

# LAKE VIEWS

THE AWARD WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LAKE OSWEGO HIGH SCHOOL

## Donald Trump claims victory in 2024 election

By GAVIN NILES

The AP (Associated Press) has called the race, Donald Trump has beaten Kamala Harris 312 electoral votes to 226, winning the 2024 presidential election. What was initially predicted by publications such as MSNBC, ABC News, The Economist, etc., to be a much closer election—or even one entirely in Kamala Harris's favor, as purported by the notoriously accurate election prognosticator Dr. Allan Lichtman—has instead ended in a landslide victory for Trump.

Former 45th president of the United States and soon-to-be 47th won a staggering seven out of seven swing states, four of which have historically favored the Democratic Party since 2000. That is, until Trump's 2016 and 2024 campaigns—a phenomenon exemplifying the increasingly polarizing landscape of American politics.

Following the night of the election on Nov. 5, in the early morning hours of Nov. 6—when not all electoral votes were counted, but he had secured 276 after winning the state of

Wisconsin (six more than the necessary 270)—Trump held a triumphant victory speech at his estate in West Palm Beach, Florida.

On stage, he referred to his Make America Great Again (MAGA) initiative as “the greatest political movement of all time,” and stated that his second term would usher in the

“Golden Age of America.” Joined by his family and vice presidential nominee J.D. Vance, whom he said “turned out to be a good choice,” Trump also correctly called that Republicans would maintain control of the House of Representatives and shouted out billionaire tech mogul Elon Musk, who aggressively campaigned on Trump's behalf in the final stretch of the election—most notably through a \$200 million endowment into the presi-

dent-elect's super Political Action Committee (PAC).

Conversely, Harris delivered a downcast concession speech that same night from her alma mater, Howard University, urging her supporters to “continue the fight that fueled this campaign.” Addressing a massive crowd of her followers, who had hoped to see her elected as the first female president in US history, Harris stated, “the outcome of this election was not what we wanted, not what we fought for, not what we voted for, but hear me when I say the light of America's promise will always burn bright as long as we never give up and as long as we keep fighting.”

Subtly referencing Trump's denial of the 2020 election results she also affirmed that “a fundamental principle of American democracy is that when we lose an election, we accept the results.” Harris will preside over Congress' counting of electoral votes on Jan. 6 to reaffirm Trump's victory peacefully, a surrender that will contrast the president-elect's response to his own electoral loss almost four years ago.



## LOHS mourns the loss of Mario Peri



By JAKE BRENDEN & SOPHIA SAYER

Mario Peri, age 63, tragically passed away on Oct. 24, 2024 after fighting pancreatic cancer for over a month. Mr. Peri dedicated his life to his wife Kristin Peri and child Rachel Peri, and to educating the students of Lake Oswego High School. His legacy and the impact he left on students and staff will live on in their work for years to come.

Peri was born on Aug. 28, 1961. He received his Bachelor of Arts at the University of New Orleans and his Masters in Education at Pacific University. After some time Peri joined the LOHS faculty team in the 1998 school year, teaching history.

Peri was beloved for his freshman history class, America in the Contemporary World, AP European History, and most of all, his sense of humor. He shared his love of history and learning with the students of LOHS. Known throughout the community as an incredible teacher, a helpful co-worker and a caring husband and father, his wry wit always brought smiles to students and staff alike and passion for teaching is shown through the generations he taught.

Peri cherished being a father and husband, as well as an un-

cle to his two nieces. Despite his many years in education, his pride and joy lie in his heart with his family. His loved ones reciprocated this by making his stay at the hospital more homelike, adorning it with photos and paraphernalia of things he held most dear and playing his favorite music. Students expressed their care for Peri by making him 1000 paper cranes. This act was inspired by a Japanese myth that tells of a wish being granted for the person who completes them. This is just one of many examples of people showing their appreciation for Mr. Peri and outpouring of care for him in his battle with pancreatic cancer.

During his battle with pancreatic cancer, he seldom complained, focusing instead on reminiscing for hours about the memories he made with his family and friends. Reminiscing on the times he spent with his family, and friends.

Mario Peri will forever be remembered as the intelligent, witty, and passionate individual he was to students, staff, and his relatives alike. His impact at LOHS was immense and his witty and wry sense of humor will be missed in the history hall. The effects of his passion for learning and history will be felt and seen in the generations he taught.

## Boys water polo wins state title



Lake Views/Ansley Kang

Boys water polo fights against newberg to clinch the state championship

By ANNEMARIE VLAIC

Once again, the LOHS boys water polo team has proved to be the very best by taking home the state title for the third time in four years. This powerhouse of a team defeated Newberg 12-9 on Nov. 16 to finish off their championship quest. Even before this win, the boys were looking promising throughout the whole championship tournament, crushing all their opponents in landslide wins, including most notably a 21-4 win against Lincoln and a 12-1 win against Lakeridge in the Battle of the Lake.

After last year's tight competition that resulted in the LOHS boy's water polo team getting second place at state championships, the team had high expectations and standards this year for their season, one of which being to win state. However, their goals were more nuanced than just claiming the state title. Senior captain, Kane Saur, explained, “Obviously our goals were to win state, but I also kinda saw it as a rebuilding year since in past years our team has been characterized by our seniors and rebuilding our culture.” Kane Saur's brother, senior Henry Saur, also accredited their hard work throughout the season that

led to their win to “focusing in practice” as well as “going to a lot of California tournaments, higher competitions and keeping a mindset that we were going to win.” Their strong training, their team dynamic and talent, according to Freshman Aidan Ramsey, is also top notch. “We have a lot of talent on our team and even young talent that is still coming up,” Ramsey said.

Furthermore, Kane Saur explained, “Our biggest strength was playing club together and playing with each other all year. We have built incredible chemistry. Also, our roster goes deep, everyone can do anything, so that really helped us.” Their talent and wide range of abilities helped carry them to the win, even in high pressure moments. Henry Saur explained that when pressure was high, the team focused on keeping their composure. “When we tied up with them [Newberg] we started losing that team dynamic, but we just kept our composure, kept calm and pulled it off,” he said.

It's a very special win for the seniors on this year's team who have been chasing the championship win, even after the tough loss against Barlow last year. Congratulations!



# Truth revealed about Black Friday scams

By SOPHIA LU

As Thanksgiving approaches, so does the most anticipated sale of the fall: Black Friday. When going about holiday shopping, it is easy to be blinded by the motivation of saving money and miss the tricks present in Black Friday advertisements and sales. It's important to keep in mind that stores are happy when people spend money, not when they save money. As such, all of their marketing and sale strategies do not revolve around helping the customer save but rather prompting them to spend as much as possible.

The first rule of thumb for all shoppers is to exercise common sense. Deals that sound too good to be true probably are, especially if they are on questionable sites. Any money spent on a sale that seems strange can likely be written off as unrecoverable. Even though this type of scam is present year-round, it seems to affect more people on Black Friday. Just last year, Barclays Bank warned that there was a 22 percent increase in money lost to purchase scams on Black Friday. Sales that sound unlikely can be easily avoided using some common sense.

Another technique that stores use to convince shoppers to buy more is to offer additional discounts for opening a store credit card. Although signing up for a store account is usually harmless, with the only downside being daily email spam, opening a credit card comes with a host of risks. Generally, store credit cards have high Annual Percentage Rates (APRs), which add extra late fees if the bill isn't paid in full every month, and store credit cards have even higher APRs. For example, according to a study conducted by Bankrate, "Retail credit cards charge an average of 30.45 percent APR." In contrast, the national average for regular credit cards is 20.93

percent. If the card balance isn't paid off in full every month, the amount owed could increase by almost one-third per month.

To avoid missing out on deals, it is also valuable to use an anonymous browser window. Some stores display different products for different shoppers based on their cookies, so if a customer would usually pay full price, they will likely be shown full-price items. Similarly, if a customer's cookies indicate that they usually purchase sale items, products with discounted prices may be shown first on their screen. Google's incognito mode does not save cookies, so websites visited are unable to track an incognito mode user's online behavior.

Finally, the most difficult sales strategies to avoid involve a customer's perception of sales. Many stores implement a simultaneous markup and markdown on a product, ultimately bringing its price back to or even higher than it usually is. A Which? study on Black Friday sales in 2022 found that "98 percent [of Black Friday sale products] were the same price or less at other times of the year." Thus, simply because a store offers a discount does not mean that the product is cheaper than it normally is. To avoid this, a customer may try keeping track of a product's price in the months leading up to Black Friday and decide if they are willing to buy the item at the stated price.

In general, the purpose of a company is to make money, so its pricing will reflect that purpose. There isn't necessarily anything right or wrong about their need to make money, so the responsibility lies on the consumer to remain vigilant about their purchasing decisions. All in all, when faced with the "perfect" deal, remember: stores will almost never sell at a loss, even if it is Black Friday.



Internet photo

Banner displaying the sales on items during Black Friday sales

# Mann's on the lake opens its doors to diners



Internet photo

Mann's On The Lake opens its first location in LO, replacing stickmans bringing a new and freshened up sense to the waterfront scene in LO

By TAYLOR SHELDON

Mann's on the Lake is a new restaurant in Lake Oswego on 40 N State Street, next door to the Lake Theater in downtown LO. The building was previously occupied by Stickman's, another restaurant, and was remodeled over the summer to become Mann's on the Lake. Mann's on the Lake is associated with Duke's Public House and Aji Tram, two other local restaurants under the same owner, Eric Mann. The remodeled building is drastically different from what it was before and it now has 110 seats inside and 140 seats outside on the deck that overlooks the scenic lake. Mann's will be

the only restaurant in Lake Oswego that is actually on the lake. Its proximity to a boat dock allows for easy access to customers.

Mann's On the Lake is unique because of its lake-front location and "New American Cuisine," a modern take on a seafood and steak house. To focus on the Pacific Northwest style of food, the cuisine is locally sourced from mainly either Oregon and Washington. As a result of the food options, the menu is carefully crafted by Chef Kenny Giambalvo, who has many years of experience in several different restaurants such as Blue Hour and Pazzo which were both located in Portland until they closed. The general manager of the restaurant

is Justin Riedl, who also has prior experience in working as a general manager at Mcmenamins and Domaine Serene Vineyards & Winery.

The restaurant had its grand opening on Oct. 29. It has attracted a plentiful number of customers from all parts of the city, and has goals to grow in popularity once summer comes around. A notable design element of the restaurant is its outdoor patio and view of the lake with easy access for boaters so it is expected to thrive during the warmer months. On Sundays, the hours are from 10 A.M.-10 P.M.; Monday-Thursday the hours are from 11 A.M.-10 P.M.; Fridays are from 11 A.M.-12 A.M.; and on Saturdays, the hours are 10 A.M.-12 A.M.

# Oregon implements new ballot measures

By SOPHIA LU

With the voting on Nov. 5 over, two out of the four measures on the Oregon ballot passed, these being measures 115 and 119. The race for the House of Representatives has Districts one, three, four, five and six going to the Democrats, whereas the Republicans won the east of the state with District two.

Measure 115 makes it so that the state legislature can impeach the executive branch of our state government much the same way it works nationally. Measure 119 will make it easier for workers in the cannabis industry to unionize by requiring employers to enter into "labor peace agreements."

Measure 116, which did not pass, was intended to establish an independent commission to set civil servants' pay. Measure 117, which would have established a rank-choice voting system for federal and state elections,



Submitted photo

Anandi Sohal drops her ballot on election day

also did not pass. If the measure passed, Measure 118 would have increased the corporate tax by three percent and given it back to Oregonian citizens. Oregonians voted against this because this measure would have most likely increase the price of goods and services, offsetting the kickback that they would receive.

The State Legislature remains within the Democrats' control, and our national House of Representatives has Districts one, three, four, five and six going to the Democrats, whereas District two is to the Republicans. The governor was not for election this year, because we voted in 2022, and the State House and Senate are both blue, as they historically have been. The counties have voted as they typically have within historical margins. District five was a hotly contested House Seat. Janelle Bynum flipped the incumbent Lori Chaves-DeReme's seat by just three percent.





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# Kaiya's Papayas



## “Aesthetic” fall shifts to “sad” fall

By KAIYA CARNEGIE

The other day I was walking to my car after a long, tiring day at school, as many students may be familiar with, and it started drizzling, then raining, and then POURING. I tried my best to walk under tree branches to be shielded from the rain, but no dice. By the end of my walk I looked like a wet rat, and my new eggs were stained with water. It's probably my fault for not checking the weather forecast, but I know that summer would never treat me that dirty.

The transition from summer to fall is filled with jolliness. When the mornings finally decide to get colder, my mood gets happier with it. It is the much needed break from the endless and exhausting hot weather. Along with that, I am happy that I get to see my friends everyday and do homework while sitting in a warm Starbucks. I feel so productive, and it gives me a drive like no other. In this phase, going to school isn't a chore yet, and assignments and lectures are still fairly easy. Football games and lively assemblies are frequent, allowing us all to enjoy going to school and look forward to participating in the school spirit.

The days go on, the leaves change color, the morning smells fresh and crisp, like taking a gulp of ice water at 2am, and, most importantly, pumpkin flavored items appear on menus! When it feels this way, I don't want to be anywhere else. Contrary to summer, when I have a head full of daydreams about Christmas, and unlike winter, when my body aches from shivering so much, fall is just perfect. It might be the most rewarding couple of months simply because of the joy and relaxation I feel. Now, I could go on and on gushing about how amazing the beginning months of fall are, but sadly, it doesn't stay like this forever.

Recently, the days have been getting colder, darker and rainier. I know that we are officially in the transition days between fall and winter. I like to call it “sad fall.” “Aesthetic fall” is gone. No more pumpkin patch visits, no more planning Halloween costumes, and no more hot apple cider. It no longer satisfies me that I am able to wear a sweatshirt and sweatpants to school without completely overheating; it's just the norm now. I am no longer in the “honeymoon” phase of school; my motivation to do my school work has blown away, just the same as the colorful leaves on the trees that we used to gaze upon.

Everyday, I wake up to the mundane tapping of rain on my bedroom window. The stress of having the sickly sight of missing assignments being stacked on top of each other on my mind causes me issues. My skin breaks out, I slowly fade to a ghostly pale white shade, my confidence drops, and for some reason my eyes spontaneously burst into tears. There is only one solution to my dire problem, Thanksgiving break. Stuffing myself with food and sleeping for 12 hours each night is surely going to heal me. Once we get to Thanksgiving, the ball begins to roll. After Thanksgiving we have the excitement of Christmas coming up and then time feels like it is flying!

As I am writing this, I realize I know it may sound depressing, but just remember the reward of being so brave and getting through this sad fall phase. In just a mere few days, I will be cozying up on the couch, drinking hot coco, perhaps reading a book with the soft, warm toned lights illuminating the room from the Christmas tree. So, if you too are experiencing a sad fall phase, you can do it!

## Former One Direction member Liam Payne tragically passes away

By CASSIA LITTLEFIELD

Former One Direction member, Liam Payne, died at 31 after falling from a third-story balcony at a hotel in Buenos Aires on Oct. 16, 2024. While the cause of his tragic death is still unclear, toxicology reports have revealed that the singer had ‘pink cocaine’ in his system—a mix of ecstasy, ketamine, methamphetamine and other drugs.

There were many strange circumstances surrounding the lead up to Payne's death. Employees of the hotel where Payne died reported that the singer was acting “erratically” in the lobby and was seemingly intoxicated. Inside of his hotel room, police found the room in a state of disarray with broken furniture and objects. His long-time girlfriend, Kate Cassidy, had left Buenos Aires to return to Florida only a few days before, leaving Payne by himself. In a TikTok posted only two days before Payne's death, Cassidy claimed that she hated “staying in one place for too long” and needed “to go home.”

His autopsy report showed that Payne didn't show any signs of attempting to break his fall, signaling that he was likely unconscious when he fell from the balcony. While it's clear Payne was severely intoxicated, the reasoning behind his behavior is still unknown.

Following his death, many people in Payne's inner circle have come out with statements about his death. The other four members of One Direction released a joint statement as well as individual statements. “We will miss him terribly,” the joint statement

Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, Zayn Malik, and Niall Horan read. In their individual posts, they all referred to Payne as their “brother” and expressed their devastation due to his death.

Payne was not only a celebrity and former One Direction member, but a father as well. He had a 7-year-old son, Bear Payne, that he left behind. His death was devastating for his close friends and family, but he has also made a lasting impact on his fans. Crowds of people gathered around the place where Payne died, lighting candles, putting up pictures and singing some of his songs as a way to honor his memory.

Like many students here at LO, senior Arya Lewis has grown up listening to One Direction. She claims that she has known of them since she was a kid, but she became “a real fan” in 2020. “It's weird that he was so young because that was a part of my childhood. We all kind of expected them to do so much more,” said Lewis.

For many students and fans, his death has made them reflect on their own lives. “I think most people just go through life thinking they're going to live to be like 100,” junior Callie Schmitke said. “Then, you look at Liam Payne, who was on average like a really good person but died really young, and it just makes you so much more grateful for the days that you have.”



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## Corn on the Cobb



## Snacks are the best

By MADI COBB

If someone came up to me and asked which meal of the day is my favorite, I would immediately respond with snacks without hesitation. There are many reasons why snacks are better than breakfast, lunch or dinner.

First, there are so many different types of snacks. There are healthier options, like fruits and veggies, or junk food such as chips and cookies. Choosing fruit, like strawberries or grapes, will never be a mistake. There are also so many different types and flavors of fruit. It's impossible to get tired of these wondrous snacks. Fruits like apples have a satisfying crispness while mangoes have a mouth-watering softness. It's a great way to have something sweet without the unnecessary added sugar.

Even though fruit is the best snack option, there are some packaged snacks that are good. Some examples of packaged snacks that are worth the calories are goldfish and the Trader Joe's takis. The classic cracker known as Goldfish still has not lost its charm. It's fun-looking and yummy cheese-flavored. Goldfish are a perfect option to fill the craving for something salty but not heavy. Goldfish are a perfect option to fill the craving for something salty but not heavy. However, this snack loves to get stuck in the grooves of my teeth; it's very annoying to pick out the orange goop from inside my mouth. Still, Goldfish carry a history of childhood unlike any other snack. On the other hand, Taki lovers have stopped eating the name-brand Takis because they are not as good as the Trader Joe's copycat Takis. They are called Rolled Corn Tortilla Lime Chips with Chili and Lime. But most people just call them Trader Joe's Takis. These little rolled spice bombs create a tingle on the tongue that keeps me craving more. Before someone can blink the whole bag is gone. The search for the most favored shape and size of chip in the bag keeps things exciting. Personally, I love the thin chips that have a bunch of seasoning on them. No matter the person and their spice tolerance, these chips are the perfect snack for all.

Another reason why snacks are one of the best inventions is that snacks are not only yummy but also very helpful. Having a protein bar or meat stick right before sports practice is a great solution to feeling hungry the whole time. If I have a whole meal before practice, I will feel so stuffed and eventually feel like throwing up. But, if I have zero food, all I can think about is my next meal, meaning I'm not focused on working hard at practice. Snacks help me get to the perfect fullness level. In other words, snacks help improve performance in sports.

This method of snacks helping performance also goes for activities like hiking. When going far distances without access to food it's necessary to have something light but nutritious in a backpack. This is why trail mix exists. Trail Mix is a wonderful combo of protein, sugar and salt, making for great fuel on a hike. Without a good Trail Mix I would always feel famished and weak when trekking long distances.

The reason why snacks are my favorite food genre is because they help me stay awake during class. When people fall asleep in class they resort to having coffee or energy drinks to get caffeine, but that's not a good problem solver to fix lack of energy. Having caffeine frequently can cause heart issues and other worrisome health issues which isn't something high-schoolers should be worrying about. Instead, highschoolers should be eating snacks to get a little extra energy. If I learned anything in biology during sophomore year it was that food gives you energy. That is food's main purpose. So, instead of hugging a red bull during class, try having an apple. I know my body thanks me for getting a little snack.

Snacks will always be the number one food group in my heart. There are many pros to snacks and basically zero cons. Everyone should be having snacks everyday, 24/7.

## Collectibles increase in popularity

By ANSLEY KANG

Sonny Angels, Smiskis, Calico Critters and other popular figurines have been taking high-schoolers by storm. Something about the little green Smiskis with simple expressions, the bunnies in dresses, or the baby Sonny Angels in hats are worth the \$10 buried deep in the drawer of a lampstand.

Collecting these figurines has gained more popularity over the past two years, as a companion for school, work, travel or just about anything else. Junior Ella Chang put her Pearl Earring Smiski "right next to [her] computer. Ms. Pearl Earring morally supports [her] as [she] struggles through homework."

Senior Zoe Lok also

collects figurines, growing a large collection of Sonny Angels. "Right now I have around 20 Sonny Angels. My favorite one is the Bunny Angel. They all sit on my dresser and kind of just chill there," Lok explained.

These figures can be found either on the official website or in bookstores like Kinokuniya.

"For a while, they had them at Happy Lemon. That's where I got my bunny," said Lok.

The mystery component of these blind boxes is also what draws buyers. "There's a few boxes where I don't want it to be a mystery, and I just want a specific Smiski. But most

of the time I'm down to get whatever," said Chang. Lok disliked the mystery in these boxes, which is why she likes collecting Calico Critters as well. "Sonny Angels are great, but I want to know what I'm getting. Calico Critters show you in the box which makes it more fun."

Trading figurines is another pastime hobby that is associated with collection.

Trade events for figurines are growing to be more and more popular, with most taking place at local boba shops and bookstores.

"I like to trade my Smiskis too," said Chang. "I traded a painter Smiski for my pearl earring Smiski. Some people on

Depop sell, but tell me why there are people charging \$38."

These figures are only growing in popularity, causing the prices to skyrocket.

"It's insane that I have to pay upwards of \$25 for Sonny Angels at some places. I remember when they were \$10," said Lok.

To Chang, the Smiskis were like "Easter Eggs. But to my life. That's why I love them so much."

Lok agreed, and said that "Sonny Angels always represent my mood. I'll put out the crocodile if I'm feeling moody, and the strawberry if I'm in a good mood."

## Take a glimpse into LOHS's newest production: Peter and the Starcatcher

By CASSIA LITTLEFIELD & CLARE CHRISTENSEN

The LOHS theater department is back at it. After a successful run of their fall musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," the thespians have been working hard on their next project, "Peter and the Starcatchers." The play is a reimagining of the beloved childhood story "Peter Pan," and will be showing on Nov. 21, 22 and 23. However, many of the characters go by different names in this story. For example, senior Connor Ramsey plays Stache, who he claims is "the copyrighted version of Captain Hook." Many of the characters' essences are the same, but with slightly different names and characteristics.

Last year, the thespians put on another "Peter Pan" inspired play called "Lost Girl," but cast

members assert that "Peter and the Starcatchers" is a completely different entity.

The story centers around Peter and his fellow orphaned comrades who board the Neverland ship. Along the way, Peter befriends a strange young girl named Molly. He soon discovers that Molly is a starcatcher, so they join forces to fight against their enemies. Their mission is to protect their beloved "star-stuff" from evil and greedy pirates.

The grandiosity of this play has provided plenty of opportunities for students to get involved. "We have a big cast," stated junior Anderson Litchfield. "It's very interesting because everyone plays several different characters. The whole ensemble is doing at least four different characters across the show," he said.

Ramsey explained, "It's differ-

ent from other plays I've done before because it involves a lot of the underclassmen." Working with the younger grades has given Ramsey the chance to see "the future of our theater."

There are also a lot of students involved behind the scenes. Ramsey emphasized the importance of their crew members. "It's a very prop-heavy show," he said. "Some of the sets are annoying to move around, and they have to bring the set back and forth because a lot of people need the stage at different times."

"I think in the spirit of love, people should come see the show because it's very silly and very fun. People will get a laugh out of coming to see this show," Ramsey said. If you're interested in seeing epic sword fights, all-out music numbers, and fellow students attempting British accents, then this show is for you.



Lake Views/Clare Christensen & Cassia Littlefield

The cast of Peter and the Starcatcher rehearsing for their upcoming shows on Nov. 21, 22 and 23

## Tyler, the Creator releases new album that moves away from his typical style

By DYLAN THOMAS

It has been over two years since rap and R&B artist Tyler, the Creator released an album. On Oct. 21, the song "Noid" was released as an album teaser, and it received primarily positive reviews, further increasing anticipation for the album. Following the drop of this single, the album "Chromakopia" was released on Oct. 28 and added to his extensive discography. An unnamed source stated, "To be honest the hype for the album is a lot lower than I expected it to be when the album dropped." Some fans suspect that Tyler has lost some of the momentum that he had when he released his other albums, "Igor" and "Flower Boy," and it is not uncommon in this day and age for artists to "fall off" or lose popularity over time.

Following the album drop, Tyler has begun Chromakopia The World Tour. The tour will take place in 39 locations in the United States, as well as 22 other locations across the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, adding up to a grand total of 61 concerts. Additionally, Tyler has already released a line of merchandise rocking the black,

white and green colors of "Chromakopia." Most of the music videos that have been released from the album are shot in a black and white color scheme, following the eye-catching album cover that displays a monochrome image of Tyler wearing a mask with "CHROMAKOPIA" written in green above it. There have been several speculations that both the cover of the album and the music style takes some inspi-

ration from rapper MF DOOM.

Tyler's decision to release his album on a Monday morning granted him three fewer days of the sales week to compete on the charts. To some surprise, this did not stop Tyler's album from opening with over 200 million streams, making it the most successful streaming album as well as the best sales week of Tyler's career so far. Judging by how quickly this album topped the Billboard 200 chart, it will remain one of Tyler's greatest successes in his music career, regardless of what fans think. So far, the album has received mixed opinions from the public, ranging from words of dislike to praise of it being the album of the year. Fans are wondering if this is a change in Tyler's style while others believe that it is his same old style, but simply a different flavor.





# Lake Oswego celebrates their veterans



Internet Photo

A collection of American flags waving in wind, representing our support and appreciation for veterans and those who fight for our country and freedom.

By SOPHIA SAYER

Every year on Nov. 11, people all across America press pause on their busy lives to express gratitude and reflect on the sacrifices made by those who have served in the military. Veterans Day, originally known as Armistice Day, marks the anniversary of the end of World War I and has since evolved into a day to honor all veterans, both living and deceased. Veterans Day's origins date back to 1919, when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as Armistice Day to celebrate the end of the Great War. In 1938, the day was officially recognized as a federal holiday. It wasn't until 1954, after World War II and the Korean War, that the holiday was renamed Veterans Day to honor the people who fought in the wars. This holiday is marked by ceremonies across the country. Communities gather to pay tribute to local veterans, of-

ten featuring speeches by military leaders, politicians, and veterans themselves. These events not only honor those who have served but also educate the public about the contributions of military personnel.

LOHS has two known veterans. It is of significant importance, especially during this time, that we recognize them for their contributions in the military. LOHS Social Studies Teacher Michael Noble was drawn to join the war effort as a member of the Army Aviation not only to contribute to a greater cause than himself but also because of Noble's lineage of family members (primarily on his dad's side) who have been of service to the military. Despite Michael Noble not being on the "front lines," the tasks of an airman are still vital for a stable, functional, and well-rounded military. If the U.S. didn't have military aviation, let alone the people working under

that title, our country would not have the superiority of the air and space, global strike, intelligence, surveillance, and control that it currently does. We have these veterans, including Michael Noble, to thank for that. What is honorable about being a veteran is serving the country in times of need. That is what makes it a sacrifice.

"Everyone has reasons for joining the military," said school psychologist Amber Bok. After high school, Amber Bok saw the benefits that she and her family could receive from her joining the army. After the necessary training, Amber began her work in the health branch of the military, specifically helping with the mental well-being of military personnel in hospice. This job, while occasionally overlooked, is a demanding one, taking a strong and smart individual to do it properly. After Amber Bok's service, she was in-

spired to go further in the mental health field, eventually leading to Bok's current position as the LOHS school psychologist. The lessons learned from her experiences contributed to her advanced understanding of neurological health, allowing her to lend a hand to the students of LOHS and beyond.

For many veterans, Veterans Day is a poignant reminder of their service, the challenges they faced, and the lessons they've learned. "It's an opportunity for me to reflect on the sacrifices made by those that I served with and past students of mine that have joined the military," said Michael Noble. However, veterans shouldn't just be celebrated on this day alone; this acknowledgement needs to be brought up throughout the year. At its core, Veterans Day is supposed to be a time to appreciate this specific group of people and the sacrifices they've made by serving in the military.

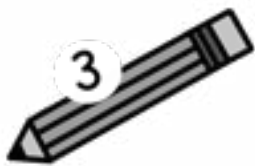
## How to give back during the holidays



**Volunteering at Rose Haven Women's Shelter:** Rose Haven is a day shelter for women, children and those who do not conform with a gender, and serves as a safe haven for those experiencing homelessness, abuse and other life disturbances. Those who come to Rose Haven are often in need, and it can be difficult for them to find ways or reasons to celebrate the holidays. This is where you come in. Rose Haven offers service volunteer opportunities Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. and Tuesday through Thursday from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. The shelter takes supplies from underwear to winter coats that they will give to their residents. Additionally, there are endless opportunities to host a fundraising or giving event in a way that is meaningful for you that would provide supplies to the shelter.



**Adopting a family for christmas:** Celebrating the holidays can be difficult for low-income families. There are various organizations that offer a 'family adoption' system during the holidays in which one may select a family in need based off of a brief bio and purchase gifts listed under the family's profile for each member. This is a really great thing to do with a club or team in order to make sure that all of the gifts for the family are purchased and no single person has to find them all. A great place to adopt a family is [christmasfamilyadoption.com](http://christmasfamilyadoption.com), but there are other websites that could be used depending on your location.



**Volunteer as a tutor:** Another unique service opportunity is language tutoring. ENgin is a program that allows students and adults who are fluent in English to tutor Ukrainians who are hoping to learn English. Being a tutor includes curating a lesson plan for your student or following the premade ones on the ENgin website. Tutoring through ENgin is a great way to forge valuable relationships with other adults or students from Ukraine while providing them with knowledge that will last a lifetime.



**Host a refugee restart drive:** Refugee Care Collective (RCC) is an organization located in Portland that strives to help refugees who arrive in Oregon reintegrate themselves into society. RCC offers the opportunity for those who have no prior involvement in their organization to host a Refugee Restart Kit drive in their community. RCC needs a plethora of materials to give to refugees when they find shelter in Oregon. To help, you can choose a type of kit you would like to make and spread the word around your neighborhood or community regarding which materials you need. You can gather materials from those who would like to help and package them all up and deliver them to RCC where they will be given to a family or individual who needs it.



**Volunteer your skills:** If you have any special skills, chances are, there is a way for you to help others while utilizing these skills. If you can crochet, try crocheting hats for babies in the NICU. Can you sew? Try selling things you've created and donating the profits. If you are craftily inclined, you can use scraps of fabric to make pet toys for animals at the Oregon Humane Society or make grippy socks for hospital patients. These are just a few examples, but there are countless ways to give back using your skills. Take the time to research opportunities and find what is best for you and then get working!

## Live Heads Up fundraising event brings awareness to ALS

By LAILA BRISTOL

Jeff Young is a man who possesses immense strength and perseverance along with striking positivity. He brightens every room and never fails to bring a smile to his friends faces. Unless you've met him, you would never know that he has been diagnosed with Lou Gherig's Disease (more commonly known as ALS). In fact, Young has been battling ALS for 41 years, living far past his life expectancy given to him by doctors and becoming a miracle to doctors and to his family and friends. Despite his diagnosis, Young has never surrendered to his disease like others in his place might. Instead, he has used his misfortunes to encourage others to live their lives to the fullest. Young has worked as the leadership and motivation coach for Laker Football since 2004 and has continued to serve as an inspiration to not only the football team but the entire LOHS student body. He has lost his

ability to speak but still writes a letter to the team each week to help them mentally prepare for whichever opponent they will face. The phrase "LO-48," which many Lakers are familiar with, comes from Young's constant reminders to his team to play their hardest all 48 minutes of the game for those who are unable to.

Though Young is thoroughly involved in the current LOHS community, he also has a place in the heart of many Laker alumnus. According to his former classmates, Young was a football star and the life of the party when he attended LOHS. One of Young's classmates explained that even in highschool Young was resilient and said, "if you were out playing [football], he would play harder."

Other friends of Young described him as "larger than life" and explained that he always found a way into the spotlight whether it was for his quick witted humor, adventurous lifestyle or impressive athletic

and musical abilities. His friends expressed that the most devastating part of watching Young's diagnosis progress was his loss of speech, as they were saddened for those who were never able to experience his hysterical jokes and incredible stories.

Young is also one of the faces of a local organization called Live Heads Up. This organization was founded by a woman named Chris Dudley who has made it her mission to encourage our society to pursue life's best view. She created Live Heads Up in order to spread her ideas far and wide and has done a wonderful job at gaining community involvement. Dudley and Young joined forces to create the ultimate positivity campaign at LOHS, and Young's friends described him as "the perfect fit" for this project considering that he already possessed the "Live Heads Up mentality." Red out week at LOHS is organized by Live Heads Up and Laker ASB

members. This week serves as a time for students to reflect on their own lives and to consider those like Young who are restricted in what they are able to accomplish. This reflection is aimed at urging students to live their lives how Young would have before his diagnosis: positively, persistently and with no regrets. This is the reason we spend the week wearing red clothing and uniforms at school and sporting events. It is the reason you see banners reading "Be Like Jeff" or "Live Heads Up" throughout the hallways. So, next time you are having a bad day, think of Jeff Young and ask yourself what he would do in your position. Would he let the situation get the best of him, or would he pick his head up and keep on pushing forward? Try your best to let his mentality carry you through life and don't forget to Live Heads Up!



# a solar system

# of memories

## LOHS remembers Mr. Peri

"I really miss Mario. He used to stop by my room every morning on his way upstairs for a visit. It was a highlight of my day - and of my job. He loved his students and teaching and looked forward to retiring and starting his next adventure. I loved talking with him about school and about what would come next after retiring. It's so tragic that he didn't get his next chapter. He was so looking forward to it."

- Ms. Evonuk



"Mr Peri loved the show 'Derry Girls', and he would constantly refer to it in AP Euro. When I told him that I also enjoyed the show, he named us 'Derry Girl Besties'. Moments like this showcased the happiness he brought to our lives, especially since an AP class first period is not the ideal situation. Yet, class with him was always filled with joy. Even though it has been two years since I took AP Euro, I miss having class with him every day."

- Connor Ramsey

"I always admired Mario's passion for the subjects, places, and most of all, people he loved. I became friends with him many years ago, when his daughter, Rachel, was just a toddler. He talked about her all the time, and for me, personally, he created a real joy and excitement for future parenthood. I loved trading stories about our families throughout the years."

- Mr. Huss

"One memory I have of Mario is this. One day during PLC time I walked into Mario's room and he was engrossed in something on his computer. He apologized to say that he was watching the Derry Girls. He admitted that he was obsessed and I had never watched the Derry girls. Since then I have watched the series whenever I need to laugh until I cry and have watched this series again in honor of Mario."

Additionally, Mario was gregarious and a friend to all. So many people have been greeted by Mario on his rounds of walking through the school."

- Ms. Levin



"Mr. Peri had some phrases that he would say all the time, like 'corgis running through the snow', as in, 'Please use this time to do the assignment and not to watch videos of corgis running through the snow.'"

He was sassy, like he'd roast the group I sat with in his class last year, especially Lorelee for how long she'd talk when she raised her hand. He'd give us a hard time for being his chattiest class but then if we were ever quiet he'd say that something felt wrong and get us to start talking again."

- Emel Alhumaid



"Mr. Peri and I spent probably a whole prep period trying to translate his great grandfathers birth documents because he was trying to get his Italian citizen ship! I was crying during third period for some reason last year, and to cheer me up Mr. Peri bought me his secret stash of snacks, he always had the best ones! At the end of AP Euro, Mr. Peri had decided that he was done torturing us with all the history, so he spent a whole class period playing gay succession tiktok edits"

Mr Peri always made me feel like I belonged. He saw past all the things that were surface level and really knew how to connect with his students!"

- Sarah Al Qirem

"Mario and I started the same year 27 years ago. His ability to show compassion and empathy will always be something I remember about Mr. Peri the most. Mr. Peri will truly be missed and his influence on students is as immense as his guttural laugh or his infamous yelling sessions at his students when he was upset with them. Both were just as endearing to them. My friend and colleague, there is an empty seat with your memory in it every day at lunch. We will continue to honor you with Mr. Peri stories just as we have talked about so many other traditions over the years. We miss you my friend...."

-Mr. Anders



"Mr Peri was the kind of teacher that nobody forgets- it doesn't matter what class you had him for, or how much time you spent with him- you don't forget him. He was my favorite teacher and one of my favorite people I've had the pleasure to meet. He carried with him a legacy, one of immeasurable kindness and understanding, for anyone and everyone who crossed his path. I hope that in his death, we can call give each other a little more grace- for Mr Peri."

- Emaline Aney



# Chick-fil-a opening in LO represents the growing influence of corporate culture

By SOPHIA LU

Anyone who has driven along Kruse Way on their way to enter the OR-217 highway or has simply visited the Centrepoint Starbucks in the past few months has seen the new Chick-fil-A sign. It is forecasted to open to the public this year. However, is this really the cause for celebration everyone seems to think it is?

Lake Oswego's first Chick-fil-A replaces the Stanford's Restaurant & Bar location on Kruse Oaks Drive. Not only does it represent how Lake Oswego is growing in influence, but it is also representative of a nation-wide shift to embracing corporate culture. Instead of a city packed with numerous small businesses, LO may be slowly transitioning to a washed-out model of corporate conformity.

After the COVID pandemic, many local businesses found themselves unable to recover from the economic difficulties they experienced. Consequently, many were forced to close their doors. Stanford's Restaurant & Bar was one such example; local to the Oregon and Washington area, it was a staple of the Lake Oswego community from 1990 to its eventual close in 2022 – a 32-year legacy.

In contrast, while small businesses were floundering, large fast-food chains were able to bounce back relatively quickly. Local restau-

rants began steadily increasing prices as they tried to make up for COVID losses, and gradually people turned to cheaper alternatives such as fast food. This shift prompted sit-down restaurants to raise their prices even more in an attempt to maintain their vanishing foothold in the food industry. However, these price increases only worsened the vicious cycle, causing even more people to convert to fast food.

Fast food corporations purchased and continue to purchase their materials at lower prices than smaller restaurants, due to their ability to buy in bulk and place less emphasis on freshness, so they are able to sell their food at lower prices. Therefore, even though they also wildly raised their prices, compared to local restaurants, fast food still remains significantly cheaper. Additionally, although many small businesses source their products locally, Chick-fil-A, like many other fast food chains, focuses on quick service over the quality of their products, allowing it to operate with lower costs. Similarly, because local suppliers also

struggled during the pandemic, restaurants that sourced from them also bore the harmful effects.

However, others argue that Chick-fil-A is preferable to an alternative fast food chain, as it is known for being slightly healthier and more community-centric. Almost every Chick-fil-A is franchised and individually operated, while many other fast food chains have strong centralized organizations. Therefore, the Lake Oswego Chick-fil-A may be operated to some extent by a member of the community who may reduce the influence of the central corporation.

One thing is certain: with the addition of Chick-fil-A, Lake Oswego is cementing its status as a growing city. However, growth is not always synonymous with progress, and the choice to either support or reject corporate culture still remains up to the discretion of the individual. Nonetheless, before going to the new Lake Oswego Chick-fil-A, it is important to consider all the consequences of buying their products and thus supporting the growing influence of corporations.



# Students suffer the most during senior year

By ANSLEY KANG

There has been constant debate as to which year is the hardest in high school. Some believe it's freshman year with the quick transition from middle school to high school; others believe it's junior year with the rigorous course load and standardized testing prep. Sophomore year is... Well, sophomore year is just sophomore year. After going through all of the years in high school, I can confidently say that senior year first semester so far has been the hardest few months of my entire schooling career.

Now, I can't say that my experience is the same as everyone else's, but I think what makes it so difficult is the balance between school, extracurriculars and college apps. Free time is nonexistent this year. Senior year

is the last year of high school, yet it's still important to keep up semester and quarter grades for applications to universities. I wish I could get away with pulling up my grade in the last week of the semester to an A, but that just won't fly this year with the quarter grade report. I envy my friends who have at least one free period because my schedule is jam-packed; I have no late arrivals, early releases or study halls.

Although junior year was challenging with hard classes, SAT prep and extracurriculars, nothing has ever amounted to the stress of college applications. All four years of high school have built up to this moment for me, and to say it's stressful is an understatement. Junior year was a battle to stay afloat with all of the assignments and tests, but senior year waters have gotten even

deeper with the assignments, tests, projects and dozens of supplemental essays for the colleges I am applying to. I often find myself worrying about the future, whether or not I will get into my dream college and how I'm supposed to live my life while doing all of this. This worry undoubtedly connects all aspects of my life right now, and it can be hard for me to take a minute and focus on what I need to do. However, I've found that taking it one day at a time has made things better. No worrying about the future. Focus on the present.

I remember the week before the early application deadline for college. I worked without breaks during dinner, brushing my teeth, and even when my dog begged me to play with her. I had essays upon essays to write, while also having endless physics

homework and chemistry worksheets to finish. I stayed cooped up in the house during weekends and on Friday nights, occasionally going out to the football games but only to work on taking pictures for the yearbook. When early applications were over, it honestly felt like a huge relief off of my shoulders, but I know that there are more applications to come.

Seniors, I know it can be stressful, but we got this. There's only a quarter left in first semester, and before we know it, second semester will be in full swing. This year comes with lots of inevitable anxiety about decisions, grades and life outside of school, but supporting each other is the best way to go about the year. One final push and everything will be over. Enjoy the time while you can, juniors. You got this too.

# The movie adaptation of the iconic Broadway musical, "Wicked," is garnering mixed reviews

Fan

Not a fan



By LILY OLSEN & CASSIA LITTLEFIELD

One of the most beloved, Tony Award-winning Broadway musicals, "Wicked," is making its way into theaters on Nov. 22, and many fans are eagerly waiting to watch it. "Wicked" is the prequel to the classic story, "The Wizard of Oz," and it follows the storyline of two witches, Glinda and Elphaba. The adaptation stars Ariana Grande as Glinda and Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba. Glinda is the beautiful, popular and good witch, while Elphaba is smart and misunderstood. The two cross paths at school and become friends through a wild journey.

The movie has produced many brand collaborations to get fans excited including Wicked-themed products and collections from brands like H&M, Gap, Lego and more. I think the fact that the movie is now being produced into a film is a great opportunity to share the famously known musical with the whole world and give people an opportunity to view it from home.

Personally, I'm excited for the movie because it's going to bring to life much of what a stage production can't. While many people find the special effects in the movie to be distasteful, I think it does a good job at truly immersing the viewer into the world of

"Wicked." I'm looking forward to seeing the elaborate sets and mythical creatures, such as the munchkins, be brought to life on screen.

Not only does the movie adaptation allow for creative world-building, but it also brings a new and fresh take on the original story. From what I've seen in the trailer, Grande and Erivo do a fantastic job at paying homage to the original characters while also bringing something of their own to it. I've had their versions of the soundtrack stuck in my head for a few weeks now. It's widely known that the two are musically talented, so I know that they can only contribute great things to the movie adaptation.

Senior Loralee Van Londen is just as excited as I am to see the film. She's looking forward to seeing "how they [Grande and Erivo] build the world of Wicked and Oz together, how they shimmer and how they sparkle." The movie will definitely have a different feel from the iconic musical, but "the integrity of the story and the musical will remain intact and be amazing," Van Londen declared. Nothing can compare to the feeling of seeing the live production, but the movie is going to bring to life the world that stage props simply cannot, making it a movie that's worth watching.



By LILLIAN MCILRAITH

All over social media there is publicity surrounding the upcoming "Wicked" movie, an adaptation of the "Wicked" Broadway musical, coming to theaters on Nov. 22. It's about the college lives of classic "Wizard of Oz" enemies, the Good Witch of the North, Glinda, and the Wicked Witch of the West, Elphaba.

While some are excited about the upcoming movie, others, such as myself, are critical of the new adaptation. "Wicked is really really well done on Broadway, but that is going to be hard to transfer to the movies," said sophomore Harmony Yount. "Wicked" was written for live theater with live performers. To capture that on the screen is a challenging feat to pull off.

While film allows for incredible visuals and graphics, watching edited songs performed on a screen is vastly different from seeing live performers. The movie is bound for success because they are using the pre-existing robust fan base that "Wicked" the Broadway musical has garnered.

The movie is predicted to get \$1 billion in revenue, while the budget for production was \$145 million. Many performers feel that the money the entertainment industry is pouring into the movie

would be more beneficial if put toward the development of original movie-musicals rather than remakes, especially if the goal is to "support musicals" as the movie is claiming to do.

If the goal of the "Wicked" adaptation is to support the performing arts, then the money should go into supporting Broadway actors, workers, designers and crew. If the reason for this adaptation is to bring a fun movie to theaters, then perhaps they can pull it off. But students such as senior Lina Johnson worry about the casting of the musical "I think an actual, current Broadway actor could be used instead of Ariana Grande." There are concerns about Grande's ability to keep up with Cynthia Erivo's acting, who has a lot more acting experience.

The new "Wicked" musical seems unnecessary. The phrase "don't fix what isn't broken" seems to apply here. "Wicked" the Broadway musical is a highly successful show made for live audiences, and the movie adaptation will almost certainly fall short of the legacy it has established in the performing arts community.

It's going to be very sad and disappointing for many Broadway fans to pay and see a beloved musical that does not meet the high bar that the original musical has set.



# Victoria Secret struts back to the runway



Internet Photo

Some of the show stopping models with their Victoria Secret attire, walking on the runway at the 2024 Victoria Secret fashion show

By ANNEMARIE VLAIC

After six years, the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show has made a comeback, and many are arguing over whether it's for better or for worse. With all the excitement came a ton of judgment, some of which I believe to be nit-picky, considering Victoria's Secret (VS) cut their runway shows entirely in 2018. They did this after controversy and backlash due to lack of body positivity and diversity. Many claimed that VS was not upholding changing societal standards and being uninclusive of the LGBTQ community, while also being a driving force against the body positivity movement due to the lack of of plus sized models. The #MeToo movement also delivered a huge blow to VS's reputation, with many claiming the company to be promoting unrealistic and unhealthy messages, which contributed to the runway's makeover.

Historically, the VS budget has been around \$10 million to \$12 million. However, this year VS brought back well known names to the run-

way, such as Gigi Hadid, Bella Hadid, Ashley Graham, and the most iconic angel, Adriana Lima. There were some mixed opinions about the introduction of plus size models to the runway due to some people wanting the show to be an exact copy of what it used to be, with the glorification of skinny models and the exclusive vibe that the show gave when it discriminated against certain traits. But it was because of the adherence to those old standards that VS met their demise. With the addition of these plus size models, such as Graham, transgender model Alex Cosani, as well as more ethnically diverse models, VS has moved to a more inclusive runway despite mixed opinions from critics.

A huge controversy for this year was that Victoria's Secret spent most of their budget on getting these original models back, causing the runway to be pretty plain in comparison to what their runways used to be like. For example, some of the models were missing wings, and honestly, most of the wings looked cheap, ugly and small, ex-

cept for the select few that were often on big-name models.

Also, what happened to the bombshell hair? Let's not make slick-backs a thing, VS. Part of what made the company's runways so fun to watch was the wings, vibrant color, the energy and the big hair. Without that big, bombshell hair, and with all the dark colors and unenthusiastic runway, it made the show feel like it was forcing change and trying to regain support.

The music was on point this year, though, which might have been another big budget cost. Artists that played at the fashion show this year included K-Pop star, LISA, Cher and South African singer, Tyla. Tyla arguably had the best wings of the whole show. They were exactly what the expectation was for every model. And Cher, being such a well known artist, must've cost quite a lot.

I believe this year VS focused extra hard on trying to get the best names back on the show, most likely because they feared that if they didn't have that cushion of support, the show would flop. However, I

think they are underestimating how well known their brand is, even after the controversy. More people are pressed about the fact that they stopped the runways fully than the fact that they are back. Some people are mad that their fabrics and lingerie quality have deteriorated over the years, while the prices have only inflated.

I was extremely happy to see that the VS Fashion Show came back, even with the changes. It brought back memories from my childhood, and it was nice to see that they are trying to bring back what was a popular event in the fashion industry and big names in business. However, I do think that with all the controversy from their 2018 show, they tried to make lots of new changes to appeal to Gen Z and conform to the ever-evolving societal norms but they possibly overdid it. I think what other people, and myself, really wanted was a nostalgic show. With all the changes, it is foreseeable that the shows will never be like they used to be due to the company's need to appeal to a new generational au-

# Owala reigns supreme over Hydroflasks

By ANSLEY KANG

Trends are constantly shifting, and there are periods where the most random things are the latest fads. Lately, it has been the battle of water bottles. Owalas and Hydro Flasks are currently two of the most popular water bottle brands, with Owala just recently coming into the water bottle market. I've been a Hydro Flask fan since I was in elementary school, but ever since the Owala came along, I've shifted my loyalties to the Owala water bottle.



One aspect of a water bottle that I really value is the color selection. I want to look cute coming into school with a water bottle, and the Owala does just that. Don't get me wrong, Hydro Flasks have a large selection of colors, but they're all plain, solid colors. I love how the Owala bottle itself is a color, and then the cap is a few colors combined. The Blossom Bunny Owala is my absolute favorite because of the cute colors on the bottle and the lid. It's all of my favorite colors in one water bottle. I would only be able

to choose one of my favorite colors for a Hydro Flask.

A key selling point for the Owala that I think really shook up the water bottle game was the dual-functionality of the cap. You can sip from the built-in straw, or you can drink it like you would from a cup. The Hydro Flask only has the option to either sip or drink, depending on which lid you get. This wasn't as big of a deal for me because I've always preferred to sip. But I think it's cool that I could do both with one cap.



One thing that I will say

about the Owala is that I feel it's not as sturdy as the Hydro Flask. The part where the handle lifts up is a bit flimsy, and I actually broke my old Owala because of this. The Hydro Flask cap is more sturdy, so I feel like I can hold it by the handle. If the cap was stronger on the Owala, this would be a 10/10 water bottle.

Overall, both water bottles are worth the investment. I personally am an Owala fan, but both come with pros and cons. Hydro Flask will just never beat the cute colors of the Owala.

# Stop disrespecting our janitorial staff

Everyone loves a good prank. Friendly competition is the lifeblood of the high school experience. While some crimes really are victimless, most of the "harmless" pranks that happen at our school target one group in particular: the janitorial staff. They are the front lines of all of the antics that happen at LOHS and it's time to recognize that the level of respect this school gives them is abysmal.

This issue was brought to our attention after an incident prior to the Battle of the Lake football game. Early in the morning the day before the game, players on the Lakeridge football

team snuck onto Cobb Field and urinated on our Laker bell. While this prank was meant to be geared towards Laker football players and the larger LOHS student body, in actuality it only really affected the janitorial staff.

Although this particular act was not one of LOHS students, it represents a larger issue in our community: entitlement. The ideology that pranks like these will warrant no consequences comes from an untouchability complex that is anything but rare in this town. It's no secret that the stereotypes that surround our city are largely related to the issue of elitism, and we worry

that pranks like these will only perpetuate this unflattering image.

Disregard for consequences is not rare within our school community either. For instance, last year the tradition of seniors TP-ing the Tree was taken a bit too far, leaving the school in disarray after the event. Not only was toilet paper left all over the campus (including on a memorial tree for a past LOHS student) but the outdoor lunch tables were moved and stacked in the front entryway. It's unclear who this attack was meant to target, but it's safe to assume the class of 2024 didn't have anything against the clean-

ing crew. They, however, were the true victims of this trashing.

The trash left around the school after lunch and at football games is another sign that our school is lacking respect for the janitorial staff. We worry that our school is targeting the wrong people in their pranks and think we could all use a wakeup call to the fact that there are consequences for our actions.

Through learning to respect those who pick up after us, we can also learn to have more respect for each other, and possibly begin to disprove the stereotypes that our school is full of entitled kids.

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## Dietz's Debrief



## College basketball appears promising

By JACOB DIETZ

The NBA season has officially kicked off, but that is not the only new beginning in the basketball world. College Basketball, which I would argue is more entertaining than the NBA, has begun and is looking to be even more exciting than last year. There is just something about March Madness and the adrenaline rush that comes in the regular season games that make it the sport to watch.

Last season, the UConn Huskies behind coach Dan Hurley won their second national championship in a row, and they will look to make it a three-peat this year. Hurley and his staff did a great job retaining players like Alex Karaban and Samson Johnson and acquiring transfers like former Michigan forward Tarris Reed Jr. and former Saint Mary's guard Aidan Mahaney. The Huskies also landed five-star wing Liam McNeeley who is one of the best players in this 2024 freshman class.

UConn wasn't the only team that did some shifting around during the offseason; almost every power four team from last year has brought in new faces and added pieces to help their team. Some other teams that I think could go all the way this year are Alabama, Houston, Gonzaga, and, as more of a dark-horse pick, Iowa State.

Starting off with Alabama, they made it all the way to the Final Four last year and have on paper one of the best rosters in college basketball. They returned point guard Mark Sears, forward Grant Nelson, and picked up two of the best freshman bigs in the country Aiden Sherrell and Derrion Reid. They are also led by head coach Nate Oats who has taken the Crimson Tide to four straight NCAA tournament appearances and has the ability to help the program capture a national championship.

Houston is a team that has been consistently good for the last five years, but they haven't had enough to put it all together. They made the Final Four in 2021 and have earned a one seed the last two years but haven't made it past the Sweet 16 since their 2021 run. This year, Houston doesn't have their star point guard Jamal Shead, but they did keep four out of their four starters, including L.J. Cryer and Emanuel Sharp. They have an experienced coach in Kelvin Sampson and a veteran roster which should aid them in their pursuit of a championship this year.

Although Gonzaga made it to the Sweet 16 last season, the Zags had a bit of a down year. They had almost an entirely new roster last season, and it took a while for them to adjust and gel together. They lost the West Coast Conference championship for the first time since 2019 and will be looking to win it this year before they officially transition to the PAC-12 in 2026. This season, Gonzaga has returned almost everyone from last year and will be led by point guard Ryan Nembhard, center Graham Ike and Oregon native Ben Gregg. They have Mark Few at head coach, and may be a sneakily good team.

Rounding off my favorites for this year is Iowa State. The Cyclones surprised everyone last year and had an extremely successful season. They made it to the Sweet 16 before falling to a high offensive-powered Illinois team. They return most of their roster from last year which includes star guard Tamin Lipsey and talented forward Milan Momcilovic. Iowa State was known for their defense last year, (ranking number two in defensive efficiency only behind Houston) and should continue that success this year with the leadership of head coach T.J. Otzelberger.

College basketball is looking like it will be super entertaining this year. Based on the first few games from Nov. 4 and Nov. 6, there are many exciting freshmen that should spice things up this year. Cooper Flagg and Kon Knueppel both finished their first games for Duke in double figures, and Robert Wright III and Asa Newell also had nice debuts to their freshman season. Experienced players like Ryan Kalkbrenner for Creighton and Hunter Dickinson for Kansas are also looking great as they are both dominating in the post. There are a lot of talented teams this year and it should be an exciting college basketball season once again.

# Oregon Ducks rank #1 in national college football

By JACOB DIETZ

For the first time since 2012 and only the third time in program history, the Oregon Ducks are ranked first in the country in the College Football AP poll. In spite of the fact Oregon has had successful teams in the past led by legends like Marcus Mariota and Justin Herbert, they have yet to accomplish something all Duck fans dream of: a national championship. This year, however, looks like their most promising chance yet, as the team is firing on all cylinders as we get closer to the twelve team playoff in December.

The one thing all of the talented Oregon teams in the past were missing was good coaching. The Ducks have had numerous coaches over the last decade, but it seems they have found a gem in Dan Lanning. Lanning, who is in his third season as the Ducks coach, previously was the defensive coordinator for Georgia under Kirby Smart and has put his SEC coaching experience to use at Oregon. The Ducks have one of

the best offenses in the country, powered behind veteran quarterback Dillon Gabriel, strong running backs Jordan James and Noah Whittington, and athletic receivers Tez Johnson and Evan Stewart. Lake Oswego High School alum Justius Lowe is also finding his way into the rotation and becoming a young, talented receiver. To go along with their electric offense, the Ducks are led on defense by experienced players like linebacker Jeffrey Bassa and cornerback Jabbar Muhammad to round out a star-equipped roster.

Although Oregon is finding their footing this year, their undefeated season started off a little rocky. In the first game of the season, Oregon played Idaho, an FCS school, in what looked like an easy win. The Vandals had other plans, though, as Oregon barely squeaked out a (24-14) win. The Ducks didn't let this waiver their confidence however, as they have been on an upward trajectory ever since. They beat a Boise State team with a Heisman candidate, running back Ashton Jeanty, and

continued that momentum to upset Ohio State at home. After beating Ohio State, Oregon still wasn't ranked number 1, but when Texas fell to Georgia, the Ducks climbed to the top. In their first game ranked number 1, Oregon didn't disappoint as they dominated number 20 ranked Illinois to pick up another win. The Ducks all around are looking amazing this season, and if there was ever a year for them to go all the way it would be this one!



## LOHS girls cross country speeds to second in state



Internet Photo

The Lake Oswego High School girls cross country team places second in the state after a strong season.

By CLARE CHRISTENSEN

The LOHS girls cross country team won second place at the OSAA 6A State Championship on Nov. 9 at Lane Community College in Eugene. This marks the end of a spectacular season for the girls after getting first place at the district meet and securing many more wins throughout the season.

The team's final score at the state meet was 102 which put them just behind Lincoln who won with a score of 90.

Cross country scoring is similar to golf in that the lowest score wins. The score is calculated by adding together the places of the top five runners. "There are seven runners on the team and even though only the top five get counted in the score, runners six and seven are still important because they can knock down the scores of

other team's top five," said junior runner Cordelia Megowan.

On the Laker squad, the top five runners were Ana Peters, who finished in sixth; Sofie Howard, who finished 11th; Taylor Sheldon, who finished 17th; Noelle Plasse, who finished 41st and Joelle Thompson, who finished in 45th.

All seven varsity runners this year are upperclassmen, and five of them are seniors. "Our team chemistry this year is really good," said Megowan. "We all know each other really well because we've been running together for so long." With over half of the team graduating this year, the girls cross country team had even more reason to try their best to win state this year. Throughout the season, the team was racing for the top, hoping to secure a spot on the podium at state. "In the beginning of the season we hoped to

do well at state, like maybe top three. As we went on though our main goal was to win districts and possibly win state," recalled Megowan.

It's safe to say that this victory was well deserved after all the hard work the girls put in throughout the season. "We have practice six days a week, we meet up every day after school at 4:00 p.m. before we run and on Saturdays we have workouts," said runner Noelle Plasse. But although there was a lot of work that was put into this, the cross country runners assure that anyone who joins the team will love it. "It'll be really hard to lose our seniors because in cross country right now we seriously need numbers," said Megowan. "Anyone who comes to practice every day is going to get fast so it's definitely something I think more people should join."

## Winter sports are poised for success

By KATE McCARTNEY

As fall winds to a close, it's time for winter sports at LOHS. Featuring basketball, wrestling, swimming, ski and snowboarding teams, it will be an action packed winter for our athletes. Pre-season rankings are impressive with dance coming off of a state win in jazz and pom from the 2023-2024 season. Another notable mention is the new head coaches for the boy's basketball and ski team this year.

Athletes are eager and excited for their upcoming seasons. Senior Chloe Crawford said she feels "pumped up" for the start of ski season. "We have a new coach this year, so that should be fun and new." Crawford expressed her excitement for the upcoming Kelsey race which she described as a "Memorial event for a ski racer that passed away...we all dress up in costume and it's really fun." Senior and member of the snowboard-

ing team Sandor Holstein has goals to "land a bunch of new tricks and learn to land a tame dog." Holstein also added, "It's a La Niña this year, so we're supposed to get a bunch of powder on the mountains."

Moving onto the swim team, junior Alexandru Epinov said he and the team hope to "run it back and win state again this year." Senior Hanna Faroghi has goals to "improve my 500m freestyle time as well as the girl's team as a whole to place at state." The swim team is going into their season ranked among the best in the state in numerous events.

Wrestling will be another feature of winter sports at Lake Oswego. 2024 State Champion Luciano Lopez has goals to "redeem my state title and win nationals." Lopez hopes to make school history this year by becoming the second wrestler to ever come out of Lake Oswego to move on to and win nationals

this year.

Finally, we have basketball. Senior Olivia Jordan said her favorite part of basketball is "the friendships I've made and the people I have met through basketball...so many people have come into my life just through basketball alone." Jordan's mentality heading into her final season is to "stay positive and be a strong leader throughout the season." Beginning her career at the LOHS girl's basketball program, freshman Mia Barkoff says she is especially looking forward to the games against Lakeridge. Barkoff said she is "excited to play and meet a new team." Finally, after a bumpy season last year, the boy's basketball team, led by new head coach Tully Wagner, has hopes to climb the ranks and progress together this season.

Try to catch the numerous upcoming competitions this winter and remember to support our athletes. Go Lakers!



## LA Dodgers win World Series in a tight game



Internet Photo

*Dodgers celebrating winning the World Series after an intense game.*

By TAYLOR SHELDON

The 2024 MLB World Series showcased two of the biggest MLB franchises, the Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees. These two teams are MLB powerhouses, with the Yankees being the highest-valued team in baseball at \$7.6 billion and the Dodgers being the second highest with \$5.45 billion. Both teams exhibit brand recognition and sales that have spread beyond just the baseball world and into fashion and pop culture. The 2024 championship marked the 12th time these two historic rivals have matched-up in the World Series, the most times any two teams have met in the World Series. The series consisted of five games and took place from Oct. 25 to Oct. 30, where the Dodgers won the final game (7-6) to win the series 4-1.

These teams battled their way to earn their spots in the World Series, having to match-up against tough teams and defeating them in close series. The Dodgers won the Division Series against the San Diego Padres 3-2 and then defeated the New York Mets 4-2 in the National League Championship Series. The Yankees won 3-1 in the Division Series against the Kansas City Royals and beat the Cleveland Guardians in the American League Championship Series

4-1.

The Dodgers took the early lead in game one of the World Series, winning 6-3 in a nail-biter of a game. In the tenth inning, the Yankees led the Dodgers 3-2 until Freddie Freeman, the Dodgers first baseman, hit a grand slam with two outs, allowing the Dodgers to pull ahead and win. This was the first walk-off grand slam in World Series history. After that game, they extended their series lead to 3-0 with a 4-2 win in both games two and three.

The Yankees rallied in game four to avoid a series sweep, winning (11-4), but ultimately fell short. On Oct. 30, the Dodgers won the World Series and claimed their eighth title in franchise history, making them tied for fifth with the Giants in the rankings of having the most World Series titles.

Freeman played a huge role for the Dodgers and was a key contributor to winning the Championship; he was named the 2024 World Series MVP. His efforts combined with designated hitter, Shohei Ohtani; pitcher, Yoshinobu Yamamoto; third baseman, Max Muncy; and right fielder, Mookie Betts, all led to the Dodgers being able to outperform the Yankees and secure the title.

## Liberty wins over the Lynx in championship



Internet Photo

*Players in the WNBA who partook in WNBA championship*

By JACOB DIETZ

The WNBA season has come to a close, and it ended in an exciting fashion. The New York Liberty, led by Jonquel Jones, Sabrina Ionescu, and others, were able to capture their first championship in franchise history, winning the five game series (3-2) against the Minnesota Lynx.

The finals were nationally televised and attracted the most viewership in 25 years, with game five topping out at 3.3 million viewers. In game five, the talented Lynx guard-forward duo Kayla McBride and Napheesa Collier combined for 43 of their team's 62 points, but it wasn't enough to overpower 17 points from Jones and a double-double from Liberty forward Breanna Stewart. The game went into overtime, but the Liberty pulled it out in the end, winning 67-62. Jones was named the MVP of the series after averaging seventeen

points and four assists throughout the playoffs and capped off a picture perfect ending for New York.

Looking forward to next season, the WNBA is a rapidly expanding league with growing popularity. In the 2025 season, the Golden State Valkyries will join the league followed by Toronto and Portland in 2026. This will bring the league to 15 teams and is very exciting locally for the city of Portland to gain another professional team. Apart from expansion, rookie stars this year such as Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese have brought all kinds of viewership from all over the world and new funding. Shoe deals like Sabrina Ionescu's Nike "Sabrina 1s" are also extremely popular for basketball players and have brought in more recognition for these players. The WNBA is only continuing to expand, and just like the championship this year, next season should be even more exciting.

## An era of iconic womens soccer players comes to an end

By LAILA BRISTOL

On Nov. 2, 2024, Portland citizens donned their favorite Portland Thorns jerseys, crafted heartfelt signs and flooded the stands at Providence Park to honor the retirement of one of the greatest soccer players to ever grace the (National Women's Soccer League) NWSL stage: Christine Sinclair.

Sinclair, a renowned forward who announced her imminent retirement from professional club soccer in September, is widely known as one of the best soccer players ever to do it. Sinclair played collegiate soccer at the University of Portland and spent the last decade of her career playing for the Portland Thorns where she earned significant recognition for her high level of play and eventually became the team's captain. Before retiring from international play, Sinclair represented Canada on the international stage where she helped her country to win an Olympic gold medal and two bronzes along with a "Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football" (CONCACAF) championship. She also earned the title of the top international goal scorer for mens and women's soccer with upwards of 190 goals throughout her career. Despite her many trophies, medals and awards, perhaps one of the most meaningful things that Sinclair won during her career was the heart of Rose City.

Regardless of fanship status,

whether super fan or occasional watcher, Portlanders love Sinclair. There is a sense of pride in being able to watch such an incredible player represent your city. Portland watched through tears as Sinclair walked off the field for the last time and shared across social media their gratitude for Sinclair's endless contributions to the game of soccer.

Tiffeny Milbrett is a World Cup champion, Olympic gold medalist, and USA National Soccer Hall of Fame member who has retired from the professional scene. Milbrett is a former member of the USA women's national soccer team where she scored 100 goals for her country. She is a Portland native herself and, despite her retirement from soccer on the professional level, has stayed highly involved in the sport. Milbrett has watched players come and go from the NWSL, but even to a legend like herself, Sinclair was rare. "Her impact on the game and how much she has achieved for herself, her pro team and her country is one of the most amazing feats by any player in the last 10 years," stated Milbrett. "She is also an amazing human being that cares about people. She wants everyone to get along and be able to be the person they have in their heart." Milbrett explained that Sinclair's career is one for the history books because while she was making history on the field, she was also maintaining a strong mentality and serving as a strong support

system for those around her.

Sinclair is not the only influential player to announce her retirement this year. Alex Morgan retired this year after announcing her second pregnancy, and Kelly O'Hara announced that the 2024 NWSL season would be her last one. Morgan and O'Hara have, like Sinclair, changed the game of soccer, and not just for women. Morgan was a powerhouse at the forward position who scored a total of 123 goals in her career and won two world cups, an olympic gold medal and an NWSL championship. O'Hara was someone who lots of young athletes grew up watching, as she was an unstoppable defender with inspiring skill. She has won two world cups as well as an Olympic gold medal and has become a household name due to her athletic abilities. The retirement of Sinclair, Morgan and O'Hara surely marks the end of an era in women's soccer. These women were pioneers in the NWSL and in women's sports in general. They gave up so much in order to ensure that all future generations of women would be held to high standards in sports and receive the attention they deserve. "We need to celebrate every player's contribution and be thankful they sacrificed so much to be at the highest level they could play," stated Milbrett, reflecting on what these women have accomplished over their careers. "In turn, they influenced the next generation of players and created better opportunities for those coming after them."

As this generation of athletes retire, it becomes time to look to the younger players that will carry on the legacy of those before them. Many female players these days are skipping college soccer and beelining it straight to the pros, which is something male players have been able to do for ages. The NWSL is now highly populated by these players, which means that there is endless potential for growth from every team, as many of their athletes are so young and coachable. These are the players who will become the next generation of legends and role models.

"I'm hopeful that we can continue to provide the platforms and opportunities these young [female] players and all players need to be able to make this a full-time career and commitment in their own right," Milbrett said, expressing her hopes for the future generations of women's soccer and for the NWSL itself.

As the 2024 NWSL season comes to an end, so do the careers of many impactful players of the current generation of athletes. It is important to remember what these women have done for the sport of soccer and for sports overall. Now, the torch has been passed to the younger generation of athletes, and all eyes are on them as they lace up their boots and step onto the field. It is time to see who the next soccer icon will be.

## NCAA rules changes roster limits

By ANNEMARIE VLAIC

As part of a recent settlement agreement, the NCAA has made changes to the allowed roster size of sports across the collegiate level. These changes, starting in the 2025-2026 school year, will cause drastic cuts and changes to scholarships of programs with bigger teams, which will also impact future recruiting. The new changes have both positive and negative aspects to it, depending on each player's situation and sport. The new rules dictate that NCAA D1 schools will no longer have a scholarship cap and will be able to award any number of athletes on their roster a scholarship. This eliminates the previous sport-specific limits and allows financially flexible support for D1 teams. However, with that rule, there will

be new roster limits that all D1 NCAA teams will have to conform to by the next school year (2025-2026). With this rule, most programs will be able to offer more scholarships, as long as they follow roster limits. Scholarship type has also changed, with all sports to be considered equivalency sports, allowing schools and programs to offer partial scholarships.

The difference that this makes for collegiate level sports is that walk-ons will slowly be impacted by this new rule. Although more scholarships will be able to be awarded, since the scholarship cap was removed, due to the roster size changes, class recruiting will become more scarce and possibly a tricky feat for coaches. Many current teams will have to cut a decent amount of their players if they exceed new roster limits, which will impact a number of college athletes.

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# Live, Laugh, Laila



## The little things

By LAILA BRISTOL

Once for my birthday, my sister made me a card that I have kept in a shoebox under my bed to this day. The card was made of folded pieces of paper that somehow formed a small, thin, rectangular box. She had decorated the box to look like a camera, and when I removed the lid, a strip of pictures unfolded, almost like a xylophone, staying connected-by glue, perhaps, to the top of the lid and to the bottom of the box. The pictures were of my sister and me, and they captured everything from my favorite memories to moments I still can't quite remember. On the back of the small box, my sister wrote me a lovely note that made me smile ear to ear and even brought tears to my eyes. I recall that she had also gifted me some more material items: a new lip gloss, a book I had been dying to get my hands on, and a sweatshirt that I still wear frequently. Despite the material gifts she gave me, what I cherished the most was the little camera made out of construction paper with glue stains across the front of it. You may think that I was just really fond of birthday cards, but what really stuck with me was the idea that my sister had spent her time making something for me.

A few weeks ago, one of my coworkers asked me a strange question. I was organizing a display near the back of the store where I work when he approached me and asked: "Laila, why do girls like receiving flowers?"

I opened my mouth to answer him before realizing that I didn't know myself. I had never thought about why I enjoyed receiving flowers; I just did. As I continued with my work that day, I considered the answer to this question. I thought about that camera birthday card I had received a few years ago and realized that the feeling of receiving flowers is quite similar to that of being given a handwritten card. Since then, I have been deeply pondering why little things like flowers or birthday cards can have such a massive emotional impact on the recipient.

The answer I've come up with is simple: thought.

It is easy to look at your friend's birthday wish list and simply click purchase on an online item. It's a somewhat mindless task. Making a card on the other hand or picking out a bouquet of flowers that remind you of them both require you to take time and really think about the person you are giving to. Oftentimes as a society we spend too much of our time obsessing over material items when it comes to giving gifts and forget that sometimes what the recipient may really value most is the thought.

The shoebox under my bed is full of some of my most valued possessions that have been given to me by other people. Coincidentally, none of them have any monetary value. I keep ancient birthday cards, heartfelt get-well-soon letters, fragile dried flowers, sentimental grad cards, concert tickets, and memorabilia from various events I have attended. The conversation I had a few weeks ago with my coworker helped me to realize that it's the things that make it into the shoebox that matter most and that will be remembered longest. I urge you to consider sentimental value next time you are wrapping a gift for your friend. I would encourage you to spend time writing your loved ones cards instead of purchasing items from your Amazon cart. Buy the flowers, write the card, make the playlist, and give an experience. Do the smaller things even if they are slightly less convenient because, in the end, it's the little things that matter most.



## Thumbs



By LAKE VIEWS STAFF

1. Congrats to Jake Paul for beating up an old man. Maybe he can pay a visit to The Springs Living to find his next opponent.
2. I already feel sad enough when I'm at school and the fog horn bell just sounded like the depressing background noise in a cartoon. Made me feel even more "womp womp" about showing up to math class.
3. I felt so rewarded when I was handed candy at the door in the morning and congratulated on 1000 cans until I realized that I didn't actually bring in any cans. Now I just feel fake.
4. Great win for LO cross country against Lakeridge at districts. Looks like we aren't the LOsers after all. Pick up the Pace(ers).
5. It's nearly Thanksgiving which means the school lunch line will finally be handing out its famous slimy chicken disguised as a turkey leg. It's safe to say we're all more excited for that than for our measly five day break.
6. Cynthia Erivo is getting a little too pressed over the AI version of the "Wicked" movie poster, she's starting to sound like my English teacher when I use ChatGPT to find quotes for an essay. Not a very "Wicked" response Cynthia.

## Skylight band strikes a chord

By ELLIE NGUYEN

In recent years, the popularity of indie rock has skyrocketed. Many new bands have emerged from the midst of this genre, all unique in their own production of music. One such example can be found at LOHS.

Skylight is composed of sophomore Dan Zelyanovskyy and juniors Justin Connolly, Hannah Waxman, and Rohan Gore. "I had already been playing the guitar for a long time, and I had some friends who were musicians, so we fused our ideas to create Skylight," said Connolly, who founded the band in early 2023. So far, the group has produced two tracks that have gained notable popularity on various platforms of music. Boasting over 200 monthly listeners on Spotify, the quartet has listeners ranging from Seattle and even Finland.

In early April, Skylight released their first song, "16." Exploring the uncertainty that accompanies the navigation of adolescence, the lyrics are catchy, yet melancholic. "Change is constant, and I am constantly wanting to know where I went wrong," sings Connolly. "And all along, spent far too long, searching for myself in someone else." These lyrics are followed by an impressive guitar solo. The tune gained streams rapidly, with over 3.1k streams as of November

2024.

After several months of hard work, Skylight dropped their new track, "Radio," in late October. "We were just kind of jamming one day, and it turned into something we all liked," said Waxman. "After a few weeks, we recorded it, and now it's out." Compared to their first single, Skylight took a different approach to producing their recent release. "Radio" was much more sophisticated in terms of how we recorded each instrument and how we mixed the track overall. In my opinion, this created a much better sound," commented Gore.

However, their improvement spanned far beyond better production. "This was one of the moments where we all put equal amounts of effort into making the song happen. It was cool to see how all of our ideas collectively became a reality," commented Zelyanovskyy.

Drawing inspiration from bands such as The Backseat Lovers and The Strokes, Skylight not only embraces the typical elements of the indie rock genre but also experiments with unconventional sounds. Focusing on the journey rather than the final destination, the band has grown to one that has become well-known far past the boundaries of Lake Oswego. "We follow our hearts," said Waxman. "We're continuing to grow as a community, and it's awesome."



Submitted photo

Skylight smiles for a picture after a successful performance of their debut song "16" at LO Friday Break Live.



Submitted photo

Singer Justin Connolly jams along bassist Hannah Waxman and drummer Rohan Gore during a practice