The Mount Observer

"Voices of the students of Mount Wachusett Community College"

PREVIEWS



Turning Passion Into a Profession

The new Veterinary Technology program at MWCC may be highly competitive, but it is constantly developing and significantly better than other local competitors.

For the full article, see page 3

Profile: Nancy Regan

Nancy Regan, health assistant in the MWCC Nurse's office, enjoys interactions with students and focusing on mental health.

For the full article, see page 5

Three New Art Installations

Three temporary art installations will be up for another week. Please enjoy!

For the photo spread, see page 4

Dare to Do Double Duty

Dual enrollment students tackle high school and college credit

By Hannah Bennett

Observer Contributor

The Dual Enrollment program allows students who are 16 years old or older to enter the Faneuf. college environment and earn college credits before they caught Faneuf's attention, graduate high school. However, the negative environment of there are requirements for every applicant to fulfill before and as much of a desire to switch after acceptance into MWCC.

Sixteen-year-old first-year transfer student Maddie Faneuf has only attended classes at the mental stress and took its toll Mount for a few months, but she has joined the SGA (Student Government Association) and explored several services and focus on her classwork. provided by the college in that short time.

Faneuf originally out about the dual enrollment Faneuf. program through her cousins, Fanuef said her two years in high school pushed her towards the dual enrollment program as

a way to escape the "drama" at school and the neglect of student needs by the administration.

"I wanted a fresh start," said

While the allure of the Mount her high school gave her just schools as her excitement for the Mount. Her high school's setting triggered a great deal of on her academics and mental health. The relaxed environment of the Mount helped her destress

"The best decision I've ever made academically found was to transfer here," said "I would 100% recommend coming here to who completed it themselves. anyone wondering [about dual enrollment]."

> continued on page 2 "Dual Enrollment" >>>

Maddie Faneuf

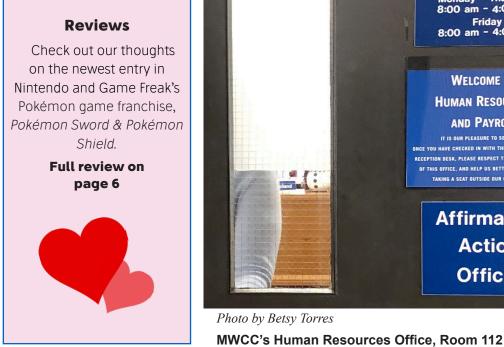
Harassment in the Workplace Students and professors discuss a prevalent problem

Division of Human Resources & Payroll Hours

By Brandon Feliz Observer Contributor

stress from work is estimated to be the fifth-biggest cause of death in the U.S., according workplace harassment occurs as well, working to make ends task Take the life of twenty-yearold Ari Summers, who requested her name be changed to protect her privacy. Summers is a student at MWCC who works part-time at a dealership. She says she suffers from workplace harassment almost every day that she's on the job.

HARVARD Photo by Hannah Bennet



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Working in a hostile work environment can be one of the to the Business Insider. When most difficult and confusing things someone can go through. It can be especially frustrating meet can become a monumental when it is a full-time job, likely

to be the place where one spends most of their waking hours. More time is spent at full-time jobs anywhere else for the average U.S. citizen. One third of an American's life is spent at work, according to www.gettysburg.edu. Statistics also show that people's jobs can contribute to workaholism, insomnia and divorce, and that

continued on page 2 "Workplace Harassment" >>>

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Observer NEWS

Dual Enrollment

>>> continued from page 1

According to a 2015 study by the Community College Research Center (CCRC), "at community colleges [the number the means to do that and that's of students in dual enrollment] grew from 163,000 to 745,000. This indicated that community colleges' market share of students aged 17 or younger taking college courses increased from 56 percent in 1995 to 69 percent in 2015."

This study indicates that there was an overall increase in the number of dual enrollment students at community colleges in the United States. As more students joined dual enrollment programs, more studies involving these students were environment? conducted.

thirds of community college dual were from low- or middle-

come and talk with me about Dual Enrollment and unfortunately once they find out they have to kind of where the conversation stops," wrote Donnelly in an Enrollment." email interview.

"However, for the few whose parents are able to afford DE, my role is helping them fill out their application which includes things like filling in what courses they need to take in order for us to accept it as a dual credit."

Dual enrollment gives a new "home" to students who are in the program. But how do students in dual enrollment interact with students in the "high school"

"I honestly feel like [dual CCRC also stated, "nearly two enrollment] really segregates the student because they are no enrollment students nationally longer a part of our day to day events at the high school like pep income families- about the rallies, drills, assemblies, etc.,"

"Often times a student will academically challenged in high school or needs a more mature environment," said Daly.

Of the different types of dual pay their own way, do not have enrollment offered at MWCC, Daly works with students starting what is called "Traditional Dual

> According to the "Early College & Dual Enrollment Programs" document issued to those working with MWCC, "High School students who intend to complete a portion of their junior or senior year at the college through MWCC's Traditional Dual Enrollment program Submit a must: completed Dual Enrollment Admissions Application, be 16 years of age or a current junior or senior and hold a minimum 2.8 GPA," and qualify in other areas of application.

> "Part of my job is to screen students who fill out the application," said Daly. "Students have an interview with

Workplace Harassment

always comes around my desk, normal to you." grabs my arms so I could hug lying about being sick."

This type of behavior coming there in order to pay her bills.

of his culture. 'He's just an old solutions are explored. Italian man,' they said."

American cultures, it is more of Students "It's more difficult common to kiss someone on the with someone higher-up, so if cheek as a greeting. Regardless, I felt like I wasn't being taken the justification ends the moment seriously and no one can help me concern is expressed and all I would call the Massachusetts advances that make the other Commission party uncomfortable come to an absolute halt.

about being uncomfortable, that on the MWCC website. There is hostile to them," said Elmer are also a number of alternative Eubanks-Archbold, a business resources that help individuals professor here at MWCC who fight against hostility in the has an abundance of experience workplace such as the Equal in Business Ethics.

"If I am a supervisor and I'm Commission like 'oh hey' and then I start information on affirmative action

"I get harassed by the owner you have to respect their space, of my job," said Summers. "He even if it is culturally correct or

This can be a big change him. I always have to turn my for some people who have face to the side or else he will try lived their whole lives under a to kiss me. Either way, he'll still different influence and culture kiss me on the cheek unless I'm in a different country that is thousands of miles away. "Even though [they] are in a from the higher-ups makes different culture," says Eubanks-Summers not even want to go to Archbold. "[They] have to make work, but until she finds another the effort to understand how the job she must continue working culture works here in America."

At a job where human The worst part of it all, she resources cannot provide one said, is that the company won't with the resources to keep them assist her adequately. "I've feeling human in the workplace, mentioned this behavior to employees can instead reach human resources, and all they out to a third party. Luckily, in said was that he's been like that Massachusetts and even within for the thirteen years that they've our own school walls there are known him," said Summers, resources to help. Steps must be "and that it's probably because I taken, however, in succession in resemble his daughter or because order to make sure all possible

"The first step is to tell them to In some European and Latin stop," says Jason Zelesky, Dean Against should Discrimination (MCAD)."

The MCAD phone number can "If the person... complains be found under the Resource tab Opportunity Employment (EEOC).

"I recommend dual enrollment to any student who doesn't feel academically challenged in high school or needs a more mature environment."

Liz Daly, Director of Admissions

same proportion as students who wrote Donnelly. "However, as me or the Dean [of students] after high school."

While dual

start in a community college DE students they are welcome to before being accepted." attend all of these if they don't enrollment have class."

Daly's job also involves speaking to students who apply

provides a different form of and setting for education for many students, there is a growing disconnect between those who participate in dual enrollment and students who stay at the high school level, according to one local guidance counselor.

Guidance Narragansett Regional High School (NRHS) Katie Donnelly works with students who wish to start the dual enrollment program.

Students involved in dual enrollment through their high them prepare for the change of schools gain college experience while still being enrolled at their high school and earning their enrollment] depends on the diploma. However, there is more than one type of dual enrollment. Daly, Director Liz of Counselor Admissions at MWCC, is one of the college staff on campus that has assisted students in starting the dual enrollment process. "I recommend dual enrollment to any student who doesn't feel

for dual enrollment and helping pace from high school to college. "The difficulty of [dual student," said Daly. "I try to make sure students are prepared for the workload. I tell them they have to be prepared to work outside of the classroom, for perceived free time, and to be prepared for class and just ask questions."

kissing my employees, but it policy, prohibited conduct, makes them uncomfortable, I and policies against sexual have to stop that even if it's what harassment.

I normally do," said Eubanks. "We have strict policies on "And that's where the definition campus and no tolerance for of sexual harassment would harassment on campus for our come in. It would have to based students nor our faculty," says off the person that's feeling it. So Zelesky.

> If you or someone you know are suffering from harassment in the workplace, please contact the MCAD at (617) 994-6000 or the EEOC at (617) 565-3200.

For more information on Dual Enrollment at MWCC, please visit www.mwcc.edu/academics/k-12/programs/dualenrollment

Observer NEWS

Turning Passion into a Profession

Veterinary Technology program advances careers in animal care

By Nicholas Papini

Assistant Editor

The new Veterinary Technology program at MWCC may be highly competitive, but it is constantly developing and significantly better than other local competitors.

Jessica Pelland, a student in her first year of the program, said that at the age of 40 she felt that there was something missing in her life. She said that she asked herself what she might want to do and decided to pursue a career that would allow her to work with animals. The timing of this revelation happened to coincide with the new MWCC program, and she felt that the decision to apply was a no-brainer.

"I consider this the opportunity of a lifetime," Pelland said. She enjoys the program immensely and is very grateful for the excellent instructors. She feels that the Veterinary Technician program at MWCC is unique in the amount of support she



Photo courtesy of Jessica Pelland **Jessica Pelland**

receives from the staff. She said that the atmosphere between students and professors is excellent and that they do not sacrifice in teaching ability to have a friendly and open relationship with their students.

Pelland also cautioned that being a Veterinary Technician is not for everyone. The program is very difficult, and she feels that there must be something more to your desire to be in this field than merely a love for animals.

Pelland stated that a significant reason why she chose MWCC to pursue her Veterinary Technician degree is the cost. She said that Veterinary Technicians make comparatively little money, and she feels that attending one of MWCC's significantly more expensive competitors would be a waste.

Madeline Quero, another student within the Veterinary

> continued on page 4 "Vet Tech Program" >>>

It's Never Too Late to Succeed

Transistions to College program helps nontraditional students achieve their goals

By Maya Douglas

major factor in student success. the campus considers itself complete the Accuplacer test, traditional students to ease their advisor and student is a crucial Kayser said that her goal is lucky to have this program here, guiding them through the way into the college lifestyle. part of the Transitions experience for her students to graduate or and in addition to funding from application process, and helping The program is led by Kim and is part of the reason why my Kayser, program advisor and students do so well," Kayser obtain a college certificate, but the Department of Education, students determine a program of the college gives very generous more importantly, for students study. coordinator. Kayser's goal for commented. to try their best. She notes that donations to the program so that Kayser is also in charge the Transitions program is to be By the end of the two it may thrive. able to accept more students in semesters, Kayser has worked many students would never of budget management and over attend college without the Kayser took the the future, since the program has closely enough with her students coninued on page 4 opportunity to participate in this a limited number of slots and Transitions program eight years to know their work schedules, "Transitions to College" >>> free, supporting program. ago. She says her main job is to there is a waiting list. lifestyles, and academic goals,

as

as well as Wachusett work closely with the students their personal The Mount She also hopes to remain the **Observer** Contributor individuals. Community College Transitions in her program and help them aspirations counselor for her students even Forming a personal relationship program is one of fifteen acclimate into campus life. As The Transitions to College after they graduate out of her transition programs in the state advisor, her role also includes with an advisor, Kayser asserts, program is a grant-funded program. "The relationship between is beneficial to students and is a of Massachusetts. Kayser said helping students prepare and program which supports non-

Let Your Voice be Heard!

Send your stories, poetry, artwork, photography, or other content to mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

OBSERVER NEWS

Transitions to College

>>> continued from page 3

an agency in Fitchburg which aids homeless young adults and teen moms, is one of the students.

She also does outreach work students. in local prison programs in an effort to help rehabilitate excriminals by bringing them into her program. Kayser said that total of 32 students.

Before being accepted into the Transitions program, students must attend classes through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and earn their GED or HiSet.

Sallet said that the best part of their personal goals as well, such

their own potential. She is a career development counselor specialized in adult education partner programs used to recruit and training, and said she enjoys working one on one with

Sallet said students in the ABE program learn at their own pace. Their time in the program varies depending on each student. this semester, the program kept a Some only spend two months, while some are in the program for up to six months. Sallet said students in the program vary in age from sixteen to fifty. She believes that it is never too late to finish school.Sallet works closely with her students on not Advisor to the program Julie only their academic goals, but

program recruitment. MyTurn, her job is helping students see as getting a job or an apartment. The primary struggles of her students concern self-confidence, time management, or childcare and transportation.

> "I do believe in our mission," Sallet said. "It's important to help people in our region enter into post education or move into jobs for a self-sustainable income."

> Sallet said she hopes to see the enrollment rate continue to grow, and that at least 75% of students in the ABE program move onto Transitions to work with Kim Kayser.

> "It's truly rewarding to watch others achieve their goals and know you had a part in that," she said.

Three New Art Installations on Display

Photos courtesy of Thomas Matsuda



Vet Tech Program

>>> continued from page 3

she owes much to the staff in charge of the program. She out greatly with personal and class related issues and that she is grateful that she can feel so comfortable with her professors.

Lexi McNamara, Assistant Professor and Department Chair for the Veterinary Technology Program, said that Veterinary the nurses of the veterinary world. They handle all the jobs

the first line of education for all pet owners and that everything said that they have helped her a person finds online about their assistant in the admissions pet is probably wrong.

> According to McNamara, the Veterinary Technician program has a rather rare piece of cuttingedge technology available to them in the form of the SynDaver Surgical Canine.

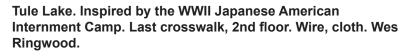
The SynDaver is a highly Technicians are very much like advanced and realistic synthetic dog. McNamara says it is an invaluable training tool which that people generally associate helps students to practice skills with nurses and much more. For they will be expected to perform.

Technician program, said that that Veterinary Technicians are and research facilities to give students hands-on experience.

> Sue Guartafierro, administrative office, heads up the Veterinary Technician program's admissions and has some recommendations for those who aspire to be accepted into the program. She recommends an employment history with work related to animals.

> She said that volunteer work with animals, such as at an animal shelter, would also look excellent on an application.

Guartafierro suggests that it is





instance, Veterinary Technicians She also said that in January, prudent for students interested may assist in surgeries, do dental MWCC will be getting the in the Veterinary Technician work, perform x-rays, give company's new SynDaver Cat program to take all classes anesthesia, and more. model.

McNamara also said that a McNamara large portion of the work that MWCC's Veterinary Technician many Veterinary Technicians program utilizes no live animals perform is interacting with pet on campus. This makes those owners.

"One of the most important the education of the students. parts of our job in my opinion is educating pet owners," she said. She also said that she believes local farms, veterinary facilities,

required for the degree which that are not strictly veterinary classes stated before applying to the program. She said that not only does it make the candidate look better, it also makes it so that a student synthetic animals essential to who is accepted can better focus To supplement these models, their time and effort on the MWCC has partnerships with intensive Veterinary Technician work.

Mont Sainte-Victoire. Inspired by the series of paintings of this mountain by Paul Cezanne. Multipurpose room. Colored yarn. Deb Boudreau



Summer Memory. A childhood summer camp that was demolished. Main entrance. Broken record, acrylic paint. **Emily Payson**

Observer PROFILE

Profile: Nancy Regan

Health Services staff member supports physical and mental wellness



Photo by Thomas Hill Jr. Nancy Regan

By Maya Douglas Observer Contributor

in the MWCC Nurse's office, and focusing on mental health. She said for her, health is beyond health is not only concerning the physical body; mental health and nutrition affect people just as much as illness or injury.

Starting last fall, every Wednesday students meet at the roundabout outside the cafe to go on a half hour walk for "Walking Wednesdays." Both faculty and students are welcome. Regan said the meeting time is at 12:30 p.m. so that students may take a break from studying to get some fresh air.

Regan said she created Walking Wednesdays after noticing that students were not leaving the building, going Nancy Regan, health assistant outdoors, or getting fresh air in between classes. Regan did enjoys interactions with students research and found that thirty minutes a day of walking can improve cardiovascular health, a passion. She emphasized that breathing, mental stability, and

stress. In addition, she said that by going outside, students absorb necessary nutrients such as vitamin D and that going with a group helps students become more social.

Regan said she is an advocate of mental health awareness.

"I feel fortunate to work in health services where I am able to expose students to a multitude of holistic approaches to mental illness."

- Nancy Regan

other ways of relief, such as yoga, meditation, breathing, and walking.

She said her time at MWCC sponsored has been successful. She enjoys Services Department. There will watching her students change be a speaker on nutrition and in personality, socially, and mental health, and counseling begin to feel relief from their services and massage therapy daily struggles. She encourages everyone to find resources to will also be yoga, tai chi, Reiki, deal with mental health.

nurse in the office who retired last year, inspired her to learn well while on a budget. Reiki. Regan described it as both with her students.

health services where I am able to expose students to a multitude of holistic approaches to mental Health Coach through the online illness," said Regan.

Regan is also organizing a Wellness Fair for this Spring,

by the Health will be available. She said there and healthy food. Presently, Regan has earned a Level she is working with the Health Three Reiki Master certification. Services Department to bring in According to her, Diane King, a a nutrition chef for the event to teach a seminar on how to eat

Regan has a degree in Human satisfying and fulfilling work, Services and worked at the and she is happy she can share it Fitness and Wellness Center for fourteen years before coming "I feel fortunate to work in to MWCC. Currently, she is participating in a yearlong program to become a Certified Institute of Integrative Nutrition.

Her goal is to show students

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Observer

A&E

Winter is Hell Veterans' tips for getting through a hard winter

By Kristopher Madden Observer Contributor

When it gets cold, your body and your equipment want to quit and no one has time for that. Luckily, the Veteran community at Mount Wachusett Community College has over 100 years of accumulated service time and more than a few tips and tricks to make your life easier when the going gets tough.

First Lieutenant Victor Dhliwayo, former Mortar Infantryman and Media Arts and Technology major, recalls his arctic warfare training from Fort Richardson, AK.

"Most importantly, dress in loose layers," Dhliwayo said. "You don't want tight things against your skin unless the fabric is specially designed to wick sweat. You want room for air to be able to move in your clothes because your body makes its own heat. You just want to keep that heat in but not make you sweaty because if you get sweaty, you'll freeze."

"Gloves and a hat are both the second most important things," he added. "You need to keep use your hands a lot and can't just have them in your pockets all the time. Plus, if your hands get cold then the rest of you will feel cold, because you'll and familiarize yourself with



Photo by Darran Shen on Unsplash

you don't have to take them on First-Class Danielle Lohler, and off all the time."

Next, vehicle maintenance is your hands warm because you the backbone of any armored battalion and many students drive to school and work. Check your oil regularly, try to maintain your brake pads

be thinking of how cold your your vehicle. It's your lifeline fingers are. Get a good pair with and if you fail to take care of touchscreen pads on the tips, so it, it will fail on you. Private a Heavy Equipment Operator in the Massachusetts National Guard and Legal Studies major, cannot stress the importance of preventative maintenance and checks servicing (PMCS) for vour vehicle.

its filters changed and it needs (SAD) is commonly associated brake pad maintenance," she with Vitamin D deficiency as explained. "If you make sure well as a lack of stimulating these things are all good before brain activity. it gets too cold outside, you'll cut your chances of car problems using your hands will 'light up' down by a lot. Check your belts, over 40% of your brain," she check your hoses regularly and said. "Similar tests have shown listen for any strange new sounds. that moving your facial muscles Breaking down in the winter is a will activate another 40% of lot harder than breaking down in your brain." the summer."

vehicle, it's equally important to maintain your mental health in watch your health.

Sergeant Andrew United States Marine Corps day and spend some time in the Infantryman and Services major, said "Cold air reason you can't, make sure you is dry air. Carry some lotion and take Vitamin D supplements. make sure you drink enough Stay hydrated and eat well." water. Also keep an extra pair of socks and a gallon sized Ziploc during the dead of winter is bag in your backpack. If your a great time to pick up a new feet get wet from the snow, hobby like knitting or playing you'll have dry socks as well as an instrument," she added. "And a bag to put your wet ones in."

nose and mouth covered when those facial muscles as well." you're outside, too," he added. "Breathing cold air can dry out your respiratory system, increasing your chances of catching something."

Sarah McNary, RN, MSN, Will Farrell movie." former Lead Nurse Case Manager for US Special Operations Command and current VA "Whether it's half a ton or liaison for student veterans, said

30 tons, it needs oil, it needs that Seasonal Affective Disorder

"Studies have shown that

According McNary, to Finally, in addition to your "the best thing you can do to the wintertime is to stay active. Brunell, Go outside at least 15 minutes a Human sun if you can. If for whatever

"Being cooped up inside if you learn to sing while you "It's a good idea to keep your learn an instrument, you're using

> She paused before adding, "My professional recommendation to anyone feeling the symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder would always be to start with a

Whole New World of Pokémon

Review: Pokémon Sword & Shield



Image from Gamespot, copyright Nintendo, Game Freak, and The Pokémon Company The mascot pokemon for both versions of the game, Sword ans Shield

By Anna Allen **Observer Web Editor**

On November 15, Nintendo released Pokémon Sword and Pokémon Shield. These side-byside role playing games are the eighth generation of main title Pokémon games, and the first new generation published on the Nintendo Switch gaming system. The basic gameplay of Pokémon has stayed the same since its first release: catch Pokémon (or "pocket monsters")

and battle them. Each generation of games, usually released in pairs, has added new Pokémon to the franchise. As of the seventh generation. Pokémon Sun & Moon, there were 807 Pokémon in total.

Shield Sword k take place in a new region of the Pokémon world, called the Galar region, which is based loosely on the United Kingdom. The new setting is charming, and players continued on page 8 "Pokémon Review" >>>

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OBSERVER

A&E

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Puzzle Corner

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To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9. There is only one possible solution.

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STUDENTS

Pokémon Review

>>> continued from page 6

this adventure. From a gentle farmland to a university city to a mystical forest inspired by Alice's Pokémon Adventures in Wonderland, each section is unique and dazzling in is a china teacup possessed by a new-generation graphics.

didn't include all previous Pokémon in Sword & Shield, quite a few new Pokémon appear. The three starters, who are usually a showcase for each new generation, were particularly lackluster this time around, but they were the exceptions. Other new Pokémon have imaginative, friendly personas. Some new designs include a sheep which the setting, a hangry electric type reminiscent of Pikachu (yes – "hangry" is the term the game uses), and a local variation

purple unicorn.

The most creative new of Sword k Shield could be Sinistea. Sinistea ghost. But there are two forms

quickly feel welcomed into of Rapidash that is a pink and only new additions to the game. freely.

Two important new features Wild Area, and Dynamaxing. While exploring any Pokémon While developer Game Freak of this Pokémon. Since Sinistea region, the player runs into is designed as an antique, it has random encounters with wild Pokémon for their own team.

arrived in Sword & Shield: the Dynamax raids occur. In these raids, players can battle in teams Dynamax, but some have special The Wild Area is a feature of four against supersized, that many fans have asked for. superpowered Pokémon. At the For example, Garbador, the end of the raid, each player has Trash Bag Pokémon, becomes a chance to capture and use that an entire trash dump.

"While Game Freak strayed from its formulaic game design for this generation, most of its changes were for the best."

– Anna Allen

an "antique" form and a "phony" except for a small, blue stamp of authenticity on the bottom of the open area where the player can cup.

Pokémon which they can battle exploration happens in a huge, avoid or go after encounters, and The new Pokémon are not the some Pokémon wander around

Dynamaxing also happens rolls down the idyllic hills of form. The two forms are identical or catch. For the first time, that during gym challenges. As inspire a wholesome, childlike usual, there are eight gyms to wonder for the Pokémon world. beat in Sword & Shield. In this generation, in addition to the gym battles, each gym has an

additional challenge and the This is also the area where ability to Dynamax Pokémon. All Pokémon are available to forms when they go supersized.

While Game Freak strayed from its formulaic game design for this generation, most of its changes were for the best. Instead of getting bogged down by their complicated game mechanics, Sword & Shield hold true to the heart of Pokémon. In what may be the best games in the franchise so far, Pokémon Sword & Shield continue to

