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Editorial Board

Adam LaBarre Editor-In-Chief ~ Nya Bentley ~ Greg Nowinski ~ Meajah Edney

April is Arab American history month



Map of 22 Arab countries including Palestine

Medium.com

**By Meajah Edney
Editor**

While February is a month dedicated to the contributions made by African-Americans throughout American History, and March is to acknowledge the achievements and accomplishments made by women throughout American

history, just recently, April has been named Arab-American Heritage Month, celebrating Arab culture, heritage, and paying tribute to the many contributions Arab-Americans have made throughout U.S. History.

The celebration of National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM) dates

back to the 90s, where it was celebrated irregularly among states, mainly in school districts.

In 2017, Arab America, a national media organization, went to congresswoman Debbie Dingell (MI) to issue a congressional resolution. Additionally Arab America hosted a commemorative reception in Washington D.C, Debbie Dingell and Muriel Bowser, the Mayor of Washington D.C, along with over 200 opinion leaders and dignitaries from the Arab-American community were in attendance.

As a result, in 2019, 109 proclations from 26 states (including Connecticut) were issued by state legislatures, municipalities, counties, and school districts.

Who is considered Arab? The consensus (even though there is much debate) is that Arab refers to people from an Arabic-speaking country, aka a country in the "Arab World." That includes: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman,

Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Yemen.

However, someone from an Arabic-speaking country might not identify, nor be considered Arab, aka Berbers, the indigenous people of North Africa. In the Arab world, Berbers mostly live in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, and a small part of western Egypt.

Arabs had been immigrating to the US in sizeable amounts since the 1880s. Today, it's estimated that the population of Arabs is nearly 3.7 million. While Arab-Americans live in all 50 states, two-thirds are concentrated in 10 states: California, New York, Michigan, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

One-third of the total population are concentrated in three areas metropolitan LA, Detroit, and New York. In Connecticut, Danbury has the highest population of Arab-Americans at 1.48% (1,101 people) of the population.

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What they didn't know about their H2O



Rac.org

This is a picture that shows how polluted the water has gotten from the date of 1/15/2015 to now

By Noel Angus
Staff Writer

Flint, Michigan has one of the dirtiest water sources in America. Last month, CBS reported that 174 Flint children were exposed to lead during the Flint water crisis, and 80% of those children will need special education services because of it.

Lead poisoning is terrible, especially in children. High amounts of lead in your body can cause serious damage to the nervous system and the brain, which are two parts of the body that are still developing in children.

In 2014, Flint almost went bankrupt. Therefore, in order to save money, they switched to the Flint River instead of

the traditional water source of the Great Lakes. This turned out to be one of the worst decisions they made because of Flint River's high levels of contamination.

It's gotten so bad that people have to stand in line early in the morning in order to get a bottle of "fresh" water.

Larry Marshall, a widowed father of 5, said this in a CBS interview, "Water should be a basic necessity that -- we shouldn't have to wait or stand in line for, you know. This is not a third world country. But we're living like one."

This is not okay, and we need to stand together as a country and do what we can to help and support Flint in their desperate time of need.

Negative prices hitting the market



Watt-logic.com

Oil prices decline amid Corona pandemic

By Aidan Lang
Staff Writer

Oil prices, the week of April 22nd, fell to negative -\$37.63, which means that sellers would need to pay people to take a barrel of oil off their hands.

But the historic plunge is a bit over exaggerated according to *The New York Times*.

"The negative price concerned only contracts for delivery of barrels in May that are traded on so-called futures markets.

At the same time trading happens for May deliveries, people trade on contracts ending in June, in July and so on."

As a result of this, refineries are willing to pay to get rid of

their oil because it is cheaper than storing it.

Of course this doesn't mean you won't have to pay for gas, which is because crude oil is not the only resource used to make gas, it just means it will be a lot cheaper.

In fact, across the United States the overall price for gas has dropped to \$1.81, which is a \$1.03 drop from last year.

The price of oil falling does not mean you can store it in your backyard to save money; it only applies to major storage places, specifically Cushing, Oklahoma, a critical storage hub where many of our countries oil pipelines converge.

New Zealand claims to have eliminated the Corona Virus



CNN

Ashley Bloomfield, New Zealand's Director General of Health

By Kode Smith
Staff Writer

On Monday, April 27th, New Zealand eased the restrictions on the country citing they know where the cases are coming from since numbers have dropped down to single digits.

New Zealand's Director

General of health said that their goal is to eliminate the virus, meaning have little cases to the point where they can control the outbreak and not have it spread to anyone else.

The country says it is prepared if any more cases come. The country will go from a level 4 alert to level 3.

With level 3, businesses will be allowed to reopen with restrictions.

Schools will reopen with limited capacity. People may also gather to do things like swimming at the beach. Wedding and funerals will be restricted to only 10 people.

Gyms and museums will remain closed.

The government is not helping us



By Adam Labarre
Editor-in-chief

C-Net

Now more than ever the government needs to help the working person in America, but they just don't seem to care.

With the rapid spread of COVID-19 people who are not essential workers are required to stay home. This is in an effort to curve the rate of infection and limit contact between large groups of people. While this is a good step for public health, it raises new problems that the government has failed to solve.

Many people in America rely on a weekly paycheck in order to survive and provide a healthy life for themselves and their family. Now, this financial supply is cut-off

for an unknown amount of time. People who live on a check-to-check basis can not survive through their savings because they do not have any. Their paycheck is not large enough to have savings. It is dwindled down by purchasing essentials like food, water, and clothes, and further dwindled by rent or mortgage payments, electricity payments, car loans, and student loans.

In order for people to get through these unprecedented times, you would think the government would step in and provide supplemental health. Some say they have improved, giving everyone making \$99,000 dollars a year or less a stimulus check worth \$1,200 dollars. On

the surface, this looks like a good contribution. However, when you compare the other favors the government is paying for, that \$1,200 dollars is simply a drop in a barrel.

During this time banks and Wall Street have been hit hard as well. Their quarterly bottom line has been hurt, so the government, of course, has no choice but to pour billions and billions of dollars into these businesses so they don't fail. It's not like these fortune 500 CEOs have any savings of their own to pay into their own businesses to help their own employees and their own bottom line.

You know it's funny. I feel like I saw this same movie in 2008. And from what I recall, it didn't have a happy ending. As many people struggle to survive without an income, big businesses and Wall Street sit happy, because they know they are too big to fail.

The government will always make sure to look out and help its biggest contributor. If that's not bad enough, the government is putting no restrictions on banks to give a grace period for people to

pay back their loans. What many banks have decided to do is have a three month furlough. This allows people who cannot pay for their monthly loan payments now pay at the end of the three month period.

However, this makes no sense because if they don't have enough money to pay for one payment now, they definitely won't have enough money to pay for four payments in three months. The system is truly absurd.

The government instead should require that all loans be delayed by three months. This actually lifts a financial burden off people's shoulders, whereas the current plan is holding up that same burden with a thin string while the person squats down to avoid it. If the government stopped bailing out these companies and gave the money to the average American, it would show true care for us.

Now more than ever we need to stand with each other and help out wherever possible. The government should step up and adhere to its own motto- E pluribus unum: out of many, one.

Working during Covid

By Brendon Hunter
Staff Writer

Working during COVID-19 has some positives, but it does not outway the possible negative health threats.

It's a benefit because depending on where you work, there is a two dollar pay raise for base-level jobs. For me, my pay went from 13 dollars an hour to 15. In addition, a lot of people have called out of work because of this pandemic, so there are

more hours to pick up.

My paycheck has increased by a lot. The disadvantage is having contact with so many people. There are the customers who take it seriously, then there are the customers who take it too seriously!

What I mean by that is the people who take it too seriously do very disrespectful things to try and get what they want.

For example, I was cashing out this lady, and she told me to change my gloves, and I told her politely, it's ok I just did, and I wiped down the belt too.

She told me "No you didn't, you're contaminated". I ignored her because of my job. I tried to ring out her items, and she told me not to touch them, and I didnt touch them. Then she said. I had to give her a gift card

because she asked me for it. I tried to give it to her, but all of a sudden I got hit with a spray from her purse. The lady sprayed me with some disinfectant.

So, I looked at her, and continued to cash her out and then went into the bathroom and calmed myself down.

The physical and mental stress of working during this pandemic is incredible and honestly not worth it.

BEWARE the myths told by celebrities



Celebrities tout medical advice

Scot Lehigh

By Jonathan Bell
Staff Writer

As a result of the coronavirus causing fear and anxiety in the public, some celebrities and public figures are seizing the moment to offer their own advice on how to deal with the virus. Unfortunately, celebrities aren't doctors and their medical advice is often unfounded and often wrong.

Fellow New Englander is Tom Brady, while this criticism is tough to give even if he is going to the Buccaneers, has repeatedly misled the public for his own personal wealth and gain during this pandemic.

As the Co-owner of the TB12 supplement brand, Brady characterizes his \$147 TB12 supplement bundle as "immune enhancers" on his Twitter account. This is despite not having the same classification from the FDA.

Followers of Brady can wrongly conclude that taking his TB12 supplements will protect them against coronavirus.

A more widely known myth told by the POTUS and Fox News was that the use of Hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine could successfully treat those with COVID-19. This was even

touted as a viable solution by the TV sensation Dr. Oz. One tweet from President Trump touts, "hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin taken together, have a real chance to be one of the biggest game changers in the history of medicine."

Despite Dr. Anthony Fauci and the National Institute of Health insisting that the drug needs clinical trials and not just anecdotal evidence of effectiveness, Trump continued to promote the drugs for a month, directing the federal government to obtain 31 million tablets of hydroxychloroquine. Six million was donated to hospitals by manufacturing companies.

Fox News and Fox Business had mentioned the two drugs over 1,375 times since the middle of March. Unfortunately, this hype was truly unfounded by science, and the latest nationwide study sees that "About 28% who were given hydroxychloroquine plus usual care died, versus 11% of those getting routine care alone." (Time.com).

In other words, the patients using the treatment touted by the President and Fox News caused patients to die 2.5 times more often than the conventional treatment.

Why there is a silver lining

By Jacob Baez
Editor

Corona hasn't been fair to anyone. Some people were planning to get married, some are graduating from college, some have just been brought into this world, and unfortunately some have been robbed. A lot of upcoming and meaningful events have been cancelled or postponed. But with the school year coming to an official end, seniors got it rough.

Our graduation is stolen. We haven't been given proper closure to say goodbye to our friends. We didn't get to say thank you to our teachers. It's hard, and we know that there will be an attempt to make it up to us, but there's a difference between now and then that makes it less special.

Looking forward to something for so long and having it swept away from you with no control is a different kind of feeling, one I feel is new to most

of my peers. Not all of our friends will be here, some are moving states away.

College is starting soon and the world won't wait for us. Not to mention, our first year in college could potentially be ruined too. But one thing for sure is that graduates of 2020 are going to come out stronger than ever.

Already disrupted by an unseen force, the motivation to not let anything else get in our way is crystallizing, though this pattern is not unique to just us. This is mirrored through all humans.

Time after time we have persevered and came back stronger.

See, this was a lesson we all needed, something the class of 2020 will remember for the rest of our lives, and I believe there is one message we're being told.

We will be tested, our limits will be pushed, but we will pass these tests and continue to use life's events to learn more about ourselves.

The Dos and Don'ts of Zoom



Campaignmonitor.com

By Nel Benitez
Staff Writer

A change has happened over night. Now, all of our classes are on Schoology and through live Zoom meetings. Just like in the classroom, there are some dos and don'ts that should be followed.

Dos

1. Be in a quiet place that is distraction free
2. Mute yourself if you are not speaking
3. Have an appropriate background for a Zoom meeting
4. Make sure you have a strong internet connection

Don'ts

1. Don't curse
2. Don't be on your phone while the meeting is in progress
3. Don't crash into any meeting you are not supposed to be in
4. Don't get distracted
5. No inappropriate screen sharing

Sweden refuses to close



No restrictions enforced in Sweden

Vanityfair.com

By Marquise Rivera
Staff Writer

Sweden is refusing to start social distancing or close small businesses and schools. They are, more or less, continuing life as if there was no pandemic.

The reason for doing this is called herd immunity. The theory behind it is that when you expose a herd of animals to a virus, or in this case people, the herd gains a type of immunity.

In Sweden, they have told people over 70 to stay home, and they have closed universities, but no other policies have been put into place as of the writing of this article.

Anders Tengelle, the country's medical official, says this way is more sustainable. The president, however, has said otherwise, stating that the people of Sweden will suffer from these choices.

Keeping the conversation going



By Ajay Sharma
Guest Writer

In the midst of this dreary pandemic, students, teachers, and family members are all stuck at home.

They leave behind their

busy lives in exchange for naps, mid-day snacks, and tv series. There isn't much opportunity to connect with the people that were present in our everyday lives before.

However, one student saw an opportunity to engage in conversation with his peers and share them with the world. Adam Labarre, the host of the Atomic Thoughts podcast, offers the students of AAE a platform to share thoughts and ideas during the isolation.

Each guest of the podcast brings their own perspective and experience to the show, and Adam steers the conversations to cover a

Pandemic leads to prison riots



Prisoners riot in prisons due to fear of illness

ABC news

By Greg Nowinski
Staff Writer

As the pandemic continues to ravage throughout American and international soil, many incarcerated prisoners have begun to riot, as they feel unsafe in prisons.

With all the people crammed in a small area, all it takes is one person getting sick for it to spread like wildfire.

As stated in an article by *The Guardian*, "Prison officials thwarted an uprising of dozens of inmates at the Lansing correctional facility in Kansas on Friday, the latest example of unrest in US prisons amid concern about rising numbers of coronavirus infections among inmates. The prisoners ransacked offices, broke windows and set small

fires for several hours before the facility was secured. Randy Bowman, the spokesman for the Kansas department of corrections, confirmed to the Associated Press that the incident began on Thursday afternoon in a medium-security cell house."

To combat this, the local government has released thousands of prisoners that were arrested on minor offenses like drug offences and non-violent charges.

But due to the severity of the outbreak, thousands of violent offenders are also being released.

According to the *Wall Street Journal* cases of Covid in New York prisons spiked from merely 3 to 183 in one week.

Now there is a mad rush to release people before more inmates are infected, but is this safe for everyone?

variety of subjects. He has discussed topics ranging from college, funny stories, and life in quarantine. Adam keeps his spirits high during the isolation and gives inspiration to others in his community.

Everyone has access to his

podcast, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ATOMICTHOUGHTS> to listen to his show on Spotify.

Feel free to reach out to him over social media to be a guest or leave some feedback. Add him on snapchat at alabarre1224.

Joe Biden vs. Donald Trump: the battle for the White House



Trump and Biden plan to go to battle in the November election

APnews.com

By Owen Roberts
Staff Writer

Bernie Sanders has officially suspended his campaign to receive the Democratic nomination, leaving Joe Biden as the presumptive nominee. Barring an attempt by the Democratic National Committee to replace him with someone else at the upcoming convention in Milwaukee, voters will have two viable candidates to choose from during the general election in November: Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

This scenario presents a quagmire for a certain demographic of American voters: progressives. These voters care about improving our medical system, fighting climate change, and ending our foreign military empire. For other voters, the choice may be clear. Republicans will pick Trump, and Democrats who strongly identify with the Democratic Party will pick Biden. But for those who do not see their interests represented in either candidate,

determining who to vote for when neither candidate explicitly represents you is a conundrum to say the least.

Since Sanders announced his decision to suspend his candidacy, Twitter has been a warzone between two factions of his supporters: Accelerationists and VoteBlueNoMatterWho-ers.

These two factions agree that progressive policy is the goal, but they do not agree in terms of how to achieve that goal. Accelerationists argue that four more years of Donald Trump will “fast-forward” the current negative conditions that make Sanders-style progressivism appealing, in the hope that the country will better understand the drastic circumstances we face and act accordingly.

To be clear, most Accelerationists are not predicted to vote for Trump, but rather conscientiously object from voting for either candidate. Some may vote for Trump, but that is predicted to be a minority.

VoteBlueNoMatterWho-ers take a more pragmatic

approach. They prioritize harm reduction in the immediate future, citing the likelihood of another Supreme Court seat opening up in the next four years, the current administration’s draconian immigration policies, and Biden’s comparatively progressive strategy to tackle climate change. They do not accept that a second term of Donald Trump would be better in the long run. Rather, they fear that another four years of the current president would put the country in a position much closer to theocratic, white-nationalist fascism than social democracy.

Given that the general election is still over six months away, it is impossible to make an educated guess as to who will win. We can’t even be sure that Biden will be on the ballot. Even if we assume that he will, the current conditions create an extremely volatile political landscape. Democratic primary voters who supported Biden overwhelmingly listed beating Trump as their

priority.

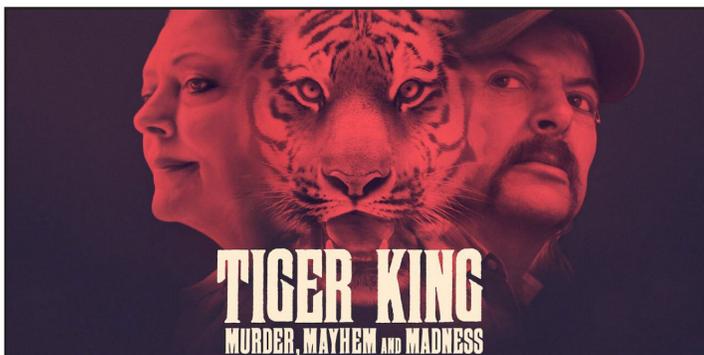
Therefore, the election will likely be a referendum on Trump, and particularly, how he handles the coronavirus pandemic.

If the healthcare system becomes overrun, millions more die than originally expected, and as the unemployment rate reaches a record high, Americans will likely blame Trump. If he handles it well, they will likely reward him with another term in office.

Biden’s best hope is that Trump does a terrible job and that both his own tendency to say bizarre, incoherent things and his alleged sexual assault allegations don’t turn off voters who want to see Trump out of office.

As for the Left, what they want in a candidate isn’t available (Howie Hawkins, the Green Party nominee, is to the left of Sanders but isn’t viable), so they must determine which of the two viable candidates best creates the right conditions for progressive policy to be implemented, both now and in the future.

Tiger King's Debut Movie Review



Netflix.com

By Adriana Mulet-Ramirez
Staff Writer

Netflix's *Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem, and Madness* is an American crime documentary series -- or docuseries -- that has taken the world by storm upon its March 20th, 2020 release.

Perfect timing if you asked me. The 7-episode long show focuses on a gay, polygamous, zoo owner from Oklahoma and the life of the society of big cat conservationists and collectors, such as Joe Exotic.

This Netflix original follows through the madness of the community of cat lovers through crazy stories of tiger breeding, drugs, cults, running for president, jail time, and murder attempts. Viewers are claiming this series to be one of the most disturbing and baffling Netflix documentaries they've ever seen (there's a good list of them).

Overall, the alluring peoples' cartoon-esque personalities are an enduring

motif between each episode, which individually cover different aspects of the outlandish lives these swamp-dwellers live.

The most iconic of these characters, excluding the Joe Exotic himself, is undoubtedly Carole Baskin.

The rivalry between these two personas has fuelled a majority of the meme content *Tiger King* has produced.

Baskin is an animal-rights activist opposing big-cat animal parks -- while hypocritically owning one herself -- and is seen to make unsuccessful attempts at shutting down Joe's park.

While the crime is rather grave, the heated interactions between Carole Baskin and Joe Exotic overwhelm an otherwise serious situation, transforming it into a uniquely entertaining spectacle.

If there is a chance that you have some free time on your hands during this quarantine, I 100% recommend it.

Mental health during a quarantine



Templeprssa.org

By Eden Hyatt
Staff Writer

As is evident, we as a nation, and as a world, are in the midst of a pandemic. Due to that fact, most, if not all, of the country is in quarantine in one way or another.

While this experience is hard for those who are actively working, it is equally important for people who are staying home to remain mentally intact.

It is very easy to lose your mind and your sanity in these unprecedented times, which means that during this quarantine it is vital that we stay mentally active and

are watchful of our mental and emotional status.

So here are some tips for staying sane during quarantine.

One tip is to get outside. According to *Forbes*, "It is important to get outside regularly." Just because we are in quarantine, it doesn't mean lock yourself in your house and never go out, it means be cautious.

This tip is followed by a few others, which are to keep a routine, accept that this is our new normal, and be easy on yourself. Though these won't insure that quarantine will be easy, they will help with the transition and living sanely.



Imgflip.com

Celebrating Orthodox Easter

By Samantha Roberts
Staff Writer

If you are Christian or practicing Christianity, you probably know what

Orthodox Easter is or what it's about.

Orthodox Easter usually falls between April 4th and May 8th, but this year it falls on the 19th of April,

the Sunday after the original Easter Sunday.

Orthodox Easter is celebrated by fasting 40 days prior to the original Easter day. People also create

baskets filled with goods and give them away during the week of Easter, sort of similar to how we come together with our families and have an Easter dinner.

Cabin fever

Students share their experiences of social distancing and distance learning



Signalnoise.com

By Jake Lang
Staff Writer

After the COVID-19 outbreak, everyone was put into self-quarantine and school was canceled.

I found this to be a life-changing moment for me since nothing has happened like this in recent history.

My family has been in turmoil since this began and I'm not finding it hard to believe that others are too.

I wanted to give a bit of an insight into what my days are like in the new daily grind.

I wake up every morning at around 7-7:15 AM, and just lie around with nothing to do until 8:45 comes around and I'm getting ready for my classes.

I start my day off with English with Mrs. Sosnicki and move onto one of my favorite classes, Journalism!

I work hard on my article, even though I sometimes turn it in late.

I give my all to the school newspaper since writing is something I enjoy.

My third period is in Señora Del Valle's Spanish

III class.

For my fourth period, at the theoretical end to the school day, I have study hall, which I spend on Discord playing D&D with some friends overseas.

My afternoon is alternating between videogames and Youtube tutorials on cooking, with a small break for lunch from the bin of Chef Boyardee that we keep in our basement.

Everything usually turns sour when my dad goes to work and arguing between me and my brother ensues and my sister tries to be a hero.

My mom comes home frustrated and stressed about the times, and my father most times feels the same.

This quarantine has created so much unneeded tension in my family life.

Needless to say, the quarantine has been rough.

I never thought I would actually miss going to school.

We are all wondering how we get through this in the fall if we don't go back and what school will look like for all of us.



By Nya Bentley
Editor

Yourteenmag.com

Day 18

It has been 18 days since I have left the house. Surprisingly, I haven't lost all my sanity yet. Luckily, I'm used to being inside a lot. My mother started working from home before this crisis started, so not a lot has changed.

My biggest problem is trying to relieve my boredom. I usually play video games, but you can only play for so long before you get sick of it.

When I'm not doing that, I try to find work to keep myself busy: I clean the house, start coding projects, finish school work.

I know if I stop and just sit in my bed, I will get anxious waiting for this whole thing to blow over.

I miss my friends. They all live in different cities, so I haven't had face to face contact with them in 18 days.

I talk to them online, but it's not the same. I can't believe I would actually miss school and my teachers.

Day 20

I didn't sleep until 5 am last night (or morning). I was chatting with three of my friends the entire time.

I didn't know it was possible to just talk for 15 hours.

We talked about everything

from how we feel about quarantine to what we want to do in this world. It made me realize how much I have taken for granted in life.

When this whole thing started, I was ecstatic for school to close down. I thought it would be like a few snow days. But now that

I have been staying inside for 20 days straight, I would do anything to go to school to see my friends just for one day.

I'm making a list of things I'm going to do if (or when) we go back to school because there are not a lot of days left until we all go our separate ways, and possibly never see each other again.

Day 45

It's been a while since I wrote something because there is nothing worth writing about.

The news is depressing; it's the same thing everyday: unemployment is up, the number of COVID cases is still on the rise, and we have people gathering in the streets "protesting" that quarantine is not necessary.

This country is messed up. We're going to be in quarantine for the entirety of May, and possibly throughout the summer if this keeps up. How did we get here?