California to recognize third gender

By Trina Nguyen

On Jan. 1, 2019, The Gender Recognition Act, also known as the “California Bill 179,” which allows people to identify as transgender, intersex or non-binary on state-issued documents, took effect. This marks California as the first state to legally recognize a third gender.

“Gender identification is fundamentally personal, and the state should endeavor to provide options for the identification documents that recognize a person’s accurate gender identification,” states the bill.

According to the Sacramento Bee, the law will expand on LGBTQ+ rights by eliminating the need for a court order or proof of medical cedure to change one’s gender identity. Applicants will still need to submit a written sworn statement of fact to affirm that the gender change request is not for any dishonest purpose.

In a 2015 US Transgender Survey, an anonymous online survey conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality for transgender adults aged 18 and older, about 58% of the 27,700 respondents reported to have been denied equal treatment or service, and 84% of these believed that the reason for their mistreatment was due to their gender identity or expression. UCLA is a leader on gender identity law and policy Jody Herman, told the Sacramento Bee that it is unclear if the new law will help relieve these problems, but will likely set an example for other states.

“We still have a lot of progress to make, we need to stop oppression of LGBTQ+ members in other countries, we need to unite as a world and accept each other regardless of gender, sex, sexual orientation or color of skin.” GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) President Carson Sandell expresses.

Reactions to the new law are mixed, with groups such as SaveCalifornia.com, a self-titled pro-family organization, stating their disapproval for the bill and calling for its recall. “Science and God’s word agree you’re either male or female, not in-between,” issued SaveCalifornia.com President Randy Thomason in an online statement. However, many have voiced their appreciation and support for the new bill. “‘The passing of this bill will not only allow for more recognition, but allow the LGBTQ+ community to freely express themselves,” senior Brian Ma noted. “Obviously there are many steps that we need to take, but you have to start and this is definitely a start.” GSA Vice President Soft Jazique affirmed.

Travelling Salescows take on CSAW HSF

By Lily Li

Juniors Anne Ouyang and Sophia Xiao competed in the final round of CSAW (Cyber Security Awareness Week) High School Finals last Thursday through Saturday at the NYU (New York University) Tandon School of Engineering in Brooklyn, New York. This challenge, sponsored by NYU-POLY, is geared towards high school students who have an interest in cyber security and digital forensics. It also allows students to gain experience in this field and provides them with an opportunity to win scholarships.

“Digital forensics is essentially finding interesting information, often hidden, corrupted, or encrypted, in digital devices. While there are certain tools to use and strategies to follow, creativity is often very important in solving these challenges,” Anne explained.

Anne and Sophia have two team mentors, math teachers Stewart Kuang and Rey Enriquez. This year, Mr. Enriquez accompanied Anne and Sophia to New York, where the finals were held. According to Mr. Kuang, the two were the “top all female team in the nation,” which allowed them to make it to the final round. Anne and Sophia scored a total of 5351 points and placed 18th out of over 580 teams in the qualifications round which took place from Sept. 22 to Oct. 2. Their team name was “Travelling Salescows.”

“The Travelling Salesman Problem is a classical NP-Complete problem and one of my favorite problems. I did my final project at COSMOS on an ant colony heuristic algorithm to solve this problem). For the cows part, I like doing USA Computing Olympiad problems, and they have a recurring theme of “Farmer John and cows (Bessie)).” I somewhat combined the two things into this peculiar name “Travelling Salescows,” Anne explains.

Preparing for a large-scale challenge like this has been no easy task. In fact, Anne and Sophia participated in HSF 2016 but did not make it past the qualifications round. Last year, they formed a team with senior Michael Wang.

“I’ve been doing similar challenges for a year,” notes Anne. This year’s final involved solving a murder mystery through digital forensics.

“Everyone’s having a good time and they’re lively and simply just excited,” exclaimed senior Jaydin Geer who plays Mr. Diaper.

While there was a mystery unfolding on-stage, what happened backstage wasn’t a mystery. Piedmont Hills Tech Crew is the force behind the smooth transitions. As the strains of backstage, they worked hard on the set for this show. Tech crew has a difficult job backstage, making sure the show is going smoothly.

“Working backstage requires a lot of team effort and making sure people are doing their part and being respectful. Tech Crew members have to listen to each other because when we do work together, we pull off great transitions. It’s stressful, but we all love it,” exclaimed Stage Manager senior Delaina Pedraza.

Slapstick comedy is a style of humor that involves exaggerated movements and physical action and is heavily featured in “I Don’t Have a Chick.” Ms. Woods and cast members have gained a newfound respect for comedic plays through their experiences.

“We’ve learned a lot about slapstick humor and physical slapstick, it’s been kind of fun to insert that in the show,” reveals Ms. Woods. ♦

CONFUSION! Carol Robinson (Ruhena Randhawa [12]) acts confused.

“I chose a play that has a lot of energy, it’s a classic, there’s never a dull moment on stage. Everyone’s having a good time and they’re lively and simply just excited,” exclaimed senior Jaydin Geer who plays Mr. Diaper.

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Arriving at the finals was a dream come true for the student. “I’ve never bonded with a cast as much as I have with this show,” stated Rhea. The show is high energy and there’s never a dull moment on stage.

This year’s final involved solving a murder mystery through digital forensics.

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By Nicholas Chiang

Trump. Rather, the files were dis-released last Thursday and contained 13,213 documents. One of these was JFK (John F. Kennedy) files. The National Archives released records on a rolling basis.

“Many of the documents recount the CIA’s schemes to kill Cuba’s communist leader Fidel Castro,” Trump tweeted.

They ultimately decided against this. Another plot mentioned loading a seashell with explosives and planting it near Castro’s favorite shore to dive in. The shell would explode when lifted. This plan was also scrapped because the CIA could not find a seashell big enough to hold the explosive.

A handful of released documents that originated in the 1950s describe how an informant told CIA agents that he knew of a man living in Cuba who had been Nazi Party Leader Adolf Hitler. The informant claimed that the man he believed was Hitler had gone under the name of “Adolf Schriffmeier.” He recounted that the Hitler he was praised by local Nazis. It’s clear that the CIA had trouble believing this info and believed that it was just a fantasy.

It is widely accepted that Hitler died from suicide and gunshot in April, 1945, long before the alleged sighting.

California wildfires finally burn out

Wildfires engulfed California throughout the year and destroyed over 210,000 acres of land and has cost over $7 billion in estimated damages. Napa, Lake, Sonoma, Mendocino, Butte and Solano all burned extensively. In total, the estimated 7,000 buildings have been destroyed as a result of these fires. The total people forced to evacuate was estimated at around 90,000.

At least 43 people have died as a result of the October fires and over 185 people were hospitalized. According to San Francisco International Airport, 280 flights were canceled due to the smoke because of poor vision from the smoke and other air pollution.

“We did not have a delay program yesterday because conditions were more favorable, skies were more clear around the airport. Today we are seeing that smoke and haze,” said SFO Spokesman Doug Yakel.

All of this damage was the result of a series of wildfires, like the Tubbs Fire, Atlas Fire and Nun Fire which struck Northern California. The largest of these was the Napa Fire which burned 55,566 acres and was a combination of the Adobe, Nor- rhom, Founta, Buck and Oakmont Fires.

On Oct. 31, California State Government reported all fires 100% contained. The 25 largest wildfires which was also contained within a week of the report. Over 1,000 fire-fighters were on the front lines fighting them.

Serious problems have hindered people from reentering their homes to clean up and rebuild. Along with the devastating property damage and loss of life, the fire also caused toxic ash and debris to enter the atmosphere, harming air quality in surrounding areas and posing dangerous health risks. In Yuba County, residents who have evacuated their homes are urged to avoid reentering the site of the wildfires due to the toxic ash and other hazardous materials. According to the EPA, the air pollution has been affecting residents even since the wildfires started; at one point, the air pollution had spread over 100 miles, causing over 250 people to become ill due to smoke inhalation.

“Just think of all the hazardous materials in your house, your chemicals, your pesticides, propylene, gaso-line, plastic and paint – it all burns down into the ash. It concentrates in the ash, and it’s toxic,” warned Chief Public Health Officer of Napa County, Mark Vasques.

The US Army’s Corps of En-gineers has been tasked with testing soil and water samples from burned areas for contamination.

Bay Area roads under sun

Residents of the Bay Area have experienced the latter weeks of October as one last wave of summer weather brought record levels in Moffett Field, Oakland and downtown San Francisco. During this sud-den wave, temperatures rose to the mid-80’s in San Jose and over 100 degrees in downtown San Francisco.

The heat lasted all throughout the day and night as the temperatures remained in the mid-80’s on the first day of the heat wave. The high temperatures lasted for a week before fall weather finally began to overtake the San Francisco Bay Area.

Students and staff alike were baffled by the sudden record highs.

“I was prepared for frigid mornings and teeth chattering, but what I got was pleasant heat on my skin,” declared senior Syed Ra- bin.

While Syed welcomed the sunny weather with a warm embrace, others saw it as a sign of the bigger issue of global warming.

“Data I’ve seen has convinced me that the last part of the warming trend over the decades has been due to human activity,” suggested physics teacher Lance Aberle.

Several research papers public- ed Mr. Aberle’s suspicions, stating that the recent droughts and rising tem- perature patterns in California are a symptom of a much larger problem involving pollution levels throughout the entire globe. The final summer heat wave has been occurring later and hotter with each passing year, suggesting a connection between a longer summer season and increased global warming. However, scientists thus far have only been able to make predictions about the continuing trend of fluctuating weather patterns based on global temperature read- ings.

“One of those predic-tions is that there (will be) a shorter winter season, one that is shorter in du- ration and one that is not as cold,” explained Mr. Aberle.

Research has shown that the entire world-wide have been on a con-stant upward trend, but there is still hope in com-bating global warming.

The fight against climate change has been gaining traction every day, with more recycling and less energy use becoming a growing trend.

“Since I’ve been in this area for a lot of years, I can definitely say that it’s different,” said local Physiology teacher David Vasques.

Increased renewable options in everyday life allow for more oppor-tunities to help the environment. Mr. Vasques claimed that he would pur-chase an electric car over a more readily accessible charging sta-tions at gas stations.

The cooling temperatures have provided relief for those in the Bay Area as the fall begins to blow through. The abrupt heat wave proved to be much more than a nuis-ance in Southern California. The Los Angeles Times reports the deaths of six people due to heat stroke over Labor Day weekend.

PHHS assists Second Harvest Food Bank

T he Second Harvest Can- nedy Food Drive began on Mon, Nov. 13, and ended on Wed- nesday. Barrels were divided among the four classes, with each class receiv-ing the same amount of bread in order to store the donated canned food. After the food drive, the Second Harvest Food Bank, which is an organization to collect food for people in need through (the) Second Harvest Food Bank,” stated Supervisor Ms. Diego.

The class with the most donated cans will receive an award.

“The winning class gets $100, and that helps with supplies or organizing (future events),” clarified Supreme Court Officer Noah Tannah. The Second Har- vest Food Bank is a non-profit organization located in the Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The 65 thousand square-foot warehouse acts as the distribution center for Santa Clara County while another 22 thousand square foot warehouse serves San Mateo County. They help feed over 250 thousand people every month in those areas through the collection and distribution of food to low income households. Every year, they distribute over a million pounds of food to pov- erty-stricken families, supplying them with an array of foods including canned food and produce. Over half of the people receiving this aid are seniors and children.

By Andre Nghiem

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RETRACEMENT

• In the new staff story, Mr. Delacruz, Ms. Edwards and Mr. Knight are misspelled.

• In the photo caption, Treblemakers performed “I’m Beginning to See the Light,” not “The Road Not Taken.”

• Girls’ Tennis Varsity Doubles 2 Amia Tran’s name and Mr. Tippett’s name were misspelled.

• LEO Club’s acronym is Leadership, Experience, Opportunity.
**Global warming warning**

By Sonya Chiang

In the past 100 years, the Earth’s temperatures have increased due to a number of factors that climate change is a real problem. This year’s environmental disasters—from the numerous hurricanes and monsoons worldwide to California’s inconsistent weather and harmful fires—only solidify the gravity of the situation at hand. We cannot delay the existence of mankind’s catastrophic impact on the earth, despite what current political leaders believe.

In this regard, we must pay more attention to global warming,” asserts senior Ashley Hii. “If our president (Trump) doesn’t believe in global warming, no one else has to put more effort into doing something to reduce it.”

There are simple things we can do all through the year to help make a difference in the big picture. Social awareness is very important stuff. We need to do our part in the world to help make a difference. We need to work together to help make a difference.

I am thankful for the Earth and for the people who make the Earth such a wonderful place. I am thankful for the beauty of the Earth and the things that it provides. I am thankful for the people who live on the Earth and for the things that they do. I am thankful for the Earth and for the things that it provides.

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**Letters of Recommendation**

By Sophia Xiao

The task of asking a letter of recommendation may be hard in itself, but who and when should you ask for the best possible recommendation? I always suggest asking the teacher that would go along with your major. The teacher you had for that subject or even just a teacher just within the subject area (would work well). It’s never too late to ask someone to write a letter of recommendation. Of course, you’ll need to be polite and show respect to the person you’ve asked.

When asking for a letter of recommendation, make sure you address the teacher with respect. It’s important to remember the teacher from time to time so they don’t forget about your letter, because teachers are busy too!

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**College Application Tips**

By Sophia Xiao

Don’t get me wrong — Black Friday can be a huge event. It’s a great way to save money and get into a new apartment. But it’s also become the day to splurge on a new flat-screen TV and a new Xbox console. It’s also become the day to splurge on a new flat-screen TV and a new Xbox console.

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How to avoid a dinner disaster

By Joelle Nguyen

A re you tired of annoying family members and relations? Are you just trying to enjoy your Thanksgiving dinner without any stress? Maybe it’s time to reevaluate how you approach family gatherings. Here are some tips to help you navigate the holiday without any hiccups.

1. Set clear boundaries: It’s important to establish boundaries early on. Let your family members know what you’re comfortable with and what you’re not. Be assertive. Make it clear that you do not want to be bothered. As long as you communicate effectively, most family members will respect your boundaries.

2. Don’t get caught up in the drama: If there are any conflicts or arguments, try to stay calm and composed. Avoid getting involved in the drama. Instead, focus on enjoying your meal and spending quality time with your loved ones.

3. Take breaks: If you find yourself getting overwhelmed, take a break. Step away from the situation and take a few deep breaths. You can also use this time to recharge and then return to the table with a fresh perspective.

4. Be patient: Remember, family gatherings can be stressful. Be patient with yourself and others. If someone is behaving poorly, try to diffuse the situation by finding something positive to talk about.

5. Enjoy the moment: Finally, enjoy the moment. Remember why you are gathered together. Focus on the good times and the love and support that you share with your family. Thanksgiving is about family and togetherness. Enjoy the experience and make it a memorable one.

The original Turkey feast

By Andy Rodriguez

W hile many traditions of Thanksgiving were born in 1621, the first Thanksgiving that we all know and love did not happen at that time. Thanksgiving is an American holiday that is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in every year. It is a day when families gather to give thanks for the blessings they have received.

The first Thanksgiving was held in 1621, when the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians held a feast to give thanks for their successful harvest. The Wampanoag tribe had helped the Pilgrims settle in their new land and taught them how to farm. The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribes shared a feast of turkey, corn, pumpkins, beans, and squash. The Pilgrims also wore the clothing and jewelry of the Wampanoag tribe, which was made from natural materials.

Today, Thanksgiving is a day when families gather to give thanks for the blessings they have received. It is a day to reflect on the good things in life and to express gratitude. The turkey is a symbol of this holiday and is often served as the main course of the meal. Other traditional dishes include cranberry sauce, stuffing, and mashed potatoes.

Spice up your Thanksgiving

By Lily Li

A ny last minute invitations to Thanksgiving parties? No problem! Here’s a recipe that will make your guests’ jaws drop. You’ll be the talk of the town!

Preparations:
1. Mix green beans and cream of mushroom together in a pan.
2. Wait for the cranberries to soften.
3. Once oven is done preheating, put turkey in for 4 hours.

Cooking Directions:
1. Mix green beans and cream of mushroom together in a pan.
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Ingredients:
- Fresh turkey
- Cranberries
- Green beans
- Cream of mushroom
- Salt
- Pepper
- Garlic powder

Tamales

By Joelle Nguyen

Squashing the Thanksgiving lore

By Takuma Sato

Thanksgiving is one of America’s oldest holidays, with over 400 years of history behind it. Thanksgiving, in reality, has never been the way we thought it would be. We were shown and given basic phrases of Pilgrims dressed in black and white, wearing a turban and a frilly dress. It’s all the history of the story of the Pilgrims and the Native Americans was left out, where they played and taught each other through the years, with a natural and happy life.

Would you believe me if I told you Thanksgiving wasn’t celebrated every year in 1621, when the Pilgrims and the Native Americans got along, where they played and taught each other through the years, with a natural and happy life? It was more like a battle for survival. The Pilgrims were not familiar with the Native Americans’ way of life, and the Native Americans were not familiar with the Pilgrims’ way of life.

The first Thanksgiving was in 1621, 700 men, women, and children of the Puritan tribe were sent, murdered, and burned during one of their celebrations. The Massacre of the Chippewa Bay Colony had a feast to celebrate for every successful harvest of the Native Americans. However, by 1675, the English put on a day of mourning for the Native Americans who died due to the effects of English trade and disease. Even though it is a national day of mourning, Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the good things in life and to express gratitude.

Dark side of Thanksgiving

By Arthur Rodriguez

W hen the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians held a feast to give thanks for their successful harvest, the Wampanoag tribe had helped the Pilgrims settle in their new land and taught them how to farm. The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribes shared a feast of turkey, corn, pumpkins, beans, and squash. The Pilgrims also wore the clothing and jewelry of the Wampanoag tribe, which was made from natural materials.

While doing this he had put his differences aside since he is the only survivor of his tribe after they were wiped out by smallpox. They were the ones who began kidnapping the Native Americans. They would also kick around the severed heads in the streets in celebration.

The English arrived on the east coast of North America in 1620. The Wampanoag tribe signed a treaty with the Pilgrims and were invited by the Pilgrims for a feast but part of the tribe died from a mysterious poison.

The Thanksgiving traditions we have today evolved, creating this wonderful holiday full of family and unity. Without the new traditions that we have made during the years, Thanksgiving would be a whole different story than the one we know today. Whether you have a big family or not, the holiday will always be an opportunity for everyone to sit.
I'm sure we've always wondered what our staff are doing at Piedmont Hills. We probably assume that our English teachers lay in bed and read, and our math teachers sit at a desk and do math problems just for fun. Although this could be true, but how would we know? Have you ever wanted an insider look on the life of business teacher Mitch Method?

"I'm sure many people know that I'm an avid mountain biker," commented Mr. Method.

According to Mr. Method, he started biking after a group of friends asked him to come with them. He's been doing it for over 20 years now, and he still out there doing it to this day.

"I like to get out, go different places, hang out with my friends, stay in shape and the thrill of doing it," explained Mr. Method.

He's travelled across the country to places like the Santa Cruz Mountains and Lake Tahoe, experiencing a different setting each time. "Each route can be anywhere from 10 miles to 60 miles... At Lake Tahoe, we started at four in the morning, and finished at eight at night," exclaimed Mr. Method.

Despite the long routes and countless hours, bike riding seems to be a nice way to escape the stress that students encounter here at Piedmont Hills. "I absolutely recommend (mountain biking). Anything to get outside, see different places, and the fitness part of it is always a good thing too," said Mr. Method.

Although he wouldn't give us any other intel to his secret life outside of Piedmont, we now know why he's one of the fitter teachers here at Piedmont Hills. ♦

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**The Life Cycle of Mr. Method**

By Megan Laser

**Ask Polly!**

**By Jewel Nguyen**

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**Comics!**

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The Varsity Football team played really well this year, ending the season with a record of 9-2, and making it into the playoffs. The regular season ended with a victory 49-31 against Pioneer High School last Thursday. Since the start of the season, the team has been constantly improving.

“Everyone shows up to practice on time, and everyone knows when to be serious,” testified Varsity Football Team Captain Courtney Hooker. “We’re been taking the practice more seriously, putting the jokes to the side when we practice.”

Practice is crucial for the football team, because it affects the team’s performance in actual games. During practice, the football team “installs” the other team’s plays. This means that the team practices playing against the opponent team’s defensive and offensive lineup, to find the other team’s weaknesses.

“We watch the opponent team play, and our coaches set up a schedule and then we run through the schedule, which has their plays and formations,” explained Varsity Football Team Captain Brandon Lowe. However, practice has more than just instilling the other team’s plays. The team usually starts with team-ups and stretching, so their players don’t accidentally pull muscles and injure themselves.

“Then we break into offensive and defensive teams with our coaches teaching us certain things. And then after that we come together as a team, and we run their plays,” described Lowe. “First we start with the defense, and the defense runs the other team’s defensive plays and then we switch it over, with the offense running the other team’s offensive plays.”

However, this work all pays off in the end, as the team is performing better than ever.

**Cross Country dashes to CCS**

By Daniel Kohlski

The Boys’ and Girls’ Cross Country teams competed in CCS (Central Coast Section) last Saturday. The Boys’ team placed 16th overall with a score of 454 and the Girls’ team placed 19th with a score of 411. As a result, both teams will not make it to CCS.

“We have two concussions and some knee injuries,” explained Blocks’ Coach Arguello. “We do speed workouts and some mileage away from typical high school norms and old school methodologies of putting mileage. At the start of the season, everyone was afraid of the hills so it wasn’t too hard on me and my teammates.”

Throughout the season, the team underwent intense practice and conditioning in order to prepare themselves for CCS. According to Thompson, the team mainly focused on improving their speed instead of mileage, in order to surpass other schools.

“Our theme was focusing on fundamentals and speed,” summarized Thompson. “We trained heavily through league meets to break away from typical high school norms and old school methodologies of putting mileage. At the end of the day, the faster athlete will always prevail.”

“We do speed workouts and some mileage during practice,” further elaborated Boys’ Varsity Captain Darrick Martinez. “I think Coach Thompson really helped us get better even though we had a small team.”

Despite the outcome of CCS, Coach Thompson hopes to prepare both teams to perform even better next year.

“I am happy for our student-athletes and Piedmont Hills,” remarked Thompson. “They worked hard all season and most ran their lifetime course best at Toro Park. One of the challenges of the teams that encountered was uphill terrain.

“I was kind of worried about uphill because I’m not so good at running up steep hills,” said Patino. “However, we did more practices on hills so it wasn’t too hard on me and my teammates.”

Through the adversity, strong bonds were created on our team. “We’re all like brothers, both on and off the field. We watch out for each other, we ask each other for help for classes, we make sure everyone understands what we’re doing, just taking care of business,” observed Lane.

**Volleyball comes to a smashing end**

By Jessica Te

The Girls’ Volleyball team closed their season with a win against Evergreen Valley High School on Oct. 26. This brought the Varsity team’s league record to 5-9 and their overall record to 8-17. The junior varsity team finished with a league record of 7-7 and an overall record of 11-8.

Although the season had a rocky start, the team was able to work together and maintain its high energy throughout the season. The volleyball team will return again next fall.

“Personally, I just enjoyed becoming close to my team and obviously we go to school together, but we never really hung out outside of volleyball,” said Haly. “enjoyed that out of going to volleyball practice and games and just having a sense of belonging,” shared Campoy. The volleyball team will return again next fall.

**Scoreboard**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Varsity Football</th>
<th>JV Football</th>
<th>Varsity Volleyball</th>
<th>JV Volleyball</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W 64-48 Leigh</td>
<td>HOME</td>
<td>W 35-14 Leigh</td>
<td>HOME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 42-35 Lincoln</td>
<td>AWAY</td>
<td>W 40-14 Lincoln</td>
<td>AWAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 42-20 Santa Teresa</td>
<td>AWAY</td>
<td>W 35-7 Santa Teresa</td>
<td>AWAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 49-31 Pioneer</td>
<td>AWAY</td>
<td>W 30-7 Pioneer</td>
<td>AWAY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GO DEEPER!**

Matthew Nguyen (10) proves to be a valuable asset on the court as the Pirates struggled to move the ball and score. As the game went on, the Pirates lost Starbacker Matthew Nguyen due to an injury and they eventually lost the game.

“After losing to Live Oak we had to re-set our minds and we also had to realize that as a team we can’t fall asleep and have any weak links. We have to keep grinding as if we haven’t won a single game,” stated Running Back Mykiah Wyche.

This shift in mindset proved to be vital as JV went on to win their next five league games to finish the season.

**BAM! JV Setter Paige Caditan (9) prepares to serve the ball.**
Red Cross host biannual blood drive

By Elizabeth Trinh

Piedmont Hill’s Red Cross hosted their biannual blood drive located in the library on Nov 3. This blood drive serves as a way of giving back to the community and to those in need of blood.

“The purpose of this blood drive is to fill Red Cross’s mission of ensuring the availability of a safe and reliable blood supply, give back to those in need, and at our event, come together to share one cause,” states Red Cross President Cynthia Maerisa Lazo who is also a professor at SJSU. “It’s a way to enforce our purpose as a club and try to get more people to join,” shared Mareisa.

The poster is put on or near the SJSU campus and try to get more people to join, “exclaimed Brooke.

“Everything in the packages are donated and everything is donated by local people in our area, they are from SJSU and they are from around the community,” said Rebecca.

The Red Cross Blood Drive encourages people to donate blood from the kindness of their heart, even if they are unable to donate because they physically cannot or they have a fear of needles, there is always a way to give back to the community and help those in need. ♦

ARK sparks Spartan kindness

By Anh Truong

ARK (Acts of Random Kindness) is hosting their annual scavenger hunt at SJSU (San Jose State University) this Saturday. At this unique bonding experience, members split off into different groups and compete to accomplish the most tasks out of a checklist.

“The first group of five to complete the scavenger hunt list gets a prize from the members,” explains Outreach Coordinator Jeannell Dimapacso. "Some things we do include making care packages for homeless people in SJSU, and other special events like making Harmony boxes for special individuals who need a little pick me up."

“arly in recent years, ARK expanded its club by doing activities outside of campus like the Mini Ark at Ruskin Elementary School and the downtown ARK event, which has proven successful since its founding. "It is open to people from our school, and we want to keep it just people from our school, (because) it is also a bonding thing for our club and try to get more people to join,” shared Mareisa.

ARK is also planning a special event on Dec 23 called Holiday Care PKARages. "All the ARK clubs in this area like in Independence and other schools meet up and make care packages for homeless people in Downtown,” said Rebecca.

Around 200 people usually come to this event to spread holiday spirit to everyone. “Everything in the packages are donated from the various schools,” explains Lily. After the PKARages make, the members will distribute them to homeless people around Downtown SJSU. ♦

CSF to host annual Pie Bake for Family Supporting Housing

By Brianna Cazarez

C SF (California Scholar Federation) members will meet tomorrow to bake pies. As one of their largest annual events, the CSF Pie Bake brings joy to the less fortunate and brightening their Thanksgiving. Members can participate in this event to receive a rake and compete in a pie decorating contest. All pies baked are donated directly to Family Supporting Housing, a local organization dedicated helping families in crisis get back on their feet. CSF has donated almost 200 pies to this organization in past years.

CSF’s annual event was first started by a former advisor and Home Economics teacher Roberta McClintock.

“she started the pie bake at least 30 years ago. She thought it would be good for kids to learn how to bake a pie and to feel good about providing that dessert for Thanksgiving diners or the homeless shelters, shared English teacher and current advisor Nancy Kennedy.

“the second largest of the annual events for the club, this pie bake takes a lot of planning.”

“so far, we have had the most pies baked competing members and local businesses to donate supplies. We also have been doing a lot of fundraising. Since we make no profit and donate all the pies, this helps out tremendously with costs. In addition, we put up sign-ups for members on advance so we can prepare them for the day,” said Co-president Brooke Alvare.

With the pie decor is created into this event, members get a chance to bring out their creative side and make art on the pies. "For as long as I’ve been in CSF, we’ve made the fruit pie decoration a contest, but I think that tradition is as old as the pie bake itself,” exclaimed Brooke. "We have 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, and usually they’ll get some combination of an extra act, shirts, and of course, bragging rights."

The hardship of baking all those pies is very rewarding in the end. “It’s good to know that we’re helping out other people through a fun way, because all the members enjoy it as well,” added Co-president Addison Chan.

The event, however, is only available to upperclassmen. “We feel that upperclassmen have had more experience in this club and the community, so they’ve given priority registration. We give the underclassmen time to prepare, however before they do a bigger event like pie bake,” explained Addison.

Historically, CSF hasn’t been open to first semester freshmen since last year. ♦