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# THS Today

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## A Senior's Perspective

TELLURIDE—For those Telluride High School seniors who were looking for the perfect senior year experience, they may have to try again as the Coronavirus has shut down everything from school sports to the school itself.

If there was one word that could possibly describe the situation right now, I believe it would be 'surreal,' as what was once the plot line of horror movies and video games has now become our reality.

THS officially went 100% digital on March 17. To say that this was an abrupt change to students' daily lives would be an understatement. What was once a day packed with different classrooms and socializing with peers, has now become a single computer screen and a county-wide "shelter in place."

For myself, I initially thought this break from regular school might be a somewhat welcomed surprise. I would have more time to ski, more time to play video games, and, most importantly, more time to catch up on the sleep that regular school had so viciously stripped away from me. It did not take more than a week for this 'honeymoon period' to quickly come to an end as the reality of the situation has now set in. With the mountain closed, skiing has become a much more momentous occasion, those same video games I was itching to play a week ago have now become exhausted, and all that precious sleep I was so excited to catch up on has resulted in a very augmented internal clock.

So, I think it is safe to say that I now have much more of a passion for the swift end of this pandemic and the restarting of our regular daily lives.

I am not alone in my opinion as many high school seniors have been expressing their discontent with the closure of the school, as well as an abrupt end to their regularly scheduled senior year.

Senior Tommy Wells, who was getting ready to begin his final season of high school Lacrosse told me, "I fully support the closure of the school and all, but it is also very sad considering how much of our senior year has now been taken away. I was looking forward to my final season of lacrosse at the high school."

Even though the school campus has been officially shut down, students are still communicating with each other via social media, which has proved to help the isolating effects of a self-quarantine.

Beyond our school district, the state of Colorado has ordered that all public schools close their campuses from March 23 through April 17 as concerns for the spread of the coronavirus in the United States grow. Although this is saddening news for seniors across the state, it also gives us some comfort knowing that we are now all a part of the battle against the pandemic.

As THS does its part to combat the spread of this virus, it is important for everyone involved to take a step back from their realities and realize we are in the midst of history. At least for myself, I will surely be telling stories of my senior year of high school.

Instead of claiming victory in my final game of lacrosse or taking a final stroll through my high school, I can now talk about how I was a part of the global initiative to combat the coronavirus.

Johnny Wilcox, Staff Writer

## National Guard in Telluride



Photo Courtesy of Jim Denny

National Guard and health personnel in hazmat suits prepare to perform COVID-19 tests in Lawson Hill.

Telluride—COVID-19 has the United States worried for the infant, elderly, and everyone with compromised immune systems. On Tuesday, March 17, the National Guard came to Telluride to test 100 individuals who were deemed high risk and showing symptoms for this illness. Participants drove down to the Lawson Hill neighborhood to get tested, while limiting their exposure to others by remaining in their cars.

Tests were performed by health care personnel wear-

ing full hazmat suits. The results from the tests are expected sometime next week. So far, only one confirmed case of COVID-19 has been reported in San Miguel County.

On Friday, March 20, San Miguel County posted one confirmed case of a 54-year-old resident with COVID-19. The fright and stress that this illness has caused our nation is extremely detrimental to our way of life. The biggest thing to remember is that social distancing is key if the nation wants to slow the transmission of CO-

VID-19.

The National Guard left as quickly as they arrived. Although they only tested 100 individuals, the future looks bright for San Miguel County. Everyone is practicing social distancing and the community is at less risk of spreading the illness.

United Biomedical Inc. has taken action and will now give tests to all who volunteer in the county, according to Bloomberg.com. There will be blood tests for all individuals and this test will determine if you

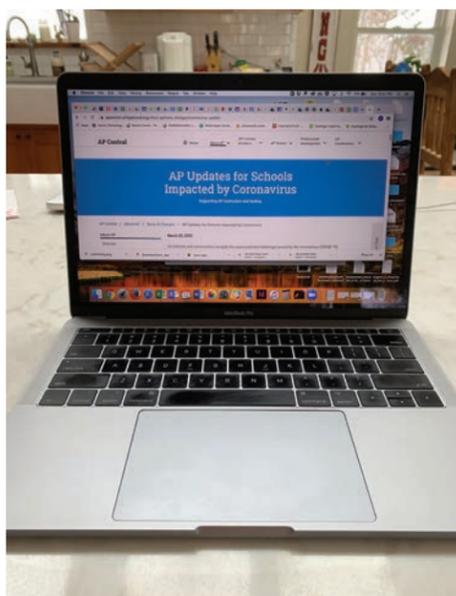
have or had COVID-19 at some point. Telluride is fortunate to have this opportunity, and this is the first step to clearing this virus from the residents of San Miguel County.

It is very important to not meet in groups larger than ten people, wash your hands, and stay inside if you're sick.

For more information about the county and its news regarding COVID-19, visit [www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov](http://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov).

Kaden Katz, Staff Writer

## AP Testing to be Offered Online



THS Today Staff

Advanced Placement testing to be offered online for seniors.

TELLURIDE — Students are on lockdown in their homes, and many are worrying about what they are going to do about Advanced Placement testing.

In the past, AP exams have been administered in a secured classroom, monitored by an instructor.

These tests are really important because they are directly related to a student's placement in college classes.

On March 20, the AP College Board posted in a press release, "Students remain eager to take AP Exams and to have a chance to earn credit and placement. We surveyed 18,000 AP students and 91% indicated they want to complete this important step, urging us not to cancel this opportunity they have been

working toward."

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tests will be online.

"For the 2019–20 exam administration only, students can take a 45-minute online free-response exam at home. Educator-led development committees are currently selecting the exam questions that will be administered," the AP College Board posted.

For THS students, this comes as a relief.

"I'm glad we know that we are going to take the test, and I have a feeling it's going to be an easier test now that it is shorter and online," Henry Turrin, a THS senior, said.

Beck Lystad, Staff Writer