

# COMMODORE CHRONICLE



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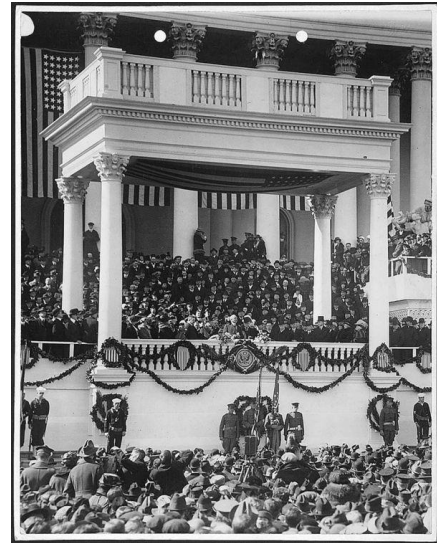
Staff-Middle School

## Looking forward to the summer of 2021? Will this be the start of the “Roaring (20)Twenties” ?

The day was cold and windy. Standing outside the Capitol, the just-sworn-in president called for “a new unity of spirit and purpose” to bind together a nation that had been wracked by a pandemic and high unemployment. His predecessor wasn’t on stage. The inauguration of Warren G. Harding on March 4, 1921, marked the inauspicious,

**unofficial start of an historic decade. The somber mood gave no hint that America was about to go on a tear.**

**The Roaring Twenties saw widespread adoption of the assembly line, the automobile, radio, motion pictures, indoor plumbing, and labor-saving electric appliances. Consumerism and mass culture took shape. It was the decade of art deco and jazz, Coco Chanel and Walt Disney, The Great Gatsby and the Harlem**



**The inauguration of Warren G. Harding as the 29th President of the United States on March 4, 1921.SOURCE: LIBRARY OF CONGRES**

**Renaissance. It was “the first truly modern decade,” says retired Marquette University economic historian Gene Smiley.**

**As the U.S. suffers through another pandemic, it’s tempting to ask whether history will repeat itself. Once the virus passes, will the 2020s roar the way the 1920s did? The Commodore Chronicle is looking for your input. Submit your thoughts to [vrafail@fraziersd.org](mailto:vrafail@fraziersd.org) by May 14, 2021. This article will continue in the next issue.**

# Prepare for College 2021-22

- Start researching colleges and universities. Go to college fairs and open houses. Learn as much as you can about colleges online.
- Begin planning college visits. Try to visit colleges near you over spring break. Include a large, medium size, and small campus.
- Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you. Go online to request additional information.
- Take a look at some college applications. Make note of all the pieces of information you will need to compile. Make a list of teachers, counselors, employers, and other adults who could write letters of recommendation.
- Consider lining up a summer job or internship.
- Continue investigating colleges.
- Schedule campus visits at the schools that you interest you.
- Begin thinking about your applications. Generally, colleges will have their applications online by the beginning of August.
- Start brainstorming your college essay.

## CAMPUS VISIT CHECKLIST



Every college visit should have at least two dimensions: formal and informal. Use this checklist to begin your planning. And don't forget to call the college ahead of time to schedule your visit—the admission office can help you hit all the highlights.

### **Formal**

- Take a campus tour.
- Have an interview with an admission officer.
- Participate in a group information session at the admission office.
- Sit in on a class (or two).
- Talk to a professor in your chosen major.
- Talk to a coach in your chosen sport.
- Talk to a student or counselor in the career center.
- Spend the night in the dorm with a current student.

### **Informal**

- Read the student newspaper, even the ads.
- Try to find other student publications—department newsletters, alternative newspapers, literary reviews.
- Eat in the cafeteria.
- Ask a student why he/she chose this college, and what their favorite part about it is.
- Wander around the campus by yourself.
- Search for your favorite book in the library.
- Read the bulletin boards in the student union and in the academic department you're interested in.
- Ask a student what he/she dislikes about the college.
- Browse in the college bookstore.
- Eavesdrop on students to hear what they're talking (or complaining) about.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.
- Find out how most students get around: Is there public transportation? Can you have a vehicle on campus?
- Ask a student what he/she does on weekends.
- Visit career services and ask about upcoming job opportunities.
- Look into clubs and organizations on campus that interest you.
- Listen to the college's radio station.
- Try to see a dorm that you didn't see on the tour.
- See if you can imagine yourself as a student at the college.

<https://www.nacacnet.org/>



# What are your summer plans?

## Think about what you can do before you enter each high school year.

### IN GENERAL...

- Brainstorm your college essays. If you're an entering senior, developing essay ideas now will help you during the busy application season, when you'll also need to study for your classes and tests.
- Hone your college list.
- If you're an entering senior, start working on college applications.
- Plan a club to start. Here are some ideas.
- Brainstorm new ideas for your club to do as a group.
- Connect with teachers to ask for advice or college recommendations.
- Create an action plan for the coming year.

### And don't forget...

- Relax. Just take some time for yourself to get back into normal routines. Enjoy the summer.

## Freshman

### VOLUNTEER

- Do a service project, such as Habitat for Humanity.
- Tutor peers or younger students at your school or within your community.
- Connect with local organizations, such as an after-school program, to see if they have any need for summer volunteers.
- Volunteer with your library. You might read with kids or shelve books.
- Visit a soup kitchen or homeless shelter and help people in need.
- Work with animals at an animal shelter.

Check out these posts for other volunteering opportunities:

[Finding Volunteer Service Activities for Freshman and Sophomores](#)

[Can I Volunteer If I'm Under Age 18?](#)

# Sophomore

## GET A JOB

- Find a side job and earn some cash to put aside for college. Having a job can be an impressive extracurricular activity!
- Be a camp counselor at a local or sleepaway summer camp.
- Start your own business. This shows colleges that you have many of the skills they're looking for: leadership, innovation, and gumption.
- Land an internship, and get a taste of your future industry.
- Ask friends, family, and neighbors if they have any work for you, such as babysitting or lawn-mowing.

## TAKE CLASSES

- Enroll in college classes. Just because you haven't matriculated at college yet doesn't mean you can't dabble in classes. If you take classes now, you may get a head start on credits when you start your college career, which could save you time and money in the long run. Community colleges and some state schools will allow you to enroll in individual courses at a low cost. For more information, check out [Should I Take College Classes Over the Summer?](#)
- Take online courses. If you're unable to take classes in person, there are plenty of opportunities to learn online. Many online course databases, such as [Lynda.com](#) and [Skillshare](#), offer online subscriptions that allow you to access thousands of courses with video tutorials, teaching important skills like SEO. Check out [7 Online Educational Opportunities This Summer if You Can't Take an In-Person Course](#) for more educational opportunities online.
- Participate in pre-college programs. Colleges and other institutions across the country offer summer programs to high school students looking for a taste of college life. In most cases, students live in dorms and take classes, much like they will when they matriculate as college freshman in a few years. In some cases, you might be able to earn college credits that you can apply to your degree later on.
- Attend an academic camp. Similar to pre-college programs, academic camps often allow students to live in dorms and participate in college-level curriculums. However, these camps are generally focused on a specific niche or talent, such as science, as with the [National Youth Science Camp](#), or creative writing. These camps are ideal for high schoolers who have a passion or definite idea of the discipline they want to pursue.
- Attend performing arts classes or camps. Future actors will enjoy classes and camps catering to prospective theater majors. Check out our [guide to theater arts summer programs](#) for ideas.
- Participate in visual arts classes or camps. There are several art institutes, such as the [Rhode Island School of Design](#), that offer summer courses and programs for aspiring artists.

- Study for the SAT or ACT. Now is a good time to enroll in standardized test or college prep classes, since you don't have to study for your high school school tests. CollegeVine's SAT Tutoring program will help you prepare with proven strategies and tutors from top schools.
- Take private lessons in an area of interest. Now is a great time to learn something you've always wanted to know how to do—sing, speak French, sew...whatever you want!

# Junior

## CHECK SOMETHING OFF OF YOUR BUCKET LIST

- Train for a 5k, 10k, or marathon.
- Tackle some books you've always meant to read.
- Hike a mountain or embark on another adventure you've always dreamed of doing.
- Plant a tree. You could even turn it into a community service project by gathering a group to plant trees across your neighborhood.

# Senior

## TRAVEL

- Study abroad.
- You might take classes on your trip, learn a new skill, or volunteer.
- Tour colleges now that you have the time.
- Engage in service opportunities abroad.
- Study a foreign language. Whether you want to gain proficiency in a language you study at school or learn a new one, summer is a great time for practice. Try an app like Duo Lingo.

## OR

- Study a programming language. Have you always wanted to create an app or build a website? Learning how to program can set you up with the skills you'll need.
- Study sign language. Becoming proficient in ASL will give you a unique, not to mention extremely useful, skill.
- Hone your leadership skills through a program or independent activity.
- Take dancing lessons.

- Join a sports team or practice an independent sport like running.
- Learn how to cook or bake.
- Start singing or playing a musical instrument.
- Study a visual art discipline, such as painting or photography.
- Teach yourself to become proficient in a marketable skill, such as using Photoshop like an expert. This is something you can put on your resume and will help you find professional jobs.
- Start a garden to help out your community.
- Learn self defense.
- Take a class in CPR or First Aid. Being proficient in these skills will help you in many professions, especially ones involving children or the medical field.
- Practice mindfulness or meditation. These can be useful techniques to help you manage your stress, especially as you enter college application season.
- Write. You could also enter writing contests and try to get your work published.

# Movie Club

**Do you enjoy a good movie? Frazier is piloting a Movie Club for High School students. Please submit an email of interest to [vrafail@fraziersd.org](mailto:vrafail@fraziersd.org). And the winners are...**



# PROM

## Friday, April 30, 2021



# State Universities Collaborating

A 60-day public comment period on a plan to consolidate six of Pennsylvania's state universities into two institutions is now open. The State System of Higher Education's governing board voted 17-2 at a two-hour special meeting to proceed with a public comment period on a proposal to combine Bloomsburg, Lock Haven and Mansfield universities into one institution and Clarion, California and Edinboro universities. It is part of a top-to-bottom systemwide review undertaken by the board to keep all of the system's universities financially viable for the long-term.

Under each proposed consolidation, the three universities will operate under one president and leadership team, one faculty and have a single array of academic programs. Each campus will remain open and offer residential education. The system is seeking NCAA permission for each campus to retain its individual athletic program. Each group of universities would be given a new name but it would incorporate the current location of each campus. More details on the proposed consolidation plans can be found on the system's website.

The public comment period will provide an opportunity for individuals to suggest ways the consolidation plans, or integration plans as the system refers to them, could be fine-tuned. A final up or down board vote on the proposed consolidations is expected in July. The first group of students who would enter one of these proposed consolidated universities would be in the fall of 2022. If given final approval, this would result in a historic change in Pennsylvania's 38-year-old system of public universities that serve more than 93,000 students by reducing the number of institutions from 14 to 10.

A state law that passed last summer handed limited authority to the system's board of governors to make changes to improve its financial stability and address its overall enrollment decline. System officials and others attribute that decline in part to a decade of near stagnant state funding and resulting tuition increases that made it unaffordable to low- and middle-income families in a competitive higher education marketplace. System Chancellor Dan Greenstein said this plan will allow students to have the residential experience with access to twice as many academic programs and the potential to lower the cost to a degree through more course availability, dual enrollment and other ways beyond tuition reduction. They also will have access to enhanced student support services.

**Consider this information when applying to any of Pennsylvania's state universities. You may benefit financially or have expanded opportunities not offered before at a school close to you.**





**Another success!**

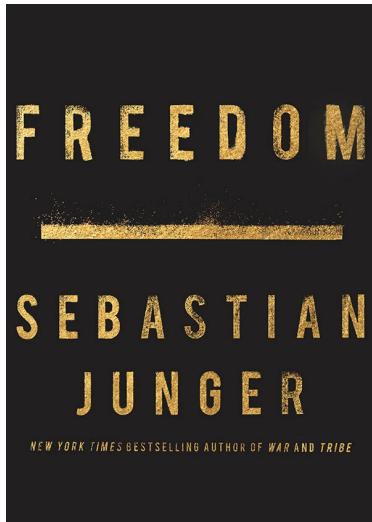
**You can order directly from the photographer.**

**Check out the pics at**

**<https://graysphotography19.pixieset.com/fhsplay/>**

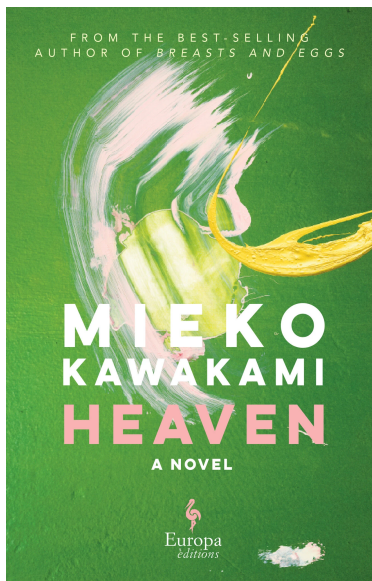


# Check out these new books!



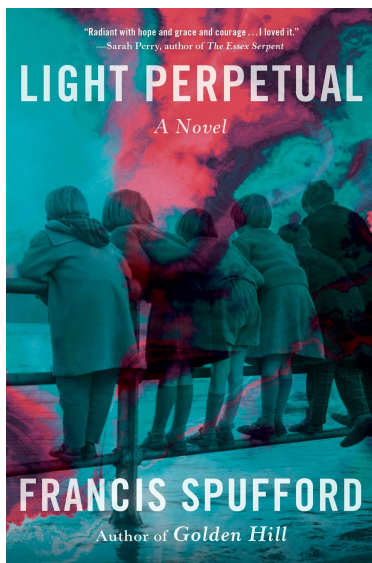
**‘Freedom,’** by Sebastian Junger (Simon & Schuster, May 18)

In his past work, Junger has focused on the experience of U.S. troops, embedding with a platoon in Afghanistan and exploring post-traumatic stress disorder among veterans. His new book follows Junger and his companions – including a photographer and two Afghan War vets – as they walk along East Coast railroads, relying on one another for survival and comfort. As Junger writes about the meanings of freedom and community, he occasionally swerves into boxing strategy, labor history and primatology.



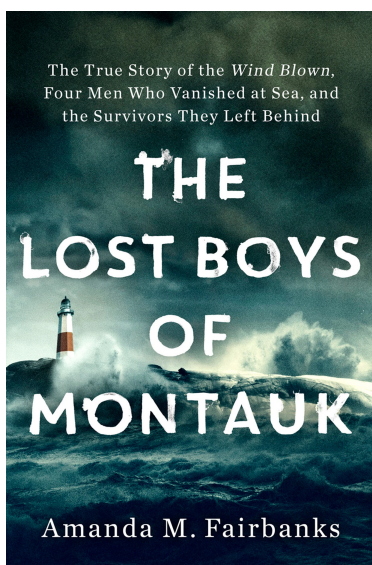
**‘Heaven,’** by Mieko Kawakami. Translated by Sam Bett and David Boyd. (Europa Editions, May 25)

Kawakami’s earlier novel won acclaim for its portrayal of women’s often circumscribed lives in Japan. In “Heaven,” she focuses on the friendship between two outcasts at school: a boy with a lazy eye and a female classmate who’s been relentlessly bullied.



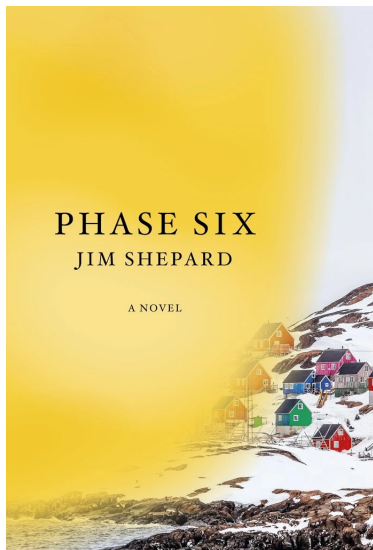
**‘Light Perpetual,’ by Francis Spufford (Scribner, May 18)**

Inspired by the 1944 bombing of a Woolworth’s that killed 168 people, Spufford – whose last novel was “Golden Hill” – imagines how the lives of five children who died in the blast might have turned out if they had lived. The novel revisits each character roughly every 15 years, giving a window into postwar London throughout the decades.



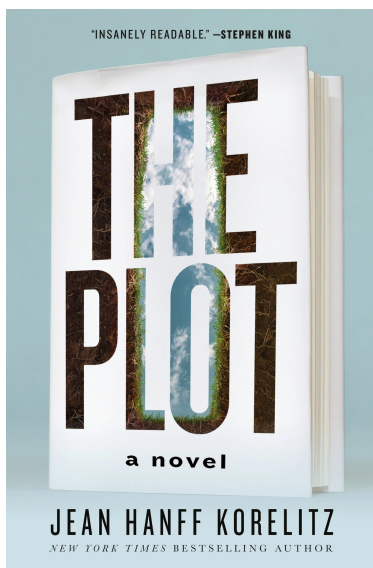
**The Lost Boys of Montauk: The True Story of the Wind Blown, Four Men Who Vanished at Sea, and the Survivors They Left Behind,’ by Amanda M. Fairbanks (Gallery Books, May 25)**

In 1984, four fishermen set out from Long Island in search of tilefish, a trip that seemed straightforward enough – until a nor’easter, one of the worst storms in the area’s history, hit while they were on the water. Neither the boat nor the bodies of the men were found. Fairbanks, who interviewed the families of the men along with other local fishermen, weaves in a story of Montauk’s changing demographics as it shifted from “a drinking town with a fishing problem” to a hot spot for the wealthy.



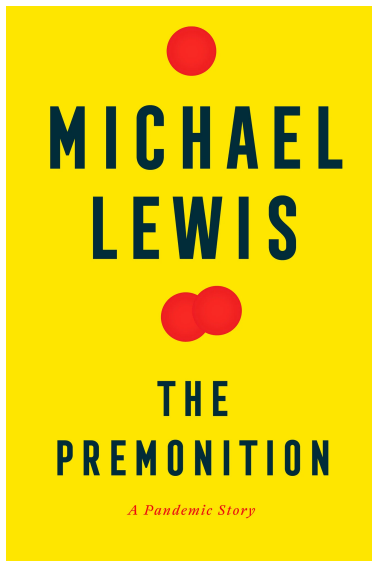
**'Phase Six,' by Jim Shepard (Knopf, May 18)**

Brace yourself: This deeply researched novel, written before Covid-19, imagines the world's *next* pandemic. Two researchers from the C.D.C. go to Greenland to investigate a deadly pathogen that they believe was unwittingly picked up by Inuit boys. As the disease spreads, the novel pivots to survey the fallout from a number of vantage points: hospitals at capacity, public panic, media outcry.



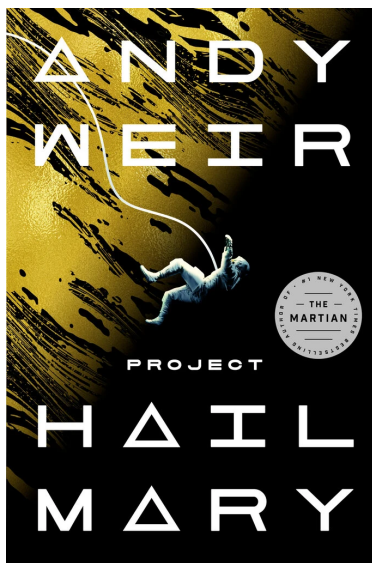
**'The Plot,' by Jean Hanff Korelitz (Celadon, May 11)**

Jake Bonner was once a promising young author, but his career has sputtered: He can't find a publisher for his latest book and has resorted to teaching at a no-name M.F.A. program. A cocky student teases the story of his novel in progress, convinced that the premise will make it a bestseller, and Jake grudgingly agrees. When the student dies, never having published the book, Jake seizes the story for himself. That's only the *beginning* of the twists and turns in "The Plot," which features a crooked Southern lawyer, a charming radio producer and a profoundly vexed mother-daughter relationship. Whoever said writers are boring?



**‘The Premonition: A Pandemic Story,’ by Michael Lewis (Norton, May 4)**

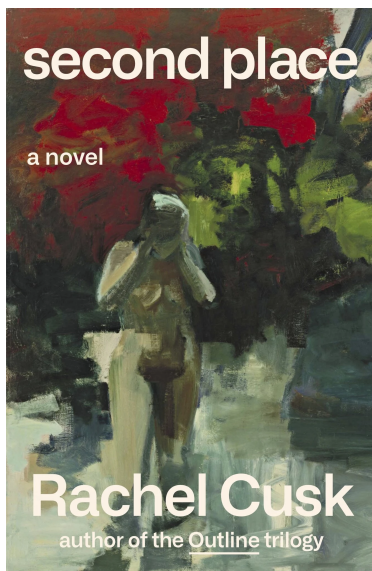
The author of “The Big Short” and “Moneyball,” Lewis focuses here on the United States’ response to Covid-19 over the past year. He grounds his narrative in three central characters – a biochemist, a public health worker and a federal employee – who, dismayed by the U.S. government’s response, worked to help avoid an all-out catastrophe. Lewis called their work “a kind of secret shadow response” in an interview with The Times earlier this year.



**‘Project Hail Mary,’ by Andy Weir (Ballantine, May 4)**

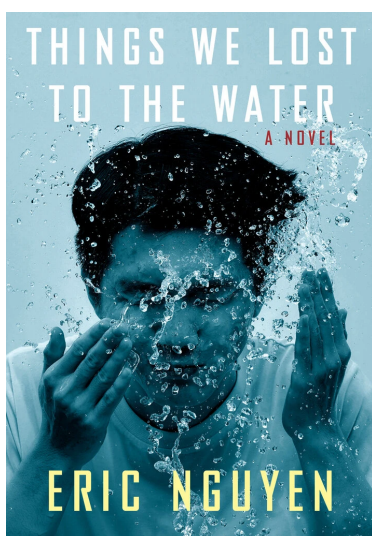
Before he was portrayed by Matt Damon in the movie adaptation, the protagonist of Weir’s best-selling debut, “The Martian,” was stranded on Mars and had to improvise for survival. Weir’s new narrator, Ryland Grace, is also an astronaut in extremis: He’s floating around space with two dead bodies and can’t recall his own name. Slowly, he remembers why he’s on a spacecraft – and the nature of his mission, which is to defeat an existential threat to the human species.





**'Second Place,'** by Rachel Cusk (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, May 4)

Cusk, perhaps best known as the author of the Outline trilogy, returns with a new novel that raises questions about art, privilege and literature. The central character, M, invites a male painter, L, to stay in her guesthouse – the “second place” of the title. His arrival upsets the balance of her family and threatens to destabilize M.



**'Things We Lost to the Water,'** by Eric Nguyen (Knopf, May 4)

In this debut novel, Huong arrives in New Orleans with her two sons, Tuan and Binh, hoping their father will soon come over from Vietnam. He doesn't, though, and the story follows mother and sons over the decades – Binh chooses to go by Ben and Tuan joins a local Vietnamese gang – until a secret rattles the family's foundation.

Do you have a book you would like to recommend? Please email the title, author, and a summary (max 500 words) to [vrafail@fraziersd.org](mailto:vrafail@fraziersd.org).

Frazier School District's motto is

**Inspire  
Frazier  
Empower**

**Who INSPIRES you?**

**How do you EMPOWER others?**

Submit your thoughts to

[vrafail@fraziersd.org](mailto:vrafail@fraziersd.org) and we will  
publish them in the next issue.