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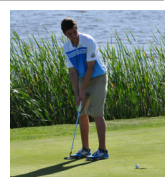


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Ijeoma Okaforize reigns supreme



by Blake Jensen Staff writer

As the crowd waited in anticipation, the contestants stood nervously awaiting the words.

"This year's Heritage Idol is...Ijeoma Okaforize."

The packed theater cheered for the new champion and all the contestants.

About 60 people participated in auditions, 10 more than last year with 39 competing. The top 39 performed in the first round April 15, 16 and 22.

Madeline Bustos (12) won the competition both her freshman and junior year. She was featured as a judge at the final show this year.

"It's so much fun! It was great to listen to everyone's styles and get tips and advice from each other," Bustos said.

Each of the first two nights of the competition featured half of the singers that signed up. They were cut down to 10 for the second round that night, and then to five finalists by the end of each night.

The final show featured the final 10 performers who battled each other for the number one spot.

Those 10 were cut down to 5, then to the top three finalists: Meaghan Yeakley

(12), Charlotte Kinsella (10), and Ijeoma Okaforize (10), who went on to win the night.

The competition is usually held in the middle of first semester, but this year it was postponed until the second semester.

The first week of the competition was held a week before the finale, which has never been done before.

This year's competition attracted many new contestants, one being Julia Steele (11). She made it to the second round of the competition, but did not make it into the final night.

"I sang 'The Suburbs' by Arcade Fire and 'Born to Die' by Lana Del Rey," Steele said. "Even though I didn't make it as a finalist, I just did it for fun and felt good about doing it!"

Another contestant was Connor Johnson (12), who made it to the finals.

"I sang Hallelujah on the second night," Johnson said.

All contestants were judged by Mr. Haley, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Ruibal and Mr. Silman in the first rounds. Mr. Beyer and Bustos stepped in to help judge the final night.

Maya Phillips (12) and Jaeda Smith (12) helped host the event.

Photo by Christian Tesefaye/ Ledger Photographer

Performing during Heritage Idol, Ijeoma Okaforize (10) wows the crowd with her vocals during the performance of her song in the first rounds of Heritage Idol. Okaforize advanced to the second round, then was selected for the final show. She battled a talented group of contestants in the finals and came out the 2015 Heritage Idol champion.



Photo by Gaby Trejo/ Ledger Photographer

The Juniors spent a Night in Neverland on April 11th. They danced the night away with their dates, friends, or just by themselves. Emily Carcot and Jason Miller were awarded Prom King and Queen and celebrated it with a slow dance in the middle of the dance floor. More Junior Prom photos are on page 8.

Heritage teachers do great things

by Ana Hurt Staff writer

Students often look up to their teachers.

Whether it's their personality, their style, or the things they've accomplished, teachers inspire their students.

At Heritage, two of these teachers have had some particularly inspiring accomplishments recently.

Mr. Fallows was named Heritage's Teacher of the Year, while Mr. Fogelstrom published his novel, 'McBeth and the Everlasting Gobstopper.'

Fallows was nominated for the award by his peers for demonstrating exemplary attributes in professional development activities, professional biography, community involvement, philosophy of teaching, and education issues and trends, and then won the honor by their votes.

"It's awesome because it

means other teachers recognize and appreciate you," Fallows said, "When you become a teacher of the year at a school site, they ask 'Why should people get into teaching?' I wrote that if you really want to serve kids, then get all in and become a teacher. If you just want a good job, be a restaurant manager. Being a teacher is a calling as well as a job."

After winning the Heritage

award, he was then evaluated by a committee, along with the winners from the rest of the schools in the district, to determine a single teacher to advance to the county level.

Principal Larry Oshodi expressed a great appreciation for Fallow's work as a teacher.

"I'm very proud of what Mr. Fallows continues to do for our students and this campus: the many hours he invests of his

More on page 3



Photo by Ian Gathu/ Ledger Photographer

During his senior English class, Mr. Fogelstrom teaches Carly Quinn (12). His book 'McBeth and the Everlasting Gobstopper' was released in March.

The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox. Vernal is Latin for spring and equinox is Latin for night.

## Shooting investigated as possible hate crime

Katie Glennon  
Staff Writer

An average Tuesday evening in Chapel Hill, North Carolina turned violent on February 11, when three young Muslim students were murdered by their neighbor, allegedly over a parking dispute.

Craig Hicks, 46, was indicted by a grand jury for the crimes and police are investigating to see if the act was a hate crime.

An hour after the event, Hicks turned himself in and confessed to murder, Lt. Joshua Mecimore, spokesman for the Chapel Hill Police Department, told the New York Times.

Almost immediately social media took off with the story, the hashtag #ChapelHillShooting appeared over 900,000 times and trended in multiple countries including: the U.S., the United Kingdom, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.

It caught the attention of a number of Heritage students as well. The discussion of potential hate crimes against Muslim people escalated, again.

All three of the victims, Deah Barakat, 23; Yusor Abu-Salha, 21; and Razan Abu-Salha, 19, were Muslim. The family of the young students claims the gunman had threatened the victims before, and they believe the shootings were a hate crime.

However, the wife of the accused has a different take on the situation.

"This incident had nothing to do with religion or the victims' faith, but in fact was related to the long standing parking disputes that my husband had with the neighbors," Karen Hicks said.

Additionally, Hicks' lawyer has spoken out stating that the shootings were the response of a "mundane issue" and had nothing to do with prejudice against his neighbors.

The faith of the slain young adults adds an extra layer to the story. Ever since September 11, 2001, tension has existed towards any individuals of the Muslim faith. There is also evidence that recently there has been another increasing in negative feelings towards them.

According to a poll on Newsweek.com, since 2010 attitudes towards Arabs and Muslims have decreased in America, "Favorable attitudes have continued to decline – from 43% in 2010 to 32% in 2014 for Arabs and from 35% in 2010 to 27% in 2014 for Muslims."

"My aunt when she first came here ... people at her school would push her down the bleachers because it was around the time 9/11 happened" Sanam Ramzy (12) said.

People have complained about the reporting, or lack there of, from this event.

"The media's slow response to this tragic loss – something that would otherwise be all over the 24-hour news cycle – is a painful reminder of how racism and Islamophobia distort reporting on crimes like these." wrote Jacob Klein, a writer for Tikkun Daily.

On the day of the crime, law enforcement officials searched Hicks' home and took a collection of weapons. They found two fully loaded handguns, a fully loaded AR-15 Bushmaster rifle, two shotguns, five other rifles, two other handguns, two pellet guns, and a collection of ammunition.

Of the three victims; Deah Barakat, was newly married to Yusor Abu-Salha. Barakat was a second year student at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Dentistry and his wife, Yusor Abu-Salha, planed on entering the school in the fall. Barakat has been raising money to help Syrian refugees with their dental needs.

His original goal was \$20,000; then, after their deaths, over \$440,000 was collected by YouCaring.com.

"I was just upset because every time in the news Muslims are showed as bad people and this happens and no one looks into it" Shaddin Abukishk, (10) said.

"The events of yesterday are not part of a targeting campaign against Muslims in North Carolina" US attorney, Ripley Rand said, he adds that there is, "no information that this is part of an organized event against Muslims"

On Hicks' Facebook page, there are many posts going back to 2009 where he speaks out more than once in support for all Americans to practice whatever religion they believe in, which has been pointed to as supporting the idea that he is not anti-muslim.

By February 13th, more than 150 civil rights and faith groups, including over 100 Muslim advocacy groups, requested for a federal investigation.

The FBI and The Department of Justice have launched their own independent investigations, and no motives for the crime have been ruled out. Additionally, The Durham County District Attorney, Roger Echols, reported he filed a notice of intent for Hicks to face the death penalty if he is convicted.

On April 6, Hicks faced his hearing where the Superior Court Judge, Orlando Hudson Jr. ruled that Hicks' can face the death penalty and his actions are, "death penalty qualified."

## Girls take the win, again

by Ryan Perry  
Staff Writer

Girls are winners!

The girls were declared the victors of this years Battle of the Sexes rally on Friday, March 13, as students headed to break.

The rally was both a fundraiser and competition this year.

One competition was between the girls and guys on who could raise more money for "Pennies for Patients," a program that raises money for cancer research and other terminal illnesses. Pennies counted as positive points while dollar bills counted as negative, so the other team could put as many dollar bills in the other tub as they wanted to raise their chances of winning.

The girls won in the "Kiss Cancer Goodbye" contest as well. The contest was designed to increase cancer awareness by posting pictures of themselves kissing someone or something with two hashtags, #kisscancergoodbye and either #heritagegirlsbots or #heritageboysbots depending on what sex they were.

The spirit week for the rally included: a who wore it best (A boy twinned with a girl), a San Francisco versus Oakland, a



Photo by Keyvon Silva Ledger Photographer  
During the rally, Track and Field team members Jacob Snyder (11) rides in on James Willsons (11) shoulders to make the crowd cheer during the rally.

mathlete versus athlete, a Disney versus Nickelodeon and a pink versus black spirit day.

They made a competition out of the spirit week by playing a 'who wore it best' game on the big screen at the rally. Students then voted via text on who they thought wore it best. The girls won every one.

There was lots of battling between the genders including a game of sumo where two competitors had to knock each other out of the circle while wearing fat suits.

Mr. Beyer definitely pumped up the crowd in this category by

slamming Mrs. Banchieri to the floor like some sort of wrestling move, even though he lost right after. The rally consisted of plenty of dancing from students to teachers.

The male and female leaders put on a show with their "unique" dance moves that excited and surprised the audience.

The teachers weren't going to be shown up by their students and proved that they can do it too.

"It was a thrill, I was eager to find out what was going to happen next," Matthew Rowland (11) said.

## From Romeo & Juliet to Les Mis Rising Stars celebrates 10 years of entertainment

by Alina Dennis  
Staff Writer

For the Heritage Rising Stars program, this year marks the 10th Anniversary. To celebrate this milestone, Rising Stars is going to put together a gala that showcases every single show that has been performed at Heritage High School.

All of the shows that Heritage has done include, but are not limited to, Aida, Seussical, The Scarlet Pimpernell, Oliver, Into the Woods, Midsummer Night's Dream, Grapes of Wrath, Hairspray, Servant of Two Masters, We Will Rock You, To Kill a Mockingbird, Into the Woods, Spamalot, City of Angels, Rosencrantz and Gilderstern Holes, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Pride and Prejudice, Almost Maine, and Les Miserables.



Photo by Lauren Lance/ Ledger Photographer  
In Master of the House, Maya Phillips (12) and Ryan Stubo (12) are plotting a way to take advantage of the patrons in their inn.

The eating portion of the event will take place in the multi-purpose room and the acting will take the stage in the theater. To only attend the show portion, the tickets cost \$15. For the gala and the dinner afterwards a ticket costs \$40.

Presale information is available on the rising stars website. If any are spots left, tickets will be sold at the door, but get them quick as they are expected to sell out!

The illustrious gala will be held on May 2, at 5 p.m.

## Three cheers for Heritage

by Sydney Gartmond  
Staff Writer

The sports teams grab the most attention for winning, but many academic programs on campus also dominate.

Leadership won an award for being a top 5 percentile leadership program.

Meanwhile, the yearbook also won a gold medal award from the Columbia Scholastic

Press Association in New York City for the third consecutive year.

The school as a whole received a strong review from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The organization came on March 1-4th to evaluate the programs on campus.

The two main teachers put in charge of preparing Heritage

for this process were Mrs. Wells and Mr. Silman, who put together a 300-page report on Heritage High School with the help of staff, students and parents.

"[The report] showed what it is we do on campus, and it shows how that work is being done for the betterment of the education of all of our students." Silman said.

## Teachers cont. from pg. 1

personal time, the passion in his teaching, and the excellence in his craft which shows in the theatrical productions we have every single year," Oshodi said.

The winner of the district teacher of the year was announced on February 27 by Superintendent Eric Volta, and, although Fallows was not selected, he still represents the level of excellence Heritage teachers strive for.

Another teacher recently published his book, *McBeth and the Everlasting Gobstopper*, a satiric commentary on teaching Shakespeare to high school students.

Dave Fogelstrom began work on the book about thirteen years ago; when a friend of his told him his emails about his teaching experiences should be a book. It was written in collaboration with his friend and mentor Rusty Weaver.

"Rusty Weaver came onto the project about four years ago. He was my master teacher in Hawaii in 1991; I lived there in the month of January and did some student teaching. About fifteen percent of the book is his stuff, and the rest is all mine," Fogelstrom said.

The book uses Shakespeare's *Macbeth* as a framing device to connect all of the teaching anecdotes. Stories from all of his different teaching jobs appear in the book, including some from Heritage.

The book will be enjoyable and humorous, but the message will vary from person to person depending on their background.

"If you're a teacher and you read it, I want it to be almost therapeutic for you; to just let



Photo by Michael Hary/ Legacy Working with a student in class, teacher of the year Mr. Fallows tries to reach all students.

you know that this is okay, what you're seeing is okay in your classroom. If you're younger and you read it, I want you to look at it from a teacher's perspective, just for a minute. Also, I want it to be entertaining, I want people to read it and I want them to laugh."

Different types of people have and will enjoy the book. Several teachers and students on campus have read it, and about 300 copies have sold so far.

"For people who are retired, like my dad who taught for forty years, for him he read it and it was super reflective, he called me when he finished it and he was emotional, he said 'Wow, I read it over the weekend and it made me really think about all the students I had over forty years, and just how amazing it was to be a teacher.' If you're not in education at all, I just want you to be entertained and appreciate what teachers go through on a daily basis," said Fogelstrom.

Whether they're winning awards or publishing books, the teachers at Heritage continue to inspire and motivate their students, and reflect the high standards students, teachers, and people in general aspire to.

## A second chance

by Dania Tarakji  
Staff Writer

The second annual club re-rush took place Feb. 25th.

The event was held to give people an opportunity to join a club if they didn't back in September or make a new club if new ideas arose.

Leadership felt the event was incredibly successful last year, so they decided to host it again.

People had mixed feelings about whether or not the event was more successful than the last club re-rush.

"This second club rush, I believe, is more successful because students who signed up for clubs in the beginning of the year were unfamiliar with their schedule," Miranda Berves (11), head of the Chess Club, said "But during the second time around people were much more familiar with whether or not they could attend and therefore, a higher percentage of people that signed up actually came to the

meetings."

Yet, some students felt that it was unnecessary and did not attend.

"I think one club rush was enough at the beginning of the year," Louis Sweatt (12) said. "It all depends on how the first Club Rush comes out, if the school had a really successful Club Rush, a second one would be unnecessary. So why repeat it?"

Students who came to the school after the year started also had a chance to join clubs.

"I know many clubs got new members and many students were able to join new clubs," Madeline Bustos (12) said. "There were 11 clubs that participated and we had two new clubs."

The Helping Hands Club and the Mug Club both debuted at club re-rush. Based on the outcome, leadership plans to host a third annual re-rush next year in order to continue to give students a chance to get involved on campus.

# Preparing for the CAHSEE

## Sophomores achieve highest scores ever

by Carina Renteria  
Staff Writer

Tired students dragged their feet along as they walked toward their second period class, getting ready to take a grueling three hour long test: the CAHSEE.

The California High School Exit Exam was taken on Feb. 4-5 by sophomores who need it to graduate, and Heritage students did better than ever.

While the need to pass can lead to anxiety, the schools results show students are prepared.

Sophomores nailed a 97% pass rate for Language Arts and 95% for Math, the highest scores in school history as well as in the entire district.

For most students it was a breeze to take the test. For others it was a little bit harder than expected

"It was pretty easy, but I didn't remember a lot of the math," Kylie Guardinacic (11) said.

The exam is designed to help improve students writing, reading, and math abilities as well as test their skills.

The freshmen have varying opinions about whether they should be worried about taking the test as sophomores; one of the students did not even think the test was necessary

"I don't think we need to do

it," Alicia Nelson (9) said. "I feel we just need to pass high school and we're good."

While others saw a significance in the test.

"I think it is important," Kelsi Holt (9) said. "It's a standard and helps show how intelligent one is."

For some, this test can be a bit intimidating and the pressure to take the test and make sure that you pass is crucial.

However, teachers such as Mrs. Gonzalez, Mrs. Camacho, Mrs. Lloyd, and Mrs. Simpson are doing their best to better equip their English 2 students.

Mrs. Gonzalez explained how she starts preparing her students in the beginning of January and began getting them ready for the test. Her hope is that by preparing students for

the CAHSEE she can also help them for the other tests that the sophomores may take before they graduate, such as the SBAC and SAT.

Even though Heritage's pass rate for the English test is already between 95-97-percent, she hopes to implement solid test taking strategies and get them prepared for the long test.

"I try to help them by giving them small doses of boring so they are not hit by boring," Mrs. Gonzalez said.

The best advice for students getting ready to take this test is to have a positive attitude and even though it may seem like a pointless or even long test, it is still a required test that is needed in order to graduate high school and put your best foot forward for this test.



Photo by Steve Conroy/ Legacy Photographer Students in Mrs. Gonzalez's English 2 class pay close attention as they learn skills that will prepare them for tests like the CAHSEE.

## Contagious #NaturalBeauty

by Cameron Toth  
Staff Writer

On Instagram, challenges are constantly popping up.

The ice bucket challenge began in Fall 2014 to raise awareness for Lou Gehrig's Disease, and now the new challenge that seems to be appearing all over Instagram is an encouraging challenge to women to post a photo of themselves they feel beautiful in and using the hashtag #20beautifulwomen along with why they chose the photo and tag their friends to do the same.

Here in Brentwood, a Liberty High School student named Lynzey Dorn (12) created her own challenge along the same lines that encourages girls to post a photo with no make up and no filter to embrace their natural beauty.

Currently, there are 965,496 posts for the #20beautifulwomen challenge and 9,598 photos with #EmbraceYourBeauty which are the hash tags Lynzey is using.

"I'm just creating a path for girls to come out of their shell and accept their natural

beauty," Dorn said.

This challenge has spread to the Heritage campus and several posts have been uploaded with the girl's picture and an encouraging message and why that person chose the picture.

Posting a selfie showing her natural beauty, Kathryn Chatman (12) said, "...I challenge you to continue to be beautiful, remember though; being beautiful means a lot more than just physical appearance."

The girls that post their selfie are encouraged to tag their friends to do the same and spread the word of being aware of their natural beauty that sometimes gets ignored due to make up.

Major companies like Dove have been spreading the word of embracing you for you.

Dove's campaign is the 'Campaign for Real Beauty' it embraces the everyday woman, rather than only model figures which other companies choose to use.

"The campaign started a global conversation about the need for a wider definition of beauty after the study

proved the hypothesis that the definition of beauty had become limiting and unattainable," Dove said.

According to the website, Business Insider, Victoria's Secret only sells clothes to women who are average size, 0-16.

"The largest panty size it offers is XL, or equivalent to a size 16. The fashion industry defines plus-size clothing as sizes 12 to 24, though many retailers offer up to a size 28 to meet demand," Dana Drew, a Business Insider writer, said.

Some believe these challenges on major media sites help spread that word of natural beauty.

"I decided to create this because girls need to learn to embrace themselves for who they really are and they can't do that if they are constantly being judged by their looks. Dorn said, "Girls need to realize that are beautiful and they don't need make up to feel like it."

The #20beautifulwomen and #Embraceyourbeauty tags are started to embrace natural beauty and to encourage positive self-image.

*Spring was referred to as Lent, or Lenten, before we called it spring.*

## Swimming and diving on top once again



Photo by Chrissy Frederickson/Legacy Photographer  
Katrina Sudweeks (11) prepares to dive in to the water during practice. The Patriots get their toughest competition in practice, because they dominate the BVAL.

by Nithin Matthew  
Staff writer

The girls and boys swim teams have won the BVAL title for the past six years, and they don't look to be giving up those titles any time soon.

The teams impressed in their early meets at Las Positas and College Park. They managed to win 6th place out of 22 teams in the De La Salle Invitational.

The girls have incredible talent again with Katrina Sudweeks and Allie Klinger among the returners who competed in NCS a year ago.

Some younger talent includes Alejandra Renner, Emma Brownrigg and Hannah Fogelstrom.

The boys lost a lot of talent to graduation, but they still

have a star and control the BVAL.

Recently, Danny Comforti (12) committed to swim at Arizona State University.

Comforti, Troy Fournier (10) and Evan Brownrigg (11) lead a talented group.

The diving team looks forward to making NCS as top diver Gabby Cosgrove looks to improve on her 25th seed in NCS last year.

The first big meet was at Mission Viejo as we had 17 girls and 16 boys. The girls got 8 points while the boys got 171 points for a total of 179 points.

With the guidance of our coach Craig Carson we have unlimited potential and look for a top spot in NCS.

## Jimenez places 2nd in NCS, signs to wrestle at CSU Pueblo



Photo by Chrissy Fredrickson /Intro to Mass Media Photographer  
Jordan Jimenez (12) finished the regular season placing 2nd in NCS and going into the first two rounds at state. He has been one of the best wrestlers the Heritage program has ever had and will continue his wrestling career. Because of his great efforts throughout his four years here at Heritage, Colorado State University Pueblo offered him a scholarship to be part of their wrestling program. Jimenez will soon be a Thunder Wolf come this fall.

## Girls Soccer wins thriller

### Bullock scores game winner to advance to 2nd round

by Charlie Sides  
Staff writer

After a thrilling 1st round NCS win over San Ramon Valley, the girls soccer team's season came to a close after losing to Monte Vista in the 2nd round of NCS.

The girls capped off a 15-5-1 season record while going 7-3 in league play, their best since the 2010-2011 season.

The girls ended the regular season with a huge 2-1 win over Freedom, securing them a higher seed in NCS.

With that win, they secured the 9th seed and went on to play the 8th seeded San Ramon Valley in the first round.

SRV had made it to the NCS finals nine years in a row starting in 2006, winning five.

Coming in as the underdog, the lady Patriots looked to take down the powerhouse Wolves.

The game was tied going into the 42nd minute until San Ramon scored to make it 1-0.

The game was tight all night, and Kasidee Wiley (11) scored the tying goal in the 79th minute to make it 1-1.

Regulation ended and the game was headed into overtime. Only eight minutes into overtime, Jamee Bullock (11) crossed a defender and sank the 35-yard goal into the top of the post off the goalies fingertips to upset San Ramon Valley 2-1.

With that win, the ladies had to play top seeded Monte Vista.

Monte Vista came into this season as the defending champions, as well as making it to three straight championship games, also winning in 2012.

Their perfect 21-0-0 record gave them the top seed in the bracket. The girls played a hard fought game but lost 5-0

to a very good Monte Vista team and were eliminated from NCS.

The ladies had a couple 1st team all leaguers in Wiley and Meghan Willmes (12) and 2nd team all leaguers in Jenae Packard (9) and Aulani Fernandez (12). Brianna Bridges (12), Kailee Gross (10) Sienna Zabroski (11) received honorable mentions.

Next season, the girls will have many returners in Wiley, Bullock, Packard, Gross, and Zabrowski. Wiley lately

just verbally committed to play soccer at Fresno State University in the 2017 season..

With the 2015 season done and over with, the girls will be as strong as ever with an abundance of freshman and sophomore talent on JV last year. Because of the amount of experience the junior girls had from this season, look for coach Randy James to lead them to another deep run in NCS next season.

## Baseball has lead in BVAL

by Clayton Creer  
Staff writer

Heritage baseball finished 2nd in league and were bumped out NCS in the first round by Liberty losing 3-0 last year.

The Patriots started the season strong, going 12-3 losing to Foothill, Monte Vista and Concord.

With returning seniors Tyler Slous, Colin Summers and Lorenzo Gomez, they look to lead this young but talented team far into NCS.

Heritage played West and got a huge lead 5-0 to start off the game. The game finished 9-5 which gave Heritage their first win. The next day Heritage played El Camino and crushed

them 9-0 thanks to a Jake Cosgrove (10) home run and a shutout by Kevin Milam (11). They took a weekend series to play Rancho Cotate and Casa Grande. They beat Rancho 8-1 and beat Casa Grande 4-3. Playing six games over spring break, they only lost to Foothill and Monte Vista.

Jason Andersen (11) has a hot bat, hitting .423 as well as Milam hitting .478. Milam is 6-0 on the mound with 0.18 ERA allowing only 1 run. Austin Manning (11) is also 3-0 making this pitching staff a deadly force.

After beating Liberty 5-1, the boys improved to 14-4 overall and 4-0 in league play.

## Diaz wins golf league MVP

by Mason Orloff  
Staff Writer

The boys golf team tied for second after their BVAL championship last season. After ending the season at 7-3, the boys came up short for a spot in NCS.

They won league last year for the first time, and they were hoping to repeat in 2015.

Diaz shot brilliantly on the frontside, but struggled on the back nine and ended up third in the league championship. He was still named league MVP.

At the Lone Tree Tournament, they shot an overall score of 470, giving them 4th place. Diaz led the pack, shooting a 76. They then

participated in the Freedom Invitational at Shadow Lakes shooting an overall score of 443. We lost to Liberty on the 219 to 205 to start off league. Diaz shot a 41, and Clayton Creer (12) with a 45 for the top two scores. They next played Antioch and won 198-260 with Diaz shooting a 34. After that they beat Freedom as Diaz shot a 40 and Creer shot a 43 to lead the boys to another league win making them 2-1 in league.

As a team, the boys finished 7-3, being one of their better seasons even though they missed NCS by one spot. If they placed in the top two in the league tournament, they would have had a spot.



Photo by Tristen Heredia/Legacy Photographer  
Kasidee Wiley (11) trying to get passed a defender for an assist.

**Mi**

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Mr. Silman likes to shave his beard in the spring

## Boys soccer twice as good

by Marisol Bragg  
Staff Writer

The boys soccer team doubled their wins from last year and performed better than ever before.

The boys finished with a league record of 3-5-2, falling to fourth in league with an overall record of 6-9-6.

Over the course of the season the team lost to Pittsburg twice, Freedom once, and Liberty once. They beat Deer Valley and Antioch, while they tied Liberty and Deer Valley.

The team had a close chance of making it to NCS if they won their last 3 games but they were kicked out of the running when they lost to Freedom 4-2.

The team was enraged by the referee who gave Freedom a penalty, due to Myles Youngblood (11) taking down a Freedom player in the box.

The call cost them the game, and their chances to move on

to NCS.

Chris Filez (11) and Yousef Alani (12) did exceptionally well this year and have been noticed for their hard work and contribution to the team. Filez earned 1st team all-league honors and Alani earned 2nd team all-league honors.

The season couldn't have

been better for the boy's soccer team.

Each year their efforts to improve have never failed. In a few years we will see our varsity boy's team make it into NCS, not only for their developing skill, but for their dedication each year to keep playing and try their hardest.



Photo by Zion Combs /Ledger Photographer  
Yousef Alani (12) races towards the Freedom defender to get the ball back in the Patriots possession.

## Boys finish strong, beat Liberty and Amador in NCS

by Charlie Sides  
Staff Writer

Guard, Anthony Dennis (10) in bounded the ball to center James Ned (11) as he posted up on the Liberty defender sinking the jumper with just 6 seconds left on the clock. A sea of blue fled to the hardwood after Liberty's miss at the buzzer as the Heritage 6th man stormed the court after the huge win.

With just 30 seconds left and Liberty up 51-48, the ball was inbounded to guard Malik Edwards (11) as he sank the floater to make it 51-50. With the Patriots getting the rebound off the Lions next possession, there was only 6 seconds left. Ned sank the basket to win the most exciting game of the season.

The Patriots ended the regular season with a 15-11 record and came in 2nd in the BVAL with a 6-4 record, good enough to give them a 10 seed in NCS. For the first round of NCS, the Patriots

traveled to Pleasanton to play the 7th seeded Amador Valley Dons. Amador had the same 15-11 record playing in a very talented EBAL. To start off the game, Edwards drained a three to take the lead 3-0. It was tight the whole game with the Patriots not taking another lead until late in the 4th. Late in the 4th, they were down only by 5 until Marcus Wallace (11) found his rhythm and hit 3 clutch three's to give the Patriots a 68-55 first round win.

In the 2nd round of NCS, the Patriots traveled to Concord to play powerhouse De La Salle for the second year in a row. The Spartans beat Liberty in the 1st round 61-26 to advance. It was a very low scoring game with it being tied 8-8 at the end of the 1st quarter. The Spartans then ran away with the lead scoring 16 in the 2nd quarter and Heritage scoring only 2 making it 24-10 at half. De La Salle went on to take the win 62-32.

Dennis was the Patriots leading scorer with 14 points. The Patriots ended the season with a 16-12 record. The Spartans ended up losing to Monte Vista in the championship.

The Patriots had a couple 1st team all leaguers in Jovian Cormier (12) and Dennis and one 2nd team all leaguer in Wallace. Edwards also received an honorable mention. Dennis was the first sophomore to be part of the 1st team since Shon Briggs, who is now playing at Casper College in Wyoming.

With returners in Wallace, both of the Mack twins, Dennis, and Augliera there should be no problem with putting their first year on the banner in the gym since 2010.

After losing to De La Salle in NCS two years in a row coach Cruickshank and the boys will have a handful of returners next season to make another run in playoffs.



Photo by JD Cecilio /Intro to Mass Media Photographer  
Marcus Wallace (11) looks for an open team mate down court to get the assist and make the bucket.

## Tennis takes fifth straight title

Charlie Sides  
Staff writer

After a four-year hiatus, the tennis team finally took back the BVAL title from Deer Valley in 2014.

The boys repeated the title this season.

With three- and four-year varsity talent from Trevor Samuda (12), Josh Bahns (12), and Ethan Manza (12) they will look to be some of the best singles players in NCS.

Their last league title was in 2009 and they put another one on the banner in the gym this season.

The team was loaded with

senior talent, despite No. 1 singles player, and defending BVAL champion, from 2014 Worku Demeku skipping the season to continue training privately for college.

Rigel Sison (10) is the boy's best underclassman, playing in the No. 4 singles spot. He will need to step up as a leader next season.

Look for Samuda to make a run in NCS, and Bahns could team with Manza to take a shot at doubles as they enter the BVAL tournament.

With senior experience, the Patriots have a shot at coming into NCS play as a high seed.

## Girls hoopsters battle to make it into NCS

Charlie Sides  
Staff writer

The girls ended their season with an 11-15 record coming in third in BVAL.

This season was the greatest they've had, but they did compete in league play and were able to reach the NCS playoffs for the seventh straight year.

After ending the regular season off with a bang beating Liberty 50-39, that win earned them a 12 seed in the NCS playoffs. They traveled to San Jose to play Mission San Jose in the first round of the playoffs. The game started out

close but Mission came out winners in the end 47-34 to end the Lady Patriots season.

The team will be losing valuable seniors Megan Vernoy (12), Brittany Dryer (12), and Kat Chatman (12).

Although they will have many key returners. Delaney Sparling (11) and Go-Go Chilaka (11) were named second team all-league, while Mikaela Wegenke (9) earned honorable mention.

Look for a turn around next season for the Lady Patriots as they have many returning players and upcoming talent to show off.

## Historical run of dominance

Jadeyn Madsen  
Staff writer

The softball team is off to the best start in school history, reaching as high as No. 15 in the state and No. 26 in the country.

After going undefeated in league last year, the team is looking to repeat that performance. They are off to a great start, sweeping through the first round of play, outscoring their opponents 52-3, while going 5-0.

The ladies made it to the second round in NCS last year, and they hope to go even further this year.

This year's captains are juniors Kylee Barrios, Tamia Lee, Madison Silay, and senior Kimmie Trice who has signed to play at Tennessee State.

Trice is the only senior on the roster.

Sophomores Morgan Billeci, Marisa Espinosa, Katherine Hall, Alyssa Kirk, Anyssia Ramirez, and Cameron Zamora join the returners.

The girls kicked off their pre-season with two wins against Castro Valley and College Park the following week on the 10th.

The girls improved to 16-2 losing to Livermore twice but also beating Archbishop Mitty, who was nationally ranked in the pre-season.

"We've been training since October, but now since we just finished up tryouts we are really working and pushing to go far" Tamia Lee said.

The team has clobbered 10 home runs on the season with Trice hitting three, Lee, Kirk and Ramirez hitting two each, and Silay adding one.

They will be a hard team to beat in NCS with their leadership from Trice and Silay. The hope pitching and defensive skills along with hitting help lead them to a the schools second NCS softball championship.



Photo by Sarah Formato/Legacy  
Smashing a ball deep to left field, Tamia Lee helps put a few more runs on the board against Pittsburg, who the Patriots defeated 8-0.

*Several centuries ago in Holland, tulips were more valuable than gold.*

## *It's not as easy as it looks*

### *Advice from a senior*

As a freshman walking onto campus that first day, the seniors seemed so much older, taller, and wiser than me.

I remember looking at seniors, and being so impressed that they knew what they were doing, and where they were going. Not just where they were going on campus, but they knew where they were going in life.

Now that I am a senior, and am supposed to know what I'm doing with my life as well, I want to say that you in fact don't always have to have everything all figured out just as long as you stay prepared for the possibilities ahead of you.

Although senior year is infamously known as the easiest year in high school, there are lots of stressful parts to it that no one bothers to mention.

First, everyone seems to be expecting you to know whether you are going to a four-year college, a junior college (which cuts the cost of required classes in half), the military, trade school... the list of options goes on and on.

"I thought senior year would be so easy, but there are a lot of decisions that go into thinking



Sydney Manza  
Ledger Columnist

about college and majors that are pretty stressful," Taylor Underhile (12) said.

You do not actually have to know what you're doing with the rest of your life right now.

Just set yourself on the right path by getting good grades and researching any job that you think you might like. If you end up not liking it or if all of a sudden you realize you'll actually have to be good at math to become an engineer, just move on to the next career that you think you might like.

We also have a Career Center for a reason.

You can go and figure out the next job that you might want to do, whether it be in the arts, sciences, or some random field that you've never heard of.

Or, if like so many of my own friends, you don't know what you want to do by the time you start filling out

college applications, don't be afraid to put "Undecided." It doesn't really hurt and only means you'll figure that out later.

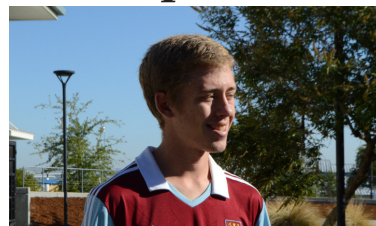
"I applied as Undecided because I still have no idea what I want to do for a career, but I'm going to college to hopefully figure that out," Rachael Grima (12) said.

So for now, just take advantage of Heritage: play a sport, you will make a lot of friends, and colleges also love to see extracurricular activities like sports, clubs, or community service; and get good grades!

I can't say it enough, because you don't want to prevent yourself from doing something you might want to do later on down the road, because you were lazy and didn't do any homework or didn't study.

Take A.P. classes because they really do prepare you for the extremely challenging classes you'll take in college where you actually need to study. Just stay open to all of the opportunities that come your way and it'll be a breeze.

## *Segregation, degradation and imprisonment still exist*



Kyle Land  
Ledger Columnist

Everyday life is segregated. One group is forced to use unsafe dirt roads, while another has access to state of the art roadways.

One group lives in one of the most unsafe and unhealthy places in the world, while another lives in a very modern society.

One group is not allowed to leave their "designated area" without proper identification, while the other continues to create illegal settlements in land they do not own.

For those living in Palestine, this represents only a small amount of the struggles that they face on a continuous basis.

Since the creation of Israel in 1948, the Palestinian people have slowly but surely had their land taken from them.

Over 70% of the land originally designated for Palestine by the U.N. in 1948 is now inhabited by Israelis, and it does not appear to be getting any better.

The barbaric manner in which the Palestinians are treated must be stopped in order to bring peace to the region.

The state of Israel claims that the land has belonged to the Jewish people since ancient times and that the Torah provides support for this.

However, this creates an unfair situation for those of other faiths living in the region.

"Just because it comes from your holy book, does not mean you have the right to occupy another person's land," Suryah Aryaei (11) said.

Not only did the United Nations take land away from Palestinians in 1948, but the lands in which they are forced in (known as the West Bank and Gaza Strip) remain two of the worst places to live in the entire world.

In the Gaza Strip, the unemployment rate has soared to 41%. Over 9,000 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli government since the year the turn of the century, with over 2,000 of those being children.

"It's such a bad environment," Palestinian student Shaddin Abu-Kishk (10) said, "Women, children, and men are all dying and being killed."

Refugee camps have been set up in Jordan, Syria, and other surrounding countries for those Palestinians forced to flee

their homes.

Such a country would normally receive monetary aid, but in the United States it is the exact opposite.

While Israel receives \$8 million a day in aid from the United States, Palestine has received exactly \$0.

If only Americans knew that their taxes are going towards the imprisonment of an entire group of people.

This type of mistreatment echoes that of the Apartheid in South Africa and discrimination against African-Americans in the United States.

Palestinians are not allowed to ride the same buses as Jewish settlers. Also, roads used by Israeli settlers are first-class and well managed, while Palestinian roads are mostly made of dirt and are in terrible condition.

In the book, *Dancing Arabs*, Arab-Israeli Sayed Kashua describes those living in the occupied West Bank as being treated "as seventh-class citizens."

With the inability to vote, move freely, or participate in the Israeli government, it is frightening how accurate this description depicts life in Palestine.

Much of the western media says that Palestine is full of terrorists who instigate the conflict with missiles and suicide bombers.

This merely deflects attention away from all of the terrible acts committed by the Israeli government.

"People are quick to judge and say that Palestinians are the ones instigating the conflict, when it is just self defense," Abu-Kishk said.

Many European countries including France, Sweden, and Spain are in support of Palestine becoming its own independent state.

The United Nations have even considered imposing sanctions against Israel if the condition of Palestinians does not improve.

With many countries beginning to support Palestine, the United States needs to start questioning its unwavering support of Israel.

Considering that this country was founded on principles such as personal freedom, participating in the government, and liberty for all, it is amazing that we continue to support a country that denies these rights to a large group of people.

It is good for a country to support its allies; however this line is crossed when the ally is committing atrocities against humanity.

The United States needs to be more aware of exactly who they are supporting.

## *Parents, time to step off and step up*



Melissa Robbins  
Ledger Columnist

"Each day gets worse.... [T]hat's why I feel like killing myself."

"I don't know what else to say. I'm just so tired, I'm so tired and I just want to go to sleep."

These were the words of 17-year-old Leelah (legally Joshua) Alcorn, a male-to-female transgender from Ohio, and 15-year-old Zander (legally Sandra) Mahafey, a female-to-male transgender from Georgia, who both committed suicide.

The bullying of the LGBTQ community finally saw some of the much-needed attention it deserved across the social media spectrum with these tragic events.

These two were driven to suicide, according to the notes left on their Tumblr accounts, as a result of parents' constant torment/abuse and abandonment/ridicule by peers.

The amount of times one hears, "Oh, well, kids will be kids!" in a discussion about bullying is absurd. But what is the justification for adults' blatant lack of regard for and,

in some cases, assistance to, the awful way LGBTQ children and teens are treated?

"Well, my dad was really supportive, and he thought that it was good that I was figuring out who I was as a person..." Maya Davies, a bisexual student, said. "But my mom did not react in a very... good way. She was just very insulting."

We as a body—student, teacher, administration—need to realize that not enough is being done to protect our fellow students from potential torment here on campus.

"I think it's important to have a presence on campus, especially high school campuses because [LGBTQ individuals] are especially marginalized... where you don't have a choice to be here or not." Mr. Mathrole, advisor for the GSA, said.

It starts with refusing to allow phrases like "That's gay!" and using "fag" as a pejorative term toward anyone to remain a common occurrence within the walls of Heritage. Eventually, the students here will become adults, who might have LGBTQ children of their own.

"[W]hether you agree with it or not, there's a level of violent language and action, whether you're being physically violent, you can be violent with your language..." Mathrole

said, "They're [homo-/transphobic slurs] said a lot and so it's easy to ignore them because you'd be constantly saying things to people."

In the wake of these recent suicides, over 120,000 Americans have signed a petition rallying to make conversion therapy—"therapy" meant to "convert" LGBTQ individuals straight—illegal.

Conversion therapy is another reason Leelah cited as contributing to her suicide.

In response to the bill, Vice President Joe Biden tweeted out, "Leelah is remembered. We should support efforts to ban the use of conversion therapy for minors. #LeelahsLaw".

On March 31, the world celebrated "Trans Day of Visibility," which allowed transgendered individuals to tweet, blog, vine, and snap their images to make society aware of the magnitude of the trans community.

If students want to voice their outrage about the injustices the LGBTQ community is facing, the current trending hashtags on social media are: #LeelahsLaw, #JusticeforLeelah, and #Translivesmatter.

It's time for the student body of Heritage to band together and be a part of the movement that ends the torment of our LGBTQ peers.

# Eliminating the craving for an apocalypse

The world is on the brink of collapse. Nations turn against each other. Civilization wisps away through a breeze of dust and ash. Order is no longer in the vocabulary of this new world. People are left starving and fighting for the chance of waking up the next morning.

Well, this isn't happening globally, but as people come to realize our resources for living on earth are seemingly diminishing, some have this notion they won't be here as we know it much longer, and they love the idea.

People need to embrace life and stop the obsession with destruction. Across popular culture and media, especially recently, the idea of an apocalypse comes to mind whether it's a struggle for resources, zombie outbreak, new disease or the culmination of all of them.

Today, we see many films along the lines where man must fend for himself in a world of chaos where food is scarce, people are insane, and death is always right around the corner. We seem to love having our world destroyed.

There are beyond too many of these films at this point, but just to give a few names, films such as *The Book of Eli*, *I Am Legend*, *Elysium*, *Zombieland*, and even *Wall-E* are subject to this concept.

These films became greatly successful box-office hits with being merely but a few years old. In the past fifteen years, there have been about one-hundred films trekking the apocalyptic road with a similar a theme and atmosphere.

The most watched show in cable history is a post-apocalyptic tale known as *The Walking Dead*.

Where's the movie where a group of people venture out to clean the oceans?

Talk of drought, disease, technology pulling a one-eighty on the human race, massive



Antonio Garro  
Ledger Columnist

population growth, corruption of government, and other things have gotten people excited for a world possibly destined to end.

Why is it that way? What makes an apocalypse "so cool" or ideal to be a part of?

People seem to desire such an opportunity where one can simply wander alone and be a

sovereign individual.

Putting history into play, during The Great Depression, young adults often left their families to travel the country for adventure and excitement such as the opportunity to take in a world bent in disarray to have the freedom to do anything.

"These stories let us imagine being suddenly forced out of our comfort zone and into something far more heroic... End-of-the-world narratives allow us to imagine large scale rebirth and play into our utopian desires," Wes Burden at the University of Minnesota told *YES! Magazine*.

It's a way to find the best of themselves in the worst circumstances as well.

Of those living in a middle-class or higher-class world, some aren't content with finding the best of themselves, we're averagely complacent in most aspects of life.

Our complaints are usually so incredibly miniscule, like waking up early in the morning, having to run to the store for toilet paper, or having your headphones tangled in your pockets.

People can't find themselves in situations where they can easily solve it. There has to be a challenge.

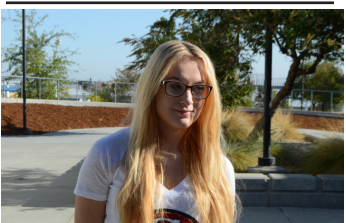
It's a cool idea for sure. Who wouldn't want to travel and fight off hordes of zombies with their friends? Sounds fun, right? It's not a bad thing to like this concept, but thinking on it, maybe it isn't such a great idea to wish it on the world. No one ever sees themselves as the zombie or the diseased but only the survivor.

Let's not look to end everything. We don't have to destroy ourselves to find what we're looking for inside of us. We should cherish what we have.

## When senioritis hits

The first rays of sunlight find their way through the cracks in the blinds as the alarm blares, rocking you from your slumber. "Do I really need to go to school today?"

Senioritis is a right of passage, there is no cure. As the high school finish line approaches, seniors' attendance dwindles. College acceptance letters, easy classes, and just pure laziness are the biggest contributors to this year's outbreak of senioritis and ditching.



Alexa Crowder  
Ledger Columnist

If you plan on attending a college after high school, the beginning of your senior year will be overwhelming.

The first few months are a whirlwind of touring colleges, researching schools, studying for the ACT and SAT, looking into housing options, and learning about financial aid. Not to mention actually applying to college.

"It's difficult to stay motivated when you're already looking ahead to what's coming after high school," Nick Wise (12) said. "Most kids just want to graduate already."

Once you hear back from your colleges, your motivation drops dramatically. The most stressful part of senior year is applying for college, and once that is over you just want to take a well deserved break.

"Getting accepted into college is a huge relief," says Maria Navea (12). "Especially if you

get accepted to your first choice school."

Once you hear back from your school, you mentally check out. You become focused on 'bigger' things such as scholarships and housing. High school becomes a thought in the back of your mind.

A big reason kids don't take senior year as seriously is because the classes are easy.

If you've completed all your credits up to this point you don't have to try as hard because you only have 2 core classes: American Government/Economics and English 4.

"Seniors lose motivation to go to school because they know they won't be missing much if they skip," Tyler Williams (12) said. "As an underclassman you have several important core classes (Math, Science, English, History, ect.) but as a senior you really only have two 'real' classes. Not to say that electives aren't important, they just aren't taken as seriously."

It's hard to find the motivation to go to school when you know it won't make a difference whether you go or not, especially because there are no consequences.

Typically, if you are caught ditching you get after school detention, when you miss that you get Saturday school, and when you miss that you get on campus suspension.

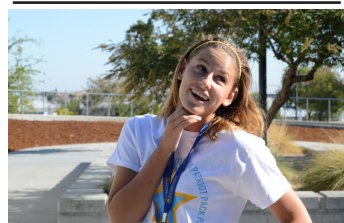
So what's the worst they can do? Take us away from classes we didn't want to be at anyways?

The bottom line is seniors will ditch regardless of these so called "consequences".

There is no cure for senioritis; it's a rite of passage. After working tirelessly through three and a half years of high school there is nothing wrong with skipping a few classes.

So go ahead, hit the snooze button, you deserve it.

## Just get Over It



Cameron Toth  
Ledger Columnist

Groaning, rolling out of bed in the morning, realizing that human interaction is unavoidable. You paste on the fake smile that you've practiced since your first school picture that really mattered to you and get through the day.

I get it, people. I'm in that state of mind four out of the five days we are at school (Friday is the exception).

Well, get over it, stuff's going to happen, people will drive you crazy and talk about you behind your back. Just get over it.

Some things are unavoidable, like getting embarrassed.

Everyone messes up now and then, and sometimes something so drastic and crazy as falling down the stairs and taking people down with you or getting pooped on by a bird happens. Those are one in a million situations, but they happen.

The loud mouths will spread the news like wild fire and before you know it, everyone and their mother knows about that awkward moment.

You should laugh it off. It happened and you can't change it. It'll eventually dissipate or something even crazier will happen somewhere else and your small mistake will be forgotten. Don't sweat it because it happens to everyone.

Rumors. Oh boy. How wonderful art thou. Things said that aren't true shouldn't be taken to heart, because if they



aren't true then why get all butt hurt about it?

It'll have a negative effect and may bounce you back on the confidence scale, but its part of life; people tear other people down to try and make themselves look better, when in reality they are doing the exact opposite.

No one is pure from rumor spreading, because there is going to be that one person, like an ex or a friend that could have broken your heart and stabbed you in the back with an entire knife set and all you want to do is tell people all the horrible things that they have done to you and not focus on the fun times. What they say about you says more about them than you.

You can't stop the rumors from starting and you can't really change people's minds who believe them, all you can do is sit back and laugh at these low life people who have nothing better to do than talk about you.

If you let people see the pain and anger building up they will only use that to their advantage. Don't give them an audience-with no audience why perform?

Losing a friend is like just buying an ice cream on a hot day

and on the first lick it rolls off the cone and plops on the floor. It's like getting a gut punch from John Cena when you have a stomach ache; the point is that it will hurt.

New people, better people, will come along and sweep you off your feet into a new found relationship. A strong friendship doesn't need daily conversation, doesn't always need togetherness, as long as the relationship lives in the heart.

It's about quality not quantity when it comes to friends, because it's better to have one person, who you trust with your life, to go to rather than posting something on instagram waiting for a follower to direct message you, "whats wrong?"

Get over it. People aren't perfect, I sound like a broken record, but it's the truth and people deserve to hear the harsh realities of life. I am not guru of life problems or the sugar coating person that will talk in a high pitched voice like talking to a child, high schoolers are suppose to be more mature than other middle school counterparts, so its time to get over the small things and realize there are bigger fish to fry.

# Calendar

April- June

- May 2-Rising Stars Gala
- May 4-15-AP Exams
- May 5-NHS Meeting @ lunch
- May 7-Senior Awards
- May 12-CAHSEE Testing; HPAB Meeting in LG-114
- May 13-CAHSEE Testing
- May 15-Academic Signing Rally
- May 19-Local Scholarship Night
- May 20-Spring Concert, 6 p.m.
- May 21- Minimum Day; Spring Concert, 6 p.m.
- May 22- End of the Year Rally
- May 23- Senior Ball
- May 24- Jazz Concert
- May 25- Memorial Day/ No School
- May 28- SAC Meeting
- May 29- Improv Show
- June 1- Finals Begin
- June 4- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
- June 6- Graduation

# Busting out all the moves at Junior Prom



Photo by Gaby Trejo / Ledger Photographer  
Sophia Guernsey(11) watches as David Letuligasenoa(11) showcases his moves on the dance floor.



Photo by Sarah Formato/ Ledger Photographer  
Students stand back as Tyriq Mack(10) gets hype with the music.



Photo by Sarah Formato/ Ledger Photographer  
Alison Rohlf(11) and Marissa Sorbello(11) join the conga line in excitement as the dance heats up.

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## Students could save thousands on tuition

by Ana Hurt  
Staff Writer

In Obama's State of the Union address on Jan. 20, he announced his proposal for education reform, including a nationwide policy for two years of free community college tuition for students with a family income of \$200,000 or less.

"By the end of this decade, two in three job openings will require some higher education. Two in three. And yet, we still live in a country where too many bright, striving Americans are priced out of the education they need. It's not fair to them, and it's sure not smart for our future," said President Obama.

Under this policy, three-quarters of tuition would be paid for by the federal government, while the rest would be covered by the states, saving students about \$3,800 a year.

This would not include additional fees such as food or textbooks. However, according to time.com, this problem

would be solved by awarding grants along with free tuition, as Obama proposed. Students under the plan have to maintain a 2.0 GPA and be enrolled at least half-time in order to receive aid.

"It would be a socialistic program however I'm in favor of it because if we're going to spend 60 billion dollars on kids who have never been able to have the opportunity of an education, Suryah Aryaei (11) said. "In a sense we are giving education to provide answers we haven't been able to find before, like finding the solution to the mystery of cancer."

This new legislation is meant to take action in 2016 with congressional approval and would cost around \$60 billion over the following decade. Funding would come from the \$320 billion in tax increases and the higher fees on large financial institutions proposed for the next decade.

"My thoughts are that it's a step towards socialism that I disagree with," Nico Grossi (12) said. "They label it as free

college to make us feel good about it, but it's not free at all. Tax payers are paying for it."

In addition, states may choose to cover their part of the students' tuitions with the money they currently use to pay direct subsidies to community colleges, meaning that community colleges would actually lose money.

The state of Tennessee and the city of Chicago have both enacted free community college plans already, and Obama's proposal specifically builds on Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam's plan, according to usnews.com.

With the plan, Tennessee high school graduates receive two years of tuition-free community or technical college in the state if they enroll full time and maintain a 2.0 GPA. Under the "last dollar" funding method, the state will cover remaining tuition costs after other grants. So far, 57,000 students have applied for the program in Tennessee.

## Student voices

What does feminism mean to you?



"To me it means equality of all genders all sexes all races I try to not discriminate against any group of people and try to show people what they're doing can be problematic so they can change their actions," Nicole Brennick (11)



"Feminism is when a woman or a man feels the women don't get enough equality in the world and they have to talk about it," Jonathan Caranto (10) said.



"Feminism means women having the same rights as men and being able to have the same status men have: equal rights, equal protections," Oseje Akhile (12) said.



"Feminism isn't just about women empowerment I think it's about gender equality for all genders," Megan Vallee (10) said.