IN THIS ISSUE

"Joe Biden Wins the 2020 Presidential race!" - pg. 2
"What it’s like owning three businesses during a pandemic" - pg. 6
"Alex Trebek’s death: the loss of a TV legend" - pg. 4
"Back to Magnolia Lane" - pg. 10
"Time to clean up your state, Pennsylvania" - pg. 5
"Capturing our new normal through Zoom drawings" - pg. 7

"Time to clean up your state, Pennsylvania" - pg. 5
Joe Biden Wins the 2020 Presidential race!

Joe Biden celebrated his victory on a stage surrounded by his family. Pictured here he holds his youngest grandchild.

KYLIE STOLTZFUS
Associate News Editor

With 290 electoral votes, former Vice President Joe Biden is named the 46th President of the United States of America. The winning projection was made following the confirmation of Pennsylvania’s swing in favor of the Biden Harris ticket. The results of the 2020 election made history, with Kamala Harris being elected as the first Black woman, and the first woman of east Asian descent to be elected to the office of Vice President of the United States.

Saturday, November 7th - the day former Vice President Biden was named winner of the 2020 election, several of President Trump’s tweets focused on the results of key battleground state, Pennsylvania. With PA’s 20 electoral college votes hanging in the balance, the result of the swing state was a coveted outcome for each candidate.

In a statement released on Saturday, November 7th, President Donald Trump says, “The simple fact is this election is far from over.” He continued to say, “Beginning Monday, our campaign will start prosecuting our case in court to ensure election laws are fully upheld and the rightful winner is seated. The American People are entitled to an honest election: that means counting all legal ballots, and not counting any illegal ballots.”

It is expected that lawsuits and recounts will take place in the coming days and weeks, as is the legal right of the Trump campaign. Lancaster Online reported that Pennsylvania Representative Lloyd Smucker encouraged President Trump to accept election results saying, “Regardless of party, all Americans must accept the result of the election once they are certified, including President Trump and former Vice President Biden.”

Former President George W. Bush released a statement on Sunday, November 8th congratulating President-elect Biden on his victory. Bush praised the high-voter turnout seen in this election, stating that this is a sign of our healthy democracy at work. Bush says, “No matter how you voted, your vote counted. President Trump has the right to request recounts and pursue legal challenges, and any unresolved issues will be properly adjudicated. The American people can have confidence that this election was fundamentally fair, its integrity will be upheld, and its outcome clear.”

20 years ago, in the 2000 presidential race between Al Gore and George W. Bush, a recount was called turning Florida’s 25 electoral college votes from Gore to Bush, securing the presidency for Bush. Lawyers went head to head as the case went through the courts and ended up in the US Supreme Court. The official winner of the presidency was not called until December 13th, 2000 when Gore conceded the race. Former President Bush continued by saying, “Though we have our political differences, I know Joe Biden to be a good man, who has won his opportunity to lead and unify our country.”

In a statement released on November 7th, former President Barack Obama says, “The election results at every level show that the country remains deeply and bitterly divided. It will be up to not just Joe and Kamala, but each of us, to do our part - to reach out beyond our comfort zone, to listen to others, to lower the temperature and find some common ground from which to move forward, all of us remember that we are one nation, under God.”

President-elect Joe Biden addressed the American people in a victory speech on Saturday, November 7th from the Chase Center in Wilmington, Delaware. Biden says, “I am humbled by the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide, but unify - who doesn’t see red states or blue states, only sees the United States.”

President-elect Biden praised his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, and his family for their support and encouragement during his campaign. “For American educators, this is a great day for you all. You’re going to have one of your own in the White House.” He also thanked poll-workers who volunteered during the election, his campaign team, and his supporters for playing their part in securing his seat as the 46th president of the United State.

“For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand the disappointment tonight. I’ve lost a couple of times myself. But now, let’s give each other a chance. It’s time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other again, and to make progress we have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies. They are not our enemies, they are Americans.”

Have an eye for news? Contact our News Editor at news@thesnapper.com
Donald Trump Brings Election Results to the Courtroom

President Donald Trump is seen by many to be ineffectual; however, regarding the judicial branch of our government, Trump has had a profound effect by appointing partisan judges at all levels of the federal courts. Over a week has passed since the 2020 presidential election, and it is abundantly clear that Joe Biden has won, but Trump’s camp refuses to concede and is seeking legal avenues to invalidate Biden’s victory.

Trump lawyer, Harmeet Dhillon went on Fox News and called on the Supreme Court to act saying, “We’re waiting for the United States Supreme Court - of which the President has nominated three justices - to step in and do something. And hopefully, Amy Coney Barrett will come through.” This is a deeply troubling statement considering the Supreme Court is meant to be an independent body, not an arm of the Executive.

The Supreme Court isn’t the only legal avenue Trump’s team is seeking a remedy from. Over 20 lawsuits have been filed alleging voter fraud in several swing states like Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Nevada.

The lawsuits are by and large being struck down because they lack evidence. A recent Pennsylvania suit alleging vast illegal ballot casting was called a bunch of “unsubstantiated stacked hearsay allegations,” by lawyers in the Federal District Court in Williamsport, Pa. This response is reflective of the consensus on the rest of these cases.

Throwing frivolous and conspiratorial suits is dangerous and corrosive to the United States’ democratic process. Trump supporters are being emboldened by the President to believe in baseless claims of voter fraud and illegal election activity. One of the arguments being levied against the states is that they weren’t allowing bi-partisan observation of ballot counting. When told that there was, in fact, observation, they moved the goalpost stating that the observers were forced to stand too far away to see. Rudy Giuliani, the lawyer to the President, claimed that they would need binoculars to see what they were counting, and that “anyone could have cast those votes...they could all be from Biden.”

The state appellate courts are holding strong in refusing to overturn election results on falsified and evidence lacking claims. As more votes were counted this week it became harder and harder for Trump to dispute the results of the election, for example, Biden’s lead in Pennsylvania passed the threshold for which a mandatory recount is allowed.

“Over 20 lawsuits have been filed alleging voter fraud in several swing states like Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Nevada.”

Trump’s appointments to the Supreme Court, Justices Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Coney Barret were all involved in the legal team in 2000 that argued against a recount in Florida. That decision won George W. Bush the presidency. One could argue that Trump selected these three specifically so they would rule similarly in his favor to get him reelected.

It would take naivety to believe that the Supreme Court has always stood as a bi-partisan body, but the fact that Justice Comey Barret’s appointment is the first instance in which the minority party cast zero votes in favor, shows just how partisan our politics have become. The culmination of this, being the outright rejection of the election results.

For now, it seems as though the courts, Supreme Court included, are acting with integrity despite the machinations of Trump’s team and Biden will take the White House come January.
Alex Trebek’s death: the loss of a TV legend

SHAUN LUCAS
Opinion Editor

On Nov. 8, “Jeopardy!” host George Alexander Trebek passed away after a long fight with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Trebek had hosted the famed trivia show since its first episode in 1984, according to the official “Jeopardy!” website. Along with acting as the show’s sole host for decades, Trebek marks the first celebrity passing to make me well up in tears.

In a sense, Trebek felt like an unseen member of my family; after dinner, my parents and siblings would surround the TV to watch “Jeopardy!” together. Every weekday at 7:30 p.m. In my earliest memories of watching, I remember feeling like the smartest kid ever answering a question right. As a teenager, right answers still felt great, especially when they related to every answering a question right. As a teenager, right answers still felt great, especially when they related to my course materials.

I view game shows as a source of televised innocence: programming dedicated solely to the happiness of all parties involved. Every episode of shows such as “Price is Right,” “Family Feud,” and “Jeopardy!” radiate positivity and high energy. In fact, the show’s are masterful at utilizing their simple premises to engage audiences. I remember exciting moments arising from three pieces of information: a contestant’s name, the contestant’s home town, and the fabulous amount of money potentially won in 30 seconds.

As I matured, however, I increasingly appreciated the charm of “Jeopardy!” The show’s elegant yet inviting tone was regulated by Trebek. As a host, Trebek was modest, articulate, and always seemed appreciative of each contestant. While obviously televised, Trebek’s demeanor made the program feel as a celebration of knowledge.

Speaking of celebrating knowledge, I loved the show’s constant featuring of both educators and students. As a son of a teacher, educators being spotlighted nationally for their students is an admirable act. In addition, education enthusiasts can win thousands by using their knowledge to answer the show’s questions.

Trebek’s recognition of learning went beyond the show itself. For example, in 2015, Trebek donated $1 million to Fordham University in New York, according to The Wall Street Journal. The show’s website lists the “Peabody Award” and “Media Access Award” as accolades of the program. The “Peabody Award” focuses on educational encouragement, while “Media Access Award” is given for, “honoring, highlighting and promoting disability and its depiction in film, television and new media.”

Along with empathizing with Trebek’s support of education, I sympathized with Trebek during his battles with cancer. On March 6, 2019, Trebek announced he was fighting stage 4 pancreatic cancer. This specific stage and form of cancer has a 1 percent survival rate, according to Johns Hopkins Medicine. Despite battling this ruthless disease, Trebek continued to host the show until his 2020 passing.

Trebek was an exceptional individual leading an exceptional program. It’s heart-wrenching to know Trebek won’t be returning in future programs. Hopefully, those fortunate enough to have been positively impacted by the show honor it by encouraging the spread of knowledge. All in all, while “Jeopardy!” won’t be the same without Trebek, I’m excited to read news of the show’s continued positive impact. Truly, from both me and my family: thank you Alex.

Time is yours, college students

HOLDAN HITCHCOCK
Associate Opinion Editor

The other night at 4 a.m., I painstakingly outlined a whole new career path for myself. Why did I do this? The answer is because that same morning Millersville University had begun registration for the 2021 Spring Semester and I believe a change of plans is in order. A change of plans is not new for me. I’ve been changing my life plans since I was a freshman in high school. I envy the kids when they are first asked, “what do you want to be when you grow up?” and they have always just known. They knew this is what they wanted and they pursued it. I am 22 years old and I still don’t know what I want to be when I “grow up.” Truth is, I don’t ever want to grow up.

As I said, Millersville University just had their latest rounds of registration for the Spring semester. In which I changed career paths yet again, yet this time I am way more optimistic that this one sticks. I will be majoring in Communications focusing in Journalism. Ever since I was a Freshman in high school; I have changed career paths nearly a dozen times. All career paths that focused on my interest and hobbies. When choosing a career path it has never been about money.

More so it was about will I have a sense of fulfillment, will I enjoy doing this job. Journalism is a career path that will let me focus on all the things I’m interested in or passionate about.

Ironically all throughout high school and even some time in college I hated writing more than anything in school. My hatred of writing flipped into a love for it shortly after joining the school paper. I hated writing for school because there were always too many rules or a strict prompt I was forced to resort to. Having the freedom to write on the things I care about or the opinions I have has been such a euphoric, eye-opening experience. I know this isn’t all that journalism entails and that there is much work to do in the field. Yet the thing I’ve always loved in school was open-discussions. I have never shied away from my thoughts being expressed about any given topics. Journalism is perfect for me because I am easily distracted. I will have an idea, I pursue that idea, and then something else comes along and that is my new pursuit. I don’t have the mental fortitude to focus on one thing for long extended periods of time. I am interested in too many things to be tied to one thing. I love too many things. I love to watch movies and TV.

I love to learn everything I can about the people that make them and how they create them. I love sports. I love baseball, I love golf, I love to watch football. I want to know all the scores and stats of every game, tournament, match and player. I love video games, whether they are deep confounding immersive experiences, or just plain dumb fun with your friends. I can talk or write about my passions all day with anyone. The brevity of writing an article, then being able to pivot to another concept from the one before is what excites me about a career in journalism.

If you are reading this and you were uncertain like me, just know it is okay to not know. Society may tell us that life has to be lived this way. We are told from a young age that we are supposed to go to high school, then go to college and get a job. The harsh reality is, that life rarely goes the way you plan. You shouldn’t be afraid to break this conformity we’ve grown accustomed to. I have dealt with the anxieties of uncertainty with my future, and the dread of getting older with no plan. Just be patient; there’s plenty of time to figure it all out. The time is yours.
Time to clean up your state, Pennsylvania

SCOTT MACHENY
Staff Writer

A major issue facing the state of Pennsylvania is litter and roadside trash. Many of the state’s major roads are full of trash, with litter in other areas such as parks, hiking trails, and along the banks of the Cono-
toga River. Littering has many environ-
mental consequences: Wildlife habitats are altered or destroyed, contaminants and other toxic matter can pol-
lute soil and water, and trash ingestion and entanglement are serious threats to wildlife. There are also financial ram-
fications, as the state of Pennsylvania spends over $14 million a year cleaning up roadside trash alone, according to the York Daily Record.

In late 2019, the Pennsylvania De-
partment of Transportation and Penn-
sylvania Department of Environmental Protection presented results of a survey they conducted earlier in the year to leg-
islators, business leaders, and commu-
nity members. The survey was a phone survey with 500 residents, and field teams conducting litter counts in 180 locations statewide. Approximately 96 percent of Pa. residents said littering was a problem, while the field teams es-
timated that 500 million pieces of litter were on state roads. The PA. DEP report states: “The ease of improper disposal of litter is not just a personal issue. Anyone who reads this to consider how they can properly separate recyclables from trash at your home. You can place a trash bag in your car or carry one with you on a hike. However, if you are interested in actively making a difference beyond your home, there are other ways to get involved.”

Adopt a Highway is a prominent or-
ganization dedicated to cleaning the spread of litter and roadside trash. They have a partnership with PennDOT and rely on volunteers to clean up their roads. Volunteers can select any two-mile roadway to clean and in exchange, PennDOT provides trash bags, safety vests, gloves, and notifications state police all events. As of 2020, over 1,300 vol-
unteers have adopted and cleaned 7,800 miles, per PennDOT records. But there is still so much more to be accomplished.

Since Pennsylvania has 118,226 miles of public roads. Currently, there is a bill proposal from Democratic state lawmakers that addresses the environmental harm of littering. The legislation, led by Repre-
sentative Tim Briggs of Montgomery County, is called “Zero Waste PA.” The legislative plan combats environmental problems caused by “throwaway” soci-
etics, also focusing on better education and recy-
cling programs. Some of the bills in this package want to raise financial penal-
ties for illegally dumping garbage, while others target the production of plastics, requiring that producers of plastic pack-
aging cannot sell or distribute in Pennsyl-
ania unless they are part of a recy-
cling program to take it back.

Un fortunately, Republicans control the Pennsylvania House of Representa-
tives, and likely won’t vote to pass this bill package written by state Democrats. The easiest way to enact change is at the local level, so get the bill passed could be a cleaner step towards reduc-
ing litter and roadside trash. To make your voice heard, you can contact your district representative and ask them to support “Zero Waste PA,” or simply tag them on Twitter in a tweet advocating for environmental justice and litter re-
duction in Pennsylvania.

So much action needs to be taken to truly make an impact in reducing waste tossed into the environment; yet every single person can make a difference. Whether through volunteering your time or calling on legislators to ensure your personal trash is properly disposed of, there are ways to help. It’s high time to clean up our state, not only to make it look beautiful, but to lessen environ-
mental harm. I’m calling on everyone who reads this to consider how they can make a difference. As Adopt a Highway puts it, “every litter bit counts.”

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Letters should be 250 to 350 words. They reflect the writer’s address and phone number. The Snapper reserves the right to approve, edit or reject any submissions.

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What it’s like owning three businesses during a pandemic

JAMIE BENNETT Staff Writer

Hundreds of small business owners closed their doors for good at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic without being able to say goodbye to their beloved customers. Marcie Natale, owner of The Gem Den, Bead Works, and Pottery Works, refused to accept that reality and was able to keep all three of her small businesses afloat with minimal issues during the pandemic.

“I expected some panic and brainstorming, but I knew we would be fine,” Natale says.

Gillian Green, a geology major at Millersville, works at all three sister shops. She only has positive things to say about Natale and the strategies she has taken in such an anxiety-ridden, time-crunch situation.

Instead of shutting all three of their doors, each of these businesses decided to run things different. Natale, along with a zero-interaction delivery service for Pottery Works by having customers order on Facebook or over the phone. “It was a huge success and saved our asses,” Green says. Pottery Works felt minimal damage with the flow of business since they were able to switch gears to the Internet with ease.

The other stores, The Gem Den and Bead Works, planned Instagram live videos in an attempt to sell items online. They did fair, but those two businesses did not compare to Pottery Works’ success, which was the main reason the owner was able to pay off the rent for all three venues. The Pottery Works hit the nail on the head because of the delivery procedures. There wasn’t enough demand for the jewelry and gem store for delivery options. Since companies have been opening their doors back up with a mask-on requirement, things have been slightly different for each of the sister stores.

Additional courtyard seating at Pottery Works has attracted a few customers, but overall, they have been slow since the re-opening. Bead Works has been hit the hardest, with little traffic that is only now starting to pick up.

The Gem Den, on the other hand, miraculously saw business boom after the doors were reopened. “We can barely keep up,” Green explains. They are figuring out ways to lead business from (now) most successful stores into the stores that are struggling. “We try to push it at the Gem Den to go get stones wrapped which seems to be helping a bit.”

No matter how well the delivery service worked, all three stores experienced shutdown related damage. “I think as a small business we got kind of rucked,” Natale says. “Paying three sets of rent and bills was insane. Obviously big businesses don’t have to worry that much about it. We are completely woman-run and didn’t want to rely on anyone else. We drove sometimes nine hours a day delivering and picking up pottery, but it saved all the stores.” Natale’s delivering strategies for Pottery Works is the reason all of these women still have a job with no struggles.

Lancaster city native, Emma Wolf, expresses her love and gratitude for the sister stores remaining open and keeping stable, along with many other gem-and-jewelry-lovers. Wolf says she loves going to The Gem Den to purchase stones, and bringing them over to Bead Works to make jewelry out of them, and would have been devastated if her routine was disrupted.

“There are no other stores like them around the area, and I sure as hell didn’t want to drive an hour to see some cool rocks,” Wolf says.

It’s clear that many customers share Wolf’s sentiments, since The Gem Den has been exploding!

Safety measures and precautions being taken at WIXQ

ANDREA YAHRAES Staff Writer

Protecting one another has become of paramount importance on college campuses, especially in clubs where equipment is shared by several students. The campus radio station, WIXQ, is no exception.

At the beginning of the pandemic, it was unclear what direction the station would go. As decisions were made to do hybrid scheduling for the fall semester, and bring some students back to campus, decisions also had to be made about how clubs were going to be run. The faculty advisor for WIXQ, Dr. Lowery Woodall, was hard at work trying to figure out how to keep his radio students safe. “I take the safety of my radio students very seriously, and I consider them my advisors that are in the PASSHE organization. It’s important on college campuses, especially in clubs that restrictions were appropriate but also that the students had a voice in the process of creating them.

Some of the restrictions for the fall semester were typical in our new world, such as wearing masks in common areas, temperature checks and making sure all of the equipment is wiped down before and after shows. Some of the restrictions were major changes for WIXQ, such as not allowing DJs to be hired out for campus events, no live events, and closing the longue down for the semester.

“I even bought supplies out of pocket because while making these decisions it was so unclear if they would be university provided or not,” Woodall adds.

The restriction against congregating in common areas was a bummer for many DJ’s and council members, as lunch at the radio station was a major part of station camaraderie, but it was still understood as appropriate. Alicia Garges, who is the program director and a DJ says that she is “glad that the organization is working to keep us safe, and that the restrictions are overall very fair.” However, things can always change.

“It is important to see the restrictions as a living document, and that they could always change,” says Woodall.

While students have been allowed back into the campus radio station, there have been added restrictions and safety measures implemented.
Capturing our new normal through Zoom drawings

A lot of these were drawn with a mechanical pencil until she moved to a Blackwing pencil. Gates originally liked the mechanical ones more because their point is so controllable and you don’t need to continuously sharpen it.

SYDNEY CLARK
Features Editor

Our current life has become a combination of communicating and learning through Zoom, something that is happening nationally, as it has created a new norm within society. Over the past six months, Millersville University art professor, Dr. Leslie Gates has been sharing with us captured moments of what this new world looks like through Zoom.

On May 6, Gates started a series of drawings that feature her Millersville University colleagues taken through online Zoom meetings. At this point, frequent Zoom meetings had been going on for about two months and this was the first time for her where Zoom didn’t feel quite as strange. Gates was then overcome with the idea to draw this interaction. Due to it being a Zoom call with just one other person, it wasn’t conducive for her to sit down and draw them in the moment. Instead, Gates took a few screenshots where following the meeting, she picked one that she felt showed exactly what it was that she wanted to capture in the drawing.

Once a certain screenshot is chosen, Gates will typically print it out to about the size of the paper that she’s working on and will then develop the drawing from the print out. Here, she will map out the drawing and get the composition established on paper. Once Gates starts a particular drawing, she tends to continue working on it in one sitting until it’s finished.

“I would describe the idea as kind of like this drawing impulse that I just learned to listen to. I think that one of the things that is true for many artists is that we draw to understand something, and so sometimes I feel prompted to draw something that is happening or something I’ve seen,” Gates says. “This is something I offer back to the community.”

There are multiple aspects that go into how Gates will decide on which of her colleagues she wants to draw. Sometimes a background will stick out to her, the way someone is sitting or if they are doing something that is quintessentially them. “One I did because the background was so attractive to me. The thing that made me want to start taking screenshots was actually what was happening in the background behind a person,” she says. Figuring out who someone is doing that is quintessential to who they are as a person varies to the individual. It’s easier for Gates to understand this if she’s been in lots of meetings with these people or if she knows them well.

“Sometimes a moment will just feel like an important time for Gates to start documenting. In a Zoom meeting discussing MU’s budget, there was something happening during and she wanted to capture this person’s demeanor or response to the situation. Gates has multiple drawings where she could pick out exactly what meeting they’re in just by looking at it.”

“I think another reason I chose someone is that there are people that I just spend a lot of time with, and it just feels like to not have them included would seem like the series wasn’t complete. I felt like they needed to be in there because of the amount of work we do together,” Gates says.

Something that artists have done historically is they act like a mirror of the world. Artists create work about the times that they’re living in and people who view it and think about it come to understand that world. According to Gates, that’s true in all art—literature, music, dance, and theatre. “This is why these people exist in the world. The tricky part for me is that I’m really acting like a mirror and it’s sometimes hard to look at yourself in the mirror. I care about what these people think, and I do feel like this is, in some ways, a gift to our community: to have chronicled this experience,” she says.

She explains that these are not glamorous drawings. Gates is not trying to catch them at their “best.” She talks about how she’s sensitive to the opinions of the people she has drawn in ways that she’s not typically sensitive to how people perceive her work, because it’s of them and not about ideas that she has. “So for that reason, that’s been really difficult for me to just kind of negotiate my autonomy as an artist and accomplish what I want to accomplish, but realizing that some of them might not actually be happy with the way that they’re pictured,” Gates says. Some of them really love the drawings, but one person commented about having COVID hair and felt self-conscious about what they looked like. Similar to seeing yourself in a photo, you may not always like what you see.

Over 25 drawings and hundreds of screenshots later, Gates will be having her series featured in a journal called “Art Education” from The National Art Education Association, where they will be publishing these drawings in their January edition. “It will be exciting to have them go to a wider national audience,” she says. Dr. Gates submitted these when the journal put out a special call for COVID related work. There were short written pieces, visual imagery, or some other forms of artwork. Her Zoom drawings were then peer reviewed and accepted into the journal.

“One of the things that is interesting to me about the drawings is how they read to people who don’t know the folks. It’ll be interesting when they get published in January to see what the response is nationally, because I think we are all in this Zoom world. Everyone is teaching through rectangles, so I think that there is enough commonality that people will respond positively to them, but I think they are especially interesting when you know the people in them,” Gates says.

This series was more nontraditional in terms of what her work over the last five years has looked like. Gates hopes that people will at some point get to see them in person because, as she states, a lot of sensitivity is lost in even really high resolution photographs. Once we finally return to campus, she hopes she can find somewhere where the drawings can be put and people can view them in person.
"Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey" directed by David E. Talbert, released on Netflix on Nov. 13, 2020. After a year of negativity and anxiety, Netflix gives audiences a fantasy musical centered around the magic of Christmas. Fortunately, the film succeeds in being a positive distraction, as well as a great introduction to the holiday season.

The film is told through the perspective of a story book. Said book tells the story of once-famed toy creator, Jeronicous Jangle, played by Forest Whitaker. Jeronicous now elderly and poverty-ridden, Jeron-icous’s granddaughter Journey, played by Madalen Mills, attempts to reignite her grandfather’s passion for toy making. The plots certainly standard family musical affairs, with no major surprises.

Of course, many musicals are typically reliant on grandeur of presentation over plot complexity, especially those more family-oriented. Fortunately, there’s a great balance between formality in color pallets while also being unique from the rest of the casts’ ensembles. I feel her dresses perfectly reinforced her personality, along with her motives to inspire her grandfather’s creativity.

Despite these visual elements being the film’s strongest characteristic, the film’s music was certainly solid. The songs, especially during the movie’s first half, we’re pleasing without being exceptional. There was unfortunately no song I found myself truly loving and/or wanting to replay after the film ended. A few songs, such as the introduction to Jeronicous’s toy shop, were also repetitive in terms of lyrics, thus feeling as if the song was extended way too long. Still, I’d imagine fans of more modern musicals would adore the film’s soundtrack.

The musical number scenes themselves seemed a bit off in terms of acting. As someone who’s been involved with musical theater, there was always a noticeable difference between a singer’s facial expres- sion while singing and talking. Maybe I’m just mis-taken, but there seemed to be little contrast between a singer belting a massive note and regular dialogue. The stagnation of expressions was strange and, at times, removed immersion from the spectacle.

While mentioning acting, it was decent. The ac-tors playing each character were certainly likeable, once again adding to the film’s uplifting demeanor. There were a few moments, even outside of the mu-sical numbers, where actors were not as emotional as the scene itself was trying to be. For example, it’s dif-ficult to be impacted by a sentimental, climactic scene when actors emote similar to how they would in mul-tiple other dialogue moments. In addition, awkward line deliveries occurred enough to slightly diminish the film’s quality.

The film’s editing was a bit undone. Often when adapted to a feature film, musicals attempt to recap-ture elements of the original stage production. This film, albeit not an adaptation, featured too many cuts. Constantly removing focus from what is on screen makes it troubling to truly appreciate the clear work put forth by creators. The film had entertaining group choreography, but I wish I could have seen more in- stead of rapidly moving from one angle to another.

Cinematography was certainly fine. The film has a clean “Disney-esque” appearance, which was likely in- tended due to the established cheery aura.

Overall, I give “Jingle Jangle” an 8 out of 10. I am happy I found a movie that made me smile for a ma-jority of its two-hour runtime. The film clearly has passionate individuals behind it, with the whimsical elements perfectly aligning with holiday cheer. If you like musicals and/or enjoy vigorously joyful holiday films, certainly check out this Netflix exclusive.
Thrills and COVID in NFL
Week 9

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The NFL season is starting to take shape. Nine weeks in, clear divisions are growing between teams. There are also fears that COVID-19 is in full swing, with several teams having to deal with positive tests in the locker room. While the league is doing its best to handle the situation, there are still concerns about the safety of players and fans.

On Sunday, the Buffalo Bills got the big win they were looking for. The Bills defeated the Seattle Seahawks 44-34, putting them at 7-2 on the season. Buffalo quarterback Josh Allen was outstanding, completing 31-38 and throwing for 415 yards, 12 touchdowns, and 122.6 yards per game. His performance is a performance that can change the narrative surrounding Allen, who routinely faces criticism about his play.

The Bills advanced to 7-2 on the season and look to win the AFC East for the first time since 1998. Allen delivered an MVP-type performance, yet he also threw two interceptions, which led to 10 Buffalo points. For comparison, Brady's Quarterback Rating was 83.6, 89.3, and 96.6 the last three weeks. It was an average performance across the board. Brady struggled mightily against the Saints defense, throwing zero touchdowns and three interceptions, and earning an dreadful 3.8 QBR.

Before the season started, who could have guessed that a Miami Dolphins-Arizona Cardinals game would be the most exciting game of the weekend with possible playoff implications? That is exactly what this game turned out to be. The Dolphins won the contest, beating the Cardinals 34-31, but both teams played remarkably well. It was a back-and-forth game with two high-powered offenses trading touchdowns until the final minutes.

A late Miami field goal was the difference. Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, in his second career game, improved over his debut, completing 20-28 for 285 yards and 3 touchdowns, and ran for an additional score. The Dolphins and Cardinals are both 5-3 and remain in comfortable position to compete for Wild Card seeds.

Finally, the Minnesota Vikings are a bad football team. They have a quarterback in the throes of a terrible season and a defense that is ranked 29th in the league. The Vikings have little hope of making the playoffs.
Tony Finau is one of many top ranked golfers that look to win the green jacket at Augusta National this week.

When 93 of the world’s best tee it up this Thursday, November 12., it will have been 578 days since the final day at Augusta National in April 2019. 578 days ago, Tiger Woods would go on to win his fifth Masters title and his 82nd PGA Tour victory; tying Sam Snead for the most victories of all time.

Wood is looking to defend his title and become the outright leader for the most wins. The conditions this week in Augusta will be wet and soft, with thunderstorms in the forecast all day Thursday it could possibly be a Monday finish at The Masters.

Going into this week the talk of the golf world has been U.S. Open Champion Bryson DeChambeau. DeChambeau is looking out to ‘destroy’ Augusta National this week. Comments from Bryson’s has him declaring that par this week for him isn’t the official par 72 but to him, he said he is playing it as a “par 67”. There is now reason to doubt DeChambeau’s ability. He is the betting favorite and is the ideal player to win at a ‘soft’ Masters Tournament.

The blueprint for Augusta National aligns itself with players who are long off the tee, that can fly the golf ball right to left and have to putt well. In the 2020 season, DeChambeau ranked first in strokes in gained off the tee and fifth in strokes gained putting.

This could be a historic weekend for DeChambeau as he is setting himself up for a second straight major championship win this week at Augusta National. The number the ranked golfer in the world is looking to secure his first-ever major championship win this week at Augusta National, Jon Rahm has five career wins (two this year) on the PGA Tour and six on the European Tour. Since turning pro in 2016 Rahm has been nothing short of spectacular. Rahm has just 93 professional starts on tour, and he has finished in the top 10 in 40 of those starts. Rahm is one of the most prolific ball strikers in the world and has a strong history at Augusta National, where he placed 19 in 2019, and a solo 4th in 2018. Rahm had a strong showing in his last start at the Zozo Championship at Sherwood Country Club with a T12 finish, just one stroke shy of making a playoff with Patrick Cantlay. The question for Rahm isn’t if he will win a major, it is a matter of when he will win it and I like his odds to get it done this week.

Bubba Watson

Augusta National already favors left-handed golfers, so it isn’t all that bold to assume that a two-time Masters winner has a chance to grab his third green jacket. Bubba Watson shouldn’t be overlooked. Watson is notorious for being an excellent and creative driver of the golf ball but his iron play has been outstanding. Statistics in the past few months have shown he’s been the best iron player on the PGA Tour. Watson ranks third in strokes gained on approach in the last month. Unfortunately, Watson has also been one of the worst putters in the world. In the 2020 season Watson ranked 210th in strokes gained putting; that type of putting will not get it done unless he does what he did in the third round at the CJ Cup; where he gained 7 strokes on approach to the green and lost 5.5 strokes putting and still managed to shoot a 65. Bubba just needs to put on tour average levels to contend this week.

Tyrrell Hatton

Tyrrell Hatton has been one of the hottest players in both the European and PGA Tours. Hatton had six top 10s in the 2020 season including his first win on the PGA circuit in the last month, Hatton has two top 10s and a win at The BMW Championship in Europe. The strengths of Hatton’s game comes from strong iron play and a hot putter to go with it. This combination of play is what made Hatton rank 2nd in the 2020 season in birdie percentage. If the course plays as soft as it ever has before and birdies are to be made, expect Tyrrell Hatton’s name to be at the top of the leaderboard.

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Tony Finau

Okay, so this one might be a homer pick. Tony Finau is one of if not my favorite(s) golfer. I’ve followed him almost all the rounds since the restart back in June. And believe me when I say this. Finau is the most frustrating golfer to watch. It doesn’t make sense to see one more with as much talent as Finau, someone who contends almost weekly, to only have one PGA win. From a statistical standpoint, Finau rates inside the top 10 in almost every ball-striking metric and ranks 12th in strokes gained total. There are two glaring flaws in his game. One of them being the flat stick, where Finau currently ranks 98th in strokes gained putting, and I’m shocked it is that high. The second flaw is the mental aspect. Finau is a name you see at the top of leaderboard in most tournaments, but Finau cannot find a way to put a solid weekend together to finish as the top name on the leaderboard. I would mention Finau as a player to watch if he doesn’t ever win? It is because he is simply too talented of a player and in his two Masters tournament appearance Finau finished T5th in 2019, and T10 in 2018. Hopefully Tony can enter Sunday two-to-three shots back so he doesn’t feel the nerves of being the leader on Sunday at The Masters.

Jason Day

Jason Day is the type of player that should be the blueprint for what a winner at Augusta should be. A great driver of the golf ball that works it right to left and one of the best putters in the field. Though it all depends on which Day we see. Do we see the flashes of brilliance of Day that made him a former number one player in the world? Or, do we see the injured Day? Day has had problems with back spasms, vertigo and recently had to withdraw from the CJ Cup with a pinched nerve in his neck while he was T4 heading into the final round. Day has had moments this past year that showed the greatness of Day in his prime. The Australian hasn’t won on tour since 2018 but he did have a T4 at The PGA Championship at Harding Park, and had a T7 last week at The Houston Open. It also is worth noting that Day hasn’t done worse than 28th at The Masters in every one of his starts there. Day has three T10s at Augusta National, with a T5 in 2019. Day also has a solo third finish back in 2013; on an interview with Golf Channel’s Feherty, Day revealed that he had thoughts about giving up on golf until he took third that weekend in Augusta. So here is to hoping Day has a strong week at a place he looks fondly.

Jason Kokrak

This is a really tall order. Expecting someone to win at The Masters on their Augusta National debut is nearly impossible; impossible because it has never happened before. Yet I feel Jason Kokrak could be up to the challenge. Kokrak is the top ranked American in the world and one of the players on the Tour that was named as an official world golf ranking this past season as he now sits at 24th best player in the world. With the conditions being soft this week, I feel this gives Kokrak an advantage over most of the players in the field. Simply because Kokrak can hit a little white ball, very, very, far. Kokrak ranks 8th in strokes gained off the tee in his last 50 rounds, and in the 2020 season, he finished 7th in driving distance with an average drive of 312.4 yards. Although we are only a little over 2 months in this year’s super season, Kokrak managed to get his first win at The CJ Cup in Las Vegas, just over a month ago. While the season is still young Kokrak currently sits 3rd in strokes gained putting. Not known for being a good putter he finished just outside the top 150 in strokes gained putting on tour last season, so if Kokrak can keep up the excellent driving and putting he has a great chance at shocking the world.