

THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

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Broward College Marketplace provides for students with necessities

Ryan Marin

Central-Bureau-Chief

At this time, many students may be struggling to pay for their basic food and hygiene needs. Sixty-one percent of Broward College students are suffering from some form of food insecurity, according to Gregory Adam Haile, President of Broward College, as said in a video on the BC website.

Figuring out how to eat every day is sure to weigh heavy on the minds of students and can dramatically impact their grades and education. Broward College understands the needs of their students and created the Seahawk Marketplace to try and help alleviate this struggle.

The mission of the Seahawk Marketplace is to assist Broward College students by alleviating the daily financial stress of planning how they will purchase necessary food and hygiene items. The pantry

is the College's latest effort to address food security among its students.

The Marketplace is a significant expansion of the food and hygiene program that Broward College ran during all of 2021. The Marketplace provides a free pantry where students can shop for free food and hygiene items for themselves and household family members.

"The Marketplace is a family friendly atmosphere where students can shop once a week," said Dana Bartholomew, Food Security Coordinator at Broward College. The program also offers guidance for nutrition through educational programs, where students learn about the value of nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices.

Any current Broward College student, as well as students enrolled in the previous semester, can qualify for access to the Seahawk Marketplace. Students can

also access the drive thru distributions and comfort closets on North and South Campus.

Bartholomew explains that students do not need an appointment to enter the Seahawk Marketplace, and they can drop by anytime, once a week.

"Students can stop by anytime, but they need to register at broward.edu/sos and fill out a one-time registration." The form asks for the student's identification, demographic and fellow household members. To register, students must also have their student ID number. The Marketplace also recommends that students bring their own reusable bags when shopping.

The Marketplace gets six deliveries a month from Feeding South Florida. The items come from stores such as Costco, Sam's Club, Walmart and Publix.

"While we never know what exactly are in these deliveries until they get



BC President Gregory Haile with former Observer Editor-in-chief, Jessica Kladerman, at the ribbon-cutting of the Seahawk Marketplace in September, 2021.

here, they are usually full of fresh fruit and veggies, an array of meats, and perishable and nonperishable can items," Bartholomew said. The Marketplace provides free perishable and nonperishable items through a partnership with Florida Blue Foundation, Feeding South Florida and Holy Cross Health.

The Marketplace operates at Central Campus, building 19, room 128 and is open Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and every second and fourth Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Students can also attend the Mobile Food and Hygiene Essentials Distributions, which are held on North Campus from 4-6 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month, and from 2-4 p.m. on South Campus on the third Wednesday of the month.

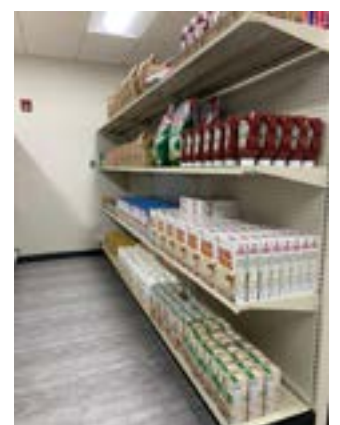
The program also welcomes staff and volunteers with open arms. Volunteers guide students to receive the food and hygiene items they need. The program is also asking for donations, as Bartholomew said the stock is replenished week-

ly through donations from staff and students. Students staff can donate new unwrapped hygiene items and nonperishable items to the Marketplace.

While the Marketplace is currently only on Central Campus, there are plans to expand to North and South Campus in the coming months.

"This is the first pantry to open in a series of three pantries that will open at each campus," Bartholomew said.

If you want to find out more, visit the Seahawk Marketplace tab under the Student Outreach Services, email seahawkmarketplace@broward.edu, or call 954-201-3663.



Marir34@mail.broward.edu

SEAHAWK MARKETPLACE
Free Food Pantry
CENTRAL CAMPUS BUILDING 19-ROOM 128

HOURS of OPERATION

Mon - Thur	11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Fridays	10:00AM - 2:00 PM
Saturday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

2nd and 4th of the Month

NEW HOURS

Phone Number:
954-201-FOOD (3663)

Contact Us
seahawkmarketplace@broward.edu

To Register
SCAN ME!

BROWARD COLLEGE

MISSING

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR MASCOT?



SAMUEL (AKA SAMMY) THE SEAHAWK

Height: 7' 5"

Weight: 478 lbs

Eyes: Blue/Yellow

Last seen wearing Student Life T-shirt,
black shorts & Blue/Grey Sneakers

Sammy has been missing since August 21st, 2022 and was last seen checking out a book.

Hello BC Seahawk Nation. We have an emergency! Sammy The Seahawk is missing and we need you to help us find him! Every Thursday (08/25 - 09/22) ending at the Freshman Frenzy event. We'll be posting the latest leads on our social media pages. There will be a 'Missing' poster at Sammy's last known location. All you have to do is find the poster and take a picture with it. You can post it on your social media pages and tag us or send it via email. The first person to get all 5 pictures of Sammy's leads will win a \$50 Amazon shopping spree.

EMAIL WITH ANY INFORMATION
BCSOUTHSL@BROWARD.EDU

To stay updated about the search progress or updates on leads, follow:

@bcsouthsl on IG and Facebook

College Academy at Broward College has many benefits

Melaina Lawrence
Staff Writer

Broward College is home to many gems. Among them, is College Academy. Full of bright and resourceful students, the small population interacts with the college's staff, professors and organizations in an enriching and mutually beneficial connection.

Because College Academy caters to students who want to be academically challenged, some have shied away. Elvis Rodriguez, now College Academy senior, wrote the school off as a "small school full of nerds," initially. Despite reservations, he applied with the intent to improve himself and achieve more in a rigorous environment. Now, after spending a year there, his fondest memories involve studying in library rooms with friends.

The "small, familial community of students relying on and getting to know each other" that Assistant principal Jenny Thelwell notes separates the small high school from a regular one quickly became a part of Rodriguez' routine and ultimately what

he loves the most. In his College Academy restricted courses, he enjoyed the friendly teachers, who were more than willing to offer help at any given moment and students offering up the same in the form of social aid.

Director of Student Services, Jodie Weinstein, describes College Academy in one word as "advantaged." Being both a current student or an alumni holds weight in ensuring success after high school.

Being in College Academy offers students experience in a collegiate environment, a networking pool of like-minded people and best of all a free degree.

Nya Hitchman recalls expecting her new school to be academically challenging and so she felt intimidated and nervous. Through constant support from counselors and friends, she learnt how to balance her new learning environment and most importantly, though it was hard, nothing was out of her comfort zone or too overbearing for her, simply different than what she was used to.

Transitioning from a larger high school to College Acad-



College Academy students. Image Courtesy of Melaina Lawrence

emy can be a culture shock, but here are some tips from the senior class of 2023:

Join clubs. There is something for everyone at College Academy. Clubs are a great way to start your school year networking and in an environment that will help teach you accountability—remember that you are not limited to only CA clubs. BC offers a wide variety of clubs that you can take part in and also gain leadership experience.

Try not to stay in a clique. It is nice if you have friends from your previous high school, but remember to branch out, meet new people and gain new experiences. This campus is your oyster.

Study, and Study some more. It is a bit on the nose, but always ensure you are dedicating enough time to study. Find methods that work for you and use them to ensure you stay successful. A perk of being in this college environment is that a plethora of resources such as office hours, the ASC- are here to help you navigate studying. Our seniors recommend study rooms because they are secluded and provide a quiet place for studying as a group, but in a way that makes it engaging.

Learn formats for scholarly essays. Writing at the college level is quite different from writing at the high school lev-

el. Speak to professors about what is required of you and learn official formats such as MLA and APA and use them when needed.

Don't stress. "It may feel overwhelming, but it will eventually be manageable", senior Emma Ahearn, said after her first year. Though it may seem like everyone else is thriving while you seem to be having a hard time, slow down. Be mindful and remember to seek out your resources, whether you need academic, social or personal help there are tools created to help you navigate them. Speak to your counselors, teachers or even the senior class about any concerns.

Be organized. Create checklists, take the time to prioritize workload, make goals and keep up with them, use the varied supplemental tools at your disposal such as a planner (digital or physical), timer clocks, sticky notes, legal pads.

Lastly, Have Fun! Try not to feel guilty for taking breaks or for not doing work, work, work 24/7. Make time for yourself to do things you like whether it is with friends or by yourself.

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Students get hands-on experience at the Observer newspaper

Scarlett Valencia Pulido
Staff Writer

If you like writing, photography, graphic design, or page layout, you will definitely find something to do at The Observer. And, fun fact, you can work across all of them if you have various interests.

The Observer is Broward College's bi-monthly newspaper. It give students the opportunity to express themselves, share their thoughts, and inform students about on-campus news and events.

Former Editor-In Chief, Jesssica Kladerman, said, "There's something so fulfilling to me about sharing stories I thought the community on a larger scale should know about.

During her time at the Observer, Kladerman wrote many articles, including one about the Seahawk Marketplace, a resource few people at Broward College know about that everyone should have access to.

Kladerman is currently working as a member of the social media response team at Chewy', an e-commerce pet

supply company. The team monitors the various social media channels the company holds and actively engages with the community as they search for customer service opportunities.

She suggests anyone interested in joining to not be afraid of getting involved. "You get what you give. You'd be absolutely shocked at the opportunities that you could have by going the extra mile. Even if you don't see others going above and beyond, lead by example, don't wait."

During the newspaper's meetings, you can see everyone on the team working together to get photos of events, give ideas for articles, and cover events that occur on campus or around the area. The Observer's Staff belong to different campuses and some are fully online.

"It is like an internship for students who are involved. Everyone gets real world, hand-on experience, which is vital if you want a career in journalism or the media," shared Jennifer Shapiro, the Observer's adviser.

If you write for The Observer, you can choose the top-

ics you wish to write about, ranging from sports to school events and news. The articles are published on the Observer's website as well as printed out and available at each campus for other students to read.

And if layout and graphic design is more your thing, you can learn Adobe InDesign and help design the overall look of the newspaper.

There are also many opportunities to practice your photographic skills with the many events occurring at each campus throughout the year.

Shapiro has been at Broward College for the past 18 years, during which she has advised The Observer and seen many students grow and obtain internships from connections they have made while being at the newspaper.

These connections are possible thanks to the workshops that the newspaper organizes. Most Thursdays during the fall semester and spring semester, many professionals come and share details about their careers in journalism as well as the media.

Some guest speakers in the past included Brittany Wallman and Deb Wiker. Wall-



Madeline Fox from WLRN talks to students during the Journalism Boot Camp in 2020. Image Courtesy of The Observer

man is a Pulitzer Prize winner from Sun-Sentinel and Wiker writes for both Billboard Magazine and the Hollywood Reporter.

There is also an annual Journalism Boot Camp that takes place in February featuring a full day of workshops led by various media professionals. This past boot camp featured Adam Thompson from the Wall Street Journal and Observer alumni, Jossie Carbonare, a TV reporter for WPBF 25 ABC News.

Shapiro recommends college students learn as much as they can of what interests them, always making sure to

showcase their work.

"The hand-on experience is priceless, and you have the opportunity to inform the College about what is going on. You also get to network with professionals in the field, and you never know what opportunities that may lead to."

If you are interested in the Workshops or being a part of The Observer, be sure reach out to Shapiro at jshapiro@broward.edu for more information.

vales63@mail.broward.edu

International Partnerships- The Center for Global Education Allows Lima, Peru Residents to Study in Broward College without Leaving the Country

Alessandra Claro

Staff Writer



A picture of Alessandra Claro. Images courtesy of Alessandra Claro

As a community college, Broward College has various international partners from around the world. This college's international partners include the countries of Bolivia, Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Peru, Spain, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

The Center for Global Education (CGE) program for Peru was approved by SACSCOC in 2010. In 2021, Broward College stood among the three finalists for the Aspen Prize due to their academic excellence, positioning them for the fourth time in the top ten universities for this award. The international partner they have for Lima, Peru is the USIL

university. This means that the Center for Global Education (CGE) campus is located at USIL University, which is at Av. la Fontana 550, La Molina 15024, Lima, Peru. Here the students will take all of their Broward College presential courses. Their virtual courses are offered via Zoom.

For the students to enter Broward College, their grades from school need to be evaluated and they would also need to take the virtual ACCU-PLACER exam, which consists of English exams and a math exam (also in English). Nonetheless, they will be required to write a short essay about a topic they choose. This

program also offers scholarships at a 30 percent discount to students who have achieved being in the upper third of their school. Students who want to get more information about the program can also contact: transfers@broward.edu.

The program aims to get students their Associate's degree (AA) and then transfer to the college from any part of the world that they want to and guides their students through this process since Broward College has a network of prestigious universities.

The outstanding feature of the CGE program is that students can begin their careers in their home country while also taking all of their subjects in English with professors who are native or accredited English speakers. In this way, students have more time to apply to the colleges they want to go to without missing valuable study time, and at the same time, they have more knowledge about the process of applying to colleges in order to get a better chance at being accepted at them. There are many former students from the CGE that entered prestigious universities and even obtained scholarships.

Another benefit for students who start their education in their country of residence is

that they are able to stay there for more time and enjoy the time they have left. This way, they can already begin to adapt to the American system but, at the same time, stay with their friends and family and share their experiences. This is before they transfer to their desired college in another part of the world.

The students who earn the AA degree at CGE will also be immediately admitted into one of Florida's twelve state universities, and once this transfer is made to the Florida college, it is guaranteed that all their credits will be transferred. However, colleges from around the world may not accept all the credits that the students have earned.

Those students who successfully complete the program's prerequisites will also receive an Associate's degree once they have earned 60 credits, which usually takes students two years to complete, or in other words, four semesters.

This is unless they successfully transfer enough credits to ditch a semester from Broward College. The transferred credits can come from institutions where the students have already taken these subjects. They can transfer these credits, for example, from a former college or college they have

been to or from schools with programs like the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Melissa Márquez is an example of a student who has successfully graduated from the CGE and is now a senior digital project manager at Alicorp. Her career is general business administration, which she finished at her transfer university, which is the University of South Florida. According to her on the CGE website, CGE fulfilled the expectations she had and even surpassed them. She mentions how it is thanks to the CGE that she expanded her vision and that she has learned to handle the challenges she faces nowadays as a professional and as a leader.

For more information, visit <https://descubre.usil.edu.pe/cge/branding/>

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Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Programs Available at Broward College

Gabriella Small

Editor-in-Chief

Entering the job field after college tends to be a difficult feat for graduates regardless of their majors. Many do not have solid plans for the future after college, and some believe that they do not have a chance in the workforce at all. Broward College's Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship program seeks to ease the college-to-workforce road and make it a smoother one for students and provide a source of income to participants.

Entering an apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship program has many benefits, such as guaranteed income from day one, as well as hands on experience in a field one is interested in.

A person interested in the program does not have the requirement of being extremely knowledgeable in every single aspect of the job they're assigned to, as they are expected to be learning on the job. Those who participate in these programs also have the guarantee of receiving a job once they leave the college world and will have an easier time paying off whatever debts that they have built.

At the moment, the two main apprenticeship programs that are offered at Broward College are the Information Technology Specialist and the



Picture from Comptia.org

Network Support Technician positions, according to the BC apprenticeship website.

The Information Technology position is year-long and includes opportunities to earn several certifications with CompTIA, such as Network+, which teaches participants the skills needed to maintain and troubleshoot the networks that businesses use, and Security+, which teaches participants how to monitor and secure environments like the cloud.

Participants are also given the ability to learn soft skills which will help them maneuver coworker-coworker and coworker-management interactions.

The Pre-Apprenticeship program has a similar position, but instead shortens the program to 2-4 months, only focusing on the acquirement of CompTIA's A+ and N+ certifications.

The Network Support Technician position is another year long position that allows for participants to also earn certifications, though they are hands on Copper Installer and Fiber Optic Installation certifications.

At the end of this program, apprentices complete more than 2000 hours of on-the-job training and gain a great deal of soft skills as well.

The Apprenticeship Program does not have any limiting

requirements barring people from entry, only asking for people interested to be over the age of 18, possess a high school diploma or GED, have the ability to work in the U.S. legally, and, of course, be diligent and hardworking.

To sign up for this program, visit Broward College's Apprenticeship Program Homepage, <https://broward.edu/apprenticeship> and fill out the interest form at the bottom of the page.

If one does not have the ability to work in the U.S., but is close to turning 18, the Pre-Apprenticeship program will be a better fit.

The way to sign up for the

program is by also entering the program's homepage and filling out an interest form.

After filling out the interest form, one of the program's representatives will send you an email detailing more about the programs and times for joining information session pertaining to them.

If there are any specific inquiries, feel free to contact Christopher Josef-Chreonsky at cjosefch@broward.edu.

smalg5@mail.broward.edu

THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

WANTS



Writers



Graphic Designers



Photographers



Videographers

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Helpful Broward College resources to help start the Fall Semester

Whether you are coming back from your summer break, summer term, or joining Broward College for the very first time, there are many useful resources on and off campus that can help you prepare for this upcoming semester! Here are a few tips and strategies to be successful at Broward College

1. Office Hours

Each one of your professors has office hours each week. It is a time in which students are welcome to drop by their office, give them a call, or schedule a meeting regarding an assignment, test or question about a lecture. It is a special time allocated to you, the student. You can find more details about a professor's office hours in their syllabus. There you will see more details about the times they are available and how to reach them. Asking questions is one of the best ways to learn because it can help you understand the material you went over in class. And by speaking to your professor, you can get to know them and how they do things in their class.



3. Writing Research Papers

There is a good chance you will have to write a research paper throughout your college journey. The most important part of writing a research paper is, you guessed it, the research. And it is easy to become overwhelmed by the amount of information out there on the topic you wish to cover or by trying to find scholarly journals. That can lead to procrastination and to finishing it before class, or if online, just before 11:59 p.m. That is why speaking to a librarian to guide you through your research process can help you find reliable information you can quote on your essay with the respective citation. The school has a large database composed of newspaper and research articles as well as scholarly journals. And if you cannot go to campus to speak to a librarian, you can contact them online through the Broward College Library website and chat with them.

4. Qless line

The Qless line is a service that changes physical lines for virtual ones. It is a great way of getting in touch with the Financial Aid, Advising, and Career Services departments. All you have to do is go into the Broward College website and search for Qless. You will go into the site, add your name, student ID number, and department you wish to contact. As you go through the departments, you will see many subcategories in each department. And choose the one that relates to your question the most. For instance, if you have a question about the requirements needed to graduate, you can click on the Advising department and from the subcategories select the one for "Current term advising." After submitting your contact information, you will receive a text message with the estimated wait time and the amount of people that are ahead of you.

5. Choosing your schedule

Deciding what classes to take and creating a schedule that works for you can be challenging. To select the best schedule, stay on top of the date in which you can start choosing classes for the term. It is when there will be the most spots available, and you will not have to live the stress that comes when waiting for someone to drop the class so you can add it. Knowing in advance what your schedule outside of school will work like for the term is also a good way to know the times you have available to go to class and do your assignments. Also, make sure to take the number of credits you can handle. Expect to dedicate three hours for each class credit to help you decide how many courses you should take. Feeling overwhelmed and mentally exhausted is not fun at all. Choose the hours and course modality that works for you and speak to your assigned advisor for guidance and to make sure you are on the right track to graduating.

6. Modalities

Speaking about modalities, Broward College has four ways in which you can learn: Face-to-Face (on campus), Online, Online-Live, or Blended. It is crucial that you choose the classes that start at a time that work best for you. The in-person class is the one in which you have to go to campus to take the lectures and do homework and projects outside of class. You get to socialize with your professor and classmates and be in a regular classroom setting. On the other hand, online classes are completely delivered through the school's platform, D2L. If you have a full-time job or an unpredictable schedule, this could be the modality for you. You have to turn in your assignments online and watch the lectures or read your textbook on your own. For those of you who like zoom, Online-Live courses have live lectures as if you were in class. You still have to submit assignments through D2L, but you get to see your professors and ask them questions during lectures. The last modality available is blended. It mixes up Zoom lectures with in-person class, as well as online assignments. You should check with the instructor to learn more about how the course runs and the days in which you have to visit campus to make sure it fits your routine.



Cleveland Clinic Summer Scholar Program

Maya Mohan

North Bureau Chief

The Cleveland Clinic Summer Scholar Program is a one-of-a-kind opportunity that allows rising seniors to immerse into the hospital setting and see what it is truly like to pursue a career in medicine. The Summer Scholar Program is offered in two sessions during the months of June and July for a duration of 3 weeks. During those weeks, students are assigned to different clinical areas such as Radiology, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Family Medicine, and a variety of sub-specialties. At the end of the program, students must give a presentation about what they found most interesting during their time in the hospital.

Dr. Dana Sands, the Program Director, is the founder of the Summer Scholar Program and has been leading it ever since; her reasons for doing so are just as meaningful. “I have been fortunate to have great mentors, having come to the Cleveland Clinic as a medical student myself in 1993. I realize how life changing



Cleveland Clinic's Summer Scholar Program gives students a chance to see the true value of being a healthcare worker

the mentor mentee relationship can be. My hope is that this experience inspires young people to persevere through the challenges associated with becoming a physician when they see the outcome and the impact they can have on others' lives”.

The Program offers rising seniors the chance to be inspired by many different types of healthcare workers as they change their patients' lives for the better. Whether

it was Family Medicine or Surgery, all of the students were able to find their own unique reasons for why they want to pursue medicine and during the graduation ceremony students get to present about it; it's the day that Dr. Sands appreciates the most. “I am always personally inspired when I see that young students really pick up on the essence of what makes being a physician so special. It is fun to see how you each get excited by surgery and

technology, but I am most impressed when you pick up on some of the less tangible aspects like the doctor-patient relationships and the trust we must earn as physicians.”

My experience at the Summer Scholar Program made me surer that I wanted to pursue a career in medicine, specifically Cardiology. During the catheterization laboratory rotation, commonly referred to as cath lab, I was able to see

a wide scope of different cardiac issues that involved blockages, narrowing of the arteries, and so much more. On the other side of the cath lab was the electrophysiology lab (EP) where cardiac rhythm problems are treated. While looking at the wave graphs, the Cardiology team explained to me the relationship between the heart and physics. I found it very intriguing, so I decided to do my presentation on this topic for graduation day.

Overall, the entire experience has motivated many students to stay on the path to medicine because of how morally rewarding the career can be. If there is one piece of advice Dr. Sands could give students who decide to pursue medicine...it would be, “Don't be afraid of the hard work, the outcome is more than worth it.”

For more information about the program, visit <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/florida/medical-professionals/education/summer-scholar-program>

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Cute or Problematic? Netflix's Purple Hearts

Christy Joshy

Social Media Editor

Images courtesy of Netflix



For a generation ruled by the desire for independence and free will, the “marriage of convenience” fictional trope in entertainment media is extremely popular. This trope presents two individuals who are usually not keen on the other but decide to enter marriage for personal benefit, not commitment and love. But by the end of the story, they end up falling in love and gaining mutual respect. Netflix's new movie, Purple Hearts, which is based on the novel by Tess Wakefield, features this cliché. Though it had the poten-

tial to touch on vital issues while displaying a delightful love story, it ultimately fails to do the former.

The main character of this film, Cassie Salazar, is a bartender and a singer/songwriter struggling to live her day-to-day life trying to afford medicine for her type 1 diabetes. Luke Morrow is a Marine in training who was a former drug addict and now owes \$15,000 to his dealer. Luke meets Cassie a week for the first time before he leaves for Iraq at the bar she works at, but they almost immediately start arguing during the first

conversation. However, after Cassie finds out that military spouses can get health insurance, she and Luke enter a fraudulent marriage, as Luke would also get enough compensation to pay his debts gradually. The story revolves around the two characters' journey to protect their sham marriage, so they don't get caught since military law considers their arrangement a crime.

Although Purple Hearts had a compelling storyline, it fell short in appealing to a broader audience. The movie has taken up social media platforms like Tik Tok by

storm, with many viewers praising the film. However, many others have called out the apparent problematic message. For instance, one of Luke's marine friends, Armando, toasts their upcoming draft to Iraq and says, “This one is to life, love and hunting down from goddamn Arabs, baby!” Cassie expresses her distaste towards this remark, but Luke commands her to sit down, essentially letting his friend off the hook for alluding to wiping out an entire ethnic group. Armando's racist rhetoric is not uncommon for many Amer-

icans who call themselves “patriots,” but what was unsettling to viewers was how quickly this incident was overlooked in the movie. Cassie is later shown being friendly toward Armando, and no character development on Armando's part was demonstrated either.

At the start of the story, Cassie's character is politically liberal and upfront about her opinions and perspective. However, towards the end of the film, it felt she had somewhat abandoned her views for Luke, who was now her lover.

Purple Hearts had the potential to have the range to speak on prevalent issues such as medical inaccessibility and the toxic military complex. It could've also served as an example to illustrate communal bipartisanship, but it did not fall through. The story itself felt incomplete for a film with such a heavy political component. However, the romantic element carried the plot, and that is likely why it has been holding the Netflix top spot.

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New movies worth watching

Lachin Kerbabaeva

Online Editor

Images courtesy of IMDB



The sixth film in the dinosaur franchise Jurassic World Dominion hit theaters in June and still is running.

For anyone who has not seen it: the plot is the continuation of the story about Isla Nublar, which was destroyed. Meanwhile, some dinosaurs are transported to the mainland and break free. As a result, dinosaurs became full-fledged inhabitants of planet Earth again. People try to maintain a peaceful coexistence, but

living next to the planet's largest and most dangerous inhabitants is becoming increasingly difficult.

The film stars Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, and DeWanda Wise. The cast included Sam Neill, Jeff Goldblum, and Laura Dern, who returned to their roles in the original Jurassic Park trilogy. The running time of the film is 2 hours 46 minutes. Colin Trevorrow directed the movie and co-wrote the screenplay with Emily Carmichael. The

musical score for the film was composed by Michael Giacchino, composer of the previous parts of Jurassic World. According to the news, Jurassic World Dominion will not be the last film in the franchise, and it will mark the "beginning of a new era" in which humans must adjust to life among dinosaurs.

The next worth watching is the animated film Lightyear for kids and adults to enjoy. It is a prequel and a spin-off to the popular Toy Story franchise created by Pixar. Buzz Lightyear is originally a Space Ranger and one of the main characters in the Toy Story films. He belongs to the boy Andy and is friends with another toy - the cowboy Woody.

Based on the history of the world of this franchise, Buzz Lightyear's toy was modeled after a real spaceranger who flies into space and bravely explores the endless expanses for the benefit of all humanity.

The main character of the animated film is the real Buzz Lightyear. It shows his adventures in space and on Earth. The well-known Chris Evans voices the main

character. It is noteworthy that Buzz got his name in honor of astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, the second man on the moon.

Anticipated Elvis hit theaters on June 24 and still running in the cinema. It is a biopic by Baz Luhrmann, in which Austin Butler played the legendary Elvis Presley. For the 30-year-old actor, this role is currently the most important and labor-intensive in his career. Butler spent nearly three years working on Elvis. While preparing for Elvis, Butler even met his character's ex-wife Priscilla Presley. At Cannes, Elvis movie received a 12-minute standing ovation.

The next movie will delight Marvel fans. Thor: Love and Thunder hit theaters on July 8. It is a sequel to the 2017 film Thor: Ragnarok and will mark the return of Thor to the MCU following the events of Avengers: Endgame (2019). Chris Hemsworth returned to his main character. Also in the film are Valkyrie (Tessa Thompson), Chris Pratt (Star-Lord), and Korg (Taika Waititi).

Also in the movie will

be Natalie Portman. Her character will appear on the screen for the first time since 2013 when Thor: The Dark World was released.

In the center of the plot, Thor tries to find inner peace after the fall of Asgard and the events of Avengers: Endgame, but he has to oppose Gorr, who seeks to exterminate all the gods. Thor calls on Korg, Valkyrie, and Jane Foster to help and joins forces with the Guardians of the Galaxy.



Image courtesy of IMDB

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The perfect summer, fall reads to get into now

Melaina Lawrence

Staff Writer

Images courtesy of Google.com



In April, Netflix aired the first season of Heartstopper. Readers and nonreaders alike fell in love with the TV show, and while it is absolutely perfect, I must suggest that you dive into the graphic novels first. The series, by Alice Osman, is the perfect summer read. It features all the angst of young love, and the perfect amount of quirkiness that will leave you wanting more of Nick and Charlie, which is exactly what Osman delivers in her next novella, Nick and Charlie.

Here, we learn even more about our inseparable pair. Except, Nick leaves for university soon and Charlie still has a year of school left. Prepare to find out if all first loves are in fact doomed to fail. After reading and falling in love with all the characters, then and only then, is the best time to then snuggle into a blanket and binge the TV series and fall for them all over again.

It should be everyone's mission to read at least one Taylor Jenkins Reid book this summer. So, to get you

started, I suggest the Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo. Monique Grant's life is not exactly pitch perfect at the moment; her husband has left her, and her career is not exactly where she hoped it would be by now. Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood star, recruits Monique to write her biography and so the story sets off with them in Evelyn's apartment with Evelyn reciting the journey of her career, her seven husbands, and forbidden love. Now you, like Monique herself, may be wondering why her? Why a random journalist that isn't even at a top position at her firm to tell the story? Well, read to find out all the ways the lives of both women intersect.

This next read is more heartbreaking than the pre-

vious two, but precious, nonetheless. In You've Reached Sam, Dustin Thao presents the heartbreaking story of Julie and Sam. The two make plans for their lives and relationship beyond high school. Sam dies. Heartbroken, Julie decides to call him one last time. To both Julie's and my surprise, Sam answers. Just as he promised he'd always answer if she calls. She has a chance to say goodbye properly, but does she want to? Is she willing to now let Sam go? In their story, we get to see the most devastating story of a first love, but also have the most beautiful experience reading about relationships—both the romantic and friendly kind.

In Instructions for Danc-

ing, Evie no longer believes in love. She has seen it fail time and time again all around her and has decided it is not worth the pain. While donating old books, she gets one in return that has the address of a dance studio. After receiving the book, she also has this new power of seeing how couples first met and all the heartbreak that will tear them apart. Upon visiting the studio, she meets X. His lifestyle involves saying yes to everything and living spontaneously. It was never in the cards for Evie to fall in love, but when the spark begins with her and X will she be able to let herself fall completely and irrevocably in love knowing the risks involved?

To end us off on a gory

note, the next suggestion is a horror novel, To Be Devoured by Sara Tatlinger. This unnerving read is about Andi who develops an obsession with vultures. As she watches them devour their carrion, she observes that the vulture in some ways, have simply immortalized their prey—vultures have been around for ages, and anything they've eaten becomes a part of them. A mere observation turns into a burning desire to not only join vultures but to emulate their lifestyle, including feeding habits. Andi has to know what a carcass tastes like, she has a desire to sink her teeth into rotting flesh that cannot be tamed. Stitching together wings of her own, she hopes to join a flock of vultures and gain her freedom. This read is not for the queasy or faint readers, but definitely worth checking out if you can handle it.

This summer, take some time to cuddle up with a good book and fall in love with (or hate, your choice) characters and stories.

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A look into Love Alarm on Netflix

Scarlett Valencia Pulido
Staff Writer

Would having a “love sensor” help us find love? Well, that is an idea Love Alarm was willing to explore in its futuristic series, where a cell phone app allows you to know who likes you within a 10-meter radius.

This Korean drama goes over the impact an app like this could have on our interactions in the real world while covering the benefits and drawbacks of its mere existence.

When I first saw the show on Netflix, I became intrigued by what this app could do. I had not heard of anything like it and wanted to see the Love Alarm in action.

In the show, Kim Jo-Jo, played by Kim So-hyun, lives in a society driven by the Love Alarm app. The platform’s creator, who remains anonymous, decided to include a ringing notification that alerts the user each time someone that has a “crush” on them is close without revealing who this

person is. But for the app to work, both individuals must have downloaded it on their device.

Jo-Jo goes to high school and is convinced she does not want to download the app, but that does not mean she does not think about what would happen if she did.

The app’s success is quite understandable. Wondering who likes you is a thought that comes across your mind at some point in your life. This app surely facilitates the process of figuring out if a person likes you or they

are just being nice to you.

It is important to point out that using the app does mean you are willing to expose your true feelings. Same way as how apps allow you to see who has seen your text message if you allow others to see if you left someone on “read” or not when you are having a conversation on your mobile device.

Throughout the show, we see how Jo-Jo makes new friendships and finds love along the way while trying to figure out who she wants to be with, Lee Hye-yeong

(Jung Ga-ram) or Hwang Sun-oh (Song Kang), who are best friends. They are pretty much the good boy and bad boy of the show, but they are both kind and sweet.

Yet this is not the stereotypical high school drama, even though it sounds that way. But as a matter of fact, it has many unexpected and intense events occurring left and right, starting with the mystery of who created the Love Alarm App.

If you are not into high school dramas do not fret, you are in for something

different. I can tell you this two-season show does not end when the characters graduate high school. They actually go on to follow their own paths while still being attached, in some way or another, to those they once knew in school.

If you want to start watching Korean dramas, this is where you can begin. You can expect suspense, love, trauma, mystery, likable characters, art and technology. And if you are into K-Pop or fashion, there are many moments where the characters are immersed in these two worlds. Love Alarm is a must-watch series that will keep you interested until the last episode.



Image Courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes

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How Final Fantasy 7 remake’s music rekindled my love for video games

Ryan Marin
Central Bureau Chief

Video games have always been an important part of my life. Getting a PS3 for my sixth birthday transformed my childhood, as I spent hundreds of hours playing games. These games that allowed me to shut out the world and what was going on around me, which was something I really needed at the time. The game that had the biggest impact on me was Final Fantasy VII. I’ve played through that game at least five times, and it’s my favorite game of all time. As I’ve grown up, I developed more responsibilities and had less time for video games; I had forgotten how much I loved gaming. However, when I learned that a remake of Final Fantasy VII was released in 2020, I jumped to buy a PS5 so I could play it.

The premise of the game is that you are Cloud Strife, a mercenary hired by Ava-



Image Courtesy of Steampowered.com

lanche to destroy mako reactors. Avalanche is an organization of eco-terrorists who want to save the planet from the Shinra Electric Company. Shinra is draining the planet of mako, the liquid version of the planet’s life stream, to use as an energy source. This is slowly killing the planet, so Avalanche works to stop Shinra and save the planet through any means necessary.

There are so many parts of Final Fantasy VII that I love. The amazing characters, such as Cloud, Tifa, Barrett, and the menacing villain Sephiroth, that I would grow to know and care about.

The iconic locations such as Midgar and the Gold Saucer that I have memorized in my head. The inspiring message it provides about the environmental impact of humans and how we are killing our planet. However, what always set Final Fantasy 7 apart for me was the music. Final Fantasy VII’s music was composed by Nobuo Uematsu, one of the greatest video game composers of all time. The original Final Fantasy VII came out in 1997, and the remake came out in 2020. The remake took the 2D game and turned it into a 3D world. Uematsu also remade the

original soundtrack, providing a new take on classic songs. Hearing new renditions of songs that defined my childhood was an amazing experience, and none more than the track “Tifa’s theme.”

In the beginning of the game, Avalanche destroys a mako reactor. After the hard mission you return to Seventh Heaven, a bar and the base of operations for this small part of Avalanche. In the background, the song “Tifa’s theme” is playing. It’s meant to incite feelings of reassurance and warmth, like you are returning home from a long day of work to a hot meal and loving family. This beautiful song made me feel like I was reuniting with a group of friends I hadn’t seen since my childhood, and they were welcoming me back with open arms.

That moment helped me rekindle my love of video games. Seeing all those characters together with “Tifa’s theme” playing in

the background made me feel like a child again. I wouldn’t trade that moment for anything, and it will stick with me for a long time. It was a profound moment that led me to thinking about the impact video games has had on my and many others’ lives.

Video games are an escape from our harsh reality. For a few hours, we can forget about our stresses and responsibilities and exist in another world. Players can go on a journey to explore new places, meet new people, and do incredible things. Most importantly, they can affect our emotions. We grow attached to characters, and we care about what is happening to them. Whether it’s happiness, sadness, anger, or nostalgia, video games can make you feel something. Video games are a special medium that I will always love, and “Tifa’s Theme” helped remind me of that.

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NBA Free Agency and Trade News

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

NBA free agency started off with a huge bang, when the Knicks cleared about \$19 million in cap space, by trading Nerlens Noel, Alec Burk, 2023 and 2024 2nd round pick, with \$6 million to the Pistons. They obviously did this trade to eventually sign rumored and coveted guard, Jalen Brunson. They got their free agency wish when Brunson signed a 4-year \$104 million deal.

Free agency just continued to get better, when an extremely gutsy trade took place. The Hawks traded Danilo Gallinari to the Spurs for 1st time all-star Dejounte Murray, a 2023 1st round pick, unprotected 2025 and 2027 1st round picks, and a 2026 pick swap. Gallinari was eventually waived as expected. Also, he signed with the ECF champions, the Celtics in free agency, on a 2-year \$13.3 million deal.

Way before free agency officially began, the Mavericks and Trailblazers made some impactful trades to get better. The Mavericks acquired Christian Wood from the Rockets for the 26th pick in the draft, Boban Marjanovic, Marquese Chriss, Trey Burke, also Sterling Brown. They also signed Javalee McGee to a 3-year \$21 million deal. The Trailblazers acquired Jerami



Grant from the Pistons for a protected 2025 1st round pick, and other draft assets.

A savvy decision that facilitated other deals, was when James Harden declined his \$47.3 million player option, to help the 76ers get more significant pieces around Joel Embiid and Harden. The 76ers acquired De'Anthony Melton for significantly injured Danny Green and the 23rd pick in the draft. They were able to pry PJ Tucker from the Heat, by giving him a 3-year \$33.2 million deal. Also, they signed Danuel House to a 2-year \$8.5 million deal. Then Harden was able to sign a 2-year \$68.6

million deal, with a player option in the 2nd year. These moves kind of made it like a Rockets reunion of sorts.

Many all-star caliber players signed max contracts and extensions, to solidify them for the future, on their respective teams. Bradley Beal signed a 5-year \$251 million max contract. Karl Anthony-Towns signed a 4-year \$224 million supermax extension. Two-time MVP Nikola Jokic, signed a 5-year \$264 million extension. Ja Morant signed a 4-year \$226 million designated rookie extension. Devin Booker signed a 4-year \$224 million supermax extension. Zion

Williamson signed a 5-year \$193 max rookie extension., Zach Lavine agreed to a 5-year \$215 million max contract. First time all-star, Darius Garland signed a 5-year \$193 million max rookie extension. Lastly, Damian Lillard agreed to a 2-year \$122 million extension.

Two other win now trades that were made was the Celtics acquiring Malcom Brogdon for Daniel Theis, Aaron Nesmith, 2023 1st round pick, and other marginal players. The shocking trade was when Utah traded 3x DPOY Rudy Gobert to the Timberwolves for Malik Beasley, Patrick

Beverly, Jared Vanderbilt; unprotected 1st round picks in 2023, 2025, as well as 2027, a 2029 top-5 protected pick, and other marginal players. This type of haul made the trade market for two other all-star players extremely steep.

Since they traded Gobert, the Jazz are finally making Donovan Mitchell available for trades. The top teams interested are the Heat and Knicks. As of right now, no trade is imminent. The biggest news that basically broke the internet, was when WOJ reported that KD requested a trade. When I saw this breaking news notification, it was extremely shocking because there wasn't any real indication of this.

A couple days before, Kyrie Irving requested a trade, the Lakers were his only suitor, and then he opted into his \$36.5 million option. It was then rumored that the Lakers would trade for Irving and KD, which would've been wild. The top teams interested in KD are the Heat and Celtics. Currently, there isn't any trade imminent, NBA analysts are speculating that KD will begin the season with the Nets. KD will meet with Nets management extremely soon.

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Journalist Jason Jackson's impact on sports

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief



Jason Jackson interviewing the Heat greats, D-Wade and Coach Spo (Miami Herald.com)

Jason Jackson grew up in a small town in Cleveland, Ohio with his parents and siblings. In his hometown is where people he grew up with said, "he found that great connection between sports and writing." When he was younger the sports he loved to play were mainly basketball and football. While in school, most of his teachers noticed and said, "he was a pretty good writer for his age, and that he had great public speaking skills."

After a while, he started noticing the same exact things that his teachers had told him. Once he found that great connection, he never ever looked back and he knew what he wanted to pursue in his future endeavors. His

friends said, "he'll never ever forget what he learned and experienced in his hometown."

Jackson graduated from high school 1990, and decided to attend Bowling Green State University, in Toledo, Ohio. He pursued communication as major in college. Since his first week at Bowling Green State University, he was making extremely great strides. He used everything he learned from his hometown to keep motivated on his many goals, which were to pursue a career that involves sports, writing and communication; and provide his family with an even better life.

While at Bowling Green State University, he was serving as a resident advisor for a sector called Bromfield

Hall. Also, he became the President of the Undergraduate Student Government. He also became a news director, talk show host, and anchor for WFAL-AM and WBGJ-FM at his college. Jackson said, "Indulging in these different duties in college prepared him for what was to come in the future." In 1994, Jackson graduated from college with a master's in communication, and said he cherished the friends and experiences he had in college.

Right after he graduated, Jackson was able to land a job

Gameday. He also was able to contribute to other things like SportsCenter, ESPNNews, and ESPN.com. He really cherished his time and experience while working for ESPN.

He worked for ESPN for seven years. Then in 2003, he endeavored to host his own sports talk radio show. His show was called The Jax show. Jackson has been working for the Miami Heat for 16 years as a television host and a court side reporter. He said this was one of his best jobs because he's working for an

Jackson has been working in the mass media world for almost 30 years. He is a very accomplished black man. Another award he received in 2019 was Journalist of the Year for the National Association of Black Journalists Sports Tasks Force. When he received this prestigious award he said, "I was honored and emotional that all my hard work has come to fruition."

Also, Jackson is the founder of an organization called, the Jax Fam Foundation. This foundation was founded in 2016, with its main goal to inspire, empower, support, and fundraise for different organizations that are helping individuals who are less fortunate than most people. "The Jax Foundation means everything to me because helping others with opportunities that I didn't have when I was younger, is a huge check mark where I grew up."



Jason Jackson interviewing Heat great, LeBron James (Bleacher Report.com)

as a sports reporter and anchor for WSVN-TV in Miami. He worked there for a year. Then in 1995, Jackson was hired by ESPN to be an anchor and reporter. He was an anchor for shows like NBA2Night and NBA Matchup. Also, he co-hosted ESPN Radio's

organization like the Miami Heat, who follow their leader Pat Riley, who continues to strive for greatness, even at his older age. He also hosts a tv show called Inside the Heat on Fox Sports Sun, that has won an Emmy.

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