



Fresh off the press! Happy March and midterm week, readers! We are two months away from the end of the school year! This month, Nevada State High School held their prom amidst a pandemic, and we interviewed some of the attendees to see how it went. We covered the 2021 Superbowl game between the Kansas City Chiefs and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, where The Weeknd headlined the halftime show. In celebration of Women’s History Month, our writers spotlighted Ms. Cristal James, one of the NSHS staff, in an interview about her roles as an educator and a writer. In anticipation of the coming month, we’ve prepared some April Fool’s prank ideas that may inspire you to conduct some mischief on the first! All that and so much more in the full article below!

Prom Interviews

Writer: Taylor Ward
 Editor: Baylie Bybee

Nevada State High School’s prom was March 5th, and for those of you who didn’t go, we asked the head of the prom committee and our 2020-2021 Prom King, Arsalaan Khan, and prom attendee Angelina Flores their views and experience attending a prom during a pandemic.



According to Khan, the biggest obstacle he faced was the monetary restrictions. “Since we couldn’t have our usual car wash fundraiser due to COVID-19, we had to hold a multitude of smaller fundraisers throughout the year. Since no one had done this before, it was difficult to coordinate and execute, but we, fortunately, worked things out.” This was quite inspiring, to say the least. Flores, offering a student’s perspective, stated

Texas Snowstorm

Writer: Jamie English and Rylee Harrison
 Editor: Baylie Bybee

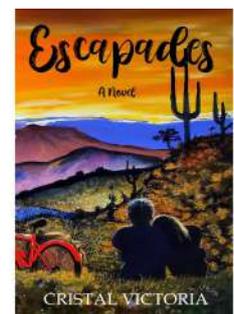
Last February, President Joe Biden signed an emergency declaration for Texas after a sudden natural disaster hit the state. On February 11th, three days prior to the declaration signing, unforgiving snow storms hit Texas, which rapidly continued throughout the month. These storms resulted in 22 deaths, statewide power outages, 1300 water system failures, and the delay of COVID-19 vaccines. Many Americans ponder how such a disaster occurred in Texas. Some scientists say that the vast heat coming into the Arctic Circle may be the cause. Climate change experts state that when warm weather disrupts the polar vortex’s system, the jet stream located below the wavy vortex shoots cold air across the southern part of the world. This explains why and how the Arctic has warmed rapidly within the past few decades and why states like Texas are also suffering through unnatural weather patterns. This whole process is known as “Arctic amplification.” President Joe Biden has since visited the state to check out the snowstorms’ damages, as well as give support to the people.

Once the snowstorms hit Texas, power outages lasted for several days in some areas, leaving over 4.5 million businesses and homes without power. This, in turn, led to food and water shortages. Many Texans, specifically in Nueces County, were displeased, for “many warnings” about the state’s electric power infrastructure lacking existed nearly a decade prior to the incident. The infrastructure fell short due to the known fact that the power plants would fail in cold conditions. The unpreparedness of the electric power system, which led to lengthy blackouts during the numerous heavy snowstorms, came to an estimate of \$195 billion in damages. Multiple lawsuits and allegations have arisen. Since the end of this atrocious time for Texans, people are aiding Texans who were affected by these events with donations, fundraisers, shelters, etc. Communities in Texas are open to donations to help people who were affected, and

Staff Spotlight: Cristal James

Writer: Taylor Ward
 Editor: Michaella Gazala

Happy Women’s History Month, Renegades! For this month’s issue, we’ve dedicated the spotlight to one of our very own, Cristal James. Ms. James is Nevada State High School’s Marketing and Engagement Director and an alumna of Columbia University and Oxford University. She has recently released her first novel (of many to come), *Escapades*, [available for purchase on Amazon](#).



Ms. James began writing her novel as an undergrad. She participated in an Advanced Fiction Writing Workshop at Columbia University/Barnard College. Her professor, Shira Nayman, inspired our esteemed Ms. James to pursue writing. According to Ms. James, her book was

that, “Attending prom during a pandemic was definitely different than it would be normally. Of course, all the attendees were wearing masks, which definitely made it harder to dance without overheating, and I had to take breaks to cool off outside. I’d say I felt pretty safe but wouldn’t recommend going to prom during a pandemic if you like to dance.” She went on to say, “Despite the small inconveniences, it felt nice to be doing something somewhat normal in this crazy era.”

Despite the odds being stacked against them, the committee did a wonderful job at this year’s prom and gifted the students a bit of normalcy, despite the hectic year we’ve experienced so far.

April Fools Prank Ideas

Author: Jay Lundberg
Editor: Chayil Benoit



April Fools’ Day is coming up, and we at the Herald have you covered for ideas. All of these pranks are pulled from my dad’s coworkers, so enjoy!

The first prank is insanely simple. All you need is a small piece of tape and a remote control. Just stick the tape over the sensor, smooth it out, and bam, the lazer won’t be able to connect to the TV. To cover your tracks, you can always offer help with fixing the remote.

celebrities have used their platforms to spread awareness and promote donations as well.



Travel Feature: School Culture Festivals in Japan

Writer: Chayil Benoit
Editor: Michaella Gazala

Celebrating their 33rd anniversary, Yamato Nishi High School (YNHS), the school I attended over the summer as a freshman, held a momentous festival in September. My exchange to Japan is likely my favorite experience, as it formed a major gateway into many of the memories I would attain in the future, one of which being my first school culture festival.

Bunkasai (文化祭), the Japanese equivalent of “culture festival,” is a famous tradition for schools in Japan. School festivals are open to the public and held only once a year, so students pour their hearts into preparing their most entertaining performances and crafts, keeping their friends and family in mind whom they plan to invite. Some schools are so popular or spend so much on their preparations that the students are limited in the number of invitations they can give out. You could say it becomes somewhat of a VIP event!

Ranging from food stalls and cafes to haunted houses and photobooths, YNHS outdid themselves with plenty of impressive attractions. Success was clear through the lines with half-hour wait times and how several shops sold out, both the result of vigorous preparation which many came to support. With all the people, it was packed and it was *hot*.

But not hotter than the tea served by the Tea Ceremony Club! This booth showcased a tea ceremony with members dressed up in traditional wear.

Attending their exhibition would earn you a delicious sample of green tea, Japanese sweets, and an oriental aesthetic to please the soul.



sitting on the shelf for years because she was too busy to go through the process of getting it published, but last year she decided to set a goal to have it published by the end of the year. Offering some motivating advice, Ms. James states, “To anyone putting off a big goal, just go for it!”

When asked, “What would you say to anyone wanting to pursue education as a career?” Ms. James replied: “I would say it’s one of the hardest jobs... [but] always come back to the kids and how to help them, especially if you work in a low-income school... stick to it because it is difficult but also very rewarding.”

Ms. James is not only a great educator but someone who strives to accomplish her goals and overall a good person to look up to!

Super Bowl Recap

Writer: Lukas Hu
Editor: Baylie Bybee

On February 7th, the NFL season finally came to a close with Super Bowl LV. The final game of the season saw the defending champions Kansas City Chiefs against the revitalized Tampa Bay Buccaneers with legendary quarterback Tom Brady at the helm. COVID-19 protocols limited the amount of fans to about 25,000, much less than the usual attendance at the Super Bowl. The game was played at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Bay, Florida - the Buccaneers became the first team to play the Super Bowl

This second prank will take some more cleanup, but it'll be worth it; if you have a detachable shower head, put some dish soap or body wash into it. Your unsuspecting housemate will go to take a shower, only to get foamy bubbles shooting directly at them. Just make sure the soap isn't too harsh, in case it gets in their eyes. To clean this one up, just detach the shower head and let hot water directly from the spout run through it.

The final prank, my personal favorite, takes some preparation. You're going to need a sharpie and all of the canned goods in your pantry. Take each can and assign it a number, making sure to write down what contents corresponds with what number. Then start peeling off the labels. You will have to admit guilt for this one when you give your family members the key you made.

Hopefully at least one of these pranks comes in handy for the lovely readers of the Herald!



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In the gym, many visitors gathered to cheer on dance performances and those walking the red carpet. Red carpet participants were each dressed up for a popular favorite event, Gyaricon (ギャルコン). Several students take part in this competition to see which guy can win most of the crowd's love by dressing up as a girl and demonstrating a talent. Many of the costumes worn were pulled from pop culture, as shown in the photos below. Performances of comedy, playing instruments, singing, and dancing wooed the crowd. The audience was wowed when a contestant started breakdancing on stage, carrying out multiple stunts and flips despite wearing a dress. According to the majority, Gyaricon is by far one of the most entertaining parts of the festival.



Another popular attraction at the festival was the haunted house run by Class 2-6. "It was really scary and dangerous, but it was fun!" said Fumika Okudo, a second-year at Yamato Nishi.

As someone who appreciates art and anime, seeing how the art club decked the stairway halls with detailed hand-drawn anime posters was so thrilling. Even the classroom chalkboards were illustrated with images from popular animations. If you're into anime, a school culture festival is one of the most likely places to make you feel like you're actually in one.

Even without the free candy, games, and crafting coves, the culture festivals are a special place where people get together to share the joy, and I will definitely remember these festival experiences forever.

in their own stadium. The home-field advantage seemed to work as the Buccaneers went to defeat the Chiefs with a final score of 31-9, holding the Chiefs to their lowest number of points during a game all season. During the game, the Buccaneers' defense shined as they allowed zero touchdowns and gave Chiefs' star quarterback Patrick Mahomes a tough time as he threw three interceptions. The Chiefs' defense had similar struggles as the Bucs' offense scored four touchdowns, three of which were thrown by Tom Brady, who was named the Super Bowl MVP. Brady, having spent his previous 20 seasons in New England, also extended his record for the most Super Bowl wins by any NFL player with seven. In addition to the exciting matchup, the Super Bowl featured a special halftime performance from Canadian R&B singer The Weeknd who performed many of his most popular songs, including the 2020 hit single "Blinding Lights."



Editorial

About the Manager

'Sup Renegades! I'm Irene Soriano, the Basecamp Manager for Nevada State Herald! If you're an avid reader of the newsletter, you've probably seen my name show up once or twice. That's because for every great play lies great stage technicians. My job as the Basecamp Manager constitutes submitting the final version of the newsletter, accounting for all of the contributors of the month's issue, summarizing the meetings through meeting minutes, and other small clerical, administrative tasks. The Editor-in-Chief and I also communicate with our advisor, Ms. Cristal James, and relay her messages to the whole team. Every now and then, I also write or edit articles for the newsletter.

Now more onto myself; I'm from the Philippines, a big introvert, and an even bigger anime fan (if you follow the Herald Instagram account, you'll know). I also love art, making art, fashion, dressing up, bullet journaling, and self-timer selfies! In the middle of the COVID-19 outbreak, I've gotten into playing First Person Shooter (FPS) online games in my free time, and it's been my hobby until now. I'm even thinking of playing in collegiate eSports for the University of Nevada, Reno!

I am going to be pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering and I'm also planning to educate myself in Cybersecurity. It has not always been my dream to build software and programs for computers, but when I had my first coding class, I was sure I wanted to pursue it in my college career. Some fun facts about me are: Lemons are my favorite fruit, I don't have a favorite color (it's white, but people argue that it's not a color), and I like to eat my vanilla ice cream with honey.



Irene Soriano
Basecamp Manager
For the Nevada State Herald

Editor: Chayil Benoit

About the Writer

Hello, everyone! My name is Jamie English and I am a writer for Nevada State Herald. I feel a bit awkward writing about myself, but I will do my best to give an insight into my life! I was born in Oahu, Hawaii and raised in both Guam and Las Vegas. In Guam I was brought up to love the ocean. I was a competitive surfer and surfed almost every day. However that journey ended once I moved to Las Vegas at the age of 12. Once I lost the one deep passion I had, I turned to music. Music really helps me relieve my pain and struggles through words. I believe that music is a worldwide language that can be used to heal. I plan to eventually release some heartfelt originals this year!

The type of music I tend to listen and sing to are R&B, pop, and ballads. My favorite singers and groups consist of Finneas O'Connell, Crush, Giveon, Keshi, BTS, Day6, Billie Eilish, Blackpink, and Ariana Grande. My favorite song at the moment is Drunk by Keshi. Definitely give the song a listen if you enjoy chill music.

Many people question my ethnic background. I get asked if I am Hawaiian or Filipino a lot, but I am actually neither to many people's surprise. My father is Caucasian, raised in Mililani, Hawaii, and my mother is Samoan and part Chinese, born and raised in Western Samoa. I'm honestly not sure why we're living in a desert if we're such an island raised family.



Well if you made it to the end of my life story without falling asleep, congrats! I hope you all continue to support the Herald team, and maybe some of you juniors would like to join in the near future.

Jamie English
Writer
For the Nevada State Herald

Editor: Chayil Benoit

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