Suicide Awareness exhibit at DU tells victims’ stories

Griffin Sendek / Photo Editor

The Duquesne chapter of Active Minds held a demonstration called #SendSilencePacking on Sept. 17. The group put out backpacks representing college students who committed suicide. The backpacks were accompanied by biographies of the students.

see EXHIBIT — page 2

Duquesne professor designs app to improve mental health

Kellen Stepler
staff writer

In today’s world, there are apps for virtually everything. And now, Duquesne professor John Pollock and his team aim to develop an app to improve mental health.

The app’s objective is to help pre-teens develop coping skills to manage stress and anxiety. A 2019 report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association claims that the teen suicide rate has reached its highest level in nearly two decades.

Pollock is a professor of biological sciences and co-director of the Chronic Pain Research Consortium at Duquesne. An active neuroscientist researching the biology of pain, Pollock has created an Emmy award-winning television program and educational apps as the director of The Partnership of Education at Duquesne.

Pollock and his team are using storytelling through 21st century technology that address both the biology of the nervous system and healthy management techniques for dealing with pain, anxiety and stress for school-age kids.

The new digital media stories will explore common day-to-day stress experienced by children.

see APP — page 2

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App to teach teens to manage stress, anxiety

Active Minds works to remove mental illness stigma

Active Minds orchestrates the Send Silence Packing initiative. This program seeks to start a campus wide conversation about the epidemic of suicide on college campuses around the U.S.

They hope this display will start mental health related conversations among students across campus and let students know they are not alone in their struggles.

Pollock said the project is still in the works, just the beginning of five-years of funding. Right now, Pollock’s team is gearing up to run surveys and focus groups with kids in elementary and middle school, and then separately with parents and teachers. The survey to kids will focus on situations where they have experienced stressful situations, anxiety and pain.

“The Adaptive Reader is important because it empowers the kids and makes the story accessible to a broad age range and broad range of reading proficiency,” Pollock said.

This current project is still in the works, just the beginning of five-years of funding. Right now, Pollock’s team is gearing up to run surveys and focus groups with kids in elementary and middle school, and then separately with parents and teachers. The survey to kids will focus on situations where they have experienced stressful situations, anxiety and pain.

“The Adaptive Reader is important because it empowers the kids and makes the story accessible to a broad age range and broad range of reading proficiency,” Pollock said.

Pollock said that it is important to teach pre-teens to develop coping skills to manage stress and anxiety, because developing these skills at a younger age can help kids be prepared for different challenges later in life.

The stories will be produced for iOS/Android devices with a similar format to Pollock’s award-winning Biblio-Tech series. The earlier stories titled “CITY-HACKS: In Search of Sleep” and “REBOUND: Beating Concussion,” involve characters facing a challenge and then go about finding the facts and resources to solve the problem. Through a build-your-own-adventure style format, the narratives involve graphics, games, videos and other interactive features to keep kids engaged.

One of the features in CITY-HACKS and REBOUND is called “Adaptive Reader,” which lets the user decide the reading level.

“Send Silence Packing is a great way to get involved with everything going down on campus. Whether you like to write, draw, take photos, play video games, listen to music or are just looking for a new way to make friends, The Duke is a great place to start!” Fleming said.

If you’re interested, email thelauer18@gmail.com or stop by our newsroom located in the basement of College Hall (Room 113).

We want your input! The Duke’s news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn’t make sense? Can send your tips and story ideas to News Editor Hallie Lauer at hallielauer18@gmail.com
**Hannah Boucher**

staff writer

After two long years full of proposal paperwork, board approvals and curriculum changes, Duquesne University becomes one of 50 colleges in the nation to receive accreditation from the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA). This achievement enhances the credibility of the Master of Accounting program, along with improving job placement and student recruitment. "This is a major milestone for this program," said IIA board president Jeff Alston. "The administration is revoking California's authority to set auto mileage standards stricter than those issued by federal regulators, a move critics said would result in less fuel-efficient cars that create more planet-warming pollution.

In a tweet, Trump said his action would result in less expensive, safer cars. He also predicted Americans would purchase more new cars, resulting in less expensive, safer cars. However, most industry analysts said that added a tremendous per year.

"Many more cars will be produced under the new and uniform standard, meaning significantly lower costs for consumers," said Eric Eder, a transportation analyst. "The Trump administration's decision to freeze emissions and fuel economy standards is one of the most significant actions it has taken thus far to roll back environmental regulations." The move is widely seen as a blow to the efforts of states and cities that have set their own, more ambitious goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Trump's action comes after months of discussions with automakers and environmental groups. The Obama administration had set emissions targets for vehicles through 2025, when they are expected to be at 54.5 miles per gallon. The Trump administration wants to freeze the standards at 2021 levels, meaning new cars would be less fuel-efficient and emit more greenhouse gases.

Environmental groups have criticized the Trump administration's decision, saying it would set the country on a path to increased carbon emissions and contribute to climate change. "This is a huge setback for efforts to address the climate crisis," said Michael Huerta, executive director of the Sierra Club. "We will continue to fight this decision in court."
British tabloids unfairly attack newest royal

It’s no secret that the British royal family holds more social than political power these days. Each day brings a new media circus around the latest royal wedding, baby or fashion trend.

British celebrity gossip magazines are notorious for their scathing treatment of women who marry into the line of succession. While Princess Diana and Duchess Kate of Windsor have often been attacked in British media for their varying birth statuses and tumultuous marriages, Meghan Markle’s life seems to receive much more scrutiny than her counterparts.

Since the Duchess of Sussex joined the Windsor family in May 2018, British tabloids have sunk their teeth into the new royal’s personal life. Although both Markle and Middleton were born as commoners, Markle is frequently held to much higher standards. Both women have worn shoulderless dresses to public functions, but received opposite reactions.

The Sun, a British tabloid, ran the headline “Meghan Markle breaks Royal rules at Trooping the Colour.” The exclamation point accentuates the scandalous nature of the event. However, the young Duchess of Sussex was wearing a modern, elegant dress, which is not a violation of royal protocol.

In addition to their attacks of Meghan’s style choices, tabloids attempted to perpetuate the bizarre social media conspiracy that Markle was faking her recent pregnancy. While they eventually dispelled the rumors, their continued coverage of this insensitive speculation has a negative impact on the public’s perception of royal life.

To be the victim of intense public criticism. Many Brits complained the Duke and Duchess of Sussex were not making their son’s early days accessible to the public. Markle and her husband decided not to expose their newborn son to the public eye.

However, Brits were outraged by this privacy and argued that since the young prince’s life-style is funded by public dollars, he is not entitled to the rights of a private citizen. Prince Archie’s lack of a public persona was heavily blamed on Markle’s inability to adjust to royal life in the public eye.

Unfortunately, the British media seems to be searching for any and all reasons to dislike the new Duchess. While it is a human reaction to be uncomfortable with change, fear of the unknown cannot stand as defense for Markle’s treatment in the media.

Markle’s diverse background should be embraced as a true reflection of the diversity within the British Commonwealth. If British tabloids and citizens refuse to celebrate the Duchess’s differences, they must, at least, hold her to fair public standards.
I figured it was unhealthy, it is almost alternative to cigarettes. So even though other vapes are marketed to be a healthy way to wake up in the morning.

In recent weeks, news reports have been something I said.” Yang said Friday morning on Twitter. His Twitter had the biggest overall growth, with 59% more followers during the debate, the highest of any of the candidates on stage as reported by Politico’s Dan Diamond.

Juulings remains a disgusting and dangerous habit

Juul makes most of its users come back for more. It’s exactly how cigarettes are sold, appealing to the youth so they keep returning and seeing the effects of Juuling.

California junior Sen. Kamala Harris, who couldn’t contain her laughter on the debate stage following Yang, said in a CNN post-debate interview regarding the announcement, “One of the things I like about Andrew Yang is he is constantly raising ideas and approaches that have not typically been on that debate stage. And I think he is challenging us to think about how we can be more innovative. And I admire that.”

Outside of politics, Alexis Ohanian, co-founder and executive chairman of Reddit, tweeted “Hey @AndrewYang I like this idea so much I’ll do it personally for those 10 people if you can’t.” Alluding to the questions of the legality of the giveaway, there is currently much debate in the legal realm. Yang said he had a lawyer confirm that the stunt was legal. Adav Noti, former Federal Election Commission staff columnist

If Yang wants to continue making big gains, he’s going to have to come up with other creative ways to grab people’s attention. Given Yang has handled it so far, we likely have more to see from this creative entrepreneur.

In charts published by FiveThirtyEight regarding debate performance, Yang’s proposal is aimed at positive change in favorability of 2.6% for debate audiences. Yang also had the third biggest improvement in terms of chances against Trump, achieving a 2.4% increase between pre and post-debate polling.

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MADISON PASTRIK
layout & ad manager

Madison Pastrik (layout & ad manager) took part in one of the trips mentioned.

Most Duquesne students have heard the story of the Spiritans, whether it was from Adam Walsiko’s presentation freshman year, or on A-Walk during Heritage Week. But how many students feel that the Spiritan mission has truly impacted their experiences here at Duquesne University?

The general knowledge is typically that the Spiritans were Catholic immigrants that settled in Pittsburgh because they saw a need for education and opportunity amongst the city’s poor immigrant families. This missionary endeavor is right in line with the Spiritan way of life, which focuses on leaving worldly possessions behind in order to become one with communities in need, all of which is guided by faith, of course.

It’s an inspiring life that our Spiritan founders led, but their story does not end here. There are students right here at Duquesne that are living out the mission of the Spiritans through their involvement with the Spiritan Campus Ministry (SCM). One of the most innovative ways students are doing this is by participating in a Spiritan Mission Experience (SME), formerly named Cross Cultural Mission Experience (CCME). SCM hosts these trips and formats them in a way that allows students to learn about the Spiritan mission by traveling to deprived communities and learning about these areas through faith-based engagement in which students participate in service activities, cultural immersion and spiritual growth.

These groups of students go to a variety of locations across the U.S. and other countries, including Baltimore, Md; Chicago, Ill; Mullen, W Va; Immokalee, Fla; and San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic (DR). As described on their website, “SME’s are an opportunity for people from a variety of backgrounds, faiths and majors to come together for a common mission of service and to learn and share our faith and stories with each other and the communities where we work.”

The activities within these trips are completely contingent on the community which is being visited. For instance, those traveling to Chicago will focus their service efforts on the city’s homeless community, while those traveling to Immokalee are working with immigrant farmers and laborers.

On the Mullen’s trip, Rachel Wentz, a junior biomedical engineering and nursing major, describes her services as such. “The community that we worked with was struggling with establishing new ways to create jobs and boost their economy. In West Virginia, lumber is readily available, so the new way they thought of was to build log cabins out of the lumber and sell them. During our days there, we aided in the building of their first log cabin.”

The service aspect of these trips goes far beyond its physical implications, however. “There’s a whole different part of what we do which is social justice, which is like the culmination of charity,” Campus Ministry Brenda McKinrick said. “Charity is feeding mouths when they’re hungry. Social justice looks for the deeper issues and fights for change.”

That’s why these trips also have a heavy emphasis on cultural immersion. By exposing students to very humble backdrops, and engaging them in valuable conversations with the people within these communities, students are able to see these areas for more than just their struggle, but their humanity.

“They don’t go to change the community, they go to become one with the people there,” Merrick said. These authentic interactions lead to authentic relationships. Describing the relationships she formed during her trip to the Dominican Republic, senior elementary education major, Bella Guzzi said, “I am still in touch with many of the people from the DR that I met on the trip. I plan on keeping in touch with them and hopefully, returning eventually to visit them. I think of each of their positive attitudes, their willingness to share and give anything they could and their kind hearts, that were so full of joy. I will carry that with me as a reminder of who I hope to always be. San Juan de la Maguana and its people has a piece of my heart.”

These trips are also a great way to meet other Duquesne students who have a similar passion for service. “As with every service trip, you walk into a week knowing almost nobody, but you come out of that week feeling like you have eight new best friends,” said Duquesne alumna Rachael Reiner, describing her trip to Baltimore/Dayton. “This group of students were complete strangers to me in January. Now, we have inside jokes and a week’s worth of memories to share for the rest of our lives.”

Merrick believes that a strong aspect of these trips is that they allow a diverse group of students to come together to apply different backgrounds and experiences of faith to a singular cause.

“The trip itself, you come into it with whatever faith background you have, and you serve from that faith background,” Merrick said. Above all, SME’s are meant to leave a lasting impact on students. Unique to many other opportunities on Duquesne’s campus, these trips allow students to learn about other cultures through personal and authentic interactions.

“There’s always a reluctance to go outside of what is familiar and comfortable to venture into the unknown; but past that unknown usually lies a reward,” said supply chain management major, Lance Robertson, describing his trip to Immokalee. “For us, that reward was being housed by working families of the plight that immigrants in this country go through in hopes of pursuing a better life. No news article or presentation would do that justice.”

Through service, solidarity, education and lasting relationships – all led by your own personal faith – these trips fully embody what it means to be a Spiritan.

Applications for SME’s are currently open for submission. They will be accepted until Sept. 30 and can be found on Spiritan Campus Ministry’s page of the Duquesne University website. The cost of each trip is only $100, and each student is asked to fundraise for supplies prior to their trip. This year, SCM is hosting four trips during Spring Break, and one over the summer.
WSOC routs YSU in final non-conference game

The Duquesne women’s soccer team continued their dominance of Youngstown State on Sunday.

Duquesne played a very defensive first half of soccer; they allowed only two Youngstown shots, only one of which was on target.

Duquesne’s offense played just as stellar, even if it didn’t show on the scoreboard. They tallied 14 total shots in the first half, with several great opportunities. One shot from Deena Debaldon narrowly missed in the 9th minute, and another grazed the crossbar in the 38th minute.

The Dukes broke through with a goal in the 38th minute from freshman Natalie Bell. This was the first goal of her Duquesne career.

Duquesne is all part of the bigger picture. The Dukes broke through with a goal in the 38th minute from freshman Natalie Bell. This was the first goal of her Duquesne career.

With a 1-0 lead at half, coach Al Alvine was proud of his team’s performance.

“I told them that these opportunities would eventually turn into goals,” Alvine said. “But in the meantime, we needed to keep creating great opportunities.”

The team definitely took his advice to heart. The second half of action saw more tenacious defense from the Dukes, allowing a total of four shots (zero goals) in the entire second half.

Their play started to show on the scoreboard, too. A second-half scoring onslaught started with a goal from Debaldon in the 46th minute (assist to Sarah Wilkinson) to make the score 2-0 in favor of the Dukes.

Another goal came in the 47th minute from freshman Jaimie Araujo off of a penalty kick. This goal, the first of Araujo’s Duquesne career, made the score 3-0.

The goal was followed by Debaldon’s second of the day in the 55th minute, and an unassisted goal by Tori Kopchak almost immediately after in the 61st minute. Debaldon then completed the hat trick with her third goal in the 78th minute, assisted by fellow junior Lauren Bell.

When all was said and done, the final score was 6-0 Duquesne. Coach Alvine said he was impressed by the way his team played in the second half.

“I was proud of the way they took my halftime talk to heart,” he said. “We kept fighting to create more opportunities in the second half, and we truly played until the final whistle.”

Alvine stressed the importance of carrying the momentum from Sunday’s game into the start of conference play.

“This game, with all of the momentum we currently have, is all part of the bigger picture,” Alvine said. “We want to carry this momentum through the rest of the year, into conference play and eventually the season vs. VCU at 1 p.m. on Sunday, September 22 at Arthur J. Rooney Field. The Dukes look to get their revenge, as they narrowly lost to VCU on the road last year. Nevertheless, this game will be a test for the Dukes, as VCU has been a top team in the A-10 for a handful of years.

Duquesne struggled against A-10 opponents last season, posting just a 2-6-2 record in conference play. The team managed to score just six goals against its A-10 opponents, and allowed 13.

With a more experienced roster this season, the Dukes should be able to find more success in 2019.
Looking Down the Lines: CFB and NFL predictions

Andrew White
staff writer

Last time out: 1-4-1 overall, 0-3-1 CFB, 1-1 NFL
Season record: 3-8-1 overall, 2-6-1 CFB, 1-2 NFL
I need to turn this around. The issue, you see, isn’t that I’m losing a bunch of games. I’m just losing the games that I pick in here, and some of them are stupid. Maryland, you have to be kidding me. The Terps had the ball starting inside Temple’s 20-yard line twice last week and both times managed not to score, including on two 1st and goals. Then the Chargers... Really? Showing up to a game without a kicker? That isn’t a good recipe to win. Had I known they were going to use their punter to kick field goals I would have stayed far away from that game.

Back to work now, please let this be a good week. Here’s a couple of winners (hopefully).

College Football Picks:
210 Utah vs. USC (-4) Friday, 9 p.m.

Here is the thing, Friday night games in the PAC-12 terrify me. You never know what can go down, upsets happen almost weekly it seems on the West Coast on Friday nights. The games are always bizarre. What I do know is, both of these teams went to BYU early on in the season. Utah handled the Cougars very easily while the Trojans lost in OT last week. Utah has a very good defense and USC has looked inconsistent with a freshman at quarterback. I love the Utes in this game, even though it falls on a Friday night.

The Pick: Utah -4
24 LSU vs. Vanderbilt (+24) Saturday, 12 p.m.

Vandy has not looked great coming out of the gate 0-2, but they have played a tough schedule. LSU meanwhile has looked sharp for the most part, especially in its road win over Texas two weeks ago. This isn’t your classic LSU team either that grinds it out. LSU has opened the waybook for Joe Burrow to show the world just how much better he really is. LSU is ready for this so far this season, and the Tigers have looked great. This is quite the spread, we are talking three touchdowns and a half field goal here, but I am not a fan of the Vanderbilt offense and I don’t think the defense can slow Burrow and the air attack down.

The Pick: LSU -24
210 Oregon vs. Stanford (+10) Saturday, 7 p.m.

Oregon has been a mixed bag so far this year, but so has Stanford. Oregon probably should be 3-0 at this point, but they blew their opening game against Auburn late. Stanford, meanwhile, looked like it had one of the top defenses in the country to open the year but has looked abysmal since in back-to-back losses against the aforementioned USC and UCF.

The Pick: Oregon -10
27 Notre Dame vs. #3 Georgia (-14) Saturday 8 p.m.

Talk about a big-time game. This is going to be a good one, or at least that’s what most think. There is a reason that spread is this far apart for these two top teams. Georgia can flat out ball, but the jury is still out on the Irish. Georgia has had a pretty easy schedule so far, so this is going to be a good test for them, but the defense looks good and it looks like it can be elevated to another level if needed. Meanwhile the Dawgs running game looks dangerous lead by D’Andre Swift and last week Jake Fromm looked to get in a rhythm throwing the ball. Notre Dame, by the looks of their schedule, should not have been tested, but they were in Week One by Louisville where they were helped out a lot by turnovers and sloppy play. Don’t expect Georgia to give away free points. This will be a good one in Athens and I think most of the game will be close, but the Bulldogs will terrorize the Irish out by the time the fourth quarter rolls around and blow it open late. (I also suspect we might see this line drop at least ½ a point.)

The Pick: Georgia -14
NFL Picks:

There aren’t too many lines that jump out at me this week. A lot of injuries have caused some interesting lines and most, including myself, have no idea what to expect. However, there is one game that catches my eye.

Los Angeles Rams vs. Cleveland (+3) Sunday 8:20 p.m.

Yes, the Browns blew out the Jets last week on Monday night, but they only put up 23 points against the depleted Jets defense who were using at least three or four backups for most of the game. Outside of one chunk play touchdown, the Browns struggled to move the ball down the field. The O-Line has also looked like a problem to start the year. I like the Rams in this one who have looked good on both offense and defense.

The Pick: LA Rams -3

Police: Pirates’ Vázquez attempted to have sex with minor

(AP) — Pittsburgh Pirates closer Felipe Vázquez was being held Wednesday in a Pennsylvania jail on multiple felony charges after allegedly telling investigators he attempted to have sex with an underage girl during a meeting at her house in 2017.

The charges are related to Vázquez’s alleged encounters with a girl starting in 2017, when she was 13.

Vázquez is charged with statutory sexual assault, unlawful contact with a minor and corruption of minors, all felonies, and a misdemeanor count of indecent assault of a person under 16 years old.

Vázquez was expected to be arraigned Wednesday in Westmoreland County, though it was uncertain whether he would attend the hearing in person or via video from the Allegheny County Jail.

Vázquez has been in the jail since surrendering to authorities Tuesday on a felony warrant issued in Florida stemming from illicit electronic communication with the same girl.

Vázquez began talking to the girl on social media in 2017 before driving to her house in Westmoreland County, a state police trooper wrote in court papers.

In an interview with troopers last month, she said she got in Vázquez’s car, he removed her pants and tried to have sex with her.

On Tuesday, troopers interviewed Vázquez at his residence and wrote that he admitted to driving to the girl’s house and trying to have sex with her. Troopers also said Vázquez admitted receiving explicit photos of the girl by cellphone and texting her explicit messages as recently as July.

Pennsylvania authorities began investigating the 28-year-old Vázquez in August after being contacted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The victim’s mother contacted Florida officials after learning of an alleged sexual relationship between Vázquez and a teenage girl living in Lee County, Florida.

The arrest warrant from Florida accuses Vázquez of one count of computer pornography/solicitation of a child and one count of providing obscene material to minors. Florida officials do not plan to pursue an extradition until their investigation is completed.

Vázquez was denied bond during a hearing Tuesday on the Florida charges, with the judge saying the Venezuelan-born Vázquez was a flight risk.

Major League Baseball placed Vázquez on administrative leave under its agreement with the players’ association on handling domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. Administrative leave is not considered discipline. Vázquez goes on the restricted list and continues to receive his $4 million salary but is ineligible to play.

Workers removed a banner depicting Vázquez from outside PNC Park before the Pirates lost to the Mariners on Tuesday night. Team president Frank Coonelly, general manager Neal Huntington and manager Clint Hurdle addressed the players in a pregame meeting and there was a somber mood in the clubhouse afterward. By the time the game ended, Vázquez’s locker had been cleaned out and given to another player.

Sports
Lumineers’ lyricism shines on newest album, **III**

**Claire Neiberg**

staff writer

From dancing to “Ho Hey” at my eighth-grade formal to singing along to “Cleopatra” at my high school coffeehouses, I have always been a fan of The Lumineers’ hit songs, as they bring back joyful memories of growing up.

I had high expectations for the Sept. 13 release of their third studio album, **III**, and needless to say, it exceeded all of my expectations while showcasing another side of The Lumineers’ music.

Since I have only listened to their previous, most popular songs one-at-a-time in social situations, I did not realize the importance of listening to this album chronologically or understand its impact at first. I also did not see the dark picture of addiction they were trying to illustrate.

The folk-rock band has been advertising their album since April when they began to release the songs in chapters leading up to the final product. Chapter I includes, “Donna,” “Life in the City,” and “Gloria” and introduces the Sparks family.

While fictionalized, the Sparks family represents an average American family that is struggling with addiction to alcohol. The founding and lead members of the band, Wesley Schultz and Jeremiah Fraites, crafted the family and their story to reflect their own experiences that were affected by addiction.

The release of the album in chapters not only served as creative marketing but also symbolized that recovering from addiction is a process. When listened to in chronological order, the songs tell the story of the Sparks family whose lives have been torn apart by alcohol abuse.

In the first song, “Donna,” a woman (Gloria) is reflecting on her mother (Donna) and how she left her to raise her own family, as she left her with very little guidance and had a strained relationship with her own mother growing up. “Life in the City” is more upbeat compared to the other two tracks in the first chapter but explains Gloria’s rocky background and how she ends up spiraling into drinking away her problems. In the last song of the chapter, “Gloria,” the listener learns about Gloria’s addictive nature to her own child.

There is also a series of 10 music videos that have been released periodically as well. I recommend watching the videos alongside listening to the album, as they bring the songs to life and give insight to who the characters in the songs are. Addiction is one of the hardest trials a family can go through. The music videos reinforce the idea that addiction is a cycle that spans several generations.

Similar to other songs by The Lumineers, all of the songs on the album have a calming, acoustic aura to them that is pleasant to listen to, despite the melancholy lyrics.

One will simply take from this album what they put into it. Alone, all of the songs are enjoyable, but they are difficult to listen to together. They are part of an intricate story of a family. I highly recommend giving **III** a listen because it paints the ugliest situations ordinary people go through in beautiful colors.

**Griffin Sendek**

photography editor

Never before have I witnessed a film so desperately try to be meaningful only to result in something vapid and astonishingly empty.

*The Goldfinch*, directed by John Crowley, is a film adaptation of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name that tells the fictional story of a young Theo Decker (Oakes Fegley) whose life profoundly changes after his mother is killed in a bombing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and within the hour of the moment, he steals the priceless painting of the same name from the museum, and within the heat of the moment, he steals the priceless painting of the same name.

The central plot of Theo and the painting spiraling into an action-thriller. Choosing to save a deeply flawed film. Giving the biggest lasting impression upon this film is the performance by Ansel Elgort. His performance is the slightly more forgettable of the two. Who really steals the show, however, is Finn Wolfhard, who plays Boris. Not that his acting is necessarily anything groundbreaking, but rather that his character provides some comedic relief, pumping some much-needed life back into the film.

This film has glimmers of hope throughout. The Goldfinch is full of scenes that are beautifully shot and composed. The scenes in the MET where the bombing occurs are elegantly shot and masterfully done.

Crowley knows when to let certain moments slow down and breathe. The production design is top-notch, the attention to detail is utterly insane. For those who do wind up watching *The Goldfinch*, look closely at backgrounds. The production and set design do so much for telling the story and establishing who the characters are, yet is done so successfully, it goes by almost completely unnoticed.

The seeds of a great film are buried deep within *The Goldfinch*, which is why it is so disappointing it developed into such an awful viewing experience. It makes me just knowing that everything special about this film is bogged down by a myriad of other issues, and it will likely only be remembered for those.

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and despite its bright spots, *The Goldfinch* is an overly long confusing slog of multiple subplots without a consistent message or story to tell. At the end of the day, *The Goldfinch* is just plain boring and does not deserve your time.
We Have Always Lived in the Castle worth a watch on Netflix

NEIL RUNGE
staff writer

The 2018 adaptation of the gothic novel We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson is now on Netflix and ready for new eyes. It first premiered at the LA Film Festival, then earlier this year, it was shown in a limited number of theaters. A streaming platform is the perfect place for a movie like this to thrive. The novel, published in 1962, seems to have a cult following, and since its original release at the LA Film Festival in 2018, so does the movie. Jackson is a popular author within the mystery and gothic writing style. She set an uneasy tone to her stories and it gained her a following, but that cult of die-hard fans is spread far and wide. So, with the movie’s limited release and smaller fanbase it was destined for low box office numbers. Now, on Netflix, all fans of Jackson’s novel can see the story come to life. That’s exactly what this film does — come to life. The film shines in terms of the actual look of it. The costumes, set pieces and filming locations all beautifully match the eerie and mysterious feel of the novel. It’s a feeling that something is seriously wrong with the Blackwoods but it’s been normalized that this odd and tragic family is around to stay. The film score is icing on the cake. It decorates each scene with a creepy feeling that builds and builds until the true horrors are exposed.

The shine of this movie starts to dull with the dialogue. At times the way the characters speak can be chunky. The actors could have made a mistake. Either way, it can bring a viewer out of the vibe of the movie. Like a fourth wall break in the comedy, these bits and pieces of dialogue that land wrong remind the audience that they are indeed, watching a tale unfold. The goal to build a solid world that people can escape into momentarily fails each time a character says a line that falls into the uncanny valley of human speech. The breaks are remedied by everything else being amazing, but the breaks are still glaring.

The cast list isn’t short of well known actors. American Horror Story: Murder House, Taisa Farmiga plays the main character, Merricat Blackwood, and Marvel star Sebastian Stan in a supporting role as cousin Charles. These two popular actors, along with the rest of the cast give wonderful performances. Farmiga brings a different type of character to the big screen. It was a departure from her more known role in AHS: Murder House. She leaves behind a loud rebellious daughter in the show to play someone more devious. Merricat is quiet and hides more than a few skeletons in her closet, and Farmiga plays it surprisingly well.

Sebastian Stan brings his usual award deserving acting skills to the table. He busts his acting chops playing the not-so-secretly dubious cousin of Merricat and her sister Constance. Stan was a joy to watch; he became famous for his role as Bucky Barnes and the Winter Soldier; Bucky being a loyal and funny best friend, then Winter Soldier being a silent killer. To see him play a role that was manipulative and charming was a breath of fresh air.

We Have Always Lived in the Castle is close enough adaptation to the gothic novel from the 60’s. It’s good to watch on a night where someone wants something spooky but not too scary.

Friday the 13th a lucky day at Pittsburgh Tattoo Company

OLLLIE GRATZINGER
editor-in-chief

Among Pittsburgh’s thrill seekers and body modification fanatics, Friday the 13th is known for more than bad luck and spooky vibes: It’s the day that tattoo parlors and piercing studios mix things up with special deals and designs. Pittsburgh Tattoo Company, for instance, is perhaps the best known of the bunch, with $40 tattoos and $20 piercings. The catch is that you’ve got to pick a design from their preset flash sheets, and that only select piercings are part of the special — nostril, ear, naval and lip — but the tattoo designs are quirky and cool, and the piercings are pretty neat, too.

There’s another Friday the 13th coming up in December, and if you’re thinking about going out to enjoy one of the parlors’ promotions, read on; here’s everything you need to know — and then some.

The Tattoo Experience

This wasn’t my first rodeo; I made the pilgrimage once before, the last time I was in town for a Friday the 13th in April. I’d gotten a small sunrise tattoo on my upper arm. This time, I went for something a bit more eclectic; a cartoon plague doctor. There were a few things that were different about the tattoo experience this time around; the most noticeable change was the fact that the price of tattoos had gone up from the typical $20 of years past to $40 — an adjustment that the artists said just made sense.

The size of the tattoos reflected the cost increase. There were 1-2 inches larger than last time, and even though the smaller designs took much less time to complete, thus making the hilariously long line move faster, efficiency isn’t always synonymous with convenience. With the smaller designs, it took more time for the artist to get set up with the needle and ink than it took to actually put the tattoo on someone, and as my artist said, it just didn’t seem as worthwhile.

For me, these tattoos can be a fun conversation starter; I’ve run into folks who have the same tattoos as me — they’d gotten them at Pittsburgh Tattoo Company’s one and only shop around the first time I was there. The second time was because I’d bumped into in line said there wasn’t as much of a wait for piercings as tattoos, so it would be a nifty way to kill some time while waiting to get inked. So I filled out two forms at the front desk, got two numbers, and made my way over to take a seat.

The piercer was neat and professional and exceptionally friendly. There was a choice between a gemstone stud or a steel ball for the ring, and I chose the latter. This part was quick and easy.

An Overall Good Time

The wait was long, but everyone was in such good spirits. I’m pretty patient, but I’ve only waited in such a long line for two things in my life; the first was to meet the Cake Boss when I was 14, and the second was to get a Friday the 13th tat. Both, of course, were well worth it.

There was also a cooler in the front of the shop with free water and juice, which was a thoughtful surprise considering how hot it had gotten outside. One of the women working the front of the shop, taking names down and distributing numbered tickets, also handed out some fun size candy bars. I got in line at Pittsburgh Tattoo Company around 11:30 a.m., half an hour before the shop opened, and was done with everything around 3 p.m. It took up a good chunk of the day, but a sense of community formed; I ran into people I knew and hadn’t seen in ages, and met some new people I hope I’ll see again.

Pittsburgh Tattoo Company has become something of a thrill-seeker’s Mecca, and Friday the 13th, a cult holiday. It’s an experience I look forward to every time it comes around, and I’ll be at the one in December, too. Maybe I’ll see you there.
Big Pharma negatively affects public health

STAFF ED — from page 4

overpriced cost prohibits some people who need medication from getting it. Likewise, the aggressive marketing campaigns have, until very recently, landed it in the hands of some people who didn’t need it at all. It’s dangerous, and it ought to be kept in check and held responsible for the domino effect it has on public health.

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Monday
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Tuesday
75° Clouds and sun; comfortable

Wednesday
77° Mostly sunny

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