valieva. At age 15, Valieva has already set countless world records, with one of the most notable being the coveted, highly pursued honor of being the first woman to land a quadruple jump at the Olympics. Her road to fame is one paved by incredible accomplishments, but amongst the effusive praise and outstanding reviews is a career already shrouded in scandal and skepticism.

While she became more widely known at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Valieva was already making a name for herself around the world in the skating community. She began skating around age 4 and was pushed into almost guaranteed skating prowess under the tutelage of the infamous Eteri Tutberidze. Valieva's consistent top three track record in numerous competitions, both junior and senior level, guided her to the catalyst of the current conflict, which was the 2022 Russian Championships. Kamila had scored well above her teammates, earning her gold and guaranteeing her a spot on the Olympic Team. At that point, there was no reason to question the illegitimacy of her placing.

Over the course of the Olympic games, Valieva's incredible scores led to the ROC team winning the figure-skating team event, with a 90.18 being one of her highest free skate scores. Quad after quad, practice after practice, Valieva showed no signs of stopping — until February 7th, where drug test results, reportedly delayed by COVID, from the Russian Championships and the European Championships were presented. As it turns out, Valieva had tested positive for trimetazidine (TMZ), which reportedly improves stamina and controls blood pressure, and since the results of the championships landed her a ticket to the Olympics, the basis of her success was a lie. The International Olympic Committee proceeded to detain the award ceremony for the team event, and the Russian Anti-Doping Agency suspended her. Kamila appealed the suspension and was allowed to compete in the short program (individual) women's skate, but if she made it into the top three, the medal ceremony would be postponed until the investigation was complete.

Cut to February 17th, the day of the short program finals, and Kamila falls not once, but twice, earning her

fourth overall and no medal to show for it. Videos and news feeds of Kamila skating off the ice show her in tears, with her coach, Eteri, asking her why she “stopped fighting after the axle [jump]”.

This is not Eteri's first doping scandal, with investigations for promoting and forcing unapproved performance-enhancing drugs onto her students as far back as Julia Lipnitskaya in the 2014 Olympics. Following the 2022 Winter Olympics, and even far before, reports surfaced of her training methods — “cruel, abusive, military even,” encouraging starvation, dehydration, aggressive training, and frequent workouts, all to ensure that her skaters are as thin and petite as possible, supposedly to help them perform their jumps. Skaters and fans around the world, while agreeing that Kamila should not have been allowed to compete after testing positive, cannot find it in them to place the blame on the 15-year-old athlete. TMZ itself is a drug that easily shows up in both blood and urine tests, is nowhere near as utilized Turinabol or Stanozolol and is too obscure for Valieva to have sought out and taken it herself— knowing Eteri's past, it becomes far more unlikely for the athlete to have used TMZ willingly, or even with her knowledge.

The most heart-breaking part of the entire incident was every top placing athlete's reaction to their results. Valieva rushed off the ice, berated by her coach and refusing to answer any questions from reporters. Alexandra Trusova (ROC), silver medalist, was originally excited after her 5-quad short program but cried when the final places were announced, storming around the rink and saying “everyone has one [gold medal], why can't I?” Kaori Sakamoto (Japan), bronze medalist, was pushed off into the shadows, with all the attention on the reactions of others instead of her spectacular routine and result. And Anna Shcherbakova (ROC), gold medalist, sat alone, trying to smile, with her coach, teammates, and family all too busy caught up in the scandal to celebrate her.



Source: Yardbarker

NO LONGER APOLITICAL: THE NEW POLITICS BEHIND THE WINTER OLYMPICS

BY MINTRA WARAM

The International Olympic Committee has long held that the Olympics are a neutral apolitical spectacle of athletic talent, good sportsmanship, and international oneness. The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics officially started on February 4th and will end on February 20th. It was one of the most highly anticipated events of the year. However, this year's Chinese hosted Olympics have been fraught with political overtones that have not been seen at the Olympics since the 1988 Summer Olympics.

China is a powerhouse world-political player, disrupting old geopolitical ways. Western nations argue that with this authority, China has violated certain political standards through their lack of democracy and human rights, Uyghur genocide, and political pressures on Hong Kong and Tibet. For these reasons, many nations boycotted the Olympics and have not sent a political delegation, though they allowed their athletes to compete.

The Uyghurs are a Muslim minority group in Han-dominant China that have been persecuted for their beliefs, according to Western nations. The Chinese have refuted this claim and insisted it is being used by the West to tarnish Chinese standing in global geopolitics. They have cited popular actresses, models, and athletes as examples of how Uyghurs have been integrated into Chinese society.

However, "standing up for human rights is in the DNA of Americans. We have a fundamental commitment to promoting human rights," President Biden informed President Xi, according to White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki, when Biden decided to not send a political delegation to the Olympics. The U.S. boycott did not stop the athletes from going and winning medals, as "the athletes on Team USA have our full support, we will be behind them 100% as we cheer them on from home."

But the Chinese "have reiterated many times that the winter Olympic games is not a stage for political posturing and manipulation," foreign minister Wang Wenbin noted. Surprisingly this year one of the Olympic torch bearers was a woman of Uyghur descent, Dinigeer Yilamujiang. The Chinese may have done this with political motivation, or they may have done it for cultural unity, but it has allowed one of the minority groups be a part of the dominant Han Chinese nation's lighting of the lamp.

India had a very different reason for why they are boycotting the Olympics. They have been having border conflicts with China, in the Tibetan-Indian border region. "It is indeed regrettable that the Chinese side has chosen to politicize an event like the Olympics," Arindam Bagchi, the MEA spokesperson, said.

The Chinese response to this boycott by Western nations is to deny that any of these claims are true. They claim and assume this was done with the intention of throwing a shadow over China's moment in the sun and due to the West's upset over shifting power in geopolitics towards China. They deny the human rights violations as noted above. The Chinese claim that Hong Kong has voted for its government and laws and was integrated as per plans when the British left. To the Chinese, Tibet is not a new issue and would not suddenly validate these boycotts. They feel they have actually recently helped Tibet by developing high speed train access from multiple large cities (Beijing and Shanghai) to Tibet. They have made dramas and massive tourism movements to help promote tourism to this nation, to help integrate it better while improving financial conditions for the people there.

So, there are obviously two sides to every story. However, currently it is hard to determine what exactly is the overall truth and reality while filtering through the claims and the geopolitical intentions behind them. What is certain, though, is that the Olympics are not apolitical anymore. Due to this, political pressure came to rest heavily on athletes, who now represent their countries both politically and athletically. Let's hope the world can soon figure out its new political balance and correct pressing issues, without power plays, so that the Olympics can return to being meaningful, in the right way.



Source: The Global Times

LEGENDS ARCEUS REVIEW

Pokémon Legends Arceus has been one of the most memorable main series Pokémon in a very long time, as the most recent games have not been the greatest. Pokémon Brilliant Diamond and Shining Pearl were simply remakes of the original Diamond and Pearl games. As for Sword and Shield, although being the first Pokémon game to include any sort of open area, lacked any other notable features and were heavily criticized for their subpar graphics. Moreover, arguably the best parts of the game were locked behind a paywall as Pokémon's first ever DLC was for Sword and Shield.

Pokémon Legends Arceus was able to generate an enormous amount of hype ever since its first trailer. Taking the open world aspects of Pokémon Sword and Shield and applying them to the entirety of the game, reinforced GameFreak's theme of exploration and discovery. Incorporating this open world, Legends Arceus also introduces a completely new system of catching and battling, which played a major part in the community's excitement for its release. Switching from a traditional turn-based game to a more dynamic style of gameplay allows for a much more realistic experience when playing through the game. And for those selective few who have taken an interest in finding shiny Pokémon, Pokémon with altered color palettes, Legends Arceus offers a few very, yet reliable and easy ways to find such Pokémon. Lastly, like any other Pokémon game, the lore is expanded upon, yet in Legends Arceus the lore is more interesting, as we get to learn and experience the history of the past, with all of its rules and traditions.

While the game certainly contained several high points for the Pokémon franchise, this newest title also included several glaring issues that have often been hot points among fan discussion. Prime among these issues are the low-resolution graphics that seemingly always haunt the series. Don't be confused, while the game certainly contains the best graphics in the franchise to this day, that's not saying much; further, the fact that Nintendo can consistently produce games of high graphical quality for other franchises such as Mario or Zelda makes Pokémon's shortcomings all the more baffling. While these graphics, in my playthrough, were not poor enough to ruin the experience, they were certainly noticeably lacking. To compound this, several technical bugs and rendering issues can be found throughout the game which suggest the title was possibly rushed to the finish line in order to keep up with Nintendo's strict production schedule.

BY TRISTAN CLARKE
& RAHUL JASTHI

The story, while more fleshed out than previous titles, is still far lower tier than a majority of console competition that can be found on the PS4 or Xbox.

Finally, the most important part: the new Pokémon. While there were several new monsters shown off in promotional material which are truly commendable additions to the rapidly growing roster, almost every other withheld creature could be only described as abominations. While usually Pokémon are known to be lovable, cute, or cool, the wide majority of these new additions leave the player scratching their heads as to why GameFreak would take what should have been a slam dunk opportunity and choke harder than they ever have before. Words fail to describe the monstrosity that is Enamorus, the true vile repugnance that is Sneasler or the straight up crimes against humanity that are Dialga and Palkia's origin forms. While not every new addition is as bad as the rest, the grand majority leave the player with a bad taste in the mouth and a sick feeling in their stomach.

What remains to be seen is the future of the Pokémon franchise; Nintendo has yet to announce what their next title will be. Will it return to the tried yet tired Pokémon formula? Will it continue the legacy of *Legends*? Will it mix attributes of the two? Or perhaps, will it create an entirely new take on this beloved game franchise?



Source: Tristan Clarke

PUZZLES, RIDDLES, AND MORE

MONTHLY MUNCHIES

LAVA CAKE

BY ZAID JASSER

Lava cake has many different recipes, but this chocolate lava cake recipe is immaculate. The flavor and the combination of the chocolate sauce and the cake is incredible. So, to make this immaculate chocolate dish, you need the following:

- 3 ounces of (chopped not chips) bittersweet chocolate
- 3 tablespoons of unsalted butter (plus more for the ramekin)
- 3 tablespoons of granulated salt (plus more for the ramekin)
- 1 large egg
- 1 large yolk
- ½ teaspoon of vanilla extract
- ⅛ teaspoon of kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons of all-purpose flour



Source: The New York Times

Using all these ingredients, combine and cook them in the following steps:

- Heat the oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. Butter a 10-ounce ramekin and dust it with granulated sugar.
- Combine the chocolate and 3 tablespoons of butter in a heat-safe bowl set over a pan of simmering water. Cook, stirring occasionally, until melted and smooth.
- In a medium bowl, combine the 3 tablespoons sugar, egg, egg yolk, vanilla, and salt (whisk vigorously until the mixture is thick, foamy, and pale, for about 2 minutes, then whisk in the flour until smooth.
- Using a spatula, add the chocolate-egg mixture and stir gently, until combined.
- Pour the mixture into the ramekin. Bake for 12 -14 minutes, or until the edges are set and puffed, but the center is still soft when lightly pressed.
- Use an offset spatula or small knife to loosen the edges of the cake from the ramekin, then place a plate over the ramekin and carefully invert the warm cake. Use an oven mitt or clean kitchen towel to remove the ramekin, dust the cake with confectioners' sugar and serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

This lava cake recipe is delicious, and I recommend it to all chocolate lovers. My favorite parts of the cake are the delicious chocolate center and the fluffiness of the cake. I hope you guys enjoy this fantastic cake and share it with your loved ones, and I wish everyone much luck in baking.

NATIONAL GRAPEFRUIT MONTH

BY RAHUL JASTHI

As Winter comes to an end, National Grapefruit Month begins — but what is National Grapefruit Month? National Grapefruit Month spans the entirety of February, and celebrates one of the most delicious and nutritious fruits.

Grapefruit are a hybrid between sweet oranges and pomelo, fruits from Asia that were brought over to the Western Hemisphere. In general, citrus plants grow around this time of year usually in tropical, humid climates, which is why they are abundant in Barbados, the origin of gourmet. They are known for their distinct sweet, bitter, and sour taste.

After being exported from the Caribbean, grapefruit spread all over the world, creating more than fifteen new types, such as Duncan, Ruby Red, and Hudson. Consuming just half of one of these delectable citrus fruits provides 80% percent of one's recommended amount of Vitamin C and 5% of one's required Vitamin A. The most interesting part about grapefruit is not the actual fruit, but rather, the juice. Studies have shown that grapefruit juice claims one of the top spots in nutrients per calorie, along with pomegranate and cranberry juices, resulting from its low-calorie count packed with macromolecules like proteins and carbohydrates, and essential metals like potassium and magnesium.

Here's a muffin recipe to incorporate these masterpieces of fruit into your cooking:

1. Zest about 1 ½ tablespoons of grapefruit.
2. Cut grapefruit in half and juice each piece.
3. Mix butter and sugar. Afterwards, mix in egg yolks.
4. Add the grapefruit juice and zest, along with 1-2 drops of vanilla extract, and mix thoroughly.
5. In a separate container, add baking soda, baking powder, flour, and salt. Combine well.
6. Let both mixtures rest for 5-10 minutes.
7. Gradually, add the dry mixture to the wet mixture, and slowly fold the dry mixture in. Between each addition of dry mixture, add some buttermilk and continue to fold.
8. In a small container, whip egg whites until soft peaks begin to form.
9. Gently add the egg whites to the batter and combine by folding, once again. Lumps are okay in this mixture.
10. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
11. Add batter to a muffin tray.
12. Add tray to oven and bake for around 25 minutes. Check if done using the toothpick test.
13. Allow muffins to cool, and serve!

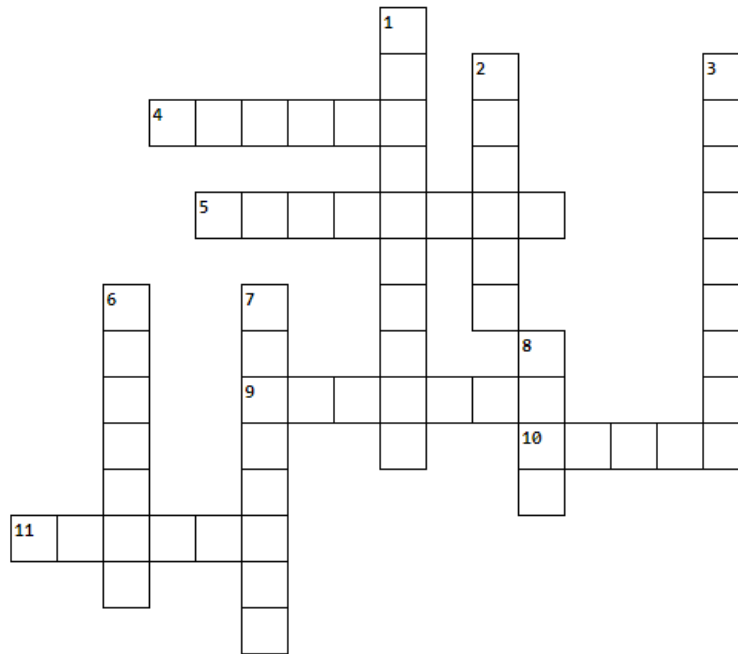
I hope this recipe has ignited a love for grapefruit in the spirit of National Grapefruit Month!



Source: The Daring Gourmet

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BY GAZETTE STAFF



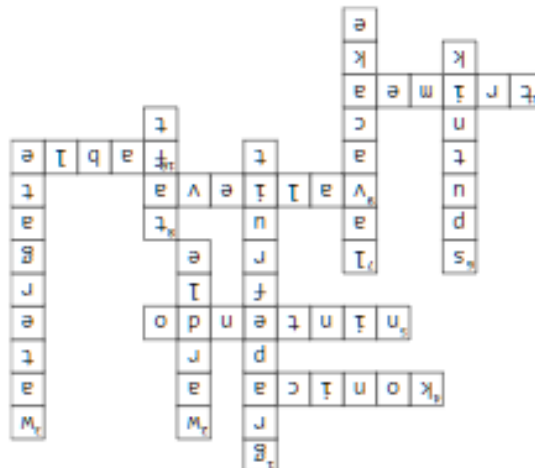
Across

- 4. Japanese multinational company responsible for laser printers, copiers, and toner
- 5. Creator of recent Pokémon Legends Arceus videogame
- 9. Russian figure skater tested positive for TMZ
- 10. Company specializing in pet gear
- 11. Region annexed by Russia in 2014

Down

- 1. Citrus plant that originated from Barbados
- 2. Creator of engrossing word game Wordle
- 3. Scandal that led to President Richard Nixon's resignation
- 6. Name of the first artificial satellite
- 7. Popular desert that combines elements of a chocolate cake and a soufflé
- 8. Name of the president who signed Arizona into the Union

Solutions:



EL WORDO

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The BASIS Gazette Staff is pleased to announce the release of a brand-new game to our newspaper: El Wordo! The objective of the game is to guess a secret five-letter word based on three words that have been entered as previous guesses. If a letter from one of the previous responses is in the correct spot in the word, it is highlighted

in green. A letter that is in the word but not in the correct place shows up as yellow. Finally, a letter not in the word at all is shaded gray. For print readers, use the key below to guess the word. (If you get a slight sense that you've seen this game before, you're probably right.) We hope you enjoy playing!





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