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## Online School Review

By Jennifer Hanners and Aiden Mangrich

Online schooling has been a new addition to our everyday lives, this article is meant to show you how your peers feel about the change as well as to inform you about how others have adapted. For instance for some health issues made it difficult to be in school, but now that they're online they have the opportunity to stay caught up and graduate on time.

### Compass Chronicles Staff's Opinions

"In my opinion it was kind of hard switching, because I am more of a hands on learner." -Jennifer Hanners

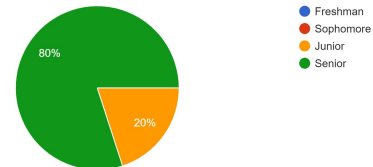
"I transitioned pretty easily, I was already pretty tech savvy so being able learn online wasn't anything new." -Aiden Mangrich

"In person learning kinda holds you more accountable and it's always nice to have that social aspect involved with school. The online makes it easier cause a lot of people also don't wanna go to school so they can do this and just be comfy at home. Now it took me personally awhile to understand Schoology and all the tech stuff to turn in my work, and it also is a bit of a struggle to get into my classes cause I'm so busy, but I prefer online or in class maybe a hybrid of both." -Austin Curtis

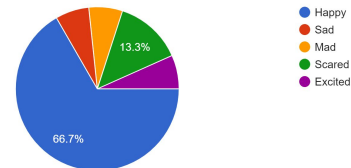
"It was annoying because everyone was trying to find out what to do so it was easy to get distracted." - Anonymous

"The transition was as simple as that. Not much really changed as I was able to allocate my free time more effectively to things I would rather be doing." - Anonymous

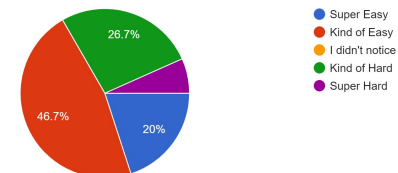
What is your grade?  
15 responses



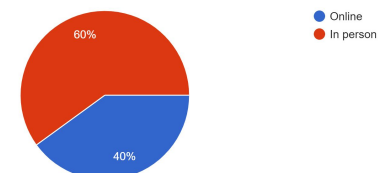
How did it make you feel having to switch online?  
15 responses



How was the transition for you?  
15 responses



Do you prefer online or in person?  
15 responses



## D&D's Affect on Problem Solving and Creative Thinking

By Aiden Mangrich

Dungeons & Dragons is a fantasy tabletop role-playing game, you play with a dungeon master, the person who runs the game, and two to usually up to six people. The game is played by designing a character on paper, your character is made up of a race, a class, a background, and equipment. All of which have statistics that affect the game. When you want to do something you'll have to ask the DM, dungeon master, if you can. They'll most likely make you roll a D20, a 20 sided die, depending on the outcome you succeed or fail.

This game is a series of situations and your solutions. Just playing benefits your own ability to be able to quickly come up with creative solutions to difficult situations. It's beneficial to all ages, and easily adaptable to any play style.



Pictured: D20

## How To Find Trains

By Evan Weber

A lot of people ask me how I find out where trains are and where they are headed to. there are many different ways.

**Scanner:** My Antenna is bigger than yours is the game. Most Railroads use analogue radio to communicate with other trains and with rail traffic controllers. They can be from \$20 to \$500. Keeping an ear out for trains calling out their positions, defect detectors, or track maintenance with handhelds are all the main reasons you would want a scanner. If a defect detector goes off, it would sound something like this.

"CN Detector. Mile 2-3-8 Dot 4. East-Bound. No Defects. Total Axles 3-9-4 Length of train 8-1-2-5(Feet) Speed 4-9. Have a safe day. Detector Out." Defect Detectors look for hot roller bearings on railcars.

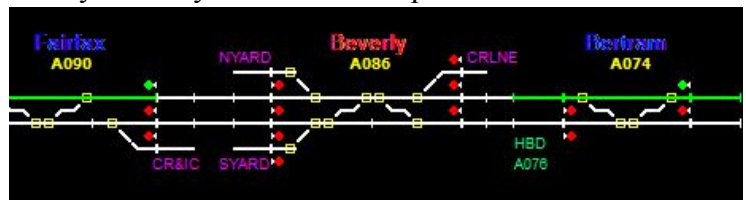
### ATCS, Automatic Train Control System:

Commonly referred as "The Board," this is a layout of the signal system on most railroads. This only applies to high density lines, as less than 1 train a day lines that use a track warrant system.

### Railroad Contacts, People!

Having railroader friends is always a good thing, because it's one less person to call the cops on you for trespassing! But seriously, these guys will give up quite a good deal of information to help people out, such as switch lists, destinations, current locations, etc.. but it is against the law for train crews to use their phone while on duty, so they can't give live updates. Don't be too pushy however, because those guys aren't out there to please railfans.

**Photo:** ATCS for the UP Clinton Subdivision in our area. "Beverly" is the yard in Cedar Rapids on the southwest corner.



## Fortnite

By Steven Miller

Fortnite is a multiplatform online game created by Epic Games. It is a free first person shooter, and there are many different match styles, like Battle Royale, Fortnite Creative, and Save The World.

There are many kinds of skins you can get and avatars you can play as during the game. You can be in teams and you can drive cars.

In my opinion Apex Legends is a better game than Fortnite because I think that the graphics are better in Apex Legends. Fortnite is also more mainstream and is for a younger audience. It no longer holds its appeal. Most people have moved on to Among Us, Modern Warfare, and Apex Legends.

# Eastern Iowa Severe Weather Recap 2020

By Evan Weber

## Severe Weather

### Days:

March 19, 28

April 7

May 14, 22, 24

July 9, 11, 29

August 10

2020 was a wild and wacky year in pretty much every single aspect. When it comes to severe weather, this year was definitely no exception. This year's main weather mode was high winds, hail, and tornadoes.

In March and April the main threats were tornadoes and hail, definitely the more traditional modes us weather geeks are used to. However after June, the atmosphere was cooking up some incredibly strange conditions, which led to unorganized, long line storms with incredible straight lines winds.

There were many days this year, all of which are listed, but I will focus on the 3 most notable days.

**April 7:** *"I'm confident it won't strengthen."*  
**Large Hail**



Kicking off storm season 2020 in Iowa was March 28. This set the trend for the next two months, large hail.

On April 7, an unstable atmosphere created the risk of strong and violently growing storms. One of which was a small but incredibly tall storm that caused a majority of people to get roof assessments.

But now a good portion of those roofs are destroyed or damaged again.

**July 11:** *"That's a pretty large glitch on the south side."*  
**High Winds**

On July 11, a line of Severe Storms swept across Eastern Iowa with sustained winds of 60MPH with one gust up to 110 MPH in south Marion, creating an oddly familiar sight. But little did we know...

**August 10:**  
**Classified Derecho**

*"Lol I think KDVN is broke."* -I thought after radar was reading 120 MPH Winds...



Quite possibly the most infamous day of 2020 was August 10. This Historic storm swept from eastern Nebraska to Central Illinois. Wind Speeds sustained 120MPH for just over 45 Minutes, tracking over most of Eastern Iowa, the storm was at its strongest.

The Storm was moving at approximately 80MPH, making it near impossible to chase. 113 million dollars of damage was caused by this record breaking storm.

Cedar Rapids was the most affected city, it is estimated that it lost 60% of its total tree cover. And it still shows to this day.



## Hawkeye Downs Wacky 2020 Season

By Conrad Vertz

Cedar Rapids, IA - 2020 was a very wacky season in the nearly 100 year old racetrack. Come early April the shutdowns began with less than a month away from the scheduled first green flag waving at the race track, thanks to Coronavirus. Race tracks were not allowed to open whatsoever, due to Governor Reynolds' proclamation. This was stressing out race teams for sure, as I would know, I was getting ready for the 2020 season and was looking forward to it.

Fast forward to May 3 which was supposed to be the first race of the season which never was able to happen. Only two weeks later Hawkeye Downs announced their first event scheduled for May 23, the spring special but without the usual crowd that comes with racing, fans getting to see their favorite drivers in person. It would be cast live through pay-per-view with no points season date set yet.

Not long after the spring special, Governor Reynolds' proclamation expired allowing race tracks to begin allowing fans again, then it was almost business as usual, even though the pandemic was going on still. Fans came, racers raced, it was a really good season with first wins for many drivers and exciting racing, then August 10 came.

All in the instance of less than an hour, the derecho tore through Cedar Rapids, ravaging the city, hitting with winds in excess of 140 mph, blowing all of the lights which allowed Hawkeye Downs to have night races down. The foam barriers were all gone, the winds destroying a couple buildings also, but damaging most of them in general. All of a sudden, the season ends abruptly as the track crew could not fix all of the damage in time to finish the 2020 points season, and nobody knew August seventh's race would be the final of the season.

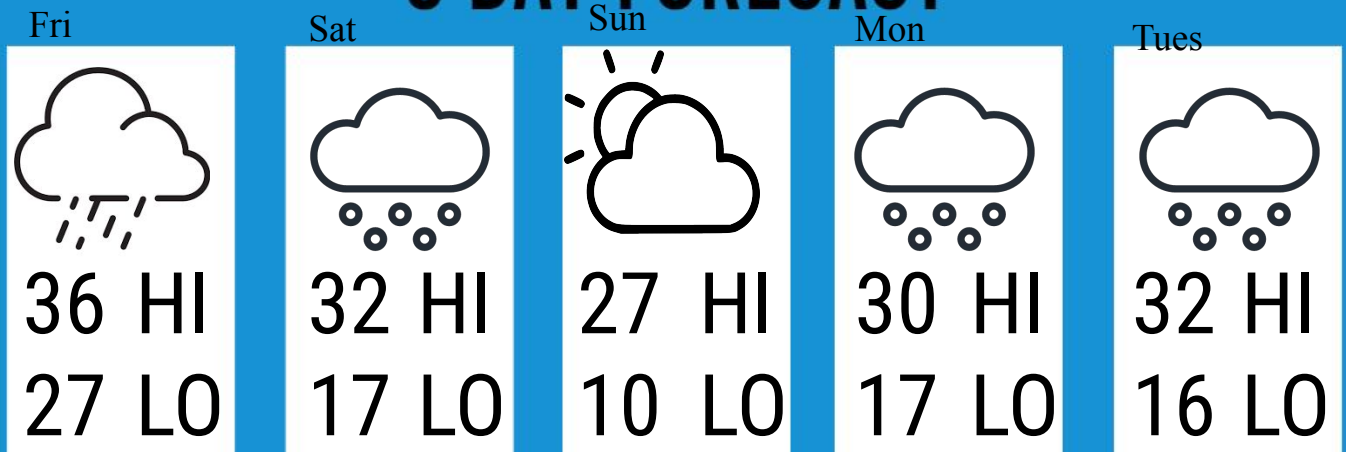


Top: Conrad Vertz {9} and Matt Moniak {411} during the Spring Special Bottom: Rookies Devin Coghlan and Conrad Vertz



## 5 DAY FORECAST

By Conrad Vertz



<https://www.kcrg.com/weather>

## Daily Dose Of Alan Watts

By Rylan Peyton



*Alan Wilson Watts was a British writer and speaker known for interpreting and popularising Buddhism, Taoism, and Hinduism for a Western audience.*

Trying to define yourself is like trying to bite your own teeth.

The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.

I have realized that the past and future are real illusions, that they exist in the present, which is what there is and all there is.

Never pretend to a love which you do not actually feel, for love is not ours to command.

You and I are all as much continuous with the physical universe as a wave is continuous with the ocean.

No valid plans for the future can be made by those who have no capacity for living now.

Zen does not confuse spirituality with thinking about God while one is peeling potatoes. Zen spirituality is just to peel the potatoes.

You don't look out there for God, something in the sky, you look in you.

But I'll tell you what hermits realize. If you go off into a far, far forest and get very quiet, you'll come to understand that you're connected with everything.

But the attitude of faith is to let go, and become open to truth, whatever it might turn out to be.

*Without birth and death, and without the perpetual transmutation of all the forms of life, the world would be static, rhythm-less, undancing, mummified*

## NFL Covid-19 Tests From November 29- December 5

By Keegan Mesch



The NFL and Players Association announced the COVID-19 testing results from November 29 through December 5.

Players and tier 1 and 2 personnel were tested on a daily basis. Tier 3 were tested weekly. If any tier tested positive for COVID-19, the organizations are required by the NFL-NFLPA protocol to be immediately isolated and have zero access to any facilities or any contact with players or personnel.

Medical staff are in communication with anyone who tested positive to monitor symptoms.

<https://www.nfl.com/news/>

## Covid-19

By Steven Miller

**Symptoms:** Cough, Fever, Chills, Difficulty Breathing, Fatigue, Body Aches, Headache, Loss of Taste or Smell, Sore Throat, Congestion, Runny Nose, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea

**Cases Worldwide:**

68,345,673

**Deaths Worldwide:**

1,558,513

\* As of December 8, 2020 per Google search

## Recipes

### Garlic Butter Steak Bites with Lemon Zucchini Noodles

Recipe Found By: Rylan Peyton

#### Ingredients:

1 ¼ lbs Sirloin (ribeye, strips) steak  
Zucchini noodles (egg noodles are a good substitute)  
1 Tablespoon Olive Oil  
3 Tablespoons Butter  
2 Teaspoons Minced Garlic  
1 Tablespoon Minced Parsley  
1 Teaspoon Thyme  
½ Teaspoon Red hot Chili Peppers  
½ Juiced Lemon

#### Marinade:

¼ Cup of soy sauce  
1 Tablespoon of olive oil  
1 Tablespoon Sriracha  
Fresh Black Pepper  
Juice ½ lemon

#### Directions:

Combine marinade ingredients + diced steak bites  
Heat oil in skillet - drain steak bites from marinade (save excess marinade)  
Cook steaks bites in a single layer in a skillet to prevent steaming the meat (you want to sear it), stirring occasionally until bites are golden brown

Once the steak bites are golden brown, add 2 tablespoons butter and garlic to the skillet; cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring to coat the meat in the sauce. Remove the steak bites to a shallow plate and set aside  
In the same skillet, add butter, lemon juice, red pepper flakes, beef broth, and remaining marinade juices  
Cook zucchini noodles to your liking and add remaining marinade juices, thyme, and parsley to noodles



### Family Recipe for these Trying Times: Sauerkraut and Dumplings

By Aiden Mangrich

This is a family recipe that has been passed down from mother to child and father to child for generations. It's my dad's twist on a classic Americanized German dish.

#### Ingredients:

1 lb Smoked Sausage  
2 lb Sauerkraut  
2 Cans Buttermilk biscuits  
1 Cup Brown Sugar  
3 Tbsp Mustard powder  
Salt and Pepper to taste  
Half stick of butter

#### Directions:

Cut sausage into 1 inch pieces  
Over medium heat place sausages in large pan with lid  
Drain sauerkraut and layer it on top of sausage in pan  
Layer seasonings on top brown sugar, mustard powder, salt and pepper  
Tear biscuits in half and layer them on top of seasonings  
Cut up butter lay on top of biscuits  
Cover and simmer until biscuits are fluffy



Source: <https://www.recipelion.com/Pork-Recipes/Sauerkraut-and-Sausage-Knoephla-Skillet-Dish>

Source: <https://www.eatwell101.com/garlic-butter-steak-bites-zucchini-noodles-recipe>

## Breathe

By Jennifer Hanners

*Naked trees surrounded me; they went on for miles. And what lie above them covered the sky with a blue murky color and no clouds in sight. Breathe in, breathe out. The cool crisp air was nice, like an autumn breeze. And the leaves crinkling beneath my feet. The forest covered in color of fall; the vibrant reds, oranges, and yellow fill the forest with life. My nose slightly turns rosy pink to a light shade of red. It's so calm, so quiet, so peaceful.*

*And there; in the middle of it all a woman sitting so still on a fallen tree that had, had so much life once before. Her dark black, curled hair lay gently upon her shoulders ever so slightly and whenever the wind would start to whistle, her hair would gracefully flow. Down past her green hazel eyes, laid freckles across her nose. She sat there on the fallen log; so calm, but her eyes racing and filling with wonder and curiosity.*

*"Why was she here?" I wondered. Maybe, it was the change in scenery she came for or the sense of freedom this type of setting gives off? Was it for the same reason as I? She was not alone; there sat a man with a resemblance to the woman next to him. This man too had black wavy hair, but his eyes were a golden-brown color. He turned his head over to look at the woman sitting next to him. In response she had turned his direction just in time to receive a smile and return one back. They had seemed to know each other. "Was he here for the same reason as her or for another reason?" I wondered.*

*Why This place of all places, did they choose to come here? Was it for the smell, the feeling, the sight, the sounds? Why?*

## Digital Art Show and Tell

Art Created By Aiden Mangrich



## Nvidia Announces the RTX 3060 Ti, and You Can't Have One!

By Evan Weber



Photo source: Nvidia.com

A new member of the RTX 3000 series has entered the family. At \$399 retail, it is essentially a cut down 3070, sharing the same GPU die, Vram, and PCB. The founder's edition coolers are also identical; however, the brushed metal is not colored and is silver. This card scores higher than the RTX 2080, at half the cost. (I bet all 2000 owners are crying).

I hope to get my hands on one of these; however, the scalpers are overtaking. If you aren't aware, there is no availability in any stores because bots keep buying them out immediately and reselling them at ridiculous figures on ebay.

Nvidia has also been under fire recently for selling cards directly to crypto miners. This was a problem back in 2017 and it looks like it is beginning to come back, but hopefully as time goes on, production will increase and these will become more available by christmas. But the likelihood of that being the case is very very low.

## The Asylum

By Jennifer Hanners

Your mind is your asylum. Your prison. Your mind is how you love, how you hate, how war begins. War happens every day; not out in the world, but in your mind. Your mind is a war zone. Every thought, every decision is your subconscious fighting a fight with yourself.

It's a mystery on the way our minds work. The thoughts we think, the words we say, the actions we do. We see the past, we dream the future; Nothing quite in our grasp.

Tell me am I mad? Am I crazy? Standing there on the outside; Seeing what others can't see. My mind is my poison, my prison, my asylum. It is me.

## How Farming Hemp Could Impact The Environment

By Rylan Peyton



Hemp is one of, if not the most industrious plant on Earth. Hemp, is categorized in the cannabis family as the non-psychoactive plant, that is primarily used for CBD extractions at this time. However, there are numerous uses that derive from the plant as every single fragment can be potentially utilized (there are an estimated 25,000 uses for hemp). Hemp has the potential to serve us both psychologically and materially so to speak.

Aside from its impact on humans, hemp has dramatic influences on the environment in which it is planted. One of these influences is called bioremediation: a process in which the hemp plant is placed into contaminated soil and over time it absorbs metals and toxins into the plant itself, cleaning the soil.

Another industrious element of hemp is its high strung ability to absorb carbon dioxide, and produce oxygen to and fro the atmosphere. All plants undergo this during their natural process of photosynthesis but hemp particularly has a higher rate of absorption and production than even trees! Not only could we derive a whole industry on hemp but we could change the world while doing it.

Source:

“The Benefits of Hemp for Regenerative Agriculture”

By Nadley D

<https://livepurepower.com/benefits-of-hemp-for-regeneratie-agriculture/>

## Hemp



### Hemp: A Cry For Help

By Rylan Peyton

*Green*, flowerless leaves, trickle in the air, remaining untouched by nature’s canvas. Thorough, in its existence: *love* is its way; propagating the heartspace, for this healing collective ∴ among the vines of the whirlwinds of time



### Marcus Theatre Showings

By Steven Miller

Marcus Theatre is now open every  
Friday-Sunday and Tuesday  
Located: 5340 Council Street NE Cedar  
Rapids, IA 52302

*The Croods: A New Age*  
3:00pm 5:00pm 6:05pm 7:35pm 8:40pm

*Dr. Seuss: The Grinch*  
4:25pm 6:55pm

*White Christmas*  
3:45pm 6:45pm

*Freaky*  
7:25pm

<https://www.marcustheatres.com/theatre-locations/marcus-cedar-rapids-galaxy-16-cine>



## Pros and Cons of Working at Theisen’s: My Opinion

By Sophie Wood

Since I’ve started working at Theisens I have observed advantages and disadvantages. Here are a few pros and cons if you are interested in applying.

Starting off with the cons, being only a part-time worker I felt very overworked during Black Friday weekend. With being in school, I try to balance out my school and work, and their schedule was very stressful. Although, if you are someone who likes working a lot of hours this may be the perfect job for you. If you are someone who gets anxiety with larger crowds of people, this job may be a little overwhelming at the start.

A few pros of this job is that if you are someone who likes physical work the farm and pets departments move lots of freight and keep the workers busy. There is also an automotive shop if you are interested in working with vehicles.

Hopefully this article has given those of you considering employment at Theisen’s something that will sway you either for or against working there.

## Sudoku Challenge!

By Sophie Wood

3		6	5		8	4		
5	2							
	8	7					3	1
		3		1			8	
9			8	6	3			5
	5			9		6		
1	3					2	5	
							7	4
		5	2		6	3		

<https://www.101computing.net/sudoku-generator-algorithm/>



## Which is Better, Giving or Receiving Gifts on Christmas? My Opinion

By Sophie Wood

On Christmas most of us look forward to the giving and receiving of gifts, but which do you enjoy better?

Personally giving gifts is why I enjoy Christmas time. Now that I have a job and am able to save money, my main focus is hunting for the perfect gifts to buy the people I care about!

On Christmas day I love the feeling of giving someone something they’ve really wanted and seeing their reaction! The feeling of receiving gifts is unparalleled to that of giving one!



## Apple Music's Top Ten Hot Tracks to Listen to This Holiday Season

By Sophie Wood

1. “Oh Santa!” Mariah Carey (Feat. Ariana Grande & Jennifer Hudson)
2. “Silent Night” Fletcher
3. “The Christmas Song” Shawn Mendes & Camila Cabello
4. “O Christmas Tree” GIVEON
5. “Silent Night” (Piano Version) Andrea Bocelli
6. “Last Christmas” Arlo Parks
7. “Blame it on the Mistletoe” Ella Henderson & AJ Mitchell
8. “O Holy Night” Mickey Guyton
9. “Take Me Home for Christmas”
10. “Baddie On My Wish List” Fivio Foreign

<https://music.apple.com/us/room/1119772751>

## The Chain of Crimes in Cedar Rapids

By Carter Vieth

There have been 7 robberies at gunpoint in the past two weeks in Cedar Rapids. Subway has been robbed twice, a Little Caesars, Hy-Vee on Oakland Rd, a Perkins, Hy-Vee on Mt. Vernon Rd and the Hy-Vee Drug Store.

No one has been injured yet and no one has been arrested yet either. There also has been no surveillance released yet but a vague description has been released as a black male, 20-30 years old, in a black hoodie and a black face mask, 5 foot 8 inches and a thin build.

<https://www.kcrq.com/2020/12/01/7-armed-robberies-at-cedar-rapids-businesses-within-two-weeks-no-arrests-yet-made/>

## Woman Eludes Police

By Carter Vieth

A 39-year old woman driving recklessly was in a police chase Tuesday and eluded the police. Police attempted to stop her and as she stopped she sped off reaching speeds of 60 mph in a 25 mph zone.

Once arrested, two bags of methamphetamine was found and paraphernalia.

<https://www.kcrq.com/2020/12/02/woman-arrested-after-attempting-to-elude-police-in-cedar-rapids-tuesday/>

## Man Charged with Attempted Murder

By Carter Vieth

A 25-year old man was in the parking lot of Lucas State Building and he fired off a shot at a woman and hit her in the leg. He turned over his gun to law enforcement and posted bond at \$500,000. The woman did not suffer any life threatening injuries.

<https://www.kcrq.com/2020/12/07/man-charged-with-attempted-murder-in-shooting-near-iowa-statehouse/>

## Hybrid Schooling

By Carter Vieth

Dubuque and Cedar Rapids Schools are now back to their hybrid schedules and Linn- Mar starts back up December 14. Across the nation, failing grades have been reported 2-3 times more this year than ever before.

<https://www.kcrq.com/2020/12/07/cedar-rapids-and-dubuque-schools-returning-to-hybrid-learning/>

<https://www.kcrq.com/2020/12/07/schools-confront-off-the-rails-numbers-of-failing-grades/>

## I Don't Know What I Am

By Jennifer Hanners

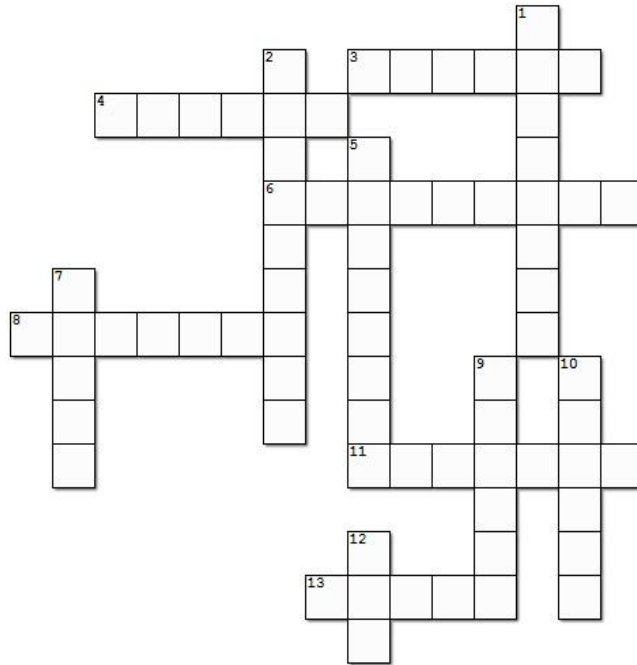
The reason why I write the stories I write is because I want my readers to remember and take in everything I do. I want them to live the same experience I'm living, otherwise there is no point to read what I write. I remember every detail of every scene I am a part of, not because I want to, I just kind of do. And that's the sad part; every happy memory, I remember every aspect, and then I remember those thoughts are past; those people are past. How happy I was at that moment now makes me sad. I don't want to be sad, it just kind of happens. I want to smile when thinking of those memories, but yet I cry. It's like having two people fighting for one space. The one side that senses everything but is depressed and then there is the side that smiles but is clueless and misses it all; until it's all past. It's like a yo-yo between both. It can never be just one. I'm sad, I'm happy, I'm smiling so big, I'm crying, I'm broken, I'm all better! What am I!? What do I feel? When I try to even describe, I just sort of get eh; I don't really know. Physically I can feel the confusion and it's heavy and painful. I FEEL CRAZY!

**Artistic  
Interpretation of  
Creative Writing  
Created By Aiden  
Mangrich**



### A Christmas Crossword

By Conrad Vertz



**Across**

- 3. Shiny Thin Tree Decoration
- 4. Circular Tree Branch
- 6. December 25th
- 8. One of Santa's Reindeer
- 11. Christmas Hater
- 13. Deck the halls with boughs of ...

**Down**

- 1. Month
- 2. ...were hung by the Chimney
- 5. Under the Tree
- 7. Santa's Helpers
- 9. 'The' Snowman
- 10. Christmas Drink
- 12. ... to the World

### Toronto Raptors

#### Members Test Positive

By Keegan Mesch

Three of the Toronto

Raptors organization's members have tested positive for COVID-19. The league mandates a testing period prior to training camp so, the organization members will be forced to self-isolate from the rest of the organization. Contact tracing has shown that there was no spread to any other members. Updates will be given to the situation as information becomes available.

<https://www.nba.com/news>

Link to a Sample of a Traditional Canadian K3:

### Why Do Trains Blow Their Horns So Much?

By Evan Weber

Link Below to a Swanson K5L Sample:

<https://youtu.be/G8pCNRwHP1c?t=36>

Robert Swanson with a prototype K5 (OKthePK.co)



Nathan Airchime K5L, Ex BCRail (Youtube)



### Safety:

The Railroads have freight to move and they want to do it as safely and efficiently as possible. Air horns are a vital safety device on the railroad for yard operations, and mainly for railroad crossings. Trains are required to sound their horns in a standard sequence. It consists of 2 long blasts, a short blast, and another long blast that must be held until the locomotive enters the crossing. This sequence can be stretched for almost a half mile, but usually begins less than a quarter mile from the crossing.

Despite how much noise this creates, train horns are a series of musical notes designed to play a chord. Unfortunately most horns in use today have strayed away from a pleasing sound to a more mean and aggressive tone. Robert Swanson was a Canadian inventor who built the "Oh Canada" horns atop the BC Hydro building in Vancouver, British Columbia. He also standardized diesel locomotive air horn designs. His first mass produced horn played a C# Diminished Chord, which sounds incredibly pleasing to the ear. This horn was known as the K5, 5 denoting that it has 5 notes and served in Canada atop numerous locomotives.. Canada is now using mainly 3 chime horns but the US is using mostly 5 chimes and a few 3 chimes.

## Christmas Light Displays in Iowa

By Malea Harmon



1. Jolly Holiday Lights in Altoona
2. Christmas in the Atlantic
3. Festival of Lights in Carroll
4. Symphony of Lights in Clinton
5. Holiday Lights, Magical Lights in Decorah
6. The City of Christmas in Keokuk
7. Hickory Hills Holiday Light Show in LaPorte City
8. Festival of Lights in Mount Pleasant
9. Prospect Light Show in Waterloo
10. Waverly Lights Holiday Light Show

## Cinnamon Dough Ornament Recipe

By Malea Harmon

- 1 ½ Cups ground cinnamon
- 1 cup applesauce
- ¼ cup white school glue

Directions: Mix together in a bowl, Flatten and roll out the dough between wax paper until ¼ thick and ⅛ thick, cut out desired shapes, use a straw to punch a hole for the ribbon to hang, gently place the shapes on a piece of wax paper, they will take 3-5 days to dry.



## Simple Christmas Gifts Ideas

By Malea Harmon



1. Cookware
2. Blankets
3. Candles
4. Photo Gifts
5. Pajamas
6. Cook books
7. Jewelry
8. Coffee mugs



## Reindeer Food Craft for Kids

By Malea Harmon

Many children make this all around the world on Christmas Eve; it's a fun way for kids to believe! They leave a trail of this mix outside their house for the reindeer to find and eat!

Ingredient List: Oatmeal, sprinkles, and glitter is optional





## Christmas Gingerbread Recipe

Chosen By Conrad Vertz



### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 3/4 c. (1 1/2 sticks) butter, softened
- 3/4 c. packed brown sugar
- 2/3 c. molasses
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 3 1/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp. ground ginger
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 2" piece fresh ginger, grated (optional)
- Zest of 1 orange (optional)
- 1/2 tsp. finely ground black pepper (optional)

### HOW TO MAKE:

1. In a large bowl using a mixer, beat butter, brown sugar, and molasses until fluffy, for 2 minutes. Add egg and vanilla and beat until combined.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk flour, spices, baking soda, and salt until combined. Mix on low, gradually add dry ingredients to wet ingredients, as well as fresh ginger, orange zest, and black pepper if you want, until dough comes together. (Don't Overmix)
3. Preheat oven to 350° and line about two cookie tray with parchment paper. Take dough roll until about 1/4 an inch thick, repeat until out of dough.
5. Bake until slightly puffed and set, for 9 or 10 minutes and let cool for about 5 to 10 minutes before removing from tray.

Recipe From:  
<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a50468/gingerbread-cookies-recipe/>

## Portland Closes Training Facility

By Keegan Mesch

For most of the NBA, coming back to training camp hasn't been much of a struggle, except for the Portland Trail Blazers. Spanning back four days, there have been three COVID-19 cases. The team did not say if the positive tests involved staff, players or any combination of the two. The facility has been closed for a deep cleaning.

<https://www.nba.com/news>



## FL Hall of Famers Help Texans in Search for GM and HC

By Keegan Mesch

The search for a Head Coach and General Manager for the Houston Texans has taken an interesting turn after the firing of Bill O'Brien due to a horrid start to the 2020 NFL season left the Texans without Head Coach and General Manager. A committee of Tony Dungy and Jimmy Johnson, along with Andre Johnson, who played with the team from 2003-2014, and The San Antonio Spurs General Manager R.C. Buford was created. The committee hopes to bring a promising candidate to the team to help with the long-term, after the drafting of their franchise quarterback Deshaun Watson. Big changes are happening in Houston.

<https://www.nfl.com/news/>

## Struggles of Being in High School

By Austin Curtis

The struggles of being in high school are real and serious. A lot of students have hard times with their learning because they are dealing with problems at home, with themselves, or for those who are employed, they struggle to juggle their home life, school, and work all in one.

Some students may have a lot less money than others and can't afford the certain items needed for classes. Now with this pandemic going on, should we really be coming down hard on some students who have a hard time with attending every class when there's something else going on in their life, especially now with new way of learning where we all are trying to understand together?

## Top 10 Current NBA Players

By Austin Curtis

Current top ten players with the best game and stats (based on past season stats) within the National Basketball League.

1. LeBron James
2. Giannis Antetokounmpo
3. James Harden
4. Kawhi Leonard
5. Damian Lillard
6. Anthony Davis
7. Stephen Curry
8. Joel Embiid
9. Russell Westbrook
10. Luka Dončić



<https://www.espn.com/nba/stats>



Found By Austin Curtis

# CHRISTMAS

## WORD SEARCH

M	O	F	S	A	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	K	E	L	S	Q	P
L	B	N	F	P	K	H	L	P	F	E	D	A	E	M	F	D	N	C	O
Z	E	J	I	N	G	L	E	I	O	U	I	E	K	F	U	G	L	J	R
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A	W	A	D	X	D	N	Y	D	N	A	C	B	H	R	M	I	Q	K	E
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P	W	P	E	S	W	O	N	S	E	D	Y	C	B	Z	C	N	R	Y	W
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P	S	Q	V	R	I	M	T	Q	R	Z	X	K	I	Y	F	T	E	V	X
U	T	E	A	N	S	D	X	E	A	N	G	E	L	Z	D	H	U	G	B

CHRISTMAS	JINGLE	LIGHTS	MERRY
CAKE	ORNAMENT	STOCKING	MISLLETTOE
PRESENTS	ELF	SLEIGH	SNOWFLAKE
REINDEER	BOW	ANGEL	CANDY
TREE	RUDOLPH	SANTA	BELLS
FROSTY	SNOW	WREATH	HOLLY

<https://acrazyfamily.com/christmas-word-search/>

## Weirdest Animals to Have As a Pet

By Austin Curtis

People love to own pets, they're cute and cuddly and have great personalities that just make you feel better about everything going on. They really know how to cheer you up. However, you might be surprised which animals some people say are the ones for them.

- Capybara
- Sugar Gliders
- Cockroaches
- Skunks
- Anteater
- Tiger



<https://www.businessinsider.com/animals-legal-pets-us-surprising-2019-102amp>  
<http://www.animalplanet.com/pets/other-pets/4-sugar-gliders>

## Anime Recommendations for Quarantine/Winter Break

By Owen Larson

### First Anime Recommendation:

***One Punch Man*** is a really good show to get an introduction to anime. It has a lot of comedy and action with a fun world to learn about. A comic take on normal superhero anime.

### Story Anime Recommendation:

***Death Note*** is more serious and less light-hearted than *One Punch Man* but is very interesting and pulls you into the story. It is a different take on a murder mystery story.

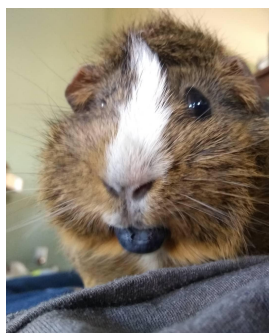
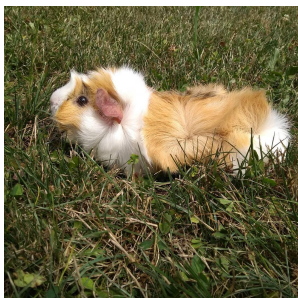
### Personal Recommendation:

***Jojo's Bizarre Adventure*** is my personal favorite, but not something to watch if you haven't seen any other anime. As its name implies, it is fairly bizarre so it's hard to give an example of its story.



**Piggy Corner**

Pictures By Owen Larson



## Changes From Covid

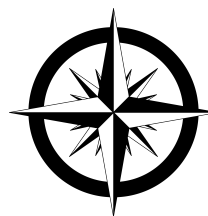
By Owen Larson

In the aftermath of this pandemic, there will be certain things that will change life around us. Masks might become more commonplace even after it has been handled. Countries in East Asia have been wearing masks since before covid, including Japan. Of course not everyone was wearing masks but a lot of people were.

Another change is how buffets conduct their business. With the big focus on limited contact, buffets have had to change a lot to accommodate due to the risks of covid, and they might keep some changes to be safe for future events.

These are just a few changes that might happen as a result of covid. The true extent of the effects of the pandemic have yet to be seen.

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/east-asian-countries-face-masks-before-covid\\_1\\_5f63a43fc5b61845586837f4](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/east-asian-countries-face-masks-before-covid_1_5f63a43fc5b61845586837f4)



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