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A night of laughs

by Ryan Perry
 Staff writer

People filled the room waiting to see what they came for; the host came out introducing them to the night's events; the actors and actresses arrived and put on a show.

After a couple of hours of both original and re-invented comedy, they applauded and cheered as the successful event came to an end.

Heritage's Rising Stars club hosted its very own "Saturday Night Live" at 7 p.m. on Saturday Jan. 10.

The third annual SNL was a major success, with another filled auditorium of students and parents.

Members of the Rising Stars and students from the theater class had fun presenting comedy to the audience.

Just like the actual "Saturday Night Live in New York," the objective was to make the whole audience laugh until they couldn't laugh anymore.



Performing in the skit "The Californians," Caitlyn David, Markelle Pike, Madison Martin and Lilli Montero give their dramatic look into the distance. Photo by Brenna Enos/Ledger Photographer

One particular skit got a rise out of the crowd. Caitlyn David and Logan Porter did the skit called "Background Check," where David's character was applying for a job at a law firm and the automated person was asking her trap questions that would make any person seem like a felon.

The crowd laughed hysterically at her frustration with the situation.

Mr. Beyer, who was originally signed up to host, fell ill, so Mr. Fallows filled in and spiced up the night for the crowd.

He loosened up any tension that might be in the air for the

first few moments, and he got the show on the road.

There were several classic SNL scenes performed throughout the night, including the "Sound of Music," "The Californians," "Weekend Update", and many others.

If you missed out on this "Saturday Night Live" stay

tuned until the next one comes out, so you can see what exactly everyone that went is talking about, and witness how exciting of a night it actually is.

This was the third year of SNL, and the Rising Stars hope to keep the tradition alive and continue SNL in the future.

Mrs. Heath shows her support

by Nithin Matthew
 Staff writer

Students in Mrs. Heath's class sat in shock when they saw their English teacher completely bald.

She blew up twitter with over a hundred re-tweets from many different students.

Mrs. Heath thought it was crazy that the students talked so much about it. To her, it wasn't "a big deal."

"I love my sister more than I love my own hair," Heath said.

She couldn't imagine a world without her sister being there for her.

Mrs. Heath's sister was diagnosed with breast cancer a little more than eight months ago. It was devastating for their entire family.

"If you lose your hair I'll lose my hair too," Heath told her sister around the time of her CAT Scan.

Her sister just laughed, but when the time came, Mrs. Heath and her brother-in-law shaved their heads clean.

After the hair was on the ground, "it got very emotional," Heath said about their caring act.

Mrs. Heath also gave up processed sugar and alcohol to match her sister's dietary restrictions.

"I can change my life in the way she has to change hers," Heath said.

Hundreds of thousands of people every day struggle

against cancer.

Mrs. Heath's sister is going through chemotherapy, and Mrs. Heath shaving her hair is nothing compared to the pain of her sister.

"Our families have never been closer," Heath said.

Going through the hardest of times brought them closer, and Mrs. Heath continues to show her support.



Photo provided by Mrs. Heath. Sporting matching caps and hairstyles, Mrs. Heath (left) and her sister take a selfie. Heath shaved her head to support her sister in her fight with cancer.

Cruickshank named NCS Athletic Director of the year.



Photo by J.D. Cecilio/Ledger Photographer

"I'm really proud of this award because this wasn't just won by me, it was a team effort all around," Mr. Cruickshank said of being named NCS athletic director of the year. "Due to our great coaches, teachers, students and community. It helps a lot when you have that behind you as an athletic director."

In the first six months of the Kennedy Administration, some 50 black men (and women) were appointed to executive branch jobs.

Reed makes all-state

by Cameron Toth
Staff Writer

Heather Reed earned D-1 All State honors from MaxPreps.

The senior setter for the volleyball team committed just 13 errors all season and recorded 717 assists. The co-captain finished her third varsity season as co-MVP of the BVAL, while leading the Patriots to the NCS D-I semifinals.

Reed has been playing volleyball for eight years and hopes to continue to play in college. She received offers to walk on from her top two choices UC Irvine and UC Davis, which she hopes will lead to a scholarship in the first year of her participation.

“Getting this award can definitely contribute to receiving some sort of offer,” Reed said.

Reed doesn’t just see this as a prize for her, but also for her team and the Heritage program that has supported her throughout the years.

“I was also able to achieve this by constantly challenging myself and being passionate about the sport,” Reed said. “I’ve also been learning more through different clubs.”

Not only was Heather excited, but the staff as well. E-mails were exchanged about the greatness of Heather’s accomplishment.

“She’s also won one of the best humans that I’ve ever met.

She was recognized as Galactic Division Zeta All Planet Human 2014,” Mr. Allen wrote.

All of the staff wanted to share her recognition.

“Yes! Heather Reed is such an awesome young lady. So honored to have worked with her. Congrats!” Mrs. Gonzalez wrote.

Coach Janet Hannigan was elated that Heather won this award. Hannigan smiled ear to ear as she recollected Heather’s achievements.

“This award was reflected on last year, because, believe it or not, her stats were better last year,” Hannigan said. “I nominated her because of all she was able to accomplish in the four years of her being here.”

She didn’t just make her

school proud, but her family as well.

Ashleigh Reed, her older sister who has also participated in HHS Volleyball, was hit with a wave of excitement when she heard the news.

“I’ve always thought of Heather as an amazing athlete, but I knew I was biased as a sister,” Ashleigh said. “Her receiving this award was confirmation that other people recognized the amazing drive, talent, and determination that I and my family have always seen in her.”

Reed added that she gives the glory to God for this achievement and can’t wait to continue to bring glory to Him, her family and friends, and herself.



Photo by Ian Gathu / Ledger Photographer
During a home volleyball game, Heather Reed (12) waits to receive a ball.

Les Mis cast prepares for opening night



Photo by Gaby Trejo / Ledger Photographer
Before rehearsal, Ryan Stubo (12) puts on his makeup for his role as Thenardier in the upcoming show Les Mis, which opens Feb. 26.

by Dania Tarakji
Staff Writer

Previous shows such as Hairspray and We Will Rock You enhanced the audience with entertainment and fun.

This year, Les Miserables will attempt to top all of that with the addition of new equipment and an award winning show.

Les Mis will premiere Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. and will continue on Feb. 27, 28 and March 5, 6, 7, 12 and 13 at the same time. The final show March 14 will be a matinee at 1 p.m.

There will be likely no tickets available for sale on the night of the show, so buying tickets ahead of time is recommended. Tickets are on sale online (link on student website) or the form can be printed online and brought to A 101 or LG 104.

Les Mis follows the story of convict Jean Valjean, played by Jake Mendoza (12), after he is released from a French prison. It chronicles his fight with French police chief, Javert, played by Blake Jensen (12).

The musical takes place during the French Revolution and touches on the rebellions by the French citizens and the push back by the government.

Auditions for the play were held in early November and casting was finished within a week.

“The play is going to be awesome,” Hillary Pedrotti, teacher of stage craft and production, said “If the students don’t usually see professional shows in the area, Les Miserables will be the best production locally.”

Last call for seniors

Seniors finalize applications and set sights on June 6

by Carina Renteria
Staff Writer

Every year, seniors pull out their pile of letters from schools and file through them and begin deciding where to apply.

Seniors end up spending hours on the computer filling out information about themselves hoping to receive an acceptance letter in the spring.

They now lay and wait as acceptance and rejection letters arrive in the mail.

The application process comes with a lot of stress, worrying about where to apply, deadlines, scholarships and getting accepted.

The hardest part for some is not knowing when they will be getting their acceptance letter, but for others the wait is bearable.

“It is not as bad as I thought, but I am only applying to one college,” Angie Lucas (12) said.

With applications sent in, some students feel worry free, with the only last stress being passing English 4 and government and economics.

“It is pretty much over, so it is not that stressful anymore.”



Photo by Zach Lane Ledger Archives
Superintendent Mr. Volta smiles on as seniors prepare to sign to their respective colleges at last year's signing rally.

Krystal LeWright (12) said.

Students begin to reflect on the next obstacles that follow.

“Even after you get accepted you have to worry about roommates, food plans, and scholarships,” Victoria Goley (12) said.

Having to figure out who your possible roommate is and what the next four years will hold is both exciting and nerve racking.

After every application is sent in and every last acceptance letter

is received the stressful senior year comes to an end on June 6.

Seniors walk down the stage accept the diploma and continue their journey wherever it may take them next whether it be at a four year, community college or achieving other dreams.

Seniors had the opportunity to fill out local scholarship applications in hopes of receiving a check on scholarship night in May. The local scholarships were due in late January.

Academic scholarships

by Alina Dennis
Staff Writer

Academic scholarships are an opportunity for any seniors to receive money from organizations or generous families for college in various categories.

Other scholarships such as merit scholarships are given out by colleges based on grades and academic achievement. Merit scholarships can be applied to athletic abilities and artistic abilities as well.

You can find scholarships on websites like Scholarships.com, Zinch.com, and fastweb.com or in books that can be purchased at stores like Barnes and Noble. You can also be offered a scholarship after you have been accepted to a school. Some schools have automatic consideration for scholarships in place right when you apply.

For scholarships Mrs. Snyder recommends having a separate email account.

“If you have a separate email account especially for websites like Fast Web, you can have a designated spot where all of your emails go, and you will be more apt to be productive when you look at all the scholarships in one place” said Mrs. Snyder.

The amount of scholarship rewards vary depending on the institution. Some schools have scholarships that range from \$1,000 to paying for all of the tuition!

“I haven’t done any scholarship applications yet, but the scholarships I got from Tulane University and the University of Pittsburgh I got automatic consideration for,” said Dani Tamura(12).

Make sure to be aware of all of the due dates of each scholarship that are applied for and be aware of all necessary requirements and prerequisites that may need to be fulfilled for the scholarship. Scholarships can be very specific with the qualifying criteria so make sure to read and research the scholarship carefully.

“Don’t give up if you don’t get a response from every scholarship that you apply for. It’s better to apply and have the possibility of receiving a scholarship than never try,” said Mrs. Snyder.

Mrs. Snyder and the College and Career Center are an invaluable resource at our school. She can provide any information you have questions on or provide pro tips and hints.

Madam C.J. Walker, the first black millionairess in America, invented the world’s first hair-straightening formula.

'The Interview' sparks retaliation

by Jaeda Smith
Staff Writer

There were a number of Heritage students who were disappointed this winter break, when news came out that the anticipated film *The Interview* would not be shown in theaters.

"I was disappointed when I heard the news, because I am a fan of Seth Rogen and James Franco and their stupid movies," Steven Kroeger (12) said.

The film, starring well-known actors Seth Rogen and James Franco, tells a story of two US journalists sent to assassinate North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un. The movie also portrays other issues such as censorship and the alleged reality of the harsh living conditions present in North Korea.

Before the film was able to be released, SONY was hacked by a group referring to themselves as the 'Guardians of Peace' (GOP) threatening the company to not release the film. GOP hacked into confidential information on the employees of SONY Entertainment such as their names, addresses, and social security numbers. Information about the families of the employees was also hacked.

SONY turned to North

Korea as responsible for the threats against *The Interview*. North Korea claimed to be uninvolved and offered to aid the US in the investigation.

Despite the battle between GOP and SONY, the movie was shown in theaters the day after Christmas.

Heritage students offered their perspectives on the controversy of the movie and the jokes that portray certain aspects of North Korea.

"I can see where they [North Korea] would get offended by it," said Kroeger in response to the outlandish jokes and mockery of the North Korean government.

Rosie Lawton has yet to see the movie but is excited that the film has been released.

"It's just a movie and you shouldn't be afraid to release a movie about something that's happening," Lawton said.

As far as the controversy over the SONY hack, Kroeger stated, "You don't know who is telling the truth, the United States or North Korea".

Kroeger also admires the fact that the movie was eventually released.

"It shows another leader from across the world can't control what we watch," Kroeger said.

Heritage raises suicide and mental health awareness

by Cameron Toth
Staff Writer

People deal with different problems on a day-to-day basis and don't always seek the help they need.

Heritage hosted a Suicide Awareness Presentation to inform students the signs not only for themselves, but to notice changes in their friends as well.

The presenters provided students with the suicide hotline number, which is used for people contemplating suicide and just need someone to talk to when they feel like they don't have anyone else to listen to them. The number is 1(800) 833-2900.

They also educated the students on mental illnesses. Many students deal with mental health issues, but don't receive the help that they need. According to the presenters, they are scared because they may get judged by their peers.

"End the Silence," announced the speaker, "Stand up for yourself and your friends."

The school helps these types of issues by, first, having the situation brought to their

attention. That student has the option to go to their counselor and express the problem that they are facing. Officer Brouillette is then called to meet with the student to decide whether a 5150 (could bring harm to self or others) call should be made or if simple counseling with parents and teachers will help.

Also new this year, Radical Reality, a rally on the hardships going on in the lives of the presenters and how they over

came them with support of their friends and family and found an outlet for the pent up pain they felt throughout their hard experiences.

This coincided with the suicide prevention because they both addressed the same topics of standing up for yourself, accepting help from friends, and ending the silence.

The struggles of life and overcoming them may continue to be presented at Heritage to create awareness.



Photo by Ian Gathu / Legacy Photographer

During the assembly, the speaker educated students about the importance of recognizing and helping mental health issues.

Common core causes changes

by Katharine Glennon
Staff Writer

Throughout 2014, people kept muttering the words 'Common Core education' and how terrible, or great, it is depending on the person you'd talk to.

In the start of 2014, a new nation wide standard was implemented for all students called Common Core. The goal of this program is to unify the country under one education system and better prepare students to enter today's college and workforce, which is more demanding and competitive than ever before.

Common Core established a set of consistent guidelines thought the country for students from kindergarten through graduation in math and English classes. For example, if a student from Heritage moved to Montana, they wouldn't miss anything in their core classes.

Common Core has provided major changes to how teachers conduct their classrooms.

"I've been teaching Common Core standards for a few years. After having Common Core for five or six years, my calculus class will be easier than it is for my kids today," said Mr. Allen.

While fewer topics are

covered each year, the topics that are covered are now much more in depth. In addition to that, technology is now used more in the classroom, listening and speaking skills are being developed, and students are encouraged to show evidence of their work.

"I think that the new testing that's associated with Common Core is going to be a big transition for our school," Mrs. Rowland said. "It's all computerized and the test seems challenging, so the learning curve for us as a school might take some time."

The United States has

dropped in its education over the years. According to greatschools.org, America is ranked 24 out of 57 countries. The goal of Common Core is to bring up our educational ranking.

"We needed a mathematics change in this country ... I think it's a very good mathematical approach," said Allen.

Common core will be providing major changes for future students in order to morph them into better adapted individuals to match the demands of the 21st century.



Photo by Jullia Schroer / Intro to Mass Media
With Mrs. Heath looking on, students work on a grammar assignment. Common Core has impacted many classes including English.

Classes at other schools

by Blake Jensen
Staff Writer

While Heritage High School provides students with different classes for pursuing education, some Heritage students have decided to take some of their learning experience off-campus and to other schools.

Students who decide to take classes at other schools do it for different reasons, including scheduling issues and different educational opportunities.

Stephanie Mitchener (12) takes AP Calculus BC at Liberty. She chose to do this because the only period offering AP Calculus BC at Heritage was eighth period. This was also the only period Acting/Directing Workshop was run, and she did not want to miss out on that class.

"I'm glad I made this decision because I want to major in both Theatre and Math in college, and this gives me the opportunity to do both," Mitchener said.

"Heritage did not offer me any classes that would help me with my desired career path," Carina Renteria (12) said. "I want to be a teacher, and this class has helped me learn a lot."

She is taking ROP Careers with Children at Freedom.

Some students also decide to

simply take certain Advanced Placement tests at other schools, because the classes are not offered at Heritage.

For instance, Liberty offers an AP Music Theory class, which Heritage does not.

Nick Perez (12) is planning to take the AP test for this class, despite the fact he does not actually take the class.

"I want to do music in college and this test would show where I stand in music theory," Perez said. "It will show me where I need to improve and could possibly save me college credit."

These available classes are not limited to high schools. Cory Reyburn (12) has decided to further his high school education by signing up for classes at Los Medanos College.

"I signed up to take Cultural Anthropology and Introduction to Philosophy at Los Medanos," Reyburn said. "These classes should help me get a head start on my college education, and the classes were really cheap."

If students find themselves in a situation where their schedule is conflicted or not completely fulfilling for your educational needs, maybe try classes at another school instead will work.

"You're going to relegate my history to a month? I don't want a Black History Month. Black history is American history."
- Morgan Freeman

Big Blue Madness succeeds again in raising school spirit



Photo by JD Cecilio/Legacy Photographer

Going head-to-head with Tyrese Mack (10), Mr. Malzahn defends the basket. The staff versus student match-up brought up the energy in the crowd.

by Charlie Sides
Staff writer

Big Blue Madness was a huge hit once again this year for the start of the basketball season. Over 1,000 students showed up making it bigger than last year. The stands were filled with a wave of blue, big heads, and a thousand screaming students.

To start off the night, players from both the boys and girls teams were introduced.

Then came the scrimmages between the blue and white teams. Delaney Sparling hit a three pointer to start off the scrimmages.

Sophomore Anthony Dennis threw down a couple dunks to get the crowd hyped up along with long ranged three's from juniors Jason Augliera and Marcus Wallace. Senior Jovian

Cormier threw down a couple alley oops to really steal the show.

The staff basketball team had a tough time against our boys and girls. Mr. Beyer, Mr. Mathrole, and Mr. Silman lead the teachers but they were not good enough to get the win.

All players tried to show their stuff with dunks, long ranged threes, and shifty moves.

At the end MC's Tyler Slous and Jack Strauss led the crowd for some chants that will ring around the Heritage gym throughout the season.

Basketball has been a great sport for the students at Heritage.

Big Blue Madness has been a huge success yet again and will carry on for many years as a great tradition.

Girls soccer lands three scholarships and several wins

by Marisol Bragg
Staff Writer

The girls soccer team already matched last year's win total, and it also matched the scholarship numbers.

Demi Gonis (Cal State Stanislaus), Meghan Willmes (Holy Names) and Alyssa Rodriguez (Sonoma State) signed their National-Letters-of-Intent on Feb. 5.

The team had high hopes again this year, and they lived up to them with a 13-4-1 record overall, 6-3 in league.

Second team all-leaguers Ale Hinojosa (12), Meghan Willmes (12) and Kasidee Wiley (11) all returned this season, along with honorable mention Alyssa Rodriguez (12). They all helped lead the team back to the NCS playoffs.

"Being on varsity is great. I love being on such a well-rounded team with such a fun and talented group of girls" said Melina Beard (10).

The girls finished with a record of 12-9-2 overall and 6-2-2 in league and advanced into NCS last season.

Haylie Grant, who went on to play for Florida State and win a National Championship, Kylee Smith, who went on to play at Sacramento State, and Sarah Toelkes, who plays at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas have all graduated.

The girls won three of four games heading into their regular season finale against Freedom, setting them up for an NCS run.

"The biggest game this year was the Liberty game, although we lost, everyone played well," Mr. James said.

Boys look to heat up league

Win over Liberty highlights the first half of BVAL play

by Charlie Sides
Staff writer

Despite an up and down season, the boys basketball team has put up impressive victories with a 13-11 record.

The biggest one recently came in the form of a 51-41 win over rival Liberty.

Arguably the best of the season was a 57-55 win over highly touted San Ramon Valley.

The Patriots had a slight halftime lead against SRV, but the Wolves came back to tie the game. With just seconds left in the fourth quarter, the ball was in bounded to sophomore guard Anthony Dennis and he buried the game-winning jumper.

Next game was against

Castro Valley at the Don Nelson Classic in Dublin. After taking their first loss of the season to Castro Valley 53-49, the next day they beat Cal High of San Ramon 68-43. Heritage fell to Encinal 73-68 in the 3rd-place game.

To kick off the last tournament of the season, the Patriots took part in the Bambauer Classic in Marin.

The first game was against Mills of Millbrae as they cruised to a 69-61 win to take on Drake of San Anselmo but lost 82-65. For the 3rd place game they played Miramonte they took the easy win 68-45.

For the last four non league games of the season the boys took on three very good teams,

Serra, Berkeley, Armijo, and Vintage. After taking a bad loss to Serra 66-26, the Patriots looked better against Berkeley in a tight one 63-59. Then came a 62-51 win over Armijo and a 75-68 loss to Vintage.

For the boys first league game they lost to Freedom 64-48. They beat nemesis Deer Valley 75-52, lost to Pittsburg 66-63 and beat Antioch 56-52 before the Liberty game. The team lost playmaker Jason Augliera, who injured his arm against Antioch.

After the Liberty victory, the boys played Freedom and took a tough loss 73-59. Dennis led the team in scoring.

They then played Deer Valley and won.



Photo by Gaby Trejo/Legacy Photographer

Driving towards the hoop Anthony Dennis (10), looks down the court for open teammates. Dennis had the game-winning bucket in the Patriots biggest win of the season, a 57-55 victory over San Ramon Valley.

Hitting the field, baseball & softball start up

by Clayton Creer
Staff Writer

The baseball team looks for another shot at NCS this year after losing to crosstown rival Liberty 4-1 in NCS a year ago.

The baseball team went 7-3 in league and 16-9 overall. With the loss of Roger Kruse to San Mateo College, Brady Navarro to Holy Names University and Steven Ochoa to Ohlone College, leadership rolls are up for grabs.

With practice just underway, the BVAL looks like a tough race this year between Heritage, Liberty and Deer Valley.

Junior Kevin Milam and Sophomores Jake Cosgrove and Gio Diaz are all verbally committed to Saint Mary's College in Moraga.

The Patriots have a handful of young stars that could really bring a lot of excitement and attention to the team.

Seniors Tyler Slous, Collin Summers and Matt Pulos look

to lead this young but talented team far into NCS.

The softball team is also looking toward another great season.

After finishing 10-0 in league and 18-3 overall, the Patriots look to go further in NCS this year after losing to Foothill in the second round 3-1.

League MVP and senior Kimmy Trice looks to lead the team back to an undefeated season and hopefully to NCS.

With the loss of the two senior captains Kaylee James and Jasmina Cross, the Patriots look to have another year of great chemistry.

After a 12-0 pitching record her freshman year, Marris Espinoza looks to lead her team with her great pitching.

"Cameron Zamora, is the next player to watch for our girls team, she is great in the field and a threat on the base paths," Katherine Hall said.



Photo by Christian Tesfaye Ledger Photographer

Last year, during their regular season, Marissa Espinoza (10), steps into her wind up. The team made an impressive run late in the season and looks to continue it.

Black History Month is celebrated in February in Canada and in the United States.

Girls heat up the court in league

Girls play well in league, with only one loss thus far

by *Charlie Sides*
Staff Writer

After a tough non-league schedule, the girls basketball team started league with victories over Freedom (47-44) and Deer Valley (53-50).

The promising start was tempered by losses to Pittsburg (52-33) and Liberty (50-44) sandwiched around a win over Antioch (55-23).

The team (8-14, 3-3) is still hopeful for NCS, but will have to win almost the rest of their games to get there.

The girls took on James Logan at home, in hopes of avenging last year's NCS loss, but they fell again 67-48.

Three days later, the Patriots fell to Clayton Valley 71-61, another NCS powerhouse.

The team rebounded with a 47-45 victory over Foothill.

They kept up their momentum as they continued on in league play.

With another hard fought game, The Patriots girls basketball came up with a 53-50 Bay Valley Athletic League win over Deer Valley on Jan. 23.

Heritage rallied after being down 14 points at the half.

Junior Go-Go Chilaka led the team with 16 points.

For the last tournament of the season, the girls played in

the West Coast Jamboree at Deer Valley, where they lost to Salesian (74-61) and Deer Valley (70-55).



Photo by *JD Cecilio*/Ledge Photographer
Taking a breath before she makes her free throw, Mikaila Wegenke (9) bounces the ball and focuses in.

Wrestling takes off



Photo by *Zion Combs* /Intro to Mass Media Photographer
During a match, Hudson Bursch (10) attempts to pin down his opponent.
by *Jadeyn Madsen*
Staff writer

For the first time in a couple years, the wrestling team contended for the league title.

The team went unbeaten in their first four league matches setting up a battle with Liberty for the league title.

The undermanned squad gave a good fight, but fell to the Lions.

The team finished last year overall with 4-12 last year, but with individual league champion Jordan Jimenez (12) returning, the team knew it had talent. Benny Orozco (12), who ended up taking fourth at NCS also returned.

Jimenez and Orozco are leading the team as captains,

while Riley Briggs (11) and Devon Lance (10) are both returners

The boys opened with 11 victories, including a victory over Freedom to be at the top of the BVAL with Liberty entering the final match.

The boys officially started league on the 14th against Freedom. Briggs, Alex Marquez (11), Kyle Marshall (12), JJ Lucido (12), and Orozco won their matches against the Falcons.

The Patriots won the match to go 1-0 in league, but more importantly finally putting them ahead of Freedom.

The boys will prepare for the BVAL tournament and then NCS and maybe state.

Re-energized Boys soccer is brought back to life

by *Marisol Bragg*
Staff Writer

The boys soccer season is off to a good start. With a 6-8-6 record, they have already doubled their win total from last year.

“Our goal this year is to make it to NCS”, Myles Youngwood (11) said early in the season.

The team already improved from their 4-13-4 record last season, where they went 2-6-2 in league. The team definitely had room for improvement.

“Our goal this year was to win against Deer Valley”, varsity coach Mr. Valdivia said.

The game of the season was against Deer Valley.

Chris Finlez scored the only goal of the game to make it a 1-0 win against Deer Valley. Finlez has a couple clutch goals this season.

Finlez scored another big goal against highly-ranked Campolindo (14-4-2). The Patriots played well the whole game, and Finlez' amazing goal at the 35-yard line appeared to

give them the upset.

Finlez trapped the ball with his chest, and made a volley, scoring the goal over the head of the goalie who was caught a little to far forward.

Caleb Micheal (12), and Younes Dayekh (10) left the team to go play for the San Jose Earthquake's Academy.

Josh Morton, who graduated last year, moved on to play for the University of California.

With such a strong start to the season, the boys hoped to make it to NCS.



Photo by *Alfreda Charway*/Legacy Photographer
Before passing the ball downfield, Chris Finlez (11) looks to shake off a defender. Finlez scored the game-winning goal against Deer Valley early in the league season and scored a brilliant goal in a 2-2 tie with Campolindo.

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Drunk Driving

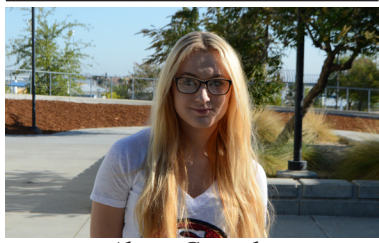
Don't

On a sweltering summer night a car packed full of teenagers embarks on a windy road. The music is blaring; everyone is laughing and having a good time. A flash of headlights appears followed by screams from the passengers and broken glass. The car plummets over the embankment, rolls; and then comes to a halt.

Drunk driving. It sounds like a broken record, "Don't drink and drive." Every year 4,700 people die as a result of underage drinking and driving. Just one moment of stupidity can lead to a lifetime of regret.

"Drunk driving is such a selfish thing to do, risking other people's lives because you want to make a dumb decision isn't right." Mat De La Gardie (11).

Drunk drivers have no regard for anyone's safety. The average drunk driver has driven drunk eighty times before they



Alexa Crowder
Ledger Columnist

get their first DUI. One-third of those arrested for drunk driving will become repeat offenders.

"If you're drunk then call for a ride. It's better to be safe than to take a risk that could turn out fatal." Kayla White (12).

Perhaps the saddest part about drunk driving crashes is that more often than not the innocent people are the most harmed. Every two minutes someone is injured in a drunk driving accident.

"I know people who have been in a car with a drunk driver before. Looking back on the experience they realize how

dangerous it was." Vanessa Baxley (12).

Impairment is not determined by the type of drink but by the amount of alcohol drunk over time. The average person metabolizes alcohol at the rate of one drink an hour. A common misconception is that eating food or taking a cold shower will sober a person up. Recent studies have proven that only time can make a person sober.

As teenagers we already have a reputation of being unsafe drivers but when we add alcohol to the mix things can turn deadly. Teenagers are overconfident drivers as it is. Car crashes are the leading cause of death in teenagers and about one-fourth of those fatal crashes involve alcohol. Teenagers have a few drinks and think they are good to drive when in reality they are not.

Not all about that bass



Dania Tarakji
Ledger Columnist

"You know I won't be no stick figure silicone Barbie doll"

The idea of having one type of acceptable body type that's thin has come and gone in our generation. Although, now that "thin isn't in" anymore, people have forwarded their opinions into larger and curvier women. As a result, body shaming has changed from "you need to be thinner" to "you need to have more curves."

Body shaming should not happen at all, regardless of the body shape it targets.

All society has done is change the direction of their insults to thin girls.

Posts and pictures like "A real woman has curves" are being liked and supported on social media websites, whereas posts about being thin always get negative comments.

When being thin was in, social media supported it with song lyrics in music and considered it perfection. "She was a buck 'o 5 [105 pounds]" says Paula Deanda in her song "When it Was Me", "And I guess she's alright if perfection is what you like."

And although people used to consider being thin as the ideal body shape and size, it shouldn't be considered

so because perfection is an opinion and opinions are always changing.

And sure enough, opinions have changed in the year 2014 suggesting that "bones are for dogs" and we should all have curvy bodies because society says so.

Music's role in body shaming has also changed over the years. For instance, Meghan Trainor, singer of the hit "All about That Bass", talks about how she has learned to love and accept her body instead of feeling insecure about it.

"It's a catchy song that's about having girls be themselves and not listen to the media around them," Matthew Balocco (12) said.

The song is supportive and empowering from the surface, but it turns out that this body-loving song is not body-loving at all.

She starts the song with saying "I'm all about that bass 'Bout that bass, no treble." In an interview with Billboard, Trainor explains the line "You know how the bass guitar in a song is like its 'thickness,' the 'bottom'?" I kind of related a body to that."

This is okay, except for the part where she says "no treble" which symbolizes thin or "skinny" girls.

"I like the song and I think it's empowering for girls" Isabela Angus (11) said, "but she does use derogatory phrases that are counter-productive like 'Skinny b*tches' in her song."

Not only does she insult

skinny girls with these kinds of phrases throughout the song, but her lyrics also suggest that the main reason women should love their body is dependant on the amount of how much men are attracted to it.

Phrases like "Cause I got that boom boom that all the boys chase, and all the right junk in all the right places" and "Boys like a little more booty to hold at night," affirm the idea that women should conform to whatever body type boys have decided they are interested in at the moment.

When a song claims it's about a woman loving her body for the purpose of loving it, her self image shouldn't be determined by the opinion of men. The hypocritical stance of the song suggests that the song supports female independence when it clearly does not. Can't people be happy with their curves without insulting those without them?

Other popular songs support the trend like Nicki Minaj's new hit "Anaconda" as well as Iggy Azalea and Jennifer Lopez's songs "Booty".

"Although, given the circumstances of society right now," said Angus (11) "I think it goes against body shaming, but she does unintentionally body shame skinny girls"

Society does hold intense grudges on a specific look and full figured girls have paid for that in harsh ways; but the question is, if we want to put an end to something like this why still play the game only switching the players?

They're strangers until you meet them

Computers make great hiding places for people who are desperate to find love.

There is an emerging trend on social media of people creating false personalities online, and hiding behind the shelter of their computer screen and online profiles. It's called the Catfish phenomenon, it proves the fact that it doesn't matter if you think you know someone online, you don't actually know them until you meet them.

"You should never develop a relationship on social media because the people are strangers until you actually meet them," Josh Harms (11) said.

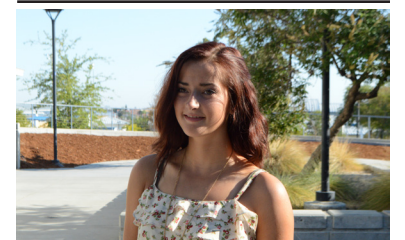
The term Catfish comes from the way that fishermen use catfish to ship other fish overseas; it means to keep someone on their toes. When cod is shipped from one part of the Earth to the other, fishermen use the catfish to keep the cod swimming so they don't die. Just like the catfish in the water who keep the cod constantly swimming in circles, people who make false online personas and create relationships with people who have never met them before keep them guessing and never really knowing the truth.

"I think it's sad that people think they have a relationship when they really don't," Ethan Dodd (10) said.

What's really sad is that the people who believe them fall prey to their trap, not knowing what kind of a person they are really talking to. Real emotions that form for people that don't

exist just complicate the matter. Even though the relationship is not real, people develop feelings that are crushed upon finding out that their so-called "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" is a completely different person.

"It's ridiculous to have a long-term relationship and never meet the person or talk to them face-to-face," said Brea O'Boyle (11).



Sydney Manza
Ledger Columnist

These Catfish can turn out to be twice the age they claim to be, or totally different people than what their pictures make them out to be. In a way, Catfishing can be a form of identity theft, because they steal people's pictures from their social media and pretend to be that person. Usually they refuse to meet in person because they do not want to reveal their true identity, which is a big warning sign that you are being Catfished.

In the end, a person is a stranger until you meet them in real life, and seeing a few pictures that they choose to show you does not mean you actually know who they are. No matter how well you think you know someone, you don't know anything until you talk to them face-to-face, where you can see who they really are.

Cartoon by Erica Publico



Maya Angelou stopped celebrating her birthday after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., because they fell on the same day, exactly 40 years apart.

Some tenured teachers abuse their power

Do you feel respected when you go to school? Of course, as a student you are going to be reprimanded, but do you feel you are being treated fairly? It's hard enough dealing with annoying peers, but then you have to deal with annoying teachers.

In my previous schools, the teachers there were all tenured and had been working at those schools for quite a long time. I experienced many instances when a teacher's behavior was unbecoming.

For example, once I did not understand a subject in class. Instead of my teacher assisting me, she only said I had to study and stop wasting the class's time. But, she had no qualms about assisting any of the other students. I guess she was just bothered by me.

It doesn't and shouldn't matter whether or not anyone, especially a teacher, likes a student. It also shouldn't matter

what a teacher's mood is that day. That should never affect whether a student is treated fairly.

It is still their job to teach and treat students with due respect. Yelling, being condescending, or giving unjust punishment without merit is inexcusable and unprofessional.

Surely there are going to be students a teacher favors over another. Likewise, there are going to be students who rub the teacher the wrong way. However, that shouldn't in any way affect whether that student is treated equally.

A viable theory could be that, in smaller schools with tenured teachers who are familiar with each other, they tend to become more lax and believe that set morals and rules must not apply to them.

This occurs because those teachers become arrogant and believe they can never

be punished. They are "friends" with their bosses and co-workers, allowing for sentiment.

Colleagues would get their



Sydney Gartmond
Ledger Columnist

buddies and team up against students to make sure there was "respect" which is privy to "fear." That is not a productive way to be an authority figure. Teachers most definitely should not get off on controlling students like they're robots.

It's alright for teachers to be friends with each other. However, they shouldn't be using their friendships as job security. They shouldn't be

using the fact that they're guaranteed employment as the go-ahead to act however they want.

Obviously, they are authority figures and they should be respected. But there is a certain way to go about it, and being a bully isn't it.

It is commonplace for teachers to call students lazy. But what they fail to realize is that laziness is not a one-way street. When teachers fail to give grades on assignments or tests, or updated their students' grades online for weeks or sometimes months, are being lazy too.

Sometimes, teachers even become angry when asked what day the assignments would be given back, although the inquire from the student only comes from a good place.

Having said that, teachers slacking off with giving assignments back and things of that nature have no right

to be hypocritical. To clarify, both the student and the teacher have responsibilities they need to keep.

"If an administrator has the guts and the interests to let people who are not very good go, then the process can work well," Mr. Fallows said. "But sometimes administrators don't want to do that. It's hard to criticize people. It's not an easy thing to bring someone to your office and say 'You're out of a job.'"

Surely the question has been asked: if that teacher clearly doesn't have the people skills to handle students, why are they still here?

It boils down to their bosses. The-powers-that-be are either not paying enough attention or are simply do not want to hold the responsibility of firing someone and ending someone's career.

A blunt opinion Legalization is the answer

The legalization of marijuana – a topic that has been beaten to death in most English class writing prompts or in discussions (lectures) by our parents.

The propagandized version of a stoner sold to the public is very outdated. People can still smoke weed and do well in school, have a job, and care about their health. Almost everyone knows someone who smokes pot regularly and can still carry on a productive life.

The legalization of marijuana for recreational use would be a huge benefit. The economic potential that this could present is considerable, and social norms towards the plant are changing and we need laws to keep up with an adapting society.

Last January, Colorado legalized the substance for recreational use which profited the state \$31 million in 2014 alone and less than 9% of the population classify themselves as "regular users" as reported by the Colorado government.

The economic benefit it would have on this country is significant. Theweek.com reports that number would be in the billions which is some green we desperately need since our national debt is eighteen-trillion dollars and growing.

Most recently, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, and Washington D.C. have legalized the plant.

Also, Arizona, California, Maine, Massachusetts, and Nevada are expected to vote

on legalization in 2016 – so make sure you are registered to vote if you are over eighteen, #democracy.

Adolescents in particular may abuse these new freedoms, which is why states that have legalized cannabis require you to be 21 years old to legally use or purchase Mary Jane and



Katharine Glennon
Ledger Columnist

people can only have a specific amount in their possession at any one time, usually one ounce.

According to addictioninfo.org, there is no evidence that marijuana causes cancer, kills brain cells, or is a chemically-addictive substance.

"Smoking marijuana didn't change my personal life, I use it as a relaxer when I have time - after the stress from work and school and family" An Anonymous student said.

Times are changing and marijuana is becoming more socially acceptable than in previous generations.

During the Prohibition era, people continued to consume alcohol, which gave rise to people like Al Capone who got rich over bootlegging liquor. People who want to get high will continue to get high, so why not legalize it and make a potential profit?

The Autism Spectrum Another way to view it; from the human side

I look around the room, in a state of confusion. Every time I talk, people look at me with shocked and confused faces. They tell me that I'm talking too loud, that I'm not focused enough, and that I'm being weird and awkward. Yet I just thought I was acting normal.

For me and millions of other students, this is our life. This is autism.

From speech deficiencies to lack of motor skills and severely inhibited social abilities, those living with autism struggle with the things that many take for granted. At school these problems become painfully obvious.

Many stigmas about the condition exist, and due to the misunderstanding of the disorder, many of these students face routine bullying.

Often, they are thought to have no feelings; but they do, and all the mistreatment hurts them tremendously. Others need to show more patience and understanding, because being stigmatized or made fun of hurts us tremendously.

"I spent most of my childhood alone," Nicolas Koukis (11), a student with mild autism, said. "I did not learn to talk until I was four, and I was bullied throughout elementary and middle school."

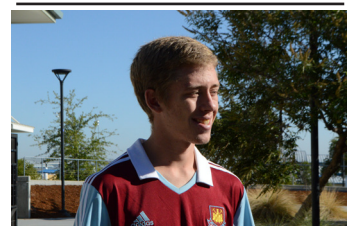
One of the hardest parts about having autism is all of the stigmas that are attached with it. According to Jamie Fatz, the school psychologist, these are problems that autistic students face daily.

"The most common stigma

would be that those with autism don't have any emotions, and that they are uncaring," Fatz said.

In fact, the truth is quite the opposite. Those who are autistic actually feel emotion at a much higher level than a normal person would, because they often imagine what a situation would be like for them. However, they have trouble showing this due to their lack of social skills.

What makes autism so hard



Kyle Land
Ledger Columnist

to understand is that it is a spectrum disorder. This means that there are varying degrees of how it affects the person. While some of those with autism can live independently and hold down a job, some need assistance throughout their lives. In spite of their disorder, many students have amazing talents in a variety of areas.

"I really enjoy drawing and playing music. It's a good way for me to stay in my own world and stay calm," Koukis said.

Those with autism are known for their specific interests, which they get fixated on often and will find ways to talk about whenever they can. While it is great that they find something that they excel at, their intense interest in the subject can often leave them isolated from their peers.

"The biggest advice I could give people when interacting with an autistic person is to have patience... and help them as much as you can," Fatz said.

As a student on the autism spectrum, I can say that this represents only a small chunk of the challenges that these students face. Many need counseling for very simple functions like writing with a pencil or even just talking. One way they can be helped, though, is through the people around them.

"Chances are you know someone who has autism, and you don't even know it," Koukis said. "Don't judge someone for something they can't control."

Opinions, Editorials and Letters to the editor

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Disappeared: Forty three among thousands

by Ana Hurt
Staff Writer

Many Americans take their First Amendment rights seriously (as shown by the reaction to The Interview being cancelled, countless Supreme Court cases, and so on). But how would people react if the government were to make 43 students disappear for trying to exercise these rights?

This is allegedly what happened in Guerrero, Mexico. According to the Latin Times, teaching students, or normalistas, from the Normal School of Ayotzinapa were on their way to Iguala when they were stopped by police, shot at, possibly given over to the cartel Guerreros Unidos, and never seen again.

The local government, who was reported to have ordered the capture of the students, claimed that they were coming to Iguala in order to protest a political event being put on by the mayor's wife, but the students said they were going to raise funds. However, later investigations revealed that the federal government had been monitoring the students from the time they left the school until the shooting began.

Later, multiple mass graves were discovered in Cocula, and the bodies were taken by the FBI for DNA testing. So far, only one student, Alexander Mora Venancio, has been identified.

"Here, students were just protesting last month in Oakland and Berkeley. And what happened? Yes, there was some police brutality but I think that's the worst that happened. No one disappeared, no one got killed by local police. It's two different worlds and they are right next to each other," said Spanish teacher Mr. Madrigal.

The federal government of Mexico not only reportedly tortured presumed drug traffickers in order to get confessions of killing the students, but the Proceso declared that the students were targeted and attacked due to their political activism.

"It's really sad because it shows that the Mexican government is so corrupted. All these people that we call leaders are somehow connected to drug cartels and they work together for their own benefit because they love the money. They will go as far as killing these

students just to maintain their position in the political world," said Madrigal.

President Enrique Peña Nieto met with the parents, promising to support the families and seek "technical assistance from international organizations" in order to find their children. However, parents, peers, and citizens of Mexico hardly thought this was enough.

Protests since the incident have included breaking down the doors of military bases and covering their walls with graffiti, marches to the state capital of Guerrero and in Mexico City, and 26 other states. Many demonstrations, however, go unreported.

"About a month ago, one of Mexico's biggest actors passed away, and they made such a big deal. But then you have people who protest against what happened, and the T.V. doesn't show it. The media gets direct orders from the government not to show them," said Madrigal.

Despite having minimal to no coverage, the protests continue to gain momentum. The protestors have not only called for the President's resignation, but one of the parents has

called for generalized civil disobedience.

"The revolution is coming, and the perfect example is what happened in my hometown in early September. The people in my hometown were tired of getting abused by the local police officers and they stood up against them and kicked them out. The police officers responded by shooting at them, but thankfully no one died. Then the army took over and were able to arrest the cops because they found they were holding people without paperwork to get money out of them. "It's going to happen, and it's really scary especially for people that have no choice and that's all they know so they have to stay there. They don't have the resources to get out of there and they're going to be caught in the crossfire," said Madrigal.

Mexico's government may be due for change, but this change will not come easily. During the first Mexican Revolution, a hundred and forty years ago, an estimated 2.1 million lives were lost. Now, that number could be even higher.

Calendar

February - March

- Feb. 9** - NHS Application Window for Class of 2017, Open
- Feb. 10** - HPAB Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- Feb. 11** - PDD, FAFSA Help & Athletic Boosters Meeting
- Feb. 12** - Patriot Plus
- Feb. 16** - No School
- Feb. 18** - FAFSA Help
- Feb. 19** - Patriot Plus
- Feb. 20** - NHS Application for Class of 2017, Closed
- Feb. 21** - MOCK ACT
- Feb. 23** - Patriot Plus
- Feb. 25** - PDD
- Feb 26** - SAC Meeting, Patriot Plus and Rising Stars' Les Miserables
- Feb. 27 -28** - Rising Stars' Les Miserables
- Mar. 2** - Patriot Plus
- Mar. 3** - NHS Meeting & Junior College Registration
- Mar. 4** - Personal Statement Workshop & Review Seminar
- Mar. 5** - Patriot Plus
- Mar. 5 - 7** - Rising Stars' Les Miserables
- Mar. 7-8** - SAT Bootcamp
- Mar. 10** - SAT Essay Workshop

2015 Choir Showcase

Choir students create a world of Disney

by Jadea Smith
Staff Writer

Princess Tiana, Mulan and even Pocahantas surprised many with their amazing voices during a two night showcase event.

On Friday, January 30th and Saturday, January 31st the HHS Choir hosted their third annual student choir showcase! In the past years the showcase has featured themes such as love and friendship, however this year the theme centered around the magical world of Disney!

"We wanted to do something happy and different from the love themes we always did", Delaney Hilgers(10) said.

The students worked extremely hard picking their own songs and composing the songs themselves with various harmonies and arrangements. The immense talent of the choir made it very difficult for the choir teacher Ms.Hurst to narrow down the selections.

The students were very excited to have the opportunity to perform their favorite Disney songs in front of their family, faculty and friends who attended the double feature event.

"I'm so excited for everyone to see the choir's talent and to

perform in front of my family and friends", Jordyn Foley said, during the final dress rehearsal.

Despite the excitement of the showcase the choir council fell under pressure to quickly gather all the resources needed to pull off an amazing two night event.

"It has been very stressful trying to organize tickets and get everyone to listen and find time to practice", said Sara Palmer(11) the President of the choir club.

With all the hard work done the students performed in front of their audience. With the theater about three-fourths of the way filled one student in particular wanted to send a strong message along with his performance. Wearing a t-shirt stating "I can't breathe" Jake Villareal(11) sang "You'll be in my heart" from the popular movie Tarzan.

"I feel very strongly about the situation and so I wear the shirt all the time so people can become aware about it", said Villareal.

All in all, the show was amazing, featuring great medleys of popular Disney songs for many to enjoy.



Singing "You'll be in my heart, Jacob Villareal (11) shares his talent in the choir showcase. Villareal also MC'd the event. Photo by Reyna Peña/Legacy photographer



During the disney themed showcase, Ariel Stone (9) passionately sings to the crowd during the 2015 Disney Choir Showcase. Photo by Reyna Pena / Legacy photographer

The 13th Amendment, was adopted by the 38th Congress on February 1st. This amendment abolished slavery.