

El Gato

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL

A-Northrop

LGHS hosts first ever kickoff tailgate

by Ainsley Northrop
Editor-in-Chief

Starting the year off strong, members of LGHS Leadership hosted the school's first kickoff tailgate on Sept. 6. This student-run event preceded the first home football game of the season.

As ASB president, senior **Ryan Idemoto** played a crucial role in planning the event. He explained, "[ASB Vice President **Kiana Behnami**] and I started working on it at the end of last school year and through the summer...[Since] the school year started, it's been every single day. Even when we didn't have class, we'd still be doing something." In past years, LGHS hosted a kickoff dance, and last year, they organized the Cats Carnival, which was open to the entire Los Gatos community. Idemoto described this year's switch up: "The approach we wanted to do this year was something more enclosed to students, something more personal, something more engaging, and [something with] food and things that are free." He emphasized, "[We] want to do something for [our] students, not have the students do things for us."



TEAMWORK: Sophomores **Claire Kim** and **Silvia Miletich** make the snowcones.

Organizing the tailgate required a large and dedicated team. To prepare for the event, leadership students did everything from coordinating with food truck businesses to brainstorming carnival games. Working in conjunction with leadership advisors **Kasey Rice** and **Katie Marden**, the team managed the budget and mapped out the event, including its location. Senior **Hannah Wells** explained, "We decided on the Cat's Quad because it's kind of a central place, and it also leads into the football field." When the day of the event arrived, students spent hours setting up and working stations at the tailgate. Wells detailed, "[While] ASB [monitored], the rest of leadership [worked] the ticket stand, candy machines, popcorn machines, [and] snow cone machines. We also [handed] out wristbands and swag."

In order to boost student participation, leadership gave out free swag for the game's theme and ran various free carnival games. Idemoto added, "[An] incentive to come here [was] that this [was] the only place to get your [student section] wristband. [But, we wanted] to make this a socializing event. Somethings that's not, you know, necessarily required, but we wanted it to be fun, something that we could make a tradition."

The tailgate was a hit with LGHS students. Some student-favorite activities included the paw print airbrush tattoos, cotton candy stand, ring toss, and swag station. Junior **Marina Jackson** shared her view on the tailgate: "It's fun, and I really [enjoyed] it. I really appreciate all the people who [did] this." Another attendee, sophomore **Barrett Robinson**, deemed the tailgate "the best way" to spend time with friends. Wells concluded, "I think it [got] the whole student body really excited for the first game...with the swag, everyone was decked out and dressed accordingly for the theme so it helped the student body just come together."



SPIRITED: LGHS students pose in their blackout outfits for the football game.

Students get involved in LG Club Day

by Megan Saul
Culture Editor

On Sept. 5, Los Gatos High School held its first semester Club Day on the front lawn. During tutorial, hundreds of students gathered to join new and existing clubs related to their passions. LGHS has over 110 different clubs run by students of all grades. Whether students are interested in volunteering, making new friends, helping educate younger students, or sharing their interests with others, they are sure to find a club for them!

Club Day and all events surrounding clubs are run by leadership's Club and Tech Commission. This commission consists of freshman **Ivan Habib**, sophomore **Mehul Patel**, and junior **Dylan Wadhwa**. Before Club Day, officers attended a mandatory Club Day meeting, prepared their table, and started publicizing their club. During Club Day, leadership set up rows of tables on the front lawn. Club leaders strategically attracted new members with their unique posters and pounds of candy. Junior **Caleb Wu**, president of the Basketball Analysis Club, said, "It was a great experience promoting my club and meeting new people."



LANGUAGE LEARNERS: Interested students check out the Chinese Language Club.

Club continues to promote the goal of fostering genuine relationships between students of different grades. Another returning club is the Jewish Student Union. As co-founder of this club, senior **Ella Noy** shared, "**Omer Rabin** and I founded JSU to give a place not only for Jews at school but for everyone interested in Jewish culture. We think it's important to invite everyone to come share our roots to foster a more inclusive community at LG." Other preexisting clubs include LGHS Interact, run by junior **Chesle Bae** and junior **Riley An**, and Cats Homework Help led by senior **Claire Mayder**.

On top of previously existing clubs at LGHS, there are many new clubs this year including the Pickleball Club created by sophomore **Ryan Ho**, the Surf Riders Club started by junior **Hugo Baring**, and the Cats Fighting Domestic Violence Club founded by Bae. The Pickleball Club encourages students to meet new people and grow the pickleball community in Los Gatos. The goal of the Surf Riders Club is to protect the ocean. The Cats Fighting Domestic Violence Club is focused on raising awareness of domestic violence.

The first Club Day of the year was a success as many students joined different clubs to further their passions. If you missed the opportunity to join a club, do not worry, as most clubs are still welcoming more members. Stay tuned for next semester's Club Day!



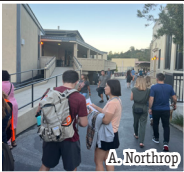
MAKING WAVES: Passionate students pose for the brand new Surf Riders Club.

There were many different clubs at this year's Club Day, some of which are returning and some of which are new. Some returning clubs include LGHS Big & Little Club run by senior **Kate Uhlfelder**. **Abby Uhlfelder**, K. Uhlfelder's older sister, created this club in 2021. LGHS Big & Little

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LGHS mourns the loss of classroom Chromebook carts

by Fuyu Banno
Graphics Editor

Students and teachers have taken the availability of Chromebooks in classrooms for granted for many years, but this year, Chromebook carts have disappeared from the Los Gatos High School classrooms.

Many teachers are upset about this change, especially those in the English department, where Chromebooks are essential for testing and other class activities. Besides covering for students who forgot their devices at home, Chromebooks provide software such as LockDown Browser and AP Classroom, making them an important part of the course curriculum. Many times, such software cannot be downloaded or managed on personal devices. For instance, LockDown Browser is an application on Chromebooks where teachers can monitor students' screens during testing. Ninth-grade English teacher **Kathleen Wehr** talked about the effects of not having this tool: "I've gone back to paper tests now, just because it's too hard. I just don't trust everybody." She continued, "To be totally honest, so much cheating is going on."

With the problematic disappearance of Chromebooks in the classroom being a problem, many wonder why the district removed them in the first place. Wehr, who has talked to the Information Technology Department (ITD) about the issue, explained how having no Chromebooks is much more complicated than it seems.



LOCKED UP: The district keeps the old classroom Chromebooks in the library.

Chromebooks have long been the go-to technology for many schools because of their affordability. Because of this, schools can buy large quantities of them to provide to more students. However, cheaper things tend to break faster, which is the case with the Chromebooks at LGHS. As a result, the district would have to keep buying hundreds of new Chromebooks every few years, which they cannot afford to do. Additionally, the waste

produced by the unusable Chromebooks makes supplying them unsustainable.

From there, one solution would be to buy more expensive Chromebooks that last much longer so the district would not have to keep replacing them. The problem that arises from buying more expensive Chromebooks is the theft of the devices. Wehr described an incident where someone found a backpack full of Chromebooks and came to return it to the school. In another case, at the beginning of the school year, someone broke into the school library and stole several Chromebooks. If those Chromebooks had been any more expensive, it would have been a bigger loss for the district.

For those who may not have known, Chromebooks are still accessible to students, just not in large quantities in the classroom. Chromebook carts are available in the school library, and many classes still have a few Chromebooks for students who may need them for the day. For those who may need them for long-term use or to run specific software, they can go to the tech department and either borrow a device or work towards another solution.

Overall, the district, teachers, and ITD are working together to try to find a way to bring Chromebooks back in the classroom while considering the cost, sustainability, and theft of the devices, devices that have a significant impact on our education.

Long anticipated Boba Guys opens for business in LG

by Aliya Koshaliev
Media Production Editor

After what felt like a lifetime of anticipation, the popular and beloved boba shop, Boba Guys, finally opened a location in Los Gatos. Previously, the nearest Boba Guys was in San Jose's Santana Row, another popular destination. Located in Old Town, the new Boba Guys is the talk of the town. As soon as the store opened during the third week of August, Los Gatos High School students flocked to get a taste of the delicious teas offered. Now, the store is regularly full of both students and Los Gatos residents.

Known for its wide range of high-quality milk teas, some of its best sellers include its tea frescas, milk teas, and beloved Strawberry Matcha Latte. Boba Guys finds pride in having healthy tea, which is free of artificial ingredients and powders. Since the first location opened in San Francisco in 2011, Boba Guys has expanded, adding locations in Los Angeles, New York, and across the San Francisco Bay, including Los Altos, Oakland, Palo Alto, and San Jose.

Senior **Boden Ruvane** is one of the many students thrilled about the opening and has quickly become a frequent patron

of the new establishment. "I'm so excited," Ruvane said, "I've been there probably 12 times." When asked why he visits Boba Guys so frequently, Ruvane explained, "I really love boba. It's my favorite thing ever, and Boba Guys, you know, [is] only eight bucks for a cup of boba. It's just a great deal. It's really delicious, and it's something that I love to do after school with my friends."

To add to the excitement, one of Los Gatos High School's students works at the Los Gatos Shop, junior **Griffin Marozas**. Marozas has been working at Boba Guys since its soft opening, which was about a month ago. Marozas says he enjoys working there because of the many benefits, describing how he feels more connected to his heritage: "Since I'm half Taiwanese, I get to be connected to my Asian culture." On top of that, Marozas went into detail about his job, saying, "I like making stuff that I enjoy, obviously, and great benefits there. Anytime you're on shift, you can make drinks for yourself, and then you get to take some home for your friends and your family. Also when people come in, especially your friends, even though they can be annoying, it's still fun to work with them and help serve them." Although the official opening date was a few weeks ago, Marozas said, "I wouldn't say it's much

of a difference from when we were soft open, but it's just enjoyable all the time when I'm working there, because I'm doing something that I love." Marozas recommends the Lychee Oolong or Strawberry Jasmine teas. With this new opening, the town of Los Gatos certainly has a new favorite boba shop. (Sources: Boba Guys, Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce)



SLURP: Boba Guys' Old Town Los Gatos storefront inveigles new customers.

Arsonist attacks Los Gatos

by Jane Wilde
Public Relations Manager

In the Santa Cruz Mountains, police are investigating a series of fires that are rumored to be the work of an arsonist. The four fires happened over the past two weeks around the Lexington Basin, a high fire danger location. All of the fires took place south of the Lexington Reservoir near Aldercroft Heights between Jul. 15 and Jul. 27. The fire department reported the first fire at 4:30 AM on Jul. 15 and three more on Jul. 20 and Jul. 27. According to the Santa Clara County Fire Department, the affected areas range from zero point one acres to over one acre. Officers have put up signs with the words



HONK HONK: Santa Clara County fire truck is on display.

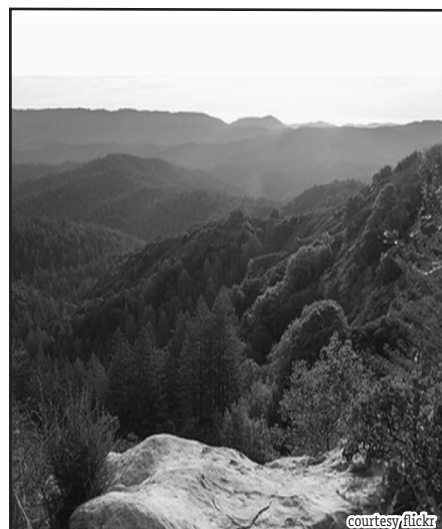
"Arson-Caused Fire" around Aldercroft Heights. The department encourages anyone with information about the fire to immediately call the arson tip line at 888-341-4401.

Although these fires have not caused any injuries, officials have made it clear that this case is a top priority for them. Santa Clara County Fire Battalion Chief Bill Murphy told Fox News, "It is very concerning and again, this is because of where they are occurring in the Lexington Basin area, [where] we have significant fire history in that area including the Lexington Basin Fire back in the 80s." In addition to understanding the urgency of this case, officials also recognize the personal impact it has on members of the community. Aldercroft Heights resident Pamela Wilde said, "It's been very concerning throughout

the neighborhood knowing there is a criminal on the loose. People are fearing losing their homes."

On Jul. 26, deputies issued an evacuation warning to residents living near the largest fire, but lifted it after about two hours. Although there hasn't been an official statement released implying the fires were arson, officials have stated their suspicion. Matt Mokhtarian, a public information officer for Santa Clara Fire, told residents, "The fires themselves, due to their close proximity to each other and closeness in timeline ... are suspicious to fire investigators and law enforcement."

Over 100 members of the affected community gathered for an informational meeting regarding the fires and any action they could take as a community to find the convict. Murphy held the meeting to inform residents that the four fires in are the only ones that have been reported to officials, although additional fires may have occurred unreported. Additionally, Mokhtarian said people in the area are likely to see greater deputy patrols from the sheriff's office since the accidents have occurred. CalFire and County fire officials are currently on the scene investigating the fires further. (Sources: CBS, Fox News, Mercury News)



WHAT A VIEW: The sun shines over the SC mountains.

Park bear wrongfully dies

by Sam Gruetter and Kloe Adams
Opinion and Editorial Editors

The majority of campgrounds are in the wilderness and house animals of all kinds. The integration between society and nature that camping allows is the main reason that all campers should familiarize themselves with appropriate safety protocols when they encounter wildlife. However, when they do not, it can have detrimental consequences for both parties involved, as was the case with Victor, a bear iconic to the Mammoth Lake campground.

Previously, many of the locals and regular campers welcomed Victor, saying they found his wandering in the campground charming and welcoming and were undisturbed by him. Victor would occasionally take campers' food but never harmed any of them. Campground host Delaney Prince described Victor's even-keeled nature, saying, "It took a lot to spook Victor." On Aug. 21, nearby campsites attracted Victor during dinnertime, when many of the residents were cooking food.

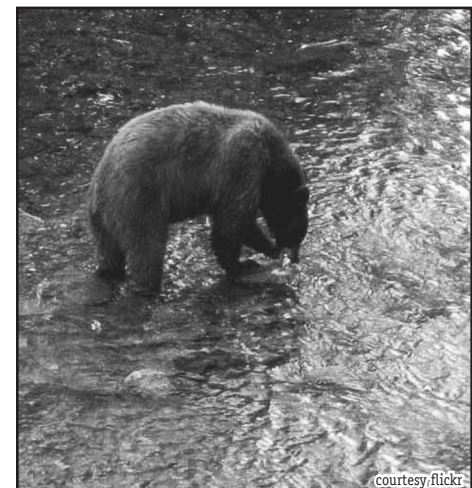


ALL NATURAL: Mammoth Lake features great scenery.

One campsite in particular was cooking steak. As Victor approached the campers, the campers neglected to follow the recommended safety protocol of putting away their food and slowly backing away from the bear. Instead, they banged pots and pans at Victor, further provoking the bear to lash out at a nearby camper, leaving a deep wound. Campers in neighboring sites recorded the

entire altercation and uploaded it to the internet, sparking debate about who was at fault: Victor or the campers. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife deemed Victor a safety threat after the camper was rushed to the hospital and decided the appropriate course of action would be to kill the bear. They released comments on the situation: "Personnel took the bear to the Bishop landfill and requested an immediate burial to prevent scavengers from accessing the carcass," according to the statement, was contaminated with euthanizing drugs.

In response to Victor's death and discarding at the landfill, the Bishop Paiute Tribe, a federally recognized tribe of Mono and Timbisha Indians, intervened and recovered the carcass to give it a proper burial. "The Bishop Paiute Tribe and its community are deeply mourning the loss of one of their sacred relatives, Victor the Pahabichi, who was tragically killed and discarded at the Bishop-Sunland Landfill," the Tribe said in a statement. "Upon learning of the incident, the Tribe swiftly acted to recover Victor and ensure he received the respect and ceremony he deserved." Tribal members gathered with their community in a tribute featuring prayers, songs, and offerings. (Sources: Sacramento Bee, SF Chronicle, Outside)



MUNCHIN': A brown bear fishes at Mammoth Park's Lake.

17-year-old teen shoots 49ers player Ricky Pearsall

by Megan Saul
Culture Editor

On Aug. 31, a 17-year-old boy shot Ricky Pearsall, the San Francisco 49ers rookie wide receiver. Pearsall was recently drafted in the first round of the 2024 NFL draft, but he was not previously playing due to preexisting injuries. He was injured during the conflict in San Francisco, which occurred while he was shopping in Union Square. The court is currently planning to charge the suspect with attempted murder, attempted second-degree robbery, and assault with a semiautomatic weapon.

The suspect fired three shots total, one hitting Pearsall's chest and one hitting his forearm. Fortunately, neither of these bullets struck vital organs, causing no long-term damage. The other bullet struck the suspect himself in the arm. An ambulance took Pearsall and the suspect to the San Francisco General Hospital immediately after the attack, and Pearsall was released just a day later. The suspect was also in stable condition as the bullet caused no real damage.

The San Francisco District Attorney's Office is still investigating this case, which will continue during the next hearing on Sept. 26. Deputy Public



PREPARING: Rookie Pearsall warms up for a big game.

Defender Robert Dunlap, the lawyer for the suspect, said, "Hopefully by then, the prosecution will have made a decision with regard of whether or not to pursue this [case] as a juvenile, and of course we're hoping that they'll see my client for the teenager that he is and allow this to proceed in that fashion." Dunlap also denied the Daily Mail's statements that the suspect brought a weapon to school during the

previous week. Although the event is still being investigated, police believe that the suspect was unaware that Pearsall was a football player and that the main motivation was to rob him, specifically attempting to take his jewelry, including his Rolex watch. Referring to the video released from this event, Dunlap said, "It was a rather extended struggle between Mr. Pearsall and my client. I think it supports what has always been my belief and theory in this case, in that this is an attempted robbery, and not an attempted murder."

During the 49ers game on Sept. 9, Pearsall was on the sidelines alongside two first responders who were at the incident, Joelle Harrell and Frank Harrell, and a surgeon, Dr. Lucy Kornblith, who aided him at the hospital. Pearsall gifted these responders a signed jersey and honored them inside the stadium before the game. John Lynch, the 49ers general manager shared, "By the grace of God, Ricky Pearsall[is] here with the team and doing really well...He just wants to express, and the team wants to express, our gratitude to a variety of people: Number one, the San Francisco Police Department. They were incredible in their response, they were incredible at the hospital." Although

Pearsall is quickly recovering from his injuries, he is expected to be out for at least the next three games. (Sources: ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, San Francisco Chronicle, The Athletic)



SNAPSHOT: Pearsall poses in a photo for the media.

Arroyo massacres animals

by Chloe Wilson
Humor Editor

On the morning of Sept. 2, 2024, authorities in Monterey County arrested a man for allegedly massacring multiple animals. The officers executed a search warrant for the suspect in Prunedale. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office said they discovered a number of dangerous weapons.



BE AWARE: Monterey County Sheriff's car keeps watch.

The bail for suspected murderer 39-year-old Vicente Joseph Arroyo was raised to one million dollars. During his trial, he pleaded not guilty to accusations of killing miniature horses, rabbits, and birds. Allegedly, the suspect murdered these animals during a three-hour period early in the morning of Sept. 2.

Investigators supposedly seized seven additional weapons in addition to multiple firearms while searching the suspect's home, and authorities yielded five long rifles, one shotgun, and a handgun as well as ammunition, according to the Sheriff's Office. Two of the weapons were un-serialized "ghost guns" which are assembled by components purchased as a kit or as separate pieces.

Arroyo made his first court appearance on Thursday, Sept. 4th, two days after his arrest. Monterey County Sheriff Commander Andres Rosas informed Associated Press on Sept. 5th that the owners of the murdered animals wish to be kept anonymous and chose not to speak with the media. 81 animals were on the owner's lot in Prunedale, but only one belonged to the farm's property owner. The other 80 were kept there by someone who rented the land to house their pets.

At approximately 3:25 AM, authorities received multiple calls reporting the sound of gunshots. After the authorities arrived, they ordered a shelter-in-place for the residents of the area. It was difficult for deputies to locate the precise location of the shots, as it was still dark, and the area had thick vegetation. After having trouble locating the crime, authorities called in a Special Weapons and Statistics Team (SWAT) for assistance, along with drones from the Gonzalez Police Department and Seaside Fire Department. The SWAT unit later discovered a crashed vehicle located in the 16000 block of Avery Lane, situated in a vineyard north of Prunedale. The SWAT unit then located Arroyo and arrested him.

Arroyo is charged with the murders of a pony named Lucky and two miniature horses named Estrella and Princessa. Additionally, he is charged with killing 14 goats, nine chickens, seven ducks, five rabbits, a guinea pig, and 33 parakeets and cockatiels. Several animals survived the gunshots but had to be euthanized because of the severity of their wounds.



CAUGHT: Police officers arrest and imprison Arroyo.

The motive of the crimes has yet to be revealed, but evidence shows that Arroyo lived in a camper next to the lot where the animals are housed. Arroyo's family is concerned for his mental health, as is his attorney. "We're dealing with an individual who has very serious charges and who does not appear to be in the right state of mind to understand the proceedings against him," Arroyo's attorney, William Pernik said. (Sources: ABC News)

Parents visit LG campus

by Sahil Muthukrishnan
Sports Editor

On Thursday, Sept. 12, Los Gatos High School held its annual back-to-school night. This tradition allows teachers to meet the families of their students and demonstrate their students' exemplary work. It also allows parents the opportunity to check in about the education of their students. This year, the school was open to parents from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.



WELCOME: Parents explore the school's large campus.

When asked why he felt that back-to-school night was important, Principal **Dave Poetzing** replied, "Back-to-school night is important because it creates a name and a face for parents and families for a teacher. They can see the classroom that their students spend the day in, and most importantly, they get the specifics on how the teacher is going to help their student master the learning required in the class." Poetzing continued, "I really like that parents and families walk through your daily schedule...I like the idea that they are walking the pathways of their students." During the event, Poetzing went from department to department, being present in as many ways possible.

When prompted about the importance of back-to-school night, ninth-grade English teacher **Kathleen Wehr** explained, "It's important to connect with parents right at the beginning of the year so they know the expectations for their children." She continued, "When I went through it as a parent, it was...interesting to see the style

of the teacher...because I have two very different sons, one need[ed] the teacher...who was going to be very entertaining, engaging, constantly keeping them on their toes, and the other one did not... getting to know the teacher's personality is the most important aspect of back-to-school night." Wehr described her back-to-school night routines: "The way I approach it is, if I were sitting in the seats, what would I want to know for my own kids if they were in this class? How could I help at home? I think that's probably the most important thing."



IMPROMPTU ZUMBA: El Gato parents dance together.

Kerry Keplinger-Northern, a math teacher with 16 years of experience shared, "I loved going to back-to-school nights as a parent [and] going in my kids' classrooms, talking to their teacher, [and] looking around at the room. You don't really get a chance to do that without back-to-school night. So I just think it's a good chance for parents to see what their kids do all day...I think community is really important. So building that community [is important]."



HELPERS: Students assist parents in finding classes.

News-in-Brief: State Senate passes new bill and more

Car crash kills mother and son: On Aug. 26, Duncan Park McQuarrie, a 39-year-old man from Orlando, Florida killed two people. McQuarrie was driving under the influence on the wrong side of Highway 85 and crashed into the Tesla of 46-year-old Rebecca Olsen and her 14-year-old son, Charlie, killing them. The San Jose Police Department is charging McQuarrie for two counts of murder and he will be held without bail. District Attorney Jeff Rosen expressed his sympathy for the family, stating, "To imagine the senselessness of this crime, the recklessness of it, and the tremendously horrible impact that it's had on this family is, I think, what's moved many of us about this particular case." (Sources: NBC, CBS, The Mercury News)

- **Siyona Singhal**, News Editor

Boy attacked by mountain lion: On Labor Day, Sept. 2, a picnic turned to horror in Malibu Creek State Park when a mountain lion attacked a five-year-old boy. This incident happened while the young boy and other children were playing near the picnic table. The lion tried to drag him into the woods, which prompted nearby relatives to rescue him. An adult from the table jumped up and charged at the mountain lion to scare it away. The mountain lion eventually released the boy,

leaving him with both a bite and a scratch wound. This happened at 4:21 PM in a park 30 miles south of downtown Los Angeles. According to USA Today, the boy received "non-life-threatening" but significant wounds, and emergency services airlifted him to the nearby hospital. (Sources: ABC News, NBC, USA Today)

- **Nelson Kramer**, Humor Editor

CA passes new speeding bill: The California State Senate and Assembly recently passed a new bill to place warning alert systems in passenger vehicles that go ten miles over the speed limit. If Governor Gavin Newsom passes this legislation, the government will instate it in 2030. The purpose of this new restriction is to limit deaths and injuries caused by speeding in California. Although this technology would help drivers follow the speed limit, some argue that this law would be harmful as it restricts the freedom of the driver and causes an alert signal that might distract drivers from focusing on the road. Although this technology already exists and is used by the European Union, if passed, it will be the first of its kind in the United States. (Sources: LA Times, KTLA 5)

- **Megan Saul**, Culture Editor



PUBLIC STATEMENT: Newsom speaks to attendees at a conference in SF.

- Presidential debate highlights policies
- Congo prisoners escape facility

NATIONAL

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Louisiana librarian protests the nationwide book bannings

by Kloe Adams
Editorial Editor

Amanda Jones, a middle school librarian in Watson, Louisiana, faced a flood of online threats and harassment beginning in the summer of 2022. During that summer, Jones was one of about 20 people to speak out against book banning during a July meeting at her local public library. Commenters on social media accused her of promoting pornography in children's literature. Michael Lunsford, the executive director of citizens for New Louisiana, stated that his organization focused on Jones because she was against measures that would require libraries to remove material with sexual content from the children's and young adult sections. In result, Jones filed a defamation lawsuit against Lunsford in the fall of 2022; however, the lawsuit was dismissed less than a month later. The defendants argued that Lunsford was expressing his opinions online and not defaming Jones, and therefore there was no law broken. Jones followed up the rejection of her lawsuit by asking the Louisiana Supreme Court to review the decision. Jones's lawsuit is still under review.

Jones has paid over 60 thousand dollars in legal fees with the help of a GoFundMe campaign. "Before all this, I was just a school librarian, but they wanted to silence me, so I thought I

would do the exact opposite and become an activist," Jones said during a phone interview. "What we're seeing now is full-scale attacks on people's characters if they stand up for books. The hate level and the vitriol is unreal to me."

In addition to speaking out through local library meetings, Jones co-founded Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship, an organization that goes against legislation that would place new restrictions at libraries. Last month, Jones also published her memoir "That Librarian" which highlights the threat of censorship and librarian pressure.

In 2023, the American Library Association found 4,240 book titles targeted for censorship as well as 1,247 demands to censor library books, materials, and resources. Of these books, 47 percent included titles representing the LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities. Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the library association's Office for Intellectual Freedom commented, "What we're seeing is absolute evidence that there is actually an organized effort to remove particular books from both school libraries and public libraries. They are targeting the same titles with the same tactics, these mass challenges." Groups such as Moms for Liberty and Utah Parents United encourage members to file complaints about books they deem inappropriate.

These organizations also lobby for legislation that regulates the content of library collections.

Despite the backlash, Jones has also been hearing from other librarians from around the country, some who are grateful she has taken a stand on such a controversial issue, and are now sharing the harassment that they, too, experience for opposing these book bans.

(Sources: American Library Association, NY Times)



SPEAKING UP: Amanda Jones educates about book bannings at conference.

Starliner voyage malfunctions

by Julia Valencia
People Editor

What was meant to be a routine International Space Station (ISS) round trip, predicted to last only a little over a week, took an unprecedented turn for astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, who have been stuck at the ISS for the last three months.

The Boeing Starliner that carried Wilmore and Williams to space on Jun. 5 began malfunctioning as they approached their destination, the ISS. According to Boeing Co, the aerospace company responsible for creating the ship, "Five of Starliner's reaction control system thrusters — which are used to move the capsule around in orbit — malfunctioned as it was approaching the International Space Station. Helium has also been leaking in the spacecraft's propulsion system."



INCOMING ARRIVAL: The Starliner ship approaches the ISS.

The Starliner and its passengers were doing well at the time of landing at the ISS but on Sep. 6, the ship returned back to Earth carrying no passengers. When asked why the ship returned empty, the manager of NASA's commercial crew program, Steve Stich, remarked, "There was just too much uncertainty in the prediction of the thrusters. If we had a model, I think we would have taken a different course of action."

Even though Wilmore and Williams are safe and sound on the ISS, their unintentional, prolonged stay just got a little bit longer. The astronauts' visit in space now extends until February of 2025. They will catch a ride home with SpaceX's Crew-9 who cut their ship's staff from four to two so that they will be able to accommodate the Starliner hitchhikers.

The factors that led to NASA's decision to send the astronauts back with a SpaceX vessel rather than a Boeing one boils down to what is best for the overall well-being of the crew. Currently, that option is SpaceX. Even though the two companies are rivals in the aerospace industry, Boeing commented, "We continue to focus, first and foremost, on the safety of the crew and spacecraft."

Wilmore and Williams will remain on the ISS for the foreseeable future, arriving back home to Earth just in time for the beginning of Spring, 2025. (Sources: BBC, CNN, NBC, NY Times)



TAKE OFF: Starliner flight crew prepares for the flight departure.

The ship's main computer selected five of the twenty-eight thrusters to turn off after identifying that they were faulty due to a detected "degraded thrust" in the machines. Boeing engineers addressed the helium leak before the takeoff and confirmed it as a minor issue. However, it began to leak more than anticipated. The engineers at Boeing attributed the leakage to a series of broken down seals on the Starliner caused by the long exposure to propellant vapor.

Trump visits military graves

by Aliya Koshaliev
Media Production Editor

On Aug. 26, two members of former President Donald Trump's campaign team were involved in verbal and physical altercations with an official at Arlington National Cemetery. The Arlington employee who filed the incident report to the military authorities at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall chose to remain anonymous, saying she feared Trump's supporters would harm her for the incident. The Army considers this matter "closed" since the employee decided not to press charges. Trump and his campaign staff were attending a wreath-laying ceremony honoring 13 US military service members who lost their lives at the Abbey Gate bombing in Afghanistan's Kabul Airport on Aug 26, 2021. Allegedly, the altercation between Trump and the military official stemmed from Trump's campaign team filming videos at the site. A ceremony employee tried to stop Trump's team from filming the area, and in retaliation, the campaign staff pushed the official aside, thus beginning the altercation.

Trump posted a statement to Truth Social, saying the families of the fallen soldiers had given Trump their approval to attend the emotional military ceremony. "We had given our approval for President Trump's official videographer and photographer to attend the event, ensuring these sacred moments of remembrance were respectfully captured, so we can cherish these memories forever," the statement read.

However, an Arlington official released a statement on Aug 29, saying, "Participants in the August 26th ceremony and the subsequent Section 60 visit were made aware of federal laws, Army regulations, and DoD policies, which clearly prohibit political activities on cemetery grounds. An ANC employee who attempted to ensure adherence to these rules was abruptly pushed aside." Section 60, the site of the altercation, is an area reserved for

soldiers who died serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. The family of Master Sergeant Andrew Marckesano, a Green Beret who committed suicide after serving eight combat tours and is buried in Arlington, came forward and claimed Trump's campaign team filmed his gravesite without asking them. Michelle Marckesano, his sister, released a statement, saying, "We fully support Staff Sergeant Darin Hoover's family and the other families in their quest for answers and accountability regarding the Afghanistan withdrawal and the tragedy at Abbey Gate. However, according to our conversation with Arlington National Cemetery, the Trump campaign staffers did not adhere to the rules that were set in place for this visit to Staff Sergeant Hoover's gravesite in Section 60, which lies directly next to my brother's grave." The area also prohibits photography for his campaign.

The Army stays away from highly political issues, making their statement a rare rebuke. Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh issued a statement, vocalizing, "The Defense Department is aware of the statement that the Army issued, and we support what the Army said." (Sources: CNN, NPR, NY Times, The Washington Post)



IN MOURNING: Trump and his wife pay their respects.

Recent presidential debate highlights juxtaposing campaigns

by Sahil Muthukrishnan
Sports Editor

On Sept. 10, Vice President and Democratic Presidential nominee Kamala Harris and Former President and Republican nominee Donald Trump participated in this year's first presidential debate after Pres-



FIGHTING BACK: Harris shuts down false statements about her campaign.

ident Joe Biden stepped out of the race.

ABC News hosted and moderated the debate with anchors David Muir and Linsey Davis at the Philadelphia National Constitution Center. Over 67 million people viewed the long-awaited event nationwide.

After the opening handshake, the candidates met onstage and took their podiums. The debate moderators questioned the candidates about their policies and relevant past actions as the debate began. For each question, a candidate spoke for up to two minutes. After a response, the other candidate had a two-minute opportunity to refute whatever claims the first candidate made. Former President Trump initially relied heavily on linking the vice president to the current president: "She copied Biden's plan...She is Biden. She's trying to get away from Biden." Harris denied this claim: "I am not Joe Biden, and I am certainly not Donald Trump." Vice President Harris frequently taunted former President Trump into talking about inconsequential topics such as rally sizes: "And what you will...notice is that people start leaving [Trump's] rallies early out of exhaustion and boredom." This jab from Harris prompted the former president to use a minute and a half of his response time to defend the size of his rallies. After this comment, the former President seemed to lose his footing.

Notably, the moderators fact-checked Trump 33 times and Harris only once during the entire debate. These fact checks came during issues such as violent crime, immigration, abortion, healthcare, and

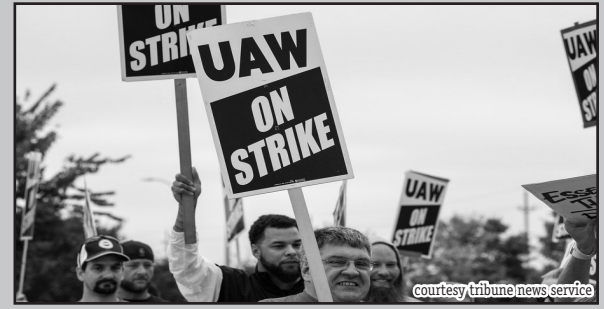
more. Of the immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, Trump claimed: "They're eating the dogs...They're eating the cats. They're eating...the pets of the people that live there." The moderators fact-checked this claim, as there is no current evidence of that happening. Vice President Harris then repeatedly linked the former president to dictators such as Putin, saying, "It is well known that he admires dictators, wants to be a dictator...he said of Putin that he can do whatever the hell he wants and go into Ukraine...It is well known he exchanged love letters with Kim Jong Un. And it is absolutely well known that these dictators and autocrats are rooting for you to be president again...they can manipulate you with flattery and favors." Former President Trump fired back, "She's the one that caused it, that's weak on national security by allowing every nation last month for the year, 168 different countries sending people into our country...Putin endorsed her last week. Said I hope she wins. And I think he meant it. Because what he's gotten away with is absolutely incredible."

After additional back and forth, both candidates gave their closing statements. Harris focused on assuring the American people that the future under her leadership would be bright, while Trump claimed that Harris had no meaningful plans for the future and that her inaction in the past proved that she would not make meaningful change. Both candidates made strong statements, ensuring the race will be competitive this year.

UAW workers end their strike at Cornell University

by Annabelle Pan
Graphics Editor

On Sept. 3, Cornell University service and maintenance workers ended their strike and returned to their jobs. United Auto Workers (UAW) union members began their strike on Aug. 18, and the strike lasted a total of fifteen days, becoming the longest strike in Cornell's history. The strike took place the day before students began moving onto the campus and through the first week of school, which meant the students had to start the school year with suboptimal food and minimal custodial service. During the strike, the school served box lunches to students and asked staff to bring their lunches because the lack of workers strained the eateries. However, many workers felt it was necessary to strike at the beginning of the school year so Cornell would take them seriously and consider their requests.



STRIKE FOR RIGHTS: UAW workers protest on Cornell's campus.

The union's previous contract expired in June, and negotiations between the union and Cornell had been ongoing for months. The international and regional UAW went to Cornell to support the workers during the negotiations. Cornell and the union came to a tentative agreement, which was given to UAW Local 2300 — that represents around one thousand two hundred custodians, food service workers, and other workers at Cornell — and, on Labor Day weekend, the workers voted to either accept or reject the terms of the proposed agreement. 77 percent of the members voted to accept the agreement, and a new labor contract was ratified on Sept. 3.

In the new contract, Cornell leadership met more than 40 demands from the union, which include a 21-24 percent wage increase on average for the four years that the agreement lasts. According to the UAW, workers with the lowest pay grades in the bargaining unit will have significant pay raises within the first two years. Cornell also agreed to another major demand from the UAW: removing the tier system from the labor contract. The tier system allowed employees with the same job to have different wages because workers who started before the cutoff date, which was Jun. 30, 1997, were paid more than those who started after. Cornell intended this system to recognize senior employees with a pay increase, but the system divided workers. The contract also has a COLA, or cost-of-living adjustment, which increases wages depending on inflation. The COLA also gives workers more flexibility for health and personal time, more holidays, more vacation benefits, and greater access to Cornell-provided clothing and shoe allowances.

In a message sent out to the Cornell community on Cornell's website and via email, Cornell leadership informed students and families of details about the strike and the agreement. In the message, Cornell

stated that they respect the right of UAW-represented workers to strike and also the rights of those who returned or did not strike. They ended the message by thanking students and parents for their patience, the bargaining team for their hard work, and the workers for bringing both parties together to reach this important agreement.

(Sources: Cornell University, WKSG, The Ithaca Voice)



TOWERING OVER: Cornell University's campus sits in Ithaca, NY.

Teen shooter kills in Georgia

by Nelson Kramer
Humor Editor

On Sept. 4, 14-year-old Colt Gray left his second-period math class around 9:45 am at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia. Gray returned to campus around 10:20 am, and was reportedly seen with an AR-15 style semi-automatic assault rifle at the same time. A slow morning suddenly turned into a living nightmare as Gray shot and killed two students and two staff, as well as injuring thirteen others.



DON'T ENTER: Police block off Apalachee campus.

The school went into immediate lockdown, and teachers across campus activated panic buttons, notifying the police soon after. "The screen ... said 'hard lockdown' in big red words, and the top light started flashing," explained Layla Ferrell, a junior at Apalachee High School. Due to the proximity to the start of the school year, many thought it was a drill. The school needed to carry out at least one active shooter drill by Oct. 1, but for many, the sounds of gunshots were all too real, especially in J Hall, where the shooting occurred.

Gray surrendered himself to the police and was arrested only a few minutes after he

began shooting. During his first court appearance two days after the shooting, the judge charged him with four counts of murder and decided to try him as an adult. Mr. Gray, the father of Colt Gray, appeared in court on the morning of Sept. 6, separate from his son. The judge announced that he will charge Mr. Gray with four counts of involuntary manslaughter and two counts of second-degree. Georgia police released a statement about the 13 injured, saying that multiple of the victims are on track to make a full recovery.

On the morning of the shooting, Marcee Gray, Colt's mother, received a text from him reading, "I'm sorry, mom." When Ms. Gray called the school, a counselor told her that she received an email from one of Colt's teachers who was worried about him, as Colt had been interrupting the class by making references to a school shooting. Ms. Gray later said in a text message to her sister: "I don't know what took them so long." Ms. Gray reportedly hasn't seen her son since the shooting and is extremely distraught about the events.

As the investigation continues, authorities figured out that there were warning signs leading up to the catastrophic shooting. The school received an anonymous call from someone who said there would be school shootings at five different schools that same day. Apalachee High School would be the first on the list. No other school shootings have happened in the area since.

Not everything about this case is known yet. Local Georgia law enforcement have begun an investigation to fill in the gaps. Along with the investigation and the recent arraignment shown in court, this case will eventually go to trial, but there is no court date set at this point. (Sources: ABC, AP News, CBS, CNN, NY Times, The Current, WABE)

The Unite Here union strikes

by Siyona Singhal
News Editor

Over Labor Day weekend, more than ten thousand hotel workers across the U.S. went on strike. These workers included front desk staff, housekeepers, and servers, all joined for one cause: justice. The COVID-19 pandemic forced hotels to cut back on services, decreasing pay for workers while increasing their workload. Employees lost money due to reduced hours. Furthermore, workers cited the reasoning for their strike, explaining that their income is not enough to support the cost of living.

Workers banded together, creating the Unite Here union. With all the workers combined, the strike spans over nine U.S. cities and 25 hotels. Gwen Mills, the union's international president, said in a statement, "Workers aren't making enough to support their families, and many can no longer afford to live in the cities that they welcome guests to. We won't accept a 'new normal' where hotel companies profit by cutting their offerings to guests and abandoning their commitments to workers." Unite Here wants services restored, such as daily room cleaning. According to the union, not having daily room cleaning services reduces the number of housekeeping jobs by 39 percent.

They planned the strike to last only three days. However, 700 employees in San Diego, California, will stay on strike for the foreseeable future until they reach a consensus. This group of protesters worked at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. Due to the strike, the hotel is receiving multiple complaints about reduced services and noisy picket lines, which are boundaries established by workers. However, the workers refuse to give up until a fair contract is drawn up.

The hotel is seeking temporary replacement workers, advertising 26 dollars per hour for full-time housekeepers, 2 dollars more than the average pay for the job.



PROTESTING: Hotel workers strike over the Labor Day.

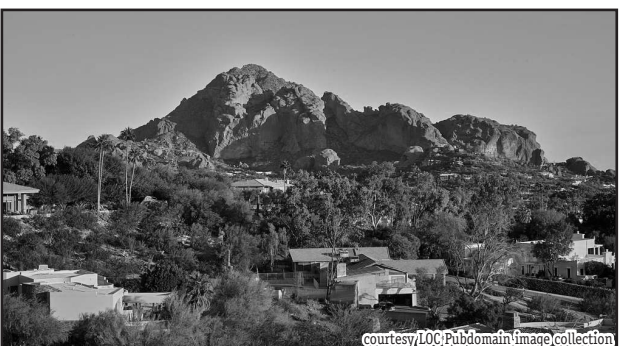
In spite of this, 840 workers were unable to stay on strike and returned to work on Sept. 2. Jerome Roberts, a dishwasher at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor, said, "I walked out today because we just cannot keep working paycheck to paycheck, not able to pay our bills...Going on strike is hard, but not nearly as hard as trying to get by on what we are getting paid." Like Roberts, employees who returned to work did so unwillingly.

The union is using similar strategies to the strike that took place during the Fourth of July Weekend in 2023. The union hopes to recreate the success they had from past strikes and earn fairness and respect from the hotels at which they work. (Sources: CNN, Fox, NY Times)

Phoenix residents experience 100th day of extreme heat

by Kayla Mitchell
Media Production Editor

Phoenix, Arizona has always been one of the hottest cities in the United States. Its sunny, dry weather has made the city a popular tourist destination. Unfortunately, for residents of Phoenix, their city's heat has started to make headlines for all the wrong reasons. This past summer, Phoenix's extreme sun shattered multiple heat records that people used to believe to be untouchable.



BLISTERING HEAT: Camelback mountain overlooks town in Phoenix.

Phoenix gained the attention of the nation when, on Sept. 3, it experienced its 100th straight day of heat over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The streak began on May 26, when the temperature first reached a high of 102 degrees. Phoenix's previous record was set in 1993 when temperatures reached highs of over 100 degrees for 76 days straight, a number that now seems small in comparison to the ever-growing 2024 streak. Since hitting the 100th day of extreme heat, the streak has continued with no relief. Lead meteorologist Mark O'Malley from the National Weather Service said that Sept. 15 will be Phoenix's first chance since May to experience weather under the 100-degree mark. He stated, "If it drops below that, we will break the 100-degree streak. But if it doesn't drop below that, we don't know when we will get the next chance."

The summer of 2024 has officially been named the hottest summer in Phoenix's history. In 2023, Phoenix set a record with an average temperature of 97 degrees during the summer. This year, Phoenix set another new record with an average summer temperature of 99 degrees. On Sept. 5, 2024, Phoenix broke another record for the most consecutive days above 110 degrees. On that day, Phoenix experienced its 56th consecutive day where highs reached over 110, surpassing the previous record of 55 consecutive days set in 2023.

Phoenix's increasingly extreme summer heat may make the city a less desirable destination in the future. On Jul. 24, CNN reported that

so far this year, the summer heat had already killed 27 people in Maricopa County, home to Phoenix, and is suspected as the cause of an additional 396 other deaths. Arizona's average annual temperatures could possibly increase another three degrees in the next twenty years. Meteorologists predict that Arizona will see a two-degree increase in average summer temperatures alongside a 20 percent increase in days above 95 degrees. These projected increases indicate that the records set by Phoenix this summer might not take long to break and that residents will endure increasingly dangerous levels of heat in the future. (Sources: CNN, azcentral, USA Today)



SUNSHINE: The sun rises during the summer in Phoenix, Arizona.

- Hvaldimir is found off Norway coast
- Israel and Hamas conflict continues

WORLD

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Russian spy whale Hvaldimir found dead in Norway sea

by Julia Valencia
People Editor

The alleged Russian spy and beloved Beluga whale, Hvaldimir, was found dead floating near the coastal Southwestern waters of Norway on Sept. 1. He was quickly brought into the harbor of the Norwegian town of Stavanger for inspection and an investigation into the cause of his death.

First spotted in April of 2019 off the coast of Northern Norway, Hvaldimir was seen equipped with what looked to be a camera harness on his back. Upon closer inspection, the fishermen observed the printed words "Equipment St. Petersburg" on the harness.



DINNER TIME: Boater feeds Beluga whale Hvaldimir fresh seafood.

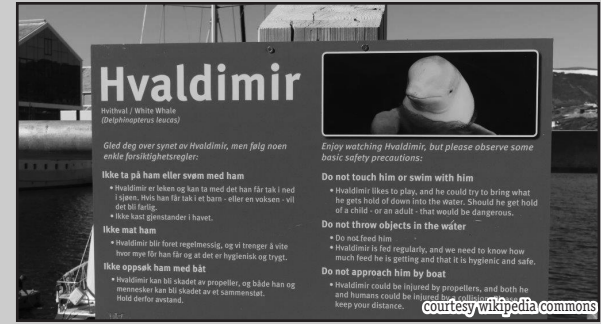
This began local speculation of Hvaldimir's being a Russian spy resource who made an escape. Russia has not made a comment about the whale throughout the five years' spotlight on Hvaldimir.

After making his first appearance, Hvaldimir was often spotted hanging around Hammerfest, Norway. Locals described Hvaldimir as "highly sociable" and having "interactive behavior." The Beluga whale's name is a combination of the Norwegian word for whale, "Hval" plus the Russian President's first name, "Vladimir."

People around the world were shocked to hear of his death so soon. Almost immediately after, animal rights groups Noah and One Whale came forward claiming that Hvaldimir was shot to death.

Though the idea of his death being in relation to gunshots had become the public's general consensus, the Norwegian police claimed otherwise after Hvaldimir's autopsy. All of the presumed gun wounds turned out to be shallow cuts that were not serious enough to warrant death for the whale. Norwegian police representative Preede Revheim, director of the North Sea and Environment sector in Southwestern Norway, commented in an interview: "There is nothing in the investigations that has been carried out to establish that it is human activity that has directly led to Hvaldimir's death."

Though his external wounds proved unproblematic, his internal injuries told a very different story. After his cause of death being linked



INFORMATION BOARD: A sign for people to read about Hvaldimir.

to bullet wounds was refuted, further inspection of Hvaldimir's body revealed that a one-inch thick and 14-inch-long stick was lodged in his mouth. Along with this, his stomach was found empty and his organs were destroyed, already broken down. His death has been ruled an accident. Hvaldimir was estimated to be 15 to 20 years old when he died, while the average beluga whale's life span ranges anywhere from 40 to 70 years. (Sources: BBC, CBS, NBC)

Conflict grows by South China

by Annabelle Pan
Graphics Editor

China and the Philippines both stake their claim on islands and zones in the South China Sea, and their contention over the rightful ownership of the zones often leads to heated disputes. Over the years, their dispute has escalated into physical violence, including vessel collisions and fights. The Sabina Shoal and the Second Thomas Shoal are islands in the Spratly Islands archipelago, rich in oil and gas. China claims the Sabina Shoal as Xianbin Jia, and the Philippines claim it as Escoda Shoal. The Sabina Shoal is about 86 miles away from the Philippines coast and 725 miles from China's coast.

On Aug. 19, 2024, multiple Chinese and Philippine vessels collided near the Sabina Shoal. The Chinese claim that the Philippine ship "deliberately collided" into the Chinese ships, while the Philippines claim the Chinese vessels conducted "aggressive maneuvers," causing the collision. However, this was not the first collision between the two countries. In June of this year, there was a confrontation between the Chinese Coast Guard and Philippine ships near the Second Thomas Shoal.

On Aug. 25, another round of collisions occurred, and, once again, both sides blamed each other. The following day, the two countries had another confrontation. The Philippines claimed that 40 Chinese ships prevented their two supply boats from restocking the Teresa Magbuana, a Philippine Coast Guard ship. China argued that it acted lawfully and its "maneuvers on the spot were professional and appropriate." Eventually, the Teresa Magbuana received its supplies via helicopter.

Another major point of conflict between China and the Philippines is a decrepit World War II era ship sent by the Philippines in 1999 to the Second Thomas Shoal. The Philippines sends

supplies and food via ships to several soldiers still stationed there. China believes that, since the ship has been there for 25 years, the Philippines are attempting to pick a fight or take over. In multiple confrontations, China used powerful water cannons and lasers on Philippine ships. The Filipinos also accuse the Chinese of actually boarding the boat, causing more fighting, stealing, and puncturing inflatable vessels. The Philippines recently accused the Chinese Coast Guards of climbing onto the Filipino ship and threatening the soldiers with sharp weapons.

Even though both stand firm on their claims of the Spratly Islands, China and the Philippines are making efforts to de-escalate the conflicts at sea. China let the Philippines restock their outpost in the Second Thomas Shoal, and both are trying to reach a compromise.

(Sources: BBC, Council on Foreign Relations, VOA News)



BOATS BATTLE: Ships crash near the South Chinese coast.

Congo inmates escape prison

by Britt Melinauskas
Sports Editor

On Tuesday, Sept. 2, 129 inmates attempted an escape from the largest prison in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). According to CNN, the Makala Central Prison, located in the capital, Kinshasa, has encountered "a series of violent attacks on jails in the central African nation" from prisoners and outside parties attempting to release inmates.

The escalation of crime in Makala Central Prison reinforced security against rebellious acts within the cells and other suspicious behavior or threats to the prison since the most recent prison break greatly damaged the facility and led to deaths and injury to staff and inmates. In a prior 2017 breakout, 50 inmates and a handful of religious individuals held in Makala Central Prison escaped and later planned an invasion associated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, freeing over one thousand inmates and assassinating security personnel in 2020. Furthermore, one of the nation's oldest prisons, Matadi, witnessed 189 prisoners escape, following 200 more escaping and stealing weaponry in 2022.

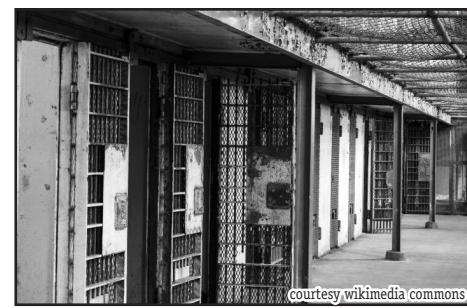
In a video statement from Reuters, the interior minister of the DRC, Jacquemain Shabani Lukoo, announced, "The provisional human toll stands at 129 dead including 24 by gunshot after warning. The others died by jostling, suffocation, women raped, [with] 59 people [who] were receiving medical care." Justice Minister Constant Mutamba viewed the jailbreak as a pre-meditated act of sabotage.

A resident in the local city expressed his view on the mass breakout, explaining that "gunfire rang out for several hours during the incident and [I] later saw security vehicles removing bodies from the scene."

The attempted prison break resulted in widespread destruction to the architecture—including excessive fire damage to the infirmary, food stations, registry, and offices, and additional damage to the walls surrounding the prison with removed bricks and bullet debris.

The facility is supposed to hold up to 1,500 individuals. However, the Makala prison is over its capacity of detainees, where 12,000 convicts are currently held. As CNN noted, "[Justice Minister Constant Mutamba] barred public prosecutors from transferring any inmates to Makala prison 'until further notice' as part of a series of measures he announced to tackle overcrowding at the country's prisons."

The Makala Central Prison break raised many questions about the facility structures and safety procedures. Accompanying the questions about the safety of the facility and security personnel, there is a high demand for "an independent and rapid investigation to shed light on these tragic events and establish responsibilities." The transparent process highlights the fatalities and seeks to implement procedures to prevent further breakouts. (Sources: CNN, Reuters)



JAIL BREAK: Prisoners break out at Makala Central.

Israel and Hamas fail to reach suggested ceasefire treaty

by Sam Gruetter
Opinion Editor

On Oct. 7, 2023, members of the Palestine-based group Hamas kidnapped over 200 hostages from inside Israel, including five attendees from the Re'im music festival and one from a nearby farming community. Hamas took the hostages to gain leverage with Israel, initiating negotiations for the hostages and a free Palestinian state. In November 2023, Israel and Hamas reached their first cease fire agreement where, for four days, Israel exchanged 150 Palestinian prisoners for 50 Israeli hostages. Among this group were supposed to be Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Eden Yerushalmi, and Carmel Gat; however, their release was delayed. These hostages were a part of the six hostages Hamas killed in a system of underground tunnels on Sunday, Sept. 29.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) found and identified the bodies of the deceased in a tunnel under Rafah, an incident to which President Biden responded saying, "I am devastated and outraged." Among the deceased is Israeli-American Hersh Goldberg-Polin, who was 23 years old at the time of his death. His autopsy reports that Hamas members shot him at close range and that he most likely died one to two days before Israeli military forces recovered his body in the systems of underground tunnels. Various other autopsy reports assume Hamas killed the other hostages in a similar manner. The deceased hostages are Eden Yerushalmi (24), Carmel Gat (40), Alexander Lobanov (32), Almog Sarusi (27), Hersh Goldberg-Polin (23), and Master Sgt. Ori Danino (25).

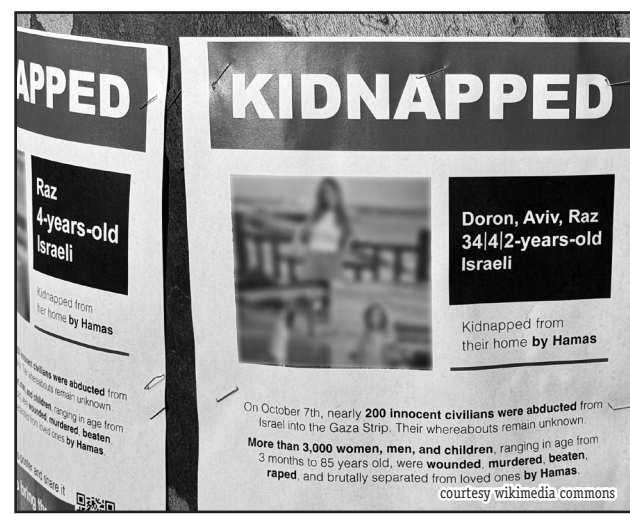
It seems there are no alternative ways to bring the remaining hostages home other than through negotiations, as Hamas has threatened to kill the remaining 97 hostages if Israel attempts to forcefully rescue them. Additionally, Hamas has blamed the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, for the deaths of the six hostages, arguing that Netanyahu is unnecessarily prolonging the war and postponing the process of reaching a permanent ceasefire. One of the primary obstacles that is hindering plans for a ceasefire is Israel's occupation of the Philadelphia corridor, located on the Egypt and Gaza border. In a September press conference Netanyahu announced his refusal to leave the corridor, to which Hamas responded that they would refuse any deals with Israel until Israeli military forces withdrew from the corridor.

After the recovery of the hostages' remains, citizens from around the world began protesting and hosting demonstrations, urging Israel

and Palestine to reach a ceasefire agreement and send the remaining hostages home. Shortly after the hostages' deaths, Hamas released a video of Eden Yerushalmi before her death, where she implores the people of Israel to reach a cease-fire agreement. This sentiment is felt by many groups who are advocating for a ceasefire around the world. (Sources:ABC, CNN, NBC, Wikipedia)



PRAYERS: A board displays the faces of many innocent Israeli hostages.



POSTING HOPE: Israeli people plea for safety of the innocent hostages.

EDITORIAL

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- El Gato explains that teachers should dictate phone usage in class

El Gato argues importance of cell phone balance

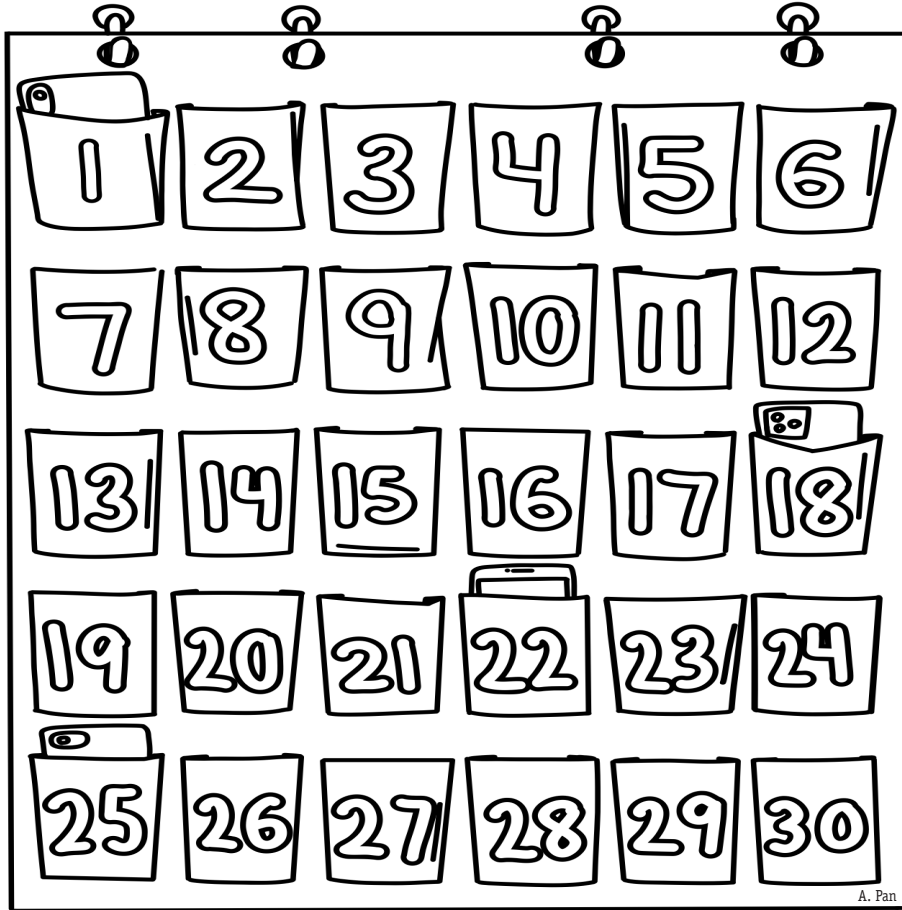
by Emery Curtis, Jordan Park and Sam Gruetter

Graphics, Sports, and Opinion Editors

Recently, cell phones have become a major topic of conversation within school districts, notably their negative effect on learning, causing controversy among students, parents, and teachers nationwide. California Governor Gavin Newsom took a stance on the topic by encouraging school districts to restrict phone usage in the upcoming school year. Schools across the country have started adopting phone policies ranging from light restrictions to mandatory confiscation of cell phones and limited access throughout the school day. According to many people who support phone use in schools, prohibiting students from using their phones by taking them away may seem unnecessary and restrictive. However, opponents argue that cell phones are a significant distraction requiring limitations. The government should not employ schoolwide cell phone restrictions; instead, it should be left to each teacher's discretion to determine their cell phone policy.

Students need to have self-control and learn how to regulate their phone usage. "I just feel like taking a student's phone away is not teaching them any regulation, and that is a necessary skill, and it's going to be thrust upon them as soon as they're not in high school," LGHS sophomore English teacher **Blaine Bowman** shared. He added, "There is no job or college that is going to take your phone away so you can focus or put your phone in [a] phone jail." Aside from the occasional breach of his rules, his lenient cell phone policy has not posed an issue. Bowman trusts his students to regulate their phone usage and stay off their phones for the duration of class. He also offered an intriguing perspective, stating how the availability of the internet and the vast sources of entertainment cell phones provide make him "try a little harder to find new and innovative ways to engage [students] so they are paying attention and then to create those spaces where they can use their phone for educational purposes."

LGHS AP Language and Composition teacher **Kristen Austin** approaches the topic of phone usage differently from Bowman, detailing how her class culture thrives because of limited



phone usage, an ability she would not have if phone usage was controlled schoolwide. Austin explains, "I think if we have them in the phone spa, and they silence them in advance, we're going to be safe if there is an intruder. The phones are here if we need to check text messages. I taught for many years prior to the existence of phones. I went to school, and we didn't have phones. When there was an emergency, you would have a parent call the office, and they would send somebody up to pull you out of class if you needed it, and it was never a problem." Austin claims that cell phones can be major distractions. Schools nationwide recorded decreased student engagement, productivity, and test scores due to cell phones' rapidly increasing usage. To combat this in her classroom, Austin instituted the "phone spa." Students simply

place their phones in the spa at the beginning of class and can retrieve them once the bell rings. She reported nothing but positive results. She estimates that the spa has a "90 percent success rate with my blended 11th-grade and 12th-grade creative writing elective six-period class; nobody has complained at all." She expanded on her policy by saying she has seen a significant increase in student engagement and productivity. She went as far as to say that eliminating this distraction has created "a healthier social mindset" within her students. Junior **Hanna Behnami** described her experience with Austin's phone policy saying, "I enjoy it because it gives the class an opportunity to just put their phones down and talk to one another. I think it's essential in the class as a means to focus, especially since we can get easily distracted. I like being able

to disconnect from my phone during class." Behnami's appreciation of the phone policy is a testament to the fact that teachers know what is best for their class and their students, and employing general phone policies would have a negative impact on students' learning.

The phone spa was not always a staple in Austin's classroom but a more recent addition due to the pandemic. "I've taught AP now for 15 years out of my 25, and since the pandemic, the scores started to drop," Austin revealed when explaining how the COVID-19 pandemic affected her students' reading and literacy skills. She added, "They were always on a steady climb, and then they [dropped], and I think it absolutely has to do with [COVID-19] because it used to be when you had time...you would pick up a book. And now it's just a TikTok scroll, and it shortens your attention span." She mentioned that she is hopeful this year will be a turning point for AP scores. Junior **Kayla Mitchell**, who has had both Austin and Bowman as English teachers, juxtaposes her experiences in their respective classes saying, "I feel like both teachers are trying to teach their students a lesson in iPhone dependency in their own ways. Bowman does it by making the students practice resisting while Austin prefers to completely remove the distraction. I liked Bowman's way because while I wasn't supposed to go on my phone, I knew I could if I really needed to. Having the choice was nice."

While LGHS has a wide range of phone policies that vary from teacher to teacher, it is apparent that the vast majority of them are successful in cultivating a productive classroom environment, whatever their policy may be. Although they differ in guidelines, both Bowman's and Austin's classrooms promote balance, focus, and continued engagement with students displaying self-control with their devices. High-performance classrooms such as these support our belief that teachers should be able to create and regulate cell phone policies as they see fit. The success of both Bowman and Austin's opposing phone policies shows that schoolwide cell phone bans are ineffective and, instead, it should be left up to the teachers to decide how they will or not limit their students' cell phones.



September/October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	23	Girls' 24 Field Hockey vs Presentation @ home Boys' Water Polo vs Palo Alto @ home	25	Girls' 26 Golf vs Cupertino @ home Girls' Tennis vs Mountain View @ MVHS	Girls' 27 Volleyball vs Santa Barbara @ Santa Barbara High School	28
29	30	01 Girls' Flag Football vs Palo Alto @ home	02	03 Boys' and Girls' Water Polo vs Mountain View @ home	04	05
06	07 October Break	08 Girls' Tennis vs Monta Vista @ home Girls' Field Hockey vs Palo Alto @ home	09 Girls' Volleyball vs Los Altos @ home	10 Orchestra Concert 7-9:30 PM @ McAfee Performing Arts and Lecture Center	11	12
13	14	15 Band Concert 7-9:30 PM @ McAfee Performing Arts and Lecture Center	16 MOSAIC	17 Picture Make Up Day 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	18 Boys' Water Polo vs Santa Cruz @ home	19
20	21 Spirit Week begins	22 Girls' Field Hockey vs Los Altos @ home	23 Girls' Volleyball vs Palo Alto @ home	24 Girls' Tennis vs Palo Alto @ home	25 Spirit Rally	26 Homecoming Dance

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

SEND ALL THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, & QUESTIONS TO:



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- Fast fashion is harmful to workers
- The Paralympics deserve respect

OPINION

EL GATO • FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 • LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL • WWW.ELGATONWS.COM

Fugit criticizes modern society's dependence on cars

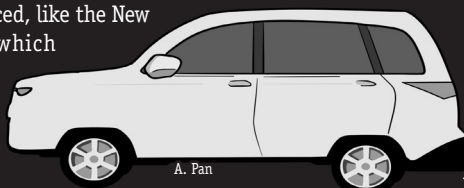
by Owen Fugit
Editor-in-Chief



Driving is difficult to learn, stressful, and costly. However, we choose driving over every other conceivable method of transport in the US. From big cities to small towns, the US was built on the back of the auto industry. This is problematic. The US is the epitome of freedom around the world, but our choices for how we get from point A to point B are limited to one or two options in most cases. This creates issues for Americans, no matter who they are, because driving everywhere can make life worse. It makes us lonely and isolated, it is costly and takes up too much space, and it is downright ugly. If our nation is free, then there should be nothing stopping us from choosing a more diverse transportation portfolio for the future. It is not a question of money, but a question of interests.

Today, as more and more Americans realize that driving is not the best way to get places, the support for public transit is increasing, but at a very mild pace. However, public transit is not the only fix. In 2010, 70 percent of all trips Americans drove were less than one mile. This contrasts with Europe, where 70 percent of all trips Europeans

took were walked. We can look at Santana Row, which is a pedestrian-oriented area. This local outdoor mall boasts a thriving downtown, overflowing with shops, restaurants, and live music, all within walking distance from the apartments right on top of the shops. This vibrant community is a shining example of what happens when we diverge from car-centric infrastructure and make cities that are built for people, not machines. Many major cities in Europe have robust metro systems that carry hundreds of thousands of people across the city every day. Think of the London Underground, which is famous for being the first-ever city metro system, or the Paris metro with 320 stations that can take passengers from Disneyland, Paris to the Eiffel Tower. The US has metros, but they are horribly underfunded and underserved, like the New York metro, which famously lost 690 million dollars in 2022 to fare evasion. The blame rests on us as citizens for not lobbying for better access to public transit and more walkable cities.



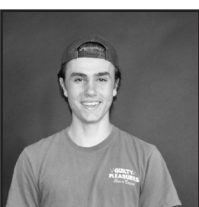
A. Pan

In theory, having cars as a method of transportation sounds beneficial; everyone takes themselves where they need to go when they need to go there. It is supposed to save money that would be spent on public transport. Despite this belief, cars are heavy and damage roads over time, comments Forbes. Roads are expensive and take up massive amounts of space that could otherwise be used for parks or downtown commerce areas. There are one billion parking spaces in the US alone, spaces that could otherwise be used for parks, sidewalks, or buildings. We need to step up and start saying no to car-centric infrastructure. If we can spend 17.5 billion dollars on an aircraft carrier, it is safe to say that we can spend that much, if not more, on public transportation and infrastructure.

(Sources: Bloomberg, CNET, Common Edge, Commonwealth Times, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, Forbes, Habitat for Humanity, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, New York Post, Pew Research Center, US News, Vox, Yale Climate Connections, Council on Foreign Relations)

Be wary of internet politics

by Nelson Kramer
Humor Editor

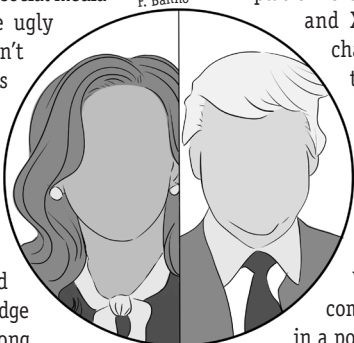


In recent presidencies and this upcoming election, political figures have relied more heavily on social media over television and print. Though this change may reflect technological progress, it challenges the integrity of the electoral process, as candidates exploit these platforms to manipulate public perception. This focus on social media has the ability to become the ugly reality of our elections if we don't act on this issue. It proliferates misinformation and unchecked claims in ways that traditional media does not. Defamatory statements prosper online, making it difficult for voters to discern fact from rhetoric. When society swaps out the old for the new, we must acknowledge the risk of something going wrong.

Such a change has altered how we communicate and receive news on political topics like elections. Media outlets have often determined the atmosphere of our presidential elections. Candidates have been using TV news channels to broadcast their messages to the public since the 1950's. Using reputable news channels provides a stable platform for candidates to promote their campaign because of the general public's trust in those stations. News channels have historically played a crucial role in challenging the ideas politicians propose, in terms of interviews, press conferences, or presidential debates.

The shift from traditional media to social media in presidential campaigns presents many opportunities and challenges. Social media offers presidential candidates like Kamala Harris and Donald Trump a direct line to voters, however not without misinformation and libel. With the large amount of media produced by candidates, media outlets, and the general public, it is difficult for some to form unbiased opinions, especially if most posts slander their opponent and offer little information about their own policies. Harris's rapid response social media page, KamalaHQ, posts constantly across platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and X frequently attacking Trump's character. Trump also makes defamatory personal statements about Harris campaign on his social media accounts. As current and upcoming voters, we must be vigilant in how we receive the information we see online from the candidates in this election. We need to prioritize civility and common courtesy between candidates in a political election because if we don't demonstrate that these values matter, no change is likely to happen.

It is also crucial that we scrutinize the content we see from both candidates and potentially biased media outlets, cross-check the information that we receive from them, and, most importantly, hold them accountable for the content they share. We need to prioritize facts over campaign propaganda. By doing so, we can better navigate the complexities of digital campaigning, make more informed decisions that uphold the integrity of our democratic process, thus paving the way for our future elections.



F. Banno

Don't buy fast fashion items

by Kat Littfin
News Editor



While walking the around campus, I find myself complimenting other students' outfits. Whether it's a flattering top or a stylish pair of jeans, I often ask, "Where did you get that from?" and, more often than not, they reply, "Shein."

Fast fashion is a term used to describe the cheap, quick, and low-quality mass production of clothing. Zara, a prime example of a fast fashion brand, has warehouses across several continents, with their largest factories in Spain, China, and Brazil. Sourcing products from international warehouses allows Zara to bypass many of the regulations of factories in the United States such as those regarding workers' hours and wages. H&M, Gap, Shein, and Temu are just a few of the popular "fast fashion" brands. Like Zara, the majority of their warehouses are in countries with loose laws concerning workers' wages and rights. As a society, we must stop buying from fast fashion brands to encourage fair treatment of workers and to limit our environmentally damaging wastefulness.

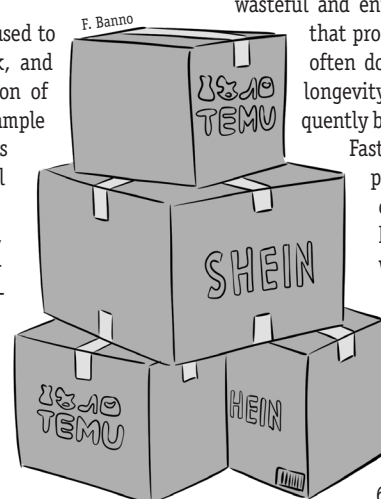
The unlivable wages and poor treatment of workers that fast fashion encourages tend to violate

human rights. According to the Clean Clothes Campaign, in 2011, ninety percent of Zara's Brazilian factories employed migrant workers, forcing them to work for upwards of 16 hours with little pay and no breaks. Workers were as young as 14 years old. The Brazilian government has since shut down these factories, but similar factories continue to exist around the world, forcing workers to labor for excessive hours with negligible pay.

Furthermore, the overwhelming consumption of clothing that fast fashion promotes is wasteful and environmentally damaging. Brands that produce clothes quickly and cheaply often do not design their products with longevity in mind, so clothes must frequently be discarded after just a few wears.

Fast fashion brands rush to produce products that are in style, and the clothing's low cost encourages high-scale purchasing. Clothing waste is inevitable as people rush to buy large quantities of clothes that emulate new trends they find on social media while discarding their out-of-style garments. The United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that more than 60 percent of clothing produced in 2018 was landfilled the same year. As websites continue to sell shirts for less than five dollars that will only last a few wears, people avoid more environmentally ethical shopping. People overlook thrift stores—which rival the prices of fast fashion brands and limit the amount of goods being wasted—for the convenience of online shopping.

(Sources: United States Environmental Protection Agency, The Clean Clothes Campaign, CNN)



F. Banno

Rawlings urges a stricter Supreme Court Code of Ethics

by Margo Rawlings
Editor-in-Chief

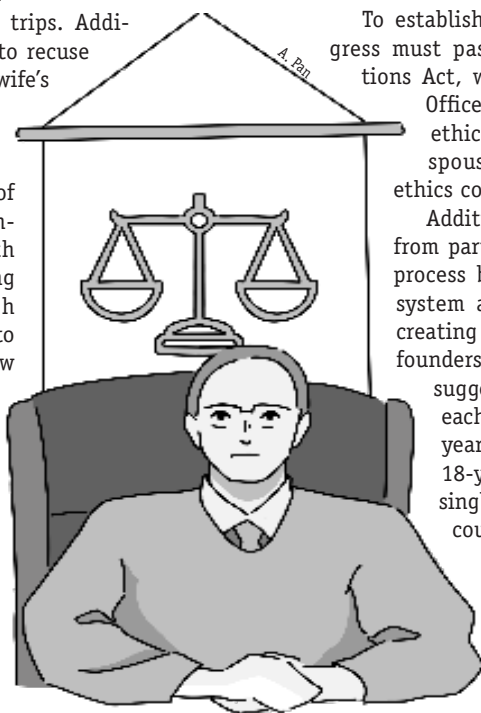


A series of principal rulings over the past year has repeatedly put the Supreme Court in the news; these rulings also shed light on new information regarding various justices, making it more crucial than ever to reform the court and revise the court's Code of Ethics.

In every history classroom across the nation, students learn that the American government functions within a system of checks and balances. The founding fathers designed each branch of the government to keep the others, accountable and avoid corruption. This no longer holds true, as the Judicial branch has been making decisions with few to no checks on its power from the legislative and executive branches.

President Biden called for creating a new Code of Ethics that would hold justices accountable for their actions, but this is only the first step to reforming the court. Justice Clarence Thomas has faced few consequences for his actions over the past two years. Thomas repeatedly failed to disclose gifts from the last 20 years, totaling more than 2.4 million dollars in physical items and 1.8 million dollars in the form of free trips, both of which directly violate federal law. Republican donor Harlan

Crow sponsored many of these trips. Additionally, Justice Thomas failed to recuse himself from cases involving his wife's personal interests. Similarly, Justice Alito refused to remove himself from cases where he held personal bias against one of the parties in the court. Additionally, he associated himself with political paraphernalia, allowing flags that are associated with the Stop the Steal and Appeal to Heaven movements. The fatal flaw in the current Code of Ethics is its inability to hold justices accountable for their actions. The document describes how the justices should conduct themselves, but fails to include the consequences for violation of the Code. Without realistic consequences, the fundamental American process of checks and balances becomes ineffective.



A. Pan

To establish accountability for the Supreme Court, Congress must pass The Supreme Court Ethics and Investigations Act, which would create an ethics counsel and an Office of Investigative Counsel to resolve issues of ethics, offer ethics training for justices and their spouses, and provide Congress the power to file ethics complaints.

Additionally, to create a neutral court that is free from partisan bias, the government must create a new process by which justices are appointed. The current system allows political parties to control the court, creating a partisan structure that undermines what the founders intended the court to be. As President Biden suggested, instating term limits for justices, where each president may appoint one justice every two years, and each justice may only serve up to an 18-year term; "would reduce the chance that any single presidency radically alters the makeup of the court for generations to come."

Reform to the Supreme Court is crucial in order to reinstate the people's trust in the integrity of the justices and the judicial process. (Sources: CNBC, The Guardian, Harvard Law Review, Scotus Blog)

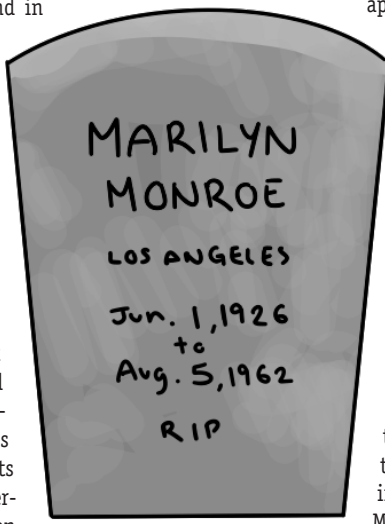
Monroe deserves respect

by Sam Gruetter
Opinion Editor



A common occurrence within Hollywood is that celebrities accumulate more fame in death than in life. One celebrity who undoubtedly fits this mold is Marilyn Monroe, the 50s movie star. Her death has raised many questions and stirred up prolonged speculation about its circumstances. However, a less popular discussion about her death is her burial site, more specifically its location next to Hugh Hefner and an undisclosed donor. In an act of respect for the deceased movie star and in favor of morals over monetary gain, Marilyn Monroe's burial site should be relocated.

Marilyn Monroe is currently buried in Westwood Village Memorial Park Cemetery, a popular location for a plethora of other celebrity burials. In 1992, former Playboy magazine owner Hugh Hefner bought the plot next to Monroe for fifty-thousand dollars. Despite the businessman's controversial past as the owner of Playboy and its mansion, he committed a personal attack on Monroe when, in the first issue of Playboy, he published nude pictures of her on the cover page and centerfold when she was only twenty-two. Monroe made the photographer, Tom Kelley, promise that the public would not be able to recognize her from the photographs; however, this promise was broken. She initially posed for the photos in order to make a car payment, and Hefner never paid her more than fifty dollars for



the rights of the photo, despite the fortune he made from that and subsequent issues. Providing an explanation for his desire to be buried next to her, Hefner commented to CBS that "I'm a sucker for blondes, and she is the ultimate blonde. It has a completion notion to it. I will be spending the rest of my eternity with Marilyn."

Monroe's location adjacent to Hefner is not the only reason her crypt should be moved. Laying directly above her is Richard Prochner, who requested that he be buried face down, facing the movie star. This is not only an unusual position that encroaches on Monroe's ability to peacefully rest, but also a decision that a representative of Monroe's estate did not approve. Despite the lack of approval, Prochner's widow sold the crypt for 4.6 million dollars on Ebay to an unnamed buyer in 2009, planning to move her late husband to another crypt. The high price is undoubtedly due to its close proximity to Monroe, continuing the fetishization and monetization of her image into the afterlife.

In death, celebrities should be awarded the basic right of resting peacefully, especially Monroe, who experienced an extremely traumatic death, clouded with uncertainty and speculation. Her career is often characterized by her role as sex symbol in Hollywood, a position accompanied by an onslaught of male stalkers and critics. Therefore, moving Monroe's plot, or other plots around her, would afford Monroe the respect she did not receive during her lifetime. (Sources: Woman & Home, NPR, the Guardian)

Paralympics need recognition

by Megan Saul
Culture Editor

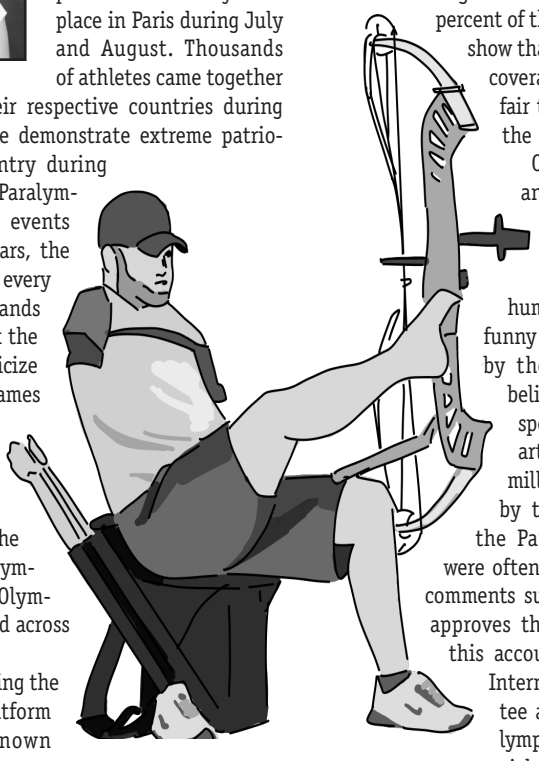


The XXXIII Olympiad Games, the 2024 Summer Olympic Games, and the 17th Summer Paralympic Games recently took place in Paris during July and August. Thousands of athletes came together to compete for their respective countries during these games. People demonstrate extreme patriotism for their country during the Olympics and Paralympics because these events occur every two years, the Summer Games only every four years. Many brands and businesses took the opportunity to publicize the 2024 Summer Games on their social media platforms, but there was a major publicity disparity between the Olympics and Paralympics. Notably, the Olympics were widespread across platforms. Accounts including the official Olympic platform and other well-known clothing brands also created posts in a more professional and respectful manner, unlike the Paralympics. Both the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games should receive equal publicity and recognition to give the athletes of both games the credit they deserve.

The lack of viewers that the Paralympics has reflects the amount of publicity on the Paralympics. Statistics from the American television broadcasting company NBC reported there were "15.5 million viewers per night for the 2020 Olympic Games,

in contrast to 14 million viewers in total for the 2020 Paralympic Games." The University of Calgary reported, "5,488 articles appeared during the Olympics (Jul. 26 to Aug. 12) in the same 300 newspapers. Although the Olympics were spread over more days than the Paralympics, numbers indicate that the coverage of the Paralympics was less than 10 percent of the Olympics." These statistics show that the lack of recognition and coverage of the Paralympics is not fair to the athletes competing in the Paralympics.

On TikTok, the Paralympics and Olympics accounts have contrasting ways of publicizing the games. The Paralympics account took a more humorous approach by posting funny moments and mistakes made by the Paralympians, but many believed this approach was disrespectful and unappreciative. An article from NPR explains that millions of people were outraged by this account. Comments on the Paralympics account's videos were often angry, with viewers writing comments such as "I need to know who approves these," and "Who is running this account?" A spokesperson at the International Paralympic Committee announced that a past Paralympian is in charge of Paralympic social media accounts. Contrary to most opinions, some Paralympians have shared that the account's publicity is good as it has increased the visibility of the games. Regardless of this support, the amount of Paralympic publicity should still be increased. Brands and businesses need to use their public platforms to promote the Paralympics and Olympics to create greater respect for all Paralympians and Olympians. (Sources: NPR, University of Calgary, Western News)



The It Ends With Us movie misrepresents domestic violence

by Jane Wilde and Kloe Adams
Public Relations Manager and Editorial Editor



Colleen Hoover's book *It Ends With Us* is a romance novel that explores topics of domestic violence and emotional abuse. Originally published in 2016, the novel gained a resurgence of popularity in 2019 after blowing up on TikTok. The same year, actor and director Justin Baldoni acquired the rights to adapt the book into a film. On Aug. 9, *It Ends With Us* premiered in theaters with Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni starring as protagonists Lily Bloom and Ryle Kincaid. The cast went on a press tour following the release to talk about the movie and market it, an event that sparked much contention.

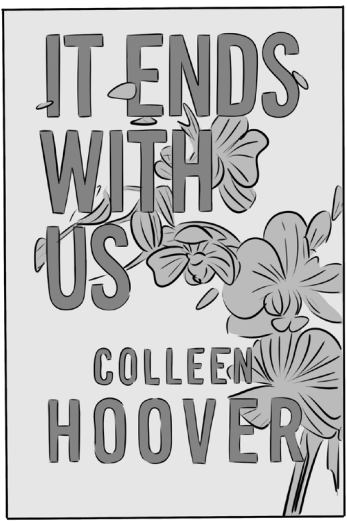
The main topic of this film is domestic violence, as anyone who has seen it can confirm. With that in mind, most people expected the actors to actively discuss the matter and use this film to promote awareness of domestic violence during the press tour. However, it seems that Lively, in particular, is far more concerned with more trivial matters such as her haircare line and if her husband's presence at the red carpet event. From the numerous

instances in which Lively switched the abuse-focused subject to why consumers need to buy her haircare line or other superficial topics, the public has not been happy with her behavior.

This issue first came to light when a controversial video of an interviewer asking Lively a question during the press tour surfaced online. When asked what message the audience should take away from the film, Lively responded with, "No one is defined by the abuse they face" and included phrases such as, "So much more than just a survivor." A seemingly well-rounded answer, her delivery severely downplays the matter at hand. The prominent focus of the film is how Lily Bloom's significant other abused her, so to say she is not defined by her abuse is extremely insensitive to the message of the film. However, this is not the only instance in which she diverges from the topic of domestic violence. In a recent post from the official *It Ends With Us* TikTok account, Lively cheerily tells audiences to "bring your friends and grab your florals" when going to see

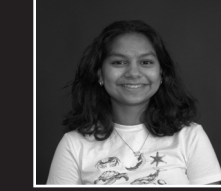
the movie in theaters. Her upbeat tone and choice to avoid talking about abuse conveys the message that this film is almost some sort of irreverent rom-com when in reality it is a film that depicts deeply sensitive topics that affect millions of people. This can be problematic for people who haven't read the book prior to watching the film who were expecting something entirely different from abuse, based on the film's out-of-touch press tour and marketing.

Blake Lively promoted *It Ends With Us*, a story about domestic violence and the importance of safety for women, as an upbeat, soulful rom-com, when in reality that is far from the truth. This false advertisement is harmful because domestic violence is a triggering subject for many, and not addressing the film's delicate material may very well result in unexpected trauma for audiences. Additionally, the drama amongst the cast is drawing attention away from the importance of abuse awareness and toward superficial celebrity gossip. To prevent more press tours like this from happening, there needs to be more thoroughly media-trained cast members who make sure they stay true to the content of their films. (Source: NYT)



Singhal condemns parents who exert pressure on kids

by Siyona Singhal
News Editor



Too many students feel the weight of their parents' expectations on their shoulders. They deal with impossible standards and the pressure to constantly be better. Whether it is sports or academics, the effects of increased pressure can be damaging for a child. They often develop depression and low self-esteem, tending to distance themselves from their parents and others around them. Physically, parental pressure can lead to less sleep, eating disorders, or other stress-related illnesses. The mental burden of high expectations greatly weighs on kids who are already overwhelmed by the world. Parents must not put too much pressure on their children.

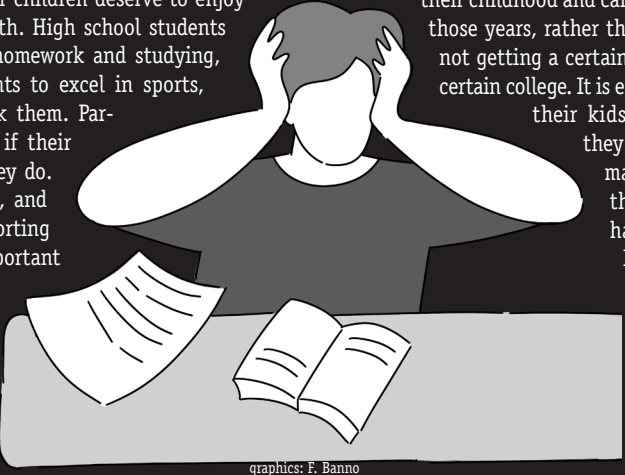
A study was conducted by the National Library of Medicine in which 29 parents of adolescents around the age of 15 were interviewed about the amount of pressure they put on their children. 86% of parents said they only want the best for their children. They want their children to succeed and flourish; however, it is important to maintain a balance between pushing students and supporting them. Parents today seem to cross the line more often and can overwhelm their children with the amount of pressure they

exert, only serving to create more anxiety in their children. Though it comes from a place of love, parental pressure can be devastating to a child's future and well-being, the opposite intentions of the parents.

Parents should remember that their children deserve to enjoy themselves and have fun in their youth. High school students are already drowning in stress from homework and studying, but adding pressure from their parents to excel in sports, academics, or anything else can break them. Parents should remember that it's okay if their child is not the best at everything they do. People are talented in different areas, and this also applies to kids. Parents supporting and uplifting their kids is just as important as making sure they succeed. No student should feel like they will never be good enough.

Parents should focus on building a healthy relationship with their children and maintaining respect and trust with each other. Author Jennifer Breheny Wallace says, "Make home a mattering haven. Let our children know their worth is not contingent on performance." It's important that kids feel cared for and valued. Parents can accomplish this by encouraging their kids, using

kind words more often than harsh ones. Wallace believes that this can lead to increased confidence and a healthier mindset in their child. In the long run, it is more important that kids enjoy their childhood and can look back with fondness on those years, rather than feel regret or despair for not getting a certain test score or getting into a certain college. It is easy for parents to overburden their kids with high standards, but they must keep in mind that no matter how old or how young their child is, they deserve to have fun and enjoy their life. If you're a student who feels overwhelmed by their parents, it's important to talk to them. The first step to a healthy relationship is communication. Don't be afraid to speak out about your feelings; your parents just want



graphics: F. Banno

to help you thrive. (Sources: National Library of Medicine, Washington Post, NY Times)



It's Bare Necessities

Water Bear

Which bear

Could you be a water bear? Water bear is the common name for a tardigrade that rarely grows past a millimeter in length. People often underestimate these microscopic invertebrates and their astounding abilities. Similar to a water bear's ability to survive in space without oxygen, you are exceptionally resilient and adapt to whatever the world might throw at you. Like water bears, you remain mysterious; not many people know a lot about you. However, like South Park's Timmy and Jimmy wowing their school with their water bear-themed science fair project, you pleasantly surprise people with your quirks and oddities.



- Hayley Strahs, News Editor

Fozzie The Bear



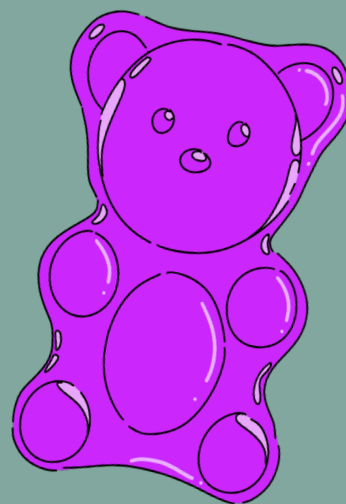
You might be Fozzie the Bear — a fun-loving, kind-hearted, and humorous bear. Fozzie loves Kermit, Miss Piggy, and his other Muppet friends dearly, and so do you. You love comedy and are proud to be the butt of every joke, as long as it gets a laugh. While your jokes don't always land, you don't let that keep you down. You strongly believe in the unifying power of humor. Spontaneous and indecisive, you often switch between many tasks simultaneously. You are earnest, loyal to a fault, and fun to be around.

- Sahil Muthukrishnan, Sports Editor

Gummy Bear

How about a gummy bear, the most delicious and enjoyable bear of all? Just like your gummy bear counterparts, your personality comes in many different flavors, all of them delectable. The gummy bear is very outgoing and always on the move, bouncing around from place to place. With your kindhearted personality and habit of being there for others when they need a pick-me-up, people want to be around you all the time. There is no scenario where someone would not appreciate a gummy bear, sweet or sour.

- Megan Saul, Culture Editor



Paddington



Maybe you're the wonderful Paddington! Pure at heart, you are polite and always believe in the best intentions of others. Like Paddington's accidental flooding of the Brown family's home, your kind innocence borders on naivety. This well-dressed bear dedicates himself to his friends and family, giving them his unending loyalty. Similar to Paddington, you might have an obsession with marmalade sandwiches, but, in the case of emergencies, you are willing to sacrifice your food for the people you love. Everyone, please look after this bear!

- Lucy Panicacci, Editor-in-Chief

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...r are you?

WINNIE THE POOH



Oh, bother! You just might be Winnie The Pooh. This classic Disney bear knows what makes him happy and is not afraid to tell the world. Like Pooh earnestly scouring the Hundred Acre Wood for honey, you chase your dreams no matter what. Winnie the Pooh cherishes his companions and enjoys learning from others. Similar to Pooh, you may be a bit clumsy, but do not let your slight incoordination get in the way of your fun. Just remember, be aware of your surroundings and do not base your happiness solely on honey; otherwise, you might end up in a Backson trap!

- **Ainsley Northrop**, *Editor-in-Chief*

Smokey The Bear

Are you the courageous Smokey the Bear? A faithful guardian of our American forests, you care about nature and wildlife, dedicating your life to preserving it. As the longest-running US advertising symbol, Smokey the Bear is an old soul. With this wisdom, you always put your best foot forward in everything you do and have an awareness of your surroundings, sensing the warning signs before they occur. Dedicated to the outdoors, you spent all of quarantine out in nature, dreaming of the day you could connect with people in person again. Since forest fire season has settled, why don't you grab a blanket, make yourself a cup of hot chocolate, and start drafting your plan to save the world? Trust me, you've earned it!

- **Nelson Kramer**, *Humor Editor*



Baloo

Are you most similar to the singing bear Baloo? Like this character from the childhood staple *The Jungle Book*, you are outgoing, fun-loving, and warmhearted. Whether you're busting out into song or teaching the Law of the Jungle, this resemblance is a major compliment! Your outlook on life is laid-back; and you don't stress the little things. You forget about getting worked up by caring for the bare necessities like staying close to your friends and family. You have a huge heart and a bubbly personality.

- **Chloe Wilson**, *Humor Editor*



- Casal reviews Olympic muffins
- Clairo releases album Charm

CULTURE

EL GATO • FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 • LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL • WWW.ELGATONNEWS.COM

Curtis ranks different adaptations of the classic novel Little Women

by Emery Curtis
Graphics Editor

Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* is a beloved story that has been re-imagined multiple times. With many film, show, and theater adaptations, I have taken it upon myself to watch the four main film versions of *Little Women* to find the perfect interpretation. Although every version does the story justice in its own way, only the 2019 version directed by Greta Gerwig truly captures the author's message. By comparing many of the scenes from each movie, it is clear that Gerwig takes the win every time.

For starters, Gerwig introduces a new rendition of Jo March. She is more emotional and defiant. For example, when Jo first meets Laurie in the 1994 adaptation, she tells him about her longing to go to Europe. This varies from the 2019 version where Jo rants about how it's not fair that she can't join the Union Army. This more tomboyish Jo supports the feminist theme Gerwig's story has. The film paints

Jo as self-sufficient as well as relatable and inspiring to women. This allows Gerwig to reframe Jo as an empowered person or the mirror of Alcott. For this version of Jo, her fear of being alone isn't because of the absence of a partner, but the absence of childhood. Her family is what she longs for, not a man.



I especially enjoyed the pacing and structure of Gerwig's adaptation. The movie frequently switches between the current and past of the sisters' lives. By doing this, Gerwig juxtaposes the gloomy adult years of Jo's life against her ideal life as a child. This adds nostalgia and melancholy to the story that are not present in the other versions.

A perfect example develops in the interchanging scenes of when Beth first gets sick versus the present. Gerwig uses the same camera work for both scenes and has the characters Jo and Marmee re-create the same moves. However, the sections set in adulthood are much slower and the color pallet is duller. This conveys to the audience the parallelism between the scenes. Additionally, portraying the conflicting realities side by side creates a bigger effect when viewers realize Beth does not make it this time.

Finally, Gerwig's film had a far better ending. Throughout the movie, she hints at Jo writing and creating her book. There are many scenes of her trying to get it published and being turned down because her character does not marry. The ending of the other *Little Women* versions all show Jo kissing Frederick under an umbrella in the rain alluding to marriage. Although Gerwig's version also includes that, it instead cuts to Jo trying to publish her book, implying that the piece is just something she made up so her writing would be approved. It treats the professor's storyline as a joke, exactly how Alcott wrote about him, as someone forced into the story for her book to be published. Therefore, unlike the other versions, Frederick doesn't inspire her to get her book written or pursue any of her dreams or goals in writing; instead, Jo does that herself. This maintains the feminist spirit of the novel and creates an ode to Alcott who never married. The film does not end at Jo's "engagement." Instead, the climax is her being able to accomplish her dreams of publishing a book.

Gerwig proves another adaptation was worth creating. She brings a higher level of artistry and direction by giving the story energy, and she positions the story as a reflection of the life of the author.

Carpenter releases Short N Sweet

by Jane Wilde
Public Relations Manager

On Aug. 23, rising star Sabrina Carpenter released her sixth studio album titled *Short N' Sweet*. The record is the perfect blend of playful, upbeat melodies and witty remarks while also beautifully conveying heartbreak. Carpenter has been in the industry for nearly two decades, acting in films and shows like *Girl Meets World* and releasing multiple albums. However, it wasn't until these last two years that she became a household name. After several listens of the album, it's no question she deserves all of the praise. The public agrees as Carpenter's first single and proclaimed "song of the summer" *Espresso* along with her second single "Please Please Please" in July ranked in the top three of the *Billboard* Hot 100. The popstar currently debuts at number one on the *Billboard* 200 global chart.



Taste, track number one of the highly-anticipated album, quickly rose to fame with the release of Carpenter's music video featuring Jenna Ortega. Listeners rumor that the song is about her ex-boyfriend and world-famous pop singer Shawn Mendes, who is now back together with pop star Camila Cabello. The ninth track, *Slim Pickins*, highlights the narrow selection of desirable men in today's society in an amusing manner. Her light-hearted wit is heavily captured in this song with comical lyrics like, "Jesus what's a girl to do, / this boy doesn't even know / the difference between their, there, and they are." Many assume this track is her third single

because she performed the song prior to the album's release at the Grammy Museum alongside producer Jack Antonoff. The difference between the mastered studio track and the live one sparked discussion among Carpenter's fans; many agree that the live version is superior.

Fans argue Carpenter's knack for producing catchy melodies is the primary reason for her latest successes. That and her uniqueness remind audiences of the iconic "pop princess" archetype of the early 2000s. My personal favorites, *Sharpest Tool* and *Good Graces*, perfectly reflect her catchy music style with criminally catchy melodies that are guaranteed to have you singing along. The background vocals in *Good Graces* and the bridge in *Sharpest Tool* are "chef's kiss". The two tracks are the ultimate example of Carpenter's everlasting ability to make a banger out of a bad situation.

I appreciate the quick wit within Carpenter's songwriting, but the lines start to blur between trying to sound smart and having actual deep meaning. For example, in her song *Bed Chem*, saying things like "Where art thou, why not upon me?" made me cringe a little. However, meaningful lyrics aren't imperative to produce a good song, and this wittiness is simply her style of writing that separates her from the rest. From her impressive musical talents to the overall quality and length of the record, it's no surprise when Carpenter says the album was a culmination of years of hard work. (Sources: *Billboard*, *Rolling Stone*)

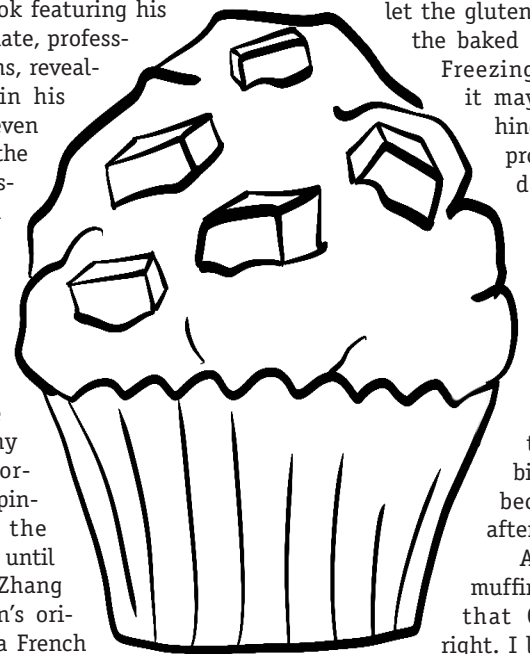
Casal reviews the famed Olympic Village muffins

by Claudia Casal
Culture Editor

Every four years, the Olympics roll around, the ultimate platform for record-breaking performances and global competition. This year, the Olympics spotlighted Henrik Christiansen and his favorite post-competition treat: chocolate muffins.

These ganache-filled rich treats made their debut when the swimmer posted a TikTok rating the different food at the Olympians' dining halls. He rated the chocolate muffins "11/10 insane." Soon enough, Christiansen appeared on TikTok featuring his face covered in chocolate, professing his love for muffins, revealing several muffins in his bedside drawer, and even getting kidnapped by the muffins. Because Christiansen competes in endurance swimming events, he can eat higher calorie food like the ganache-filled muffin.

With so much hype around the muffin, and so many Olympians coming forward to share their opinions, the hunt for the recipe began. That was until the TikToker Keilin Zhang discovered the muffin's origins: *Coup de Pates*, a French food supplier. However, it seems only culinary professionals can order them. Zheng quickly ordered a few hundred muffins and opened a pop-up in New York City, selling hundreds of muffins. Many people shared their muffin dupes and copycat recipes to see if Christiansen was right about the muffins. To truly know, I had to try them myself.



Using Kassie Medniet's recipe, I made these muffins, although with a few alterations. The recipe calls for dutch-processed cocoa powder, but I just used the Hershey's Cocoa Powder I had in my pantry. I substituted corn syrup with a combination of honey and maple syrup, and instead of milk powder, I used regular milk. It took me about an hour and a half to make the muffins and another half hour to make the ganache and fill the muffins with it. As for the recipe, it recommends letting the batter rest for 30 minutes before baking them to let the gluten rest and to freeze the baked and filled muffins.

Freezing them, although it may seem strange in hindsight, is a similar process to how *Coup de Pates* distributes them. *Coup de Pates* likely freezes the baked muffins and ships them off to bakeries to defrost and serve. Medniet claims that the flavors combine and the texture becomes more fudgy after defrosting them.

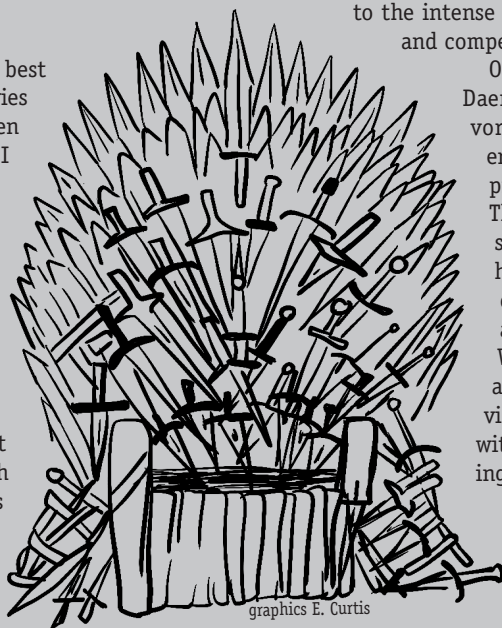
After trying these muffins, it's safe to say that Christiansen was right. I love the moist texture of these cupcakes, although they are very chocolatey and rich. As I'm not a huge fan of having a lot of rich chocolate, just one muffin is enough for me. These muffins are perfect with a glass of milk while rewatching your favorite Olympic and Paralympic highlights. (Sources: NBC, TikTok)

LANGNER DISSES GAME OF THRONES SEASON FINALE

by Isabella Langner
People Editor

This summer, I completed one of the best shows of all time, *Game of Thrones*. The series features eight seasons spanning about ten episodes each that I watched whether I was lounging at the pool or hibernating in bed. However, the final season had me cringing and crying at how god awful its resolution was. Unfortunately, eight seasons of pure perfection led to total garbage in the end.

Game of Thrones is set in the mystical lands of Westeros and Essos, where noble families fight for control and the Iron Throne, while a previously dormant enemy species rises in the north. Although there are overlaps, each plot line follows its own rich path, building characters and stories throughout the many different locations on the continents. It's incredibly easy to get addicted to this show due



to the intense action, well-developed characters, and compelling worldbuilding.

One of the major plotlines follows Daenerys Targaryan, the last survivor of a dynasty who ruled Westeros but was killed off twenty years prior to the beginning of *Game of Thrones*. Daenerys lives in Essos and slowly accumulates power through hatching previously extinct dragons, freeing slaves, and acquiring armies with the final goal of ruling Westeros. Through all of Daenerys' accomplishments, the show leads viewers to assume it will conclude with her on the Iron Throne, a seemingly perfect and fulfilling ending.

The second major plotline includes Jon Snow, a bastard of the noble Stark family in the North. Jon's story follows him joining the Night's Watch and defending

Westeros from the ancient species of White Walkers who threaten all living creatures. The series builds up suspense regarding the Walkers from the very beginning, with the first scene in the show featuring a Walker slaughtering a man. However, when the Walkers finally attack, they are defeated in one battle, which comes off as underwhelming, considering a 700 foot tall wall of ice was built to keep them out thousands of years prior. Season seven also revealed Jon to be a Targaryan, which makes him the true heir to the Iron Throne and made most viewers expect the series to end with Jon's heritage somehow mattering.

However, with all of this build up, the final season features Daenerys going insane out of nowhere and burning an entire city, so Jon kills her and is then exiled back to the Night's Watch (which doesn't even exist because the Night's Watch's sole purpose was destroyed with the Walkers). With the right build up, this conclusion might have been satisfying, but season eight was incredibly rushed, and therefore, rated the lowest out of any season in *Game of Thrones*. I highly recommend this series due to the amazing first seven seasons, but when it comes to the ending, join me and ignore that it ever occurred.

Hozier performs Unreal Unearth tour at Shoreline Amphitheatre

by Hayley Strahs and Kat Littfin
News Editors

On the evening of Sept. 10, crowds amassed at the popular Shoreline Amphitheater to watch Hozier's "Unreal Unearth Tour," Hozier's first tour since 2019. Hozier gave concertgoers from the pit to the lawn a spectacular performance down to the very last detail. The concert featured creative and artistic sets, powerful opener Allison Russell, and a colorful set list. Most of all, the ethereal and emotionally raw performance of the elusive "Forest Daddy" captivated viewers.

Andrew Hozier Byrne, commonly known as Hozier, is a decorated and seasoned Irish singer-songwriter. Hozier released his self-titled album in 2014 and quickly amassed a cult following for the album's international chart-toppers Cherry Wine, a song telling the story of a victim of domestic violence, and Take Me To Church, a song about the oppression of the LGBTQIA+ community. In his now decade-long career, Hozier has released three full albums, — Hozier (2014), Wasteland Baby (2019), Unreal Unearth (2023) — eight EPs, and 23 singles. Hozier's most recent album, Unreal Unearth, follows the story of Dante's inferno. Hozier relates the book to his pandemic experiences as well as the pandemic's impact on the world at large.

Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View holds up to 22,000 people, boasting both assigned seats and a general admission lawn. Hozier's technical crew decked out the stage itself with platforms, floating root props, and massive screens. Each song featured a unique series of projections to match, including music video clips, artwork, and certain lyrics. In addition, Hozier's auxiliary band featured instruments such as the cello, synth, drums, and bass guitar.

Singer-songwriter Allison Russell opened the concert with a bang, playing numerous songs from her albums Outside Child and The Returner. Many fans knew Russell because of her collaboration with Hozier on the song Wildflower and Barley. Around 8:45 PM, Hozier started his set with De Selby parts one and two, the opening songs on Unreal Unearth. For the Irish-sung portion at the end of the first part, translations appeared on screens on both sides of the stage. Switching gears, the next seven songs, with the exception of Francesca, were from his previous albums Hozier and Wasteland Baby. With Hozier's commanding vocals and the sparkling projections behind him, fans eagerly sang and waved their phone flashlights

along. Between every few songs, Hozier delivered a quick statement about the previous or next song, along with thanking the audience. Furthermore, Russell joined him for her feature in Wildflower and Barley. The primarily acoustic song's minimal lighting allowed for Hozier and Russell's singing to shine.

Near the end of the concert, Hozier performed his most popular song, Take Me To Church. Afterwards, all of the lights went out for a short break, confusing some audience members. Hundreds of people began to file out of Shoreline Amphitheatre, unaware that there were still three more songs to come. Hozier ended the concert with the inspirational Nina Cried Power, the ethereal Unknown/Nth, and the intimate Work Song. Hozier graciously thanked each band, crew, and audience member before the lights came on and everyone left the stadium.

Hozier's concert the evening of Sept. 10 was artistically unique and nothing short of memorable. We highly recommend that you go to a Hozier concert if you get the chance, as it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. When choosing a new song for your Spotify playlist, consider a song from Hozier's latest album. (Sources: LiveNation, IMDb)



A. Pan

Panicacci reviews Charm

By Lucy Panicacci
Editor-in-Chief

A perfect mix of warm and groovy tunes, Clairo's third studio album, Charm, can't help but make you do a little dance as you listen along. Released on Jul. 12, Charm encapsulates the light, joyful feeling of summer. Although only 38 minutes long, Charm brought a fresh vibe to Clairo's discography with its 70s soft rock inspired instrumentals, standing out from her 2021 album Sling and 2019 record Immunity.

As with her previous music, Clairo's hushed lyrics are full of yearning, longing for a gentle, requited love. In the first track, Nomad, she details a feeling of wanting back what once was, singing, "Every time I see someone new / I just think of you." Unlike her previous albums Sling or Immunity, here Clairo takes a more positive approach to fleeting love throughout Charm, appreciating the moments she and her partner experienced rather than focusing on the lingering heartbreak. In the track Thank You, she recognizes that sometimes relationships are temporary but still shows gratitude for the impact her partner left and their time spent together. Clairo repeats, "'Cause when I met you, I knew it / I'd thank you for your time."

Although hypnotizing and angelic, Clairo's serene vocals do not serve as the main focus of Charm. Rather, the layered instrumentation defines this album. In the creation of

the record, Clairo worked with producer Leon Michels, a member of the band The Dap-Kings, to create a distinct soulful and funky feel. In the 11 tracks, Charm features flute, organ, piano riffs, and, of course, Clairo's hums on Juna, imitating a trumpet. One of my favorite tracks, Second Nature, captures these rich instrumentals with the piano, vocal percussion, and a grand clarinet solo at the end. Clairo's inspirations, including Joni Mitchell, Harry Nilsson, and Margo Guryan, had a heavy impact in

the making of her backing tracks. Reminiscent of the Beach Boys song Little Pad, Second Nature begins with the sounds of faint laughter, and the ninth track, Echo, takes a not-so-subtle resemblance to the artist Broadcast with its psychedelic synth sound. If I were to give one critique, the instrumentals become repetitive in certain parts; I found that the songs Sexy to Someone and Add Up My Love have nearly the same beginning.

Within Charm, Clairo continues to do what she does best: expressing the small moments of love. She relishes the tiny gestures — a brief touch, a gaze, or the sound of their loved one's voice. Her soft-spoken vocals and upbeat instrumentals mix to create music that evokes joy. I can only feel contagious happiness when she sings in Juna, "You make me wanna go dancing / You make me wanna try on feminine." I simply cannot pick a favorite song from the album. After each relisten, I find beauty in each track. A breath of fresh air and a summer breeze, Charm is a sweet, vulnerable, and gorgeous sounding record. If you ever feel the need to be charmed and dazzled, give it a listen.

(Source: Vulture)



A. Pan

Fall menu dropped early

by Katie Borders
National/World Editor

A beloved and seasonally curated collection of drinks, the Starbucks fall menu consists of a widely popular array of hot and cold drinks that hold a special place in many Starbucks lovers' hearts. To the surprise and delight of many Starbucks drinkers, Starbucks launched the fall menu two days earlier this year on Aug. 22, rather than on the anticipated date, Aug. 24. Customers ran to their nearest Starbucks to obtain their long-awaited Pumpkin Spice Lattes, Pumpkin Cream Cold Brew, or Iced Pumpkin Creamed Chai throughout the day, even though the fall season does not officially start until Sept. 22. Since its beginnings in 2003, the Pumpkin Spice Latte took coffee-lovers by storm, quickly becoming a Starbucks customer favorite.

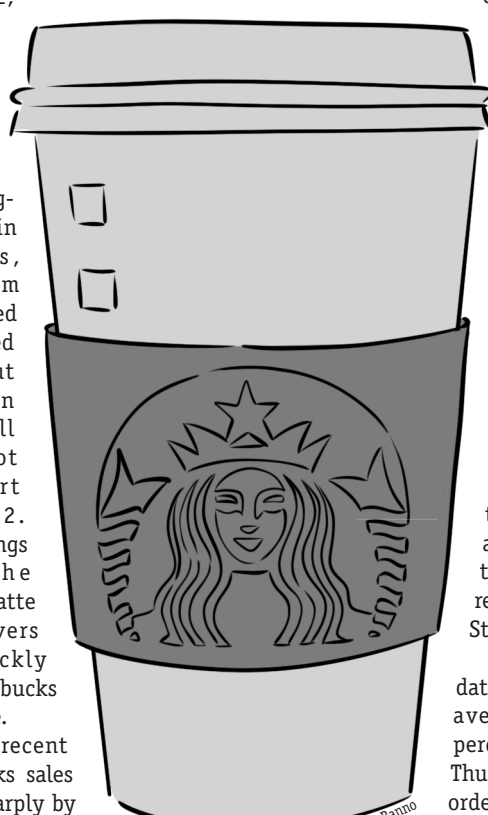
However, in recent months, Starbucks sales have dropped sharply by three percent globally. Starbucks stock significantly dropped by 19 percent this year alone, as many consumers buy their coffee elsewhere and refuse to spend more than six dollars for a cup of coffee. Starbucks has already received grumbling from many customers about their high-priced coffee in past years. Part of that high price is due to a new minimum

wage bill in California, effective April 2024, in which fast-food workers' minimum wage increased to 20 dollars per hour. As a result, many coffee chains, including Starbucks, increased their prices to accommodate the growing amount of wages they are obligated to pay their hardworking employees. Facing backlash from the public, customers argue that spending seven dollars on any latte is absurd, ordering their coffee from Dunkin' or Peet's coffee instead, which have more affordable options.

Continuing to pump out new exclusive seasonal drinks, like their summertime Summer Berry Refreshers, Starbucks is attempting to revive their sales and win their customers back. As the coffee company experiences backlash for their beverage price points and faces an alarming drop in sales, many consumers agree that Starbucks launched both their extremely anticipated and popular fall menu earlier this year to account for their recent poor sales and to revive Starbucks sales.

On the fall menu launch date this year, Starbucks daily average sales surged 24.1 percent compared to previous Thursdays, as the public ran to order from the fall menu. The Starbucks fall menu and pumpkin spice rage among its consumers have always provided a boost in sales for this coffeehouse chain. The historically early release of the fall menu may just be another strategy to win public favor back with their delicious if admittedly pricey Pumpkin Spice Lattes.

(Sources: CNN, Nation's Restaurant News)



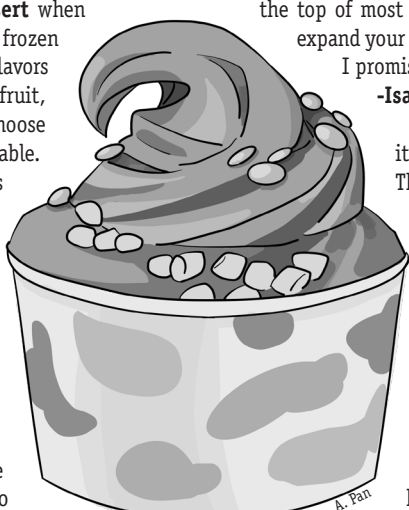
F. Banno

EL GATO RECOMMENDS: CINNAMON, DONUTS, & MORE

If you are looking for the perfect dessert when you are craving something sour and tangy, tart frozen yogurt is the way to go. The exquisite, pungent flavors of the frozen yogurt work well with chocolate, fruit, and candy, allowing any indecisive person to choose the easy option of getting every topping available. My personal favorite tart frozen yogurt comes from Easy Breezy, followed by Yogurtland, but I also enjoy making it at home. Even though the summer is winding down and the weather is cooling off, tart frozen yogurt is still a great midday or nighttime sweet!

-Megan Saul, Culture Editor

If you're looking for the perfect album to add to your playlist, The Secret of Us should be your top choice. Released on Jun. 21, singer-songwriter Gracie Abrams curated an album close to perfection. With upbeat tunes like Close To You and Risk, to deep emotional songs such as Free Now and Good Luck Charlie, this album is versatile; you can listen to it while driving to the beach on a sunny day or crying in your bed late at night. As an ode to her previous single I Miss you, I'm Sorry, Abrams added I Love You, I'm Sorry to the album, which quickly began trending all over social media and climbed to



A. Pan

the top of most fans' favorite songs list. If you are searching to expand your musical horizons, try listening to The Secret of Us. I promise it will not disappoint.

-Isabella Langner, People Editor

With the fall season just around the corner, it's time to deck out your house with cinnamon. The beloved spice embodies the autumn season, filling your nostrils with the nostalgic scent we all adore. Whether it's making cinnamon rolls or sprinkling cinnamon on top of your coffee, the spice brings warmth and comfort into everything it touches. Did you know that cinnamon also has great health benefits? It boosts your metabolism and has antioxidant properties. This autumn, don't forget to add the magic of cinnamon to your fall recipes!

-Siyona Singhal, News Editor

If you are anything like me, you love nothing more than to cozy up on your couch and watch a good fall comfort show with a warm apple

cider in hand and a cool fall breeze making its way through an open window. The one show that will help speed along the fall process is a classic that most know and love, Gilmore Girls. Not only does Gilmore Girls provide the ideal autumn vibes for any kind of day, but it is also the perfect show to have on in the background while you channel your inner Chilton student and do that English homework that you have put off three times. Gilmore Girls is the ultimate fall show that you need to add to your lineup.

-Julia Valencia, People Editor

If you're looking for some new tasty treats for the fall season, it's time to take another trip to Trader Joe's. I recently had the privilege of visiting this oasis and discovered Joe's new apple cider donuts. With this new offering, Joe has brilliantly combined two traditional fall favorites — old fashioned donuts and cozy apple cider — into one delicious treat.

With a fresh tasting donut, coated in a layer of cinnamon sugar, Trader Joe's has created a new staple for your pantry this season. This donut is perfect for a late night study snack or as a quick burst of sugar in the morning. Grab a pack of these treats, put on a sweater, and enjoy a beautiful autumn day!

-Kayla Mitchell, Media Production Editor



A. Pan

- Pandey makes a list of side hustles
- Zeman and Hastings explain Aura

HUMOR

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NORTHROP SHARES HER HACKS FOR INDECISIVE PEOPLE

Ainsley Northrop
Editor-in-Chief

If you are anything like me, indecisiveness is your biggest enemy. In fact, your problem might be so bad that if someone forced you to pick between your least favorite activity and making a decision, you would probably choose the activity. Oh, wait. That is a decision, too. Well, maybe you would choose the activity over the decision if it did not involve a decision between the two...? Do you see the issue? Indecisiveness is rough, but fear no more. I have some top-notch hacks for conquering indecisiveness.

Using the Radio: Modern-day music apps can be so stressful to navigate. I mean, you literally have to pick which songs you want to listen to. To eliminate daily music decisions, opt for the classic and timeless radio. Simply click a button and crank up the volume and you are set. No need to scroll through your favorite songs, struggling to find one that perfectly fits the moment's vibe. Radios decide for you, and if you do not like the song it chooses, blame it on the radio. Radios: no stress, no hard feelings, and best of all, no decisions.

Just Keep Driving: Ah, yes, the most dreaded question of all: "Where do you want to eat?" This question requires far more than a surface-level decision. It forces you to delve into your true feelings and examine the dark depths of your mind. What

is it you really want? What will others think of your choice? This seemingly simple question can make or break your day. Here is my advice: just keep driving. Now, this may sound counterproductive, but I am a strong believer that by driving around aimlessly, you will wind up where you need to be. Eventually, hunger will hit you so hard that it forces you to get food from the nearest location. There you go: another decision made without having to decide anything. Just keep driving and you will end up where you are meant to be.

Close Your Eyes: Getting up in the morning is a struggle, but choosing a school outfit is even worse. Even though there are countless chances to wear your clothes, it is nearly impossible to decide which outfit belongs with which day. After all, you do not

want to waste a perfectly good outfit on an uneventful day. Instead of stressing over wasting a clothing ensemble, remember that clothes are in fact washable, and each outfit will get multiple times to shine. Set out your clothes, close your eyes, and assemble your outfit based on chance. Who cares if it does not match! Anything beats having to pick. Close your eyes, because if you do not see your decision, it is not your responsibility.

Don't Make a Decision: Finally. It's the ultimate hack. The one that eliminates decisions altogether. It's called — drumroll please — don't decide! Hear me out: if you do not decide, life decides for you. Thinking about making the switch to Statistics from Calculus? Well, if you are not sure which is better for you, ignore the decision and let life decide. Looks like you are still in Calculus, so what does it matter if you are not cut out for the course? Do not make a decision. Let life take the wheel and see where you end up.

I hope you enjoyed these original, trademarked, and highly professional solutions to your plague of indecisiveness. Cheers to a decision-free life!



CLASSROOM COMFORT IS ESSENTIAL

by Katie Nelson
Center Editor

Comfort in a classroom is key. Whether it is the kind of desks or the classroom's temperature, the details matter. I've come to realize as I embark on my final year at LGHS the many key aspects involved in achieving perfect classroom comfort.

The first step necessary to achieving classroom comfort is the room temperature. Every degree makes a difference. The worst feeling is coming in from lunch or break and feeling like you're walking into the Arctic tundra. Sitting down in a seat frozen by the harsh winds of the AC is incredibly painful. A ten-degree difference in temperature between the outside and inside of the classroom is just too much, especially because I don't adjust to temperatures well. Due to my horrible blood circulation, it takes only a bit of cold for my fingers to turn corpse white and go completely numb. Ask any of my close friends and they will tell you they have witnessed my fingers become ghosts up close. Because of this, I like my classrooms on the warmer side. El Gato advisor **Paris DeSoto** knows this, as I think I've complained nearly every day about the temperature in her classroom. I have to admit, though, when she has given in to my requests and raises it from 69 to 71; it really does make a difference. So thanks, Ms. DeSoto; I appreciate it.

Then there are the classrooms that don't have any AC at all. Now that's just miserable. All I want

to do is readjust in my seat, but I can't because I'm glued to it with my sweat. Removing myself always takes patience and some pain tolerance.

Next, I need to address the types of desks: the ones where the seat and desk are connected by a metal rod right in your path to sitting down are the worst. I have to do a little Spider-Man maneuver every time I want to get into one of those things. While getting in and out is miserable, I have to admit that the connected desks do provide perfect support for back cracking, so it does gain some points for that. Lastly, classroom size is key. Just like the desk factor, teachers don't have much control over this, either. The size disparity of classrooms at this school is shocking. That first day of school, you never know what you're going to get when you walk into the classroom. Will it be small like my math classroom that across from the attendance office? I nicknamed that one the broom closet. Or is it like **Kristen Austin's** where you walk through a mini hallway just to get to the main part of the spacious classroom with large windows? Or maybe, there are really two classrooms in one space, like in El Gato. It really is a gamble.

If all these things are ideal in a classroom, then it is on the right track to being a comfortable and tolerable environment. And if not, there's really nothing you can do about it, so take the small wins and dress classroom accordingly.



Pandey promotes easy side hustles

by Atharava Pandey
National/World Editor

Money is the most essential thing in the world. It enables you to do the important things in life, such as paying your bills or buying the newest FIFA game. Today, I will reveal the secrets of making money quickly and easily. As someone who currently has two dollars to my name, I am probably the perfect person to teach you. My techniques have a 100 percent success rate. In fact, they are so good that these are the exact methods that many CEOs of multibillion-dollar companies have used to get where they are today.

Start a side hustle: Getting the idea is the hardest part. Find a problem in your community and solve it. If anybody copies you, make up something bad about them. For example, look at snacks that are conveniently not available at your school and sell them for five times the market value (supply and demand). If you have competition, say that their snacks are expired (entrepreneur mindset). Even if your competition accuses you of lying, they probably can't sue you.

Become a rock babysitter: Having rocks as pets is very common. Many people prefer them over animals because rocks are low maintenance. When people go out of town, they must ensure their beloved rocks are safe and well tended to. As a result, you should start a rock spa. Sell packages where you clean people's rocks and take them on a nice walk. The market for rock babysitting is huge, and you can make a lot of money from it. Although this may hurt your self-worth, the number one rule is that money comes above your feelings.

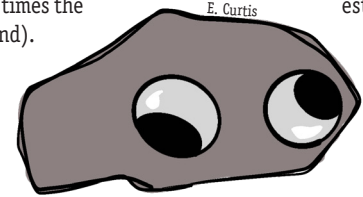
Rent out your backyard: When worse comes to worst, you have to be willing to make hard decisions—he who accomplishes little sacrifices little. Let's be real, you are not using your backyard for anything important anyway. If you have a backyard, you might as well gain something valuable from it and rent it out to people in your community. Just beware that this might come with some unforeseen consequences.

Become a tutor: If you are reading this article, you are definitely the smartest person in your friend group. Use your superior intellect and help out the less fortunate, like your friends. Get your friends ready for classes; they are bound to fail. Prepare them for tests, quizzes, and projects. You will obviously need to charge them a hefty price for your services.

Start a YouTube channel: As established before, since you are reading this article, you have a lot of knowledge. Use this knowledge to have fun, help others, and make money. Pick a topic about which you are knowledgeable and passionate.

Make a YouTube channel and start producing videos. The experiences you have while making videos will give you lifelong skills. After putting in some effort, you might even have sponsorships. There is no reason why a YouTube channel would not benefit you.

You need to wake up and realize that the hustle is going to be hard. You might just have to sell your most beloved possessions, become a source of manual labor, and sacrifice your dignity. However, it will all work out. Trust me. Following this advice has been the sole reason I am rich.



Zeman discusses the effects of senioritis

by Rory Zeman
Media Production Editor

As the class of 2025 enters the final stage of our high school journey, it is important to stay on top of your health amidst all the chaos that the year entails. It is especially important that everyone look out for symptoms of early-onset senioritis. Although this disease has a low mortality rate and is neither viral nor infectious, senioritis is very contagious.

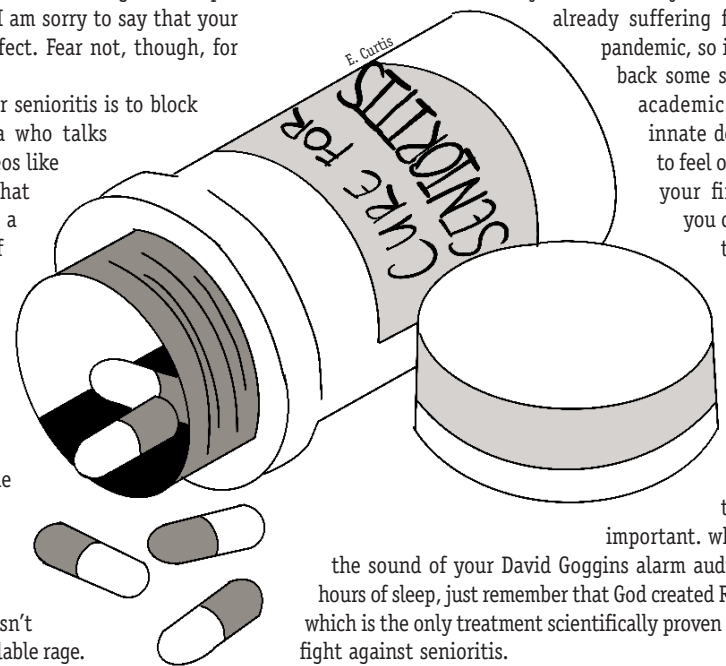
Those most at risk tend to be people who have the following underlying health conditions: those that have over ten colleges listed in their common app, those who took the SAT three times or more as a junior, and those who have graphed a cosine wave one or more times in their entire high school career. However, there are ways both to diagnose yourself while the illness is still in the early stages of development and combat the horrific disease.

If you think you have contracted the illness just a mere few weeks into your senior year, then there are a few ways to confirm a diagnosis. To start, if you have been experiencing bed rot throughout the summer and into the school year, then senioritis may have infiltrated your bloodstream. However, some of the signs aren't as obvious. For example, a subtle indicator of senioritis is somehow managing to wake up five hours later on Saturday than you would during a school day. Sleep schedules only exist for underclassmen, making this a sure sign of preliminary senioritis. In addition, if you have found

yourself not wanting to do any school work and waiting until 10 pm every day to start your homework, then I am sorry to say that your senioritis has probably come into full effect. Fear not, though, for there are solutions.

The best way to combat first-semester senioritis is to block every single user on your social media who talks about college apps. Enough with the videos like "This college rejected the valedictorian that worked for NASA" or "You need to start a passion project right now." Let yourself live without the constant harassment of these TikToks that only discourage you from doing any work by making it seem futile in comparison to the college app demons. In addition, you need to attempt to reinvigorate your pre-senioritis motivations. One easy way to do this is to attempt to back out of the corner spot in the senior lot with a GMC Yukon XL immediately after school on a Monday afternoon when it's 97 degrees and your car's AC doesn't work. This way, you will finally feel an emotion that isn't anxiety or stress, just utter and uncontrollable rage.

Many academically inclined seniors are already suffering from the senioritis pandemic, so it is crucial to bring back some sense of your prime academic self, despite the innate desire you may have to feel overly stressed about your final year. So when you can feel the senioritis coursing through your veins, try to stay calm. As you stare mindlessly at your full Canvas to-do list at an unreasonably late hour remember that sleep is most important. when you wake up to the sound of your David Goggins alarm audio after a solid five hours of sleep, just remember that God created Red Bull for a reason, which is the only treatment scientifically proven to assist you in your fight against senioritis.

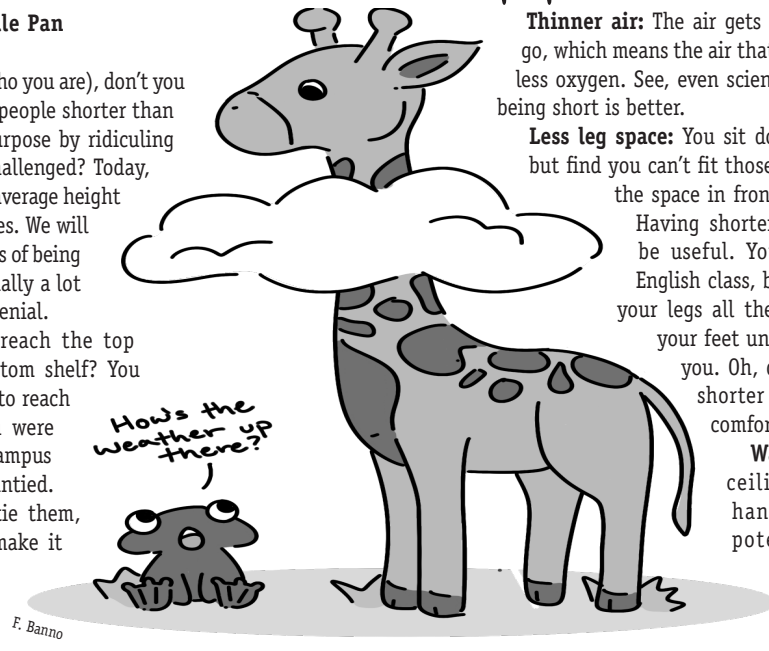


Banno and Pan seek approval on their height opinions

by Fuyu Banno and Annabelle Pan
Graphics Editors

Dear tall people (you know who you are), don't you ever get tired of making fun of people shorter than you? Do you fulfill your life purpose by ridiculing someone for being vertically challenged? Today, as two people part of the below average height community, let's reverse the roles. We will be listing the many disadvantages of being tall and why being short is actually a lot better. We're definitely not in denial.

Bending down: You can reach the top shelf, but what about the bottom shelf? You have to bend all the way down to reach the floor; don't you wish you were shorter? You're walking across campus and notice your shoelaces are untied. You have to crouch down to tie them, but those long legs of yours make it so hard. Maybe that's why tall people have more knee and back problems.



Thinner air: The air gets thinner the higher you go, which means the air that tall people breathe has less oxygen. See, even science and facts prove that being short is better.

Less leg space: You sit down for ten-hour flight but find you can't fit those long legs of yours into the space in front of your airplane seat. Having shorter legs would definitely be useful. You're getting ready for English class, but you can't straighten your legs all the way without sticking your feet under the desk in front of you. Oh, don't you wish you had shorter legs so you could sit comfortably?

Watch your head: Low ceilings, doorways, and hanging objects are all potential hazards for a tall person. You have to duck or slouch to avoid

hitting your head, but that is so inconvenient. Life would be amazingly and increasingly easier if only you just were shorter.

Harder to hide: If you spot someone you don't want to say hi to and try to sneak past them during a passing period, that height of yours still makes you stick out like a sore thumb. Need to find a hiding spot for hide-and-seek, but the best spots are too small for you? Being 5'2" would be very useful.

Group photos: You're taking a group photo, and you want to be the center of attention in a group photo but too bad, because then you cover the faces of the shorter people. Time to move to the back, buddy.

Looking in the mirror: Yikes, does that mirror cut off the top of your head? You're so tall that your whole body does not fit into the view of the mirror, and you can't see how your outfit looks. That sounds awfully inconvenient.

What's the weather like? Those couple of inches you're so proud of means the rain hits you first. Short people don't need to check the weather app; we can just ask you what the weather is like up there. "Tell me when it starts to rain, okay?"

After considering the many disadvantages of being tall, maybe you all will reconsider the next time you feel the temptation to bully your short friend because being short is actually a lot better.

BORDERS SPEAKS ON BACKSEAT DRIVERS

by Katie Borders
National/World Editor

Nothing is quite as irritating as the sound of a parent screeching "STOP" as soon as the traffic light turns red when you are over six car lengths away from the limit line. I'm honestly not sure why my parents do this, considering I think I am more afraid of imminent death while driving than they are while sitting stiffly in the passenger seat. I may be neither the best nor most experienced driver on the road, but I definitely have no plans to get into a car accident. After all, I'm not even eighteen and most definitely do not have plans to bring my life to an end by plowing through a stop light - absolutely not.

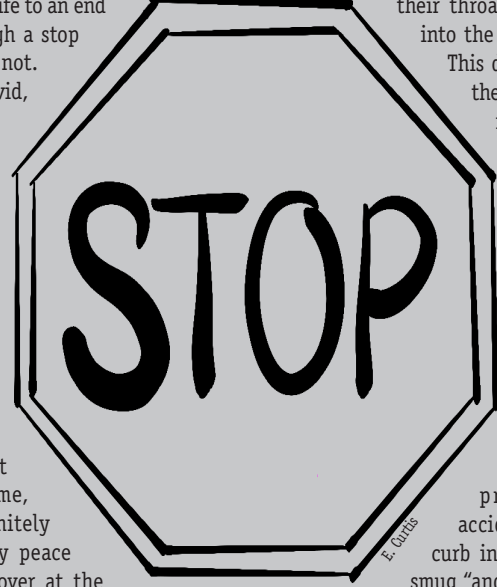
As a proud, avid, and might I say almost full-time passenger princess, I don't usually enjoy driving and am a reluctant driver for the most part. Unfortunately, my dislike for being the driver has not changed over time, and it most definitely does not help my peace of mind to look over at the passenger seat and see one of my parents laser-focused on the road, seat fully up, seatbelt pulled tight, and back sitting up straight to the point where even I can feel the tension emanating from them and almost feel the back pain that must accompany the invisible weight on their shoulders. They usually feel the need to launch into a lecture on the privilege and responsibilities while operating a vehicle and proceed to deliver a monologue about keeping my full attention on the road

(as I already am) while asking me to repeat back what I am supposed to do, accordingly requiring me to take some of my attention away from focusing on the road. It appears that there is always a part of my driving that they feel the need to critique, regardless of my being a fully licensed driver. The takeaway: there is no winning against the parental backseat drivers.

I remember when I was learning to drive, I vividly recall multiple times where I ran over a curb turning a corner or leaving a parking lot (embarrassing, yes), and — of course — having my mistake met with the dreadful sound of the parent in the passenger seat clearing their throat, preparing to launch into the lecture of the century.

This diatribe concluded with their switching places with me to show me how to do it "correctly" and not hit the curb. And yet, the lecture continued with about fifteen "Are you paying attention?" thrown into the mix. My parents confidently approached the curb at 15 miles per hour... somehow proceeding to both accidentally run over the curb in perfect timing with a smug "and that is how it's done."

However, the backseat driving continues its terrible presence while driving, as parents begin to make you drive them on errands. The number of times I have heard "Remember to...", "Don't forget the...", or comments pertaining to stopping five millimeters farther behind the stop sign, waiting a centisecond longer before accelerating, or my personal favorite, "Don't hit the curb" (face smack emoji), on my way to Whole Foods is frankly dumbfounding and never ceases to amaze me.



Zeman and Hastings explain Aura

by Rory Zeman and Megan Hastings
Media Production and Public Relations Editors

Have you ever instinctively realized that someone entered the room you were in without actually seeing or hearing them? It's probably because you felt their Aura, whether positive or negative. Someone's Aura is essentially the quality of their presence in points. Positive Aura points are what we all want, but it's not so simple to get them, especially when one simple mistake can lead to a subtraction in your Aura points. Here's a list of some of the things that will lose you the most Aura points.

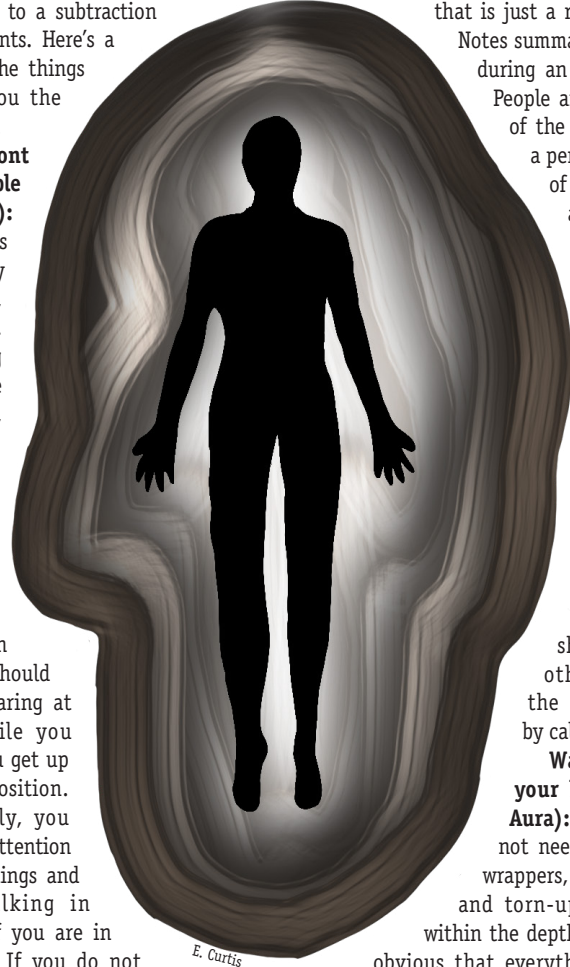
Falling in front of a group of people (-50 Aura points): Although this may significantly damage your Aura, it is easy to fix. To avoid making yourself look like a complete idiot, you should land face first for everyone to see, and you should be especially attentive to your stride and location. In fact, your eyes should practically be staring at the ground while you walk, even as you get up from a seated position. More importantly, you should pay close attention to your surroundings and the people walking in your direction if you are in a crowded area. If you do not heed our warning, you could end up walking straight into a pole or even worse: another person. The loud banging sound or

resulting scream will draw the attention of everyone around you, probably forcing you to take out a second mortgage to pay back your Aura debt.

Trying too hard in Class Discussions (-300 Aura): Talking a few times here and there in classroom discussions for your grade's sake is one thing, but actively trying to be some sort of classroom philosopher and answer every question will send your Aura to the Mariana Trench. To sum it up, no one wants to hear a five-minute rant that is just a regurgitation of a Spark Notes summary of a book, especially during an 8:30 AM English class.

People are not particularly fond of the irritating cacophony of a person who is on the verge of an A in a class giving an entire speech. This is extra damaging to your Aura if you're taking away opportunities for others to get a word in, like during a Socratic seminar or graded discussion. You should know when to stop if it gets to the point where the teacher is purposely looking at everywhere but where you're sitting so they don't feel the shame of putting their other students through the same auditory torture by calling on you. Pipe down!

Walking around with your backpack open (-500 Aura): The entire school does not need a peek into the gum wrappers, dismantled notebooks, and torn-up homework that lies within the depths of your bag. Is it not obvious that everything you have to your name is wide open? It does not take much work to look over your shoulder or double-check before you leave a class.



Muthukrishnan Proposes imaginative elective courses

by Sahil Muthukrishnan
Sports Editor

Electives make all the difference in a student's life. They serve as a chance to express your passions, explore your interests, or even learn a new skill. Every student takes them for fun or for credit. Los Gatos High School just released the elective list for next fall, so why don't we take a quick look at some of the best electives coming soon to LGHS??

AP Napping Techniques: The first elective on the list and my personal favorite: Advanced Placement Napping Techniques dives into the wonderful world that Intro to Napping Techniques (INTNT) starts. A college-level class available to juniors and seniors, AP Advanced Napping Techniques (APANTs) focuses on many complex techniques such as micro-napping, restorative rest periods, and circadian rhythm manipulation. These methods are designed to help the students of LGHS be more efficient and make it through other Advanced Placement classes without being chronically sleep-deprived. APNT is a safe space for

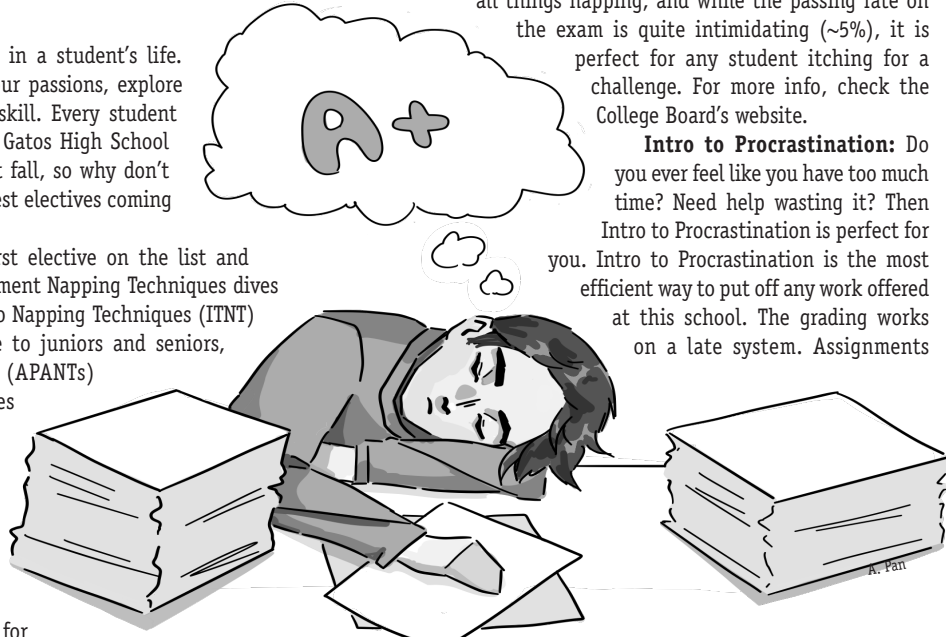
all things napping, and while the passing rate on the exam is quite intimidating (~5%), it is perfect for any student itching for a challenge. For more info, check the College Board's website.

Intro to Procrastination: Do you ever feel like you have too much time? Need help wasting it? Then Intro to Procrastination is perfect for you. Intro to Procrastination is the most efficient way to put off any work offered at this school. The grading works on a late system. Assignments

completed more than a day before the deadline result in an automatic zero. If an assignment is completed by the deadline, a fifty percent grade is achieved, and anything after the deadline is an easy one hundred. Intro to Procrastination helps students find the perfect balance between efficiency and total sloth. Enjoy a bit of a break and take things slow with Intro to Procrastination.

Brown-Nosing 101: Finding yourself unsatisfied with your grades? On the cusp of that A? Teacher giving you a hard time? Then enroll in Brown Nosing 101. Brown-Nosing 101 is the ultimate comprehensive guide to sucking up to difficult teachers. Is a teacher causing you trouble with an assignment? That same teacher might let you off the hook scot-free with a little bit of buttering up. Learn how to keep teachers in the palm of your hand by studying building rapport, forming consistency, seeking help, and more. Brown-Nosing helps with any class with tailor-made lessons for each subject's most challenging teachers. Keep your grades up and your troubles down with Brown-Nosing 101 by enrolling today. Check out the student section of the website for more information.

Los Gatos High School offers a myriad of incredible electives. Whether you want to perfect the art of the nap or suck up to a teacher, the amazing selection LGHS offers lets every student completely take advantage of their time here. Pick an elective today!



- Walker dominates LGHS volleyball
- Kim leads Cats Crochet to success

PEOPLE

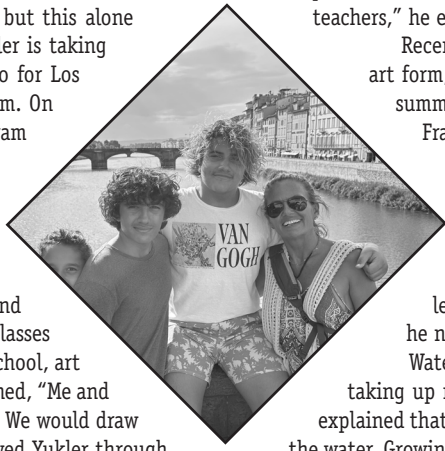
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YUKLER SHOWCASES HIS CREATIVE TALENT THROUGH FILM AND ART

by Owen Fugit
Editor-in-Chief

Junior **Sean Yukler** is best described as a cross between a film lover, a fashionista, and a swimmer, but this alone does not capture Yukler's full skill set. Yukler is taking seven classes this year and plays water polo for Los Gatos High School on the junior varsity team. On top of this, Yukler runs a style-review Instagram page, practices his art skills with sketches and photography, and learns Japanese at LGHS. Yukler has a never-ending drive to work hard and learn, and it is clear to see.

The courses Yukler is taking this year range from AP US History and AP Language and Composition to more creative and expressive classes like Japanese 3 Honors and Art 3. Since preschool, art has been a big part of Yukler's life. He explained, "Me and my friend would draw Angry Birds drawings. We would draw makeshift levels." This passion for art followed Yukler through elementary school but, he said, "In middle school, I did little to no art. It was horrible for me, but I really should have spent that time practicing." Yukler looks back at this time as another period of learning: "I feel like every artist has that kind of moment in time



where they lose that inspiration." When he enrolled in Art at LGHS, Yukler's mentors and classmates motivated him again. "It's really just inspiration from the things around me and from my peers and my teachers," he explained.

Recently, Yukler picked up photography as another art form, saying, "[My family and I] branched out this summer, it was a huge thing. We hit Italy, we hit France, Netherlands, Spain, I think, for a little bit as well...and I think there I kind of reawoke a passion, because I always took pictures, but I'm just spending more time with it." Yukler hopes to continue learning about art this year in his Art 3 class; specifically, he wants to learn more about painting and anatomy, subjects he noted may need some work.

Water polo is the other main passion of Yukler's life, taking up most of his free time outside of school. Yukler explained that he has always been a swimmer: "I always loved the water. Growing up, I would go to Europe for a lot of summers, because that's where most of my family is...[We] would go to the beach and just stay there for the whole day." Yukler is on the JV Boys' Water Polo Team at LGHS. He also plans to compete as a part of the Swim and Dive team in the spring.

Fashion and style are other current hobbies for Yukler. He runs an Instagram account focused on style highlights and fashion statements, which he started as part of his sophomore year Plato project for English 10 Honors. "I really just wanted to get my style better," he said. "My own outfits, my own style, I can say, is improved and I'm happy about that." Yukler's fashion advice: "Just be out there with it, try different things," perfectly captures his own character as well, always trying new things.



photos courtesy S. Yukler

Zeid thrives at LGHS field hockey and in other endeavors

by Margo Rawlings
Editor-in-Chief

Freshman **Reagan Zeid** is excited to start a new chapter as she begins her first year at Los Gatos High School. One of Zeid's favorite aspects of her transition from middle school to high school is her newfound freedom. With the ability to form her own schedule, Zeid decided to enroll in Multimedia Journalism and plans to take Digital Photography next year. She explained, "I really like that I get to choose my own classes, so I can learn more about what I'm actually interested in." Only a few weeks into Multimedia Journalism, Zeid

described the class as one of her favorites because of the creative nature of the class compared to her regular core classes. This year, she hopes to make entertaining videos and learn more about viewer engagement.

During fall afternoons, Zeid can be found practicing on the field hockey field. New to the sport as of this summer, she quickly found an aptitude for the game and gained the Junior Varsity Captain title. Starting the season, she explained, "I was pretty nervous for our first game because we hadn't played together before, but winning 2-0 against Hollister helped boost our confidence and trust in each other." This season Zeid looks forward to bonding with the rest of the team and continuing to find success on the field. She added, "One of my favorite parts of this team is how tight-knitted it is. Everyone is super close which makes the environment really good and productive. It was also helpful coming into a new school to already know a lot of older players."

In addition to field hockey, Zeid has been a longtime basketball player, having played club basketball for West Valley Drive

throughout middle school. In fact, this year, she is most looking forward to trying out for the Los Gatos High School Girls' Basketball team. When asked what drew her to basketball, she explained, "I really like the speed of the game; you always have to be ready to go otherwise it is really easy to get lost on the court."

Zeid plans to be an active part of the student body. She mentioned her excitement to first experience classic high school events, explaining how one of the biggest shifts from middle school to high school is the difference in student body activities. Zeid is looking forward to Friday night football games, spirit week and rallies, and homecoming this fall. She elaborated, "I've been to LG football games before, but I think it'll be a different experience actually being in the student section and getting to dress up with the themes."

Watch out for this enthusiastic freshman as she begins to make her mark on the Los Gatos High School community!



photos courtesy R. Zeid



Horton soars to new musical heights

by Kat Littfin
News Editor

Want to know more about birds and music? Sophomore **Constantine "Toby" Horton**, who can be spotted wearing his signature shades and button-down, can tell you all about both. A musician in LGHS's Marching Band and an avid bird enthusiast, Horton has set his sights on producing his own birdsong after high school.

One of Toby's earliest memories involves birds. Though birdwatching may seem mundane to most, Horton describes his interactions with avians in a thriller-like manner. Horton first found his passion for birdwatching when he was about three years old. He recalls standing in his garden when "a massive shadow basically just engulfed the entire house for a second." Toby was surprised to realize the shadow

lurking above his house was a bird. Curiosity about the giant creature consumed him, and only when he visited a bird shop a few years later, finding a book detailing California bird species, did he discover that the bird he saw sailing above his garden was a California Condor. Today, only about 500 California Condors exist, and at its low, the species only had about 22 documented specimens. Horton now reflects that his experience seeing a condor was "a once-in-a-lifetime...ordeal." From that point on, Horton was fascinated with birds and became an avid bird watcher. His current favorite species is a cassowary. A Cassowary is a six-foot-tall Australian bird with an exotic color scheme and fascinating features, said to be the bird with the highest kill count as they are greatly protective of their young.

Horton recounts his experience visiting the birds at their exhibit in the San Diego Zoo as a "privilege," as he celebrates the enclosure the San Diego Zoo has built for the species. The care with which Horton recounts avian trivia and reminisces about his childhood bird experiences is a true testament to his genuine appreciation for birds.

While birds' tweeting music reverberates through the morning air, Horton's song can be heard at nighttime. Horton plays the trombone in both the Los Gatos Marching Band and the band program's Crescent Ensemble (a class-time ensemble). Students who aren't in the music program often underestimate the time commitment that marching band entails. "Typically my evenings are spent only doing marching band," Horton explained.

As a student with a full course load, Horton learns to do much of his work during the school day, reserving the majority of his after-school time for the band.

Horton hopes to become more involved in music production, which he anticipates will evolve into his future career. His goal is to attend UC Santa Cruz to study music and music production. He then aims to move to Los Angeles where he hopes to live near and learn from his cousin Jared, who is involved in the music industry. He is most passionate about jazz and aspires to be involved in instrumental music production above other genres. If you hope to learn more about the migration patterns of different birds or want to learn some music theory, Horton is the man to ask.



courtesy T. Horton

Walker excels in last year at LGHS

by Britt Melinauskas
Sports Editor

Beginning her final months at LGHS, senior **Maya Walker** navigates her rigorous coursework and demanding volleyball matches. Leaving a lasting impression on her peers and high school environment, Walker accepts all obstacles while embracing her dedication and resilience.

Walker is currently immersed in a diverse range of subjects including Social Justice, Government, Economics, Statistics, and AP Environmental Sciences, with Government being her favorite class because of its practical application to everyday situations. Along with her academic pursuits, her last AP is French, finishing her path of becoming trilingual while already speaking fluent English and Spanish.

Though Walker remains uncertain about any exact college plans, she aspires to have a career involving special education teaching. Walker coaches at the Norcal Special Olympics, which provides Olympic-type sports and training for all individuals with intellectual disabilities. Along with fitness and community, Walker's initial interest in this career stems from her love for a family member with special needs.

As a team captain, Walker enters her fourth year with Los Gatos High School volleyball, continuously impressing many with her leadership skills and vision for the court. Last year, she helped bring the team to the Central Coast Section final,

earning her spot as a Santa Clara Valley Athletic League All-League Player. Walker has been playing since third grade and commented, "I know how the game works and how to be a reliable player on and off the court." Walker's commitment to her passions exceeds all limitations, and she shines regardless of the endeavor.

Alongside her success in LGHS volleyball, Walker continues to excel on her club team. This year, she will play with Mountain View Volleyball Club and travel to tournaments around California; Las Vegas, Nevada; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Spokane, Washington.

Outside of Walker's crowded schedule, she finds time to participate in the American Cancer Society Club and the Big & Little Club. The American Cancer Society Club promotes cancer awareness and fundraises money for various organizations, whereas the Big & Little Club focuses

on relationships with people of all experiences and backgrounds. Additionally, Walker's deep love for travel is unpaired. Her most exotic and astonishing adventure has been visiting Antarctica, a truly memorable experience. Walker has an adventurous spirit as she hopes to visit every country and continent possible. She is looking to visit Switzerland and the Swiss Alps as her next adventure to come.

Maya Walker can undoubtedly be described as ambitious, charismatic, and bubbly. Her tireless dedication to her studies and sports is inspiring and demonstrates her ability to overcome all challenges.



courtesy M. Walker

Football captain RJ Cannan begins senior season

by Katie Nelson
Center Editor

Senior **RJ Cannan** continues to make a statement on the football field as he leads the team to success in his senior season as captain of the varsity football team.

When asked about his role as captain this year, Cannan explained, "It's definitely an honor because I've looked up to those guys since I was ten years old really, maybe even younger than that, so now kind of being that guy and being able to be an example for the younger guys is really cool for me." Additionally, Cannan said that as a young athlete, his inspiration has always been his dad, a former college football player and retired police officer. "I just always wanted to be like him," Cannan explained.

On top of being captain, Cannan has the large role of middle linebacker on the defensive team. He said that although he's played a different position every year in high school, he likes his defensive role this year because he gets to "lead the defense and call the defensive plays." The daily practice and games

require a huge time commitment, but despite this, Cannan said that he stays motivated by "just kind of knowing that it will all be worth it eventually in a game, in college, or in life."

He shared the trick to dealing with the pressure of performing well in front of large crowds: "Probably just realizing how much work we've all put in...You're kind of prepared for the moment but you're definitely nervous until you hit that first play, and after that it's fine." Reflecting on the last few seasons, Cannan said there were lots of good memories, but his favorites include the Norcal game last year and the sleepover: "The team was super happy and we all got a lot closer after that. Also the sleepover kind of camp we have every year before the season definitely is really fun."

When looking ahead at the season, Cannan is optimistic. "I think the best part about a season is to watch how you come together as a team and start to trust each other and all that." He added that improvement was already visible from their adjustments in their first game of the season against Soquel. "[The game] was pretty good. It was a

little rough, like getting the kinks out and stuff like that, [but] we definitely got a lot better from it." Cannan concluded with some takeaways from his time on the high school football team: "I really appreciate my teammates, coaches, and my parents. We always push each other to do better."

So far this year, Cannan said he's enjoyed his agroecology elective. He added, "I have some friends in that class, and I like to work with the plants and all that." When he is not out on the field playing football or in the gym, Cannan likes to hang out with his friends, family, and chocolate lab, Buckeye. Admired by his peers for both his football talent and humble attitude, Cannan undoubtedly embodies the LGHS legacy as he continues to excel during his senior year.



photos courtesy R. Cannan

Kim soars in Leadership

by Fuyu Banno
Graphics Editor

With her love for helping others and her knack for leadership, sophomore **Claire Kim** is kicking off the year strong. Part of LGHS's leadership team, president of a fundraising club, and avid volunteer, Kim is a student many can look up to.

Kim is entering her second year of LGHS's Leadership class with the role of sophomore president, and it is no surprise that she takes this role very seriously. Although her job mostly includes fundraising for this year's sophomore class, Kim mentioned that the activities are not the only thing that makes being in Leadership important. She commented, "If you're in leadership, you're expected to represent the school. So I think there's kind of a responsibility in [that is] nice." Some of Kim's future goals include creating new events and coming up with more ideas for improving the school to make it a better place for everyone.

Kim's ability to lead is not limited to LGHS's Leadership class, as she is president of the club Cats Crochet for Community. Taking place in **Liv Johnson's** room at lunch on even day Thursdays, Kim leads members in creating cute crochet animals and accessories to donate and raise money for various charities such as the local homeless organization in San Jose. Her club also teaches any newbies who want to start learning the art of crocheting. Crocheting first became a hobby for Kim during the COVID-19 pandemic. From there, her ideas for the club blossomed, turning a hobby into a charitable cause.

Kim further extends her helping hand through volunteer work. Starting off with volunteering at local food banks, Kim expanded her repertoire this year by volunteering at the El Camino Hospital and

Silicon Valley Korean School. At the El Camino Hospital, Kim greets visitors and provides them with direction. At the Silicon Valley Korean School, she is part of the arts and crafts team, helping younger students create artistic projects and expand their creativity.

In the midst of all these activities, Kim leaves time for her many hobbies. Crocheting, cooking, and listening to music are among them, but she is also interested in fashion. Kim looks for brands online that are not mainstream to express her individuality, remarking that she does not like to wear what others are wearing. Although taking inspiration from trends and the research she does on fashion, when asked about her fashion styles she explained, "I don't know because I'm kind of all over the place. Some days I feel like being a coquette feminine girl, and then other days I kind of want to just wear a hoodie."

If you ever spot Kim around campus, you will be taken aback by her amazing fashion sense and her award-winning smile.



photos courtesy C. Kim

JASPER OSMENT RISES TO STARDOM

by Ainsley Northrop
Editor-in-Chief

With a passion for all things media, freshman **Jasper Osment** is already making a name for himself at LGHS. Whether performing on stage or perfecting his multimedia skills, Osment brings intense curiosity and dedication to all of his endeavors.

Osment's love for media began when he signed up for a video production class in middle school. Soon after, Osment joined KCAT-TV's summer camp, where he learned fundamental editing and screen acting skills. Osment explained, "I really liked it and I found out they had an option to be a counselor in training, so I decided to sign up...and I've been working there ever since." As a counselor in training, this freshman does everything from editing camper-made commercials to giving students screen-acting pointers. Osment takes particular pride in inspiring campers to pursue working in film and aspires to be like the older KCAT counselors who he looked up to when he was a camper. Osment cited LGHS seniors **Ashton Ross** and **Owen Fugit**, Leigh High School senior Noah Hirsch, and UC Irvine senior Lana Hagog as some of his biggest KCAT role models.

Beyond media production, Osment thrives in musical theater. Osment primarily performs at West Valley Youth Theater and took to the stage in two of their shows this summer: *Legally Blonde* and *The Addams Family*. Describing his experience playing Emmett in *Legally Blonde*,

Osment reasoned, "Because I had a bigger role, I could make it my own and have fun with it...I [added] finger guns and sometimes fist bumps that weren't in the script because I interpreted it." In addition to playing Emmett, Osment made his high school theater debut as Lurch in *The Addams Family*. Because this character only communicates through strange noises and not words, it challenged Osment to think outside of the box and grow as a performer. Ultimately, Osment delivered a hilarious monologue of entirely grunts, which left the audience — and even some on-stage performers — in tears of laughter.

When he is not working on his latest media project or captivating an audience from the stage, Osment enjoys spending time with his family, friends, and pets. He joked, "I have two cats, and their names are Thor and Loki. I think it's pretty funny because you can always tell if someone owns a dog or a cat just [based] on how they name them. Dogs generally have more normal names, but cats have weird ones like Thor and Loki."

With his high school adventure kicking off, Osment feels ambitious about the years to come. This year, he looks forward to taking Multimedia Journalism, which he views as a way to build on his KCAT knowledge. Additionally, Osment emphasized his interest in graphic design and "[learning] skills that will be useful for media, like Photoshop and video editing."

If you spot this energetic freshman around campus, be sure to give him a wave. Ask him about KCAT, film, or journalism, and he will be your new best friend.



A. Northrop

Junior Alisa Freeman creates a safer Los Gatos

by Hayley Strahs
News Editor

Whether she's playing one of her three instruments, helping Los Gatos teens receive safe rides home, or watching *How I Met Your Mother*, junior **Alisa Freeman** does it with a smile.

Enrolled in seven classes, it is no surprise that Freeman has a couple of favorites. She remarked, "I've been liking physics so far because I like math." While she remains unsure about any specific future plans, Freeman hopes to pursue a career involving mathematics.

As a music devotee, Freeman enjoys both playing and listening to music. Since sixth grade, Freeman has played the trumpet in Fisher Middle School along with LGHS band classes. Through the LGHS band program, Freeman and other band members toured Europe this past summer, playing concerts in Salzburg, Vienna, and Munich. On the Europe tour set list, Freeman's favorite performance piece was the patriotic *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, Freeman attends marching band rehearsals, where she plays the mellophone. As the high brass section leader, she devotes fourteen hours per week to practicing music, marching on the field, and helping both new and returning high brass members. Above all else, Freeman values the community aspect of marching band. "All of my best friends are in marching band," Freeman commented. "It's kind of a way to be with my friends."

Freeman is a certified club connoisseur, serving on the board of four clubs at LGHS. Among those, she is the vice president of two new clubs: Los Gatos Against Domestic Violence and Medical Club. Surprisingly, Freeman revealed, "My freshman year, I wasn't a part of any clubs." It wasn't until the end of her sophomore year that she first joined Interact Club and The Wildcat Review. "[My friends] would be like, 'come to The Wildcat Review,' 'come to Interact!' I'd be like, 'fine,' and then I realized that [clubs] were pretty cool." As the community officer of Interact Club, the high school auxiliary of Rotary Club, Freeman plays an integral role in organizing

community-based volunteer and social events. Finally, as both an editor for and secretary of *The Wildcat Review*, Freeman helps edit any poetry, photography, art, or creative writing submissions that the LGHS literary magazine receives.

While not affiliated with LGHS, Freeman is the president of Safe Rides, a local organization. Every Friday, from 9:30 PM to 1:00 AM, LGHS students and community members can call Safe Rides for a safe, confidential ride home. Safe Rides aims to eliminate the number of drunk drivers on the road by ensuring that Los Gatos citizens have access to safe transportation throughout the night.

Look out for Freeman in the band section during football games, or in one of her many clubs throughout the school year.



photos courtesy A. Freeman

- Sinner wins the US Open
- Flag football season begins

SPORTS

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Aryna Sabalenka and Jannik Sinner both dominate US Open

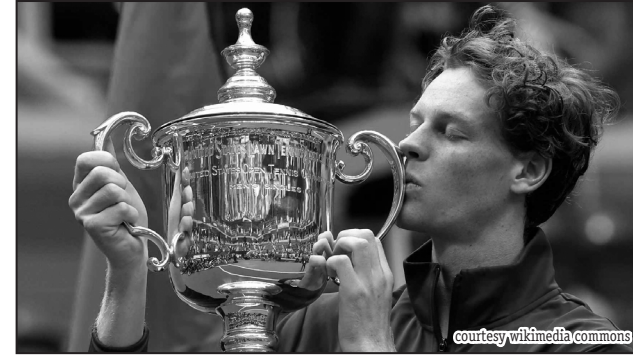
by Kayla Mitchell
Media Production Editor

At the end of each summer, viewers from around the world tune in to watch the season's last Grand Slam tennis tournament. Following the Australian Open, the French Open, and Wimbledon, the US Open, played in Flushing Meadows in New York City, is the last chance for professional players to claim a Slam trophy each year. The US Open is always an exciting event for tennis fans, and 2024 was no different.

American women have long made a strong showing at the US Open, with sisters Serena and Venus Williams winning the event eight times between them. With their recent retirements, a new generation of American players has emerged. In the semifinal round, two of the four remaining players were Americans, newcomer Emma Navarro and veteran Jessica Pegula. Unfortunately, in the end, neither was a match for Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka. Sabalenka defeated Navarro 6-3, 7-6 in her semifinal match and defeated Pegula 7-5 in the final, claiming her first US Open title in an impressive match, securing her place in tennis history. Overall, the American women made clear that there would be no lack of American talent on the court, even without the legendary Williams sisters.

The biggest story of this year's US Open was the resurgence of American men. This year, excitement began to build as Americans Taylor Fritz and Francis Tiafoe pushed deep into the men's draw. After surprise early-round defeats of favorites such as Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz, it became clear that American players had a real chance of winning the title. The excitement peaked when both Tiafoe and Fritz reached the semifinal round. Unfortunately, as both American players were on the same side of the draw, they had to compete against each other for a spot in the final. An all-American semifinal match, however, guaranteed that an American man would compete in the US Open final for the first time since 2006. After a long five-set semifinal match, Fritz took the honors with a 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, and 6-1 victory over Tiafoe. Fritz then went on to face Italy's Jannik Sinner in the final. Recently Sinner has received a fair amount of negative press for failing two doping tests earlier this year, and many in the tennis world believe that this should have resulted in his suspension from play. The ATP permitted Sinner, however, to continue competing without facing any penalties, and he proved to be an unstoppable force at the US Open. Sinner beat Fritz in straight sets 6-3, 6-4, and 7-5 earning his second Grand Slam title for 2024 after the Australian Open in January.

Still, American fans can happily say that the 2024 US Open was a successful tournament for US players. With Americans reaching the finals in both the women's and men's draw, they showed that they are at the very top of the game, with more dominance sure to come. (Source: US Open Tennis)



VICTORY AT LAST: Sinner kisses his trophy following his win against Taylor Fritz.

NFL season goes underway

by Atharava Pandey
National/World Editor

After a 207-day gap, the National Football League (NFL) made its long-awaited return with a bang. The Chiefs and the Ravens, arguably the best teams in the AFC, met up at Arrowhead for a rematch of the AFC championship game, where the Chiefs emerged victorious. This was a tight game that came down to the final play. The two teams went back and forth throughout the game. With a chance of sending the game into overtime with ten seconds to go, Lamar Jackson threw the ball to Isaiah Likely for a touchdown. However, Likely could not get his feet in bounds, and the touchdown did not count. The Chiefs escaped with a 27-20 win.



SET HIKE: The Patriots and Eagles face off in tight game.

On Sept. 6, two playoff contenders, the Packers and the Eagles, met in San Paulo, Brazil. Saquon Barkley, the Eagles new pickup, rushed for 109 yards. While the Packers played a great game, experience ended up being the difference between the two teams. The Eagles torched the Packers defense after the 1st quarter and won 34-29. Packers quarterback Jordan Love suffered an MCL sprain near the end of the game.

Elsewhere in the league, the Cowboys started their season with a dominant win over the Browns. After their collapse against the seventh-seeded Packers in last year's playoffs, the Cowboy defense shut down the Browns. The real test for the Cowboys will be playoff time, where they will face a tough NFC.

On Sept. 8, the Rams and the Lions met in a playoff rematch in the game of the week. After their exit in the NFC championship game, the Lions set the tone for their season. The Lions remained slightly ahead of the Rams for the first three quarters. However, a great Rams 4th quarter resulted in the game going to overtime. The Lions won 26-20 in overtime after a touchdown drive.

After a heartbreaking Super Bowl loss on Feb. 11, the 49ers started their season against the Jets. Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers made his comeback after tearing his Achilles over a year ago. The 49ers missed Christian McCaffrey but comfortably won against the incompetent Jets' defense. The Jets were a massive letdown considering they have a great quarterback and one of the best defenses in the league. The 49ers won 32-19.

If we look at week one, the 49ers are clearly the best team in the league. They fell short by a field goal last year and look like favorites this year. The AFC is more competitive in terms of the number of contending teams. The Chiefs look like slight favorites, but as we saw in their first game, the Ravens are right at that level. People should not underestimate CJ Stroud or the Texans as well. The Texans made the divisional round last year and added many assets. The season ahead looks promising, with many competitive teams looking to win the elusive Super Bowl. The fight for the 2024-25 Lombardi Trophy will be fierce. (Source: ESPN)



RAMS PRIDE: LA Rams players celebrate tough touchdown.

Fantasy football starts up

by Britt Melinauskas
Sports Editor

Sept. 5 marked the beginning of this year's fantasy football kickoff with the Baltimore Ravens up against the three-time consecutive Super Bowl champions, the Kansas City Chiefs.



PRIMED AND READY: Christian McCaffrey sets up a play.

Fantasy football begins each year with groups of people drafting players in a predetermined order, typically handpicking the best wide receiver and moving on from there. Each week, fans base their lineups according to the NFL schedule and select players to optimize individual matchups to achieve the most points. Depending on the week, participants are eligible to play or have a bye week, where players do not have a game and will obtain 0.0 points. If there is a bye, players on a participant's lineup have to be rotated to ensure that the most points will be optimized.

This year, the number one picks for each position in fantasy football are the Buffalo Bills, Josh Allen as quarterback, San Francisco 49ers Christian McCaffrey as running back, Dallas Cowboys CeeDee Lamb as wide receiver, Detroit Lions Sam LaPorta as tight end, John Allen for flex, Baltimore Ravens Justin Tucker as kicker, and the Baltimore Ravens as the preferred defense/special teams. Numerous people chose McCaffrey as their first overall pick because, according to ESPN, "He led all of fantasy in points per game last season, scoring 100.8 more total points (and 3.2 points per game more) than any other running back did."

Throughout the season, various players are selected to be on a fantasy football team where each player earns a number of points based on their performance in previous matches. Offensive players earn or lose points with passing yards, passing touchdowns, passing interceptions, rushing yards, rushing touchdowns, receptions, receiving yards, receiving touchdowns, two-point conversions, fumbles lost, or a fumble recovered for a touchdown. On the other hand, defense and special teams players earn or lose points with sacks, interceptions, fumbles recovered, safeties, defensive touchdowns, kick and punt return touchdowns, two-point conversion returns, and points allowed. In addition to the offense, defense, and special teams, the kickers receive points after touchdowns and field goals.

From its humble beginnings as a rudimentary contest, fantasy football has developed into a multibillion-dollar industry that brings in "29.2 million people [per year] in the United States playing fantasy football," as stated by USA Today. Its main attractions are its high stakes and intense competition. Participants can place friendly wagers or they can decide a loser's grueling punishment. Each year's season is a testament to the game's growth, with a fierce struggle for the champion title and the luck of the draw. (Sources: ESPN, NFL, SportsData, USA Today)



TOUCHDOWN: Buffalo Bills Quarterback throws to endzone.

NBA off-season creates buzz with blockbuster new trades

by Rory Zeman
Media Production Editor

Only three months ago the Boston Celtics became the 2024 NBA Champions, and much has happened since. In the 2024 offseason, numerous trades and signings have constituted one of the most eventful summers in NBA history. Here's a recap of some of the most significant team changes that took place this offseason as the NBA teams gear up for the start of the 2024-2025 season.

Potentially one of the most impactful signings of the season, the Philadelphia 76ers picked up former Los Angeles Clipper Paul George from free agency. After a disappointing season from the 76ers due to injuries of their star player, Joel Embiid, and a first-round exit from



SPLASH: Warriors player Stephen Curry shoots around during game warm ups.

the playoffs, a new wing star in Paul George could be exactly what the 76ers need. George may play a pivotal role in the team's success by being both a great defensive and offensive forward to a team that already has an all-star point guard and center.

Chicago Bulls forward DeMar DeRozan also played a major role in this offseason's excitement. DeRozan was part of a major sign-and-trade deal that saw him land in Sacramento. Now a part of the Sacramento Kings, DeRozan's career can take a different direction. Entering his 16th season, DeRozan can begin to offer a veteran touch to a young team that has consistently struggled to make it past the early stages of the postseason. However, Chicago made some changes of their own, bringing in Oklahoma City Thunder starting forward Josh Giddey in exchange for Chicago's Alex Caruso.

Although somewhat of a controversial trade for the New York Knicks, the Brooklyn Nets traded Mikal Bridges, a traditionally defensive talent turned all-star prospect, for five first-round picks and Bojan Bogdanovic. The Knicks are receiving backlash for this decision considering they traded an incredible role player along with basically their entire draft future for a gamble on a rising star. However, the Knicks came just short of making it to the third round of the NBA playoffs, so adding talent to their roster is urgent, which is why this pickup could benefit them.

Finally, the Golden State Warriors made some major changes to their roster. To start, they let NBA veteran Chris Paul go to the San Antonio Spurs and picked up three-point specialist Buddy Hield from free agency. However, the most groundbreaking decision by the

Warriors was to part ways with NBA legend Klay Thompson, who had been on the team for 13 years ever since being drafted to the SF bay. Thompson broke numerous NBA records on the team and was a part of four championship seasons with the Warriors, playing a pivotal role in one of the greatest dynasties in professional sports history. The Warriors also extended all-time great Stephen Curry's contract with the team through the 2026-2027 season.

Overall, the upcoming NBA season will surely have surprising shifts in teams' performances with the various offseason signings and trades that have heavily altered many of the rosters that fans are familiar with. (Sources: CNN, ESPN)



GO KINGS: Crowd roars loud at Golden 1 Center, home of the Sacramento Kings.

Los Gatos varsity football begins season undefeated

by **Lucy Panicacci**
Editor-in-Chief

Following a Division 1 CCS Championship win and their first NorCal title, Los Gatos High School varsity football launched into the 2024 season. Within their first few games, LG football continues to thrive.

Prior to the start of official play, varsity football held a team sleepover, spending the night in the school gym. "It was super fun," said junior **Zach Otoupal**. "There's a lot of shenanigans — lots of oranges being thrown and apples and all that kind of thing, but it was super fun. I felt like it was a great way to bond for everybody, and it overall strengthened our team."



TACKLED: The LG defensive players pummel and tackle the opposing team.

Varsity football played their first official game against Soquel High School on Aug. 30, winning 14-7. Junior **Beau Musser** made a great play down 0-7 in the second quarter. Catching the ball off the kickoff, Musser ran the ball across the field for a touchdown. In the third quarter, senior quarterback **Scotty Brennan** threw an impressive 54-yard pass to senior **Leon Sarashki**. To put LG ahead, junior **Grayson Doslak** scored in the fourth quarter. Reflecting on the game, Otoupal stated, "We played really well. We had a little bit of a rushed start, but we came together and got it done."

LG football played again on Sept. 6 against Liberty High School. The theme for the first home game was black out. LG started the game strong, ending the first quarter 10-0. Quarterback and junior **Callum Schweitzer** dominated during the match up, continually finding the right players on offense. His favorite play of the game featured a 37-yard pass down the sideline to junior **Max Thomas** for a touchdown. Schweitzer credits his success to his set pre-game meal of mac and cheese and fried chicken. Schweitzer explained, "I just had it once before a game when I played well."

After Liberty scored their first touchdown in the second quarter, LG responded in their first play while on offense with a 60-yard touchdown run from Doslak. Thomas emphasized, "It just took away all [of Liberty's] momentum, and led us to victory." Senior **Brayden Smith** also had a great game, producing a touchdown for LG off of a rush in the fourth quarter. In the end, LG football won with a score of 38-21.

Coming off a successful season, LG football hopes to continue the same momentum from last season. In 2023, the team advanced to the CIF State Championship Bowl for the first time in LGHS history, traveling down to play at Pasadena City College. Town members waved their buses off as the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department escorted them out of town. Placed against strong competition, they only narrowly lost 45-42 against Central Valley Christian. Otoupal said, "I'm looking forward to having a great season where we qualify well for CCS, hopefully [win] CCS, and hopefully [get] back to Pasadena [for] the state championship and winning it this year."



SIDELINE: LG football players stand on the sidelines supporting teammates.

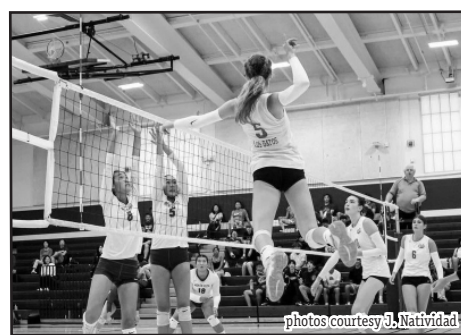
Girls' volleyball season starts

by **Isabella Langner**
People Editor

Los Gatos girls' volleyball is starting their season off with a bang. Returning from a second-place league finish in both the Santa Clara Valley De Anza League (SCVAL) and Central Coast Section (CCS) Division, LG volleyball is setting their sights even higher this season. The team currently has a record of 2-1 in non-league. Prior to tryouts, LG volleyball began hosting open gyms and clinics to refine their skills for the upcoming season. These began in July and occurred about three times a week, lasting around two hours.

On Aug. 26, the varsity team participated in a scrimmage at Leigh High School, where they dominated the game, winning in three sets. LG volleyball won the sets 25-19, 25-18, and 25-14, establishing their talent through an increasing score differential as the sets progressed. A few days later, LG volleyball played against one of their toughest opponents, Mitty, and was unfortunately defeated. Junior **Portia Zeilder** voiced, "The game showed our potential because we played really well against a really good team." They bounced back and demonstrated this potential in a three-set win against Harbor High School. In their third non-league game, LG volleyball produced another victory against Salinas in three sets, putting up scores of 25-11, 25-14, and 25-14. LG volleyball's freshman and junior varsity teams

have also begun their non-league games against Mitty, Harbor, and Salinas in close-scoring games. JV sophomore **Dani Borenstein** claimed, "Everything we do at practice and games is a team effort. There's a lot of high fives and positive words, and when one girl hits the ground, we all do."



AIRBORNE: Senior **Mia Halsey** jumps to spike the volleyball.

One of the main contributors to the team's success alongside their incredible skills is the team's supportive environment. Freshman **Kate Langner** described, "Since I joined the team everyone has been really welcoming and kind. We all get along well and want to play well for each other." Coach **Nicole Ciari** also contributes to the team's success. Zeilder declared, "She really wants us to put [the] effort in and succeed, and she's really big on community within our team."

LG volleyball aims to win the league and CCS and advance into NorCals. Zeilder said, "I'm really excited for our Santa Barbara tournament because we get to ride a bus, stay in hotels together, and play good SoCal teams." With exciting tournaments like this and challenging upcoming matches, LG volleyball is determined to make this season successful. Support your Wildcats at their first league home game on Sept. 24th!



CIRCLED UP: LG volleyball gathers to discuss their match.

LG cross country kicks off

by **Quinn Hathaway**
National/World Editor

Los Gatos High School's cross country team is off to a running start, completing their first meet, the Jackie Henderson Invitational, at the end of August. Both boys and girls placed highly in the Invitational, with the boys earning second place. Freshman **Kevin Sacco**, one of the only underclassmen on varsity, reflected on the meet, saying that the season is "going great" and that everyone on the team is "very welcoming" despite his being "younger than everyone else." According to Sacco, the boys' team's main goal is to win CCS, make states, and aim for the Nationals, which has been their goal for several years.



GROUP FLICK: Teammates share a photo after the race.

The girls' team managed to clinch third place in CCS last year and place in the top ten at States. Varsity sophomore **Elise Greenstreet** is excited about the girls' progress. When asked about the training and practices, she explained, "Everyone ran over the summer and was expected to be in tip-top condition, so everyone has gotten really fast, and people are already faster than they were at the end of last season." The team enlisted two new coaches, Coach **Geoff Elmore** and Coach **Ibet Allan**, who have increased workouts and weightlifting. According to Greenstreet and Sacco, the

new regimes have exponentially improved group fitness and overall team performance.

Team dynamics play a big role in all group sports, and cross country is no exception. Greenstreet says that, without her friends, "[cross country] would just be running three miles alone, which would suck." Cross country definitely helps improve the athletes' bonds. As Sacco notes, he has become much closer with his brother due to sharing an extracurricular. While team camaraderie makes the sport more enjoyable, other appealing aspects are the fun meets and courses athletes race on. The Ed Sias Invitational is quickly approaching, followed by Woodbridge, both exciting events for the teams. For these meets, the girls' team is aiming high for first place while the boys are focusing more on the top three.

These upcoming meets are exciting, and every runner has a personal favorite. One heavily anticipated meet for sophomore **Mili Perroud** is the Clovis Twilight race. This competition includes running two miles at dusk, followed by a state race in the morning. Although this race will be later in the season, it is still highly awaited.

Suspense runs high for these athletes, who have been training all summer and are ready to win some titles. Be ready to come cheer the Los Gatos runners on in their upcoming meets!



FIRST PLACE: Senior **Shea Elmore** medals at opening meet.

Los Gatos tennis dominates in early season events

by **Kayla Mitchell**
Media Production Editor

The Los Gatos High School girls' tennis team steadily improves in strength every season. Last year, the girls' varsity team moved up into the competitive De Anza League, the highest league in Northern California, and proved themselves a new force to be reckoned with. The team ended 2023 in third place in the league with an overall record of 8-2 in official team matches. Los Altos defeated the team in the quarterfinals of CCS in an incredibly close match, and this year, the girls are ready to push even farther into the tournament.

In 2024, the Los Gatos girls' tennis team has grown in strength and number. The team has always been one of the smaller groups on campus, with just 12 players on the varsity roster last year. This season, so many strong players tried out that the roster grew to 19 athletes. Eight of those players are freshmen, with **Allison Chen** and **Tuleen Ikkawi**

immediately claiming two of the singles spots on the team. Coach **Justin Stenger**, who took over coaching the boys' and girls' varsity teams last year, says that he is pleased with the fresh talent joining the team this year: "I was overwhelmed at tryouts by the amount of talented girls who wanted a spot on this team. It makes me excited for this coming season and to see what these girls can achieve." To prepare for the start of the season, the team is currently holding team practices every day after school and competing in non-official matches with other schools. They are sharing the courts with the junior varsity team, which also fields an extensive roster this year.

The varsity team competed for the first time this season in the Golden State Memorial Classic tournament on Sept. 6-7. Unlike regular season matches, which feature four lines of singles and three lines of doubles play, the Golden State tournament was doubles-only, allowing the players to highlight their teamwork. On the first day of the tournament, the girls defeated teams from Miramonte High School and Piedmont High School before falling to Southern California's Palos Verdes, a formidable team that went on to compete for the top spot in the tournament. On the second day, the team was sadly short on players and, despite valiant efforts, was edged out by a tough team from Menlo School. Senior captain **Yasmina Ikkawi** reflected on the tournament, saying, "Even though we didn't win every match, it was a great experience for the team. We got so many new players this season, especially freshmen, so it's important that we learn to work together before the real matches start." Overall, the tournament provided a great opportunity for the girls to bond while playing some fun doubles tennis.

The varsity team played its first practice match against Evergreen High School, a top contender for the CCS championship last year. With

their new talent and determination, the Los Gatos High School team took down Evergreen 6-1 and claimed their first win of the season. Junior **Kayley Do** talked about the win saying, "The energy the team brought to the court today was what earned us the win. Everyone is so determined to do well this season. It is really motivating to be on court with these girls." With a strong start to the season, the girls' varsity tennis team is feeling ready to compete. Watch out leaderboards because here comes girls' tennis!



LASER FOCUSED: Do concentrates on her opponent during practice drill.

ACE: Freshman **Sejal Pancholy** prepares to return a serve over the net.



SPORTS

Friday, September 20, 2024

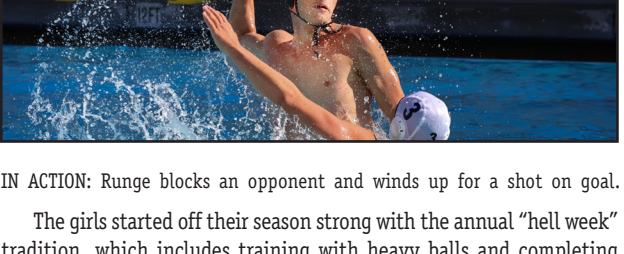
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Los Gatos water polo teams find success in fall season

by Katie Nelson and Ainsley Northrop
Center Editor and Editor-in-Chief

The water polo season is in full swing, with the girls' and boys' teams beginning league play a couple of weeks ago after nearly a month of preparation.



IN ACTION: Runge blocks an opponent and winds up for a shot on goal.

The girls started off their season strong with the annual "hell week" tradition, which includes training with heavy balls and completing difficult swim sets. This year, the first few weeks also included a Tuesday morning practice that began at 6:45 AM. Junior **Brooke Cannan** said, "I think that morning practices were helpful to our team, and

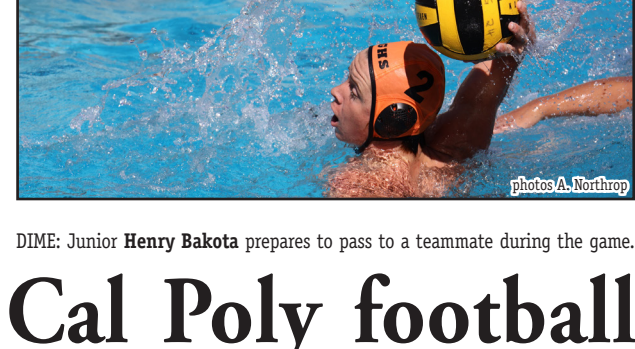
I especially liked the leg day. It felt refreshing in the morning, but I hated going to school with wet hair." Sophomore **Rhiannon McColley** added that she's optimistic for the season ahead and that she's most looking forward to "the people that I'm playing with." As a first year varsity player, she noted that "having someone older and more mature is a lot easier to be able to learn from." The girls are excited to get their season underway as the second week of league play begins the week of Sept. 16. After a tough loss away at Harker for the first game, they redeemed themselves by beating Mountain View 10-7.

After intense tryouts, the boys' varsity and junior varsity water polo teams are hard at work, vying for another record-breaking season. The teams have been busy for weeks, completing intense swim sets and scrimmaging non-league teams. Sophomore **Richard Runge** explained the demanding varsity practice schedule: "We practice in the pool once a day on weekdays and once on the weekends. We do weight room like twice a week, and we [watch] film once a week as well."

Varsity played their first game of the season against Menlo on Sept. 2. Narrowly losing in overtime, the LGHS team used the loss as fuel for their next games, crushing Leland 25-10, Harker 14-8, and Mountain View 19-3. Co-captain junior **Ryan Madsen** attributed the team's success to their dedication and spirit, saying, "The team that we have

now is very motivated, and there are a lot of good role models in this group." He continued, "I'm very optimistic for this season because I feel like out of the past seasons, this year we have the most potential to go the furthest we have in program history." Last year, the team ranked first in their league, and this year they hope to win the league championship and do well in CCS. Madsen reasoned, "Even though we lost a couple of very important seniors, I think in the grand scheme of talent, we've retained one of those top spots."

With demanding seasons ahead of them, both the girls' and boys' teams are up for the challenge. Catch the next home game on Sept. 24.



DIME: Junior **Henry Bakota** prepares to pass to a teammate during the game.

POM: Leo Cocchiglia commits to Cal Poly football

by Lucy Panicacci
Editor-in-Chief

After years of dedication, senior **Leo Cocchiglia** plans on taking his talents to play Division 1 football at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo, California.

Growing up, Cocchiglia played flag football and non-contact football. During his freshman year, he started playing tackle football. Cocchiglia explained the motivation behind joining tackle, stating, "I think just seeing all my friends play and watching football was basically the main reason." Standing six feet five inches tall, Cocchiglia is a force to be reckoned with on the field. Due to his strength, he found his designated positions as guard on offense and defensive tackle on defense. The lineman made varsity his junior year. During LG's historic football season in 2023, Cocchiglia experienced his favorite football memories. Of that season, he recalled, "Definitely being winning CCS last year against Wilcox. That was a huge game for us. That was really fun. And then going down to Pasadena. Even though we didn't win, it was a really cool experience, just with the whole team getting to do that and sleep away camp. That was probably the most fun I ever had with the team."

On and off the field, Cocchiglia brings a positive spirit. Assistant Coach **Heath Clark** spoke of Cocchiglia's character, stating,

"It's really fun when someone's really good, talented, [and] works hard and is also a genuinely nice kid. It makes it a special thing to witness." Outside of football, Cocchiglia likes to surf, bike, work out, and hang out with friends.



GO MUSTANGS: Cocchiglia poses in front of a corral in his Cal Poly jersey.

Over the summer going into his senior year, Cocchiglia received his first offer from Eastern Washington University Football. Then, he got an offer from the University of Idaho and the University of San Diego before getting in contact with Cal Poly. After going on a few visits, Cocchiglia reflected, "I kind of knew that Cal Poly was where I wanted to be, so the week after my visit, I verbally committed." Cocchiglia added, "Football program-wise, I really liked the coaches. I felt a connection with them, and they were super hospitable towards me, my dad, and my mom. I know people there, and it's where I always wanted to go, and I love California."

In his Instagram announcement post, Cocchiglia proudly displayed his Mustang spirit, posing with his family and their dog in his number 50 Mustang jersey.

At Cal Poly, Cocchiglia plans to major in business. During the commitment process, Cocchiglia focused on prioritizing his education, stating, "[Cal Poly's] education was probably the best out of any school that had offered me." In college, he looks forward to "playing football, working out, and getting to further [his] education at a really good school." As football season continues this fall, look out for number 50 on the football field. If you see the opposing team member flattened to the ground, it might just be the work of D1 commit Cocchiglia. Wish him good luck on his journey at Cal Poly SLO!

Girls' flag football begins

by Jordan Park
Sports Editor

The girls' flag football season is officially underway. LGHS's newest sport is gaining traction among the student body and creating a new environment of fierce competition. In preparation for the season, the JV and varsity teams began pre-season training in June and participated in multiple scrimmages.

Both teams triumphed against Hollister in their first games of the season. The JV team demonstrated their talent, producing a final score of 24-0. The varsity game depicted an epic turn of events and kept the crowd on the edge of their seats. Hollister was ahead for more than half the game, protecting their 12-6 lead, but in the final minutes, freshman **Paige Purcell** scored a touchdown to bring the Cats to a 13-12 victory. A few days later, the varsity team competed at the Milpitas Inaugural Flag Football Tournament and took home the first-place trophy—an impressive feat for their first competition.

Junior **Lola Cuevas** expressed her enthusiasm about the season: "It's very exciting. I think there's a lot of hype around it, and I think we're doing a pretty good job of encouraging other people to come out and support us and equating it to any other sport at the school." Since flag football is an entirely new sport, the players have come together from various athletic backgrounds, contributing different skills and abilities to the team's success. "There's a lot of different personalities on the team, so it's very fun to kind of match and pick who you really want to hang out with, and also experience a bunch of other personalities that you get to know throughout the next couple months," said Cuevas in regards to the team's chemistry. Reflecting on the season's first game, Cuevas noted the support from fans: "It was

very surprising. I think once they all came in at the same time, we all looked at each other and were like, wow. We're hoping that the support continues and doesn't fade."

Other factors in the team's success are their coaches, **Jaye Reinmane**, **Tyler Groenink**, and **Fred Jackson**. "I think that they work really hard to make sure when we're doing something wrong, they tell us. They want to make sure that we feel confident in ourselves and our teammates," senior **Heaven Lombardi** said in reference to their impact on the team. Lombardi, new to a team environment, shared her hopes for the season and expressed that she is looking forward to "just getting to know my teammates because before, I didn't participate in any school activities. So being part of a team is really fun, and then playing on the field is exhilarating."

The upcoming flag football season continues to be an exciting showcase of talent, dedication, and sportsmanship, and it is sure to be a remarkable first season for both teams. Make sure to come out and support girls' flag football!



GAME TIME: LG flag football players line up for the kick off.

Field hockey commences

by Margo Rawlings
Editor-in-Chief

Following a successful season last fall, marked by an undefeated record and a 17th Central Coast Section (CCS) Championship win, the Los Gatos Field Hockey program remains one of the De Anza League's strongest competitors.



COMPOSED: Anckarman prepares for a short corner play.

Starting early on, many of the team's players began practicing just two months after their fall victory. With the majority of the team playing club field hockey in the spring at Performance Field Hockey, the players convened each Sunday to improve their stick skills and increase their knowledge of the game. Additionally, LGFH hosted pre-season indoor practices every Saturday throughout the spring, intending to refine players' skill sets. Senior Co-Captain **Alice Anckarman** commented, "Indoor [practice] was really essential to building our dribbling skills. I think it played an important role in a lot of the players' developments and contributed to the success we've had so far."

As the season approached, pre-season practices ramped up, and the team held practice every

weekday throughout June and July. The second of the three captains, senior **Clare Torres** explained, "We used our summer practices to start rebuilding our team chemistry. Playing together and just getting a better understanding of how each other plays was the first step in building a better flow in our team's playing style." The team continued to refine their skill sets, working on short corner plays and building their stamina by utilizing the hill on the LG Creek Trail during team runs and organizing team workouts on the hockey field.

Prior to the start of the season, Los Gatos played in three preseason games. First, they played Hollister High School; they brought the heat to their first game, beating their opponent 8-0. Throughout the entirety of the game they only conceded one short corner to the Hollister Haybalers. Spending the majority of the third and fourth quarters within Hollister's half of the field, Los Gatos displayed their dominance in the match. The following Friday, Los Gatos matched up against Homestead High School for their first home game of the season. The Cats used the same energy from their game against Hollister against Homestead, beating the Mustangs 9-0. In their final pre-season match, LGFH played Robert Louis Stevenson High School at home on Sept. 14. The match ended favoring the Cats 6-0. Although Stevenson secured two short corners, the Wildcats' defense prevailed, with both shorts resulting in 16-yard free hits. The game saw a large variety of players from Los Gatos, with the Cats cycling through their entire varsity roster of almost 30 players.

Los Gatos Field Hockey's regular season is now underway. Come support them at their first home game on Sept. 24 against Presentation High School! Varsity plays at 4 PM, and junior varsity will follow.