The Senate and the House of Representatives passed bills that overhauled the federal tax code, cut income tax rates, doubled the standard deduction and eliminated personal exemptions. It will cut the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent in 2019, which the passing of the House and Senate versions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was based on the Trump Administration’s plan presented on Sept. 27, 2017. The House’s version was passed on Nov. 16 with a vote of 227 to 205. Both bills went to conference to be conformed into a single piece of legislation for President Donald Trump’s signature. The bill was passed on the morning of Dec. 2 with 51 senators voting for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

President Trump signed the bill on Dec. 22, 2017, two days after the Republican-led Congress gave its final approval.

“The Biggest Tax Bill and Tax Cuts in history just passed in the Senate. Now these great Republicans will go for final passage. Thank you to House and Senators will be going for final passage. Thank you to House and Senate and the House of Representatives for your hard work and commitment,” tweeted President Trump. The Senate plan would help businesses more than individuals because the corporate tax cuts are permanent, whereas the individual cuts are not. Higher income families will benefit the most in the long run, because in 2021, taxes will increase on those who make $30,000 or less and by 2023, taxes will increase on everyone who makes $40,000 or less. The tax plan makes will eliminate personal exemptions, meaning before the Act, taxpayers subtracted $4,150 from income for each person claimed. Therefore, some families with many children will pay higher taxes. In return, the tax plan doubles standard deduction: a single filer’s deduction increases from $6,350 to $12,000, and married and joint filers’ deduction increases from $12,700 to $24,000. It also limits the deduction on mortgage interest to the first $750,000 of the loan, thus interest on home equity lines of credit can no longer be deducted and current mortgage lenders aren’t affected. The bill also effectively ends Obamacare’s individual mandate and opens up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. However, the final law left the student loan interest deduction, which allows borrowers to deduct up to $2,500 of the interest paid for student loans, intact. Many opposed the corporate tax cuts and simplified income tax brackets. Texas will make American businesses more competitive, increase wages and get rid of the individual tax cuts,“ @GOP (Grand Old Party) tax cuts,“ @GOP (Grand Old Party) tax cuts,“ @GOP (Grand Old Party) tax cuts,“ @GOP (Grand Old Party) tax cuts,“ @GOP (Grand Old Party) tax cuts,“ @GOP (Grand Old Party) tax cuts,“ @GOP (Grand Old Party) tax cuts,“ @GOP (Grand Old Party) tax cuts.

On the other hand, supporters say that the corporate tax cuts will make America more competitive globally, raise wages, and pay for Trump’s tax cuts.

“I have been working around the clock w/ members of the House. Before Christmas comes, we’re going to deliver to the American people the largest tax cut in American history! Middle-Class Miracle,” tweeted Vice President Mike Pence in Dec. 2, 2017. “Today, I was my great honor to sign the largest tax CUTS and reform in the history of our country;” tweeted President Trump on Dec. 22, 2017. ♦

Mudslides claim 21 lives

By Megan Laser

Between 3am and 6am on Jan. 9, residents of Montecito, Calif., who had just begun recovering from devastating wildfires, were hit with powerful mudslides that killed at least 21 people. Mudslides occurred throughout Ventura County and Santa Barbara County, but most of the damage and all the deaths occurred in the affluent community of Montecito.

Storm warnings were issued the weekend before the mudslides, as soon as officials heard that there would be heavy rain in the area. The Thomas Fire in early December was a direct cause of the mudslides in the area. Usually, the healthy soil, or the topsoil, is able to absorb heavy rain into the under-ground layer below the soil. When the wildfire burned through the soil, it destroyed the healthy topsoil above, leaving only materials like rocks, ash, and clay. The dirt lost the ability to absorb and hold the rain water, causing it to act like a water repellant. When heavy rain poured on Montecito’s hillsides mudslides followed.

“The area sits at the base of the Santa Ynez Mountains (which had) closely escaped the recent Thomas Fire, the largest wildfire in California’s history,” according to an article from The Washington Post.

Road closures were enforced in all of the affected areas, including more than 30 miles of Highway 101. There have been many casual-ties in the mudslides. As of Jan. 23, 21 people were found dead, 28 were injured and two victims, a 17-year-old boy and a 2-year-old girl, remained missing.

“Hundreds of people have been rescued and evacuated, many of them having to be hoisted out of the area by our aircraft,” said Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown in Jan. 10 in an interview with the Mercury News.

Houses of celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres and Rob Lowe were affected in the mudslides.

“It’s devastating. We’ve lost so many lives and it’s a tiny community and nobody would’ve expected, certainly, I did not, that after we survived the fire and the rain came. Who’d we’ve expected we have this devastation again with the mudslides, and so soon,” Oprah Winfrey shared in an interview with the Mercury News.

“After everything we’ve been through I think a lot of people thought they were just being overly cautious, but exactly what (authorities) feared happened. The rain triggered massive mudslides. Massive,” explained Ellen DeGeneres to her audience on The Ellen DeGeneres Show.

Leaving a mark!

Freshman Carlos Acosta signs the science building beam at the student parking lot with his class.

On Jan. 9, students went out to the student parking lot to sign a beam that will be installed in the new science buildings, which are expected to be completed by the start of the next school year. This was the first time that a new construction project had an object available to be signed by students of the school. The beam, 20 feet in length, was available to be signed from 10am to 1pm that morning, and was signed by over a hundred students.

Although the beam will be built into the new buildings, it will not be visible to the students.

“The beam is going to be inside (the new science) buildings. So nobody is going to be able to actually see the signature, it was more
**DACA DREAMer’s promised land may be revoked**

By Carson Sandell

America is a land of opportunity for all who decide to come to the United States to earn a living, shape their future, and achieve their dreams. This is especially true for the nearly 800,000 DACA recipients who were brought to the United States as children by their parents.

The DACA program, which stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, was established in 2012 by the Obama Administration to provide temporary protection from deportation and work permits to undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States before the age of 16.

However, the future of the DACA program is uncertain as the Trump administration has proposed to end it. The program is due to expire on March 5, 2018, unless Congress acts to extend it.

The Trump administration has argued that the DACA program is illegal and that it creates a burden on the taxpayer. The program, they say, allows undocumented immigrants to work and live in the United States without being subject to deportation.

In contrast, supporters of the program argue that DACA recipients have achieved their dreams and contribute to the U.S. economy. They also argue that ending the program would be a form of punishment for young people who have grown up in the United States and have no other country to call home.

The fate of the DACA program remains uncertain as Congress works to find a solution. Some lawmakers have proposed to extend the program, while others have proposed to replace it with a new program.

Regardless of the outcome, the uncertainty created by the Trump administration’s proposal to end the DACA program has caused anxiety and uncertainty among DACA recipients and their families.

In this article, we will explore the history of the DACA program, the arguments both for and against its continuation, and the potential implications of its termination.

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DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) is a program which allows people who came to the United States illegally as minors to have the ability to apply for work permits. ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is an annual convention where student musicians are selected to perform in highly competitive groups, such as Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra, Vocal Jazz and Jazz Band. The convention will also be showcasing exhibits with music shops, university bands, and music education institutes.

The convention is an annual event that comes out with registration every September. Anyone in California is eligible to participate, as long as they are in touch with a music director to send in their audition through the California Band Directors Association. According to music director Myles Ellis, thousands of the best music students in California audition to perform with the All State Ensembles. According to Arthur, who has attended CASMEC consecutively for six years and will be a percussionist for the High School Symphony Orchestra this year, one must look up the audition requirements for their position on the website itself (cbda.org). Then, the student is required to separate the recordings of their pieces to turn in to their music director in late September. Students must submit electronic submissions to the website.

During the conventions, groups from the United States and abroad compete in various categories, such as Vocal Jazz and Jazz Band. Students to perform at CASMEC are required to send in their audition through the website. According to music director to send in their audition through the website. According to music director Arthur, who has attended CASMEC consecutively for six years and will be a percussionist for the High School Symphony Orchestra this year, one must look up the audition requirements for their position on the website itself (cbda.org). Then, the student is required to separate the recordings of their pieces to turn in to their music director in late September. Students must submit electronic submissions to the website.

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**Reaching this outcome was not an easy journey...”**

In regards to the relationship between North and South Korea, the progress achieved before the Olympics will most likely be kept. Such progress include the slow talks that have been occurring the past few weeks about finding a solution to sty- mulate Pyongyong’s nuclear ambitions.

The next couple months are going to be critical, and whether we go down the path of negotia- tion or we go down the path of further provo- cation depends on a cou- ple different factors, but it will depend on how these inter-Korean talks go forward, said former Pyongyang Bureau Chief for The Associated Press, Jean Lee in a New York Times article.

North Korea has made it clear that its nuclear bombs and ballistic missiles are here to stay throughout the rest of the year in relation with South Korea. In a show of good faith, joint US-South Korea military drills were suspended during the Olympics. The proposals from North Ko- rea and South Korea on easing their military tensions had to be approved by the IOC (International Olympic Committee) and the Pyeongchang organizing committee. Despite these overtures to im- prove relations with the South, North Korea has yet to show any intention to fulfill its international obligations regarding denuclearization, stated South Korea’s Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha in a CNN article.

The Winter Olympics will be featuring 102 events in seven sports with 90 nations participating at the Pyeongchang Olympic stadium. The Winter Olympics will be featuring 102 events in seven sports with 90 nations participating at the Pyeongchang Olympic stadium.
NHS Inductees light up the night

By Lily Li

The annual NHS (National Honor Society) Induction Ceremony on Jan. 17 celebrated the formal admittance of 33 seniors into the club.

“National Honor Society is an organization that encourages and fosters students’ leadership and academic integrity,” comments Treasurer Megan Luong.

During the ceremony, each inductee was greeted and congratulated by club advisors Jason Dries, Terrie Higgins and David Vasques. They presented each inductee with a certificate, a cord and the official NHS enamel pin.

Each member entered the stage and paused in the center to light a candle on the stage before moving to the other side. The candles symbolized their rite of passage and their pledge to uphold the values of this organization.

“The candle is a ceremonial representation of officially becoming a member. When we are accepted into NHS at the beginning of the year, we are not considered a member until the induction ceremony,” reveals Vice President Yash Tanna.

“The Induction Ceremony is a way for parents to see the success of their children. My parents and family didn’t really know anything about what I do in school,” says Secretary Alex Daniel. However, after (the) Induction Ceremony, they found out about my achievements. I’m sure that many other families were able to see the results of their children’s efforts in school as well.”

Aside from the ceremony portion of the event, select NHS members and on-campus clubs such as LDC (Lion Dance Club), SXC (Seoul Extreme Choreography) and Indian Club performed.

“I felt very excited to perform at NHS because it was a first for me. This performance was definitely a new experience for many members of the club because it was our first time all performing together for many of the club members. We worked hard to prepare and I’d say we had a great time despite minor mistakes,” adds SNC President Anthony Ta.

This year’s theme of “Tangled in the Stars” was inspired by the Disney movie Tangled. The L-Building was covered with stunning decorations including lights, wanted posters of the inductees and a photo booth backdrop featuring a scene from the movie for attendees to capture this memorable evening.

“We started planning back in December and voted on the theme at one of our meetings! We decided to call it “Tangled in the Stars” because we wanted to connect it to our NHS members, who are all stars!” express- es President Brooke Alviar.

Now that the ceremony has concluded, the NHS members plan to finish up their individual service projects for the remainder of this semester and to continue fundraising for the club.

“I really want to thank my fellow officers for their hard work. Planning such a big event with just five people in charge is pretty intimidating but we got through it! Our advisors, Mr. Vasques, Ms. Higgins and Mr. Dries, were also a huge help. And the performers who took the time to make the event great are hugely appreciated! And of course big thank you to everyone who came to support us!” adds Brooke.

Special Ed takes stage in talent show

By Vanessa Bembo

Piedmont Hills’ Special Education students will be taking the L-Building stage tonight from 5:30pm to 9pm. The moderate severe classes will be participating in the talent show, themed “multicultural.”

“My students are very excited for the talent show, they show so much enthusiasm during our rehearsals. About 50 students will be participating in the talent show. The dances will consist of Hispanic, Filipino, Vietnamese and many other cultures that our students represent. When we decided that the theme would be multicultural, many of the students were overjoyed and excited to get started on practicing the dances we chose for them,” said Elyth Santos, one of the moderate severe Special Ed teachers.

Ms. Santos has been teaching Special Ed here at Piedmont Hills since 2006, working with the department for over 12 years.

“My students have been with me since their freshman year here, they have improved greatly. This school has such a great environment that my students have improved on their social skills and love making new friends with other students outside of the department. This talent show gives them the chance to show what they can do and that they can have fun with it. We have been practicing hard and at each rehearsal, they seem to be enjoying it a lot,” said Ms. Santos.

“My (students) have been showing great enthusiasm as the practices went by and they can’t wait to show their parents and their peers what they have been working so hard on,” continued Ms. Santos.

“I’m really excited to dance in the talent show, but I’m also nervous,” said junior Abigail Rose.

“We’ve been practicing for almost the whole month!”

Abigail will be in two dances for the talent show, and she has been practicing really hard.

“My parents will be there and I really wanna show them that I can dance!” exclaimed Abigail.

All last week, the moderate severe classes started rehearsing together to have a full run through of their dances and their solo acts.

“We will be having three solo acts, two of the acts will be singing and the other will be playing a piano. Our two solo singers will come together after their acts and do a duet together. The songs they chose are really cute and adorable because I see it as another way for them to express their creativity and what they are interested in,” added Ms. Santos.

“I don’t want to give away their names to hold onto the surprise for the people attending and also because the students want it to be a surprise. I also don’t want to spoil too much about what’s going to be in the show, but I just want everyone to know that Special Ed has been working really hard and want to show their hard work to their fellow students.”

Piedmont Hills’ Special Education Department has worked with many students over the years and all of the teachers agree that their students have improved on a lot of their social skills and are ready to show their families and friends all of their hard work tonight on stage.

“DANCE!” Ms. Santos’s class practices one of their dances in the library in preparation for the talent show! An advanced social planning and life skills group that has been working very hard to prepare this amazing performance.

INDUCTED! NHS members pose with their certificates after the Induction Ceremony.

The Math team will be competing in the annual AMC (American Math Competition) 12 next Wednesday in room D-5 after seventh period. The AMC 12 is a 25-question, 75-minute nationwide multiple choice examination in high school mathematics designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem-solving skills.

The Math team has been preparing all year long for this competition. “Every week we have lectures or practice on a certain topic, which varies between probability, geometry, or algebra,” said Co-captain Addison Chan.

Although participation in the AMC is open to all students with a passion for math, “most participants are Math Team students who have trained with us all year long,” explained Math Team advisor Ray Enriquez. Students who have prepared consistently with the Math Team have a better understanding of the content and types of questions asked. The AMC 12 covers the entire high school curriculum including trigonometry, advanced algebra and advanced geometry, excluding calculus.

“There are an assortment of problems, all of which require a certain understanding of math, but not advanced classes that you would necessarily have to take,” described Co-captain Sophia Xiao.

The Math Team hopes to do well and get the opportunity to advance to the AIME (American Invitational Math Examination). “There is a chance that if we score in the top 5 percent of the AMC, we will move onto the AIME. It’s a huge recognition to be able to compete in the AIME, as it represents the top 4,000 students in the nation,” commented Co-captain Austin Ouyang.

Advancing to the AIME and beyond would be a huge victory for the PHHS Math Team.

“In PHHS history, our students have not advanced past the AMC more than five times, and not past the AIME to the USAMO (USA Mathemati- cal Olympiad) more than twice,” said Mr. Enriquez.

The AMC 12 provides an opportunity for high school students to develop positive attitudes towards analytical thinking and mathematics that can assist in future careers. The AMC 12 is the first in a series of competitions that eventually lead all the way to the International Mathematical Olympiad.

The results of the AMC 12 will be released approximately three weeks from the competition date.

HARD AT WORK! Math team works through practice AMC problems
PHHS’ Mock Trial Team gears up for its Santa Clara County Mock Trial Competition. The Santa Clara County competition started on Jan. 23 and will end on Feb. 13. As of this Wednesday, the team’s overall score is 1-2.

The competition will feature a simulation court case where the defendant is being tried for homicide. If they succeed in the 2018 finals they will move up to the state competition and then to the national competition.

The defense team consists of experienced members from last year, and even the new members have been producing outstanding results. “Some of the new members we’ve had this year are prepared, and I’m amazed,” said Dan.

A major problem was balancing the team making sure not one team is too stacked and the other too weak.

In order to prepare for the competition the mock trial team practices with each member ensuring critical success attorneys practicing examinations and cross examinations with their clients and receive training from both social science teachers John Holly and David Andrews.

“Mock Trial is how you’re projecting a message and how clear you can be. How you are projecting a message, how you’re portraying yourself and know the legal structure,” commented Mr. Andrews.

PHHS’ Mock Trial Team consists of 20 members who compete as attorneys and witnesses using methods such as professionalism, public speaking, leadership and knowledge of the law to win trials in courts of law.

**Mock Trial to compete at county**

By Eric Nguyen

**AIM guides youth to success**

By Daniel Kokoski

District 4 YAC (Youth Advisory Council) hosted their third annual AIM (Advise, Inspire, Motivate) event last Friday in the San Jose City Hall Rotunda Building, where youth gathered to listen to several speakers talk about their life experiences.

According to YAC Vice Chair Dan Johnson, YAC selected seven speakers from diverse backgrounds to share lessons they’ve learned throughout their lives. The speakers at the event were Nick Leon, Erica Yew, Nicholas Kuswada, Ashley Wong, Alex Marhari, William Nguyen and Maileen Hiat.

“AIM is like TED talks,” explains Dan. “We want the speakers to talk about their paths when they were young, what their goals and ambitions were, how they overcame their adversities and when they decided to do whatever career they’re in right now.”

AIM was mainly geared towards high school and college students; however, the event was open to everyone of all ages to learn and be inspired by the speakers.

“Our mission this year is youth guidance,” adds YAC Historian Andrew Huynh. “When we were choosing our speakers, we were really selective based on what are they saying that can inspire the youth, what can help the youth succeed in academics and what can help the youth grow as an individual.”

AIM originated three years ago through the efforts of former District 4 Youth Commissioner and Piedmont Hills Class of 2016 alumni Rose Hoang.

“AIM started when the Youth Advisory Council realized that the youth in San Jose aren’t inspired and lack motivation in general, and that they need guidance in order to succeed in the future,” elaborates Andrew.

Although the event took a lot of time and effort to prepare, plenty of people attended to listen to the speakers, and YAC members are proud for making this become a success.

**DANIEL KOLOSKI**

**COMMUNITY PHOTOGRAPHY**

**RECESS!** From left to right, defense team Joe Yuan (12), Dan Johnson (12) and Tasha Nguyen (11) review evidence during trial.
I imagine paying an extra fee to access media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat. Imagine having to pay Netflix for the right to watch YouTube and Netflix without intense lagging (again, on top of the monthly Snapchat rates). I imagine a world where we have to be watchful of what we see on YouTube and Netflix without intense lagging (again, on top of the monthly YouTube and Netflix rates). You won’t need to imagine, as this may soon become a reality.

Net neutrality has enabled us to access the entirety of the internet with no government regulation and no need to make any sick sexual harassment includes “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature,” according to the EEOC Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The #TimesUp movement is a call to action for millions of women and men to access our legal system to increase accountability for equality and safety to impact the systemic inequality that gets sexually harassed to speak out against their harassers and to en- power their own stories of harassment. This movement then encourages women to actually go further and file lawsuits. This movement then encourages women to actually go further and file lawsuits. It is inevitable that at least some justice has been dealt, with him being fired from his company as well as his wife leaving him because of the sex- ual allegations. Following the Weinstein scandal, the #metoo movement blew up on social media. This movement was a movement to encourage women to share their experiences.

The most current movement was the #TimesUp movement. On Nov. 10, 2017, Time published a letter in solidarity of 700 Hollywood female filmmakers, stating that they stand with the Hollywood actors and actresses, despite having a much smaller voice. Then at the 75th Golden Globes awards, the women were asked to wear black in support of sexual abuse and assault against which many, if not all, complied. At the awards show, the stars and actresses were seen sport- ing the #TimesUp pin on their outfits, showing the weight of the movement.

With a goal of having a large amount of women do so, in order to shed light on how big the problem was and how long the movement was never as large as it is to- day. Then in late 2017, former Mov- ie Studio Boss Harvey Weinstein was accused by 84 women of inappropriate sexual behavior. This is utterly disgusting. Not only did he use his position to force women to do sexual activities that he wanted for himself, including naked massages, but he also made them fearful to the point that they did not speak up until much later, including decades for some. I feel at least some justice has been dealt, with him being fired from his company as well as his wife leaving him because of the sexual allegations. Following the Weinstein scandal, the #metoo movement blew up on social media. This movement was a movement to encourage women to share their experiences.

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**Unsung heroes**

By Elizabeth Trush

This month of February, also known as Black History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of Black Americans in U.S. history. It dates back to 1915, after a half century of passing the 13th Amendment, the abolition of slavery, in the U.S. There were many Black figures who defended their people in order to fight for their basic human rights, not as a person rather than as an object. Black History Month is known by many, but there are many different interpretations of it, many well-grounded by people like black woman. This is the first one of the past we’ll highlight in American History. Barbara King is an American African American who was designated Washington D.C. to try to outline Black History Month and the contribution of African Americans named A. Murray. People are aware of who Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks are and their contribution to the black community, but what people don’t often realize is that there were other influential Black figures that contributed to the growth of the rights every human being should have. The first thing people may be aware of is that the establishment of rights is practical. There are other methods as simple as writing letters to politicians or putting it in the news to fight for freedom and access to basic human rights. Influential figures are everywhere. It’s a great example of how the power of one voice can make a difference. The evidence that African Americans are just as capable, if not more capable than many, of achieving what they want to achieve. The most dangerous list because he was going out and fighting for what was right. Unconsciously, we have the Black Lives Matter movement been a target group because of their protests that has taken place around the country...
Romance in high school? Think about it twice.

By Jesse Flaris

A

lthough high school relationships may be more casual and less serious than those in adulthood, they serve as a foundation for the future. High school is often seen as a time of experimentation and exploration, but it can also be a time of significant emotional and social development. High school relationships can be a source of joy and fulfillment, but they can also be challenging and difficult. It’s important to consider the pros and cons of high school relationships before deciding whether to enter into one.

Pros

1. Emotional Support: High school relationships can provide emotional support when needed. Being in a relationship often means having someone to talk to and Lean on when you need it.

2. Sense of Belonging: High school relationships can enhance a sense of belonging and belonging to a community. Having someone to support you and be there for you can be comforting.

Cons

1. Emotional Stress: High school relationships can be stressful and can cause anxiety and stress. Relationships can be challenging and can add to the already hectic high school schedule.

2. Time Commitment: High school relationships can require a lot of time and effort. Spending time with a partner can take away from other important activities.

It’s important to consider the pros and cons of high school relationships before deciding whether to enter into one. High school relationships can be a positive and rewarding experience, but they can also be challenging and difficult. It’s important to carefully consider all points of view before deciding what to do.

By Nicholas Chiang

The league has tried just about everything from negotiating, to altering the traditional layout, but have done a true Hail Mary – they offered out-and-out bribe, and refused to sell out their cause for any amount, while still others felt the money was an out-and-out bribe, and refused to sell out their beliefs no longer in the best interests of the American community over a five-to-six year period to the tune of $100 million.

The protests punctuated one of the载sions, both pleasant and unpleas-

ting. As alluded to earlier, relationships with other people.

As such, one must learn to control your feelings and destroy any romantic feelings for others that may develop during the time of your relationship. Especially in high school, it is very common for a couple to spend time together with each other. In these scenarios, your significant other turns into your only friend.

“Since I had a boyfriend, it was assumed I was there with him all the time. One time, I had a friend invit-ed to hang out with the ‘girls,’” claims writer Emma Hagedorn in an article on The Odyssey, where she discusses about high school relationships. “It became so bad that if my boyfriend wasn’t at school, I’d be eating lunch alone and bound to awkwardly talk to the girls I used to be so close with.”

National Football League honors picks

By Mark Ingram II. Kamara ran for 728 yards on 120 carries and caught 81 passes for 826 yards, totaling over 1,500 yards on the season. While his performance was impressive, it also highlighted the cause for any amount, while still others felt the money was an out-and-out bribe, and refused to sell out their beliefs no longer in the best interests of the American community over a five-to-six year period to the tune of $100 million.

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INSPIRE! Dan Johnson (12) delivering a speech at Yerba Buena High School.

Law has become something more than just a passion for PPHS’ Supreme Court Justice Dan Johnson. Dan furthered his passion for law through numerous jobs and activities, such as his role as the Vice Chair Member in the Youth Advisory Council, a group commissioned by the city council as a means to advise the city when issues, bills, legislation affect youth. “We’re a committee of members who are the voice for about 13,000 youth in our district (from schools) such as Piedmont, Independence, Morrill, Stratmont and Piedmont Middle School.”

Furthermore, the Youth Advisory Council isn’t limited to advising the city council. If they observe a particular problem in their district, they can draft a policy recommendation to the city. “If we see something that is pressing within our community that does relate to the youth, we’ll also bring that up with city council as well,” Dan stated. In fact, a recent issue that was presented to the youth council was the lowering of the voting age from 18 to 17. They meet every first Monday of the month. “If we see something that is pressing within our community that does relate to the youth, we’ll also bring that up with city council as well,” Dan stated. In fact, a recent issue that was presented to the youth council was the lowering of the voting age from 18 to 17. They meet every first Monday of the month.

Another activity Dan actively participates in is Peer Jury, in which teens who have been cited for a misdemeanor or an educational code violation go through a hearing by the jurors, who are their own peers. Dan has also recently gone and proposed legislation in front of the California State Legislature.

“Some other people were there, and they saw us, but they didn’t really clap or anything like that. They backed off, wanting to give us space.” Ms. De Roos exclaimed. “It was a complete surprise for me. I didn’t expect anything like it at all!” Ms. De Roos exclaimed. “It was raining, so [Mr. Montoya] handed me his coat, and when I put it on, I felt something in my pocket, so when I took [the ring] out, he got on his knee. Some other people were there, and they saw us, but they didn’t really clap or anything like that. They backed off, wanting to give us space.”

“The ring is made of silver, with a blue tanzanite stone in the middle.” Ms. De Roos's and Mr. Montoya's recent engagement.

Ask Polly!

Q: Do you have questions that need answering?

A: Do you have questions that need answering?

Q: Do cars in the movie Cars have life or car insurance?

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Boys Soccer starts winter season

By Andre Nghiem

The soccer season officially began on Jan. 2 with their first league game against Sobrato. As of this Wednesday the Piedmont Hills Boys’ Soccer Varsity team reaches an overall record of 4-6 and JV comes out with an overall record of 4-7 after a series of games with a new coach at the helm, Hugo Chago.

“We’re having a good season in C league, but we could definitely work on team chemistry for future games,” shared Goal Tender Nathan Avalos.

Under Coach Chago, the team has seen many victories, but players agree that there is definitely room for improvement.

“(The) pieces are there, (we) just need to tighten things up,” stated Midfielder Jeremy Silveira.

According to the players, the new coach has been working hard to put the team together and create a cohesive machine. The past games have been half away and half at home with the team bringing in victories against Sobrato and Yerba Buena with a score of (scoreline) and (scoreline), respectively. Other games have resulted in victories for the opposing teams, Yerba Buena and Gunderson. The season is far from over as there are still four more games to go.

Silveira claims that after the game against Gunderson, there is still work to be done to improve the team. Before the season, the PHHS team played scrimmages in practice for the beginning of the season and their progress shows in their performance.

“My goal is getting back to having a better shot, trying to be a better player every time I step up on the pitch,” said Striker Juan Ulloa.

The soccer team is working very hard to improve themselves as a team as well as on an individual level.

“We do drills and after, we shoot. We have this one drill where we have a player kick the ball into a certain spot, and the rest of the team runs into a box, so that when it lands we can finish it,” explained Avalos.

The players interviewed have shown their intention of pushing themselves to play better as the season continues. With the season in full charge, Senior Captain and Centerback Juan Pablo (JP) Mendoza chimed that they, “have a great team and it’s going to be a great season.”

According to Mendoza, due to unforeseen circumstances, the game against San Jose High School on Jan. 2 resulted in a forfeit for Piedmont. The team has declined to comment on the situation.

Girls Soccer kicks off league games

By Jesse Flaris

On Jan. 23, PHHS Girls’ Varsity Soccer Team defeated the Santa Teresa Saints 3-0 to improve their league record to 5-2-2.

So far this season, the Pirates have secured a record of 8-3-4, which places them in fourth place. One game that stood out to the team was the 2-1 win against the Willow Glen Rams. Coming out of the gates, the Pirates jumped out and scored two goals in the first half of play. The Pirates were able to hold Willow Glen to just one goal in the second half to keep their lead and take the victory.

“(One of) the most exciting game this season was against Willow Glen because of the intensity on the field and our hard work resulted in a win!” exclaimed Team Captain Taylor Dutra.

“The Willow Glen was our first league game so the whole team was kind of nervous. It wasn’t our first time playing together so we were somewhat confident, the intensity throughout the whole game was pretty high between both teams but us being able to play together the way we know resulted in us winning,” stated Forward Isabella Silla.

With the current success this team has seen, much can be attributed to how well this unit has come together. Whether it’d be on the field during practice or off the field, being able to trust the person next to you is important to have on any team. Another aspect that has brought this team closer together is how well they’ve supported each other after tough losses.

“We have come together well, we’ve put in a lot of hours training and doing team bonding activities so that now we are friends as well as teammates,” affirmed Goalkeeper Sophia Ulloa.

“(I feel) we have become more of a team by being able to support and pick each other up after a loss,” stated Silla.

With the current success the team is seeing, they all agree and understand that there are some things they can improve upon in order to take their game to the next level. Communication is significant in any sport, and there certainly is no exceptions here, which is why the players stressed the importance of improving that aspect of their game.

“One thing we can improve on is having more communication on the field,” declared Ulloa. “On the field communication is very important because you can’t see everything and communicating is how we can let each other know what’s around.”

Wrestling pushes through season despite small team

By Daniel Kokoski

The Wrestling team continues through BVAL (Blossom Valley Athletics League) season with a current record of 0-4. The team had lost their most recent game with a score of 27-31.

This season, the team was quite small and lacked members, which made team wins challenging to achieve.

“As far as team wins, it’s going to be a little difficult just because we don’t have as many members,” explained Coach Luis Vargas.

“Every weight class we don’t have a wrestler for is a forfeit, so it’s going to count against us. Everyone’s really close and that helps our chemistry,” declared Avalos.

According to Boys’ Team Captain Rex Asato, the team had a full line-up of about 14 players last year. However, ten members had moved away, one who got injured, and one who quit. So overall, we lost a lot of people,” described Asato. “I think, individually, we’ll do pretty good, but as a team, it’s kind of hard because we don’t have as many members.”

Despite being low on members the team is close-knit and committed to improve throughout the season.

“We have a lot of dedication on the team,” said Girls’ Team Captain Jessica Valera. “Most of us love the sport and want to continuously improve.”

“One thing we can improve on is having more communication on the field,” declared Ulloa. “On the field communication is very important because you can’t see everything and communicating is how we can let each other know what’s around.”

POW! Jenny Gonzalez (9) kicks the ball while Natalie Gomez (9) follows along.

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POW! Jenny Gonzalez (9) kicks the ball while Natalie Gomez (9) follows along.
Boys Basketball starts season with winning streak

By Brianna Casarez

The Piedmont Hills’ JV and Varsity Boys Basketball teams played their first league game at home on Jan. 3 against Ann Sobrato. JV started the conference games off with a loss of 33-48 while the Varsity had a win of 71-16.

“We came into the game ready to go, but in the end we lost. It was disappointing to lose in our gym, but as a team we learned from this,” explained JV Power Forward Jordan Botelho. “It’s easy to lose focus and underestimate teams when we are (winning) a lot of games. So I think if we can maintain focus on our goals, we will be good.”

“The sky’s the limit for this team. As a team, we play really well together, we have an amazing culture on the bench, and we have pretty good communication on and off the court, but there is always room for improvement,” added Wu. “We would like to improve our culture on the bench, our togetherness and, something that I find really important, our focus during games and in practice.”

Both teams practice after school daily for a few hours, working on plays.

“Our biggest challenge this season is staying focused on achieving our end goal, which is winning both a league title and a CCS (Central Coast Section) championship,” said Botelho.

Both teams are working hard and preparing for CCS playoffs which begin on February 30. “CCS is coming up really quickly, but our focus right now is on league. We’re playing so we can get 2018 on the banner inside the gym for league champion and as the season goes by, our focus will slowly switch into CCS and how we will plan to play against those tougher teams,” stated Wu.

Girls Basketball shoots for Central Coast Section

By Sophia Xiao

Girls Basketball entered the league season in January and currently have a league record of 3-2 for Varsity and 1-1 for JV. Varsity defeated Independence at a home conference game this Wednesday by a score of 56-33. This Friday in an away game, both Varsity and JV will play Evergreen, a team Varsity lost to by two points and JV by six at their first league game on Jan. 11.

If they win, it will bring them one step closer to achieving their goal of making it to CCS (Central Coast Section) and advancing through the playoffs. Although Varsity was defated in the first game at playoffs last year, the team is optimistic of their chances this season.

“Our team has a lot of energy that shows on the court. We were rusty but we’re getting back in it and going strong in season!” expressed Varsity power forward Jane Tran.

Varsity’s preseason record was 8-6. Pre-season was an opportunity for the teams to build teamwork and prepare for the league games without influencing their chances of making playoffs.

“I feel like we had our ups and downs. We had really good games and really bad games, but it brought us together and made us a closer team,” voiced Tran.

“Every lose and win brings us together,” said Huang.

With the season came new hopes, opportunities and adjustments for all the Varsity players.

“My biggest challenge is adjusting to the new expectations that come with playing on varsity,” voiced Tran.

“We’re a lot shorter this year; we have four guards,” joked Captain and point guard Katie Yamashita.
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“We came into the game ready to go, but in the end we lost. It was disappointing to lose in our gym, but as a team we learned from this,” explained JV Power Forward Jordan Scott.

“Our first league game was crazy. We came into the game really prepared and we expected the other team to play just as hard as we were going to play. We played extremely well together, we communicated pretty well and because of that, the outcome was a win. I didn’t think anyone really saw that coming and I can’t wait for what the rest of the season has in store for this team.”

The Varsity Boys team has been doing exceptionally well this season, maintaining a 18 game winning streak, with nine of those games coming in the league. “It’s always good to be on a win streak because we have a lot of momentum coming into the upcoming games and we gain more confidence and ultimately play better,” commented Varsity Power Forward Jimmy Botelho. “It’s easy to lose focus and underestimate teams when we are (winning) a lot of games. So I think if we can maintain focus on our goals, we will be good.”

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Scoreboard

**Varsity Boys Basketball**

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**Varsity Girls Soccer**

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**JV Girls Soccer**

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A Community to Interact with

By Jessica To

Interact started off the year giving back to the community. The Interact Charity Dinner took place last Sunday from 5pm to 8pm in the L-Building. This marked Interact’s 14th Annual Charity Dinner with another unique theme: the Case of Apartment A6. This murder mystery themed event also had many performances from clubs and students from the many schools in Area 6.

Unlike previous years, the dinner and the show occurred simultaneously and it also featured many performers from Area 6. Most of the extensive decor and food for the event came from donations and Area 6 officers themselves.

All proceeds made from the dinner are donated to Interact’s Intercommunity (international and community) project: The Right to Thrive. Interact and charity organization Plan International USA are helping raise awareness for women’s and children’s rights. It meant to bring attention to injustices, including child marriages, providing services to those in need, educating and empowering others, in order to give everyone the right to thrive.

“One important aspect of our project is raising awareness and fighting for women’s and children’s rights. The funds we make throughout the year and from this event will be donated to help young girls in Burkina Faso, so families do not need to marry off their children,” explained Interact President Vanessa Nguyen.

Several committees were in charge of decorations, food, serving, backstage organization and many other aspects of the dinner.

“All the officers from Area 6 worked tirelessly to make the event successful and seeing all the work come together at the end of the night was truly magical, for we do donate all of the proceeds to our project!” exclaims Interact Treasurer Madalyn Phan.

Despite the incredible amount of work required, both events were successful. Over 300 care packages were passed out at the Holiday event, spreading winter warmth and joy. The Interact Charity Dinner raised over $2,300, which will all be donated to Interact’s Right to Thrive project.

We can expect Interact to return with both events next year.

UPCOMING DATES

FEBRUARY

2/14

Valentine’s Day

2/16

Chinese New Year

2/16

End of 4th marking period

2/19

Presidents’ Day

2/19 - 2/23

Winter Break

MARCH

3/9

The Legend Distribution

3/11

Daylight Saving Starts

3/17

St. Patrick’s Day

3/30

Good Friday

3/30

Cesar Chavez Observation

APRIL

4/1

April Fools’ Day 🐸

4/1

Easter Sunday

Key Club’s “Lost in Wonderland” Charity Dinner

By Reo Nguyen

On Jan. 20, Key Club hosted a collaborative charity dinner called “Lost in Wonderland” in the Piedmont High School theater.

According to district visual media department member Samantha Phan, Key Club hosted a semi-formal dinner that also showcased student performers for entertainment. Doors were open at 5:30 pm for the performances and dinner was served from 6 to 8:30 pm. Students would have to pay $10 for a pre-ordered ticket purchased from club officers or $12 at the door.

“You (could) expect to see many awesome performances, enjoy some good food, and hang out with everyone there! I’m honestly really excited for this charity dinner, as it is co-hosted by our very own club!” exclaims club officer Erica Gao.

Upon entering the dimly lit theater, rows of tables were lined perpendicular to the stage. Backdrops with the dinner’s name were placed on one of the empty walls for photo opportunities. There was a gamut of performances that stole the attention of the crowd which ranged from dance, comedy, musical instruments and singing. To be specific, the performers (in order of appearance) were guitarist Lyshla Mangalabnan, SXC (Seoul Extreme Choreography) comedian Luke Ren, IHS Ukulele Club, pianist Harry Do, KDT (Korean Dance Team), guitarist Doctor Octopus, and Hershey Avenue.

The main focus of the dinner was to raise money for two causes: the Pediatric Trauma Program and the Eliminate Project. Both causes had their own presentations after each of the two intermissions held between performances.

“The PTP (Pediatric Trauma Program) is a charity that attempts to prevent unintentional traumatic injury, which occurs mostly in poorer countries due to poor funding and lack of information through providing safety equipment and partnering with hospitals and the community.” explains Erin. “The Eliminate Project serves to prevent MNT, or maternal neonatal tetanus, a disease that plagues babies and mothers.”

According to Key Club president Megan Luong, the charity dinner was a success, having more people than originally booked. In total, over $1,200 was raised from this event alone and will be split between PHS and BHS’s Eliminate Project as well as MHS’s PTP.

Let’s Bring Change 2 Mind and Interact Color 2 Mind collaboration

By Nancy Li

In a society where mental health remains an oftentimes uncomfortable subject, Piedmont Hills Pirates strive to make a difference. LBC2M (Let’s Bring Change to Mind) and Interact hosted a collaboration mental health workshop, Color 2 Mind, on Jan. 12 in the library.

“The workshop’s goal was to have the attendees really learn about mental health, feel safe sharing their experiences and de-stress!” expresses LBC2M President Nathalia Morán.

“Color 2 Mind is merging the two names Bring Change to Mind and Paint your Colors which is Interact’s motto this year and bringing color to mind is sort of taking your own free will and bringing life and light into your own life and mental health,” explained Interact Co-President and LBC2M Co-Publicist Vanessa Nguyen.

The workshop kicked off with a stress dot activity where the attendees placed purple and green stickers on a thermometer to symbolize where their current stress level stood and where they hoped their stress level stood, respectively. Then, attendees sat down in groups to answer questions regarding mental health and share their thoughts and current knowledge with fellow peers.

[This workshop] made me aware that mental health is becoming more and more of an issue. People often don’t think mental health is a big deal, but it is. It can cost lives,” stated senior Kelly Lam, who was one of the attendees.

Afterwards, the first guest speaker, Nathalia, spoke about her journey in overcoming the harmful and lasting mental issues that arose from being bullied and the creative outlet she discovered and fell in love with, poetry. After a short break time with snacks provided, the second guest speaker Interact Co-Welcomer Devonya Dang spoke about her struggles in dealing with social anxiety and how she eventually grew to overcome it through discovering a passion for community service.

The workshop ended with a deep talk session amongst the attendees and a return to the stress level thermometer where stress level was noticeably decreased. Everyone attending also received a friendship chip cookie for dessert and a chance to win Key Club merchandise. It was a successful event an annual tradition and plans to build on for an even better and more impactful workshop next year.

“I really hope that our school and our community can open its eyes and be more understanding of each other and that we communicate about mental health it’s being able to open yourself up to others and the willingness to listen to others,” concludes Vanessa.