



see features pullout

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Sarasota County: The Aftermath of Hurricane Ian



Several inches of rainwater inundate Highway 41's entire right lane in South Venice Thursday, Sept. 29. Flooding in Sarasota County remained severe in the days following Hurricane Ian's landfall. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

by Isabella Kulawik
News Editor

In the past month, counties throughout Florida have been working to regain some semblance of normalcy after being hit by the catastrophic Hurricane Ian. Areas of southwest Florida were devastated due to the impacts of storm surges, flooding, and up to 155 miles per hour winds.

In Sarasota County, as the hurricane struck, shelters and school administrators worked around the clock to ensure the safety of those who evacuated.

In the aftermath, 150,000 Sarasota residents were without power, and many faced damage to their homes. Eventually, traditional schools in

northern Sarasota County were reopened Oct. 10 after being closed since Sept. 27, while other schools reopened Oct. 17 and Oct 18.

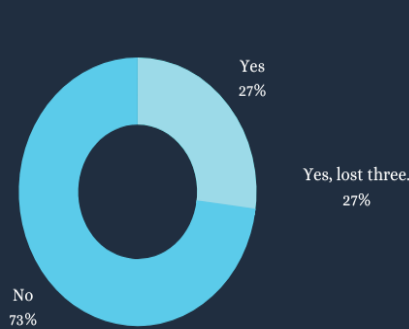
Before reopening, Pine View hosted a school-wide "Clean-Up Day," in which high school students were able to volunteer and help with the process of restoring the school back to normal.

With the two-week break from school, students and teachers alike are working to get back on track and make up for lost instructional time. For more information on how the Pine View community responded and recovered after the hurricane, refer to the Features Pullout.

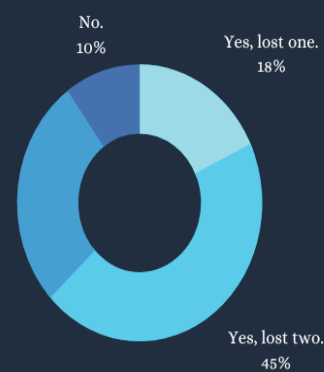
HURRICANE IAN: THE NUMBERS

On the Pine View Torch Instagram, we asked how the student body was impacted by Hurricane Ian. The following pie charts are accumulations of the 154 responses we received.

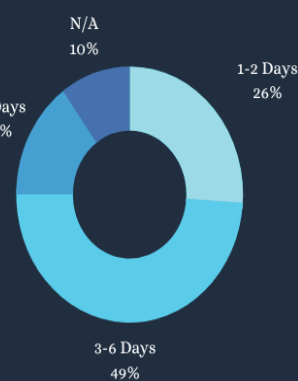
Did you evacuate your home for Hurricane Ian?



Did you lose power/water/Wi-Fi due to the hurricane?



How long were you without power/water/Wi-Fi?



GRAPHIC BY ROHAN DASH

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Community works to improve traffic safety



Flowers, photos, and stuffed animals commemorate Lilly Glaubach near the intersection on Bay Street and Old Venice Road. The Pine View community has been working to ensure that the crosswalk is a safe place for students to commute. PHOTO BY FELICITY CHANG

by Lora Rini
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

In the wake of the recent tragedy at the intersection between Bay Street and Old Venice Road, students and teachers alike are demanding change. A petition created by social studies teacher Scott Wolfinger and his AP U.S. History students demanding a redesign of the intersection has over 5,000 signatures and counting.

"I remember just saying, 'Somebody needs to do something about this.' And then I thought, 'Why have somebody else do it?'" Wolfinger said. "I looked at [the students], and they looked at me, and I said, 'You know what? Let's start a petition.' So then I started writing it. They helped me with the grammar a little bit, I posted it, they started reposting and sharing it, and it has almost 5,000 signatures now."

Wolfinger's name is on the petition, but he considers it to be a team effort between himself and his students. Not only were students able to provide grammatical and technological support, but many also shared their own negative experiences at the intersection.

"That intersection is the worst to get out of when leaving [Pine View], and I find it hard to turn left onto the road due to the bushes covering a lot of my view," eleventh-grader Sawyer Grantham said.

As the petition began to gain traction, several local news outlets expressed their interest in covering Wolfinger. He directed Fox 13 to some of his students, including eleventh-grader Roland Bonaparte.

"During our class, he was [submitting] the petition and publishing it. It was more of a class effort that helped him, and I was one of the students that helped," Bonaparte said. "Fox was going to interview him about the petition, and he was like, 'I'm just gonna give this to one of my students today.' I volunteered to do it and then I ended up on Fox."

Since publishing the petition, Wolfinger has been in contact with many county officials,

including Superintendent Brennan Asplen, Chief Operations Officer Jody Dumas, and Alan Maio, the District Four County Commissioner. Notably, Sarasota County's Public Works Director confirmed the conception of a traffic study.

"[They will] analyze what needs to be done at that intersection, and then let the data determine what happens. Right now, what they told me is they're going to have to weigh how much a light would interfere with traffic and back it up versus safety, and I think safety should always come first," Wolfinger said.

The findings of the traffic study will be discussed at a traffic meeting sometime in the near future. In addition, Wolfinger is in contact with a concerned citizen holding a PhD in traffic science. He plans to conduct his own traffic study and compare the results to the study conducted by the county. Wolfinger hopes that this will ensure the safest option is selected in terms of the future of the intersection.

"I think it's important to [acknowledge] that that is a dangerous intersection, and to make sure that no one else gets hurt there," Wolfinger said. "I know we can't make everything perfectly safe, but there is a lot of room for improvement at that intersection."



The crosswalk at the Bay Street and Old Venice Road intersection is used daily by students commuting home after school. Some of the bushes near the crosswalk have recently been removed. PHOTO BY FELICITY CHANG

Class of 2023 paints parking spots

Under the hot sun, twelfth-graders partake in the annual tradition of painting their parking spots. Brightly colored parking blocks now mark the rows of the shell lot.

Pictured from top to bottom, left to right: Caroline Deacon, Brooke Moore, Arya Gupta, Ethan Messier, Daria Tiubin, and Si-mona Belilovski. PHOTOS BY ALYSON MIZANIN



EVENTS POSTPONED DUE TO HURRICANE IAN

MR. PINE VIEW Oct. 7 moved to Feb. 17	PYTHON MUN Oct. 8 moved to Dec. 10
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GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

Welcoming Megan Remo

by Nathan DeSouza
Social Media Manager

Guiding students through the job and college discovery processes, Career Advisor Megan Remo connects students with what their futures will hold.

What many don't know about Remo is that she has helped in running a country concert at the White House and even met celebrities like Paul McCartney and Ariana Grande. Remo has gotten to meet stars of famous shows as an assistant casting director for Nickelodeon. Before coming to Pine View, she worked as a production coordinator for the network.

Remo was born and raised in Los Angeles and went to Loyola Marymount University. After she finished college, her first job was as an assistant casting director at Nickelodeon. At Nickelodeon, she was put on a show called Supah Ninjas. The show was wrapping up its last season at the time, so she only worked there until that August. She then went on to Bounce AEG, where she did various live events.

Remo was a production assistant at Bounce AEG. She helped put together a country concert at the White House, where she got to meet former president Barack Obama. In a tribute to Paul McCartney, she also got to work with various other celebrities. She then returned to Nickelodeon as a casting assistant, where she helped cast kids that fit the role of a character. The requirements for kids would be posted online, and the actors wanting to audition would come in. Remo would then record the audition to later collaborate with the casting director to narrow down their options on who to cast. However, Remo knew that she wouldn't want to stay in the network once she had a family because she wanted more of a work-life balance and to be there for her children. While still working for Nickelodeon, she got her certificate in college counseling from

the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and started to browse for jobs at schools. Remo soon started working for a high school in Los Angeles; then the pandemic hit, and she decided to stay home to take care of her kids.

After the pandemic, she and her husband decided to move, and since her husband was originally from Venice, Florida, they moved to the nearby city of Sarasota. When it was time to start looking for a job again, Remo had already decided that she wanted to work at a school and applied for the College and Career Resource Center position at Pine View.

"Pine View is just special and different — it is. The students here are so great and accomplished... It's so cool to see a close-knit community that also challenges each other," Remo said.

College resource counselor Lance Bergman said that Remo brings so much to the team and is a great asset to Pine View. "She's stepped into [the position] and has been able to give that additional help, and I'm thankful for it... She's a good thinking partner. She's been a good, helpful presence," Bergman said.

Remo has helped a myriad of students with their externships. One such student is twelfth-grader Shailan Patel, who said that he feels that Pine View is blessed to have Remo. He met her through his externship class and by being in the College and Career Center. "She is an incredibly kind and gentle person — very intelligent and well equipped for her job," Patel said. "Ms. Remo has become one of my best friends this year and one of my favorite Pine View faculty members in the 10 years I have attended the school. She has helped talk me through personal issues, college applications, career choices and [is] always teaching me life lessons throughout."

Remo is an important and welcome addition to the Pine View community.



PHOTO BY NATHAN DESOUZA

"Pine View is just special and different — it is. The students here are so great and accomplished," Megan Remo, Career Advisor



GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

by Terry Shen and Rohan Dash
Asst. Match Editor-in-Chief and Asst. News Editor

While Pine View is often known for its academic rigor, many frequently raise the question of why there is a lack of high school sports. In fact, year after year, students and parents push for Pine View to form high school sports teams.

Clearly, that has yet to lead to a change. However, the school continues to offer middle school sports such as track, basketball, tennis, and many more. So, why does Pine View lack high school sports?

To begin with, if Pine View were to have sports teams, they'd be required to offer every single team sport. For example, a school cannot just have football without also having a baseball team. This would mean needing to have nearly a dozen separate sports, each having a boys and girls team and junior varsity (JV) and varsity divisions.

"A lot of people don't realize is [this is] by state law. If you honor one sport, you have to honor so many sports," second-grade teacher Misty Tucak, who has also coached several middle school sports teams, said. This raises several problems, including the fact that Pine View's high school population is much smaller compared to schools like Riverview High and Sarasota High. This also results in a lack of space for teams to practice, another reason why the school can't offer sports.

Coach Joe DiGiacomo elaborated that the bottom line is that there isn't enough room. With over twelve teams needing space, practice would be difficult to manage.

Essentially, the typical team practices two to three times per week. To add on, elementary and middle school students also share tennis and basketball courts, track, gym, and more with high schoolers. Pine View simply doesn't have the room to fit all those teams in the gym and locker rooms.

Furthermore, Pine View's track is outdated, as there are not enough lanes to fit all com-

peting school teams, which is why Pine View hasn't held a middle school track and field competition on campus with other schools in years. Meets were also prevented by the portables until they were removed in 2022.

Even if there was a massive donation to upgrade all amenities, the population at Pine View is not big enough to support the numerous teams that the school would be required to have.

"Pine View having sports would be great... There are a lot of athletic kids at Pine View that have to go long distances for practice or sports at other schools," said tenth-grader Gabriel Live, who currently plays JV baseball at Riverview.

Ninth-grader Gabriel Harris, who is on the Venice High varsity

cross-country team, agreed with Live, stating how going to other schools can be inconvenient and time-consuming.

Nonetheless, the silver lining to Pine View's lack of sports is students' unique privilege of being able to pick and choose which school they will play for. Instead of having to play for the school they're districted to attend, Pine View students can choose from a variety of schools such as Riverview, Sarasota, Venice High, and more.

Sixth-grade World History teacher Jenna Molinaro similarly stated that if one is really interested in a certain sport, they can choose to try out for one of the best teams in the district.

Additionally, students can play where they have the closest community and where they envision they'll have the most fun while improving in their sports.

Live is thankful for the ability of Pine View students to try out for whichever school they want.

"What if your skills are better than what that school has to offer, and you know you can do more, but you don't have that good of a team to show it?" Live said.

Harris agreed, stating how he's able to meet more students coming from a different background.

This allows for a delicate balance between academics and sports. Not only do Pine View students receive Pine View's education, but they also receive great training in sports at whichever county school they choose. This unique opportunity grants students the ability to receive not only a better chance at academic scholarships, but also at athletic recruitment.

While Pine View's near future will most likely not involve athletics at the high school level, there's still lots to be happy about.



PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA MASIULIS

AP Language exam goes online



Eleventh-graders James Ryan (left), Hayley Peace (center), and Winter Gray (right) work on an AP English Language assignment during Jessica Hentges' fifth period class. The AP Language exam in May will be conducted online. PHOTO BY SANJA PATEL

by Lily Quartermaine and Sanja Patel
Asst. Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

Say goodbye to hand cramps, two extra pencils, and the fear of running out of space — the AP English Language exam is officially going online starting this school year.

According to AP English Language teacher Christopher Pauling, the online exam is something he and fellow teacher Jessica Hentges have

been awaiting for quite some time. Pauling said that after “pulling some strings” with Testing Coordinator Dr. Lori Wiley and the administrative office, they were able to make the transition happen.

There were many different moving pieces to consider when making the switch, such as how the proctoring and administration processes would adjust to the new use of technology.

“I’m super excited for it. It’s the wave of the future,”

Hentges said.

The AP English Language exam consists of a 60-minute multiple choice section and a 135-minute free response section. The free response section consists of three separate essay prompts: a rhetorical analysis essay based on one source, a synthesis essay based on up to seven sources, and an argumentative essay based on prior knowledge.

The online exam eliminates many prior issues that

arose from the traditional version: hand cramps, handwriting legibility, and class period time limits are no longer factors in the process. Removing these factors will significantly expedite the preparation and test-taking process.

“At the end of the day, I think it’s going to speed up all processes of it, and I think it’s a really good thing because it gives us more time for learning,” Pauling said.

Pauling’s optimism extends beyond just him and Hentges, as students are also certain the change will be positive.

“When the exam goes online, I think it will be easier in terms of time management. In my experience last year, it was hard to finish all three essays thoroughly when hand-writing them,” twelfth-grader and former AP English Language student Noelle Winegar said.

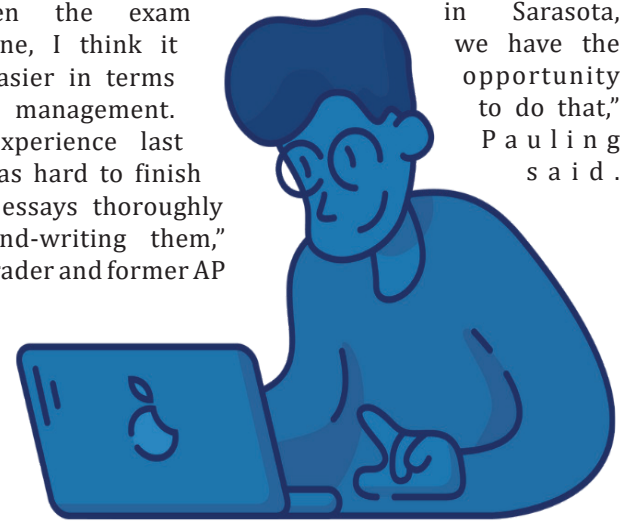
Despite not knowing exactly what the future holds, Pine View remains certain in its constant

drive for innovation and efficiency.

“I think we’re obviously working with a group of students that have been born in the digital era, and for them to be assessed in that way, it seems like it’s going to be a lot better,” Pauling said.

Currently, Pine View and the district are working together to put the new testing system in place. Hopefully, students will be able to utilize virtual testing by the end of this school year.

“I’m thankful, and I know that a lot of our students are grateful that here at Pine View and in Sarasota, we have the opportunity to do that,” Pauling said.



GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

F.A.S.T. Assessments

What is F.A.S.T.?

- Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST).
- FAST Reading is for grades VPK-10 and VPK-eight for math.
- All grades in the current ninth grade and below will need a passing Grade 10 FAST Reading to graduate.

What is the Difference?

- F.A.S.T.**
- FAST assessments are three times a year.
 - The first two are progress checks like I-Ready.
 - One day for each session.

- F.S.A.**
- Florida Standardized Assessments (FSA) occurred once a year at the end of the year.
 - It lasted two days.

Grade 9, Session 2:
January

When are the F.A.S.T. assessments?

Grade 10, Session 3:
May

Grade 10, Session 2:
January

Grade 9, Session 3:
May

An Escape Room in Wonderland – and Sarasota

by Allie Chung
Sports Editor

Originating in Japan, escape rooms have taken the world by storm. Surprisingly, escape rooms are only as old as today's freshmen; however, they've evolved into events that an original escape room fan wouldn't be able to recognize.

Aiding the evolution of escape rooms, an organization called Cluedupp has transformed a single-room escape room into a citywide digital mystery. Over the last



five and a half years, Cluedupp has gathered over two million players in over 80 countries worldwide, taking the number one spot in location-based events.

Participants in the new Alice in Wonderland event will find themselves walking miles around downtown Sarasota, trying to solve an outdoor adventure.

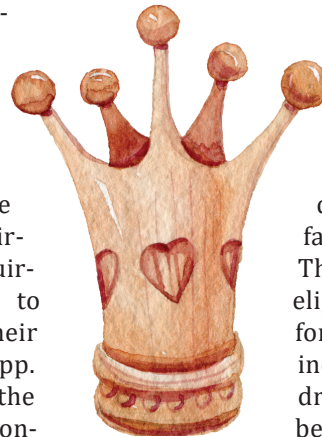
Like in a traditional escape room, Alice in Wonderland players race against the clock to save Alice and "escape"; however, unlike a traditional escape room, players find

clues in the streets of their cities and take breaks whenever they please.

With a team full of graphic designers and marketers, the Cluedupp staff has made their game accessible and kid friendly. The experience is completely virtual, only requiring participants to download their award-winning app.

Tickets to the new Alice in Wonderland event are already sold out, with over 4,000 teams participating during the span of only one weekend. The exact lo-

cation is only given out to the participants, but the event will take place somewhere in downtown Sarasota Saturday, Nov. 5.



Alongside hundreds of other groups, excited players will show up dressed as their favorite characters. These groups are eligible to compete for awards, which include the best dressed team, the best team photo, and many more. Winners will enjoy a gift voucher for their next adventure, and even losing teams get free tickets for players under 16

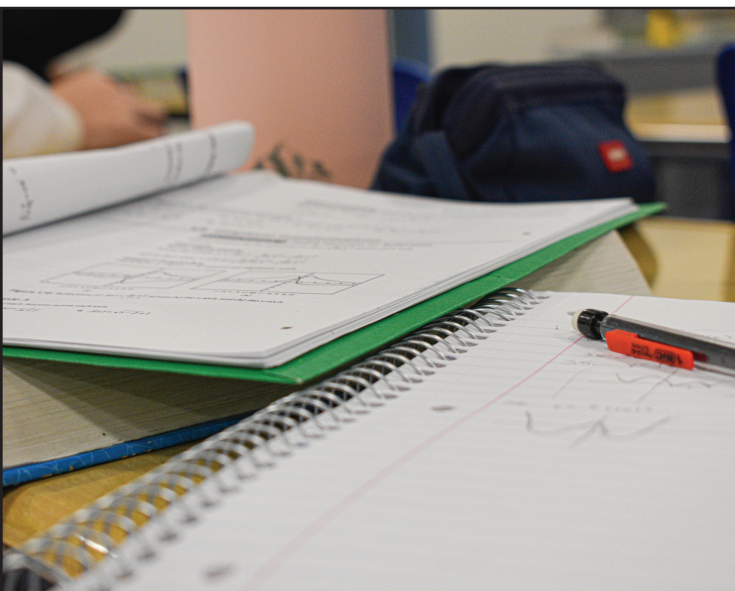
years old.

With all the problem solving involved in these events, Cluedupp games are the perfect place to bond as friends, family, and even working staff. From Finland to South Africa, two million players have already participated at 1,200 different locations. Countless reviews confirm that customers are satisfied with their experiences.



GRAPHICS BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

AP Precalculus course comes to Pine View next year



A student works in math teacher Emese Percy's Precalculus Honors class. Students have been working on piecewise functions and other classwork in preparation for the upcoming chapter test. PHOTO BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

by Kai Sprunger
Match Editor-in-Chief

Coming next fall, accompanying the return of pumpkin patches and steaming cups of fall-themed drinks, is the addition of a new course at Pine View: AP Precalculus. This course will not only teach the basics of precalculus but will offer an AP test that allows students to receive college credit.

Having been in the works since early 2021, AP Precalculus is going to be presented to students around the globe as CollegeBoard's newest AP class. During the course's years of development, CollegeBoard collaborated with experts and college faculty in order to research and ensure that the course best supports students.

CollegeBoard was inspired to initiate the development of the course due to research that revealed many students were unprepared to take college or high-school math courses. It was found that

of the millions of students heading to college, around a third of freshmen at public four-year colleges and over half of the freshmen at two-year colleges needed to take remedial math.

Similarly, CollegeBoard found that implementing the course would benefit students who look into taking an AP Calculus class, as AP Precalculus would offer resources that would aid students in future high school math courses.

"Honestly, precalc is a great class no matter what," Kathleen Suchora, who has been teaching Precalculus Honors at Pine View for two years, said. "There's just so much material, and [precalculus] is going to prepare [students] for whatever math class they have to take when they get to college. Whether they have to take college algebra or trig or have to go into Calc 1, it's going to prepare them for that."

According to the College Board website, precalculus provides the foundation of calculus by covering the study of

functions and connecting what students have learned from both algebra and geometry. In this math, students will develop their understanding of complex mathematics and be able to apply the skills they learn to real-world situations. However, compared to other non-AP precalculus courses, AP Precalculus may have a few differences.

"The progression during the year isn't very different. It will just be the preparation for the AP exam, which will require a lot of practice, multiple choice questions — similar to what's expected, plus questions which aren't part of the honors class," Precalculus Honors teacher Emese Percy said.

While Suchora said that there are benefits to both AP Precalculus and Precalculus Honors, she feels that there's quite a strong benefit to taking AP Precalculus instead.

"I feel like the biggest benefit for the AP versus the honors [class] would be that the students get that rigor, and it would help them more when they get into calculus. Typically, students here are taking calculus their junior or senior year, so if they have background before they take a course like that, I think it would help them with their score on their AP exam," Suchora said.

According to Suchora, the free response portion of the exam is quite similar to other math classes.

"I would think that anyone who is planning on taking Calc AB or BC would definitely want to take [AP Precalculus], and even if [students] aren't planning on taking Calc AB or BC or if they're going to go into AP Stats, they may want to consider taking it to get the background of the writing part for the exam," she said.

Eleventh-grader Neela Ravindran is currently taking Algebra 2 Honors and will be taking precalculus next year. She has the option of either taking AP Precalculus, Precalculus Honors, or DE Precalculus in the 2023-2024 school year.

"I feel like since we already have DE Precalc and we have Honors Precalc, AP Precalc might be a good option for people who are somewhere in the middle and who want to take a harder course but not

have it be DE," Ravindran said.

Although AP Precalculus will be a rigorous class, no matter what math a student chooses to take in the future — whether it be high school or college-level math courses — AP Precalculus may be beneficial to take.

It's unknown who will be teaching the course in the 2023-2024 school year; nevertheless, students will have the option of taking it next fall if they so choose.

AP PRECALCULUS: THE UNITS

Polynomial and Rational Functions

1 $f(x)$

Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

2

Trigonometric and Polar Functions

3



Functions Involving Parameters, Vectors, and Matrices

4

The AP Exam for this course includes two parts: multiple choice and free response, each of which will have calculator and non-calculator sections. The exam will last around three hours.

GRAPHIC BY ROHAN DASH

ASTRONOMY EVENTS

With the end of Daylight Saving Time rapidly approaching, viewing of the stars and other celestial bodies becomes easier. But, what events exactly should we be looking forward to?

There are two full moons left in 2022: one Nov. 8, and the final one Dec. 7. These two are nicknamed the Beaver's Moon and the Cold Moon, respectively. Fun Fact: Did you know the second full moon in a month is known as a Blue Moon?

SpaceX, the space exploration company owned by Elon Musk, plans to have several launches with the Falcon 9 rocket. Multiple launches delayed due to weather over the past few months will occur in November from Cape Canaveral. Consider heading up there to see history being made!

Multiple meteor showers are expected throughout the year. Starting with the Orionids, peaking from Oct. 21 to Oct. 22 and ending with the Ursids from Dec. 21 to Dec. 22, nearly ten meteor showers will be viewable from Florida.

GRAPHIC BY ROHAN DASH

Spectacular Cells

Liam Dingman
Visual Design Editor

Growing organs? A world where one organ can benefit 75 people? These may be future possibilities, as the MIT Technology Review magazine published an article about recent discoveries creating “mini livers” using lymph nodes. Along with Pine View’s Biomedical Engineering Society’s (BMES) work with decellularization, many interesting things are being discovered about cells.

The company behind the organ experimentation, LyGenesis, aims to use one liver to treat up to 75 people.

“For patients who cannot get on the [transplant] list, this is now available to them,” anatomy and physiology teacher and BMES sponsor Rebecca Kehler said.

How is this possible? Researchers inject healthy liver cells into lymph nodes, where the cells multiply. Some lymphatic system organs deal with the activation of B cells and T cells during infection, and that process can be used to grow

these livers.

“They had used that primary function [and] injected those liver cells into those lymph nodes,” Kehler said.

Meanwhile, BMES is studying a process known as decellularization.

“We’re using detergent to kill off the cells of plant tissue, leaving behind a scaffold...

Using that scaffold, you can put in new cells to grow new, different types of tissue,” twelfth-grader Krystal Tran, co-president of BMES, said.

BMES has tried many fruits and vegetables for scaffolding, including lettuce and spinach, which have been the most successful. The club plans to use the scaffolding to grow cells from different plants.

“They’re going to take fruit and try to grow the fruit cells on the scaffolding,” Kehler said.

In the future, the club is

also planning to grow a type of animal cell using plant scaffolding.

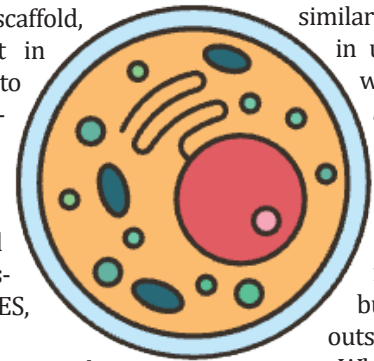
“What we would do is take the scaffold from the spinach and the lettuce, put some bone cells on that scaffold, and grow some bone cells that eventually grow into bone tissue,” Kehler said.

Although they may seem similar in growing cells in unusual places and ways, Tran points out a key difference between BMES’ and LyGenesis’ work: “They’re using lymph nodes within the body, we’re building something outside the body.”

Whether cell experimentation happens at the school level or in biotechnology companies, it may have large effects on the world as a whole.

“You can think about what the implications of that would be with being able to grow tissue that we need for repair,” Kehler said.

GRAPHIC BY AASHIMA GOSWAMI



New Sarasota Hospital Board sparks local dialogue

Delving into the implications of recent hospital board politicization

by Lindsay Luberecki and Aashima Goswami

Opinion Editor and SciTech Editor

When it comes to well-known hospitals in Sarasota, Sarasota Memorial Hospital (SMH) has to be on the top of the list. Founded in 1925, SMH has been around for 95 years. SMH has been listed among the top 50 best hospitals for Rehabilitation Services and Specialized Urology Care, according to U.S. News. But who manages the hospital and allows it to reach its peak? That responsibility falls on the hospital board.

SMH is a non-profit public hospital, meaning that it’s funded by taxes and is government-run.

The hospital falls under the Sarasota County Public Hospital District, governed by the Sarasota County Public Hospital Board. This board consists of nine unpaid, elected members from all over the county.

Each new elected member of the board undergoes an orientation program. According to its bylaws, the board is responsible for “the performance improvement activities within the organization and shall require the

development of mechanisms which will assist in achieving the goals that all patients with the same health problem are receiving the same level of care.”

The hospital board’s election is technically non-partisan. However, many community members have noted increased politicization surrounding this election cycle and its candidates.

When reached out to, newly elected board members Bridgette Fiorucci, Victor Rohe, and Gregory Carter either didn’t respond or denied a request to be interviewed. However, Pine View graduate Brad Baker, who won the Northern District Seat 1, did accept.

“I’m looking forward to serving the people,” Brad Baker, Sarasota Memorial Hospital Northern District Seat 1

Baker interned at SMH while studying at Pine View.

“I was there as a sponge, and it was a wonderful experience,” he said.

Baker also has been on multiple corporate boards and is familiar with corporations with large budgets. He worked for the US Department of the Treasury, as well as the Florida Housing Finance Corporation — a state organization that works to provide

affordable housing — which he was hired to run by former Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

“I’m not afraid of a billion-dollar budget,” Baker said. “It’s important to have somebody on the board that is fiscally conservative and has an understanding of financial reporting.”

When it comes to his goals for his time on the board, Baker explained that he doesn’t possess a “hidden or secret agenda.” He emphasized the importance of looking at the big picture for an organization as large as the hospital. He noted that the group of candidates who ran with Covid-19 as their main issue are “showing up to the party with an issue that has declining interest and relevance” and will have to “grow as board members to represent the community.”

Baker also discussed the new hospital that opened in Venice and how similar facilities will likely follow. He said that he hopes to integrate that branch and others into the community, and added that he understands the community of Venice, having lived and worked there.

“I’m looking forward to serving the people,” he said. “I’m honored to win.”

Fiorucci, Rohe, and Carter are members of the “Health Freedom Slate,” a conservative group that aimed to win the majority of seats on



The newly-opened Sarasota Memorial Hospital (SMH) stands tall in Venice. Recently-elected hospital board members will be responsible for this hospital, as well as other branches of SMH.

PHOTO BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI

the board and make it more right-wing. They reference medical freedom and question care that was given to Covid-19 patients in the past, as well as Covid-19 policy.

It’s important to understand what these election results could mean for the hospital and its employees and patients, as well as future policy that could be made.

Some doctors have concerns about issues that could arise due to the new board.

Alan Glover, a part-time anesthesiologist and Pine View parent, has been in healthcare for 32 years and previously worked at Venice Hospital. He described fears he has relating to some of the new members’ stances on Covid-19.

“It would put [employees] more at risk. If [the board is] not requiring people to be vaccinated or tested who are

ill, it would put you more at risk for treating those people,” Glover said.

He went on to explain that this issue has bigger-picture implications.

“This doesn’t just go for Covid-19 — this goes for all vaccines,” he said. “The results are, you have people who don’t believe in vaccines... It puts anybody who works there or other patients at risk.”

Glover also said that he isn’t alone in these feelings; other doctors he’s spoken to have expressed similar concerns about the politicization and anti-vaccination status of some board members and the effects it could have.

Baker said that his first board meeting will be in late November. After the new members take their seats, they will begin working and discussing policy and goals for the hospital.



Attack on Titan

The "Attack on Titan" series has 4 seasons filled with riveting action and plot twists leaving the viewer asking for more. The anime begins by introducing Eren Yeager, a boy from the Shiganshina district on the island Paradis. His mother is killed in a Titan attack when the Colossal Titan breaches one of the country's walls. This leads Eren, his adopted sister Mikasa Ackerman, and his best friend Armin Arlert to join the army. The story follows their journey in fighting titans and discovering the secrets of the foundation of Paradis.

Where to Watch: Netflix, Hulu, CrunchyRoll, Funimation, Amazon Prime Video



Dragon Ball

"Dragon Ball," originating in the 1980s, is an anime that has attracted a number of followers — especially with its spinoff "Dragon Ball Z." While there are differences, both plots surround the protagonist Goku. The show takes place on Earth but is entirely fictional. Each having a large number of seasons, "Dragon Ball" and "Dragon Ball Z" are some of the most influential animes.

Where to Watch: Hulu, Funimation, and AnimeLab



Haikyuu!!

"Haikyuu!!" is a feel good, coming-of-age sports anime that has a large fan base and four seasons. Main character Shoyo Hinata longs to be an incredible volleyball player despite his height of 5'4". Inspired by the player known as "The Little Giant," Hinata remains determined and practices to follow his dream. Viewers watch as Hinata and the Karasuno High School team grow and develop friendships.

Where to Watch: Funimation



Fruits Basket

"Fruits Basket" is a three season anime which follows characters Tohru Honda and the Sohma Clan through their various plights. After her mother passed away, Honda is homeless but finds herself invited to live with the Sohma family and discovers their curse. The Sohmas turn into one of the 12 Chinese Zodiac signs (and a cat) when hugged by someone of the opposite sex. The series then follows Honda's mission to break the curse with a budding romance in between.

Where to Watch: Funimation, CrunchyRoll, Hulu

PV TORCH'S GUIDE TO ANIME

by Jada Davidson and Isabella Kulawik

Full Metal Alchemist: Brotherhood

The 64-episode fantasy "Full Metal Alchemist: Brotherhood" is a popular anime with complex and dynamic characters. In a world centered in alchemy, the Elric brothers and their companions work to prevent a devastating event from occurring and to regain what they had lost. The anime delves into puppet governments — systems of authority that in reality are controlled by outside powers — while remaining entertaining and appealing to a wide audience.

Where to watch: Hulu, Disney+, Funimation, and CrunchyRoll



Ouran High School Host Club

Protagonist Haruhi Fujioka is a poor but happy high school girl who attends Ouran High School, but meets the Host Club one day while trying to find a quiet place to study and accidentally breaks one of their vases. As penance, she joins the wealthy boys in the club who entertain the girls at their school all day until she can pay off her debt. The Hosts agree to keep Haruhi's gender a secret, since only boys can join the club, and there's no telling what would happen if they knew Haruhi, who looks like a boy, isn't a boy at all.

With a range of personalities, from the lovesick club president Tamaki Suoh, to the tall and quiet Takashi "Mori" Morinozuka, Haruhi is in for one wild ride and an experience she'll never forget.

"Ouran High School Host Club" is a short, goofy, rom-com, 26-episode show that first-time anime watchers and people with short attention spans will love.

Where to watch: Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, Crunchyroll and Funimation



Sailor Moon

"Sailor Moon" is a classic anime from the 1990s with five seasons; the show depicts Japanese school girls and their forms as sailor guardians. The main protagonist, Usagi Tsukino, learns of her powers and transforms into Sailor Moon, quickly discovering the responsibilities she gained with them. With the other Sailor Guardians and her love interest, Tuxedo Man, it is up to them to save Earth from evil extraterrestrial forces.

Where to watch: Hulu and CrunchyRoll (only has the remake version)



The Disastrous Life of Saiki K.

Kusuo Saiki (better known as Saiki K.) is not just your average introverted teenager. Born with unwanted psychic powers, Saiki not only has to conceal them but also has to deal with his classmates. He only wishes for a peaceful life but can't seem to get it. However, the one thing that keeps him going is a commodity we don't see often, if at all: coffee jelly.

With only two seasons and an uncomplicated storyline, "The Disastrous Life of Saiki K." is a short yet enjoyable anime everyone will love.

Where to Watch: Amazon Prime Video, Funimation, Netflix, Tubi, and Apple TV

The Art of Nature



by Emmy Li
Webmaster

Sitting next to tenth-grader EllaRose Sherman in AP U.S. History is an experience like no other. It's fascinating to see her add the final touches to her pieces or begin sketching out new artwork. Birds, dragons, and plants come alive on the paper.

"I always enjoyed art, and I had the materials for it," Sherman said. "So I started drawing in sketchbooks. And that motivated me to continue to fill the

sketchbook, and then fill another sketchbook, and to keep going."

Sherman takes advantage of every second she can to draw. High school fills up a lot of her schedule, and sometimes she struggles to find time for her hobby.

"I draw after school hopefully," she said. "It doesn't happen some days, though."

When she isn't setting aside time to draw at home, she's usually doodling in class. Her portfolio development class now allows her more time to do what she enjoys.

Sherman has always known that she loved art.

"I've done art pretty much my whole life since I was little," Sherman said. "I've always enjoyed it, but I only started being serious about it around 2018."

An avid lover of the outdoors and nature, Sherman frequently goes out hiking. She takes great inspiration from nature, and that is reflected in her pieces, which

are often themed around wildlife. You can always find lots of green and brown in her artwork.

"It's different than other artwork in the sense that it's not just good — there's always depth to it and she always has a story behind all her artwork," tenth-grader Shalini Nair said. "I have a class with her this year and I always notice that she has a sketchbook open or she's drawing, and she'll explain that



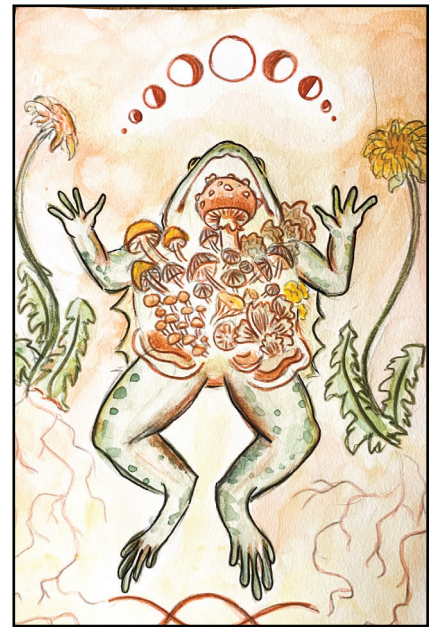
she was making a bluejay for her brother or her dad... That's what makes her art so special."

Sherman often uses watercolor and colored pencils, but she likes to experiment with all kinds of mediums and tools, enjoying the versatility of traditional art.

"I think it's very rewarding," Sherman said. "It makes me feel like I've accomplished something. And I find it really nice to push myself to keep going and to see myself improve as I go."

But like any artist, she also faces artist's block and understands how discouraging it can be to get stuck.

"I try and practice instead of necessarily drawing finished pieces. I'll draw things from reference images to practice anatomy. And I won't get too upset if it turns out wrong because I know I can't push myself if I'm struggling with ideas," Sherman said.



"Keep going with it," she said, directing her advice towards budding artists. "Even if where you start is not where you hope to be, keep going with it. You'll improve. And it's kind of a struggle because as you go, as you're drawing, sometimes you feel like you're not improving at all. But if you keep going with it one day, when you look back, you'll realize the journey you've made, and that's the most rewarding part of it."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELLA ROSE SHERMAN

'Born Pink': An Honest Review

by Janice Chi
Humor Editor

"BlackPink in your area!" Screaming and shouting echoed worldwide when BlackPink's comeback was released Sept. 16. Fans had been waiting for this moment for two years. Did it live up to the expectations or was it a major flop? Today, News Assistant Editor Sofia Giannattasio, Social Media Manager Nathan DeSouza, and I will be doing a rundown of each song on BlackPink's latest album, "Born Pink."

"Born Pink" is a pop-based collection mixed with disco and ballads. We're here to share our honest opinions on this release, ranking each song from best to worst based on vocals, instrumentals, and the chorus. Without further ado, let's dive in.

"Pink Venom":

This song starts off strong with traditional Korean plucked zither strumming in the background while chants of "BlackPink" are heard. The rise to the chorus excites listeners with powerful vocals and instrumentals.

Throughout the song, you can find many interpolations from old bops such as "Kick in the Door" by the Notorious B.I.G., "Pon De Replay" by Rihanna, and "P.I.M.P." by 50 Cent.

Giannattasio gave this song an outstanding rating, but DeSouza and I thought otherwise. The instrumentals are ear candy, but nothing stood out.

"Shut Down":

"Shut Down" is a hip-hop based song with La Campanella string samples ringing in the background. The rapping overshadows the vocals, although the rap is the song's main focus.

This song had me grooving for three whole minutes. The instrumentals are immaculate, and we all agreed that this song was the best on the album.

"Typa Girl":

Unlike the previous songs, "Typa Girl" begins with a soft melody. But, after 15 seconds, the beat drops and the true vibe is uncovered. However, nothing really stood out about the song, hence why the ratings are so-so.

"Yeah Yeah Yeah":

Mixed in with a drop of the 80's, "Yeah Yeah Yeah" is a track with vulnerable lyrics that contrast with the pop-based instrumental. Everything about this song is amazing, minus the hook, which didn't fit the vibe. If it weren't for the chorus, I think it'd be my favorite from this album. Sadly, this song is overshadowed by the others.

"Hard to Love":

A solo piece in English sung by BlackPink member Rose, "Hard to Love" is a retro-pop track. After listening to it a few times, I think it's such a danceable song. However, the lyrics tell a different story as it talks about troubles with commitment to a relationship. De-

Souza and I rated this song highly, but Giannattasio disagreed.

"The Happiest Girl":

This is another song in English that was announced to have been the co-focus for "Born Pink," behind the title track. The piano-ballad style is a new style for BlackPink. With its pleasing vocals, calm vibe, and great ending, I could fall asleep listening to this song.

"Tally":

This track contains crisp guitar tones which contribute to a slight rock feel. The song progresses with a lot of repetition, making it catchy and enjoyable. It's just another average song, nothing special.

"Ready for Love":

We never want to listen to this ever again, besides maybe DeSouza.

"This reminds me of free YouTube music," Giannattasio said.

I strongly agreed. It sounds like you would hear it in a Roblox game. Take a look at the music video and you'll be met with animations; each member has their own character because the song was a collaboration with PUBG Mobile.

The whole song is awkward to listen to. I'm not sure who thought it was okay to release it, but at least they got a great chance to collaborate! That being said, this is easily at the bottom of the list for us.



Song Ratings

Pink Venom

VOCALS ★★★★★
CHORUS ★★★★★
INS ★★★★★

Hard to Love

VOCALS ★★★★★
CHORUS ★★★★★
INS ★★★★★

Shut Down

VOCALS ★★★★★
CHORUS ★★★★★
INS ★★★★★

The Happiest Girl

VOCALS ★★★★★
CHORUS ★★★★★
INS ★★★★★

Typa Girl

VOCALS ★★★★★
CHORUS ★★★★★
INS ★★★★★

Tally

VOCALS ★★★★★
CHORUS ★★★★★
INS ★★★★★

Yeah Yeah Yeah

VOCALS ★★★★★
CHORUS ★★★★★
INS ★★★★★

Ready for Love

VOCALS ★★★★★
CHORUS ★★★★★
INS ★★★★★

He's 'rolling' down in the deep



With plans to learn a new song, tenth-grader Evan Rollings practices playing the guitar in the band room. Rollings has been playing guitar for seven years. PHOTO BY NATHAN DESOUZA

by Nathan DeSouza

Social Media Manager

Having played guitar for seven years now, tenth-grader Evan Rollings started his journey with the instrument when his mother introduced him to it at an early age.

As time went on, Rollings learned to grow a stronger appreciation for the guitar with the help of other instruments, such as the drums and piano.

Rollings said one of his favorite aspects of playing the guitar is the flexibility that one can have with it.

He elaborated that one can play a variety of genres on a single guitar while having fun with it. He has experimented with several styles and genres in his own time and has a lot to share based on his experiences trying them out.

"I like to focus on one genre really at a time, but I've done some stuff like classical," Rollings said. "Blues is really good to grow up on when you're starting guitar."

Rollings is currently interested in jazz and is in Pine View's jazz band.

Rollings said that his inspiration is Wes Montgomery, a jazz guitarist from the early 1900s. Montgomery started playing the guitar when he was 19 years old and became a professional after just six months. Rollings also looks up to him because he's one of the most influential jazz guitarists of all time.

Like many other musicians, Rollings experiences the difficulties of playing guitar. He said that at the beginning of learning how to play, blistered fingers are unavoidable.

"It's a lot of pain and frustration at the start, and that's how it stays for a very long time. But it's just a couple of humps you've got to get over to a pretty clear path," Rollings said.

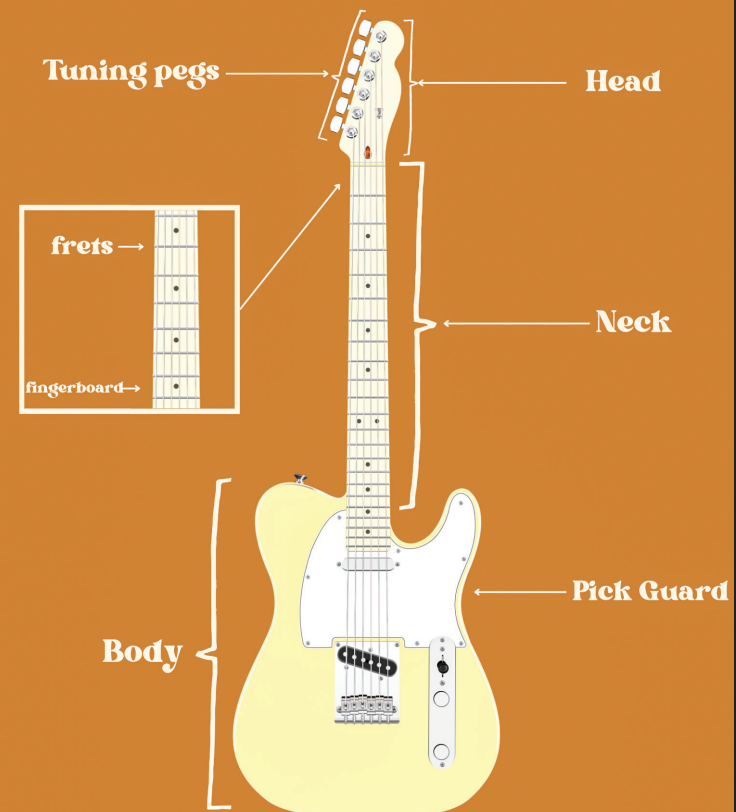
Outside of school, Rollings writes some of his own musical pieces and strives to start a band of his own one day.

Peers describe Rollings as talented, focused, and someone to look up to over-

all. His brother, tenth-grader Austin Rollings, said that he's determined and ambitious toward his future goals.

Rollings offers some advice for people experiencing any difficulties or obstacles with their own instruments: "Don't be weak or anything. Really, the biggest part of learning music is that it's difficult, and it's a huge commitment, but it has to be one that you're willing to take through a lot of struggle."

Basic Anatomy of a Guitar



GRAPHIC BY NATHAN DESOUZA

The 'Tight' Truth

Busting corset myths and analyzing the garment's history

by Camille Wright

Match Layout Artist

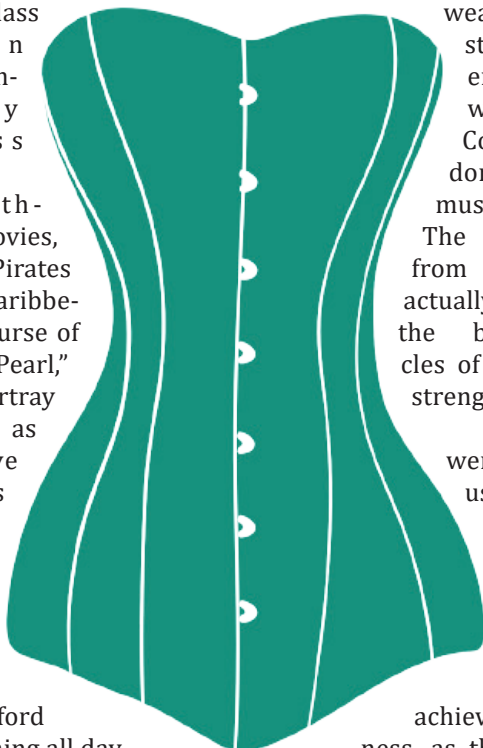
Fainting coaches, beautiful ballgowns, and giant manors: all essential elements of the classic period drama. Not to mention one of the most often used symbols for misogyny, classism, and oppression within this genre: the evil corset. At least, that's what modern Hollywood wants you to think. The role of corsets in fashion history is a lot more complicated than these movies show.

A tightly laced corset to get the classic hourglass shape is one of the most common tropes in period dramas to show how oppressed the main heroine is in a variety of movies, including recent pieces like "Emma," which came out in 2020. However, this is nowhere near how corsets were regularly worn. They were used in combination with padding to create the illusion of a tiny waist and bigger curves.

Corsets are often blamed for the stereotype of

Victorian woman falling all the time; it was more likely a combination of poor exercise and a way for higher class women to fashionably express shock.

Other movies, such as "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," also portray corsets as restrictive articles of clothing that only noble women who could afford to do nothing all day could reasonably wear. This is also untrue. Women of all stations in society wore corsets and were still able to complete all their daily tasks.



While the types of boning used to create the shape of the corset did create some resistance for the wearer, it was still practical enough to wear daily. Corsets also don't cause muscle atrophy. The resistance from the boning actually caused the back muscles of wearers to strengthen.

Corsets were also not used by men as a way to control women and hold them back from achieving greatness, as they've been made out to be. In fact, corsets were also at times fashionable for men to wear. Different forms of shapewear have been popular between

both sexes since they were first invented, such as stays, which were used to smooth

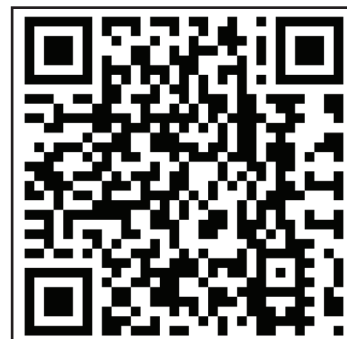
Corsets were also not used by men as a way to control women and hold them back from achieving greatness, as they've been made out to be.

the body so that clothing would hang more nicely.

Even with the negative portrayal of corsets in some movies and pop culture, they have still managed to make a comeback in different aesthetics such as cottagecore with the rise of corset style tops. Hopefully these trends will create a better understanding of corsets as they really are.

GRAPHIC BY ALYSON MIZANIN

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Scan this QR code to read the full story about twelfth-grader Maya Frankowski's art-based small business, Maya's Makes Market.

The Real GYM BROS of Pine View

by Sanya Patel
Managing Editor
Gym bros — we know them, we love them, and we can't live without them. But what really makes up a true gym bro? Are they really how they're portrayed on social media? Let's do a deep dive into Pine View's very own "gym bros" and find out for ourselves.

Starting at the bottom of the high school food chain is ninth-grader Noah Stewart. Stewart first started working out in the comfort of his home while watching TV, more specifically Naruto.

Stewart credits his dad as having impacted his workout journey.

"I eventually started going to the gym because of my dad; he taught me how to work out, basically," Stewart said.

Stewart spent the summer with his father in Alaska, where he first began to get "into it." When asked what keeps him motivated, Stewart replied with "nothing." Stewart said it's just fun to grind, which is gym bro slang that means "to work hard."

Stewart's thoughts on social media's depictions of gym bros is that the jokes mainly posted on TikTok aren't funny.

Representing the sophomore class is tenth-grader Leonardas Vapsva. Vapsva started working out during eighth grade and continued to pursue it with encouragement from his dad.

"It was just a hobby at first. I was playing basketball, but it was unrelated," he said.

When asked what's keeping him

going, Vapsva said, "It's not motivation, it's discipline at this point."

He likes to keep track of his calories, along with preparing meals mainly consisting of protein. To Vapsva, the online depiction of gym bros is funny, but he doesn't see himself falling into that category, claiming he's "not as crazy."

As far as advice goes, Vapsva said that taking breaks isn't an option, and staying focused will help you succeed.

Now's the time for a unique perspective from Pine View's very own "gym babe," eleventh-grader Jordan Kane. Kane first went to the gym with her brother right before he went off to college, leaving her to decide whether or not she wanted to continue on the workout path. Thinking she "might as well," Kane has

been going to the gym for a little over a year now. Her desire to make progress is what keeps her going.

"It's completely normal and good to take off days because it's super important to recognize that your body needs rest, but discipline also keeps you going," she said.

In contrast to the other gym bros, Kane believes that the "fake gym bros" shown on social media are less common than what may first appear.

"The best part of the gym is like, the moment you get there, you already have something in common with everyone else," Kane said.

She continues by saying that everyone in the gym is just there to work on themselves, which can lead to some surprising but fun friendships. For any future gym babes out there,

Kane said to not be scared because everyone has to start somewhere.

Next on the gym bro hierarchy is eleventh-grader Sawyer Grantham. Grantham first started getting



Tracking his fitness progress, ninth-grader Noah Stewart flexes in the gym mirror. Stewart has been working out since the summer of 2021. PHOTO PROVIDED BY NOAH STEWART

into working out because of his friends.

"My friend Nemmo started lifting over quarantine, and I started hanging out with him more. Then I started lifting on my own," Grantham said.

When it comes to motivation, Grantham takes working out in the gym very seriously, mentioning how he enjoys the responsibilities of "keeping [his] life in check by going to the gym," he said.

Grantham enjoys working out with friends, saying that it creates friendly competition and is great for motivation. However, he thinks working out alone is best in order to stay focused on goals.

As for all the stigma around being a gym bro, Grantham said, "I feel like all those people were there for [a] two-month period on social media, and then once it died down, they stopped because

they didn't have any real motivation and it's all just for the followers."

Grantham said that all next-generation gym bros out there shouldn't give up because results will not come immediately.

Last but not least is the final gym bro, twelfth-grader Shane Schwarzenbach. Schwarzenbach started working out this past summer in order to train for pole vaulting, which he plays at North Port High. This got him started with working out on a

regular basis, which led to Schwarzenbach training for himself on days when it wasn't required.

Schwarzenbach said that working out is good for his mental health and will help him be better prepared for his upcoming track season.

In response to the stigma, Schwarzenbach said, "You just go to the gym for yourself — to look good, to look stronger — whatever your goal is, and you

don't worry about all the stuff that you hear online."

His biggest tip for people starting out is to make sure your form is "locked down" before you move on to heavier weights.

"Make sure you're using the right muscles when you're lifting to optimize your workout, and once you can do that, start increasing the weight," he said.

Schwarzenbach said that keeping a good schedule and staying focused will have you seeing the results you want.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SAWYER GRANTHAM

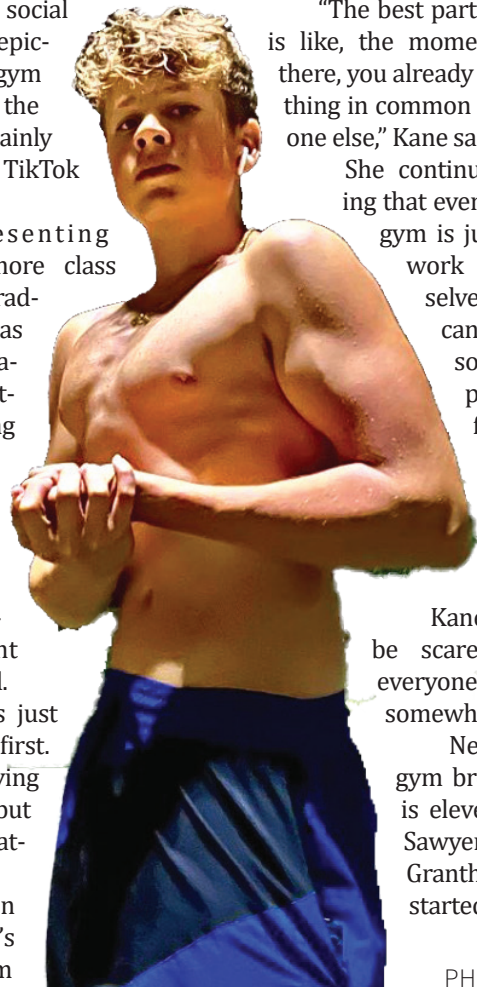


PHOTO PROVIDED BY LEONARDAS VAPSPA

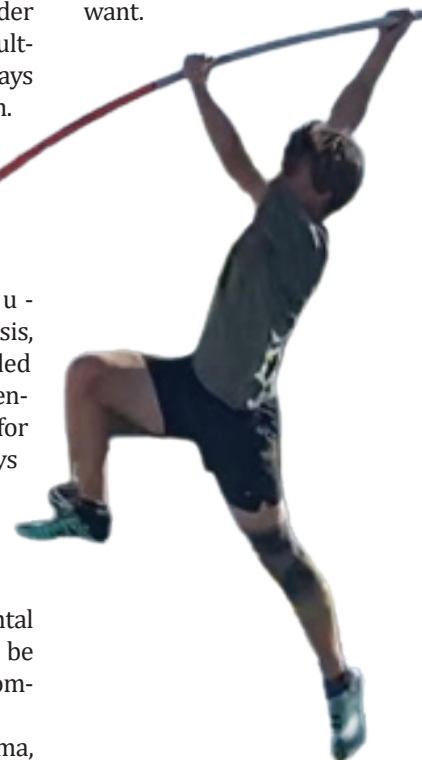


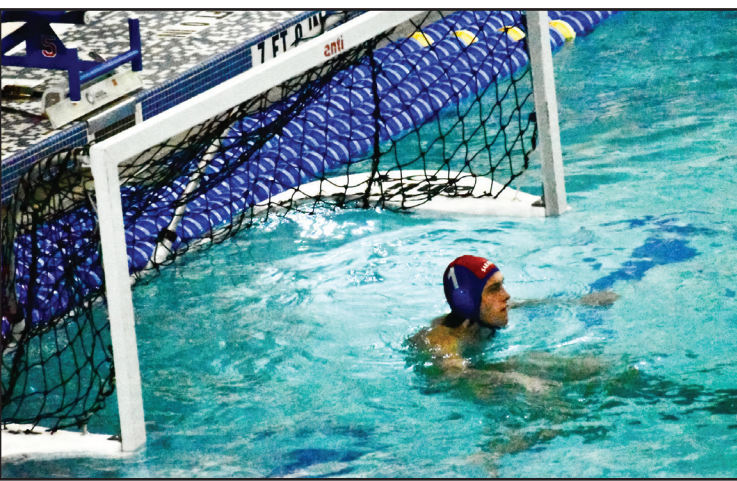
PHOTO PROVIDED BY SHANE SCHWARZENBACH

'Marco!' 'Polo!'

Cole Nebel competes in prestigious water polo competitions



Twelfth-grader Cole Nebel (behind number eight) and his water polo team warm up before starting a match. Nebel started playing water polo his sophomore year. PHOTO PROVIDED BY COLE NEBEL



During the Junior Olympics in Dallas, Texas, Nebel treads water, preparing to block anything thrown his way. Nebel's water polo prowess was preceded by eight years of competitive swimming. PHOTO PROVIDED BY COLE NEBEL

by Jada Davidson
Entertainment Editor

Five seconds left in the final quarter... Time is running out, and this goal will decide the outcome of the match. Twelfth-grader Cole Nebel, the team's goalie, treads water in front of the goal, prepared to block the opponent team's shot. He shoots... It's blocked! Nebel has done it once again, securing the win for his team!

Nebel's love for water polo began his sophomore year, after eight long years of swimming.

"I didn't know what [water polo] was at first. I didn't like waking up in the morning to go to swim practice at 4 a.m., so my mom decided to sign me up for water polo," he said.

Nebel's water polo career has taken him to many unique places, even internationally. He went to Serbia June 17 and stayed until June 24. Nebel's team practiced with Serbian high schoolers, accompanied by a translator. Before leaving, Nebel went to watch the U.S. versus Serbia men's water polo world championship, also known as FINA.

Nebel traveled to Dallas, Texas July 28 for the second time since starting water polo to compete in the Junior Olympics. The competition included two to three games per day for four days in three different pools. From all over the US, 80 teams participated in the water polo Junior Olympics and played in one pool per day.

There are different divisions, most notably the Gold and Platinum divisions. As the highest division, only 20 teams make it into Platinum. Nebel's team placed seventh in Platinum and fifth in Gold.

Other competitions include the Florida District Championship, which the Venice High water polo team, for which Nebel plays for, at-

tended for two days. They played two to three games each day and won in the 2021-2022 season.

Twelfth-grader and water polo center Cem Turkomer plays on the team with Nebel.

"It's often really exhausting because we have to play two or three games per day. But we do everything as a team, so there's a lot of camaraderie," Turkomer said.

When they're not competing or traveling, Nebel and Turkomer assist their coach, Marko Dzigurski, with recruiting

new teammates and running Marko Polo Water Polo Club, which meets at Swim SRQ. They're also self-sufficient, making their own goals and buying their own equipment.

"It's just a fun experience and a good exercise as well. It's a fun team community and environment," Nebel said.

It's just a fun experience and a good exercise as well. It's a fun team-community and environment,"

Cole Nebel, twelfth-grader

SPORTS AROUND THE WORLD WEIRD EDITION

Wife Carrying

Origin: Finland

Objective: To carry your wife through an obstacle course and have the fastest time.

And more: Finland now hosts an annual Wife Carrying World Championship.



Photo by Steve Jurveston

Camel Jumping

Origin: Yemen

Objective: To jump over a group of camels without any part of your body touching them.

And more: Whoever jumps over the most camels gets a cash prize.



Photo by Mohammed Huwaid

Shin Kicking

Origin: England

Objective: To kick your opponent's shins until one of you admits defeat by shouting "sufficient" and falling to the ground.

And more: Shin Kicking is played at the annual Cotswold Olympics, which started in 1612.



Photo by B3CFT/ Andy Brockhurst

SHARKS VS TSUNAMI

Two of the best swim teams in Sarasota, the Tsunami and the Sharks, often go head-to-head in competitions. Because they're opposing teams, some would assume that they're rivals; however, many are very good friends.



ETHAN OOI | SHARKS | ELEVENTH GRADE

"A couple years ago it was definitely very competitive, within especially the age group like 14 and under."



ETHAN WANG | TSUNAMI | ELEVENTH GRADE

"We like to joke around with like, we beat them, or they beat us, but at the end of the day, we're still all swimmers."



KATE DOMIAN | SHARKS | NINTH GRADE

"Whenever you put two teams against each other, obviously in a competitive sport they're going to compete against one another, but we're all good friends."



YUEKAI LU | SHARKS | TWELFTH GRADE

"A couple of the young kids still have a rivalry, but they're just following the tradition. That's how it used to be, so that's how they're going to be. When they get older, they're probably going to be just like us and realize it's just another team."

The Alpha Academy

Terry returns with new scholars in tow

by Aly Zaleski
Guest Contributor

Terry Shen. You've heard his name before. At first, an icon. A beacon of hope for his many followers. Upon last May's end-of-the-year update, a legend. An idol, leading his people to victory. The crowned prince of the gym and the king of our hearts.

Today, Terry comes to us as a businessman. Money falls out of every pocket, trailing his path as he walks. From now on, the world will know of his financial endeavors and their successes: The Alpha Academy.

After completing all four years of high school in only two semesters, Shen decided to travel the world. He packed his bags and took off on his private jet and started his travels in South America. From there he went to island after island, across Africa and to Asia. Shen even took on the freezing climates of the North and South Poles.

During his visit to France, Shen picked up some inspiration. Seeing the gorgeous and well-run fashion schools all across the coun-



try, Shen knew what he had to do.

This past summer, Shen set out to build a private brick and mortar gym school with his bare hands. With a lack of tools and an iron will, Shen achieved his goal within three weeks. After the future students had been reached out to, dorms opened and the world was ready to see The Alpha Academy.

In my research, I found three of The Alpha Academy's top students — ninth-graders Rohan Dash (RD), Nathan DeSouza (ND), and Liam Dingman (LD) — who have gone through the trials and tribulations of becoming a true alpha like Shen himself. After the excessive amounts of hoops I had to jump through to be able to contact the new up and coming alphas, I was able to get some quotes from them on the man himself and their experiences with him and his school.

ND: Being part of this plan that Terry has for us is really a breathtaking experience. I mean, it's not everyday that you get to be in the presence of the Almighty Alpha.

RD: Yeah, like Terry Shen is so alpha that he makes everyone around him more alpha as well.

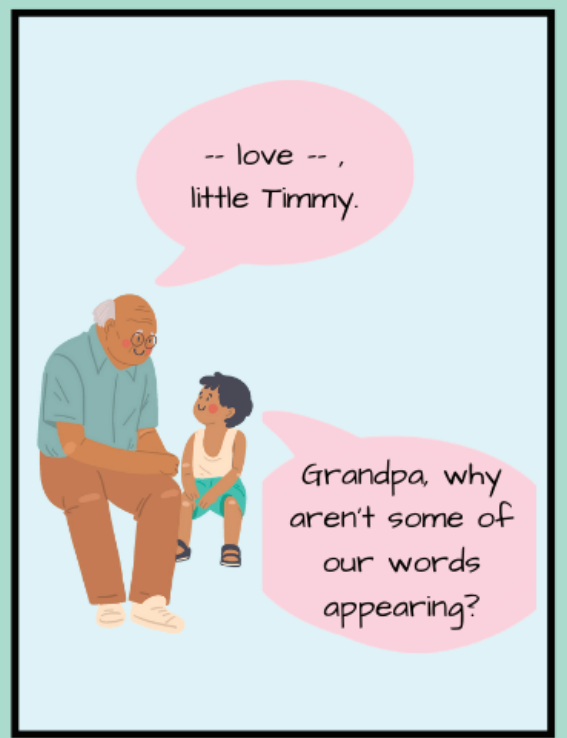
LD: Terry is a man of few words and many talents. It was an honor learning from the muscular, chiseled, seven and a half foot alpha himself. I struggled to hold onto the monkey bars for more than half a second, but we had to stop Terry after 30 minutes so we could move onto the next training activity.

RD: Everything the guy does is the epitome of alpha.



PHOTOS BY ALYSON MIZANIN

A World without PRONOUNS



GRAPHIC BY AVA LENERZ AND SANYA PATEL

Exclusive Interview with the First Parent in the Pick-Up Loop

by Lily Quartermaine
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

There's little in life that brings self-proclaimed "soccer mom" Linda Johnson as much relaxation as waiting in the Pine View car loop with a good romance novel. She enjoys it so much, in fact, that she's often the first parent in line. Just last week, Linda dropped her son, Joseph Johnson, off to school at 7:15 a.m. and then proceeded to wait in the car line for the entire day.

Lily Quartermaine (LQ): Linda, I have to say, it's an honor to sit down with you.

Linda Johnson: Oh, shucks. Thank you.

LQ: I know myself and many others see your car in the loop so early in the day and have always wondered, "What's she up to?"

Linda: It's actually an SUV, not a car. A 2015 Ford Fiesta.

LQ: Oh, sorry. So, what are your motivations for being so early to the line?

Linda: Well, I like to make sure little Joey, my son, can get to soccer on time.

LQ: So you arrive three hours early?

Linda: Sometimes earlier.

LQ: Wow, so how far away is the soccer practice?

Linda: Two or three minutes maybe. Not far.

LQ: Oh. Okay. So, I have to ask, what do you do in there?

Linda: In where?

LQ: The car — sorry, the Ford Fiesta?

Linda: Oh, I read, haha. Things my kids can't read, if you know what I mean.

LQ: What? Wait, what?



Linda: Nevermind, honey. I also people-watch. Some of the things you kids wear these days! You know, I saw a girl with blue hair the other day. Honestly, it could've been a very feminine boy.

LQ: Oh, that was me.

Linda: I don't like it. Can you vote, honey? Who did you vote for?

LQ: Sorry, um. No, I can't vote. Anyways, do you feel like your

waiting in the car line early serves as a display of your love for Joseph?

Linda: I don't wait because I love him, I wait because I have to get him to soccer.

LQ: I thought you said that his soccer meetings were relatively close to school?

Linda: Are you being short with me, young lady? Can't anyone in your generation respect your elders?

LQ: No, no, I'm just asking. What's in that lunchbox you're holding, by the way?

Linda: Oh, this is my Keto lunchbox. I have a smoothie.

LQ: What on Earth is that?

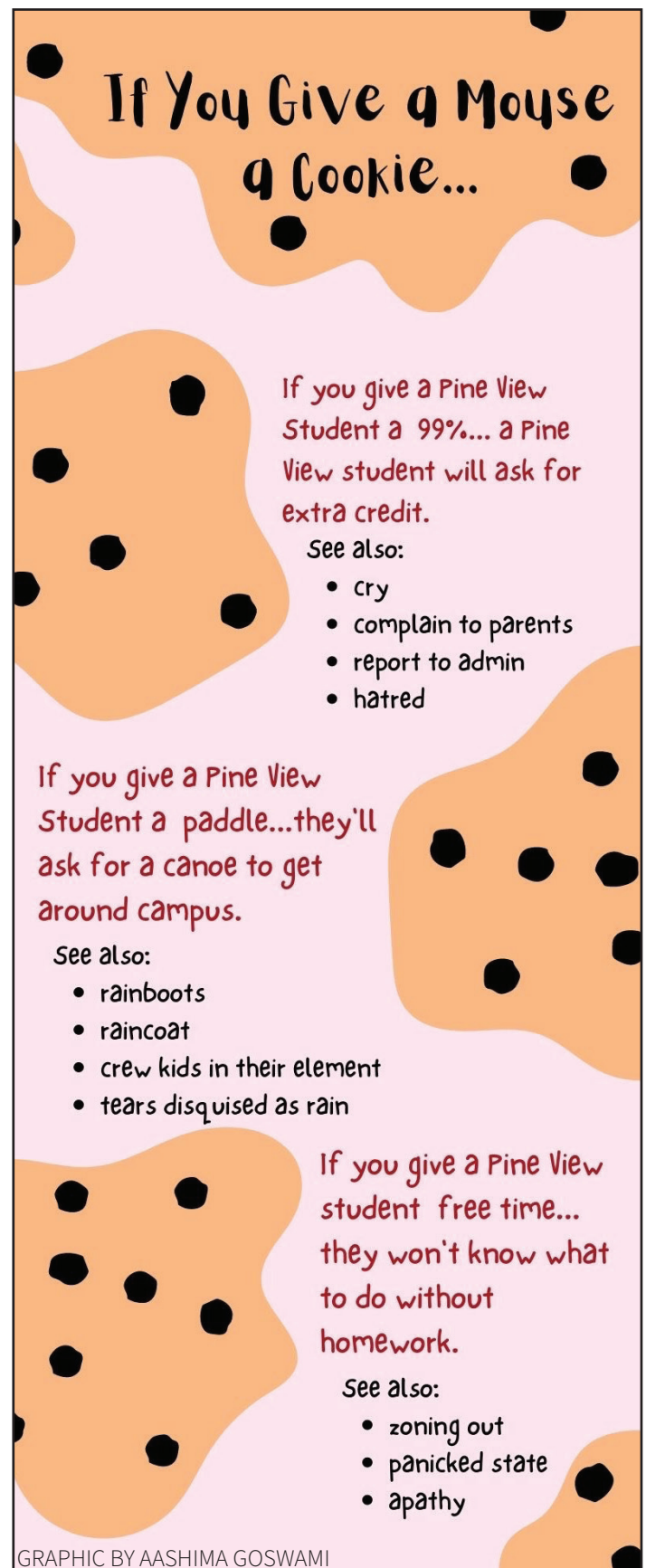
Linda: This is my Keto lunch. It's a fried slice of bologna with assorted cheese slices melted on top. I also have a hardboiled egg wrapped with bacon. It's very good. I have a microwave in the back seat. Do you want to come see?

LQ: You want me to come in your car?

Linda: Yes. I have a whole setup back here. I cook lots of food in the Fiesta.

LQ: I don't think I need to see. I trust you. I think I'll pass on that.

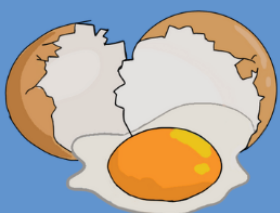
GRAPHIC BY JANICE CHI



Three Pieces of Advice:



Avoid eating only sugar for an entire week. You might begin to hallucinate. Would not recommend.



When using eggs for cooking, throw away the shell. DO NOT EAT IT. Also would not recommend.



If a door says "push," make sure to not pull it. You don't want to know why I would not recommend.

The Heavy Headlines

by Felicity Chang
Director of Digital Media

How do you handle desensitization? That was the question I asked many industry professionals during JCamp 2022 — a week-long journalism intensive for high school students organized by the Asian American Journalists Association.

I vividly remember one



At JCamp 2022, Gordon Stables, University of Southern California journalism director, addresses a cohort of attendees, including Felicity Chang. There, Chang ruminated on the concept of desensitization.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY FELICITY CHANG, GRAPHIC BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI
answer: “I try not to, but it’s always a lingering thought I would become that jaded, cynical reporter in the back of the newsroom unphased by anything.”

When we think of desensitization, we think of tragedy, violence, war — major events that should seem catastrophic in the moment. Yet, they don’t. A bombing in a country that’s not our own. A shooting in a community we’re unfamiliar with. A war that has been going on long enough to lose appeal to sensationalism. With enough exposure to shocking headlines, they don’t seem to be so shocking to us anymore.

I remember first seeing the “Breaking News” notifications popping up on my screen after the Uvalde school shooting and lamenting myself for not reacting immediately. “Am I becoming so heartless, so soon?” was an intrusive thought that never seemed to escape my mind. I knew that I cared about the victims — perhaps much more than I initially realized — but the cynic in me was almost expecting yet another headline about a U. S. mass shooting.

It wasn’t until I saw “Remembering the Victims of the Uvalde Shooting” published on the New York Times website that I started associating faces with the numbers. Those faces brimmed with life, donning bright smiles. As I read about an eleven-year-old girl with wire-rimmed glasses — who loved music, mermaids, and playing Roblox — I thought about when my little cousin would prop

her feet on our grandma’s coffee table while laughing about her latest gaming accomplishments. I couldn’t even begin to imagine how I would react if she was the one in that article instead. It was only then that the tears started to fall, belatedly, and the emotionless facade of desensitization crumbled.

This phenomenon has been extensively researched

and documented by the American Academy of Pediatrics. In a 2009 article, the Council on Communications and Media recommended pediatricians and other health care providers to “advocate for a safer media environment for children by encouraging media literacy.” Mitigating desensitization should not come at the cost of losing all touch with current events — in fact, avoiding the consumption of news is not only unrealistic, but also dangerous. Misinformation can be rampant, even offline, and it’s nearly impossible to avoid the bombardment of attention-grabbing headlines.

Media literacy isn’t just for children, as many adolescents and adults aren’t fully equipped with healthy coping mechanisms for their media consumption. According to a 2015 study by the British Psychology Society, “viewing violent news events via social media can cause people to experience symptoms similar to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).” Desensitization isn’t the only issue associated with exposure to violence in news — the other extreme of PTSD-esque symptoms isn’t optimal either.

However, balancing the breaking news headlines with lighter feature stories on art galleries or dog parks may prove to be helpful. It’s almost guaranteed that a top comment under a major news outlet’s latest Instagram post is something along the lines of “When did this become news?” but those slice-of-life narratives are essential to our media consumption.

To students: you’re not alone

by Jiayi Zhu
Asst. Match Editor-in-Chief

In August, a new policy was enacted in Sarasota County schools, aligning with Florida’s Parental Rights in Education — also known as “Don’t Say Gay” — law. According to a flowchart originally published by the county, when students ask a school staff member to refer to them by different names or pronouns, the staff member must “notify [the] administrator and school counselor,” who then in turn must “notify the parent of the request.”

The policy has since been halted; the district website reads “under revision” under Student Services — Gender Diverse Guidelines.

This new policy fails to recognize our needs as students, creating an unsuitable environment. Students now feel disrespected and scared in a place they once thought was safe. Additionally, teachers are limited in curriculum and fear they could now endanger students. Twelfth-grader Nora Mitchell, a Booker High School student, has noticed the policy’s effect on staff and students.

“This has been incredibly hard on all students, but particularly our LGBTQIA+ students, because they don’t feel safe at school,” Mitchell said. “I’ve heard stories of students who, when they’re not allowed to be called their actual name or pronouns, they’ve broken down in class. It’s terrifying to have your teachers essentially be treated as police. Not only do you have maybe three or four SROs on campus, you now have hundreds of other teachers who are required to police you.”

The idea that the policy restores the integrity of our education institutions is unfounded, as it

disregards students’ needs to succeed when faced with unsupportive parents.

The damaging effects of these unsupportive parents in queer children’s lives shouldn’t be ignored. LGBTQ+ teens that face parental rejection experience higher levels of depression and risky behavior compared to those who face little to no rejection, according to the American Psychological Association. “Family rejection is strongly associated with mental health problems and suicidality, substance use, and sexual risk... Youth with highly rejecting families are often forced to leave the home, leading to overrepresentation of LGBTQ+ teens in the homeless youth population and foster care system,” according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information.

For those students who aren’t ready or unable to safely make use of the district’s “Gender Support Plan,” know that it’s okay to be feeling uncertain. No matter what, you’re not alone. If it’s not possible

to do so with your parents, consider opening up a conversation about sexuality and/or gender with peers or safe adults, but don’t feel pressured to come out to anyone if you’re not ready.

To parents, know that your actions have an effect on your child. You could be giving them dysphoria with the things you say and do regarding the LGBTQ+ community. It’s not worth it to damage your relationship with your child just because of how they identify. Home shouldn’t be another unsafe space.

Normalizing communication and LGBTQ+ conversations is extremely important. It’s never too late to learn, or to find an accepting community to talk to.

This new district policy fails to recognize our needs as students, creating an unsuitable environment.

[guest editorial] Parents need a role

by Max Hale and Elijah Hurt
Guest Contributors

House Bill (HB) 1557, also known as the Parental Rights in Education bill, was signed into law March 28. Wrongfully dubbed the “Don’t Say Gay” bill by dishonest opponents, HB 1557 has created an important discussion about parents’ roles in what their kids are exposed to within schools.

This bill, applicable only to K-3 students, prohibits “classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity... in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students.”

Public schools are government-funded institutions meant to foster environments for students to flourish. These institutions must focus on establishing foundations in core subjects such as reading and math. They’re not to be facilities promoting ideologies to impressionable children.

As we grow, we’re exposed to more choices; concurrent to this is the development of maturity and responsibility. For example, seventh-graders aren’t allowed to operate vehicles, but as they gain more understanding of the responsibility of driving, this privilege is later granted. For decades, this logic has been applied in sound legislation involving consent, marriage, and drinking age.

It’s imperative that a line be drawn as to when a student can establish a fully formed view of sexual orientation. To ensure this standard is met across Florida, HB 1557 was created, prohibiting discussion of all sexual orientations. Topics like this are deeply personal and for parents, not

educators, to handle.

To suggest that schools or teachers should have more say than parents in their children’s education is incredulous. Parents have the right to guide their kids’ educations and ensure their values are protected and instilled. Schools shouldn’t contradict parents outside their domain of educating students.

Teachers should never use their positions of trust to instill their own agendas; rather, they should follow the agreed upon curriculum. Considerable time and energy are put into designing the best possible curricula. Attempting to instill agendas betrays the trust teachers hold.

The safety of students should always be held to the highest regard. Just like with any new legislation, all impacts must be examined. Understandably, many are concerned that parents who are against certain orientations may react negatively if informed of their child’s orientation.

However, law makers have considered these situations and established a clause to prevent events in which parents would act adversely: “School district procedures may authorize school district personnel to withhold information only for a reasonable belief that disclosure would subject the student to abuse, abandonment, or neglect.”

HB 1557 is an essential piece of legislation which will enhance Florida public schools by continuing to improve the experience of parents, students, and teachers, creating the best environment to achieve the common goal of education.

Parents have the right to guide their kids’ educations and ensure their values are protected and instilled.

RESOURCES If you’re struggling and looking for help, these are some general resources from the district to consider:
FOR EVERYONE

Sarasota County Schools
Family Resources

<https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/Page/2672>

Tri-County
Counseling

941-876-3060

(Children’s) Mobile
Response Team

941-374-3213

National Suicide
Prevention Line

988

Child Protection
Center

941-365-1277x110

GRAPHIC BY JIAYI ZHU

[staff editorial]
Politicization: Crossing the Line

“[T]he election of members of the district school board shall be by vote of the qualified electors of the entire district in a nonpartisan election,” reads Florida statute 1001.361.

That statute has governed management of school board elections in the Sunshine State for nearly 20 years. Following recent state involvement in local school board affairs, however, it seems as though this former promise to nonpartisanship is going by the wayside.

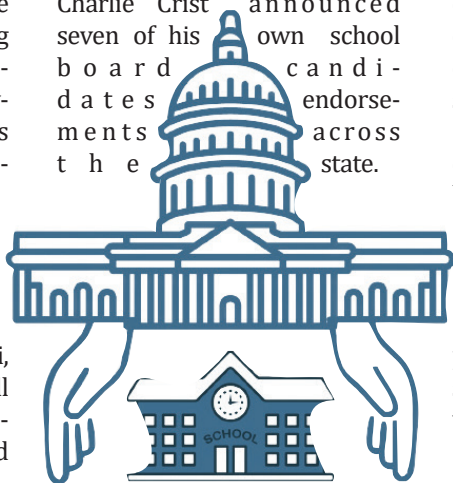
In the Aug. 23 primary, three of Sarasota County’s five school board seats were up for grabs. Three candidates — Tim Enos, Robyn Marinelli, and Bridget Ziegler — were all endorsed by Governor Ron DeSantis, who publicly supported 27 other candidates in their respective district elections.

“Florida has led with purpose and conviction that our school system is about education, not indoctrination,” DeSantis wrote in a Tweet the day of the primary.

DeSantis added that his 30 endorsements were “committed to the student-first principles of the DeSantis Edu-

cation Agenda,” his initiative to “keep woke ideology out of our schools” and “educate, [not] indoctrinate,” among other ideals, according to his website.

Following DeSantis’ endorsements, Florida Democratic gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist announced seven of his own school board candidates across the state.



Crist’s and DeSantis’ endorsements were unprecedented in Florida. Never before have major political figures gotten so involved in local affairs — and yet their involvement speaks to a new national wave of political inundation in environments that operate most effectively under nonpartisanship.

Because of statute 1001.361, school board candidates don’t run with affiliations to any party. They’re not supposed to advertise themselves as Democrats or Republicans, with the understanding that their work overseeing school districts directly affects students — and that, for the good of all students, politics should stay out of the classroom.

This issue lies not in the endorsees’ political affiliations, but in their crossing the line of nonpartisanship in elections specifically designated as nonpartisan. Educational environments shouldn’t be reduced to political conquests — not when students’ academic and mental well-beings are on the line.

After 19 of his 30 endorsements won their respective elections, DeSantis may have succeeded in his goal of “get[ting] the Florida political apparatus involved” in local affairs, but students only suffer when their educations are impeded by political agendas. We deserve to be seen as more than just pawns in a greater political scheme.

GRAPHIC BY ALYSON MIZANIN

From Lindsay, with Love
A need for optimism

To begin, I’d like to introduce myself as your Opinion Editor! My name is Lindsay Luberecki, I’m a sophomore, and I’ve been at Pine View since sixth grade.

That time since sixth grade until now has been anything but straightforward. At the beginning of this year, I kept accidentally calling myself a freshman; it still doesn’t really feel like I only have two more years after this one until I go to college. I find myself questioning how a whole year of high school has already gone by, and I’m fairly confident that this is a shared experience.

We’ve all experienced more in three years than we ever thought we would. It’s been a real rollercoaster since that “two-week spring break” that kickstarted the tumultuous years of Covid-19. It felt almost suffocating: first, it was being at home, joining classes through a computer screen, barely seeing any friends. Then it was back at school, but with masks, wiping down the desks, that constant noxious hand sanitizer.

While the start of this year seems to mark a transition from these traditions of the past, we’re beginning it with something new, but in a way, equally suffocating. While it may not be a physical quarantine, the censorship and restriction students are facing now still puts a dampener on expression and on



Lindsay Luberecki
Opinion Editor

being free and unrestricted.

Books are being banned, taken off shelves. Gender and sexuality are seen as dangers, and students’ well-beings are at risk because of it. Parent permission is being drawn into more aspects of student life than ever before. Politicization poses a threat to keeping the interests of students first.

It feels never-ending. We’ve escaped one cage, only to end up forced into another. Our formative years are carrying themselves out in a way no one could’ve predicted. However, it’s not completely without hope. The image of past years isn’t complete without the good that has also come out of them.

As hard as it may be, I’m confident that this year and those to come will see a similar trend. Whether you want to call it seeing the silver lining, seeing the glass half-full, or looking on the bright side, it’s safe to say that we can still look forward to a good year. I know I am.

[student voices]
Are you planning to vote in the upcoming election?



Will Hartvigsen, twelfth-grader

“Yes, I plan on voting in the upcoming election. In my opinion, I think a lot of people talk about how much they love democracy, and I think it’s important as someone who understands and loves the system in the U.S. to participate. I have a few things that I really believe in politically, and I think that the only way I’m going to get represented the way I want is to go and vote. It’s just something I’ve been waiting my whole lifetime to do.”

I’m definitely planning on voting in the midterm elections. I’ve honestly been waiting for this my entire life. I love politics, I plan to major in politics, I want to go into politics, so this is such a huge deal for me, and I hope I’ll remember my first voting experience for the rest of my life. I think it’s incredibly important to participate in all types of elections, just because it’s so important if there’s a topic that you believe in to vote in order to have the change you want to see... There’s definitely a lot of things politically going on right now where I would definitely like to see some changes, things that are affecting me personally... I think the midterm elections are so crucial right now, and I would encourage anyone who is eligible to vote to definitely participate in voting.”



Abigail Sweitzer, twelfth-grader

“I definitely do plan on voting because it’s an opportunity that not everybody has, so because I’m able to, I would like to. But also at the same time, I’m not fully knowledgeable on the politics and everything that’s going on, so before I vote, I do want to and need to inform myself on who I plan on voting for before I do.”



Jessica Barrett, twelfth-grader

PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS BY JIAYI ZHU

the Torch

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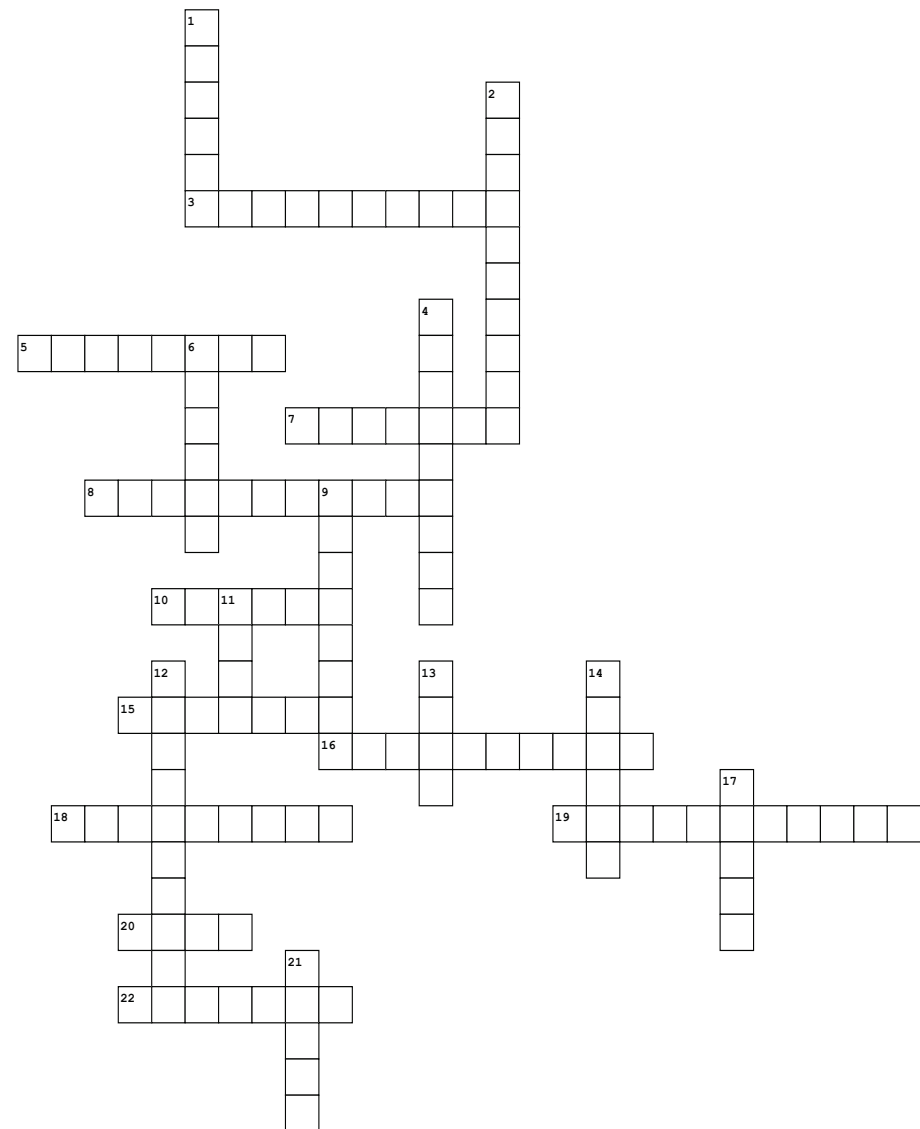
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T RCH

CROSSWORD

Hints correspond to information shared in the stories throughout this issue. The first person to bring their accurate, completed crossword to Room 117 in Building 17 will win a \$5 gift card. Good luck!



across

down

- 3. Word said when admitting defeat in shin kicking competition
- 5. Who Shane Schwarzenbach says you should go to the gym for
- 7. The genre of concert Megan Remo helped facilitate in the White House
- 8. Popular aesthetic bringing back corsets
- 10. School Gabriel Harris runs cross-country for
- 15. Sports-based anime about 5'4" character
- 16. Concept intended to be covered next school year in AP Precalculus unit four
- 18. Substance used to kill plant tissue cells
- 19. TV network Megan Remo formerly worked for
- 20. Statewide testing replacing former FSA
- 22. Bird EllaRose Sherman drew as a gift

- 1. Upcoming December meteor showers
- 2. Evan Rollings' jazz guitar inspiration
- 4. AP Lang essay based on seven sources
- 6. Approximate number of people who helped at the Pine View cleanup
- 9. Company hosting Sarasota escape room
- 11. Part of guitar with frets and fingerboard
- 12. Sport Leonardas Vapsva first started playing
- 13. Pine View alum, now SMH Board Northern District Seat 1
- 14. Country Cole Nebel visited for water polo this summer
- 17. The type of academy Terry Shen made in three weeks
- 21. New BlackPink song with rock feel

Fireside Chats

Making the most of it

1,173 days ago, members of Pine View's Class of 2023 started their first day of high school.

Jam-packed into those 1,173 days have been tests and projects, successes and failures, smiles and tears galore.

Somewhere toward the beginning of that 1,173-day span, I used to scoff at advice from upperclassmen and adults who said that the time would go by quickly.

Yet here we are, with 205 days left before high school graduation and new worlds knocking at our doors.

And much like the people before me, I still can't believe just how fast everything has happened.

I know, I know — let the eyerolling commence, Class of 2026. I don't blame you. I've fallen into the same trap I for-

merly ridiculed, but that's all just part of the ride, isn't it? We're entranced by the magic the future seems to hold, all before realizing the real excitement rests in the journey it takes to get there.

Don't get me wrong — I'm beyond excited for future senior festivities and traditions, and I'm already mentally gearing up for the sobbing that'll undoubtedly follow graduation. But my love for Pine



Alyson Mizanin
Editor-in-Chief

View has come not from my anticipation for the future, but instead from the moments and memories I've lived through-

We're entranced by the magic the future seems to hold, all before realizing the real excitement rests in the journey it takes to get there.

out these past four years, particularly the ones I never would've expected to happen during the first few of those 1,173 days.

Take that leap. Start the project you've been holding off on. Talk to the person you've been wanting to. Explore what you've been avoiding.

Do it not for the future, but for now. You deserve it in this moment — and you'll cherish it later.

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The Soublis Family

J-Quest at Temple Sinai

Mail/Pac "N" Fax

school closed
indefinitely



SURVIVING IAN

The experiences and
aftermath of
Hurricane Ian in the
Pine View Community

SUPPL

- water
- flashlight
- candles
- toilet paper
- portable radio

EVACUATION
ZONE???

The Paper

IAN BECOMES CAT 4



Several roof panels from an office in Venice are nowhere to be found following the hurricane. Businesses and homes alike suffered property damages due to intense wind gusts. PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER



An uprooted oak tree lies on the property of a house in a Nokomis neighborhood, blocking off access to the driveway and road. Many fallen trees were decades old. PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER

School administrator leads the way

by Alyson Mizanin
Editor-in-Chief

Time was ticking as floodwaters rose in North Port Sept. 29. The school administrators running the Lamarque Elementary shelter reached out to Elementary Assistant Principal Roy Sprinkle in a panic, explaining that water was rapidly approaching the switchbox for their generator — which was the only reason over 250 medically fragile evacuees had access to oxygen.

“If that electricity goes, you’re counting a matter of minutes before they lose oxygen and lose their lives,” Sprinkle said.

Having spent eight days during and following Hurricane Ian at Sarasota’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Sprinkle worked with

police, fire and state rescue, and the National Guard to make a plan to evacuate more than 250 people sheltered and stationed at Lamarque.

Due to the intense



PHOTO BY JIAYI ZHU

flooding in North Port, school buses were the only feasible transportation medium for evacuation. Sprinkle directed

bus drivers to Lamarque via radio. The drivers managed to get through high water, fallen powerlines, closed bridges, nearby sinkholes, and other assorted debris — the drivers Sprinkle spoke to described it as “a bad action movie,” he said.

Seven hours of transport and organization later, all Lamarque evacuees were brought to the Tatum Ridge shelter in north Sarasota.

“Those bus drivers and the dispatch were our heroes,” Sprinkle said. “[I’m]

absolutely not.”

While at the EOC, Sprinkle communicated with county shelters and ordered portable showers and toilets, 3,500

meal ready-to-eat (MRE) packages, and thousands of gallons of bottled water, which were distributed to surrounding shelters.

“One of the biggest challenges in dealing with the different

municipalities is making sure everyone is working together, especially with the Lamarque situation,” Sprinkle said. “Everyone is eager to help and that’s why they’re there, but

you need someone to guide the ship. It was a challenging, nail-biting experience, but it was successful.”

Sprinkle attributes his 30-year tenure working in elementary, middle, and high schools as the reason he was able to manage the shelters, considering “we deal with crises in schools — if you’ve done it long enough, you learn to remain calm in those situations,” he said.

Despite the efforts he contributed to, Sprinkle remains humble.

“It was something that needed to be done, so I did it,” he said. “That’s the bottom line. Almost all my colleagues would do the exact same thing — I just happened to be there... I’ll do it again if they need it.”

REPORTING BY JIAYI ZHU

“I just happened to be there... I’ll do it again if they need it,”
Roy Sprinkle,
Elementary Assistant
Principal

Students initiate fundraising efforts

by Alyson Mizanin
Editor-in-Chief

Over the past few weeks, students and community members alike have come together to help Sarasota County and other communities affected by Hurricane Ian.

Service-oriented clubs like UNICEF and Key Club recently held restaurant fundraisers and donation drives.

UNICEF’s Oct. 10 Chipotle fundraiser raised \$116, which twelfth-grader and club president Julian Chauhan plans to have donated to the Save the Children 2022 Hurricane Relief Fund. The fund’s mission is to restore and provide supplies to child care centers.

“Since our club is committed to providing humanitarian relief to children, it only made sense to help those affected by something so close to us,” Chauhan said. “[The outcome] made me feel comfortable and proud, knowing that our community is quick to mobilize to help others.”

Key Club held a donation drive in exchange for community service hours Oct. 17. Twelfth-grader and club

president Rose Calleja was inspired by donation drives launched by other Key Clubs in the area.

“There’s a lot of people in Sarasota who were hit and affected by the hurricane, so I thought [the drive] was a good way to help a cause that we’re passionate about as a club,” Calleja said.

With donations ranging from nonperishable foodstuff to aluminum foil, Calleja said the 60-some items Key Club collected will be sent to shelters and relief programs in south county.

“It makes me feel really proud that the club can come together to support our communities,” she said.

Other initiatives were organized more individually. Eleventh-grader Shanika Farah lived in Fort Myers during Hurricane Irma; her experiences shaped the way she felt she could help Sarasota County following Ian.

“I still remember all the stuff that happened down there a few years ago, with the flooding and people losing their homes and not having power for days,” Farah said. “Knowing what hap-

pened then, I really wanted to help now.”

Farah organized two separate fundraisers: one through GoFundMe, which raised \$2,500, and one through the American Red Cross, which garnered over \$800. She and her parents spread the word through social media, and the donations took off from there.

“I think these fundraisers were successful because people want to help, but they don’t know how,” Farah said. “Everyone that I’ve talked to — my family, my friends — wanted to help because their houses were fine, and they saw the devastating effects on other people. These fundraisers were common ground for helping.”

She intends for the GoFundMe donations to be utilized in Sarasota County’s school system, whereas the Red Cross donations will be sent directly to the foundation and used accordingly.

Farah and her family also received donations from friends they knew through a New Jersey youth ice hockey team. The donations included boxes full of shampoo,



After hours of organization and communication, eleventh-grader Shanika Farah poses with donations she and her family received for hurricane relief. Farah intends for her donations to be used directly in Sarasota County because of her experience living in Fort Myers during Hurricane Irma. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SHANIKA FARAH

chapstick, blankets, toothbrushes, and over 800 toothpaste tubes, all of which will be distributed to families in need in Sarasota County.

“I feel grateful that I’m

able to have this platform. From a humanitarian aspect, it’s a really good feeling to know you’re helping people who are in need right now,” Farah said.

Pine View community cleans up

by Alyson Mizanin
Editor-in-Chief

In the wake of Hurricane Ian, Pine View came together Oct. 5 to clean up debris that littered the campus.

Principal Dr. Stephen Covert sent an email out to the Pine View community about the clean-up Oct. 4. Within a few hours, approximately 80 students, parents, teachers, and community members signed up to help between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Many students volunteered to earn hours for Bright Futures. With some facilities like electricity and WiFi not having fully returned throughout the county, some said they were bored during their time off and wanted to see some familiar faces again while helping. Others expressed their interest in giving back to the community that has afforded them so much.

Former Pine View student and current Suncoast Polytechnical High ninth-grader Yegor Tkachenko volunteered with his friend, ninth-grader Nik Indoursky, who heard about the opportunity through his mother.

"It feels good to help and volunteer for our community. I want to help out in any way I can," Indoursky said.

Several students weren't new to the clean-up process; they'd spent time following

the hurricane, volunteering through local community centers, hospitals, and churches. Twelfth-grader and senior class president Jacob Koshy and ninth-graders Isabel Jerome and Juliette Pauling were such students.

"My reason for pitching in today is because I feel at home here. Because my home was affected, I came to help. It makes me happy, knowing we're a family here," Koshy said.

"At home, I do a lot of yardwork, so I figured I had a pretty good expertise in this scenario and should help out here. I want to get back to school as soon as possible — I want to see my friends," Jerome said. "It's nice being here today because I get to see some friends and it has been awhile."

"I wanted to come and help out our community. They needed help here, so it's nice giving back and volunteering for such a large campus. It's fun, too, seeing everyone," Pauling said.

Eleventh-graders Shireen Kaveh and Shannon Hickey spent the day working all throughout campus together.

"I like being outdoors and the weather was nice today, so I thought, 'Why not help?'" Kaveh said. "Plus, I got to see Shannon."

"Watching the news and seeing the destruction in North Port and Port Charlotte,

I felt that I should help out. I love Pine View so I thought I should assist," Hickey said. "I'm proud of Pine View and Sarasota County for coming together after the hurricane."

Pine View parent Leslie Turbeville is a former teacher and school administrator. He felt called to help Pine View after handling the damage his own house experienced.

"My daughter's in tenth grade and has been here since second grade, so we want to help the school any way we can," Turbeville said. "The community is pulling together pretty well. Hurricanes seem to bring people together; unfortunately we have them, but it's inspiring to see people support each other and do what they can."

Ninth-grader Thomas McLaughlin and twelfth-grader Nicolas Liberoni emphasized the importance of collaboration, unity, and community following the hurricane.

"I saw the email that Dr. Covert sent out and thought it'd be a good chance to volunteer. It's nice that we can get the school ready to open back up," McLaughlin said.

"It's crucial to help out the Pine View community during times such as these. It shows that the community can get together and be something greater than just individuals," Liberoni said.



Ninth-graders Joe Calleja, Jack Berke, and Cole Reuter fill a trash bag with debris and damaged plants. The Pine View clean-up was an opportunity for students to earn volunteer hours and unite for a common cause in the wake of the storm. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN



Equipped with trash bags, a shovel, and a wheelbarrow, twelfth-graders Nathan Widjaja, Simona Belilovskiy, and Ocean Bruinius clean up debris near the blue building. Many members of the Class of 2023 have been attending Pine View for over a decade, and thus were upset to see the campus damaged. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN



Floodwaters remain in the days following the hurricane. Many roads in south county were rendered useless by the storm, but have since been drained. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN



The line for gasoline winds around RaceTrac the day following Hurricane Ian. Supplies were limited at the small number of facilities that reopened Sept. 29. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN



An uprooted tree in a Nokomis backyard. PHOTO BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI



Osprey's Costco Wholesale prepares for the hurricane with a full stock of toilet paper and water bottles. These are among the most common goods people buy in times of distress. PHOTO BY ANNA JIN



Palm trees blow in the wind following the storm. Winds reached up to around 150 miles per hour. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN



Leaning and fallen trees litter Center Road. The fallen trees have since been removed. PHOTO BY ALEKSANDRA MASIULIS



A McDonald's sign stands upright following the storm, but not without its fair share of damage. Many businesses had to make quick repairs to their exteriors prior to reopening. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN



Venice Theatre barely stands following the intensity of the hurricane. Restorations to the theater's main stage house have already begun but are projected to take over eight months. PHOTO BY KAI SPRUNGER



Jacaranda Boulevard is inundated by several inches of water following the hurricane. Many roads in South Sarasota remained flooded for several days. PHOTO BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI



Publix shelves stand relatively bare in the days following Hurricane Ian. After the hurricane's path made a sudden shift to the Sarasota area, many people frantically bought canned and nonperishable goods. PHOTO BY ANNA JIN



A fallen billboard leans on the side of Highway 41 on a route back to Sarasota from West Palm Beach. Ninth-grader Ava Lernerz and her family evacuated to the eastern Florida coast as Hurricane Ian's path veered toward the Sarasota area. PHOTO BY AVA LENERZ



A community clears fallen trees after the storm. The hurricane uprooted an unimaginable number of plants. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN