



# The Match

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get set, go!  
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PHOTO BY LOUIS CHEN

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# Mote Marine's location 'waves' goodbye

by Ava Lenerz

Since 1955, Sarasota has been lucky enough to be home to its very own aquarium, Mote Marine Laboratory (MML). This popular attraction has entertained and educated adults and kids alike for years with its aquatic creatures. It has continually grown and developed, and now this iconic seaside landmark will be relocating in early 2025.

Though it's hard to imagine MML being anywhere other than its current location on City Island, Sarasota, this isn't the first time Mote has changed locations.

According to "Mote Marine Laboratory—Exploring The Secrets of The Sea Since 1955," MML first opened on Siesta Key, but in the late 1970s, it was time to change locations as their lease was ending. MML almost moved out of Sarasota, but people banded together to keep it there, and in 1978, it moved to where it is now.

The upcoming move will be bittersweet, as most people can recall fond memories from the current location.

Fifth grader Genevieve Osorio said, "I have a little cousin, and he really likes [the] occasional Wild Kratz

[exhibit]. Then, I really liked the manatees."

The small yet heartfelt details will be missed as well, like the painted walkway of manatees and sea turtles that line the path between the two buildings, or the whale fountain that sits at the entrance welcoming people in and being a place to make wishes on one's way out.

The new location is meant to open in early 2025 near the University Town Center (UTC). However, they have not announced the exact date they will be moving locations, and, as of now, they have not responded to interview requests from The Match.

Due to recent hurricanes, the old location had been temporarily closed. However, MML reopened November 22.

Looking at the construction of the new MML building, one can see this was no small endeavor but must have required years of planning. That effort is not in vain, as people are excited about the new location.

"It [will] be fun because it's closer to where I live," Osorio said.

MML is a place beloved by many and for good reason.

Fifth grader Elise Camodeca said, "I've been there four times since I've been here, so since second grade, and I feel like it's inspiring that they take care of so many animals and that they can share it with kids at Pine View and other schools..."

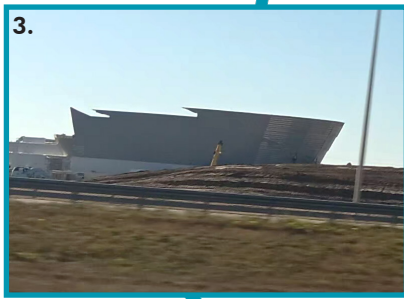
Sarasota is fortunate to have such a thriving location in our small town, and, hopefully, this move will only change MML for the better.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

**1. Current second grader Goldie Lenerz enjoys the stingray touch-tank at MML. This attraction is well liked by many and contains four different species of stingrays. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RACHEL LENERZ**

**2. MML's Moray Eel. PHOTO BY AVA LENERZ**

**3. MML's new building is still in progress. It's located near UTC. PHOTO BY AVA LENERZ**

**4. One of MML's manatees, Buffett, giving kisses through the glass. PHOTO BY AVA LENERZ**

**5/6. Match staffers Timothy Nesanelis and Ava Lenerz kayak to the location of the original MML's shark tank. Image five is displayed at the current MML, showcasing the old shark tank. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHRIS LENERZ**

# Getting BizTown Ready!

## “What are you most excited for?”



“I’m really excited to see what jobs I can try out... I don’t know anything about being a CEO, so I want to see how that is.”

- Anya Juvvadi



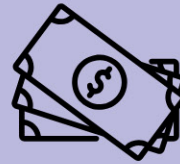
“I think I’ll like trying out the different jobs. There’s a lot that I don’t know yet.”

- Keira Aygen



“We run the city and it helps us learn for later in life. I would like to be a bank employee because lots of people will want bank accounts.”

- Maxwell Polinsky



“I really want to simulate working, it sounds so fun. Being in the bank would be super cool.”

- Max Nordstrom



**All students interviewed are in fifth grade.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 24-26**

**Drama Club Presents**  
“Descendants the Musical”

Fri, Jan. 24: 7:00 pm  
Sat, Jan. 25: 7:00 pm  
Sun, Jan. 1:00 pm

**Jan. 30-31**

**Hovercraft Project**

Fifth graders will participate in this workshop during the school day

**Feb. 7-8**

**Variety Show**

Students of all grades will show off their talents in the auditorium.

**Feb. 14**

**Valentine’s Day Post Office**

Elementary students will deliver valentines simulating the mail process.

All morning

**Feb. 20**

**Third Grade Showcase**

Third grade students show off their talents!

Starts at 6:00 pm

**Feb. 22**

**Jazz Under the Stars**

Pine View Jazz Band will do a performance in the quad at night.

Starts at 7:00 pm

## Birthdays

**Dec. 22**

Melody Elliot's birthday

**Dec. 28**

Joe DiGiacomo's birthday

**Dec. 31**

Eddie Maron's birthday

**Jan. 7**

Ivonne Chaustre's birthday

**Jan. 8**

Eugene Williams' birthday

**Jan. 31**

Katelyn Jordan's birthday

**Feb. 9**

Marisa Freedman's birthday

## RECENT EVENTS

### Daddy-Daughter Dance



Elementary school girls spend a night of quality time with their fathers and friends at the Daddy Daughter Dance. The event was held in the Student Union December 6, with a theme of Sockhop. PHOTOS BY MADELYN BAILEY

### Peramathon



PHOTO BY ZOE MASCOLA



PHOTO BY EJ BUCKLEY



PHOTO BY SUZY MATA



PHOTO BY SUZY MATA

On the chilly Friday before Thanksgiving Break, Pine View students run around the track as many times as they can in the annual Peramathon. Each grade had 50 minutes to go out to the track and see how many laps they could get, with the winners of each grade announced this week.

# Chess Champion

by Jakob Roche

1.D4, D5, 2.C4. This isn't just some random string of letters and numbers—it's one of the most well-known openings in chess. And, for fifth grader Timmy Huang, it's her favorite.

"It's called the Queen's Gambit. You take the pawn near the Queen's side and play that piece first," Huang said.

Huang started playing chess during the COVID pandemic, her mother Vicky He said.

"When she was five years old, her father taught her how to play chess, and that was her first exposure to chess. She was bored at home because of the epidemic at the time..." He wrote in an emailed response.

Huang's dad plays both Chinese and Western chess. The differences between the two are quite large, including board size, piece movement rules, and even the win conditions.

"He decided that, because he liked chess so much, he wanted to transfer that to me," Huang said.

Huang explained that her engagement—and enjoyment—of the game has only grown with time.

"Now [that] I'm getting into the game, I realized that it's actually pretty fun,"

Huang said.

Recently, Huang played at a tournament at the Manasota Chess Center where she got second place. At the event was Chess Grand Master Pascal Charbonneau, who ranks second in his home country of Canada.

Huang got to play him. His skill was apparent, according to Huang.

"There are only like 2000 grandmasters in the world, so the chance that I got to play one was really great," she said, "I feel like I know now how to develop quicker and how to change my thinking process."

Chess is very much a thinking game, which makes tournaments exhausting for Huang.

He said she realized that after Huang's first tournament.

"The most unforgettable part of the tournament was that after the game, she ate three oversized rice balls in one gulp and fell into a deep sleep," He said.

Once a game starts, Huang said that it's oddly calm. Everyone is quiet, but the silence is filled with tension.

But, despite the anxiety, Huang finds chess enjoyable.

"It's not like a job or anything," Huang said, "It's a hobby where you can express yourself."



With intense concentration, fifth grader Timmy Huang watches her opponent make their move. Huang won second place overall in the tournament at the Manasota Chess Center. PHOTO PROVIDED BY VICKEY HE.

## HOW TO WRAP A HOLIDAY GIFT!



**1** To wrap the gift you will need scissors, tape, and your choice of wrapping paper.



**2** Cut out the wrapping paper, enough for both sides of the paper to reach over the faces of the box, completely covering it (seen in next step).



**3** Fold one side of the paper over the top of the gift and tape it in place.



**4** Then fold the other side of the paper over the gift the same way and tape it down super tight for a neat look.



**5** Before you fold the sides of the paper, you might want to trim the paper, if it is too long for the next step.



**6** Fold the wider flap as shown in the image to create two sharp like flaps on the outside.



**7** Fold the outer flaps inwards to create a triangle shape on the bottom.



**8** Tape the remaining triangle flap onto the box with a small piece of tape.



**9** After you have repeated steps six through eight for the other side, your gift is fully wrapped!

GRAPHIC BY KATERINA MAZZO



# AMC you later!

by Anna Zhang

One of the three remaining businesses at Sarasota Square Mall has fallen, as AMC Sarasota 12 permanently closed. The theater, while much older, came under AMC ownership in 2006 and closed on Halloween.

AMC (American Multi-Cinema Inc.) theaters are the largest cinema exhibitor in the world, having theaters in over 130 countries and territories.

Fifth grader Olivia Zhang and fourth grader Ray Wu shared their memories and opinions of the AMC closing.

“I remember last year, in fourth grade, that I went to the AMC theater

to watch ‘Migration’ with my entire fourth grade class, and the other team I was on, which was the Blue team,” Zhang said, “That one time it was fun because it was nice seeing everyone outside of school and laughing along to the funny bits of the movie.”

However, Wu does not normally go to the movie theater, but feels “it is annoying to go to another movie theater without the AMC theater because it is far away,” and he doesn’t like to wait.

Zhang recalled her memories of going to AMC Sarasota 12, “I feel bad for the fourth graders this year because the AMC theater near Target closed, and they will not have that fun



GRAPHIC BY ANNA ZHANG



The entrance of AMC Sarasota 12 sits with empty movie poster frames and visible water damage. The owners of the building have made plans to demolish it to make space for new apartments and an event space. PHOTO BY ANNA ZHANG

party anymore,” Zhang said.

Wu said there is not much difference between movie theaters. He believes that the size of the AMC was nice, however.

“When I went to another movie theater, it was smaller than the other one. I will have to get used to smaller

theaters in the future,” Wu said.

With the AMC closed, other movie theaters such as CMX CinéBistro Siesta Key, Regal Hollywood 20, AMC Bradenton 20, and the Lakewood Ranch Cinema are nearby. With that in mind, Pine View students hope to find a suitable movie theater for the future.

## Movie Production :

We all love and enjoy different movies, but who makes them? Let's see the different roles of movie-making!

### Producer

Producers oversee the entire movie production. Managing funds, hiring important positions, and delivering the movie on-time are some of their jobs.



### More

There are so many more people who play a very important role in film production. Costume Designers, Makeup Artists, Cinematographers, to name a few.

### Screenwriter

Screenwriters create the script. Their dialogue and words help create the direction of the movie. Actors memorize their lines that screenwriters write!

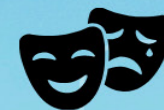


### Editor

Editors tie together all parts of the film. They cut mistakes, add special effects, and help finalize the movie. They also bring us the funny blooper reels.

### Director

These are the storytellers. Directors envision and guide the use of lighting, sound, mood, and more.



### Actor

These are the ones on-screen! They play many characters across different genres, and train to show a range of emotions.

# WINTER HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR



**Dec. 25**

## Christmas

Christmas began as a Christian holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Today, Christmas includes giving presents to friends and family and is the most celebrated holiday in the world.

## Hanukkah **Dec. 25—Jan. 2**

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday commemorates the "Miracle of the Oil." There was only enough oil to light the menorah for one day, but the menorah stayed lit for eight days, which is why Hannukah lasts eight nights.



**Dec. 26—Jan. 1**

## Kwanzaa

Created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa was created to unify the African-American community during the Civil Rights movement and let African-Americans reconnect with their African heritage.

## New Years **Dec. 31-Jan. 1**

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day celebrate the incoming year of 2025! Lots of fireworks are lit and the famous ball drops in New York City.



## Sarasota Holiday Event Calendar

### Spectacular Nightly Light Shows

@ University Town Center

6:30PM-9:30PM, November 9 to January 5

### Lights in Bloom® 2024

@ Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

5:30PM-9:00PM, December 6 to January 1

### Hands on Hanukkah

@ University Town Center

4:00PM-6:00PM, December 29

### New Years Eve Party & Pineapple Drop

@ Downtown Sarasota

1:00PM-1:30AM, December 31 to January 1st

## What is your Favorite Winter Holiday?



**Jackson Kulawik**  
Fifth Grade

"Christmas because my family has a decently large feast with some traditional foods."



**Riaan Sahasrabudhe**  
Fifth Grade

"I say Christmas [because] all my friends come over to my house to stay during Winter Break."



**Erin Lijoy**  
Fifth Grade

"Probably Christmas because my family likes to do caroling, Secret Santa, and give gifts to the homeless."



## Poolside Prodigy

by Allie Chung

While most toddlers had just begun the trials of mastering their tricycles, fifth grader Jinal Patel had already moved on to a different terrain—water.

“I can’t do sports, for example golf, where there isn’t agility and all of that. I get bored really easily. I need something that keeps me pumped,” Patel said.

For Patel, there is no such thing as slow-paced. Her relationship with swimming was discovered at an early age when her parents realized she did not have a fear of the water. “She was the one who was

so quick and learned everything within a week’s time. By [the] end of 15 days she actually started doing the strokes, which was very unusual for being that young,” Patel’s mother Hiral Patel said.

At the time, Patel was only three years old.

It was during those early lessons that Patel’s natural talent was evident, and her instructor made a suggestion that would shape her future. She encouraged her to join a swim team.

After a team trial and an inevitable acceptance, Patel began her first team practice, an event that marked the be-

ginning of a journey that Patel believes will last a lifetime.

“I’m going to do it forever. It’s endless. It’s my passion,” Patel said.

Patel began taking her swimming journey on a competitive route at age 6, and she now swims for the Lakewood Ranch Lightnings as a specialist in backstroke.

Kaylee McKeown, an Australian Olympian and gold medalist, is also known for her dominance in backstroke events. For Patel, McKeown is a beacon of inspiration and a symbol of what she can achieve.

“I want to know exactly

how she got that far because I want to get there, too,” Patel said.

Through wins and losses, Hiral Patel is determined to support her daughter and build her character, something more important than any first-place trophy.

“Our motto is give it your 100 percent and whatever the result is, it is ok. It is not in your control,” Hiral Patel said.

Surrounded by a family who sup-

ports her, Patel’s future holds achievements greater than McKeown’s, and USA swimming would be wise to keep their eyes out for Jinal Patel.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY HIRAL PATEL



*As the weather gets cooler, don’t miss out on...*

### Ice Skating at UVC mall

Grab your friends and head on down to the local ice rink at University Town Center for the perfect cozy wintertime activity!

### Watching a local ice hockey game

Go watch travel and varsity ice hockey games at Ellenton Ice and Sports complex for a fun outing!

### Taking a goat yoga class

Take a step back from the business of everyday life and cuddle with an adorable goat as you also get in a workout!

### Playing a game of bowling

This is a great sports activity to hang out with friends and eat food while also sheltering from the chilly weather outside!

### Going on a camping outing

The chilly months are the perfect time for a campfire, smores, and chatting with friends. Maybe even go on a hike in the morning for some physical activity!

### Going to the trampoline park

Head over to Skyzone or another trampoline park of your choice with your friends and family to break a sweat, have some laughs, and protect yourself from the cold.

# A New Re(crew)t

by Dasha Shabunina

“Every single time I see him at crew, without fail, he likes to walk by and say, ‘Hi, I’m Ken.’ And we all say, ‘Hi, Ken,’” tenth grader Taylor Teague, who has volunteered at the Sarasota Crew Elementary Learn to Row, said about fourth grader Ken Wang.

Wang has been doing



At crew practice with his friends, fourth grader Ken Wang faces toward the coach [not pictured]. Wang has been doing crew since third grade and has worked hard to improve his skills. PHOTO BY DASHA SHABUNINA

crew since third grade. Before joining, he participated in tennis, basketball, ice hockey, piano, singing, and other extracurricular activities. While he kept playing piano and singing, the others didn’t stick. Tennis and basketball felt too repetitive, and ice hockey felt too frustrating.

Crew felt just right, though.

Wang has loved the

ocean since he learned to swim at three years old. Rowing allows him to get ample exercise in the environment he enjoys most—the water.

He also enjoys being able to look back on his progress, using his experience as motivation to work harder. He strives to improve his rowing technique and physical ability.

“Some of my favorite parts is having fun with the experience of exercise because after [rowers improve] we’re allowed to do more [activities],” Wang said.

In his time

at crew, Wang has had some significant personal victories. Besides getting stronger and more comfortable with rowing, he has shown great diligence.

“He’s very persistent,” Teague said, “Like at camp when I was helping out, he was very certain that he was going to get out [into the water] without pontoons one day. And then every single day he came, he put a ton of effort into it.”



GRAPHIC BY AVA LENERZ

And then, on the final day at camp, he was able to row without them...I think the biggest thing was him asking us to put his pontoons up, rather than just, let us do it. All the other kids chose to just leave their pontoons.”

Wang is happy he chose crew and is grateful for the lessons it has taught him.

“It helped me a lot. It taught me that not everything is easy because usually I do things very easily, not that hard,” Wang said.

## TRADITIONAL VS.

## DO YOU PREFER E-SPORTS OR TRADITIONAL SPORTS ?



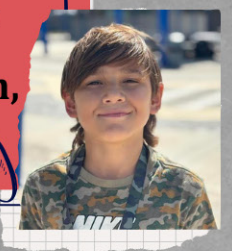
“My parents don’t let me play any...e-sports because they think it’s very bad for your eyes, and you learn a lot of bad stuff from it.”  
**Mia Gutierrez, Fifth grade**

“With traditional sports, you can learn a new type of sport...and it’s very active...and it makes you very disciplined...”  
**Aarya Strnad, Fifth grade**



“I feel like e-sports just are worse than traditional sports because you do sports as exercise, as fun... but e-sports just ruin that.”  
**Yadvi Senthil, Fifth grade**

“E-sports because I don’t have internet at home, and when I get the chance [to play], I love it.”  
**Sawyer Johnson, Fifth grade**



## E-SPORTS

## How is metal made?

[student question submission]

Question submitted by fifth grader Mia Luczkowski



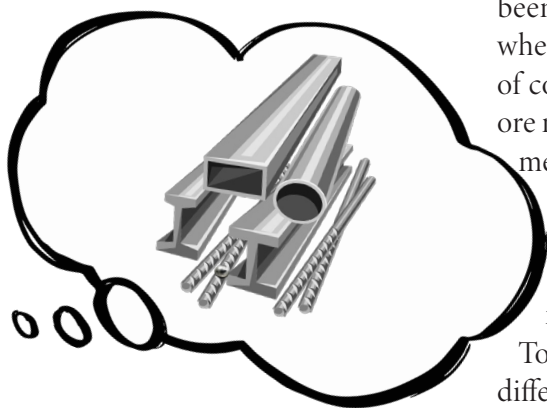
PHOTO BY TIMOTHY NESANELIS  
by Timothy Nesanelis

In every single part of life, whether big or small, metal is in some way involved. It's important for the function of our electronics, pens, pipes, buildings and so much more. Metal serves as one the major building blocks of both Pine View and the world! But what exactly is in the metal we use, and how do we make metal into the shapes that the builders need?

Did you know that there are two kinds of metal? The first kind of metal is found inside the periodic table of elements. There are 118 different kinds of metals, however, and these pure elements are not used in building and can often be used to help humans stay healthy instead.

Take for example calcium, a metal found in milk that makes bones stronger, or iron, a metal found in meats that keeps blood full of oxygen.

The metals that are used in products and for construction are known scientifically as "metal alloys." These



alloys are mixtures of many different elements to form one substance that is much harder to break.

An example of this is steel, which

isn't a metal element itself, but instead an alloy that contains a mixture of iron, manganese, nickel, carbon, and more.

Though the origin is disputed, in described in "A History of Metallurgy" by R. F. Tylecote, it is claimed that the first metal alloy is thought to have

been created around 5000 years ago when humans probably threw a piece of copper ore into a fire. The copper ore melted and mixed with the other metals in the fire pit.

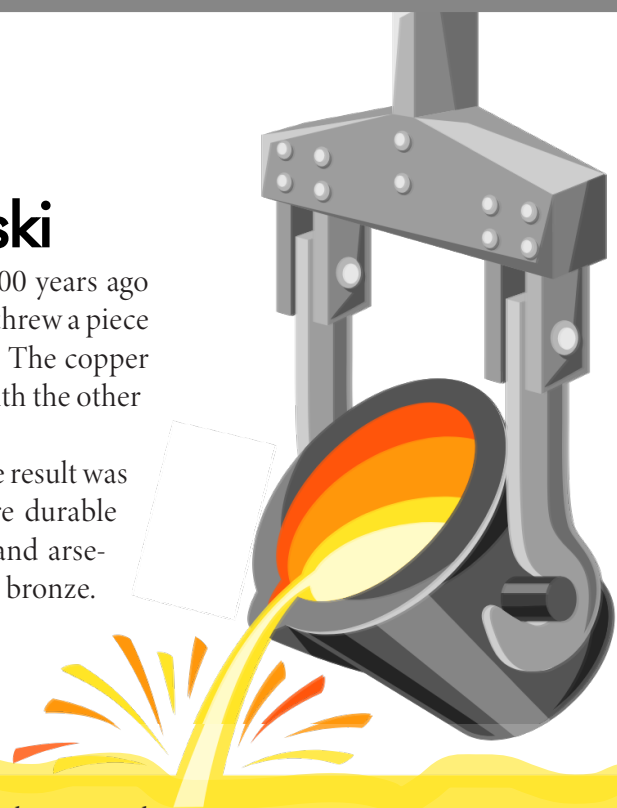
Once cooled, the result was a stronger and more durable mixture of copper and arsenic known today as bronze.

Today, hundreds of different alloys have been created inside laboratories that humans use every day.

But to be able to use them, metal alloys have to be molded into the correct shape. This can be done in multiple ways, but the two most common methods are forging and casting.

In forging, the metal alloy is heated in a special furnace called a "forge." Once the metal

glows a bright orange or yellow color, which occurs between 1500°F and 2300°F, it is ready to be hammered down into the desired shape. Finally,



once the metal alloy is in the correct shape, it is dipped in water to rapidly cool off.

In casting, the metal alloy is melted down into a super hot liquid before being poured into a mold made of tightly packed sand. After letting the mixture cool down and become solid again, the sand is chipped away from the metal, leaving behind a metal alloy that is also in the desired shape.

Casting is typically used for bigger pieces of metal, and forging is used for smaller pieces of metal.

Every day, hundreds of thousands of workers around the country work hard to make the metal necessary for our nation to thrive. Without metals and metal alloys, the world would look nothing like the way it looks today.

## Modern Holiday Movies for the Win

by Jiayi Zhu

The weather is cooler, and winter break is finally here. What better way to spend the time than by watching holiday movies? Whether you're watching with friends and family or cozied up by yourself, holiday movies are bound to get you in the spirit. New, exciting, and timely, the very best holiday movies are in fact the ones that have just been released.

There are many newer “spin-off” movies, which take older characters and modernize them to be more relevant. These newer movies have the same sense of nostalgia that make classic movies so appealing, while providing directors the space for improvement.

In the 1966 version of “The Grinch,” the Grinch is portrayed as unkempt and utterly heartless. In the 2018 version of “The Grinch,” the new Grinch takes on a softer look, with a fresh animation style and more of a developed back story. Overall, the newer version of “The Grinch” is far more relatable and holds a more relevant message during the holiday season: the importance of kindness and forgive-

ness.

Besides, what's the point of re-watching the same old movies over and over again? New movies are imaginative and creative if you just give them the chance.

“An Almost Christmas Story,” a new Disney short film released November 15, describes the never-before-seen journey back home of an owl and a girl named Luna.

It's heartwarming, adorable, and imaginative, and it makes way for new adventures that you can't help but watch. It's much different from the unchanging plots of many classic holiday movies (doesn't it always feel like a bad guy is trying to ruin Christmas?).

So, next time you sit down to watch a movie this Winter Break, get in the spirit the right way, with the latest holiday movies rather than outdated ones.

GRAPHIC BY JIAYI ZHU



## Tried and True: Classic Holiday Movies

by Lindsay Luberecki

There's finally a breeze in the air – it's getting colder, holiday decorations are on all the houses, we're all getting a craving for hot cocoa. What better way to spend the winter months than by watching holiday movies—classic holiday movies, that is.

In today's world, it feels like a new remake, a new sequel, a new retelling of a holiday story comes out in theaters every second. Many argue that these new films are more modernized. While that may be true, many of them are missing a certain something that comes with the classics: their charm.

There's a nostalgia factor that's tied to the older, original holiday movies. They're reminiscent of earlier childhood and never seem to get old, no matter how many times you watch them. Importantly, they're also original—something that remakes and up-

dates can't claim to be.

When you think of “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” for example, you probably think of the 1964 movie with Rudolph, Clarice, Hermey the elf, and the Abominable Snow Monster. But did you know that there's also a 1998 animated remake? At least with me, the original has stuck in my memory more, showing how nostalgic and enjoyable it is.

Another example to look at is “Home Alone.” With six movies, the franchise has widened from the original 1990 movie to the most recent, released in 2021. However, when many think of “Home Alone,” they think of the original, with the burglars, Kevin's elaborate traps, and the tarantula, of course—I know I do.

All in all, almost any holiday movie is a worthwhile choice. But, if I could recommend a specific era, I would say to go with the classics. You won't be able to get their nostalgic charm and originality anywhere else.

GRAPHIC BY AVA LENERZ



## Match Tries: **CHOPPED**

by Lindsay Luberecki

### Introduction:

“Chef, I’m sorry, you’ve been chopped.” If this sounds familiar, you’ve probably tuned into Food Network’s show “Chopped” (or the version featuring younger chefs, “Chopped Junior”) before.

If not, here’s a brief rundown. Chopped challenges contestants to make dishes in short amounts of time. The twist? They have to incorporate surprise ingredients, usually requiring quite a bit of creativity.

This spread will feature the Match’s own take on Chopped. Three Match staffers (Ava Lenerz, Ana Easter, and Timmy Nesanelis) had one hour to make a dessert including two secret ingredients. Their desserts would be judged on their taste, presentation, and creativity. Read on to find out who won!

### Before the Competition:

The three competitors showed up ready to bake. Along with them, our two Torch staffer judges Athena Erbe and Madelyn Bailey, and our esteemed host, I, Lindsay Luberecki, also arrived. Our competitors were feeling ready but nervous.

“I don’t know why I have butterflies in my stomach,” Nesanelis said.

He also revealed that he had a strategy but wouldn’t share what it was.

Easter, however, seemed ready—she said that she’s most likely to win.

After selecting stations, the chefs lifted coverings to reveal pretzel crisps and grape jelly as the secret ingredients. They didn’t have much time to brainstorm, though—your time starts now!

### The Competition:

Only minutes after baking began, everyone’s strategies began to emerge. Easter was focused as she began to make a batter.

After five minutes, Nesanelis revealed he was making a crepe cake, and also disclosed his strategy—he assumed the other two would be fighting over the oven, so he chose to use the stove. He, however, was not organized.

“That just went everywhere,” Nesanelis said. “How do you use one of these microwaves?...I don’t use the kitchen very often.”

Lenerz’ composure was a mix of the other two. She seemed calmer than Nesanelis, but was making quite the mess as she began to make a dough.

“Stop judging me,” Lenerz said.

### Lenerz’ Shortcake



Erbe responded, “That’s our job.”

Nesanelis discovered that his strategy was useless when Lenerz revealed that she had a double oven! The judges began to pick up on his stress.

“He seems to be rushing through this even though he has 50 minutes,” Bailey said.

“You’re technically supposed to chill this for an hour,” Nesanelis said, which wasn’t reassuring.

Concerns were further supported when he burned himself and announced he had forgotten eggs.

By this point, it was clear Easter was making cupcakes. Meanwhile, Lenerz was adding the grape jelly to strawberries with her hands (yikes).. Easter, on the other hand, came pre-



Easter’s Cupcakes

### What did everyone make?

**Ava: Strawberry Shortcakes**

**Jelly:** Mixed with the strawberries  
**Pretzels:** crushed in dough

**Timmy: Layered Crepe Cake**

**Jelly:** in the layered whipped cream  
**Pretzels:** crushed in batter

**Ana: Jelly-Filled Vanilla Cupcakes**

**Jelly:** Inside the cupcakes  
**Pretzels:** crushed in batter and on top



1. Ana Easter comforts Timothy Nesanelis after his devastating loss. He had put in a valient effort but in the end, got chopped.

2. Easter and Ava Lenerz happily hug after learning they had tied. They both scored 17.5/20, but Lindsay Luberecki broke the tie —Easter!

3. Judges Madelyn Bailey and Athena Erbe smile while announcing the scores. They had a great time judging and were excited to reveal the winners.

4. Easter celebrates her victory, while Lenerz accepts her defeat. Easter came prepared to win and nothing could stop her.

## Judging and the Winner:

Check out the graphics for more specifics about judging!

To summarize, Easter’s cupcakes were a hit, overall, although Erbe thought they were a bit too sweet. Nesanelis’ crepe cake was...something. The presentation was certainly lacking, but the taste almost made up for it. Lastly, Lenerz’ shortcakes were also well-liked.

The first judge announcement was who was chopped (who lost). Unfortunately, that was Nesanelis.

“The aura of me and the aura of my dish didn’t align,” he said.

It was then announced that between Erbe and Bailey’s individual scores, it was a tie between Easter and Lenerz! Yours truly was asked to be a tie-breaker, and I voted for...Easter! It looks like her early confidence paid off.

“My competitors put up a fight but I can see how I ended up on top,” she said.

pared with a piping bag.

“She came to play and I came to...I don’t know,” Nesanelis said, in awe of Easter’s professionalism.

Lenerz continued to display the opposite of professionalism, as she licked a whisk that was covered in, not frosting, but butter.

With 15 minutes left, it was confirmed that Lenerz was making strawberry shortcake, and she reported feeling “pretty good.”



Nesanelis’ Crepe Cake

However, Easter’s cool demeanor was starting to slip—her frosting was melting.

“I should’ve put them in the fridge...I think the ones I have for the judges will be okay,” she said.

Nesanelis had the same problem. As he assembled his cake, the entire thing almost slid off the plate. He saved it, but the kitchen wasn’t spared: whipped cream was left on the fridge, trash can, and floor.

Lenerz didn’t run into any problems as she topped her biscuits with whipped cream.

“I made smiley faces because your food is smiling at you,” she said.

With that, the time was up! It was time for judging.

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI

Chef	Scores	Best Judge Comments
Timmy	Presentation: 2/5 Taste: 5.5/10 Creativity: 4/5  Total: 11.5	<b>Madelyn:</b> “This delicacy is a little bit subpar.” <b>Athena:</b> “Can we be harsh? ... This was a bit underwhelming.”
Ana	Presentation: 4.5/5 Taste: 8.5/10 Creativity: 4.5/5  Total: 17.5	<b>Madelyn:</b> “It was edible...I don’t know any adjectives. Delectable! That’s what I meant.” <b>Athena:</b> “It’s an interesting combination, contestant.”
Ava	Presentation: 4/5 Taste: 8.5/5 Creativity: 5/5  Total: 17.5	<b>Madelyn:</b> “This is a delicacy that I quite enjoy.” <b>Athena:</b> “I really like the berry mix...it’s a little sweet, but that’s just a personal preference.”

Notes: Scores were an average of Madelyn’s and Athena’s scores for each category. The tie between Ana and Ava was broken by the host, leading to Ana’s victory!

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## [a column]

## Family: The Greatest Gift



Ava Lenerz,  
Match Editor-in-Chief

The upcoming holiday season is always a time of fun spent with friends and family. I look forward to all my family's usual traditions. We'll eat latkes, play dreidel, light the menorah, and all the other fun Hanukkah customs.

But this time also comes with a moment of reflection: Thinking about how fortunate I am to have such a loving family that I get to spend my holidays with.

Family is such an amazing thing; having people to spend life with is what makes

it worth living. That is why during this time of year we should remind our friends and family how important they are to our lives.

My brother recently went to college, so I don't see him as much anymore. Winter break is one of the few times he will live at home again for an extended period of time. Having not just one, but two siblings is something I often take for granted, especially when they get on my nerves sometimes. But they are such an important part of my life, and the holidays emphasize just how lucky I am to have them.

So, if you can take anything away from this, don't take your family for granted. Having a group of people who love you and are there to spend the important moments of life with is worth more than any present.

## We want to hear from you!

As a student-run newspaper, we'd love to receive any suggestions or comments you might have for us! To reach us you can write a letter and ask the office to give it to Mr. Chris Lenerz or email him on Outlook.

-The Match Staff