

# The Pirate Journal

A publication of Highmore-Harrold School District 34-2  
Volume 70, Number 7  
Thursday, April 25, 2019



Pirate Journal editors Velvet Jessen and Sylvia Rodriguez putting together last months edition.

## Meet the Editors

By Landon Schied

The Pirate Journal is edited by Highmore Harrold high school juniors, Velvet Jessen and Sylvia Rodriguez. The editors have responsibilities, but have fun along the way and make it work. Velvet and Sylvia have lots of responsibilities. Their jobs are to edit articles and format the Pirate Journal. Sylvia says her favorite part is formatting the page and watching it come together. Velvet says the hardest part is, "Making everything fit while keeping the page even with good flow."

Velvet's favorite part is her and Sylvia cracking jokes and having fun during editing. Editing the Pirate Journal requires the editors to work together, "We are really good at bouncing ideas off each other and we rarely disagree but come to good compromises," Sylvia says. Velvet and Sylvia's least favorite part is trying to cram the articles together and get them in on time.

The Pirate Journal is one of the many facets of the Highmore Harrold School and it is important that the students' views on local, state and world issues are expressed through the Pirate Journal. Even though editing the Pirate Journal is a big task and can be stressful at times these two best friends make it work and have fun along the way.

## Just Not Ready

By Shelby Hinkle

House Bill 1191 otherwise known as the industrial hemp bill has been making big news all over South Dakota. This bill would allow South Dakota farmers to grow and sell industrial hemp, potentially leading to an economic gain after the soybean crisis of 2018. Industrial hemp, scientifically known as *Cannabis Sativa*, is a plant in which all parts are used for an industrial purpose (National Institute of Food and Agriculture). The main difference between hemp and marijuana is the amount of THC or the chemical that produces "high."

The industrial hemp bill received a lot of praise from the people, but strong criticism from Governor Kristi Noem who stated, "Our state is not yet ready for Industrial Hemp." She went on to explain to the 2019 Teen Mock Legislature that the physical appearance of hemp isn't that different to that of marijuana and because of this, our police forces do not have the proper resources to conduct on-site testing. There were several other reasons including that she doesn't want to approve state regulations before the national regulation is complete. Along with this concern, Governor Kristi Noem fears that the legalization of industrial hemp in South Dakota will start the path towards legalizing recreational marijuana (Argusleader, "Gov. Kristi Noem: Industrial hemp 'opening the door' to legalized marijuana in South Dakota"). Regardless of the public approval, the Legislature was unable to overturn the governor's veto. After the fact, the 2018 Federal Farm bill had legalized the cultivation of Industrial Hemp (US News).

Hemp already has a history in the Midwest, according to the Hemp Industries Association, it made its big debut in the United States during World War II when the War Hemp Industries Department was established to help aid in the war effort. Starting just after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, farmers all across the midwest grew millions of acres of industrial hemp. Then, shortly after the war ended, the government quietly shut down the operation.

Discussing the economic benefits of Industrial Hemp, this could have been legislation that could benefit farmers and community members alike. Darian Schmidt, a senior at Highmore High, said "I find it interesting in my view. I view it as a relaxing aid for the community that we can all benefit from." These benefits can base from nutritional supplements to more eco-friendly products (ranging from construction to even skin care [evohemp]).



Hemp harvesters at Mount Vernon, George Washington's historic plantation.

## New Zealand Shooting

By Anna Ravel

March 15<sup>th</sup>, a mass shooting at two mosques in New Zealand happened. The shooter targeted two mosques in Christchurch: the Al Noor Mosque and the Linwood Mosque. At least 50 people were killed and 50 injured.

The gunman, a 28-year-old named Brenton Tarrant, live-streamed the first attack on Facebook. He has been taken into custody and charged with murder. He was described as a white supremacist and extremist. He is also suspected to have written and posted on social media a manifesto shortly before the shooting began. The manifesto explains his far-right and white nationalistic views, specifically targeting Muslims and immigrants. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern described it as "one of New Zealand's darkest days." It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern New Zealand history.

After the mass shooting, New Zealand's Parliament voted 119-1 to ban most semiautomatic weapons and assault rifles in the country. It also includes a buyback program, through which New Zealanders will be able to get rid of the weapons. New Zealand already had much stronger gun laws than the US. For one, it requires a license to buy and own firearms, a standard that only a few states in America have.

We see that it took only one mass shooting for New Zealand to change its guns laws. In the US, where levels of gun violence are generally much higher, it's unclear if any changes will ever happen at the federal level — even as the US suffers mass shooting after mass shooting on a nearly daily basis. Junior Velvet Jessen says "I think that there should be stricter gun laws because I think that it's possible to create laws that don't overstep".



Police officers outside Al Noor Mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand.

## Jokes on you, it's April Fools!

By Telson Cowan

April is a happy time for students at Highmore, as April means spring is about to be in full swing. However, with the start of April, there is a catch... April Fools' Day. April Fools' Day is a day where over the top jokes and pranks are considered acceptable. It is a day that many "pranksters" enjoy very much, but also a day many of the "prank victims" are very annoyed by. Like it or not, there are many funny April Fools' jokes played on others that are sure to give you a laugh.

April Fools' has an effect on the students at Highmore-Harrold High School. Many of the students enjoy pranking others and some even laugh at their own selves getting pranked. Remington Paynter, a sophomore at Highmore-Harrold said, "Someone blew up my mansion in Minecraft. I was mad for days. Eventually, they told me it was a joke." Mark Hague, a sophomore said, "My sister convinced me one of my toys was alive, but it just didn't like me enough to move." Veronica Knipping, a junior said, "One time, my brother Henry put popper fireworks under the toilet seats and scared everybody." Highmore students are capable of many pranks, however, now that April 1st has passed, be wary that what happens might not be a prank.

## What is Juuling?

By Trenton Ramsey

Juul is a popular new type of e-cigarette. It gained popularity amongst middle and high school age children. It is small and similar in appearance to a USB drive so it is easy to disguise. Since they are discreet, Juuls are very popular in classrooms and schools. There are different flavors available like fruit medley, crème Brulee, mint, etc. that encourages young people to try it and possibly become addicted. The Juul is intended for people at least 21, but many minors have been reported using them.

The Juul contains 5% nicotine which increases the risk of becoming addicted to it and smoking later in life. The nicotine within Juul pods is about the same amount of nicotine in a whole pack of cigarettes. Teens can easily, without knowing, take in unsafe amounts of nicotine that can affect them both immediately and long-term. Vaping is harmful to developing children. "We have a lot of evidence showing that the adolescent brain is extremely sensitive to the effects of nicotine. Studies have shown us that nicotine can interfere with memory and attention processing," according to Krishnan-Sarin, a health researcher. Other things to consider are that there could be many long-term effects that cannot be researched and may not be cured.

Parents should have a talk with their children about juuling and vaping. They must ask about their child's use and inform them about the health risks and other negative effects of doing it. Also, help them find ways to handle situations where they are pressured to try it. Tell the child ways to tell their peers that they refuse to try it. If they already do vape/Juul, you must help them stop and break the addiction as soon as possible.

Juuling and vaping are harmful and addictive for people of all ages, but it particularly affects middle and high school students. Parents and guardians should speak with their children and help avoid or quit juuling.



A pair of popular sunflower vans.

## In with the Trends

By Avery Bourk

To start off 2019 we've had trends come and go, but now that we're a couple of months into the new year some trends have stayed because they are so popular among our community. Trends that Highmore currently has are Vans, Crocs, Scrunchies, Coils, Game Fuel, and Body Armor.

Vans and Crocs are a unique option of shoe. Vans are a popular shoe that is styled differently with fun colors. Oakley Jandreau, a junior at Highmore High School said, "They are really comfortable and they slip on really nice. They go with every outfit, but they keep my feet cold." Crocs are a fun, comfy shoe that can be styled however you like. By using Jibbitz (charms that you put in the holes of the crocs) you can style your shoe. They come in different colors, sizes, and shapes. Chesney Effling, a junior at Highmore High School said, "I really like Crocs because they're super comfortable and they're easy to clean. They are easy to slip on and they have a variety of colors."

Scrunchies and Coils are both a type of ponytail that doesn't damage your hair and are a healthier alternative than regular ponytails. Scrunchies are a circular band of fabric-covered elastic used for your hair. Savannah Solberg, a freshman at Highmore High School said, "Scrunchies are versatile in trend, they are healthy for your hair, and are a cute accessory piece. I have travel crunchies, velvet scrunchies, animal print ones, plain ones, and neon ones." Cheyenne Carroll, a sophomore at Highmore High School said, "I like them because when I rodeo I can leave them in my hair loosely and they still stay in."

Two drinks that have been trendy lately is Body Armor and Game Fuel. Body Armor is an all-natural premium sports drink that. Devin Cook, a senior at Highmore High School said, "They are really hydrating. They have good flavors, are good for your body, and have zero calories. They are also good for sports." Game Fuel is an energy drink that was launched by Mountain Dew. Regan Bollweg, a sophomore at Highmore High School commented, "It keeps me alert, aware, and on time. It's got that nice re-sealable cap, that's what I like about it."

The trends we currently have are becoming more popular and more people are starting to use them. Vans and Crocs are trending the most out of all of them. The scrunchies and coils are becoming more favored than regular ponytails, especially with new kinds coming out. The drinks are also becoming more favored due to the new flavors. Due to social media, our trends are growing and becoming more popular because of the exposure they get and how many people see and use them.

## Nebraska Flooding

By Carson Palmer

The Flooding in Nebraska is very devastating to many people in Nebraska and parts of Iowa. People say that they will be recovering for months. The people most affected in this disaster are farmers/ranchers and reservations that were already struggling with money and housing.

The losses from all the states bordering Nebraska area is 1.3 billion dollars in damages and losses in those states. 1 billion dollars is in Nebraska alone. There are many people coming from different to help states including the National Guard. Bringing water and other supplies to as many people as possible in need. Some of the damages to farmers are that grain bins bust and waste years worth of money.

When farms flood more than just cattle died or affect the farmer's money makers. There are numerous times during the flooding that grains spill and get wet and wreck a year worth sometimes years' worth of money that is enough to put farmers out of business. Millions of cattle were lost in flooding just this year alone. And of course, the flooding happened during most farmers calving season. Creeks turned into rivers fields turned into lakes. In some fields, there was over 6ft at one point. If you look up Nebraska flooding and there will be hundreds of pictures and videos of flooding in southern South Dakota, Nebraska, and surrounding states.



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