THE HAWKS' NEST

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Courtesy of: Adam Silverman
"Winter Lights" at Shelburne Museum, a holiday tradition enjoyed by anyone who passes by on Route 7.

Students' Perspectives: CVU's Immigration Activities

Mamta Rimal
Staff Writer

For as long as our country has existed, immigration has stirred both hope and controversy. From the exclusion of early Chinese and Italian immigrants to the policy battles under Barack Obama and Donald Trump, America's relationship with newcomers has always been complicated. In recent years, national debates have often turned into fear: fear of those crossing the border, fear within families waiting for court hearings, and fear among people who came here legally but suddenly feel uncertain of their place.

At the national level, President Trump's rollback of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) affected many families. TPS had offered refuge to people escaping natural disasters and violent conflicts. Without it, countless individuals are now forced to choose between returning to danger or remaining in a country that no longer welcomed them. Reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents detaining individuals without due process only deepened that fear, even among those who had followed every legal step.

Vermont may feel far from the pulse of national politics, yet the impact has been personal here as well. According to *Seven Days:* CVU librarian **Peter Langella** reflected that the "current administration is saying, 'The future does not belong to you.'"

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Safety Protocols at CVU

Lily Gruber
Managing Editor

It's Tuesday, November 18th at 2:00. **Jeff Hindes**, CVU teacher and Public Safety Committee Faculty Lead, waits for meeting attendants to filter into the Main Office Conference Room. By 2:05, thirteen participants are sitting at the large conference table, including Principal **Katherine Riley** and Hinesburg Fire Chief **Prescott Nadeau**. Their purpose? To discuss safety protocol at CVU.

The national rise in student safety threats due to gun violence in America won't surprise most. What defines a school shooting differs between sources, which makes the data hard to interpret. CNN reported 73 school shootings as of December 9th, describing incidents in which at least one person, not including the shooters themselves, were hit. Since 2008, a steady increase in the amount of incidents have been recorded, beginning with eighteen and peaking in 2024 with 83 reports.

Vermont has passed legislation to curb this trend, including Act 29 in 2023, outlining school safety and security. Options-based drills in the spring and fall, Vermont School Safety Center recommendations, and locked exterior doors during the day, among other regulations, are outlined in the Act. However, ultimately, a lot is left to the school.

So, what has CVU been doing to enforce school safety? Seeing an increase of school violence across the US led the Champlain Valley School District to become more proactive in assessment threats and policies, according to Riley. "There hasn't been more threats in the last thirteen or fourteen years [at CVU]," Riley commented, "it's the school's

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Cross Country Running

Learn about the team's success on page 6.



Students in Politics

Learn about activities related to CVU politics on pages 2 & 5 .



Winter Auction

Thank you to the community for coming out for The Nest's *auction, page 8.*

John Bennett After Retirement

Grace Warrington
Editor-in-chief

The Hawks' Nest *interviewed* ***John Bennett****, former CVU Social Studies teacher turned building sub. According to* The Citizen*, Bennett joined approximately thirty other such staff members from Champlain Valley School District. In this interview, Bennett shared his thoughts on his (partial) retirement, school life, and Crumbl cookie choices.*

The Hawks' Nest: **How has retirement been?**

John Bennett: Well, before I go further, let me define retirement at least as it applies to me: I am retired from full time teaching. I am retired from coaching Scholars Bowl. These are things I did for 31 years. I am not retired though from working—that day won't come for another five years at least. So, it has more been a refocusing of my work time to different activities.

HN: What have you found time to do that you weren't doing before?

JB: Well, one thing was taking a new job at the Shelburne Museum. I started working there at the end of July as a seasonal museum guide. This lasted through October, and I hope to work there again next year. Working at a world class museum in a town that I've lived in for many years is a dream job for me. People visit the museum from all over the world, and we have some amazing and interesting exhibits.

HN: What activities, hobbies or passions are you most involved in with your newfound free time?

JB: Like I said, I am still working, just not as much, so it is not that I have a lot of newfound free time. About fifteen to twenty years ago I did a fair amount of baseball writing. This summer I was asked to be an editor on a new publication in which I am also fitfully writing some new material.

HN: In light of recent press about Vermont's educational system, do you have any reflections on its current situation given your new perspective?

JB: Well, my perspective isn't necessarily new. I have always felt that too many decisions about education get made by people who don't know how hard teachers work or what working in schools is really like. I also feel that recent legislation is actually punishing our district for its success. That's all, I don't want to get too controversial here.

HN: What is something you have learned in retirement?

JB: That I needed more rest. Almost immediately I found myself sleeping almost twice as much as I did before. This bothered me, but I talked to another retired teacher and he told me it was okay and normal.

[It] seems your body gets used to working on insufficient rest, but then when you don't

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Getting Involved: Students in Politics

Karmen Wilbur
Managing Editor

This is Part 1 of a two-part article concerning students in government.

Knowing how your government is critical when living in a democracy. Within the CVSD community there are many classes, clubs, and organizations that encourage students to become involved in their government and advocate for themselves.

Teachers are in a unique position to see how student interest in politics has changed over time. Social studies teacher **Lacey Richards** shared that interest often ebbs and flows with the election cycle. Despite this, both Richards and **Tyler Alexander**, the AP Government teacher, have noticed a change recently. Alexander said that when he started teaching, "political issues were not as fraught."

Richards acknowledged she has seen more of a desire from students to learn how we as a country got to where we are today. She has noticed that students become more interested and involved in government "when [they] can see, hear, or feel it impact them." Both teachers have encouraged students to learn and engage with their government. Paraphrasing President Kennedy, Alexander encourages students to ask "What will I do to make our communities better?"

Students for Democracy is a C3 club that works to educate students on elections and current news. Founded three years ago, they put on CVU's mock elections and hold voter registration drives. **Cecilia Marino '26**, the student leader of the club, shared that the group has been talking about local elections and their implications, as well as creating a space where members can ask questions about current events. Marino said, "whatever people want to talk about, whatever people are feeling, it's a space to express that." Marino also expressed that, "we have an obligation to our country to be civically engaged."

SDA is a national group working to end gun violence. Along with others, **Willcox Elliott '27** is a founding member of a local chapter of the organization. He wanted to do something to protect students from gun violence, and eventually discovered SDA.

He says about his experience, "I came across [Students Demand Action], I did some

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The Hawks' Nest

The student-run newspaper of Champlain Valley Union High School

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Bennett After Retirement

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have to do this, you snap back to a healthier mode. So, what have I learned? That it is good not to have to wake up at 6 am every day to get ready for work.

HN: What changes have you noticed throughout your years of teaching? You've also been working as a substitute for other schools around the district. How has that been going?

JB: I have worked mostly at CVU- where I have subbed for 15 different teachers so far, but did do a day at Shelburne Community School, which I attended from grades 6-8.

That school has been extensively remodeled since I went there 45 years ago, and I have only been back a couple times. So, it was a real eye opener, as only a few places remain that are exactly as they were when I was a student there. As always though they are doing great things at that school.

I have gained a new appreciation for what substitute teachers do, one I did not have as much when I was a teacher. **Carol Fox** does an amazing and very difficult job organizing and scheduling subs at CVU.

HN: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

JB: I feel lucky about two things- One, that I was able to work the last 24 years of my teaching career in such a great school surrounded by such excellent staff.

Two, that my transition into retirement is going easier than what I've read it to be for others. Many people understandably develop an identity that is attached to their job, and then have trouble when that is gone.

I've always identified with my interests, hobbies, [and] outside activities, rather than a job. The aspects of teaching that I might miss are overcome by having more time to devote to my other interests.

HN: What is your favorite Crumbl cookie?

JB: I will say that any cookie that is made in a skillet, or could double as a breakfast food (like a muffin cookie) are always good choices. Actually my favorites are two items that aren't necessarily cookies—banana pudding, and sticky toffee.

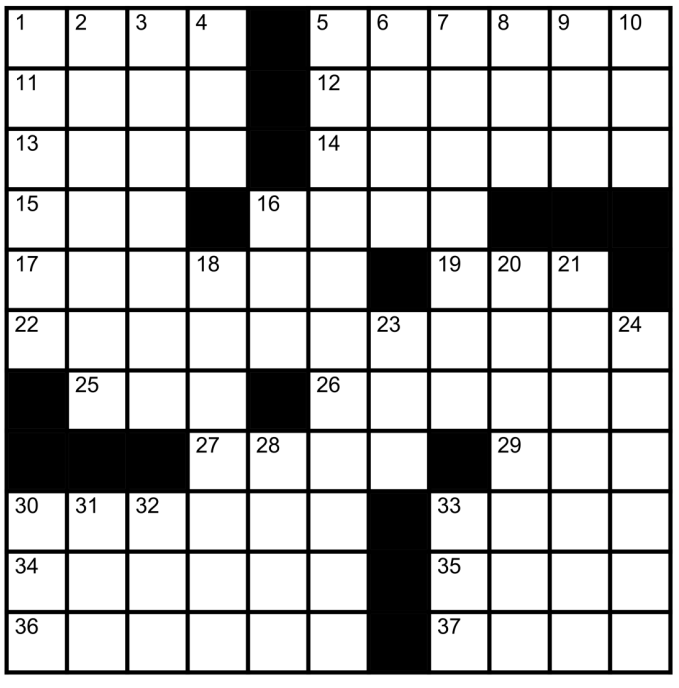


Courtesy of: Greg Warrington
Toys for Kids: CVU's holiday toy drive through December 17.

Crossword

Answers on page 8

Grace Warrington
Editor-in-chief



Across

1. Donkey gong?

5. ____ emptor

11. Magritte or Descartes

12. Pro golfer Mark

13. Opposite of subtracts

14. British actress Helen

15. Keanu Reeves character

16. Iowa State home

17. Poet-swordsman ___ de Bergerac

19. Crunch beneficiaries

22. What teaching some classes may be like

25. Lame

26. Flew past

27. Big bird?

29. Dec. follower

30. Stomach neighbor

33. Meh

34. Van Gogh painting of flowers

35. "Joking!"

36. Hair stray?

37. Animation frames

Down

1. Tributary

2. Late flights ... or the result of late nights

3. Country with Europe's highest capital

4. "Indeed"

5. Thomas Paine pamphlet

6. French friend

7. Italian fashion label

8. Something you might put to the ground

9. Word abbreviated by "r" in texts

10. Sin alternative

16. Singer di Franco who played at the Shelburne Museum this past August

18. The North Pole, e.g.

20. "Why was the snowman looking through a bag of carrots? He was picking his nose," e.g.

21. A cathedral in Red Square in Moscow is named after him

23. Sr's. worry

24. Clerical gatherings

28. Achilles' vulnerability

30. Dog command

31. Anti opposite

32. Actor Simu ____ of "Barbie"

33. Editor's mark for "This is a grate clue"

Immigration Activities

Continued from page 1

At CVU, two students were recently forced to leave the United States early after the rollback of TPS protections. Rather than face deportation, they made the painful choice to leave on their own.

Former CVU student and Bhutanese-Nepalese refugee **Samir Rimal** recalled his time here fondly. “I was treated well, respected, and welcomed in classes … [but] because of my culture I was treated differently.”

The Bhutanese-Nepalese community, many of whom were resettled under President Obama’s administration, has long viewed CVU as a school that strives to be welcoming. Yet even then, challenges remained as students adjusted to new lives, found that foreign education was not always recognized, and faced subtle cultural misunderstandings.

Another student who preferred to remain anonymous, described feeling like a “curiosity object.” They were often spoken to as if they could not understand English, a small but painful reminder that not everyone feels fully seen. Their experience reflected others across Vermont’s schools, showing how belonging can feel fragile even within supportive communities.

Despite the challenges in our country’s politics, CVU continues to host international students. German exchange student **Amelie Toedtheide** shared that she has been treated with kindness by both students and staff, enjoying time with her peers even when the workload feels difficult. Though CVU has faced obstacles in maintaining diversity and lost two valued students last year, it remains committed to creating an open and inclusive environment.

Over the years, CVU has welcomed students from across the globe, from Western Europe to East Asia, and hopes to continue strengthening connections with students from the Global South as well. Many refugees who once attended CVU are now American citizens who have passed their citizenship exams and built lasting lives in the community.

CVU’s story is one of resilience, compassion, and perseverance. Despite the uncertain policies and politics that shape the world outside our walls, our school remains a place where every student, no matter where they come from, can find belonging.

Safety Protocols

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response that's changed.”

Monthly Safety Committee Meetings have been happening since roughly 2010, according to Hindes. He’s served as the group’s faculty lead for the past seven years, seeing the implementation of cameras, locked doors, and alarms as the national conversation on school safety has shifted. Safety is preparing for the unknown, which can be challenging with so many variables. “Quite frankly, you can't plan for everything, unless you want to go to school in a prison. Even then, there's going to be things that will happen that you didn't anticipate,” Hindes commented. One of Hindes' central questions is: “How can we tighten the security of the place without it feeling like a prison?”

Eva Fewell '26 has been attending the Safety Committee meetings since their junior year as part of a Student Council appointment. “I've been really grateful to ... get to be a part of it, and get to sort of bring the student perspective into something that maybe was lacking it before,” Fewell commented. Gun violence is not often directly addressed, according to Fewell, but the school’s weak points are discussed during these sessions. Topics such as “What can we do during lunch blocks for those students?" and the locking of doors are some of the ones brought up in these conversations. One of the main points, as per Fewell, is, “what direction are [the protocols] going to be coming from?”

These discussions, known as “tabletops”, support manufactured, plausible, scenarios introduced at Safety Committee meetings. The goal is to troubleshoot before needing to address a similar situation in real time. Past incidents are also discussed, preparing the group for an escalated version of such events.

“The better prepared we are, the calmer we are, and the more we can be like Jeff [Hindes]. I just want to be like Jeff. Yeah, that's the motto,” Riley joked. Beginning at CVU as a Social Studies teacher in 1998, Riley’s awareness of school safety has had to evolve since becoming principal. “People would look to me as the leader within the school ... [I now] feel a higher level of responsibility to the students and the staff,” she commented.

Willcox Elliott '27 recently began a Students Demand Action (SDA) chapter, advocating for gun safety and new legislation on a state level. Gun sense is a primary focus of the group: “The idea of safe storage of guns, and of being smart about gun regulations,” Elliott described, in addition to banning guns in bars across the state. The group held their first meeting on November 15th. They talked about the effectiveness of lockdown drills, and “What is helpful in a crisis?” was a central question in the discussion. Elliott wanted to get involved with the issue of gun violence, “it's pretty prevalent,” he commented, “and I wanted to try and do something about it.”

though we have not experienced active shootings in CVSD, threats and recent news headlines affect the community’s relationship to safety at school. Even after attending Safety Committee meetings, “I still worry about the possibility of that happening, just because, like, especially if it is a person, you know, a person is able to think and sort of adapt to situations,” Fewell commented. Elliott described how, “growing up with this kind of in the background ... you never really know what's next.”.

Seth Emerson has been a Campus Safety Supervisor for the past nineteen years. According to Emerson, when he attended CVU as a student, there seemed to be more physical violence. Now, a lot of what he comes in contact with is substance use and online bullying. Emerson sits at a desk at the main entrance. Bulletproof glass was recently installed. “It's hard. I have to let almost everybody in, unless they're driving in a tank with a bunch of guns,” Emerson described, especially students.

“I don't think we can put our heads in the sand about school shooters,” Emerson said. CVU, he described, does a good job of connecting kids to campus supervisors. Riley also cited house offices and Advisory as central components of maintaining school safety through making students feel connected.

“The most important thing for us in this community is to make sure students are safe, and to make sure they're learning. Those two go hand in hand,” Riley said.

Op-Ed

Life is a Highway: Implications of Car Dependency

Lukas Maceyka
Staff Writer

Roughly 89% of all trips are done using a personal vehicle in America. 70-75% (depending the on region) use personal vehicles rather than public transportation to commute to and from work and/or school. As of 2022, 92% of all households in the U.S. owned at least one car, with the majority owning more than one.

By contrast, over half of the American population literally has no access to public transportation, meaning that a personal vehicle is their only option for travel. All of this is a problem for multiple reasons, but the most prevalent is the impact personal vehicles have on the environment.

The average American car emits about 4.60 metric tons (roughly 5.07 imperial tons) of carbon dioxide per year, with other vehicles such as pickup trucks and SUVs emitting even more. On top of carbon dioxide, cars also emit smaller amounts of various other harmful gasses, such as carbon monoxide (toxic to humans), methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur dioxide (greenhouse gases), and nitrogen oxides (a major contributor to smog and acid rain).

Some of this data even applies to CVU. In a survey conducted by *The Hawks' Nest* with over 120 responses, 60% of students drive/ride in a car to get to school on an almost daily basis, and the vast majority (over 75%) said that vehicle was combustion -engine powered.

Ever since World War II, personal vehicles have become the dominant form of transportation in the US, so much so that most of the US and Canada is now considered “car-dependent”, meaning that a personal vehicle is the only option in that area. This also means that public transportation in these areas may be very low-quality or non-existent.

According to the US Census Bureau, 10.6% of Americans in 2024 were considered “below the poverty line”, which means that they may not be able to afford a personal vehicle, or they are forced to spend valuable money on an expensive car just to hold down a job, because there are no other ways to travel.

When cars became so popular, many cities and towns shifted their road systems to be more car-centered, which meant making them excessively wide and fast. This causes problems when there are frequent driveways and intersections along that road, because high volumes of traffic paired with high speed and turning vehicles often leads to destructive collisions. As reported by the US Department of Transportation, approximately 41,000-43,000 Americans die in car accidents each year, because so many people are using the roads.

The only way to combat this is to advocate for public transportation, especially in more rural areas. Places like Europe and Eastern Asia have extensive public transport systems, particularly rail, which serve both urban centers and rural areas. These systems both improve quality of life and spur development in towns and cities with stations, and produce little to no harmful emissions. And no, taxis and Ubers do not count as public transportation. Students at CVU shared some thoughts about how they get around through the previously mentioned survey.

When asked if they like the way they get to school, most students who arrive by car shared that they do and would not want to change to another form. The majority of students who arrive by school bus share that they would prefer to go by car, because it is more convenient and faster.

One student shared that they prefer a gasoline car rather than an electric car because “it is way better than electric.” When asked if they would like to use a form of true public transportation, such as a public bus, tram, train, or other vehicle, most students replied that they would not, and would still prefer a car even if those options were available. Another student said that they would not use public transportation “because it is scary.” Compared to the rest of the world, the U.S. has very low-quality public transportation, so many Americans never get to experience true quality public transport, leading to mistrust of agencies.

Car dependency is detrimental to our society, and it will take a long time, but it can be fixed. If you want to see better public transportation in the US, the best thing you can do is talk to your local lawmakers and Vermont legislators and congresspeople about public transportation.

Students in Politics

Continued from page 2

research, I talked with some people who were from the organization, and they helped me get involved.”

Many students like to stay up to date on politics because they feel the decisions made will affect them. **Ethan St. Amour ‘27** said “The decisions being made in our federal and local government will directly impact our future as youth.“ Marino also has a strong desire to help people become civically educated and engaged, saying, “[The] US government is supposed to be a personal thing.”

“The main ways [people] get involved is through political awareness and education,” Elliott said. With five other students, he founded the Champlain Valley SDA chapter. Elliott believes that students being involved in issues that concern them is important because often news is dominated by adults. Though this chapter has just been founded, Elliott has big plans: “I want to try to work with some local politicians. … We hopefully will have some educational events.”

One Vermont program aiming to teach students about government is the Legislative Page program. Each year, a group of eighth graders are selected to work at the state house as pages. Some current CVU students have participated in this program while in middle school. Marino, who participated, explained that it taught her how much of an impact that people can have on governments. **Grace Warrington '26** said, "We were the gofers for all of the Representatives, helping with tasks in order to make the legislative process run more smoothly."

Warrington said she had decided to apply because she was interested in seeing how a legislative body operated. She shared that, despite having little interest in politics herself, she enjoyed many things about the experience. It was “a good insight into how the government works and how one can participate.”

Sports

Girls' Cross Country's National Win

Cordelia Thomas and Annika Scott
Sports Editors

In early December, the CVU girls cross country running team finished off their championship season by traveling to nationals in Oregon. Although initially projected to finish last, the girls performed excellently and placed fourteenth in the country. The championship (officially called the Nike Cross Nationals, or NXN) brings together the top twenty two girls teams in the country. At the beginning, CVU were ranked 22nd, but coach **Dave Baird** shared that this is a huge accomplishment in itself, as that is 22nd out of all high school teams in the US.

CVU has attended the championship four times before, but never placed higher than nineteenth. The team made a goal to themselves at the beginning to finish within the top fifteen, a feat they achieved. This makes it the strongest performance in CVU history at this particular event.

The best individual time for the Redhawks was earned by **Zoey McNabb '26** (18 minutes, 28.2 seconds), in second place was **Charlotte Crum '26** (19 minutes, 19.6 seconds), and in third place was **Lydia Donahue '26** (19 minutes, 25.1 seconds). Senior Crum said of her time at the championship, "The Nationals experience was amazing and I could not have wanted anything more to end my season."

Four of the runners on this year's team attended last year's National Championship. This year they "felt [they] knew more about what [the] race was like and [they] prepared well for it," according to Baird.

Additionally, Baird said of the team, "All in all, it was an amazing trip for the team, and they all were super proud to represent CVU and Vermont (and all of New England!) as we competed against schools where most are three to four times bigger than CVU. The girls say 'ROHO' before every race (Run Our Hearts Out) before every race, and they certainly did that at NXN."

Crum also talked about the poor conditions of the track and how that may have posed an advantage by being from wintry Vermont. "The course was muddy, slow and grueling which pushed us to give it our all. It gave us an upper hand against teams who haven't raced in those conditions. [This] is what I attribute our great success to as well as all the work we have put in this season." They also faced difficulties in getting back to Vermont, as they were delayed a whopping six times due to bad weather.



Courtesy of: David Baird
The girls' cross country team in a huddle.

Throughout the year, the Redhawks controlled the Vermont season. In order to attend the NXN, they had to qualify at the Nike Cross Regionals (NXR), where they managed to achieve a consecutive top-two showing. This win at Nationals is also added to their success in achieving a third straight New England crown.

The Hawks' Nest is very proud of our runners this year, and wishes those continuing the sport next year the very best of luck—whether at CVU or beyond.





Courtesy of: David Baird
Left: In front of the NXN logo during their time in Oregon, the team from left to right is: **Dave Baird** (coach), **Charlotte Crum '26**, **Maddie Deyo '28**, **Livi Neilson '28**, **Audrey Neilson '26**, **Zoey McNabb '26**, **Lydia Donahue '26**, **Izzy Gravina-Budis '26**, and **Justin Newton** (coach). Right photo: Donahue, McNabb, Neilson, Deyo, Crum, and Neilson.

Arts

2025 Music Album Review

Lena Ingalls, Vivien Nelson, & Lou Turner
Staff Writers

2025 has been a year full of new and exciting music. Since the year is coming to an end, The Hawks' Nest *staff explored some of the best and most popular albums of the year.*

***DeBí TiRAR MáS FOToS*—Bad Bunny**
Spotify's Top Global Artist of 2025, Bad Bunny's new album was named Global Top Album of 2025. This is the fourth time that Puerto Rican rapper and singer Bad Bunny has been given the title of Top Global Artist on Spotify. He will also be the headliner of the 2026 Superbowl Halftime Show for the second time. Released on January 5, 2025, his new album took a different turn from his 2022 album *Un Verano Sin Ti*, which took the 76th place on Apple Music's 100 Best Albums. This album varies in style, and is full of life and excitement.

***The Life of a Showgirl*—Taylor Swift**
As her twelfth album, Taylor Swift's latest effort "The Life of a Showgirl" showcases highly popular songs such as "Fate of Ophelia," "Opalite," "Elizabeth Taylor," "Father Figure," and "The Life of a Showgirl." The album combines mainstream pop with synth-pop and indie-folk. The album became this year's most-streamed album in a single day on Spotify. Swift surprises us with her new catchy tunes and risque lyrics, weaving different love songs and stories of life into her album. Mixing jazzy beats with slow tempos, this album is recommended for people who like twists and upbeat love songs to their everyday lives, while also being relatable and adding spice.

***Man's Best Friend*—Sabrina Carpenter**
A decade after releasing her debut single "Can't Blame a Girl for Trying," Sabrina Carpenter's sixth album, *Short n' Sweet* launched her into fame, also earning Carpenter her first two Grammys. This year's big album *Man's Best Friend* perfectly follows *Short n' Sweet*'s upbeat pop style with witty lyrics remarking on her own romantic disappointments and immature exes with a slight twinge of country. The album included many successful hits such as its leading track "Manchild," "Tears," and "When Did You Get Hot?" All twelve tracks reached Billboard's Hot 100 Singles chart.

***DON'T TAP THE GLASS*—Tyler, the Creator**
DON'T TAP THE GLASS is the ninth studio album of Los Angeles rapper and producer Tyler, the Creator. The album is only 29 minutes long, making it his shortest to date. Tyler, the Creator has been nominated for five Grammys in 2026; one of those nominations honors *DON'T TAP THE GLASS* for Best Alternative Music Album. While listening to this album, you can tell that it isn't an album with a storyline, instead, it's an album expressing freedom. This may be the freedom he had to make the album or the physical freedom listeners have to dance and let loose. The album has many good songs, including hits such as, "Sugar on My Tongue" and "Ring Ring Ring". While not his best album, it is definitely worth a listen.

***KPop Demon Hunters* [Soundtrack]**
The movie "KPop Demon Hunters" follows the fictional KPop girl group HUNTR/X, who use their voices to protect the world from demons. Characters in the movie are in disguise as dreamy KPop idols. The soundtrack has gained almost as much popularity as the movie. It is also the first soundtrack with four simultaneous Top 10 songs on the Billboard Hot 100. Some of its most popular hits include "How It's Done," and "Soda Pop." Solidifying the soundtrack's KPop sensibilities, it included features from the popular KPop group TWICE, such as their hit "Strategy." The most notable song by far is "Golden," which has, as of mid December, topped the Billboard Global 200 for a 24th week. The KPop Demon Hunters soundtrack brought in many of the KPop industry's most influential characters. The movie and its soundtrack has had a very heavy impact on this year's popular music.

Honorable Mentions:
There are still many albums that have impacted people culture around the world in 2025. We've also included a few more albums we feel should be recognized, from writers' favorites to ones that just need to be talked about.

***Beautiful Chaos*—KATSEYE**
KATEYE is a global girl group whose first EP, *SIS (Soft Is Strong)*, was released in 2024 with songs like "Debut" and "Touch." This 2025 EP has already been an enormous hit. Full of songs to dance to including "Gnarly" and "Gabriela", the EP also has songs with important messages like "Mean Girls."

***Wishbone*—Conan Gray**
Wishbone is Conan Gray's fourth studio album following *Found Heaven* in 2024. Combining pop and indie-folk tempos, with mainly melancholy undertones, *Wishbone* is an album on love, loss, and finding who you truly are in the midst of a toxic relationship. Through poetry and lyricism, Conan Gray weaves a story into Wishbone containing both sadness and beauty.

***So Close To What*—Tate McRae**
Tate McRae's latest album is a spunky and poppy album, mixing her usual R&B vibes with bold lyrics and a confident style. Tate McRae gives her audience something new and different to look for in her music, while maintaining her usual electro beats and hip-hop theme. This album is recommended for people who look for dance and new fun styles to their music, with surprising twists and captivating rhythms.

***FUNNY little FEARS*—Damiano David**
This is a debut solo album of Damiano David, who is the lead singer of the Italian rock band Måneskin. The album, despite it being very different from his projects with his band, is beautiful, full of emotions, and strong vocals. The album varies from tracks with heart to playful love songs.

***Phonetics On and On*—Horsegirl**
Chicago trio Horsegirl recorded their debut album while still in high school. This second album was recorded when two members were in first year at NYU. Band member Penelope Lowenstein described to Apple Music the overwhelming feeling and the instability of moving and transitioning into college whilst becoming a professional band. This sentiment of vulnerability and reflection seeps perfectly into the album. It is a bright and inventive record.

Addison—Addison Rae
Before 2024, the world knew Addison Rae as a bubbly TikTok influencer. However, Rae told Apple Music that she had always known she'd wanted to make music, and that TikTok was just the easiest way into fame. She began following her pop-star dreams with the release of her first EP in 2023. *Addison*, a bright, dreamy pop album, is a very successful jump from being an influencer to becoming a pop star.

Dear Amber

Dear Amber receives and responds to questions as submitted in advance of publication. If you have questions for Amber, please consider submitting. The questions (Q) and answers (A) are posed anonymously.

Q: Next week I'm scheduled to take my driving test. I really need to pass. I have driven a lot but there's all these parts that feel pretty irrelevant - hill stop, parallel parking, etc. - that I'm not great at. Should I just skip this test or risk failing? I can't fail...

A: First off, these parts are not irrelevant at all - They are to gauge your fine control of the car. There's nothing wrong with failing, but the fee if you fail is $23. There is no sense in skipping, as getting familiar with the course couldn't hurt. It's really not that big of a deal. To peek back the curtain a bit, I failed my test twice before I got my license, and I admit I cried. It sucks to fail, but you adapt and come back stronger.

Q: I share a room with my brother. Up until about 2 years ago, it was fine but now I need my space. We live in a pretty small place and I know it's tight, but I'd rather live in the garage or attic than share this space. It's not him, he's fine. I just want privacy. Any thoughts?

A: A curtain!!! Depending on the dimensions of the room, and where the door is, setting up a barrier could give you the privacy you need. Of course the garage or attic are always an option, but the easiest (and least of a hassle) I can think of is a curtain.

For future submissions to Amber, please either scan the QR code or email directly to cvuhawksnest@cvsdvt.org.

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Also, a sincere thank you to* The Nest*'s faculty advisor,* Katie Willard*, and Business Manager,* Mikaela Montoya '26 *for their help with this community event.



Answers from Puzzle

From page 3

S	L	E	C	■	E	L	S	U	O	T
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■	■	■	S	E	M	A	■	O	E	N
N	E	R	R	I	M	■	S	D	D	A
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T	A	E	V	A	C	■	Y	A	R	B