

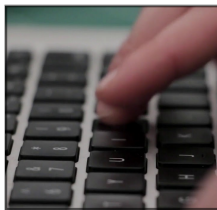
Red, White, and Blue

Celebrating and memorializing our military. Page 2-3



New State Test

Major changes in New Jersey public school testing requirements. Page 3



Paw Prints

NORTH BERGEN

TODAY'S THOUGHTS FROM TOMORROW'S LEADERS

MAY 2019

ALABAMA BAN CHALLENGES WOMEN'S RIGHTS

By Jose Garcia

On May 14th, 2019, the Alabama Senate approved the strictest anti-abortion laws in the United States, outright banning all



types of abortions during any stage in pregnancy. The new laws also target and criminalize doctors who perform the procedure with a penalty of sentences up to 99- years in prison. The only exception to the rule is if the mother's life is deemed "at risk," leaving victims of rape or incest without the option to terminate

the pregnancy.

Although the law or it's effects are not yet in place, the bill was passed on a 22-11 vote, leaving both Democrats and parts of the Republican party in shock.

Tomi Lahren—a conservative political commentator, TV-show host, and author—gave her opinion on the Alabama Senate's decision saying: "This Alabama abor-

tion ban is too restrictive. It doesn't save life, it simply forces women into more dangerous methods, in other states or countries. You don't encourage life via blanket government mandate."

Many others agreed with Lahren and have shown an intention of challenging the potential law in court and, if necessary, take it to the highest court. *(cont'd on page 2)*

THANK YOU, TEACHERS

By Edwina Arias

Teachers need to be appreciated and rewarded, not just during Teacher Appreciation Week. During this week, we should show teachers how much we have learned from them and how much we appreciate their efforts to teach us and understand us.

Teachers in our school go above and beyond for us, giving up free time and coming in earlier to help us, ensuring that we are ready for the future.

Now, as a senior getting ready to graduate, I look back and all I want to do is thank my teachers because they pushed me and motivated me to keep going and follow my dreams. They are truly my inspiration.

Thank you to all the teachers who inspire, teach, and help us achieve our dreams every day. We appreciate you.

Opinion pieces reflect the views of individual staff members and do not reflect the opinions of North Bergen High School or the North Bergen Public School District.

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ALABAMA BAN

(cont'd from Page 1)

However, many "pro-lifers" believe this to be an opportunity to challenge the decision made in the 1973 Supreme Court case "Roe V. Wade" which regarded safe and legal abortions for women to be a constitutional right.

Despite the backlash that this decision has received from citizens, many other states are following suit and attempting to pass similar bills.

Ohio, Georgia, Mississippi, and Missouri recently passed a bill that grants women eight weeks to abort a fetus. This too has received a large amount of backlash, as most women don't know they're pregnant during that time, nor can a heartbeat be detected from the fetus.

Meanwhile, New York passed a law in January that allows abortions after the 24-week period if the birth of the child affects the woman's health.

"Women in New York will always have the fundamental right to control their own body," said Governor Andrew Cuomo.

The relevance of the issue and the reason why it is so heavily debated comes from the number of abortions that occur in America per year. According to research from the Guttmacher Institute, 1-

in-4 women in America will have an abortion by the age of 45, and in 2015 there were 638,169 total abortions.

The solution to the problem may not be as clear-cut as Alabama's ban is. As found in research by the Worldwide Health Organization, from 2010-2014 only 55% of all abortions were performed safely. That number decreased to 25% in areas with restrictive abortion laws without a reduction in the number of operations.

The United States has been divided on the issue of abortion for years, and in a 2018 poll made by Gallup, the opinions on the issue were split at 48% for pro-life, and 48% on pro-choice while the remaining were undecided or indifferent towards the topic.

As the conflict continues to grow, a decision of seismic importance will be made which will shape the definition of human rights in America and will decide what a priority is: the future of possible life or the future of a woman's choice.

RED, WHITE, AND BLUE

By Edwina Arias

This May 28th, we honor the men and women serving in the military as well as the veterans and their commitment to protecting our nation and its citizens. Many cele-

brate Memorial Day by going to military cemeteries, sending care packages overseas, and reaching out to a military family near you.

I grew up around this. My mother joined the army when she was 25- years- old. It was hard for me to understand at first but, I understood her duty to others.

This story, in particular, is about someone else I know personally, he is a United States Marine and on April 9th, 2019 Sargent Juan Vasquez shared his story for everyone to hear on the Marine Corps recruiting website. He started to tell us of his first deployment to Iraq in 2004. He was eighteen and fresh out of high school, he had to man up quickly.

In 2005 when Hurricane Katrina hit he was sent to Louisiana to be part of a search and rescue team. He thought it would be easy.

“I went out there with a mindset to help people and when you're down there and realize what really is asked of you it makes you want to take it back but that's what he signed up for.”

During the searches, Sergeant Vasquez and his team found kids by themselves in an abandoned house. As they cried out for their mom, Sergeant Vasquez had to tell them that everything was going to be alright and that they were there to help.

Sergeant Vasquez already knew it was going to be hard to

find their mom they have probably swept away with the water but this story had a happy ending and the family was reunited.

This is just a small percent of what our military does they do so much more and for that reason, we should always respect, admire and honor them because they really go above and beyond for our nation and their citizens.

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NEW STATE TEST FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By Cristy Garcia

When students take the state exams in May, they will notice some differences in the test, most obviously the name. The test that New Jersey students have come to know as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) has been replaced by the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA).

The exam is intended to assist educators as they track student progress as well as guide them to provide targeted student support. Much like the PARCC, the content and material of the NJSLA requires students to use mathematical reasoning and principles as well as read several passages and essays to sharpen literary analysis.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJ DOE) has enforced some significant changes in the test's structure, content, and general involvement in student's education.

"The main change for students and schools is there will be less time spent on testing. Depending on the grade and subject, it will be approximately 25 percent less testing," said Michael Yaple, spokesperson for the NJ DOE.

In addition, the test will no longer be a graduation requirement, as decided by the Superior Court Appellate Division ruling from this past December.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 2019

WED 5	Senior Prom
WED 12	Final Exams
THU 13	Final Exams
FRI 14	Final Exams
MON 17	Final Exams
TUE 18	Final Exams
TUE 25	HS Graduation