



THE VOYAGER

SEPTEMBER 2021



A NOTE FROM
THE
NEWSPAPER
STAFF

BACK TO SCHOOL!

THIS ISSUE IS LOADED
WITH NEW STORIES,
RANGING FROM THE
GUBERNATORIAL
ELECTION TO THE
TEXAS ABORTION LAW!
PLEASE READ THE
ENTIRE ISSUE TO
FIND OUT!

IN THIS ISSUE....

**NEW JERSEY GUBERNATORIAL
ELECTION → 2**

**THE US WAR IN AFGHANISTAN →
3**

I AM NO LONGER VEGAN → 5

TEXAS ABORTION LAW → 6

*On the front cover: Red, white and blue themed football
game to start off the new school year!*

NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR ELECTION BY SIDDHI PATEL

The New Jersey gubernatorial election is coming on November 2nd, where citizens will be voting to either keep the incumbent Phil Murphy or take the state in a new direction with a different leader. The outcome of the primary elections determined which candidates will represent the two major political parties in November's general election. Governor Philip Murphy is running as the incumbent in this election for the Democratic Party. This was a result of Murphy being unopposed in the Democratic primary. On the other hand, there was a four-way contest for the Republican gubernatorial candidate. The Republican primary results were former Franklin Township Mayor Brian Levine at 3.2%, engineer Hirsh Singh at 21.5%, Pastor Philip Rizzo at 25.9%, and former state Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli at 49.4%. Thus, Jack Ciattarelli is New Jersey Republicans' choice to take on Governor Murphy in November.

According to a poll conducted five months before November's election, Governor Phil Murphy is in a strong position to win a second term in New Jersey. At that time Governor Murphy led Ciattarelli by 26 percentage points, with 52% of registered voters in New Jersey favoring the Democratic incumbent and 26% picking his challenger. In general, when asked if they will re-elect Murphy, consider voting for another person, or definitely vote for another person, 42% said they are definitely choosing Murphy, 31% would go with another candidate, and 21% are undecided. Broken down by particular parties, Murphy is supported by 83% of Democrats, while Ciattarelli is supported by 67% of Republicans. Among independents, 39% pick Murphy and 29% pick Ciattarelli, with 19% don't know whom to back.

In June, Ashley Koning, director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling and an assistant research professor at Rutgers University stated, "Murphy currently has a stronger lock on his base than

Ciattarelli and beats him among independents right now by a double-digit lead". Is that the case currently? Who do you support? Who do you think will win?

We will find out very soon on November 2nd!

THE US WAR IN AFGHANISTAN BY DANIAL TANVEER

On August 30th, 2021, the U.S. officially closed another chapter of its foreign policy history withdrawing from Afghanistan, ending "America's longest war". As a result of this, in the past few weeks, the war has been thrust back into the American public's conversation with media outlets and political organizations, fiercely debating the issue especially on the heels of what can best be described as a rocky and turbulent pullout. However, as political parties clash, pointing fingers at one another for the evacuation, many ordinary Americans have found themselves lost, pondering, "why were we in Afghanistan in the first place?" or "why were so many resources funneled into this war?" In light of these questions, it is quite evident that most people are in desperate need of a refresher on the Afghanistan War. Now, a whole research paper could be written just to answer these questions, along with their factors. However, for the sake of time, the answer can be condensed into a short synopsis of the war.

Timeline of War :

After the attacks of September 11th, 2001, a major refocusing (like everything else after 9/11) of foreign policy took place. This was first exemplified by America's first major foreign intervention since the Gulf War in Afghanistan, occurring on October 7, 2001, in which the U.S. and NATO allies bombed Taliban targets, who were ruling the country before the U.S. intervention, and Al-Qaeda training camps belonging to the same group which had perpetrated the attacks.

By December 7th, 2001, the U.S. had effectively gained control over most of Afghanistan including the capital of Kabul. In the years following this, Afghanistan, despite remaining a mainly traditional rural society, experienced drastic change with regards to women's rights, voting rights, system of government, education, etc.

A major "hiccup" for U.S. and NATO involvement in Afghanistan, came in 2003 when the U.S. launched an invasion on Iraq, which to put it simply, distracted both the American public's and the military's central focus from Afghanistan fighting Al-Qaeda to Iraq with an increasing amount of essential resources diverted and the amount of troops in proportion to the task (i.e. providing security, fighting Al-Qaeda and Taliban) unbalanced. It was this period of time that produced the "forgotten war".

With the Bush era coming to a close, a new chapter in American politics opened in 2009 with the election of Barack Obama. With the new president, came an ambitious new strategy which featured an increase in the amount of troops to 17,000 with a special emphasis on protecting the local population from insurgents, rather than simply killing militants, a strategy they also hoped would be more effective in convincing enemy fighters to defect. However, many have analyzed that rather the strategy had backfired with an increase in U.S. troop deaths.

By 2014, Afghan Security Forces had become the primary military and security force coupled with additional U.S. and NATO assistance both with troops and with "over the horizon" capabilities. The year had also marked the beginning of the decrease of U.S. troops in Afghanistan to where it is now. This bit by bit withdrawal had been extradited when, in 2019, the Trump administration began talks with the Taliban in Doha to secure an agreement for peaceful resolution of the conflict. Despite the talks breaking down in 2020, the administration was still determined to cut troop numbers down to 2,200 by 2021.

By August of 2021, the final month of the conflict the U.S. had

begun a rapid evacuation process with thousands of Afghans and U.S. troops evacuated amidst a Taliban takeover.

I AM NO LONGER VEGAN BY MEEKA VARDI

After years of memorizing food labels, unsuccessfully advocating for the rights of animals, and disregarding my body's needs, I have decided to stop being vegan. About two years ago, that is. It was a big part of my identity and became one of the first things I would bring up in conversation, so it is not wrong to assume that making the decision to change what I eat this drastically was extremely difficult.

I do not necessarily regret the decision I made to become vegan, though I did waste a lot of paint making posters on several different occasions. I learned that trying to force veganism down other people's throats is not going to convince them to alter their lifestyles, but rather promote the idea of "radical veganism" and the stereotype that vegans are pushy about their beliefs. Every person is entitled to their own decision, especially about the things they consume. My mindset used to be so black and white, in other regards as well. Though in this case it was particularly difficult, considering what I ate directly impacted how I felt mentally and physically.

There was a lot of pressure to keep up the facade after I stopped being vegan. It was how people remembered me. I kept it up for a while, only eating animal products in secret, but eventually I stopped caring about what others thought of me so much and realized that no one really cared about my dietary preferences, a realization you think would be obvious.

I considered doing research on the pros and cons of veganism in order to write this, but I am not trying to sway anyone to either side and I just wanted to share my reasoning. I thought it would be best just to share

my experience, especially since I have written about my veganism journey in the newspaper several times prior.

While I do not regret the decision to become vegan, I do wish I had not let it define who I was as a person. What we eat should be our decision based on needs and wants, a balanced combination.

TEXAS ABORTION LAW BY KATE POHNER

If you have been listening to the news lately, you probably heard of the new law regarding abortion in Texas. It took effect in the beginning of September and has already started a heated debate about whether it is moral or not. In 1973 the Supreme Court ruled in the infamous Roe v. Wade hearing that women have the right to an abortion anywhere within the first three months, women are likely to have access to an abortion in the second trimester, and women can be denied one in the third trimester. The ruling also declares that there must be at least one abortion clinic in each state.

Conservative Governor Greg Abbott claims that “Our creator endowed us with the right to life and yet millions of children lose their right to life every year because of abortion”. It is now illegal to receive an abortion after 6 weeks, approximately when a fetal “heartbeat” exists. Many medical experts find the fetal heartbeat a faulty landmark because the heart doesn’t develop in a fetus by 6 weeks.

Although it is not a ban on abortion, it is effectively going to turn into one because of the rules that follow it. Most women are unaware of pregnancies by the 6th week and the restriction comes only 2 weeks after a missed menstrual cycle. The law also incentivises the ordinary citizen to find any doctor who performed an illegal abortion because it permits anyone to sue those doctors, and for close to \$10,000 too. A law exists that a person must be injured to sue, but Texas no longer follows those restrictions. These new rules make it really dangerous for a doctor to perform an abortion because

they can face serious legal and financial problems, and officials use it as encouragement for them to deny performing abortions from now on. This, however, did not stop one Texas doctor who tested the new law and performed an abortion illegally. He is now facing lawsuits and all of the other consequences that now follow. The state of Texas is experiencing many repercussions as the Justice Department sues them for going against the existing law put in place by the Supreme Court. Thousands are now protesting the law and it has caused an uproar of those advocating for women's rights to make decisions regarding their bodies.

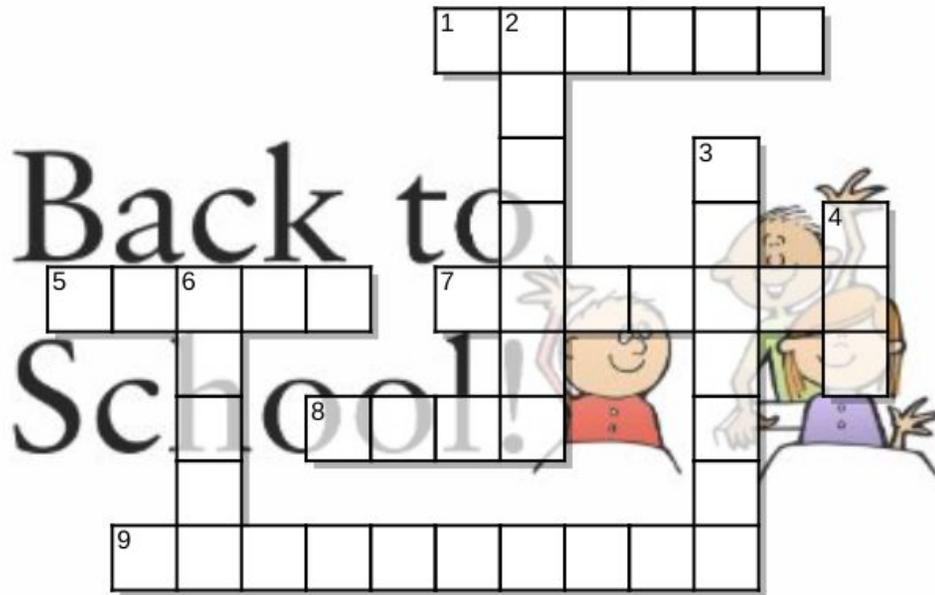
ADDITIONAL PICTURES BY Angela Duszkievicz



A Rooftop in
Morristown, N.J.

CROSSWORD

SEPTEMBER



ACROSS

- 1 wooden writing instrument
- 5 helps you out if you are sick or hurt
- 7 location that holds thousands of books
- 8 class that involves equations
- 9 tool that can measure angles

DOWN

- 2 literature studied in this class
- 3 person you learn from
- 4 get some exercise done in this class
- 6 tool that can measure lengths

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GO VIKES!!!!