



LAKE VIEWS

THE AWARD WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LAKE OSWEGO HIGH SCHOOL

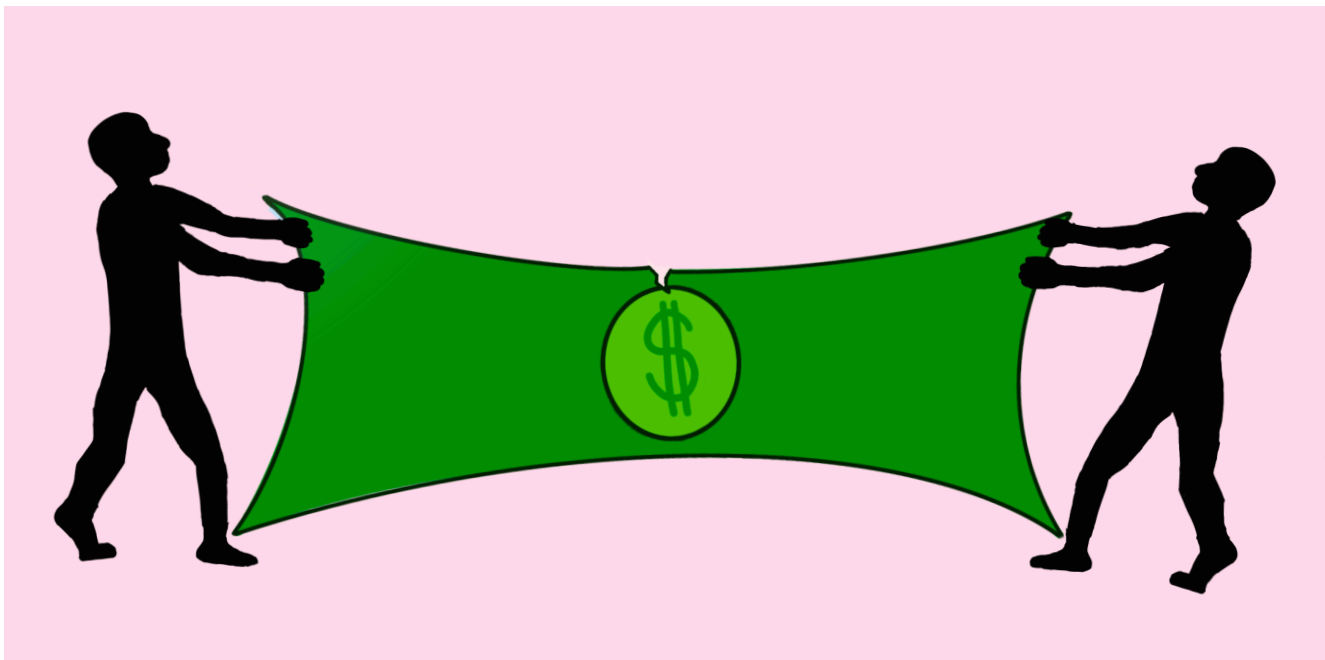
LOSD confronts \$12 million in budget cuts

By SOPHIA LU

The 2025 Niche report ranks Lake Oswego as the best public school district in Oregon. That ranking has long been attributed to the school's teachers, programs and facilities. Now, though, those essential services are facing funding issues and budget cuts. Lake Oswego's formerly unshakable status may be threatened by these new budget developments as the district is challenged to reduce costs with its limited resources.

A recent bill was passed that increased the amount of money school districts are required to pay to Oregon's Public Employee Retirement System (PERS). House Bill 4045 lowers the normal retirement age for police officers and firefighters from 60 to age 53 if the person has at least 25 years of retirement credit. The bill also reclassifies multiple types of public employees, including district attorneys, Oregon State Police forensic scientists and evidence technicians, to be covered under Police and Fire members instead of the former General Service category. These shifts provide more substantial retirement benefits and a lower retirement age, both of which raise the cost of retirement pension the state will need to pay. The state is optimistic about the change, and they forecast that House Bill 4045 will not have any impact on state or local revenue.

However, school districts across Oregon are of a different opinion: they estimate that they will have to pay \$670 million more to PERS over the next two years. LOSD es-



Lake Views/Clare Christensen

timates that the changes to PERS will cost Lake Oswego \$5 million alone, and this bill is hitting the district at a time when it has already exhausted its monetary reserves. Over the past few years after the pandemic, LOSD used its reserves to fund services and support for the generation of recovering students. Additionally, the district has approximately 200 more employees than it did five years ago even though it also has around 150 fewer students enrolled.

In response, LOSD is planning to undergo a Reduction in Force (RIF), which means the district will cut a number of employees in hopes of reducing its costs. Already, a spending and hiring freeze has been implemented,

so the district is attempting to avoid hiring any new employees from outside of the district.

Although the governor has proposed an increase in public education funding, the district still lacks \$12 million, which includes the \$5 million of PERS increases and \$7 million of unspecified expenditures.

To reduce its expenses, LOHS is planning to follow the district's recommendations -- which have yet to be finalized -- on potential courses of action to take. Furthermore, LOHS Assistant Principal Jason Hohnbaum emphasized the importance of accurate forecasting: "Now, more than ever, it is important for students to accurately forecast for what they want next year." There

is not a specific minimum number of students for a class to run, but, generally, if 35 students forecast for a class, it is likely to happen. If that number is too low, or students end up dropping the class before the fall semester begins, the class may not operate. Still, Hohnbaum said, "We don't really cancel classes, [but] we might cancel a section of something."

In this time of financial uncertainty, the district encourages community members to reach out to legislators through email. However, until more funding is obtained, schools will be forced to cut costs and change their operating strategies, which may mean limiting or eliminating certain services.

Local Crumbls shut down after fraud scandal

By ANNEMARIE VLAIC

A well-known and beloved cookie shop, Crumbl Cookies, claims they have "temporarily" shut its doors at the Lake Oswego location in Kruse Village. However, rumor has it that the popular cookie shop will not be reopening their doors to Lake Oswego and has actually had quite the holiday disaster in the past few weeks. Aaron Wagner, the owner of WagsCap Foods, which includes Hello Sugar, Dirty Bird, Everbowl, Las Botellas and Crumbl, was recently arrested and charged with 16 counts of various financial crimes, including wire fraud and money laundering. Wagner executed his financial crimes along with his business partner and codefendant, Michael Mains. The \$40 million fraud scheme landed Wagner and Mains in jail after an FBI investigation. Wagner would use his extravagant lifestyle to trick investors and lenders into believing he was an amazing businessman and ask for money for a restaurant or a real estate project, use the loans for personal expenses and different failing projects, and

then turn around and find new investors. It is reported that Wagner used the money on a second home worth four million dollars, a personal airplane for eight million dollars, a four-and-a-half million dollar commercial property that was to be developed into a nightclub and an \$8 million real estate property.

His arrest resulted in local Crumbl Cookies establishments having to close until a new company buys them temporarily. However, an anonymous source within Crumbl described that Lake Oswego's situation was a little different, explaining that "Lake Oswego's lease was coming up and they weren't making any money, so they shut it down permanently, and then Beaverton, Tanasbourn and Hazelde were all bought by a new owner." Wagner's fraud scheme left workers at the Lake Oswego establishment in a harsh situation, as the source further explained, "Everybody in that store lost their jobs and nobody got paid on time. There should be a huge lawsuit from all the employees in Lake Oswego to WagsCap for not paying them on their termination." Oregon law states that for laid-off

workers, their paycheck is due at the end of the next business day, and that payment is due on the next business day regardless of whether or not termination was mutual. The source was told by Crumbl, which rebought the Lake Oswego establishment after the scandal, that "it will be closed for the foreseeable future."

"None of us even saw it coming," explained the source. The unforeseen scandal left Crumbl workers working at the Lake Oswego establishment jobless overnight. "I hope that this will at least light a fire and maybe get some people to pay attention and make sure those people get paid. They have families to feed, and they lost their jobs right before Christmas," exclaimed the source. With the Crumbl establishment now closed for good, who is going to pay these workers who were just doing their jobs, trying to work to sustain their lives? While fraud schemes and tragedies are not often things we associate with warm cookies, something must be done to help these workers get back on their feet and get the money they deserve back to them.

Trump swears in as the 47th president of the U.S.

By GAVIN NILES

It was a crisp 18 degrees Fahrenheit in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 20, 2025 when Donald J. Trump took the oath of office and became the 47th President of the United States—the coldest presidential inauguration since Reagan's second in 1985. Given these conditions, organizers moved the ceremony inside to the U.S. Capitol rotunda instead of holding it on the West Front Lawn.

In Trump's inaugural address, he asserted that America would experience a "revolution of common sense" in the next four years. He also promised a "tide of change" from the "decline" supposedly brought on by former

President Joe Biden's policies. "The golden age of America begins right now," he stated. "From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world."

The inauguration's attendees included Trump's family, political appointees—among them, Elon Musk—former presidents and vice presidents such as Barack Obama and Kamala Harris, as well as Big Tech executives such as Apple CEO Tim Cook, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, Google CEO Sundar Pichai, TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Five days prior, in his farewell address on Jan. 15, Biden warned that an "oligarchy is taking shape in America," criticizing the Trump Administration's collaboration with these tech executives.

Afterwards, Trump headed to the White House and began signing 26 executive orders. He granted clemency for 1,600 people involved in the 2021 Jan. 6 Capitol attack, ended birthright citizenship, proclaimed a "national emergency" on the southern border, withdrew from the Paris climate agreement, delayed enforcement of the federal TikTok ban, required federal departments to recognize gender as inseparable from one's assigned sex at birth (Executive Order 14168), rolled back Biden's environmental regulations and withdrew the U.S. from the World Health Organization among many other controversial decisions. Some of these orders are already being challenged in court, as several federal judges deem them "blatantly unconstitutional."

Trump's inauguration is—unsurprisingly—an incredibly polarizing subject matter for students at LOHS. On one hand, the president of the school's Conservative Society (CS), senior Cora Brown, is strongly in support of him. "I appreciate how quickly [the Trump Administration]

are to enact these executive orders and get things moving [in] their plan," she said. CS Vice President Sichen Fan shares this enthusiasm, particularly regarding Trump's stance on immigration. "I support his deportation policies," shared Fan. "A lot of crime can be prevented through [Trump's] proposed screening processes."

On the other hand, LOHS's Queer Student Alliance isn't nearly as supportive. Nonbinary member Aspen Gross has many concerns regarding Executive Order 14168 and its ilk. "These regulations aim to erase [gender-nonconforming people]," they said. "We still exist even if the government doesn't want to accept that. We just want to be safe, and Trump's making that much harder."

As Trump's presidency continues to polarize the American people, LOHS's Registrar Mrs. Kylo encourages empathy and an acknowledgment of similarity. "All [Americans] more or less want the same things I think: freedom, security, equality, a good economy, good education—we all just don't agree on how we're going to get there," she said. "But I think there'll always be more that unites us as humans than divides us as citizens. We can't forget that."



Wildfires blaze through Los Angeles

By SOPHIA SAYER

Since 2012, California has been experiencing record-breaking droughts. Combining this with the high winds of Santa Ana has produced the perfect kindling for a wildfire. Jan. 7 of 2025 the latest fires began in southern California. Numerous flames began forming around LA during this time. The biggest of them was the Pacific Palisades fire, burning over 23,400 acres and taking 12 people's lives. Other fires like the Eaton fire; the second largest, and more, smaller ones have popped up throughout California. Forcing evacuations, destroying a total of 16,255 structures, and leaving an estimated \$250 billion in damages. Currently, according to CA.Gov. Both the formerly active Palisades and Eaton fires are at 100% containment, thanks to the dedicated work of the firefighters' 24-hour response team. Because of climate change, fire-starting conditions have become more widespread.

California's already semi-arid climate was experiencing high winds that were up to 99 mph during the time of the California fires along with tornadoes forming within the flames. The damages were estimated to be happening at 5 football field lengths per minute. As stated by CTIF (International Association of Fire and Rescue Services) This destruction is only a demonstration of the intensifying consequences of human-caused climate change. Also backed by climate scientists and meteorologists (maybe put a quote)

Although fires were expected to break out because of the worsening climate conditions. The amount of them that started at the same time wasn't expected. The Santa Ana winds carried the fires throughout southern California, causing many individual flames to form alongside the larger, more destructive fires, mainly Palisades and Eaton. The collective impacts of the fires have led to 57,636 acres of land being burned.



Internet Photo

Firefighters respond to the sudden Pacific Palisades fire that began in Los Angeles, California

In the Pacific palisades, on Jan. 7th in the morning the first blaze formed, starting as a brush fire because of dry vegetation unprepared to face California's drought after the rainy season. In the coastal neighborhood near Malibu 23448 acres of land were burned, throughout the 24 days before the fire was officially contained on the 31st.

Following the Palisades fire the Eaton fire, located in the San Gabriel followed swiftly after, burning 14,021 acres and destroying or damaging around 10,000 structures before being sedated by firefighters the same day as the Palisades fire. To make matters worse, while fire crews were extinguishing the two biggest fires, multiple other ones formed along with the Huges fire (which followed 2 weeks later on Jan. 22 and was contained on the 30th, together reaching a total of 12824 acres being

burned between them. During the time of the fires around 200,000 Californians were under evacuation orders leading to over 70,000 people evacuating to someplace safe while firefighters handled the situation. The official cost of the damages is not certain yet but considering the damage done to the land, agriculture, homes, businesses, and more the fire is estimated to cost somewhere between \$250 and \$270 billion dollars. According to AccuWeather Chief Meteorologist Jonathan Porter the fire "is one of the costliest wildfire disasters in modern U.S. history."

Despite the severity of these fires. The California firefighters fought against them using a multitude of different strategies that led them to contain all the fires at 100% all while answering to the 51,818 emergency calls they've received regarding the fires during this time.

Supreme Court bans Tik Tok from app stores

By ALYSSA MANNINEN

Is Tik Tok eventually going to be banned in the United States? Users have been on an endless roller-coaster since March of 2024, when the US House of Representatives passed legislation requiring the Chinese company owning Tik Tok, Bytedance, to sell the social media app to a US owner within a year or it would be shut down. The Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act was pushed as US officials raised concerns that Tik Tok's ties to China posed a threat to national security as the Chinese government could access user data and either spy on or influence Americans. Tik Tok challenged this law by filing a lawsuit, claiming that it violates the First Amendment by restricting free speech; however, this attempt was unsuccessful. Under the terms of the bill, Bytedance had until Jan. 19, 2025, to find new ownership of Tik Tok. President Donald J. Trump, however, could extend the time by 90 days if a deal was in progress.

On the night of Jan. 18, Tik Tok became inaccessible to its 170 million users in the U.S. When opening the app a message read, "Sorry, Tik Tok isn't available right now," followed by a short mes-

sage including, "We are fortunate that President Trump has indicated that he will work with us on a solution to reinstate Tik Tok once he takes office." Before and during the app shutdown, many users turned to different apps such as Instagram, RedNote and YouTube in desperation for a replacement. Upon inauguration, on Jan. 20, President Donald Trump signed his first executive order to delay enforcement of the ban for 75 days. This was a saving call to many users and creators on Tik Tok who heavily rely on social media for entertainment and income. Earlier, Trump supported the ban due to national security concerns during his first administration but recently has been promoting "saving" Tik Tok. His change in position began around the time he met with Mr. Yass, a GOP donor with a large financial stake in the app, as well as his recent Tik Tok popularity leading to 15.1 million followers. Although this extension has been enacted, Tik Tok remains unable to be downloaded in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store since the app shut down on Jan. 19.

President Trump's extension is only a temporary solution to keep Tik Tok, and it remains unclear if it will return to app stores. If the app



Tragic plane crashes scandalize the world

By JACOB DIETZ

Flying: proclaimed the safest way to travel, but over the last few months that hasn't appeared to be the truth.

On Dec. 25, Azerbaijan Airlines' flight number J2-8243, which departed from Baku and was set to land in a Russian city named Grozny, crashed near Aktau, Kazakhstan. The flight had 62 passengers on board and five crew members, but resulted in 39 fatalities with 29 survivors. The cause of the crash was originally unknown with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev stating that "the information provided to [him] was the plane changed its course between Baku and Grozny due to worsening weather conditions and headed to Aktau airport, where it crashed upon landing." It was later reported, however, that the Azerbaijan Airlines plane was shot down unintentionally by the Russian air-defense system. Russian officials detailed their role in the crash as an accident as Ukrainian drones in the Grosny area played a role in their decision to take it down.

Only a few days later on Dec. 29, there was another major plane crash around the world when Jeju Air flight 7C 2216,

which departed from Bangkok, crashed. There were 175 passengers on board along with six crew members with only two crew members surviving with severe injuries. The flight was going smoothly until the plane experienced a bird strike, causing the pilot to officially declare an emergency landing. When the plane came in to land on runway nine at Muan International Airport, the landing gear was not deployed, causing the plane to slide all the way to the end of the runway where it crashed into a concrete wall, bursting into flames. It was the first crash for the airline since 2005 and was uncharacteristic considering the safety track record of Jeju Air. It is unknown whether a mechanical failure caused the landing gear to not deploy or if it had to do with the birdstrike. Either way, officials are still researching what caused this plan to come down.

It was an overall nightmare way to end 2024 for air travel, with two of the biggest crashes globally happening in the same week. Air travel is still extremely safe, but it is important to learn about these incidents, so that they can be prevented in the future.



Internet Photo

Crashed Azerbaijan Airlines plane outside of Aktau, Kazakhstan

Former president Jimmy Carter passes away

By ANYA PHILLIPS

Former President James Earl "Jimmy" Carter Jr., the longest-living president, passed away on Dec. 29 at 100 years old in his hometown of Plains, Georgia. He died peacefully from natural causes and was surrounded by his family, living longer than two presidents who came after him, as well as his vice president. Carter was known for his lifetime of public service, as well as his winning the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in human rights and finding peaceful solutions to international conflicts. "My father was a hero, not only to me but to everyone who believes in peace, human rights, and unselfish love," said Chip Carter, the former president's son.

President Carter dedicated much of his life to serving others, starting with his military service in 1946. He was one of three presidents who graduated from a U.S military academy, and the only one to have graduated from the Naval Academy. He served for seven years before resigning his commission following his father's death, returning home and entering state politics.

Throughout his single term, Carter earned

various achievements in social and economic advancement, despite overwhelming international conflicts. Inflation, energy crisis and war in Afghanistan were just a few of the political challenges Carter faced with commonly peaceful responses. He also received accolades for his push for various treaties, such as placing restrictions on nuclear weapons and giving Panama control over the Panama Canal.

Hailed as a hallmark of President Carter's legacy, his establishment of the Department of Education strengthened the social security system and appointed record numbers of women and minorities to government jobs. The creation of the Cabinet-level agency elevated the federal government's role in education for decades to come.

After Carter left office in 1981, he remained active in politics as a diplomat-ic ambassador and advised presidents on the

Middle East and human rights issues. In 1994, he assisted in easing the nuclear tension between the U.S. and North Korea. However, his most notable work post-presidency was his service to the community, such as his time spent with Habitat for Humanity and teaching at various colleges.

The Carter Center was one of the first foundations established by a president and still remains active to this day. Carter and the organization have helped to establish village-based health care delivery in thousands of communities in Africa, worked to establish human rights standards and sought to resolve conflicts around the world. It also focuses on supporting democratic reforms and elections across the world, earning him a Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 and recognition for his life of service to global communities.



Kaiya's Papayas



The fear of the unknown

BY KAIYA CARNEGIE

Earlier this year I went to a softball camp at the University of Oregon. It was a camp that lasted all day, and at the end of the day, the head coach asked everybody to raise their hands if they wanted to play softball in college. I kept my hand down, but when I looked around everybody else had theirs up. As I sat there amidst the raised hands I wondered how many hours of work they had put in to be so good and if they knew ever since they started playing rec softball that they were going to play in college. I wouldn't call myself good or bad at softball, but I think the main reason I tell myself why I wouldn't do it in college is because I would have a hard time managing my time between working and playing the sport. But I think the real reason is because I would not have the willpower or passion for the sport to put in the work needed to become good enough. Now don't get me wrong, I love the sport. I play for high school and a club team, I love seeing my friends after school everyday and I love the feeling of succeeding in my sport. I think I may just be the most indecisive person in the world.

I completely envy those who are born with a passion. It is almost impossible for me to wrap my head around the fact that people know what college and career they aspire for in their future. What do you mean that you have wanted to go to Stanford Law since third grade? I have no difficulty seeing myself in certain careers, but the problem is that I have the same amount of passion towards each path I could take. Psychology? Forensic Science? Anthropology? Biology? Criminal Justice? Maybe Marketing? There are so many paths I want to discover, but not enough time to see if I love it. I take the saying "Don't put all your eggs in one basket" too literally. I have one egg in each basket, but what if I have 20 baskets? How am I supposed to hold all the baskets at once? Will I just end up dropping them all? This is a topic I think about a lot because it involves so many unknowns, and I am sure that whatever path I choose, it will work out. And I try to avoid the what-ifs because I know it will cause a spiral of 10 million other what-ifs, but the biggest one is suppose that I choose my path, and there is something better for me still out there.

My junior year is more than halfway over and the encroaching fears of senior year and beyond come into view. I constantly feel like I am doing something wrong or I am not doing enough to support my future. But I take a deep breath and remind myself that none of this is the end of the world. All the seniors this year have almost made it to the end, and quite frankly it is inspiring to me. This is a thought that I come across almost everyday now and even though I tend to spiral thinking about this sort of thing, there is still a bright side to not being born with a raging passion for something; I have not set myself up for failure. This sounds negative, but I actually am grateful. I still do often fail because failure is a result of learning, but I am protecting myself from the immense disappointment and embarrassment of something that has been leading up for my whole life. Since I am thinking about this almost constantly, I have set a goal for myself: stop taking the safe route and stop procrastinating; I advise those who are having the same problems as me to do the same thing.

Justin Trudeau leaves office

BY ANYA PHILLIPS

Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced his resignation last month after building pressure from his own Liberal Party to step down following declining public support and significant political challenges during his time in power. After nearly a decade in office, Trudeau plans to remain in office until a new prime minister is selected.

A pivotal moment in the tension between Trudeau and members of his political party was on Dec. 16 with the departure of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Chrystia Freeland. Freeland publicly criticized Trudeau's handling of US President Donald Trump's proposed tariffs on Canadian goods, which threatened Canada's economy. Her resignation intensified internal dissent and led many within the Liberal Party to call for his exit from office. "Our country today faces a grave challenge..." Freeland wrote in her letter to Trudeau, "we need to take that threat extremely seriously."

Ever since Trudeau was elected at just 43 years old back in 2015, his popularity has steadily plummeted amidst challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, with many blaming him for the subsequent higher costs of living. Following Freeland's resignation, the Liberal Party's regional Atlantic



and Quebec caucus had abandoned Trudeau due to his loss of public support, with many members of parliament claiming the Prime Minister had gone too far left. This claim was echoed in Freeland's resignation letter, where she urged Canada in the face of Trump's tariffs to "keep our fiscal powder dry today, so we have the reserves we may need for a coming tariff war."

Others speculate that the loss of public appreciation for Trudeau is a side effect of his prolonged time in power. After ten years as prime minister, he has gained the baggage of blame for various political issues accumulating over the years, resulting in a growing negative outlook on Trudeau. Out of Canada's 23 prime ministers, Trudeau ranks seventh in length of tenure, suggesting a length of time where citizens may project concerns about the state of the economy directly onto the person in the highest power.

Following post-COVID inflation and a high rise in immigrants due to his attempts to lower Canada's median age, a politically weakened Trudeau has faced various struggles during his tenure, reaching a climax in public unhappiness. The political landscape in Canada is now uncertain, with the Liberty Party organizing a leadership race to determine Trudeau's successor while the nation awaits clarity on its political direction and strategies to address international concerns.

New Orleans truck attack critically injures dozens



Internet Photo

Man emotionally hugs police officer at the scene where a vehicle drove into a crowd in New Orleans.

BY JAKE BRENDEN

The terror attack in New Orleans was a tragic act of violence that shocked America. On Jan. 1, Shamshud Din-Jababar drove a pickup truck into a crowd of people celebrating the new year. Fifteen people were killed during the attack including the terrorist. Another 75 people were injured including law enforcement officers. Typically there are barricades designed to stop vehicle attacks like this one, but according to the mayor of New Orleans, the barricades were going through maintenance in preparation for the Super Bowl later this year.

Shamshud Din-Jababar was an army veteran who was deployed to Afghanistan, and just hours before the attack he pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (ISIS). It is believed that he took inspiration from ISIS, but the FBI believes Jabbar

acted alone. They also found two other pipe bombs located in coolers a few blocks away, although these failed to detonate.

Shortly after, on Jan. 1 at 8:37 AM, a Tesla cyber truck exploded outside of the Trump International Hotel Las Vegas. Although both perpetrators of the attacks served at the same military base, the FBI doesn't believe they are connected. The perpetrator of the attack was Mathew Alan Livelsburg, a service member and a member of the U.S. Special Forces. In a letter he wrote to Shawn Ryan, a famous podcaster, he outlined his issues with the U.S. and the direction it was heading. According to the Associated Press in the letter he sent to Shawn Ryan he "claimed the US was 'terminally ill and headed to collapse.'" He also claimed in the note that, "This was not a terrorist attack, it was a wake-up call. Americans only pay attention to spectacles and violence. What better way to get my point across than a stunt with fireworks and explosives."

Lively and Baldoni lawsuit heats up

BY LILIAN MCILRAITH

On Dec. 20th, Blake Lively announced she was filing a lawsuit against Justin Baldoni in the state of California for sexual harassment on the movie set. In Baldoni's statement, she said Baldoni came into her trailer while she was undressing, made comments about her weight throughout the filming process and allegedly gave COVID-19 to her baby.

It End with Us entered theaters on Aug. 9, 2024. It is a movie about a woman, Lily Blossom Bloom, escaping a violent relationship. Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni produced, directed, and co-starred in the movie together. Following the release of the movie, Blake Lively interviews began circulating the internet, leaving many fans upset at Lively's comments and speculating about what occurred behind the scenes.

On Dec. 20, Blake Lively announced she was filing a lawsuit against Justin Baldoni in the state of California for sexual harassment on the movie set. In Lively's statement, she said Baldoni came into her trailer while she was undressing, made comments about her weight throughout the filming process, and allegedly gave COVID-19 to her baby.

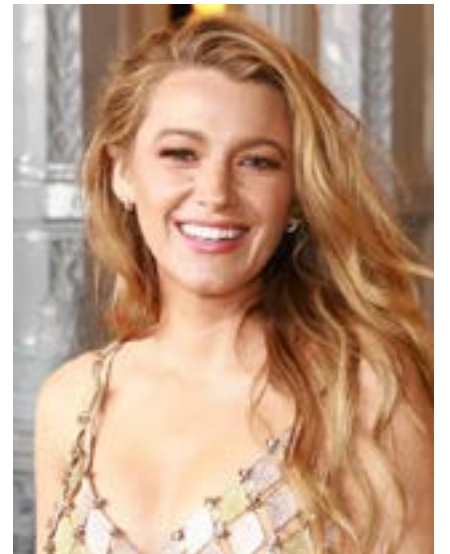
On Dec. 21, the New York Times (NYT) published an article about Lively's lawsuit against Baldoni. The article claimed that Baldoni participated in a media

campaign to tarnish Lively's reputation. It featured text messages and emails provided by Lively's team.

The New York Times then gave Baldoni's team 14 hours, from 9:46 p.m. to 11:46 a.m. the next morning, to respond before the article was published. In response to the article, Baldoni's team filed a defamation lawsuit against the New York Times on Dec. 21 for 250 million dollars. Under the claim that the NYT investigative journalist, Megan Twohey, the same reporter who broke the Harvey Weinstein case, was biased and did not give his team enough time to respond. The last time NYT was sued was in 1964.

On Jan. 15, Baldoni and his production team, Wayfarer, filed a \$400 lawsuit against Lively and her husband, Ryan Reynolds, for defamation, extortion and several alleged events that took place during the filming process. Baldoni claimed Lively re-wrote movie scenes without his knowledge, forced control over the costumes and editing process of the movie and threatened him through texts and actions.

Both parties have provided emails and texts into evidence, and as the days progress, more news has been released to the media. The pop-culture side of social media has been filled with fans sharing their opinions on the cases. It Ends with Us has generated three cases so far, all involving aspects of harassment that took place in a movie about spreading awareness of abuse.



Internet Photo



Internet Photo

Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni

The Winter Ball returns to LOHS



Submitted photos

LOHS students pose for a picture with friends at the Winter Formal

By ANSLEY KANG

This year's Winter Ball, planned by the sophomore class office, was at the Abernethy Center on Feb. 2. The theme was Euphoria, characterized by "the color scheme of blues and purples, with glitter and stars. We weren't trying to use the actual show ... mostly just the colors," said sophomore Class President Kate Scipio Del Campo.

She helped plan the dance, along with the rest of the sophomore class office, which consisted of Mario Welliver, Nava Herman, Lilly Kaisi, Pearl Maurer and Olivia Trujillo. Overall, the planning of this had been going on "since school started. We had a meeting before school started to talk about what we're expecting, themes, and we had a meeting after all of us got elected," said Scipio Del Campo. The sophomore class office is in charge of a number of events throughout the school year but the winter ball is one of the larger events that take multiple months to plan. The group even met for a brief period of time right after they had been elected into their positions for the initial discussion of the dance that was to come the following year.

The theme was inspired by the popular TV show "Euphoria" but received some controversial thoughts from the student body for being a TV show with sensitive material in it. "It was kind of controversial because of the show, but

we were trying to do something different instead of a winter wonderland. Honestly it was nothing about the show, but we thought that the color scheme would be fitting for a winter dance," she said.

Dance attendee senior Mara Lincoln went with a group of friends to dinner before the dance and "went to get ice cream and went back to her house to hang out" afterwards. "Personally it wasn't my favorite school dance. There are ones that I've had a lot more fun at. I thought the DJ was okay, but overall, I had a good time."

As a senior, this would be Lincoln's last winter formal and second to last high school dance. She said, "I know that I would look back and regret it if I didn't go because obviously you don't get more of these after you graduate. I ended up having fun and didn't regret it."

The class officers felt that the turnout was decent, and Scipio Del Campo thought that "everything on our part went according to plan, and the turnout was pretty good for winter formal. We were hoping to sell more tickets than what we ended up selling, but it was alright."

Scipio Del Campo also thought that this dance being the first she's ever planned was "pretty good. The most fun part for me was decorating the actual venue and communicating with the companies that we used for the DJ and photo booth and venue."

Black Student Union celebrates Black History

By GAVIN NILES

Throughout its history, Lake Oswego has maintained its status as an affluent, racially homogenous enclave through systematic barriers rather than outright racial hostility—although the latter still sometimes occurs (e.g., 2021's infamous severed deer head incident). Only 16% of LO residents are non-white, with Black residents making up just 0.7% of that 16%. This racial isolation dates back to the Oregon Donation Land Act of 1850, which reserved property rights for white settlers. In the early 20th century, real estate developer Paul Murphy reinforced this exclusivity through racial covenants barring Black homeownership, while the Federal Housing Administration denied 98% of home loans requested by non-white buyers between 1934 and 1962. All of this concentrated generational wealth in white hands, the outcomes of which we see in the Lake Oswego of today: limited public transit and high housing costs continue to make the city inaccessible to those outside its ethnically uniform economic bracket.

So, what does Black History Month (BHM) mean to the Black residents who attend LOHS? Do they feel as if it's only ostensibly celebrated in a city where the average resident is unlikely to actually care?

"As a member of the Black Student Union," said senior Alanah Butler, "I believe that the school's celebration of BHM is mostly performative. There is genuine support being shown, such as Mr. Kumprey taking time out of class to talk about different Black mathematicians—but I do not remember [BHM] being announced over the intercom as so many other

school events are . . . I feel as if [the administration] is not being as supportive as they claim to be."

Alanah is just one of many members of LOHS's Black Student Union (BSU), a safe space for all students to celebrate Black culture and discuss what it means to be Black in LO. Meeting weekly on Tuesdays in Room 223, the BSU's mission is to foster inclusivity, equality and awareness. Everyone is welcome in the club regardless of race, and cookies, chips and drinks are always provided. Throughout 2025, they aim to restart the Black Student Mentorship Program, participate in regular group hangouts with Lakeridge's BSU, host a student market highlighting artwork done by people of color and expand their Summer Setoff event.

"Leila [Morehead], our president, does so much for us," said Butler when asked about some of the BSU's standout members. "Also, Zee [Lear], our photographer, worked closely with an organization called Word is Bond recently and obtained a grant we can use for any event of our choosing."

This February, LOHS's BSU is collaborating with Lakeridge High School (LHS) and Tualatin High School's own BSUs for the Portland-Metro BSU Culture Fest on Feb. 22 at LHS. There will be food, guest speakers, music and more. LO itself is celebrating Black History Month with a talk on "Black Exclusion in Oregon" at the Lake Oswego Public Library.

While the city remains racially homogenous, LO's small but successful Black communities continue to cultivate spaces for connection, recognition, and empowerment—something worth celebrating this February.

Jellycats rise to popularity across LO

By ANNEMARIE VLAIC

Jellycats are stuffed animals that originate from London, founded in 1999. These stuffed animals, featuring a wide variety of animals, food and objects, have caught the attention of many recently and have become a generational sensation. The company Jellycat also sells collectibles, books, nursery rhymes, bags and other accessories. However, their soft toys, growing in popularity, have begun to pop up in stores all over Oregon and the rest of the United States.

Their stuffed animals range from cats and dogs to bears, bun-

nies, snakes, giraffes, capybaras, octopuses, and even bugs and insects like bees, ladybugs and butterflies. The Amusables collection is a separate collection distinct from their fuzzy friends and includes plushies with themes such as sports, plants, food, drink and other objects. Their animal collections also have a ton of different biomes to explore, such as the arctic, jungle, safari, farm land, ocean and woodland.

But what makes these expensive stuffed animals so much more special than brands such as Squishmallow or Build-A-Bear? There are a few rea-

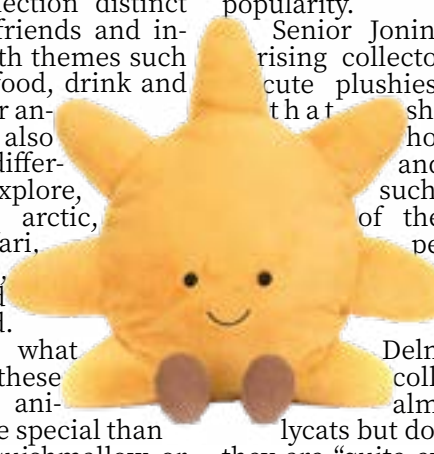
sons. For one, there are so many unique kinds of plushies, and because of their different series of collectibles they have grown in popularity.

Senior Jonin Delman, a rising collector of these cute plushies, explains that she "loves how cute they are and how there's such a wide variety of them," and especially likes how they are "so cute and so soft."

Delman has a collection of almost ten Jellycats but does mention that they are "quite expensive," which is one of the reasons it is hard to

start collections like these, but are also such popular gifts. Jellycats can run anywhere from \$20 for the tinier plushies, to \$30 for medium-sized plushies, to even \$50 and over for plushie-inspired bags and exclusive items.

The notion of collecting these warm plushies has sparked collector hobbies around the nation, and their variety has led to them also being used as home decor. Along with their cute appearances and warm ambiance, they can provide a safe feeling of emotional warmth for children and adults alike.



Lake Views

The award-winning student newspaper of Lake Oswego High School

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Lake Views is a free press and a forum for student expression.

Corn on the Cobb



Navigating seasonal depression

By MADISON COBB

I ask myself frequently why I live in Oregon when I thrive in the sun. Then I realize it's my parents' fault for putting us here in this rainy state. In class, I constantly find myself daydreaming about what it would be like to live in a place like California or Arizona, while watching the rain drizzling from the sky through the watery window. During this I imagine the sun glowing on my face instead of the shade of the clouds darkening the room. I dream of what a glorious life it would be with the sky always blue.

Living in Oregon comes with getting a regular greeting of depressing clouds and cold rain during the year. This most definitely does not help my mood. When the weather is gloomy my energy is drained, and I feel like being super lazy. This reaction to weather is probably best described as seasonal depression. This phenomenon is when the shorter days and bad weather cause a lack of certain brain chemicals (like serotonin) that cause depression. It's kinda wild when you think about it, like really? A little rain and the sun setting at four can make the chemicals in my brain change? That is pretty crazy.

But seasonal depression is no joke. My immediate reaction to seeing dark clouds is to make some chocolate chip cookies and curl up on the couch to watch a movie. In my mind, it's not appropriate to keep going about my day when the weather is dreary. The darkness is the weather's way of telling me my day is done. These feelings from the weather are from brain chemicals disrupting my normal rhythms. In turn, this makes it hard to adjust to the differences when it's light out. This is what causes depression symptoms like excessive tiredness, lack of focus and irritability.

Treatment for seasonal depression includes a few different options. Tactics to mitigate this beast can include talk therapy and medications, which are pretty normal treatment options for depression. But light therapy can also be used for this certain type of depression. Light therapy is getting a battery or electricity operated light box that is over 10000 lux, which is similar to the light waves that the sun gives off. When you sit in front of the light box, it helps influence the increase in production of serotonin. This helps because seasonal depression is connected to the lack of sunlight in the winter months.

Something I find interesting is that complete darkness doesn't make me tired. I am a night owl at heart and can be up till four in the morning any day. But ask me to wake up early and then I will feel sick the rest of the day. My point is that I only feel affected by seasonal depression when it's gray and dark outside. It's still day but the dark stormy clouds make the light dimmer. That is the type of weather that makes me long for a peek of the blue sky. The clouds make me feel suffocated. It's truly awful.

Sun is the biggest blessing ever known to man. First of all, it makes me so productive. It also makes me want to connect with nature and do things like go for a walk or bike ride. Sun also makes me the prettiest person ever. The sun is known to clear acne but it does so much more. Sometimes it will give me a nice tan or just glow in general. It most definitely makes me feel more confident in myself as well.

When it's summer and the days are super long and full of light, it's just so joyful. It feels like there are more than 24 hours in the day. This type of day gives me so much energy and happiness. The sheer fact of the sun and blue sky brightens my day 10000x more than anything else in the world.

Although having seasons in Oregon is cool since we get a taste of everything, it's also really annoying. I just want the sun. I want longer days. Life with beaming sunlight and blue sky everyday would make me the happiest person alive. You better believe you won't catch me in Oregon as soon as I can get out of here.

Thoughtful Valentine's Day gift ideas

Plushies and Comfort

Brands like Jellycat, Build-a-Bear, Squishmallow and more are coming out with Valentine's themed plushies that you can buy for your friends or significant other, and will make the perfect memorable gift that will last a lifetime (or for as long as they keep it). Stop by stores like Fred Meyer, Zupans, Albertsons, Target or Walmart to find the perfect plushie. Furthermore, Target often has weighted plushies and blankets which provide warmth and comfort, as well as fuzzy blankets to cuddle up in, making it another great gift to invest in for your loved ones.



Flowers

Love is in the air and with that, flowers can be a very special gift. Although roses are gorgeous and usually an amazing gift, you can try to specialize your gift by getting your friends or significant other their favorite flowers. You can create a bouquet for them on your own at places like Zupans, New Seasons, Safeway or Trader Joe's. Add cute decorations like ribbons, spray glitter or charms to specialize your bouquet by stopping at Michaels to pick up some craft supplies, and maybe even some brown paper to aesthetically wrap the bouquet. Added bonus: write a love letter to go along with your bouquet!



Sweet Treats

You can never go wrong with freshly baked treats or Valentine's-themed candies. Lake Oswego bakeries like La Provence, St. Honoré, Kyra's Bake Shop, Happy Sparrow and Too Sweet Cakes provide a wide variety of sweet treats to pick from that are bound to put a smile on your friends and lovers' faces. Some other bakeries that are worth the drive are Crumbl, Jens Pastries, 85C Bakery and Sesame Donuts. Safeway, Fred Meyer, Albertsons and Walmart also have Valentine-themed aisles set up with a variety of candies you can choose from, chocolate or not. The best part: all the packaging is Valentine's themed. Present it with a cute plushie and some flowers, and be prepared for a happy partner or friend.



Essentials

Who doesn't love the essentials? It's something your partner is sure to make good use of and can make for some great gift fillers if you're stuck on what to get them. Sephora is a great starting location for makeup and some beauty essentials, as well as skin care products. Target is also an affordable store with a wide range of popular facial care, makeup products and a huge jewelry and clothing section! Speaking of essentials, who doesn't love having a great-smelling room? Stop by stores like Yankee Candles at Washington Square, or support a small business and order a special candle from Willa and Jean Candles.

Handcrafted Gifts

If you have extra time on your hands and want to make a truly personal gift for your partner or friend to show how deep your love runs, try some of these handcrafted gifts. You can find all the supplies needed at Michaels. Crocheting can be hard, but once you get the hang of it you can start creating your own gifts, such as plushies or flowers, and a fun challenge could be crocheting a full bouquet. Another simple gift is making your own card from scratch. Some cardstock paper and a little time to find a design online or draw something meaningful can go a long way, especially with a heartfelt message. Another way to express your love is to create a jar with 100 reasons why you love them on tiny cards. You can go the extra mile and stain each card with lipstick, to make it a little more romantic for those of you with partners. Present any gift with a cute ribbon and another gift and enjoy watching their reaction.



Gift cards

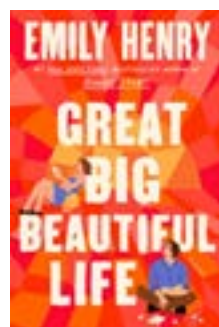
The gift of freedom to buy anything you could ever want. Who doesn't love that? You can buy gift cards from almost any store, including the Dollar Tree. Match this gift with a plushie, handmade gift or candy, and pick a gift card to their favorite store, and you will be set. Often stores also have Valentine's-themed gift-card holders that you can give your friend or lover with, just to make the gift even more lovely.



Valentines Basket

Not quite sure which gift is perfect for them? Why not mix it up and get some of everything? Stop by Target or Walmart's Valentine section, grab a cute basket and layer it with gifts your partner will love from this list. Add a plushie or blanket as a base, choose a bag of candies or a bakery treat, fill the empty spots with essentials, and choose between a sentimental gift or flowers, and you're done!

Most anticipated books of 2025



Great Big Beautiful Life

Romance author Emily Henry has had success after success. Books like "Book Lovers," "Beach Read" and "Funny Story," have been highly praised in the book world. Her success has even seeped into the movie world, with her book "People We Meet on Vacation" being adapted into a film. It's safe to say that the standards are high for her next release, titled "Great Big Beautiful Life," which comes out on April 22, 2025. The novel follows two writers who are competing for the chance to write the biography of a mysterious and infamous woman. Henry has written multiple books about authors and book agents, so it'll be interesting to see how she makes this one stand out.



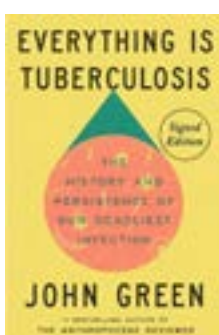
Onyx Storm

"Onyx Storm" is the third book in the "The Empyrean" fantasy series by Rebecca Yarros. The first book of the series, "Fourth Wing," follows the story of a young girl, Violet, who goes off to train at a ruthless war college. It's hard to talk about "Onyx Storm" without giving anything away from the previous books, but it continues Violet's story as war consumes her life. It has all the best elements of fantasy, including dragons, magic and action. After the cliffhanger that the second book left off on, many are eager to see what happens next. The book already came out on Jan. 21, so go pick it up if you want a good read.



Sunrise on the Reaping

Possibly the most highly anticipated book of 2025 is Suzanne Collins' fifth installment of the Hunger Games series. "Sunrise on the Reaping" will be the second prequel to the original trilogy and follow the story of Haymich Abernathy, the second victor from District 12 and mentor to the beloved characters, Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark. Collins has informed readers that this book will symbolize the dangers of propaganda and the power of the media. While some events of Abernathy's games were revealed in the second book, Catching Fire, fans speculate that "Sunrise on the Reaping" will show how these events were modified in order to influence public opinion.



Everything is Tuberculosis

John Green, the beloved author of "The Fault in Our Stars," "Looking for Alaska" and "Turtles All the Way Down," is coming out with a new non-fiction novel called "Everything is Tuberculosis" in 2025. Green has raised awareness for Tuberculosis on social media for years, and will now be putting all of his research into a novel. "Everything is Tuberculosis" will include the history of Tuberculosis, the world's most deadly disease, and how it has shaped society. Green will also most likely go into the economic and political reasons why a disease that has been curable since the 1940's is still killing so many people across the world.

All you need is some love

The cutest couples by class

Seniors

Sam Johnson & Rouye Mosblech



How long have they been dating: 1 year and 6 months.

How did they meet: "When we were freshmen we were just in the same friend group" and they eventually started dating after being friends for a few years.

First date: They went to a movie at the theater.

Favorite thing to do together: They love going to the gym together and/or going on walks or picnics.

Rouye's favorite thing about Sam: "He's very thoughtful. I think he thinks a lot about other people and he doesn't really mind doing anything. He doesn't really get annoyed."

Sam's favorite thing about Rouey: He loves her eyes and how caring she is.

Juniors

Natalie Hills & Drew Woolworth



How long have they been dating: 1 year and 7 months.

How did they meet: Over Snapchat.

First date: They hiked up Nansen Summit together and then stargazed.

Favorite thing to do together: They like to go on walks together.

Drew's favorite thing about Natalie: "I like her smile a lot."

Natalie's favorite thing about Drew: "I like how patient he is, and he's always very uplifting and makes me feel valued."

Sophomores

Kate Binkley & Riley Killian



How long have they been dating: Seven months.

How did they meet: They met in middle school and started off as really good friends for a long time.

First date: They went to Pizza Sur Lago and walked around and took photos.

Favorite thing to do together: They like to go thrifting together.

Kate's favorite thing about Riley: "I can talk to him about a lot of stuff and a lot of random things."

Riley's favorite thing about Kate: "She's super fun, and she is always wanting to try something new. And she is very outgoing."

Freshmen

Sally Hsia & Elliot D'Orazio



How long have they been dating: 2 months

How did they meet: They met in science class and then were friends for about a year.

First date: They got drinks at starbucks and studied together.

Favorite thing to do together: They love to bake together.

Sally's favorite thing about Elliot: "My favorite thing about Elliott is how easy it is to be around him and how silences are not uncomfortable."

Elliot's favorite thing about Sally: "My favorite thing about Sally is that she's really funny and always makes me laugh."

TO:
Dylan Morrison

Sweeter than chocolate,
sweeter than wind, sweeter
than just about everything,
you are my Valentine :)

- Kaysie Smith



TO:
Angela Wang
Angela Wang I need you
badly you are beautiful
Chinese
- Emma Li

TO:
Joni Delman
Happy Valentines
day! Love you!
- Charlie Crandall

TO:
Aedan Casey
Happy Valentines
day, Aedan.
- Sana Hokawala

TO:
Wiley Thomsen
Happy Valentines day
Wiley! XOXO
- Anonymous

TO:
The Senior Class
Good luck seniors!!
Enjoy second semester
:)
- Malika Saha

TO:
Amandia Scotti
Dearest Amandia, your beauty
ignites a fire in my soul, making my
heart race wildly with every glance.
Will you let me steal you away for
dinner?
- Sofie Howard

TO:
Charlie Crandall
Happy Valentines Day
to my valentine Charlie.
- Joni Delman

TO:
Malika Saha
Never forgor how
much I love you.
- Anonymous

TO:
Kyron Streeb
Dearest Kyron, I really
love your mohawk.
- Anonymous

TO:
Kaysie May
I love you Kaysie! Happy Valen-
tines day! You're my favorite per-
son and best friend, I can't wait to
travel and spend more and more
time with you.



- Dylan Morrison

TO:
Tony Zeng
Skibidi Tony has a mas-
sive gyatt in Ohio
- Anonymous

TO:
Karin Bradshaw
Happy Valentines Day
my BFG!!! xoxo

TO:
My Parents
Happy Valentines
Day
- Micah Lim

TO:
Hanna Faroghi
Happy Valentines
Day Love
- Justice Bills

TO:
Nancy Longman
THANKS FOR BEING SUCH
A GREAT TEAM UNIFIED
FRIENDS
- Twins8

TO:
Jacob Parks
you'll always be my #1
pookum snookum <3
- Anonymous

TO:
Roman Perry
you look like clark
kent with those glasses
cutie
- Anonymous

TO:
Annemarie Vlaic
Be my valentine
pookie <3
- Vanessa Kim

TO:
Arlo Hartzog
you are just a special
little guy, but I love you
anyways :3
- Connor West

TO:
Lauren Sielatycki
If you don't do
anything, do
start to fit in,
okay?



- Anonymous

TO:
Roman Perry
My undivided love
goes to you
- Anonymous

TO:
Roman Perry
Save me Superman
Please
- Anonymous



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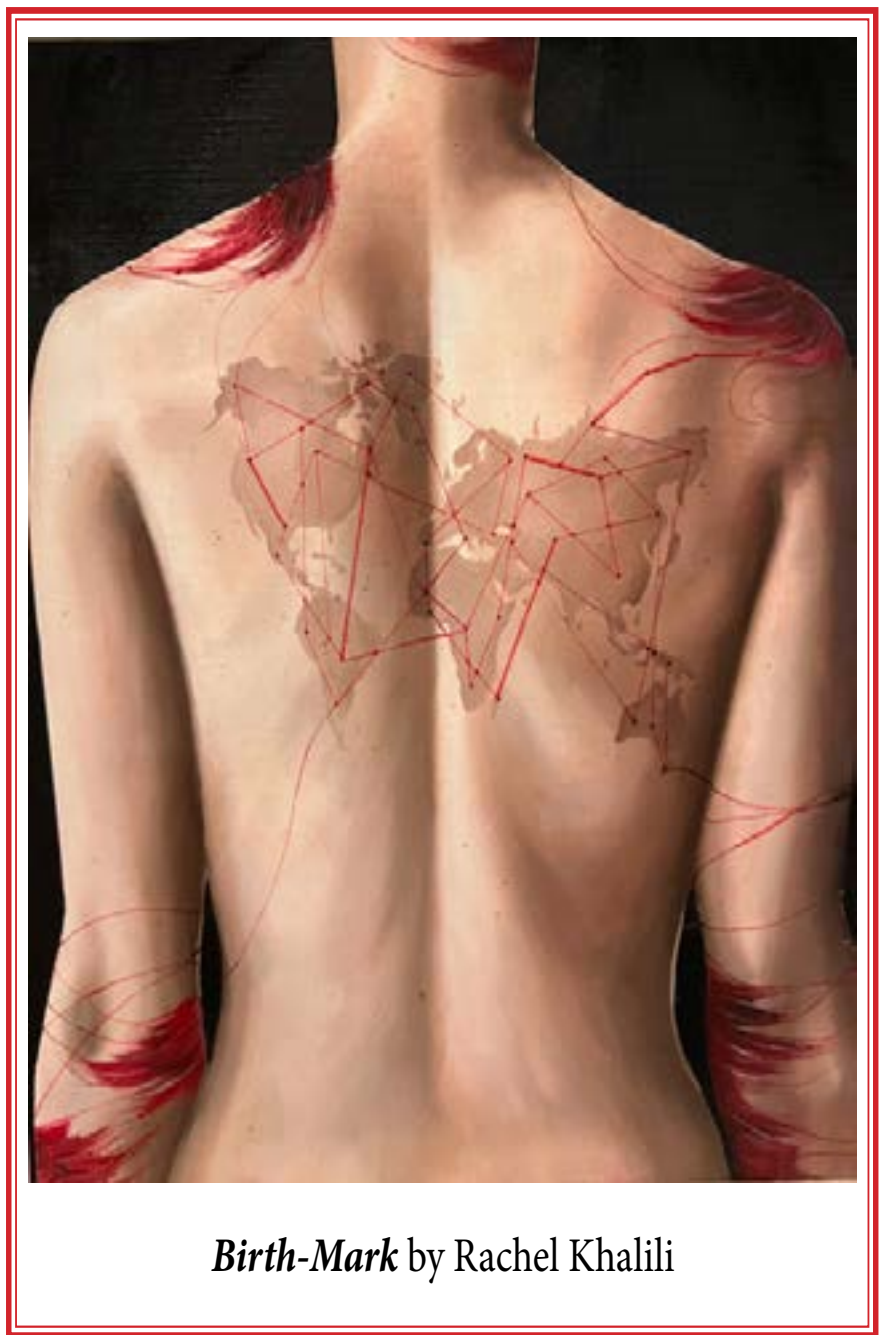
The Joan Eliot Sappington Invitational Gallery is seeking talented student artists in grades 6 through 12, who have demonstrated a commitment to visual arts.

Upon acceptance into the program, training on writing an artist statements and pricing their work will be provided. Successful participation in this exhibit can generate sales from artwork, scholarships or awards, future exhibits at Lakewood, letters of recommendation from the Festival Executive staff, promotion via social media, news articles, and more!

Ten selected students will be given the opportunity to exhibit and sell their work as professionals in a unique exhibit on the main floor of the Lakewood Center during the 2025 Festival of the Arts. The art works in the gallery will also be judged separately from the other pieces in the Youth Exhibit and the artists can attend the professional artist reception during the Festival. This exhibit can be considered as their first show as professional artists!



Scan the QR code to apply:
 Deadline: **March 1, 2025**



Birth-Mark by Rachel Khalili

"I had a great experience with the festival, it was my first time selling my work and it was such a smooth and easy process. I think I'm now much more educated on how to sell my work successfully and I hope to continue to do so, so it was a fantastic first step for me and I'm really appreciative of the opportunity." -Rachel Khalili

2025 Scholarship!

Are you a high school senior in Lake Oswego or West Linn?

Lakewood Theatre Company and the Lakewood Center Associates mark their 45th year of providing a scholarship for a graduating senior from Lake Oswego, Lakeridge or West Linn High Schools pursuing a career in the performing arts.

Do you know a qualified student? Please share this opportunity with them. Applications are available in each high school's counseling office, from the Lakewood Center office, or on our website. Please go to lakewood-center.org to download an application.

Deadline: **April 4, 2025**

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Visit: lakewood-center.org/student-reviewer

Boeing astronauts remain stuck in space

By SOPHIA LU

Space flight evokes thoughts of NASA, smiling astronauts in puffy spacesuits and Neil Armstrong's "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." In reality, these images seem to be long gone at present. NASA no longer has its own space-shuttle programs, it's difficult for astronauts to smile when they're stuck in space and the only leaps companies take now are towards their profit margins. Today, the big names in space are SpaceX and Boeing.

NASA first hired Boeing, along with SpaceX, to bring astronauts into space in 2014, following the retirement of NASA's space-shuttle program. Boeing was awarded the higher value, \$4.2 billion contract to develop its Starliner spacecraft, but NASA's confidence in the mission may have been misplaced.

Boeing astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore set off for the International Space Station (ISS) on June 5, 2024. However, instead of the planned, routine trip, their journey was anything but: the thrusters on their Starliner craft failed and helium leaked, putting them in danger of not being able to re-enter Earth's atmosphere. However, Boeing remained confident in the spacecraft's abilities. "Boeing was convinced that



Internet Photo

Boeing astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore float in the ISS

the Starliner was in good enough condition to bring the astronauts home," stated a NASA executive. NASA overrode Boeing's insistence that the spacecraft was safe, leaving Williams and Wilmore stranded at the space station until February. What began as a simple eight day trip into space turned into an eight month ordeal.

Yet again, a statement released in December pushed their return date to

March. Boeing continually claimed that Williams and Wilmore are unbothered by the change, going so far as to feature Williams at a press conference from the ISS saying, "Space is my happy place." Nonetheless, it seems that even the astronauts are tired of Boeing's lack of accountability.

Boeing is seemingly dead set against admitting its faults. The com-

pany continuously promotes content fitting its claim that the astronauts are living in space bliss on the ISS, even posting Christmas photos in a cheap attempt at holiday normalcy.

These simple gestures try but fail to mask the harsh reality of Boeing's incompetence; despite declaring that all is well, the company clearly is not developing its technologies up to operating standards, as well as not honoring its plans. Sending a faulty craft into space is not only dangerous for the two passenger astronauts but is also detrimental to other astronauts who have to be removed from their pre-planned flight to make room for Boeing's mistakes. By not taking responsibility for its own issues, Boeing is leaving other organizations to clean up its messes and risking the safety of future astronauts.

Unless Boeing makes fundamental changes to its priorities, it will continue to fail its astronauts and their families. Although the astronauts reached the ISS unharmed this time around, there is no guarantee that the same luck will hold true next time. Boeing needs to take one small step into the future and one giant leap toward protecting its people. Williams speaks for every person who has ever been lost, lonely and homesick when she says, "I want to come home."

California wildfires heat up debate about climate change



Internet Photo

By ANSLEY KANG

When people think of climate change, oftentimes the first thought that comes to mind is the melting ice caps, warmer ocean levels or even shrinking goats. What many people don't realize though, is that climate change affects just about every aspect of our living environment around us. Climate change fuels intense natural disasters--whether it's the polar vortex in the midwest or the severe hurricane season in the south. Our natural weather patterns are slowly becoming more and more irregular, which means that the swings between El Niño and La Niña weather patterns are bound to become increasingly extreme.

The first spark of the California wildfires started on Jan. 7, 2025, and since then have damaged over 57,000 acres of land and killed 29 people. The Palisades fire, which destroyed over 20,000 acres of

land, was one of the largest in California's history, and the Eaton fire is now one of the deadliest fires to ever ravage across the state with 17 casualties. While there are numerous factors that played into the cause of these fires, like high wind speeds and low humidity, it is without a doubt that climate change was the number one cause of one of the most destructive fires in the West Coast.

This year's La Niña predicted dry, arid weather this winter in the southern part of the U.S. When the first spark in the Palisades area started, the wind speed varied between 30-70 mph, and when paired with extremely dry conditions, fires can start from even the smallest electrical sparks that get carried by the wind to drier patches of land. This small spark can then ignite the dry vegetation, and with no moisture in the air, there is nothing that will stop it.

Our climate clock states that we have a little more than four years before we've done irreversible damage to the environment. If nothing changes, we could start seeing larger fires that cause more destruction every year, and the lingering thought of "this could never affect me" will vanish. I hope that the California wildfires serve as a wake-up call for our nation to begin taking action to save our climate. No more "drill, baby, drill" because that is only contributing to the beginning of our climate downfall.

Mercato Grove closures bring uncertainty to LO

By CLARE CHRISTENSEN

Two more restaurants have shut down in the Mercato Grove area in the last few months, solidifying the undeniable curse of the local business park. The Moberi and Lardo closures mark the fifth and sixth in a long line of closures in the area, following Tasty, Toreados, Lac St. Jack and FILLLS donuts, all within the last three years. Of the original restaurants in the Mercato Grove space, only Grassa and Oven and Shaker remain, and even Oven and Shaker is set to close once their lease is up. After all of these closures, what comes next for Mercato Grove?

Likely, these closures have something to do with the unreasonably high retail rent rate in Lake Oswego, which is historically higher than most other cities in the Portland metro area, especially in desirable areas such as Mercato Grove. These high rents have forced restaurants into a vicious cycle of increasing prices until they're selling a \$40 sandwich, before losing customers and having to close down. This issue has been arising all over Lake Oswego lately in other high-rent areas similar to Mercato Grove. For example, the recently opened American style restaurant, Mann's on the Lake, is selling bread baskets for a staggering \$10. Even Mercato's own Oven and Shaker sells oven roasted carrots for \$12. Prices this high aren't sustainable even in high-income Lake Oswego and seem to be leading to the demise of restaurants

across town.

It also may have something to do with the extremely limited parking in the enclosed mercantile, which makes it difficult to bring in large numbers of customers and ultimately decreases revenue. Lake Oswego parking codes which require 13 parking spaces per 1000 square feet of gross floor area. However, most of the parking spots in Mercato Grove are in a garage which is shared with the residents of the apartment complex above. This lack of suitable parking is driving customers away from the area, causing it to struggle just a few years after its opening.

Even so, Sool Korean bar and restaurant is set to open in the vacant Lardo building, and hopefully will have better luck than its precursors. Sool has an alternate location in Vancouver which seems to be doing pretty well, but as another small corporation it is at risk of suffering the same fate as other Mercato restaurants. If small businesses continue to fail in this area Lake Oswego should probably expect to see more large corporations moving into the area--similar to how Chick-fil-a replaced local restaurant Stanfords earlier this year--as they may be the only ones who can handle the extreme rents.

While the Lardo and Moberi closures are upsetting to foodies everywhere, hopefully Sool will bring new life to the area and we may finally see some success from Mercato Grove.

Electives hold just as much value as AP classes

Any student at LOHS knows that there's a certain expectation to attend a four-year college after high school. Whether it's a pressure from parents, teachers or peers, it heavily impacts how students go about their high school careers. With all of that considered, it's no surprise that students tend to forecast for AP and Honors classes over other electives in order to look impressive on college applications.

On the LOHS website, the school is described as "a four-year comprehensive public secondary school that offers a challenging course of study aimed at meeting the needs of a predominantly college-bound student body." Challenging classes are integral to the curriculum here at LO and are often the classes that students are encouraged to take the most because attending college is the end goal. There's no denying that

AP classes look better for colleges, save money and are a good challenge for students, but is that enough for them to be valued more than any other elective?

LOHS offers a variety of fun electives, including but not limited to: Video Games as Interactive Narratives, Creative Writing, Introduction to Agriculture, Reading for Enjoyment and Criminal Justice. There are many students who love these electives and even look forward to taking them over anything else, but they are often the first to go when classes are cut.

It's understandable for those types of classes to be seen as the least important. They're not core subjects, so they're often discarded and labeled as unnecessary. Many parents would rather have their children take a challenging AP course over a few random electives.

But, what many people don't consider are the benefits students accrue from taking electives. If you ask a student here at LO, they might say that their electives are their easiest classes, but they'd probably also say that they learned a lot more real world skills from them than from some of their core classes. Classes like Yearbook and Newspaper teach students important soft skills, such as communication and collaboration. They offer leadership opportunities and develop writing abilities. Classes like Introduction to Agriculture and Criminal Justice allow students to explore different career paths. Not every student wants to follow a STEM career path, so why should the classes we have not give students opportunities to explore other options?

Plus, some students may not plan to go to a four-year college

at all. Culinary Arts is a class that could possibly direct students to a career in the subject, something that requires going through a special program rather than the typical university experience. College is not the only way to achieve success, which is why students at LOHS should have the opportunity to take electives that explore different options.

Electives might not seem rigorous or impressive, but they teach perspectives that are not attainable from taking most AP classes. With the recent news of the budget cuts in LOSD, it's time to start thinking about the classes that actually make a difference and make students more well-rounded. High school is the last time in our lives that we can take classes and learn for free, so why not take advantage of the electives offered at LOHS that are perceived as "less academic."

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UFC 312 makes noise

By JACOB DIETZ

On Saturday, Jan. 18, one of the biggest UFC cards in the last year took place at the newly-built Intuit Dome in Los Angeles, California. For those of you unfamiliar with what the UFC is, it is the premier fighting organization for Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and hosts some of the most talented fighters in the world. MMA is a unique sport, as it combines striking, grappling and wrestling to create entertaining and interesting fights. In the UFC, there are 12 weight class divisions (eight for men, four for women) and almost every month the organization hosts an event featuring a champion from one of these weight classes.

This month's event, UFC 311, was very exciting as it featured one of the greatest fighters of all time, lightweight champion Islam Makhachev. Makhachev is from Dagestan, Russia and has an impressive record of 27-1. His coach is Khabib Nurmagomedov, who took the UFC by storm with a 29-0 record up until he retired four years ago. The main strength of Makhachev's game is his grappling and wrestling, as he is extremely dangerous with his ground game. He also has talented striking abilities, going punch for punch in his last title defense against another UFC legend Dustin Poirer. Makhachev ended up winning that fight in the fifth round via D'Arce submission and was prepared to continue his momentum into this fight for his fourth title defense against number one contender Arman Tsarukyan, 22-3. This was supposed to be the second time the two had fought with the first bout being Arman's UFC debut where Makhachev won by unanimous decision. Unfortunately just one day before the fight, Tsarukyan had to pull out of the fight due to a sudden back injury. This left UFC president Dana White scrambling to find another fighter to fight Islam Makhachev on short notice. Luckily, Renato Moicano, the number nine ranked fighter in the division was willing to take the fight as he was already supposed to be fighting that day.

The Co-Main event for UFC 311 featured Bantamweight champion Merab Dvalishvili and the number two contender Umar Nurmagomedov. He is the cousin of UFC legend Khabib Nurmagomedov and had him in his corner as his coach. Khabib Nurmagomedov had a stressful night as he coached three fights, with Tagir Ulanbekov also fighting to start the night. It was a special night for all three fighters, as all three of them train in the same gym and fought their hardest to make their hometown of Dagestan proud. Umar had an impressive record of 18-0 going into his first championship fight but ultimately came up short, losing a close fight against the defending champion Merab Dvalishvili. Coming off an impressive championship fight against former champion Sean O'Malley where he captured the belt via unanimous decision, Dvalishvili was confident going into the fight, and it showed. He has arguably the best stamina in all of the UFC, and he was able to slow the fight down and beat Umar Nurmagomedov and represent his hometown of Tbilisi, Georgia.

With this stacked card there were many other interesting fights like Jiri Prochazka against Jamahal Hill, and Kevin Holland against Renier de Ridder; however, all the discussion was about the two championship bouts. Islam Makhachev had an extremely quick fight, submitting Renato Moicano in the first round. Makhachev has a lot of experience and is the most well-rounded fighter in the world right now, which makes him difficult to beat, let alone on short notice. It was a respectable effort from Renato Moicano, but everybody knew he was no match for Makhachev. Whenever Makhachev fights, he is always able to quickly make fighters pay and capitalize on their mistakes. In the bantamweight championship, I was confident that Umar Nurmagomedov would get the win as he is a better striker than Merab Dvalishvili, but Dvalishvili held his own on that front and successfully slowed the fight down to win. This card as a whole was very entertaining as some of the top fighters in the world clashed on Jan. 18.

How sports benefit the brain



Internet Photo

By TAYLOR SHELDON

The effect of sports and exercise on the brain is significantly more than what it seems. Often, exercise is just associated with physical benefits, but the mental and emotional advantages get overlooked despite being just as, if not more, important. Several studies have shown that exercise benefits physical and mental health and can lead to a much healthier life. Some examples of the mental benefits from exercise include boosted energy and brain function, better memory and sleep, and reduced stress and risk of depression.

The stimulation involved with exercise activities can increase learning speed as it allows for better memory and aids in attentiveness and the ability to focus more intently. Exercise also increases the rate at which brain cells grow and develop, allowing more productivity and less anxiety. Happiness and confidence levels are boosted, along with energy, through the release of endorphins and improved circulation.

Team sports in particular are extremely important to mental health and wellbeing. A unique benefit of team sports is the interaction between teammates. By instilling a supportive and encouraging environment, it allows for better communication skills, improved sense of belonging, and better social behavior overall. Being on a sports team can teach a person how to handle disagreements and how to overcome obstacles and come to a solution. There's also the aspect of being able to meet new people and create lifelong friendships and memories with

teammates.

Exercise improves attitudes towards life and struggles, and even though the process isn't always easy, it helps teach people to not give up on themselves before they even start attacking the challenge. Exercise is also a way to learn how to be a powerful role model, look at obstacles through the bigger picture for the future, and be able to have the motivation to overcome hardships.

Other benefits are the added bonuses of reducing risks of health issues, increased lifespan compared to someone who doesn't exercise, stronger mindset going into challenges, and improved self-confidence. It also allows a person to become more aware of the positive sides of situations, have less negative self-talk and thoughts, feel less pressure from life, and not let stressors weigh them down and take a toll on their body.

There are so many positive aspects involved with sports and exercise, thus everyone should be encouraged to find something active that they like to do. Granted everybody has different things they like to do and some find it difficult to stay consistent with being physically active, but there are many different sports and exercises to choose from; people just have to be willing to try new things and keep looking until they find the thing they like to do the most. They could also do a variety of activities so they don't get bored. The possibilities are endless as long as the main goal of participating in something active is kept in mind so that a person can reap all the benefits of a healthier life, both physically and mentally.

LOHS swim team makes waves



Internet Photo

By TIFFANY HSU

LOHS swim teams are back in the water! The school swim season has begun, and players are warming up to old and new members. While official meets began in December, the team started training as early as November, building strength and endurance for upcoming competitions. However, it doesn't stop there; the players even trained during Thanksgiving and winter breaks.

The teams have already competed in several meets, including a recent showdown against St. Mary's. While only the girls team participated in that competition, the boys competed in an exhibition event. On Senior Night, the teams competed in the Battle of the Lake against Lakeridge at home. The team has been performing well, with strong team captains building team chemistry and synchronization. During every competition, both coaches and captains encourage players to

appreciate their opponents and cheer for their fellow teammates, even if they can't hear them in the water.

Although boys and girls compete separately—sometimes together for relays—they train together as one cohesive team. Practices are held multiple times a week with a structured schedule: Monday and Wednesday sessions from 4-5:30 P.M., Tuesday and Friday sessions from 4:30-5:45 P.M., and swim meets on Thursdays. They don't stop practicing even when there are breaks from school. Holding practices on days off-school allow the players to maintain their momentum while still being able to get the rest they need.

One of the teams' hardest bubbles to pop is communication between players and the coaches. This year, especially, LOHS swim is facing many coaching changes. Senior Captain Ophelia Lu expressed her opinions: "One of the hard parts about swimming is that there's a club team that's outside of school, and so they [club swimmers] don't really come to practice a lot, and it's hard to create a cohesive team bond," she said. "But I suppose every season, as the season goes by, we create a good team."

Everyone tends to think swimming is a very individual sport; however, that is not the case. Having a good bond within the team is the most important aspect. Without their team, players wouldn't have the motivation they need to keep going. Like a few other sports, no experience is necessarily needed in swimming. Right now, the swim teams have both players with backgrounds in swimming and also new to the sport members. As long as people have an open mind about participating and working hard to improve, swimming is the perfect sport. In the upcoming competitions, the team hopes to reach their goals. Freshman Haobo Wang shared, "Our goal this year is to swim faster, be responsible, have a positive attitude and an environment that invites everyone." Keep splashing, Lakers!

Girls basketball shoots for the stars

By LILY OLSON

Our LOHS varsity girls basketball team, led by head coach Kaitlin Jackson, has had a strong season so far with ten wins. Shining bright this season are our var-tens Morgan Hoover and Olivia Jordan, who have played for four seasons. According to Jordan, the season has gone really great so far: "I am really proud of how far my team has come and how we've adapted to changes," and the team has had "general consistency throughout the season." Their best game so far this season was against McKay High School in the Nike Interstate Shootout, where they domi-

nated with a 54-12 big victory.

This year the team is bonded more than ever and have had astounding success. As the season is near the end, Jordan shared her sadness for the end of the season as a senior and captain: "I am devastated that this is my last year. It feels like I am just getting started, and now it's almost over." The last official game of their season will be Feb. 28 against Tigard High School. Lastly, some advice from Jordan to future Laker ballers who continue to play throughout the next few years: "Celebrate the little things on and off the court. Everyone should be celebrated for everything they do."

Eagles soar to success in 2025 Super Bowl

By JACOB DIETZ

The NFL football season wound down with Super Bowl LIX this past weekend, and the game did not disappoint. The game, which took place in New Orleans, was between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs. This was a rematch from two years ago in which the Chiefs came out victorious winning 38-35. The game was highly anticipated, as the Eagles looked to win their first Super Bowl since 2018, and the Chiefs looked to win their 3rd in a row, which has never been done before.

The Kansas City Chiefs were led once again by star quarterback Patrick Mahomes and experienced head coach Andy Reid. This year, the Chiefs picked up Deandre Hopkins, Juju Smith Schuster, Marquise Brown and Xavier Worthy at receiver, all of which have been playing extremely well. Although tight-end Travis Kelce has had a lackluster year, he was still considered a threat going into the game. With the fire power the Chiefs have on offense, their defense often gets overlooked. On the defensive side, they are led by veteran defensive tackle Chris Jones. Also on the d-line for the Chiefs is George Karlaftis who has been having a breakout season with eight sacks on the season. Trent McDuffie is the leader of the secondary, and as a whole this defensive unit is extremely hard to move the ball on.

For Philadelphia, this is the best offensive team they have had in years, and it is all thanks to newly acquired star running back Saquon Barkley. Prior to this year with the Eagles, Barkley had spent his first six seasons with the New



Internet Photo

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts and head coach Nick Sirianni celebrate the team's victory with the Super Bowl trophy

York Giants. Although he was very talented, injuries and a bottom ranked offensive line made it hard for him to succeed. Now that he is in a winning environment, he has catapulted the Eagles' offensive and made it more dynamic. Quarterback Jalen Hurts has looked better than ever, and the receiver duo of AJ Brown and Devonta Smith makes Philadelphia difficult to guard. On defense, the Eagles also have a young star in

defensive lineman Jalen Carter. Although, the real strength they have that gives them a leg up is their secondary. Darius Slay and CJ Gardner-Johnson are the veteran defensive backs, and the addition of Quinyon Mitchell, a rookie from Toledo, and Cooper DeJean, a rookie from Iowa, have helped tremendously.

The Eagles came out victorious in the end, winning the game 40-22. Although the score doesn't

look like a big deficit, the Eagles dominated the entire game, and quarterback Jalen Hurts won MVP. While the Chiefs were able to keep Saquon Barkley's rushing attack in check, they could not get anything going on offense. In fact, the Eagles forced three turnovers on Patrick Mahomes, one of which was a pick six by rookie Eagles cornerback Cooper DeJean. It was a great game and a deserving win for the Eagles.

Cheer team prepares for states



Submitted photo

By KAIYA CARNEGIE

Cheering on the sidelines of football games has come to an end and now Laker Cheer heads out to tackle competition season. Here at Lake Oswego High School our Laker cheer team has been on a roll. Another successful Laker Rumble, an event to raise money for the team, has been hosted at our very own LOHS. This annual Laker Rumble has been supporting our team by raising money and this year was no exception.

Currently, some students who often attend basketball games may have noticed that the cheer team is there more regularly supporting school spirit. Cheering the girls and boys basketball team on from the sidelines. The girls tricks and throws spark roars among the crowd. This is due to a new rule on the cheer team, and it seems to be working because Junior Sadie Bame said that "the student section is so much more hype."

Coming up next, cheer will take on state Friday, Feb. 14. At state they will be up against about 20 other teams. Last year, Bame said that they were "out of sorts" but looking to do better things this year. And Junior Adina Lapidus said that they "will compete better this year because [they] are competing a routine [they] are more comfortable in." Sophomore Katie Lanning said that they "just need to work really hard for it." To get ready to work really hard at state, the cheer team has "been watching a lot of the teams that [they're] going to be competing against," said junior Bame. By being a young team, the girls have a lot of potential this year and for years to come.

Lapidus states that she "can't wait to compete with her cheer family." So, good luck at state Laker Cheer!

Colorguard deserves more appreciation

By CLARE CHRISTENSEN

Possibly one of the most underappreciated sports at LOHS is the color guard team. Color guard is a method of dance that includes flag waving and spinning, typically done alongside a marching band or drum corps. LOHS has a winter guard team, which is essentially a typical color guard team that competes in the winter, so right now, color guard season is in full swing.

"We have indoor performances of usually four or more people, and we do a hybrid routine. We have equipment like rifles and flags, but we combine it with dancing to create an engaging visual performance," said junior team member Parker Masog.

Masog joined color guard on a whim and hasn't turned back since. "It really drew me in how dynamic it was," she said.

These dynamic performances don't come to fruition for the team without hard work. Members of the color guard team practice for three hours a day, two days a week. A typical practice will start with an hour of body warm ups and dance technique, followed by choreography practice.

"It's not a sport that I knew much about so when I started, it was really hard. Being able to get better and improve every day at practice makes me feel really good," explained Masog.

There are four members of the team this year. Besides Masog, the team consists of juniors Jenny Gu and Fritz Abbott, and sopho-

more Harmony Yount. Although smaller than a typical team, all four of the team members put their all into every practice.

This year, the team will have three competitions, not including championships in march. They have been working tirelessly to prepare for these competitions so LOHS can expect to be proud of the color guard team.

Anyone who is interested in joining or supporting the team can follow them on instagram. "It's really fun, it's almost like dance but with no judgement," said Masog.



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Live, Laugh, Laila



Grades do not define who you are

By LAILA BRISTOL

As the second semester of my junior year comes to a close, I find myself less than eager to begin anew. Instead, I feel dread's lingering presence, waiting to sink its claws into me. While in previous years I found myself excited to start new classes and to learn new material, this year is utterly different. I knew my junior year was going to be hard, but I wasn't expecting to spend hours upon hours on homework each night, only to receive mediocre grades after submitting it. My teachers say "grades don't define you" or "grades don't matter," but honestly, that's just not true. It seems that in my junior year, grades matter more than ever, and I feel that especially at a school like Lake Oswego my grades do define me. I walk through hallways full of students who are dissatisfied with a 4.0 GPA or peers who are taking a plethora of AP classes, and I constantly feel less than.

The other day, I spent a solid seven hours working on an assignment for one of my most challenging classes. When I finished the project, I took a step back and was honestly proud of my work. I had somehow managed to squeeze so much content, meaning, and information into such a concise project. I turned the project in the following day only to receive an email a few weeks later from my teacher telling me that my project lacked depth. She graciously gave me another chance to alter my assignment in order to increase my grade, but even then, all I felt was hopeless. I couldn't wrap my head around the fact that I had essentially failed a project that I truly was proud of. I wanted nothing more than to boost my grade, but I felt too deflated to do any more work. How could I do any better than the first try when I was already so proud of it? At that moment I felt like I had lost all passion to learn. I couldn't remember what it felt like to enjoy school.

After many tears shed, I talked to my teacher. She told me that she could tell I had the right ideas but that I needed to dig deeper. She believed in my ability to do better work which is why she gave me the second opportunity. I collected all of the materials that I had turned in for that project from her classroom and carried them to my car after school that day. I remember maintaining silence the entire car ride home as my friend (and personal chauffeur) tried to make polite conversation. I just felt too drained to try and conversate. School felt impossible.

I redid my project in a state of gloom. Obviously, I tried my best and put in a lot of work, but in the back of my mind, there was a voice telling me that whatever I did wouldn't really matter. It told me that I wasn't going to succeed either way. A few days later, as I was waiting on my new grade on the assignment I had redone, I had a meeting with a college counselor. He asked me how I was doing in my classes and how school was going, and I told him honestly that it was becoming a true struggle. He reviewed the information that I had given him and subsequently told me that one of my dream colleges that I had been pining for since I was a child had become more of a reach school for me. I smiled through tears, and as my vision began to blur, I said that I understood and logged off of the Zoom call.

It was a Tuesday night, and the thought of going to school the next day almost made me physically ill. I couldn't conjure up any feelings of excitement, even for the more fun classes that I had. I felt that the grades I had been receiving had been defining who I was as a person and affecting my ability to experience joy. It wasn't until that weekend, when I went to dinner with some friends that I hadn't seen in a while that I recognized a flaw in my logic.

As I talked with my long-lost friends about sports, hobbies and changes in our lives, I realized that the grade I had in AP Stats or Lang had not come up once in conversation. Between spurts of laughter, one of my friends exclaimed: "this is so fun guys, we need to hang out more." My friends valued spending time with me and enjoyed my company regardless of the score I had gotten on my assignment. I realized that my teachers were partially correct; my grades truly do not define me. The things that define us are our values, how we treat others, our work ethic and our attitudes. Nobody in your life is going to devalue you because you have a B in math or because you dropped a 70% on your last test. And while it is important to work hard, it is just as important to give ourselves a break and remember that we possess so many other valuable characteristics that mean so much more to those around you.

I can't lie and say grades don't matter because in our society, they obviously do. To an extent, the grades you receive determine what opportunities are available for you in the future, but they don't define you as a human. Some of us have to study for hours to reach the class average on a test while others may never open a textbook and earn a 100% every time. As long as you try, your results don't say much about you. It's the work you put in that matters, and as long as you work hard, you're okay. We need to stop basing our self-worth off of a letter on our phone screens. See how silly that sounds? There is so much more to life than grades.

Thumbs

1. Love is in the air at LOHS this month... and so, apparently, is whooping cough.
2. Serena Williams had more yards than Travis Kelce at the Super Bowl last weekend. If Kansas City can get her on the team it may be the biggest trade since Luka to the Lakers.
3. Who actually was at winter formal? For all I know, Stan the man might've shown up and we will never know.
4. Thank you to everyone who bought a \$1 message for the DPS this issue, you'll be happy to know that all of our proceeds went buying half of our pizza at our late night.
5. Sorry everyone, snow's out of the budget!
6. Think you can write funnier Thumbs? We dare you. Forecast for Newspaper and you can try it out.

Charlie Crandall's grand call to boost LOHS school spirit

By CASSIA LITTLEFIELD

ASB Spirit Director Charlie Crandall is pulling out all the stops to revive LO's sad school spirit. He has gone above and beyond for spirit weeks, dressing up as a race car driver for Halloween, Santa and the Grinch for Christmas and Moses at the ALS red-out football game. Students who attended any home football games this year likely saw Crandall leading the student section, his high energy continuously hyping up the crowd. On top of that, Crandall made sporting events entertaining by learning the cheer and dance routines to perform for the student body.

From Crandall's perspective, participating in school spirit is just an added benefit to the high school experience. "If you have an option to participate in school spirit and not participate in school spirit, I don't see the point in not participating in school spirit. There isn't really a pro in not participating," he stated. Crandall added that "we're only here for four years," so students should make the most of it while they can.

In addition to carrying out old traditions like leading the student section and creating spirit weeks, Crandall has invented and revived some other traditions. This year, he brought back pep rallies: a way to bring students together before big events such as the Battle of the Lake football game or the State championship.

At the pep rallies, Crandall could be seen cracking jokes about rival teams, belting out "Love" by Keyshia Cole and leading games for students to participate in.

Not only did he bring back pep rallies, but he is starting a completely new tradition by starting a "Polaroid wall" for students with the most school spirit. "The Polaroid wall will be coming out very soon in front of the counseling room on that big bulletin board," he said. Crandall further explained the Polaroid wall by saying, "If you participate in a spirit week or come to an event and I like your thing, I like what you're doing, I'll take a Polaroid of you and it'll go up there." Crandall said the idea behind it is that it will hopefully encourage students to participate in spirit events if there's a chance of getting a picture on the wall.

Crandall is definitely one of the most active and passionate Spirit Directors we've had in recent years. "I just feel like I've been doing more,"

Crandall shared about the effort he's put into his role compared to past Spirit Directors. At the end of the day, school spirit will only make school more fun for all of us, so make Crandall proud and show up in your best outfit next time there's a spirit week. You could even end up pictured on the Polaroid wall!



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