

HOCO EDITION

Olympian

ELLIOT LUCAS

VOLUME 68, ISSUE 1

OCT. 10, 2024

WEAREBORNTOSEEKTHETRUTH!

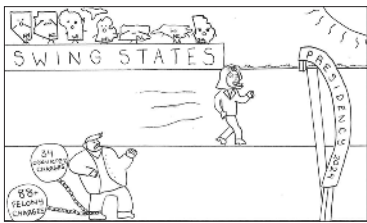
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SENIORS SURF TO FIRST





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Girls flag
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THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL *Olympian*

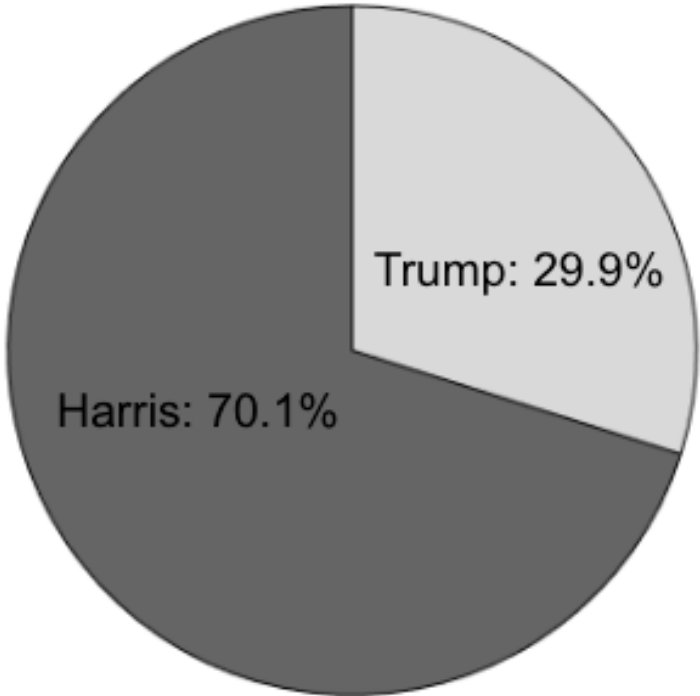
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Trojans prefer Harris to Trump

“In the 2024 Presidential election,
who do you support?”



AMAYA RAMBEL

By Hailey Young

As the November election nears, national polls show the race can swing either way for former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris. Trojans have cast their ballots in a mock election held by *The Olympian* and the results are in: Harris secured 70.1% of the votes, while Trump trailed with 29.9%.

Overall, 63.3% of Trojans expressed their support for Harris, while Trump has 23.9%. An overwhelming number of respondents expressed concern about Trump's criminal activity.

“Trump's criminal record makes me not approve of him, because how are we going to elect a president who has disobeyed the law on many occasions?” questioned senior Nevin Thomas.

Junior Elena Otero criticized Trump's past term and stressed the importance of keeping him out of office. “Major job loss, extremely poor handling of the pandemic, spreading of conspiracies, encouraging shooting horse tranquilizer instead of vaccinations, refused to provide aid to Ukraine, and so, so much more encourages me to vote for anyone else.”

Despite the criticisms, many favor the economic conditions under Trump's presidency.

“When he was president the price of living was manageable, but under the Biden administration the price of living shot up so much. Kamala Harris was a part of the Biden administration, I don't think she will be any better,” expressed junior Ethan Chen.

Harris faces criticism for her lack of action these past four years in office. “I think they're both terrible but Kamala uses arguments such as ‘When I'm in office I'll make changes.’ She is already in office as vice president

and isn't doing anything,” said junior Kaden Liu.

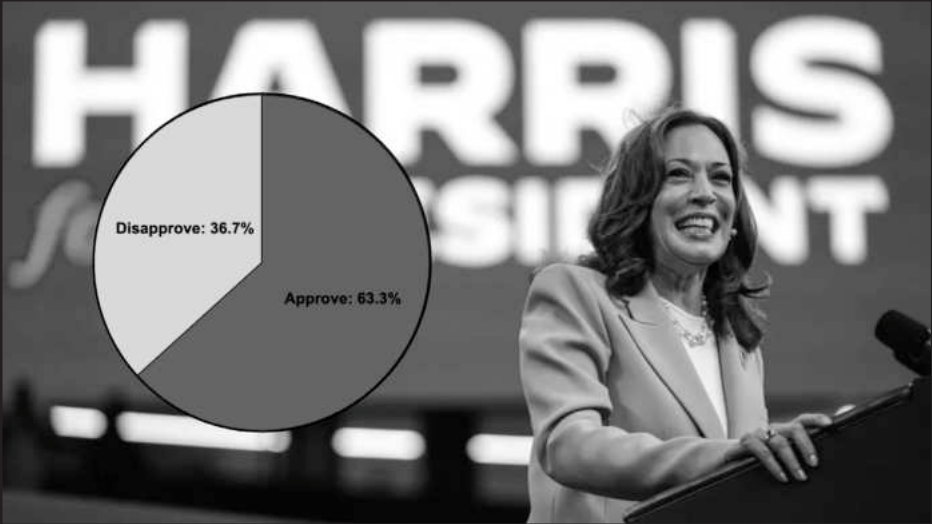
Other arguments against Harris include the constant use of her ethnic background as a political strategy. “Harris just uses her Indian ethnicity to get more votes, she's not actually proud,” shared sophomore Amrita Gosai.

Overall, Harris supporters are grateful they have the choice of a younger candidate. “I think Kamala is actually sane and will help America. We need someone younger than 80 as a president, someone who will actually listen to the people,” said junior Lucy Bruns.

Yet, many respondents also showed a pressing level of apathy and frustration with the race. For some, the choice of candidates led to increasing disinterest and even disappointment.

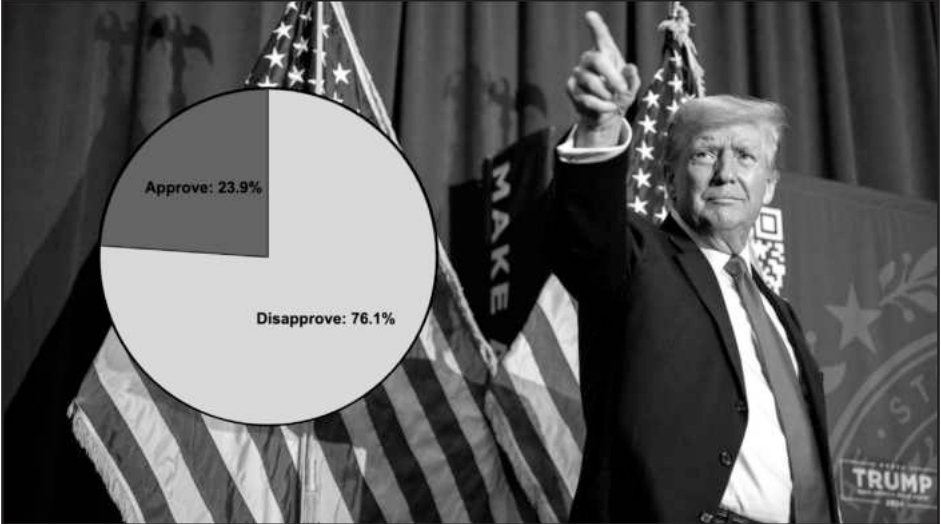
“If there was a third option I would pick them. Both candidates are acting childish and taking hits at each other to get people to like them,” said junior Brant Myers. “I wish there was a president that is kind and takes care of everyone.”

Ultimately, our country's election climate is increasingly polarized, and *The Olympian's* mock election represents this race's complexity.



What do Trojans think of Kamala Harris?

HAILEY YOUNG



What do Trojans think of Donald Trump?

HAILEY YOUNG

“The punishment simply does not fit the crime”

Keita Hasegawa avoids prison time through plea deal

By Matthew Wong

Former CVHS teacher Keita Hasegawa, who was charged with 18 felonies for alleged sexual abuse of a minor, avoided prison time and had all but one charge dropped through a plea deal.

“My colleagues on the governance team and I were all extremely disappointed to learn that a plea is set to be accepted that not only eliminates 99% of the charges, but also allows Hasegawa to essentially walk out of court free, with no jail time,” wrote school board member Sara Raymond, speaking for the full board.

Hasegawa was charged with 18 felonies, including 10 counts

of contacting a minor with intent to commit a sex crime. However, on Aug. 21, he pleaded no contest to only one of those counts.

“This event has been exceptionally damaging to our student body, as well as to the community that loves and supports our kids,” said Raymond.

Hasegawa was charged last year and posted \$600,000 bail after his arrest. The terms of his release included a victim restraining order, not being allowed near unaccompanied minors, restriction from social media, and wearing an ankle monitor.

As a part of his plea deal, Hasegawa’s year spent with the ankle monitor will count towards his one year prison sentence and he will not serve any time. He will also be registered as a sex offender for life.

At his sentencing hearing on Sept. 26, Judge Kimberly Colwell called Hasegawa’s conduct “heinous” but accepted the plea agreement to settle the case.

An investigation into Hasegawa began on March 21, 2023,

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

By Paul Hunt Deputy

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Keita Hasegawa

Defendant

No. 23-CR-008953

WAIVER ON PLEA OF GUILTY/NO CONTEST (FELONY)

(Date of Birth: 11/26/1991)

Initial each box

1. My true full name is: Keita Hasegawa ☒ KH

and I am represented by attorney: Alanna Coopersmith

I am pleading guilty/no contest to: Count 12: PC 288.3(a) with intent 288(c)(1). Dismiss balance. 2 yr SP w/ the time spent on electronic monitoring as CTS. A Unit 4.421(a)(3).

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

3. Right to an attorney: I understand that I have the right to be represented by an attorney at all stages of the proceedings, and that if I cannot afford to hire an attorney the Court will provide one for me at public expense. ☒ KH

4. Right to a jury trial: I understand that I have the right to a speedy and public trial by jury, but that by entering a plea of guilty or no contest, I will be giving up this right. ☒ KH

4a. I give up my right to a speedy and public trial by jury. ☒ KH

when Principal Christopher Fortenberry alerted authorities after learning that Hasegawa was at the victim’s home. Hasegawa knew the victim since she was 11. The offenses he was charged with, however, allegedly occurred in 2021 and 2022 when the victim was 14 and 15.

“School districts can work with vigilance and integrity to protect student safety and wellbeing, but our court system fails to provide what we believe to be sufficient justice,” said school board president Michael Kusiak, speaking for the full board.

Police say the sexual assault

continued on and off CVHS campus when the victim was 13. Police also found lewd text messages and content sent between Hasegawa and the victim.

Hasegawa’s attorney, Alanna Coopersmith, did not reply to a request for comment.

California protects transgender students

Anti-trans group vows to keep trying despite failures

By Mason Jordan

What matters more? A parent’s right to know what their child does behind school doors? Or a child’s right to privacy and individuality? This topic has been the subject of heavy and heated debate in California as of late. An anti-trans group tried but failed to limit trans students’ rights through ballot measures, and the California Legislature passed a law in favor of the children.

Recently, a group called Protect Kids California proposed a measure that would harshly limit the rights of trans youth, and cost them medical gender-affirming care, in addition to the right to privacy at school. This measure, with about 100,000 fewer signatures than needed, did not qualify for the ballot. However, while the trans people of California celebrate, the organization that came up with the measure is still committed to getting it on the ballot soon.

Advocates of the measure framed it as one that protects “parental rights.” Students would be restricted to the

bathroom of their assigned gender, and schools would legally have to notify parents when a student asks to be treated outside their biological gender role.

Recently, a proposed ban on forcing schools to notify parents was passed — an important step in the right direction for trans kids in California.

Trans students are overjoyed by these developments, as for many, school is one of the only places where they can experiment with trusting friends and people who acknowledge who they truly want to be.

“So much about being a teacher is that relationship with your students, and if they can’t trust you then that teaching environment won’t work,” said English teacher Amanda Staab, who advises the Pride Club. “It would really hurt me to be forced to report students just for using their pronouns.”

Gender-affirming health care and the ability to present at school is a lifeline for many transgender youth. Not everyone can safely transition at home, and school provides them that opportunity to feel things out and be authentic. Gender-diverse student Jassy Diaz finds this issue personal and upsetting.

“Pronouns may be seen as small and not a big deal, but something as simple as the pronouns I use could make



MASON JORDAN

my life complicated in a way it doesn’t have to be,” said Diaz. Diaz’s concern specifically lies in the idea of being reported to their parents. “We need the respect and privacy from school that we deserve as people.”

Forcing this on school staff would make them be part of something they may not want to be involved in, and traumatic for the students who get reported. Many parents have reservations, and that’s what makes this topic such a divisive one. The recent rulings have been win after win for trans kids in California, and students can only hope that this hot streak of positive changes only keeps going.

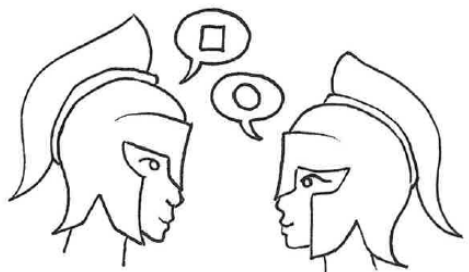
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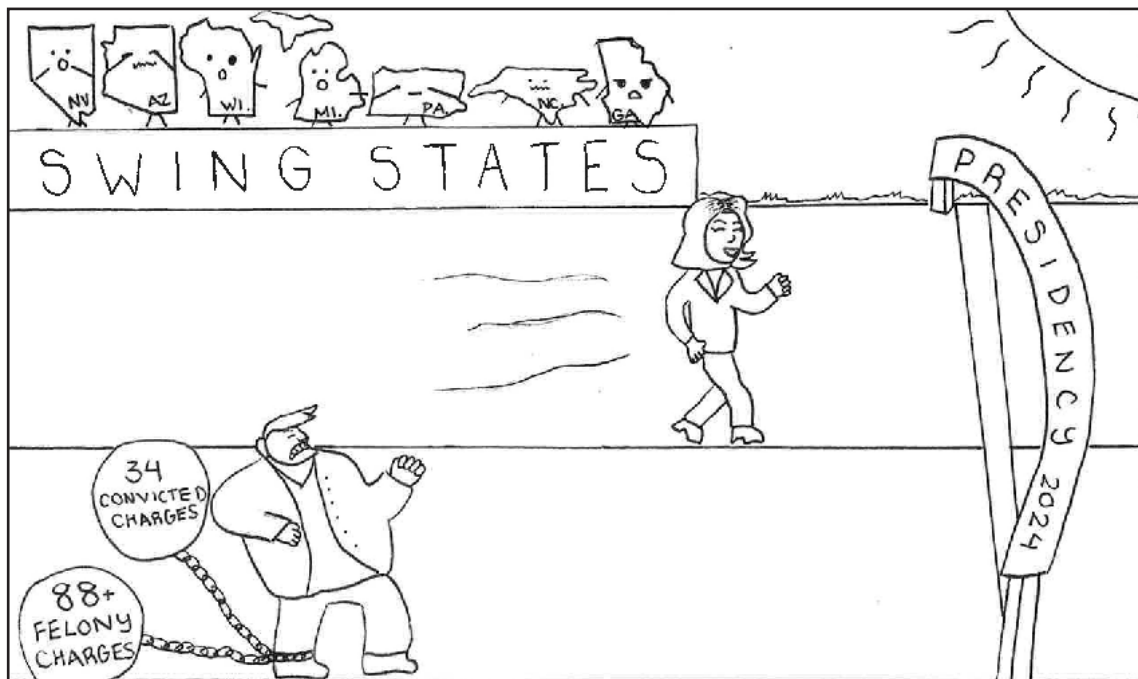
Olympian staff endorses Harris for president

Editorial:

A heated election is on the horizon, and with each passing day the fight between Democrats and Republicans has higher and higher stakes. Vice President Kamala Harris has emerged as a promising candidate for the Democratic Party, and former President Donald Trump still has strong support from the Republican Party.

Although strong points can be made in support of Trump, *The Olympian* has decided to endorse Harris as our official presidential candidate.

In a historic debate, Harris and Trump faced off in a battle that took place on Sept. 10, that went pretty much how we all thought it would. Trump spouted lies, made personal remarks, completely and utterly didn't answer some questions, and made a complete fool of himself. Viewers were shocked by Trump's incoherent remarks, which are going viral on the internet for their absurdity.



MADISON LEE

He rambled about after-birth abortions, immigrants stealing and eating pets, and transgender surgeries. He made numerous claims that were proven untrue when fact checked.

Harris, however, held her composure and answered questions calmly and coherently.

During the debate, both candidates made stances on many heavy topics. Trump claimed he wouldn't sign a federal abortion ban, although he thinks the states should be able to impose any that they want. Harris offered an alternative viewpoint, fully supporting abortion and a woman's rights to choose.

While Harris wishes to address immigration at the root of the issue, Trump's barbaric alternative involves rounding up undocumented immigrants by the millions and detaining them in camps. Trump has many anti-trans and racist beliefs that he still stands by, and all of these affected our choice of

candidate.

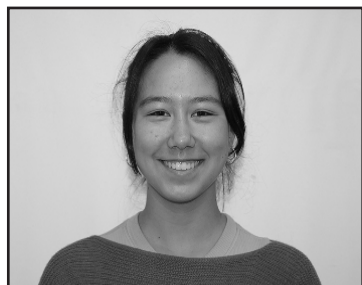
Some of our staff had points in favor of Trump, including what they viewed as economic prosperity during his presidency. Some, even supporters of Harris, had points against her. Her stance on the Israel and Palestine conflict concerned some, as she seemed in favor of Israel even with the exponential human suffering they have caused and continue to cause.

Overall though, Harris seems to have much more promising and uplifting views and goals as president. The whole world is on the edge of their seat, and *The Olympian* is no different. People are scared of what Trump brings to the world. He is an ally to dictators and a convicted felon, and his campaign is brimming with red flags that he waves even higher than his American flag.

The main thing to do is register to vote.

Everyone's voice matters in this historic election, and if there was ever a time to make your stance known it is now.

Trump: nation's misinformed criminal savior



By Leia Kremer

Donald J. Trump, our 2024 to 2028 future President! Yes! He is so amazing at lying all the time! All those lies about the immigrants, the past Presidential elections, and the things that Biden and

Harris say, are all 100 percent tooootally true!

Those immigrants who've been eating our cats and dogs are disgraceful. Those fact checkers were obviously wrong when they said that that's never EVER happened before. Trump told us, so it has to be true. Trump would never lie to us! Duh!

Trump and his 88 criminal charges! Don't we all just really really want a criminal as our president! They are obviously all wrong. Yeah, all 88 of them, all wrong. None of them mean anything. Trespassing into computers, saying he would

commit computer theft, forgery, impressing a public officer, pffhh. Trump wouldn't even hurt a fly. He's that nice.

He's so nice in fact, his nephew suffers from intellectual and developmental disabilities, and when Trump's brother asked him to spare them some money to help with his surgery, Trump said, "No, your son doesn't even remember you, let him die." So kind and thoughtful of Trump! He said no to helping his own family because he thought that his nephew was not worth saving. So kind right!

Trump is so informed about schools too! He's talking about

these non-existent gender affirming surgeries in school! Trump talks to a crowd, "Can you imagine you're a parent and your son leaves the house and you say, 'Jimmy, I love you so much, go have a good day in school,' and your son comes back with a brutal operation?" Uhh. Yep, surgery works like that! Go to school, decide you want to change up a bit, and get surgery at school!

Speaking of the LGBTQ+ community, Trump hates them. And yet, talks about being in love with Kim Jong Un. So according to Trump, gay marriage, trans people, lesbians are all doing

bad things. However, once Trump gets some bromance, it's all okay because Trump would never do bad things.

I'm so glad that Trump informed us about the solar panels and windmills causing pollution. Using wind and sun to produce energy without putting gunk into the air and water instead of fossil fuels that produce so much CO2 is so bad! Ew! Discussing O2 we don't need that anymore, I'll just inhale CO2.

Thank you all for reading why Trump is our savior and will make America worse again! Go Trump!

Tim Walz's speech at the DNC impressed me



By Maxim Zhuze

Tim Walz spoke at the Democratic National Convention in August and his speech gave me hope that everything would eventually turn out right in the near future.

Two months ago, Joe Biden,

our current president and Democratic Party candidate, and Donald Trump, the Republican candidate, had their first debate on June 27.

After watching the debate, I began to worry more and more each day about how Biden might lose this election and how Trump, our former president who was convicted of 34 felonies in June, might actually win.

The fear of a Trump victory have come from the fact that in the past year, he has been indicted of 88 felonies -- the most indictments a former president of the United States has ever received. During his

presidential term, many of the policies he created negatively impacted many Americans.

After the debate and into July, Democratic Party members and voters started calling on Biden to drop out of the presidential race, stating that he was not cognitively ready and that they, like me, feared that he would lose the election. However, Biden still insisted for weeks that he would remain the Democratic Party candidate.

Nevertheless, on July 21, Biden decided to withdraw, stating that it was "in the best interest of my party and the country," and endorsed his Vice

President, Kamala Harris, to receive the party's nomination. After this, Harris quickly gained support from the Democrats and revealed that she was running with Walz, governor of Minnesota and former social studies teacher, as her vice president.

Even though many people were supporting Harris, many polls and even I still feared that this year's election might end with Democrats losing. However, this fear of the Democratic loss wasn't very long-lasting for me when I heard Walz's DNC speech.

During his speech, Walz

endorsed Harris and stated how Harris would help create a brighter future for young Americans.

"She has never hesitated to reach across that aisle if it meant improving your lives," exclaimed Walz when explaining Harris' achievements in her 30-year political career.

Although Walz had multiple great moments during his speech, the one that truly got me supporting him was when he started talking about his family and all the struggles they have gone through.

What makes life worth living?



By Amaya Rambel

In a world that constantly pushes us to achieve more, be more, and want more, it's easy to overlook the simple joys that make life truly meaningful. We often find ourselves caught in the relentless pursuit of goals and achievements, only to re-

alize that once we've reached them, the satisfaction is fleeting. What if the secret to a fulfilling life isn't in these grand achievements, but rather in the small, oftentimes overlooked moments that make up our days? Society places importance on productivity and success, convincing us that happiness is just one more accomplishment away. Yet, the more we chase this elusive dream, the more we lean towards an unclear future, the more we miss out on the present. We're so focused on the next big thing that we forget to savor the moment. But life isn't defined by overworking your-

self, despite the popular media, but instead it's defined by our personal experiences. These are the moments that ground us in humanity, that remind us of what it truly means to be alive. Relearning to appreciate the little things is not just about slowing down; it's about shifting our perspective. It's about recognizing that these moments are not mere fillers between the "important" events of our lives, but are the things that make up life itself. When we begin to see the beauty in the ordinary, we start to find meaning in places we never thought to look. This shift in mindset requires

mindfulness, a conscious effort to be present in the moment, engaging with the world. It's in these moments of presence that we can find peace and contentment, no matter what else is going on in our lives. It's those seemingly unimportant tasks like taking a walk back home, a chat with a friend, or even studying in the library. These moments, when approached with mindfulness, can become opportunities for reflection, gratitude, and most importantly, connection. They remind us that life's richness isn't found in the extraordinary, but in the ordinary. After all, it's

the thousand little things that you experience most in life, rather than the few big things. In the end, it's not about abandoning our goals or aspirations, and in fact I'd say it's the opposite. Rather, it's about recognizing that the journey is just as important—if not more so—than the destination. So, the next time you find yourself rushing through your day, take a moment to pause. Look around you. Notice the details. Breathe in the present. You might just find that the small moments you once overlooked are the very ones that make life worth living.

It's good to find clubs uninteresting



By Erika Rayo

What makes a club appealing to you? Every student, including myself, has been told relentlessly to join clubs in high school, but what are you supposed to do if you don't find any of them interesting? This disinterest is actually the reason why exploring clubs is all the more important. High school is an extremely developmental time in any teenager's life, yet there is an overarching pressure with these four years that you need to come out of them knowing exactly what your plans are for higher education and/or your future career. This unrealistic expectation sends students into a stressful spiral of what exactly is the "right choice," or choosing the "right deci-

sion." There are so many paths to delve into that it can become overwhelming, and even unmotivating to attempt to explore each one. This overwhelming feeling and lack of knowing where to go or where to start when it comes to career exploration is what high school clubs are meant for. They are not just for students to develop their existing passions or to gain credits for a college application, but clubs are an amazing tool to learn about yourself and what you find uninteresting. If you find yourself lost while walking through the sea of students crowding around tables during club day, know that not directly participating in a club can be just as valuable as actually joining one, because you are learning what you don't like in an extracurricular/career. This process of elimination can help you narrow down your search options career-wise. Keep in mind that there is a clear difference between not putting effort into participation



Erika Rayo leads impromptu presentations at Take the Mic's first ever club meeting.

versus attempting to search for something that you want and coming up with nothing. That being said, put more thought into why there wasn't anything that interested you during club day. What did you see that you didn't like? Was it the subject the club focused on? Was it the way the club was involved in the community (too little or too much)? What would make a club appealing to you?

By focusing on these questions instead of constantly searching and searching for something you aren't sure of yet, you give yourself direction towards not only your interest, but your values as well. I also didn't want to participate in clubs my freshman year, but because I was so disinterested I took that as an initiative to try out new things and hopefully find a spark in something that I did like. I remember joining the

Society of Women Engineers and discovering that a club with that intensity, dynamic, and overall nature just wasn't for me. I learned through what I didn't want, what I did. I gravitated towards the social, laid-back clubs, eventually starting my own with my friends. Explore your disinterest, get out of your comfort zone, learn about yourself, and use this knowledge to direct you towards what you want out

Trans rights need protection



By Elliot Lucas

We are lucky to live in California, a state that is known to be welcoming of the LGBTQ+ community, at least more than many other states. We live in a place where there are many safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community, but that doesn't mean that we're protected from all hostility and aggression. In other states, especially Southern ones, anti-transgender bills have been constantly proposed and even been passed. Most of these bills target transgender youth, focusing on taking away the rights of medi-

cal transitions for transgender people to feel more comfortable in their bodies. One bill, SB129, in Alabama, prohibits transgender individuals from using the bathroom of the gender they identify with, requiring them to use the bathroom of their sex assigned at birth. Another bill, HB2310, in Tennessee, restricts health care providers from giving gender-affirming care to transgender minors. These bills along with many others in the US harm transgender individuals' well-being. At this time, very few anti-transgender bills are being considered in California, although that could change at any moment. It also doesn't mean we are completely guarded from attacks on transgender rights. Some may believe that Californians do not have to worry about these laws because the state is generally more liberal

and accepting than others. However, if we continue to think like this and stop putting effort into fighting against these laws, things may take a turn for the worse. I believe this could lead to a better likelihood of the bills slipping through the cracks of our "open-minded" state and being put in place. In 2023, an extremist transphobic group called Protect Kids California (PKC) tried to pass three initiatives but they failed to get enough signatures statewide. These proposals aimed to overturn the law that allows transgender girls to playing girls sports, to ban trans girls from using girls locker rooms, to stop schools from "deceiving" parents about their children's gender, and to stop gender-affirming care for minors. Thankfully their propositions failed to get enough signatures to qualify, but this only shows attacks on transgender people have not stopped.



THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Olympian

Castro Valley High School's journalism class publishes *The Olympian*, an award-winning newspaper and media empire, from our world headquarters at 19400 Santa Maria Ave., Castro Valley, California 94546. © 2024

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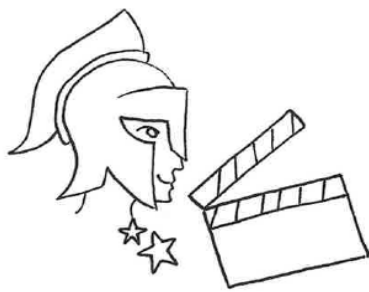
Matt Johanson

JUNIORS SCAMPER TO SECOND



SOPHOMORES SAURS STOMP TO THIRD





“10 out of 10 Bazinga” for Young Sheldon

By Angel Ni

“Someone at the end of the table eats for free,” George Cooper said. “Someone at the end of the table eats for three,” Meemaw remarked. This was definitely my favorite phrase from “Young Sheldon.” This show is humor filled, full of many wholesome moments, and extremely captivating throughout every episode!

Each episode was filled with action, making it an excellent watch. Even though there are seven seasons, which may seem like a lot to some, I was intrigued by every single episode. I adored how distinct personalities were portrayed for each character, and I thought it added to their individual appeal. Every episode gave you the impression that you were growing up and living with the Cooper family.

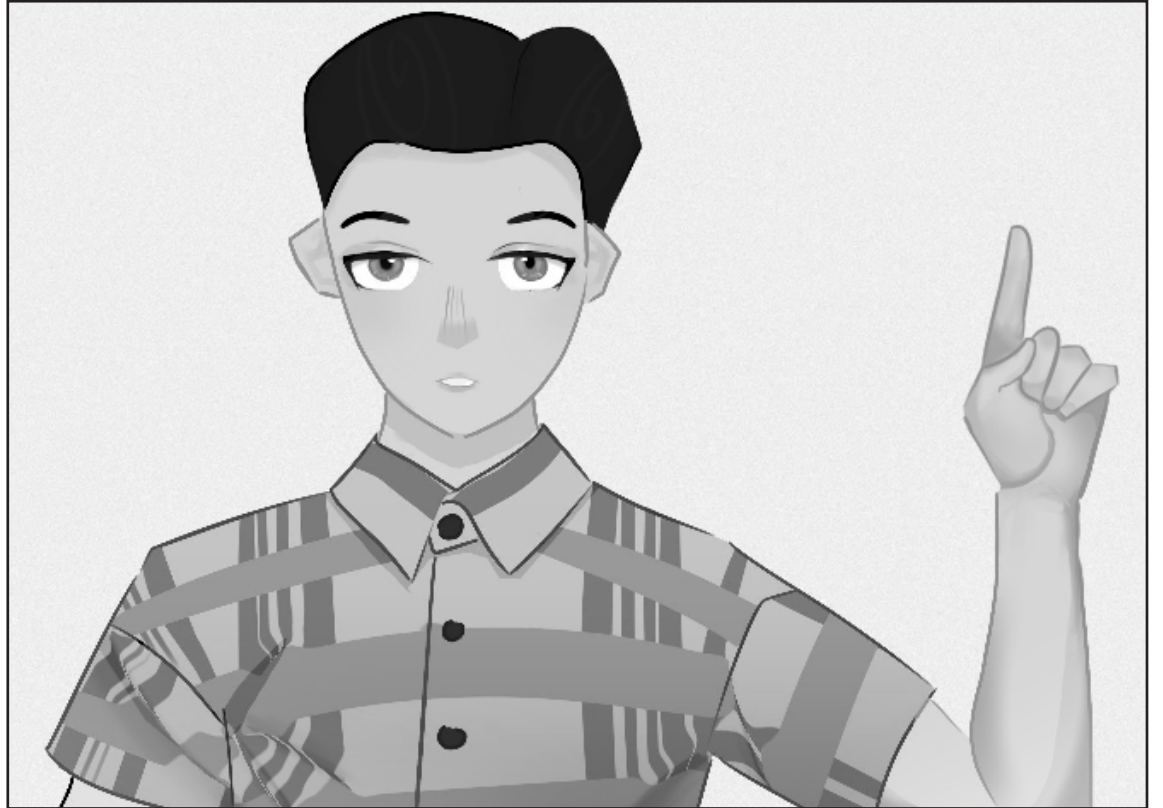
The TV show series “Young Sheldon” is an amazing show that should definitely be on your watch list. This prequel sitcom spinoff of the “Big Bang

Theory” depicts the life of a young gifted intelligent boy and his journey with his family that resides in Texas.

The Cooper family experiences a great deal of ups and downs along with numerous unexpected turns in life. As Sheldon Cooper and his siblings Missy and Georgie Cooper get older, they face a lot more challenges, such as making friends and navigating relationships as they enter middle and high school.

In the early seasons of the show, it was enjoyable to watch because it was lighthearted, fun and there weren’t many problems as the main character and his siblings were very young. There were a lot of mind-blowing events during the later seasons five through seven as there was much tension that was nerve-wracking to viewers such as myself.

This show displays realistic views of life, and the struggles that people have to manage. Some challenges in the show that the characters face in the later seasons are adult hardships that Sheldon’s parents, Mary and George Cooper have. With



FENN YU

many more disagreements and fights throughout the show, the show progresses in a more serious light. Problems such as money, potential affairs, religion, their children, and many other various factors play into this.

“I felt like Neil Armstrong on the moon. Alone and happy”

said Sheldon. In Season One, Episode One, Sheldon’s plan was to be alone, which was much preferred over family and friends any day as he loved to be around trains alone. Sheldon is such an interesting character as he is a naturally gifted clever boy. The journey to

see him develop as a character was exciting.

Overall, “Young Sheldon” is an excellent series to tune into. As it is very family-oriented and relatable in many different ways, it will definitely not disappoint as I would rate it an A+.

An album for the record books: “Hit Me Hard and Soft”

By Madison Lee

A dreamy soundscape accompanied by wispy vocals starts, enticing listeners. With sounds of harps, gentle beats, and violins, reveal simply powerful and real lyrics that talk about romantic loss and body image. With a seamless transition, the first song of the album, “Skinny,” blends into the second song, “Lunch,” which is the polar opposite in terms of atmosphere. With catchy beats and lyrics, it’s

completely different from “Skinny,” but it fits in perfectly in the album.

These songs are just two of the ten in Billie Eilish’s new album, “Hit Me Hard and Soft.” The 44-minute album takes listeners and fans on a rollercoaster of emotions with intense themes and concepts, with some songs having bold elements and others more subtle. Eilish shows vulnerability, love, regret, insecurities, and so many more heartbreaking emotions, truly hitting fans hard and soft.

Eilish and her brother,

Finneas O’Connell, co-wrote and produced the album, finally publishing it after brainstorming ideas for this release since December 2021.

Released on May 17, 2024, “Hit Me Hard and Soft,” is Eilish’s highest-performing yet, with about 72.7 million streams just on the day of release. Within the first week, the album received more than 500 million global streams.

Eilish’s fourth track on the album, “Birds of a Feather,” has gone viral all over social media, frequently used in

posts and videos. At the 2024 Olympics Closing Ceremony, Eilish and O’Connell performed a rendition of the song. It is one of the largest hits in the collection.

My personal favorites of the album are “Skinny,” and “The Diner,” though all of the songs are truly catchy, and artistic in their ways. “The Diner,” is one of the more unique tracks in the album, with an almost cafe-jazz-like opening. It is so memorable and one I always go back to listen to.

“People say I look happy/Just

because I got skinny/But the old me is still me and maybe the real me/And I think she’s pretty,” Eilish wrote. It is one of my favorite lyrics in the album. The songs are so raw, and pure and have listeners in awe from the very beginning to the end.

I would recommend this album to absolutely anyone, even if indie pop isn’t their style. It is a mostly mellow and sad album, but listeners of any kind will be able to hear a song that speaks to them. On an A-F scale, I rate “Hit Me Hard and Soft,” an A.

“Priscilla”: “Losing me to a life of my own”

By Fanoosa Mustamandi

As a kid, young and naive, we sometimes do not ask for the truth. The movie “Priscilla” is a beautiful contrast of the effects Hollywood can have on young girls and how the glamorous façade conceals the exploitation that occurs underneath the façade.

The movie begins with reminiscences of the 60s, as an upbeat tune of “Baby I Love You” by the Ramones plays while the camera shifts to 14-year-old Priscilla Ann Beaulieu studying in the town’s

local coffee shop. A man, by the name of Tony West, hovers over young Priscilla which undoubtedly excites Priscilla. It’s presumed that Elvis Presley knew of Priscilla’s father, a German military official, and essentially selected his close friend to be his wingman. Every 14-year-old in town listens to Elvis Presley on their record player.

Priscilla later acquired consent from her parents to see Presley. It appears as though Priscilla’s parents do not stress the dangers concerning their child meeting Presley. Her mother, although hesitant,

agrees to grant Priscilla clearance, marking the start of the controversial relationship.

The “Elvis and Me” book emerges as a symbolic anchor in the narrative, representing the tumultuous and often painful reality behind the glamorous façade. This memoir captures the essence of their troubled relationship and contrasts sharply with the public image of their life together.

From the early hits to the somber notes of later songs like “My Elixir” by Hillsong, highlighting the vital differences between Priscilla’s youthful dreams and the reality her

disillusionment ironically led her to after being isolated by Presley. Priscilla has to abide by his every want; never wear too much floral print, actually any print because it “removes the shape of your body.” Read Vera Stanley Adler’s “The Initiation of the World” because it aligns with Presley’s biblical ideologies. Everything in Priscilla’s life seemed to have solely become a purpose to please Presley. Presley only showed young Priscilla in the form of gifts such as fancy watches, shiny new cars, and a new puppy to divert her attention from what

she wanted.

Overall, “Priscilla” uses features like the ironic vibrancy in the tracks, the realistic memoir, and aesthetics to create the symbolic showcase of the facade she had fallen to. As the movie closes off I find it immaculately heart and breathtaking that the movie began with a young and naive girl descending to find herself, and like humans universally, with growth, she was able to permit the journey of healing with her baby. Only when she grew up, Priscilla was able to escape the years of entrapment showcased by “Priscilla.”



“A Quiet Place: Day One” delivers powerful performance

By Sharlene Goduco

In “A Quiet Place: Day One,” one of the most gripping scenes unfolds as Samira “Sam,” played by Lupita Nyong’o, faces an apocalyptic invasion with a bold act of defiance. Between the chaos, Sam turns up Nina Simone’s “Feeling Good” to its maximum volume, transforming her final moments into a touching statement of courage. This scene stands out as a powerful highlight in the film, showcasing Nyong’o’s compelling performance and the film’s emotional depth.

Nyong’o delivers a deeply moving performance as Sam, a woman battling cancer who must survive an alien attack. Her portrayal brings a strong emotional impact, making each quiet moment in the film feel significant. The way the film uses sound and silence, combined with Nyong’o’s acting, creates a potent and memorable experience of the movie she was featured in.

“A Quiet Place: Day One” is a prequel to the popular “A Quiet

Place” series. It explores the early days of the alien invasion that hit New York City. The film follows Samira “Sam” (Nyong’o), who survives the initial chaos and tries to navigate the dangerous new world. Joseph Quinn plays Eric, an English law student who teams up with Sam. Quinn’s role adds depth to the story, and his performance complements Nyong’o’s. Other supporting actors like Alex Wolff and Djimon Hounsou also add valuable perspectives to the unfolding crisis.

The film’s development started in November 2020, with Jeff Nichols initially set to direct. After Nichols left the project in October 2021, Michael Sarnoski took over. Sarnoski, known for “Pig” (2021), brought his experience to the film. Filming occurred in London from February to April 2023. The movie premiered at the Tribeca Festival on June 26, 2024, and was released in U.S. theaters on June 28, 2024. With a global box office gross of \$261 million, it has been well-received, adding new depth to the franchise.

Nyong’o spoke about her role,

saying, “It was scary to have to go there, psychologically and emotionally. That was daunting to have to go there, psychologically and emotionally,” especially for a character who “is really facing their mortality, even before this apocalypse takes place, and whose life is slipping between her fingers.”

Joseph Quinn shared his thoughts on the unique challenges of the film: “As human beings, we communicate nonverbally all the time anyway,” he said. “But I think the challenge of it, for myself and Lupita, was to figure out ways to tell each other what to do and what not to do without any dialogue, which is great fun.”

“A Quiet Place: Day One” combines intense drama and emotional depth, with standout performances from Nyong’o and Quinn. The film’s use of sound and silence, along with its powerful storytelling, makes it a compelling addition to the franchise. It’s a gripping watch that reminds us of the strength and bravery people can find even in the face of overwhelming danger. I would give this film a rating of B+.

Taylor Swift’s new album connects to past hardships

By Sarada Khanal

Taylor Swift left her fans awestruck when she announced her new album “The Tortured Poets Department,” in her speech at the Grammys. Swift is known for keeping secrets and revealing surprises that leave her fans speechless. The album was released on April 29, 2024, which included 32 brand-new songs. Two hours after the release, she added an additional track with more songs. It included features of Post Malone, Florence and the Machine.

Swift simultaneously wrote her songs while she was still on her Eras tour. She immediately started writing after the release of her tenth album “Midnights.” The album was produced by Jack Antonoff

and Aaron Dessner. The album was infused with both sorrow and melancholia as Taylor Swift writes about her own life. In one interview Swift stated that this album was a “lifeline” for her.

“So Long London” was one of the songs on her new album. Fans are speculating that this song is about Swift’s ex-boyfriend, Joe Alwyn. Alwyn and Swift dated for around six years and rumors of them splitting surfaced during Taylor’s Eras Tour. Many of Taylor Swift’s past songs had been about him and their love. He even helped co-write songs on her album Folklore. “So Long London,” includes the lyric “I died on the altar waitin’ for the proof.” Many fans believe she was trying to verbalize her contempt towards Alwyn and her desire to get married. The background

track of this song also includes vague notes resembling wedding bells.

While most of the songs on the album were quite sorrowful, one song in particular was a sappy sweet love song. “The Alchemy” is imbued with football references throughout the song, most likely being about Swift’s newest boyfriend Travis Kelce, a tight end for the Kansas City Chiefs. Their relationship left both Swift and Kelce’s fans abuzz. In one line she writes “Call the amateurs and cut them from the team,” most likely referring to her past lovers. The connections Swift draws between love and football references convinced fans of the authenticity of their relationship. If you want to listen to Taylor’s “lifeline” album, I definitely recommend her album.

“Alien: Romulus” terrifies audiences

By Yusef Scott

The human-alien hybrid horrifies fans as it slits throats across the big screen. Taking place in-between “Alien” movies, Rain and her crew explore a condemned ship that’s home to a xenomorph hivemind, the Renaissance, in search of functional cryosleep chambers to help them escape the mining planet they’re stuck on.

The newest addition to the “Alien” franchise presents us with a new plot. Rain was set to get sent home from a prisoner mining planet but due to a shortage of workers, she unexpectedly gets another number of years added to her time, prompting her to find a way off the planet.

“Alien Romulus” presents a number of brutal deaths and scenes to the viewers, paying homage to the original movies from many decades ago. Alongside the gruesome and bloody scenes, there are many suspenseful scenes, each more riveting than the last.

One of my favorite scenes is when some of the crew and face huggers are trapped in a water filled room together. I loved how the face huggers were shown in great detail, each long slimy finger was visible as the tail would wrap around a person’s neck. “There’s something in the water,” said Navarro before getting covered in face huggers.

“Alien Romulus” brings in a completely new set of young actors, all very knowledgeable in the “Alien” franchise. Fans have

eagerly awaited a new movie that brought back the hype of the original movies. The prior two movies, “Prometheus,” and “Alien: Covenant” both received backlash from fans after director Ridley Scott tried expanding upon the franchise with new lore.

The newest release “Alien Romulus” went through production under a different director from the originals, having left many wondering if the movie would live up to its expectations. Receiving an 80% on Rotten Tomatoes, some claimed the movie relied too much on its source material, but I personally thought it was great, bringing in a new plot with characters while returning to some prior material.

The highlight of the movie for me was the newest alien hybrid. Kay, who is pregnant, injected herself with an experimental substance created from “the black goop” which is made up of the alien DNA. Soon afterwards an alien hybrid ripped its way out of her birth canal, and very rapidly grew into a full sized humanoid looking alien with disgusting and terrifying features. The alien poses a new final challenge to the main character after slitting a crew member’s throat and brutally murdering its mother.

“Have mercy and end her life now. If not, you will all die,” said Rook, warning the rest of the crew to kill Navarro, after being implanted with a chestbuster.

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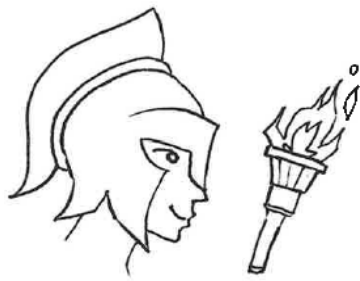
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Girls flag football team gets a big win



Mya Williams scores a touchdown.

GRACE LOPEZ



Grace Lassalle and Taryn Pak run onto field.

GRACE LOPEZ

By Grace Lopez

The Trojans led a dominant win against the Tennyson Lancers with an ending score of 36-12 on Sept. 17 at Trojan Stadium. With flag football being the newest girls sport, Trojans are kicking off to a great start now with an ongoing record of 2-0.

After an earlier win against Skyline High School, the Trojans

are remaining optimistic.

The game started off with starting freshman quarterback Mya Williams and senior Kiana Ayllon. Trojans have a rough start missing some passes but once they find the energy Allyon and Williams became a nasty duo to look out for with Williams' killer arm making passes to five touchdowns and Ayllon receiving three.

"I get really excited and get

a feeling of relief knowing that we scored. I also thank my receiver Kiana for catching all my passes, especially the bad ones," said Williams.

"I really enjoy playing with Mya (Williams), I think when we play together on offense we make each other stronger," said Ayllon.

Trojan captain Taryn Pak led the defensive line and became an immovable object after

Tennyson's two touchdowns. Senior Grace Lassalle did not let any QB pass her, collecting two flags in one quarter that made five tackles for the whole game.

"I felt strong and proud of the pulls I got. Right before the center hikes the ball I try to have nothing on my mind and stay focused on the quarterback so I can react as quickly as I can so I can pull their flags," said

Lassalle.

Trojans were up on the scoreboard at the end of the last quarter. The team made up for a touchdown allowed when they appear again in the next quarter as an offense.

Williams assisted senior Naomi Chew with a throw and not one but two touchdowns that brought the Trojans to a dominant score of 36 to 12.

Trojans lose homecoming game to Colts

Andrew Arias
recovers
fumble for
touchdown

By Samuel Jarvis

Trojans suffered a devastating defeat to James Logan High 38-7 on Friday Sept. 27. Trojans suffered from poor defense against downfield plays and poor run defense. The Trojans started the game with an amazing fumble return for a touchdown by Andrew Arias that started the crowd to rally but unfortunately that would be the final score from CVHS in the fateful game.

Immediately after the fumble return, James Logan would have one of many plays for more than 50 yards with a 95-yard touchdown kickoff return by Ayden McChristian to tie the game and silence the Trojan fans. McChristian would become the most notable player in this game playing snaps at running back, wide receiver, cornerback and return specialist.

Two drives later McChristian would score a 40-yard rush putting James Logan on the five

yard line while still in the first. That would then be taken in by receiver Jaden Ortiz for the touchdown making it a seven point lead before half time. CVHS had a great tackle for loss on McChristian when Connor Cooper tackled him for a loss of ten yards on a rushing play.

James Logan would drive to the one yard line and rush their quarterback for a touchdown to put them up by 14. The Colts got a stop then get a 40-yard run to put them in the red zone then a 20-yard passing touchdown to make the score 28-7 with two minutes left in the half.

At this point a pattern was emerging of the Trojans neither being able to prevent or make down field long yard plays or make it to the most important part of the field within the 20-yard line. Without those things a team cannot win games because our strong things like good defensive and offensive lines don't really matter if we cannot score.

"Football is not an individual sport. We gotta play for each other as a team in order to win," said CVHS running back and middle linebacker Ethan Castaneda.

To open the second half CVHS would fail an onside kick attempt giving the Colts the ball at midfield they could take that and convert a field goal.

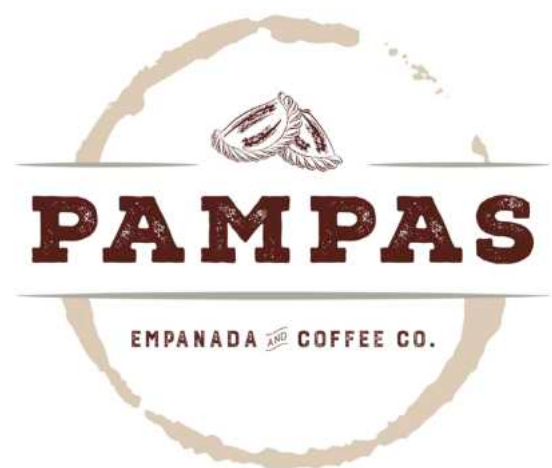


The Trojan football team runs out onto the field.

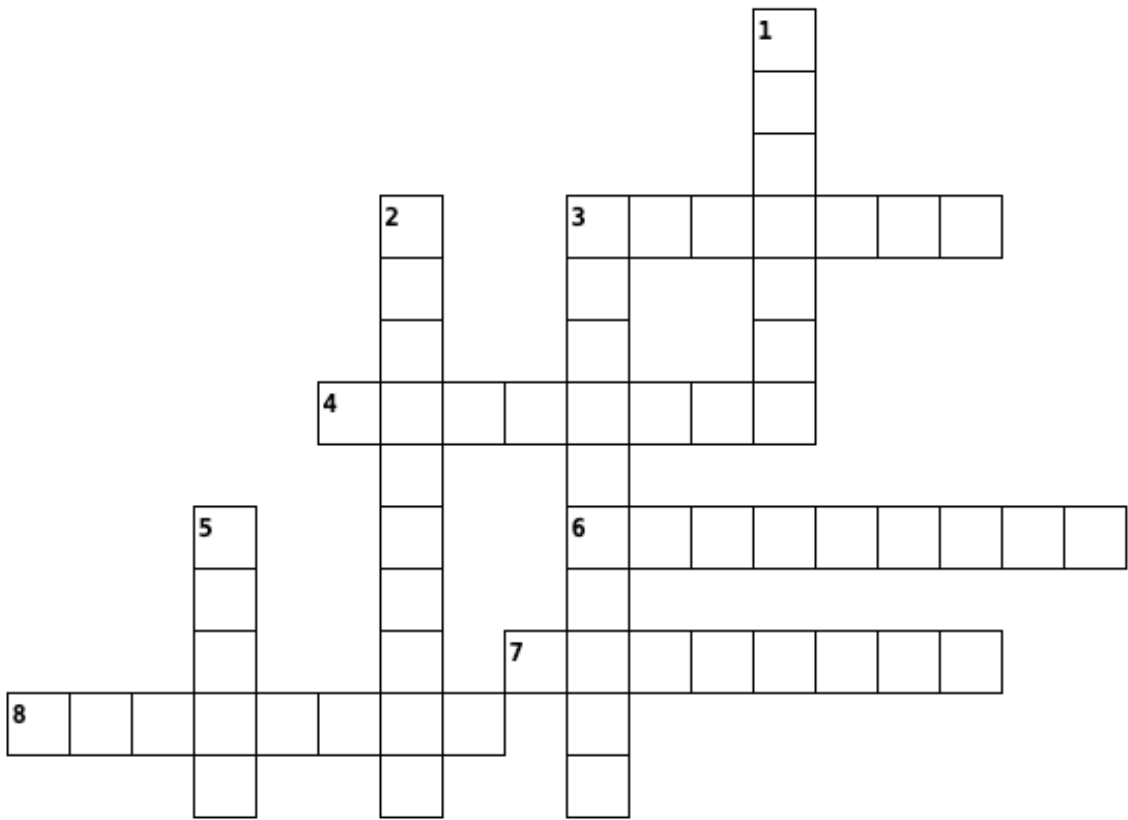
ELLIOT LUCAS

By this point the third quarter was over and the Trojan fans had largely been silenced. Then at the beginning of the fourth quarter the last score by either team would be a James Logan 85-yard passing touchdown bringing the game to its final score of 38-7.

There is very obviously still hope for this team in its fundamentals CVHS had very few outright bad plays on offense or defense but without an ability to prevent the few exceptionally bad plays we need to have the ability to make our own explosive plays.



OLYMPIFUN



RENATA GUTIERREZ Teachers celebrate homecoming with a special dance.

Down

1. Boo! Did we scare you?
2. Who won the football game?
3. RUNNN! The Dinos are coming!
5. What is the name of our Trojan mascot?

Across

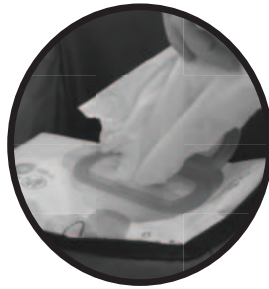
3. Who can we find at Cheep Cheep beach?
4. Who did a special secret dance at the assembly?
6. What was our Homecoming theme?
7. Sour Patch Kids, Kit-Kat, M&M:
8. Where can you find all of your CVHS news?

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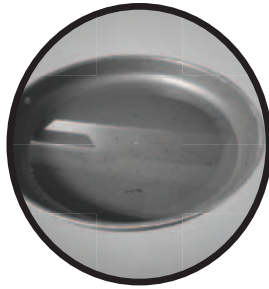
Maintaining reliable wastewater pipelines and facilities is everyone's responsibility. There are simple actions we can all take to make sure that our wastewater system works.



Only Flush the 3Ps!
Only flush the 3P's: Pee, Poop, and Toilet Paper. Those are the only materials that should be flushed down the toilet. Items like "Flushable" wipes, disposable diapers, and personal hygiene products do not belong in the sewer system.



Never Flush Wipes!
Used flushable wipes belong in the garbage. When flushed, flushable wipes can damage expensive equipment at pump stations and the wastewater treatment plant and only increase the chances of a sanitary sewer overflow.



Put FOG Where It Belongs!
Do not pour Fats, Oils, and Grease, aka FOG, down the drain! Grease collects and hardens inside the pipes and forms a solid plug that can lead to sewer problems. Dispose of grease and fats in the green organics cart instead.

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