



the
campus
eye

SPRING/SUMMER 2019
ANOKA-RAMSEY STUDENT NEWS



Untitled
Bailey Karger
Pen and Ink

Coon Rapids student art portfolios
found on the "far side" of campus. Pg. 6



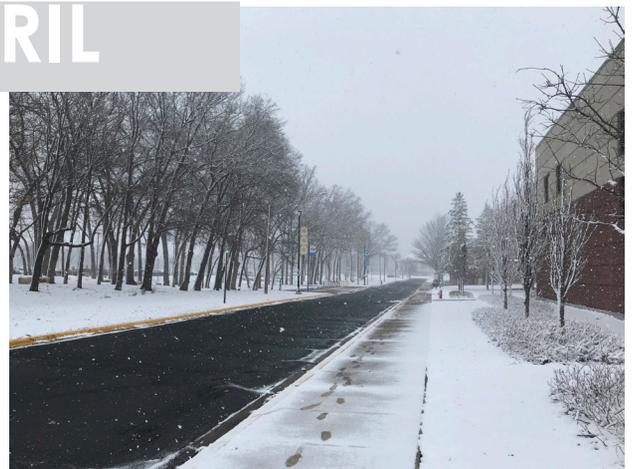
Softball pitcher Bailey Zenk
top conference player. Pg. 8

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR WINTER

FEBRUARY



APRIL



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NEWS PRODUCED BY AND FOR STUDENTS

Anoka-Ramsey Community College
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SPRING 2019

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OUR MISSION

The Campus Eye print edition is published by students of the Coon Rapids and Cambridge campuses of Anoka-Ramsey Community College.

The purpose of The Campus Eye is to provide news from both campuses and views of their students and staff. The newspaper also provides an opportunity for student reporters, photographers and designers to gain experience covering news and producing a newspaper.

Articles on these pages represent the opinions of the writers and not The Campus Eye, Coon Rapids/Cambridge Ccampuses or the student body.

WRITE TO THE CAMPUS EYE

If you are an Anoka-Ramsey student and are interested in submitting a story to our media organization, please email us at thecampuseye.arcc@gmail.com

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TOO COLD, SNOWY FOR SCHOOL

Spring semester started off with school closed for many days and more cancellations later in the semester due to snow.

How did the class cancellations impact your semester?

Interviews by Peighton Koeppen, Photography by Alysha Hovorka



"I loved them because I got to stay home and actually work." - John Zheng

"I really enjoyed the snow days because I was able to catch up on my sleep, however they probably negatively affected my study habits because I did literally nothing those days."

-Sophie Brenna

"It didn't really effect my study habits; all I know is that it gave me more sleep."

- Austin Kanayinkal

Potential Tuition Raise Over Budget Dispute

Possible \$100,000,000 gap in Minnesota State's budget could cost students

Ashley Johnson, Staff Writer

In early March, Anoka-Ramsey president Kent Hanson reported to the student senate that there is a major gap in the Minnesota State budget for the coming year. There is a \$100 million gap between what Minnesota State requested from the government, and what our state governor approved.



Anoka-Ramsey Vice President of Finance and Administration Don Lewis.
Photo Credit: Anoka-Ramsey Community College

Hanson reported that if this gap is not lessened, Anoka-Ramsey may be considering a tuition increase.

The Minnesota State system includes 30

colleges and seven universities. Minnesota State requested \$150 million for asset preservation, like repairs on campuses. The requested budget does not get split evenly between the system campuses.

"Specific projects and costs will depend on actual funding level and college and university conditions at the time of appropriation," reads a statement on the Minnesota State website.

The proposed budget breakdown listed on the site is subject to change depending on the funds received from the government.

In April, Anoka-Ramsey Vice President of Finance and Administration Don Lewis told student senate about three proposals that are currently on the legislation floor. Gov. Tim

Walz's proposal would give the Minnesota State schools \$2 million to split. Another proposal would give Minnesota State \$69 million, which Lewis told senate, "meets us in the middle." The third proposal would be \$149 million, which would hold tuition at its current cost.

Lewis said more information may not come until later this summer when these proposals go to a vote.



COON RAPIDS STUDENT SENATE WITHOUT LEADERSHIP, ELECTION

Ivan Lopez-Kne, Copy Editor

The student senate on the Coon Rapids campus halted its search for new leadership. There was no election for a replacement president or vice president this semester because no candidates applied.

“Nobody ran for president or vice president,” senate advisor Joyce Traczyk said. “So we’ll be electing a whole new e-board [executive board] in the fall.”

According to Traczyk, current members of the senate were uninterested in running for student senate president.

“More and more, less students are getting involved, just because its a big commitment,” Traczyk said. “Especially student senate. Student senate president is a big commitment.”

Currently, Musawwar Alvi is president

with Cody Palmer as vice president. Student senate appointed Alvi on April 4 and Palmer on April 11.

Senate appointed Alvi after elected president, Elijah Muhammad, left campus after the fall semester.

“More and more, less students are getting involved, just because its a big commitment,” student senate advisor Joyce Traczyk said.

Last summer, Prsident Kent Hanson directed an investigation into the senate’s handling of temporarily removing Muhmad from his elected position,

Hanson’s largest concerns were around due process and the vagueness of the senate constitution’s bylaws.

“Let’s update these bylaws, so this isn’t something we get stuck with again,” Hanson said.

The suggestions Hanson communicated to senate leadship in the fall ended up being implemented by the senate through

an updated constitution that was ratified in November 2018.

The largest portions that were added to the constitution included sections detailing proper election campaigning procedure and creating an appeal system for senate and executive board members to ensure

due process.

“It’s unfortunate what happened, y’know, with Elijah, all that stuff, and the constitution, and stuff related to discipline,” Traczyk said. “But it’s a good learning opportunity for the students, and I think our constitution is even better than it was.”

The senate currently consists of four members, with a five member executive board. This is small for a student government body, according to Traczyk, who hopes to see more people become involved.

“It can only get better,” Traczyk remarked. “We can start a fresh year, and things will get bigger and better.”

THE FIRE MONSTER

Anoka-Ramsey student and his family’s life are devastated by a house fire.

Michael Nguyen, Staff Writer

Anoka-Ramsey student Josh Melendez, his wife Amanda, and kids Ella, 4, and Connor, 2, endured a traumatic and terrifying experience on Feb. 16. Melendez woke up to his wife yelling his name as the house they had been renting since September had caught fire.

Melendez ran into the kitchen to see the microwave above the stove completely melted. He grabbed the kids and brought them outside. He then ran to the neighbors to call 911 before running back inside the home to try to save their three pets and put out the fire.

The firefighters rescued one of their dogs while their other dog went missing. The family’s dog was later found, but their cat did not survive the fire.

Melendez jumped out of the bedroom window wearing only his sweatpants. Melendez and his wife both suffered from smoke inhalation. Melendez had frostbite on both of his feet.

It’s been nearly two weeks since that terrifying Saturday morning. Melendez is still experiencing pain walking due to the frostbite. The events of that night have turned this family’s life upside down.

While Melendez and his family may



Josh Melendez’s kitchen after the fire. Photo courtesy of Josh Melendez.

be fine physically, the effects of the night still linger. Melendez’s two young children have been through a terrifying experience.

“My daughter is the person taking this the hardest. She is still talking about the fire monster and how mommy and daddy saved her,” Melendez said. “I’ve been having a hard time sleeping, sometimes I wake up just sweating,” Melendez said.

The Melendez’s are currently staying with a friend in Apple Valley. Melendez is very happy

to have friends that have been amazing through this experience. The Melendez family was left with nothing after the fire. All of their things were lost in the fire, their furniture: TV, clothes and all the kids’ toys.

“This was our first time renting, we never even considered getting renters insurance,” stated Melendez.

The fire also burned up all of Melendez’s school items. Melendez decided to go back to college using his GI bill for being a veteran. Melendez was in the navy from 2006 to 2010. He plans on getting a degree in environmental science. Due to the fire, he was unable to continue at Anoka-Ramsey this semester, but plans to go back in the fall.

Melendez is currently waiting to hear back from veteran organizations that hopefully can help his family find a new place.

“I just want a place of our own again. It’s so nice of our friends to help us out, but it’s just not a place of our own. My daughter keeps asking when do we get to go home, I just tell her that we are having a long sleepover,” said Melendez.

This story was originally published online on March 1.

newswire

Loneliness in Connectivity

Speaker discusses the power of social media with Coon Rapids campus.

Ivan Lopez-Kne, Copy Editor

Erin Walsh of Mind Positive Parenting was at the Coon Rapids campus on April 16, talking about loneliness in the social media age.

Her hour long talk to students included discussions on media, multitasking, and how it all affects our daily lives.

“Digital technologies are not inherently good or bad; they are powerful,” Walsh repeated throughout her lecture. “We can’t talk about humans without talking about screens.”

With an average of 53 hours per week being spent on media that is not school or homework by 8 to 18 year olds, Walsh spent the first section of her lecture detailing these statistics and how

much we all use our devices. The speaker detailed how 31 percent of adults feel anxiety when separated from their phones. However, as Walsh detailed, these statistics come from learned behaviors.

Thirty-seven percent of 2 to

4 year olds have a television in their room, and 25 percent of children go online daily at the age of three. All this time spent leads to a lifetime of dependence.

“Whatever the brain does a lot of, the brain gets good at,” Walsh said.

Walsh’s parents founded Mind Positive Parenting, originally the National In-

stitute on Media and the Family, in 1996. Dave and Monica Walsh wanted to “maximize the benefits and minimize the harms of media’s impact on children’s health and development,” according to their website. The power of technology is their primary focus. Mind Positive Parenting’s focus on educating the public on its proper use. The organization references studies showing a correlation lack of sleep, high media usage, with higher levels of anxiety and stress.

“The more we tend to con-

sume, the more anxious we tend to be,” Walsh said. Mind Positive Parenting did have recommendations on avoiding anxiety from overuse and over-dependence on technology. It emphasizes single-tasking and reducing the use of alluring sounds that come from your phone to promote your response. Walsh also stressed the importance of face-to-face time with other people.

“Have a deep and meaningful conversation,” Walsh said. “We have to communicate to people in our lives that they do not have to compete for our time with the internet.”

For more information on Walsh, and Mind Positive Parenting, you can visit its website.



Red Tape Frustrates PSEO Students

PSEO students perceive obstacles from their high schools

Ashley Johnson, Staff Writer

PSEO students are feeling discouraged by their high schools as they attempt to take college courses during high school. The frustrations include changing credit requirements and a perceived large number of rules to follow.

PSEO students comprise at least 35 percent of the students on the Cambridge campus. With so many students sharing in this PSEO experience, the comparing and contrasting of their stories highlights some frustrations they feel about their high schools.

“[The high school] changed the graduation requirements for upcoming graduating classes and said mine, the class of 2019, was excluded. They then added credit requirements for my class anyways and did not tell PSEO students,” Michelle Stickney, a PSEO student, said.

The credit requirements changed the PSEO students’ path for graduation after they had registered for classes and the fall se-

mester had already begun.

“Some students feel this is more than an error in communication by their high school counselors,” Stickney said.

Several students have cited lack of communication or cooperation from their counselors at their high school.

“The counselor at my school makes a lot of rules that feel like they target PSEO students,” PSEO student Mary Ellingson said.

Students at Ellingson’s school are given a PSEO contract. One item on the contract states, “PSEO student that are involved in high school sports must submit

their grades to a counselor weekly to remain eligible to play.”

Ellingson said her counselor does not always keep their appointments, making it difficult to follow rules set in place for PSEO students.

Abbie Huttenberg, director of K-12 partnerships at Anoka-Ramsey said the college is addressing the student concerns.

“[Anoka-Ramsey] has created a PSEO advising form that we’ve asked all new PSEO students to complete,” Huttenberg said. “That form is meant to be completed with a high school counselor or home school parent to determine exactly how many credits and what courses/subjects the student needs to graduate from high school.”

Some PSEO students have suggested that finances may be the reason some high schools discourage students from signing up for PSEO.

“Some high schools do promote the opportunities for ad-

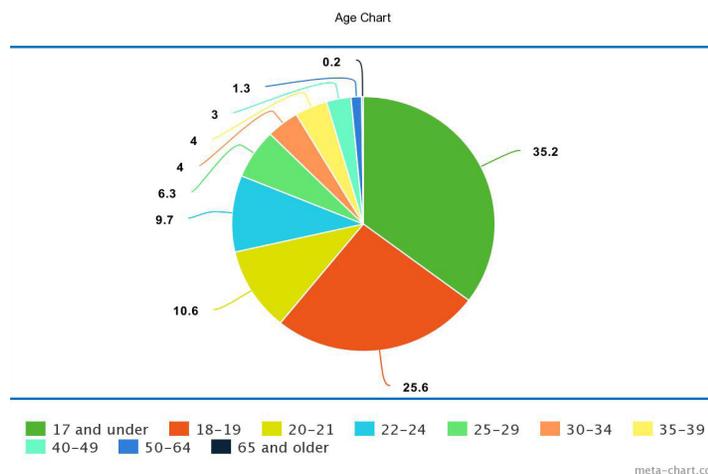
vanced credit that are available at their high school (AP, IB, Concurrent Enrollment/College in the High School) more heavily than they do the opportunities that happen off the high school campus,” Huttenberg said.

Some high schools believe that taking advanced courses on the high school’s campus provides a better transition for students.

“I rarely hear high school counselors discuss the funding as the reason they may not be in support of PSEO for a particular student,” Huttenberg said.

Huttenberg said Anoka-Ramsey advocates for its PSEO students.

“ARCC holds a breakfast for high school counselors every spring to update them on new programs and discuss the PSEO program with the hope of both the college and high school gaining a better understanding of each other,” Huttenberg said.



Age group demographics of students at Cambridge campus. Image Credit: Ashley Johnson

Graphic Novelist Visits Cambridge Campus

Art, industry, and autism among his main talking points

Rebecca Zych, Staff Writer

Graphic novelist Jason Walz spoke at Cambridge campus on April 25 as part of the Minnesota Writer's Series.

He shared insight into how he brings his sci-fi creations to life and his experience in the art field.

Walz hopes to encourage the creative expression of others through self-deprecative humor and impressive visuals.

"The art/literary world reward sales and fame, so it's really important to find the calm in that storm and to not get swept up in longing for things we have no control over," Walz said.

Walz's latest project, the Last Pick trilogy, is sci-fi/dystopian story follows twins Sam and Wy-

att as they struggle to survive an abandoned world. Deemed a part of humanity's rejects, they were left behind when aliens came to abduct the "useful population."

"In this world, turning sixteen is a terrifying thing...To have both Sam and Wyatt dealing with this at the same time made good sense to me." Walz explained.

One of the twin is autistic the aliens label him a reject. The twins emphasize the illogicality of divisions present in the fictional society and our own society. Wyatt and Sam are equals yet they are divided by an arbitrary ranking system.

"I believe that creating charac-



Original artwork by Walz from Last Pick, on display at Cambridge campus. Follow him at @jasonwalz on Instagram and Twitter.

ters with 'disabilities' means honoring the disability while also honoring the character you've created. Our world could use quite a bit more empathy these days, and a good start to that is by exposing readers to diverse lives and diverse experiences," Walz said.

Walz grew up in a small Kentucky town whose residents were passionate about two things:

sports and hunting. Walz was never interested; he'd rather be at home drawing. He soon fell in love with visual storytelling when his local store started selling comic books

His love of comic books compelled him to start writing and drawing his own stories and selling them at his middle school. He received powerful encouragement from one of his teachers and his mother. Their support had a lasting impact on his life and his artistic journey.

Currently Walz is working on the finale of the Last Pick trilogy, expected October 2020. The second book, "Last Pick: Born to Run" will available Oct.8.

Opening the Box: A Toy Story

Jonathan Ness, Staff Writer

The wind is blowing as I open my front door. I walk out with my camera bag swinging around my waist, and my camera dangling around my neck. I venture out into the neighborhood to find the perfect spot to photograph. I open my bag to take out six storm-troopers. The shot that's been playing through my head all day is about to become a reality.

After 20 minutes of posing my figures, I'm ready to start shooting, when a gust of wind knocks down my hard work. I set them up and try photographing them again until I get the shot. I shoot three scenes and go back inside. After an hour of editing I am ready to share my photos with the internet. This is my average day as a toy photographer.

I've photographed toys since I was 7 years old. I would use disposable cameras and capture my massive set ups and battles. Fastforward 13 years from then, and I'm now using a Sony A6000 mounted with a vintage canon lens.

For over a decade I've photographed my vision, breathing life

into the inanimate existence of toys. I create life-like scenes and write gritty narratives to go with them.

I am not alone in bringing toys to life. There are thousands of toy photographers who give purpose to their figures, freeing them from behind the bars of their packaging.

All of us have a source of inspiration for our work. InspiredByAndre, a photographer who specializes in shooting high contrast colors, sees his son as a source of inspiration for his photos. He captures photos through the eyes of what his son, Dre, sees.

Lights_Camera_Tentacles, a brilliant artist captures highly atmospheric horror shots. "My biggest influence is probably from growing up in the 80's," Lights_Camera_Tentacles said. "There's a visceral realism to them that I enjoy so when I take photos, I try to do everything in camera as much as possible in an attempt to make things seem more real."

Lights_Camera_Tentacles said he cherishes the toy photography community and the friends he's

made, including one friend who was the maid of honor at his wedding.

Xenostromo is another horror photographer that I follow. He said his toys are his primary source of inspiration.

"I feel as though if I don't do something with them, then they'll only collect dust, and that's just disrespectful to items I hold so dearly," Xenostromo said.

Every photographer has their own origin story. A.Sith.Load.

(Of.Legos found his passion for LEGO photography on a walk with his family.

"I first started doing toy photography at the end of May 2018, and I remember we were out for a forest walk with the kids and I was just testing the water with some outdoor [LEGO] shots," he said.

_Atmoic_Girl_ captures incredible moods and aesthetics through her toy photography.

"I've come from a family of photographers and I've always loved to collect different kind of figures, so I just said 'what if...' and I've been enjoying this hobby since then," she said.

We capture art in our own ways and are born from pop culture. We bring light to our heroes, and show the blood that comes from our villains. It is a symphony of beauty, and destruction that we all excel at producing.

If you see someone photographing a toy, know that they are an artist using a figure for their canvas.



Photography credit from top left clockwise: InspiredByAndre, A.Sith.Load.Of.Legos, _Atmoic_Girl_, TheAmazingJMan (Jonathan Ness), Xenostromo, Lights_Camera_Tentacles

Traveling to 'The Far Side of Campus'

Andrew Hayes, The Drop editor

On April 18, I met with Anoka-Ramsey Community College art professor Rachel Breen to learn more about the Associate of Fine Arts Visual Arts Student Portfolio Exhibition and the students involved.

In this spring exhibition, viewers can observe 14 unique student AFA portfolios. Each portfolio consists of artwork and an autobiography made and displayed by student artists. These students are working towards a two-year program to earn an Associate of Fine Arts degree.

Breen says the importance of this exhibition is "to teach students how to showcase their work to the public and to celebrate their portfolio completion." In addition, Breen stated "students learned how to submit portfolio's digitally and got accepted to showcase their art in the state fair's annual art exhibit in the fine arts building"

After I met with Breen, she connected me with students Rebekah Hedquist and Laura Zelin to talk about their portfolios.

I began with asking them, "What was the hardest and easiest challenge you experienced while

creating your portfolio? Both students responded with "time management" as the hardest challenge. But for the easiest, Hedquist said, "idea planning" and Zelin said, "hanging up the artwork."

I then asked them, "what is your favorite piece from your portfolio?" Hedquist stated hers is titled "Water Filled Abstraction" which is a "Oil on Canvas" that portrays a feminine figure and a fish.

Zelin then stated hers is titled "Combinatorics" which is a "Charcoal over Collage" that portrays branches and leaves of a tree.

Lastly I asked, "what influences your art?" Hedquist replied "Nature" while Zelin replied "A branch of mathematics known as combinatorics and Andy Warhol"

After speaking with Hedquist and Zelin, I went further and examined the talented gallery for myself. It was one of the most enjoyable walks I've experienced inside of campus. If interested, you can also witness this gallery for yourself till May 3, on the second floor in the visual arts wing on the Coon Rapids campus.



Top: Rebekah Hedquist's portfolio, where you can see her passion for art through painting and nature as her muse. Photo by Andrew Hayes.

Bottom: Laura Zelin's portfolio, where her work focuses on the parallels and intersections between art and mathematics. Photo by Andrew Hayes.

Photos under story: A selection of AFA portfolios on display in the visual arts wing. Photos by Peighton Koeppen.



arts

A Valentine's Day Horror Show Invades Coon Rapids

The Coon Rapids theater students put on "Little Shop of Horrors" over two weekends in mid February. Lisa Weaver directed the production.



Left photo, pictured left to right: Emily Rosdahl, Bailey Rosdahl, Rachel Haider, Austin Scott, Logan Douglas, Sara Kuntz performing during a dress rehearsal for "Little Shop of Horrors."
Right photo: Logan Douglas and Glen Lee (inside the plant) performing during a dress rehearsal for "Little Shop of Horrors."
Photos by Alysha Horovaka



Our Town Springs a Visit to Campus

The Coon Rapids theater students put on "Our Town" over two weekends in late April. Blayn Lempke directed the play.

Those pictured include: Derrick Smith as Wally Webb, Tricia Buerke as Mrs. Webb, Gokasheng Vue as Emily Webb, Logan Douglas as George Gibbs, Stevey Avalos as Mrs. Gibbs, John Murphy as Constable Warren, and Mikayla Bode as Rebecca Gibbs. Photos by Alysha Horovaka



sports

Golden Rams Reach Basketball Playoffs



Both basketball teams made it to their respective NJCAA Region XIII tournaments.

The women played in the championship game, losing to Western Tech 68-62. The Rams regular season record was 22-6. Guard Mikayla Homola (pictured above) was voted First Team All-American, signifying her place as a top five national Division III player.

The men were one game away from the championship game, but lost to Riverland in the semifinals, 82-62. Their regular season record was 17-12.

Men's basketball photo by Peighton Koeppen. Women's basketball photo courtesy of Anoka-Ramsey Athletics.

Poor Weather Freezes Baseball Season



The Rams had an extraordinary season with 12 games getting cancelled due to weather. With three games left in the season, the team's record is 17-13. At the time of printing, the team is in third place in the Southern Division.

Photo courtesy of Anoka-Ramsey Athletics.

Star Pitcher Reflects a Winning Team



Bailey Zenk, pictured above, was honored with MCAC Pitcher of the Week in April. As a starting pitcher this year, Zenk has amassed a record of 9 wins and 4 losses. She has the most runs batted in and homeruns in the conference. Zenk is also third in conference batting average. At the time of printing, the Rams are 20-15 overall and is in second place behind St. Cloud Tech.

Photo by Peighton Koeppen.