



IN THIS ISSUE:

INSIDE THE CLASSROOM CELL PHONE BAN
Page 4

A FINAL SEASON: SENIOR ATHLETES SAY GOODBYE
Page 5

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT: SUMMER HOROSCOPES
Page 6

FEWER OPTIONS, FEWER TEACHERS: UHS FACES TOUGH DECISIONS

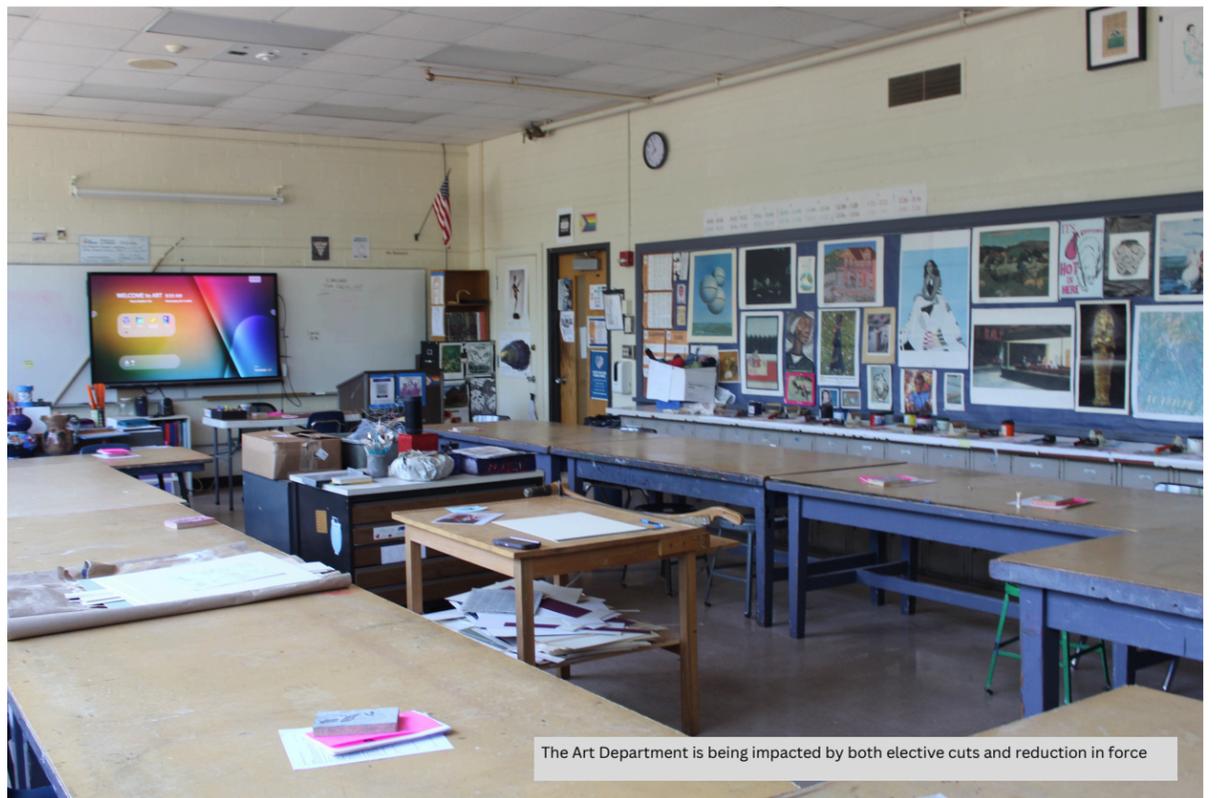
By Danyla Nash

Big changes are approaching as UHS heads into the 2025-2026 school year, including a reduction in teaching positions, a required minimum of six classes for all students, and electives being combined or cut. Let's walk through what to expect for the upcoming school year.

A plethora of low enrollment electives are being cut completely or combined with their AP-level courses. Departments affected are including, but not limited to, Foreign Language, English, and Art.

German teacher Frau Julie Bequette strongly advocates against the proposal to combine elective classes.

"I think the students would get 50% of their curriculum in a year. In order for a teacher to give attention to a level [of students] they have to be with that level [of students] for 50 minutes, five days a week, all through the year. So if you're dividing your time between two groups of students in one class period, you're either giving them 25 minutes of attention every day or giving them every other day of the week," Bequette explained.



The Art Department is being impacted by both elective cuts and reduction in force

In a Facebook post, Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Ivory-Tatum explained that the proposed changes were a reaction to enrollment numbers, faculty certification, curricular needs, and academic and social-emotional supports, but focused the rest of her statement on financial concerns.

"We understand that this is a complex process, especially given the myriad of values that our diverse community of learners and their families bring. However, we are committed to being fiscally responsible while providing the best possible education for our students. We understand that there is much uncertainty regarding possible cuts in

federal grant funds, and we are working diligently to manage our resources responsibly," she wrote.

Though the decisions were not simply "based on numbers," according to Assistant Principal Christine Rinkenberger, the majority of classes being cut or combined had an enrollment of under 10 students.

"We did try to balance all of the other concerns that might outweigh [cutting or not cutting classes]. We were really thoughtful in making sure that our sections were still conducive to a strong learning environment," Rinkenberger added.

Continued on Page 2

ACADEMY 10: WHAT'S THE DEAL?



Freshmen may find themselves in a familiar place next year

By Vincent Podroykin

As the freshmen go into their next year of high school, one thing they will have to say goodbye to is the 50-minute lunch period they were planning on having as sophomores!

In March, the administration shared plans that Academy 9 (half time at lunch, half time at electives) would no longer be exclusive to just freshmen and would be used at the sophomore level as well,

leaving the only full 50-minute lunch period for juniors and seniors.

"We want to further capitalize on the work that we're doing in Academy 9," Principal Jesse Guzman told staff at a faculty meeting. He elaborated that the plan for the next year is to expand on topics such as Financial Literacy, SEL Lessons, and Goal Setting, all three topics covered on a basic level in Academy 9.

So, what do freshmen think about this change?

Continued on Page 3

UHS FACES TOUGH DECISIONS

Continued from Page 1

The full list of impacted electives was not available at the time of this writing.

“Although some decisions have been made, until we are further along in the scheduling process, nothing is final,” wrote Ivory-Tatum. “The decision not to run these courses is not a reflection of our commitment to advanced education, but rather a response to the low demand for these specific courses. We hope these courses will run in the 2026-2027 school year.”

In addition to fewer electives being offered, at least four high school teaching positions will be cut for the 2025-2026 school year, impacting English, Art, Foreign Language, Math, and Dual Language Social Studies.

“It is very disheartening that these positions are being cut when our graduation rate and test scores are already lower than the state average and the high schools around us. There is a strong push for English and math teachers to teach to the test to increase student scores, but these two departments were directly hit with the staff cuts,” said English teacher Kim Summers.

Like the shaved-down electives, financial responsibility has been named as a deciding factor in this decision.

In addition to being sad to see her colleagues go, Summers also shared concerns about the impact of position cuts on student-teacher relationships.

“By cutting these teachers and classes, there is going to be an increase in class sizes which leads to less time for one-on-one instructions for students who are struggling or need additional help and support to succeed. The students are going to be the ones who are negatively impacted the most by these central office decisions, and this is not fair to them or their future,” she added.

These concerns are similar to ones expressed by students’ family members on the Parent Advocacy Facebook group when discussing the changes to next year’s electives.

To these concerns, Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Ivory-Tatum had words of reassurance.

“Despite the current political climate and the need for fiscal responsibility, we want to reiterate our unwavering commitment to serving all of our students. Our goal is to ensure that every student graduates College, Career, and Future-ready while also being good stewards of our tax dollars,” she wrote.

While electives and staff positions are being reduced, the number of classes required for upperclassmen is increasing.



Junior, and soon-to-be senior, Arelly Gutierrez finds herself stressed out by the increase in required classes for next year

Beginning Fall 2025, all students will now be required to take a minimum of 6 classes for the first time in UHS history.

Assistant Principal Christine Rinkenberger explained how requiring more classes opens doors for students to explore the electives UHS has to offer and increases the building attendance rate for students, an issue that has plagued UHS in recent years.

Ever-present in this decision making was also the financial aspect. Requiring more students to be in the building for more periods would allow for “more electives to be properly utilized” and could help bring back some of electives that were cut for the 2025-2026 school year.

While the administration supports

this decision, the student body overwhelmingly disagrees.

“It’s anything but fair to expect students to come to classes that they don’t really need to graduate,” said junior Marleo Mondebele.

Concerns about time management are also a major concern for future seniors.

“A lot of us were planning on having more free time because we didn’t need to take so many classes,” said junior Arelly Gutierrez. “Students could have jobs, extracurriculars, siblings to take care of, all kinds of things.”

While there are both benefits and downfalls to this new policy, one thing that’s sure is that the Class of 2026 is not open to the idea thus far.

BLOOD DRIVE BREAKS RECORD FOR NEW DONORS

By Lily Kacich

Journalism’s annual blood drive has been running for over 15 years and 2025 was no different. Held at the end of April, the drive was a huge success. Donors gave a total of 41 pints, enough to save 121 lives! We can’t be more proud of our students and staff for making this happen.

Now let’s dive into some reasons why some students and staff enjoy donating, so maybe you can be the one to donate next!

“I donate mostly in memory of my mom, she got me donating when I was pretty young,” said social worker Alicia Trezise.

Trezise and her mom have Type B blood, which is one of the less common blood types, so her mom recognized the value and wanted to make a difference.

Her influence has stuck. Trezise has been donating at the Journalism Blood Drive since it has been held at UHS and tries to be a consistent donor at our local blood center as well.

Although Trezise has taken a few breaks, she always finds her way back

to donating in memory of her mother.

In addition to committed donors, this year’s drive also set a new record for first-time donors with 33!

“I donated for the blood drive to help someone in need. It’s a really good cause and makes me feel good to be able to help someone out,” said sophomore Niyah Gilbert.

Now that she is 16, this was Gilbert’s first time donating blood and she says it most definitely will not be her last.

Sophomore Evonne Favors was also new to blood donation and agreed with Gilbert that this is something she will now continue to do in the future.

This small gesture helps out so many people in our community, so don’t forget to sign up next year!



Sophomore Kalandria Hughes is one of the many first-time donors who helped the Blood Drive collect enough blood to save 121 lives!

SEAL OF APPROVAL: COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS SEE SUCCESS

By Valentina Gonzalez Ahuerma

It is never too early to plan for the future. The Pathways Program gives students the opportunity to explore potential careers after high school in depth while still in high school!

The Education Pathway has been in progress since 2021 and was finally granted full approval by the Illinois Board of Education in February.

Now in full swing, the Education Pathway program has been very successful. When UHS admin were looking at what they had to offer for students who were interested in education careers, they found that they had strong early education classes, but nothing for students who might be interested in teaching higher grades.

These students were introduced to instruction on classroom culture/management, curriculum, instructional strategies, and meeting the needs of diverse student populations.

Students also complete 30 hours of observations in classrooms throughout the district or through professional experiences.

“I would recommend this class to students interested in teaching or education because students actually get to think through the perspective of a teacher. We do lots of hands-on learning, study and discuss current issues (like phone bans), and observe teachers who are highly skilled and qualified,” said Levi Molenhour, who teaches the Intro to Teaching Careers course.

Amanda Perez-Rosser, Career and Technical Education department chair and one of the founding members of the Pathways committee also recommends the program for students “who are interested in the ‘why’ of teaching or schools in general, learning about educational history, and are interested in pursuing a career in education.”

Because of its success, UHS is now adding another option: Health



Careers. Counselors have long noticed that there is a high popularity in health careers among students, so the school wanted to bring a class that could help students prepare for the health workforce.

“The main purpose of this course will be to learn about a variety of different careers within the healthcare system. You will learn about educational and licensure requirements, as well as job outlook and pay,” said Ryann Elder, current nurse and future instructor of the course.

For a student to earn the endorsement, they can follow a pathway through a series of classes at UHS and Parkland College, participate in two career exploration activities, have 60 hours of supervised career development experiences, and participate in team based challenges. Students who complete these requirements will earn a seal on their diploma.

The school is looking forward to adding more classes like these in the future, stay tuned!

SCHOOL GARDEN SPREADS PEACE FOR EARTH DAY



Students gather around the garden as Principal Jesse Guzman speaks at the Peace Pole ceremony for Earth Day

By Ruby Pittenger

2025 brought rejuvenation to the school garden, culminating with a “Peace Pole” dedication for Earth Day. The pole was painted by Urbana High School art students and donated by Urbana’s Rotary Club.

The process of getting the pole into our school garden was lengthy, but worth it, as it brought peace and love to the school on Earth Day.

“I was asked by the Rotary board to reach out to Urbana School District administrators, teacher sponsors, student clubs, and the PTSA to propose the Peace Pole project. The committee members agreed to collaborate on this meaningful initiative,” said PTSA leader Kanittha Fay.

The design for the pole was well thought out by the UHS Art club, as they were asked to paint “what brought them peace.”

The answers were as varied and unique as the students who took part in the project.

“You’ll see those ideas reflected on the Peace Pole—things like hot chocolate, a chubby cat, music, and more,” said Fay.

The idea behind the pole is not only for decoration, but to display community unity and peace.

“The Peace Pole is a monument that reminds us of our shared humanity. It represents hope, togetherness, and the universal desire for peace. Installing it in a public space like a community garden sends a message that no one is alone—others around the world share the same wish for peace,” explained Fay.

When it comes to what it means for UHS, Agriculture teacher and school garden leader Joan Jach had a lot to say.

“It [the pole] will be a touchstone for years to come, it will be a remembrance of people coming together to make the space and our community more beautiful and welcoming,” she said.

This pole is not alone. There are approximately 250,000 more poles placed all over the world, spreading joy and unity.

Urbana High School’s garden is lucky to have this project as a display of our community’s togetherness.

“I think it is a bright spot that folks can look at as they’re driving or walking by. I hope it brings a sense of pride that our students worked to make the peace pole,” added Jach.

ACADEMY 10: WHAT’S THE DEAL?

Continued from Page 1

Joyce Mirelez is not at all for it. From a social perspective, she is concerned that her friend group will be split up among different lunch hours and academy classes, as sophomores will now have four different options for lunch (4A, 4B, 5A, 5B) instead of just one.

“I was hoping to be able to have lunch with my friends and not be separated. But we sadly won’t have this next year because of the new lunch hours and addition of Academy,” Mirelez said.

Freshman Mi’a Garvin hasn’t really chosen a side yet, but she doesn’t know how it’s going to work.

“I don’t know how they are going to try and balance it out with our other classes. It feels like it’s going to be overly messy. I don’t know why they would try it for sophomore year.”

She added that “I feel like it gives more opportunities for people to try and get academy classes with friends. I know from what I experienced in Academy 9 that it was hard because I got split up a lot from others.”

Freshman Mulieya Prum was more full of questions than answers.

“Why would they do this for sophomores? It feels like we don’t get enough time to eat, so why would they do that? Will I be able to get the same lunch as my friends?” she asked.

Questions still remain, but will be unanswered until Fall 2025.

STUDENTS, STAFF REACT TO NEXT YEAR'S CLASSROOM CELL PHONE BAN

By Sanaa Parker

The news of a possible cell phone ban for the 2025-2026 school year has been spreading like wildfire through the halls of UHS. Though initially a hypothetical or a rumor, the cell phone ban is now 100% officially happening.

The school's cell phone ban has been put into place because phones have been causing a major impact on student performance and classroom work environment. With the goal of better helping students, the school has decided to implement a classroom cell phone ban in order to help students reach their full potential.

Some students, like Sophomore Ka'Riyah Puryear, support the classroom ban.

"I feel like it would be better for everybody, especially underclassmen...I just feel like kids rely on their phones a lot. It would be better because everybody would have better connections with everyone else," she said.

In a survey to staff, teachers were asked about their support for a classroom cell phone ban. In response to "Do you believe UHS should have a policy banning the use of cellphones in a classroom?," 92.2% of staff responded "Yes" and 7.8% responded "No."

Puryear believes the ban could better help the students be able to communicate and create connections with one another because "It's so easy to eliminate things with your phone, like stress, and just ignore things."

The second question asked: "Do you believe that UHS should have a policy that completely bans the use of cell phones by students during the school day, including hallways and lunch time?" 47.8% responded "Yes" and 52.2% responded "No."

Sophomore Daviel Petry does not oppose the ban entirely, but does not support it entirely, either.

"I agree with the ban in classrooms for the most part because kids need to pay attention in class, but I also think it's a problem because we use our phones for things like quick searches or music while working. I think working around the phone is most important, not working against it. There should be different treatment for people who use their phone really quickly for something versus the people who are on it constantly or consistently," he said.

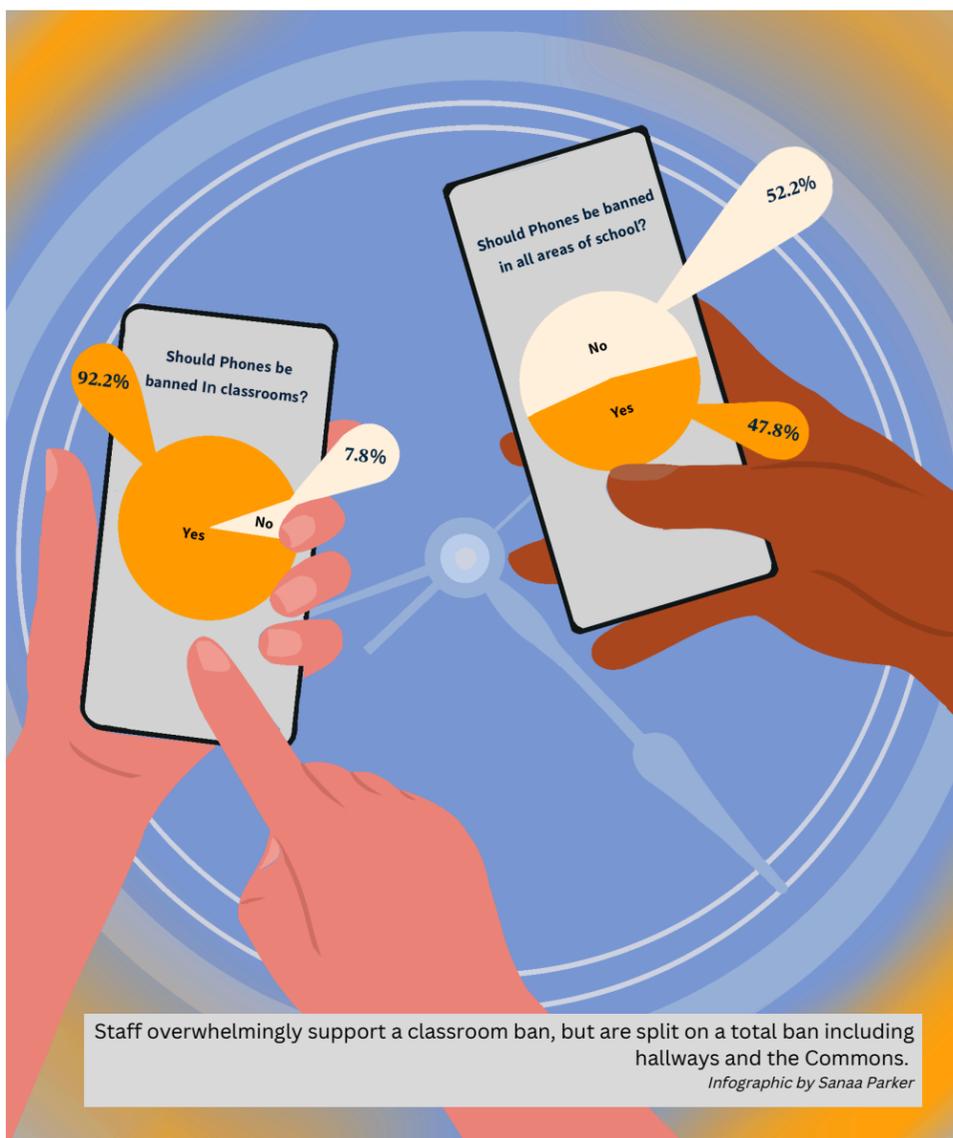
Survey organizer and English teacher Abigail Dace believes that "Cell phones aren't just a problem in the classroom, but for the attention and well-being of people in general. It's hurting their education and just their lives. I'm hoping that this policy to ban cellphones in the classroom will start to break the cycle of dependence, improve grades, help with attention spans and focus in the classroom."

Sophomore Travis Evans agrees that students should not be using phones until passing periods, but argues they need to "Keep their phone nearby for emergencies."

It seems very clear about how teachers and staff members feel about the ban and how they are pretty much on board with the idea of no phones in the classroom, but letting the students be able to use them in the hallways and at lunch.

We will have to see how this plays out in the future and see if it really does make an impactful difference in our school.

But what about the students that will be affected by this next year?



PENTTI TO MOVE INTO DEAN POSITION

By Savannah McClain-Crook

Next year we will have a new dean: Health teacher Allison Pentti!

"After finishing my Master's in December, I decided I wanted to help more teachers and students outside the classroom," she said.

As a teacher, she understands the importance of setting goals. This is something she's taught for years in her health classroom, and plans on bringing it to the dean position.

"I plan on helping more kids navigate academics alongside behaviors," she added.

Pentti also wants to focus on communication in her new role.

"I see my role as a way to assist students in interacting with teachers and navigating the building, working with teachers to help my students communicate with them, and a way to communicate my observations and interactions with students/teachers to administration."

Her experience will help her make an impact in the UHS community and to the dean team.



STAFF SUPERLATIVES BY RUBY PITTENGER

TAKING A LOOK AT YOUR FAVORITE TEACHER'S SUMMER PLANS

By Lily Kacich

When the final bell rings on May 28th, kids will rush out of school, but what about teachers?

For many, summer isn't just a break, but more like a long few months to recharge, explore other passions or even do other unexpected work.

Let's dive into what some of our favorite teachers are doing this summer!

Social Studies teacher Mark Foley will be going to the Pacific Northwest for a long two weeks.

He'll be starting in Portland, Oregon for some work conferences, then will be meeting up with his daughter, Class of 2024 alum Eve Foley, in Seattle so they can end the trip off with some camping!

Later on in the summer, Foley will also be going to his lake house in Michigan for a couple weeks with his family to spend days swimming and cooking in the sun.

Moving onto everyone's favorite dean, Mr. Sexton!

Sexton will be going down to Nashville for a short weekend in Tennessee to



School may still be in session, but Social Studies teacher Mark Foley is all ready to head out for summer!

take in some live music and "to go bar hopping."

Definitely not what most students would expect!

Then he's going even further south to St. Augustine, Florida where he plans on "roasting" his skin and swimming in the refreshing ocean.

P.E. teacher Lindsay Porter is also going on a long break in Michigan, meeting up with 13 family members in Grand Haven. She plans on enjoying long beach days, putt putting, watching water shows, and picking cherries and blueberries with her son, Liam.

On a not-so-fun note, Porter added she will also be doing some behind the wheel time for Driver's Ed!

Last but not least, we will be saying a sad goodbye to P.E. teacher and soccer coach Miki Kowalski, who will be heading to Chicago to work at his high school alma mater.

Though he will be busy packing up and moving, he will always have time for friend and fellow P.E. teacher Leandro Gonzalez. Kowalski and some friends will be meeting Gonzalez in Costa Rica for some exploring and, of course, getting a nice tan!

As the school doors close for the summer, teachers step into a season that's full of rest, work, traveling, and simply soaking up time with loved ones. Summer may be a break from the classroom, but not a break from their lives outside of it!

KEARNS, HAMMOND HEADING TO MIDDLE SCHOOL



Though she will be missed by students, perhaps it is colleague, friend, and fellow Dean Eric Morrow who will miss Ms. Hammond the most!

By Alex Schwartz

Assistant Principal Melissa Kearns will be moving to the middle school as the new principal, and she will be using her high school experience while there!

"I love the Urbana community, and I want to serve the middle school," said Kearns. "I am confident that I can put some structures in place to help kids get ready for high school."

This will not be a new environment for

Hammond, as she previously worked at the middle school before moving back to UHS in 2019.

Hammond has two major goals in mind: "To build a new legacy with a new group of kids and to be supportive of Mrs. Kearns," she said.

Her new position will be running ReFocus, an intervention for students that need a break from class.

Mrs. Hammond has made a place for herself at UHS and now she is going to do the same at UMS.

"She has a dynamic interaction with the kids, knowing them. It's gonna be a difficult change," said colleague and fellow dean, Eric Morrow.

Both Kearns and Hammond have left their mark on the school, and they will be missed.

Good luck!

SENIOR ATHLETES SAY GOODBYE

By Valentina Gonzalez Ahuerma

With the school year coming to an end, The Echo would like to recognize a few of our spring senior athletes!

SOFIA RECIO, SOFTBALL

"I really love this team. The relationship we have with each other is really special."



FRANKLINA KABU, TRACK

"Honestly, I loved the fun times where we would just play games together and laugh. Being around everyone that loves the same sport creates such a fun environment that I am going to miss when I leave."



MOHAMMED AMRANI, TRACK

"I'll definitely miss the team environment. Urbana track has made it a team where we are all family and uplift each other on a daily basis. We all care and want the best for each other beyond just our sport."



ETHAN MURPHY, BASEBALL

"Having that team atmosphere will definitely be something that I will miss. I also will miss the competition aspect, just being able to compete in the game is such a blessing."



GRACE COADY, SOCCER

"I'll definitely miss the opportunity to be able to get competitive and have the opportunity to put a good performance out on the field."



SANTIAGO LLERAS, TENNIS

"I'm going to miss the atmosphere of the team and being able to easily help people."



HOT DAYS, HOTTER HOROSCOPES: YOUR SUMMER FORECAST

by Vincent Podroykin

Aries (March 21st - April 19th): Summer brings hot, hot weather, but that shouldn't stop you from going outside and having a good time! You might feel a little stressed or hot under the collar, but take time to decompress. Go outside, take a walk, frolic in the fields, and have fun!

Taurus (April 20th - May 20th): The summer may be fun, but it's going to be expensive (especially in this economy where anything fun is going to cost you a minimum of \$35!). Work hard at that job to earn that check, but then remember to take the time to spend it! You deserve it.

Gemini (May 21st - June 30th): Get up! You may already have all your summer plans mapped out by this time, but maybe, just maybe, you could try something different! Try picking up a new hobby during this break or letting the wind take you where it wants you to go. Being spontaneous can be healthy!

Cancer (June 21st - July 22nd): It can be hard, but try to not let your emotions get the best of you this summer. Lean on your friends, spend some time in nature, and take some time for yourself. This is the summer of you!

Leo (July 23rd - August 22nd): Use your dedication to find something to hyper-fixate on this summer! Try planning a party, painting a self-portrait, or even redecorating your room until it's Pinterest-perfect. Find something to focus on and you'll find a reward at the end!

Virgo (August 23rd - September 22nd): It's finally time! Time to put on your best looks, get in the car, and be outside in the streets 'til the sun goes down and the street lights come on! Be the leader of your crew and plan some fun activities for the summer. Virgos do it best when it comes to fun!

Libra (September 23rd - October 22nd): It's time to use your skills of creating good in the world. You could volunteer, but what the people around you really need is a break! Give it to them by planning a get-together at a park or at your place and give your friends the gift of fun!

Scorpio (October 23rd - November 21st): This summer might just be the perfect time for you to go dark and be mysterious! Use this time to work on your personal goals without giving constant updates to your friends. Your mind, body, and soul will thank you for it!



Sagittarius (November 22nd - December 21st): Channel your inner-philosophical side and try something new this summer by going to a museum. Pick one at random and walk around absorbing culture, arts, and knowledge. It will lead you to some new discoveries about yourself!

Capricorn (December 22nd - January 19th): No matter what you do, stay determined this summer! Even without school, work and life can be distracting. Fight against it by focusing on what you want and need, not what others want or need from you.

Aquarius (January 20th - February 18th): Tap into your innovative side and try making something with your own hands. Food, art, furniture, flower arrangements, it doesn't matter! It may work, it may not, but through trial and error it will all work out!

Pisces (February 19th - March 20th): It's the summer and it's time to let your imagination and creativity run wild for the next few months! Be creative with everything! Try that food combo you've always been curious about, wear that crazy outfit you normally wouldn't be caught dead wearing, try a totally off-the-wall hobby. Don't hold back; this is your summer to be wild!

SENIOR GOODBYE: DANYLA NASH

My time in the UHS Echo as a journalist has been valuable and educational toward my future all year long.

I've gotten the opportunity to feed into my favorite hobbies and interests, while working with a teacher that pushed me to grow in substantial amounts in my craft and within myself.

Patience was reinforced, humility was increased, and experience was gathered more and more each week.

I will miss my time writing for the UHS Echo, but I will always remember the time I had here as I pursue my major in Journalism at Northern Illinois University next year.

There, I hope to be able to pursue more unofficial work behind-the-scenes in news and media broadcasting.



SENIOR GOODBYE: LILY KACICH

This was my first year with The Echo, and I can't say more positive remarks about this group.

Although I had a late start to this class due to some class mix-ups, I came in a few weeks late and felt included right away.

Journalism is my first hour class and although I'm always extremely tired walking into class, I leave feeling energetic and ready for the day.

This class always wakes me up due to all the fun random activities Ms. Tufano creates to make it a fun learning environment.

This past year we have done projects like podcasting, solving cold case murders, and even got to make a Journalism candy salad!

Though I'm not planning on doing anything related to journalism in the future, I still enjoyed taking this class just for fun.

Next year, I'll be going to Parkland for their nursing program, then transferring to become an anesthesiologist.



WANT MORE? VISIT UHSECHO.COM!

SUMMER RECIPE: SUPER HEALTHY SUMMER PIZZA

By Savannah McClain-Crook

This pizza is the perfect meal to make for summer because the flavor is like fireworks in the night sky on the 4th of July!

Ingredients

For the crust:

- 1/2 cup self-rising flour (or 1/2 cup all-purpose flour + 3/4 tsp baking powder + pinch of salt)
- 1/4 cup plain Greek yogurt (nonfat or low-fat)

For the topping:

- 1/2 cup low-sodium tomato sauce (or crushed tomatoes)
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano or Italian seasoning
- 1/2 cup part-skim shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 red bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1/4 zucchini, thinly sliced
- A handful of cherry tomatoes, halved
- Optional: black olives, mushrooms, fresh basil

Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or lightly grease it.
2. Make the dough: In a medium bowl, mix the flour and Greek yogurt until it forms a soft dough. Knead it on a floured surface for 1-2 minutes until smooth. Roll it out into a thin circle or oval about 8 inches wide and place it on the prepared baking sheet.
3. Add sauce and toppings: Spread the tomato sauce evenly over the dough. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with oregano or Italian seasoning. Top with shredded cheese, then layer on the veggies.
4. Bake: Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until the crust is golden and the cheese is melted and bubbly.
5. Serve: Let cool slightly, then slice and enjoy your healthy homemade pizza!

SUMMER RECIPE: VEGAN STRAWBERRY PANCAKES

By Savannah McClain-Crook

Breakfast more your style? Try these vegan strawberry pancakes! Light and fluffy, they're a strawberry treat perfect for a hot summer day.

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 1/4 cups unsweetened almond milk (or any plant-based milk)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil (plus more for the pan)
- 1/2 cup fresh strawberries, finely chopped
- Maple syrup or powdered sugar, for serving (optional)

4. Serve: Stack the pancakes and top with extra strawberries, a drizzle of maple syrup, or a dusting of powdered sugar.

Instructions

1. Make the batter: In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, and sugar (if using). Add the almond milk, vanilla, and oil. Mix until just combined – the batter will be thick. Gently fold in the chopped strawberries.
2. Preheat your pan: Heat a non-stick skillet or griddle over medium heat. Lightly oil the surface.
3. Cook the pancakes: Pour about 1/4 cup of batter onto the pan for each pancake. Cook for 2-3 minutes, or until bubbles form on the surface and the edges look set. Flip and cook for another 2 minutes, or until golden brown.

CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS?

SUPERLATIVE, DEPARTMENT, STRAWBERRY, ELECTIVES, FINANCIAL, PATHWAYS, SEASONAL, TEACHING, ACADEMY, HAMMOND, SENIORS, FINALS, GERMAN, HEALTH, KEARNS, PENTTI, SPORTS, SUMMER, ZODIAC, GOALS, JIMBO, PEACE, DATA, BAN

QUIZ: WHICH SUMMER DRINK ARE YOU?

5. PICK A SUMMER TREAT TO HELP YOU COOL DOWN!

- a. Ice Cream
- b. Key Lime Pie
- c. Popsicle
- d. Milkshake

1. WHAT TIME WILL YOU BE WAKING UP EVERY DAY?

- a. 10:00 a.m.
- b. 12:00 p.m.
- c. 8:00 a.m.
- d. 2:00 p.m.

2. WHAT CLASSIC SUMMER JAM ARE YOU PLAYING?

- a. "Pink and White" by Frank Ocean
- b. "Just Like Fire" by P!nk
- c. "Happy" by Pharrell
- d. "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus

3. WHAT ARE YOU GRILLING THIS SUMMER?

- a. Burgers
- b. Brats
- c. Hot dogs
- d. Ribs

4. WHERE CAN YOU BE FOUND ON A SATURDAY NIGHT?

- a. At Home
- b. Anywhere BUT Home
- c. Target
- d. The Canopy Club

6. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITY?

- a. Swimming
- b. Tanning
- c. Going to the Park
- d. Traveling

7. WHAT RESPONSIBILITY ARE YOU IGNORING THIS SUMMER?

- a. Cleaning
- b. Socializing
- c. Sleep Schedule
- d. All of them!

8. WHICH BEACH ACCESSORY ARE YOU?

- a. Sunscreen
- b. Cooler
- c. Towel
- d. Floatie

9. WHAT SERIES WILL YOU BE BINGEING?

- a. *The Summer I Turned Pretty*
- b. *Stranger Things*
- c. *The Office*
- d. *Euphoria*

RESULTS ON PAGE 8!

The Echo Spring 2025 Word Search

F	G	Z	C	W	A	N	E	S	T	E	A	C	H	I	N	G	Z	C	H	T	H	Y
F	I	N	J	U	U	B	R	E	M	M	U	S	R	O	I	N	E	S	I	Z	X	E
N	Y	N	D	L	T	K	E	L	E	C	T	I	V	E	S	A	K	Z	Z	U	P	Q
O	A	E	A	X	W	S	H	W	K	A	P	A	T	H	W	A	Y	S	K	O	L	E
P	I	W	X	N	Y	Z	X	E	J	R	Z	L	S	D	A	T	A	Q	F	X	V	T
M	G	K	H	Y	C	Q	D	E	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T	B	O	F	R	A	G
F	Q	O	G	Q	K	I	V	S	P	O	R	T	S	M	Y	R	T	Z	M	I	E	V
Q	H	E	A	L	T	H	A	J	S	E	X	O	L	A	N	O	S	A	E	S	T	K
P	L	H	S	L	Q	D	F	L	S	U	P	E	R	L	A	T	I	V	E	E	G	E
E	B	J	I	Q	S	Q	C	A	I	D	O	Z	U	P	Q	R	S	X	H	Z	X	A
A	Y	R	R	E	B	W	A	R	T	S	F	U	H	Q	Z	I	L	O	H	B	K	R
C	D	B	F	S	P	E	N	T	T	I	S	W	Y	I	C	P	A	B	Q	A	S	N
E	F	Z	G	E	R	M	A	N	O	M	H	R	P	L	Z	U	N	M	R	D	F	S
L	Y	B	Z	L	F	R	F	K	Q	Y	M	E	D	A	C	A	I	I	E	F	W	V
M	H	A	M	M	O	N	D	R	P	X	A	F	N	S	G	T	F	J	B	K	T	K
F	J	Z	Z	N	D	W	D	T	V	X	I	N	J	B	A	N	C	D	O	O	L	B

JIMBO: A FINAL GOODBYE BY MATT CHAVIRA



QUIZ RESULTS: WHICH SUMMER DRINK ARE YOU?

MOSTLY A'S? YOU'RE ICED TEA!
You're calm, dependable, and always bring good vibes. People love being around you because you keep things cool, even when it's hot.

MOSTLY B'S? YOU'RE LEMONADE!
You're bold, sharp, and unafraid to speak your mind. You might be a little sour sometimes, but that's what makes you refreshing and real.

MOSTLY C'S? YOU'RE WATER!
You're grounded, reliable, and effortlessly essential. You keep things simple—but in a way others admire—and everyone counts on you.

MOSTLY D'S? YOU'RE A MILKSHAKE!
You're the life of the party—colorful, playful, and always bringing a smile. Some might say you're extra, but you know that's what makes you special.

THE ECHO STAFF

Editors-in-Chief:
Valentina Gonzalez Ahuerma
Ruby Pittenger

Echo Staff: Lily Kacich, Savannah McClain-Crook, Danyla Nash, Sanaa Parker, Vincent Podroykin, Alex Schwartz

Adviser: Felicia Tufano

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 28th:
Period 1: 8:00-9:20am
Period 2: 9:25-10:45am
Dismissal at 2:26pm

Thursday, May 29th:
Period 4: 8:00-9:20am
Period 3: 9:30-10:50am
Period 5: 11:00-12:20pm

Friday, May 30th:
Period 6: 8:00-9:20am
Period 7: 9:30-10:50am
Period 8: 11:00-12:20pm

International Galleries

CATCH MY THRIFT
local. sustainable. accessible.

SMITH BURGER CO.
EST. 2020
CRAFT BURGERS

Urbana Family Dental
Accepting New Patients!

1812 Philo Road
Urbana, IL 61802
217-729-7411

Encanto
RESTAURANT AND BAR

KEY CLUB INTERNATIONAL
Urbana High School

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!