



# The Emerald Press



January 21, 2022

Volume IV Issue VIII

## Tonga attempts to ward off Covid while fighting to recover from a natural disaster

By Simon Klepeis

Tonga, a pacific island nation, has recently been struck by a volcanic eruption which coated the nation in a layer of ash. The eruption is also responsible for the ensuing tsunami which included waves exceeding 15 meters high. The natural disaster, which killed three people and injured many more, left the country reeling and in desperate need of outside support. Jonathan Vietch, a coordinator in UNICEF, has reported that local shops have begun to run out of food. Both Australia and New Zealand have already prepared supply planes loaded with necessary goods, and support groups are being assembled to provide medical aid.

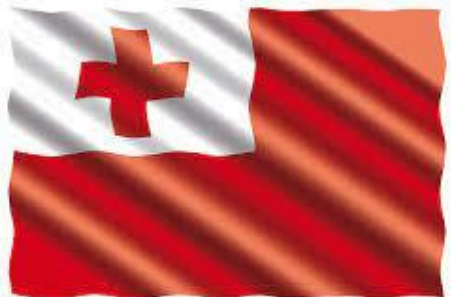


However, a separate factor has temporarily stayed the distribution of these resources.

Throughout the last several years Tonga has been unique in its ability to avoid exposure to the Coronavirus pandemic. The potential of increased foreign involvement in order to provide support has given the Tongan government an ultimatum. They are forced to either deny their citizens the aid they require, or risk introducing Covid to a vulnerable population that has no prior interaction with the virus. When reviewing this issue, many government officials have highlighted the history of diseases being introduced by foreigners. An example of this is the 1918 Spanish flu, which killed 8% of the Tongan population after being transported to the island by a steamship called the Talune.

The United Nations and Red Cross have also offered aid, but

are leaving ultimate decision making power to the national government. Katie Greenwood, a Red Cross official, stated that "We won't be sending anyone unless requested to do so." The process of assessing risk and developing a solution has been further hindered by phone and internet connections being disabled by the natural disaster. Regardless of what decision is made, Tonga faces a difficult period as they attempt to recover from the imminent chaos.



# Bulletin Board

January 21, 2022

A2

## Bulletin Board

|   |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Chicken club sandwich<br>Spinach salad<br>Baked beans<br>Fruit<br>Milk      | Taco Salad<br>Roasted chickpeas<br>Salsa & sour cream<br>Fruit<br>Milk | Cheese or garlic pizza<br>Veggie crunch cup w/dip<br>Fruit<br>Milk | Italian dunkers<br>(Cheese stuffed breadsticks w/ tomato dipping sauce)<br>Green beans<br>Fruit<br>Milk | Chicken & biscuits<br>Mashed potatoes<br>Green peas<br>Fruit<br>Milk |
| Ham & cheese bagel<br>Glazed sweet potato<br>Spinach salad<br>Fruit<br>Milk |  |  |   |  |

### Today's Lunch:

Grilled cheese sandwich  
Tomato soup  
Baby carrots with dip  
Fruit  
Milk

### What's inside:

A3- Western Slander of President Erdogan  
A4- Hong Kong Hamsters Being Killed From Recent Covid Outbreak  
B1- Tier List  
B2- College Pen Pal  
B3 - Movie Review  
C1- Gym Class Hero  
C2-Sports Recap



*Buy a boys basketball warm-up shirt for \$30*

*All proceeds will be put towards the Marcellus Scholarship Foundation*

*Contact varsity players, Coach Blackford or Coach Steve at 315-345-0283 or selfenbein@colgate.edu for more info*

## The Emerald Press

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## Western Slander of President Erdogan

By Sami Cigeroglu

The Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is currently one of the world's most controversial people. However, a large majority of this is due to American and the European Unions opinion on him. Since starting his presidency in 2014, Erdogan and his administration have brought a lot of economic success represented by the nation's consistently impressive GDP. Because of this, Erdogan has been trying to grow his military in order for the nation to have more of a global presence. However, although Turkey is part of N.A.T.O, America and the European Union are hesitant at the sight of Turkey's rapid growth.



As a result, America has refused to sell many products that would better the Turkish military. Mainly the refusal to sell Turkey the newest form of fighter jet (F-35). Erdogan's controversy largely comes from his refusal to do whatever the EU tells them. Erdogan sees Turkey's potential and recognizes that a lot of it could be ruined by going along with the EU's plan for them. Intern, he directly refuses western economic proposals and certain global policies.

This leaves the country very split as some want to become a member of the EU while others trust Erdogan's vision for a stronger Turkey.



Things escalated so much so that there was a large-scale military coup d'etat led by a man named Fethullah Gulen. They tried to take control of major cities in the country such as the capital, Ankara. These attempts failed but left more than 300 politicians and citizens dead. Many believe that Fethullah was given funding and information by the American government due to the somewhat bad blood between the nations. As a result of this revolt, many who helped and sided with Fethullah were rightfully imprisoned. This has left western media to call these people "political prisoners" and make empty claims about "Erdogan's dictatorship". Many Americans who have no idea what's going on now only see President Erdogan as a harsh, cruel dictator when in reality, he is simply like any other democratic leader. there. The only difference is that he isn't a yes man to the west. In my opinion this whole thing is a large example of how much propaganda lies within today's media, especially western media.

This editorial represents the opinion of the author and not necessarily those of the EP staff.

## Don't Bring Your Pet Hamster to Hong Kong

Kyleigh Pearson

Hong Kong's government will put in place laws to euthanize around 2,000 hamsters after a recent covid outbreak in a pet store. The city has been pursuing their zero-covid strategy for two years now however the delta variant has set them back. This outrages idea came after a cluster of cases linked to the Little Boss pet store.

A 23 year-old employee tested positive for the Delta variant on Monday which led to other customers who were in contact with her to also test positive.

After the investigation of the pet store, officials found on Tuesday, 11 hamsters had tested positive for Covid raising concerns of animal-to-human transmission.



The international health authorities have said the risk of transmission from animals to humans is low, but not impossible.

Other samples were taken at the shop's warehouse, where they found other small animals with

confirmed traces of Covid.

On Tuesday, authorities seized all the small animals in the shop, which included hamsters, rabbits, guinea pigs, and chinchillas. They tested and euthanized them regardless of the test results saying it was "a health hazard to the public".



All pet stores in the city have been ordered to give the animals up to be euthanized and similar orders have been dealt to anybody who bought a hamster after December 21st.

Authorities and government also suspended the import of all small animals into the city and all pet stores to close business until all small animals test negative.

The officials urged residents to "adopt good hygiene practices" with their pets and to avoid kissing them.

This has caused many residents of Hong Kong to go ballistic. More than 20,000 people have signed a petition urging the government not to kill the animals.

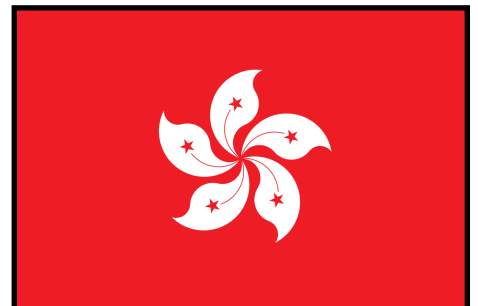
"Hamsters are our family, everybody please think rationally, don't give them up because of one incident" - Hamster Concern Society

Hong Kong's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) also spoke out saying it was "shocked and concerned" by the government's decision and they "did not take animal welfare and human-animal bond into consideration".

An AFCD spokesperson came out on Tuesday stating all hamsters would be killed regardless of their test results since "negative test results do not necessarily mean that the hamsters have not been infected". He also added the government doesn't have the facilities to test more than a thousand hamsters every day because there is no isolation space for all the small animals in the city to quarantine.

The Hong Kong AFCD spokesman also pointed out that China and some European countries have taken similar measures against Covid throughout the pandemic.

There hasn't been any more updates on the matter and the Hong Kong government will proceed with the mass killing of small animals.

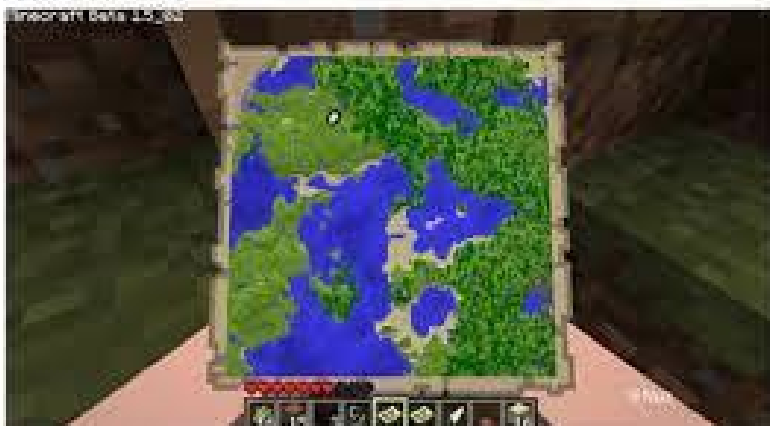




## Tier List of the Week

|   |  |
|---|--|
| S | Blackford's breaks the record, Dropping tilted towers with Lo_mac, Senior night, AOT season 4 part 2 |
| A | Boy's Varsity Basketball keeping it P #12-0  |
| B | Being done with college applications   |
| C | KFC, Senioritis  |
| D | Missing the short guy from DK grocery  |
| E | We're already at marking period 3  |
| F | No snow days yet   |

Just got fortnite where am i dropping



## College Pen Pal: John Dudrick

By Ian Skinner

John Dudrick graduated HCS in 2021 and is now attending Siena College. He is playing Varsity D1 Rugby for the Saints, majoring in health science, and plans to be an athletic trainer. This semester he has plans to take a three hour lab and is questioning whether it will take up all his time ensuring that he will be unable to have any social life whatsoever.

### What's your best experience at college so far?

My best experience so far is by far going to Houston with my team for the national championship. We absolutely dominated Wayne State 25-20 (John would like to add that in the regular season there were only three points scored on their team and no tries.)

### What's your worst experience?

None, the vibes are always immaculate.

### What clubs are you involved in?

John is on the Rugby team and no other clubs.

### What is your dorm like?

My dorm is quite spacious and has a very comfortable bed. My room is very spacious and has many chairs and things to sit on. I enjoy partaking in social gatherings such as study groups and kicking back with the fellas but not forgetting to hit the books.

### What's your biggest pet peeve with your roommate?

Sometimes for unknown reasons I find that Ahmir asks for the room at inconvenient times. Sometimes Ahmir invites guests over at 3 am on the weekends.

### What's your favorite food to get at the dining hall?

My favorite food to get at the dining hall is Orange Chicken. I enjoy the tangy flavor and crunchy consistency. It brings me pleasure on a near daily basis (John can be seen eating Orange Chicken 8 times a week.)

### What do you miss most about Hamilton Central School?

Sue Lehmann.

### What are you most looking forward to in your

### upcoming year?

More Orange Chicken.

### What advice do you have for Hamilton students applying to college?

Choose your school based on the dining hall.

### What's the weirdest experience you have had?

I was in a very large lecture class and I didn't know a single person.

### What's your favorite class so far?

Freshman year seminar Cultivating Mindfulness.



## Safe Haven Movie Review:

By Brooke Speer

*Safe Haven*, a Netflix film that came out in 2013, is definitely worth the watch. This one hour and 55 minute film rated PG 13 is nothing short of intense and exciting. Julianne Hough, who plays the main woman character, Katie, is trapped in an abusive relationship in her own small town. After finally relieving herself from this awful reality to escape to a small North Carolina town, in hopes to start a new life, she learns this is not as easy as she thought. Her obsessive ex boyfriend, who is also a member of the police force, played by Cobie Smulders continues to haunt her even after she moves to a different town. This is following a complete physical change by Katie. She cuts and dyes her hair, changes her name and looks like a whole new person. After Katie moves, she finds a nice lonely cottage in the woods to live in. Sure she is safe from her past, decides to get a job at the local bar and grill just a bike ride away from her living quarters. As Katie lives her new refreshing life, she has no clue her ex is still tracking her at every move she makes, planning an attack in the near future to try and win her back. Throughout the course of the movie, Katie meets a new man who works at a local convenience store down the road from where she works who has two kids. She later found herself as their second mom along with the man's girlfriend, as their real mom passed away several years ago. As hard as

Katie tries to forget her past experiences and life, and how poorly she was treated and abused both physically and mentally the hunt is not over for the last man and neither is the chase. Some significant parts of this movie I really liked were the suspense. You never could picture what was going to happen next, always keeping you on your toes. I also thought the plot of this movie all went together perfectly. There was never a scene that was unrelated to the plot or confusing. This movie has an outstanding plot, as well as a great story. All put together in an award winning movie. *Safe Haven* won an ASCAP Film and Television music award in 2014, and a Golden Trailer Award in 2013. On top of that it was also nominated for a Teen Choice Award in the category: Choice Movie: Romance. I would easily give this film a 4 out of 5 stars if not even higher.



## Brooke Speer in the Knight light

By Simon Klepeis

### Favorites:

**Movie:** *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*

**Book:** *The Hate You Give*

**Actor:** Sean Penn

**Artist:** Taylor Swift

**Song:** "Just a Little While" by The 502s

**Food:** Steak

**Condiment:** BBQ

**Season:** Summer

**Color:** Black

**Place:** Cape May

**Ice Cream:** Chocolate

**Phrase:** "Oh, Yeah!"

**Web Site:** ESPN

**Store:** Pacsun

**Article of Clothing:** Shirt

**Sport:** Basketball

### Long Answers:

**Deserted Island:** A boat

**Biggest Pet Peeve:** Doing badminton in gym class for a month

**Awkward High School**

**Memory:** Announcing Reagan's name wrong

**VS:**

**Nike vs. Adidas:** Nike

**Slices vs. Oliveri's:** Slices

**Coke vs. Pepsi:** Coke

### PERSONAL LIFE:

Brooke is a senior at Hamilton. She is a captain on the varsity girls basketball team and has participated in softball and track & field during her high school career. She likes to hangout with her friends and is planning on attending Indiana University in fall 2022 with hopes of majoring in sports journalism and broadcasting.



## Gym Class Hero

By Ian Skinner

This week I stayed in a fateful cell 9 PE class for my study hall and was able to bear witness to the prowess of Will B. Although I know that the classic game of kickball in gym class is much to the chagrin of many, Will B was not discouraged. He calmly walked up to the plate and booted the ball quicker, harder, and farther than anyone I've ever seen. On defense he was an absolute animal on first and made most of the plays for the team. The incredible part was how he seemingly didn't care in the slightest yet still absolutely dominated the kickball game.



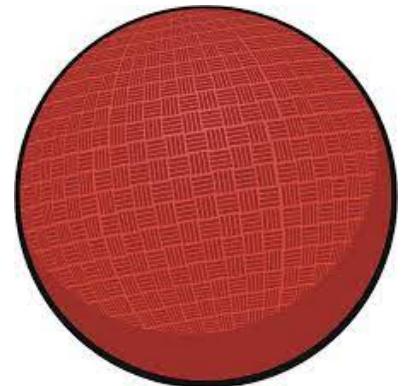
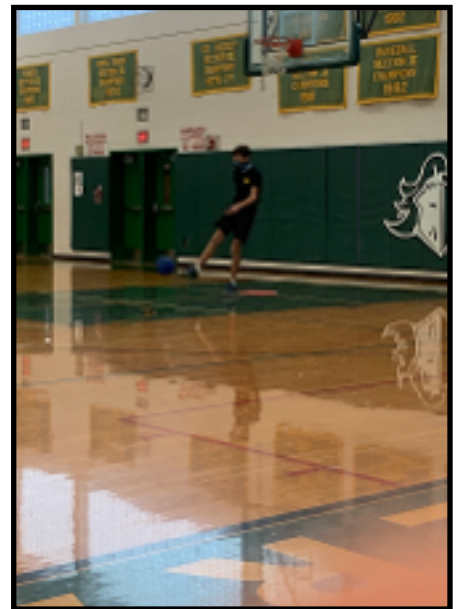
Mrs Reynolds. "He just sat on first and made epic plays while not moving from the base. He was completely unphased by his opponents regardless of the kick."

LePage "Energy, enthusiasm and total disregard for his own safety was the most impressive part of his game."



After all of his force-outs at first and many great hits, the game all came down to one play. There were eight minutes left in the cell, one runner on second and Will B's team was down 2. He walked up to the plate casually and stared down

LePage as he wound up the pitch. With the ball rushing towards him he ran into the ball and kicked it like a slap hitter in softball. With this kick the ball soared through the air and well above the cinder blocks and smacked off the glass at the top of the gym. To no one's surprise, Will B had just smashed a home run and sealed the game for his team. He trotted around the bases with a smirk on his face and crossed home plate knowing he won the game. I absolutely couldn't believe what I had been missing in this Cell 9 gym class but now I know. Will B you are the Gym Class Hero of this EP.





## Sports Recap:

By Brooke Speer

The boys varsity basketball team is still rolling. After a recent three win streak, the boys now have a record of 11-0. After a road win against the Stockbridge Valley Cougars, by the score of 73 to 30, the boys then turned around hosting the Sauquoit Valley Indians on January 13. The boys came away with a 87-37 win and head coach Tom Blackford also broke the win record for all of section three basketball, tallying 572 wins with his several seasons at Fayetteville-Manlius and at Hamilton. The boys collected another win against Richfield Springs in the MLK Jr tournament at HCCC this past weekend, Coach's 573rd win. Noticeable stats from the Emerald Knights included senior guard Tom Simpson totaling 60 points and eight rebounds in his past three games; senior forward Sami Cigeroglu with 35 points and 28 rebounds; senior guard Zach LaFrance with 41 points, and junior forward Hudson Idzi with 43 points and 36 rebounds. The boys are looking to keep rolling with their win streak as they finish up their season, with high hopes of hosting a sectional game, and high seed going into postseason play. The boys upcoming schedule is as follows:

1/20 - Home vs. Morrisville-Eaton  
1/21 - Home vs Old Forge  
1/24 - @ Poland  
1/27 - @ New York Mills

1/31 - @ Remsen  
2/3 - @ Oriskany  
2/8 - @ Westmoreland  
2/10 - @ Old Forge



The girls varsity basketball team is sitting at a record of 9-3 and 3-0 in CSC play after some tough non-league matchups. After a five win streak, the girls lost a tough one at Cazenovia this past Saturday. Following a 64-27 win against a strong class B Holland Patent team, and a 58-33 win over Sauquoit Valley on January 11th. They suffered a hard loss against Cazenovia but bounced back with a strong win against a tough Oriskany team at home on Tuesday night. Some memorable stats from the Lady Knights in their last four games were senior guard Brooke Speer with 14 points, 13 rebounds and six steals; senior forward Kyleigh Pearson with 40 points, 22 rebounds and six steals; sophomore guard Lindsey Speer with 40 points, 13 rebounds and 13 steals; freshman guard Reagan Hope with 35 points, and 14 rebounds; and 8th grader, Logan Langel with 21 points and 18 assists. The girls are looking to finish their season out

strong with hopes to secure a high seed in postseason play and a home sectionals game.

The girls upcoming schedule is as follows:

1/19 - @ West Canada Valley  
1/24 - @ Stockbridge Valley  
1/28 - @ New York Mills  
2/1 - @ Oriskany  
2/4 - Home vs. Poland  
2/8 - Home vs. Morrisville-Eaton (senior night!)  
2/10 - @ Chittenango



# Question of the Week

January 21, 2022



"Chicken patty" - Sami Cigeroglu



"Chicken patty" - Zach LaFrance



"Chocolate milk" - Anxin Zheng



"Tater tots" - Lily Woods

What is your  
favorite school  
lunch?

*By Brooke Speer*



"Apple juice" - Emilia Goeller



"Chicken patty" - Lowell Nugent



"All of them" - Nick Bondi



"Stuffed crust pizza or all of them" -  
Ethan Hamner