

THE HAWK

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Issue 9

October 2019

BristolTheHawk.com

SIT DOWN WITH JASIEL F. CORREIA SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT WITH THE MAYOR OF FALL RIVER

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Interview took place on October 2, 2019, prior to Correia stepping down on October 14, 2019.

A few weeks ago, when I emailed the mayor's office for an interview, I honestly didn't expect a response. I write for the community college's paper with a staff of four. We have 12 followers on Twitter. The paper was planning on covering the second indictment of the mayor in our October issue, but we never expected the mayor to agree to an interview, so we were ecstatic to get the chance to sit down with the man who recently made national headlines. Within a few days of my first email, I had an interview with the top man in Fall River, who is currently facing his second indictment since taking office.

For the uninitiated, Fall River Mayor Jasiel F. Correia II (age 27) was arrested just days before the preliminary election on charges that allege he extorted marijuana vendors of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The city council voted to temporarily remove him from office, but Correia has repeatedly refused to relinquish control to City Council President Cliff Ponte.

When I got to city hall, I wasn't sure what to expect. In reading the headlines on the mayor, I got the impression I was about to meet some sort of young Buddy Cianci. I half expected there to be lawyers in the room. What I found was very different.

When the mayor walked into his office to meet me, he seemed completely relaxed, holding a cup of coffee from the Pink Bean. He didn't seem at all like a man that could be facing possible jail time. We talked for about 45 minutes, on everything from his rise to city council, to his current legal troubles.

You went to Providence College for political science?

A: "I did. Yea, went to Providence College. Went to Bishop Connolly, and actually, Bishop Connolly at the time had a dual enrollment system with BCC [Bristol Community College]. So I actually took some classes at BCC. Both my parents went to BCC. That's where they met, which is pretty cool. Little fascinating fact. Had BCC not existed, and they didn't go, I probably wouldn't be born. So BCC is a very important part of our lives. And as a

kid, I would ride my bike all through BCC, all the little paths and different parts of the campus."

How did you wind up on the city council?

A: "So, I decided to run for city council. I came in tenth place, out of nine spots that were available. Just missed it by 300 votes. But then a turn of events--so, the mayor at the time plucks the top vote getter, and made her a city administrator, which by city charter allowed me to bump into the ninth spot. So, it was kind of like a default, but had I not worked my butt off and got that tenth spot, then I wouldn't have been able to serve."



Jasiel Correia at the Bristol HiSET Graduation 2017
Photographed by: Andrew Adamides

What was it like being on the council as a young person?

A: "On the council, I was kind of like the fresh voice, obviously being a young person. I was

like 20-, 21-years-old at this time. I was young. I couldn't even drink at fundraisers. It was crazy. I prepared myself for each meeting, tried to bring a fresh perspective, and just tried to do a good job.

How did you go from the council to the mayor's office?

A: "Sam Sutter had just won the recall election. And I just really didn't... I wasn't a fan of his. I really wasn't, and I am the type of person that if I see something that I don't care for, I'm going to either try and make a difference, or go all the way in and maybe fail, but at least try. So, I decided to throw my hat in the race. And I was 23-years-old, 22 actually, when I started thinking about running for mayor. And then I asked around a bunch of people, and a lot of people that are high up in the city, people that hold different positions of authority. Kind of were like, you know, you can't win without this person's support. You can't win without this. You're too young. How's a 23-year-old going to run a city? This doesn't make sense. Baba blah...you don't have the money. And I said, I said, 'I understand all that.' But I said, 'This guy is not going to win.' I went to school for political science. I understand how elections work. This guy put in a fee. He goes to no events. He's like a ghost. People actually call him a ghost. And I just said, 'This guy's not going to win.' So you know, I campaign, I have these debates with Sam, and I won. I was elected in 2016."

What have you been able to accomplish so far?

A: "Just to give you a few of those examples. In 2016, when I became the mayor, we have something called a stabilization account, called a stab fund that is basically like the city's savings account. We had \$500,000, when I started in 2016. In 2019 right now, we'll have \$9 million in that account. So in just three years, we went from \$500,000 to a \$9 million surplus. And this is the thing that I think is important, especially for students like at BCC, anyone could have done this. But people older than me, people that have had more experience than me, for whatever reason, didn't do it. I did."

Continued on page 5

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PRINTING: TCI Press

Publication Information

The HAWK is the official student-run newspaper of Bristol Community College c/o Bristol Community College, 777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA 02720, 508.678.2811, ext. 2677.

The newspaper serves the Bristol Fall River, New Bedford, Attleboro, Taunton and Davol Street campuses. All expressed opinions do not necessarily represent those of The HAWK, its staff, its advertisers or the college. The HAWK's office is located in room G116 on Elsbree Street; phone number 508-678-2811, ext. 2677; email: thehawk@bristolcc.edu.

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The HAWK welcomes Letters to the Editors. Letters must be 250 words or less and signed. Please email or send a hard copy. The paper is scheduled for publication during the semester. Contact The HAWK for the current schedule.

The HAWK staff will make every effort to ensure that deadlines are met, but are not responsible for delays due to technical or printing problems. For more information, or to place an ad in The HAWK, please call 508.678.2811, ext. 2677. Tear sheets and invoices will be mailed after first ad insertion is published.

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475 Government Center
Boston, MA 02203
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800 Purchase Street, Room 501,
New Bedford, MA 02740.
Telephone: 508.990.2390
Fax: 508.990.4260

Student Event Calendar

Calendar provided by: Student and Family Engagement

For more information contact Student Life and Family Engagment at StudentEngagement@bristolcc.edu

2019 November Native American Heritage Month						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
28	29	30	31	01 National Family Literacy Day. Event Children's Book Drive	02	03
04 National Candy Day	05	06 No Class - College Remains Open Wellness Wednesday 2pm - 3pm G Building 6pm-8pm Family Night (Over 25s) G Building	07 Prog: Veterans Day Card Making Theatre, An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe. 7pm in H128 Prog: Veterans Day Card Making Student Lounge 10am-Noon & 5-7pm (Taunton) CCSLA 2019 Fall Conference	08 Theatre, An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe. 7pm in H128 CCSLA 2019 Fall Conference	09	10
11 Veterans Day - No Class - College Remains Open	12	13 Spring 2020 Registration Open Wellness Wednesday 2pm - 3pm Event: Oxfam Banquet (Attleboro) Student Senate Meeting L - 108 2:00pm - 4:00pm Donuts with the Dean Student Lounge 10:30am & 5:00pm (Taunton) Event: Winning Wednesday 11am & 6pm EC Lobby (Taunton) Kindness Day (New Bedford)	14 Last day for student-generated withdrawal Bristol Mobile Food Market 9:30am - 11:30 am, Lot 10	15	16	17
18 Event: Workshop on Misinformation and Self-Radicalization featuring librarians Emily Brown and Susan Souza Mort 11am H209 Event: Workshop on Misinformation and Self-Radicalization featuring librarians Emily Brown and Susan Souza Mort 11am Streaming Live to Taunton Center TG137	19 Event: Workshop on Misinformation and Self-Radicalization featuring librarians Emily Brown and Susan Souza Mort 12:30pm New Bedford Community Room Vietnam Veterans Panel 4-5:30pm Auditorium	20 Event: Bristol EXP (Group Study Party - G Building) time tbc 4pm - 5pm President Coffee Hour (Fall River) Student Senate Meeting L - 108 2:00pm - 4:00pm Event: Give Thanks EC Lobby All Day EC Lobby (Taunton)	21 Event: Give Thanks EC Lobby All Day EC Lobby (Taunton)	22 Event: Give Thanks EC Lobby All Day EC Lobby (Taunton)	23	24
25 HAWK Issue Released World Aids Day (Taunton) World Aids Day Event: Give Thanks EC Lobby All Day EC Lobby (Taunton)	26 Event: International Club's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner 6-9 p.m. Event: Give Thanks EC Lobby All Day EC Lobby (Taunton)	27 Student Senate Meeting L - 108 2:00pm - 4:00pm Event: Give Thanks EC Lobby All Day EC Lobby (Taunton)	28 Thanksgiving - College Closed	29 Thanksgiving Break - No Class - College Remains Open	30	01 Fall River Children's Parade

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS WELCOMES YOU

Stephanie Bingham | Staff Writer | Sbingham11@bristolcc.edu

It is my experience that there are many resources available within reach. However, if you don't know where to find them, it can feel like they don't even exist. Mental health centers do exist. I think the Wellness Wednesday's group incorporates a much-needed awareness service with peer to peer support and engagement as an added bonus. It provides a friendly and familiar environment where you can connect with resources, or just a place where we can build a support network with one another. Research has proven that peer to peer resources work.

What: A new group designed as a place for students to gain insight and support they may need to get through the daily struggle, while accomplishing personal goals.

When & Where: Meetings will be Wednesday, November 6 and December 4, 2019 from 2:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. at the Fall River Campus Atrium, located inside the G-Building. There will be another group held at the Attleboro Campus Wednesday, November 13, 2019 also from 2:00-3:00p.m.

Letter to the Editor

Joseph Massi | Contributor | jmassi11@bristolcc.edu

Beth Vezina, former special programs coordinator and transfer counselor, has departed Bristol Community College after 17 years of exceptional commitment to the students, faculty, and the institution. It is bittersweet to see such an incredible person and integral staff member move on. If you were fortunate enough to have worked with her, or are one of the thousands of students she's helped, you know what a truly compassionate individual and dedicated professional she is.

Beth, a Fall River native, is an alumna of Bristol Community College (class of 2001), where she earned an associate's degree in liberal arts. After transferring to the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, she was awarded a Baccalaureate in Psychology in 2003. She started at BCC in 2002. Throughout the past 17 years, Beth became multi-disciplined, and took on many different responsibilities. As the liaison for the Veterans' Affairs, she was up to date on changing regulations and educational benefits, explaining these to students and parents in clear and understandable terms. As the transfer coordinator, she guided students through all aspects of transfer and strategic academic planning. Beth provided personal, educational, and vocational counseling to all students, while simultaneously registering and advising veteran and non-veteran students alike.

Several former and current students have made statements regarding their experiences with Beth. Shiv Thakur, BCC 2018 graduate, said "Beth Vezina was one of my favorite academic advisors that I have ever had in my life. She is kind, polite, helpful, and always cares about students." BCC 2018 graduate Paul Vermette was quoted saying, "She played a vital role in my success as an active military

Who: All are welcome. The group will be a combination of students, faculty, staff of the Bristol Wellness Center, and various community partners.

Why: Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important in every part of a person's life, from childhood, to high school, amidst college, and all throughout adulthood. Untreated mental health affects academic success, productivity, substance abuse, and relationships.

How: The group was put together by Bristol alumna Amy Blanchette, who understands the struggles many of us deal with on a daily basis, dealings such as transportation issues, family problems, homelessness, and financial instability among other things. The former student is now a clerk for Bristol's student and family engagement department.

BETH VEZINA SAYS FAREWELL TO BRISTOL

student and transfer student, and I know many others feel the same way." Joseph Bence, 2018 graduate said, "I always felt that I was on the right path when I worked with Beth."

My experience with Beth Vezina was similar to those I spoke with. I had been out of the formal classroom setting for over 15 years. When I decided to finish my degree, I called several colleges and universities within an hour distance of me to see which would be the best fit for my plan. After a few calls to other universities and colleges, usually speaking to either the transfer coordinator and the military liaison, I was feeling overwhelmed, doubting my decision, and questioning if my dream was out of reach. Then I called

Bristol Community College and spoke with Robin Gallant. She told me about the benefits of community college and how the smaller class sizes and opportunities for mentorship were in line with my plan and what I was looking for. Robin then introduced me to her colleague Beth. Robin and Beth were on another level. I wasn't even enrolled, but we had opened a dialog and established a roadmap for success. BCC was what I was looking for. Beth Vezina became more than my counselor; she was my mentor. Since day one Beth was involved in my success, from systematically tailoring my class load to keep me in full-time, to showing me the importance of extracurriculars and resume-building.

I cannot say enough to convey my deepest and most sincere appreciation of Beth Vezina and all she has

done. She single-handedly changed my life and the lives of thousands. Beth is truly one in a million and BCC won't be the same without her. We all wish her the best in this new phase of her career. We will never forget your kindness and professionalism. Thank you for everything, Beth Vezina.



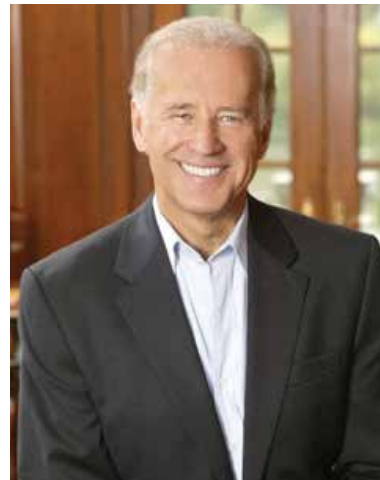
Bristol Community College. Picture by Andrew Adamides.

As every beginning has an end, every end is a new beginning.

2020 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

If the 2016 election is any guide, we can expect a long and highly polarized campaign trail leading into the 2020 election. The democratic field of hopefuls is both vast and diverse. With some preliminary debates out of the way, here is a breakdown of some of the standout candidates that hope to challenge Donald Trump.

Robert Murray | Editor-in-Chief | rmurray20@bristolcc.edu



Pictures obtained from candidates' congressional websites.

JOE BIDEN
Age 76
ALMA MATER
Syracuse University, University of Delaware
OFFICES HELD
Delaware Senator 1973-2009
Vice President of the U.S. (2009-2017)
TWITTER FOLLOWERS
3.7 million followers
BIO
The vice president during the Obama administration has been in public office since 1973. Involved with the SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) with Russia. Worked with President Obama to pass the Affordable Care Act. He wants to: rebuild the middle class, reestablish leadership on the world stage, and ensure the government works for everyone.

KAMALA HARRIS
Age 54
ALMA MATER
Howard University, UC Hastings College of the Law
OFFICES HELD
California Senator 2017-Present, Attorney General of CA 2011-2017, AG of San Francisco 2004-2011
TWITTER FOLLOWERS
3.1 Million followers
BIO
The former prosecutor turned senator from California. She wants affordable healthcare, economic justice, higher teacher pay, action on guns, and climate change legislation. Although formerly against, she now favors legalization of cannabis. Earned an "F" rating from the NRA for her gun control efforts.

BERNIE SANDERS
Age 78
ALMA MATER
University of Chicago, Brooklyn College
OFFICES HELD
Vermont Senator since 2007, Vermont Congressman 1991-2007, Mayor of Burlington 1981-1989
TWITTER FOLLOWERS
9.7 Million followers
BIO
He has held political offices for over 30 years. Proponent of universal healthcare, tuition-free public colleges and universities, and expanding social security benefits. Voted against Iraq, the Brady Bill, and opposed the Patriot Act.

ELIZABETH WARREN
Age 70
ALMA MATER
University of Houston, Rutgers Law
OFFICES HELD
Massachusetts Senator since 2013
TWITTER FOLLOWERS
3.2 Million
BIO
A law professor at Harvard and other institutions going back to the '70s. Credited with creating the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Wants a college loan debt forgiveness plan, and a wealth tax placed on the rich. She has released several years of tax returns; each showing earnings close to a million dollars.

ANDREW YANG
Age 44
ALMA MATER
Brown University, Columbia Law
OFFICES HELD
None
TWITTER FOLLOWERS
882 Thousand
BIO
An entrepreneur. He wants universal basic income, or "Freedom Dividends," essentially a check for \$1,000 from the government to combat the loss of jobs from rising technological advancements in the jobs industry.

SIT DOWN WITH JASIEL F. CORREIA

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT CONTINUED

Why do you think the people before you weren't able to accomplish this?

A: "I think it's a combination of things. I think, one, they took the political way out. The politically expedient choices, as opposed to the best choices for the city long term. I'll give you an example.

Unions are very big. Unions are very, very important. So one of the things I did to save all this money, is I privatized trash collection. So I, I took the union, I sat them down. I said, 'Look, we're not going to continue with unions, for trash collection. We have unions for police and fire, for teachers and everything else, but for trash, we're not going to have a union. Because this is breaking the budget. It's leading to the taxpayer owing this money.' And this is very important, because people attacked me. This is the problem. When I decided the privatized trash, I had people attack me because my age. I had a union guy, union member. He was like the leader, and he went out there publicly and said, 'He doesn't have a family. He doesn't have kids. So he doesn't know the value of labor, of earning a good wage.' That's a cop-out to say that because of my age, because I don't have kids, that I don't know the value of labor and the value of a good wage... Other mayors didn't want to take on the unions. Other mayors didn't make the right choices. You have to make tough choices."

Our conversation turns towards the most recent charges, that the mayor claims are unfounded.

You are saying the allegations against you are completely unfounded?

A: "They absolutely are. This is the question, how does someone become a target of investigation? So think about it, I beat a district attorney. Does a district attorney have connections at the FBI office at Lakeville? Probably. I then beat Linda Pereira, a longtime city councilor, who admitted on the radio that she called the FBI herself. So what you have here is a politically motivated investigation, where they started with a conclusion. And then they fit pieces in to get to that conclusion. But that conclusion is not a guilty verdict. No one has even heard my side. No trial yet has happened. No judge has looked at the facts. All it has been is one-sided allegations. They didn't provide any evidence. They didn't show a document that said here's his bank account. He put all his money in the bank. Where's the search warrant? We all watch TV and see the FBI come with the jackets... how come they never storm city hall? It would have made a nice publicity for them. How come they never raided my house? These are very serious allegations, but yet, they're just based on people's word. They're not based in any fact. They'd find any evidence."

You think it is all hearsay?

A: "It's all hearsay! It's this guy's in trouble, so to get out of trouble, he says he gave the mayor a bribe.

Hey, where's the bribe? Where's the money? And it's all surrounding marijuana conveniently. So here's a young guy who became a mayor, who's done a good job, who opened the doors for marijuana. And all these people are upset that I open the doors for marijuana. So they want to get me because I did that. Is that really fair? People said, oh, yeah, people are pleading guilty. Yeah, so those people are criminals. So you're gonna take the word of criminals over me. So those people pleading guilty to their own crimes, and they're saying (because they get a lesser sentence), I gave the mayor cash. Where's the proof?"

I believe the city council has voted to remove you from office temporarily?

A: "They want me to agree to be like a stay-at-home mayor. Well, first of all, I'm not going to sit at home and get a paycheck from taxpayers. That's not going to happen. I don't believe in that. That's not fair. I'm not going to sit at home, collect money from the city to not do my job. And I think the best example of me doing my job, and like capability, is I have shown up to work every single day, literally the day after the first indictment and the Monday after the second one.

The other thing is, the council is using a part of the charter that they're misinterpreting. The charter does not say that a council can remove a mayor by seven votes for any reason. It's specific to if the mayor is like incapacitated, a mayor gets into a car accident, or they're in a coma. Someone still needs to run the city. The council can then, because someone's determined the mayor cannot perform his or her duties... it is not to remove someone because you don't like them."

We turn to Coogan, and the "multi-person race" audio.

What makes you a better candidate than Coogan, who did very well in the preliminary?

A: "I don't think people are excited about him as a mayor. I don't think they're excited. I think that was the backlash of exhaustion from what's going on. And I think that that was designed to do exactly what happened. I think the timing of the second indictment was strategic. 11 days before preliminary election. I mean, come on. I've been, I've been a mayor for three years. He's never been a mayor. So who has more experience being a mayor? Me. Who has the track record of getting rid of fees? Me? Who has the track record of making sure that teachers, police officers, and firefighters are not getting laid off, the rather, we're adding to their forces? Me. And I tell people, you know, Mr. Coogan was a vice principal. Nothing wrong with vice principals. That's great. Where was he when his own colleagues, his own teachers, were getting laid off year, after year, after year? I didn't see him fighting then. I didn't see him going to city council meetings to say, 'Hey, we can't lay off these teachers.' He wasn't a champion for his own staff. Why? Because he had a

pension. He was all set. He lived in Somerset, for the majority of his life, 20 something years, paying Somerset taxes, paying for their school system, their police officers, their firefighters, their roads, and only moved back to Fall River two and a half years ago. And wants to run the city? I'm not saying that I'm the best person for the job, but in this race, I am the best candidate."

I saw a few days ago "The Herald" reported on some leaked audio from your campaign meeting. What did you mean by a "multi-person race"?

A: "'The Herald News' picks and chooses what they want to say. So we have a conversation like that. It's a private conversation. But it got leaked, and I'm not mad about it. It happens. But the reality is I told them that we are winners. We've been winners, and we still need to win November 5. But, at the end of the day, winning is not about Jasiel Correia. Winning is about the city of Fall River winning. It's always been about the city of Fall River. So, I told my supporters that may mean another candidate wins. Because I feel so strongly that Paul Coogan should not be the mayor. So, I know that that vote total for him was not because people were thrilled about him. I don't blame people. I understand. It's a hard sell to say reelect the guy that's been indicted two times. I know that. I understand. But that doesn't mean that this other guy is the best choice either. So what I said in my meeting, is that if a third, or fourth, or fifth candidate comes out, my supporters are encouraged to help them. Because if we, if we can't win, that doesn't mean we should just let the other guy win. I'm running against him. So why would I want him to win? But see, what happens is people want to poke a headline and make it sound like I was conspiring to rig the election. I heard a lot of people say that, but indicting me 11 days before election is not rigging the election."

Say you beat the charges and manage to win reelection, what do you have in the works for the city?

A: "I think transportation is probably my biggest concern. We want to create a kind of inner city loop, free. Inner city hop-on, hop-off loop. It's more like a tram. You hop on, and it takes you to only certain spots, but really cool neighborhoods, and it connects you to the train. So, I think that's a pretty exciting opportunity where people could hop on, grab lunch downtown, go back to school, whatever it may be. And I'm not just talking about BCC, I'm talking about all the other stuff going on in downtown. But really, it's about creating a vibrant downtown, a vibrant city, a vibrant waterfront with more restaurants, more places to hang out."

The Fall River general elections will be held on November 5th. Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia will not run for re-election and is taking a leave of absence. He remains on the ballot despite not actively running.

PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH

COMPUTER SECURITY

Andrew Adamides, former Bristol IT Technical Assistant and Digital Literacy Instructor

For years, I have preached the virtues of security and privacy. Looking back, I realize that I have been lax, when it comes to my own digital well being. Recently, I've made some changes to my computer hygiene, and I'm going to share what I've learned.

CLOSE UNUSED ACCOUNTS

Go through your accounts, and delete any that you don't use. This might seem tedious, but consider that every orphaned account is a security vulnerability. With so many sites and services being compromised every day, it is risky to trust your personal information to an abandoned account.

CHANGE PASSWORDS

Most people create one or two passwords and reuse them on every website they come across. This sort of password recycling leaves you open to compromise. If someone was able to get your gym password, could they guess your Facebook? Or maybe your bank? If someone got access to your email, would they be able to change the passwords to your other accounts? It's a chilling thought, but one that is easy to remedy.

STOP USING BAD PASSWORDS

Adding numbers and symbols to your passwords isn't enough to make them secure. It is as easy to guess Kitty as it is to guess Kitty123 or Kitty123! What looks like a good password fails instantly. Often, it isn't a "person" trying to guess your account, it is a bot or a software program designed to quickly guess letter/number combinations and dictionary words.

USE GOOD PASSWORDS

So what can we do? The answer is to use a password generator. A reliable password generator will

create a pseudorandom combination of letters, numbers and symbols. These combinations are anonymous and unique and are often significantly longer than the passwords that you might think to use on your own. That is because it is much harder to guess a twelve digit random password than a six letter dictionary word.

GET A PASSWORD MANAGER

We all have too many passwords. We need a password storage solution that doesn't involve memorization, sticky notes or paper journals. You need a password manager. Password managers are applications designed to store your passwords in a secure, encrypted manner.

A good password manager is characterized by the following:

- Your password manager should be so secure that you're the only one who has access to it. Not bad guys, not the company that makes the software, just you.
- Makes it easy to enter and manage passwords.
- Has a password generator built in.
- Be super portable. It should run on every platform that you use natively, including your phones, tablets and online.
- Has a 2FA code generator built in. (More on that in a moment).

There are a number of good password managers now. I currently use 1Password. It recently switched to a monthly subscription fee. If that's not your thing, then there are some great free options including LastPass. Whatever you choose, make sure that

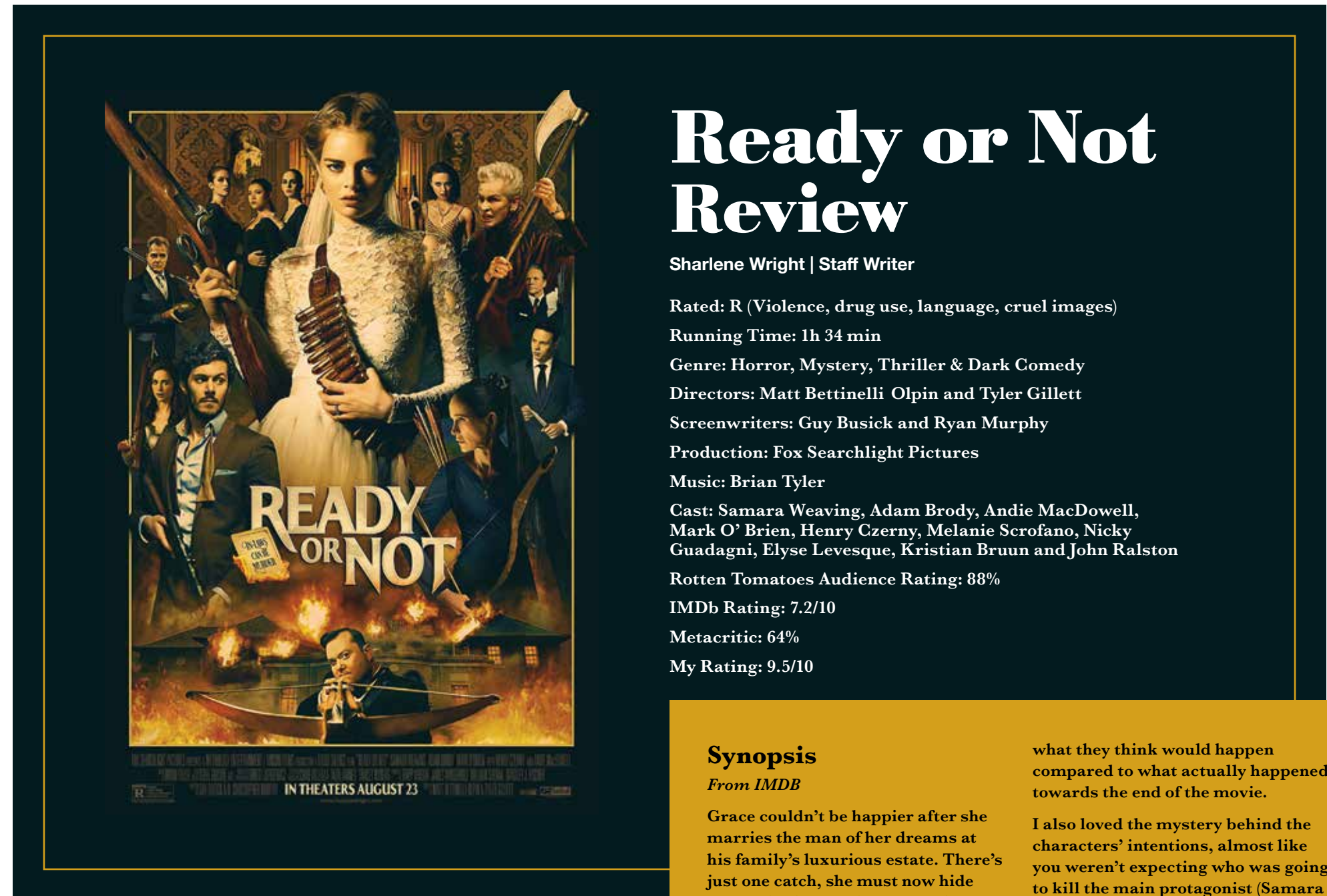
it has been vetted by a trusted security expert.

MULTI FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Multi factor authentication is a technology that requires you to have two or more things in order to access an account. These two things usually are comprised of something you know and something you have. The "something you know" is probably your password. The "something you have" might be a fingerprint, a USB thumb drive or your phone. In the case of your phone, you might receive a text message, or a secret code, when you try to sign in. That means that even if someone besides you, who doesn't have your phone, figured out your password, they wouldn't be able to sign in. A lot of sites are starting to offer multi factor authentication now, including iCloud, Google, Facebook, Twitter, Dropbox, Snapchat and more. I turned it on for every account I could and will be keeping an eye out for more in the future.

CONCLUSION

It is important to remember that you are only as secure as your least secure attack vector. I am not someone who cares to look over my shoulder, and I am not paranoid about "hackers," but I do like my technology to work the way I expect it to. Computer security is not just another brick in the building, that is our digital life. It is in many ways the cornerstone that holds the whole thing together.



"Ready or Not" poster. Photo from Wikipedia.

Ready or Not Review

Sharlene Wright | Staff Writer

Rated: R (Violence, drug use, language, cruel images)

Running Time: 1h 34 min

Genre: Horror, Mystery, Thriller & Dark Comedy

Directors: Matt Bettinelli Olpin and Tyler Gillett

Screenwriters: Guy Busick and Ryan Murphy

Production: Fox Searchlight Pictures

Music: Brian Tyler

Cast: Samara Weaving, Adam Brody, Andie MacDowell, Mark O' Brien, Henry Czerny, Melanie Scrofano, Nicky Guadagni, Elyse Levesque, Kristian Bruun and John Ralston

Rotten Tomatoes Audience Rating: 88%

IMDb Rating: 7.2/10

Metacritic: 64%

My Rating: 9.5/10

Synopsis

From IMDB

Grace couldn't be happier after she marries the man of her dreams at his family's luxurious estate. There's just one catch, she must now hide from midnight until dawn while her new in-laws hunt her down with guns, crossbows and other weapons. As Grace desperately tries to survive the night, she soon finds a way to turn the tables on her not-so-loveable relatives.

My Review

Personally, I found this movie interesting, entertaining, comical and different. It's not something you'd expect from a typical horror film.

I found myself becoming attached to the main character, while she tries to survive this game (without being killed), throughout the entire film. What caught my attention the most, was the game and the story behind it. You really start to believe the whole family is crazy, based on their personal beliefs, within their legacy and so forth.

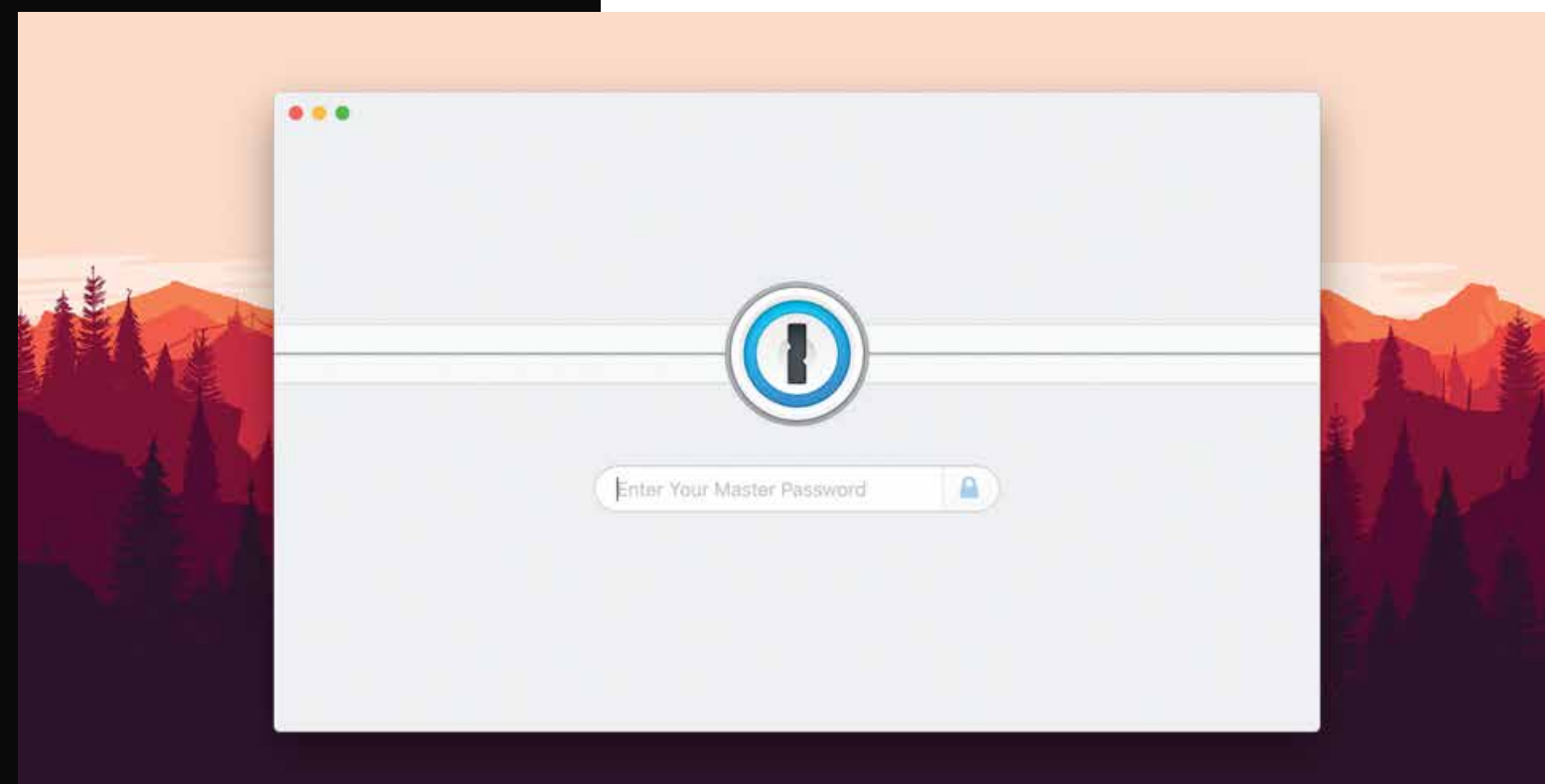
I loved how the director made the audience turn a blind eye against

what they think would happen compared to what actually happened towards the end of the movie.

I also loved the mystery behind the characters' intentions, almost like you weren't expecting who was going to kill the main protagonist (Samara Weaving) on her wedding night. It's crazy because you have somewhat of an idea of who is good and who is bad, but then the writer tricks you into thinking the complete opposite.

Although, this wasn't the case with me. I didn't expect one of the characters to turn against her. The humor in this film made it even more entertaining to watch because each time a character did something or Weaving had escaped, there was always arguing, cursing or jokes. The whole set up was amazing.

I liked how it took place in the family's mansion. It brought a sense of grunge, but more in a fancy setting. The outfits fit the theme, since all characters were dressed formal and the different locations (surrounding in and out of the house) made it stand out even more. This movie was amazing, and the actors/actresses really made the characters in this film entertaining to watch.



Screenshots & background image provided by Andrew Adamides.

Southern Hummingbird

Sharlene Wright | Staff Writer

I stared beyond the trees and the clouds, imagining the whistling sounds of a Southern Hummingbird. The Southern Hummingbird is one of God's most beautiful creatures. I always come here to the forest to daydream and pick some of my favorite flowers. I call this favorite flower the "Blue Jay." Why you ask? The flower has such a majestic royal blue color and its stem is shaped like a bird. Sounds silly, but it reveals a deeper meaning than you think.

My name is Sunny, but my mom calls me "sweet pea." I prefer to be called "Sun" because it represents my personality, as bright and radiant. It was early in the morning, and suddenly the ground starts to shake, and my eyes start to flicker beneath my eyelids. "Sweet pea" my mom calls from downstairs. To be honest, if I wasn't still in high school, I would probably be in bed dreaming once more about the sounds of the Pacific Ocean. "Sweet pea!" she calls once again. "Ugh!" I say to myself, as I get ready to head downstairs.

The stomping of my feet was so loud, that it formed its own rhythm beneath the floorboards. Maybe I should be in a rock band...? Nah it would never work I would say to myself. A singer? Nah my voice is too scratchy, I say to myself once more. "There you are! I've been waiting for you!" my mom says with joy. "Yeah, well I have no choice," I responded voice dripping with sarcasm. "You know, it's not as bad as you think. Maybe if you went out and tried to make your dreams a reality, then life wouldn't be as bad as you make it out to be" she said with encouragement. "The only way for me to escape reality is to dream about what I want, instead of trying to impress others or even associate with them." I said with frustration.

"I'm just looking out for your best interest," she says with concern. I then told her, "I'm going down to the forest to watch the Southern Hummingbird, I'll be back in the next few hours." My mom became very upset and asked me "What makes that forest so special?" Then I sigh and proceeded to walk towards the door and sadly say, "It's a place of tranquility," while shutting the door behind me. I don't know why the forest was so special to me. Maybe, it's because it was the only place where I felt happy, or maybe it was the only place where I felt my dreams were a reality.

The rustling of the leaves begins to speak, as I was walking over them one by one. The sky started painting the clouds, while they were soaring across the sky, forming a distance between each other. When I was a little girl, I've always imagined myself as an airplane, ready to take on the world. To travel through nature to find the purpose of life and its meaning. Too bad I'm not young anymore. It's no longer an adventure.

Suddenly, I heard a snap of a branch amongst

the trees. "Who's there?!" I say startled. An image started to appear, a shadow that I couldn't make out, but had the figure of a man. I didn't know what to do in that moment, "What do I do" I said while panicking.

The dark figure started to move closer. With each step that "it" took, I became more and more frightened. I started backing up slowly and fell on a log, feeling my ankle contort under me. It was certainly broken. "What do you want?!" I say, writing with agony. Things were already starting to become fuzzy from pain, and I eventually blacked out while being carried into the deepest part of the forest.

Hours later, after the incident occurred, I couldn't remember what took place besides opening the door to find the police in my kitchen including my mom. "WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!" she yells. "I CHECKED THE TOWN, SHOPS, EVERYWHERE!" She was livid. I respectfully apologized to her, "IT'S BEEN 8 HOURS SUNNY, 8!" she said angrily. Surprisingly I was able to walk upstairs to my room without any punishment, but this situation was too hard to digest.

As I was walking up the stairs to my bedroom, I noticed something very unusual. Yes, that's right, my ankle. It was healed! I couldn't believe it! The more I looked at it, the more my suspicions grew about the dark figure I saw earlier that morning. "Who was he?" I said to myself. I was desperate to know. How malevolent could the dark figure be, if it had healed my ankle? "It's the only way," I say eagerly. Against all reason and common sense, I made my decision to find the answers.

I waited until my mom was asleep to sneak out of the house, because after she was done yelling at me, she told me specifically not to leave the house, unless it was for school. And knowing me, I would never listen to her anyway, but this was important. I quietly tip-toed back to my room and shut the door behind me, without making a sound, gently lifting my bedroom window to sneak out. Sneaking out was easy, but being determined was key, at least to me it was.

It was hard to see where I was going since it was very dark outside, so I said to myself "Which way is the shortest?" I'll admit, it took me at least 10 minutes to figure out a plan, but then I came across this old shack from a distance. There was footprints following up to the main entrance, and yes it was pitch black, but I was determined and willing to find answers. The adrenaline was pumping through my veins, as I walked closer and closer to the opening of the shack. "Is anyone there?" I said as my heart began beating faster and faster, almost like it was ready to jump out.

Eventually, I entered the shack and ended up having the door slammed shut on me. "No, no,

no, no, no, hey open the door!" I pleaded loudly. "Hey, I'm in here please! I'm in here please! Open the door!" I plead once more. After a few minutes of yelling and pleading, I felt a burst of cold air on the back of my neck. Suddenly, I turned around and saw the dark figure from the forest earlier that morning. I started to panic again, but as he was walking closer to my direction, I became less scared and more confident, "Who are you?" I asked. No response. I asked once more "Who are you?!" Still no response. He then began to speak, "Who I am is not important. What's important is that I'm here to give you a message." I stood for a second and asked, "What is the message?" The silence between us was unexplainable, almost sort of comforting.

After a moment had gone by, the dark figure finally says, "You are loved." The figure then vanishes into thin air. I was shocked about what "it" just told me, as if I had remembered hearing those words before. The door finally opens, and that's when I've decided it was time to go home. As I proceeded to walk out, I couldn't stop thinking about the words, "You are loved." It kept playing in the back of my mind, like a broken record. Eventually I made it home, without my mom finding out (thank God) and was able to rest until sunrise. But I woke up earlier than usual that morning, thinking about what had happened late that night. I'm not the type of girl to believe in spirits, but I had felt a sense of warmth around the mysterious, dark figure.

I then started to have a flashback of my father who died two years ago in a car crash after he had left for work. His last words to me were, "You are loved." I could never forget that moment because it gave me hope and confidence. I didn't shut myself out from the world or anyone, including my mom. I embraced reality and myself as a person. Then I started crying, thinking about it, because my thoughts were based on fear, and after my dad died, I never was the same.

After crying for 10 minutes straight, I started to realize why I loved the Southern Hummingbird so much. It represented who my father was before he passed, someone who was happy, peaceful, joyous, nurturing and giving. Not only that, but the bird itself represents unity and comfort. A Southern Hummingbird is not just a bird with wings and a beak, it's a gift from God that brings closure and understanding. They say a smile can brighten up a person's day, well I say it's the smile behind a person that makes the day brighter.

