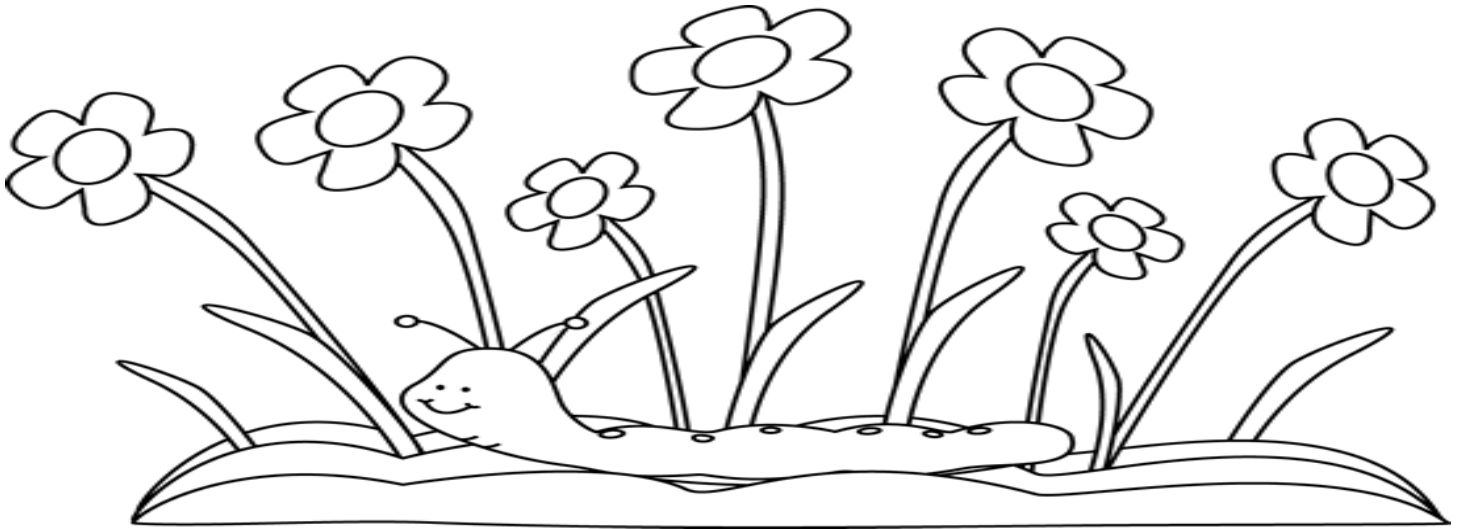

The Scuttlebutt

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NOTE FROM THE EDITORS:

Hello readers! I hope you've had a great year so far and take a moment to appreciate the sunshine. We have decided to accept the challenge of publishing three consecutive issues this month so get ready to write your heart out. We'll need all the support we can get so wish us the best of luck!



Movie Review: Lego Movie 2

By: Violet Garcia

I went to the movie theater to see the new *Lego Movie* sequel, *The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part*, with my father and little brother on February 9, 2019. I had been looking forward to this sequel since the last movie release in 2014. I became a huge fan of *The Lego Movie* and its spin-offs ever since. My father, brother, and I walked into the large and crowded theater with a large bucket full of popcorn and soda. We went to our seats like eager little kids and watched the movie trailers. At first, I didn't think it would be as good as the original despite the many reviews saying that it was. But two hours later we left the theater and I felt like I was flying out of pure happiness. I loved it! Surprisingly, I thought it was better than *The Lego Batman Movie* back in 2017, which I really enjoyed. It was so good that I even got a happy meal from McDonalds with a toy from *The Lego Movie 2* considering the fact that it's rare for me to get a happy meal anywhere.

The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part was released on February 8, 2019 nationwide. It was directed by Mike Mitchell and produced by Warner Bros. Pictures. The film has a certified fresh score of 86% on Rotten Tomatoes and takes place five years after the events of the original in an apocalyptic universe. The main character, Emmet, continues to be the happy guy he was in the first movie. Unfortunately, all of his friends have become depressed because of the condition of their homes. Later on, Emmet's friends get captured by the evil legos and Emmet must rescue them, despite his harmless nature.

(SPOILERS!) I really liked this movie because it teaches you the harsh truth about growing up. For example, when Emmet is going to rescue his friends he meets a tough character named Rex. He may look cool but he is very bitter and only cares about himself. Later on in the movie he tricks Emmet into ruining a huge wedding and tells Emmet that all of his friends are brainwashed even though they were not. After the destruction, Emmet loses his friends and finally realizes that Rex is actually himself from the future! Except he is a much more ruthless version of Emmet. This taught me that as we grow up and mature, we lose our innocence and become aware of the world. Therefore, as we can mature some people may continue to be rude sometimes. Personally, I believe that Emmet represents a child and Rex represents a

teenager. A lesson it taught me was that even if we feel that all hope is gone, we can still find happiness. There is a moment where every Lego character (except Emmet and Rex), including Emmet's friends are put away by the kids who play with them. All the characters get sad and begin singing a song called "Everything's Not Awesome". This movie is like a musical. There are about four songs in this movie that are actually very cute and very catchy! 'Catchy Song' is literally the name of a song in the movie, and fittingly that's not a joke. I feel that the movie may be for an older audience rather than it's targeted audience: children. Teens and adults will understand the jokes and be able to relate. The movie also has some sibling rivalry in it, which I really related to because I have a younger brother. The jokes were very funny though. For instance, in one scene the mother of the kids steps on a lego brick and compares the pain to childbirth. Stepping on lego bricks is a big part of playing with legos, and it really hurts. There are many positive comments I can give this movie, but it does have a few flaws. The story doesn't flow that well like the original. The plot is pretty strange. The ending was very cute, but it ended with another cliffhanger. Now I want another sequel!

I would personally give this movie a 9/10. I really thought it was an awesome movie (no pun intended). I feel like no Lego movie could beat the original movie, but they are all awesome in their own way. I really recommend you buy The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part on Blu-Ray one day. Your family will like it because of the very fun lessons hidden within the storyline.

Staff Interview Series

Softball Coaches

By: Diamond Hodges



Softball season is just around the corner so we decided to interview the Varsity and Junior Varsity coaches.

1. Why did you get into coaching?

Coach Elsa: I got into coaching because when I was a student here I actually played softball myself. When the opportunity to be a coach was presented it was really easy for me to just accept it.

Coach Oropeza: It was my luck because the coach prior to me was moved to another school and they needed a coach. I grew up with baseball and since softball is related to it I decided to go through with it. I realized how important my coach was growing up. It was because of that person and the sports that got me into college; it got me to believe in myself so I felt it would be impactful for other students as well.

2. What is the best part about being a coach?

Coach Elsa: Developing a personal connection with the girls. It isn't just about coaching the sport, it's about mentoring the players; it's being there to hear them out. When they come to you for personal and college stuff it's really important.

Coach Oropeza: Game day. Game day is the best. Putting the uniform on and seeing everyone lining up and competing.

3. What are your favorite and worst moments being a coach?

Coach Elsa: I think when we have team bonding days because everyone is out there having a good time. My worst moments are when you see someone down. A lot of these girls have issues at home so when they bring it to the field you can see their sadness. It's the worst when you don't know how to help.

Coach Oropeza: My favorite and worst moments can be summed up in similar fashion. One of the best moments was making it to the championship in Texas and winning with half of our team hurt. One of the worst moments was losing in the city championship here a few years back. Also one of the worst moments is when I see kids getting injured and knowing that their season is over. It's difficult to explain to kids and allow them to process it.

4. What are some strengths you have as a team?

Coach Elsa: That we all get along and we all have each others' backs and we all motivate each other. No one hates each other over any decisions we make. Overall, we are always pumping each other up, and that's amazing.

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Coach Oropeza: As a team I think we're united. I think everybody is here for the right reason. I think a lot of my girls love the sport and that goes a long way.

Let us know who you would like to see interviewed next!

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Super Bloom 2019

By: Nicole Arceo

As spring is just around the corner, California is expecting a rare display of wildflowers across its deserts. This display is a rare phenomenon termed a "Superbloom". According to National Geographic, the term "Super Bloom" is defined "as an explosion of wildflowers that exceed the typical spring blooms". A good wildflower year according to the National Park Service depends on a well-spaced rainfall throughout the winter and spring, warmth from the sun, and a lack of drying winds. California's wet season, which stretched from November to March, has ushered in the steady yet not-too-heavy rainfall that causes flowers to bloom. National Geographic also states that, "The cold winter that followed California locked more moisture into the ground".



On Afar.com they have California's parks listed below under the peak season between Mid-February to

Mid-March. Anza-Borrego State Park: The largest state park in California (600,000 acres), about 85 miles northeast of San Diego in the Colorado Desert comes alive during wildflower season with Desert Marigold, Desert Lily, Sand Verbena, Desert Sunflower, Apricot Mallow, Desert Five-spot, Orcutt's Woody Aster, and Blooming Cacti. Channel Islands National Parks are five islands that make up 25 miles off the Santa Barbara coastline. Visitors often enjoy a wide spread of wildflower offerings and each is unique.

On Anacapa, Santa Barbara, and San Miguel islands, yellow coreopsis can begin blooming in January and last throughout March. Figueroa Mountain Recreation Area will begin bursting with Wild Hyacinth, Shooting Stars, Buttercups, Milkmaids, Johnny-Jump-Ups, Chocolate Lilies, Scarlet Indian Paintbrush, Goldfields, Purple Fiesta flowers, Popcorn flowers, and Poppies. It is predicted this year that Super Bloom will attract crowds of visitors. During the 2017 Superbloom, some

200,000 visitors arrived to Figueroa Mountain motivated by the fact that images of the bloom make for great social media content. Amid the media, the significance of this event was that it was visible from space. Overall I'm excited to see what this years Super Bloom will bring to California. In the future, I hope to one day experience the scenery first hand by planning a trip down to California's deserts.

This is only the beginning of the Super Bloom and the wonders have yet to come for people in the Golden State.



Bees

By: Ulises

For most people they're scary and, even though they are a vital part of Earth's ecosystem, many choose to kill them without thinking twice: bees. Even I used to be afraid (Okay, maybe not afraid but I just didn't like them, okay/? Don't judge me!) of bees. I knew about the common saying "don't move and they'll leave you alone" but I only used that when I had nowhere to Go.

I gained a newfound appreciation for bees when one landed on me while I waited for the bus recently. This time I didn't kill it, I just stood still to see what happened. I concluded that if it decided to sting me there wasn't much I could do. However, it didn't sting me at all. It just roamed on my arm and flew away after a bit. This small incident made me remember an article that I had read some time ago about the recent die off of bees. I researched this more and discovered that bees were indeed dying off rather quickly.

It's common knowledge that bees pollinate flowers and other plants which in turn allows for more plants to grow. This one small action is the spark that begins the flurry of food chains and food webs that exist in almost every ecosystem. Bottom feeders obviously contribute but bees allow plants to flourish. These newly blossomed plants are then eaten by animals and those animals serve as food for us and other predators. Without these cute little flying balls of fuzz our food supply would begin to dwindle. Slowly but surely all life on Earth would go extinct, including us. It's a scary thought when you start to realize that bees are dying at such a fast rate.

To aid with this endangerment of bees, Amsterdam has to install all sorts of shrubs and flowers in public areas to help rebuild the population of bees. All it takes to help bees is a flower or a few bushes here and there. They've taken efforts as far as banning the use of chemical pesticides in public places. The general public has also joined in on this effort, as they have begun replacing parts of their property or even their land with "insect hotels". People have removed part of cement from their homes and replaced

that patch of land with plants and flowers so as to help the number of bees grow.

In the end, all nations who are capable should attempt to participate in these efforts. Bees are vital, quite literally, to our existence. so why not try and help them return to their original population? Even if the replacement of part of someone's property is not interesting or appealing the construction of parks small patches of public land can help. You can help too by planting a few flowers in your front yard. If that isn't possible, then you can just not kill bees next time one gets near you. As they say, "don't bite the hands that feed you" so don't slap the bug that feeds you!

St. Patrick's Day

By: Britney Juarez



On March 17, St. Patrick's day is celebrated. This holiday is typically known as an Irish holiday. The St. Patrick's Day holiday came to be when a large immigrant population emigrated from Ireland to America many years ago. They started the tradition of wearing green. This holiday honors Saint Patrick, a patron saint in Ireland, who was born in Roman Britain in the 4th century. He was later kidnapped at age 16 and forcefully taken to Ireland as a slave.

Even though he managed to escape, he later returned to spread Christianity among the Irish population. There are many legends

regarding him and his work. Some of the more popular legends speak about how he drove snakes out of Ireland and how we spread the message of the Holy Trinity using shamrocks. A shamrock is the green clover-like plant with three-lobed leaves, which is often used as the national emblem of Ireland. By the time of Saint Patrick's death, he was known to have made significant impacts, such as establishing monasteries, churches, and schools.

Furthermore, as a result of the large Irish population in America, Boston held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1737 which was followed by New York City in 1762 when Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City. Irish and non-Irish alike now commonly participate in the "wearing of the green" – sporting an item of green clothing or a shamrock in the lapel. According to *Britannica*, "Corned beef and cabbage are associated with the holiday, and even beer is sometimes dyed green to celebrate the day." Every year, people hold festivities and parades, all over the nation to celebrate St. Patrick's day.

The Wall

By: Issac Giles

There is a "wall" that separates Mexico and the United States. It's located at the southern end of San Diego and runs across the border of New Mexico. But recently President Donald J. Trump shut down the government for several weeks in an effort to get funding for a barrier and many were out of a job. Although not everyone is in favor of this new wall, many agree that the President had no right to do this in attempt to raise \$5.7 billion for a 1,933 mile long border. In the weeks following the government shut down, the President called for a National Security Emergency to secure funds for the wall.

History can be a very import guide for the present as many events tend to repeat over and over again. Before the Mexican American War and right after the Louisiana Purchase, there was an idea of expansion westward. The U.S. wanted lands occupied by Mexico, sparking war. The United States won the war and took Mexican land. Later in the 1930's, thousands of Mexicans were deported to Mexico without notice; they were just taken from their homes (similar to deportations done by ICE). It wasn't until the 1940's during World War II that the U.S. went to Mexico and brought back Mexicans, called Braceros, to help with agricultural labor for the war. Now in the 21st century, the same

issues are occurring and Mexican Americans are being discriminated against and stereotyped. President Trump has called all Mexicans murderers, sex and drug traffickers, criminals, delinquents, and so on. But we can learn that the actions of one or even several people cannot account for the actions of everyone. To say that a few are guilty of a crime can account for the actions of an entire race is not accurate.

The President has been talking and wanting to build a wall to stop these "intruders" from coming in. The President has now announced a State of Emergency to get money for a wall that will cost billions of dollars. It makes us wonder whether the United States should pay all this money for a wall when it could feed or help out our country in other ways instead. The President has made up his mind and he has already visited the cities that are constructing it. It's up to us to decide and make our stance on the issue but one thing that is for certain is that one idea can spark more ideas and beliefs like a Great Awakening. So, Are we ready to start a spark?