

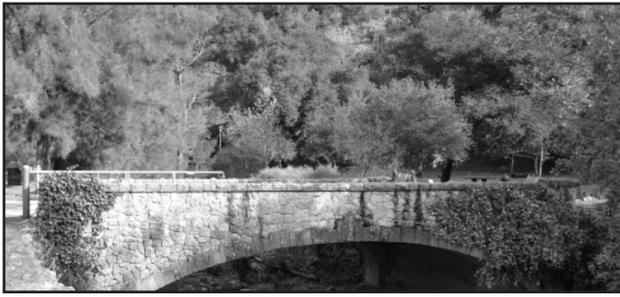
# The Bay Area promotes sustainability during Earth Day

by **Sophie Kroesche**

News Editor

On the weekend of April 21, cities around the Bay Area celebrated Earth Day in order to raise awareness and protest climate change, with an emphasis on the effects of plastic pollution and saving parks. The town of Los Gatos hosted Spring into Green, an event focused on environmental sustainability; Keep Los Gatos Beautiful month; and Earth Day. The mayor, Rob Rennie, presented the State of the Town Address in the Town Plaza Park as well. Spring into Green lasted from 10AM to 1PM, but the Farmer's Market still ran from 9AM to 1PM despite the time overlap. After the State of the Town Address, attendees viewed an Arbor Day tree planting and a proclamation to renew Los Gatos' Tree City USA certification. The Wildcat Mountain Ramblers provided guests with music, and the town provided activities including a rock climbing wall, face painting, a photo booth, crafts, and a donation center for unwanted goods.

A few miles away, in San Jose's Alum Rock Park, volunteers labored in the warm sun to clean trails, remove invasive species, and help with general trail maintenance. Senior Park Ranger Huy Mac spearheaded the project to widen the trails, which resulted in a quarter mile of trails renovated to make room for bikers and prevent ticks from latching on to unsuspecting hikers. "The ticks are starting to come out right now, and they're on the ends of the blades of grass, and so we're trying to make it a lot safer by widening it out to about four to five feet," Mac commented. Alum Rock also provided educational programs,



OVER, NOT UNDER: The Alum Rock Park bridge protects the pond life underneath it.

one of which taught visitors how to garden to save the environment. Like Spring into Green, there was a ceremonial tree planting at the end of the event.

The California State Parks Foundation hosted a beach cleanup at Lighthouse Field State Beach on Sat. April 21, for its twentieth annual Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup. Some volunteers gathered trash on the beach, while others removed invasive species choking the natural habitat. Junior **Tatum Jenkins** participated in the cleanup, hosted by Pacific Gas and Electrical Company, saying, "We took out an invasive species and planted native plants. I liked that it was a new way to connect with the outdoors and be around people who are just as passionate about the outdoors as I am."

On the same day, the Earth Day 2018 Festival and Climate Rally in San Francisco drew thousands of people to the Civic Center. The theme, "Stand for the Redwoods/Stand for the Future," commemorated the nearby Santa Cruz Mountains and redwood forests around the bay. Speakers included California State Senator Mark Leno, San Francisco Supervisor Jane Kim, former State Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, and various other environmental figures. The festival boasted DJs, reggae artists, belly dancers, blues, and hip-hop music. Youth had the opportunity to participate in interactive learning experiences, such as the Green Kids Zone and Eco-Carnival.

Throughout the Bay Area, community members worked to educate their peers and make a contribution to their local environment for Earth Day.

(Sources: The Town of LG, Mercury News, CBS, Earth Day Network, Tree City USA)



FUN IN THE SUN: People enjoy themselves at the pristine Lighthouse Field State Beach.

## Talent show wows audience

by **Ryan Manseau**

Sports Editor

The night of Thurs., April 26, was one packed with musical talent, applause, and a variety of witty skits. The five hosts of the talent show included seniors **Ritaank Tiwari**, **Lauren Sanders**, **Jordan Evans**, **Jillian Regan**, and **Luke Stewart**.

To kick off the show, the MCs made their own parody music video with the cinematographical skills of senior **Dominic Dal Porto** to the song "God's Plan" by Drake. The video featured a variety of students, including **Jimmy Gordon**, **Harry Wang**, **Cameron Sotoodeh**, and **Sohum Hulyalker**. The audience also saw a variety of teachers in the video, as a plethora of them showed off their dance moves.

In the first act of the night, **Marcus Maletta** and **Jared Willebeek-Lemair** performed their rendition of "Never Gonna Give You Up," originally by Rick Astley. With Maletta on vocals and Willebeek-Lemair on the guitar, the duo rocked their performance.

Later in the night, twin sisters **Annie** and **Haley Tollick** took the stage and sang "I Want You Back," originally by The Jackson 5, earning a large round of applause from the audience after they sang and danced on stage. A. Tollick took the stage again later in the night, singing "Love on the Brain," originally by Rihanna. Another impressive duo performed when **Shawn Pinkham** and **Carly Gilbert** sang "Rivers and Roads," originally by The Head and the Heart. Both girls sang in their performance, however Gilbert took the lead vocals, while Pinkham played the guitar.



ENCORE: A. Tollick returns on stage to sing again for the crowd.

There were also a variety of impressive solo acts, including **Ranjana Iyer's** "I Know the Truth," **Annika Vossen's** "Dive," **Lexi Balisteri's** "In My Blood," **Xavier Downs'** reading of his poem "Sequel," **Molly McCanny's** "Close Enough," and the closing act, which featured Maletta singing "My Way."

**Will Fulton**, who played the guitar with his band, Revive the Night, performed the song "Mr. Brightside," originally by The Killers. Fulton said that he "loved how well we played as a group to create the best possible music." Fulton also commented on the overall experience of performing in the senior talent show: "I really enjoyed getting together with all of the other seniors for the sole purpose of playing music."

The senior talent show became a huge success for offering LGHS' most talented musicians a stage on which to perform.



REVIVED: The audience fills the theater with clapping and shouts of encouragement as Revive the Night performs for the first time that night.

## LGHS hosts salsa contest

by **Austin Yung**

News Editor

Spanish music filled the air and the aroma of salsa drifted throughout the school as all of LGHS's Spanish 3 classes hosted a salsa competition in the Community Room on Thurs. and Fri., April 26 and 27. From regular salsa fresca to a sweet apple pie salsa, students from Spanish 2 sampled and adroitly judged the salsas made by their peers.

Students in Spanish 2 received a beautifully designed invitation to the competition, which they all looked forward to. However, students from Japanese were also given the option to attend in order to foster connections between the different language classes.

Spanish 3 students scrambled to plan their competition-winning salsa over a period of two weeks. Sophomore **Blake Galatea** described the salsa making process as "a culturally enlightening project," while also stating, "I had a lot of fun making salsa with my group and learning about the work that goes into preparing every ingredient."

Not only did the students enjoy the salsa festivities, but the teachers did as well. **Señoras Mazzaferro**, **Walleen Johnson**, and **Señor García** organized the annual event for their students, while other teachers such as **Señora O'Reagan**



JUST DANCE: Students show off their new salsa dance moves.

brought their students to observe the festivities in which they will partake next year. "I love watching my students having fun as they dance and serve salsa to other students... They always have so much fun participating in the activities, and it's always fun when the kids from Spanish 2 join in to dance as well," remarked Mazzaferro with a smile.

Every year, students and teachers of all Spanish levels come to love and appreciate the culture and the language as the salsa competition combines a hands-on learning experience with the excitement of cooking with friends.

## Gold Star families honored

by **Nate White**

Sports Editor

A nationwide movement to honor Gold Star families reached San Jose in the form of a new memorial on Sat., April 14.

World War II Marine Corps Veteran Hershel "Woody" Williams started the movement to acknowledge Gold Star families. Williams established the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor foundation to construct Gold Star Family monuments throughout the country. Since 2013, 34 of these memorials were established nationwide, and 43 more are planned to be built in the coming years.

With the guidance of Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese, Oak Hill Park provided space at its front entrance for the memorial. Cortese, with the Santa Clara board of Supervisors and private funders, paid for the monument. Cortese attended the unveiling, along with a variety of veteran groups and Gold Star families.

The Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation continues to work towards honoring Gold Star families and veterans. Anyone can donate money on its website in order to help fund the construction of these monuments.

(Sources: Mercury News, Herschel Woody Williams Medal Of Honor)

# LGHS Robotics Team finish off their season with a bang

by **Cole Van Miltenburg**

Editor-in-Chief

The student-led LGHS Robotics Team finished its season stronger than ever this year, making it all the way to the FIRST Robotics Championship in Houston, Texas. From April 18 to 21, 25 members of the 40-person team traveled to Houston to compete against hundreds of high school teams from around the world.

The season started when the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) organization revealed the details of this year's competition, outlining the rules for matches so that teams could outline a plan for designing, building, and programming a large-scale robot. The LGHS team had to work quickly and diligently to complete their robot in only six weeks, as league rules required them to stop building before the first competition of the season took place.

In this year's competitions, robots competed in Power Up, a game that the team blog describes as involving "two opposing alliances of three robots each competing by placing power cubes onto seesaw-like switches and a six-foot-high scale to make them tilt towards the alliance's designated side." Whichever alliance controlled the switches and scale for the longest period of time and could climb up a seven-foot rung accumulated the most points and therefore won the match.



NUTS AND BOLTS: The LGHS Robotics Team is hard at work as they tinker on their bot.

The opportunity to compete in the world championship came after the team beat over 40 other high school teams and won first place at the San Francisco Regional competition at St. Ignatius College Prep from Mar. 15-18. This momentous competition marked the team's first-ever win and granted the group a spot in Houston.

Before ending their season at the championships, team members traveled to Fresno from April 5-8 to participate in the Central Valley Regional Competition. Although the team only placed 34 out of 47, co-captain **Justin Quan** won a FIRST Dean's Finalist Award, recognizing his role as a leader within the team.

The team expected the competition and logistical costs for the trip to Houston to add up to a pricey 35,000-40,000 dollars, and therefore the students pursued several different fundraising efforts. The Department of Defense helped pay for the team's registration fees, while the local company Atlas Technology group also pitched in as a sponsor. Team members set up a GoFundMe where community members donated a total of over 5,000 dollars to go towards championship costs. The team had a successful debut in its first-ever world championship, winning six out of 10 matches and placing 31 out of 67 teams in its division.

LGHS reestablished its own robotics team in 2015 after a hiatus, and the group has flourished since then, especially because of their most recent win at Regionals. Quan reflected on the strength of the team this year, saying, "It's extraordinary that our team has improved within just three years to win a regional competition and advance to the World Championships. As we grow in number, our team structure improves so that our members learn more while having fun, ultimately contributing to a better robot and an even better team." It is without a doubt that the team will continue to foster interest among students interested in pursuing STEM and the wonders of robotics.

(Sources: Los Gatos High School Robotics, San Jose Mercury News, The Blue Alliance)