

## Meet North Shore High School's Newest Celebrities

By: Julia Capitelli and Veronica Frank

This year's four foreign exchange students have been quite the popular topic at North Shore High School these past few months. According to Albert Bergman, a 17-year-old from the Czech Republic, "Everyone seems to know my name".

Principal Eric Contreras said that he thought North Shore was "Just the right place to help [the exchange students] feel at home". After the prolonged period of isolation COVID-19 brought, Mr. Contreras wanted to help the High School students feel closer to other parts of the world. Thus, inviting exchange students from four different countries to attend North Shore was an opportunity to give our student body a taste of life outside of Long Island.

Contreras, when discussing the accessibility of extracurricular activities for the exchange student, said that the students "Are here to participate in the full spectrum of activities". The students can take advantage of the arts programs, sports teams, and the various club options here at the High School. He wanted to challenge the students in a new environment, but support them in any way they may need.

And now a Q and A with our local celebrities:

**Name: Albert Bergman**

**Age: 17**

**Home Country: The Czech Republic**

**Q:** What made you want to participate in the exchange program?

**A:** Both of my siblings were exchange students. My brother went to Massachusetts and really loved it; my sister went to London.

**Q:** Why did you choose America to come to?

**A:** I wanted to play lacrosse because it is so good here; plus, my brother had a great time here. My sister said however, that there were too many exchange students in London so it was not a true exchange experience.

**Q:** What has been the most surprising thing about attending school in America?

**A:** The school day in Czech is much longer. It's more like 8-10 hours of school; the break between classes is ten minutes and each class is 45 minutes. The maximum number of periods a student can have is 12. Also, all required classes are with the same people where as here there are so many different people in each class.

**Q:** How has it been making friends here?

**A:** English is not my first language and I am normally very extroverted, but the language barrier made it hard to express

myself". At this point though, I have made a lot of friends. I live a normal social life here.

**Q:** What is something you hope to get out of this trip/school year?

**A:** Europe and America do things very differently when it comes to politics and culture. I want to figure out how things work in America, by seeing important events happen and understanding why and how they happen.

**Name: Mila Frank**

**Age: 15**

**Home Country: Germany**

**Q:** Why did you choose America to come to?

**A:** I really liked how the school system works. Like how you can do different subjects other than math and reading. I like photography and bake shop. Those are really fun!

**Q:** How is the academic life here compared to the one in Germany?

**A:** In a foreign language, it's much harder to understand subjects like English and history. But in my foreign language class (French), I feel much more ahead of the other students.

**Q:** Have you been able to get into the extracurriculars here?

**A:** I tried out for the volleyball team and I played with the JV team. The girls on the team were really friendly and kind to me.

**Q:** What is one thing that you find difficult about your new American school?

**A:** The length of the school day is much longer here than it is in Germany and the homework level is a lot more. So I would like to have less homework and more time to hang out with my friends during the day, because I feel like I have no time now.

**Name: Maia Nisim**

**Age: 16**

**Home Country: Argentina**

**Q:** Where are you from in Argentina? How does high school there differ from here?

**A:** I'm from Buenos Aires and in school, we don't have choices... Like here you have options to choose from class-wise and in my high school in Argentina, you don't have options.

## Say Hello To Dr. Mabrouk: N.S.'s New Interim Assistant Principal

By: Mia Perciballi

A smiling Dr. Maram Mabrouk recently sat down with me in her new welcoming and homey office here at North Shore High School. As of August 20, 2021, Dr. Mabrouk is an Interim Assistant Principal here.

Before becoming an Interim Assistant Principal, Dr. Mabrouk was not too far away from the administrative offices. For the past 14 years, she had been a history teacher at North Shore High School. She taught Theory of Knowledge and Global History. Dr. Mabrouk was inspired to become a history teacher because of her role models: her grandmother and mother. Her grandmother worked as an elementary school teacher, and ultimately became an elementary school principal. Dr. Mabrouk's mother had a love of history and exposed her to it at a young age; thus, she decided to explore the field further, and a history teacher was born.

Dr. Mabrouk, who is originally from Bethpage, attended Hofstra University. While working on her Master's degree there, she met a future colleague, Mr. Brian Rodahan, who is currently a social studies teacher here at North Shore High School. He was a teaching assistant in a social studies education course Dr. Mabrouk was taking. He passed her resume along to the North Shore administrative team, and the rest is history (no pun intended).

Even though Dr. Mabrouk misses seeing the students in her classroom everyday, she is excited to be the Interim Assistant Principal. She says that it is everything she imagined and more. Yes, her work as Interim Assistant Principal is much different from her work as a history teacher, but nevertheless, Dr. Mabrouk demonstrates great problem solving and listening skills and is adjusting quite well. With her new position comes a new perspective of the school; Dr. Mabrouk now sees how the combined efforts of everyone in the building makes the school a wonderful place; she adds, "Any job isn't worth doing if the people you work with aren't amazing". Overall, Dr. Mabrouk loves the community that has been built at North Shore and she is working towards making that community even stronger. One of the most obvious ways she is building the school community is via her open door policy. She encourages communication between students and teachers as well as with faculty and staff in the building. Additionally, she wants to make sure that the students of North Shore know who she is and that they can come to her office and

talk to her. Dr. Mabrouk wants both students and staff to feel comfortable and supported in a setting where they have room to grow at the High School. Improving the school environment is a necessity, and Dr. Mabrouk is right on top of doing just that.

When Dr. Mabrouk is not meeting with teachers/parents/administrators, scheduling things, or attending school events, she loves seeing shows and plays at North Shore. She believes that it is important to incorporate the arts into education. She says, "Freedom of thought and creativity are some of the most important components of an education and those are two cornerstones of an arts education." Dr. Mabrouk wants to make sure that North Shore students feel happy in the building. One of her top priorities is to create a comfortable environment for kids to learn and explore. Therefore, the Interim Assistant Principal states that the students of North Shore High School should, "Try anything and everything" academically...Try different things".

Dr. Mabrouk, "practices what she preaches". During her downtime, she enjoys yoga and meditation. She tries to do at least thirty minutes of yoga a day, followed by at least a five minute meditation. She is also a social person and has definitely made sure to maintain her friendships regardless of how demanding her new position at the school is. While some people may think that it would be difficult to transition from employee to boss, Dr. Mabrouk believes that no matter what your title is, at the end of the day, every teacher and administrator has the same goal: to create an environment where students can learn and explore their interests comfortably.

Dr. Maram Mabrouk has been a beloved member of the North Shore High School family for quite some time, and it sounds like she will now leave her mark as an administrator. She has her goals set for the school and is excited to make things happen!



Photo Courtesy of North Shore High School's Website

(Continued on Page 2)



# North Shore's 2021-22 Foreign Exchange Program

(Continued From The Front Page)

**Q:** How do you like attending school here?

**A:** I love it. I feel like I'm in a movie. In Argentina, we don't have sports like this and we don't take it really serious. I practice cheerleading and I have, almost every day, practice.

**Q:** Have you made friends with North Shore students and how did that come to be?

**A:** The friends that I have now, they are from cheerleading. So I think joining sports as a foreign exchange student is like the key for making friends because in class kids don't really talk.

**Q:** What's something you've seen at North Shore that you wish you had at your school in Argentina?

**A:** It's so different. I think that the options that you have - like you have the chance to create your own schedule and you get to choose which classes you would like to be in. You can also change your classes.

**Q:** What's something you have at school in Argentina that you wish we had here?

**A:** Between each class, we have a little break for 10 minutes and here, like, you have to have a free period to have a break. If not, you have like five minutes, but in five minutes you can only go to your next class.

All four of North Shore's current exchange students are thriving in their new school. In addition, their new classmates are thrilled to have them here. We look forward to seeing them in our hallways and classrooms for the rest of the school year.



**Name:** Nicola Luciano

**Age:** 17

**Home Country:** Italy

**Q:** Where are you from in Italy? How does high school there differ from here, if at all?

**A:** I'm on the Southern part, in [the] south of Italy, between Rome and Naples in a medium sized city called Formia... In the first year of high school, they choose a class for you... you're going to share five years of high school with [the] people in your same class.

**Q:** How do you like attending school here?

**A:** It's good. It's really different from the school in Italy. It's longer, you change classes, you change classmates, so this is totally different from Italy. But, it's really cool.

**Q:** How is the American lifestyle different from where you're from?

**A:** First of all, you have less time in the day because the school day is longer and you do sports... In Italy, and in the European system, the school day is like five hours so you have the rest of the day for going out and just doing things.

**Q:** Have you made friends with North Shore students and how did that come to be?

**A:** Yes, especially with the people I share my lunch period [with] because I have time for talking with them, so [these are] the best people who I relate to.



Albert Bergman



Mila Frank



Nicola Luciano



Maia Nisim

## The Viking View Editorial Staff

**Assistant  
Editor-in-Chief:**

Michael Ye

**Editor-in-Chief:**

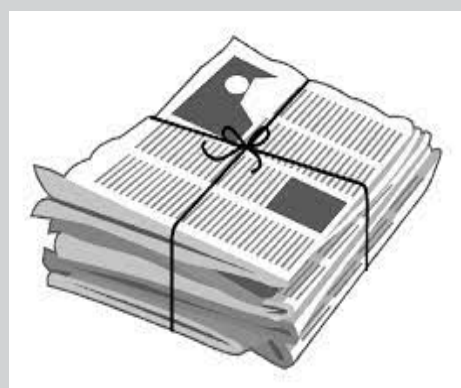
Jessica Lillis

**News Editor:**

Sophia Marchioli

**Advisor:**

Sara Millman



**Features Editor:**

Liliana Stella

Are You  
Interested In  
The Things  
That Happen  
In  
Your School?  
Your Town?  
Your State?  
Your Nation?  
Your World?

If So,  
The Viking  
View Wants  
You On Staff!

Please reach out to  
an editor, Ms.  
Millman or our  
Google Classroom  
(n24kwjf) for more  
information.



## To Thrift Or Not To Thrift

By: Caroline Winchester

Throughout our history, pop culture and our artistic expression have long cycled through different trends. From the rise of abstract art in the 20th century to the addition of pants to womens' wardrobes, the things we think of as "cool" are constantly changing along with our values. Pants for women mirrored the women's suffrage movement happening at the same time; abstract art conveyed a new purpose of imagination and involvement in art forms. Our newest trend? Thrifting. It's a way to fulfill our promises to the planet and satisfy our inner desires for uniqueness.

With the help of social media and online marketplaces, thrifting, the act of purchasing items secondhand, especially clothing, has become increasingly popular among Gen-Z for a number of reasons, one being a higher focus on sustainability. Working conditions in most major fast-fashion companies, like SHEIN and H&M, are far from ethical in order to mass produce an ever-expanding variety of products. Also, the rate at which we buy and discard our clothing as we decide it isn't cool or exciting anymore is astonishing. According to data from the Environmental Protection Agency, 17 million tons of clothing ended up in landfills in 2018 alone. By buying items used, we're cycling old pieces into new homes, preventing more clothes from being mass produced, and eventually ending up in a landfill as well. You know the saying—one man's trash is another man's treasure.

In addition, thrifting our clothes provides us with the satisfaction of knowing that no one else is wearing the exact same pieces. It builds our sense of individual style, something much deeper than just the clothes we put on our body. Our choices in clothing represent an identity that we're proud of and want to express to others.

However, many have reservations about the impacts that wealthier people's increasing desires to thrift can have on communities. Are people buying secondhand simply because it's "trendy"? Many of the same people who in the past used to consider thrifting as dirty now view it as fashionable. A common concern is that thrift stores will run out of clothing, but even with a bigger crowd of thrifters, 84% of donated clothing still ends up in landfills, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. A more important concern though, is the gentrification of thrift stores in lower income communities. When large crowds of people from wealthier neighborhoods shop in thrift stores away from their own area, they drive up the prices, often making things too expensive for locals who depend on it for affordable fashion.

A solution? Not to stop thrifting all together, but to simply limit over consumption and stick to stores in your own community. A similar thing goes for purchasing clothing in general. It's not awful to buy clothes new, but we have to be aware of how fast we're discarding them. To achieve true sustainability, we must alter our mindsets when it comes to purchasing items and how much we let society's standards of what is cool and what is not influence us.

## Google: Simply Put, It's Everywhere

By: Raymond Lin

The Guardian: "Google breaks 2005 promise never to show banner ad" (1)

CNBC: "Google closes its Fitbit acquisition" (2)

Ford: "Ford and Google today announced a unique strategic partnership" (3)

These quotes all embody a central dogma that most companies have; they wish to grow their services and revenue. There is one direction that companies want to go and that's upwards. Google has this in mind when it undergoes its usual business, selling ads based on people's data (4). But Google doesn't want to let its business grow passively; instead, it is taking action to have an even more dominant position in the world.

A world without Google is a world with many troubles. Google's importance should not be diminished since its websites are some of the most visited in the world and play a role in many people's lives (5). If Google or YouTube went down, millions would be complaining. In addition to YouTube, Google has other popular apps and services such as Google Maps, Google Docs, and Google Chrome (6). The company has been building up an arsenal of applications since it launched BackRub, the initial name of what would become Google (7). Google has been doing this because it is a forward-looking company with interest and investments in many fields. In this endeavor,

Google has found large success such as in the case of Google Chrome and Gmail. However, Google hasn't only had success; it has failed quite a few times. Google Glasses, Pixel 4 gesture control, and Google Plus are all examples of failed initiatives. (8) Precious time and resources had been poured into these projects, but ended up as dust in the wind as they were canceled for being irrelevant. These faults, however, are vindicated due to its extraordinary performance elsewhere.

Google continues many of its practices from the beginning, innovating and entering new fields. It has expanded by acquiring companies left and right and gaining access to new technologies and ideas. After all, Google became a significant player in web video mostly due to its 2005 acquisition of YouTube (9). Google's map business is based on acquisitions as well (10). In line with this, it recently acquired Fitbit (2). This acquisition seems strange if one is out of the tech loop; why would Google buy a smartwatch company? It seems odd until realizing that Google created Wear OS, an operating system for smart watches. By acquiring Fitbit, the corporation can improve the software and how it is implemented on products. Google directly benefits from improving the quality of Fitbit watches since it also owns Fitbit now. The acquisition of Fitbit allows for Google to improve its software division and incorporate another thriving business into Google's apparatus. In addition to acquisitions, Google also pursues collaborations to expand its business. It has partnered with Samsung, another behemoth of a company, to better Wear OS (11). and spread its use by having Samsung's smartwatches use Wear OS. Another industry Google is greatly interested in is

(Continued On Page 4)

# A Tale Of Two Presidents

By: Matt Malone

President Joe Biden is just in the juvenescence of his presidency, and regardless of what side of the aisle someone is on, it's fair to say that things are not smooth sailing so far for the former vice president. According to CBS, Biden's approval ratings have dropped 19% to a mere 38%, closing in on former President Donald Trump's 35% imprimatur at about the same time spent in office as Biden. But why are these ratings so low in the first place? Well, Trump made a myriad of changes in the early stages of his presidency, including the tightening of the borders and the strengthening of the economy. Biden, on the other hand, has also made many changes, but they seem to be less popular. For one, he has redefined the definition of freedom with vaccine mandates. In addition, Biden is pushing to pass an infrastructure bill that will spend money on helping the country's armature, but it will come at a huge cost to Americans.

With regard to the US-Mexico border, Biden has left the border wide open. With an immense quantity of people illegally crossing the border, the Biden Administration announced that it will "begin deporting Haitians who have gathered in the thousands at the southern border in the past week after illegally entering the United States" (*New York Times*). Biden's attempt to remedy the situation angered both Republicans and Democrats. Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) says doing this worsens the crisis much more in that he promised the illegal immigrants citizenship and now he is breaking his promise by deporting them. Representative Ilhan Omar said, "Instead of stepping up deportation, we should be halting it. It's shameful that from administration to administration our cruel immigration policies remain." It seems that whatever Biden does can and will go wrong. Trump's policies were eerily similar in that they too turned away migrants trying to cross the border illegally. These regulations help decrease crime rates and remove another problem from the United States' already full plate.

The President also introduced new vaccine regulations that defy the United States Constitution. Biden's authoritarian mandate will force employers with more than 100 workers to require their employees to get vaccinated or tested weekly for Covid. Governor Tate Reeves of Mississippi said, "This is America, and we still believe in freedom from tyrants." It should be someone's choice whether or not he wants to get vaccinated. Forcing someone to get vaccinated is overreaching and stripping Americans of their freedom. On September 16, 2020, during a White House press briefing, no one "stated that vaccinations would be mandated" (*USA Today*). Trump was not going to mandate the vaccine and not because he thinks it doesn't work. As a matter of fact, he said, "The vaccines do work." However, the decision should be left up to the American people rather than having the vaccine forced on them. With these regulations, President Biden focuses the anger of the American people on the unvaccinated, therefore vilifying the unimmunized.

Lastly, Biden's infrastructure bill will

seek to spend money on fixing roads and bridges, giving Americans clean drinking water, and modernizing the power grid to help combat climate change. However, much of this will come at a cost; the number of jobs available to Americans will decrease due to corporations getting taxed substantial amounts of money. Also, it's nice that the conditions of roads and bridges will improve; however, there will be few people using them considering that there will be less job opportunities. On the other hand, Trump improved "major economic indicators-from GDP growth to inflation and unemployment rates" (*Fortune*). In the early stages regarding the economy, Biden and Trump did almost the exact opposite. Trump improved unemployment rates, while Biden will raise them, and Trump helped decrease inflation, while Biden helped increase it. This is evidenced by the increase in natural gas prices which "have surged more than 180% over the past 12 months" (CNN).

Everyone has his shortcomings; some do have more than others. Biden as president has struggled much more than Trump. He has hurt the American people more than he has helped it. Unfortunately, the majority of people saw Biden as the better option to fill the presidency. Trump, who had a solid four years of being president, fell short in 2020, but, oh boy is he now missed by many.

Sources:

*Binion, Thomas. "Here's What Trump Has Done Right in His First 6 Months." Fortune, Fortune, 21 July 2017, <https://fortune.com/2017/07/20/donald-trump-twitter-news-drain-swamp-6-months>.*

*Egan, Matt. "Home Heating Sticker Shock: The Cost of Natural Gas Is Up 180%." CNN, Cable News Network, 28 Sept. 2021, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/28/business/natural-gas-inflation/index.html>.*

*ELISSA SALAMY, The National Desk. "Biden's Approval Rating down to 38%, According to Poll." KEYE, KEYE, 11 Oct. 2021, <https://cbsaustin.com/news/nation-world/bidens-approval-rating-down-to-38-according-to-poll>.*

*Healy, Jack, et al. "Biden's Sweeping Vaccine Mandates Infuriate Republican Governors." The New York Times, The New York Times, 11 Sept. 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/10/us/republicans-biden-covid.html?searchResultPosition=1>.*

*Jones, Jeffrey M. "Last Trump Job Approval 34%; Average Is Record-Low 41%." Gallup.com, Gallup, 13 Aug. 2021, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/328637/last-trump-job-approval-average-record-low.aspx>.*

*Sadeghi, McKenzie, and Miriam Fauzia. "Fact Check: Neither Biden nor Trump Is Calling for Mandated COVID-19 Vaccines." USA Today, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 28 Oct. 2020, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/10/27/fact-check-neither-biden-nor-trump-call-covid-19-vaccine-mandate/6033139002/>.*

*Sullivan, Eileen, and Miriam Jordan. "Biden Administration to Deport Haitians in South Texas." The New York Times, The New York Times, 18 Sept. 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/18/us/politics/biden-administration-haiti-texas.html>.*



## Google Continued

(Continued From Page 3)

the auto industry and so it underwent a collaboration with Ford. Google collaborated with Ford to provide them with software and allow them to use Google's machine learning capabilities (3), giving Ford an advantage over others in the auto industry. Google also benefits from this since people will be using Google's software and products like YouTube in their vehicle. Google has been expanding its business with the future in mind and succeeding. This was made apparent when DeepMind, one of Google's AI labs, finally turned a profit after losing hundreds of millions of dollars (12).

Google has a hunger for growth, and it's sated by the ever-growing line of services and products. It has directly developed phones, wireless earbuds, smart home appliances, and dozens of other products (13). Google may have started as a way to get to websites, but it now provides so much more. It keeps its eyes glued to the future and where growth is poised. Google will engage in the world of technology for as long as it exists and will keep growing as much as it can, creating partnerships and new products as the years pass. Google's technology endeavors, such as in Artificial Intelligence and Quantum computing, (14) will lead to progress for its business. But it can do even more; Google could provide a bigger benefit to not just the shareholders, but mankind. The company has committed to several humanitarian efforts and recently announced a "\$1 billion investment in Africa's digital transformation" (15). Not only is this a gesture to support other humans, but it's also an attempt to expand. Google has a rather exclusive hand in opening a market to new customers. These types of actions are what make Google a captain of industry. But it's too easy to hype up Google's endeavors; Google is not perfect and it may fail quite a bit. It's important to think critically about facets of our world and consider multiple viewpoints. Even with this view, it's hard to deny that Google is expanding and succeeding. The average person should keep up with what is happening in the world and Google is important in this world.

Sources:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2013/oct/24/google-breaks-promise-banner-ads-search-results>
2. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/14/google-closes-its-fitbit-acquisition.html>
3. <https://media.ford.com/content/fordmedia/fna/us/en/news/2021/02/01/ford-google-accelerate-auto-innovation.html>
4. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/05/18/how-does-google-make-money-advertising-business-breakdown-.html>
5. <https://www.alex.com/topsites>
6. [https://about.google/intl/en\\_us/products/](https://about.google/intl/en_us/products/)
1. <https://www.theverge.com/2018/9/5/17823490/google-20th-birthday-anniversary-history-milestones>
8. <https://killedbygoogle.com/>
9. <https://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/09/business/09cnd-deal.html>
10. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2015/feb/08/google-maps-10-anniversary-iphone-android-street-view>
11. <https://blog.google/products/wear-os/wear-io21>
1. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/10/05/alphabets-deepmind-ai-lab-turns-a-profit-for-the-first-time-ever.html>
13. <https://store.google.com/us/?hl=en-US>
14. <https://blog.google/products/wear-os/wear-io21/>
15. <https://blog.google/around-the-globe/google-africa/google-for-africa/>

November 2021

## The Covert Enemy

By: Nikos Stavrianos

that can help students avoid falling into a trap, and planning with mom and dad about your solution to a possible situation is the first step."

The most crucial step is to learn to recognize peer pressure by discussing a few scenarios with a family member or friend. Doing this will make you ready and have a strategy as to how to deal with it when it arises. Your first step to fighting against peer pressure is to have a plan. Having a plan will help you instantly have an exit and feel comfortable enough to use it once you recognize that it is happening. Personally, my way to exit is to give an excuse. A simple "I don't want to" has been a useful phrase in my life. I have practiced with my parents and according to Mrs. Paula Stavrianos, a teacher, "You do not need to give any explanation." Second, we must become familiar with our inner voice, which is also called our "gut feeling", and learn to listen to it. "If you feel pressured and need someone to help you make the right decision, talk to someone outside your groups such as a friend, parent, coach, or teacher," says Mrs. Tsigos, a school psychologist at a middle school in Flushing, New York. Finally, to avoid falling victim to peer pressure, ask yourself, "Is this worth the risk and the consequences? Is this something I will be proud of myself for doing?" If the answer to these questions is no, you know what you should do.

Recognizing peer pressure as the covert problem will help you deal with it a lot more easily when it does happen to you, and you are caught off guard. Peer pressure

is simply manipulation. Understanding this will help you not feel tricked and foolish the next time you are about to fall into the trap and feel pressured to make the wrong decision. That pressure you experience will be easier to handle and rise against. Being true to yourself and your values is the most important way to not fall into peer pressure. Your friends should know you well enough to not ask you to do something that will make you uncomfortable. If this is not the case though and you feel pressure, you should know that they are not loyal friends and that you should try to be with people that help you feel better, not worse. Bottom line, take a time out, listen to your inner voice and make the decision that makes you feel proud.

Sources:

- Dr. Heddy Zirin, Board Certified Pediatrician, Woodbury Pediatrics.  
Mrs. Jennifer Tsigos, school Psychologist, Flushing, N.Y.  
Mrs. Paula Stavrianos, Licensed Special Education teacher, Roslyn Schools.



## What The Wildfires Out West Mean For New York

By: Veronica Frank

Since 1932, the West Coast of the United States has experienced destructive wildfires. However, at the turn of the twenty-first century, the rate of these wildfires grew exponentially. This year, from late June to early August, Oregon experienced some of the deadliest wildfires ever. Raging across one million acres, which is the size of Rhode Island, the fires were lethal to many of those living in areas of high risk. It was not possible for residents to contend with the potentiality of wildfire smoke entering their bloodstream and causing inflammation, as well as exacerbating bronchitis and respiratory infection.

Commonly known as the "California Wildfires," these infernos that occur during the U.S.'s summer months and are caused by pollution, lightning, and terrible droughts have continued to damage the West Coast. The fires that were affecting the East Coast were in Oregon. As a result of the wildfires in Oregon, the air quality levels reached 500; the normal air quality is around 30; the highest level of pollutants are carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, airborne particles, and aerosols.

For those who have lived on the East Coast for over 20 years, the increase in wildfires is a distant, almost unreal event that is only seen in various videos, pictures, and news articles. However, this year

during July, New Yorkers woke up to a hazy sky and a sun that was giving off an unusual orange light; these changes in the environment were a warning to New Yorkers that the tragic fires that were happening 2,000 miles away are becoming a problem close to home.

To reach this far east, the smoke from the Oregon fires was traveling on what is called the jet stream. This planetary wind system is a band of fierce winds that flow from west to east while transporting weather at high speeds. The Northern jet stream is what caused the smoke to rapidly come to New York from the West Coast. These smoke particles traveled over 3,000 miles, and affected the air quality, as well as the color of the sunrise and sunset. What many Americans are now realizing is that if the dangerous smoke from the blazes can reach that far from the source, the crisis that was once contained to one coast is going to become nationwide.

A cause of the destruction of wildfires is the ever-changing climate that is increasing in average temperature every year. Although over 85% of the fires are caused by humans dropping cigarettes, burning debris, and leaving campfires unattended, forests, with the warming of the planet, are becoming even more susceptible to burning. Wildfires are a symptom of global warming in northern latitudes, such as Oregon and Canada. Due to global warming, the northern latitudes are experiencing droughts which leave the forests and plains more prone to burning. In contrast,

New York does not experience wildfires because planetary wind belts bring up the southern maritime winds which have a large amount of precipitation, thus removing the risk of drought.

With cities in northern latitudes, such as Portland, Oregon, and San Francisco, California, experiencing higher than average temperatures each year, the American environment and the health of its citizens are going to be in jeopardy. This means that the hazy skies and orange light that New Yorkers saw this past July and August are clearly not going away; and if anything, things are going to get much worse.

Sources:

- Finneran, Michael. *Wildfires: A Symptom of Climate Change*. 24 Sept. 2010. NASA, [www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/wildfires.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/wildfires.html). Accessed 28 Sept. 2021.
- Jenner, Lynn. "Wildfire Smoke Crosses U.S. On Jet Stream." NASA, 24 Sept. 2020. NASA, [www.nasa.gov/image-feature/goddard/2017/wildfire-smoke-crosses-us-on-jet-stream](http://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/goddard/2017/wildfire-smoke-crosses-us-on-jet-stream). Accessed 28 Sept. 2021.
- Newburger, Emma. "Smoke from Western wildfires is harming air quality on the East Coast." CNBC, 21 July 2021. CNBC, [www.cnbc.com/2021/07/21/western-wildfire-smoke-reaches-east-coast-hurts-air-quality.html](http://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/21/western-wildfire-smoke-reaches-east-coast-hurts-air-quality.html). Accessed 28 Sept. 2021.
- Wildfire Causes and Evaluations. 27 Nov. 2018. National Park Service, [www.nps.gov/articles/wildfire-causes-and-evaluation.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/wildfire-causes-and-evaluation.htm). Accessed 28 Sept. 2021.



## Pfizer Vaccine Approved By FDA; What Now?

By: Yazir Carillo

Ever since the emergency approval of the Pfizer Covid vaccine on December 11th, 2020, many people have been skeptical about it; however, now that it has been officially approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), people can hopefully go back to living normal lives again; what does it mean though to be approved by the FDA?

The Pfizer jab is a Covid-19 vaccine that was developed by husband and wife Dr. Sahin and Dr. Özlem Türeci. Dr. Sahin and Dr. Özlem Türeci developed the Pfizer vaccine by creating what's called an mRNA vaccine. An mRNA vaccine is a shot that uses the genetic code of a virus instead of using a weakened version of the virus like in other shots such as the one for Influenza. The jab works by using the genetic code of the virus to alert your body's cells that it needs to create antigens for the virus. The shot does this by entering the body via a syringe and then it goes to work.

The vaccine has shown promising results; "Pfizer revealed earlier today that its jab was proven to be 90 percent effective at preventing Covid - on what experts hailed a "great day for humanity"

(Mullin and McDermott). The vaccine has been proven to work effectively and if people the majority of people receive it, things can start to calm down.

Now that the Pfizer vaccine has been approved by the FDA, it is more readily available; "While this and other vaccines have met the FDA's rigorous, scientific standards for emergency use authorization, as the first FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, the public can feel quite confident that this vaccine meets the high standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality the FDA requires of an approved product," said the acting FDA commissioner, Dr. Janet Woodcock. The FDA is a government-run agency that decides what products are safe for public use, in this case, the Covid vaccine. Many vaccines have not been approved by the FDA which has left, for some, a bad reputation for the

legitimacy of the newly found vaccine.

What does it mean to be approved by the FDA? Many everyday food and medicinal products that you use have been approved by the FDA; this means that they have been studied, tested and found to be safe for use by the public. The Pfizer vaccine was not approved for a while by the FDA because of how quickly it had been created; this led many to question the negative effects that could be associated with it.

It is recommended that people who are 13 and older receive the vaccine; However, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is now authorized for persons aged 5-11 years. Yes, applying adult doses of the vaccine to children is questionable in terms of effects as the vaccine could be too strong for children which can make them feel as if they have Covid; after all, their immune systems aren't fully developed yet. However, scientists are working around the clock to make the vaccine available and safe for kids of all ages.

As mentioned previously, there are some people who question the vaccine's safety and there is good reason why they feel this way. The vaccine was developed in less than a year, but "The analysis of the Pfizer vaccine, which the US Food and Drug Administration fully approved earlier this week, involved 1.7 million vaccinated and 233,000 unvaccinated people" (Beusekom). In addition, the technology used in the vaccine has been worked on previously for decades. The vaccine being approved by the FDA says a lot about its safety and the fact that it was trialed and tested on millions of people should send the message that it is effective.

In the end, for many, it is a choice as to whether or not they will receive the vaccine. There is clearly evidence however, that it works and it is recommended that people take the jab; so what are you waiting for?

## Influencing The Influencers

By: Jordan Lillis

There are over one billion global users on TikTok and even though the platform was created for people to express themselves via videos, it is also a space for people to be themselves and not feel judged. It has made thousands of people, including teens, famous for developing videos and having fun.

Currently, the most followed person on TikTok is 17 year old Charli D'Amelio who has 125.8 million followers and a total of 9.9 billion overall likes from every video put together. The first video she posted was of herself and a friend. D'Amelio was just following the trend she saw on TikTok and didn't expect to eventually go viral. Even though she grew up in Norwalk, Connecticut, she eventually moved to Los Angeles with her family so that she could have more business opportunities. She had

no idea that she would earn so much fame and attention so fast because of TikTok. She originally pursued TikTok to dance. But now she uses her platform to make videos with her friends in order to create awareness on certain subjects. Her overall goal is to spread positivity and provide entertainment. Now, she has multiple sponsorships, has been on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, created a clothing line with her sister Dixie D'Amelio, and even developed a reality television show of her own called *The D'Amelio Show*.

Another well-known TikTok influencer is Addison Rae. She is 21 years old and has 84.9 million followers. She uses her profile more for dancing and following current trends. She also makes videos with her parents and siblings. She has released one song called, "Obsessed", which, as of now, has a little over one million streams

## A Similar Situation Four Thousand Miles South

By: Michael Ye

With a population of over 210 million and an underfunded healthcare system, Brazil seemed to be on track for a deadly battle against COVID-19. Fast forward to October 2021. Brazil has the third most cases (over 21.5 million) and second most deaths (over 600 thousand) in the world, behind the United States. Both countries, as seen by the statistics, have had similar experiences throughout this pandemic. However, there are quite a few different circumstances that separate Brazil, such as the resources available, population, etc. So how did the country get here and what makes its situation different from the United States?

The United States and Brazil are the two most populated countries in the Western Hemisphere. Both nations are governed through a Federal Republic and allow their states to make their own laws and restrictions when it comes to managing the pandemic. But one of the biggest things they have in common is that they were both led by presidents who were weary of science and didn't listen to what health experts told them during the heart of the pandemic. That changed for the United States however, once Joe Biden took over as President in January; the same can't be said for Brazil.

While it's easy to blame people for such a disaster, a lot of it, by default, rests on the shoulders of Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, who has been downplaying the pandemic since the beginning. He's been strongly against the idea of a nationwide lockdown and has called the virus "just a little flu" and a "measly cold" (*The New York Times*). In July of 2020, Bolsonaro actually got COVID-19 and experienced a few symptoms. However, it didn't seem to affect his mindset all that much, as he has yet to be vaccinated. Bolsonaro has faced criticism for a handful of issues such as, the limited testing during the start of the pandemic, an economic recession, the firing of the health minister over disagreements, and the promotion of the use of the drug hydroxychloroquine despite it being proven ineffective against COVID-19. Recently, there have been protests calling for Bolsonaro's impeachment after the mess created during the pandemic.

As of right now, Brazil is in a better

state than it was during the peak of its death totals. It currently has four different vaccines available to the public, the Pfizer, Coronavac, AstraZeneca, and Janssen vaccines. However, Brazilians aren't allowed to choose which one they would like to take. When it comes to health protocols, they change depending on the situation of a certain area. Each city has either a black, red, or orange flag (black being the most dangerous) to represent its situation and help determine the sanitary protocols needed.

To get a better understanding of the situation, I interviewed a family member of mine who lives in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande De Sol about her experiences during the pandemic (this was done through Google Translate, so the responses may not be grammatically correct):

**Q:** Brazil has the second most deaths in the world from COVID, only behind the United States. [Would] that indicate a failure on Brazil's part, or do you think that this was inevitable?

**A:** "Our country is not as rich as the United States. The consequence of COVID now here is [the] higher interest rates, higher-than-projected inflation and unemployment. It is difficult for a president in a country with limited resources to perform a miracle. I think that within what was possible, it was done"

**Q:** When did you get the [vaccine]?

**A:** "I got the vaccine [in] April"

**Q:** Are public places open and restrictions lifted?

**A:** "In the city where I live, the only restrictions are: the mandatory use of masks, temperature measurement in places with greater circulation of people such as shopping malls, [mandatory] supply [of] alcohol gel everywhere, and parties in closed places are allowed at only half the capacity"

Leading a country like the United States or Brazil is an extremely difficult task, as proven by the high number of infections and deaths. With a style of government that allows states to make decisions independently, it causes it to be harder to enforce strict measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Nobody was expecting such an unprecedented event to suddenly occur and change the world forever, but hopefully Brazil is on the right path now.

thanks to her online presence. One more example of just how negative being an influencer can be is the fact that so many of them take mental health breaks from TikTok all the time. Another influencer, Sienna Mae, recently took a month-long break, due to rumors about her that spread through the internet. When the 'hate' finally got to her, she decided to leave all social media platforms from May 28th to July 6th. Afterward, she created a minute-long video of an inspiring dance in order to win back the love of her fans.

Although TikTok has clearly changed some people's lives for the better, there is also a dark side to it. Despite that, people all over the world are finding opportunities on this platform to get rich in a more enjoyable way. But what are you willing to risk in order to be on top?

November 2021



Happy  
Thanksgiving

CHOCOLATES • COFFEE

The Perfect Gift

EST.

CO-CO

2018

CONFECTIONS & COFFEE

[www.coco-li.com](http://www.coco-li.com)



Free chocolate bar with \$15.00 purchase



## Become A Local Hero

By: Liliana Stella

Helping people in the community can be rewarding, but many young people don't know where to start.

Although North Shore High School has many amazing community service clubs such as Key Club and Buddy Club, there are also some Long Island-based interesting off-campus organizations that would appreciate young students getting involved.

One place, in particular, encourages teens from grades 6-12 to help out. It's the Gold Coast Public Library in Glen Head.

Alexandra Ciovorelli, a teen librarian who organizes community service programs, explains that the library is "more than just a place to borrow books, movies, audiobooks and video games. It is also a community space where people can come to study, relax, access the internet, and socialize."

As a result, the library has an array of community service opportunities. "Teens can help put together craft to-go kits for children, which is especially beneficial in a pandemic," Ciovorelli explains. "In September, teens can also register to make a paracord bracelet at home, which will then be donated to the overseas military organization Operation Gratitude."

For those with technology-based skills, the library offers a program in which volunteers become a "tech buddy" to teach patrons how to use their devices.

Another opportunity for teens involves volunteering at Island Harvest Food Bank. Shannon Karafian is the Volunteer and Community Relations Coordinator for Island Harvest Food Bank. Karafian explains her responsibility for "deploying over 3,300 active volunteers to assist at local food drives, food runs, warehouse sorting events, food distributions, and more" adding she is in charge of "volunteer recruitment, training, placement, and retention."

What is Island Harvest exactly? Karafian describes the leading Long Island-based hunger-relief organization as "innovative cross-sector programs that target the root causes of food insecurity among working families, senior citizens, veterans, and children." This occurs through "strategic partnerships in communities, hospitals, and related organizations; we collaboratively address chronic food insecurity, physical/mental health conditions, and substance abuse disorders using unique program models."

Lastly, the Sea Cliff Village Museum is a great place to explore volunteer opportunities. Courtney Chambers, the director of the Sea Cliff Village Museum since April 2019, explains that she "researches and designs exhibits, organizes volunteers, and cares for the museum's artifact collection."

Chambers adds that "Our mission is to raise community awareness by preserving and showcasing artifacts, documents, photographs and costumes relating to the unique historical background of the village." She believes that the museum "benefits the community and helps give the village a sense of community spirit and togetherness."

For more information on locally-based volunteer opportunities, contact Ciovorelli at [aciovorelli@goldcoastlibrary.org](mailto:aciovorelli@goldcoastlibrary.org), Karafian at [Shannon@IslandHarvest.org](mailto:Shannon@IslandHarvest.org), and/or Chambers at [cchambers@seacliff-ny.gov](mailto:cchambers@seacliff-ny.gov).

## The Truth Behind The 2021 Met Gala

By: Brianna Graziosi

When most people hear about the Met Gala, their first thought is the extravagant outfits worn by the world's top celebrities; however, most people fail to realize what the Met Gala is actually about. The Gala is considered to be not only the party of the year, but also the biggest night for fashion. However, the real reason behind the Met Gala is that it is the main fundraising benefit for the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This event raises enormous amounts of money for the Institute with tables ranging from \$200,000-\$300,000 and entry tickets of \$35,000. Even if someone wants to pay this kind of money to attend, he/she may not be able to as the Gala is invite only. You may be asking, why would anyone pay this much to attend the Gala? It is due to the fact that the Gala is considered the gold standard of all parties.

This year's Met Gala was the first ever to have a two part exhibit; part one's theme was "In America: A Lexicon of Fashion", which was opened in the Anna Wintour Costume Center on September 18, 2021. Part 2 will be held on May 5, 2022. Part 2's theme will be "In America: An Anthology of Fashion", and will open in the period rooms of the American Wing. That's not the only thing that was different about this year's Gala though; due to Covid, the Gala had to take many precautions such as: having a smaller guest list, enforcing social distancing between tables, requiring proof of vaccination, and proof that all guests received a negative Covid test prior to entrance. However, despite all of these safety measures, Covid led many celebrities to reject their invitation. However many major celebrities still attended, such as the hosts of this year's Gala: Amanda Gorman, Timothée Chalamet, Naomi Osaka, and Billie Eilish, as well as the honorary chairs: Anna Wintour, Adam Mosseri, Condé Nast, and Tom Ford.

While this Gala had an audience of over 15 million viewers, not everything about the Gala was revealed. As all of the celebrities walked the red carpet, their looks were broadcasted; however, it is what happens inside the Gala that not many know the answer to. Social media at this event was banned because two supermodels posted themselves smoking in the bathroom at a prior event. However, what we do know is this: once inside the Gala, the celebrities walk through the exhibit to the cocktail party; then they are called to a dinner that is made by New York's up-and-coming chefs; dinner is then followed by some type of grand performance. While many may want to know what truly happens behind the Met Gala's door, it is this secrecy that makes the event as big as it is.

Source:

Friedman, Vanessa. "Everything You Need to Know about the Met Gala 2021." *The New York Times*, *The New York Times*, 10 Sept. 2021, [www.nytimes.com/2021/09/10/style/met-gala-vogue-american-fashion.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/10/style/met-gala-vogue-american-fashion.html).

## Hound Hunting: Trespassing, Harassment and More

By: Kaitlin Ho

Hound hunting, a tradition amongst Vermonters, has been a topic of controversy lately in the state. Many people in Vermont are like Butch Spear, an avid hound hunter, who has a pack of hunting hounds. Spear's hunting hounds have GPS collars on, and are followed closely within a 10 mile radius. Once released, Spear's hounds catch a scent of "game," they corner the animal, and Spear tracks them. After Spear confronts the animal, he decides whether or not to kill it.

Perfectly normal sport, right? Owner of Goldshaw Farms and Youtuber Morgan Gold disagrees. One serene night, Morgan Gold was woken up by the howling of his guardian dog. As he went outside of his home and peered into the darkness, he could see the bright light of multiple flashlights. As he investigated the lights, he realized it was a group of hound hunters. Startled by this invasion on private property, and scared for the safety of his ducks and geese, he confronted them and asked them to leave, receiving a mere reply of, "I've been hunting this land long before you ever came here."

Gold's startling experience was not the last, however. A similar incident occurred later on Goldshaw Farms, but this time, involving hound hunter Butch Spear. When Spear was confronted by Gold for trespassing, he replied, "it's not practical or sensible for me to pay for a hunting license in the state of Vermont, abide by all their laws and then not be able to hunt for 20 miles from here, because a bear runs this way." Gold then asked Spear why he was unable to call his dogs off his land, and Spear replied nonchalantly, "I can't control the bear; the dogs are taught to follow the bear."

Hunters are allowed to hunt on private land in Vermont; however, landowners can annually replace "hunting prohibited" posts 400 feet apart throughout their property. This is not plausible, though, when landowners have hundreds of acres of farmland, and when farm owners are older: the exorbitant amount of time and money spent on posting is just not reasonable.

Gold is one of the landowners with hundreds of acres of farmland. He spends at least a week a year placing "hunting prohibited" posts all around his property instead of tending to his farm; for a small farm, time equals money. After the two hound hunting incidents, Gold felt "harassed and harangued and disrupted;" he was determined to amend hound hunting legislation in Vermont. Using his 345,000 subscribers on Youtube and 1.2 million followers on Tik Tok, he posted videos of both of his encounters with hound hunters. In one of his videos, Gold states that if "you [hunters] did have to have your control of your dogs, and dog owners would be prevented from allowing their dogs to go on posted private property, maybe that could make a difference." His three videos have collectively amassed more than 10 million views and his petition directed to Vermont governor Phil Scott has over 100,000 signatures.

Currently control of dogs in

Vermont legislature allows "transportation, loading or unloading of dogs from vehicle(s); the handling, catching, restraining or releasing dogs; and the use of telemetry/GPS to locate or track dogs" (10 App. V.S.A. § 7). However, "A person shall not take a black bear with the aid of dogs unless the person is in control of the dog or dogs" (10 App. V.S.A. § 7). Since this clause is vague regarding hound hunting control, it allows hunters to train their dogs to follow scents, and not be required to be able to call them off of the wildlife. These loose requirements on hound training have led to the injury of non-Vermonters hiking on trails and financial damages to farms because hounds and livestock are being killed. There are currently no consequences or liability for hound hunters when these injuries and damages occur. At the present time, Gold is in the process of captivating the attention of Vermont's governor, Phil Scott, and the Vermont fish and wildlife commissioner, Louis Porter.

While Gold was frightened by his run-ins with hound hunting, he isn't adamant on eradicating hound hunting entirely. Gold states, "So while I find bear hound hunting distasteful and I still don't think it's for me, and I absolutely don't want it happening on my farm, maybe there is a way that we can ultimately co-exist here." Hound hunting, while a controversial sport, still persists in Vermont today mainly due to tradition. However, activists like Gold are actively trying to change the invasive qualities of hound hunting, and ensure that all parties: landowners, visitors, and hound hunters, can all come to an agreement.

Sources:

Gold, Morgan, director. *Help Stop Hound Hunters from Chasing and Killing Wildlife on Our Farm. Sign Our Petition. Link in Bio. TikTok*, Morgan Gold, Sept. 2021, [www.tiktok.com/@goldshawfarm/video/70047273165267274?lang=en&is\\_copy\\_url=1&is\\_from\\_webapp=v1](https://www.tiktok.com/@goldshawfarm/video/70047273165267274?lang=en&is_copy_url=1&is_from_webapp=v1). Accessed 12 Oct. 2021.

Gold, Morgan, director. *YouTube*, YouTube, 2 Oct. 2021,

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nuiOR9yAHw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nuiOR9yAHw).

Gold, Morgan, director. *YouTube*, YouTube, 6 Sept. 2021,

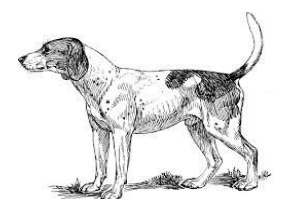
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LDqBfRmrtg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LDqBfRmrtg).

Gold, Morgan. *Sign The Petition: Phil Scott Stop Hound Hunting in Vermont. Change.org*,

Morgan Gold, Sept. 2021, <https://www.change.org/p/phil-scott-stop-hound-hunting-in-vermont>. Accessed 12 Oct. 2021.

"Vermont Laws." *State House Dome*, legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/10/115,

Accessed 12 Oct. 2021.



November 2021

To Better Serve Our Community  
We are Proud to Announce Our New Location  
Beautiful Flowers NY



BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS  
FLORISTRY

679 Glen Cove Avenue  
Glen Head, N.Y 11545  
516-801-3937

Looking Forward to Seeing You!

Vivian & Christina

Est. 2015



## Kathy Hochul: The Future of NY

By: Sophia Marchioli

Just last year, New York’s governor, Andrew Cuomo, was a beloved celebrity amongst the Democratic party. Things have changed though. Since the pandemic briefings that brought him fame, at least eleven women, some who were employees on the Cuomo team, shared that he had been inappropriate with them; others even went as far as to accuse him of sexual harassment. These allegations, as well as pressure from both the Republican party, and his own party, inevitably forced him to resign, leaving Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Hochul to take his place. In a twist of irony, New York got its first female governor simply because its previous governor had been accused of mistreating women.

However, Governor Hochul should not be viewed as a random replacement, for she has a great deal of political experience. She has climbed up the political ladder rung by rung. During the summers of her high school years, she could be found working as an intern for local politicians. After college, Governor Hochul worked as a lawyer and later on she went on to form Kathleen Mary House, an organization that helps victims of domestic abuse recover and find safety.

Although Kathy Hochul tackled small obstacles from the start, her first big career challenge was being elected into her local government: she started out as a chair on her town board and then she was elected to the county clerk position. Years later she even became a representative for New York.

Hochul’s time in Congress eventually came to a close though as she was defeated in re-election by Republican Chris Collins. She then went on to work in government relations for a bank. Despite her career shift, her passion for politics never faded; when Governor Cuomo was elected in 2014, Hochul was elected Lieutenant Governor alongside him.

While Kathy Hochul was Lieutenant Governor under Governor Cuomo, the two politicians had a business-like relationship. They were like “two ships passing in the night”, never being seen together, as they were always in different places, yet always discussing matters behind the scenes. Although they were not the best of friends, they were still amicable with each other during that time.

Eventually, with the recent negative press swirling around Cuomo’s name, Governor Hochul made it clear that she no longer supported him as governor. She even posted on Twitter on August 10th, 2021 that Cuomo resigning from office was “the right thing to do”. Along with that statement, Hochul promised to have a more transparent office than Cuomo’s, as well as to create a brighter, less COVID-ridden future for New York.

Thus far, Governor Hochul’s focus in office has been on preventing the COVID spread. She has implemented mask mandates for students, and vaccine or testing mandates for school employees. Additionally, she has supported President Biden’s effort to encourage all eligible Americans to get vaccinated. Governor Hochul has also made a point to bring attention to issues that came out of the pandemic: New York City road congestion, and the unruly subway system.

Since entering office, Democrats have happily welcomed Kathy Hochul. Most Republicans are uneasy due to her obvious left ideals, and her declaration in an interview with *The New York Times* as a “Biden Democrat”; however, some conservative representatives in Albany have hope. They have expressed that, because of Hochul’s independence in some House votes, like when she voted with Republicans in regards to the balanced budget amendment, that they expect she will at least hear them out.

In spite of some anxious Republicans, the future of New York State is looking progressive because of Hochul’s presence. However, her rare but definite independence as a politician may allow for a less politically divided New York.

## Seattle Kraken Inaugural Season Outlook

By: Julia Capitelli

Defenseman Vince Dunn previously played for the St. Louis Blues. According to hockeyreference.com, last season, he averaged 19:15 of ice time per game and played 72.6 total minutes on the power play through 43 games. At nearly 25, Dunn is still a younger defenseman who should be entering his prime. He played second pair minutes in St. Louis last year, but never reached the level he was expected to. He is not an offensive defenseman like Giordano and will have to find his role on the Kraken. Head Coach Dave Hakstol should make it clear to Dunn that he needs to commit himself to defense. Dunn has played four NHL seasons, but may need more time to develop his game. It is often initially difficult for young players to defend in the NHL. This season with a new team presents an opportunity for him to get a fresh start. Until he proves himself, it is possible that Hakstol will play him on the second pair, or even third if another defenseman consistently outplays him.

Jamie Oleksiak has spent the majority of his NHL career playing defense for the Dallas Stars; he also played with the Pittsburgh Penguins. At 28, he is a veteran defenseman. The Kraken will likely look to him for leadership along with Giordano, Blackwell, Schwartz, and Eberle. Oleksiak can be used as a utility defenseman. With his nine seasons of NHL experience, he should be able to play on any of the three pairs and in short handed situations. Though he is versatile, Hakstol will have to find who he plays best with. If several successful defense partners emerge for Oleksiak, that will make him even more versatile.

Philipp Grubauer is expected to be Seattle’s number one goaltender with Chris Driedger backing up. However, if management decides to follow the modern trend of having two starting goaltenders, Grubauer and Driedger will have 1A and 1B roles. If that is the case, Grubauer will still be their first choice to start in many games. But the split between him and Driedger will be closer to 50 games for Grubauer and 32 for Driedger, instead of the traditional split of around 70 for the starter and 12 for the backup. Grubauer played a career high 40 games last season with the Colorado Avalanche and maintained a .922 save percentage and 1.95 goals against average during that time, conforming with hockeyreference.com. His goals against average is particularly impressive over 40 games. His ability to often hold his opponents to under two goals in a game sets his team up for success.

Chris Driedger caught analysts’ attention last season emerging as a legitimate NHL goaltender with the Florida Panthers. Hockeyreference.com records show that he played 23 games. He recorded a .927 save percentage, a 2.07 goals against average, and 37.4 expected goals against, but only allowed 35 goals against at even strength. These statistics are an accurate representation of each goaltender’s ability and likely

The Nation Hockey League’s 32nd franchise held its expansion draft on July 21st, 2021. The Seattle Kraken are ready to begin their inaugural season.

Other than Seattle, the most recent expansion team in the NHL was the Golden Knights who entered the league in 2018. That year, they went all the way to the Stanley Cup Final. They were ultimately beaten by the Washington Capitals in five games. However, their making it to the final shocked the hockey world. So, eyes are now on the Kraken as the newest franchise. Can they achieve a similar level of success as the Golden Knights did? The Knights were an objectively well-built team in 2018, so how do the Kraken compare?

Arguably the best forward chosen by Seattle in the expansion draft is Yanni Gourde from the Tampa Bay Lightning. However, Gourde underwent shoulder surgery during the off-season and is expected to miss the first two months of the season. According to hockeyreference.com, Gourde averaged 17:04 of ice time per game last season. This indicates that he is capable of playing first line minutes for the Kraken even though he was not often utilized in that position in Tampa Bay. But the Lightning and the Kraken are built differently. The Lightning team definitely has more depth to work with. Missing Gourde will be a challenge for Seattle so early in the season.

Forward Colin Blackwell was chosen from the New York Rangers in the expansion draft. At 28 years old, Blackwell is no kid. He brings a good veteran presence to the league’s newest franchise that will undoubtedly need some direction. After having little success in the NHL, Blackwell managed a sort of career revival last season with the Rangers. He worked hard in training camp to earn a roster spot and was then used consistently by then-head coach David Quinn on the third line. According to hockeyreference.com, he played 47 of the 56 games, averaging 14:00 of ice time per game and recording 12 goals and 10 assists for 22 points. The Kraken can be sure they have a solid third liner and leader in Colin Blackwell. He also tends to step up in difficult moments, so if the Kraken suddenly needs someone to fill a spot on the second line, he is an option.

Other forwards Seattle can expect to lean on this season include Jaden Schwartz, Riley Sheahan, Alexander Wennberg, Calle Jarnkrok, Jared McCann, Brandon Tanev, and Jordan Eberle. Each of these players has been in the NHL for at least six seasons. This makes this a solid veteran group that will be instrumental in helping the expansion team succeed.

Mark Giordano will likely be the Kraken’s top defenseman. He plays offensive and won the Norris Trophy in 2019. That year, as recorded by hockeyreference.com, his plus/minus rating was plus-39. This is his highest rating throughout his NHL career. Plus/minus does not tell the whole story, but here it certainly speaks to Giordano’s offensive success as well as indicates that he is not a defensive liability. If he can get back to performing on the level he was in 2019, the Kraken will have an excellent number one defenseman. The new team will probably also look to him for leadership.

an indication of how they will perform for Seattle this season.

There are three key takeaways here. The first is that the Kraken do not have a wealth of “big names.” Obviously, teams were not going to leave their stars unprotected in the expansion draft. Colorado did make Gabriel Landeskog available, but Seattle chose not to take him. The Golden Knights did not have many highly recognizable names their first season either, but the players became more prominent after the success they had. This Kraken group has the opportunity to do the same. Additionally, breaking down the roster has shown that this team has players with diverse skill sets, giving management options at every position in different situations. Lastly, it is important to remember that this is a new team. Though some of these players may have played together in the past, this group, as a whole, is unfamiliar with one another. Management and the players must work together and be flexible in order for each player to find his role.

The Kraken are entering the league in the Pacific Division. The one team that stands out as a particularly tough opponent is Vegas. Though the Edmonton Oilers and Calgary Flames have improved in recent years, they both seemed to take a step backwards last year, which is good news for the Kraken. The Los Angeles Kings, Anaheim Ducks, and San Jose Sharks are struggling to get back to playoff form whereas the Kraken seem to be built to make the playoffs.

Though Vegas is the most direct threat to the Kraken’s success, the Vancouver Canucks may be a dark horse in the Division. They recently re-signed defenseman Quinn Hughes and forward Elias Pettersson, both of whom are valuable assets. After making progress during the 2020 hub-bubble playoffs, the Canucks’ management made a series of moves that saw the departure of several key players. Now that the Canucks’ roster is in a more stable place, they seem to be in a similar position to that which they were in in 2020. This poses a threat to Seattle because the Canucks still have a group of players who have spent several seasons together and developed chemistry. Seattle’s players have yet to fully adjust to each other. Chemistry matters in games. Cohesive teams are set up for more success.

After examining Seattle’s roster and the Pacific Division, a prediction needs to be made. Seattle’s team is built to make the playoffs, and its division is not as competitive as some others. But the playoffs always present a completely different challenge. Even if Seattle’s players are able to develop chemistry in the regular season, they still will not have faced the post-season together. The playoffs will force the team to figure things out all over again. Therefore, the logical prediction is that the Kraken will be eliminated in Round One of the Stanley Cup playoffs. But with this group of players, Kraken fans can be excited for future seasons.