



Viking Voice

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Kingsburg High School

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Brett, Van Curen Crowned Prom King and Queen



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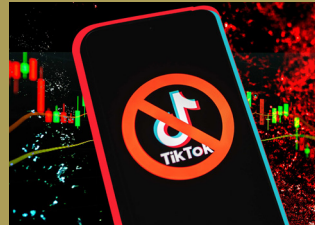
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VIKING VOICE



Kingsburg High School 2021-2022

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Email your comments, opinions, and ideas on this issue's articles to the Viking Voice at 6005196@stu.kingsburghigh.com. Your responses may be published next issue!

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Swedish Festival Returns Another Year

By Aliya Ayers
Staff Writer



The Swedish festival returned for another year, with a weekend jam-packed with celebrations and events.

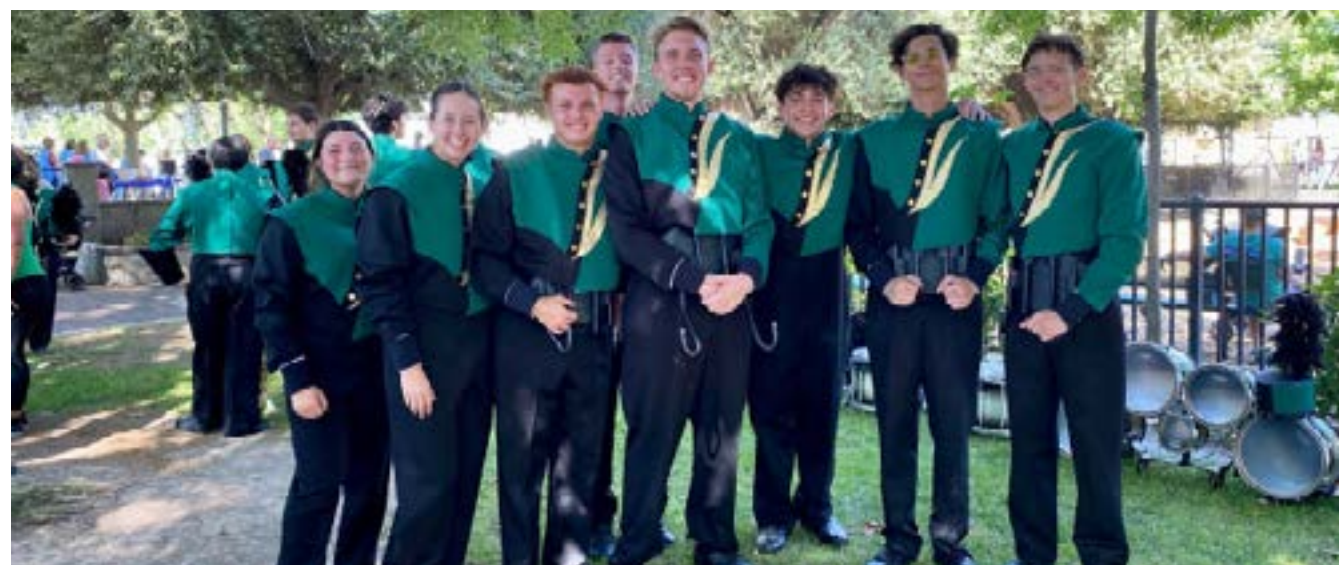
The festivities began with the Pea Soup and Swedish Pancake supper on Thursday, May 18th. The new Swedish queen Junior Emilie Parker was also crowned that night.

Parker's responsibilities include "ribbon cuttings, town festivals, and other events like school assemblies." She stated that she's "always wanted to get involved in town affairs but wasn't really sure how to do it." She says that it's been "super fun" and she hopes to "encourage younger kids to get involved with town things and encourage them to learn about the town they live in."

Saturday morning brought about the festival's main events, beginning with a Swedish pancake breakfast and the annual Dala Horse Trot that takes participants throughout the whole town. Vendors also sold their wares on Draper Street. Junior Sullivan Phelan attended this year with her business Hadley Cakes. She stated that "the Swedish festival helps with my business because people tend to buy things when it's right in front of them. With how my business works, it is sometimes hard to get orders because I don't have a bakery or shop."

She added, "I love the Swedish Festival and I love the tradition of it. I think it really shows our town off well. People also travel to the event to see our town. I think we are really known for this tradition."

Clearly, the festival is an integral part of the culture of Kingsburg and is important to uphold.



The parade is also an essential part of this yearly celebration. Local businesses, schools, and other groups participate with floats and other features, and couples reaching their 50th anniversaries are celebrated every year.

The KHS Marching Band marches in the parade annually, which fosters a connection between the high school and the community. Band director Mike Schofield shared, "I think that the Swedish Festival is a great event that brings the community together. The parade gives the community something to all be a part of at the same time.

"Marching Band, in particular, brings a sense of pride to the community. Having young adults represent Kingsburg the way they do in marching band gives our town something to identify with and be proud of while supporting its younger citizens."

Schofield also added, "I think that traditions are important. Swedish Festival and its traditions pay homage to our town's roots. While many people who live here may not be Swedish, myself included, I think that people should have an understanding of the founding aspects of our community."

The Rafer Johnson Junior High Band also marched, along with other bands hailing from all over the Valley.

The end of the parade brought outgoing Swedish queen Olivia Hale, current queen Emilie Parker, and attendant Adeline Kliewer riding in cars before the May Pole.

To conclude, the Swedish Festival is an important tradition that brings a sense of unity and pride to the community.



Spring Jazz Concert Makes a Comeback

By Lorne Rogers
Editor-in-Chief

After four years, the KHS Spring Jazz Concert is finally back in full swing! On May 22, 2023, the KHS music department hosted their first Spring Jazz concert since 2019.

This concert featured performances from the KHS Jazz Band and the KHS Jazz Choir and took place at the KHS Little Theater. Admission was \$5 and open to the public.

Back when Covid-19 hit, every program at the high school was affected, and the music department was no exception. Many concerts, competitions, and other pre-Covid traditions were canceled during the years during and after the pandemic.

It's been a little over three years since Covid-19 hit the U.S., and thankfully, things have been back to normal for a while now.

However, the Spring Jazz Concert was among the last of the traditions to be revived, finally coming back this year.

Even though it took a while for the concert to take root again, students and staff alike are thrilled to have it back.

KHS Band Director Mike Schofield gave some insight into the significance of this concert.

"KHS has a long history of jazz greats that have gone on and played professionally. Paul Shaghoian, Laura Shaghoian, Gene Doi, Scott Englebright, Kevin Yokota, Matt Nyberg, Dale Engstrom, Larry Engstrom, and Alyssa Santivanez are some examples," explained Schofield.

He continued, "There's a rich history of

jazz here and this concert celebrates the current generation's contributions to that."

The concert kicked off with the Jazz Choir's performance. Their set consisted of six songs: Route 66, Moondance, Brazil, Headlock, Song for the Traveler, and Begin the Beguine. Their set had a lot of variety and they effectively demonstrated their ability to sing in many different jazz genres and styles.

Junior Kristen Pacheco, who sings alto in the choir, said that her favorite song they performed was Brazil because "it's very upbeat and I like the samba-like feel that it has."

Sophomore Sophia Quintana, who plays baritone saxophone in the jazz band, also enjoyed Brazil because of its "latin-style rhythm and beautiful harmonies."

After the jazz choir's set, the jazz band took the stage. Their set consisted of five songs: Bemsha Swing, Margarita, Emily, Africa, and Better Get Hit in Your Soul.

However, the jazz band also brought a special guest with them this year.

One of the traditions of the Spring Jazz Concert is for the jazz band to invite a guest soloist to perform alongside them.

This year, the band invited former music educator and accomplished musician Les Nunes to perform their set with them. Les entranced the audience with his trombone solos on Margarita, Emily, and Better Get Hit in Your Soul and was an excellent addition to the concert.

The jazz band gave a captivating performance that night that closed the concert out perfectly. Like the jazz choir, their setlist was very diverse in terms of genre and style that they performed admirably.

Pacheco remarked, "My favorite song the jazz band played was Africa. I really like that song and I enjoyed hearing it in a jazz arrangement."

Quintana expressed, "Better Get Hit in Your Soul was my favorite song to perform. I loved playing the baseline with just me and the bass. I love my bari sax sound and I think it brought that out very well."

This song was particularly special, as during the song the trumpets began tossing beaded necklaces into the audience, much akin to a Mardi Gras parade, and befitting of the song's blues-y style.

"My favorite part of the concert was the standing ovation we got at the end of our set. It was a great way to end our performance with the amazing seniors this year!" exclaimed Quintana.

It's clear that this concert meant a lot to both groups, but it's also more than a chance to perform. It's also allows the jazz band and choir to appreciate each other's talents and accomplishments.

"I really liked how the jazz choir and band could come together and pull off an awesome concert," said Pacheco.

She continued, "I think supporting each other and making an example for the younger musicians is really important."

Schofield expanded on this point, saying, "Being in a group like jazz band or choir teaches you a lot about what it takes to be part of something bigger than yourself. That pays huge dividends down the road. And it's fun!"

The 2023 KHS Spring Jazz concert was a swinging success and we look forward to the excitement it will bring in the years to come.

2023 Kingsburg High School ASB Election

By Nehemiah Zapien
Staff Writer

On April 14, 2023, the 2023-2024 Kingsburg High ASB election was held. Students were running for ASB President, ASB Vice-President, ASB Secretary, ASB Treasurer, ASB Rep, ASB Commissioner of Activities, ASB Commissioner of Athletics, and ASB Commissioner of Technology/Editing.

After all the votes were in, it was announced that Houston Hirschhorn was elected President, Bodhi Verners elected Vice-President, Camille Zavala elected Secretary, Isabella Garcia elected Treasurer, Will Butts elected ASB Rep, Kiara Zarate and Jack Hambleton elected Commissioner of Sports, Kaydyn Kazanjian and Danielle Jackson elected Commissioner of Activities, and Gracie Davis, Grace Fan, and James Ergo elected Commissioner of Technology.

ASB President Houston Hirschhorn was asked if he would like to tell us what his plans are for the upcoming year at KHS. "I want to try my best to make KHS feel like a safe and comfortable

environment for the students. I also want to try and support all the clubs and sports teams to the best of my ability."

ASB Secretary Camille Zavala was also asked what her plans were for the upcoming school year as a member of ASB. "ASB main-



ly wants to focus on getting the students more involved this upcoming year. ASB this year did an amazing job at trying to get students involved but we would like to try more next year too."

ASB Commissioner of Technology Grace Fan was asked why she chose to run for this position and ASB in general. "I was excited at the new opportunity to join ASB as a non incoming senior this year, and thought it'd be a great experience to serve the school! I've been involved in Leadership since fourth grade."

KHS is waiting to see what these new officers and commissioners are going to bring to the plate. This year's ASB members did an amazing job at getting the students involved in activities during break, clubs, and student sections during sports games. They made the rallies this year special by putting together the rally for the football's game against Selma. Seeing the Seniors of ASB leaving will truly be sad but they tried to make this year special, not just for them, but for everyone at KHS.

The ASB members of 2023-2024 have all said that they're going to try their hardest to make the upcoming year one of the best. They all want the school spirit to be at its fullest.

Zavala, Butts to attend Girls, Boys State Outstanding Juniors to attend leadership summer conference in Sacramento

By Victoriana Dimas
Production Editor

Kingsburg American Legion interviewed and selected two juniors that are representing KHS this summer at the State Conference.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit interviewed juniors around the Central Valley for the 80th session of California Boys and Girls State.

Two Juniors from Kingsburg were nominated.

The 2023 Delegates from Kingsburg for the girls is Camille Zavala, while the 2023 Delegate for the boys is Junior William Butts.

More than 500 students from around the state will attend a week long session at the end of June at the Sacramento State campus.

In this week long session the student delegates have committed to participating in a fast-paced environment to interact with the other student delegates.



In 2022, Trista Fry was able to go to attend Girls State and represent Kingsburg High School.

“This leadership Program is mainly designed to increase awareness and knowledge of governmental processes while teaching young women about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of citizenship,” as explained in The Sentinel.

This year will be the 80th Session of the American Legion Auxilliary.

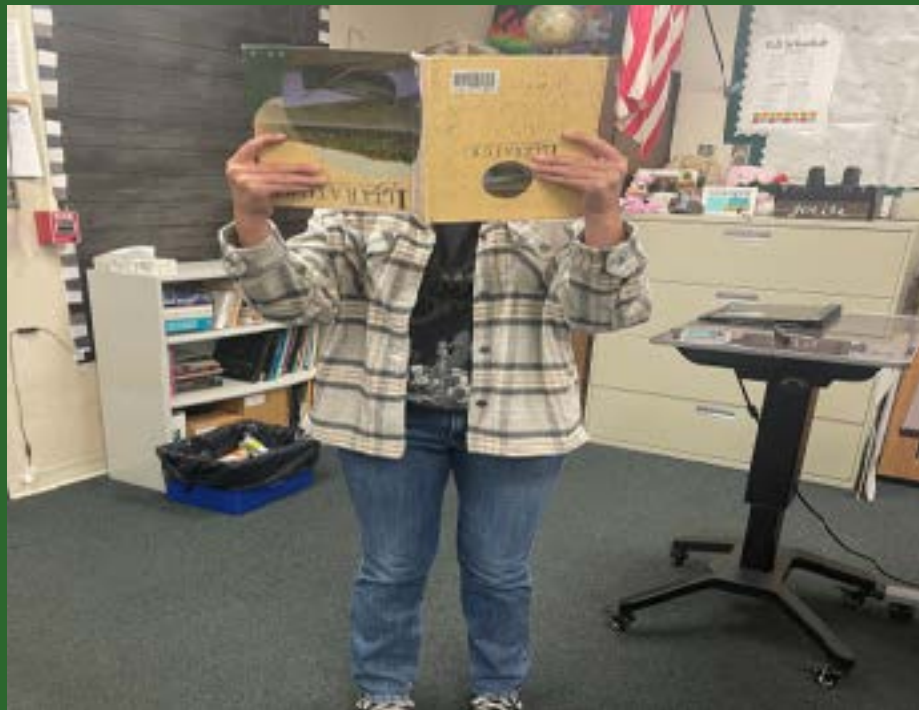
To be nominated for the honor, students have to go through a rigorous interview process, have exceptional scholastic achievement, leadership, ability and moral character. Congratulations to our representatives!

The purpose of the conference is to instill the basic ideals and principles of American government.

This conference will have more than 500 11th graders attending.



KHS MEME; Featuring: Abby Jobe



ME BEFORE FINALS

ME AFTER FINALS

Honoring Hardworking Students as Vikings of the Month

by Kirrah Morton
Assistant Editor

Each month, KHS teachers honor students for their exceptional character, positive attitude towards school, determination, and perseverance.

The different Academic departments have a meeting to discuss how the month is going, things to improve on, and talk about which students they believe deserve this honor and recognition. Each department nominates a student from each grade level to be honored as "Student of the Month."

Each recipient is given a personalized certificate, as well as a special message from the nominating teacher.

March

Mia Gonzalez English teacher Jon Hall nominated Mia saying, "Mia excels at the highest level in English and always goes above and beyond what is required in class. She is also so kind and positive in her interactions with peers as well as providing a model for behavior and success."

Riley Matcham English teacher Jacob Simmons nominated Riley saying, "Riley deserves to be recognized for her tireless commitment to academic excellence. Her work is always thoughtful, polished, and creative. Her seriousness of purpose is never in question, and her ability to demonstrate a sophistication of critical thinking will undoubtedly take her far."

Huston Hirschhorn Math teacher Ken Harvery nominated Huston saying, "Huston is consistently engaged and hard-working. He is a natural leader and helps those around him."

Adam Navarro Physical education teacher Jim Cranford nominated him saying, "Adam is a sincere, hard working person who cares about the people around him. He has a great personality. Adam always gives one hundred percent in he does."

Juan Castellanos VROP teacher Diana Gomez nominated Juan saying, "Juan is one of the most diligent, genuine and kindest students I know. He has exhibited kindness in so many ways. It brings great joy to my life to see his selflessness and kind heart"

Kairibubu Jurmanbek Kyzy English teacher Patti Crass nominated saying, "Bu Bu speaks four languages fluently and works hard to make sure her work is exemplary of a native speaker. She displays a kind attitude towards others and seeks to learn as much as she can from her classmates about American culture."

Grace Fan Math teacher Ken Harvey nominated Grace saying, "Grace Fan is an excellent student who always works very hard and puts in her best effort on every assignment. Additionally, she is very kind and cares deeply about others."

Benedict Wedemann VROP teacher Benjamin Gonzalez nominated Benedict saying, "In my classroom, Benedict has been a shining example of kindness. Benedict has always demonstrated benevolence, and sympathy for others."

Joshua Lewis English teacher Jacob Simmons nominated Joshua saying, "I want to recognize Josh for showing kindness, honor, success, and determination. He comes into the classroom with a positive attitude, sets up the room for his classmates and greets them at the door each morning."

Noah Gutierrez English teacher Patti Crass nominated Noah saying, "Noah Gutierrez demonstrates success and kindness. He is a hardworking student who always puts his best work forward."

Sadie Turman English teacher Heather Manley nominated Sadie saying, "Sadie is a positive student role model on our KHS campus by being a kind, honorable, successful student. Sadie is extremely kind and respectful to myself and her fellow classmates. Sadie welcomes every class period with a smile, the determination to do her best, and willingness to help."

Emma Sloan Science teacher Leigh-Ann Olsen nominated Emma saying, "I am nominating Emma Sloan because she has really showcased "Success" in my AP classroom. She asks great questions and helps out her fellow students in group labs and activities. I am happy to have her in my class!"

Emilie Parker CCC teacher Kerry Peterson nominated Emilie saying, "Emilie is exercising determination and setting herself up for success by actively exploring her postsecondary educational options and learning all she can about her future career in the Child Development field."

Macey Visser Spanish teacher Ana Parra nominated Macey saying, "Kindness. Macey is an extraordinary young lady with passion, drive, and a profound optimism for what's possible. She is a kind, compassionate, intelligent, and strong person with a clear sense of direction and purpose."

Jose Amaral Science teacher Amanda Manuzsak nominated Jose saying, "Kindness: Jose is a great group member and is kind to everyone. When I or another student needs help, I know I can rely on Jose to help them out. It's been a pleasure having him in my class for four years."

Lily DeMaris Math teacher Bill Jensen nominated Lily saying, "Lily is nominated because of her complete metamorphosis since her freshman year. She had a difficult time as a freshman, but is no transformed into a conscientious, kind and determined successful young lady in all ways. I am very proud of her."

Yaretzi Venalanzo Spanish teacher Yanairy Espindola nominated Yaretzi saying, "Yaretzi is an exemplary student who shows determination, honor and success daily. She comes in ready to work and to help others in their learning. She shows great dedication to her learning and growth."

Camila Gutierrez Science teacher Liegh-ann Olsen nominated Camila saying, "I am nominating Camila Gutierrez because she has showcased "Honor" throughout her high school years. As a student she is always respectful and helpful to others."

Davin Collazo Math teacher Ingrid Morris nominated Davin saying, "Davin is so positive it makes me smile. She is hardworking and curious. She asks good questions. She dives deep into what she is learning and does it well with those she is working with. I am lucky to have Davin as a student."

Anureet Klair Science teacher Scott Hodges nominated Anureet saying, "Anureet has performed excellently in class in all aspects of the course. She is always a positive influence in her classmates."

Dennis Fan History teacher Frank Carbajal nominated Dennis saying, "He does well in class but also works hard outside of class to help his entire class prepare for the AP test."

Maria Quiroz Social studies teacher Mark Jensen nominated Maria saying, "Maria is an amazing student who is willing to provide a helping hand to her classmates!"

Aria Affeldt Math teacher Bill Jensen nominated Aria saying, "Aria is a very hard worker, very conscientious and helpful. She has been a pleasure to have in our class this year."

Jaslynn Guterrez English teacher Michelle Schiller nominated Jaslynn saying, "Jaslynn has demonstrated such a strong work ethic. She puts forth her greatest effort in all she does."

Gillian Shiplee Science teacher Darrin Peterson nominated Gillian saying, "Gillian shows a lot of determination by performing high quality work on everything I assign whether big or small. She has a strong work ethic and she is consistent."

Elaine Zuniga Science teacher Liegh-Ann Olsen nominated Elaine saying, "Elaine has shown great determination by being a good communicator and keeping up on missed assignments."

Alondra Chavez Marquez Math teacher Mike Manley nominated Alondra saying, "Alondra has shown great determination and success this year with outstanding improvement in her math class."

Noah Brown Science teacher Scott Hodges nominated Noah saying, "Noah has consistently produced excellent work throughout the year while participating in both Basketball and Golf."

Ava Laney Spanish teacher Yanairy Espindola nominated Ava saying, "Ava is an excellent student who shows determination to succeed! She is very quiet but her hard work and kindness towards others does not go unnoticed. It is a pleasure to have you as a student Ava."

Reed Yakota Spanish teacher Jorge Contreras nominated Reed saying, "Reed is an exceptional student. He is a hardworking student and it shows inside and outside the classroom. His consistent work ethic is shown with his preparation skills and work turned in"

Paige Bennett Math teacher Brad Deaver nominated Paige saying, "Paige has a great attitude and over 100% of the in-class points possible. She almost never, if ever, fails to turn in an assignment. And, not only does she get everything done, she does everything well."

Eric Johnson Math teacher Brad Deaver nominated Eric saying, "Eric exemplifies many outstanding qualities in class. He is intelligent, determined, and motivated. His attitude and attributes have a positive effect on everyone around him."

Kristen Pacheco Spanish teacher Ana Parra nominated Kristen saying, "Kristen has an insatiable desire to learn, and she demonstrated this throughout her year in my class. Her questions were insightful and eloquent, and she produced work far above the average student's."

Rachelle Ureno Spanish teacher Ana Parra nominated Rachelle saying, "Rachelle is a determined student that always gives 100% for every task, and she regularly shows an understanding of Spanish topics at an advanced level."

Isabella Ramierz Felix English Joelle Swenning nominated Isabella saying, "Isabella is always kind and she is a student who comes to class everyday ready to work. She is committed and determined to be successful in her education. I really appreciate how willing she is to take on any assignment and give it her all."

Denaya Lopez Math teacher Gail Williams nominated Denaya saying, "Denaya has been a pleasure to have in class this year. As a positive role model in her math class she has shown the other students that she values hard work and commitment to learning."

Holden Hirschhorn Science teacher Bryan Peterson nominated Holden saying, "Holden shows a lot of determination in a tough class after lunch. He is always paying attention to lectures, does his homework, and is very responsible when he is absent."

Siena Chaparro Spanish teacher Martha Gudino nominated Siena saying, "Siena is a great student she is always prepare and ready to learn. Siena demonstrates kindness, success and determination."

Devyn Sasai English teacher Daniel Albers nominated Devyn saying, "Devyn has been an excellent student this entire year. She demonstrates her great academic ability as well as her qualities of leadership and determination in class discussions and on assignments."

KHS is very proud of all of the students who have received the Viking of the Month Award throughout this 2022-2023 school year. These students have shown consistent determination, drive, respect, and effort only passing expectations. Unfortunately due to timing of Press release we were not able to incorporate the May winners.

Vice-Principal Michelle Warkwntin is in charge of the Vikings of the Month and has this to say to the recipients, "It has been an honor this school year to have each student come into my office and to hand them their Viking of the Month certificate. They each have made a positive impact on our school and in their classrooms. My favorite part is to read to the student what the nominating teacher wrote about them and see the students' faces light up with a smile."

There are over 1200 kids on this KHS campus and 150 of them have had the honor of being given this award. These students were picked from all grade levels, from their teachers who feel they deserve something for their work.

On May 24th these students were invited to a dinner to be recognized all together. All award winners were invited to a dinner in the new gym with their families where they are recognized one last time for the 2022-2023 school year.

Warkwntin has a message for any student who has yet to receive a VOM award "If you have not been nominated yet please don't feel discouraged. What matters is we do the right thing when no one is looking. Our goal for each student is that they show kindness, respect, determination, and honesty in and out of the classroom. Keep working hard and know what you do each day matters."

Congratulations once again to the VOM award winners for the 2022-2023 school year!

SkillsUSA Goes To Conference In Ontario

By Maria Escoto
Production Editor

Local SkillsUSA chapter members had an opportunity to attend a three day conference in Ontario, California from April 13-16th. The conference provided education and planned competitions that benefit students looking to earn skills relevant in preparing them for the workforce.

John Marquez stated, "Students that participated in the state conference had the opportunity to experience real work day experiences: going to meetings, working in a hot stressful environment for more than 6 hours straight, and having the opportunity to network with like minded individuals."

SkillsUSA is a national club designed to help students learn about the workforce. At the conference, the students had the opportunity to go to leadership seminars and learn how to improve their chapter.

KHS students in attendance included: Sophomores Maria Escoto, Aaron Ovalle, Emily Leanos, Juniors Cayla Diaz, Alexa Covarrubias, Senior Jonathan Farley, and Junior Samuel Farley. Junior Samuel Faley was asked what he thought of the conference. He stated, "It was a lot of fun. I'm

looking forward to competing again next year." Senior Johnathan Farley was asked how the conference will impact his life after highschool he stated, "I recommend anyone with any interest in skilled trades, or who excels in working and competing, join SkillsUSA. Every student in an ROP class is eligible, and the fact that you are in an ROP class means you must have some interest in skilled trades, whether you plan on a career



in it or not. Competing or participating in SkillsUSA is extremely valuable, giving you access to scholarships, prize money, and many, many other students and advisors who share your interests and want to see you succeed. If you plan on applying to Trade Schools, SkillsUSA members meet many of their expectations and it looks great on

any resume."

Some even of the SkillsUSA members went and two instructors. Two of the students competed in the construction competition. The other five club members attended as voting delegates. Their roles were to vote and attend all of the meetings to meet the new State officers and vote on who will be State officers.

In order to pay for the event, students had to fundraise, but SkillsUSA also subsidized the event. The club members were able to get funding from SkillsUSA to help pay for the hotels, the cost of enrolling in the conference and the competitions.

Students were able to choose to be a voting delegate or a spectator. The only other way club members can attend is if they are competing in a competition. SkillsUSA club members fundraised for travel and food for the trip. The club

members sold Jamba Juice BOGO cards around the school and went house to house selling to the public. This fundraiser lasted 2 weeks. The ROP classes offered extra credit to students who sold cards.

Next year SkillsUSA is planning on attending again. SkillsUSA is open to new members who are a part of any ROP class.

Stem Success AT KHS: Math Club and MESA Activities

By Grace Fan
Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 15th, the Kingsburg High School Math Club went to Fresno State for a Math Field Day.

Students Freshmen Landon Manley and Grace Fan, Sophomores Nicolas Lindgren, Zhenghong Li, Gracie Davis, and Kiara Zarate, Juniors Bradley Lewis, Jaxon Ahumada, Derrick Chan, Kayden Garza, and Alonso "Salvador" Hernandez attended the Field Day.

Manley, Fan, Lindgren, Li, Chan, Lewis, and Garza competed in the Mad Hatter competition. They had to answer sixty questions, with only two minutes for each one.

Meanwhile, Davis, Zarate, Ahumada, and Hernandez took part in the Leap Frog event. They had an hour to individually solve ten different math problems, then paired together in the second hour to discuss answers.

The team ended up taking home a second place trophy! Nicolas Lindgren was also awarded second place overall in the 9th-10th grade Mad Hatter event.

Additionally, sophomores Max Austin and Dennis Fan recently competed in an online MESA coding competition. Senior Emmerson Rogers took part in it as well. All three made it to the regional competition!

Austin and Fan were given debugging

tasks and creation tasks during the challenge.

Austin shared, "I wanted to do the competition because I enjoy programming. I definitely encourage others to try it out next year!"



Finals: How Students Are Preparing

By Gracie Davis
Production Editor

School is nearing the end and finals are approaching. This can be very hectic for students.

Finals are on the last three days of school; May 30th, 31st, and June 1st.

The first day is period 6 and period 5. The second is 4 and 3, and the third is 2 and 1.

Finals can be very nerve-racking for students. This is especially true for freshmen who have never had finals before.

Some advice for freshmen would be to not stress so much about these finals, and not rely on finals for your final grade.

Put in your best effort the whole semester, and then you'll be more prepared for finals and not have to worry about your grade in the class.

However, don't forget to still study for finals! Here are a few studying tips to help pre-

pare.

Go over any notes and make flashcards to memorize any important terms and information. Make sure you are not cramming, and are giving yourself breaks.



Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors all get nervous for their finals, it's normal. Remember this!

In addition to finals, many students also

recently had their AP tests, and scores come out sometime in July.

When asked how he prepared for the AP World test, Sophomore Tejbir Purewal said,

"I relaxed and that got me calm for the test because I get nervous for big tests. I also did practice tests and discussed with classmates."

Sophomore Max Austin, who took AP Computer Science as well as AP World History, said, "To study I took notes and reviewed vocabulary terms.

He added, "I also maintained a good sleep schedule."

AP testing can be very stressful, because if students don't pass with a 3 (out of 5) or higher, they don't get the college credits for that class.

Overall, the end of the school year can be a very stressful time for students and it is important for teachers to be patient with students. Good luck to everyone with their finals!

Ribbons of Hope Does a Relay For Life

By Jasmine Galvan
Staff Writer

Kingsburg High School hosts numerous clubs that support a variety of causes, both local and national. One of those groups is the Ribbons of Hope hosted by Priscilla Maldonado.

The Ribbons of Hope Club is a club that spreads awareness for cancer and cancer patients. The group has done multiple types of campaigns to grow attention and raise money for cancer awareness.

Some of the fundraisers that Ribbons of Hope has organized this year include selling cookies at KHS football games, raising money through a car wash and the Relay for Life. The club then donated the funds to the American Cancer Society.

On the 22nd of April, KHS' Ribbons of Hope club attended a Relay for Life in Delano to raise money for a fight against cancer. A Relay for Life is a team fundraiser where people or walk around a sort of track to raise money for the American Cancer Society. This relay was very successful for both the club and the overall

fight. They raised a significant amount of money, totaling out to \$1600.

The amount of money raised was very important to everyone involved. Club Pres-



ident Brenda Marquez said, "We ended up raising close to \$1600 for the Relay For Life we went to and it made us all feel really good because it was almost double what we raised last year!"

Marquez also added, "I think the relay was really successful. Like I said previously,

Delano was really good to us and it was all fun. There was dancing, raffles, and lots of food."

The club is very proud of how successful this event turned out. They're also very thankful to all the family, teachers, staff, and school for all they did to help out the long run.

The relay was very enjoyable for everyone involved, as it featured many fun activities such as face paint, dances, and games, and so much more. Marquez and the other group members felt loved from the luminaria at the end because she got to see the people who sadly didn't get to in their fight against cancer.

Kingsburg High is very pleased with the success that the club has made. It's an honor to know that there are people willing to fight for something so big and important.

It's certain the club has so much more planned for the next upcoming school year, and KHS is very excited to see what the Ribbons of Hope have in store.

Asking KHS “What are you Doing for Summer Break?”

by Kirrah Morton
Assistant Editor

Camille Zavala



“The main thing I will be doing this summer is working as a camp counselor. There I not only act as a counselor but also a Rancher. We have an abundant amount of activities and animals there it is a very fun and fulfilling summer.”

Kiara Zarate



“Over this summer break I will be playing summer basketball where we have atleast 3 games a week. The in the beginning of July I am taking a family trip to Taiwan to celebrate my sisters graduation.”

Sadie Turman



For my summer break I will start off working as a Junior High Counselor, then later on take a family trip to Hawaii before coming home to get ready for college.”

Ava Irigoyen



This summer I will be spending a lot of time in places like LA for travel softball. What I am looking forward to most is the trips to the lake that I will take with my friends.”

Chase Coddington



Over summer I will be rather busy with Waterpolo due to the summer season. I will take a break in July and go to Hawaii with my family for our summer vacation.”

Cy Hammerstrung



“Summer break I will be spending most of my time playing club waterpolo. I will also be preparing for my first year of college at Fullerton State University.”

Landon Manley



“For summer I’m going over to Hawaii for a week, celebrating my birthday, and going to go see the Eras Tour.”

AP students finally finish their AP testing

By Amia Mathis
Production Editor

Kingsburg High students took exams the first two weeks of May that the College Board requires so that students can earn college credit for their success in Advanced Placement (AP) courses. These exams are major for AP teachers and the state, but mostly for students hoping to earn college credit and prestige in the college application process later on in the future.

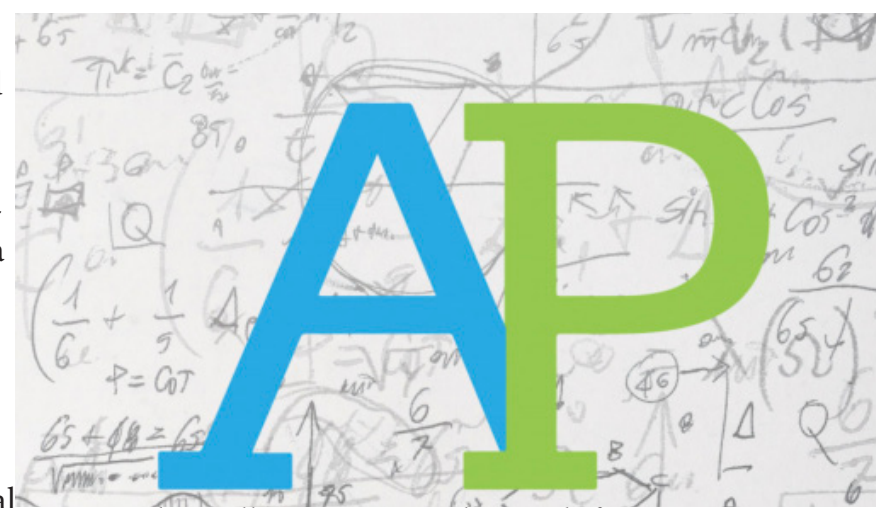
These exams are graded in a building with other AP teachers around the country to measure proficiency on a 1-5 scale. A score of 3 is considered passing by some universities, while other more competitive campuses require a 4 or 5.

There are many reasons students are interested in AP classes. KHS offered 12 AP classes this year ranging in a variety of subjects including English, Math, Computer Science, Science, Social Science and Art. AP classes are impressive attributes for students to have on college applications and can distinguish them from other applicants when they are trying to get into a competitive university. Taking AP classes and getting a good grade on the final exam also shows colleges that

students can handle challenging curriculum. Some students spend many hours studying for these exams just so they can get a higher mark on the test.

Students are given around 2-3 hours to complete this exam and cannot have their backpacks, phones or Apple watches to keep testing.

Students are put in one large room



where all AP tests are taken at different times usually between a 2 week period. Teachers of these students who are taking these AP exams are not allowed to be near the building that the students are in either.

When asked what she did to prepare for the AP World History exam, Soph-

omore Caitlyn Van Laar replied, “I made sure to go over all of the notes that we have taken throughout the year and made sure to study them for days prior to the test along with the vocabulary.”

Van Laar explained regarding her performance, “I think I did pretty good. The test wasn’t as hard as I had originally expected and it increased my grade.”

As an incentive, many AP teachers offer extra credit when students pass the AP exam. In addition, AP classes have inflated grading which can help boost a student’s original grade, and ultimately will increase their overall GPA.

Many students try and get into AP classes, but at least half of them are dropped or leave because they realize it’s too hard. Sometimes they don’t have a good enough grade to stay in the class. There are also students that change their minds once they better understand the expectations and volume of work they require.

This exam is a major part of being a part of AP classes and can determine a lot in the future which is why it is taken so seriously by the students, teachers, and the secondary education institutions.

Opinions on Chat GPT, Artificial Intelligence

By Abigail Berry
Staff Writer

As of recently, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has seen rapid advancements. With the addition of Chat GPT, a website created by the company OpenAI, which launched on November 30th, 2022, AI has become a hot topic of discussion that has the potential to impact many industries and society as a whole.

The AI on Chat GPT can assist users with a multitude of writing-related tasks, such as responding to writing prompts and even writing essays. However, this comes with a problem, and that is that students are free to use Chat GPT as a way to cheat on assignments. It is as simple as typing in a question, and the AI will respond in a manner of seconds.

This makes it difficult for teachers/administrators to determine if a student’s work was AI-generated or not. As AI becomes more complex, and as more time goes by, the technology only improves, which makes it harder for some AI detectors to recognize when a student is using AI.

“I think it (AI) can have positive uses. The problem is in using it with students who are still learning how to write, think and communicate.

Our job as educators is to make sure our students graduate with the ability to think for themselves, write intelligently, communicate effectively, and function well in society. If students rely on ChatGPT to do the writing and the thinking for them, then I see that as a really dangerous thing,” warned Library Media Teacher Laura Vallenari.



She continued, “ChatGPT can help you to organize your ideas. It can even look at your writing and offer feedback for improvement. But the starting point has to be you. As long as you are using ChatGPT as a learning tool and not as a crutch or a way of cheating, then I think it can be a positive tool. My fear is that it will be used as just another way to avoid learning to think, learning to

write, and learning to communicate.”

How Mrs. Vallenari puts it is that Chat GPT can be a very helpful tool for the future, as it can help us advance AI technology much more if regular people are using it. The problem has nothing to do with the website developers and such, it just has to do with the students’ free choice to be able to exploit this website.

So what is a possible solution to this problem? A probable solution could be to design some safeguards with the website developers, as they have acknowledged this problem for education. Competitors of ChatGPT like ChatGPTZero offer AI detectors that can scan documents and determine if they were AI generated or written by a human.

Only time will tell whether a definite solution for AI exploitation will temper AI abuses, or whether AI models will get too advanced to the point where they will be impossible to detect.

For now, we can only hope that the creators of the AI model are able to come up with a better solution, or if school districts can come up with a personal solution to this problem for their students. We have to remember that ChatGPT has only been active for 6 months, but its impact on education & society could be detrimental forever.

Starbucks Gets Rid of Famous Raspberry Syrup

By Landon Manley
Staff Writer

Starbucks has been known to get rid of fan favorite drinks and items, and as of March 20th Starbucks has found a new victim. The famous Raspberry Syrup has been taken off their menu which has caused disruption and anger among die-hard fans of the syrup. Is all the anger caused actually worth it? To put it simply, yes the discourse over the syrup is valid.

Starting in around 2005, the Raspberry Syrup was introduced into the Starbucks world and quickly became a fan favorite among many. Starbucks had multiple staple drinks on the menu that incorporated the syrup such as the Raspberry Lime Refresher, but Starbucks took these drinks off the menu recently, yet left the Raspberry Syrup.

The syrup was still a fan favorite, especially in the popular Strawberry Acai Refresher. Customers continued to add the syrup to their daily drinks, until Starbucks announced the end of the Raspberry Syrup’s life.

Fans were enraged when the news was announced officially online, one even took to Tik Tok and stated, “I’m literally never going to Starbucks again cause they keep discontinuing EVERYTHING I love.”

This isn’t the first time Starbucks has taken a fan favorite off the menu though, as a matter of fact it’s happened on multiple occasions. In 2018, the Lime Refresher was forever discontinued even though it was one of their most popular items on their menu.

In 2022 they discontinued the Kiwi Star Fruit refresher too which had three different variants Original, Starfruit Drink, and Kiwi Star Fruit with Lemonade).

Though those were only two examples, this has been a continuing problem with the franchise that many don’t like. With many stating that they’re planning on not going to Starbucks anymore, it might become a problem in later years ahead.

Including the constantly rising prices of drinks with the smallest size (a tall) being \$5, Starbucks seems to be going more and more downhill, but fans will still order no matter what. Starbucks has had a consistent 5.59% increase in profit every year with it currently being at \$22 million.

Starbucks relies on avid customers that come daily, and without them due to removing their staple add ons, and even removing entire drinks, Starbucks is walking on thin ice.

Overall, Starbucks has consistently had problems through its life, but with the recent

menu changes Starbuck’s future is in jeopardy.



The Monster Under The Bed Named Junior College

By Conner McFall
Staff Writer

As the end of the school year winds down, seniors are finding their homes for the near and distant future. Scholarships and college applications are due and some students are walking with their heads high and their college t-shirt on, while others are filled with what feels like crippling anxiety.

Four year universities are expensive, and most are far away from home. And aren't Junior Colleges where all the failures go? Why would anyone want to go to Reedley College compared to a school like UC Davis?

These questions are heavily debated by students, teachers and families but surprising to most, Junior College may just be statistically and financially the best route.

The price is right. According to an online source titled California Community College Review it states, "For California community colleges, the average tuition is approximately \$1,246 per year for in-state students and \$6,603 for out-of-state students."

The cost of tuition for these community colleges is incredibly cheap compared to the average four year university cost of around \$23,310.

It seems that students tend to gravitate towards the big name, away from home, partying universities, no matter the price.

In this case, either their parents are paying a pretty penny, or they'll be stuck with thousands of dollars in student loan debt to deal with later.

Students are practically getting the same education for the first two years of schooling whether they go to a community college or a four year university. The difference is only \$22,064.

The one kicker to my thesis is scholarships and grants. Four year university education is great if you have money coming in from supporters, making the tuition affordable. If that is the case and what makes you happy, then of course, go do it!

Attending a junior college could also help reduce student loan debt. Student loans are becoming a major issue in America. In total, there is \$1.75 TRILLION in student loan debt in the United States alone. And an even more shocking

fact is from the ages 35-49, the average student loan debt is \$44,441. This number is atrociously high, for cheaper, yet quality education available to all through junior college.

As of recently, President Joe Biden is trying to pass a "Student Loan Forgiveness Plan." This plan would forgive student loan debts up to \$20,000 per person. What seemed like a near impossible feat is currently under decision by the supreme court.

Even if it isn't passed, it is still a nice idea by our President to stab head on one of the biggest issues in our financially unstable country. Regardless of the outcome of the plan, student loans will remain a concern for future college students.

to draw from, putting high schoolers at a major disadvantage.

For example, let's say you were a Division 1 caliber player out of high school and are being recruited to Fresno State, you jump at the opportunity of a full ride scholarship to the school. Hooray!

But then, you get there and the coach sits you down to discuss "redshirting" your freshman year (redshirting is to keep an athlete out of college competition for a year in order to develop the athlete's skills and extend their period of playing eligibility).

You accept this idea of redshirting, and work your tail off for a major role on the team the following year.

Suddenly, there is a new face in the locker room, rumors say they're from a small Junior College in Minnesota. They're two inches taller than you, better looking, play your position, and three years older. You're screwed. It's better to be the predator (junior college transfer) rather than the prey (four year university freshman).

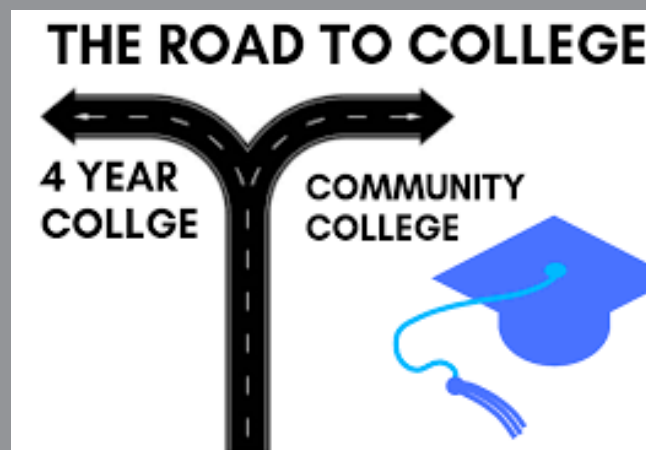
There is a negative stereotype surrounding junior college. Many high school students see their peers being accepted into their dream schools such as Stanford, UCLA, USC, and they start to become nervous. They envy them.

They hate the idea of staying home while their friends party it up in the big cities. It's ridiculous once you really break it down.

Junior college is cheaper, a safer option, and most importantly smarter. The college "experience" won't be worth thousands of dollars in student loan debt when you're 40 years old.

The college decision is a choice of extreme consequence but it shouldn't be scary and intimidating. Scenarios consist of a money game to some, a cry for help, a flee from home, a search for independence and fun.

No matter what your scenario is, there shouldn't be a monster named Junior College under your bed, I promise he's nice.



Another benefit of junior colleges is in their athletic programs.

In today's day and age, collegiate sports are a different beast than ever before. The introduction of the "transfer portal" has reshaped the way top high school athletes look at four year university sports.

The transfer portal is a way for established collegiate athletes to leave their current school to find a new home and seek an opportunity at a different (hopefully better) school.

Therefore, colleges are recruiting young, inexperienced high school athletes and at the same time, matured, accomplished college athletes. This leaves universities with a massive pool of athletes

Pentagon Discovers leak over Discord Server Teixeira Posts Classified Documents in Minecraft Chatroom

By Connor Ramirez
Staff Writer

On Thursday, April 14th, Jack Teixeira was arrested by the FBI for leaking multiple classified U.S. documents over a Discord server.

As a result, Teixeira is currently facing up to 15 years in prison for two counts of violating the Espionage Act.

Discord is a free communications app that is popular amongst teens and young adults.

During the outbreak of COVID and the start of lock down, Discord's popularity grew exponentially. Their user base grew from ten million in 2017 to 196.2 million as of 2023.

Even though a large majority of Discord users are adults and make up over 42 percent of the app's demographics, minors are still prevalent on the app, making up 22.2 percent of the user base. The presence of minors using discord isn't a new discussion, but the topic on minor safety only

continues to gain more recognition because of the documents that Jack Teixeira leaked.

In 2019, Jack Teixeira enlisted in the military. He was an Airman, serving in the intelligence wing of the Massachusetts National guard.

With his clearance, he had access to many classified U.S. documents. Over one hundred pages of printed Confidential documents were leaked to the discord server named "Thug Shaker Central."

He leaked the majority of these documents in order to "impress his friends." It wasn't long before the photographs began spreading outside of the server into the public, appearing on sites like TikTok, 4chan, and Twitter.

This caused an uproar for concern over national security. The Discord server that he moderated was mostly composed of younger adults who often discussed the current war in Ukraine, talked about guns,

and frequently shared racist memes.

The threat of national security has led many to wonder if Discord and their moderation team might also be blamed for not picking up on the documents being posted.

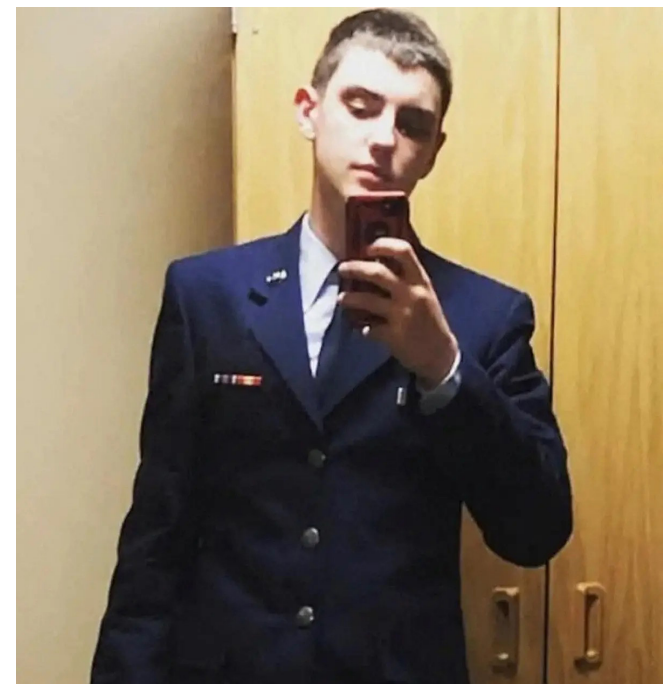


Photo credits: Reuters



Photo credits: WCVB (Boston)/Reuters

Our Obsession With Pedro Pascal

By Avah Sloan
Staff Writer

Pedro Pascal is a force to be reckoned with, both on screen and off. He's a talented actor, a committed activist, and an all-around interesting and multifaceted individual.

Pedro Pascal is a Chilean-American actor who has gained widespread recognition and acclaim for his diverse range of characters in numerous television shows and movies. With a career spanning over two decades, Pascal has earned a cult-like following for his portrayals of complex and relatable characters.

Born in Santiago, Chile, Pascal moved to Orange County, California, with his family when he was a child. Pascal's mother, Veronica Pascal, was a child psychologist. His father, Jose Balmececa, was a fertility doctor.

Growing up, he fell in love with acting and took every opportunity to hone his craft, whether it was participating in plays in high school or taking improv and acting classes in college. After graduating from the Orange County School of the Arts, he moved to New York City to attend the Circle in the Square Theater School. While pursuing his acting dreams, Pascal worked a variety of jobs to support himself including being a waiter and getting theater gigs.

He said in an interview that he was fired on a regular basis because as he told Vanity Fair

"If I liked you, I liked you. If I didn't, I didn't. And that didn't necessarily go well with having a bunch of customers. I was fired often, upwards of maybe close to 10 times."

Despite facing numerous rejections, Pascal remained committed to pursuing his passion for acting. He has appeared in a wide range of television shows and movies, including "Game of Thrones," "Narcos," "The Mandalorian," and the "Wonder Woman 1984" Wonder Woman sequel "1984."

In addition to his acting skills, Pascal is known for his versatility and ability to embody a wide range of characters. He has played everything from a smoky DEA Agent in "Narcos" to a brooding bounty hunter in the Disney+ series "The Mandalorian." His compelling performances have earned him critical acclaim and several awards and nominations, including an Emmy Award nomination for "The Mandalorian."

In addition to his successful acting career, Pascal is also an active advocate for social and political causes. He has used his platform to support the LGBTQ+ community, immigration reform, and efforts to combat climate change. He is also a fierce advocate for mental health awareness and has spoken openly about his own struggles with anxiety and depression. Many students at KHS have taken an admiration to him.

One student is very excited to see an upcoming short film starring Pedro Pascal and Ethan Hawke called "Strange Way of Life." Something that many students at KHS seem to agree on is that any character he plays he sinks his teeth into in a way that makes you love the character even if they are a villain.

The "Strange Way of Life" trailer has hit the internet by storm. A trailer for the film was uploaded on Sony Pictures Classics youtube channel 2 weeks ago.

Pascal's passion for acting, his commitment to social causes, and his versatility as an actor have



made him a beloved and respected figure in the entertainment industry. With a successful career that shows no sign of slowing down, he continues to inspire and entertain audiences worldwide.

US Discussion on the Ban of TikTok

By Lilliana Cortez
Production Editor

Since the beginning of Covid in 2020, the government has been discussing whether or not TikTok would be banned due to concerns about TikTok sharing our data with China. Initially, TikTok was banned back in April of 2021 because of the same reasons, which were privacy and safety concerns. The ban was later lifted and it was again available in the United States for everyone to use.

So far 14 countries have banned TikTok and all of these bans apply to different people within these countries. The bans only cover those who work for the government and those who own a work-given phone.

However, some countries have placed a nationwide ban on Tiktok, such as India. In India, residents can't even have Tiktok downloaded. The reasons are that there was a dispute between China and India when Indian and Chinese troops had a dispute at the Himalayan border after 20 Indian soldiers were killed.

Currently, Montana is coming close to banning TikTok, a decision made by Governor Greg Gianforte, which will not create any penalties towards citizens who use the app but

stated that platforms that offer Tiktok can face fines, plus additional fines that could go up to \$10,000 per day.

Some of the people of Montana feel that this ban violates people's freedom of speech, especially teenagers, who make up most of the app's users.

Many students here on campus have voiced similar opinions about the ban on Tiktok.

Freshmen Pluto Caballero spoke, "If Tiktok were to get banned I'd honestly be ok with it but really what is the point of it? None of us kids have anything valuable on our phones that they could take."

Sophomore Jenna Rogers informed, "I'm on Tiktok constantly, so if it was to get banned I feel like I'd have nothing to do and I'd be bored most of the time."

The ban on Tiktok seems to only make a big group of teens concerned. The United States continues to address concerns about the app while the discussion around banning Tiktok continues.



will make it unlawful for Google and Apple's app store to have the app available in the state. This ban will take place on January 1st, 2024.

Additionally, the state of Montana has

Anti-Trans Laws Pushed Across The U.S.

By Gir Brewer
Staff Writer

Currently across America 400+ anti-trans bills have been pushed, many of which aim to bar LGBTQ individuals from the public eye and healthcare. 341 are advancing and 38 have passed, while 87 of such bills have failed to advance or pass. These laws have targeted education, healthcare, and speech of queer individuals.

Providing an overview from the ACLU, in at least 46 states laws like these have been pushed. In Texas 52 laws have been presented, 14 of which targeting healthcare and 17 targeting education. 7 more of these laws target free speech. All 52 in Texas are advancing but none have currently passed. Missouri has 48 advancing bills with 9 targeting healthcare, 17 targeting education, and 4 targeting free speech.

The current states with these laws being pushed the most are Texas with 52, Missouri with 48, Oklahoma with 35, and Iowa with 29. California currently has 1 bill (AB 1314) that was last brought back up in court on March 13, 2023. This bill is considered to be advancing however no other information is available at the time of writing.

Some states have made the move to introduce refugee laws into their states, which will prevent other states from searching for trans individuals hiding in them. While some have already made

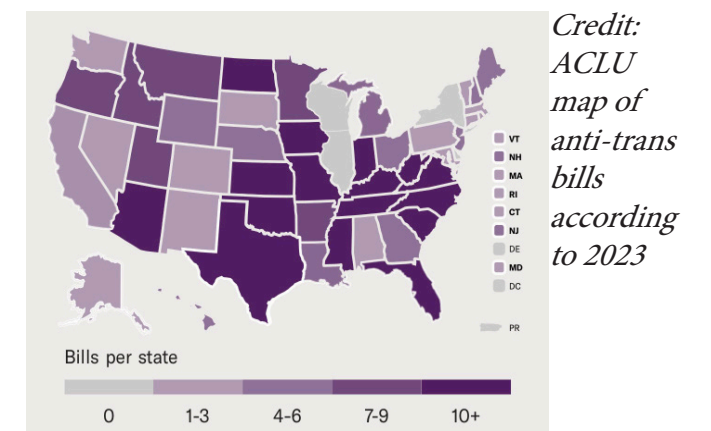
this move others have assured the public they will be instating laws soon. The following states are: Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia.

The right argues that gender deals in phenotype (the genetics that are physically presented) and are as such determined by birth. They argue that trans women are predatory men trying to sneak into restrooms and that trans children are simply confused. Their argument is under the claim of protection and safety for all individuals and in the belief that being trans is not real but rather a mental illness that needs aid. While their claim is to protect children it should also be noted several laws being pushed by this side target adults as well.

The left disagrees with the right on this, arguing that phenotype, biology, and gender can all be different and are not mutually exclusive, they argue that trans individuals need surgeries that the right calls 'mutilation.' These surgeries are exclusive to adults only. However HRT (hormone replacement therapy) is available for minors upon medical evaluation. The left assures that HRT is mostly reversible however there are non-reversible effects of it. The left also assures that surgery and HRT

should be between the individual and their doctor. According to the National Library of Medicine, studies have shown that 82% of trans individuals struggle with suicidal ideation at some point in their life and 40% have attempted suicide in the past. It has been found in other studies that suicide rate in trans individuals is lowered with gender affirming care by over 50%. It was also found that the cause for a majority of de-transitioning cases was actually the lack of a support system and not actually not being trans as the right tries to claim as Fenway Health wrote on.

Ultimately these laws are up to the states and it is up to individuals to decide their stance on these, but we can recognize that supporting people in their decisions, even if we disagree, is important in these times.



Met Gala 2023: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly

Thoughts and Opinions on Karl Lagerfeld's Beliefs and how People Reacted.

By Landon Manley

The 18th annual Met Gala has just occurred on May 1, 2023 and had a wide arrange of looks from celebrities and influencers around the world. This year's theme was "Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty" in honor of Lagerfeld's recent death.

Some looks were phenomenal and captured the theme perfectly, while some others were questionable, but it's the thought that counts. With that, here's the good, the bad, and the ugly from the Met Gala.

Many took the theme seriously and wore beautiful looks crafted by Lagerfeld for Chanel since he worked for them for most of his designer years. Musician Dua Lipa wore the classic Chanel wedding dress based on the one Lagerfeld designed in 1992 and was worn by Claudia Schiffer. The dress had an elegant black stitching, a white corset, and a flowing white skirt lined with pearls.

The theme brought up a lot of strangely amusing looks too, specifically from those who dressed as Lagerfeld's cat. Doja Cat and Lil Naz X dressed as more of a human-like cat while Jared Leto arrived at the Gala in a full fur-suit. Cat and Naz X both in accordance with their outfits replied to all interview questions by purring and meowing. Leto on the other hand quickly took off his suit and revealed his elegant black shimmery outfit underneath.

Another great look was Jeremy Pope who

took the theme quite seriously as he had a giant stitched picture of Lagerfeld on his cape. His outfit made by the brand Balmain and Cartier featured long black bell-bottom pants with a white fluffy jacket attached to the cape.

Pope's outfit, which was made with a sort of



carpet material, was speculated to mean that Lagerfeld should be "stepped on" since Lagerfeld was known not to be the best person in the world due to his controversial views. Lagerfeld was open about his hurtful opinions such as if you're not skinny, you're ugly, strong

opinions against gay marriage, and his Islamophobic views. In response to Lagerfeld's views, Olivier Rousteing, a popular French designer, arrived at the Gala with a black jumpsuit and pearls, but the standout element of this outfit was his bag that stated "Karl Who?."

Conan Gray, American singer and songwriter, wore a pin on his suit stating the same thing. Rousteing and Gray faced a little backlash on social media as some claimed their outfits were "not appropriate" and that they "disrespected Lagerfeld's memory over how it's "not appropriate" and is "disrespecting his memory."

Some others that attended who didn't agree with Lagerfeld's opinions "disrespected" him differently. Lagerfeld was well known for his quote on pink, "Think pink, don't wear it." Many took this quote and thought of it as an easy way to attend the Gala in theme, while still not liking Lagerfeld. Nicole Kidman, famous for movies such as *Moulin Rouge* and *The Others*, wore a long flowing baby pink dress.

Overall, the 2023 Met Gala brought a lot of different ideas and opinions out into the world. It came with some interesting thoughts, to say the least, and some that were crafted carefully and made perfectly. The Met Gala in conclusion brought plenty of different inspiring creations.

Gun Violence in America on a Rise

By Crystal Carrazzo
Staff writer

As of May 7, 2023, there have been 27 mass shootings in the United States of America. The accessibility of guns may be contributing to this violence but the problem is much more complicated than it seems.

The Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting occurred on December 14th, 2012 in Newtown, Connecticut. 20-year-old Adam Lanza, killed 26 people, including 20 children between the ages of six and seven years old, as well as six adult staff members at school. Lanza had also killed his mother before the shooting and later himself after. The shooting remains one of the deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history.

In the aftermath of the shooting, there were numerous debates about gun control laws and the need for better mental health resources and support. The misfortune also brought action on state and local levels, with many states such as California, Colorado, New York, and Maryland passing new gun laws.

The tragedy also led to increased security measures in schools and public places across the country. School districts started applying new safety procedures in order to protect students. Some include going through ID checks, installing security cameras and metal detectors, and teaching students and teachers how to respond to emergencies.

While there have been many efforts made, gun violence still continues to be a major issue in the United States.

The Sandy Hook Promise is a nonprofit organization founded by family members of some of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Their mission is to prevent gun violence and to promote mental health and wellness through advocacy.

The organization provides resources and support to those who have experienced trauma and loss, including counseling and peer support.

Restricting guns from consumers can be a violation of the second amendment, which will anger many who will no longer be

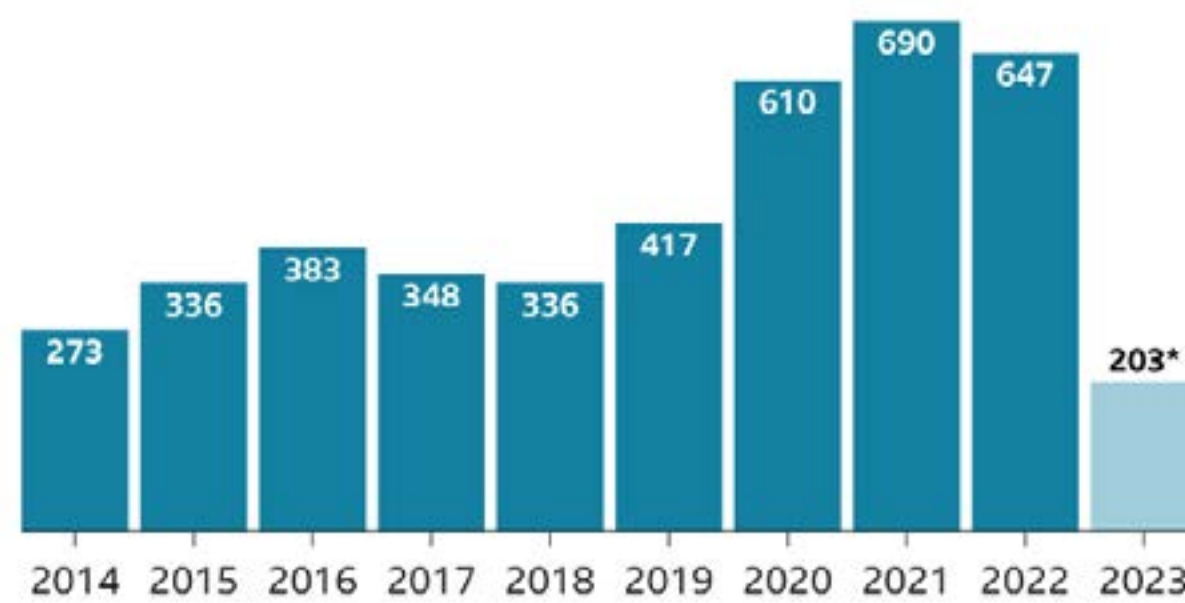
able to own a gun. But this easy accessibility does not make it difficult for anyone to have a gun. The complications don't end there, because the rise in gun violence might also stem from the rise in gun utilization. When people see the tragedies of mass shootings some buy a gun in order to make themselves feel safe.

Other possible solutions to gun violence include increasing penalties for illegal gun possession and improving access to resources for victims of gun violence and their families. Additionally, addressing underlying issues such as poverty, inequality, and social isolation can help reduce the risk of gun violence. Civics and Economics Teacher Doug Davis stated his opinion on why these shootings are becoming more frequent. "I think it's because the people (mass shooters) who exhibit this kind of behavior think that it's normal to do so". He added to this statement by saying "I think that as a society we need to listen more to each other, there's always going to be someone who is hurting and those people aren't always going to seek help."

It is important to remember that while implementing stricter gun laws and increasing funding for mental health resources will probably help decrease school shootings they will still occur. We need to create a culture of kindness and inclusivity so that every student feels valued and supported.



Mass shootings in the US have risen
Incidents in which four or more people were killed or injured



*Data up to 9 May 2023
Source: Gun Violence Archive

In addition, because people want quick access to firearms, some don't go through the proper registration process. This irresponsibility can lead to dangerous situations, such as improper storing of a gun.

These choices can lead to serious con-

Viking Baseball ends a 20 year drought



KHS baseball had an unforgettable season winning Valley after 20 years since their last Championship.

KHS Track Runs To The Finals

By Scarlett Laita
Production Editor

The KHS track team has a great season, making it all the way to Masters. Head coach, Jason Crass has brought Seniors Jimmy Cranford, Seth Magnotti, Juniors Jonathan Mzanales, Calvin Voyles and Max Warkentin. Sophomores Aaron Dorrough and Ralph Gonzales. Freshmen Caleb Johnson, and Cameron Perkins.

The girls that made it to Masters were, Senior Kaylynn Alves, Claire Lunde, Marissa Vega, Olivia Hale, Sage Hanso. Juniors Kaytlyn Cornejo, Madelyn Wiest, Lileah Hurtado, Kelcey Brett. Sophomores Jayden Rios, Jocelynn Benitez, Callie Waldner.

The CIF Division 3 meet went well for the KHS track team. Multiple people ranked top 5.

Jocelynn Benitez placed fourth in the 800 meters and Max Warkentin placed first. Kelcey Brett placed third in shot put. Jimmy Cranford placed third in discus. In pole vault Sage Hanson placed third.

Currently there are five students who are ranked in Division three, Kelcey Brett, Sage Hanson, Jimmy Cranford, Kavin Voyles, and Max Warkentin.

In Division 3, Junior Kelcey Brett is ranked #9 in the shot put event and #4 in discus. Shot put is when the thrower tries to throw a weighted ball as far as they can. Discus is when the thrower tries to throw a heavy disc as far as they can.

Brett says that her throwing coach Niko Alo

"has been my motivation to go out everyday and give him everything I got. Being ranked in D3 is a huge accomplishment and I'm so thankful for everyone who has pushed me to get where I am." Brett is only a junior so she stated that her goal next year is to "get on the top 3 KHS record holders for both shot and discus."



Senior Sage Hanson is ranked #3 in the Division three for pole vault. Pole vault is using a long flexible pole to jump over a bar. Calvin Voyles is ranked #10 in the division for pole vault.

Senior Jimmy Cranford is ranked #10 in the division for shot put and #5 for discus. (quote)

In the division, the girls 4x400 meter relay team is ranked #3 with runners Jayden Rios, Cal-

lie Waldner, Jocelynn Benitez and Kaylynn Alves.

Max Warkentin is ranked #2 in the division for 400 meter dash. Warkentin exclaimed, "It feels great to be ranked in D3 but there is a lot to work on and improve on to be better." He said that his current goal is to "Break 50 seconds on the 400. I would like to get a 49 or 48. It would be great to accomplish that"

Ranked in league for 400 meter dash Jayden Rios is at #8 and Kaylynn Alves is sitting at #9. Jocelynn Benitez is ranked #7 for 800 meters. For 3200 meters Callie Waldner is ranked at #9.

For boys 100 meter dash Greg Ross is ranked #8. Seth Magnotti is ranked #7 for 800 meters.

The team has multiple players ranked in league, in each event.

In shot put Kelcey Brett is ranked #1 in league, Madison McNulty #6 Marissa Vega #9, Katelyn Benitez is ranked #9.

For boys shot put, Jimmy Cranford is ranked #4, Emilio Ayala at #5 and Adrian Hernandez at #10.

In discus Kelcey Brett is ranked #1, Marissa Vega #5, Katelynn Benitez #9, and Olivia Hale ranked #10.

In boys discus, Jimmy Cranford is ranked #3, and Emilio Ayala is ranked #6.

In triple jump Kaytlynn Cornejo is ranked #8. In boys triple jump Gavin Jensen is ranked #9.

The KHS track team has had a great season and we're looking forward to another great season.

Boys Tennis Serves up a Strong Season

By Lorne Rogers
Editor-in-Chief

The KHS Boys Tennis team finished their season on April 18. They ended with a great win over Selma High but unfortunately just fell short of making the playoffs.

The team is much different than it's been in the past. Far from the glory days of 2021, where the team took home a Division four valley title, some might say the team is in a "rebuilding era."

However, that didn't stop them from having an exciting and memorable season.

The team began practicing back in January under coach Tom Gramza, where newer members learned the fundamentals and returning members got back into the swing of things.

After a few weeks of practice, preseason began. Kingsburg played four preseason matches against teams in varying divisions.

Kingsburg ended up going 2-2 in preseason, beating Dinuba and Madera High but losing against San Joaquin Memorial and Bullard High.

After preseason, league play commenced. Kingsburg's final league record was 5-7. While they didn't quite reach the same heights of success that they did in previous years, their performance in regards to its individual members and

the team as a whole is commendable.

One of the most important aspects of the team this year was their ability to learn from their mistakes. Many of the teams in their league they played against twice throughout the season, one home game and one away game.

In the cases of Immanuel and Reedley, Kingsburg lost their first two games against them.



However, with the help of Coach Gramza and through their own determination, they were able to adjust their strategies and adapt to their opponent, securing convincing wins against Immanuel (6-3) and Reedley (7-2) the second time around.

Coach Gramza expressed his pride in these victories, particularly against Immanuel.

"It was nice to beat Immanuel soundly on their own courts, it was definitely our best match of the season," he expressed.

Junior Will Williams, who's the team's Var-

sity #2, also greatly enjoyed this win.

"Getting redemption against Immanuel was my favorite moment of the season, it was so satisfying to beat them on their own turf," he remarked.

Even though the team's performance this year was statistically a step down from the past, something that hasn't changed is the team's character.

"I'm most proud of the class and character of our players. No cussing, no cheating, no dissing opponents. Our guys are a class act and a credit to KHS," admired Coach Gramza.

Additionally, the team's love for the game has not dwindled either.

"I love hitting winners, they're very satisfying and they give me a little dopamine rush," exclaimed Williams.

"Tennis matches can get super intense.

You can go hours in a game where you're neck and neck with your opponent, and I love that," professed Yokota.

Coach Gramza commented, "Tennis is a blast and is never boring because there are so many different ways to play and improve."

While they may have not gotten the ending they wanted, the KHS Boys Tennis team continues to stay motivated towards their goals, and will only continue to improve as the years go on.

Diving into the End of the Year with Swim and Dive

By Sophia Raven
Staff Writer

The KHS girls and boys Swim and Dive Teams were in the TCC division and they ended up getting second in the Division two Valley Championships.

When talking to members about how their team is in and outside of practice Sienna Abernathy said, "We have team dinners and team bonding that brings our team closer together."

Another question I asked to try and get a feel of the overall team vibe was, "Is the team welcoming to any new members?" She responded, "We are welcoming to anyone who wants to join."

I asked Senior Willam Butts, how are team conflicts solved? He responded with, "Within the team there are no major conflicts but when there

is it can always be resolved outside of practice and it does not ruin any of the team chemistry."

Our Dive team only consists of 4 girls and

dyn Kazanijian she said, "Being on the dive team I have made friendships with not only dive but also swim people. This is a really great environment. I

genuinely enjoy this sport and will be coming back to join the team once more for my senior year next year."

KHS is very proud of our swim and dive team as they have been very successful we are proud of all their work. After asking Marci Cranford, "How did their season go this year?" she replied, "We had an amazing year and I'm very proud of everyone. We won league because of them and I can't thank them enough."

This year's Swim and Dive team won their Division in league. Kingsburg high is so proud of them and their hard work

throughout this season. We congratulate them for all of the hard work that they've put in this season.



1 boy.

When talking to Dive team member Kay-

Vikings End 20 Year Drought, Winning the Valley Championship Title

By Luke Johnston
Staff Writer

The last time the Vikings won Valley was in 2003 but they finally ended the drought and changed history by winning the division 3 2023 Valley Championship!

The Vikings played for the Valley Championship title. They played against Dos Palos and all of the fans were on the edge of their seats. In the first inning, Holden Hirschhorn went up to the plate. He watched the pitch come in and swung for the fences. Hirschhorn hit a home run for the Vikings which was the first run of the night for them.

This was Holden Hirschhorn's first home run of the season and it couldn't be more memorable than to do it at Valley. The Vikings were in the lead for most of the night but Dos Pallos kept on fighting. The Vikings came out on top and won Valley and became champions that night. The final score was 7-5 and the crowd went wild.

The Kingsburg Boys Varsity Baseball team came first in the Tri County League with a 10-2 record. They have overcome many challenges as a team



and have made great relationships with one another.

Throughout the season the Vikings have always kept fans on the edge of their seats and put on an amazing performance.

The Vikings' first game to start up the season was against Reedley. The Vikings didn't come out on top and Reedley won with a final score of 3-0.

The Vikings went on to play against Washington Union and secured a crushing 14-1 victory.

However, their following game against Washington Union turned out very differently. The game was super close and the final score was 1-2, with Kingsburg barely losing.

They then went on to play against Selma and wiped them out. The final score was 3-0 which made the Vikings go 2-2 in league.

The Vikings played Selma again and secured another victory. The Vikings crushed the bears with a final score of 11-1.

The Vikings then played against Reedley, coming out on top again. The Vikings took a dominant lead and never let it go, making the final score 14-4.

They then played their last game in their league before they went off to playoffs. They had a matchup against Reedley again and were on a roll that night. They demolished Reedley, the final score being 8-2.

Going into playoffs, the Vikings had a four game winning streak. There are some honorable

mentions before we go into the playoffs.

Each game one player would be chosen as "Player of the Game". Some of this season's recipients are Ayden Rocha, Gavin Ekizian, and Houston Hirschhorn.

Now they play their first playoff game at home. Their first playoff game was against Morro Bay.

The Vikings just kept on bringing runs in and it was non-stop. The game was a blowout and the Vikings moved on in the playoffs. The final score was 15-1.

Now they advanced to the second round of the playoffs and played against Mission Oak. This game was like all of the others and the score wasn't even close. The Vikings won and advanced in the playoffs getting closer and closer to playoffs. The final score was 8-1.

The Vikings then went onto round 3 of the playoffs and faced off against Pioneer Valley. This game is for who goes to Valley and both teams gave it their all in this game. The score was close throughout the whole game but a home run from Junior Bodhi Verners changed the game, making the score 1-0. The Vikings held Pioneer Valley at zero letting no runs come in. Now the Vikings get to move onto Valley.

Congratulations to the Head coach James Cranford and his Kingsburg Varsity baseball team. The fans can't wait to see what happens next season for you.

An Amazing Season This Year for Softball

By Nehemiah Zapien
Staff Writer

From start to finish, the Varsity Softball team has had an amazing season. They have won 17 games in total out of their 25 games played. They won seven league games, 6 non-league games, and 4 tournaments. They currently rank 107 in California, 7 in the Central Section, and 5 in the Fresno rankings.

When they played their first game of the season against Orange Cove, they won with the score being 9-0.

In the first inning, both teams had no runs. In the second inning, Kingsburg managed to score two runs, putting them in the lead. The third and fourth had no runs, still leaving the score 2-0. During the fifth inning, Kingsburg was able to have another 6 runs; the score was now 8-0. In the last inning, they made one more run, winning the game 9-0.

When the Varsity Softball team played their first league game of the season against Sierra Pacific, they won 11-1.

At the start of the game, Kingsburg im-

mmediately took the lead with 3 runs in the first inning. Both teams had no runs for the next 2 innings. In the fourth inning, Kingsburg was able to run 4 times while Sierra Pacific finally made their first run now putting the score at 7-1. Both teams had no run in the fifth inning. In the last inning,



Photo Credit: Samuel Marshall

Kingsburg was able to make their last 4 runs, now winning them the game by 10 points.

In the game against Reedly, Kingsburg won 5-2, winning the second league game this season.

In the first inning of the game, Reedly was

the first one to gain a point, immediately taking the lead. During the second inning, no teams had any runs still leaving Reedly in the lead. In the third inning, Kingsburg finally made 2 runs, now putting them in the lead by one point. Throughout the fourth and fifth inning, no one had made any runs, still leaving the score 2-1. In the sixth inning, Kingsburg had 3 more runs and in the seventh inning Reedly had their 1 last run leaving Kingsburg the winner.

When Kingsburg played their game against Kerman, they won 5-1, winning their third league game in a row.

During their first inning, both teams did not have any runs. In the second inning, Kingsburg made the first run of the game putting them in the lead. In the following inning, they made 3 more runs, giving them a 4 point lead. No runs were made during the fourth inning, but during the

fifth inning, Kerman had their first run. During the sixth inning, Kingsburg ran 2 more times and nothing happened in the seventh inning.

Seniors Take Over Disneyland for Grad Night

By Litzy Orellana
Staff Writer

Graduation is a significant milestone for any senior in high school, marking the end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

To celebrate this milestone, our seniors take a special trip with their classmates to Disneyland, which offers a unique experience for graduating seniors with its exclusive "Grad Nite" event.

This event allows seniors to enjoy the magic of Disneyland after dark, with attractions, music, and entertainment.

Grad Nite has been a tradition in Disneyland since the early 1960's.

For many years Grad night was an overnight trip that followed into the morning. Students were required to meet the dress standards and popular bands would perform in front of the crowds.

The event took place in Disneyland up until 2013, when it was moved over to California Adventure. With a newly redesigned DCA,

graduates got to explore more fun. Every year our seniors go to Grad Nite the day before graduation, May 31st.

Our seniors will leave at nine a.m and stay in Disneyland till nine p.m then, we will

I interviewed Senior Kaili Soria and asked her what she was looking forward to and was excited about.

she replied with, "I'm incredibly excited about going to Disneyland to hangout with my friends and meet new people! I feel as if it's going to be an amazing experience! A souvenir im looking forward to purchasing are new Mickey Ears."

I also interviewed Senior Emily Rodriguez and also asked her what she was looking forward to and she replied with,

"I can't wait to create lasting memories at Disneyland, especially since it's one of my final high school experiences."

Lastly, I interviewed Senior Ethan Garcia and asked how we felt about the trip and he replied with,

"I'm looking forward to riding the Incredicoaster because it is my favorite ride, and spending the whole day with my friends right before we graduate."

Disney
GRAD NITE

then go to California Adventure which is where Grad night takes place and the park will be closed off for everyone besides the seniors.

Many students enjoy it this way because it is an exciting way of meeting students from different schools and interacting with each other.

Senior Stars: Where Are Seniors Headed For College?

By Grace Fan
Staff Writer

As the school year comes to an end, graduating seniors are deciding where to further their academic careers.

From staying close to home at Fresno State or moving all the way to the east coast at Southern New Hampshire University, Kingsburg High School students are headed in many different directions.

Location seems to be one of the most important factors seniors prioritized and looked for while deciding where they wanted to advance their education.

Senior Sofia Ugaste, who plans to major in business at Fresno State, shared that she wants to stay close to home, but still have a good college experience.

On the other hand, some students expressed wanting to be in a different area. Elijah Rice and Aryssa Rios revealed they both have always wanted to move to the East coast.

Rios found South New Hampshire University through softball recruiting and loved the comfortable atmosphere. Most importantly Rios stated, "The people on the SNHU softball team are dedicated to the sport and act as a family."

Carson Yakligian, who plans to study software engineering, stated he wanted to go to San Jose State because it is located, "the heart of Silicon Valley and there should be plenty of internships and job opportunities that are related to my major."

Yakligian's major was his top priority, and he even turned down the University of California, Los Angeles to be closer to the heart of the tech industry.

For Shaylin Esajian, who's going to Hawaii Pacific University on a full academic scholarship, HPU gave her an opportunity to start traveling, like she's always wanted. Esajian plans to go into pre-med, majoring in biology.

Elijah Rice, who's going to Massachusetts Institute of Technology for computer science said, "I visited the campus and met like-minded individuals like me." He enjoyed the campus culture at MIT as well.

Devyn Sasai, who currently plans to major in bioengineering at Stanford University, explained, "I committed because of the amazing research, technology, and campus culture. I decided to commit to Stanford over other schools like UCLA because of the welcoming, curious, and diverse atmosphere at Stanford."

She mentioned, "I can't wait to meet fellow Stanford Cardinals from 82 different countries and learn from world renowned professors in small class sizes."

In addition to the universities seniors are headed to, KHS has a future Navy officer as well.

Zach Ergo, who's had the goal of attending the Naval Academy since 8th grade, was appointed by Congressperson Connie Conway to the Navy Academy in Annapolis, Maryland starting in a few months.

He stated his interest in attending a Military Service stemmed from a discussion with his grandpa, who had previously been stationed at West Point.

"After his experience at West Point, he thought the education received at military academies was amazing and he encouraged me to look into the military academies."

Ergo also shared that "The Naval Academy has a strong STEM centered educational course that aligns with my interest in mechanical engineering."

Unlike usual college applications, "One can only be accepted to the Naval Academy with a [congressional] nomination and acceptance to the Academy."

So along with an application directly to the Naval Academy, Ergo applied for a nomination from Congresswoman Connie Conway.

"This process included an extensive application and interview, led by current military officers."

Furthermore, Ergo said that "Not only do midshipmen at the Academy get a great education and become leaders throughout the United States Navy, but they also receive a full scholarship."

Lucy Lo, who's going to the College of Letters and Science in University of California, Berkeley to study astrophysics, stated that of all the schools she got into, Berkeley had the best program.

Lo also visited the campus for a few days and liked that the location was "easily accessible." She was able to meet many other incoming Berkeley Oskis, and appreciated the positive environment between the campus and students.

KHS Seniors are clearly on a bright and exciting path. Make sure to cheer them on as they embark on this new journey!



KHS Names 36 Valedictorians



Devyn Sasai
GPA: 4.32
Stanford University
Major: Bioengineering



Nicolette Fierro
GPA: 4.32
California Polytechnic University
Major: Psychology



Carson Yakligian
GPA: 4.30
San Jose State University
Major: Software Engineering



Leila Zarate
GPA: 4.26
University of California, Irvine
Major: Political Science



Samuel Austin
GPA: 4.25
University of California, Irvine
Major: Chemical Engineering



Emma Chappell
GPA: 4.20
U.C. San Diego
Major: Educational Science



Zachary Ergo
GPA: 4.19
U.S. Naval Academy
Major: Engineering



Camila Gutierrez
GPA: 4.19
Fresno State University
Major: Architectural Studies



Ethan Guerrero
GPA: 4.19
Fullerton State University
Major: Biology



Presley Woods
GPA: 4.16
Fresno State University
Major: Pre-Health

Class of 2023



Trista Fry
GPA: 4.08
California Polytechnic University
Major: Plant Science



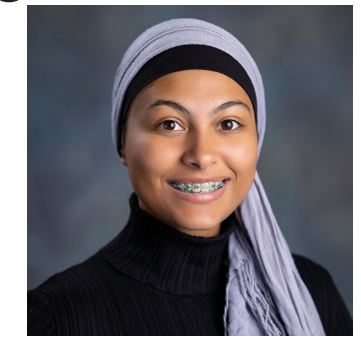
Alyson Johnson
GPA: 4.07
Reedley College
Major: Psychology



John Rogers
GPA: 4.07
The Master's University
Major: Business Marketing



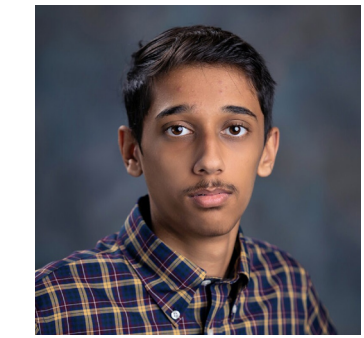
Drew Johnston
GPA: 4.06
Biola University
Major: Nursing



Leyann Abdelfattah
GPA: 4.06
Fresno City College
Major: Biology



Lorne Rogers
GPA: 4.05
Fresno City College
Major: Computer Science



Sahil Singh
GPA: 4.04
Fresno State University
Major: Computer Science



Kaylynn Alves
GPA: 4.04
Clovis Community College
Major: Nursing



Jace Peterson
GPA: 4.04
Concordia University Irvine
Major: Sports Business



Jacqueline Ruiz
GPA: 4.02
College of the Sequoias
Major: Kinesiology



Lucy Lo
GPA: 4.12
University of California, Berkeley
Major: Astrophysics



Carly Raven
GPA: 4.12
University of California, Berkeley
Major: Nutritional Sciences



Cy Hammerstrom
GPA: 4.11
Fullerton State University
Major: Economics



Caitlin Unruh
GPA: 4.11
California Polytechnic University
Major: Art and Design



Noah Brown
GPA: 4.11
Reedley College
Major: Construction Management



James Cranford
GPA: 4.02
College of the Sequoias
Major: Liberal Arts



Zachary Harvey
GPA: 4.02
The Master's University
Major: Engineering



Sydney Brock
GPA: 4.00
West Valley College
Major: Undeclared



Shaylin Esajian
GPA: 4.00
Hawaii Pacific University
Major: Biology



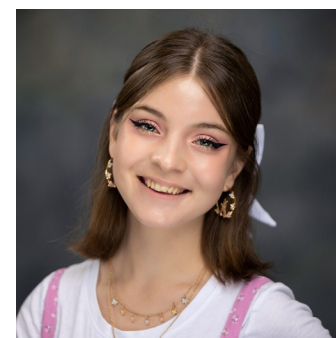
Paige Ingrao
GPA: 4.00
Reedley College
Major: Criminology



Elyan Lopez
GPA: 4.11
Fresno State University
Major: Computer Science



Elijah Rice
GPA: 4.11
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Major: Computer Science



Bethany Emmersen
GPA: 4.10
Long Beach State University
Major: Chemistry



Katherine Tikkanen
GPA: 4.10
Westmont College
Major: Biology



Trace Jackson
GPA: 4.09
The Master's University
Major: Agricultural Business



Ethan Winslow
GPA: 4.00
College of the Sequoias
Major: Business

Class of 2023 Stats

- 267 Graduates
- Over \$500,000 won in local scholarships
- 16 Entering the Military
- 66 Attending a 4-year University
- 150 Attending a 2-year University