

Clubs create holiday cheer for charity

Students spread their kindness outside of school...

By Brooke Burnett

There are many people in need in the community, especially with the effects of COVID-19, so to help those who need it, many school clubs have hosted several charity drives.

“I know that right now a lot of people are in need, especially with the pandemic when a lot of people don’t have jobs,” said senior Gianni Spears, the community service officer of student congress, “So I feel a drive was very important for those who can’t just go to a store and buy these things.”

Student congress has hosted a toiletry drive for people who have a hard time getting the hygiene products they need. Items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, cleansing wipes and other toiletries were donated.

These items will go to Family Place, an organization dedicated to helping victims of domestic abuse, which have increased due to the coronavirus.

“To imagine how they would feel makes me feel very comforted, to say

the least,” Spears said.

The Planoettes have also joined in on the generous spirit, and have hosted the canned food drive, which ran from Nov. 3-15. Many generous students and staff dropped off canned goods, both boxed and bagged items, as well as plastic bottles.

“The Planoettes are really big about community service and helping all of Plano, we just want to give back to the community as much as we can to help support everyone around us,” said Planoettes Jr. Lieutenant Brooke Sidler.

There were boxes in the cafeteria and every building on campus so students learning remotely and students learning in person all had a chance to donate and give back to the community. The donated items will help many hungry families in the North Texas area.

“Now more than ever it’s really important to donate to organizations that are helping out all of those families, it’s really important to get all



Photo courtesy of Salvation Army USA West.

that food to them,” said Megan Kaplan, a Jr. Lieutenant on the Planoettes, “I really hope we’re able to feed as many families as possible.”

These Plano organizations believe that now is the time, more than ever, to host food drives. By improving the lives of struggling residents, these programs are hopeful that the local community as a whole will improve as well.

“A lot of these things are laying around our houses and we don’t even look twice at them so we can easily

pick them up and send them into the drive for people who do need it,” said Spears.

With all of these drives going on, the school’s clubs hope to improve the lives of the less fortunate people in the community and help those in need.

“[This drive] is really going to impact someone’s life, and I know many people are able to donate, so everyone should put in the effort to buy at least a couple cans to give back,” Kaplan said.

Orchestra takes the symphony outdoors

The new auditorium is nature in the orchestra’s annual outside performance...

By Kai Kuntz

On Nov. 16, the school’s orchestra director April Kondrat was finally able to have the school’s first orchestra concert of the year.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still going on, Kondrat had to get creative if she wanted her students to get the chance to play all together.

“Having it outside allowed us to have 100 kids,” Kondrat said. “Doing it outside also allowed us to social distance.”

Setting up for the concert in the circumstance brought on by the pandemic was not as bad as the orchestra’s directors expected either.

“That part felt the most normal, we set it up like any other concert,” Kondrat said. “Although there were no stand partners, so it felt like we were setting up for a band concert.”

Students were finally given the opportunity to play for their parents, but there was a special feature added to those that couldn’t physically attend.



The outdoor orchestra concert, photo courtesy of yearbook staff.

“We set up chromebooks, the giant screen, and connected to zoom to stream the concert for at home students,” Kondrat said.

With everything that went into the concert, Kondrat was actually very pleased with its outcome as it had reached and checked off every box that she wanted it to.

“The whole point of it [the concert] was for it to be a community event,” Kondrat said.

“It wasn’t about the music, it was about having a live audience.”

Kondrat’s hopes and intentions have appeared to rub off onto other students as they also believed the concert to be a positive outcome in the midst of a gloomy time.

“Considering that half of the students do online school and it was their first time playing in person, I think she did a wonderful job.” Melis Demiralp, a violinist in the Chamber orchestra said.

Not only that, but the concert allowed for students to finally play together and catch up for the first time in maybe months.

“It was actually really nice to play with other people,” Ashley Holmes, a Chamber cellist, said. “In class we only have six people and I feel that some sections aren’t accurately represented.”

Kondrat’s mischievousness has yet to fail as she continues to try and find new ways to make Plano’s orchestra learning experience that much better during the Coronavirus outbreak.

“The concert was nice because there were kids I hadn’t heard play until the rehearsal,” Kondrat said.

This Issue...

Page 2- Cabaret Night

Page 3- Great Schools, Local Election

Page 4- Senior Voters, Student Spotlights

Page 5- *Jingle Jangle*, Indie Rock

Page 6- Yungblud, *The Crown*

Page 7- Girl’s Basketball, Signing Day

Theatre's *Country Cabaret* charms audience

Square-dancing has never seemed so splendid...

By Emma Coleman

This November, the theatre department put on its annual Cabaret show, this time going back to the deep country roots of Texas.

"We have started to incorporate a theme and more ensemble numbers into the show since I have been at Plano Senior," The theatre department's director Mr. Racey Ballard said. "We were looking for pieces of literature that had a sense of hope and joy, and we wanted pieces that would inspire and uplift others."

With new obstacles to tackle, and just a month to work on the show, the technical crew, teachers and cast all worked hard together to create an exciting and uplifting performance for the school's community.

"I think the biggest change was the presence of masks and shields," Bailey Edwards, cast member of *Country Cabaret*, said.

COVID-19 has created many challenges that the theatre students have had to work around in order to perform.

"Theatre is about listening, reacting, and telling a story all through the emotions portrayed in your face," cast member Rotem Cohen said. "With half of [your face] covered up, we all had to work a little harder during the acting aspect of rehearsal."

Despite the new limitations created by the pandemic, the theatre department has persevered in order to put on a show that tells a



The theatre's *Country Cabaret* production, photos courtesy of yearbook staff.

hopeful story, not only for the audience, but for themselves.

"This has been a challenge and will continue to be," Ballard said. "We will just need to be extra creative with what we do, I believe the audience is going to be filled with joy hearing the stories, even if some components are limited."

However, the ability to perform this year's *Cabaret Night* is one opportunity cherished by many of the theatre students. Even with the restraints, many of the cast members are thankful to finally do what they enjoy.

"For me, as well as a lot of seniors, the special part was that we got to perform at all," Edwards said. "It was grounding to have the opportunity to do what we all love and enjoy."

The teachers and students' determination to be on the stage once again pushed them to work hard to put on a great performance, despite the obstacles created by the coronavirus safety and social-distancing guidelines.

"Thanks to Mr. Ballard, we were able to adjust our rehearsal process to be safe, but also still have an opportunity to do what we love," Cohen said.

Country Cabaret was an uplifting depiction of perseverance and dedication, by theatre teacher Racey Ballard, and performed by the students in the Plano Senior High musical theatre.

"This is a very professional and hardworking group we have," Ballard said. "They are very grateful to be getting this experience and it constantly shows in rehearsal and performances."



Photos courtesy of Lauryn Clemons

The importance of local elections

From city council members to senate seats, here’s why voting matters...

By Emma Coleman

This year, local elections in Collin County have proven to be just as important as the notorious Presidential election.

Although many focused predominantly on the Presidential election, and Trump winning by approximately 4.34 % in the county, locally elected candidates should be considered just as important.

Local government officials directly affect the people in a certain area, because they are able to closely interact with them, and act on the behalf of their interests or concerns to the federal government.

Collin County has historically been a “red” or Republican county in Texas, and remained as such in the votes for Presidential, and local representative elections on Nov. 3. However, the statistics from the Collin County Summary Results Report for the 2020 election, show that the voting margin between Republican and Democratic voters is drastically shrinking.



A Plano city council meeting, photo courtesy of Dick David.

With a small difference in Republican and Democratic voters, that will most likely continue to shrink, local elections and representation in Collin County is becoming increasingly important to its inhabitants.

John Cornyn, a Republican Texas Senator , ran for reelection this year against the democratic candidate MJ

Hagar. Of the total Collin County voters, Hagar obtained 43 percent of the vote, whilst Cornyn won 54.6 percent. This was a close race between the two candidates, since Cornyn won only by 56,069 votes.

The results for the Texas House of Representatives 66th and 67th district were among the closest races between long-time Republican state

representatives and their Democrat challengers. This emphasizes the changing and dividing political atmosphere of Collin County.

In District 67, Democrat candidate Lorenzo Sanchez ran against the Republican state representative Jeff Leach, this year. Despite Leach’s success, Sanchez only lost by approximately 3,246 votes in the county.

Similarly, in District 66, Democratic candidate Sharon Hirsch ran another remarkably close election against third-term reigning Republican Matt Shaheen for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives.

In 2018, Hirsch lost by a mere 391 vote margin to Shaheen, and this year only by 849 votes. Matt Shaheen ecstatically effused to his supporters at an election night event that, “There ain’t no blue wave in Collin County,” despite him only winning by a trifling 849 votes against a growing number of Democrat opponents.

Great schools or subpar rating system?

Educational website misses the mark on diverse districts...

By Abby Carroll

The school ranking website, Great School, seems to rank schools on a bias based on racial stereotypes and diversity statistics.

Great Schools is a website which works with the realtor site Zillow to provide insight for people looking to move, and are trying to decide on an area based around the school district. The issue with the website Great Schools is that it ranks Plano Senior lower than both Plano East and Plano West, even though they are all a part of the same school district and share a curriculum and similar statistics.

The Great Schools website rate schools by a star rating and rank the schools on a scale of average, above average and below average. Plano East and Plano West both have an above average rating while Plano Senior has an average rating. They give these ratings based on scores on standardized tests, teacher ratings and more, involving the school and it’s curriculum itself, or at least it claims to.

It seems as though Great Schools have given Plano Senior such a low and poor rating based on the diversity in the school. Plano Senior has a higher percentage of Mexian and African Americans than the other schools in the Plano ISD District like Plano West and Plano East, which many people believe is the reason for the lower rating compared to the other Plano schools.

A low rating on the Great Schools website gives the school a bad reputation, and one that can prevent people looking to raise kids in said area from moving to the Plano school district. This can lead to a lower income of Plano Senior students, which would not be well for the school. Also, the lower rating gives off a bad reputation and a poor representation of the school itself.

It appears that the poor rating of Plano Senior, which seems to be completely based on the fact that Plano Senior has a more diverse population, is a horrible outcome of a



Two Plano Senior students, photo courtesy of the yearbook staff.


biased rating system. To rank the schools in this area by how many caucasian students the population is made up of reflects poorly on not only the website Great Schools, but also the people who use the website with preference to schools with a white population density.

The issue seems clearly to be based on a racist system and one completely ignorant to the issue regarding race and ethnicity in the world today.

As many Plano Senior students

who have been raised and given a good education in the district believe, a change needs to be made not only in the website and its flawed rating system, but in how the people who use it and believe it might share this flawed point of view.

Ratings of the schools should be entirely based on the curriculum and how well students do while being taught at said school, not the school’s diversity percentage.



November 30, 2020

Volume 78

Issue 3

Rose Wright
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Elizabeth Guevara
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Jaece Houston
Online Editor

Dylan Kinney
Newspaper Sections Supervisor

Maya Pragji
Features Editor

Kai Kuntz
Arts & Entertainment Editor

D’Mariyon Loyd
Sports Editor

Caroline Dieter
Adviser

Emma Coleman
Opinion Editor

Abby Carroll
Features Editor

Brooke Burnett
News Editor

Staff writers

Drake Chambless

Policy:
Students and faculty are encouraged to send in any questions, comments, concerns or criticisms to be published. Letters to the editors can be put in the envelope in room B208 or emailed to The Wildcat Tales at wildcattalesnews@gmail.com. The staff reserves the right to edit a letter for grammatical errors and space issues. Any errors found in the publication will be rescinded in the following issue. Additional and daily updates can be found at our website www.wildcattales.com. Past issues can be viewed at www.issuu.com/wildcattales. Businesses wishing to advertise in The Wildcat Tales can email us at wildcattalesnews@gmail.com. We reserve the right to refuse any advertisements deemed to be inappropriate.

Find out what’s happening on campus by following us:
Twitter: @PSHSPub
Instagram: @wildcattales

Mission Statement:
Wildcat Tales is a student produced publication that serves to educate, inform and entertain the student body in a professional manner which will provoke thought while upholding the principles of a free press. The publication is a forum for the students of Plano Senior High School. Any opinions expressed in Wildcat Tales are the opinion of the writer and of the writer only.

The Wildcat Tales is the official student publication of Plano Senior High School
2200 Independence Pkwy.
Plano, TX 75075 469.752.9336

Plano Senior Student Spotlight

Students at our very own school are achieving big goals...

By PSHS Yearbook

For Junior Hershal Bharatia, STEM is more than just a career field, it's a true passion he has been dedicated to for a while now.

"I am very interested in computer science and artificial intelligence and have been programming for 9 years, with a great passion for robotics, artificial intelligence and machine learning," said Bharatia.

Throughout the years Bharatia has been fortunate to participate in and win numerous science fair competitions in the past, such as winning an award at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), winning top 300 in the nation at the Broadcom Masters science fair, and winning Grand Prize and Grand Prize Runner Up at the Dallas Regional Science Fair. His latest focus is solving real world problems however.

"My current interest is to use various advanced concepts of artificial intelligence, machine learning and advanced mathematics to find innovative solutions to tough problems facing us today, like making a patent-pending machine-learning based thermostat technology to save energy that I plan to make available as an open source technology," said Bharatia.

Bharatia is currently an active member in our Robotics, LASER, and Coding clubs. He plans to pursue a career in computer science and artificial intelligence with a focus on making technology smarter and work for people and not the other way around.

"As our world becomes more tech-savvy, STEM becomes very important in our daily lives, and I believe that having a firm grasp of how to apply the concepts of Math, Science and Engineering to solve real-world problems is vital to our progress. I believe that you can make a big difference if you can apply your STEM knowledge to innovate and solve real-world problems," said Bharatia.



Junior Hershal Bharatia



Senior Aditi Buch

By Dajua Sanders

For Senior Aditi Buch, art has always been an important part of her life, starting from the time she was little.

"My journey with art started like most people's do—scribbling on the walls with permanent marker and never hearing the end of it from my parents," Buch said. "In first grade, I was put into an art rotation like everyone else, and I was inspired by seeing the work of one of my friends and the praise she would get and the honor of hanging her work up on the class wall."

Her art work has evolved since then of course, and so has she. Buch says her art changes with her.

"The pieces I make are definitely a reflection of the kind of person I am in normal life—focused on the details, passionate but always very thought out," said Buch. "Over the past couple of years I've really come 'out of the box', exploring new passions and letting go of my super serious attitude."

Along with personal growth, Buch's overall art skills grew as time passed. She has entered many art competitions throughout her life.

"The first I ever entered was a calendar design contest in 5th grade for the anti-littering campaign Don't Mess With Texas, and I won an iPad," Buch said. "Since then, I've had my art go to State VASE twice, get two silver keys at Scholastic, in gallery exhibits, and exhibited at the US Capitol Building as part of the congressional art competition."

And yet, she still is excited every time she wins something and remembers each award and prize fondly.

"It's an honor every time, but I'll probably never be more proud than I was in 5th grade when I got that iPad in my hands and a copy of the 2015 calendar that's still posted on the fridge 5 years later," said Buch.

Through all the years of projects and competitions, Buch remains humbled by the power of art. She had gained so much through the practice of creating.

"Art teaches me patience, how to problem-solve, hand-eye coordination, and develops creative thinking," Buch said. "Surprisingly, it's also made me better at working with others and getting and giving critiques."

Buch can not imagine a world without art, she has found an amazing community and friends through art. She has gained skills, been given so many opportunities, and helps her in her personal life.

"I would not be the person I am without my art, and let's be real, the world would be missing out," Buch said.

If you are interested in Plano Art or STEM...

Art: @planoseniorhigh_visualarts

STEM: @gis_planosenior

Senior class voters talk election

Students who voted this past election discuss the ballot...

By Abby Carroll

The 2020 presidential election has brought up the opportunity for this year's seniors to use their constitutional right and make a difference by voting in said election.

Carson Kooda, a senior who turned eighteen on Sept. 11, was proud to be a new voter in this year's presidential election.

"It was very easy to register," said Kooda. "All I had to do was fill out a registration slip and mail it in."

Other seniors seem to agree with Kooda on the easiness of voter registration and the act of voting, albeit the nation being in the middle of an ongoing pandemic.

"I filled out a registration postcard shortly after I turned 18, after I sent it in I checked my registration status online to ensure they received my registration," said Kaylee Schwartz, another senior voter.

With this year's voting conditions changing due to COVID-19 restrictions, voters were given the

opportunity to vote in person at a local voting booth or mail in their ballot. The common consensus of many teen voters at Plano Senior was in person voting.

"I chose in-person voting at my local library," said Kooda. "The process was very smooth, I walked into where the polls were and they checked my ID, then they led me to the polls where I made my voting selections."

Like Kooda, senior student Lucy Briggs also participated in this election, and chose to vote in-person as well in fear of her vote being lost.

"With everything that was in the news about the post office being shut down and votes not getting sent in, I took the safe option and chose to vote in-person," said Briggs.

This year, the nation held a priority in voter safety, with many options to mail in ballots from home. In addition, in-person poll workers took extra precautions to protect voters from the spread of COVID-19 in the voting booths.

"The worker handed me a q-tip to press the buttons on the polling machine to further help keep people safe with COVID, as well as the mandatory use of masks," Schwartz said.

As first time voters, many students at Plano Senior had excitement and other powerful emotions about their first time in a voting booth. Many felt it was their civic duty, and they finally felt like a bigger part of their community.

"I felt empowered after voting the first time," said Schwartz. "I know that I am privileged to live in a place that lets all its citizens vote for their representatives."

It seems that students at Plano recognize the importance of using their voice to vote for what they believe is right.

"It's important for teenagers my age to vote as it is everyone's voice and vote that counts," said Schwartz..



Photo courtesy of U.S Embassy Jerusalem.

Plano Senior students who voted in the 2020 Presidential election have spoken about their experience, and encourage young people to take a stand to use their voice to vote and make a change as well.

"It is so important that young people use their voice and vote," said Schwartz. "We have a future to look forward to and we get to decide what it is going to look like."



Indie rock makes a comeback

Gen-Z popularizes a new genre promoted by young artists...

By Drake Chambless

Since January of this year, people have heard a lot of new and popular releases in indie rock, a re-roform of new age rock and roll that has taken over teenagers headphones and airpods around the world.

With TikTok being one of the most popular apps in the world, it's safe to say that trends, music and other innovations are being created all the time. Since TikTok is an app based on music, this means a lot of new and old songs are getting a shot at being extremely popular within Gen-Z.

Some of the newest and oldest popular music genres are being brought back from a dying popularity and there is one that surely needs to be discussed. With the steady stagnation of pop, the music community is steadily moving over to a new genre that is appealing to those of all tastes. That genre is indie rock.

With new young artists like Clairo, mxmtoon, Jack Stauber and more on the rise in fame, their "bedroom pop" music is spreading around the globe. Listeners want to hear more of their music, which is influencing an era of new age indie rock artists.

It's not only the new artists getting a piece of fame, it is also older and more formal musicians like the band Death Cab for Cutie, who hit the mainstream indie rock flow in the late 2000's and early 2010's.

Rock and Roll as a genre has been around since the 50's, and has steadily branched out into many different genres. According to Music Story



Clairo by jus10h

20.3 percent of all albums released worldwide fit in the rock category compared to rap's miniscule 4.1 percent.

With the growing popularity of indie rock due to staying home more, COVID-19 has helped further this. Statistics show that with this popularity, albums in the genre are being produced more frequently and by more artists. The usual cycle for an 80's and 90's indie was a two year cycle, releasing an album once every two years and using that music for gigs and tours to maximize profit. Now, artists are releasing these albums once every seven months, a huge decrease in time and money spent to produce these albums.

With this new cycle, this shows the growing



Death Cab for Cutie by forklift



Jack Stauber by Davidgc40

modernization and revitalization of older topics and fads including music. For example, the scrunchie was a popular hair accessory that was common around the 80's. Recently due to trends and more use, it has come back into popularity. The same goes for indie rock. A common recurrence in history is the revival of older topics and ideas for modern use.

With a constant growth in the music industry and introduction of new musicians, music categories are in and out of popularity. Constant movement of trends and a flow of information through social media will most definitely continue the growth of more music including indie rock.

Jingle Jangle diversifies Christmas

This new Netflix addition represents a black audience and engages Christmas cheer...

By D'maryion Lloyd

In today's society, the movies with a main black cast that are consumed show mainly struggle and empowerment, but the film Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey adds something new to this idea of African American films with an amazing Christmas tale of belief.

The film is full of African American leads and roles and finally pieces together Christmas and culture within the black race. The cast contains influential actors such as Anika Noni Rose, Phylicia Rashad, Keegan Michael Key, and Forest Whitaker who plays Jangle.

The film is a well-written, musical Christmas tale that surrounds Jeronicus Jangle, the greatest and most magical inventor of all time. The movie is all about the Christmas spirit, and wondrous inventions made by Jangle for every child.

The story's plot takes off when Gustafon, Mr. Jangles apprentice, who falls into a pit of selfishness and greed taking all of Jangle's inventions for himself, leaving him with nothing. Shortly after, Jangle loses his wife and his family falls apart as his daughter Jessica is convinced to find a better parent, one that would suit her after



Photo courtesy of Twitter user @aimeekitty



Photo courtesy of Twitter user @Chanty_Lyles

Jangle falls into a deep depression. Jangle's magical shop then turns into a place of of hopelessness and disbelief

However, with the help of a visit from his granddaughter Journey, belief and magic slowly come back to Jangle as he and Journey fight to retrieve an invention that Gustafon had stolen. In this climactic process, the invention was ultimately destroyed and only the old Jeronicus filled with desire and belief would be able to save his struggling shop.

Then, with an unexpected appearance from his daughter Jessica, the hope and Christmas magic is quickly reignited within Jangle, and he and Jessica were able to fix the invention before Christmas day

Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey is a new fun and relieving movie brought to black audiences everywhere that represents them in a fun and festive way, instead of one that portrays them as victims or villains.

This film is a significant change of pace for filmmaking as the pride of empowerment is still there for the black culture movie industry. It brings the strong and hopeful message in the power of belief that can be brought into society today in a heartwarming Christmas tale.





Popular artist Yungblud releases new album

The U.K singer's sophomore album gets weird...

By Dylan Kinney

On Sept. 17, musician Yungblud, also known as Dominic Harrison, announced his fourth debut album *Weird!* via Instagram.

"The album will be released Nov. 13 I can't wait for you to fall into this world," Harrison captioned the post.

Though his name has not been covered much in the media since his breakup with the famous pop-star Halsey, fans have been quite eager for his long awaited music. *Weird!* will be Harrison's second album following his latest EP release, *Underrated Youth*.

The album will feature a 12 song tracklist discussing topics such as individuality, anxiety and deals with a variety of emotions.

"I want to make people feel like it's going to be alright because we're together," Yungblud said on *The Late Night Show*.

The sophomore album opens with the track "Teresa," the song narrates from a protective point of view as Yungblud confesses his loyalty to the anonymous person.

Harrison's EP he next track is one of his most popular features,

"Cotton Candy," which is also one of his only singles to include a music video.

"Cotton Candy is about the idea that you can lose yourself in other people of all genders, of all shapes and sizes to find yourself and figure out who you truly are," Harrison said in a press release.

"Strawberry lipstick" follows as the third track in the optimistic album. The song was actually released a couple months prior to the album's official release, and like "Cotton Candy," it also has a music video dedicated to it.

"God Save me, but don't drown me out" is the 7th track on the album, but one of the first releases from *Weird!*. In this song, Yungblud gets very personal as he sings about his emotional challenges and his faith towards Christianity. He not only created impactful lyrics, but also filmed a very descriptive and colorful music video.

"I wanted to paint a picture of what depression really feels like, where everyone can be screaming at you, but you just can't hear anything at all," Harrison said.



Yungblud, photo courtesy of The Come Up Show.

Coming in as the last song on the album is "Weird," the iconic track that the whole album was named after. "Weird" differentiates from the other songs, mostly because it sparked the development of Harrison's sophomore album.

"I was crying while writing this song," said Harrison.

Unfortunately, a majority of the tracks on *Weird!* are unavailable for streaming in the U.S, even on popular platforms like Apple Music

and Spotify. However, there is no doubt that they capture Harrison's uncanny ability to portray difficult feelings through music as well.

Living in a pandemic and having to isolate increases the chances of facing negative emotions, which can be really hard to talk about and deal with. Yungblud felt the need to release the album faster than usual to give his fans a sense of insurance during these tough times.

Netflix's *The Crown* excites avid fans

The latest season gives viewers a glimpse into the life of Princess Diana...

By Brooke Burnett

Netflix's three time Golden Globe winner, *The Crown*, premiered its 4th season on Nov. 15, much to the delight of its millions of viewers everywhere.

First released in 2016, *The Crown* has intrigued audiences with its in-depth portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, as well as what happens behind the scenes of Buckingham Palace. The show explores the relationships between each member of the royal family and the major events of the second half of the 20th century.

"It speaks to multiple generations and it brings multiple generations together in the process of uncovering it, discovering it, and enjoying it. Anecdotal, that's how I gather people are watching it-they're often not watching it in the way they would traditionally [watch it], they're often watching it with the other members of their families, or with people of different generations, and that's lovely," said Peter Morgan, the shows creator.

The season three finale is mostly centered around the Queen's



A costume display from *The Crown*, photo courtesy of Dave Pearce.

rebel sister, Margaret, after having been in the sidelines for the past nine episodes. "Cri de Coeur," as the final episode is called, focuses on Margaret's crumbling marriage and her family's support of her husband. The princess escapes to a party at a friend's house where she fatefully meets Roddy Llewellyn, and an affair begins. When this affair becomes public, the Queen is there to comfort her alarmed sister.

In an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*, Helena Bonham Carter, who plays Princess Margaret in seasons three and four, said, "[Margaret is] rebellious, but she was also incredibly loyal to her sister. She [was] constantly going from trying to be intimate and ordinary to then playing very much a high royal status card, socially. She was very ambivalent. You never knew quite who you were [dealing with], but she was very

clever and she was very fun and she was very loving and she was also very distant, too."

Season 4 will have some new faces including young Princess Diana, played by Emma Corrin, and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, played by Gillian Anderson. This season will start in 1979 and end in the early 1990's, focusing on the relationship between princess Diana and prince Charles, as well as the tension between Queen Elizabeth and the new Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

"I have been glued to the show and to think I'm now joining this incredibly talented acting family is surreal. Diana was an icon and her effect on the world remains profound and inspiring. To explore her through Peter Morgan's writing is the most exceptional opportunity and I will strive to do her justice," said Corrin, in an interview with *RadioTimes*.



Signing Day sends players to college

Student athletes have all their hard work pay off...

By Drake Chambless

On Nov. 11 and Nov. 18, multiple students committed to a college for their athletic excellence, a big day for a lot of these student athletes as they were all very excited to be playing at the next level of competition in their sport.

On Nov. 11, Plano Senior senior student Amanda Walsh signed to the University of Central Arkansas for women's soccer.

"I feel extremely blessed to be able to continue my soccer career," said Walsh.

On Nov. 18, the remaining four athletes all signed to their college of choice. These athletes include Amaya Brannon, Mikayla Edding, Christy Winkler and Riley Winkler.

"It's scary [signing] but I'm excited for what's to come," Brannon said.

Fellow student athlete Mikayla Edding signed to the University of

Little Rock. There she will be continuing higher education, as well as her sport of choice, basketball.

"I'm super excited, at times I wanted to give up, but I kept pushing," Edding said.

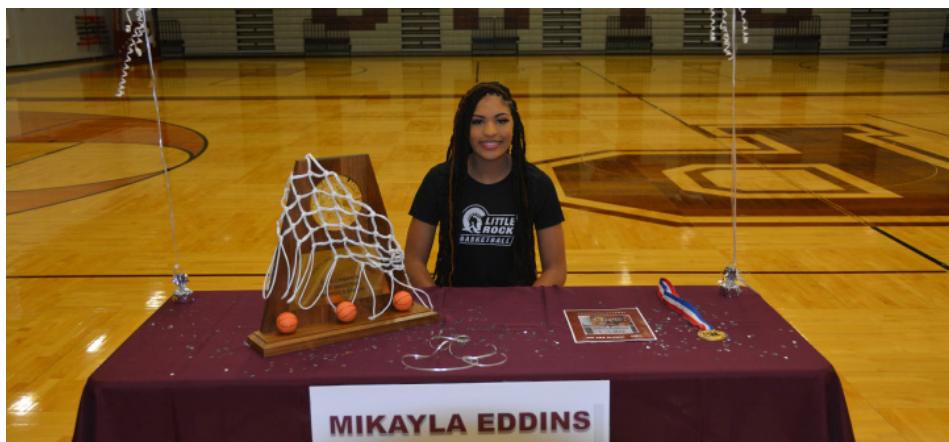
Christy and Riley Winkler both signed to Butler University in Kansas, where the siblings will be classmates and continue their love for their sport.

"Our visit went well, and the atmosphere was amazing," said Riley Winkler.

Christy Winkler feels excited as well, the pair have worked hard in order to be able to have the privilege of signing to Kansas.

"I feel like it paid off for the work I've done."

These players have true potential and surely will strengthen their determination to achieve perfection in their sport of choice.



Photos courtesy of Drake Chambless and PISD athletics

Lady Wildcats release a roar on the courts

The girl's basketball team makes it easy to own Plano pride...

By D'maryion Lloyd

The Lady Wildcats recently started up practice again for this coming season and are setting up for the upcoming year, looking to tackle the challenges of the altered season, while also looking to overcome their opponents to bring home another state title.

Diving deeper into the Lady Wildcats they will have two talented returning varsity players coming into their senior year through Mikayla Eddings and Amaya Brannon. Eddings was a part of the historic 2018 Lady Wildcats team that won the first state title in Plano women's basketball history. Brannon showed to be a great addition to the team in the 2019 season as overall she aided in the team ending with a 33-5 record going 11-1 in district.

The championship mindset is still the main echo of the team this year "One of the main goals this season is to go to state," junior player Savannah Lawson said. "This outcome will come with its own set of challenges with the arrival of the covid virus."

Although no games have been played yet the virus has still affected players and the team on the practice court.

"Not being truly able to be together is tough, we have to be apart which is new, something I'm not used to," Lawson said.

Safety during these times is a main focus and is being factored into athletics this year and while the ambitions of winning is key everyone's health is a top priority in player's and staff's minds

"Some main goals are not having to go on quarantine or anybody on the team to catch COVID of course," Lawson said. "Go to state and just have fun during these times, and be able to make it through the season."

Much like other sports this year fans of the Lady Wildcats will be affected



Star players, Edding and Brannon celebrating their signing, photo courtesy of Twitter user @planogirlsbball.

by new league changes due to the virus which plays a significant role as fans in the stands complete the aspect of sports and athletic competition

"It's going to affect the fans big time because everybody's more cautious now and we're looking out for each other's safety," Lawson said. "Yes I think the fans make a difference, the fans play a huge part in sports, they bring more life."

While COVID does affect the entire nation the Lady Wildcats remain determined to put in hard work to have a positive healthy season and maintain the standing as one of the top teams in the district attempting to win the second state championship in the team's history.

"It's been good, a little weird though and it's a lot of rules we have to follow that are different than previous years," Lawson said.