

Leadership Development Through FBLA

By BELLE PACCIONE

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is a club for technical students that help high school students prepare for careers. According to California FBLA, “FBLA is a tradition of business education excellence whose work spans for more than 75 years reaching tens of millions of business leaders around the world. FBLA strengthens a school’s ability to prepare students for college and careers by providing extra curricular programs that integrate classroom instruction, apply learning in the context of business leadership, connect schools with business/industry and the community, and promote the spirit of free enterprise and competition.”

With fourteen years of being the adviser for the FBLA club, **Mr. Don Jay King** helps the students connect to careers in business, animations, marketing, entrepreneurship and lots of other different career pathways. This year in the 2024 competition events, **Dheeraj Koppu** won 1st place for business calculations then winning in third place **Venkatsai Solasani** for intro to business concepts. Lastly Koppu used problem solving and computer codes to win 4th place at the 2024 event. King said, “It’s just a great opportunity for them to make connections with the business world. The judges are business professionals that are doing the careers that they are competing in so I’ve had kids get jobs, kids get scholarships and one get to UCLA.”

Treasurer Koppu said, “I manage the club’s funds and organize fundraisers. I also work with other board members and King to organize the FBLA competitions. I heard about the club in middle school from a friend and I already was interested in business so it inspired me to join the FBLA club.

FBLA is more than just a competition and communication with others. Actually study for your events and prepare well ahead of time. Procrastination is your worst enemy. Anyone can join this club. We have people from all over grade levels that love taking this club. Just remember to never be afraid to try new things,” he said.

Event Planner **Tanisha Pidshetti** said, “I organize various activities and events for the club, in fact some business skills I have learned are confidence, effectiveness, leadership and improving my communication. However I had heard about FBLA from a friend when I was in middle school. Since I was originally pursuing a career in the business field, I had joined FBLA in 9th grade to explore this interest. The club is very ambitious and filled with determined individuals who want to succeed although our club is not as popular and is low in numbers,” she said.

Member **Abbinav Kolasani** said, “The strengths of this club are that it prepares you for the future if you intend to major in business or even other majors like computer science or health care while it is also educational. Everyone has a good time at the competitions. I wouldn’t say there are any weaknesses in the club. And I just want to say for anyone who’s thinking about joining next year that they should definitely join because it’s a great club where you can have fun and learn a lot of things you can apply in many different fields,” he said.

King said, “I don’t really have a favorite competition but there’s like seventy-five different events to compete in business/technology. So whatever works for them and helps them learn about their potential career. I just want the kids to succeed,” he said.



“Never be afraid to try new things,” Dheeraj Koppu said. (Photo by Belle Paccione)

A MAGICAL PROM NIGHT

By REHANSA KULATILLEKE and MIFRAH BAWANY



Students making their way to the dance floor of the magical night. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

Prom night is a magical evening that marks the culmination of Cypress High School and the beginning of a new chapter for students. On April 27th, Cypress juniors and seniors danced the night away at AV Irvine with the theme of the notable movie, “La La Land”—a night filled with glamor, excitement, and the promise of unforgettable memories. As the music filled the air and twinkling lights set the scene, students stepped onto the dance floor, their hearts filled with excitement and expectation.



Water polo captain, Alie Potter, and ASB President Aidan Houston won the 2024, Prom King and Queen. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

Towards the end of the night, the DJ announced who the Prom King and Queen were.

As the nominees were making their way to the stage, 2024-25 ASB President **Aimee Bunsirisert**, introduced the crowd to the nominees for Prom King: **Nicholas Montgomery, Aidan Houston**, and **Ethan Montoya** while the nominees for Prom Queen were **Tessah Short-Parent, Alie Potter**, and **Kailyn Krebs**.

The suspense was tangible as Bunsirisert finally revealed the winners: with ASB President Aidan Houston and water polo captain Alie Potter winning the crowns. Confetti fell from the ceiling while Dancing Queen played in the background as the two celebrated their victories.

Houston said, “I got up there, I looked down and I said, ‘Man, there’s a lot more people than I expected!’...then Ms. Binford put the crown on me...and I was like, ‘Man this is so heavy, it feels so real! I feel like a king!’ And everyone was cheering, and then I said congratulations to the guys next to me. With those guys, it’s all love, at the end of the day we’re all friends.” Potter adds, “It was really unexpected because I didn’t even think I was going to be on the court, but it was fun... it was an experience that you kind of think about when you were little, you always hear about that, which was pretty cool.”

At around 7 PM, students were finally allowed into the venue

“With those guys, it’s all love, at the end of the day we’re all friends.”

- Aidan Houston

where they would be met with photo booths, snacks, and the dance floor. As the night progressed, students piled out onto the dance floor where hit songs such as “Last Friday Night,” “Baby,” “Sweet Caroline,” and many more made their way to the playlist for the night.

As the night continued, students proceeded to sing and dance along to the soundtrack along with playing arcade games which were also presented. Snacks like cookies, cupcakes, and brownies were offered to students. Students were also given the option to eat freshly made french fries as well as ice cream later on.

The course of planning the 2024 prom theme started right

after last year’s prom. Normally, students would be tasked with finding the venue for the next year’s prom first, and then students would follow up with theme ideas for the next year. This year, ASB selected a new venue, AV Irvine. This was mainly based on an issue last year when they realized how small last year’s venue was. Bunsirisert added, “We wanted somewhere different from places we’ve been to before—and the AV Irvine, it holds a lot of people which was a problem we had last year, it wasn’t big enough. The AV Irvine was a place a lot of people are using now because it’s all-inclusive. They have the whole package there so we don’t have to do too much hands-on planning and stuff like that.” Numerous themes were suggested as an option for ASB students, however, it was clear that the theme should be—“La La Land.”

Prom night is not just an event, it is a cherished memory that will be treasured for years to come. It lives on in the photographs capturing smiling faces and bonds were strengthened by music and moonlight.



The Centurions have enjoyed their time at prom with their dates and friends. (Photo by Belle Paccione)

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2 News Discount Stores Coming To An End

By CARLY PEDROZA



The discount store 99 Cents Only is closing over 370 stores. (Photo by Carly Pedroza)

The discount store 99 Cents Only will be going out of business as of June 5th 2024. There will be over 370 stores closing across California, Nevada, Arizona and Texas. All stores will be closing due to inflation, customers demand and financial struggles due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 99 Cents Only Store was founded by Dave Gold. He first inherited a liquor store in downtown Los Angeles in the 1960's. Gold decided to run a test selling wine for only 99 cents. After the test was proven successful he thought it would be a good idea to start selling everything in the store for 99 cents. Whenever he would sell merchandise for over 99 cents, nothing ever sold out. But as soon as he would put the 99 cent sign on anything, it would be sold out

in no time, which is how the 99 Cents Only Store became what it is today. Founders, Mr. and Mrs. Gold opened the first 99 Cents Only store on August 13, 1987 in Los Angeles CA.

Eleventh grader **Hannah Moreau** says she is disappointed that the store is closing because "people with lower incomes buy their groceries from there because groceries are expensive everywhere else."

With the increasing cost of items and inflation, people who look towards the 99 Cents Only Store are unable to purchase these items. The 99 Cent Only Store has been very reliable over the past few decades for those who were unable to afford high price items or for people who need to buy large quantities of things for a lower price.

Required Service Hours: Good or Bad?

By BETTY LANGRINE

The Anaheim Union District has made a significant change to their graduation requirements. Now, high schoolers don't have to do service hours to graduate. Some students think it's a great idea because it gives them more freedom to focus on their studies and not stress over having to get them done. On the flip side, some worry that removing this requirement might lead to a decrease in community involvement and affect their college applications.

When students engage in service activities, they contribute to the community and make a positive impact on the lives of those in need. Whether it's cleaning up a local park, assisting at a food drive, or tutoring younger students, every act of service matters. The freshman counselor **Ms. Lu** said, "Service hours can also help students explore their passions and interests." Whether students are passionate about animals, the environment, or helping the elderly, there are countless service opportunities that align with their hobbies. By combining their interests with service, students can make a meaningful impact while doing something they love.

Freshman **Paytin Gibson** stated, "I love the fact that we aren't required to do service hours to graduate because it helps us feel less stressed about a mandatory obligation, but we shouldn't have to do it because it's mandatory but because we want to."

education is moving, but I don't think everyone performs equally on a digital platform. Programs like AP Classroom and the SAT are digital, so there will be some familiarity for some students with it, but I think there are students who prefer pen-to-paper writing and like to have that tactile artifact while they take a test because it's familiar."

With most of the AP exam practices being held physically with paper and pen before the change, most students prepared for the exam by reading physical papers and writing with pens and pencils. Taylor asserts, "I think we're going to be more intentional by doing more digital practice rather than pen-to-paper practice. Though I think the content and the skills on how we deliver the curriculum will be the same, it will just be the actual practicing of those skills at least for AP lang now, just transitioning to digital practice."

As AP tests changed to online beginning this year, students raised various opinions towards the unexpected modification. With the expeditious changes in the system, some students

While other students share the same sentiment, "I'm glad we don't have to do service hours anymore, but it's a shame because the hours I've already collected are now kinda useless," stated Freshman **Erin Kim**.

Colleges receive countless applications from students with similar grades and test scores. Volunteer hours can set students apart by showing their commitment to making a difference in their community. It demonstrates that they are proactive, compassionate, and willing to go the extra mile. Volunteering often involves taking on responsibilities and leadership roles. Colleges appreciate students who show initiative and take charge. Through volunteering, you can develop valuable leadership skills that will benefit you both in college and beyond. Volunteer work allows you to gain practical experience and apply what you've learned in the classroom to real-world situations. This hands-on experience can enhance your understanding of social issues and provide valuable insights that can enrich your college education.

When it comes to college applications, service hours can make students stand out from the crowd. Admissions officers love to see students who are actively involved in their communities and demonstrate a commitment to making the world a better place. By showcasing their service. "A question

most UC colleges ask students is what have you done to help your community," stated Ms. Lu. Volunteer work allows you to gain practical experience and apply what you've learned in the classroom to real-world situations. This hands-on experience can enhance your understanding of social issues and provide valuable insights that can enrich your college education.

Without service hours to share, it becomes challenging to demonstrate that dedication and passion for making a difference. It's important to remember that community service isn't just about fulfilling requirements; it's about actively engaging with and contributing to the well-being of others. Community service offers valuable opportunities for personal growth and development. Not being able to share any service hours with a college means missing out on experiences that could have helped you develop important skills, such as leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving. It's a chance to show colleges that you're proactive, compassionate, and dedicated to making a positive impact.



Some people worry that removing the community service requirement might lead to a decrease in community involvement for students. (Photo by Betty Langrine)

Opinion College Board's Decision to Shift

Online: Is it for the Better or Worse?

By GRACE KIM

With the College Board's recent decision to change six AP exams to digital from 2024, students and teachers are looking forward to experiencing significant changes in their preparation process and testing environment for AP testing. With shifts in educational platforms following the fast-paced changes that come with advanced technology, both educators and learners face advantages and inconveniences at the same time. As more tests are expected to become digital, new adjustments become necessary.

Along with the SAT becoming completely digital from March 2024, College Board started to implement the technological shift into their AP exams as well. AP English Literature and Composition, AP English Language and Composition, AP European History, AP World History, AP United States History, and AP Computer Science Principles will be completely online, testing sessions being held with a digital device. Recognizing the

fast-paced changes, Assistant Principal **Eric Tenorio** commented, "It seems like there are pros and cons to it in terms of logistics and hosting AP exams at school, but there are more benefits. Preparing for the test is a little bit easier for us because we just need to make sure we have proper technology and strong WiFi, and I can set up a test session with codes from the College Board. After the test, students can just upload their results to the College Board right away."

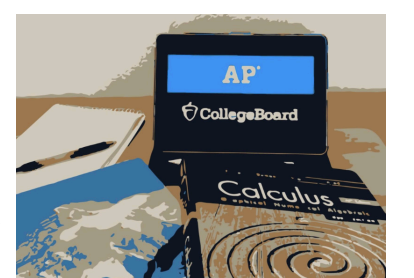
Despite the convenience for test givers and test takers, there are also unfair outcomes as well. While there are students who excel in online-based testing, there are students who struggle, and find testing rather difficult. Realizing the issues, AP Language and Composition teacher **Hiba Taylor** explained, "I understand moving to digital platforms kind of streamlines everything and brings everything up to date, because that's kind of where the world is moving and

feel disadvantaged in preparation and payment for the exams. Lynn Hwang, a junior preparing to take the AP exams, expressed concerns rather than confidence towards the new implementation. "Personally, I am against online testing because I feel like I work better with paper. That's how the entire system worked traditionally so the change is like a whole new setup that we didn't expect. Along with this shift, I feel like collegeboard should reduce the cost because we're paying \$97 each time to just take something online—it's not that much materials that are being used to create these virtual tests."

While agreeing with the needs of reduction related to costs, some students showed satisfaction and hopeful outlooks towards online exams. Junior Shamikta Sureshraj explained through online practice exams, there are more benefits because of the tools that are included in the system. "I feel like having it online there are benefits—you don't have to flip over pages to look back at the passages for English especially, and the stikethrough tool is very helpful to eliminate answers, being not as confusing

as before. Experiencing these changes, I think it's the beginning that is challenging, but as we go into the future, these resources become very useful and comfortable, and will eventually become easier for everyone."

Students and teachers anticipate big changes in the AP testing environment and preparation process following the College Board's recent announcement that six AP tests will be available digitally starting in 2024. Both educators and students will experience benefits and drawbacks as a result of the rapid changes in educational platforms brought forth by improved technology. With change being inevitable, it is important to accept the shift and move on by strengthening ourselves to prepare for bigger switches awaits us in the future.



The College Board shifted AP exams along with SATs to digital-based testing in the spring of 2024. (Photo by Betty Langrine)

Abigail: Best Horror Movie of 2024?

By MIKAELA CAMPOS



Actress Alisha Weir played the role, Abigail. (Photo by rogerebert.com) "Abigail" is a 2024 American vampire horror comedy film directed by Matt Bettinelli-Olpinan. Based on and a re-imagining of the 1936 Universal Classic Monsters film "Dracula's Daughter" the film follows a group of kidnappers who capture the daughter of a powerful underworld figure and demand \$50 million for her release but little do they know they are about to go through the rapid nightmare that is Abigail.

fect backdrop for the unfolding horror. The film's visual effects and sound design further enhance the chilling atmosphere, keeping viewers on the edge.

The plot unfolds when a sweet little girl Abigail transforms into a vampire ballerina, causing the group to flee in terror. In distress, the group of kidnappers discuss ways to kill Abigail but nothing seems to work on this little vampire ballerina. Towards the end, the protagonist and Abigail work together to escape their misfortune of being trapped with an individual who possess a threat to them. The film also explores themes of family, secrets, and the darkness that can lurk within seemingly ordinary lives.

In "Abigail" the vampire ballerina character is portrayed by actress Sarah Abbott doing a great job as the vampire ballerina as this is one of her first lead roles.

Overall, "Abigail" is a gripping horror movie that will satisfy fans of the genre and will keep you scared from the beginning to the end. If you're a fan of horror movies and love thrillers this is a must watch as "Abigail" is expressed as one of the scariest movies of 2024.

The setting of the movie is an old mansion that adds to the overall creepiness, making it the per-

Romantic Comedy Fall Guy Movie, Now in Theaters 3

By DANICA DIZON



The Fall Guy movie is out in theaters including CGV and AMC. (Photo by Danica Dizon)

"The Fall Guy" movie is a romantic comedy filled with action, suspense, and drama. The movie starts with Cole Seavers working as a stunt double. As he takes many hits in the film, one particular scene changes the rest of his life. After returning to the film world, he is tasked with finding his co-star, Tom Ryder. He also tries to find love in his life along with all the action. The movie was directed by David Leitch, famous for directing "John Wick: Chapter 4." The film was also based on The Fall Guy created by Glen A. Larson. The show was a 5-season streaming series in the 1980s.

The main cast of "The Fall Guy" includes actors like Ryan Gosling as Cole Seavers, Emily Blunt as Jody Moreno, Aaron Taylor Johnson as Tom Ryder, Hannah Waddingham as Gail Meyer, and Winston Duke as Dan Tucker.

The idea of the film was to shine the spotlight on stunt doubles that take part in movies. In an interview, Ryan Gosling who plays Cole Seavers said, "There's always been this strange dynamic where they kind of come in, they do all of the cool stuff, and they risk everything, then they leave. And everyone sort of pretends like they weren't there. The better they are, in a way, the more you know they're not there." He puts the spotlight on stunt doubles and how important they are in a movie.

Both actors Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt were in recent movies like "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer." Ryan talks about the marketing plot of their past roles playing into the Fall Guy, "...those were just really a marketing ploy for this.

We only did those films so that we could do this,

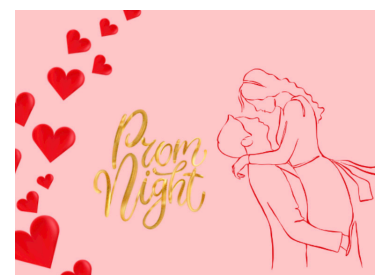
which is the real Barbenheimer, which was actually the working title of 'Fall Guy.'"

Though the film was supposed to be an up an coming movie according to Variety, the "Fall Guy" was expected to make \$30 million to \$40 million, but ended up earning \$28.5 million. After all the stunts and fights for love, sacrifice, and friendships the movie has an 83% rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Filled with action packed scenes, the actors have worked together to ensure the reality of the scenes. As the plot thickens, the actors show their deepest emotions and display their inner feelings. As it is based on the 1980s TV series of "The Fall Guy," it achieves the suspense from the beginning to end. It illustrates a sense of happiness and leaves the audience with a bittersweet ending.

Planning the Perfect Promposal!

By REHANSA KULATILIKE and CARLY PEDROZA



Only A Lucky Few Get The Promposals Of Their Dreams. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilike)

Traditionally, the action of asking people out to prom has been a prominent part of many high school experiences. Over the years, prom has grown into an event that primarily focuses on one of two things: the endless number of photos taken by the end of the night and, the memories that follow. More and more creative ideas have been constructed for these promposals. In light of these comical signs, whether with your friends or with a significant other, promposals have become an event that many

have been looking forward to during their high school years. This year, one of the many promposals at Cypress included an on-theme promposal done by **Kaiden Desai**. **Rylee Schneider** remembers leaving her house during that day to meet up with Desai. Little did she know that right outside her house was Desai with flowers and a sign that read "In A City Of Stars Will You Shine With Me @ Prom." Schneider was shocked since she hadn't had a chance to stop and think about whether or not she was going to be asked out. Schneider says, "I had a feeling [she would be asked out to prom] because he brought up prom once or twice but I was never 100% sure."

As the prom season continues, more and more creative ideas spread from one school to another. This year's prom was held at AV Irvine with the

main theme being the highly favored movie, La La Land. The movie, "La La Land" is based on a romance, love affair scene. While two people reach for their own happy endings, they are brought with hardships and obstacles that block them from being together.



Kaiden Desai asked Rylee Schneider to the 2024 Cypress Prom. (Photo by Rylee Schneider)

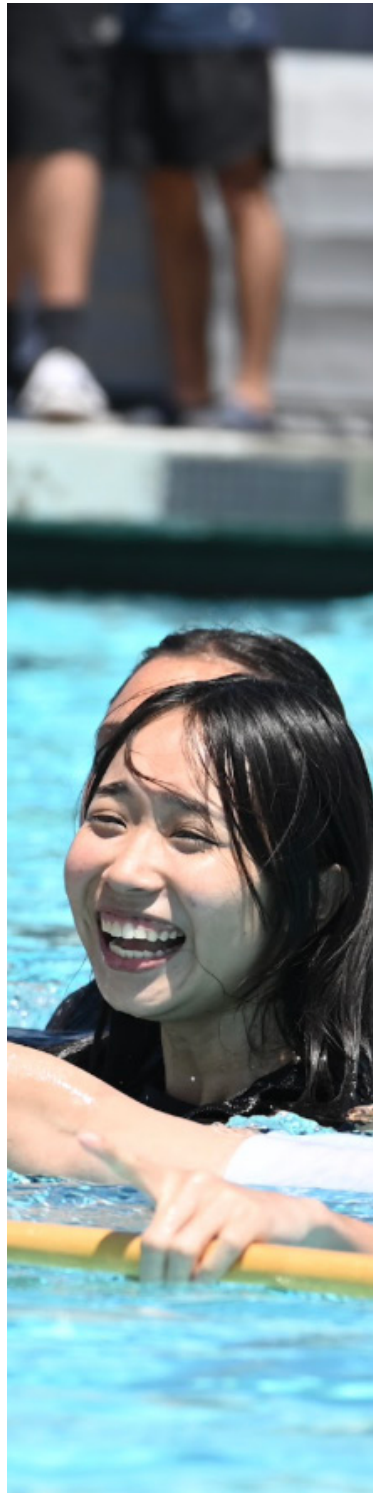
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Cypress' 2024 Boat Races Shows Both Skill and Creativity

Cypress Physics students participate in annual boat race

By TYLER HERNANDEZ



There were many colorful themes exhibited in the race this year. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

Cypress's 2024 boat races have come to a close! Students in physics class were tasked with building a boat with only duct tape, cardboard, and some paint.

Many racers decided to have fun with their teams and boats, creating fun themes around them. These boats were decorated with all kinds of fun and unique designs. These included: a bright pink Barbie boat, a cake boat, a Wing Stop boat, a box boat, a war canoe, a Mario go-kart, and more. Students also decided to dress up as well. Some interesting outfits you could see were: guys in maid dresses, a group of Barbies, chics dressed like chickens, the Mario brothers and Peach, and Zorro from One Piece.

Though the races were nerve-wracking, those who participated, including the survivors and the swimmers, couldn't help but rave about this school event. Yasmin Qandel, a senior in hon-

ors physics said, "I think it's really nice. It's like, a little bit stressful to build it and you have a lot of nerves leading up to it, but it's a really fun experience. And I think that everybody should try to do it a least once in their Cypress years." Many participants and observers, when asked about their thoughts, tended to agree with this sentiment. Mr. Dull said that this is his "twentieth year at Cypress and [he] can't recall a year where [he] didn't go to the boat races." He praised the races saying, "I think they're awesome! I mean you get to see these kids applying physics to real-life situations and having some fun at the same time."

Mrs. Fenton praised the more creative side of the races saying how she "loves all of the pageantry and the showmanship, the costumes and the themes."

While many were able to zoom through the water,

some weren't as lucky. Connor Lee, a junior, was, as he said, "soaking wet" after his team's boat sank in the water. When asked what he expected would happen he responded, "I said we'd last five seconds in the water, and we lasted five seconds in the water." When asked why his boat failed he claims that they "ran out of tape and cardboard" and that the boat's "walls were too thin, and I think there were gaps at the bottom." These reasons would most likely lead to a sunken boat, and it did.

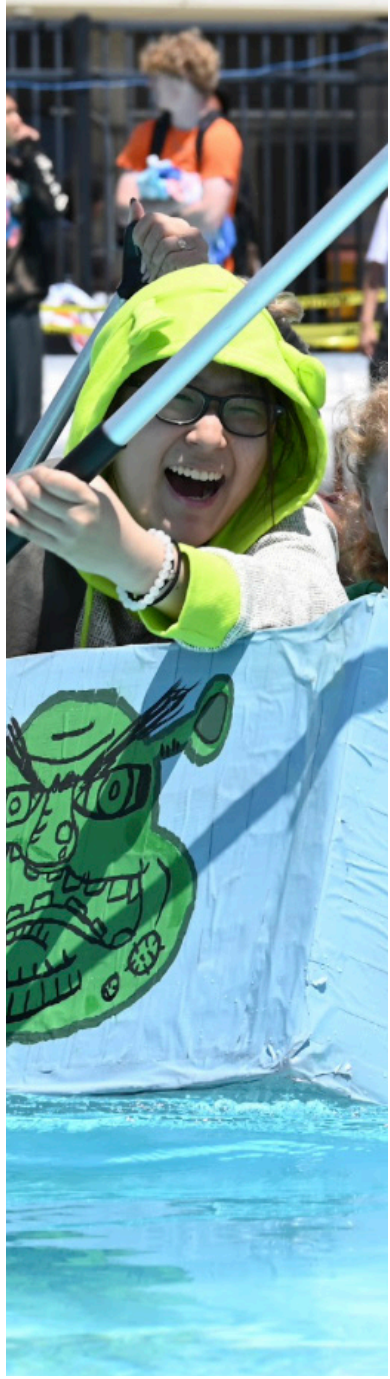
Though his team's boat didn't make it far he didn't seem all that upset about the outcome. Throughout his interview, he was smiling, and joking, and later went back to watch the other races. The Cypress Boat Races have been going on for over 30 years and with how much praise and joy it brings to the school it doesn't seem to be going away anytime soon.



Students in Physics hope to stay afloat. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

Physics teacher Aaron Gartner was a force to be reckoned with in this year's races. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

These students may have sunk, but they are still having fun. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)



Cypress Dance had an “Adventure of a Lifetime” During Their Show!

By MINNEL VEGA



Some dancers became emotional as they took their final bows. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

The second dance concert of the 2023-2024 school year, “Adventure of a Lifetime” showcased dances that the dance classes learned over the past couple of months. The “Adventure of a Lifetime” show was held at Ken-

edy High School Performing Arts Center and had a full audience on Thursday, 4/18, and Friday 4/19 night. Mrs. Kerri Fenton talked about how she finds ideas for the theme of the show. “I let students choose...We have

a class discussion and we decide and I am super inspired or they are like ‘I want to do this’ so I let the kids decide.” Many dances that students danced to in this show included popular songs such as,

“Into the Unknown,” “Pure Honey,” “Better Place,” “Waterloo,” “On the Dance Floor,” and “Born This Way.” Many of the songs performed in this show represented events one experienced throughout.

Most dance students performed on stage for the second time this school year. This show was very emotional for the seniors who performed together for the last time. Senior Sofia Trotz said, “...this was our last show and it represented the end of our high school career.”

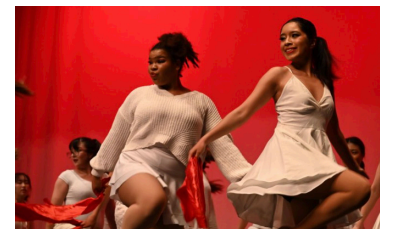
All the seniors who performed at this show danced with each other for nearly all four years of their time here at Cypress. “... this year there was something about how close we’ve been and how we grew in the past years with each other,” senior Savanna Mzuri said.

Mrs. Fenton loves all her students and puts all her effort into

ensuring the show looks great. “The hardest part for me is that I just want it to be so perfect for the students so I put a lot of pressure on myself to make sure everything is just exactly right cause I just want the best experience for my students,” Mrs. Fenton said. The dance classes worked hard to make this show an amazing experience.



Mrs. Fenton gave a heartfelt speech to the audience and her dancers. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)



Juliana Dubois (lft.) and Advanced Dance showed amazing skills! (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

Where Our Centurions Are Headed!

By DEBORAH SON



Cypress High School seniors will be headed towards their next chapter: college. (Photo by Deborah Son)

Cypress High School’s beloved seniors are proudly headed toward college. For the last four years, these students have been working their way through thick and thin and conquering challenges.

Aidan Houston, ASB President and Prom King, is committed to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He will be double majoring in Pre-Business Economics and International Business Relations. Houston said he loves “the diversity we have on campus” and “working with people from different backgrounds.”

Harmony Park, another CHS senior, is committed to the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). She will be majoring

in Urban Studies and Planning. Waiting for a few more college acceptances, Park is excited to make memories and visit new cafes with her friends. “My favorite part of Cypress High School is lunch because it is a time to fully communicate with friends. I also admire the teachers, Ms. Vu and Mr. Fournier for their hard work and dedication to students,” she said.

Maham Bawany is a senior at Cypress High School who will be attending Cypress College next year. Her plan is to major in Computer Science and create a pathway. Bawany’s favorite memory at Cypress High School is senior prom because of all the memories she made with her friends. “Thank you to the people of Cypress for

being so kind and giving me an enjoyable high school education experience,” she said.

Aidan Butcher, a senior at Cypress High School, is committed to California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and will be majoring in Psychology. Butcher’s favorite memory at Cypress High School was Senior Bowling because it was enjoyable and simplistic. “Cypress gives you dozens of opportunities for all walks of life, make sure to take advantage of everything you can,” he said.

Senior Justin Rojas will be attending Cypress College next year. He is majoring in Automotive Engineering. “I chose Automotive Engineering because I have always been into cars

because of my dad. I like knowing how things work,” he said. For the remainder of his time at Cypress High School, Rojas is looking forward to spending time with his girlfriend.

With college offers rolling out, and decisions being made, seniors are looking forward to their futures.



Aidan Houston is committed to UCLA, majoring in Pre-Business Economics and International Business Relations. (Photo by Deborah Son)



Harmony Park is committed to UCSD, majoring in Urban Studies and Planning. (photo by Deborah Son)

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Softball Makes CIF

By YOSHI VAZQUEZ

Cypress High School's softball team broke records with exceptional performance this season. Softball has emerged as a powerhouse, showcasing unparalleled skill and determination on the field.

The players have honed their talents, forming a cohesive unit that strikes into the hearts of their opponents. Their dedication to excellence is evident in every game they play, as they consistently deliver stellar performances, leaving spectators in awe. In a recent elimination game, they were down 0-6 going into the last inning, however the Centurions rallied for eight runs in the top of the inning with reliever Delaney Faus getting the final batter to fly out to CF Makayla Bishop to seal the victory 8-7 towards the end.

According to Coach Kevin Dull, all the camaraderie and playing as a team towards the end of the season was most memorable. He was proudest when they beat Downey 8-0, not worried to lose.

Brianna Holguin was proud of her commitment to play softball in New Jersey and how she made a diving play and got the last out of the Mayfair game, barely winning by one run. Her proudest play was CIF round 1 where they were down and won 8-7. She'll be going pro and headed to Fairleigh Dickinson for softball, proud of graduating high school and continuing to play softball.

Breana Townsend was proudest for getting really close to getting the high school hot record (five away from reaching it) and going to Nevada, where she dived to successfully save a hit. Next year, she's headed to BYU for softball in hopes to make the national team.

She's glad she stuck to softball and committed to it throughout high school.

As the season came to an end, their remarkable talent and unwavering determination showed that the CHS softball team is poised to leave a mark for next year.



Madeline Granados, 12th, was one of the starting pitchers with most innings pitched. (Photo by Brianna Holguin-Yearbook)



Taylor Monteleone, 12th, scored on an inside the park home run against Villa Park. (Photo by Lynn Hwang-Yearbook)

Baseball Wins Empire League, Enters CIF Playoffs

Coach Weber gets his 400th Victory

By YAZEED ALBADARIN



The 2024 Baseball Varsity Team won Empire League for the final time, as next year's league designations are changing. (Photo by Courtesy of Owen Schwab)

Baseball wins League as **Coach Weber** gets his 400th victory! After endless years of his coaching, he has worked hard to support athletes from Cypress as well as focus on his own goals. He has left a lasting impression on Cypress and provided a great lesson for athletes. He has taught them what he knows to better them and fought to provide them with the best possible work. He stands as an influential figure to the people of Cypress and continue to make history over time.

Cypress High School's baseball team has persevered through challenges and obstacles to make the most of their games. These players have been through thick and thin under the guidance of Coach John Weber.

Coach Weber has been coaching baseball at Cypress High School for 19 years and achieved his 400th win on Wednesday, Apr 10, 2024, against Kennedy High School with a score of 16-0. Through endless years of practice and failures, he has brought himself to the top, climbing his way to success. In his inspirational story, he is someone who possesses an immense amount of gratitude and shows the Centurion athletes that improving is the best possible way to win a game. "We have been very fortunate over the years that we never had a full rebuilding year. We play high-level baseball, so we try not to make any excuses for anything we do. But the truth

is that we lack some experienced players. We have one of the most difficult schedules in the country therefore the players don't have time to adjust quickly" he said.

Owen Schwab claims this has been a "rebuilding year." Although Schwab argues that this is not the toughest nor experienced team in Cypress baseball history, he said that this team has the potential. The team has the potential to win it all skill-wise. Weber also stated that the team lacks "team chemistry" and maturity. As to why he says this is a rebuilding year, he said, "We will use this year to grow with each other and better each other."

Ironically, this season is considered a rebuilding year even with an overall record of 19-9-1, Cypress won the Empire League by defeating Pacifica High School by a score of 5-3 on Thursday, Apr 25, 2024. Eleventh grader **Greg Prophet** caught the potential game-winning hit in the right field and said, "The last game was cool we played for League against Pacifica.. it was pretty nerve-wracking, it was just instincts. The season was a little slow to start off but the team is in an upward direction so I like the way we are going."

The team also won the 1st round of the Division 1 playoffs On Friday, May 3, against Calabasas High School by a score of 5-2. But, baseball ended their campaign in the second round of CIF against San Dimas High School by

a score of 6-7. Though this year's team has won League and competed with the top teams in the country, they are not satisfied with this season. Schwab explains how the team had plenty of opportunities to be the best but most games turned out differently than they wanted them to. They have the potential to be the best but not even half of their skill was shown this season. Next season will have a lot more to come. With more training, the Centurion athletes with use the skills they have learned to apply it to their next game. Go Centurions!



Baseball Varsity Head Coach John Weber got his 400th win this season. (Photo by Yazeed Albadarin)



Baseball Varsity player Owen Schwab is looking forward to the upcoming season (Photo by Yazeed Albadarin)



Baseball varsity player Greg Prophet is happy with the team's performance this season. (photo by Courtesy Owen Schwab)

Boys Volleyball Makes it to CIF Round 2

By JAYDEN KAY LINAYAO



With defense by Saugat Shrestha and Kaegan Ramdhani, the team went all the way to the CIF playoffs (Photo by Cypress Volleyball)

For the sixth year in a row, Boys Volleyball fought their way into CIF playoffs. With a season record of 19 wins and five losses, the team ended their season in the second round with a 3-0 loss against University High School.

This season was especially tough for the team, with nearly half of the team injured or hurt. "I haven't been playing at my full potential," says Freshman outside Nathan Chaidez, "It cost us a lot because I wasn't able to get a lot of points for my team." Freshman setter **Marco Ramirez** was "sad that the season is ending, but excited because there are so many more years to go."

Greatest NFL Offseason

By ROBERTO CARDENAS



The Biggest NFL Offseason is this year. (Photo by Roberto Cardenas)

The 2024 NFL offseason has been the most eventful it has been in years. For starters Derrick Henry who has been a Tennessee Titan for all eight seasons of his NFL career has been recently signed with the Super Bowl contending Baltimore Ravens. After his 50 million dollar deal with the Titans had ended and went into free agency, he agreed to a 16 million dollar two year contract with the Ravens. With Henry leaving, the Titans have left an empty hole in their offense. Currently they haven't done anything to fix it.

Another big trade was Kirk Cousins to the Falcons. Along with Cousins the Falcons had drafted a QB out of the University of Washington, 23 year-old Michael Penix. Which gives the Falcons a stacked 2025 QB room.

The Kansas City Chiefs, whom were the Super Bowl fifty-eight champions, had one of the

Outside hitter **Arthur Hoang** said, "I'm pretty bummed out and I'm really gonna miss my team. I thought it was really an unfortunate situation but it shouldn't be an excuse for us to underperform. However, I think that every senior gave it their all this year and I'll miss the bond we built with our team."

Setter **Noah Zapanta** said, "I'm upset that our season ended short, but hopefully I can come back next year and coach the underclassmen and play against Trace next year. It's kind of upsetting, but I wish I could've seen the outcome if we were all healthy." Despite the outcome, Zapanta is grateful for the connections he was able to make with his teammates.

Libero Jaiden Ramos said, "I'm very sad that tracey-wacey is leaving, and I'm going to miss my captains. They were such great role models and they really helped us become better athletes both on and off the court." This year is Ramos' first year on varsity, and Ramos advises new players to "just tough it out on the court and wing it, I guess, and just be you on the court."

Though the team wasn't able to play to their full athletic potential, they will continue to work hard and train to push further into CIF next season.

most significant draft picks of the night. The Chiefs had drafted Xavier Worthy who is a world record holder for completing the NFL combine's fastest 40-yard-dash with a time of 4.21 seconds. Which broke the previous record of 4.22 held by John Ross. Xavier Worthy is a great offensive weapon who will be at Patrick Mahomes' disposal. The Chicago Bears had the very first pick of the NFL Draft and after giving up their QB1, Justin Fields to the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Bears selected Caleb Williams who was a projected first round pick out of USC. In his senior year he had thrown for 3633 yards, 30 TDs, and 5 INTs. Which was one of the more impressive performances of the 2024 QB class.

Houston Texans rebuilt their team around Rookie of the Year Quarterback CJ Stroud this offseason. They had recently acquired 4x Pro Bowler Stefon Diggs from the Buffalo Bills. Along with Cincinnati Bengals starting running back Joe Mixon. Gabriel Torres, a sophomore at Cypress had mentioned "how stacked the Texans are this season." It's safe to say the Texans have the talent to make the Super Bowl.

The Houston Texans work towards making their goals form into a reality.

LEBRON vs. JORDAN ⁷

Greatest Players of All Time in NBA History

By ELIAS TUBBS



4 time NBA Champ Lebron James versus 6 time NBA Champ Michael Jordan. (Photo by Elias Tubbs)

For years Michael Jordan had been officially known as the greatest basketball player of all time, with six championships, six Final MVP's, five NBA MVP's, was a fourteen time NBA ALL STAR, nine time NBA All-Defensive First Team, and ten time ALL-NBA First Team. That was before star Lebron James entered the league back in 2003.

Fresh out of high school Lebron James was the first pick in the 2003 NBA draft and was selected by The Cleveland Cavaliers. Lebron averaged 20.9 points per game, 5.9 assist per game, and 5.5 rebounds per game in his rookie year, but Cleveland failed to make it to the playoffs. Lebron won the Rookie of the Year award.

In Jordan's rookie year, he averaged 28.2 points per game, 6.5 rebounds per game, and 5.9 assists per game, leading The Chicago Bulls to the playoffs but lost to The Milwaukee Bucks in the first round. Jordan was selected to play in his first All-Star game, and won the Rookie of the Year award.

Jordan outscored Lebron his rookie year in points and rebounds while making the All-Star game in his rookie year, something Lebron failed to do. Although Jordan was 21, and had three years of college experience at North Carolina where he won a College Championship, before entering the league.

Lebron came straight out of high school to the NBA at only

18 years old with three years less experience than Jordan.

In Jordan's seventh season with the Bulls he was able to get his first ring in 1991 with the help of Hall of Famer Small Forward Scottie Pippen, and followed that achievement with titles in 1992 and 1993, securing a three-peat. It took Lebron eleven seasons until the star was able to win his first two championships, 2012 and 2013. Lebron was able to win back to back championships with the help of Hall of Famers, Guard Dwayne Wade, Shooting Guard Ray Allen, and Center Chris Bosh.

Jordan then achieved another three-peat winning in 96, 97, and 1998 with Hall of Famers Forward Dennis Rodman, Scottie Pippen, and superstar Steve Kerr, this team is considered to be one of the greatest in NBA history. Jordan then retired the next season ending the Bulls dynasty.

Going back to where he all started it, Lebron won his third ring with the Cleveland Cavaliers fighting the Golden State Warriors with the best NBA record of All time, 73-9. Steph Curry and the Warriors dominated the Cavaliers in the first 4 games leading 3-1 in the series, Lebron James, Kevin Love, and a young Kyrie Irving then did the impossible and made history, being the first team in NBA history to come back from a 3-1 deficit in the Finals.

Four years later in the 2019-2020 season, Lebron and the

Los Angeles Lakers beat the Miami Heat in the Final, even with the COVID shut down, securing the fourth ring of his career. On February seventh, 2023 Lebron surpassed Kareem Abdul Jabbar for the All-Time Scoring Leader, and currently is the only NBA player to ever score 40,000+ points leaving Jordan at fifth All-Time.

Sophomore Varsity Basketball Player **Tynoa Allen** places Lebron as his NBA G.O.A.T. and said, "I grew up watching him, he has been an inspiration and after he took the all-time scoring title passing Kareem, it was clear he is the greatest of all time."

Lebron achieved his third ring in thirteen seasons, fell behind Jordan who won three rings in his ninth season, and then proceeded to win three more in three years leaving Lebron trailing. Jordan who is 6-0 in the NBA Finals surpasses Lebron who has been in the finals ten times and has only won four of his finals series.

The Lakers being a first round exit, losing the series 4-1 against the former NBA champs the Denver Nuggets, concluding Lebron's 21st season in the NBA and bringing up the question, is Lebron going to finally retired.

As Lebron is known to be the greatest, famous, basketball players of all time, he is known to win championships and bring the team to victory. With that, citizens are curious to hear his status.

8 Graduates Prepare For The Big Ceremony

By ANISH ASHOKKUMAR



This year's graduation ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 22 at 6pm. Monteleone, 12th, scored on an inside the park home run against Villa Park. (Photo by Mr. Meza)

Navigating the journey towards graduation is a pivotal part of every senior's high school experience. It is a turning point for a Centurion to experience the mere satisfaction of entering and receiving a diploma for the hard work they have put into

their lives. They have endured through hardships while making their way to graduation. They have made Cypress High School a safe space for them to continue their education. Our graduating Centurions have made this a point of a learn-

ing experience. Seniors must ensure each step is addressed, setting the stage for a memorable transition. Here's a guide to assist seniors in preparation:

1. Securing Your Cap and Gown:**

Before the commencement day arrives, obtaining your cap and gown is paramount. It's recommended to order these essentials from SoCalGrad.com. This attire symbolizes years of hard work and academic achievement. On May 16th cap and gowns would be distributed to English classrooms.

2. Clearing School Fines:**

Completing your high school journey entails tying up loose ends, including clearing any outstanding school fines. Failure to return borrowed items or settle fines may delay receiving your diploma. Fulfill these obligations to ensure an easy graduation process.

3. Acquiring Graduation Tickets for Family:**

Sharing this monumental occasion with loved ones is a cherished tradition. Seniors typically receive a limited number of tickets for family members, this year it is six per student. Plan accordingly and communicate with fellow seniors if additional tickets are needed for more family members. On May 17th,

4. Notable Details About Graduation Location

Handel Stadium will host the commencement between 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Arriving early is essential, especially for securing parking, ensuring you don't miss any memorable moments. It can also ensure that all family members are given a place of seating to enjoy the celebration. Families come from all over the world to celebrate this day and support the graduating seniors.

5. Fulfilling College Requirements:**

For those continuing their academic journey post-graduation, meeting college requirements is

imperative. A-G requirements are mandatory for admission to UCs and Cal State universities, while community college admission may have different criteria. Maintain satisfactory grades and successfully complete coursework to meet these prerequisites as it demonstrates their blood, sweat, and tears to achieve their grades.

Congratulations to all our Centurions for their hard work and dedication to learning. They have persevered through challenges, making enough room for effort while continuously working towards success. People have worked towards their goals at Cypress, anticipating for their best version of themselves. Even after doubtful setbacks, Centurions have learned to pick themselves up and continue their path. As graduation marks a period of students celebrating their success, they will continue to work towards their goal and look forwards to their future goals no matter where they go in the future.

BEST PLACES TO VISIT THIS SUMMER

By CARA KARPAN



There are various places to visit around during the summer. (Photo by Kara Carpan)

Summer is approaching which also means people need places to go to enjoy their summer break. These places are some of the best places to spend your summer vacation at:

Orange County Fair– At the Orange County Fair, you can enjoy thrilling rides, eat all kinds of food because they have it all, explore different exhibits, watch live music performances, participate in

games, and shop from local vendors. A fun filled event for all ages, offering a wide range of entertainment options to enjoy throughout the day. The Orange County Fair gets really busy so the best days to go would be Wednesday and Thursday, however those days the tickets are the cheapest so it does attract people. Overall Wednesday and Thursdays are the best days to go to the fair and enjoy.

Big Bear– In Big Bear, California, summer offers outdoor adventures including hiking, mountain biking, boating, and fishing on Big Bear Lake.

You can also enjoy scenic chairlift rides, zip lining, golfing, horseback riding, and off-road tours, making it the perfect destination for an active summer getaway surrounded by stunning natural beauty. The best month to

visit Big Bear is June because that's when their offseason is so there's less crowds, perfect weather, and cheaper rates.

Catalina Island–On Catalina Island, Southern California, you can hike scenic trails, relax on beaches, snorkel in clear waters, kayak, paddleboard, or even parasail, you can explore historic landmarks, visit the Catalina Island Museum, zip line, shop in Avalon, and savor the fresh food. It's a diverse destination offering relaxation and adventure. Like the Orange County Fair, the best days to visit are midweek. There typically the least crowded days because cruise ships visit the island on Mondays and Tuesdays, so Wednesday and Thursday would be the best days to visit. Catalina Island is the place to go when feeling for a new place to explore. It is a place of endless discoveries and new sights to see. It is filled with ambitious people willing to go outside and enjoy the weather. It is a mysterious and

Disneyland– For \$104, Disneyland has many things to offer such as their rides and attractions, character meet and greets, parades and shows, dining, shopping, themed lands, and interactive experiences. However, during the summer you can beat the heat at splash mountain, go to Pixar pier and enjoy a

frozen treat, watch the fireworks, and go on grizzly river run. The best days to visit Disneyland in the summer are Tuesdays and Wednesdays because there's lower crowd levels from visiting tourists and magic key holders. Disneyland is a magical place that people find fascinating and look towards to finding secret aspects that make it special. Disneyland is a place where people can reconnect with their inner self and be free to explore what Disneyland has to offer.

Seal Beach–Seal Beach is a fun place to go year round however during the summer it's one of the perfect places to be. With all the different activities like beach relaxing, surfing, shopping, dining at the restaurants, and the summer events they have like concerts and movie nights it's one of the best places to be this summer. At Seal Beach, there seals that lie by the rocks if you search enough. The best day to go is probably a Monday or Thursday because Seal Beach doesn't tend to get busy, but in the summer there's a lot more crowds so the days that are slower are Monday and Thursday. Parking can be a struggle so the best places to park are by the library or by the houses. Seal Beach provides people the ability to be free and take some time for themselves.