

Fall 2021

Chalfont, PA

Unami Middle School



The Unami Times

Newspaper

“The liberty of the press is essential to the security of the state.”

The Unami Spring Dance

Authors: Adiva Pevzner and Delia Bucci

Recently, Unami held its Celebration Week, with activities such as door decorating and fundraisers, but that’s not the only exciting event throughout these months! The spring dance is coming to Unami! Just after our week of fun, be sure to be ready for a very exciting Friday! Below is the information on the spring dance to be held that day.

When? April 14th, 2023, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Where? Unami Middle School - Gymnasium.

Theme: Semi-Casual (Not too fancy, but not too plain).

Dance tickets cost \$3.00 each if purchased in advance, and \$5.00 each if purchased at the door. Be sure to stop by in front of the STEM lab at dismissal to buy your tickets in advance!

Tickets will be sold on the following dates:

April 3rd

April 4th

April 5th

April 11th

April 12th

April 13th

April 14th

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We hope you enjoy this upcoming special, fun-filled night!

Unami Times

2022-2023

Teacher Advisor

Ms. Miller

Editor-In-Chief

Ashlee Ranes

Assistant Editor-In-Chief

Amritha Sakamuri

Editorial Staff

Deborah Gym, Anastasiya Starast-senka, Aditi Agnihotri, Pacey Her-man, and Delia Bucci

Staff Members

Vanshika Somaiya, Sarah Phillips, Mufazzal Khan, Adiva Pevzner, Hari Kasibhotla, Megha Rao, Sophie Nghiem, Cecilia Marques, Josephine Yoon, Brayden Nickum, Lucas Vicente Mendoza

Unami and Community News

The Unami Spring Dance

Authors: Ashlee Ranes and Josephine Yoon

This year's musical brought back the popular school fundraiser where you can buy chocolate bars for a chance to pie a teacher in the face. Not only does this get students more involved with school events, but it also supports the musical production greatly. Reminiscent of last year's Wonka Bars, students must find a paper rose tucked in within their chocolate bar in order to pie a teacher in the face.

We have interviewed 9th grader, Pranav Chivukula about his thoughts and experience of finding a rose.

Q: How many bars did it take for you to win a rose?

A: It took me 15 bars to win a rose.

Q: Which teacher did you decide to pie? What was your reason for choosing them?

A: I decided to pie Mr. Fischer because Mrs. Miller was already taken, so the next best option was Mr. Fischer.

Q: Would you like to see more events like this in our school?

A: I would like to see more of these events, because it was fun to see whether you get to pie a teacher.

We can surely say that chocolate bar sales have been just as big of a success as last year, and we hope the Unami Encores will continue to hold them for more musicals to come, to get future students more engaged in their school community.

World News

Ohio Derailment

Authors: Josephine Yoon and Brayden Nickum

On February 3rd, 2023, a freight train carrying hazardous materials derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. This train started spewing chemicals out of the thirty-eight train carts. Authorities neutralized the burning cargo using toxic fumes in a controlled release to combat the spread of the chemicals.

The chemicals spilled across seven and a half miles killing about 3,500 small fish. So far, no human deaths have been recorded due to the extreme safety taken when dealing with the chemicals and the extreme concern for residents in the area.

The train was reported to have derailed due to a mechanical issue with an axle in one of the 150 cars. There is also evidence that the car had been on fire before it eventually derailed.

Ohio Derailment (continued)

Authors: Josephine Yoon and Brayden Nickum

It is also important to mention the effect the derailment had on the air. When the train derailed, not only did chemicals spill, but they were also released into the air with the large amount of smoke found at the crash site. Since so many chemicals were on the trains, it is safe to assume they had a huge impact on air pollution, some residents even claiming of unusually warm weather.

The EPA released a list of the toxic chemicals that were used in the derailed cars. It consisted of vinyl chloride, butyl acrylate, ethylhexyl acrylate, and isobutylene. These chemicals can cause symptoms of headaches, nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, and respiratory problems when exposed.

Vinyl chloride is a particular concern, as it breaks down under sunlight into other chemicals that are later evaporated into the air when it's spilled into soil or surface water. Consumption of vinyl chloride through breathing or drinking can cause dizziness and headaches, as well as liver damage in the long-term.

Residents of East Palestine were given the "okay" to return home on February 8th, 2023, just 5 days after the derailment. However, complaints of headaches, nausea, and other ailments arose among the returning residents. Those symptoms align with the symptoms caused from the listed chemicals above, which shows a possible correlation between the chemicals released and the symptoms of returning residents.

There has been reports of a burning sensation in people's eyes, animals falling ill, and a strong odor that has remained in the premises. There was also a report of persistent coughing from Jenna Giannios, a wedding photographer in a nearby town, Boardman. It had been prolonging for the past week and a half. She stated that she has only been drinking bottled water, and she is uncomfortable bathing in water from the bathroom spigot.

One resident of North Lima, a town more than 10 miles from East Palestine, told *WKBN-TV* of Youngstown that her 5 hens and rooster died suddenly. Another resident of Negley, Ohio, has stated that she saw dead fish in a stream in her backyard. As more of these reports appear, fear among residents near the derailment site only continues to grow, as they and their animals may have or even already have been exposed to chemicals through the air, water, and soil.

Overall, the Ohio Derailment has caused great stress on the environment, animals, and the residents. Although it is stated that the toxic air may pose long-term risks, the EPA states no harmful chemicals will linger at the crash site.

Resources:

[Residents near Ohio train derailment report dead fish and chickens \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/health/ohio-train-derailment-report-dead-fish-chickens-ncna11111111)

[Ohio: After a train derailment, residents are living the plot of a movie they helped make | CNN](https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/08/ohio-train-derailment-residents/index.html)

[What do we know about the Ohio train derailment and toxic chemical leak? | Rail transport | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/feb/08/ohio-train-derailment-toxic-chemical-leak)

[Ohio train derailment prompts health, environmental concerns : NPR](https://www.npr.org/2023/02/08/11511111111)

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<https://governor.ohio.gov/media/news-and-media/East-Palestine-Update-Residents-Can-Safely-Return-Home-02082023>

Updates on the Turkey-Syria Earthquake

Author: Deborah Gym

The cataclysmic earthquake that devastated the southern and central regions of Turkey, and western and northern Syria on February 6, 2023, has left the two Middle Eastern nations with a host of new dilemmas. Both countries are currently seeking a rapid recovery from the extensive effects of the disaster. Nearly a month has passed since the initial 7.8 earthquake had first struck the region, with its rapid succession of a magnitude of 7.7 aftershock that further contributed to the death toll.

As of February 23, 2023, the combined death toll in Turkey and Syria stood at 47,244. The Turkish Interior Minister, Sulayman Soylu, had reported the number of fatalities in his country to have reached a figure of 43,566. In an interview conducted by ABC News on Wednesday February 22, Soylu claimed that search-and-rescue teams were sifting through the remnants of two buildings in the harshly struck Haytay province (a southern province in Turkey).

This disconcerting revelation comes just as Turkey's minister for environment and urbanization, Murat Kurum announced that at least 164,000 buildings had been destroyed, or have become unsalvageable, to the point of having to be demolished. Data from the LA Times acknowledges a higher figure of 230,000 buildings to account for those destroyed.

However, amid the finalizing of the estimates of the quake's deadly emergence, another prominent issue in its wake has become ever more apparent in recent weeks. The Turkish government concluded that roughly 2 million survivors have taken shelter in temporary living accommodations or evacuated from the earthquake-hit region. 1.5 million people have ensconced in tents, while another 46,000 people have been relocated to container houses. Turkish authorities remarked that other survivors struggling to meet needs for adequate shelter, have tried to fulfill them by staying in guesthouses or dormitories.

The United Nations' resident coordinator in Turkey, told the Associated Press that, "We have some provinces where up to 25% of the population — we're talking sometimes half a million people — have relocated. So, the challenge we have is how do we provide food, shelter, water for these communities?". Rodriguez also placed emphasis on the "extensive humanitarian needs". Undeniably existent, provided the degree of devastation brought on by the quake, as well as the large numbers of people injured and relocated.

A month ago, the United Nations launched a flash appeal for \$398 million dollars to help earthquake sufferers in Syria. This nation that has seen 6,000 casualties in its northwestern regions, based on U.N. estimates. Over half of the appeal has been funded, but the United Nation's second appeal for a \$1 billion emergency aid package to victims in Turkey has not seen sufficient fulfillment. Rodriguez claimed that the appeal for Turkey, to provide adequate food, protection, education, water, and shelter to victims for a period of three months, is only 10% funded.

The two "quake-hit" countries could expect to face dire financial impacts in the near future. The World Bank has concluded that the quake has created \$34.2 billion in immediate damages, a figure that nears 4% of Turkey's Gross Domestic Product in 2021. The organization announced in a statement that GDP losses intermingled with financial disturbances, as well as costs for reparations, will prove to be much higher.

For the nation of Syria, even a month after the occurrence of the quake, relief groups emphasize fears of a looming public health crisis, from the crowding of people into makeshift shelters. The International Committee of the Red Cross stated that Aleppo's water infrastructure (already compromised by the Syrian civil war and by age), suffered even more damage from the earthquake which "reduced the system's efficiency and [will] raise the risk that contaminated water could pollute the supply." Syria had already experienced cholera outbreaks before the quake had occurred.

In the meantime, the nations of Turkey and Syria face a long road to recovery. The world sees the crisis that fell upon both nations, and what the horrors of a humanitarian crisis looks like. Hopefully, it will not ignore the sufferings of foreign peoples, but will instead, come to their aid and support them as they need.

Resources:

LA Times, Suzan Frazer, March 6, 2023, "A month after quake, survivors in Turkey and Syria need shelter, sanitation" - [A month after quake, survivors in Turkey and Syria need shelter, sanitation \(msn.com\)](#)

ABC News, *The Associated Press*, February 23, 2023, "Death toll from Turkey, Syria earthquake tops 47,000" - [Death toll from Turkey, Syria earthquake tops 47,000 - ABC News \(go.com\)](#)

The Chinese Spy Balloon (s)

Authors: Lucas Vicente Mendoza and Hari Kasibhotla

Recently, balloon looking contraptions were spotted hovering over North America. At first this small, metallic balloon was seen hovering over Canada, then another was spotted over the United States, and another one is currently over Latin America.

In the United States, General Mark Milley informed President Joe Biden of a certain balloon that was hovering over Montana in the northwestern part of the United States. The President, with help from the Presidential Cabinet, decided not to shoot the balloon down over U.S soil due to the possible threats and harm that could be caused to the land and ground.

It was later shot down by a fighter jet off the coast of South Carolina. After recovery, the object was found to have electronic capabilities which could monitor communications. It was later known that these were sent by the Chinese Government. China claims that the balloons were weather balloons that were “off-course”, but most US officials say disagree.

The State Department is considering levying sanctions on the Chinese Government for what they consider a breach of international law and a violation of airspace. However, President Biden has made it clear he does not want to escalate the already flaring high tensions with China.

Meanwhile, other cylindrical objects have been shot down over Canada. They were shot as a precaution at the request of Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau.

The balloon continues to yield more proof of spy technology as more pieces are recovered. For example, it has been revealed that the balloon could intercept U.S. communications and use radar to gather more information.

But what are spy balloons? Spy balloons were used commonly by the United States and Soviet Union in the Cold War because they were significantly cheaper than satellites and were much easier to use before them. While it is still unknown the true intentions, U.S. intelligence believes that the United States might not have been the target location. On the other hand, China is still trying to figure out how it got there. Nevertheless, it is evident that these balloons were designed with spy technology.



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World News

The Chinese Spy Balloon (s) (continued)

Authors: Lucas Vicente Mendoza and Hari Kasibhotla

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Sports

Superbowl Recap

Author: Amritha Sakamuri

In the NFL there are 32 teams from across the United States. These 32 teams are evenly split into two conferences, the AFC (American Football Conference) and the NFC (National Football Conference). Within each conference there are 16 teams, and these teams are evenly split into four divisions. (Ex. NFC East, NFC West, NFC South, NFC North)

This year, the Philadelphia Eagles and the San Francisco 49ers qualified to play in the NFC Championship (Conference Championship). While the Cincinnati Bengals and the Kansas City Chiefs qualified to play in the AFC Championship (Conference Championship). The team that wins the NFC Championship and the team that wins the AFC Championship will play in the Superbowl.

This year the Eagles won the NFC Championship 31-7. While in the AFC Championship, the Kansas City Chiefs won 23-20.

Sports

Superbowl Recap (continued)

Author: Amritha Sakamuri

On February 12th, at the State Farm Stadium in Arizona, the Superbowl took place. In the first half, the Eagles were dominating with a ten-point lead. The score was 24-14 Eagles.

Along with tensions rising between Chief fans and Eagles fans, there were also rising tensions between the Kelce Brothers. Travis Kelce (Chiefs) and Jason Kelce (Eagles) are brothers and would be playing each other. This had never happened before in NFL history.

The Halftime performance was given by award-winning musician and artist Rihanna. This was Rihanna's first time performing live in seven years! Not only that, but she also announced the pregnancy of her second child during the halftime show.

The game continued and was neck-and-neck. The second half was intense and was an extremely close game. The Kansas City Chiefs did win the Superbowl 38-35. Although many salty Philadelphia fans state that the reason the Chiefs won was due to an unfair holding call in the 4th quarter. Nonetheless, the Chiefs did win the Superbowl due to one lucky field goal.

Reviews

Antman: Quantumania Review

Author: Hari Kasibhotla

The movie begins with a good hook! Seeing all that action can hook the viewer into paying attention early on. It also establishes a mystery character who will pop up later. Afterwards, a scene provides context for the hook, this relaxes the audience. The following main event sets up the main premise of the story. The scene with the indigenous people is also a very good comedic scene! A good thing about this movie is that it can provide background for what Janet was doing in the Quantum Realm. It was also fun learning about one of the villain's true identity, which is tied to the first Antman movie. However, the pacing of this movie was a little inconsistent. The scenes were also very limited, as 92% of the movie takes place in one setting. The story about the Ants was also a little bit goofy! Overall, this movie is a 3.5/5.



Technology and Entertainment

Oscar Nominations 2023

Author: Anastasiya Starastsenka

The Academy Awards are usually one of the most exciting and awaited events of the year. Nicknamed *The Oscars*, this awards ceremony is very memorable, and this year is no different. The nominations for the Best Picture alone, are impossible to forget. Here's the list: All Quiet on the Western Front, Avatar: The Way of Water, The Banshees of Inisherin, Elvis, Everything Everywhere All at Once, The Fabelmans, Tár, Top Gun: Maverick, Triangle of Sadness, and Women Talking.

These movies are unique, they vary in genres from action do drama, their ratings differ from each other and have received mostly good reviews. All Quiet on the Western Front is about a young soldier fighting on the western front during WWII. Avatar: The Way of Water is a sequel to James Cameron's Avatar. The Banshees of Inisherin is about two friends who live on a remote island in Ireland. Elvis is a biographical drama film about the life of the famous musician Elvis Presley.

Technology and Entertainment

Oscar Nominations 2023 (continued)

Author: Anastasiya Starastsenka

Everything Everywhere All at Once is about a mother who goes on a journey through different dimensions. The Fabelmans is about a young girl wanting to become a filmmaker learning a shocking family secret. Tár is about a famous conductor getting caught up in a scandal. Top Gun: Maverick is the sequel to Joseph Kosinski's Top Gun. Triangle of Sadness has a well thought out plot, something seems to be a recurring theme in movies this year. Finally, Women Talking is based on the synonymous novel Women Talking by Miriam Towers.

It is surprising that some of the movies made the list. The movies Top Gun: Maverick, Everything Everywhere All at Once, and Avatar: The Way of Water are action movies, and the Academy usually doesn't favor this genre of film when creating the Best Picture Nominations list. This is probably to the fact that some critics do not believe action films to be true cinema. It is good that there is some change in the way that action movies are treated. However, certain people are disappointed that movies like Don't Worry Darling and The Menu didn't make the cut.

Now the most important question is, who is going to win? It is not as clear as one would think. All movies have certain qualities that attract the viewer. It also depends on what genre the critic prefers. It is most likely that the Academy will pick one of the more dramatic and suspenseful movies since it is usually what they went with the years before.

Sources:

[2023 | Oscars.org | Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences](#)