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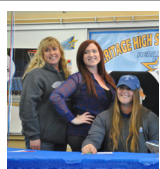
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Heritage Ledger

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3

101 AMERICAN AVENUE, BRENTWOOD, CA 94513

DECEMBER 2014

Protesters reach Heritage



Joining a national movement of protests, Sabira Saadiq (12) marches with students and staff during lunch on Dec. 4. The group marched and then talked with Mr. Oshodi about the recent incidents in Ferguson, Missouri and New York City.

by Kellie Chudzinski and
Cameron Toth
Staff writers

Protesters chanted "Hands up don't shoot! I can't breathe. Hands up don't shoot! Why are you following me?" and marched through a crowd of onlookers.

The words were the same as those heard in Ferguson, Missouri and New York City, but they were thousands of miles away on the Heritage campus in California at lunchtime on Dec. 4.

Members of the Black Student Union and their adviser Mr. Rust joined with other

students and Mr. Allen to peacefully protest with a walk around the campus.

"We protested because we felt that the grand jury made the wrong decision in the Eric Garner case, and we as citizens, no matter how young, need to stand up for injustice," BSU president Alfreda Charway (12) said.

The protest was in response to a New York grand jury's decision not to indict officer Daniel Pantaleo, on any charges in the death of Eric Garner. Garner was an unarmed African American man who died this summer after an officer used

a choke hold to subdue him. Choke holds were banned by the NYPD over 20 years ago.

"I feel like as young people and as a school, we could be doing better... It feels like, no matter how much marching, no matter how much singing, we will never get justice," Arman Thigpen (11) said.

The march and chants used also symbolized the death of Mike Brown in Missouri and Trayvon Martin in Florida in 2012.

Each chant, shouted during the march was for one of those cases. 'Hands up don't shoot', a phrase that has been spreading

during other protests for the decision in the Brown case. While, 'I can't breathe' and 'Why are you following me?' have become famous last words of Garner and Martin.

Mrs. Shaw said that the administration makes sure students rights are protected.

The march started in Mr. Rust's room and went around the campus green, before looping back to Mr. Rust's room and making one more lap. While the students made their way around the campus, a few students decided to voice themselves in support of the New York grand jury decision.

The protesters let the administration and other school officials know of their intentions for a march in advance, and the administration and approved the activity, without supporting or opposing the message.

"The recent tension between the community and law enforcement is something we can not overlook," officer Mitch Brouillette, the school's SRO, said. "I take the time to talk with students all in hopes to mend the wounded relationships between the community and law enforcement."

After the march, Principal Oshodi spoke to the protesters in Mr. Rust's room. He told the group he appreciated the peaceful and organized manner of their protest.

Oshodi said that his message was to the group was "that it is important as a society that we question and have civil and responsible conversations about issues affecting out communities."

The not lock down

Cameron Toth
Staff writer

The alarm tones rang and teachers were told not to release their students.

Heritage went on 'restricted movement' during seventh period on Nov. 19, not a lockdown.

There was an e-mail sent to Mr. Oshodi that said in part, "I am a student at Heritage High School... I have been recruited into a group called ISIS. Our first task is to kill 20 Americans... Will be doing the attack at 2:13pm today... We will shoot and kill every American we see on site, unless you give us \$15,000 outside the school by 2:10pm. We will also deactivate the bombs planted throughout the school, this will be a final stand, All will be cleansed, Thank you."

While students stayed in class, Twitter blew up with updates, and teachers were receiving e-mail updates. Some teachers needed to bring out the emergency bathroom bucket.

Mrs. DeLaCruz's class, which had a substitute, was armed with anything sharp and barricaded the door with desks; students were given dictionaries, and had the police scanner running.

The Brentwood police were contacted, and they manned the entrances and exits of the school and did area checks looking for suspicious vehicles. There was a protective sweep of the campus and no unusual objects were found. Students were released.

"I took every precaution necessary to protect everyone at the school." School Resource Officer Mitch Brouillette said.

Further investigation included help from Microsoft. They tracked the email to Southern California. On the same day, Heritage High in Clarke County, Vancouver, Washington received a phone call from the alleged ISIS member saying that he committed other crimes. SWAT went to his house and the alleged member wasn't the person who lived at that address. They still took him in for questioning and came out with nothing.

There were also two more bomb threats the day before and the same day. The threat was received at Heritage. The FBI is now in control of the situation.

Seniors avoid lines

by Carina Renteria
Staff writer

For once the seniors were excited to wake up and pack their bags for school.

They spent most of first period in class and then 375 seniors filed onto seven buses as they waited for the departure to Six Flags in Vallejo on Nov. 24.

The students were ready for a day filled with fun, and things went smoothly for the most part.

"I loved the senior trip! It was a perfect length on a good day," Victoria Clements (12) said. "The only thing I didn't like was the bus ride since I didn't get to sit next to friends."

The buses were originally

arranged by who you bought your ticket with, but space for the chaperones was needed.

"I feel bad that (some kids) had to move," Mr. Cook said.

The park was relatively empty and there were no issues getting on rides.

"It was fun! It was nice that we went on a day that wasn't busy because (the lines for) the rides were really short," Paige Bowen (12) said.

"It was awesome! They picked a great day, there was no one there," Nicole Breznik said. "It was also great weather and the lunch was so good, there was a huge buffet that we could choose from."

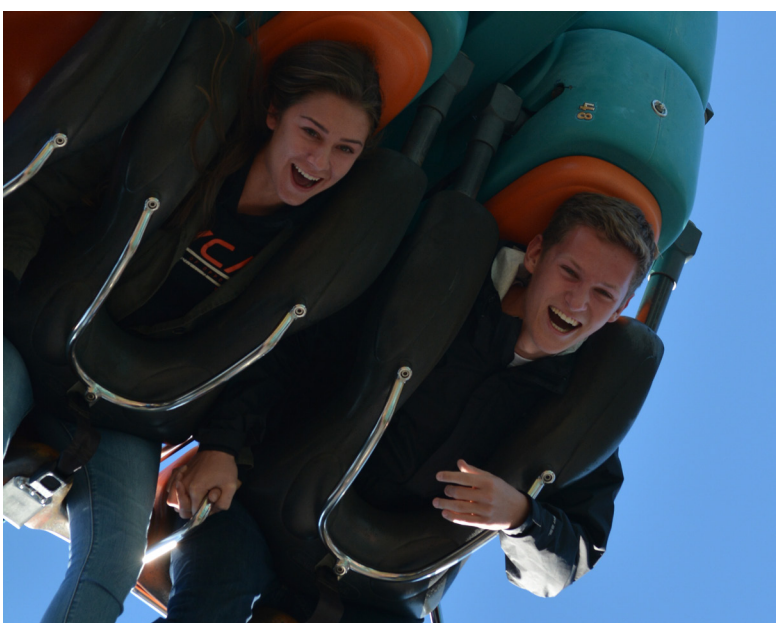


Photo by Jose Cecilio/Ledger Photographer
Screaming at the top of their lungs, Hannah Simmons and Adam Vosicka (12) fly by on their ride. The senior trip included a buffet lunch and a full day at Six Flags.

The original ball lowered in Times Square on New Year's Eve back in 1907 was made of iron and wood and decorated with 100 light bulbs.

Teachers draw a sellout crowd

by Zion Combs
Staff writer

With a flick of the switch, the theater went black. An unexpected audience stared at the stage, waiting for the curtain to be drawn up. The curtain went up, and bright neon lights glowed back at the audience, moving in rhythm to the song.

The first annual teacher talent show was performed to a sellout crowd on Nov. 1.

It was a one hour show where teachers surprised some students with just how talented they were.

Mrs. Wells, Mrs. De Rushe, and Mrs. Pennington hosted the show and presented their fellow teachers.

The hosts started the show off with a comical skit introducing Mr. Valdivia, who swooned the audience with his voice and his Spanish song.

Dressed in socks from head to toe and, Ms. Mangas finished her poem by throwing wacky socks into the crowd.

Following that Mr. Bonnie and Mrs. Evans James performed a rap and singing duet "Where is the Love."

The blues band, consisting of Mr. Allen, Mr. Meyers, Mr. Earnest, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Mathrole, Mrs. Perales, Mr. Pardi and the Heritage jazz band, performed next, playing the classic song "Soul Man."

The first act after intermission was Mr. Valdivia singing a song not in Spanish but in English. The blues band performed another song consisting of the same teachers.

Mr. Beyer performed a heart warming song to his fiancée with accompaniment by Mr. Malzahn, Jaeda Smith, and Maya Phillips.

Spanish teachers Mrs.

Johnson, Mrs. Hinojosa, Mrs. Upton, and Mrs. Simas performed together. Following that, Mrs. Evans James sang a song with Nick Perez playing the piano with her.

The next act, or what the audience thought was the last act, was a rock band consisting of Mr. Meyers, Mr. Allen, Mr. Mathrole, Mrs. Evans James, Lewis Sweatt, and Nick Perez. They performed two songs. During the second song Mr. Allen left the stage, and left Mrs. Evan James singing on stage, alone.

For the final act, most of the teachers that had already been in the show participated. It was a light-show-dance, choreographed by Maggie Winding. The teachers dressed in all black and turned the lights off, and they placed glow sticks on their bodies, to create a show of dancing lights.



Photo by Christian Tesfaye /Ledger Photographer
Playing in teacher talent show, Mr. Mathrole and Mr. Allen wow the crowd with their musical skills as part of the Blues Band.

Fresh new social a success

by Maya Ellis
Staff writer

One week before Halloween it was the day of Link Crew's first after school event.

"When is the next freshman event going to be? I had so much fun last night!" Jackie Goddard (9) said.

There was music, dancing, games, people in their Halloween costumes, and of course free food.

Link Crew leaders dressed up as celebrities such as Kim Kardashian, and iconic characters like Superman and the three blind mice. Many leaders dressed in order to encourage the freshman to do the same. Some enthusiastic freshmen even came dressed as a 'basic white girl'.

Excited freshman Trent Porter came as a big marshmallow and won the foil award for best costume.

"The link crew leaders wanted their first event that they planned as a class to be as successful as possible," said Megan Zmerzlikar. (11).



Photo by Ian Gathu/Legacy photographer
After receiving the foil award for the best costume, Trent Porter (9) poses for the camera. Many students dressed up for the freshman social.

Freshmen had fun dancing with the upperclassmen leaders, singing along to songs, and, of course, eating all of the food.

There was a bigger turnout than was expected and everyone was so excited to be in attendance. The leaders want their freshmen to be connected as a class and they

feel that these events will really help that. Teachers helped chaperone, and some students who aren't even part of Link Crew helped set up for the event. The Link Crew leaders and their advisor Mr. Malzahn plan to have many more events in the very near future.

Students say goodbye to IES Lack of funding cancels IES

by Katie Glennon
Staff writer

In the past, Heritage's seniors would participate in the International Economic Summit, IES. Unfortunately, this year, there will not be an IES for the senior class.

The purpose of IES was to simulate global trade on a small scale in the Heritage cafeteria. At the end of each semester, the Economics students would be randomly assigned a country they would have to learn about over the next few weeks to get ready for two days of simulated trade. This was to better understand how free trade can improve a countries' standard of living.

"It really sucks. It's something that I've watched since freshman year, it seemed like so much fun." Alicia Younger (12) said.

IES isn't taking place this year for two reasons. First, The Federal Reserve

cut the funding this program which would make doing IES significantly harder. The online website they let our school use and the booklets each student received for the project are not being supplied anymore. Secondly, IES was a huge time consumption that cut into the learning of other common core economics concepts the seniors need to learn.

"In our opinion, students weren't gaining as much as we'd hope," Mr. LeFleur said. "We'd spend a significant amount of class time ... It didn't merit the class time spent on the project."

The seniors were given 6-10 weeks to prepare for their projects, now that class time can be spent on better ways, decided by the econ teachers, respectively.

Seniors will still be learning the concepts of trade, but now it will be on a smaller scale and inside the classroom.

Stars to shine in Les Mis

by Kyle Land
Staff writer

Fog covers the stage floor. Nothing shines except the silhouette of the city's skyline. Out of the darkness comes a chorus of heavenly voices, capturing all the beauty and despair in the world.

This represents only a small bit of the emotion that the musical *Les Miserables* creates. This legendary musical will be the next show put on by Heritage's Rising Stars.

Tickets are expected to sell out quickly, and they will not be sold at the door. Pre-sale tickets are being sold in room LG104 for the rest of the quarter.

Online ticket sales begin in January The show dates are February 26, 27, 28; and March 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14.

This production will have some major differences compared to other shows from years past.

"The entire play is sung," Blake Jensen (12) said, "This makes the vocal work very challenging. I'm already seeing my vocal coach on a more regular basis."

Another huge challenge was the cast selection. Over 120 people auditioned for a role, in a cast made for only 26. This created some intense pressure for those selecting the cast.

"There were at least 25-30 girls who could have done a great job as a lead," Mr. Fallows said, "It feels so sad

and awful, especially since the talent level of the group was so high."

Due to the intense selection process, the final cast features some very talented people. Most notably, Jacob Mendoza (12) will play the coveted role of Jean Valjean. Valjean is a former convict turned businessman, who is desperately trying to turn his life around.

Valjean's counterpart, Inspector Javert, will be played by the Rising Stars' veteran Jensen. Javert is a police officer who hunts down Valjean in the name of justice.

The overall budget for the show is over \$40,000. Of that, \$7,000 was spent on the rights to perform the show, and \$25,000 will be spent on a projection system and new lighting equipment.

"The projection system is brand new, so I'm very excited to put it into action," Ashley Nightingale (12), head of Light Crew, said.

With such a vast budget, there will be a lot of pressure for the show to be a big success. However, consecutive sellouts might not be enough for the theater program.

"We will probably lose money on this show," Fallows said, "We bought this equipment not just for Les Mis, but for future shows also."

Les Miserables promises to be a show full of drama, action, and plenty of tears.

The aluminum tree fad became uncool when they were denounced on TV's "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

Carnaval de Heritage

by Blake Jensen
Staff writer

Boos and Ghouls of all ages flooded the campus green for a night dedicated to the spooky holiday.

The Leadership Clubs Commission decided to bring the spirit of Halloween to the campus green this year with a Halloween carnival that took place on Oct. 30 from 5-9 p.m.

The carnival featured multiple attractions, including a petting zoo, a bounce house, and several club booths. Admission was free, but to enjoy the fun entertainment people had to buy 20 game tickets for \$5 or 45 tickets for \$10.

“We decided to put on the carnival, because we wanted to have a great fund raising opportunity for all of the different clubs on campus, and to get everyone excited about Halloween,” Madeline Bustos (12), a member of the Clubs Commission, said.

It was a community event with many of the school’s clubs involved. The Gay-Straight Alliance, had a booth where people threw ping pong balls to win a fish. They ended up

collecting 376 tickets and giving away 50 fish.

“The carnival went very well for GSA,” Dominic Diaz (12), a GSA member said. “We made a lot of tickets and everyone seemed to enjoy the fish game.”

Another hit attraction involved customers tying Mrs. Mangas to a pole with duct tape, that is if they could guess the proper name of each song that was played by members of the Choir club.

“Seeing a whacky teacher grading papers while duct taped to the pole helped to bring people over to the choir’s stand, so I think that the whimsical idea drew customers,” Mrs. Mangas said.

With the first successful carnival, the clubs commission had a lot to be proud of.

“I definitely think it was a success,” Bustos said. “Everyone had a great time and the clubs made a lot of money. We learned a lot and look forward to applying new ideas next time.”

This Halloween carnival could be the precedent for a new annual tradition at the school.

Girls sign letters of intent

by Kellie Chudzinski
Staff writer

Whether their feet were planted in the grass, scuffing against the dirt or kicking under the water, three senior girls used one hand and a pen to earn a victory in November.

Danielle Dickerson, Kimberly Trice and Cameron Toth each signed National Letters-of-Intent and accepted scholarship offers.

From the individual golf league champion, to the co-captain on the varsity water polo team to a four-year varsity softball player, all three girls have starred at Heritage.

Trice, who is entering her fourth-year as a varsity softball player, signed with Tennessee State University.

“I never really thought about Tennessee State, they came up to one of my coaches after watching me play,” Trice said “I went out for an unofficial visit and fell in love with the school. It’s a really good program to go into and I’m excited to build the program even more.”

The week of Nov. 17 was a busy signing week with senior Dickerson, the BVAL golf champion, signing her National

Letter of Intent to University of Nebraska Kearny on Nov. 20.

After visiting the campus and visiting the golf team, she decided it was a no-brainer.

“The girls were so nice. and the school was beautiful. The fact I get to play golf also helped me decide,” Dickerson said.

She battled injuries for her past few seasons, but she doesn’t intend to let that slow her down.

“I’ll play golf as long as I can,” Dickerson said. “Hopefully I don’t get hurt again, because it’s a sport you can play when you are young

and old.”

After swimming her freshman and sophomore years and playing water polo all four years, Toth signed her National Letter of Intent to Notre Dame College in Euclid, Ohio for swimming. She signed on Nov. 17 with her family and friends by her side.

With more a little more than half of the school year left, there is still plenty of time for more athletes to sign with their future schools. The girls have the rest of their senior year to focus on their grades and enjoy themselves with their next four years already set.



Photo by JD Cecilio/ Legacy Photographer

Signing to play golf with the University of Nebraska Kearney, Danielle Dickerson (12) smiles in the company of her teachers.

Robotics club competition

by Ryan Perry
Staff writer

The teams lined up to watch their robots perform on their own for 30 seconds trying to achieve as many tasks as possible, such as placing Autonomous Balls in the Rolling Goal and/or Center Goal, then after watching their robots attempt to take the lead on their own, the teams took over their programmed machines and tried to score the most points in a span of 2 minutes.

Early on Dec. 6, the Robotics Club hosted their fifth annual competition. The event served as a fundraiser for the Heritage Robotics Clubs upcoming competitions. Each team paid \$100 to enter, which will help the Patriots pay their way into other

tournaments.

Originally 16 teams from across Northern California were suppose to come here to Heritage but Redwood City, Belmont, San Carlos, and San Jose’s collaborated team didn’t show, so there were only 15 teams, attempting to qualify for the state regionals this year.

Many came to see all the schools compete with the projects they’ve worked on for months in this years game titled “Cascade Effect”.

The day started off by having each team go through a series of inspections to make sure that the robot was the right size and wasn’t illegal in the competition, and then the teams were interviewed by a panel of judges.

After the opening ceremony, all teams competed in the

qualifying rounds 1-5.

Following that, the qualifiers made an alliance with the best team they could team up with and competed in the semi-finals in a hope for making it to the finals.

The Fremont RoboKnights were the overall winners and the Cupertino Tino49ers were declared the inspire winners.

Heritage wasn’t allowed to compete in the actual competition due to the problem of the judges might having a biased opinion towards Team 3470 The Patriots (Heritage Robotics Club team name) because most of the judges were either parents or teachers of the Heritage students, but there was still students and staff volunteering to help out. It was free to enter for all of the students that came.



Photo by Christian Tesefaye/ Legacy Photographer

Finalizing her letter of intent to swim for Notre Dame College, Cameron Toth (12) celebrates with Heather Reed (12), Skyler Hanson (12) and McKenna Taylor (12).



Photo by Brittany Kintscher/ Legacy Photographer

Refereeing the robotics competition, Ms. Davies watches the machines perform their tasks along with student refs Kyle Marshall and Steven Kroger. Fifteen teams from all over California competed all day Dec. 6 in the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics tournament

Vandalism not HHS

Cameron Toth
Staff writer

The Brentwood Bowl is an intense rivalry between Heritage and Liberty. Normally it leads to harmless trash-talk.

However, this year one of the lions, in front of Liberty, was decorated with Heritage colors and had vulgar slurs on the base the night before the big football game.

Many rumors existed stretching from a middle school student, to a Heritage student, and last to a student from another school.

There have been no arrests in the case. There was a Freedom student questioned and he is reportedly being suspended, but school officials would not confirm the report.

“It fired us up here at

Liberty and made us want to beat Heritage even more,” Lynzey Dorn, a Liberty senior said. “We thought it was just some immature kids who weren’t even on the football team that just did it for fun.”

Rumors of fights were spread about Twitter and threats on Instagram, but nothing came of it.

“Extra patrol was parked all around the school. Myself and another SRO were on the home side and Officer Peart, the SRO from Liberty, and another Liberty officer was on the visitor side. Administration was a huge help as well, we are grateful for their assistance,” said SRO Mitch Brouillette.

Liberty has taken care of the paint on the lion and an investigation is still underway.

The first Christmas card, created by a London businessman, was printed in England in 1843.

Sheehan repeats history

Junior is second to reach state



At the Pittsburg duel meet, Benry Sheehan (11) runs through a trail. Sheehan eventually went on to state.
by Charlie Sides
Staff writer

The boys cross country team won the league title for the third straight year and finished a school-best fourth as a team at NCS, but it didn't end there. Junior Benry Sheehan blazed through the 3-mile course at Hayward High in 16:30 to finish eighth place overall and advance to the state meet as an individual.

Solomon Demeku-Ousman, who received a scholarship to UC Riverside, finished eighth last year to become the first Heritage country runner in school history to reach state. Sheehan is the first junior to ever do it.

The girls team took second

Boys win early

by Jadyen Madsen
Staff writer

They boys soccer team already has 2 wins on the season coming close to the 4 they had last season.

They finished league with 2 wins, 2 ties, and 6 losses last year, the best they had ever done.

This year started off strong with back-to-back wins over Alhambra (4-0) and Tennyson (3-2) in the Winter Soccer Classic. The Patriots lost to Piedmont 3-1 in the tournament championship game.

"We are expecting not to lose as much as last year, this year the squad is hoping to be able to stand up against powerhouse Pittsburg" Callum Chisholm (11) said.

With the loss of last year's seniors, Yousef Dayekh, Jacob Caywood, Alex Charvet, Michael Clancy, Edgar Larriva, Juan Luis Del Real, Ryan Ellis, and Scott Camara, the boys have some big roles to fill.

This years seniors and

at league and had some strong individual showings at NCS.

The girls placed eighth as a team at NCS led by the sophomore one-two punch of Maddie Vanderheid-Nye (20:34) and Brianna Peckhold (20:55), who took 25th and 28th place respectively.

Seniors Jacob Drees (17:15) and Parker Mace (17:30) finished strong high school careers with 28th and 38th place finishes in the section.

The boys team hoped to finish in the top two to advance to state, but the fourth place finish was still a school best.

Senior Ann Jellica Nubla (21:36) finished a stellar career with a 44th place finish.

returners; Caleb Collins, Omar Boulouch, and Yousef Alani, hope to lead the team and come out and do better than last year.

"I want us to make it to NCS to write history!", Yousef Alani (12).

Juniors and returners Callum Chisholm, Chris Finlez, and Myles Youngblood are ready to step up and take the team farther this season.

"I hope we improve our game and believe our team can beat the teams we lost to in our league last season" Myles Youngblood (11).

Younes Dayekh and Caleb Michael can't play for the school team, because they are playing for the San Jose Earthquakes developmental team.

Despite missing key players, the boys are confident they can elevate their game.

"I am ready to put in work this season and hope everyone else is ready too" Chris Finlez (11).

Another BVAL title

Girls volleyball wins fourth straight BVAL title

by Marisol Bragg
Staff writer

The girls volleyball captured a fourth-straight league title and reached the North Coast Section Division I semifinals for the third time in four years.

Seniors Caitlyn David, Michalyn Marzocco, Cailey Rocquemore, Emily Blackburn and Megan Vernoy, were named to first team-all-league. While fellow senior, Heather Reed, co-team-captain, was named league MVP. Junior, Lauren Saler was named to second team-all-league and senior Lauren Lance received sportmanship award.

The Patriots clinched the league title in a thrilling battle with Liberty.

The team earned the No. 4 seed in NCS with a bye in the first round and a 25-10 season record. They advanced to the semifinals with a 20-25, 25-20, 26-24, 25-21 victory over Amador Valley.

On Nov. 7, girls played the most thrilling match of the season in a five-game victory at Liberty.

The first game of the match was an epic back and forth that went into extra points. The Patriots finally prevailed 30-28.

At one point it appeared Liberty would fall behind two games, but the Lions rallied to win game two 25-19 and game three 25-20 to put the Patriots on the ropes.

In an intense fifth game, the Patriots came out victorious, 15-13.

"The game was really

intense, but I'm glad they won," JV player Stevie Ceria (10) said. "With a lot of the star players being seniors this year, it was a good finally to end their season.

The team advanced to the semi-finals, against Monte Vista. The team dropped the first two games, and struggled to re-gain ground during the third. The loss against Monte Vista dropped the team out of NCS.



Photo Credit to Gaby Trejo/Ledger Photographer
During the Liberty game, Cailey Rocquemore (12) hits shot from the outside. The Patriots went on to win that game 3-0.

Basketball season takes off

by Charlie Sides
Staff writer

After reaching the NCS semifinals against powerhouse De La Salle, the Patriots boys basketball team is looking for a title run this season.

The girls hope to make a return to NCS this season as well.

Although the boys lost first team all league forward Shon Briggs and guard Joseph Worku, they have hope for another strong season.

Tyus Pettis (12), Chandler Hancock (11) and Marcus Wallace (11) look to lead the team.

Jason Augliera (11), who is deadly beyond the 3 point line, and Kobi Ford (11), a tenacious offensive rebounder, are two players that are capable of sparking a run and bringing some entertainment to the game.

Even though there are only three returners from last years team, the Patriots looked strong coming into the beginning of the season as standout sophomores Tyrese Mack, Tyriq Mack, and Anthony Dennis can add extra firepower coming off the bench.

The Patriots won the first game of the season, 61-55, against Granada, overcoming a 22-14 1st quarter deficit.

Augliera hit a couple clutch 3's to spark the tie game at half. Jovian Cormier (12) and Anthony Dennis (10) made

important free throws at the end of the game to seal the deal.

The annual Rotary Tip-Off in McKinleyville started on Dec. 4. They beat River Valley 63-59 in the first game and then went on to defeat host McKinleyville 77-67 to advance to the championship game.

The boys faced Consumnes Oaks in the championship, winning a tight one 71-70 to take home the hardware for the 4th straight year. Augliera took home the MVP and won the 3 point competition.

With the loss of Sydney Berry, Regine Smith, and Sam Quinn, the Lady Patriots

basketball team is hungry for another NCS run.

Seniors Megan Vernoy, Chika Ofodu, Brittany Dryer and Siemone Moll look to lead the team, while sophomore Sunmi Da Silva and junior Delaney Sparling add extra firepower and leadership.

The girls got off to a 1-2 start at the San Ramon Valley tournament, dropping close games to Granada (57-49) and Castro Valley (58-55) before crushing West 50-14.

After losing to James Logan in the first round of NCS, the young and experienced Lady Patriots are ready for another chance, when they play the Colts on Dec. 16.



Photo Credit to Zach Lane/ Ledger Archive
Running the ball down the court, during a game last year, Marcus Wallace (11) faces off with an opposing player. Wallace and several other returners reached the NCS semifinals last year.

More than 25,000 bulbs are strung on the tree at the Rockefeller Center, more than 5 miles of lights

Samuda wins again

by Mason Orloff
Staff writer

The name Samuda and the title of Bay Valley Athletic League tennis championship have become synonymous.

Courtney Samuda, the third member of the family to win a BVAL title, staked claim to being the first ever to win three straight titles, and she still has one year left.

Her older sister Arlesha and older brother Trevor also won BVAL titles.

The varsity girls' tennis placed first and second in the BVAL Tournament for both singles and doubles.

For the sixth year in a row a Heritage girls doubles team took the BVAL title. Dani Tamura and Stephanie

Mitchener claimed the title this year, beating fellow Heritage doubles team of Erika Publico and Sophie Wozzniak.

Samuda beat freshman teammate Michelle Cereda in the finals. Samuda also fell in the first round of NCS.

The teams overall record was 15-5 and 10-0 in league. Heritage lost the first round of NCS 7-0 to Monte Vista, who eventually went on to win the tournament.

In the individual tournament, Tamura and Mitchener, with the final score of 6-2 in the first set and 6-3 in the second, lost to a team from Redwood. The singles team of Courtney Samuda also lost to a team from Northgate, 7-5 in the first set and 6-2 in the second.



Photo by Brenna Enos/Ledger Photographer

Leading the Patriots to another league title, Courtney Samuda smashes a forehand in a league match. Samuda won the league tournament title for the third straight season.

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Girls soccer keeps high hopes

Former Patriot Grant wins national title

by Jadyen Madsen
Staff writer

The girls' varsity soccer team finished 11-9-3 overall and 6-2-2 in league last year.

"I am ready to get back in it and I am excited to see the great things I know this team will do," Brown (12) said.

The Patriots started this season off on the right foot with a 6-0 non-league victory over Hayward on Nov. 25. Heritage scored five times in the second half to turn a close game into a blowout.

With last year's seniors Haylie Grant, Kyle Smith, Sarah Toelkes and Shelby Johnson leaving, the remaining girls have big shoes to fill.

Grant recently won an NCAA National Championship as a freshman with Florida State University.

Many of the girls who played with Grant and others look to create history over their own.

"I am ready to work and lead this team to victory," Meghan Willmes (12) said. "I know this will be a successful season."

With a recent history of strong results in league and NCS, the girls have high hopes

and goals.

"I believe we can make it to NCS again and hope we make it even farther," Ale Hinojosa (12) said.

The Patriots have reached NCS in each of the last five seasons, and returning juniors Jamie Bullock, Brianne Smith, are ready to step up as upperclassmen and fill some big roles.

"I am hoping we pick up right where we left off and just start working to get where I know where we can and deserve to be," Jamie Bullock (11) said.

"I am ready and know everyone else is ready too," Brianne Smith said. "This season will turn out as a success if we do what I believe we can do as a team."



Photo by Zach Lane/Ledger Archive

Battling her opponent, Alyssa Rodriguez (12) fights for the ball last season.

Football goes to NCS

by Clayton Creer
Staff writer

The varsity football team ended their regular season with a 5-5 record.

The Patriots beat Deer Valley 35-7 on the last game of regular season to give them a 13th seed in NCS.

In the first drive of the game, Sohail Mohsini (12) threw a 50-yard bomb to receiver Malik Edwards (11) for a touchdown.

Mohsini threw for 233 yards and two touchdowns. Running back Leandre White(12) had 104 rushing yards and receiver Tre Edwards (12) had 116 receiving yards.

One of the big plays of the game went to cornerback Tyriq Mack (10) who ran back a pick-six for 70 yards on the final play of the first half.

The Patriots took on the fourth seed California of San Ramon and lost 45-13.

Mohsini threw for 233 yards and two touchdowns. Tre Edwards had 5 receptions for 135 yards, including an 80-yard touchdown, and Tyriq Mack added a touchdown catch.

The Patriots went 3-3 in league, won back the Brentwood Bowl trophy and advanced to NCS for the first time in three years, after a 1-9 2013 season.



Photo by Christian Tesefaye/Ledger Photographer

During the Deer Valley game Middle Linebacker, Quenten Sheppard (11) scoops the ball on defense.

Wrestling standouts return

by Charlie Sides
Staff writer

The wrestling team had one of their better seasons last year as seven made it to NCS.

Although they lost Chris Chu, Geoffrey Angus, and Nate Cleverly, the team will look even stronger than before.

Jordan Jimenez (12), Benny Orozco (12), Riley Briggs (11), and Devon Lance (10) look to lead the squad.

Last year, Jimenez captured the league title and took a 5th place medal in NCS. Orozco barely made it to NCS last year, but ended up being the team's top finisher taking 4th place. Alex Marquez (11) and Lance look to improve even more after going 2-2 in NCS.

With Jimenez and Orozco being the teams top wrestlers, they look to lead the team to another NCS title run.

"I feel I have the capability of winning league again and NCS" said Jimenez, "I know I can go far into state and make my senior season a good one".

The squad looks to put more than seven in NCS this season.

An average of 5,800 people end up in the ER after suffering injuries from holiday decorating.

Black men dying, a social norm?



Jaeda Smith
Ledger Columnist

The soft dribble of a basketball echoed through the park following stiff grunts and shouts as the teenage boys played a friendly game on the court.

Out of nowhere a police car screeched up to the park. The officer jumped out of the car and approached the group of boys.

A young boy with smooth caramel skin began to reach in his gym bag for a bottle of Gatorade and suddenly felt heat on the back of his neck as he made contact with the eyes of the police officer.

Slowly removing his hands from his duffel bag, the young boy raised his hands above his head and waited. His heart hammered in his chest as the officer moved towards him.

He didn't want to become the next Michael Brown, Eric Garner or Tamir Rice, so he

threw his hands in the air and prayed he would make it to the next day.

The fear of police brutality has taken a turn for the worst as more and more accounts have plagued the United States.

Whether the nation likes it or not we are currently living in a society where black men dying has become the social norm.

Recent incidents along with harsh statistics illustrate that the black man's identity continues to be defined by society as a subordinate and criminalistic human being, diminishing the idea that black men can achieve something greater than a prison cell or a casket.

This identity has been created in a society where a white police officer gets away with killing a 12-year-old African American boy who was playing around with a toy BB gun; where an unarmed 18-year-old black boy, allegedly with his hands up, in Missouri is shot six times by a police officer; Where a 43-year-old black man in Staten Island, New York is choked to death by a police officer arresting him despite his

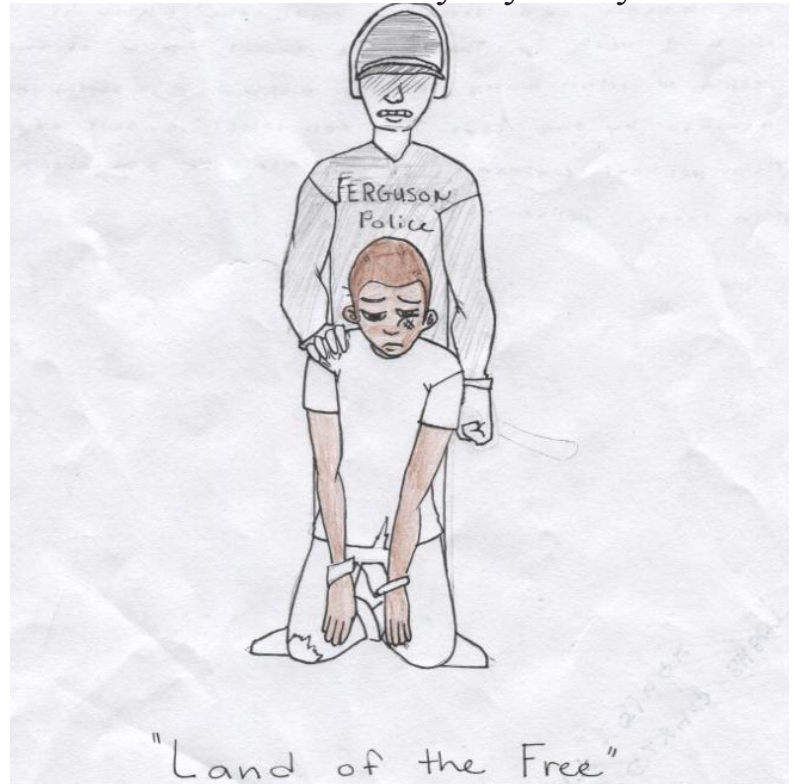
cries for help of not being able to breathe; Where an 18-year-old black boy mistaken for a burglar because he has white foster parents is pepper sprayed and assaulted by police; Where a boy is followed and shot by a civilian on his way back from a store, because he looked suspicious wearing a hoodie and talking on his phone.

The fear of who will be next on the police hit list constricts the black community as young black boys are forced to realize that in America you are not only going to be perceived as a minority but a suspect in a crime you may not even be aware of.

Black men are given an identity by society due to the color of their skin. That and the long list of statistics attached with it illustrate that being a black man in America is a never ending curse.

Sadly, black men, although only 30 percent of the population of the United States, account for 60 percent of those imprisoned in the United States (American Progress.org). According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics 1-in-3 black men will most likely go to prison in their lifetime.

A Political Cartoon by Jay Rarey



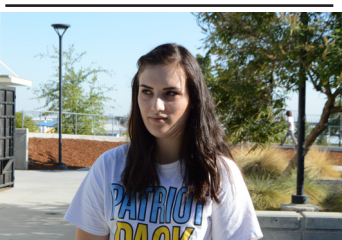
With the news showcasing black males as criminals and victims to police brutality, and statistics show black men as the highest ethnic group in jail, how can African American males create an identity for themselves apart from the fear and predictions of their life set forth by statistics?

Turn on the news or Google black statistics and it is clear to see that being a black male in America proves to be a battle

of overcoming the challenges of rising above the stereotypes and statistics society has already programmed.

However, if the awkward silence, shakes of fear, ignorant comments, news reports and statistics remains to be the main way people characterize black males, the black men will continue to be portrayed as a thug or prisoner. We can't let that perpetual injustice remain unchanged.

FRIENDZONE: You're in it, so get over it



Katie Glennon
Ledger Columnist

"Maybe we should just be friends."

WOW – what a slap in the face that can feel like. How dare someone reject you. You are probably so nice and so great at driving your mom's Prius - how is everyone not swooning over you?

Everyone knows about the "friendzone" but there is an ugly trend people need to be aware of; women are starting to be attacked or killed just for refusing to date a guy.

In April 2014, Maren Sanchez, 16, a junior from Jonathan Law High School in Milford, Connecticut was stabbed in the neck after she allegedly refused a prom proposal from her high school classmate.

These self professed "nice guys who finish last" are the same guys who are violently attacking women when they don't get their way.

Well, unfortunately for you, sometimes you don't get everything you want, even when it comes to romance.

If someone tells you they are not interested in dating you, just take it.

Chasing after someone who has repeatedly turned you down is not cute or romantic - it's just plain creepy.

You are not entitled to have someone love you with the simple snap of your fingers. Everyone reserves the right to not have feelings for someone and not desire intimacy with them.

Only a month after the incident in Connecticut, Elliot Rodger went on a killing spree in Isla Vista, California, near the UCSB campus.

Before he killed six innocent college students, he left his manifesto where he wrote, "Women are vicious, evil, barbaric animals, and they need to be treated as such . . . There is something mentally wrong with the way their brains are wired, as if they haven't evolved from animal-like thinking."

There is constant violence against women for rejecting boys, and these are not isolated events.

The friendzone may be a hassle for men, but you have to understand how extremely dangerous it is for women.

Sorry that my disinterest in you is an inconvenience, but that doesn't justify your violent or creepy behavior.

Numbers don't define us

Character can't be measured by digits

"This is what is going to determine my future," he thought to himself as he opened the web page that had his SAT score: 1400.

"That's it? This number decides what colleges I can apply to, what scholarships I am eligible for, and where I begin my life, and I only got a 1400?"

Can a number define you?

Society has placed so much importance on numbers that mean nothing when it comes to character.

There are numbers everywhere: Our GPA, IQ, age, weight, our family income, the amount of Instagram likes on a picture, the zip code we live in, the price of our clothes: it's all a numbers game.

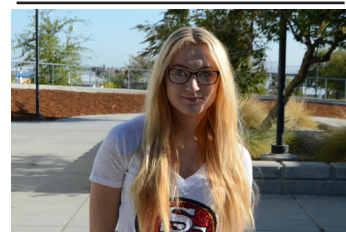
We place so much value on these numbers and base our lives on them. We let these numbers determine our future, our decisions, our opinions; our entire life.

Very early on in life we are taught that good grades equal success. We are told that we need to do well in school; we need to go to college to be successful. But what if that isn't your idea of success?

It is not fair to use the same methods to measure every single person's intelligence. There are so many different factors that are not taken into account when measuring GPA.

"Some teachers give hardly any work and have an easy curriculum," Paige Bruning (12) said. "I have other teachers give hours of work every night and grade much harder. I feel like your grades depend heavily on what teachers you get."

All teachers teach differently, give different assignments, and grade



Alexa Crowder
Ledger Columnist

differently. You could take a student who earns an A in world history in teacher A's class, put them in Teacher B's class and they'll get a C-. Some teachers are more difficult than others, and that's okay but it isn't fair when we measure GPA.

Perhaps the biggest number we're judged on is income. Our income decides and effects every aspect of our lives.

Income decides where we live, what school we go to, what car we drive and above all; how others perceive us.

We live in an age when everyone is fighting to be

the best, yet in doing so we lose our character. We have become so concerned about designer clothes that we have completely forgotten about the people wearing them.

"All we ever talk about is material things. Of course it's nice to have nice things, but we should never let that define us, who we are as a person is much more important than having the newest phone." Rachel Grima (12) said.

Social media has made this problem even more difficult to deal with. Everyone shares pictures of their cars and their clothes. It's there for everyone to see.

"Social media makes things complicated because you see things someone else has and you think to yourself 'I want that' and then you feel like you have to keep up," Kayla White (12) said.

Social media adds extra pressure to the already stressful life of a teenager. The likes on a picture or the number of followers you have shouldn't define you.

Numbers are everywhere. Numbers are good in certain scenarios because they show us how we measure up, but as a society we take numbers too seriously. Numbers can measure a lot of things, yet they will never measure your character.

Abusive relationships, they are not OK



Ana Hurt
Ledger Columnist

She spits on him. He hits her. She falls to the floor. He drags her unconscious body from the elevator. This is all captured on a surveillance camera, and later released for the whole world to see.

Society often minimizes the gravity of this type of violence by treating it like a spectacle rather than a real issue. It's important that we realize how bad it is and put an end to it, so that it will not continue affecting new generations.

High school boys see rappers like Eminem or football players like Ray Rice and think that lashing out at their partners verbally or physically is normal, or that it makes them more masculine.

High school girls see the treatment of victims and feel isolated in their situations.

When porn star Christy Mack was brutally beaten by her MMA fighter ex-boyfriend, War Machine, she was blamed rather than offered support. Twitter comments regarding the incident said things like "You could have easily prevented this—your lifestyle leaves you open to violence and other abuse."

When society responds to domestic violence in this way, it only perpetuates the problem by silencing victims and encouraging abusers.

That's not to say women can't become the abusers. Remember Teen Mom star Amber Portwood?

When Amber hit her boyfriend at the time, not only was it on TV, it was also in front of her young daughter.

A person who sees their parents abuse each other—or is abused themselves—is at especially high risk of falling into the same pattern.

"There are three options for kids with abusive parents: continue to be abused, become an abuser, or recognize the problem and get help and break the cycle," Jamie Fatz, the school psychologist, said.

A study published in the *Journal of Adolescence* in 2006 reported that, of 324 high school boys and 309 girls, 19% of boys and 26% of girls reported using two or more forms of dating violence. These numbers may seem small, but they are nowhere near the number they should be: zero.

What will it take for this generation to break the cycle?

First off, we need to recognize abuse when we see it and not allow it to go on.

It can be something as bad as a black eye or something as seemingly harmless as a harsh comment on what you're wearing.

None of it is okay.

If you or someone you know is being treated this way, it's important to speak up. As a friend, though, it may be hard to get the victim to see the problem.

"People don't listen if you just say 'get out,'" Fatz said. "You want to give them words and tools, but they have to reach their personal breaking point, which may look different to you than it does to them. It might take ending up in a hospital."

Even then, they might go back to their abuser.

After Rihanna had been beaten by Chris Brown, she appeared on Oprah and admitted she still had feelings for him. Joan Rivers then tweeted "Rihanna confessed to Oprah Winfrey that she still loves Chris Brown. Idiot! Now it's MY turn to slap her."

Getting angry or criticizing the victim's choices will only make them feel more alienated and reluctant to ask for help.

Although it might be frustrating, sometimes the most you can do is offer your support.

If you yourself are going through this, it's important to reach out to others and find the strength to get yourself out of the situation.

If you don't feel comfortable going to friends or loved ones, you can visit the National Domestic Violence Hotline's website thehotline.org, call them at 1-800-799-7233, or text them at 1-800-787-3224. It's important to find help and put an end to whatever abuse you're enduring, no matter what kind. You don't deserve it—no one does.

The sound that keeps on ringing

Tick tock. Another day laying in bed, eyes suddenly gape open, and that constant sound keeps ringing. Time for school, time to socialize... maybe, depending on how the day goes by.

Tick tock. Time for class, time for work, and that sound keeps ringing. Time to go home, time for work, time to watch something at least a bit intriguing on YouTube, just enough to forget this day. Tick tock. Time to sleep.

Tick tock. Another day laying in bed, eyes suddenly gape open, and that constant sound keeps ringing. Nothing changes, and it feels quite alright for the most part until you realize this whole show ends when certain responsibilities become the sound that keeps on ringing.

Suddenly you're rammed in the back of the head with having to deal with your own car payments, having to deal with finding a job, having to deal with what college you want to go to let alone which college you can afford to go to, having to deal with living alone, branching off your parent's tree, and finding a whole new life.

What happened? This schedule lived by day to day where eight in the morning through three in the afternoon is this controlled little pool of people who only know the day is progressing by the ring of a bell.

Now it's gone. Tick tock.

Here comes that new ringing.

"I feel about fifty percent ready," Logan Porter (12) said when asked about college, "I mean, I'm ready to go, but I'm nervous about what's going to happen once I leave."

Young adults especially on the brink of graduating high school have to hastily accept the whole world is slowly evolving meaning coming into terms with



Antonio Garro
Ledger Columnist

starting all over again.

People tend to hold onto their past beliefs and persistent morals throughout each day.

The feeling comes in when you want to stay in that little room of yours and shut the door.

New things? Disgusting. You would rather it be the same story every single day than change just a miniscule aspect of life such as the usual Cheetoh fingers and Tumblr every night, and suddenly switch it to calling hiring managers every night and "waiting on the line" through a horrible saxophone solo for that job you desperately need to pay for college. Well, change is coming, and there's nothing

Cheetoh fingers can do to stop it. Most of the time, when we get things the way we like them, we usually don't want them to change. But they will. It's a fact of life.

It's a good thing though to accept change. It's not logical for certain; it's something human beings aren't entirely comfortable with, but it's got to be done. It's inevitable.

The ego might freak from this insane shift from a teenager to an adult out of the blue, but it is good news. It really is. This illusion of a never-ending haven of a life in a room all day has to come to a realization that it won't always be like that. Sure, enjoy it while it's in its prime, but there will be a day when that new sound keeps on ringing.

Yes, the world outside the bubble of high school life is indeed scary.

Yes, it seems unfair, and filthy, and chaotic, and sometimes sad. That's just how the world is.

The best course of action would be trying to see the world perfect the way it is.

Yes, it is chaotic, sad, painful along with other things, and completely perfect as well. Life isn't static, a one-way train, instead it's a flow of change, never the same. Always changing, always insane, always perfect.

Time to get on the same page

Walking on to campus, we realize that we are barred like prisoners from many things that are considered inappropriate for us.

But as American citizens, we should have the right to access media without being restricted from what is judged inappropriate for our "sensitive and easily impressionable" young minds.

"School should give us the opportunity to read whatever we want," Kevin Kirk (11) said.

From the picture books that are read in Kindergarten, to the novels assigned in English classes, we have no say as to the books we read.

"I feel like it's an insult to our rights as American citizens. We should be able to read what we want to," Vanessa Baxley (12) said.

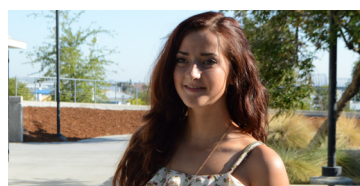
Books expressing unorthodox or "un-American" ideas were cut from curriculum in the past, but later restored, because the bans were premature. Similar bans related to access to the internet and other media are now occurring on our campus.

The American Library Association's Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books list

includes many literary classics including *Of Mice and Men*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *Brave New World*. All were banned for their controversial topics, yet they display the faults in our society and carry important lessons and are staples as classic novels in English class now.

In some Southern schools, history text books couldn't even display the truths of slavery in America, impacting generations and likely slowing the progress in civil rights.

"The fact that history books are allowed to be biased is really scary, especially because we need to know that our



Sydney Manza
Ledger Columnist

country has done bad things," Mackenzie Ballard (11) said.

Other surprisingly innocent books like *Harry Potter*, *Captain Underpants*, *Gossip Girl*, and *Bridge to Terabithia* have made the list. It is almost laughable that the narrow-

minded adults banned such books because a character "shows his underwear" or "promotes witchcraft."

"It's so dumb that books like that are banned, I mean, we can just go home and read them anyways," April Chisholm (12) said.

Not only are such books kept from us, the websites that we can literally go home and access are blocked at school.

Academically helpful websites like Wikipedia and YouTube are kept from us, while Twitter is not. Yes, some websites have explicit content, but we are exposed to this content in the real world.

The argument can be made that such websites have poor information or inappropriate content, but the student should be able to access anything they would find helpful.

As students, we should not be kept from inappropriate media.

The same books that are banned because of "religious viewpoint" or "racism" show certain faults in our society.

We should be given the right to not be babied by organizations that hide unorthodox or adult opinions from us.

The name Kwanzaa comes from the expression "matunda ya kwanza," which translated means "first fruits of the harvest"

Parking lot theft leaves student stunned

by Clayton Creer
Staff writer

It was the first day back from break, and Kai Aquino walked out toward the student parking lot, but he didn't see his car.

At first he thought he forgot where he parked, but after he started to look around he realized it was missing.

When he realized that he knew exactly where he parked and his car wasn't there, he slammed his binder down and grabbed his phone to call his dad.

Aquino's 1990 Chevy Silverado truck was stolen.

He then walked back towards the school and while walking back a campus supervisor approached him and asked if his truck was missing.

After calling his parents, Aquino then reported the truck missing to the police and found a description on the thieves.

Campus supervisor Don Ellington witnessed the thieves racing away with the truck in

the morning.

Several minutes after the first bell rang in the morning, Ellington was preparing to lock the gate, when he heard two cars peeling out in the far side of the parking lot.

As he went to see what was happening, a black Mazda and a Chevy truck came barreling toward the exit.

Ellington stood in the left lane to start and close the gate, but the two cars didn't slow down, going around Ellington to the right and then racing down American Avenue.

The suspects were described as two Latino men with tattoos up the sides of their necks.

Aquino was frustrated that the car was stolen and didn't understand how it could happen.

Ellington said he "feels really bad for Kai, I know how easy it is to get attached to a car, especially your first car."

This is the second car theft that has taken place on campus in the past two years.

Theater and band duke it out in The Mud Bowl Theater takes fourth title

by Alina Dennis
Staff writer

Muddy, sweaty kids rolling around, sliding and tackling each other in the mud and throwing around a football.

Excited onlookers cheered and held up signs. Every year it comes and goes and once again, the annual Mud Bowl came back.

This year the bowl took place on Nov. 26 in Creekside Park. The fifth annual football game between the Heritage musicians and thespians is a spirit and camaraderie building event for both programs.

From the perspective of the teachers leading the charge for Mud Bowl, it was always meant to be in good fun.

"It originated from a need to get band and drama together to have fun. We've had fun every year and it's a tradition we love," Mr. Ernest said.

Mr. Fallows remembers where the idea came from originally.

"It was a theater idea to play football and every year we get together and we always have fun!" Mr. Fallows said.

The Mud Bowl is a fun way for the thespians and musicians to battle out a friendly rivalry that has always been prevalent between band and theater kids. Band has won two of the games and theater has won the other three. This year theater once again took the title, winning their fourth game.

True to its name, the Mud Bowl the fierce match takes place only in the muddiest of areas, Creekside Park.

"This is my fourth time doing Mud Bowl and I get better every year! I really love my theater family, and family is the kind of thing where you support each other no matter what" Claire Ashcroft said.

The theater MVP ended up being Keegan Penso (11). Next year, the seventh annual Mud Bowl could be anyone's game.

Staff wins second straight

by Callum Chisholm
Staff writer

Trailing the whole game 6-2 the Patriot staff made a huge comeback in the last inning of the game.

"This was my first staff softball game and I am definitely going again next year. It was a really fun experience," Fred Ghafar said.

During the last inning Heritage scored a comeback to win the game 7-6, beating the Freedom staff on our home field.

Leading off the last inning Mr. Beyer came through by smashing home run, which got the crowd roaring.

"The last inning of the game was exciting and kept me on my toes," Myles Youngblood said.

After Mr. Beyer's lead off home run, Mr. Silman smacked a triple to right field, running his socks off to make it safely to third.

That was followed up by a double hit by Mr. Bower, scoring Mr. Silman from third.

With two outs, Mr. Mathrole swung for a single bringing in Mr. Bower from second.

Ms. Johnson then hit a line drive into left field for a single, moving Mr. Mathrole to second.



Photo by Greandane Abanid/Legacy photographer
Racing in from third base, Mr. Silman, charges the ball and makes the throw to first to get the runner out. The Patriots rallied for a 7-6 victory over Freedom.

Mr. Malzahn hit a soaring fly ball with the outfielder unable to make the catch, Mr. Malzahn hit in Ms. Johnson all the way from first base to get the win!

Not all went according to plan as earlier in the game, Ms. Jones tore her Achilles tendon running off of second base on her way to third.

Having a ball in wonderland

by Nithin Mathew
Staff writer

Winter Ball is an event that happens in most high schools around the country.

Buying the perfect dress or suit for you to show off during that magically night. Dancing with your significant other or friends throughout the entire event with amazing music in the background. It's an event that happens every winter.

This year it was the senior class officers that planned winter ball. It was a very special one this year, with tons of food, music, and dancing all students have enjoyed. All of the excitement which occurred on Dec. 5.

The senior class officers, Carla Cernat, Alina Dennis, Sarah Davies, Kayla Rover, Alison Berng, and their superiors Mr. Cook and Mrs. Heath who were the brave souls on creating 2014-2015 Winter Ball.

"We're just doing a winter wonderland type theme to try, and bring some winter to California" Carla Cernat said.

They worked their hardest on trying to make the best winter ball yet, and brought the spirit of the holidays into one event for all the students to enjoy. Since the beginning of November, they were putting in hard work, to pull off the event in under a month, and they most certainly succeeded.

The senior class officers



Photo by Christian Tesfaye/Legacy photographer
During winter ball Ethan Vandenbrandhorninge (12) attempts to get Mrs. Heath to dance.



Photo by JD Cecilio/Legacy photographer
Showing off their crazy dance moves, Stephanie Recio (12) and Madison Blaise (12), enjoy winter ball.

where shooting for a budget to be under \$3000 which they accomplished. Compared to previous years its a little bit more money than what it used to be. The money went towards Dj, cups, and speakers. Their where about 450 people who attended winter ball this year. In which they accumulate thousands of dollars. With this

information winter ball was an all-time high this year.

Many believed it was the best winter ball yet. Showing the great work the senior officers did this year. Their hard work and determination was shown immensely throughout the entire event.

In Yemen, children went from house to house, tins in hand, to collect wicks for the Hanukkah Menorah.