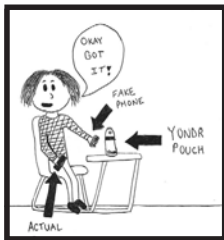


Olympian

THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL



Page 2:
Olympian
opposes
Yondr
pouches



Page 4:
Students
empower girls
through
soccer



Page 7:
Trojans beat
Rebels in
early
season

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 5 JANUARY 10, 2020 WE ARE BORN TO SEEK THE TRUTH! WWW.CVHSOLYMPIAN.COM

Teachers ponder Yondr

By Ashley Tang
STAFF WRITER

Students in Japanese teacher, Emi Crow's classes, are living without their phones during class each day. Crow requires the students to place their phones in Yondr pouches from the start to the end of class.

"The addiction is really bad... the students can't resist it," Crow said. "I started five years ago, but before that you're just trying to tell the student to put it away."

Yondr pouches are mobile phone pouches which close with a lock, and a magnetic base for unlocking them.

The procedure for the pouches are typically locking the phone inside upon entering class, keeping it on your desk until class is dismissed and then going to the unlocking base to free their devices.

Crow was able to get the pouches for free by signing up when they were first released.

Though some teachers like the new idea of implementing Yondr pouches in their classroom to prevent phone usage, students mostly think it's excessive.

"I think teachers should be open about using phones. If they tell us to put it away, we will," said senior Sukhraj Sandhu.

Senior Jessica Lu is more supportive of the idea. "At first I thought it was necessary because everybody wants to be on their phones, but over a couple of years you sort of grow used to not using your phone. Like in AP Japanese, we don't



ASHLEY TANG

even touch our phones even if we don't use the pouches," she said.

Eight social studies teachers hope to implement the pouches in their classes as well.

Teacher Jennifer Sitkin asked the Castro Valley Education Foundation to pay for some. The pouches cost \$23 each per year, so supplying full classes with them would cost thousands of dollars.

Since some students can't endure the time away from their phones, they have a few discreet ways around it. Some

students close their pouches halfway to easily unlock by shaking, bring in an old phone to substitute, or simply lie about not having a phone.

If cell phones continue to be a distraction in class, it is possible more teachers will start to use Yondr pouches as well.

"I just feel like if you let people have their phones, they're less likely to use it. If you tell them not to use their phone and take their phone away from them, they're going to want to use it more," said senior Colleen Starzak.

CVHS gives back to community

By Thomas Ryken
STAFF WRITER

CVHS held its annual canned food drive from Nov. 4 to Nov. 22 and adopt-a-family drive from Dec. 4 to Dec. 17. These drives are a competition between fourth-period classes to see who can donate the most canned goods and cash for families in need.

This year CVHS was able

to donate 3,284 canned food items with teacher Amy Ryken's class winning the class competition collecting 826. Carmelina Frasca and Jeff Goldstein were not too far behind, finishing in second and third, respectively.

CVHS also donated \$6,111.04 to the adopted families this year. David Roth-Rossi's class won the competition donating \$482.86.

The collected cans and cash

were picked up by students in Leadership to tally up who the leaders were.

The canned food drive competition was supposed to be a two week event this year, because in the past CVHS continued to collect way more cans than needed. The Leadership class decided to extend the event to three weeks, allow-

▶See Community: page 8

Lockdown after school scares campus

By Derek Neyer
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Two students were arrested on suspicion of robbery after allegedly fleeing onto campus with a "replica firearm" as CVHS went into a lockdown after school on Dec. 2.

Alameda County Sheriff's Office responded to a reported robbery at Redwood Market. The sheriff's office reported a robbery of the market, and Principal Blaine Torpey reported three CVHS students were robbed.

Officers arrested the suspects at CVHS, one in a classroom and one in the main office, while students and staff sheltered in place.

The sheriff's office received a call from alleged victims at Redwood Market saying that they had been "robbed at gunpoint" by two youths who were last seen running to CVHS. Officers told the school to lockdown and identified the suspects using video.

Officers arrested one suspect in the main office, but determined the other was in a classroom where students were receiving after-school tutoring. With the possibility that the suspect possessed a firearm, officers established two perimeters while four officers entered the classroom, said Sheriff's Sgt. Priscilla Silva.

Officers told those in the classroom to keep their hands visible. Then the officers searched people in the room, found the replica firearm, which Torpey described in an email to families as an "airsoft gun," in the suspect's waistband and arrested the suspect, Silva said.

Between ten and 15 officers were involved because of the threat posed by reported firearm in a classroom. "We're thinking active shooter at this point," Silva said.

Silva explained that standard law enforcement procedure is for officers to detain, search and even handcuff everyone in the room to ensure safety.

"We detain everybody the same way," she said. "This is going to suck for people that had nothing to do with the crime, it's embarrassing, it's not comfortable, it's scary, we understand that, but we're hoping that your student body will understand why we need to do that."

In this case, "they were all facing the board with their hands on their head and their heads ducked. We approached them from the rear. We even searched staff members who we didn't know were staff members because they were sitting in student desks. I'm sure they're not happy about it either," Silva said.

"But everybody went home safely, so it's a success for us," she said.

Silva emphasized the importance of cooperating with law enforcement officers in such a situation.

"It's always important to follow the orders of law enforcement. For instance, in this classroom if somebody hadn't followed orders somebody could've gotten hurt," Silva said.

Neither of the suspects, both identified as juveniles, resisted, nor did the others temporarily detained, Silva said.

Torpey attempted to reassure families after the incident. "I know these situations are scary for everybody," he wrote to families. "They are scary for me too. But that does not stop any of us from our mission to ensure the sanctity of our school community or the sanctity of our educational environment."

He has promised that counseling will be available to staff and students affected by the incident.



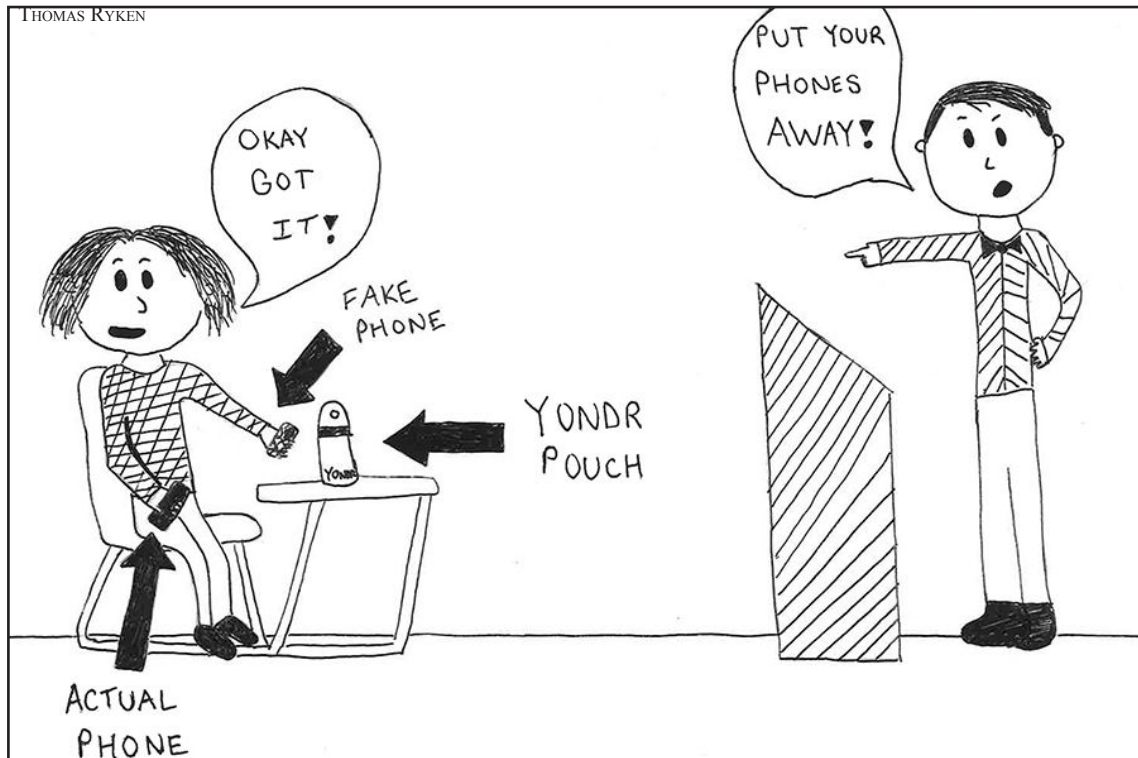
Yondr pouches are not the answer

Editorial:

Phones have been a huge problem for teachers in the past decade. They are often distractions and make it difficult for teachers to teach and students to learn. One solution has been the Yondr pouch, but is it really the best solution?

Yondr pouches are bags for individual cell phones. In some school districts, students must place their cell phone in a pouch at the beginning of a class period and get them back at the end. At other schools, all students place their phone in a Yondr pouch at the beginning of the school day, and they can use them during break or lunch, and get them back at the end of the school day. Some teachers at CVHS are starting to use these pouches.

The Olympian took a vote on Yondr pouches. After some debate, our final response was no. Yondr pouches are very expensive: each bag costs \$15-30. This amount multiplied by our 3,000-member student body



would mean that CVHS would be spending a lot of money on these bags. This money could be used for more important things, such as textbooks.

Besides, it's easy to cheat the system. At other schools,

kids will put old phones in the Yondr pouch and use their actual phone throughout the day. Kids will always find a way. If the students' phones are locked up all day, how will they answer important phone calls

from their parents? If there is an emergency, it is much faster to reach a student by their cell phone than to call the front office. Finally, there are other alternatives to the Yondr pouch that are cheaper and effective

With all these negatives, there are a few positive aspects to the Yondr pouch. It will ultimately limit the phone use of students on campus, which means kids will not be as distracted as they would be with phones. Without phones, our campus might be more connected.

But isn't there a better way to do it? Many teachers at CVHS already have a system like the Yondr pouches, only cheaper. Some have a cabinet for phones. This is less expensive, but achieves the same goal. Other teachers have a charging station for phones. Maybe teachers don't even need to take the phones away. Instead they could set clear, strict rules about when students can use their phones. Many teachers say kids can't use their phones, but then do not reprimand them if they do; teachers with strict rules about phones have fewer problems.

Phones are a huge problem, but there are much more cheaper and efficient solutions than the Yondr pouch.

BART's higher fares will hurt riders and BART



By Josie de la Torre
STAFF WRITER

Back in June, BART announced plans to increase fare 5.4 percent in January.

BART directors also stated that they will increase fares based on inflation in 2022, 2024, and 2026 by 16 percent.

As someone who takes BART nearly every weekend to San Francisco to visit my father, the news of the fares increasing was shocking to me.

For workers and people of all different backgrounds taking BART, it will cost more to travel to our destinations.

Over the years, ridership has receded and BART has predicted that ridership will

drop three percent in the next year.

There has been a proposal that the money produced from the fare increase will be used for issues regarding the quality of life, and also for an additional 19 police officers and four fare inspectors.

Is BART's plan for fare increase truly the best method while ridership is dropping? "We can't keep increasing fares while watching ridership drop," said director Liz Ames.

While the BART directors acknowledge that ridership has been decreasing, they

still continue to increase fares.

Not only would this inflation affect everyone in the Bay Area, it would go towards projects BART has in for the future.

This isn't the only time BART has been hiking up the price on fares. In 2003, BART proposed an inflation-based fare program that increased fares every two years and renewed in 2013.

BART also stated the fare money would help improve the BART stations and the cleanliness of them. But when have we ever seen

BART make improvements and clean the stations in San Francisco, where most homelessness occurs?

I truly do not think this is the best approach for the BART directors to achieve their goal.

While some may think it is beneficial for the future of BART to increase fares for upcoming projects, I think it will not work.

I believe the best method is to decrease the price of fares which will increase ridership and also help achieve the directors' financial plan much quicker.

PHOTOpinions

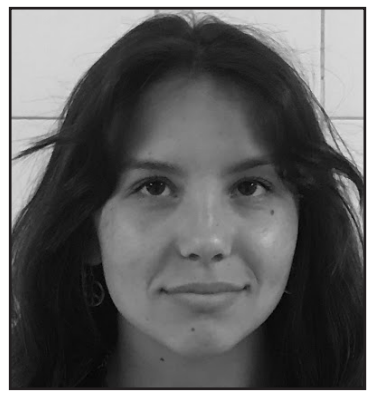
What do you think about Yondr pouches?



“It's terrible, because what if there is a disaster and I can't contact anyone?”
Franco Sarno
freshman



“Teachers should be worried about teaching instead of student responsibilities; if they aren't responsible then they will get a bad grade.”
Michael Karapetyan
sophomore



“It's a safety hazard in case of an emergency.”
Maddie Huffstutler
junior



“It's horrible, because it takes away your property and the school can't do that.”
Brandon Gee
senior



“I am against it for two reasons: it's too much work and it's more important to teach them when it is and isn't allowed to use their phone.”
Laura O'Brien
staff

The military fosters violence



By Kimia Emadi
A&E EDITOR

First Lt. Clint Lorange ordered the shooting of three civilian men in Afghanistan. Today, he is home with family, pardoned by President Trump of the murder he committed. He was one of several granted amnesties.

Another murderer, Michael Behenna, was pardoned after killing a prisoner he was ordered to release. Even Oklahoma's Attorney General Mike Hunter, who wrote to Trump directly asking for the pardon, admitted that some of his actions were "undoubtedly wrong."

These crimes are not flukes or "bad apple" scenarios, they are a direct product of the military's imperial function and lack of accountability to the public.

With every act of clemency for men who commit war crimes overseas, we inch further into territory of state-sanctioned torture.

Military personnel in active duty have mostly chosen to stay silent on the matter, likely to present a united front, but tension is rising to the surface. Charles Brown, the chief of naval information, simply tweeted that his fellow officials "acknowledge his order and are implementing it."

Even within a structure built to enable the murder of foreign peoples with little control, Trump's actions stand as a controversial and risky course for military justice.

Trump stands by his decisions with lighthearted confidence, retweeting a video about the matter with the comment "Let our great soldiers fight!" on Dec. 8.

Those retired from service are much more vocal about the potential threat. Retired captain Patrick Swanson, who was Lorange's commanding officer, has publicly stated "The tragedy is that people will hail him as a hero, and he is not a hero. He ordered those murders. He lied about them."

Swanson is not alone. Rachel VanLandingham, a

retired Air Force Lt. colonel, stated "It's just institutionally harmful," and "This isn't about these three individuals, it's about the whole military justice system and whether that system itself is something of value to the operations of the military."

Hunter claimed that Behenna "admitted to his mistakes, has learned from them and deserves to move on." The people of Afghanistan cannot do the same. There is no pardon to give them back their land, their freedom, their dead family members, or their decades of cultural trauma.

This is not a defense of Afghani war criminals, nor is it a claim that every single victim at the hands of the U.S. military was innocent, but the actions of our military clearly display a lack of accountability and rampant misconduct. Intervention must be put into place.

Military personnel are given weapons, virtually no surveillance by the public, and the opportunity to exercise their worst cruelties on war-torn civilians who have almost no means of defense. Allowing them to then return home without facing any consequences for their crimes is a step in the wrong direction.

Juniors need a break, make sophomores take SBAC



By Alex Tam
STAFF WRITER

I'm simply trying to survive my junior year with all the extra stress that comes with it. I haven't even completed the first semester of my junior year, and I'm already so done with it. Currently, I have been focused on my AP classes, extra curriculars, and the SAT, not to mention, I'm also trying to learn how to drive. I thought I was doing fine with managing everything, but of course, I am reminded that this year, I will be taking the dreadful SBAC test.

There is so much pressure put on students in junior year.

For one, it's the first year that CVHS allows us to take AP classes, so when we begin to take these college level classes, we don't know what to expect. Junior year also consists of the SAT or ACT and the pressures of colleges looking at our successes in this particular year. Not only do juniors have to juggle their new AP classes, but they also have to start focusing on studying for the long and painful college readiness tests.

I, personally, am going to take

several AP tests in the spring, and I also hope to get a high score on my SAT. On top of these school related pressures, I'm trying to manage the rest of my time, focus, and energy on clubs, sports, and learning how to drive. I'd rather not deal with the pressure of the SBAC test this year as well.

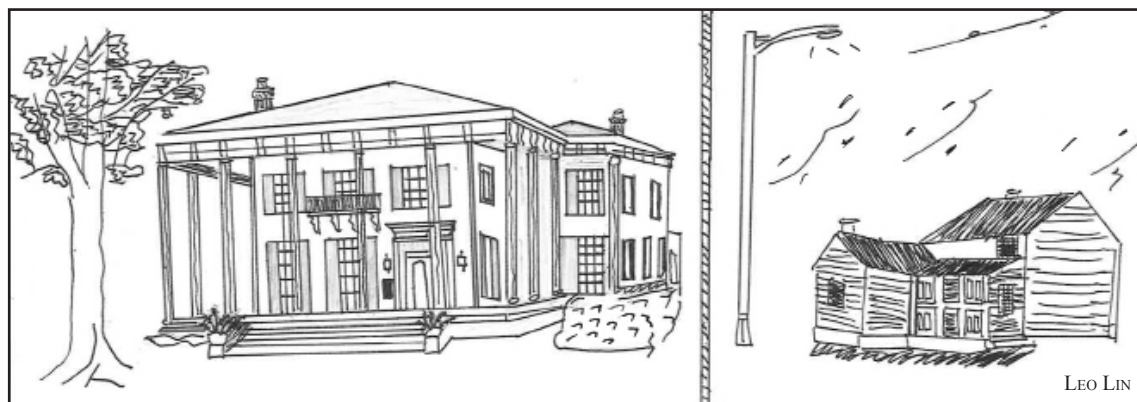
The SBAC is only taken one year in high school, and with all the pressures of junior year, we shouldn't be the ones who take it. It may not count towards our grade but that doesn't mean we don't want to do well on it, nor does it mean that the stress of the test is less than usual. We also can't all opt out of taking it; parents might force their child to take it, students may feel obligated to take it, and the school needs our scores for reflection.

If juniors shouldn't be the class to take the SBAC, then which class should it be? I think that it should be taken in tenth grade instead.

Sophomores have a fairly uneventful year and are not nearly as stressed as their upperclassman counterparts. They would have gotten a break from taking the SBAC, but they are still prepared for the SBAC. Tenth grade would be the most ideal year to take it. I know that I would've much rather taken it last year than this year.

Juniors have enough on their plate to cause them years of stress in only a single school year. They shouldn't have to be the class that takes the SBAC, adding to their already extremely complicated year.

The rich only care for the rich



By Nikita Thomas
COPY EDITOR

Unfortunately, the unequal balance of the rich and the poor continue to exist due to several reasons, one mainly being that the rich do not really want to associate with the poor once they become rich. But people who are able to escape a system of poverty should invest back into their communities to help solve the problems plaguing the country to possibly engender some change into the people and the environment.

Often times, people who come from poorer communities possess the tendency to leave their communities behind and move to safer, more developed areas.

For example, the whole concept of the "American dream" has been planted in the minds of many citizens living in developing and de-

veloped countries, of course America would certainly have "better opportunities" and "better education for my children."

The problem is that most hardworking and academically strong people from each country have the ultimate dream to leave their poor countries in hopes of a better quality life in highly developed nations. Well, what about their native countries? Who is going to help them?

Entrepreneurs often move from developing nations to sell their products, which helps the American economy, but it does not improve the conditions from which they came from and bolsters America's economy while not really paying attention to the harm it does to their own country.

The only way to resolve this problem is to instill another idea in the young minds from poorer nations: it's okay to

go to migrate to other places to earn money and become successful, but it's important to return and help the community from where one came from.

As the newer generations continue to flourish and develop life goals and dreams, it is important to encourage them to find ways to help their own communities, rather than dream to migrate to another highly developed nation.

As I was discussing this idea, someone confronted me with another idea: it should be an individual choice whether or not they want to go back and help their community. Yes, it is an individual's choice, but this is just an idea to incite a sense of compassion and moral responsibility in the minds of many successful people who come from poverty-stricken communities.

THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL Olympian

The Olympian is a publication of the journalism class at Castro Valley High School, 19400 Santa Maria Ave., Castro Valley, California 94546. © 2020

Editors-in-Chief.....Derek Neyer
Katrina Siler
News Editor.....Tiffany Ho
Opinion Editor.....Milagros Aquino
Feature Editor.....Brittany Bin
Sports Editor.....Myla Ogle
Arts and Entertainment Editor.....Kimia Emadi
Photo Editors.....Eyzid Hadi
Rachel Schoenfeld
Business Manager.....Kayla Craft-Williams
Online Editor.....Elena Lottich
Copy Editors.....Jeanette Wallis
Nikita Thomas

Staff Writers: Megan Baldwin, Baron Begier, Miguel Bernas, Josie de la Torre, Cameron Faris, Lindsey Gard, Arionna Harris, Malin Johansson, Leo Lin, Hannah Pilgrim, Thomas Ryken, Alex Tam, Michael Tam, Alice Tang, Ashley Tang

Advisor.....Matt Johanson



Choir students go above and beyond

By Ashley Tang
STAFF WRITER

Choir teacher Laryssa Sadoway took Honor Choir students to rehearse at San Mateo High School on Nov. 21-22 as part of the Coastal Region Honor Choir (CCDA) to perform in concert with hundreds of Honor Choir students across the state on Nov. 23.

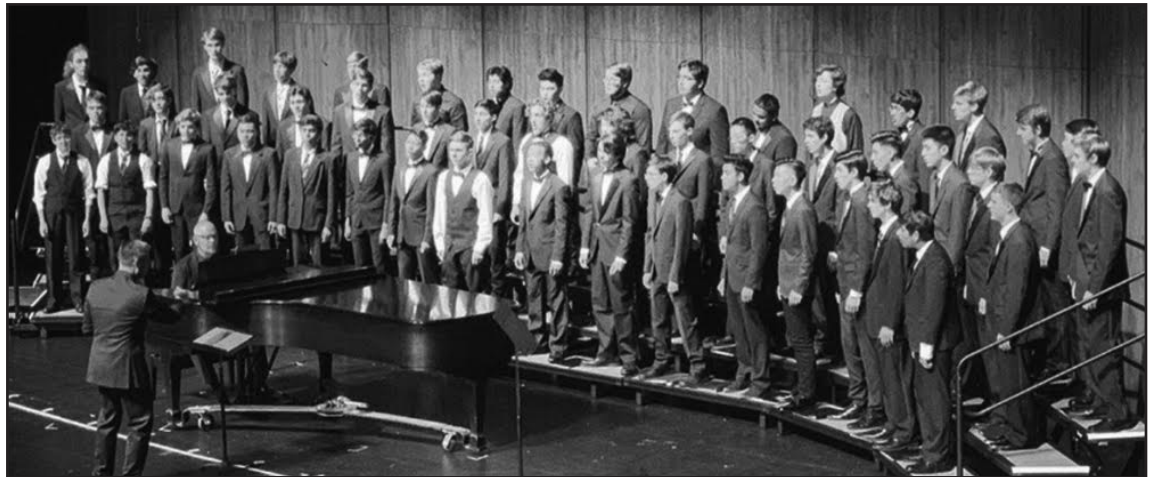
Honor Choir students said they've been practicing in school during Trojan Time and on their own time as well for the days leading up to this nerve-wracking, yet exciting event.

Honor Choir students from CVHS have attended this regional event for a long time, but it is Sadoway's seventh time sending students.

The first time Sadoway sent students, only three were accepted to participate in the event, but this year a total of 22 were accepted.

"I'm always very excited, but this year I'm very nervous," said second year Honor Choir student Emma Koslosky.

Once at San Mateo, Honor Choir students from all over the state go through a process where they are judged to distinguish



Honor choir students proudly perform at San Mateo High School on Nov 23.

whether they are qualified to perform at the concert.

This year's judging was based upon the ability to sing an Italian song from memory, pitch memory, and sight reading, which is seeing the notes and singing them.

"They get 45 minutes to learn the music on their own, without help from their teachers. They

will be sent home if they don't know their music before the first rehearsal," said Sadoway.

For those who passed the examination, they go through rehearsal for about five to 12 hours a day, for two days where they perfect their voices together.

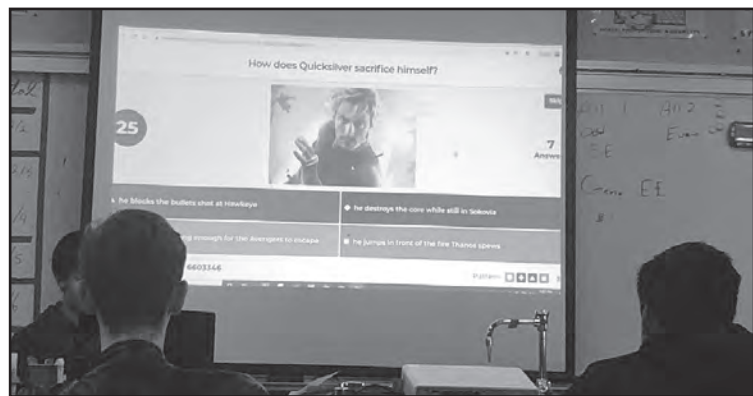
This all paid off when the lights dimmed and hundreds of voices coincided with one another me-

lodiously for an unforgettable concert.

"Hundreds of talented singers and musicians were united and we all had the same passion and love for choral music. Since it was my senior year, I decided to give honor choir a try, and I'm so glad I did. Honor choir was an exhilarating experience," said senior Anita Wong.

Fans of Marvel and Star Wars battle for bragging rights

By Hannah Pilgrim
STAFF WRITER



HANNAH PILGRIM

The winner of the Kahoot game smiles with club officers after his big victory.

A handful of CVHS most dedicated Marvel and Star Wars fans battled to the end to find out who is the biggest fan of both fandoms.

This year the Star Wars Club expanded its quiz to include both Marvel and Star Wars similar to its Star Wars Kahoot last year.

With Star Wars battle music playing in the background as the game started, superfans picked fandom related Kahoot names and the quiz started. A lengthy 56 question quiz with a lightning round section of nine true or false questions at the

end proved to be a challenge for even the super fans.

"I made this quiz a little harder, so try your hardest," said sophomore Felix Shum, creator of the Kahoot, at the start of the game.

As the quiz went on some players became enthusiastic and started to clap and cheer whenever they got the correct answer and booed when they got it wrong.

Shum, president of the Star Wars Club, would provide additional information whenever the majority of quiz takers got the answer wrong.

Once the lightning round began, tension rose and the fight to win became fiercer.

With the last questions seeming to throw off even the most dedicated fans, science teacher Jeffrey Foster won and was deemed the Jedi Master of this year's quiz.

"I was not expecting to win, but this club has helped me refresh on my Marvel and Star Wars knowledge," said Foster.

When asked how he knew so much about the two franchises, Foster said, "As a child, my dad and I went to the movie theater and saw every Marvel and Star Wars movie. I had to wait for him to get off work so we could see the new movie."

The Force was with Foster this year, but who knows who will win next time.

Students empower young girls in poverty through soccer

By Miguel Bernas
STAFF WRITER

Over Thanksgiving break, junior Kyla Dolorfino and senior Taylor Matthews traveled to Paraguay to donate school supplies and teach young girls in poverty how to play soccer. They went with a local organization called Girls Soccer Worldwide, alongside other students from the Bay Area.

"The girls were so excited that we were coming that they couldn't sleep all night," said Matthews.

Girls Soccer Worldwide aims to empower young girls to rise out of poverty through sports and education. The students held open clinics to teach the girls how to play soccer in Coronel Bogado,

Paraguay. They spent much of their time with the girls and experienced a glimpse of their daily lives.

"It was very eye opening to see how happy they were, even though they had so little," said Matthews.

For one week, Dolorfino and Matthews witnessed the many differences between life in Paraguay and the United States. They visited several homes of families living in poverty, realizing how privileged people in the Bay Area are to have stable homes with electricity. Some homes had dirt floors and ceilings made of sheet metal, with some houses costing a total of \$80. Furniture was placed on stone stilts to keep from the mud on the floor when

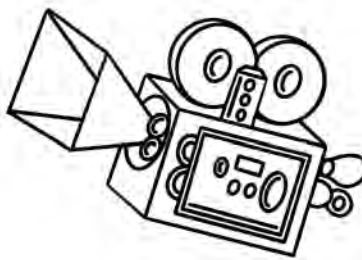
it rained. Many families didn't have access to technology and school supplies or couldn't afford an education.

Throughout the year, Matthews and Dolorfino held fundraisers with Girls Soccer Worldwide to raise money for school supplies, backpacks, clothes, and laptops to give to families. They packed the supplies and visited several schools throughout Paraguay delivering them to children and their parents. The organization also sponsored adults to go back to school for a year to learn how to read and write and donated laptops to a local college.

"I learned to be grateful for everything I have and to take the opportunities that are given to me," said Dolorfino.



Kyla Dolorfino and Taylor Matthews pose with the girls in Paraguay.



“Star Wars” provides fan service

By Thomas Ryken
STAFF WRITER



The iconic sound of the Star Wars theme plays in the background as the text scrolls across the screen one last time. The supreme leader Kylo Ren showed off his impressive fighting skills to open the movie, as protagonist Rey continues her Jedi training. They confront one another throughout the film through lightsaber battles and communicating through the force.

“Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker” concluded the “Skywalker Saga” with the final part of the new trilogy. Episode Nine brought back many characters from the previous installments and created stunning visuals for fight scenes and backgrounds.

The movie opened to mixed reviews, though I believe the



purpose of the film was to entertain and be a movie for Star Wars fans of all ages and not for critics. The movie had a lot of action, but blended comedic relief quite well with twists and turns throughout the movie.

The relationship between the two main characters of Rey and Kylo Ren showed the growth

of the two characters and the movie ended their stories but also left room for speculation and a possible return to the epic saga.

Rumors have speculated that Disney director J.J. Abrams cut the movie short and left some of his ideas on the drawing board, but I still believe this movie was a great finale to the franchise.

Force is with “The Mandalorian”



ALEX TAM

By Thomas Ryken
STAFF WRITER



As the camera pans to the cantina door, the Mandalorian enters and startles a group of angry individuals. They were ready to kill a blue man named Mythrol. He sits at the bar as they pester him, until he finally threw his mug at them. The Mandalorian uses his grappling

hook to catch his enemies then shoots his gun at the door controls to trap them inside.

After he defeated them, he walked over to the table where Mythrol was sitting as it seems he saved his life from danger, until he throws down the bounty puck as a holographic image appears signaling that he only saved his life so he could get paid for his capture.

“The Mandalorian” first aired exclusively on the new streaming service Disney + on

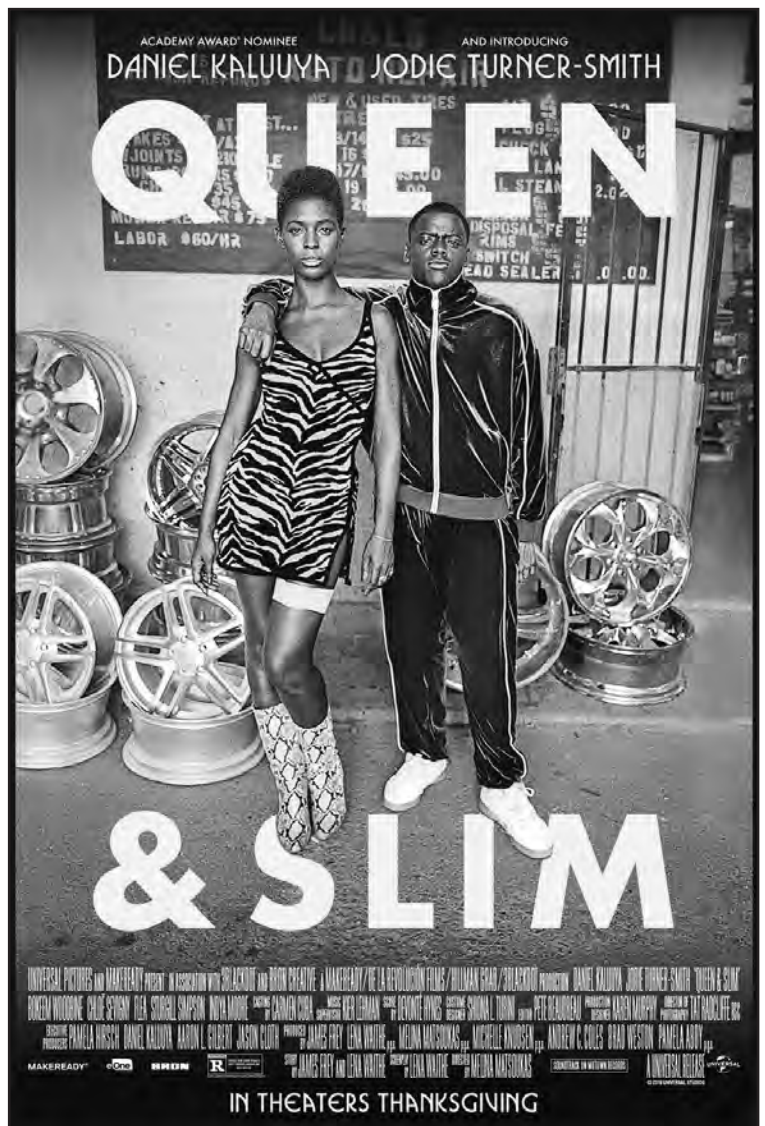
Nov. 12. The show consists of eight episodes with run times ranging from 30-40 minutes.

The show is set in the Star Wars universe after the defeat of the empire in “Return of the Jedi.” It is centered around a bounty hunter who looks very similar to the quiet, reserved bounty hunter Boba Fett from the first Star Wars films. He is serious about his work and doesn’t speak a whole lot.

“The Mandalorian” stars Pedro Pascal, who plays the titular character with a mysterious edge under the helmet he famously wears. Pascal played the character with confidence and quips all over the place throughout the show.

The show was created by John Favreau, who has created many hits including “Iron Man” and the live-action “The Lion King” movie. He perfectly blended action and humor throughout the first few episodes of the series.

The Bonnie and Clyde of 2019



By Arionna Harris
STAFF WRITER



One night after their first date, Queen and Slim get pulled over. As they wait for the officer to run Slim’s license and registration, the cop seems to get upset at Slim for a minor mistake and has him take a step out of the car. While outside in the freezing cold, Slim simply says, “Could we please maybe hurry this up, it’s just that it’s really cold out here.”

That statement for some reason angered the cop a lot. He then makes Slim get down and holds a gun to him as he shouts “Stop resisting,” even when Slim is being very cooperative. Queen gets out the car and is trying to stop the cop, but it didn’t help their situation any better. The cop fires a shot at Queen and hits her in the leg, then Slim wrestles the gun out of the cop’s hand. The cop charges at Slim and Slim pulled the trigger, killing the cop.

That was the opening of the new movie “Queen and Slim,” about two African Americans on the run from the law. After they realize what happened, they immediately get in the car and go. They overcome a lot of obstacles that didn’t help the position they were in, but they

made it work.

For example, one time their car ran out of gas and they had to carpool, but the person they ended up in the car with was a sheriff. They actually managed to get away with a little help from the sheriff, but it all worked out in their favor.

I liked this movie because it was a thriller and it kept me on

“ It was a thriller...kept me on the edge of my seat. ”

the edge of my seat, wondering what would happen next. This movie gives you a good sense of how African Americans are treated by cops daily when they’ve done nothing wrong and how a cop could easily get away with it.

There is always a story on the news about cops doing something unjust to an African American and having little to no consequences. It’s terrible that anybody should have to deal with being afraid to even move one inch while being pulled over because they don’t want to lose their life.



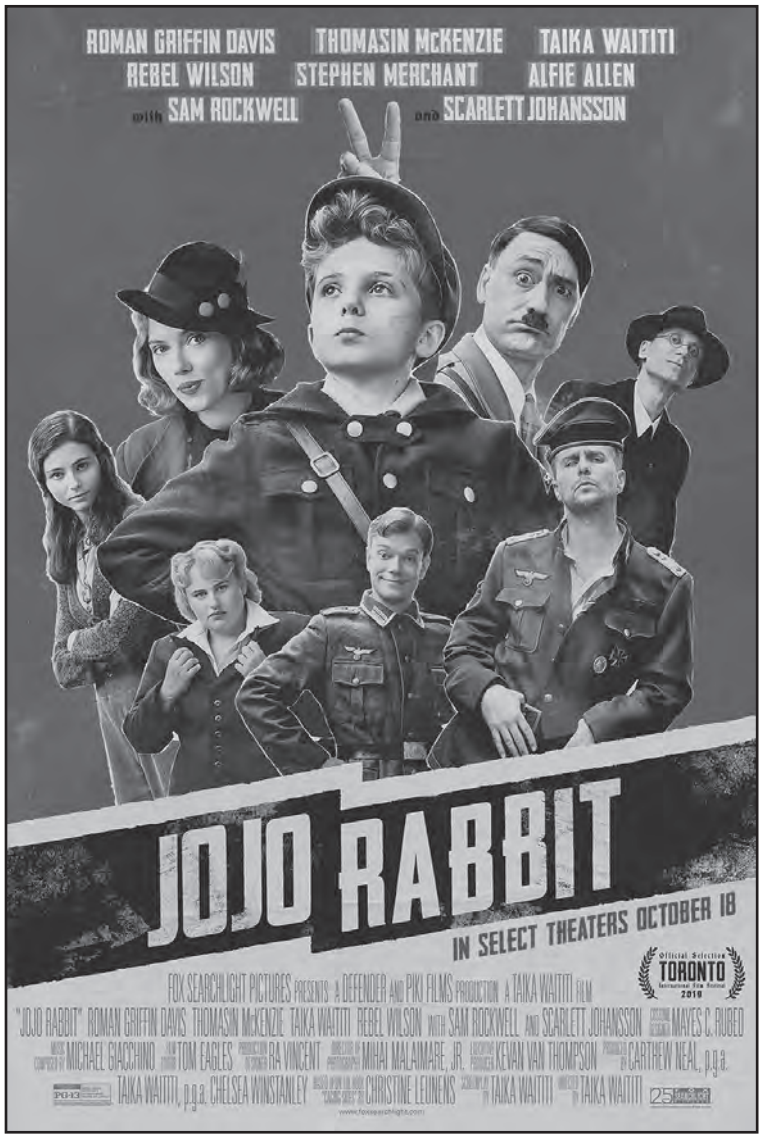
FREE Online Drivers Ed when you mention The Olympian



Go Trojans!



Jojo confronts his nationalism



By Alice Tang
STAFF WRITER

★★★★★ Comedy attempts to tackle Nazis

“Heil Hitler. Heil Hitler,” nervous ten year old Hitler Youth boy Jojo Betzler stares at himself in the mirror as he prepares for his first day at the Hitler Youth camp when his imaginary friend, Adolf Hitler, comically appears behind him to hype him up for the day. Full of confidence and energy, little Betzler hops along the street towards the camp with his only friend and fellow Hitler Youth Yorki.

Set in the last year of World War II, “Jojo Rabbit” is a comedy/drama-comedy movie, written and directed by Taika Waititi, released on Oct. 18 in selected theaters poking fun at the Nazis.

It is a dark humor film that tells the story of Betzler’s life through World War II. Betzler, brainwashed by authorities, was a Nazi-in-training with dreams of getting to serve Hitler in the war and potentially becoming his best friend.

It all changed when he discovers that his single mother, Rosie Betzler, had hidden a Jewish girl, Elsa Korr, in a secret attic area in his deceased sister’s room, forcing him to

confront his blind nationalism. The part that stuck out the most was the when the camera pans to the sight of the public display of hanged victims and we see those familiar maroon and white shoes. The whole theater was shocked, it was the saddest scene in the movie for me. We hear Betzler cry into his mother’s pants while hugging her for the last time, not wanting to let go.

Although this film is labeled as comedy, it can be sensitive to some people because of the topic it focuses on. The film depicts some graphic war images and lynchings, but it also has elements of romance and drama. It leaves the audience full of laughter one second and on the verge of tears the next.

I do recommend watching “Jojo Rabbit” for people in the older age group and certain teenagers, but not kids since it

“....he prepares for his first day at the Hitler Youth camp...”

is rated PG-13 and it isn’t what you would usually expect for a typical movie set in this time period. I enjoyed it a lot especially since it shows a different narrative of World War II.

Frozen II brings the magic



By Lindsey Gard
STAFF WRITER

★★★★★

The sequel to the popular animated movie “Frozen” features the two main characters, sisters Anna and Elsa, and their friends Kristoff, Sven, and Olaf. They hear of an enchanted forest, and are called to it. They discover that a gesture of peace from the past was not what it seems. Anna and Elsa now must make their way to Ahtohallan, the river that holds

all the memories of the past, in order to discover the truth.

“Frozen II” was a very entertaining movie for all ages. It is mostly advertised to young children, but that does not stop anyone from seeing it. I appreciate the overall message about value, peace, and love that the producers made for little kids.

Children look up to their favorite characters in movies and TV shows, so it’s helpful that the lovable Frozen characters are good role models lead lives that appeal to kids. My favorite character is Olaf, the snow-

man who loves summer. Many people love his cute and quirky personality, especially kids.

I personally enjoyed “Frozen II” because I remember when the first one came out. I was in elementary school, and I loved it, so it was neat to see these familiar characters on the big screen again.

I’m glad that the younger kids like the “Frozen” movies, but it was a little weird going to the theater and seeing kids super excited for the movie that weren’t even born when the first one came out.

FUN AND FREE EVENTS!

CVSan’s Zero Waste Week 2020

Check out the event schedule:

REPAIR

Fixit Clinic & Bike Repair
Sat, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

GLEANING

Community Fruit Gleaning
Wed, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

MOVIE

Screening of The True Cost
Fri, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

COOKING

Zero Waste Cooking Workshop
Thurs, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

CVSan
The Path To
ZERO WASTE

Register for these events at www.cvsan.org/ZeroWasteWeek

CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT
-Active Environmental Services since 1939
910-637-4757 www.cvsan.org
Thank you to our sponsors



Trojans claim a hard fought win in home opener

By Milagros Aquino
BUSINESS MANAGER

The boys varsity soccer team won 4-1 against San Lorenzo High School on Dec. 10 in Trojan Stadium.

The Trojans scored the first goal with 18 minutes left in the first half. By the end of the first half with four minutes to spare, Trojans made another goal leaving the first half 2-0.

Into the second half, both teams scored a point making the score 3-1, but Trojans still pulled out with another goal with nine and a half minutes to spare, leaving the game 4-1.

"We have been able to rely on our skill. We have a really skilled team this year," said Ramon Dela Cruz, a senior



MILAGROS AQUINO

Giovanni Mota (left) smoothly dribbles past a San Lorenzo defender to take the ball to goal.

varsity player. After this game, the Trojans had a 3-1 overall win to lose ratio.

"It's important to get a win, especially coming off a loss against James Logan. Our idea was to be 4-0 at this point but you know, we are 3-1. We just want to keep working off of that and use it to lift off and keep on improving," said assistant coach Oscar Mendizabal.

Although they haven't won all their games, this is a huge win for the Trojans with many memorable things that happened.

"Michael Karapetyan scored his first goal as a sophomore and it's only his third game as a varsity player," said Mendizabal.

An excellent way to end the first home game of the year.

Trojan F.I.T. inspires staff

By Cameron Faris
STAFF WRITER

Well it's that time of year again, when the days start to get shorter and the nights longer, but that won't stop the Trojan F.I.T. program and its many participants.

The program takes place monthly. Its main focus is for staff members to get outside, be active, and complete challenges outside of their comfort zones.

In November, there were over 30 staff members participating in the 10k steps challenge.

The staff has been very excited about this challenge and are ready to take it on.

Many staff really enjoy this and say that this challenge

makes them feel better about themselves, as well as makes them feel more healthy, happy, and motivates them to do more athletic events in the future.

Some teachers, such as Jennifer Jervis, love the event and have some great things to say about it.

"I love participating in the event. It makes myself and everyone around me want to go out and be active, which is what we need in this day and age," said Jervis.

Another influential person that is a big part of the Trojan Fit program is Mark Williams.

Williams is a PE teacher at CVHS and is already really athletic in his everyday life.

"I like to see staff members and teachers all participating in being active and trying to

accomplish something they don't do on a day to day basis," said Williams.

Although students are not really entitled to participate in the event, there is a lot of talk around school saying that many students are actually interested in participating in the challenge.

"I really want to participate in the event, even if I'm not really registered in the challenge.

I can still use my watch to count my steps and complete the challenge," said freshman Taylor Gibbs.

Overall the Trojan got program is definitely on the come up for new and exciting challenges, as well as activities to participate in on the CVHS campus.



CAMERON FARIS

John Edwards is determined to perform well in the challenge.

Athlete of the Month

Tania Beringer finishes her final season strong

By Rachel Schoenfeld
PHOTO EDITOR

Finishing out her senior year on the Trojans girls tennis team, Tania Beringer was afraid that she was never going to see her team beat Piedmont.

When they went against Piedmont in her junior year both she and the team lost.

Now, in her senior year the Trojans defeated Piedmont while Beringer won the same match she played the year before.

"[I love the] excitement and concentration during a

rally in a match," Beringer said. "And the relaxation and happiness during practice."

Beringer found her love for tennis when she was four years old.

She joined the tennis team in her freshman year, made varsity her sophomore years, and played all four years.

"Tania is an amazing tennis player and team captain who shows such sincere dedication to the team," teammate Lauren Leong said.

"She is always willing to lend a helping hand and gives 110 percent when it comes to practice and matches."

Along with making varsity, she also took on a list of advanced classes and extra-curriculars, such as playing flute and piccolo in chamber orchestra.

All of this plus tennis leaves her with very little free time.

"I had to use my time well, including doing homework during bus rides to matches and when I wasn't playing. It was manageable as long as I stayed on task," said Beringer.

Despite her time struggle, Beringer's passion for tennis shines though, and it really shows.

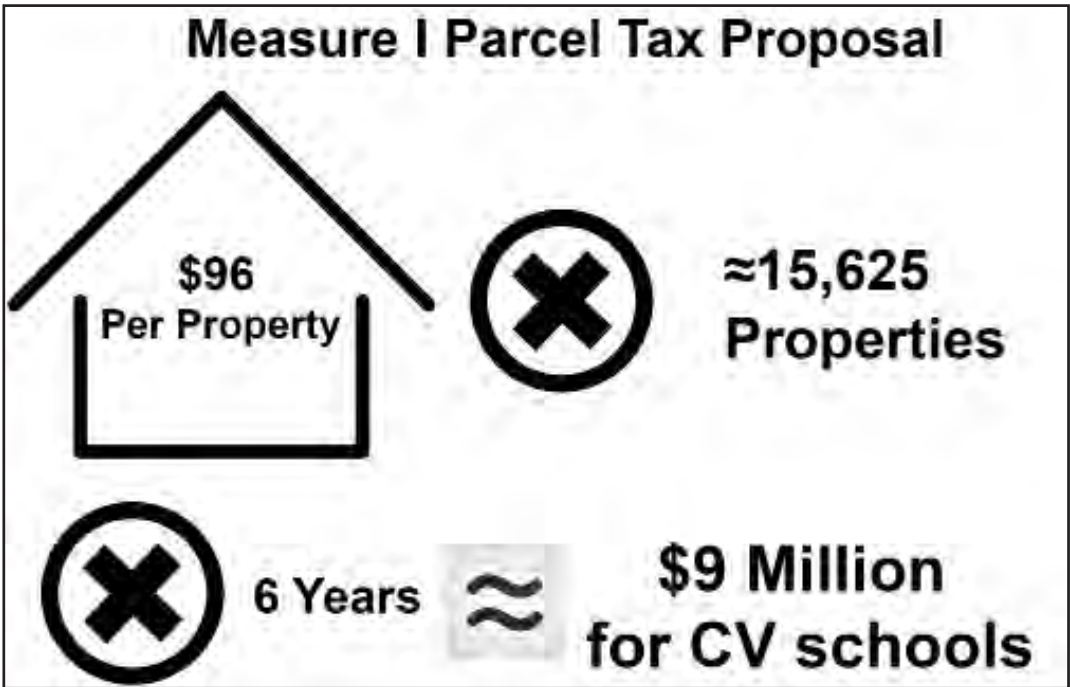


RACHEL SCHOENFELD

Tania Beringer is focused on the tennis ball.

Parcel tax proposal approved

BARON BEGIER



By Malin Johansson
STAFF WRITER

The CVUSD School Board unanimously approved a parcel tax proposal to be placed on the ballot for the upcoming March 3 election on Thursday, Nov. 12.

If passed, the tax is expected to raise \$1.5 million annually for six years. The money raised by the parcel tax will be used for a variety of educational needs, such as computer repairs and hiring more custodians, but it will specifically give Castro Valley teachers pay raises.

“I have seen many of my colleagues leave for other districts, whether they are seeking higher pay, or more benefits, or better working conditions. Living in the Bay Area on a teacher’s salary is difficult, and every year there are open science positions that are hard to fill with quality teachers,” Lauren Baiocchi told the Board.

Baiocchi was one of several teachers, parents, and a student, urging the school board to vote for the parcel tax proposal.

The parcel tax proposal must be approved by the county to be

put on the ballot, and if Castro Valley residents vote for the parcel tax, every homeowner in Castro Valley will pay an additional \$96 per property, effective July 21, 2020.

Some Castro Valley residents may confuse the parcel tax with the Measure G bond passed in 2016. A parcel tax is a set real estate fee, but a bond is based on property value.

The Measure G bond was to raise an estimated \$123 million. According to Ballot Pedia, the additional property tax as a result of the bond was to be around “\$60 per \$100,000 of the assessed property value” and “restricts the use of the proceeds from the bond sale to items such as building school buildings, improving school grounds, supplying school buildings and grounds with equipment, and the acquisition of real property for school facilities.” The construction going on right now at CVHS is a result of Measure G.

These restrictions would not apply to the parcel tax. Many towns around Castro Valley already have a parcel tax. In 2018, the San Lorenzo Unified

School District, San Leandro Unified School District, Martinez Unified School District, and many more school districts in California approved a parcel tax.

CVHS social studies teacher Ian Rodriquez explained many teachers feel they are spread too thin and are given many extra duties without extra pay.

“These solutions [parcel taxes] have been implemented in neighboring districts,” said Rodriquez.

A parcel tax is much harder to get approved than a bond, because it needs a two-thirds majority to pass, compared to the 55 percent majority needed to pass a bond. Because of this, teachers and parents present at the board meeting promised to go out and campaign to get the parcel tax to pass.

“It’s going to take a lot of time and effort to spread the word to the Castro Valley community about the importance of the passage of this parcel tax,” said Rodriquez.

One parent said she would go door to door to inform and persuade people to vote for the parcel tax.

Local flavored tobacco ban passed

By Derek Neyer
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted 4-0 to pass a ban on the sale of any flavored tobacco products in the unincorporated county, including vapor products, on Dec. 17. Supervisor Nate Miley, representing Castro Valley among other areas, abstained.

The supervisors overrode a recommendation against the flavor ban by Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) on Nov. 18. Prior to that vote, students, parents, teachers, and community members packed into Castro Valley Library to voice opinions on a measure designed to combat tobacco use among teenagers, including a ban on the sale of e-cigarette products in unincorporated Alameda County (including Castro Valley).

After a long and emotional discussion, the MAC voted 5-2 to recommend a revised ordinance excluding the bans on flavored tobacco products and e-cigarette products.

Under the ordinance as passed, businesses in unincorporated Alameda County will be required to obtain licenses to sell tobacco products, and will no longer be permitted to sell any tobacco products with flavors, including menthols. The ordinance also limits the number of tobacco retailers to one per 2,500 residents, though the extremely controversial total ban on vapor products in earlier drafts of the ordinance was not realized.

At the MAC meeting, some students and community members voiced concerns about the sudden rise of vaping amongst teenagers.

“I’ve seen students zig-zag between bathrooms before school even starts over the course of 30 minutes because they are addicted to nicotine. They are stealth, they are flavored, but I would tell you that they are ending up in the hands of our youth,” said former CVHS Assistant Principal

Nic McMaster.

His sentiment was backed up by sophomore Olivia Zakas. “It’s hard for me to see all my classmates be addicted to these products,” she said.

Their points were challenged, however, by vape shop owners and e-cigarette users who feared the ordinance would go too far.

“This ordinance will close my business,” said David Alga, owner of Valley Vape Club in Castro Valley. “We’ve been a beneficial business for Castro Valley converting hundreds if not thousands of smokers to a proven 95 percent safer alternative to smoking cigarettes.... We are an adult store selling adult products, and you have to be 21 to walk in our doors.”

Following San Francisco’s landmark decision to ban e-cigarette sales in June, similar measures have sprung up for debate in many California localities, including Livermore where a similar ban was passed and will soon take effect.

This is a marked turn from the open arms with which vaping was received mere years ago, as Alga noted.

“We’ve done this before. I stood here in this library years ago fighting for the store that preceded us, Ready Set Vape, ... welcomed with a ribbon-cutting ceremony [attended] by Supervisor Nate Miley and Bob Swanson for helping people quit smoking,” he said.

The new ordinance may not close vapor shops as some wished, but could harm their businesses if customers go elsewhere in search of flavors. Proponents are happy with the outcome, though, including Supervisor Wilma Chan.

“This ordinance for our unincorporated areas will ensure that Alameda County will continue prioritizing the health and safety of our youngest and most vulnerable residents by restricting youth access to tobacco products while encouraging responsible and healthy retailing,” she said.

►Community: from page 1

ing more students to donate canned goods.

The cans are collected from all the schools in the district and are sorted out to create Thanksgiving meals for families in need. The adopt-a-family money is collected by Leadership students and during winter break they used the money to buy gifts for the families the school adopted. After that, they were brought back to CVHS to wrap and deliver to those families in need.

Last year, due to the cancellation of school on the last day of the canned food drive, there wasn’t an official winner. However three teachers went above and beyond to collect a majority of the schools canned goods and were declared co-winners. Carmelina Frasca’s, Amy Ryken’s, and Emily Ledford’s classes competed for the

coveted pizza party as they were declared co-winners but that didn’t happen this year.

Frasca has continued to collect hundreds of cans ever since she started participating in the drive.

“I actually really like that we end up bringing in a ton of cans for the community,” said Frasca. When asked about strategy for the canned food drive, Frasca said, “I like to bring them in from the beginning and just offer the number early rather than save them up till the end.”

Ryken started pushing her class to donate canned goods two years ago and has never looked back.

“By making it a fun competition, we are able to give more to the community and that’s what matters in the end,” said Ryken.

CVHS continued to give back a lot during this holiday season and hopefully that trend continues in the future.

Rudy’s Donut House

3692 Castro Valley Blvd
Castro Valley, CA 94546
Hours: 4:30am- 3:00pm

HANSEN

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

The Ones You Can Recommend

Office (510) 537-0464 (925) 846-0359

Water Wise Landscape Design
Installation / Maintenance

Drainage • Sprinklers • Lighting • Sod/Plants/Trees • Decking • Children’s Play Areas
Concrete • Masonry • Water gardens • Arbors/Patios covers • Hot tubs • BBQ’s

Louis Siegel Cell (510) 461-4435
Designer / Estimator
Project Manager

www.hansenlandscape.com
Ca State Contractors Lic. #440372 Fully Insured

BAY AREA DRIVING SCHOOL

Driver’s Education & Training

Tel. 510-886-1016

www.BayAreaDriving.com

*** ONLINE Driver’s Ed ***
First 25% of Online Driver’s Ed is **FREE**
Free Pick-up & Return for Driver’s Training