



THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL Olympian



Page 2:
Measure I
would support
teachers



Page 4:
DECA shines
at annual
conference



Page 7:
Trojans make
Pirates walk
the plank

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Gov. Newsom meets Trojans



DEREK NEYER

By Katrina Siler
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Castro Valley High School journalism students Katy Siler, Derek Neyer, Megan Baldwin and Leo Lin met Gov. Gavin Newsom for an exclusive interview in the state Capitol on Jan. 28. Assisting the students were CVHS teacher Matt Johanson, technical consultant Dan Johanson and Marshall Elementary School special representative Nathan Johanson. This interview transcript has been edited for length and clarity.

Question: What are you most proud of accomplishing in your first year of office?

Newsom: Re-energizing a focus on the issues of income equality, homelessness, and affordability in the state. I think what's more important than anything else is the flywheel effect of reinvigorating a debate around how we can be more competitive for the middle class and the real crisis of affordability in the state.

Question: How would you assess the state of our public schools?

Newsom: Not where they need to be, but getting better. Since 2011 we've seen an 80

percent increase in per pupil funding in the state of California. I've put together back-to-back record budgets investing in our K-14 education system, and also providing significant support to our higher education systems, UCs and CSUs. What has been missing in California is a commensurate investment in preschool. The achievement gap really manifests the first day of kindergarten. That's a big focus for us.

Question: Why is California's per student spending among the lowest in the nation and what can we do about it?

Newsom: Well we are technically out of the bottom ten, when we get the new numbers, I anticipate. But that's inadequate. We used to be first, then we went to worst. Now we are making progress. We are making stubborn progress in reading scores for eighth graders. We've seen stubborn progress in addressing the needs of English as a second language learners and we've seen stubborn progress as it relates to closing the gaps.

Question: Students support later school start times, but oppose later release times...

Newsom: Release? It sounds like prison! (laughs)

Question: With later school start times coming, what do you think about shortening the school day so release times can remain consistent?

Newsom: No. Longer school days, get rid of summers! Do you toil the fields in the summer? Do you go back to the farm? You don't? The point being, we have an old industrial mindset of education. It's sort of a nonsensical reality that we're living that's based upon past practices and not new realities. I support the later start time because I believe in science and I believe the science overwhelmingly bears out that people your age stubbornly have a hard time falling asleep and you have a difficult time waking up. Sometimes you're still asleep in the second and third period. If you want real education reform, it might not be that more complex than starting school a little later... I think we get too caught up in the new shiny object of education reform or some technological solution when it's really not that complex at the end of the day. For me, a later start time is part of it but I also believe that community schools need to be part of the agenda. I believe we need to meet people where they are and some people need ex-

See Newsom: page 8

CV schools join lawsuit against JUUL

By Thomas Ryken
STAFF WRITER

The Castro Valley School District joined a lawsuit against JUUL Labs with 16 other school districts. The suit claims the money will recoup the cost of absent students, education programs, and vape detectors.

JUUL claims they only target their adult smokers and don't intend on marketing to teenagers and students. Regardless it has become an epidemic and the district is putting public health first.

"The health and safety of our students is our number one priority," said Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi. "Vaping directly impacts the health and well-being of our students and takes away resources that can and should be used to support them academically, socially and emotionally on an ongoing basis."

The Trump Administration banned some flavored vapor cartridges to prevent underage teenagers from vaping. However, menthol and tobacco flavored e-cigarettes remain on the market.

Last month, Congress raised the minimum age to purchase tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21 in order to prevent teens from vaping. Studies show that 5.4 million middle and high school students used e-cigarettes in 2019.

California Governor Gavin Newsom voiced his opinion on the issue of vaping when he was interviewed by *The Olympian*. "Well we've been very aggressive. I'm supporting a vaping tax, in my budget, to tax vaping cartridges

like we tax tobacco. We currently don't have that," said Newsom.

"I think we should absolutely eliminate all flavored vaping. The Trump administration, to their credit, went part of the way. We want to go the entire distance."

At CVHS, a recent study indicated that there has been a 25 percent reduction in students caught smoking or vaping at CVHS from last school year to this school year. According to Assistant Principal Kevin Baker, the Anti-Vaping Task Force is still working to prevent future teens from acquiring vape devices in the future.

Mainly it was senior students caught last year, but now a majority of the students caught on campus are underclassmen.

The significant drop-off has been the number of girls caught smoking or vaping on campus. Last year, 11 girls were caught from August to January, while this year it is only three girls.

It seems like less students are vaping in general, but these numbers could also entail that CVHS students are becoming smarter and are leaving their devices at home or someplace else.

"It's a huge issue and it scares me as a parent with four kids. It's unacceptable that we have allowed this to manifest on our watch. We own this. We should have seen this coming," said Newsom.

With all these new developments on preventing vaping teenagers in the past month, it seems like this could create big changes and keep students safe.



Measure I would support teachers

Editorial:

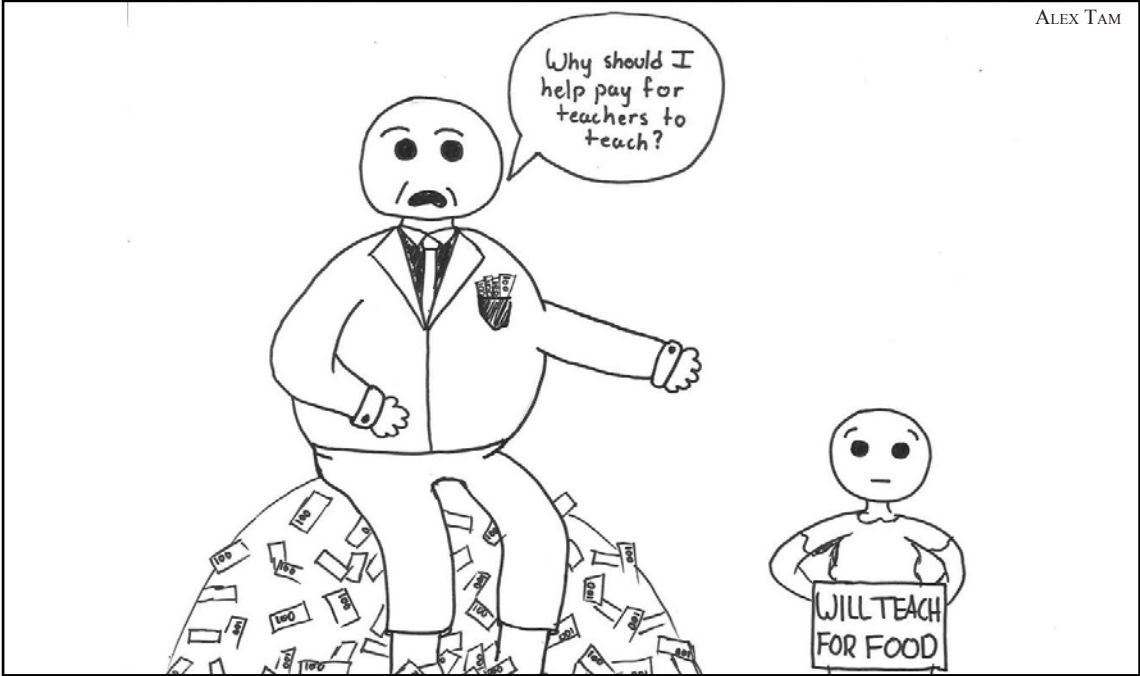
Tension levels rise and political discussions intensify as the primary elections commence.

This year, Castro Valley voters will be asked to vote on Measure I, a parcel tax measure which is designed to fund schools and educational programs that help enhance the quality of our education, as well as provide support for teachers.

We at *The Olympian* support Measure I.

Considering the cost of living in the Bay Area and the very low entry level salary of a teacher, the parcel tax measure would highly benefit teachers.

All across California, teachers have been going on strikes,



Castro Valley property owner would be charged \$96 per year. All of the money generated from this measure will be given to the Castro Valley Unified School District and will be distributed to each and every school in the district.

The money collected will also be used to support teachers financially by raising salaries by one percent, assisting with the overall cost of living in Castro Valley which could possibly encourage them to continue working in Castro Valley, as when salaries are higher, teachers tend to stay.

The Olympian encourages voters to support this measure to fund our schools and programs to help improve the quality of our education.

demanding a better pay, as their salaries are significantly lower than many other professionals who share the same educational background. If Measure I passes, each

Newsom is an exemplar of charisma in politics

By Katrina Siler
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Our journalism class conducts an annual trip to Sacramento for the CNPA conference in addition to a couple of meetings at the Capitol. I was beyond ecstatic to learn that on top of meeting a couple of senators, I would also get to interview Governor Gavin Newsom. Our journalism teacher was smart enough to get him to pledge (on camera) that he would let us interview him once he was elected. I'd never met a fully-fledged politician before; I had no idea just how socially advanced they needed to be.

I'd heard stories of his major accomplishments: bringing the issue of marriage inequality to federal light, massively increasing California's education budgets, and divorcing Fox News'

star reporter and avid Republican Kimberley Guilfoyle. My parents were even more excited than I was; my mom made me spend seven hours at Nordstrom Rack in order to find the perfect interview outfit.

Naturally, I was nervous. My heart was pounding up until the office door swung open and Newsom casually said, "Hey guys, how's it going?" His charisma was truly impressive; he was so fabulously nonchalant that I forgot how high-ranking he is. My co-editor in chief, Derek, even got him to laugh a couple times. It was clear that being interviewed by high schoolers was refreshing for him; we obviously weren't going to defame him. Surprisingly, I maintained my confidence throughout the interview. Admittedly, I'm really proud of myself for accomplishing as miniscule as reading ques-



Katy Siler interviews Governor Gavin Newsom at the state Capitol.

DEREK NEYER

tions off of cue cards.

After the interview, he took us on a tour of his offices, something he labeled as "breaking the rules." We met his wife and a majority of his staff, about which he (jokingly) said, "I have no idea what they do."

The interview was unfortunately close to the democratic primaries. After seeing with my own eyes how important charisma is to political success. I think approachability and personality are super important to good leadership skills, and none of the Democratic candidates have a solid combination of the traits. I wish that Newsom would run, but when we asked him he gave us a total of six "No!"s.

Meeting Newsom is definitely the highlight of my high school career. In order to fully understand politics, I think it's important for people to actually watch politicians speak. In order to fully understand a politician's skill, they have to go beyond analyzing their words on paper.

PHOTOpinions

What do you think about Measure I?



“ I think it will help the school, but taxpayers will need to pay more. ”
Conrad Avery
freshman



“ I think it will benefit the school, but it will cost money for families to pay for their homes. ”
Maylani Cornier
sophomore



“ I feel like it would be good to give more money to the school for clubs and after school activities. ”
Jessica Crouch
junior



“ As long as it benefits the community, and is a fair amount. ”
Christian Pruitt
senior



“ I will be a supporter. Our schools need more funding, and I will do some precinct walking to help get this passed by voters. ”
Claire LePell
staff

Rural China faces challenges



By Brittany Bin
FEATURE EDITOR

This winter break, I visited Hunan, a rural province in southern China. Hunan is known for its beautiful scenery and spices. Avatar’s setting was shot in Zhangjiajie National Forest Park in Hunan, but fair warning, there are not any floating islands there.

A group of high school students, including me, flew there on a 14-hour plane ride. When we arrived there, we began to notice the differences between our home in the Bay Area and in Hunan.

Other parts in China were fairly warm even in the winter time; however, the temperatures in Hunan would fall down to around 30 degrees fahrenheit. The smog contributed to the chillness. As soon as I stepped out of the airport, I noticed that the air was not healthy to breathe. It is comparable to the forest fires in California back in 2018. I do

not think I saw the sun when I was there.

When I was driving through the rural areas, I was astonished by the landscape. It was filled with spires of rock covered with verdant trees. I was also saddened by the smog blocking the distance.

We visited one of the only elementary schools in the area. Their library was very limited and the books did not even fill up a wall. We started discussing in our group: Should the U.S. do more to help people in poverty?

It is not a secret that the United States is one of the most powerful countries in the world. New technology and daily innovations sweep through the country. In contrast, most of the elders in Hunan have never even seen a computer.

We saw the children practicing music, but they did not have any proper instruments, so they used water bottles filled with rocks. Every kid deserves the right to music education.

We also interviewed several farmers around the area. Many families in this area are victims of urban immigration. Many working-age adults move permanently to the city to find work and send money back home. This means many parents are unable to take care of their children. Parents face the harsh reality of choosing

between their children and money. This should not be a choice being made by any problem. Wealthy people should be helping Hunan find solutions to these problems, like a railroad system.

Another burden Hunan carries is the lack of sanitization. Many elders there die early due to untreated diseases. A majority of the medicines are unaffordable. Moreover, there is a noticeable lack of fresh running water. The first thing people told me when I told them when I told them I was going to China was, “Don’t drink the water,”

Clean drinking water is essential to people’s health.

Also, many of the smokers in the town are unaware of the damage of cigarettes. They smoke all the time and even in front of their kids. They have no knowledge of the harm.

There are a lot of things American doctors that could improve the lives of these people in Hunan. Right now, they do not know anything about how to maintain the health of their bodies.

A lot of things make us in the Bay Area doubt our privilege. If we were to take a step outside our bubble and reflect, we would see that not every part of the world is filled with innovation and prosperity. We can use our privilege to improve the lives of many.

Blame bureaucracy, not plastic straws

By Hannah Pilgrim
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. government should take full responsibility for climate change and work to reduce it.

As one of the biggest economies in the world, the U.S. needs to take a stronger approach on fighting climate change.

Small grassroot organizations have proved to boost morale to fight the issue, but without the support of big business and bureaucracy, there is no change.

The most effective way to combat rising global temperatures is for each country to take accountability for its part. We, as the United States, need to stop blaming other countries and private companies and take charge to prevent the further destruction of our only home, Earth.

China bypassed the U.S. in carbon emissions but most of its emissions are due to making goods for America and other rich countries.

In April 2019, at the first meeting of the House Subcommittee on Environment, Republicans argued that the U.S. would not budge on cutting down on emissions if China didn’t.

Recently, the U.S. Court of Appeals threw out a five-year case prompted by a lawsuit filed by a teenage environmental activist group, Our Children’s Trust.

The court argued that teens needed to go through the political branches, not the courts to make their appeal.

The concerned teenagers accused the U.S. government of neglecting their liberty by extraction and use of fossil fuels.

They cited the fact that their generation would be the ones cleaning up the mess.

In the court of appeals there was one dissenter, which shows the split place our government is at with the climate crisis.

Half the nation is trying to get the U.S. government to realize the disastrous effects of current policies, and the other is ignoring scientific evidence of global warming and increased devastation of natural disasters.

Ever since the U.S. withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord, an international effort to limit carbon emissions, there has continued to be empty promises.

At the 2020 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, teenage activist Greta Thunberg

“There has continued to be empty promises.”

gave a chilling speech about the inaction of world leaders to change policies they promised last year.

“One year ago I came to Davos and told you that our house is on fire. I said I wanted you to panic. I’ve been warned that telling people to panic about the climate crisis is a very dangerous thing to do. But don’t worry. It’s fine. Trust me, I’ve done this before and I can assure you it doesn’t lead to anything,” said Thunberg.

If Thunberg and other teen activists are able to quit school and commit their lives to protecting their futures, then why can’t CEOs and the president?

“We need to keep marching”



By Malin Johansson
STAFF WRITER

I paid the \$12 BART fare and hopped on a train to San Francisco on Saturday, Jan. 18. I could feel the excitement that always came during some big event. I could tell I was not the only person heading to the Women’s March on that train. I saw people holding signs and wearing buttons and pink pussy-cat hats. I was proud to be attending this event, as I had every year for the past three years.

Every year since 2017 there has been a women’s marches across the nation. They take place in big cities or small towns. In northern California alone there were marches in Oakland, San Francisco, Modesto, and many other towns. Across the nation there were marches in Chicago, New York City, Boston, and more.

The very first one took place on January 21, 2017, the day

after Donald Trump’s inauguration. The Women’s March in 2017 also took place in 30 other countries across the globe. It was the largest protest ever in human history. More than 3 million people participated in the march. These marches were in protest to Trump’s inauguration, policies, and the mistreatment of women. The main purpose of these marches is to advocate for immigration rights, women rights, LGBTQ+ rights, racial equality, and

“I saw mainly older white women.”

other social justice issues.

The first march in 2017 was inspiring. I remember seeing thousands of people flooding the streets, demanding political and social reform.

All kinds of people showed up: men, women, blacks, whites, hispanics, Asians, kids, and adults. To see so many different people join together to advocate for change, peacefully, was extremely moving. There was music and laughter and joy and passion.

I thought that the passion at the 2020 Women’s March was

lacking. Instead of seeing all kinds of people, I saw mainly older white women. There were a few hundred people that showed up. However I was very disappointed the small crowd. What had happened? What had changed?

I believe that as the years have gone by, we’ve become so used to horrible sexist things Trump has said that it does not anger most people anymore, or they don’t care enough to get out and fight against it. We stay strong in numbers. It shouldn’t just be women fighting for equal rights, it should be everyone, women and men.

Since marches began in 2017 more women have been elected to the Senate and House of Representatives than ever before. As of now there are 102 women in the House of Representatives, which is 23.4 percent of all the representatives.

Also, since the 2018 midterm elections, five new women were elected to the Senate, for a total of 25 out of 100. It is a great improvement, but it still is not enough.

Both the House and the Senate should be split 50/50 men and women. Until we get equal pay, until reproductive rights are no longer a political issue, and until we get equal representation in Congress, we need to keep marching.



THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Olympian

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Warren

DEMOCRAT

Experience

Warren was the 2008 Chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel where she overviewed TARP, the Wall Street crisis solution. She also created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Her most recent title has been Massachusetts U.S. Senator since 2013.

Gun Rights

Warren plans on reducing the amount of mass shootings by 80 percent. To do this, she promises in her first 100 days to pass the anti-corruption bills through Congress to hold the NRA accountable and relinquish its previous hold on Congress.

Environment

Warren is an original co-sponsor of Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal resolution, which commits the United States to a ten-year plan to achieve domestic net-zero emissions by 2030. Warren plans to do this by using over ten trillion dollars into the economy.

Immigration

Warren is determined to "reshape the CBF (Custom and Borders Protection) and ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to reflect American values." She plans to eliminate private detention facilities to clean up corruption. She also plans to cancel 287(g), a program that allocates local law enforcement to carry out the federal immigration law.



Sanders

DEMOCRAT

Sanders is a U.S. Senator from Vermont. He served 16 years as the congressman for Vermont in the House of Representatives.

Sanders supports expanding background checks and ban the sales and distributions of assault weapons. He wants to ensure that all guns purchased from gun shows will be done with the same background checks.

Sanders plans on investing in public transportation and modern infrastructures to save families money and help the climate. He wants to transform energy systems to 100 percent renewable and create jobs in the process that will help the climate crisis. He supports the investment of conservation and public land to help the environment.

Sanders plans on reinstating and expanding DACA and developing humane policies for people seeking asylum. He wants to remove inhumane deportation centers and reunite families that have been separated. He plans on welcoming refugees and those seeking asylum in the country.



Buttigieg

DEMOCRAT

He was the mayor of South Bend, Indiana from 2012 to 2020. He served as a naval intelligence officer in the US Navy Reserve from 2009 to 2017.

Buttigieg supports increasing federal firearm controls by balancing the right to own guns through the Second Amendment with sensible gun laws. He also wants to resume funding of gun violence research.

Buttigieg supports banning new oil drilling on public land and water as well as abolishing subsidies for polluters. He supports the re-entering the Paris Climate Agreement and creating new programs with similar environmental goals. Buttigieg will try to make green energy as inclusive and fair as possible while creating new jobs to work to support this endeavor.

Buttigieg supports immigration reform by making a pathway for immigrants living in America. He wants to end family separation through deportation and evaluate ICE and CBP practices that cause these separations. He has called immigrants "an essential part of our American story."



Biden

DEMOCRAT

Biden served six consecutive terms in the U.S. Senate, during which he acted as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for two years and Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee for eight years. After dropping out of his second presidential campaign in 2008, he became Barack Obama's running mate and served as Vice President during his administration.

Biden plans to place bans on the manufacture and importing of assault weapons, create a requirement to register existing assault weapons, and start a voluntary buyback program. He would also pass legislation to require background checks on all gun sales. Biden also plans to invest federal funding into creating trauma care centers for survivors of violence.

Biden would begin his term by signing executive orders to address climate change, rejoining the Paris Agreement, and asking Congress to pass legislation that would make the U.S. have net-zero emissions by 2050. He plans to fund his proposals, which would cost \$5 trillion in state and federal funding, by undoing Trump's 2017 tax cuts.

Biden plans to reverse Trump-era immigration policies such as funding for a border wall, the "Muslim bans," ending the DACA program, and ending TPS for El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti. Additionally, he plans to double the size of immigration court workers, increase asylum eligibility, and increase the number of refugees accepted by the U.S.



Trump

REPUBLICAN

After inheriting the family real estate business, Trump launched several side businesses, including a TV show that brought him to national attention. After beating Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election, he became the 45th U.S. president. Recently, he was impeached by the House but acquitted by the Senate.

Trump is generally against gun control and has argued in favor of arming more people in public places, including schools, to prevent mass shootings. He opposes universal background checks and as president, he has taken steps to prevent the expansion of the background check database.

Trump opposes environmental protections, which he believes harms the economy, and made plans to leave the Paris Climate Agreement. Trump generally supports coal mining and fossil energy projects, which include expanding the Keystone and Dakota pipelines. Trump supports expanding oil and gas drilling projects both offshore and on federal land, including national parks.

Trump implemented many controversial immigration policies, including the "Muslim bans" and ending DACA protections. He has expanded the size of ICE and tried to cut federal grants to sanctuary cities that protect undocumented immigrants. He secured partial funding for a southern border wall to keep out immigrants and would work to get complete funding if reelected. He supports a merit-based immigration plan.



Weld

REPUBLICAN

Weld served as Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division before being elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1990. He stepped down in 1996 after being nominated by Bill Clinton to serve as the Ambassador to Mexico but was denied a nomination hearing. He later became the running mate for Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson in 2016.

Weld supports restrictions on automatic weapons, but considers a ban on "assault rifles" too restrictive because distinctions between them and semi-automatic hunting rifles are harder to make. He supports red flag laws, through which people can report at-risk gun owners to potentially have their guns taken.

Weld would rejoin the Paris Agreement and draft legislation to implement a carbon tax within the first 100 days of his administration. This would replace similar taxes, including the gas tax. Weld would increase reliance on nuclear energy and natural gas while working toward carbon-free energy production.

Weld would expand the number of temporary work visas and simplify the immigration process during his time in office. He does not support either mass deportations or family separation. He would support DACA and improve the process for military translators to obtain U.S. visas.

DECA shines at annual conference



DECA members won numerous victories during their annual NorCal conference at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon.

By *Ashley Tang*
STAFF WRITER

Marketing CTE teacher and advisor of Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Michelle Stephens took 43 students to compete in business events with other students in the Bay Area from Jan. 17 - 19 at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon. CVHS students earned three first-place finishes and 80 top ten finishes at the annual NorCal conference in three categories.

Students competed to earn a good score on either their multiple choice individual tests, role plays, or written reports among about 800 other DECA members to become finalists and get on stage at the award ceremony held on the last day of the convention.

On the first day, before CVHS DECA students got to settle down, they took their individual tests based on the event they chose in a large room along with other students. Junior Oliver Zhang and senior Enrico Giovannoni won first place in their categories.

Competition was thick in the air as students began their role plays the next day, which are case studies in which students present meaningful solutions to their judges. A handful of CVHS students were placed in the top ten with Zhang and senior Seena Nasser taking first place in their categories.

"Castro Valley really was well represented in the Northern California Conference," said Stephens.

Once role plays were completed, it was time for the presentations of written reports, which are business plans up to

30 pages in length. Students have only a quick 15 minutes to present their business plans, and hopefully leave a lasting impression on their judges. Numerous CVHS DECA members also placed top 10, with Zhang and Nasser taking first place in their categories.

"It was really rewarding that my hard work paid off, but also really nerve-wracking. I was not expecting my name to be called," said Nasser.

With the thrill and craving of competition, CVHS DECA participants are ready to take on the state conference on Feb.

28 - March 2 in Santa Clara, where they will get stronger and even better as they aim to place in the top three in order to qualify for Internationals in Nashville, Tennessee. With their positive and competitive attitudes, CVHS DECA participants are ready and excited for the next competition.

"We're all excited to succeed again at states. We've been doing a lot of preparation to build off our success at NorCal, so we can once again be successful and hopefully qualify for the international competition," said Zhang.

"I love cars," says Konrad Raab

By *Eyzid Hadi*
PHOTO EDITOR

While most teens are stuck driving their parents' hand-me-down grocery getter, clueless about anything car related, one student is unlike the rest. Senior Konrad Raab is currently completing a full restoration of his 1969 Plymouth Barracuda.

"I've quite literally changed every mechanical part on the car other than the engine and I've got a new one that should be going in soon," Raab said.

When asked what drives this passion and his love for cars, Raab is quick to explain.

"As for why I love cars, I think they are something really special in that a simple machine becomes an extension of ourselves," he said. "They are something that becomes so dear to us that we name them, we customize them, we take care of them and fix them long after they should have been thrown away, and we make them a part of our daily lives. I love cars because so often they become as unique and hold as much personality as the person who drives them."

Years ago, it seemed that one would have to go to school

to learn how to work on cars and other vehicles, but Raab said he learned to work on cars while growing up. His education came from helping his father fix various vehicles at home, looking up what needed to be done in old shop manuals and using the magic of the internet for additional assistance.

In addition, Raab took Auto classes at CVHS where his teacher Darren Rees confirmed that Raab's "every thought is about cars."

After high school, Raab hopes to continue working on cars, but has ambitions to steer a much larger larger vehicle, one capable of going much faster than a car.

"In the future I plan to be a pilot. Access to the airstrip is fun for someone with a vehicle of great speed, so you can put two and two together on that one. Other than that, I don't see my car going anywhere too soon and I will hopefully have a few more fun cars to drive and maintain," said Raab.

Having Raab as a pilot on a flight would be great, and his current experience and passion will no doubt help his success.



EYZID HADI

Konrad Raab jacks up his car to inspect its underside.

SOSPOP inspires diversity

By *Miguel Bernas*
STAFF WRITER

The third annual Seasons of Service, Period of Peace (SOSPOP) began on Jan. 21 and will continue until March 31, when several CVHS clubs will host various activities and fundraisers each week promoting different themes including diversity, unity, service, and culture. Several clubs are participating in the ten-week long event including UNICEF, Latinos Unidos, Mu Alpha Theta, and many more.

"I think it's a great opportunity for clubs to spread awareness of what they do and share their ideas about what they are passionate about," said club

commissioner Anmol Gill.

During the first week, CSF, American Red Cross, and Key Club collaborated in promoting their theme of literacy and education. They collected books and school supplies in the quad everyday during lunch.

"It makes it possible to do something powerful in the community and gives people the opportunity to learn, grow, and make a difference," says Feminism Club President Grace Boyd.

Alongside She's the First, the Feminism Club promoted health care equity. Members held a goods drive to deliver money and gift cards to children's hospital pa-

tients and had guest speakers speak about public health and women's health throughout the week.

"This year there is more variety within the clubs," said Gill.

Nineteen clubs are participating in this year's SOSPOP, all of which differ in cultures and focuses, including the Middle Eastern Union, Operation Smile, Society of Women Engineers, BSU, and many more. Many of the clubs themes focused on current world problems such as sex trafficking, mental health awareness, and promoting education.

"It's a great way to present our school's diversity and the unity we have," said Gill.

Trojan Talks excite students

By Josie de la Torre
STAFF WRITER

Since the start of second semester, the option to join Trojan Talks or Trojan Halls with Principal Blaine Torpey has started. With more options for Trojan Time, students can choose to listen to a guest speaker in the library or join a study hall with Mr. Torpey.

Trojan Hall was created as a study hall for students in the cafeteria to have a quiet space to do work. Students wanting to join Trojan Hall are expected to have all A's and B's and have excellent attendance.

"Currently Trojan Hall has a cap of 100 and depending on how it goes, anticipating that it would be successful, we want it to get larger with space and capacity," said teacher Candice Tigerman.

Trojan Talks was created to bring guest speakers to help encourage and inspire students on how to become successful in adulthood. It occurs every first and second Tuesday of each month during Trojan Time.

"I'm excited for Trojan Talks because it's a way for us to bring in community members, artists, and activists as it can be additional information for students to help them and potentially

open doors to new ideas and interests," said librarian Dana Adams.

The first guest speaker for Trojan Talks, Daniel Pak, came to speak on Feb. 4 and 11 as he discussed on how to prepare yourself financially in the future and setting goals. He started a passion of entrepreneurship and financing at a young age, having worked corporate bank jobs, and owning and selling several businesses. Pak enjoys helping others plan ahead financially and set goals for adulthood.

The next guest speaker is local LGBTQ activist and founder of Castro Valley Pride, Billy Bradford. He will arrive on March 3 to speak at the CVHS Library. He worked with several organizations in repealing Proposition 8 and was most recently arrested at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. while protesting unequal LGBTQ hiring practices. Bradford is known locally in Castro Valley for volunteering at the Performing Arts Center, DJing at Castro Valley Schools, and running his Bad Business Model Bikes for those in need.

"I do believe this will benefit students as it's just extra information, inspiration, community member and artist exposure. I think that it can be very inspiring," said Adams.

McCreary saves the world

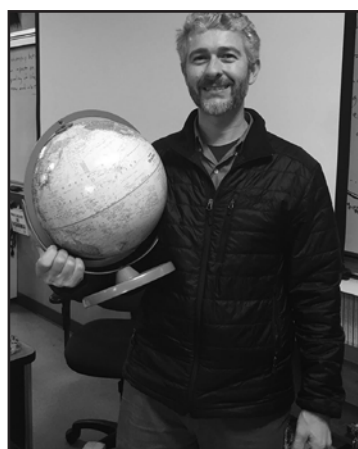
By Lindsey Gard
STAFF WRITER

CVHS staff member Nathan McCreary is more than just an AP Environmental Science teacher, he is an advisor of the Smart Environment Club and runs a book club for students during Trojan Time.

In the book club, students read and discuss the book "Feed" by M.T. Anderson. It touches on discussion topics such as technology and data, consumerism, and even some environmental issues, which is perfect for McCreary's students.

Smart Environment Club members help out with recycling around CVHS, but their main accomplishment is the school garden. It is now in a visible space and the students are able to admire the garden and the hard work the club puts into it. "What I really like about the garden is that it's a place for students to be physically, but also a place for them to feel involved in what happens on campus," McCreary said.

McCreary also has a unique connection to the environment from growing up in the Oregon countryside on a 70



Nathan McCreary

acre dairy farm, living in nature. His family was looking for an alternative to the more modern society of unsustainable activities, so he grew up very aware of people's needs versus their wants, which prepared him for the issues that come up with environmental science. McCreary also thinks it is important to be aware of the environment around you and the impact you make, so he stresses that along with the unit information from the textbook in his class lectures.

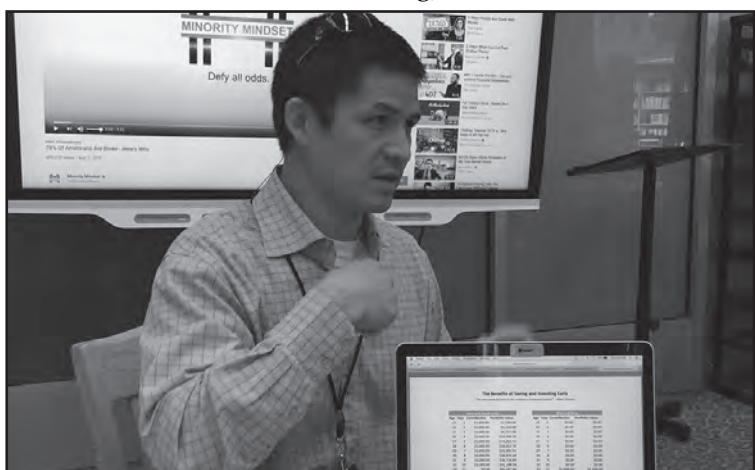
"I like that we have lecture days where he explains the concepts that come from the book, so we're not just reading the text," said senior Autumn Adeyan.

When McCreary was in high school, he was interested in teaching as a future, but shied away from it because of personal struggles and "a need for a more self-centered way of looking at life." He wasn't sure if he wanted to give his energy to other people, but ironically, that's now his favorite part about being a teacher. The job is always changing and he is inspired by his students. After high school, McCreary was interested by art and creativity, so he got a degree in fine art. Later in life, he started to feel that he wanted to be in an educational environment again.

Before teaching, McCreary spent a lot of time traveling, leaving him with impactful real-world experiences that he can use to relate to what is being taught in the class. His stories can make what you are learning real, and it's often helpful for students.

"He makes the class entertaining and a fun subject to learn," says junior Caroline LeVans.

Teaching an AP environmental science class is definitely a challenge, but McCreary is passionate about the subject, and uses that to educate the next generation.



JOSIE DE LA TORRE

Daniel Pak speaks at Trojan Talks to share his knowledge about entrepreneurship to students.

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CVHS 2020 WASTE AUDIT



We Found a lot of Organics.....Again!

On Saturday, February 1st, Leadership Students, CVHS Teachers and CVSan staff completed the ninth Waste Audit at CVHS. One day's garbage was sorted and here's how you did:

Most of CVHS garbage (which goes straight to landfill) was organics such as food scraps, paper boats and paper towels. Organics in a landfill produces methane, which adds to climate change. Instead, please place these materials in the green organics bins at CVHS.

Black plastic bowls and their clear lids were also found in the garbage. Recycling in the garbage does not get sorted and wastes precious natural resources in landfills. Please place plastic in the blue recycling bins at CVHS.



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Trojans send off seniors with a win

By Jeanette Wallis
COPY EDITOR

The girls varsity soccer team won 2-1 against the Piedmont High School Highlanders on Feb. 11. This was the team's last home game of the season and also senior night.

"The season's going well. We've been doing really well towards the end," said head coach Vanessa Amaral.

"There's been a huge push for us which is really great to see."

The Trojans battled hard against Piedmont, keeping the crowd on the edge of their seats with several blocked shots and almost-goals.

Junior Jada Romero scored the first goal for CVHS with just four minutes left in the first half.

After a crowd-favorite half-time show that honored the departing seniors, Kaitie Quin-



Girls varsity soccer players celebrate their victory on Senior Night.

terosscored the Trojans' second goal and Piedmont scored to make the final score 2-1.

Reflecting on the season, team captain and senior Taylor Matthews feels that the team

has improved as the year went on, finishing with a record of .

"I feel like it's definitely gotten better as we've gone along," said Matthews. "We've all gotten more inspired by each other

and by how we play."

There was a huge turnout for the team's last home game, filling the Trojan Stadium stands with supportive friends and family as well as soccer fans.

Before the game began there was a ceremony to honor and recognize the graduating seniors. Each player was escorted down the field by friends and family to be introduced to a cheering crowd.

"We've definitely had a lot [of favorite memories] but probably for me is hearing them laugh every time I've fallen at practice," said Amaral.

"To see them laughing and rolling on the ground, those are just great memories because you can't repeat that or imitate that."

Looking ahead, "For us these next games are going to matter a lot, depending on NCS and whether we go or not," said Amaral. "It's such a solid group and such a fun group, it's bittersweet for me as it's getting towards the end."

Trojans make Pirates "walk the plank"

By Thomas Ryken
STAFF WRITER

The CVHS boys wrestling team defeated San Leandro 50-22 on Jan. 30. It was the Trojans' final home dual meet of the season, which meant it was the seniors' final chance to wrestle for the home crowd.

The crowd cheered as Milad Siddiqi, Dean Nguyen, Isaac Morris, Dylan Vanerwegen, Logan Ramirez, and Kris Darrin were honored for their commitment to the team throughout their senior season.

The team started well with an

18-10 lead after four matches. But once the seniors took the mat, the Pirates didn't stand a chance.

Nguyen wrestled first and defeated his opponent in a hard fought battle which lasted 3 rounds. "I would say it was one of the best wrestling events I had experienced," said Nguyen.

Team captains Vanerwegen and Darrin went next and dominated, winning their matches in great fashion. This gave the Trojans a 34-10 lead over the Pirates.

Ramirez quickly took down his opponent in the first round

continuing the excellence the seniors had this night. Team captain Morris also won his match-up in the first round, pinning his opponent to the mat.

With this lead the Trojans didn't look back and made the Pirates walk the plank back to San Leandro.

Every senior boy won their match that night, giving the Trojans enough points to win the match-up all together. The team is now preparing for the postseason with the WACC league championships being held on Feb. 15 and NCS following soon after.



THOMAS RYKEN

Kris Darrin grapples with his opponent.

Athlete Of The Month

Carissa keeps cool on the mat

By Cameron Faris
STAFF WRITER

This month's stellar athlete is none other than senior Carissa Flaton.

This girl has good footwork and can move and topple over defenders, while winning matches in under 30 seconds.

She has been on the girls wrestling team since she was a freshman and she's been thriving on the mat ever since.

"I really enjoy the process of becoming a better wrestler and every day at practice I strive to get better," said Flaton.

Flaton is quick, agile, and can take you down within the blink of an eye.

She has been on a tear lately, leading her team to a winning record this season and always making sure her teammates do

well in all of their matches.

No matter what she'll always be right there if they need anything.

"Carissa is a great all around athlete who really helps the team come together as a unit and allows them to work with each other in order to win matches," said head coach Sabrina Ross.

This year Flaton wrestles in

the 100 pound weight class and is looking to dominate her competitors with her team by her side. Overall Flaton just has a love for the sport and is always willing to go the extra mile in order to succeed.

No matter what, she is willing to do whatever it takes to win and in the end that's all that matters.



CAMERON FARIS

Carissa Flaton (left) is determined to defeat her opponent.

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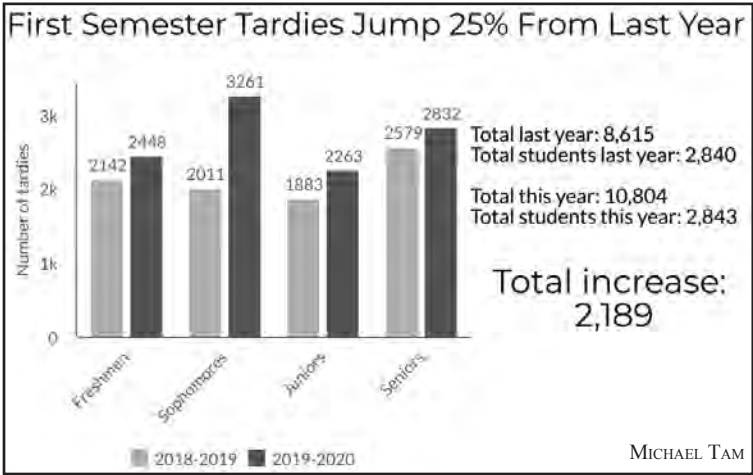
CVHS unites against racism

By Eyizid Hadi
PHOTO EDITOR

Racist graffiti was found at CVHS on the morning of Jan. 21, the day after Martin Luther King Jr. Day. According to Principal Blaine Torpey, the writing was “threatening and inflammatory graffiti that verbally attacked many member groups of our community.” Although law enforcement officials indicated that the graffiti incident was not related to a potential bomb threat to the school a few days before, it seemed suspicious coming so quickly after another event. As Torpey wrote in his email to students and parents, “The tools of fear and anonymity are not the ones used to build and bridge but to destroy and dismantle. They are tools indicating a weak moral compass.” This is not the first act of hate found at the school, and unfortunately, it probably will not be the last. However, some CVHS students were not rattled by the graffiti event and used the incident as an opportunity to counteract the hostile message by getting the CVHS student community to sign posters

against racism and hate. Beyond the posters, the Leadership class created a video showing various students making the posters and adding their personal messages against hate. The overwhelming positive response of the students demonstrates that the CVHS community is stronger than the few who bring hate towards it. CVHS students were encouraged to see the positive messages on campus. “I was really happy to see my fellow students rallying together on campus against hate,” said senior Nathan Inamdar. By uniting together against racism, CVHS students showed strength in numbers towards those trying to bring fear and division to campus. “We need to build empathy and to help students connect with other students. By doing this, we can deter hate language and hate attitudes,” said Marian Meadows, director of the Wellness Center. By taking action based on Director Meadow’s suggestion, CVHS might be able to make some headway against racism.

Trojans totally tally tardies



By Cameron Faris
STAFF WRITER

Tardies have increased by about 25 percent at CVHS this school year. Although the school and the attendance office is not sure what is causing this problem, they suspect that it is due to the bigger freshman class this year, as well as allowing the new rule allowing freshman to go off campus at lunch. Freshmen are not the only problem though. Many upperclassmen have been late to their fifth period class as well. It’s getting to be that time of year when many seniors also start to become lazy in everything they do and think that being on time isn’t a priority anymore due to the fact that they’ll be out of school in a few months anyway. In the fall of 2018, CVHS students recorded 8,615 tar-

dies. Then in the fall of 2019, students were tardy 10,804 times. That’s an increase of 2,066 tardies, showing this year’s students are starting to care less about being on time and in class when the bell rings. Sadly this mindset is causing students to have to serve more detentions and Friday school, which no one wants to do. “I feel like students should handle their business outside of class but also show up to class in order to learn and get this great education that CVHS is offering,” said Attendance Technician Samantha Brown. Assistant Principal Kevin Baker also had something to say about the rising number of tardies. “I think it’s starting to become more of a problem as the days go on and I believe that something should be done fast in order to limit this number and put more kids in desks,” Baker said.

CV considers parcel tax

By Alice Tang
STAFF WRITER

Castro Valley is considering a local parcel tax measure on the March 3 ballot which would fund local schools, support teachers and programs. If voters pass the measure, it would cost \$96 per parcel per year and generate \$1.5 million annually for six years for the school district. Supporters say the state does not provide CVUSD with adequate funding and Castro Valley is also one of the only school districts in Alameda County without a parcel tax. With the Parcel Tax Measure I in place, funds could benefit local students by maintaining CVUSD with highly-qualified teachers and academic programs which would have otherwise been cut. “Measure I has potential to secure local funding and could save more service,” said history teacher Mark Mladinich. With the Bay Area being one of the most expensive places to live in the country, supporters

say this measure would benefit the teachers since there is a widespread teacher shortage. “We need to keep our salaries competitive to keep our teachers here. We also have put in programs in place that have been really beneficial to our students. Without additional funding, the cost of these things are ongoing, so the parcel tax will go to teachers’ salaries and programs we need to keep,” said Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi. Our district has already had \$1.8 million cut in the last two years, but Measure I would prevent even more cuts in the future with the help of local residents, supporters say. “What it does is, if you are a homeowner in Castro Valley, on your property tax bill, it will add \$96 to your tax, like eight dollars a month. That money will be exclusively reserved for CVUSD, contributing to one percent of the budget,” said parent and school board candidate Michael Kusiak. Even if you don’t have children in school, Measure I will

help keep property values high and neighborhoods strong and safe, supporters say. “It’s important that people understand that this is money generated within our community, governed by our community, and stay in our schools for our community,” said Kusiak. Local control and independent oversight will ensure funds are spent as promised. Senior citizens over 65 years old will be eligible for an exemption from the cost of Measure I. For Measure I to pass, it must be supported by 66.7 percent of those who vote. The deadline to register to vote in this election is Feb. 18. For more information on the election, visit www.acvote.org. There are also other ways to help: go to the website - www.yesforcvstudent.com, sign up to phone bank, and donate to the campaign. “We shouldn’t have to knock on doors asking people to support our schools, we should support our schools willingly,” said Kusiak.

► Newsom: from page 1

tended learning and extended school days. I don’t think that is necessarily a terrible thing. Question: How do you plan on ending the vaping epidemic? Newsom: Well we’ve been very aggressive. I’m supporting a vaping tax, in my budget, to tax vaping cartridges like we tax tobacco. We currently don’t have that. I think we should absolutely eliminate all flavored vaping. The Trump administration, to their credit, went part of the way. We want to go the entire distance. We’ve got to be more aggressive on enforcement. It’s a huge issue and it scares me as a parent with four kids. It’s unacceptable that we have allowed this to manifest on our watch. We own this. We should have seen this coming. I’m very proud to be from San Francisco where I was very involved as a county supervisor and a mayor with anti-smoking strategies. Question: How do you suggest we address the housing problem in California? Newsom: In a multifaceted way. We have to own the responsibility of solving the issue. We have to recognize we produce about one fourth of the housing units needed. This is not more complicated than your Econ 101 class. More demand and less supply creates scarcity which increases costs. We are not producing enough housing units. It’s not that complex. The state is not going to socialize that responsibility but we have a responsibility to create the conditions where

we can create the private sector investment... You have to hold mayors accountable to meeting their housing element requirements. It’s about accountability, transparency and owning a problem in a crisis and recognizing it took 20-30 years of neglect to get here. We are not going to turn the corner tomorrow, but (we have) audacious goals, 3.5 million housing units in the next decade or so. Question: Why do you think the state’s gas prices are higher than other states? Newsom: For many different reasons. We just passed a gas tax a year ago and \$3.5 billion of that is being invested in the roads and \$1.9 billion in transit. We have traditionally always funded our roads with gas taxes. (There’s also) the nature of how our refineries are operating in our state and a lack of competition and the usurious nature of how we market and brand high quality gasoline and how that comes with a high price and how we as customers are fooled into believing that that is necessary. I have asked the Department of Justice, our attorney general, to look into some of those gouging prices. Question: How has the Trump administration impacted California? Newsom: He’s an invasive species. I’m not a fan of someone who attacks our diverse communities, who tries to deny women equal access, equal pay. I’m not a big supporter of someone who wants to roll back environmental protections and dilute our abil-

ity to regulate gun safety. He threatens Californians. We’re involved in 60-plus lawsuits against this guy. You may like his politics, I don’t. I’m going to have the backs of of the people of this state... He’s a bully. I don’t like bullies... I have a deep respect for the Republican Party... Trump represents something completely deviant from the norm. I don’t like it and I won’t embrace it and it’s deeply impacting the county and the world... We’re going through a very difficult time but we will get out of this stronger than ever. Question: Do you have any prediction about the 2020 election? Newsom: Yes I predict that I think we won’t know who wins until Election Day. One prediction I do have is that Trump will lose more of the popular vote than he did last election. However I cannot predict the outcome of the Electoral College. Question: What you do think about running for president in the 2024 or 2028 election? Newsom: I don’t think about either of those things. No no no NO! Question: Now for our toughest question: what do you know about our hometown of Castro Valley? Newsom: I know Castro Valley well because I am Californian, I am from the region... That said, I haven’t been recently, I feel kind of guilty... but that’s why we’re here together.