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Where is Kappa Sigma? Fraternity and administration silent.

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor



Kappa Sigma's banner gone from U.C. PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM B. AGUAYO

Students have been questioning where NSU's Omicron-Eta chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity has gone. The chapter, which has been a prominent Greek Life organization on campus, has vanished from all Greek Life events. Even the Kappa Sigma banner had been quietly taken down from the U.C. spine and their SharkHub page shows only an "error 404" message rather than an event calendar. Members of Greek Life have noted the sudden disappearance of one of the biggest fraternities on campus and have noticed their absence in the winter semester.

Mitchell B. Wilson, executive director of Kappa Sigma said in an email statement, "The Omicron-Eta Chapter of Kappa Sigma is currently in an appeal process with the university. While we are not able to comment at this time, the Fraternity will have a statement once completed."

Various Greek Life students spoke to The Current anonymously due to concerns about how speaking about Kappa Sigma's status at NSU could potentially impact them.

The students believed that Kappa Sigma's absence on campus could be related to allegations of hazing and misconduct.

"This semester I haven't heard or seen them. I haven't seen people wear their letters anymore. I haven't seen them doing brotherhood lunches [or] posting pictures on Instagram," said one student.

The Kappa Sigma Instagram page, titled kappasigma_nsu, has not posted since Dec. 10 for their Founder's Day. The page was very active last semester.

Another student said, "The last time I saw them officially was during the formal in December. Since then I haven't seen them on campus."

Prior to the end of the semester, Kappa Sigma participated in the Delta Phi Epsilon formal, the last event they attended as a fraternity chapter. But talk of Kappa Sigma's disappearance started before that, citing a potential suspension that other sources who talked with The Current repeated.

"During Mr. Fintastic there was whispers about the Kappa's having their chapter taken away and essentially being suspended and barred," said the student, adding that since then, their Greek Life organization started to distance themselves while organizing events that previously included Kappa Sigma.

"[Other Greek members] were like 'Yup they're just not allowed to be here.' There was absolutely no talk of Kappa Sig," said the student.

An editor from The Current reached out to various university administration officials from

Title IX, Student Conduct, Inter-Organizational Council and Greek Life who all declined to confirm nor deny any allegations against the Omicron-Eta chapter of Kappa Sigma or their status at the university.

Gerard Wheeler, assistant dean for Campus Life and Student Engagement declined to comment.

Members of Kappa Sigma also would not comment on any allegations pertaining to their status. The chapter's president, Vladimir Grammont, denied a request for an interview.

One of the students implied that more people knew about the fraternity's status at NSU, saying "If you're in Greek Life, you know. You hear things from other fraternities and other sororities,"

Free at-home COVID-19 tests available for delivery

By: Alexander Martinie
Copy Editor

The federal government has launched their website for residences to order at-home COVID-19 rapid tests. This initiative, headed by the Biden administration and available through the U.S. Postal Service, will allow for four free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests to be delivered per residence.

The Biden administration released a statement saying, "To help ensure Americans have tests on hand if a need arises, the Biden Administration is purchasing one billion at-home, rapid COVID-19 tests to give to Americans for free. A half-billion tests will be available for order on January 19th and will be mailed directly to American households."

Four free tests per residential address are

available to order on <https://www.covidtests.gov/>.

"There will be free tests available for every household, and to promote broad access, the initial program will allow four free tests to be requested per residential address. Starting January 19th, Americans will be able to order their tests online at COVIDTests.gov, and tests will typically ship within 7-12 days of ordering," according to the Biden administration. Distribution will begin late January and early February.

The initial release of the website will have a limited capacity; however, the Biden administration did not explain what will be limited about the capacity of the website.

Additionally, there will be a hotline to go along with the website to assist individuals with the order process. The hotline phone number has not been released as of last Thursday.

According to a CNN report, "The Omicron variant caused 99.5% of new coronavirus cases in the US last week, according to estimates posted Tuesday by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The US is currently averaging 777,453 new Covid-19 cases and 1,797 new deaths per day, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. Overall, the Biden administration has pledged to acquire 1 billion rapid tests -- initially the 500 million to distribute by mail to Americans for free, with another 500 million announced recently to meet

future demand."

Concerns have been raised over individuals living in multi-resident housing, such as apartments or dormitories, having issues with ordering these tests. Claims have been made regarding individuals unable to order as the U.S. Postal Service system is not recognizing unit numbers as different residences.

As a result of this, multi-resident housing is limited to four tests for the entire building. As of last Thursday, no official statements have been released addressing this concern. This may be an error as part of the website's limited capacity release.

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International Tidings

global news

Novak Djokovic deported from Australia

Top tennis player, Novak Djokovic, has been deported from Australia over a COVID-19 vaccination dispute. Djokovic cited personal reasons for not receiving one of the many COVID-19 vaccines since he had been previously infected. Due to an Australian law that outlaws unvaccinated visitation to the country, three federal judges, according to NBC News, struck down Djokovic's challenge to the deportation. The star tennis player returned to Serbia after leaving Australia on the day of the Australian Open, the tournament he was there to participate in.

Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh dies

Thich Nhat Hanh, respected Buddhist monk and author, died at the Tu Hieu Pagoda in Vietnam, his monastery. Hanh survived a stroke in 2014 that left him unable to speak, according to NBC News. Hanh, born as Nguyen Xuan Bao, wrote many books over the course of his life and travelled the world giving speeches on Buddhism. In 1966, Hanh met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Hanh had a contentious relationship with his home country, Vietnam, which he had to flee from after communist forces took over the country in a violent civil war.

Taliban meets with Western leaders in Norway

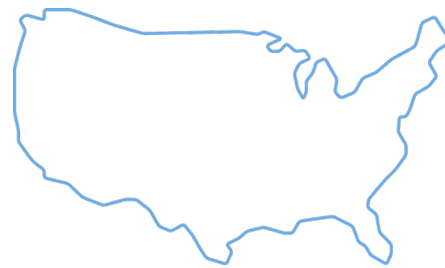
A group of Taliban leaders, led by Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi met with various government officials from Norway and representatives for civil rights in Afghanistan, according to NBC News. The talks in Oslo will include human rights defenders and women's rights activists who will sit down with Taliban leaders. U.S. leaders, along with Norwegian officials plan to discuss humanitarian issues and come to an agreement. The Norwegian government has made it clear that this is not an attempt to legitimize the Taliban government, which as received international criticism, but is instead an attempt to improve the lives of those living in Afghanistan.

Tsunami hits Tonga

A volcanic eruption that caused a tsunami has devastated the island-nation of Tonga. Located in the Pacific Ocean, Tonga has been covered with ash from the eruption and has been cut off from much of the international community due to an underwater cable being damaged, according to NBC News. A British woman, Angela Glover, went missing in the tsunami and is speculated to be the first reported casualty of the tsunami. Australia and New Zealand have sent surveillance flights to Tonga to report on damage. Much of Tonga is still without communication.

News Anchor

national news



Jay-Z's Team Roc puts pressure on DOJ

Team Roc, entertainment artist Jay Z's social justice group, has joined the nonprofit Midwest Innocence Project demanding an investigation into Kansas City, Kansas Police Department regarding misconduct. According to NBC News, the groups are putting pressure on the Department of Justice to act and in a letter stated that there is no excuse to justify their silence. A portion of the letter, addressed to Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta, read, "The DOJ's continued inaction tells targeted minority communities held hostage to the whims of the carceral state that justice does not exist for them, that their lives do not matter."

Additional officers involved in George Floyd case are on federal trial

The three officers involved in the George Floyd murder case who stood next to Derek Chauvin without interference are in their federal trials for their inaction. Tou Thao, J. Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane are charged with violating Floyd's civil rights when they were watching an excessive use of force be used upon him and did nothing. According to NBC News, the three officers' behavior, "has led multiple states to codify through legislation or policy that officers have a duty to step in if they witness a colleague using excessive or unauthorized force."

Three Pennsylvania officers charged in the death of 8-year-old girl

Three officers in the Sharon Hill Police Department were criminally charged in killing an 8-year-old girl outside of a high school football game near Philadelphia on Jan. 19. The officers were on patrol has people were exiting the football game, when gunshots were heard on the nearby street, the officers discharged their weapons in the direction of the football people hitting and killing the 8-year-old girl. According to NBC News, "The men, Devon Smith, 34, Sean Dolan, 25, and Brian Devaney, 41, were each charged with voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter and reckless endangerment."

News reporter hit by a car while reporting live

Tori Yorgey, TV news reporter for WSAZ Pittsburgh, was reporting live news on TV when she was hit by a car and bounced back up to finish her report. According to NBC News, "In the clip, she is facing the camera when a car comes up from behind and strikes her in the back." Yorgey, while still live said, "Oh my God. I just got by a car, but I'm ok, you know that's live TV for ya, it's all good! I actually got hit by a car in college too just like that. I am so glad I'm okay!" She then effortlessly transitioned back into her report. The driver apologized for the accident.

News Briefs

campus news



Gingerbread Houses for Equality

The nonprofit organization, On my Own, will host Gingerbread Houses for Equality on Jan. 27 from 6 p.m. to 7p.m. in the DeSantis building. This is their first event of the year, and the event is being held in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr and will feature creating gingerbread houses.

Stay & Play with USGA

The Undergraduate Student Government is hosting Stay & Play with USGA in the library quad at 3p.m. to 5p.m. on Feb. 2. The event will include the opportunity for students to meet the senators and express any ideas or concerns as well as play games like corn hole and kickball with members of

USGA. The event is open to all NSU students and food will be provided. Face masks will be required, and COVID-19 precautions will be enforced.

Zuzu Acrobats

The Miniaci Performing Arts Center will host Zuzu Acrobats group to perform on Feb. 1 from 6p.m. to 7p.m. Zuzu African Acrobats is a group originating from Mombasa Kenya. They competed in America's Got Talent and went all the way to the semi-finals of the competition. Additionally, they will perform at Superbowl LIII. The group does pyramid building, chair balancing, hat juggling, comedy, super-fast skip rope, hoop diving in addition to many other tricks all while incorporating the roots

and culture of Kenya. If you are interested in attending RSVP via SharkHub.

NSU Faculty publishes book chapter

Gina Peyton and David Ross, faculty members at NSU's Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice, are being recognized by the university as they published a chapter in the book, "Key Factors and Use Cases of Servant Leadership Driving Organizational Performance." The chapter, entitled "Servant and Shepherd Leadership in Higher Education: Empowerment and Mentorship" in the book is about higher education and servant leadership. Servant leadership is the idea of putting others before you even when nobody is watching. A portion of the

books abstract reads, "Ultimately, leadership is about character and substance. Using the distinct characteristics of servant leadership and shepherd leadership is to promote and foster the development of successful individuals and relating well with individuals through care and a strong commitment. Honest and caring concern for others leads to empowerment and emotional support, which inspires the members to embrace the needs of the organization." To learn more or purchase the book visit <https://www.igi-global.com/book/key-factors-use-cases-servant/273601>. The chapter alone is also available for purchase at <https://www.igi-global.com/chapter/servant-and-shepherd-leadership-in-higher-education/294793>.

COVID-19 petition spreads through campus

By: Jamila Hughes
News Editor

A petition to delay in person classes flooded the phones of NSU students, following the statement made by President George Hanbury about the Omicron variant. The statement read, "NSU will resume all classes in their regularly scheduled format in January (including in-person, hybrid, and online). However, to add an extra layer of protection against community spread of the virus, and with an abundance of caution, we will be requiring face masks not only in all NSU indoor facilities, but outdoor locations as well, regardless of vaccination status."

The petition was created on change.org and was directed to President Hanbury. Parts of the description made by the creator reads, "As [COVID-19] cases continues to rise, NSU students are becoming more concerned as to why the university is continuing with in-person learning... However, our neighboring school, The University of Miami, is going virtual for the first few weeks to eliminate the spread of Omicron amongst their campus. The threat of

the newest variant is not the only concern on the students' minds. Transportation is becoming less accessible via aircraft because airports are facing cancelations due to multiple circumstances. It is largely known that majority of the student body is not from Florida, and many students are already rescheduling flights... please sign this petition to encourage NSU to go virtual until the cases slow and it is safe to return."

NSU proceeded to start completely in-person and has continued in person, despite the petition requesting to have the first three weeks of school online. NSU sophomore biology major, Danielle Grossfeld, signed the petition and expressed her concern for the current conditions on campus.

"I was in a GroupMe for one of my previous classes and somebody from that chat sent the link. I really agreed with [the petition] and I was really happy that someone decided to do that because I think it's really important as students for us to get our voices out." Grossfeld said.

Grossfeld also mentioned that though there is a mask mandate, there seems to be a lack of enforcement.

"They have this mask mandate, but I see people every day, anytime I go somewhere with no mask on, somebody should be enforcing it," she explained.

Though classes have started, and remain to be in person, 589 students and parents have signed the petition, and that number continues to increase.

Though NSU students have expressed concern, Beth Welmaker, the executive director of environment health and safety, said that the daily COVID-19 count has decreased since the start of the semester.

Welmaker shared the daily COVID-19 case reporting numbers to show the trend of the data. She discussed that she looks at the daily reported numbers to see what direction the trend is going in. Before the start of school on Jan. 1, 46 people reported that they had COVID-19, On Jan 13. 28 people reported that

day that they had COVID-19, and on Jan 19. 25 people reported that they had COVID-19.

"We've been consistently going down... Jan. 3 I had the most cases reported but most of those cases were telling me hey when I was on break, I got [COVID-19], these were not people who currently had COVID-19," said Welmaker.

Welmaker emphasized the fact that the university is monitoring cases closely and has resources like case managers to aid students with COVID-19.

"Student medical provides testing for anyone who is exposed or is exhibiting symptoms, we now have student medical at the Commons." Welmaker said.

For COVID-19 updates with the university visit <https://www.nova.edu/coronavirus/index.html>.

Good News

that's it



Rare coral reef found untouched by climate change

Off the coast of Tahiti, researchers announced that they had found and explored a rare reef of corals shaped like roses that seemed to be completely untouched by humans and climate change. The corals were first spotted by a diving club a few months prior, and were confirmed to be unaffected by mass bleaching events by scientists on Jan. 19. Globally, coral reefs have suffered tremendously due to climate change resulting in mass bleaching caused by the rising temperatures. According to a report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Project, between 2009 and 2018, 14% of the

world's corals were killed. The new found coral reef is in deeper waters, which may be the key to protecting it from rising temperatures and human activities.

Betty White challenge raises thousands for pets across the nation

Many have donated money to pet charities, namely Humane Society organizations across the nation, in honor of the late actress Betty White on what would have been her 100th birthday on Jan. 17. People dubbed the challenge the "Betty White challenge," and called on others to donate \$5 to an animal charity of their choice. The challenge was started because of Betty White's known love of pets, although

people have chosen to donate to other places, like local shops and eateries as well. This effort has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for pet charities across the nation. The Humane Society of Tampa Bay announced that they alone had received over \$23,000 as of noon on Jan. 17.

Missouri police announce that there is no search for the Joker's vehicle

On Jan. 19, phones across the state of Missouri received an emergency notification alerting them that authorities in Gotham City, Missouri were searching for a green and purple 1978 Dodge 3700GT. Soon after the alert was sent out, state residents received another

alert telling them to disregard this. In a press release by the state patrol, authorities revealed that the alert had been sent out on accident. It was supposed to be a test of the state's Blue Alert system, which notifies state residents if an officer had been killed or injured while on the job, but apparently an option had been selected incorrectly and the alert was sent out state-wide. The state patrol reassured everyone that there was no Gotham City, Missouri and that the car used in the alert was the car Batman villain the Joker used in the 1989 "Batman" movie.

Is the opposition making a change in Venezuela?

By: Gerianne Salamanca Gamez
Chief of Visual Design

The Venezuelan opposition has won Barinas, the home state of Hugo Chavez, in the regional elections. Barinas has been governed only by the relatives of Chavez since 1998, making this an influential win for the opposition. The victory of the opposition in this state demonstrates the public desire for change, but how far will this change go? The political agenda commonly known as Chavismo has been around for about 22 years. However, it has slowly become unpopular as the years have passed.

“In all fairness, what you’re seeing with Chavismo losing its luster, is just the natural progression of a highly personalistic political ideology and what happens when the face behind it dies or is no longer in power,” said Nelson Bass, assistant professor for the Halmos College of Arts and Science in the Department of Humanities and Politics.

Barinas is a staple within Chavismo, which

demonstrates the strength of the political agenda. Now that the opposition has won the state, the stronghold of Chavismo is seemingly slipping.

“I think it does mean something that they won there, [Barinas], because if they can win in Chavez’s most supportive state then that says something about the financial crisis, hyperinflation and lack of functioning economy that is currently plaguing Venezuela,” said Bass.

Inequalities within the political campaigns have been criticized leading to the advantage of the opposition. Unequal media access and the unjustified disqualification of opposition candidates are just a few examples of the inequalities during campaigns. State resources, that have been in short supply, have also been used as leverage to push votes towards Chavismo.

“Maduro has made it pretty clear he wants to maintain his grip on power. He’s willing to have the court throw out candidates that rival

him for power, he’s willing to use the courts to overthrow election results, he’s willing to clearly use dulling out of material goods for votes which actually we saw here,” said Bass.

Despite the electoral injustices, the opposition has made the effort of the movement towards a civil society. The opposition is using the discontent of the public as a uniting force to gain power and recognition. However, this doesn’t mean the opposition has the power to become the majority.

“I think what the opposition does have the ability to do is be the moderating voice once you get to the type of crisis that people within the state and government no longer want to support the status quo. That’s more likely than an electoral win,” said Bass.

Maduro has continued to make extralegal maneuvers to maintain his power. The biases of the courts and the self-preservation of Maduro have made it difficult for Venezuela to become

inclusive or progressive. It’s not likely Maduro will give up his powers in light of the oppositions victory.

“We don’t very often see authoritarian leaders get pushed out by elections. It just doesn’t happen very often because they have invested interest in rigging those elections. The question, is how far can they go before they will meet a critical mass of people that are no longer willing to support that status quo?” said Bass.

The oppositions win in Barinas is significant in regards to the slow dismantling of Chavismo. However, it isn’t a sign that Venezuela will make a drastic change to favor the opposition. The win is more so a trail that can lead towards the growth of the opposition’s public power. The only chance the opposition has now is the unification of the public through a desire for change.

Genetic resurrection: Are we too close to Jurassic Park?

By: Sofia Gallus
Editor-In-Chief

In late 2021, a team of U.S. scientists announced that they had received massive funding in an effort to bring back the woolly mammoth, a massive land mammal that has been extinct for thousands of years. This would be achieved through the process of genetic resurrection, which uses genetic material from the extinct species and combining it with a similar species to create a modern hybrid species. In the woolly mammoth’s case, this would most likely be the African gray elephant.

In all of the media attention the announcement of a possible return of the woolly mammoth received, one question seemed to echo: Are we too close to recreating Jurassic Park? In other words, should scientists even try to bring back extinct species?

Paul Arena is an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. While he doesn’t think a Jurassic Park situation is imminent, he does think that genetic resurrection poses an interesting possibility for species at risk of extinction.

“I don’t think [recreating Jurassic Park] is a possibility, at least according to what I’ve read. We just don’t have the genes available from those organisms. I do think that it may be possible to bring back species that are more recently extinct. There’s been a project going on where they’ve either been collecting whole organisms or tissues samples from endangered species and keeping them in a cryogenic facility for just this purpose,” said Arena.

Genetic resurrection does give some hope

to conservationists for saving species at risk of going extinct or for those who have been recently announced as extinct. Some endangered species play vital roles in their ecosystems, and if brought back could play a huge part in combating climate change.

However, for species like the woolly mammoth, there’s still uncertainty about what bringing it back into ecosystems would look like.

“I think that’s a huge question mark that we don’t really know. Now, some of the proponents of this have suggested that the woolly mammoth was responsible for maintaining certain environments. For instance, boreal forests, when woolly mammoths were around, were still mostly prairie. It was their role to help keep it as

a prairie and when they disappeared it shifted to a boreal forest,” said Arena.

He went on to explain that in order to create an environment similar to the one a woolly mammoth might have known would require things like cutting down boreal forests in hopes that the species would then maintain the prairie once again. Even though there has been evidence that prairie ecosystems are able to absorb carbon dioxide better, the destruction of the boreal forest raises the question of what will be done with the organisms that are now currently inhabiting it.

“For me, there’s just so many unanswered questions. Of course, it’s still a very alluring concept. We bring this thing back, but the second really big question is, should we?” said Arena.

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We print weekly issues of our newspaper every Wednesday! Pick up a copy of our paper in any of our news stands around campus! Give feedback and consider writing for us!

Radio X:

We host morning shows every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with 2 segments! Tune into our evening shows everyday from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. and listen to our DJs on 88.5 FM!

SUTV:

We release weekly segments of SUTV Now, our television series featuring news, entertainment and sports! Watch our show every Friday through Youtube on Nova Shark United TV!

Highlighting trans stars

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor



The trans flag is not out of place in the Performing Arts PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM C. ADAMS

The 79th Golden Globe Awards made history when “Pose” star Michaela Jae Rodriguez won best actress, becoming the first trans actor in history to achieve the feat. Previously, Rodriguez was nominated for a lead acting Emmy but did not win the award. Rodriguez’s co-stars, Indya Moore and Angelica Ross took to social media to speak out against the snubbing, according to NBC.

“Something abt trans ppl not being honored on a show abt trans ppl who created a culture to honor ourselves bc the world doesn’t... let call it cognitive cissonance,” said Moore via Twitter.

Ross said over Instagram, “I want you to know from the jump that these tears are not about an award or a nomination. Ultimately, I need y’all to understand that I’m so tired – those of you who know me know I’m not just working on screen or behind screen but I’m working around the clock to get our society to value trans lives and black trans lives.”

Trans people have been in entertainment for a long time and are only just getting the proper recognition they deserve for it. Here are a few notable figures who have paved the way for others.

Laverne Cox

Gracing the screen in 2014’s “Orange is the New Black,” Laverne Cox has been regarded as a trailblazer for trans actors. Cox was the first trans woman to be on the cover of Time and be nominated for an Emmy.

In a 2014 speech at Harvard, covered by the Harvard Crimson, Cox said, “I sit here this afternoon, a proud transgender woman from a working-class background, raised by a single mother. I sit here an artist and an actress, a sister and a daughter, and I believe it’s important to name the various intersecting components of my multiple identities, because I’m not just one thing.”

Cox has been a vocal advocate for trans rights and has used her platform for activism. In 2014, according to Pink News, she rallied against an Arizona law that outlawed a specific form of prostitution but in practice had been unfairly targeting trans women. Cox has also partnered with the Human Rights Campaign.

Nicole Maines

Before she made it to the entertainment industry, Maines – like other trans professionals – had to fight for her identity. Detailed in the book “Becoming Nicole” by Amy Ellis Nutt, Maines was the center of a controversial supreme court case that eventually guaranteed trans people bathroom rights in Maine. Maines plays Nia Nal a.k.a. Dreamer and is TV’s first trans superhero on The CW’s “Supergirl.”

“I think that cisgender actors don’t take roles out of malice – it’s just a failure to realize the context of having cisgender people play transgender characters. We don’t see the same issue with sexuality; we see straight people play gay all the time. With trans folks we have a lot of people accusing us of just playing dress-up for whatever reasons, and that’s just not true. Having trans people play trans roles show that we are valid in our identities and we exist.” said Maines to Glamour in 2018.

Chaz Bono

Becoming one of the first influential trans men in pop culture, Chaz Bono is a writer and actor. Bono made headlines for his 2011 documentary, “Becoming Chaz,” which detailed the coming-out story and transition that he underwent. Bono has been featured on “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” “Ellen,” “Dancing with the Stars,” “Curb Your Enthusiasm” and “American Horror Story.” Bono has been a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign and has engaged in political activism for LGBTQ+ rights. Bono is the son of the famous singer, Cher.

Gill out: Ally’s Comfort Café is the answer to all of life’s problems

By: Sophia Cortes
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Nestled in Shenandoah Square on State Road 84 in Davie, FL lies a haven for brunch fanatics, or those who simply enjoy a good meal. Ally’s Comfort Café is by far one of the best breakfast places in Florida. I wouldn’t exactly call myself a breakfast aficionado, as to the dismay of many breakfast critics, I genuinely enjoy anything from IHOP to First Watch, and Denny’s is a delicacy of which I will always enjoy. But as someone who frequently defends the pure euphoria of eating a stack of chocolate chip buttermilk pancakes at 2 a.m. in a mostly abandoned diner, Ally’s Comfort Café - which unfortunately has far more sensible hours - takes the pancake as the best and most heartwarming restaurant you will ever treat your tastebuds.

During my inaugural visit of what I hope to be many, I was astounded with how perfectly the name fits the location. “Comfort” is an understatement. The light cream-colored walls adorned with all sorts of Americana knickknacks that would make a grandmother proud and the genuinely friendly atmosphere created by its wonderful staff as they carried around plates piled with sweet, buttery meals made me finally

understand what was so special about “Southern hospitality.”

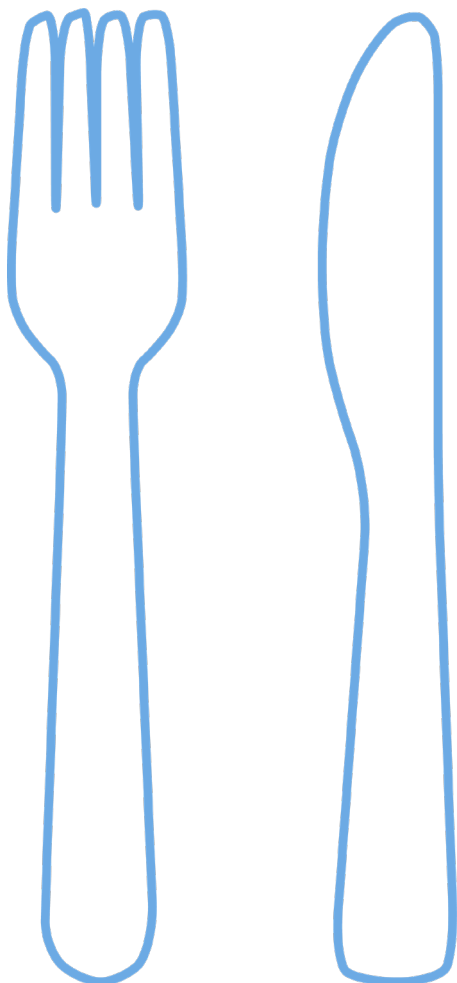
Open from 7 a.m. till 2 p.m. on weekdays, Ally’s Comfort Café serves up a vast array of high quality, freshly made breakfast and lunch meals, making it the perfect place to grab a plate before work, meet a friend over lunch or have brunch with the family. As ever the breakfast fanatic, I ordered Ally’s famous homemade buttermilk chocolate chip pancakes with a side of home fries and a cup of coffee, and my boyfriend ordered their scrambled eggs with sausage links, bacon and biscuits. The food arrived incredibly quickly and once I began to dig in. Their fluffy, wonderfully thick and buttery chocolate chip pancakes sent my taste buds in an excited frenzy and the home fries were delightfully crispy and seasoned to perfection, pairing beautifully with the sweetness of the pancakes. Washing it all down with a rich and wonderfully simple “Gilmore Girls” sized cup of hot black coffee was the best way to finish each bite. After trying some of the biscuits my boyfriend ordered I practically kicked myself in the shins for not having ordered them myself. They were warm

and melted in my mouth with just the right amount of butter in a way I had never had before. The only reason why I was glad I had saved the biscuits for my next trip was due to my mission to finish my humungous stack of pancakes, after trying to prove our well-meaning waiter wrong when she advised me to not order a three stack of their irresistible breakfast delicacy.

Future Ally’s Comfort Café patrons, the customer is in fact, not always right and it will do you good to listen to your waiter.

I ended up unable to defeat the delicious dragon sized pancakes, taking them home to eat later, along with the remnants of the home fries that survived the battle between the fork and my mouth.

You never forget your first visit to Ally’s Comfort Café, and while I’m already planning major holidays and birthdays around when they’re open, I will always dream of how that first bite of those pancakes felt. If you’re searching for where “good food and comfort meet,” then end your quest dear traveler and revel in the comfort of Ally’s Comfort Café.



COVID-19: Salary over safety

By: Gerianne Salamanca Gamez
Chief of Visual Design

Just when everything seemed to be returning to a relatively normal state, Omicron made an appearance. COVID-19 cases in Florida have been on the rise and continue to rise as the weeks progress. What does this mean for amusement parks and concerts? What does this mean for the people wanting to get involved? There's a lot to discuss.

Florida is topping the charts with a record-breaking number of cases. According to the New York Times, Florida has had a daily average ranging from 40,000 cases to 60,000 cases in the past week. There is no stopping the spread as cases are predicted to rise in the coming weeks as well. Despite the surge in cases, the entertainment industry has made little to no changes in the way it goes about protecting its consumers.

Amusement parks remain open and enforce a standard COVID-19 policy and warning. Disney parks have yet to update their policy. However, they advise their visitors that their company "will be making adjustments to these measures, which may continue to change at any time without notice." In order to attend parks, visitors must make reservations in advance for the parks they'd like to attend and masks are required at all times for visitors ages two and up. Even though cases are rising, Disney has decided to continue reopening its restaurants while planning on continuing to increase capacity. The company advertises its plans to expand on

multiple social media platforms.

Concerts have been scheduled back to back as the months progress. Artists including Dua Lipa, Bad Bunny, Tyler The Creator and so many more have tours with dates in Florida. Most of these tours already have sold-out shows which raises concerns over how COVID-19 will be addressed when the tours begin. Concerts are a large part of an artist's career, however, the safety of their fans plays an important role in their public image. If fans begin to get COVID-19 as a result of attending concerts, artists will have to face the repercussions. For larger artists, concerts aren't a financial necessity; the same can't be said for local or smaller artists. Artists continue to take the risk of endangering the health of their fans and themselves by scheduling tours. Will this trend continue throughout the months to come despite cases rising? Will artists start canceling tours? Time will only tell.

Making the decision of whether or not someone wants to continue to participate in events regardless of rising cases is a difficult one. However, if organizations and public figures continue to give the public an opportunity to do so, they will. The entertainment industry is faced with the choice between safety or salary and it seems they are leaning towards the latter.

For more information and updates with Disney visit <https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/experience-updates/>.

CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST
Travel Itinerary

TYLER BAUDELAIRE KALI UCHIS VINCE STAPLES TEREZO TOUCHDOWN

CITIES	DATES	LOCATIONS
SAN BIRDO, CA	FEB 10, 2022	PECANUA ARENA
PHOENIX, AZ	FEB 11, 2022	FOOTPRINT CENTER
SAN JUAN, NY	FEB 12, 2022	NICHOLAS ULTRA ARENA
EL PASO, TX	FEB 14, 2022	DON HASKINS CENTER
		AMERICAN AIRLINES CENTER
		SHALFETZ ARENA
		CARLE DUNOFF ARENA
		FARGO CENTER
		WYATT CENTER
		FARGO CENTER
		ROCHESTER CENTER
		LITTLE CANNON ARENA
		BOJ CENTER
		CHARITAY ARENA
		HEALS FARGO CENTER
		CAPITAN ONE ARENA
		PLAZA BELLA
		SCOTTABANK ARENA
		PETERSEN EVENTS CENTER
		HARRISON SQUARE GARDEN
		BOJANGLES COLISEUM
		AMAY CENTER
		XUENGLING CENTER
		FTX ARENA
		NORTH CHARLESTON COLISEUM
		ONE SOUTH ARENA
		TODD CENTER
		RAH ARENA
		REARER CENTER
		OWENS ARENA
		COLLEGE I CENTER
		MOB CENTER
		PACIFIC COLISEUM
		CLAYTON PARADE ARENA

Dua Lipa
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
Megan Thee Stallion
CAROLINE POLACHEK AND LOLO ZOUAI
Future Nostalgia
TOUR 2022

FEB 09	MIAMI, FL #1	MAR 05	BUFFALO, NY #1
FEB 11	ORLANDO, FL #1	MAR 08	MINNEAPOLIS, MN #1
FEB 12	ATLANTA, GA #1	MAR 09	CHICAGO, IL #1
FEB 14	NASHVILLE, TN #1	MAR 12	HOUSTON, TX #1
FEB 16	CHARLOTTE, NC #1	MAR 13	DALLAS, TX #1
FEB 18	BOSTON, MA #1	MAR 15	DENVER, CO #1
FEB 19	PHILADELPHIA, PA #1	MAR 17	TULSA, OK #1
FEB 22	MONTREAL, QC #1	MAR 20	PHOENIX, AZ #1
FEB 23	TORONTO, ON #1	MAR 22	LOS ANGELES, CA #1
FEB 25	DETROIT, MI #1	MAR 25	LAS VEGAS, NV #1
FEB 26	COLUMBUS, OH #1	MAR 27	SAN JOSE, CA #1
MAR 01	NEW YORK, NY #1	MAR 29	PORTLAND, OR #1
MAR 02	WASHINGTON, DC #1	MAR 31	SEATTLE, WA #1
MAR 04	NEWARK, NJ #1	APR 01	VANCOUVER, BC #1

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PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM G. SALAMANCA Tour dates for Dua Lipa and Tyler The Creator.

The rundown of this year's Grammy Awards

By: Brielle Aguayo
Opinions Editor

The Grammy's are an annual award show full of diverse, talented and captivating musicians. It is always anticipated to be record breaking and iconic. However, this year the 64 Grammy Awards were originally planned to occur Jan. 31. The show has been postponed due to health concerns.

The decision was made by the Recording Academy, and a statement was released that addressed the decision to postpone the event. "After careful consideration and analysis with city and state officials, health and safety experts, the artist community and our many partners, the Recording Academy and CBS have postponed the 64th Annual GRAMMY Awards Show. The health and safety of those in our music community, the live audience, and the hundreds

of people who work tirelessly to produce our show remains our top priority. Given the uncertainty surrounding the Omicron variant, holding the show on January 31st simply contains too many risks."

The Grammy's announced a new date for the event, which will take place on April 3.

On a lighter note, the nominees were announced, and the list includes many well-known artists and breakout stars.

The nominees for record of the year, we have "I Still Have Faith In You" by ABBA, "Freedom" by Jon Batiste, "I Get A Kick Out Of You" by Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga, "Peaches" by Justin Bieber, "Right on Time" by Brandi Carlile, "Kiss Me More" by Doja Cat, "Happier Than Ever" by Billie Eilish, "Montero (Call

Me By Your Name)" by Lil Nas X, "Drivers License" by Olivia Rodrigo and "Leave The Door Open" by Silk Sonic.

All these artists have worked their hardest and have done a monumental job at being inspired to create memorable hits.

The nominees for album of the year, which tends to be a huge win for musicians, consist of "We Are" by Jon Batiste, "Love For Sale" by Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga, "Justice" by Justin Bieber, "Planet Her" by Doja Cat, "Happier Than Ever" by Billie Eilish, "Back of My Mind" by H.E.R., "Montero" by Lil Nas X, "Sour" by Olivia Rodrigo, "Evermore" by Taylor Swift and "Donda" by Kanye West.

There are more awards up for grabs. However, these two categories in particular have

highlighted names of artists who have achieved record-breaking hits this year and new-found fame.

These are huge names in the industry whose passion for music has changed the way we listen to certain genres. Not to mention, the obstacles and dedication these musicians have faced is inspiring to witness and as fans it is nice to be part of the growth and milestones they reach.

Overall, the Grammy Awards are a monumental award show displaying an array of talent and musical geniuses. It is refreshing seeing them take into consideration the health and well-being of everyone because we still live in a world where COVID-19 is still very prominent.

Listen to our Morning Shows!

Monday
11-12PM:
DJ Big Homie talks about music theory
12-1PM:
DJ Flackie talks about pop culture

Wednesday
11-12PM:
DJ Dynamite talks about food
12-1PM:
Rotating DJs and topics

Friday
11-12PM:
DJ MUSI talks about sports
12-1PM:
DJ Frank talks about crime



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Offshore calendar

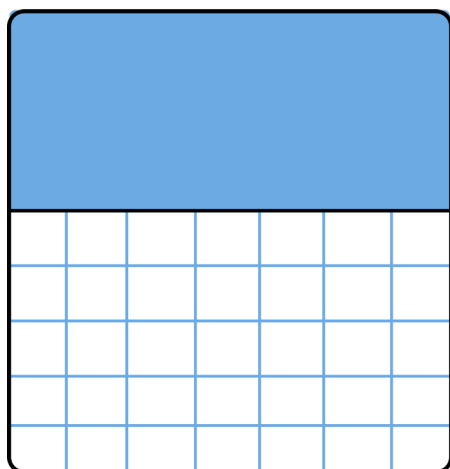
GREASE
Jan.21-30 | Varies
Lauderhill Performing Arts Center

Finally Friday
Jan. 28 | 6 p.m.
Sistrunk Blvd

Wynonna Judd
Jan. 28-29 | 12 a.m.
Amaturo Theater, Fort Lauderdale,

Ignite Broward Festival
Jan. 26 | 5:30 p.m.
Museum of Discovery and Science,
Fort Lauderdale

Ain't Too Proud
Feb. 16 | 2 p.m.
Broward Center for the Performing
Arts, Fort Lauderdale



“Euphoria” season 2 shows Zendaya in a powerful light

By: Brielle Aguayo
Opinions Editor

“Euphoria” is a HBOMax television series that has broken down barriers and sparked conversation that has lasted what feels like a lifetime. The show is known for its controversial elements like drug abuse, sexual themes and nudity, all things that have flipped the script and have fans hooked to see what happens next.

Throughout the course of the show, there have been featured topics such as drug abuse, sexual assault, violence, sex and gender dysmorphia. These subjects have made fans witness major character development and horrifying scenes that showcase the raw parts of what the characters have experienced. This allows for uncharted territory in the film industry to finally come alive.

With that being said, season two of the series recently came out which is very exciting because it has been long-awaited for two years due to COVID-19.

The first episode titled, “Trying to Get to Heaven Before They Close the Door,” shines light on main character Rue, played by Zendaya, and her personal struggles with addiction. The episode focuses on different main characters throughout many scenes. However, Rue, particularly in this first episode, is important to witness because we see her try to bounce back from dealing with her relationship with Jules, and her addiction that has her spiraling.

Not to mention, Rue is also the narrator of the series, which plays a huge role when explaining different characters and their backstories. During this episode she narrates the backstory behind character Fez, who is her close

friend who supplies her drugs in order for her to fuel her addiction. Fez has a complex life and Rue has somehow managed to tangle her way into his sketchy business ordeals with his little brother.

Her relationship with Fez is important to mention, because there’s a scene that takes place where Rue gets trapped in a drastic situation of life and death. To put it lightly, drug dealers who Fez worked with made everyone in the room strip fully naked because they were forced to follow orders. All the actors stripped naked, some showing full nudity while others the bare minimum.

However, Zendaya’s character did not strip naked at all. In fact, there was an entire other scene of Rue still being harassed but fully clothed. This is mind-blowing and truly powerful because Zendaya made sure in her contract to not show nudity. Considering her incredible acting skills and position as an executive producer it makes sense for her to have this available to her.

Also, to clarify, anyone who wants to show nudity and embrace that side of creativity can, it’s just nice seeing actors who do not, not settle for what is expected but instead what they deserve.

Being observant gave an understanding for fans to realize Zendaya’s presence in the film industry truly matters and it’s not only motivating but remarkable that she stood up for herself and stood her ground.

Soundbite: “Dawn FM” is a hit or miss

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor



The Weeknd is an award-winning artist who has gained massive popularity since his hit album “Beauty Behind the Madness” and has performed at the Super Bowl. Like all star artists, however, he’s eventually going to release something that’s just kind of okay.

“Dawn FM” is just kind of okay.

This may seem like an unfair criticism of an above-average album. “Dawn FM” has catchy songs, well-known featured artists and even legendary actor Jim Carrey. This is all true, but for The Weeknd, who has managed to reinvent himself album after album while keeping that spark that made him special alive, this is just not significant work.

If “Dawn FM” was made by an up-and-coming The Weeknd who was just breaking into the scene, it would be different, but instead this is a tried-and-tested Weekend who knows what works and what does not.

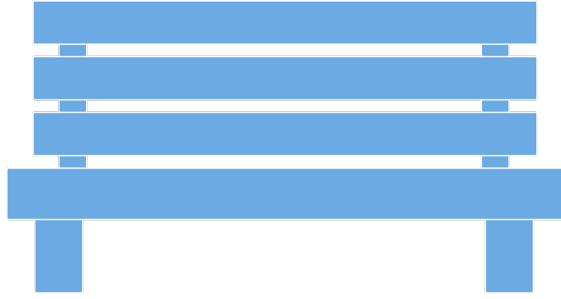
The Weeknd has been known for his ‘80s style dance pop and soaring tenor voice. His songs are made for dancing and are show-stoppers. He can also manage to slow it down, as he demonstrated in “Starboy” and “Kiss Land,” and give an R&B song you’ll feel in your toes. The tracks on “Dawn FM” - with the exception of the album’s single, “Take My Breath,” and

“Gasoline” – feel like the generic mixes of ‘80s beats you might hear on a five-hour YouTube video.

With all of this said, “Dawn FM” has an element of likability to it. It’s an album that, although most of the songs I would normally skip, I would still play from start to finish in the car. What makes “Dawn FM” special is that it’s a concept album that is not as deep as “After Hours” but still has a bit of a story to it, or maybe better described as an aesthetic.

“Dawn FM” features commentary from Carrey, who plays a disc jockey. Not only does this add a very special element to the album, but it also gives him a chance to provide very interesting commentary. The last track on the album, “Phantom Regret,” is a spoken poem by Carrey. The poem caps off the album in a beautiful way and makes me wish more artists would end their albums with poems, but it also gives a look into the mind of Carrey who has been very political and philosophical in recent years.

To a fan of The Weeknd, “Dawn FM” will either be the next big thing or a big disappointment. To most people, “Dawn FM” will only be known for “Take My Breath.”



On the bench: How the Dolphins should handle the offseason

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

After missing the NFL Playoffs for the fifth straight season, the Dolphins fired their head coach, Brian Flores. With the most cap space in the NFL available in 2022, this is what the Dolphins need to do this off-season in order to compete in the future.

Priority No.1 is hiring Mike McDaniel, the San Francisco 49ers offensive coordinator and run game coordinator. McDaniel, a disciple of offensive guru Kyle Shanahan, has been with Shanahan since 2011. Since 2019, his offenses have rushed for an average of 2,120 yards, 132.5 yards per game, and 21.3 touchdowns.

There is no better combination than a strong rushing offense and a powerful defense. Quarterback Tua Tagovailoa will benefit greatly from the hiring of McDaniel. In Tagovailoa's two seasons as quarterback of the Dolphins, the

team hasn't established any type of effective run game. Since 2019, the team has rushed for a combined 4,412 yards and just 37 touchdowns in 49 games. That equates to just 90 rushing yards per game, a disappointing amount.

The inability to run the football puts more pressure on the quarterback to throw. Without having to worry about the Dolphins rushing attack, defenses have been able to key on stopping the passing game. How can a young quarterback develop with absolutely no help in the running game? Hiring McDaniel will do a lot for Tagovailoa's development.

Another priority is getting a wide receiver to go alongside Jaylen Waddle. All the options behind him can be described as lackluster. Devante Parker can't stay healthy, playing just 46% of snaps in 2021. Parker signed a four-year,

\$40 million deal in 2019 and is a candidate to be cut in the off-season. Nobody of any substance is behind those two.

This leads me to my next point: Get Calvin Ridley. According to a report from Mike Garafolo and Steve Wyche, Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Calvin Ridley is likely to be on the way out of Atlanta in hopes of a fresh start after taking most of the year off due to prioritizing his mental health. The 27-year-old receiver is one of the best at his position in the NFL, and he grew up in Fort Lauderdale, so coming home may be a good option for him to better his mental health. I don't care what it costs, the Dolphins need to give the Falcons whatever pick they want for him without hesitation.

The Dolphins need to, for once, invest in their offense. As mentioned before, the

Dolphins' run game has been one of the worst in the NFL for a long time. This is a two-part issue; the team is never willing to invest a large amount of money or draft capital into a running back and general manager Chris Grier cannot draft good offensive linemen, and he refuses to pay good ones that are in free agency. Some of the most elite linemen in the NFL will be available this off-season. Running back is led by one of the best of the decade, Melvin Gordon. Gordon would return to elite level play in McDaniel's system with great offensive linemen.

If the Dolphins follow my recommendations, they have a chance to be a very good team and compete for Super Bowl championships in the near future. Time will tell if Grier decides to do something, but one must wonder if someone can continuously make the same mistakes repeatedly.

Sharks "Big 3" and co. jump out to 15-0 start

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

The NSU Sharks look stronger than ever. The Sharks are ranked No. 3 in the NABC Coaches poll, behind Northwest Missouri State and Lubbock Christian. The Sharks score an astounding 98.3 points per game, second in D-II, and steal the ball like no other. It forces a Division-II leading 17.5 steals and 26.8 forced turnovers per game. Though their defense is one of the best in D-II, their offense is even more of a strong suit.

Led by two strong, efficient scorers and an elite point guard, the Sharks are as dominant a team as any in Division II. The Sharks have their own version of a South Florida "Big 3" with senior forward Sekou Sylla, redshirt sophomore forward R.J. Sunahara and senior guard Nick Smith.

Sylla transferred to NSU from the College of Saint Rose in Brooklyn, New York, and has been a strong acquisition for Coach Crutchfield and his staff. The 6'5 forward averages 23.4 points, 9.5 rebounds and 1.8 steals per game. His 23.4 points are the eighth most in all of D-II.

Smith is a veteran point guard that the offense runs through. The senior guard is the main facilitator and ball handler for the dominant Sharks. Through 2022, Smith averages 11.4 points, 7.7 assists and 3.9 steals per game. His 3.9 steals lead D-II, and his 7.7 assists are second in D-II.

Sunahara is averaging 19.3 points, 6.8 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 1.8 steals per game on 60.7% from the field. The sophomore is a candidate for "Most Improved Player" in the

Sunshine State Conference, as he averaged 12.8 points in 2020. The 6'8 forward has been scoring the ball with ease thus far.

The Big 3 have been in the SSC awards since their inception on Dec. 6. Sylla and Sunahara have each been named as the SSC Player of the Week once this season, with Smith being named as the Defensive Player of the Week twice. Sunahara averaged 24.3 points, 8.7 rebounds, 3.3 blocks and 2.3 steals per game when he won the award. Sylla's dominant week included 26 points per game en route to two wins. Smith racked up 19 steals in three games, earning him two awards.

Though the Big 3 have been dominant, the Sharks are also getting great production from others. The team has three other players that

average at least nine points per game, with senior guard Eddie Puisis averaging 12.4 points, junior forward Lukas Speidel averaging 9.9 points and freshman guard Kobe Rodgers averaging 9.4 points per game.

Since Sylla, Smith and Sunahara score a majority of their points inside the three-point line, the outside ability of Puisis, Spiedel and Rodgers is imperative. The three lead the team in three-point attempts and percentage for those that have taken at least 40 three-point shots. They each shoot at least 32% from behind the arc, with Speidel shooting 40.9%, Puisis at 39.3% and Rodgers at 32.1%.

A preview of the 2022 Winter Olympics

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

A year filled with international events is kicking off with the quadrennial Winter Olympics in Beijing, China. "Together for a Shared Future" is the motto for the 2022 Winter Olympics. The events take place in Beijing from Feb. 4 to 20. The opening ceremony is on Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. EST at Beijing National Stadium, with the closing ceremony taking place on Feb. 20 with the time yet to be announced.

There will be 15 events spanning 17 days. Alpine skiing, bobsleigh, biathlon, cross-country skiing, curling, freestyle skiing, figure skating, ice hockey, luge, Nordic combined snowboarding, ski jumping, Skeleton, speed

skating and short track speed skating will be taking place during the entire duration of the games. Most competitions have multiple divisions, so plenty of medals will be given out.

Also, in an effort to add participation of more female athletes, seven new events have been added, with each awarding a medal. The added events include women's double luge on an artificial track, women's big air freestyle and women's monobob. Mixed team events were also added, such as freestyle skiing aeriels, snowboard cross and short track speed skating.

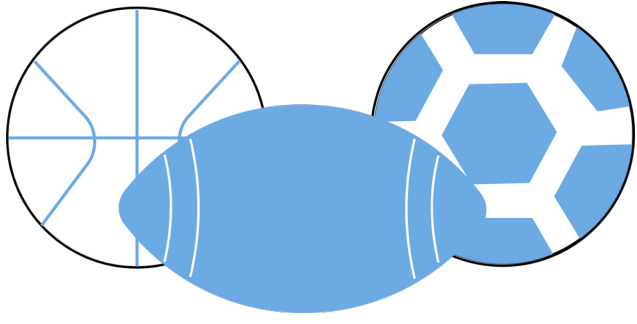
There will be 95 countries competing at the games, an increase from the 92 that participated

in the 2018 games. American Samoa, Haiti, Peru, Saudi Arabia and Trinidad and Tobago will be competing after missing the 2018 games. Both Haiti and Saudi Arabia are making their debut at the games. The countries are each sending an alpine skier, with Haiti sending Richardson Viano and Saudi Arabia sending Salman Al-Howaish.

A hungry United States should be in line for a big showing after a disappointing outing at the last Winter Olympics. In 2018, the United States of America brought 241 competitors to South Korea. The country brought home 23 medals, nine gold, eight silver and six bronze,

which was their lowest medal count since 1998.

In 2022, the USA is bringing 217 athletes to China, none more famous than possibly the most recognizable American athlete in extreme sports, Shaun White. White will be making a return to the half-pipe. The highly decorated snowboarder won the gold medal in 2006, 2010, and 2018. White nearly missed the podium in 2014, finishing fourth. The 35-year-old may be competing in his last Olympic games, so keep a look out what could be a final performance for the legendary snowboarder.



Out of the shark zone

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

Kansas City Chiefs linebacker arrested for misdemeanor

Willie Gay, linebacker for the Kansas City Chiefs, was charged with a misdemeanor for \$225 worth of property damage. Last Wednesday, Gay was arrested in Overland Park, Kansas, following the property damage after Gay was involved in an argument. According to Gay's agents, the argument and property occurred when Gay was visiting his son and began arguing with his child's mother. According to The Associated Press, "The Chiefs, who play the Buffalo Bills in the playoffs on Sunday, said they were aware of the incident but did not plan to make further comment. Gay, in his second season with the Chiefs, has played in 12 games this season,

totaling 48 tackles and two interceptions." Gay's agents predict that he will most likely only have to pay a fine and for the damage.

NFL asks court to dismiss lawsuit filed by former coach

The NFL has filed a motion with a Nevada court to have a lawsuit filed by Jon Gruden, the former coach of the Raiders, against the NFL dismissed. The NFL claims that Gruden's lawsuit is "baseless" and "should be dismissed for failure to state a single viable cause of action." According to The Associated Press, "Gruden resigned as coach of the Raiders in October with more than six seasons remaining on his 10-year, \$100 million contract. He claimed a "malicious

and orchestrated campaign" was used by the NFL and commissioner Roger Goodell to destroy Gruden's career by leaking the old emails that included racist, misogynistic and homophobic language." The NFL claims that they had no legal obligation to keep the emails confidential. In a previous lawsuit, Groden settled with Raiders owner Mark Davis in October. The details of the settlement were not released.

US Olympic opening uniforms revealed

Ralph Lauren has released the official uniform for the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. According to The Associated Press, "The jackets unveiled Thursday by official outfitter Ralph Lauren include a smart,

honeycomb-like fabric layer built in that expands or contracts in response to temperature changes — all without the use of a battery or wired technology. The assist by a company called Skyscrape follows battery-powered cooling and heating tech the company used for some previous looks for the Tokyo Summer Olympics and the Pyeongchang Winter Games." Three-time Olympian and bronze medalist bobsledder, Aja Evans, called this new uniform her favorite look created for the team. At the opening ceremony, female athletes with sport red boots and fleece pants with navy jackets, while the male athletes will feature a mainly white uniform. Both uniforms will feature navy beanies and plenty of pockets.

Wild card weekend: Blowout or close game

By: Blake Malick
Sports Editor

Four football playoff games were decided by a cumulative score of 64 to 154, a difference of 90 points and an average margin of victory of 22.5 points. Two games were decided by single digits. The 2021 Wild Card weekend had something for everyone. What happened in the six win-or-go home games that took place last weekend?

Since the addition of an extra playoff team into the NFL's playoff system, the No.7 seed hasn't fared well in back-to-back seasons. The No.7 seeds, the Steelers and Eagles, were both dominated from start to finish in their matchups,

losing by a difference of 37 combined points. In 2020, the No. 7 seeds lost by a combined score of 15 points. The No. 7 seed is now 0-4 in two seasons.

Despite those three games being decided by multiple scores, the matchups between the Raiders vs. Bengals and the 49ers vs. Cowboys went down to the final whistle.

The No.5 seeded Raiders fell to the No.4 seeded Bengals when quarterback Derek Carr threw an interception to Germaine Pratt on fourth-and-goal with just 12 seconds remaining. In a well-balanced matchup, the Bengals jumped

out to a 20-6 lead in the second quarter. The Raiders shot back, lowering the deficit to just seven points with 14 minutes left, though they couldn't complete the comeback.

The No.6 seeded 49ers took down the No.3 seeded Cowboys in a game that had controversy at the final whistle. Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott ran up the middle with just 14 seconds left and the team couldn't spike the ball before the clock hit triple zeroes. The rule says that the ball cannot be snapped unless the umpire touches the ball. In this case, the ball was handed to the center instead of the umpire, resulting in an extra

delay that would end up costing the Cowboys a chance at a final play Hail Mary.

The Divisional Round is set. The No. 4 Bengals will travel to Tennessee to take on the No. 1 seeded Titans. In the matchup of the weekend, the No. 3 Bills are heading to Kansas City to face the reigning AFC champion, No. 2 seeded Chiefs. The NFC will have the Rams heading to Tampa to play Tom Brady's Buccaneers. The other matchup has the 49ers meeting with the Packers, a rematch of the 2019 NFC Championship. The 49ers ran for 285 yards in their 37-20 victory.

Finding fitness: "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" stretching routine

By: Sofia Gallus
Editor-in-Chief



Those who own "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" for the Nintendo Switch know that with the latest content update came an unexpected, but adorable new fitness gameplay element. Players could now gather outside of the community center on their island and stretch with their villagers. Players could either use motion controls and really stretch while holding a joy-con in each hand, or simply use the buttons on the joy-cons to stretch alongside their villagers.

This got me thinking. What other stretches might my villagers enjoy, and what kind of stretching routines could the game inspire me to use in real life?

The classic town square stretch

This stretching routine is the one you're able to perform alongside your villagers in-game. You can follow along with your game, or, if you don't have it on hand or don't own it, you can start by raising your arms straight above your head and stretching out your fingers. Hold this position for five counts, then slowly lean to your right side with your arms still stretched. Hold this position for five counts, then repeat this motion but leaning to your left side. After doing this, stretch your arms down in front of you and bend your hips at a nearly 90-degree angle and try to touch your toes. Don't overstretch or make yourself uncomfortable but try to reach as far as possible. After holding this position for five counts, stand back up straight and put your arms at your side. Take your right arm and then lean

down and stretch it towards your left foot and hold this position for five counts. Repeat this motion with your left arm and right foot, and you've done the full classic town square stretch routine.

The terraform

If you've played "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" and unlocked terraforming, then you may know the feeling of exhaustion after building cliffs and digging rivers to make your island perfect. Try recreating the motion of using a shovel to build up cliffs by stretching out your arms in front of you, and then stretching down towards your feet first. Then, slowly over the course of counting to ten, raise your arms until you finish in a position so that they're raised straight above your head. Repeat this motion five times.

The sea creature search

Is there a hazardous wake sign at the beach today, but you still want to go swimming? Try out this "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" swimming routine. Start by standing straight up with your arms at your side, and then bring your hands in together close to your chest. Slowly stretch them out straight in front of you, and then once they're fully straight, move your arms apart from each other until they're standing out straight at your sides. Twirl your hands around while they're outstretched to really feel the pull in your muscles. Repeat this motion ten times to really embrace the swimming experience.

Don't "Add Yours"

By: Gerianne Salamanca Gamez
Chief of Visual Design

Instagram has been hectic recently with the addition of the "Add Yours" story update. This story sticker allows you to post a prompt with a photo while inviting your friends to add their take on the same prompt. The concept seems like an easy and fun way to interact with others, however, it has developed into one of the most annoying features on the app.

The social evolution of this feature happened extremely quickly which ultimately led to its downfall, as it's already gone out of style. This feature was a great way to spread memories and moments that otherwise would be forgotten but it has developed into a cluster of unoriginality. The prompts are boring, there's nothing interesting about an "Add Yours" if the prompt itself has no significance. Everything is

repetitive and people are missing the point.

Stories are filled with the same content due to the overuse of the feature. People lack the individuality they once had because of the copy and paste structure that comes with "Add Yours." It's turned into a lazy content filler for an easy way out. If you have nothing to post, then don't post.

Individuality and identity are key factors for communication and social media is one of the ways we communicate with others. However, social media shouldn't be the place to learn intimate details about the people you follow. It feels impersonal to learn about someone without actually having a conversation with them. These smaller details that build individual identity should be an interactive and bonding

experience towards building a relationship, not an Instagram trend.

"Add Yours" has also been used as a reason to push political and social activism. Performative activism has been an issue in the past and it's resurfacing because of this update. People have created prompts that tell others to add on if they support or believe in the issue being discussed. Using issues like racism, sexism, sexual harassment/assault and so much more. This is immensely problematic as it diminishes the severity and importance of the issue. Advocating for political and social issues is necessary and important to spread awareness; however, it should be done for the purpose of education rather than for popularity and recognition. Adding this social pressure to

sensitive topics can make people uncomfortable and forcing them to participate in advocacy with no action is pointless.

Again and again "Add Yours" has proved how useless it truly is. Seeing the same content over and over again is exhausting. The feature creates an emotional detachment from intimate information. On top of it all, performative activism is making its way back as a result. "Add Yours" has created a cycle of pointless information. Despite the potential this feature holds, the people using it have destroyed any hope for evolution or creativity. It has died just as quickly as it became popular.

No, Disney World isn't better than Universal parks and vice versa

By: Sophia Cortes
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Disney World's distance from reality carries past the manicured forests and Mickey Mouse shaped road signs into the very layout of the parks themselves. Most Disney World parks rely on the spoke-and-wheel method of planning theme parks, which is where there is a central visual point in the park that can be seen from every area of the park, such as Cinderella's castle in Magic Kingdom. From the center of the "wheel" extends the "spokes," which are the different lands. The different distinctions of the "spokes" allow guests to easily flow from one land to the next, while keeping the center of the park always easily accessible.

Going into the minute details of the lands themselves is where the true magic of Disney World parks begins to shine through. Each transition from each land is seamless not only in style, but in sounds as well. There are subtle

shifts in music as you cross from Main Street U.S.A to Adventureland and so on and so forth. These shifts in the very music a guest is listening to seamlessly lead them into each world they're experiencing, allowing them to get fully immersed in the story and world they are taking part in.

Universal and Islands of Adventure on the other hand, did not have this forward-thinking planning when it came to laying out the structure of the park. Universal Orlando Resort was built in 1990, later followed by Islands of Adventure in 1999, as a response to Disney's film themed park, Hollywood Studios built in 1989. Because the origins of both parks were as responses to company competition, not much thought seemed to go into either park, but more so with Islands of Adventure.

Universal is perfectly constructed for what

it is meant to do, which is to make guests feel as if they are taking a peek behind Hollywood curtains and becoming a part of the movie itself. For this reason, the transition from each "set," is quite smooth, and the immersion techniques in each of their main locations, mainly the New York set and the London/Diagon Alley sets, are so impeccable that it is hard to tear oneself away from them.

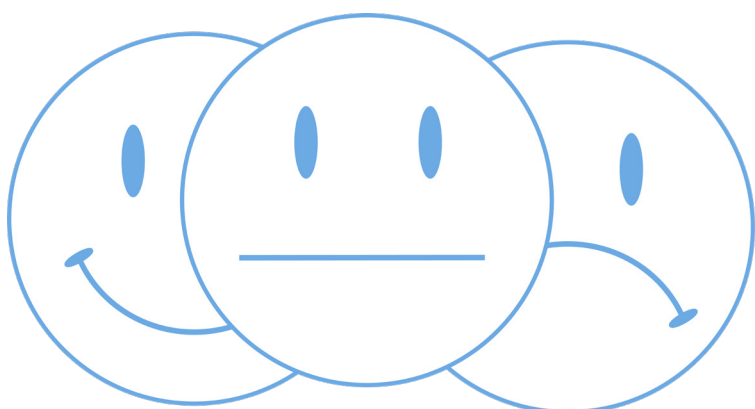
The disappointment comes mostly from Islands of Adventure. While most of its merits mostly lie in their thrill rides (especially the newly constructed VelociCoaster), the park would fulfill its message on allowing guests to experience different "islands" full of adventure if it fixed how each land flows into the next and allowed for a greater distribution of resources and updates. When you cross over into Hogsmeade, you can still hear some of the

music from Jurassic World and vice versa. Lines to certain rides stretch out into other parts of the park, and if you have recently visited Dr. Seuss's land you know it has seen better days.

Surprisingly, Disney World can learn a thing or two from Universal and Islands of Adventure, which is namely to broaden their horizons in what makes a ride thrilling and enjoyable. For many of its faults, this is the reason both Universal parks remain a Florida favorite to this day. On their front, the Universal parks need to show every area of their lands the same love and devotion they give to any "Harry Potter" themed attraction. The artistry of immersive experiences should not be cast aside as unimportant, and neither should its thrill rides. In the end what matters most is balance and personal taste, so why pit two queens?

Seriously Kidding: Shark Fountain to receive grill and chain

By: Rei Perez
Features Editor



The following is a satirical piece, meaning that this piece is full of humor, exaggeration, irony and other techniques to create a ridiculous story. This piece is purely entertaining and not meant to be taken seriously under any circumstances. This piece does not reflect the views of the writer, Nova Southeastern University or The Current as a whole. With this in mind, please enjoy.

The Shark Fountain, located in the creatively named Shark Circle, is getting an upgrade. Students at NSU have noticed the fountain has been under construction for a while. Many have wondered what the change could be, but only few know. The Current spoke to the chair of the Department of Construction paper and Building's Romantic Affairs who insisted that this department did not exist but did provide information regarding the Shark Fountain.

"We wanted the Shark Fountain to appeal to students and reflect what they like. We pride ourselves on our impeccable understanding of the NSU student body. In other words, we know what's cool. That's why we decided to give the Shark Fountain some new drip," said Chek N. Yu.

The new renovations to the Shark Fountain, as described by Yu, will be the addition of a grill to the teeth of the fountain and two arms replacing the fins with the pinkies at either end

of the mouth. The statue will also be given a giant gold chain with the NSU logo encrusted with diamonds.

"We want to communicate the right message to the student body and anyone who visits NSU," said Yu.

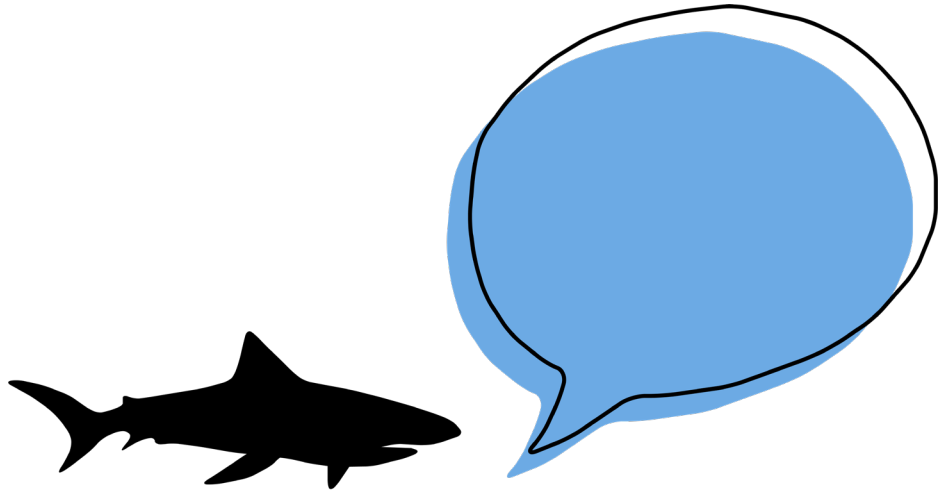
The money to pay for all these changes has come from a cut in student employee pay. A change that many at NSU have embraced.

"Student employees don't even work, they just go on lunch breaks while on the clock," said Timothy Mickraw, manager of Shark Baby Sitting, an on-campus service that shows freshmen where their classes are and provides tissues for them if they cry when they get lost.

These changes have not been supported by all. Local activist and frequent Twitter poster Chris T. Mas has harsh criticisms about the recent decisions. However, research has shown that no one likes him.

A recent poll taken by The Current has shown that not only are students excited about the changes to the Shark Fountain, but many are just discovering it exists.

"I would always be rushing to class and never looked up to see the statue, it's beautiful! I wish I didn't stop to look up though because then I discovered how ugly the color scheme of the U.C. is," said Angelica Eliza-Peggy, a junior biology major.



Shark speak

How do you feel about spring break taking place in March?



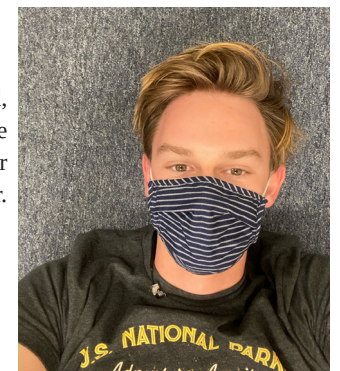
“I think spring break is too early because many colleges get out around the first week of March, and ours is a week before that. So, when many people go home, they can’t really do anything when they go home or they can’t go out with their friends, because it’s a different timeframe. I think if it was just like even by a week later, we would be able to get the well needed break that we deserve from being college students and be able to like go places and do things with other college students our age,” said Jamya Billings, junior elementary education major.

“I mean it’s fine I guess it doesn’t really matter to me. I know it’s a week earlier, but I really don’t care that much,” said Santiago Vargas, sophomore industrial engineering major.



“I actually do not like it because carnival from like my hometown starts that day and I am unable to get the tickets for it because it is the beginning at the end of February. Also, the tickets to go back home to Colombia are very expensive. So I’m going to stay here for spring break. Which is very sad,” said Valeria Ravachi, senior communication major.

“I don’t personally agree with it because it makes it a lot of difficulty in trying to plan around, seeing my family and or friends I did possibly want to visit during the break. I think it would be more effective to have it later and it would be more accommodating,” said Brian Weber, junior double marine biology and chemistry major.



Paper and pen is always your friend

By: Jamila Hughes
News Editor

Getting organized is one task, but staying organized is another. As a college student, there are many things to juggle in a daily schedule; between laundry, work, eating and social time, without a way to properly organize our lives things can become too much to handle all at once. It is important that we prioritize that the way we live our lives is healthy and organized.

For me, having a handwritten agenda or planner is critical. Having an agenda where I am able to see my plans for the week outlined by each day can be the difference between me having a stressful week versus an unbearable week. A lot of people I know like to write things down in the note section of their phones or in their phone calendar, but this really is not the

best way to stay organized in my opinion.

When I write something down physically, I tend to remember it a lot better than if it is sitting at the bottom of my notes section in my iPhone. Within my agenda I am also able to assign each class with a different color so that when I write in my agenda, I can write in the coordinating pen colors. When you are using your phone or electronic device it is difficult to navigate using different colors or ways to organize notes and assignments within the small screen.

Another reason that writing things down with a pen is the best way to stay organized is because it is a dedicated area for things regarding your work. In your phone there’s everything between text with your parents to

plans with friends to Instagram notifications all distracting you when trying to write down your assignments. With a hand agenda this is a distraction free space dedicated to your schoolwork

Another one of the best organizational tips is creating a physical list. Though my agenda is particularly beneficial in regards to keeping my assignments organized, my laundry and grocery list may not fit next to my essay for history. Having a daily list of things that need to get done really helps me remember what I need to do and follow through with doing it.

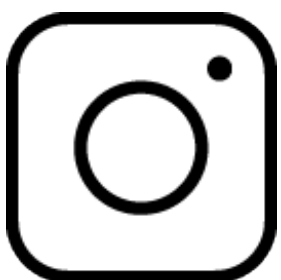
Prior to making a list I would do so much in one day but feel like I accomplished nothing, or even forget have of the things I got done. On

the contrary, in the reminder section of your phone, you will get one notification reminder and after that you completely forget about it, and it disappears. So, unless you do that task immediately at the time of the reminder, then you’ll end up forgetting.

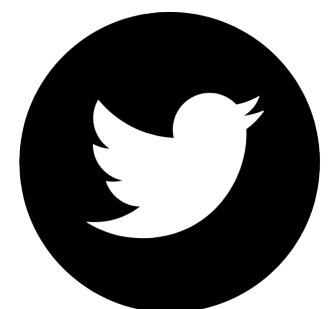
With a list, I can cross off each task as a go, giving me a sense of achievement and fulfillment with each opportunity to cross and it is never going to delete or be something you forget because it won’t be mixed in with all your other social task.

Most importantly it is a great feeling at the end of the day when my list is fully crossed off and I can see everything you have gotten done that day.

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WORD SEARCH: ISSUE 18

A	U	F	R	U	D	A	J	E	B	F	T	X	A	E
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