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GRAPHIC BY ANNA LABINER

Cementing a Legacy

by **Melissa Santoyo**
Opinion Editor

From forklifts traversing the greenery to the cement bags lining various buildings, construction on campus has become a daily norm. Following the advent of these renovations, however, both teachers and students have expressed regret over a pervasive loss of what made Pine View so unique. The most pressing concern among such members of the community has to do with several missing memorials. These memorials included various gardens and walkways dedicated to former faculty members that have passed away.

One of several memorials removed due to construction included a garden for the late former french teacher, Irene Barylski, who passed away in 2012 of cancer. In her honor,

former world language instructors Judy Black and Lucie Karr created a garden near the Blue Building. The garden was regularly tended to by the aforementioned instructors, and even included two wooden benches made by Black's husband and former Pine View science teacher, Spike Black. Karr described it as a welcoming place, where both teachers and students alike could enjoy their lunches.

Because of its removal, Karr

expressed subsequent disappointment. "First of all, I do understand that they have to secure the campus. It was very open, but I think priority has been put on the construction but really the appearance of the campus is not [as inviting as before]. It was so nice to have these memorial gardens for these wonderful teachers," she said.

The administration is aware of the concerns regarding the pending reintegration of several memorials but have yet to finalize any plans.

Middle school Assistant Principal Sue Fair, who is also heavily involved with on-campus construction, explained that nothing can be affirmed until after the gravel path running the length of the quad is removed. "We'll probably try to put them back as close to the areas where they came from. I will be meeting with construction about that probably in May, we can't do anything until school is out, and we can't do anything until that gravel construction driveway is gone," she said. Much of the memorials are preserved, and according to Fair, will simply have to be relocated on-campus in accordance to both what location faculty would like and what is plausible considering underground pipes, cables, water, etc.

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Student advances to national poetry competition

by **Tricia Saputera**
Asst. Match Editor

Representing Pine View and ultimately Florida, twelfth-grader Natalie Schimek qualified for the national Poetry Out Loud competition April 23-26, in which she not only memorized three poems, but also performed them expressively at George Washington University in Washington D.C.

To qualify for nationals, Schimek first participated in Pine View's school competition. All high school students were welcome to compete; and, in each participating class, a winner (or two if tied) was determined. The 22 class winners then proceeded to the school-wide competition, which took place Feb. 7. Schimek then won the school-wide competition and represented Pine View at the state competition March 10 at the University of South Florida. Winning first place, a plaque, and \$500 for Pine View to spend on poetry curriculum, she then advanced to nationals.

A total of 53 students, one from each of the states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands competed in the national competition. The competitors were divided into three regions for the semifinals, and then the top three performers from each region competed in the finals. The regions were East Central and North-



Twelfth-grader Natalie Schimek (left) embraces her mother after winning the Florida Poetry Out Loud competition, qualifying her for nationals. At nationals, Schimek recited three poems: "An Apology For Her Poetry" by Margaret Cavendish, "After Apple Picking" by Robert Frost and "Across the Bay" by Donald Davie. PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATALIE SCHIMEK

east, Upper Northwest and West, and Midwest and South Central, Florida being in the latter. Schimek recited "An Apology For Her Poetry" by Margaret Cavendish, "After Apple Picking" by Robert Frost, and "Across

the Bay" by Donald Davie — the same three poems she performed at the state competition. Poems performed at the competition must be chosen from the Poetry Out Loud's print or online anthology, and at the state and

national finals, there are certain requirements for the poems. One must be 25 lines or fewer and another must be written before the 20th century.

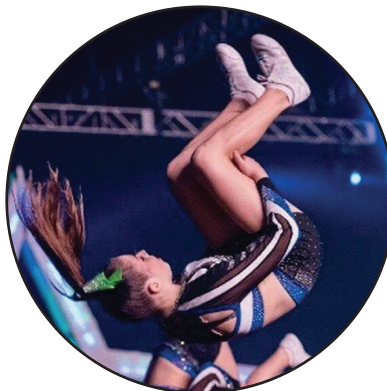
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"I'm Guilty"
Dealing with America's divided discourse

Missing memorials to be reintegrated

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by **Melissa Santoyo**
Opinion Editor

The Batman Bench is also something that may have to be moved once construction begins on that particular portion of campus. “It’ll look nice; it won’t look stark. And once the construction is done, we can begin to think about some permanent plantings, be it trees, or bushes, or whatever... We’ll preserve as much of [the Batman Bench] because it’s very meaningful to a lot of people, and I don’t think anybody is looking to do away with it, it just may be relocated,” Fair said.

Besides these various memorials, the removal of the dedicated bricks that lined the walkway from the parent loop to the buses is another matter that has drawn concern from multiple individuals in the community. These bricks, which were part of class fundraisers and included engraved remarks from both parents and students, were uprooted during the main office was renovated during the previous school year. These bricks will also be introduced back into Pine View’s traditional architecture following the completion of construction.

This loss has yielded some silver linings, though, as Spanish teacher Patricia Gerlek and social studies teacher Jenna Molinaro have teamed up to reinstate a feature for honoring deceased members of the community. Their idea is to create a collective memorial called the “Legacy Garden,” to remember faculty that have passed in recent years. While architectural plans



Two students chat between periods while sitting on the Tom Krause memorial benches. Memorials like this one have been removed due to construction.

PHOTO BY BEN GORDON

for the garden are still pending, Gerlek is looking to integrate elements of “whimsy,” with details such as water features and abundant greenery.

The Legacy Garden will also potentially include elements from previous memorials that have been removed due to their impediment with construction. Byrlanski’s bench, which is currently under the care of Black, is something that will be included; former English teacher Tom Krause’ bench may also be included. Following the recent passing of Pine View’s founder, John D. Woolever, Gerlek is also looking to incorporate a dedication of some sort for him at the center of the garden.

To help subsidize for the Legacy Garden’s expenses, both Gerlek and Molinaro have contacted mem-

bers of the community. “[We’re] hoping to reach out to alumni, as well as current families here at Pine View for support in honoring our beloved mentors while beautifying campus,” Molinaro said.

The Legacy Garden comes at a turning point in Pine View history as the school will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary since its establishment 1969. “We would like to keep [the memorials] going. I’d like all the students to remember teachers and administrators that have passed away, that have really made a mark on [Pine View],” Gerlek said. “Their presence, their impact on students — it’d be a really nice place to sit and reflect. If we get the kids to understand that it’s not a place to walk through, it’ll be dedicated and kind of a big deal.”

Student competes in national competition

continued from page 1

by **Tricia Saputera**
Asst. Match Editor

During the national competition, students not only competed, but also had fun. Competitors arrived April 23 and were invited to leisurely activities, such as meeting members of Congress. The participants then competed April 24-25, and attended an open poetry slam on the last day. At the poetry slam, all were welcome to perform and recite original poetry or other poems.

Schimek is currently captain of Oral Interpretation in Speech and Debate, and has been in the club since ninth grade. “I’ve had experience [from Oral Interpretation] reciting poems and performing them in a very similar way that is the format of Poetry Out Loud,” Schimek said. She is also a member of Pine View Poet Society, sponsored by English teachers Dr. Paul Dean and Chris Pauling, where anyone is welcome to enjoy poetry.

According to Schimek, Dean encouraged her to try Poetry Out Loud since not all English teachers made participating in the competition required. “I really appreciate their support and help, and encouraging poetry and not just with me



Twelfth-grader Natalie Schimek recites one of her poems during the Florida Poetry Out Loud competition. Schimek placed first in the competition, sending her to participate in the national Poetry Out Loud competition April 23-26 at George Washington University in Washington D.C.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NATALIE SCHIMEK

but the school in general and sponsoring Poet Society,” Schimek said.

“Natalie has been a great influence on the poetry club here at Pine View because for the whole time that it has existed, now three years, she has come to the slams, participated and I’ve actually watched her grow as a poet. And I think that her own individual poetry is very good and outstanding, especially the way she reads it. So I recognized from her reading that she would be great at Poetry Out Loud,” Dean said. “It’s funny be-

cause you would think she’d be this shy girl, and maybe at heart she is, but she has certainly conquered any fears she has of public speaking... I think she’s been an inspiration to many of the younger creative writers, and so as she goes away to college, I think her influence will remain for many years at Pine View.”

In the future, Schimek plans to study science but still pursue the arts. “I do want to keep poetry and arts in general in my life because it’s important to have an outlet,” Schimek said.

Diversity Council spearheads new elementary field trip



Second-graders along with high school members of Diversity Council visit the Embracing Our Differences exhibit with the Sarasota Film Festival. Held April 17, the field trip was hosted to educate students on racial, cultural and religious differences.

PHOTO BY MELISSA SANTOYO

IN BRIEF

New Mock Trial club introduced to campus

by **Cate Alvaro**
Sports Editor

New to Pine View this year, PV Mock Trial is another club option offered to students. The purpose of the new organization is to offer an after-school program that combines the aspects of public speaking, acting and law.

Tenth-graders Ben Nicholson and Vincent Scuteri proposed the idea of bringing this club to Pine View and reached out to social studies teacher Sean Murray to act as the sponsor.

Mock Trial is a national program that simulates lower-court trials. Teams consist of six students — three attorneys and three witnesses. Competitions are held between different schools at different levels. The

district qualifier is held at the Sarasota Courthouse, where teams from various schools rehearse their trials on paper and determine whether they qualify for states. There are also invitationals throughout the year, such as the Seminole State Invitational, the Sunshine State Smackdown and the Yale Invitational. According to the PV Mock Trial team, they plan to focus on their district circuit and state circuit this coming school year, as it is their first.

The club officially started April 3, commemorating member initiation in MLC 24. “We started this club to create a place where students could express themselves and have an outlet,” Nicholson said. The club meets in portable 24 on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Eleventh-graders to participate in Boys and Girls State

by **Allie Odishelidze**
Humor Editor

Joining the ranks of many Pine View students before them, five Pine View eleventh-graders will take part in the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary’s respective Boys and Girls State.

The two male representatives this year for Boys State are Chris Wolf and Edward Brunicardi. Selected on the basis of their merit, application and interview, they will have the opportunity to travel to Tallahassee June 17 to 23.

According to the Boys State sponsor, participants will “gain hands-on experience to leadership by taking part in the political process through role-play civic exercises.” The students will role-play a simulated political system in which “citizens will be organized into a mythical city, county and state from where they choose their own officials in accordance with regular election procedures. From there, they learn the duties of the various city, county and state officers, and they introduce and argue their own bills in a legislature.”

“Recently I’ve discovered about myself that I really like meeting and interacting with new people.

I am extremely excited to get outside of the ‘Pine View bubble,’” Brunicardi said. “That’s probably what I’m most excited about to be honest — just getting to meet new and different types of people.”

This year, Pine View has three female representatives for Girls State — Aitana Burman, Mariska Ursel and Shelly Barber — who will participate in Girls State in Tallahassee June 6 to 14. According to the American Legion Auxiliary, the purpose of Girls State is “to afford them an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens; to inform them about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship, in order that they may understand and participate in the functioning of their government; and to help them grasp the meaning of some of the responsibilities which they must assume when they become adults.”

One of this year’s participants, Ursel said, “I am so excited to learn about political participation and leadership. I expect it to be an exciting experience, and I am really looking forward to strengthening my leadership skills as a citizen and as a student.”

School Tax referendum passed for Sarasota County

by **Mackenzie Dyrda**
Entertainment Editor

The largest margin ever in Sarasota county history, a school tax referendum bill was passed March 21. The bill was approved for a four-year extension of an optional property tax to aid county schools. The one-mill tax bill increases property taxes to generate an estimated \$56 million in revenue for the school district in the 2018 fiscal year. A one-mill tax means that for every \$1,000 a property owner’s home is worth, an extra \$1 will be paid in taxes as a result of the referendum.

This number is equal to 13 percent of the district’s budget, and once divided will amount to \$1,275

on average for each Sarasota County School student.

Sarasota county voters showed an unusually high voter turnout to the polls this year, rounding to 21 percent of registered voters. According to the Herald Tribune, this year’s victory topped the numbers of past votes, totaling at 79 percent approval.

The renewal of the referendum will keep the extra 30 minutes of school per day, preserve visual and performing arts at schools and continue to enhance school safety. Pine View School will be receiving \$1,433,766 of the referendum’s funding to fund positions and additional resources on campus.

MathWorks in Modeling Challenge



Read the full story on MathWorks in Modeling Challenge at PVTorch.com by scanning the QR code provided.

Pine View smart, service strong

Christopher Pelton:

by **Manny Rea**
Sci-Tech Editor

Aiming high, twelfth-grader Christopher Pelton will be joining the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) next fall. After seeing his older brother, Pine View alumnus Matthew Pelton, enlist two years ago, Pelton felt as if he could dedicate his abilities to the country and follow in his brother's footsteps.

Pelton first contemplated the decision to join the military in tenth grade, later deciding to follow the military rigor and education that could be turned into a future career. "Just close friends knew that I wanted to serve, but not everyone," Pelton said.

According to Pelton, the enlistment process can be grueling — both physically and mentally. Applying to USAFA, located in Colorado Springs, Colo., requires a nomination packet that Pelton received in September of last year.

Pelton has faced paperwork for the last two years to ensure his qualifications for the academy. Throughout the whole process, he has communicated with Admissions Liaison Officer (ALO), Ronald Knight. An officer for Pine View since 2002, Knight commends Pine View for preparing Air Force applicants for the rigors of the academy.

Physical and medical tests were also mandatory in the admissions process to ensure students were in proper health before enrollment. After passing his exams, Pelton participated in a personal interview with more than 10 representatives from the academy assessing his eligibility. The accepted individuals are admitted based on a composite score of their character, medical evalua-

tions and extracurricular activities.

"What we are looking for are bright students who are in leadership roles already," Knight said.

Pelton has been a key member of his swim team, the Sarasota YMCA Sharks, for the past 10 years. This helped him solidify his abilities to lead.

As required, Pelton must serve five years in the Air Force after his schooling. Academy members are placed at U.S. bases throughout the country and sometimes overseas, depending on availability. According to Pelton, he is happy to be able to receive a full education through the academy's education programs. "Academics were the biggest risk for me for joining the Air Force, but I feel Pine View gave me the edge on being prepared for whatever comes my way in the future," Pelton said.

In the future, Pelton hopes to major in economics and develop a solid background for a leadership career in business, government or law. What he looks forward to most is the military conditioning and flight-school aspect that USAFA has to offer. "I am really looking forward to having the ability to fly for the United States," Pelton said.

According to Pelton, while he is sad to be leaving his friends and family, he is eager to make the commitment, and he won't be completely alone. "It will be difficult, but having my brother here will help me a lot," Pelton said.

"I'm so proud of him and can't wait to see what he'll accomplish," Pelton's sister, ninth-grader Ashley Pelton said. "It's going to be so different not seeing him at home and at school next year."



PHOTO BY KASUMI WADE

After high school, the possibilities are endless. While most may find themselves attending a traditional university full time, two seniors have chosen to pursue careers in the military. Ready to embark on a life of service and leadership, twelfth-graders Christopher Pelton and Kevin Kapadia will be joining the United States Air Force and United States Marine Corps.

Kevin Kapadia:

by **Annie Hassan**
Copy Editor

Only a day after graduation, twelfth-grader Kevin Kapadia will embark on a new journey — being commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. By attending boot camp in Paris Island, N.C. May 21 to Aug. 17 as a 90-day reservist, he will be one step closer to fulfilling his goal.

According to Kapadia, he was initially interested in being a part of the military as a physician. However, he learned that he could not be a military doctor without receiving an undergraduate degree, so he will attend the University of Florida (UF) next fall. This summer, Kapadia will begin phase one of his training by attending the 90-day reservist program which focuses on team building and learning the core principles of discipline. "I'm excited to be going, but I'm also nervous," he said.

Becoming a 90-day reservist is a complex process, as it requires passing exams and being academically eligible. During the process, a recruiter is assigned to a recruit and helps with the application process. Kapadia went to the recruiting office in Port Charlotte, Fla., and was assigned to his recruiter, Sergeant Ian Lind. "Talking to the recruiter is really fun because his job is to recruit you so he really connects with you," Kapadia said.

The program itself is 12 weeks and is divided into four-week cycles with each week focusing on a particular task. The most important weeks are the ninth and tenth in which recruits have to pass the Crucible, a 54-hour test. This test provides one packaged meal, allows for only a minimal amount of sleep and requires recruits to walk over 45 miles. Kapadia will also have to work with others to overcome obstacles, such as long marches and team-building warrior stations. "Once you're done with the Crucible, that's

when you're officially a Marine," he said.

To be applicable for the program, one must receive a good score on Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) which is administered at any Medical Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) located in the U.S. the closest one to Kapadia being in Tampa.

Scoring well on the ASVAB ensures a higher probability of qualifying for more of the Military Occupational Specialties. Kapadia got a perfect score and decided to specialize in engineer equipment operator — someone in charge of handling heavy machinery.

While in Tampa, Kapadia also had to pass a depth perception exam which involves having relatively good eye vision. Initially, Kapadia did not pass but was able to receive a waiver due to his perfect score on the ASVAB. "I didn't pass the vision test so they took me to the ophthalmologist, and they determined that I had stigmatism," he said. "So, I had to get a waiver for that. The third time I went, I passed it." He officially enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps March 14 by taking an oath and is now already on a six-year contract.

Kapadia decided on such a contract because he is still unsure of his future in the military. "The whole reason I am doing this is because I was thinking about military medical school, so this is my way of seeing if I actually wanted to be in the military or not," he said. "If I go to military medical school, then it's an 11-year obligation."

After completing boot camp and attending one year of UF, Kapadia will start phase two by learning combat training next summer.

His sister, ninth-grader Kaysha Kapadia, said, "I am very surprised and proud. It's going to be a huge adjustment for both of us, with him becoming a Marine and me adjusting to him being gone."

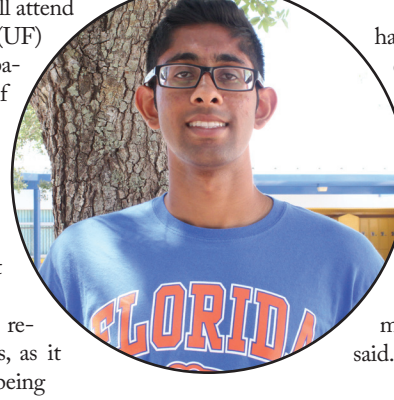


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Bidding faculty farewell: staff members depart from Pine View

Staff members to leave Pine View for retirement and new opportunities at the end of the school year

Every year, students and teachers come together in saying goodbye to beloved members of the Pine View staff. Soon, three teachers and aide Sally Tyler will be leaving their positions. Whether entering retirement or moving on to new job opportunities, these fixtures on campus and within the Pine View community will be deeply missed.

Suzi Shea

by Anna Labiner

Asst. Entertainment Editor
Showing 8 and 9-year-olds how to sing and dance during "Third Grade Rocks" and organizing a paper-mache project all while teaching cursive might intimidate most people, but third-grade teacher Suzi Shea has proved that she is up to the task. Her commitment and genuine passion have made her a truly unique teacher. Beginning her career at Pine View in 1990, Shea said she has become extremely close to the third-grade staff, and will fondly remember the experiences and memories she has gained throughout the years.

Before working at Pine View, Shea attended Florida State University (FSU) and proceeded to earn her gifted endorsement from Saint Leo University. After previously working with the gifted students at Wilkinson Elementary School for one year, and Fruitville Elementary School for three years, she then began at Pine View's old campus teaching second grade.

Shea knew that she wanted to teach after having some bad experiences during her childhood at school, deciding that she didn't want any other child to feel the way that she had. Eventually, Shea recalls having a very influential teacher, a teacher who showed her how great school can be. According to Shea, one of her biggest regrets has been not calling her second

grade teacher and explaining to her that she inspired Shea herself to teach.

"I am never happier than when I'm in my classroom teaching these kids. I live, breathe, and die this job. I love the kids, and I love forming relationships with them and getting to see them go all the way through high school," Shea said.

Additionally, Shea has grown very close to her fellow staff at Pine View through projects like the third-grade sleepover and "Third Grade Rocks." "I love the way that my team works together to pull off these projects and create hands-on things for the students," Shea said.

This supportive staff also helped her get through the loss of her son, ultimately motivating her to come back to teaching. Subsequently, Shea developed "Stop the Code of Silence," which is a program she started six years ago in which she speaks to high school students about her experiences with the foster care system and the abuse of drugs. The message of the presentation is to speak out when someone you know is endangering themselves or other people, as well

as to understand the difference between tattling and telling. In her retirement, Shea hopes to build off this idea by trying to land a job as an educational advocate for foster children at a new foster home, considering she has experienced first hand how poorly her own foster children were treated in the system.

"She contributed like an anchor. She's been here a long time, she knows how the school has changed and progressed, and she keeps us together like the links of an anchor," fellow third grade teacher Dr. Vicky Singleton said. The two have been working together for 15 years.

Shea has lived in Sarasota all her life, and her connection to the community is one that will last a lifetime. Her dedication and enthusiasm for her work are what make her such a remarkable teacher and coworker. "Mrs. Shea is very nice and exciting, and she's fun with all her activities," third-grader Clover Murphy said.

Shea's bond with the students and staff have ensured that she will leave a legacy at Pine View not only as a teacher, but also as a friend.



PHOTO BY BEN GORDON

Sally Tyler

by Anna Labiner

Asst. Entertainment Editor
After years of devotion, hard work and service, longtime aide Sally Tyler will be retiring at the end of this year. Tyler has been working at Pine View for 22 years, starting as a monitorial aide and eventually working her way up to a paraprofessional and a teacher's aide. Tyler has become a fundamental member of Pine View's staff and will be missed by students and teachers alike.

Tyler began working at Pine View in 1996 after her daughter enrolled in the school. After a few weeks working at Pine View, she fell in love with the school, especially the students. "I've enjoyed the kids over the years and watching them grow up... they're like your own children," she said. "Kids can be very 'huggy' but then they get their friends, so they kind of shy away from you for a while, and then as they get older, they come back, so, it's very reminiscent."

Tyler has loved working with students, saying that talking to them is like having a conversation with "mini adults." One of her favorite experiences has been receiving a hand-made book about herself from a second-grader last year. Tyler has also enjoyed the opportunity to work both inside and outside, because she could not see herself as a person who sits in an office all day.

"Sally is an amazing addition to the Pine View staff. Kids at car loop lined up to talk to her," ninth-grader Keleigh Koeniger said. "I know she will be missed by many."

Tyler says she will miss her relationship with students the most because of her meaningful connection with them; but, she is excited to start the next chapter in her life. She says that she has traveled some, but still has many places to visit on her bucket list, like Japan, Iceland, South America and a safari tour. Along with traveling, Tyler has a green thumb, and is on track to becoming a master gardener, calling herself a "plant addict."

She will also try to keep her mind sharp by doing things like learning a new language and playing the piano.

Tyler's final message to staff and students is to keep the traditions of Pine View alive. Her enthusiasm and commitment to her job and to students is what makes Tyler so unique, and her presence will be missed next year. Tyler says that she will visit, and is looking forward to keeping up with students.

"Sally is always ready to help out a student, or a fellow staff member, and she's very kind. We're all going to miss her very much," volunteer office worker Heidi Bodor said.

"I've been at Pine View for



PHOTO BY ANNA LABINER

Beverly Templeton

by Rehana Qudir

Spark Editor

After nearly ten years of dedication and hard work toward her teaching career, middle school science teacher Beverly Templeton is leaving Pine View to explore new corners of the world. Templeton was initially a Pine View parent and is finishing off as an influential teacher who will be remembered by the people she taught and worked with.

With her love of science, Templeton went to Wellesley College, a women's college in Boston, Mass. Her fondness of the environment encouraged her to take environmental science classes, and she received her Bachelor of Arts in Biology. However, Templeton did not begin her science career in teaching, but she instead became a prominent part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for several years. It was only after she was introduced to the idea of teaching from one of her friends that she realized she would love to teach children about science. She began teaching seventh graders at Heron Creek Middle School followed by Sarasota Middle School.

After joining the Pine View staff in 2008, Templeton not only taught sixth-grade science, but also worked hard to promote sustainability on campus by helping students-

become more informed about the environment with her G3 club. "This year, I am learning the ropes of G3 from her and find that her passion for those causes is contagious," fellow seventh-grade science teacher Hali Flahavan said.

Along with help from students, teachers and parents, Templeton's work with sustainability at Pine View helped honor the school by becoming acknowledged as a Department of Education Green Ribbon School. This award is given to schools that demonstrate that they are healthy and environmentally sustainable.

Many of her current and former students recounted Templeton's kind and passionate demeanor. Along with teaching what she loves, Templeton has enjoyed watching her students excel, grow and apply life science to the real world. "She

has a cheerful personality and was helpful to everyone," eighth-grader Sarah Hassan said.

With her retirement, Templeton plans on spending time with her children, taking it easy and traveling to places like Iceland, and the Baha and Yucatan Peninsulas. When asked what her words to the teacher who follows after her would be she said, "Enjoy your students and always see the best. Come from a loving heart."



PHOTO BY GWYN PETERSEN

Jack Francis

by Sid Sharma

Spark Editor

Known to be one of the most enthusiastic and open teachers here at Pine View, middle school English teacher Jack Francis has, in his five years here, left an impression on his students. Feeling it was time for a new challenge and a new environment, Francis made his leaving date official in March after being offered the opportunity to teach at another Sarasota County school, Sarasota Suncoast Academy (SSA).

Born and raised in Florida, Francis grew up with both his parents being passionate teachers. Francis knew he would eventually become a teacher, it was only a matter of when. "I always thought I was good at teaching, and interacting with kids in general," he said. Francis eventually attended the University of South Florida for four years, where he would earn his teaching degree.

Francis has spent his years at Pine View teaching Language Arts and Civics for seventh grade, and strives to help his students. "I really do love my students, the days go by quickly, and I never dread going to work," he said. "[We] always have

interesting discussions. I always loved the back and forth the students and I have. I mean I had the best kids you could want."

In the future, Francis hopes to incorporate a similar teaching style to that which he had at Pine View to SSA. Francis is very excited for this new adventure, and he said the main reason was he wanted to teach with his wife, who is already a teacher at SSA. "I really hate to leave, but I couldn't pass up this opportunity," Francis said.

When asked what his favorite Pine View memory was, Francis said it was when the current seventh-grade class threw him a surprise birthday party. "It was so thoughtful of them," he said. "I've never had a class do that for me before."

Francis' former students remember him as a teacher who remained open-minded in his ways of teaching and aided students in their learning process.

"He was flexible in his methods of teaching and tailored it to whatever would help his students be most successful," eighth-grader Blake Lechiter, said. "He was one of the greatest teachers I've ever had."



PHOTO BY BEN GORDON

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Students serve as junior jurors for Sarasota Film Festival

by **Ella Hechlik**
Asst. Web Editor

Film fanatics from all over the state look forward to Sarasota's annual Film Festival. With almost 19 years under its belt, the festival is full of culture, film appreciation and history. On Mar. 30, three Pine View students in grades 10 through 12 were given the opportunity to select the films shown at the festival.

"All of the films were really different, from documentaries to animations. Some were comedic while others were more like thriller films. We picked them based on acting, cinematography, script and a logical plot," tenth-grader Christiana Guan said.

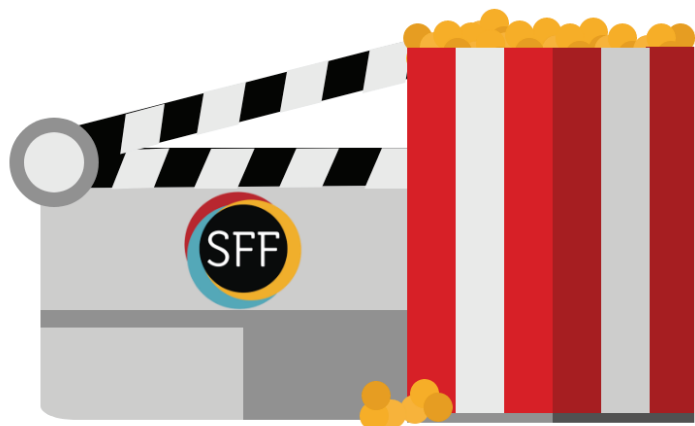
In addition to Guan, eleventh-graders William Khabbaz

and Pablo Gonzalez were also accepted to the committee of junior jurors for the film festival.

"I think it is a really fun experience to be able to watch and critique youth films, and a lot of the films are local, too, so we get to see the talent and skills of not only

people our age, but in our area as well," Guan said.

The program was started by Paul Ratner, the Education Director of the film festival, to help



high school students interested in film explore their passion. The

application process required a two-page critique on a film of the applicant's choice, and a one-page personnel statement. Only six jurors were elected. This year, three Pine View students and three Riverview students were chosen.

The program explores film analysis, cultural and media views and the duty of selecting and presenting the films that played April 14 at the Hollywood Nights premiere in downtown Sarasota. All of the directors were invited, and each got to view their film along with the audience at Hollywood 20. At the end of the

night, the winner was announced by the junior jurors.

The films were selected through a process of watching the films and scoring them based on cinematography, writing, acting and an "overall" category. This took place April 11. Films were submitted by high-school students from all over the state. In total, about 30 films were shown, ranging in length from three to 10 minutes. Then, the jurors took turns discussing each film and then scored it out of 40 points.

"In the room, we have a lot of different views and opinions, but we are in an environment where we all feel heard. It is an amazing community to work in," eleventh-grader William Khabbaz said.

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Construction Update

By the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, the current two lanes of the parent-pickup loop will be merged into one at the end of the circle in order to reduce stagnant pickup and drop-off traffic.



The finished product will require parents to loop around the circle, rather than sit, until their child is ready to go.

With the completion of the project, staff parking adjacent to building 16 will be more accessible. The project will remedy the inconvenience of the lot's keypad, which does not correspond with the pickup's left lane, the lane which turns into the staff parking lot.



GRAPHIC BY LEO GORDON

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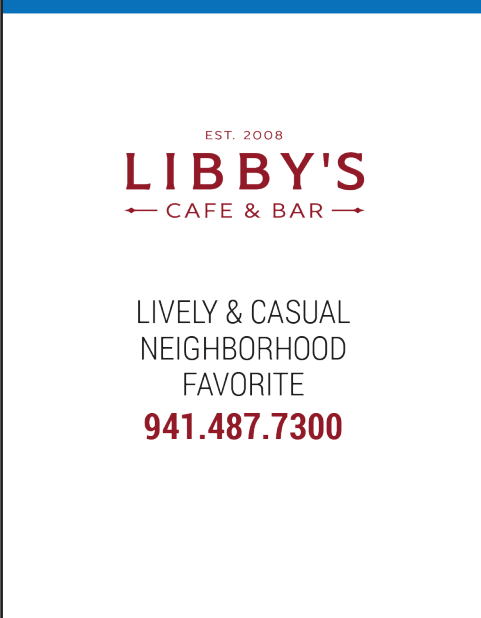
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Do not disturb

Student disconnects from social media for a week



by **Haleigh Brown**
Match Editor-in-Chief

Junior year at Pine View is notoriously difficult. It is hard to balance school, life at home, friends, extracurriculars and now, social media. More and more people are spending more time every day on some form of social media, whether it be to communicate or scroll through other peoples' lives for hours on end. It is overwhelming, to say the least, so I decided to make a decision. I am going to give up social media for a week, and see if it makes my life either a little harder, or a little easier.

Day 1: The first day I gave up social media, I was perfectly fine. I had plenty of homework to do, so sitting in a Starbucks with my friends and working there until I was done was relatively painless.

Nighttime was a little more difficult, so I watched quite a few YouTube videos and stumbled across some motivational ones that kept me going.

Day 2: I got ready so much faster than usual and found myself playing Cube Runner on the couch for 10 minutes. Who knew I had the game Cube Runner on my phone?

Peoples' responses to me doing this challenge are hilarious: "What about our streak?" You mean a tiny fire emoji with a number next to it? It doesn't matter.

Day 3: I began feeling kind of isolated. I am so busy and don't have much time to talk to people, but it feels a little lonely since I tend to use Snapchat as my main form of communication.

I sat in Barnes and Noble, staying completely focused. I definitely began texting people more,



and I also found myself looking around at books, something that is very unlike myself. New me?

Day 4: Today was so easy since I got all my work done at Barnes and Noble last night. Every time I told someone how much work I got done they were in awe at how long I stayed focused.

However, I was feeling kind of tired because I did so much work last night. Finding a new balance will be an important thing for me to practice if I continue with this after the week is up.

Day 5: My last day! Honestly, I was starting to miss social media a little bit. It comes in handy so often. We have a report in AP Language and Composition that involves reaching out to Pine View alumni who attend our top colleges. It is quite hard to do when you have no way to contact them.

I have really enjoyed this experiment and although I'm not sure if I will ever give it up permanently. I definitely can see myself taking a step back.

Post Week Reflection: It has now been two weeks since my experiment and I have slowly re-downloaded all of my social media; the results from the experiment couldn't be better. I find it unrealistic to keep social media deleted forever, as so many important messages and movements are being spread around the world today because of it. However, I not only find myself on these accounts for significantly less time, but I also find it much easier to put my entire phone away while doing work — something that was very difficult for me prior to the experiment. My advice? Have a friend keep up your Snapchat streaks, if that is important to you, and give it a try. You won't regret it.

[an infographic]

STEM Strong

<p>STEMsmart Summit 3/16:</p> <p>Math Quiz Bowl Team 1st Place Pragnya Govindu Grace Kim Julia Kourelakous Rosenna Chan</p> <p>Vex Competition 2nd Place Alexander Lindsay Joshua Perna Matthew Vaccaro</p> <p>CAD 3D Design 2nd Place Alex Gage</p> <p>EXHIBITION - TSA Dragster 1st Place Stephen Rauch</p> <p>MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge Advanced to Nationals Sarah Mihm Dylan Hull Chloe Harris Tristan Lee Zoe McDonald</p>	<p>Technology Student Association State Conference 2/28-3/3:</p> <p>Extemporaneous Speech 2nd Place Sachit Gali</p> <p>TSA: 3D Animation 2nd Place Cara Kaminski Christiana Guan Claire Wang Kaila Stafford Tyler Angley</p> <p>TSA: Debating Technological Issues 2nd Place Gia Douglass Sachit Gali</p> <p>Software Development 2nd Place Gia Douglass Matthew Cohen Sachit Gali William Giraldo</p> <p>First Robotics Orlando Regional 3/7-3/10: 1st Deans List Finalist Award Julia Giffard</p>
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See how they do at Nat's PVTorch.com

GRAPHICS BY BRIANNA NELSON

The history and applications of quantum computers

by **Ryan Wasserman**
Web Section Editor

Quantum computers offer a new way to compute information, and can hold the key to faster and more space-efficient computers of the future. These cutting edge devices can offer many opportunities for economic and educational growth for future computing.

Quantum computers function by taking advantage of natural laws that govern all atomic and molecular motion. These laws are so complex that they can not be accurately modeled by traditional computers — called classical computers — that function on electrical impulses. These computers rely on a binary system, in which only two conditions are possible at any given time. This is either when electricity is or is not flowing, represented in programming by a 1 or 0. This limits classical computers from accurately modeling natural phenomena on an atomic level, because natural components require a third condition to be possible.

This third condition is called quantum superposition, and it is the quality of being both true and untrue at the same time, or a hypothetical third state where the electricity both is and is not flowing. The standard two states that operate in a classical computer are referred to as bits, but the set of three states that operate in a quantum computer is named a qubit. These allow for much difference in the way that the computer works on a problem, potentially solving it much faster than a comparable classical computer.

In order for these interactions to be physically observed and changed in the way that could be useful in a computer, the conditions have to be correct for entanglement to occur. This requires an extremely cold environment, just a few parts of a degree off of the coldest possible temperature, to reliably happen. In order to create and maintain this environment, carefully-built towers must be constructed inside large, cylindrical refrigerators that can plunge the ambient temperatures that low. The actual computer chip is suspended from the top of the refrigerator, on a gold-foil covered spire.

Because of the nature of quantum superposition, a quantum computer can compute every possible combination of the input values at once, making for lightning-fast performance of certain equations. However, attempting to view and measure a qubit's behavior will cause the superposition to collapse into either of the states found in a classical computer, rendering it useless. Therefore, answers given by quantum can only be expressed in probabilities, instead of the certainties given by classical computers. Better certainty of the answer can be given by running the equation repeatedly, at the expense of time and efficiency. Due to this limitation, many different individual processors are required to retrieve



A recent quantum computer, made by IBM. It is meant for scientific applications for the company. PHOTO PROVIDED BY TECHNOLOGYREVIEW.COM

an accurate answer. Due to the factors required to effectively run and use a quantum computer, these devices are prohibitively expensive to build and run; so, individual businesses are not usually able to own their own. However, the economic benefits of these computers may be able to offset these operational costs.

A quantum computer can compute every possible combination of input values at once, making for lightning-fast performance.

One such application is machine learning, in which quantum computing can quickly use algorithms to analyze data and optimize software to fit this set. Machine learning is useful in both personal and business activity. Individual people use it when they use a predictive keyboard on their smartphone, or when they train their vocal typing software to more accurately read their voice. Businesses make use of machine learning when they analyze data from their website, or when a store uses the most purchased items to lay out a more convenient floor plan.

Another possible application is in optimization. Sometimes referred to as valley problems, sampling revolves around finding the most effective solution in a group of possible actions, or determining the lowest value out of a set of complex data. Many different trades and professions make use of optimization, from stock market analysis to finding the best combination of medications to treat a disease.

Due to discrete advantages offered by the quantum computing platform, this cutting edge technology can bring forth many benefits to the general population. However, much of this technology is still in concept form, or not advanced enough for commercial application. In the future, quantum computers may be the predominate form of supercomputers, and have unforeseen economic impacts.



Sunken Gardens

by Madi Holmes
Web Section Editor

Spring has sprung on the humid Florida coast, which means the beautiful and abundant Florida flora and fauna are starting to make their appearance across the state. Sunken Gardens, located in the middle of the bustling city of St. Petersburg, is an oasis for Florida's most beloved plants, flowers and animals. Sunken Gardens is St. Petersburg's oldest living museum and one of the nation's oldest roadside tourist attractions.

Being in Florida's ideal climate allows Sunken Gardens to have over 50,000 lush tropical plants and flowers across four acres of winding, plant-filled paths. The historical gardens allow for a great weekend of unwinding or a lazy Sunday stroll with friends. The gardens make a great educational spot for families and schools, due to their historic plants and native species.

With some of the most breathtaking views of Florida's nature, Sunken Gardens contains multiple areas including a Japanese gar-

den, butterfly garden, cactus garden and even a flock of bright pink flamingos. With deep, historical Florida roots and breathtaking wildlife, there is nothing that can beat a visit to Sunken Gardens.

The gardens also offer six programs for children and adults of all ages. One is a children's photography class called Cameras and Kids, in which kids delve deep into the field of photography through hands-on work with the picturesque plants around the gardens. Some adult courses, for those curious in techniques and tips about growing one's own plants, include Propagation Techniques, Grow Microgreens, Rain Gardens and Barrels and a program specifically for orchid planting, called, Think Outside the Pot: Mounting Orchids. The programs are free with membership and are included in admission.

The roadside attraction has an admission price of \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$4 for children ages 2 through 11. It is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday from noon



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SUNKEN GARDENS

to 4:30 p.m. The garden also offers a \$50 family membership package which includes free, year-long admission to the gardens and benefits such as gift shop discounts. Sunken Gardens also offers guided tours for groups or schools and volunteer opportunities across the bay area.

1825 4th St. N. St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Rating:
5/5 Torches



The Hidden Gardens

Stunning foliage and flowers are a common sight at the gardens of south Florida, which are popular destinations for tourists and Florida residents. From swimming to brunch, these gardens are a delightful experience. The Torch reviews gardens of south Florida and you won't "beleaf" your eyes.

The Garden Room Cafe at Shoogie Boogies



PHOTO BY WILLIAM KHABBAZ

by William Khabbaz
Features Editor

The luscious flowers and aromas of lavender fill the air of Sarasota's local garden and cafe, Shoogie Boogies. The small cottage is located in downtown Sarasota on Morrill Street and offers a peaceful atmosphere perfect for any event.

Kathryn Kittinger opened Shoogie Boogies in 2005 after moving from Silicon Valley, Calif. Kittinger was originally a photographer and wanted to capture the essence of the world around her. Three years after opening, Kittinger slowly started to make Shoogie Boogies more accessible to the public.

In 2009, Shoogie Boogies had become a fully operational cafe. Guests today have the option of enjoying their handcrafted meals either inside or out, and can enjoy the scents of lavender and the buzzing of bees in the background. The garden is filled with banana palms, lavender plants and a wide variety of spring and summer flowers. These pruned

arrangements of flowers are sold at the cafe and are for guests to enjoy.

Shoogie Boogies offers a selection of food from the gardens of London and can turn an English tea party dream into a reality. The main menu presents a selection of salads, soups, wraps and pedestals. The pear and walnut salad sits on a bed of arugula with a strong combination of gouda and blue cheese, tossed with fresh pears, walnuts and a small topping of honey. The other salad offered is the Mediterranean, which is a plate filled with mixed greens combined with creamy goat cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, pine nuts, green beans, olives and mushrooms. Those flavorful ingredients are then topped with a Mediterranean dressing and an option of either salmon or chicken. The cafe also serves a small variety of wraps and bowls that feature flavors from the western part of the country, where Kittinger was raised.

The Garden Room Cafe prides its location for being a sweet destination for French-inspired crepes and pedestals full of savory snacks. The cafe offers one type of crepe filled high with sweet pears, strawberries, creme fraiche and honey, topped with powdered sugar. This mouthwatering treat can be made gluten-free, so all customers can enjoy. The cafe presents three different pedestals that showcase a tower of finger sandwiches, cheeses or desserts. The pedestals give guests the option of small portions that are easily shared between a big group of people. "It is a great place to spend a Sunday morning and enjoy a great meal with friends and family," eleven-year-old Olivia Graham said.

Shoogie Boogies is a unique hole-in-the-wall cafe that offers rich, flavorful dishes and a floral atmosphere fit to satisfy any flavor palette.

1919 Morrill St, Sarasota, FL 34236

Rating:
5/5 Torches



Bok Tower Gardens



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BOK TOWER GARDENS

by Naina Chauhan
Match Layout Artist

Sitting atop one of Florida's highest hills, Bok Tower Gardens is the idyllic hideaway. It serves as a sanctuary for birds and native fauna and flora, as well as its visitors. Bok Tower Gardens is made up of a 250-acre garden, the 205-foot tall Singing Tower, Pine Ridge Trail, Pinewood Estate and a visitor center.

The garden was created by Edward Bok in 1929. Bok was a successful publisher, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, humanitarian and an advocate of world peace and the environment. Bok wanted to "touch the soul with its beauty and quiet."

The extensive garden was skillfully designed by famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. It boasts a large variety of native and exotic plants. The plants, while beautiful, also provide food and shelter to the wildlife that takes refuge in the gardens. The garden has paths that reach every corner so that visitors can wander to any area.

The vast garden also offers

plenty of serene rest spots so visitors can relax while still admiring their surroundings. The gardens are especially beautiful during spring because it is peak bloom season. The garden's 150 varieties of camellias, azaleas, nun's orchids and irises all bloom at once to "create an explosion of color," according to their website.

Another Bok Tower Gardens attraction is the Singing Tower. The first thing that visitors see when entering is the alluring reflection pool. It reflects the awe-inspiring Singing Tower, which lies straight ahead. The neo-gothic building has eight levels, but its seventh level is especially unique because it is where the carillons are located. Carillons are a type of musical instrument composed of bells — 60 bells in the case of Bok Tower Gardens — and it is played through a keyboard. This beautiful instrument is played at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. daily, filling the gardens with its harmonic tunes.

Throughout his life, Bok lived by the words of his grandmother — "Make the world a bit better or more beautiful because you have lived in it." Bok Tower Gardens is a testament to that statement. The vast gardens which seem boundless are filled with dazzling flora and fauna, native wildlife and meandering pathways so the visitors can take in all of the beauty and nature.

1151 Tower Blvd, Lake Wales, FL 33853

Rating:
5/5 Torches



Devil's Den Prehistoric Cave

by Zach Bright
Web Editor-in-Chief

Transport back in time to a prehistoric era at Devil's Den Spring in Williston, Fla. With a fossil bed dating back millions of years alongside plenty of snorkeling and scuba diving available for all types of visitors, this gem of nature is a must-see summer destination.

Devil's Den was first purchased by the current owners in 1993. Ever since, the location has grown in popularity for its scuba and snorkeling opportunities. With a depth of 54 feet and a diameter of 120 feet, the spring allows patrons to dive in and go deep, exploring the underwater nature held deep inside the cave.

The natural wonder has much to offer. Wildlife fills the peaceful spring, including fish and turtles. Fossils from 33 million years ago dot the shore of the water and the floor of the spring. Completely freshwater, the location is sure to relax and refresh those seeking to wash away the stress of the school year.

Aside from the spring and cave itself, lodging is also offered, including four cabins and campgrounds for those looking to get in touch with nature. Moreover, pic-

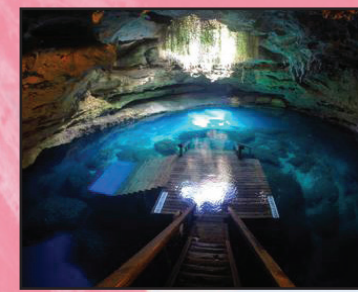


PHOTO PROVIDED BY DEVIL'S DEN

nic tables and grills provide visitors with a way to have a bite to eat after taking a swim.

For snorkelers, admission costs \$15 per person on weekdays, and \$20 on holidays. Additional equipment is available for rental for \$10. Those interested in scuba have to pay a hefty fee of \$38 upon entrance, with an additional \$40 needed for a full set of equipment.

The facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays and weekends. For a singular evening experience, nighttime dives can be made, but only by appointment. Visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent.

5390 NE 180th Ave Williston, FL 32696

Rating:
4/5 Torches



Committed: Art College Edition

The featured seniors have committed to universities in the art, design and film fields. The Torch spotlights these individuals and their goals for the future in their professions.

Katie Bonner:

Laguna College of Art and Design

by **Alexa Molloy**
Copy Editor

Twelfth-grader Katie Bonner is very “animated” about her future in the fine arts. Pursuing a major in animation, Bonner will be attending Laguna College of Art and Design (LCAD) in Laguna, Calif. in the fall.

According to Bonner, she has had an interest in the general field of art since middle school. Upon watching Disney’s “Tangled” when it first came out in 2010, she was immediately fascinated by the animation aspect of the film. “That was the first time I realized I enjoyed watching characters move on screen,” she said.

It was not until ninth grade that she began pondering the idea

of a future career as an artist. Her interest in the specific major of animation spiked when she was a sophomore. “I’ve always had an interest in art. It has always been a goal of mine to create characters on screen that show dynamic movement,” she said.

Animation, however, is much more than simple sketches. In an animated movie or television show, 24 to 30 frames per second are required in order to convey smooth action. In a two-hour film, this means over 200,000 frames must be drawn. However, according to Bonner, she loves the challenge; she draws her gesture drawings (sketches showing movement) in pen and ink to ensure she cannot erase anything. “You get a lot more out of pen and ink,” she said. “It increases the challenge and confidence of my gesture drawings.”

This past summer, Bonner attended the Ringling PreCollege program for four weeks and took classes in illustration and visual development. According to Bonner, this experience really increased her skills for, and interest in, animation. “I learned a lot about the process that goes into creating animation,” she said. “It’s all about fleshing out that concept for other people to use.”

Bonner applied and got accepted into various art colleges, however, her first choice was LCAD due to its smaller, more personal atmosphere, as well as its proximity to the main “animation hub” of the country — Los Angeles, Calif. “Overall, [LCAD’s] old-school animation program is most beneficial for my future artistic career,” she said.

As for her future career in animation, according to Bonner, she would love to be an art director at a major animation studio. However, she is open to anything that comes her way. “As long as I’m animating,” she said.

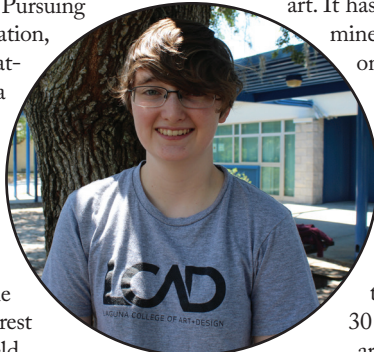


PHOTO BY ALEXA MOLLOY

Harrison Epstein:

University of Southern California

by **Kasumi Wade**
Asst. News Editor

Eager to learn more about the art of film-making, twelfth-grader Harrison Epstein has decided to attend the University of Southern California (USC). Epstein has always known he wanted to get a major in cinematic arts; so, he recently began to participate in various hands-on filming opportunities.

Although Epstein was always aware of his passion for film, the people around him were not always supportive. “A lot of people were persuading me not to get into film, probably because it is a hard business. However, after I voiced my passion and really expressed my interest, people started to get on board,” Epstein said.

Epstein first started to explore the field of film this year by interning for SOURCE! Productions, a production company affiliated with Planned Parenthood. At SOURCE! Epstein helps create different kinds of productions. The topics covered are usually educational, including the youth, and different drugs. Epstein said he is always able to learn a lot during productions. He recently worked on a commercial for a drug called PrEP which lowers the chances of contracting HIV.

On top of this, Epstein also took part in the Sarasota Film Festival’s Education Outreach pro-

gram, in which he planned events at schools across the county and worked closely with employees there.

In the future, Epstein would like to not only work on film, but also focus on screen writing and the technical side of filming. Epstein hopes to use college as an opportunity to make new connections and talk to new people who can help educate him in the field.

Epstein has many inspirations in the film industry, including Darren Aronofsky, an American filmmaker who has made riveting and controversial films.

Aronofsky is able to put many different kinds of metaphorical elements into his piece which always amazes and allures Epstein.

Epstein chose to attend the USC’s School of Cinematic Arts because of its welcoming atmosphere and people.

“The school is a bit smaller, but when I visited, I could tell that the environment was right. Everyone was working together on student projects and the facilities were top-notch,” Epstein said. According to Epstein, he hopes that attending USC will open doors to even more opportunities in the future because of the endless connections and a tight alumni program. “I am super excited to learn more and be in an atmosphere where everyone around me has similar goals and interests,” Epstein said.



PHOTO BY KASUMI WADE

Ally Moyer:

Indiana University

by **Elizabeth Hopkins**
Asst. Match Editor

A life on the stage is all twelfth-grader Ally Moyer has ever wanted. Come this fall, she will be chasing her dreams at Indiana University to pursue just that, studying Jazz Vocal Performance at the Jacobs School of Music.

Growing up in a family that encouraged her vocal abilities, Moyer’s earliest inspiration was her mother, language arts teacher Lori Wiley, who is an accomplished musician. “My mom tells me stories of me as a baby humming along to a soundtrack and saying nonsense words to the tune of the song,” Moyer said. As she matured, Moyer would go on to perform at her church, as well as various community events when she had the chance.

In middle school, Moyer continued to cultivate her talents, launching the vocal group Forte in seventh grade alongside twelfth-graders Alexandra Bulinger and Arooj Khan. In the years following the group’s inception, the trio would perform at Relay for Life, Variety Show, Special Olympics as well as other benefits and events. “We started getting recognized for something we love doing,” Moyer said. “It rooted my passion deeper.”

Moyer still makes the arrangements for Forte, which often consist of pop songs like Emeli Sandé’s “Next to Me.” “We started only looking for songs that personally meant something to us,” Moyer said. Forte will appear at this year’s graduation ceremony, a performance the members are eagerly anticipating.

Truly dedicating herself to music throughout high school, Moyer stepped up her commitment when she became a Jazz Band Vocalist. “Through Jazz Band, I realized I had a passion for jazz music — I love the way it all works together,” Moyer said.

Moyer will continue to collaborate with instrumentalists at Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, where she will be able to develop her craft within a program that accepts just a handful of performers per year. “I want the best education possible,” Moyer said. “I’d rather be a small fish in a big pond where I can learn a lot.”

In this, Moyer will be doing what she loves, embracing what she describes as a “cure-all” for any of life’s setbacks. “All the stress going into a performance and all that stage fright — I compare it to a lot of noise and a lot of chaos going on, but as soon as I step out onto the stage, it all goes silent,” Moyer said. “It’s a euphoric state of bliss.”

Post-college, Moyer sees herself pursuing a singing career for some time, possibly moving to New York and auditioning for Broadway musicals. “I want to be a music teacher, but still perform wherever I can,” Moyer said. At this point, Moyer said she is less

concerned with seeking fame and fortune and rather focusing on sharing her musical abilities. “Everyone has always asked me ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ My answer has never really changed,” Moyer said. “Everything had something to do with being a performer, and it has never really varied from that.”



PHOTO BY TRICIA SAPUTERA

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MAY HOROSCOPES

AQUARIUS

(January 20- February 18)

The end of the school year has you feeling stressed to the max. Clear your head and listen to your heart! Summer is a time for self-care.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20)

You’re lacking a little bounce in your step lately. It’s easy for others to notice your change in demeanor. Lighten up and spread your infamous charm; it’s contagious!

LEO

(July 23-August 22)

You might be feeling the need to reinvent yourself, which can seem scary. But don’t fear, your true friends will support your decisions.

SCORPIO

(October 23-November 21)

You may feel that you are being pulled in two directions this month: to grow and adventure, or to lean in and pay attention to detail. Quality counts!

PISCES

(February 19- March 20)

Keep an eye out for red flags over summer break, Pisces. Trust your instincts and consider the consequences.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20)

Your way with words will help a friend in need this month, Air sign.

VIRGO

(August 23-September 22)

Virgo, Mercury has been in retrograde, and it’s driving you crazy! Remember that it’s the friction in life that pushes us to act; so, when the going gets tough, don’t back down.

SAGITTARIUS

(November 22-December 21)

Your natural sense of balance will always lead you down the right path, Sagittarius.

ARIES

(March 21-April 19)

Sentimental attachments have kept you grounded. Take risks and do something new this summer! Skydiving, perhaps?

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

Cancer, you’re naturally a homebody. Push past this comfort zone and adventure this summer. Whether it be trying a new recipe or visiting a new place, you’ll find comfort in the excitement.

LIBRA

(September 23-October 22)

You’ve been busy lately, but don’t let the frustration get to you. Take some time to vent. Sometimes, breakdowns are the most needed breakthroughs.

CAPRICORN

(December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, you are always the one people come to for advice. Over summer, this will lead to making new connections or becoming reacquainted with a past bestie.

Pine View Pythons get recruited to college

In this last issue of The Torch, students from the class of 2018 are recognized for their athletic achievements. The five students featured below have been recruited to play sports at their schools of choice.

GRAPHIC BY MELISSA SANTOYO

Hallie Schiffman

by Gwyn Petersen
Focus Editor

Dedicating the past seven years of her life to sailing, twelfth-grader Hallie Schiffman now adds her recruitment to Boston College to her list of athletic accomplishments.

According to Schiffman, she was inspired to competitively sail after seeing pictures of her father on his sailboat. She picked up the sport at 11 years old, continuing ever since. "Sailing has always been in my blood," she said. "It was natural for me to start sailing."

She began her sailing career with the Sarasota Sailing Squadron, but then moved to sail for the Lauderdale Yacht Club and the Olympic Development Team for the past three years. Practices for the Lauderdale Yacht Club are located in Fort Lauderdale on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The practices consist of workouts in the gym, meetings with teammates and coaches, and time on the water. Outside of weekend practices, Schiffman is expected to keep a consistent workout routine during the week, which includes going to Cross-

Fit and working out in her gym at home. Her practices for the Olympic Development Team include attending one- to two-week long clinics in which she has a practice schedule similar to her weekend practices at the Lauderdale Yacht Club.

"My favorite part of sailing is being in complete control of your own boat and only having to think about factors like wind, current, waves and other boats. It's like a hard game of chess," Schiffman said.

Something that sets Schiffman apart from the rest of the pack is that she is one of three U.S. youth females to be a part of the Olympic Development Program. As a member of the Olympic Development Team this past summer, Schiffman went to Belgium for the U21 (under the age of 21) Laser World Championships and the Netherlands for the U19 Laser World Championships.

"[Schiffman] is a great sailor," Schiffman's coach John Casey said.



PHOTO BY GWYN PETERSEN

"Her dedication to this sport is unrivaled."

With aspirations of becoming a future Olympic sailor, Schiffman had many factors to consider when choosing where to go to college. She was recruited to Stanford University, Brown University and Boston College. According to Schiffman, she chose Boston College because of its highly praised sailing program. Along with sailing, Schiffman plans to major in mathematics.

Lauren Yenari

by Olivia Hansen
Asst. Humor Editor

Swimming has been an important part of twelfth-grader Lauren Yenari's life for 12 years now, leading her to be recruited as a swimmer at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn.

Yenari originally began swimming in elementary school after her mom encouraged her to join a sport. She has remained dedicated to the Sarasota Sharks, swimming on their team for all 12 years of her swimming career. Also a member of the Venice High School swim team, Yenari has been swimming with that team for the past two years. "Swimming has given me a lot of skills I would not have had if I did not have swimming. It has really taught me how to be confident in myself; I am really doubtful on myself and what I can do as a person sometimes and I even can do that in the pool, but I have teammates and coaches that keep me going," Yenari said.

Around the end of eleventh grade, Yenari began to contact swim coaches whose schools held her interest. They were able to give her recruitment questionnaires regarding her grades and personal information. She later participated in recruitment

trips where she would stay overnight at the college to better understand the community. According to Yenari, she decided on Rhodes because she felt most comfortable and welcomed there.

After her mom suggested Rhodes College as a school option and received an email with a recruitment questionnaire from the swim coach, Yenari decided to look into the school. "I wanted to commit to Rhodes a couple of weeks after I got back from my recruitment trip," she said.

"My initial reaction to the school was that I really wanted to go there. Also, the support that I had from family and friends about Rhodes as a whole made me really decide that I wanted to commit."

She currently practices Mondays through Saturdays with additional morning practices Tuesdays and Thursdays. During the two to three hour practices, Yenari swims 5000 to 7000 yards.

Yenari looks forward to the many opportunities presented by Rhodes College, including internships, swimming and classes for the career path she plans to take: foreign policy and international relations. "I can see Lauren being a great asset to the swim team at Rhodes, and I know she would be able to swim fast and succeed anywhere she decided to go, and Rhodes is no exception," twelfth-grader and teammate Brandon Lo said.

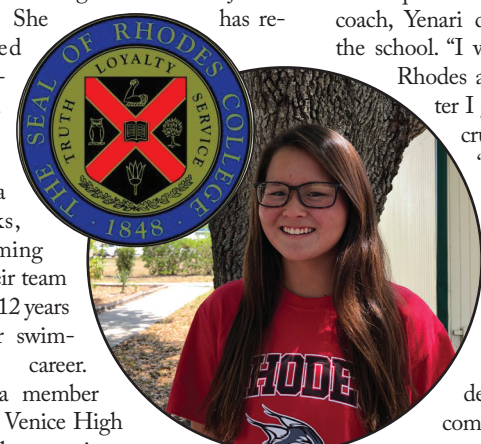


PHOTO BY OLIVIA HANSEN

Mathew Pitchford

by Sarah Mihm
Managing Editor

As a future college athlete, twelfth-grader Mathew Pitchford knew that both academics and rowing would be equally as important when moving on to the next step in his life. For this reason, he will be attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in the fall.

According to Pitchford, after rowing on Sarasota Crew since eighth grade, he always knew he wanted to pursue a collegiate athletic career. "I like rowing because it is not about winning; it is about the competition." However, his goal to become a pilot has also guided Pitchford in his college decision.

Pitchford was first exposed to rowing through his sister, Pine View alumna Allie Pitchford. Since then, he has proceeded to row on a world level. When asked, he said his best accomplishments

in the sport are winning second place at the Head of the Charles in Boston, Mass. last year and setting the course



PHOTO BY SARAH MIHM

record, along with rowing for the CamAnMex team. Pitchford said CamAnMex is "basically a chance for [people under the age of 18] to race internationally and prepare them for racing for Worlds."

The recruitment process for Pitchford began in tenth and eleventh grade. He first narrowed down colleges based on the major he wanted to pursue — aeronautical science. He looked at Purdue University, Florida Institute of Technology and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. After consideration of location and the academics of the schools, Pitchford went to officially visit Embry Riddle.

"I saw that they are the top flight school. They just became Division 2 and were hungry for athletes. I saw my golden opportunity and took it," Pitchford said. In regards to the recruitment process, Pitchford recommends that others talk to as many coaches as possible.

As Pitchford starts on this next chapter, he looks to become both a college rower and continue on his path to becoming a pilot.

Clark Dean

by Haleigh Brown
Match Editor-in-Chief

Beginning his journey in sixth grade, twelfth-grader Clark Dean will pursue his passion for rowing on a collegiate level by attending Harvard University in the fall. Originally joining Sarasota Crew because of his friends, Dean now is at the top of his grade for rowing in the world.

Dean has had time to hone in on his skills and constantly improve, as he has participated in the sport for six years now. Primarily rowing for the Sarasota U19 (under 19) National Team, Dean has also participated in Stotesbury, a Pine View race, where he represented his school.

"I love the fact that your skill at the sport is so objective, compared to ball sports where there are way more variables," he said.

Practices take place after school, starting with rowing in a team boat and ending with land workouts including stairs, lunges and weightlifting. Dean also rows in the morning by himself before school.

"The greatest part of his development has been to see him mature as a student of the sport. The more that he accomplishes, the more passionate he becomes about rowing and competition. To see even one kid grow and embrace rowing the way he has, has been an

exceptional experience," his coach Caitlynn Crouch said. "After coaching him for the past five years, I am certain that Harvard is the right place for Clark."

During the recruiting process, Dean noted that he was not stressed, as he was confident in his speed in relation to others around the world. However, according to Dean, he found the aspect of choosing where to go a tough decision. After winning the single this past summer at U19 Worlds, Dean was inspired to continue to develop his speed in that boat. He accounts Harvard as the best school to allow him to improve in the single while rowing in the 8+ at national championships.

"I want to pursue rowing because I think it is a great sport that is very underrepresented in America," Dean said. "Bringing success to the United States at the Olympics seems to be the best possible way to get more kids interested in the sport."

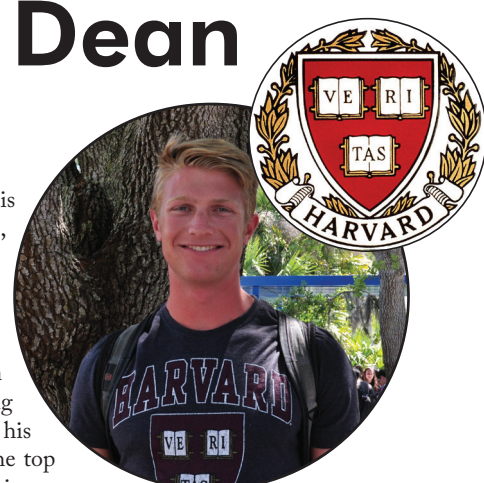


PHOTO BY HALEIGH BROWN

Brendan Firlie

by Leo Gordon
Match Layout Artist

At the early age of six, twelfth-grader Brendan Firlie was prompted by his parents to pursue a sport. Imagining a sport that involved water slides and diving exclusively, he made the decision to start swimming, a choice that would eventually lead him to attend Princeton University.

Firlie, a three-year recipient of the USA Swimming Academic All American award, has been swimming collectively for 12 years. Of those 12 years, five have been in Missouri at the Rockwood Swim Club, and the remainder with the Sarasota YMCA Sharks after his move to Sarasota, Fla. During the fall, Firlie will swim for Princeton's team while majoring in finance.

Although Firlie describes his daily practice as "too long, too hard and too early," he continues

to put his all into his personal athletic success. "I love how simple and pure the sport is. It's just you and seven other guys in the water doing everything it takes to get to the wall first.

While most people are perplexed how someone could swim up and down for hours upon end, it's more than that. It's a continuous fight to be the best athlete one can possibly be," Firlie said, "Swimming is the perfect sport for those who never step away from a challenge."

According to Firlie, the college recruitment process was not as thrilling as he hoped it would be. After narrowing his list of over 100 colleges to four by the fall of twelfth grade, Firlie was feeling confident about his recruitment but was faced with making a difficult decision: which college he



PHOTO BY LEO GORDON

would apply to.

Ultimately, Firlie chose to apply to Princeton because of its academic rigor and prestige — not to mention its successful swim team.

As a future student at Princeton, Firlie looks forward to competing at the highest level of athletics while receiving an education at the school of his dreams.

Pythons' sports highlights of the year

Over the past year, Pine View students have participated in various sports across the county. The Torch has compiled the achievements of these students and their respective teams throughout the year.

Lacrosse

by Ben Gordon
Asst. News Editor

Lacrosse, although a fairly recent addition to high school sports teams in Sarasota County, has grown to be a vital part of Pine View students' extracurriculars. Playing for the Riverview High School's and Venice High School's lacrosse teams, Pine View students have helped lead the team to victory.

Ninth-grader Weston Trandem plays for the Venice varsity lacrosse team. The group of students playing for the Riverview varsity boys team includes ninth-grader Kai Hudson, eleventh-graders Jack Hautamaki and Finn Johnson and twelfth-grader Reed Windom. The junior varsity team consists of ninth-graders Ben Kirsch, Ray Lefler and Sam Lehrman. Lefler and Lehrman were both team captains for the junior varsity team. The girls varsity team consists of ninth-grader Alana Sotolongo, tenth-graders Betsy Williams, Gabriella Connelly and Lily Dougherty, along with



The Riverview girls varsity lacrosse team poses for a group photo. PHOTO PROVIDED BY LINDSAY KAIGHIN

twelfth-graders Lindsay Kaighin, Veronica McCurdy and Sophie Goodwin. On the junior varsity girls team is eleventh-grader Emma Shelton and twelfth-grader Gabriella Giannone. The Riverview girls varsity team competed in the district semifinals competition Wednesday, April 18, and lost in a very close match against ODA, with a score of 10-11.

"Everyone on the team gets along with each other so well, and I think the success of our team is

because of our friendship with each other. We know how to support each other. Some other teams don't have the same type of bond among teammates and it shows during the game," Williams says.

Pine View students continually show they are capable of "sticking" in the hard work on the field and at school.

"The year was great for us. We worked hard and grew as a team. I am ready for the years to come," Lehrman said.

Tennis



Twelfth-graders Jacob Green (left) and Adi Rao (right) work together during tennis practice. Both students play for the Sarasota boys varsity tennis team. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SY SCHIMBERG

by Noelle Bencie
Asst. Sports Editor

Pine View students were in full swing this season for tennis, playing on the teams of North Port, Riverview, Sarasota and Venice High Schools.

"The teams have several players who go to Pine View who are very good and particularly strong in many areas," Wayne Robertson, the

coach of the varsity tennis team at Venice High school, said.

The Venice boys varsity team consists of ninth-grader Ryan Rajakar and tenth-graders Jaden Wiesinger and Ben Zipay. Pine View athletes playing on the Venice girls varsity team include tenth-graders Jia Johnson, Emily Kacprzak and Emily Merrill. The girls ended their season with a 13-4 record at

districts, while the boys had a district champions title and a score of 5-0 at regionals. "I like the individuality of [tennis] because it is only you on the court, and it helps you evolve into a better player," Wiesinger said.

Tenth-grader Alana Schreiber plays for the Riverview girls varsity team and tenth-grader Nick Schwab plays for the Riverview boys varsity team. The Riverview girls varsity team ended their season with an 11-0 record and a district champions title. The boys team ended their season undefeated.

Playing for the Sarasota boys varsity tennis team, twelfth-graders Jacob Green, Adi Rao and Sy Schimberg, eleventh-grader Steven Shumway and tenth-grader Michael Scarlett ended the season with a final record of 5-5.

Ninth-grader Madison Holmes is the only Pine View student who plays for North Port's girls varsity tennis team, but unfortunately had no wins. "Although we did not win a game this season, we learned a lot this year and I cannot wait to improve in the future," Holmes said.

Swimming

by Ben Gordon
Asst. News Editor

With numerous students diving deeper and excelling in sports, swimming has become an integral part of the lives of many Pine View students. This year, students displayed their expertise and skill when it comes to the sport, making impressive achievements along the way.

Ninth-graders Sage Yenari, Max Milburn, Carly Kruysman, Drew Stoneburner, Michael Postranecy, Amelia Baca, Wes Baca and Ian Baca swam for the Venice High School team, alongside eleventh-grader Kristen Nutter and twelfth-graders Lauren Yenari, Chris Pelton and Danny Bastawros. This year, the girls team broke the Venice 200 freestyle relay record. Members of the relay were Sage Yenari, Nutter, Lauren Yenari and Tereza Postranecy.

"I bonded a lot with my team this year," Sage Yenari said. "I look up to my older teammates so much, and it has helped me improve in so many ways."

Members of the Riverview High School swim team consist of tenth-graders Rene Strezhenicky, Nina Volpe, Ian Brann and



Venice swim team wins District Championships and poses with their trophies. PHOTO PROVIDED BY LAUREN YENARI

twelfth-grader Brendan Firlie. Last November, the boys team cruised to a fourth straight Class 4A state title, beating Lake Brantley High School from Altamonte Springs.

Additionally, ninth-grader Sofiya Gabora, along with tenth-grader Laine Chmielewski and eleventh-grader Connor Shoemaker swim for the Sarasota High School team. The Sarasota girls team beat the Riverview girls team at mul-

tiple swim meets this year, a feat that had not been accomplished for many years.

"It was really exciting. We celebrated, and it made us realize that we can accomplish a lot as a team when we set our minds to it," ninth-grader Gabora said.

The seasons' results proved that this year was a very successful one for every swim team with Pine View students.

Basketball

by Noelle Bencie
Asst. Sports Editor

Students at Pine View are involved with basketball at various Sarasota County high schools, including Riverview High School and Venice High School.

Tenth-grader Gabriel Monzon and ninth-grader Nathan Janneman played on the Riverview boys junior varsity team. The team had an 11-7 record this season. "Basketball doesn't fit into my life — it is my life. The old adage of 'ball is life' really exhibits the way I work

through my life," Monzon said. Tenth-grader Elea Saba plays on the Venice girls varsity team, and twelfth-grader Lindsay Edwards plays on the Riverview girls varsity team. Riverview ended their season with an 18-10 record, and the Venice team ended their season 5-19, with hopes of moving onto district championships next year.

Basketball has become a tradition for both middle and high school students at Pine View and will continue to bring students from the books to the court.

Baseball

by Ben Nicholson
Web Section Editor

Since its creation, baseball has been an American symbol of dedication and strength. Two Pine View students competed in this sport at Riverview High School.

Eleventh-graders Fletcher Perrigo and Andrew Galbraith play for the Riverview varsity baseball team. The team had a season of 10 wins and 9 losses. Perrigo played first and third base this year, something he was not planning when the season began. This required him to adapt and learn new skills. Galbraith played catcher and outfielder this season.

According to Perrigo, he uses

Football

by Ben Gordon
Asst. News Editor

Seen as a traditional high school sport, football makes a huge impact on students nationwide, including Pine View. Pine View students have made huge gains around the county this season on the Riverview and Booker High School teams.

Ninth-grader Liam O'Malley plays for the Booker freshman team, while ninth-graders George Harding and Cade Cordes play for the Riverview freshman team. Booker scored a win of 24-12 over Lemon Bay High School. Although the Riverview team did not make the playoffs this season, they did win multiple games. They ended with a record of 2-4.

"This year was a growing year for us as a team, so even if our record wasn't the best, our future looks really bright," O'Malley said.

According to Harding, he has enjoyed his first year playing for the school. "This was my first time playing tackle football," Harding said. "I also started the whole season, which was pretty surprising considering this was my first season on the team."

A first for Pine View athletes, high school football has provided students with the chance to make unforgettable memories and learn valuable life lessons from their coaches and teammates. This year was the beginning of a new path for Pine View football players, who will put these lessons to use at school and at home.

Soccer

by Ben Nicholson
Asst. Web Editor

Across the entire world, soccer players dedicate themselves to fighting for victory and glory on the fields. This season, Pine View students chased after those same goals in schools throughout Sarasota County.

Ninth-graders Shon Devald and Tomas Travenicek, tenth-graders Matthew Price-Palluel, Zane Comingore and Josh Capelli, along with eleventh-grader Michael Forbes play on the Riverview High School boys junior varsity team. Tenth-grader Kris Selberg is a member of the Riverview boys varsity team, which made it all the way to the final round of districts.

Members of the Riverview girls varsity team included tenth-grader Sofia Genta, eleventh-graders Adrianna Troche and Madison Galbraith, and twelfth-graders Veronica and Eiko

McCurdy. The team made it to the first round of the district tournament and ended the season with a record of eight wins and nine losses.

Siblings tenth-grader Katherine Jordan and eleventh-grader Ryan Jordan both play on the Venice High School varsity soccer teams. The boys team ended with nine wins, six ties and four losses. The girls team made it to the regional quarterfinals.

Eleventh-grader Nicole Giovannone plays for the Sarasota High School girls varsity team. The team made it to the district tournament and Giovannone scored two goals. "At district tournaments, we became closer as a team and I scored my first varsity goal," Giovannone said.

Tenth-grader Makena Winch and eleventh-grader Javier Aramayo play for the Sarasota boys varsity team and reached the district semifinals.

Volleyball

by Ben Nicholson
Web Section Editor

Pine View students served up a barrage of victories during this year's high-school volleyball season.

Ninth-graders Ciara Tomlinson and Akane Beardow alongside tenth-grader Hope Pegah played on the Riverview High School girls junior varsity team. The team went undefeated all season and Pegah won an award at the end of the season as the most improved player. "I worked to be more of a leader on the court and just improve my communication skills in general," Pegah said.

Twelfth-grader Alexandra Bullinger was the only Pine View student who played for the Sarasota High School girls varsity team. Although it was her first year on the team, she was selected at the beginning of the season to be the team

captain. The team ended up winning 12 games and losing 11. "We didn't win all of our games," Bullinger said. "But we definitely improved and we got to portray ourselves as stronger than expected."

Eleventh-graders Sena Szczepaniuk and Tessa Bohn both played for the Venice High School girls varsity team. The team won the state championships, competing against some of the hardest teams in Florida. "A majority of our team is actually juniors so that made us all step up and have to mature personally," Szczepaniuk said.

Volleyball is a sport that requires hard work and dedication, with time that can either bring a team together or tear it apart. Pine View students proved that they have what it takes to bring their teams together.

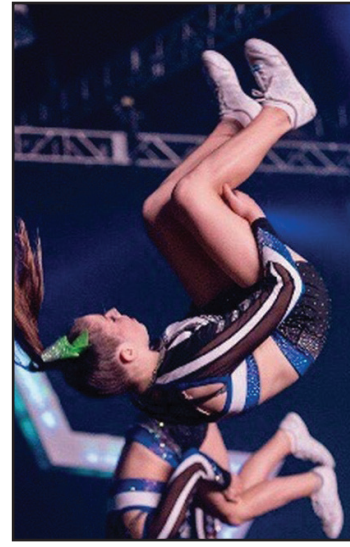
JEDI WORKOUT CHALLENGE
May the 4th be with you...

20 HIGH JUMPS	30 sec PUSH UP PLANK
20 WOODCHOPPERS	20 SIDE-TO-SIDE JUMPS
20 SIT-UPS	20 SIDE JACKKNIVES
10 RAISED LEG PUSH-UPS	60 sec ONE LEG STAND
20 PLANKS W/ ROTATIONS	

level 1: 3 sets
level 2: 5 sets
level 3: 7 sets

GRAPHIC BY MADI HOLMES

Ninth-grader flies high with cheer



Ninth-grader Anniston Jasch performs a backtuck at All Out Championship. Anniston has been cheerleading since the age of 13.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANNISTON JASCH

by **Ella Hechlik**
Asst. Web Editor

Stunting on her competitors, ninth-grader Anniston Jasch proves herself an integral part of all her cheerleading teams at Evo Athletic Gym and IMG Academy.

Beginning this sport at age 13, Jasch initially joined cheerleading in hopes of following in the footsteps of her two older sisters.

Jasch cheers at Evo Athletics on the Senior Four team and the Junior Four team. Both are travel teams that primarily compete around Florida and in Atlan-

ta. Each team consists of 16 to 18 members, all ranging in age. Jasch also cheers for IMG Academy during football season. While her team at IMG does non-competitive cheer, she is on the varsity team and has cheered with them for a little over a year now.

Practices at Evo Athletics consists of training three days per week for two to three hours per practice. During practice, the team memorizes different cheers and works on perfecting the specific stunts in them. With her team at Evo Athletics, she learns a routine that will be scored at different competitions based on the difficulty of the technique, warm up and groove of the routine. Practices for IMG occur on Friday afternoons with a game after; however, she only cheers at IMG in the fall.

At competitions, the competitors are separated into groups based on age and skill. Competitions entail memorizing routines and step-by-step building on individual skills. Her Junior Four team consists of girls ages five to 14, whereas her Senior Four team consists of girls ages 10 to 18. Jasch and her teams have won multiple awards, including first

place in the Spirit Cheer Competition last December and Jam Fest this past February. "It was really exciting because I was so proud of my team and I loved feeling like a family," Jasch said.

"I could not imagine Anniston not on my team. She is so hardworking and is so good at tumbling."

Stephanie Murgas,
Coach

and is so good at tumbling. She is such an amazing friend and teammate," Evo Athletic's Junior Four team coach Stephanie Murgas said.

Jasch plans to continue to pursue competitive cheer in the future.

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Move over New York Fashion Week, the school store just got way more stylish

With summer around the corner, get ready for the humidity and heat with these trendy summer looks. Pine View's very own School Store has curated the hottest summer looks just for you. Ditch high falutin' brands like H&M, Forever 21, Gap Kids and The Children's Place by dropping by and picking up a look or two straight from 1 Python Path. These swampy summer sets are great for any time and any day. And for those with a creative bone in their body, try one of our DIY outfits or make your purchase today.

by Zach Bright
Web Editor

The Covert Collection

Teachers and students... May I have your attention, please? Teachers and students... May I have your attention, please. Sport a fresh new blazer with metal rimmed specs in this frugal formal fit. Add a sweater vest underneath with a thick and bold tie to assert your passion for fashion. Take charge in this powerful and authoritative look.



Tara & Tricia's Picks

Don't worry about breaking the dress code in these loose fitting ankle-high skirts and gauchos. Hide those clavicles and shoulder blades in a more conservative top that keeps the sun away. No need to worry about

donning sunscreen or getting too tan. For a low-budget option, cut a head-hole out from a bed sheet, plop your noggin on through and strut your stuff. Don a winter coat and feel free to drag a blanket around campus to cover up completely.

Bergdorf Bergman

Stressed out about college and your future beyond high school? Don't wear your dream school's merch; after all, it's bad luck. Instead, try on a blue or purple button-up and a nice loose pair of khakis just like your favorite college counselor. Finish the look by loosening the top button and and roll up those sleeves for the best effect. Don't be afraid to get creative by embroidering your dream school's scattergram on your shirt pocket, or obsessively checking Naviance for more color options.



The Comfy, Casual, Chic, Chaco

Flip-flops are a hazard and sandals are far too uncomfortable. Replace your rubber slides with some quality, American made, leather shoes for the water and land and all your daily moods. Chacos are comfortable and support your feet for all the walking we Pine View students do. This fine footwear will give your fleshy ground clompers unique one of a kind tan lines.



The Classic Python

For the nostalgic folk, go back in time to when fashion was simpler. This stress-free style is available for any Python of any age. Throw on that freshman dodgeball shirt from three years ago and sport your school spirit; you might not have won then, but today is your day. Bring your middle school spirit day tees and Peramathon wear to the forefront of fashion.



Roma's Rack O' Robes

Channel the power of Roma Jagdish with this collection of Lilly Pulitzer shift dresses in a wide variety of colors, ranging from pink to orange to yellow to green to pink to orange to yellow...

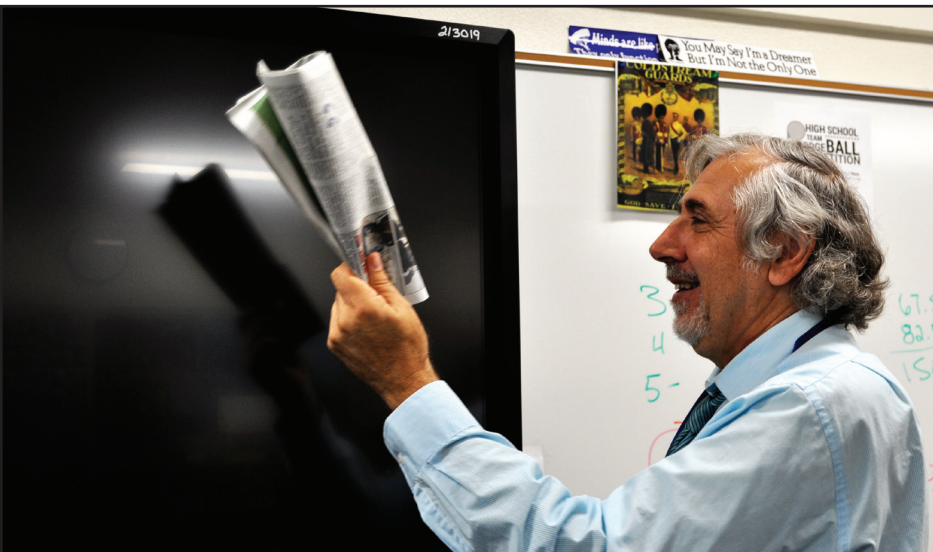


Four out of five Sociologists say that the best dress for all situations is a tropically-themed frock — and Human Geographers will tell you that the measure of success in a country can be quantified by the frequency of these colorful ensembles.

The Key Issue is finding shoes to pair with the look, but don't worry: all you need is a versatile pair of Tory Burch Sandals, and you're good to go! Grab a cup of tea if you really want to complete the look.

These limited addition clothing options will only be available until the end of this school year, so don't wait! Reserve your set today.

GRAPHICS PROVIDED BY GOOGLE IMAGES



Mr. Yell O. Jacket, failing to remove the wasp in his classroom by turning off the lights, soon resorted to using a crumpled newspaper. An alarming number of Mobile Learning Cottages have been destroyed due to these troublesome pests. PHOTO BY ELLA HECHLIK

by Riley Board
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

The students in Mr. Yell O. Jacket's fourth-period class knew it was time to take action when a pesky wasp lurked in the corner of Mobile Learning Cottage (MLC) 67 for more than five minutes. "We did everything we could," Jacket said. "We turned off all the lights and opened the door, Robbie grabbed a folder and tried to shoo him away and Emily grabbed a

broom and attempted to sweep him outside, but nothing worked." When a few minutes of this passed with no success, Jacket picked up his phone, dialed the front office and put in a simple maintenance request.

"We had to tear down the portable, it was our only option," read the administration's official statement on the situation. "When Mr. Jacket informed us that the wasp did not respond to minimal efforts of shooing or turning off the lights, we im-

Invasive wasp leads to MLC destruction

mediately called in the wrecking crew." At 10:52 a.m., a crane was set up just outside the portable, outfitted with a wrecking ball, and was prepped to tear down MLC 67. The students were evacuated and, by 10:55 a.m., the portable and the wasp inside were reduced to a pile of rubble and ActivBoard. "We've been doing a lot of school classroom wrecking lately," Dee Stroy, an employee of the construction company that handled the wasp, said.

"There really is no other solution to the problem; and, in the long-run, it is much more effective to tear down the entire building than use poisonous spray, simply wait until it leaves, or any of the other time-consuming and expensive options. Wasp killer is \$2.19 at Target! Like, who is going to pay that when we can have school-funded destruction?" The students of MLC 67 are grateful for the actions taken. "I, for one, would have

never been able to return to that classroom; the wasp permanently destroyed that environment for me," an anonymous student of Mr. Jacket's fourth period class said. "I had to stand on the opposite side of the classroom for three minutes so that I wasn't stung, and it was the worst experience of my life." The student clarified that she is not allergic to wasps, and she has never been stung by one.

The administration's official statement noted that they plan to use this strategy in the future to combat all insects in classrooms. "We are prepared to tear down any portable containing a wasp, bee, spider, fly, mosquito, cockroach, beetle, etc. for a period of more than three minutes. The rapid loss of Mobile Learning Cottages is well worth the cost of completely eviscerating small and relatively harmless creatures," Principal Peste Cyde, said.

We've been doing a lot of school classroom wrecking lately." Dee Stroy, Construction Worker

My strange addiction: A saga of student confessions

by Melissa Santoyo
Opinion Editor

I remember the day vividly, as it would forever live in infamy as the start of my inevitable downward spiral. The beginning of what would haunt me forever started with, as most awful things do, an 8 a.m. conversation. At that ungodly hour of the morning my good friend, Esai Tee, revealed to me a secret pastime of hers: binge-watching college decision reaction videos on YouTube. Now I simply didn't get the big deal — yes, college was important, but what was so stimulating about watching a total stranger get their hopes and dreams either crushed or confirmed via email? The question was one that plagued my every living moment. It's the kind of question you major in philosophy to answer, tantamount to inquiries such as "What is God?" and "Why does Mark Zuckerberg not know how to properly drink water?"

grave mistake. Ever since, I have watched each and every reaction video for 2018 — three times. My every waking moment is spent wondering whether any new uploads will end up on YouTube, or whether I will just have to wait another year to receive not only my own crushing disappointment, but that of other students as well. To cope with the sporadic upload schedule of these often-ambivalent youths, I have begun to watch the videos from the 2015 school year — having already watched the subsequent years. My

academia has already begun to suffer from my infatuation with these videos as my GPA continues to plummet, along with my general dedication to all scholarly endeavors. My teachers blame my obsession on being a burnt out second semester junior, but others in the community harbor a growing concern for what my strange addiction could portend. "These videos are dangerous! They are fracturing our youth and hinting at the inevitability of a future they will soon have to face," concerned Pine View parent, Kiel Mii, said, "As a dedicated member of the PVA, I have already sent several emails to the YouTube in

"[These videos] are fracturing our youth and hitting at the inevitability of a future they will soon have to face." Kiel Mii, Concerned PV Parent



Groups of college-obsessed juniors meet to discuss and watch total strangers have their dreams demolished through college rejection videos. Anxiety runs high at this club. PHOTO BY OLIVIA HANSEN

hopes that they ban these videos for the safety of our kids." Following several comments similar to Mutch's, I've begun to seek help by starting a support group. Affectionately named, Decisions Anonymous, the group meets every Monday from 1-2 pm in the office of college resource advisor, Lance Bergman, as that is where on-campus WIFI is the strongest. Here, after watching reaction videos, we host a seminar to discuss why this is unhealthy for us before continuing to watch

more videos. Some comment that the efficacy of the seminar is mild at best, but the solidarity is comforting. My addiction is not something I can conquer overnight, as I will need intensive psychotherapy to overcome the emotional reliance on these videos that the college process has instilled in me. For now, though, I am eager for updates on the Ivy decisions of total strangers, as it's so much nicer than having to face the awful reality of my own prospects.

[meme of the month]



Of the memes 2018 has seen this year, few have been as pervasive as the Walmart Yodel Boy meme. Featuring a young boy caterwauling in the aisles of Walmart, the video has wormed its way into the hearts of millions worldwide.

The young boy in the story — Mason Ramsey — is from Harrisburg, Illinois. Clad in Western attire, Ramsey is seen singing Hank Williams' "Lovesick Blues." His infamous video was recorded on March 24 and was posted two days later on the YouTube channel "ViralHog." After it was posted on ViralHog, it was then reposted to Twitter where it quickly gained millions of retweets and likes.

Twitter continued to fuel the Ramsey frenzy as remixes and memes were posted featuring the young boy. His acclaim caught the attention of celebrities online — he was invited to perform at Coachella with DJ Whethan.

Ramsey was also invited to the Ellen Show, joining the ranks of those like "Alex from Target" who came before him.

His success has not only led to his own fame but also a renewed fervor for Hank Williams. Williams' Spotify streaming has increased by over 2000% since Ramsey's video went viral.



[a column]

Humor or die: my experience on staff

When I first joined The Torch staff my freshman year, I never thought I would be Assistant Humor Editor — in fact, I never even considered it because the humor editor and I had different comedic styles.

Promptly after we received our freshman position assignments, my first editor quit the staff, and was replaced by my role model for much of my Humor career — Parker Mason. From this experience, working under Parker, I learned not only that Humor is undoubtedly the best section of the newspaper but also that it was undoubtedly where I was meant to be on the staff. While I recognize this is the Humor section and you likely came here for some highly comedic content, my column will be almost entirely sappy following this sentence.

After a short Humor hiatus, I returned to the section to serve as Humor Editor for my junior and senior year. This position is easily one of the most influential in my short life thus far. Over the past four years, The Torch has given me some of the best experiences in my high school career. The people I have met on staff (including my past editor, Samuel Winegar) have been some of my best and most supportive friends. Having the chance to pass on the spirit of camaraderie and procrastination that is exhibited prominently in the Humor section to the future Humor Editor, Olivia Hansen, brings me great delight.

As I write this final column, we are two days away from our last press night — the last press night of my high school career. As I write this column, I also receive frantic texts and snapchats from Olivia Hansen, begging me to finally post it. Her persistence throughout my



Allie Odishelidze, Humor Editor

seniorities-driven absolute lack of effort assures me that she has what it takes to run an efficient section — one that I hope is better than my own.

This sentimental tangent would not be complete without the

I learned not only that Humor is undoubtedly the best section of the newspaper, but also where I was meant to be on the staff.

stories of our annual journalism conferences. Every year, The Torch submits our publication for review by the Florida Scholastic Press Association (FSPA.) Every year our critique includes frantic suggestions to remove the Humor section, claiming it "cheapens" our work as reporters. As Humor is the most widely read section of the paper, we have annually elected to politely ignore their pleas. This year, our critique included a miraculously neutral review of the section — this shift in "professional" attitude is as much due to the growth of no-fun-having critics as the growth and improvement of the Humor section.

I have no doubt that within the next few years of Humor, the Torch's best-read section will move past critical disinterest into full-fledged success — and I wish the next generation of Humor the best.

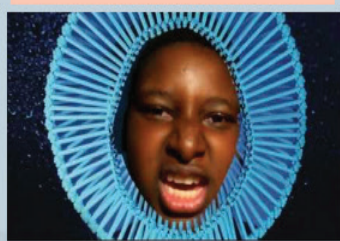
Memes of the Year

17-18

AUG, 2017



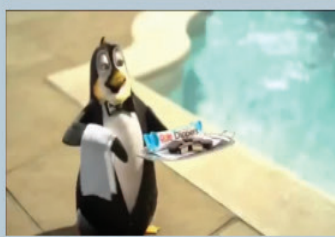
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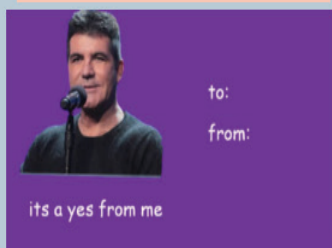
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FEB, 2018



MAR, 2018



APRIL, 2018



[staff editorial]

The Sinclair scandal: tearing down free press one station at a time

This past March, a scene straight from George Orwell's 1984 grappled local news as television screens nationwide recited the same message. Warning against the perils of false news, monotone news anchors repeated the same redundant phrase: "This is extremely dangerous to our democracy."

The polarization of American media reached a fever-pitch when the Sinclair Broadcast Group was brought to the forefront after the video compilation of news anchors reciting the same exact script went viral. Though to many the video may just seem eerie, it is extremely alarming. Media giants like Sinclair pose a dire threat to one of our nation's most vital institutions: the free press.

Sinclair is one of the largest broadcasting companies in the country, focusing on buying up local news stations nationwide. The broadcasting company has right-wing bias, as made evident by a close connection to President Trump. During Trump's 2016 campaign, Sinclair chairman, David Smith, even stated, "We are here to deliver your message. Period."

It isn't surprising that Sinclair slams supposed fake news while delegitimizing diligent news outlets; this is in perfect line with

Trump's political agenda. Sinclair is even looking to expand, with its recent attempts to acquire Tribune Media Company. According to the Chicago Tribune, if the merger goes through, Sinclair will become the largest broadcasting company in the nation.

It's almost ironic that Sinclair took a stance against fake

When we mix fake and polarizing news with legitimate reporting we end up desensitizing viewers to outrageous and unsubstantiated conspiracy theories.

news when it is known for perpetrating it. In one of their must-run segments known as the "Terrorism Alert Desk," the anchor spoke of an instance in which ISIS publicly executed nine teenagers with a chainsaw. This story, however, originated from an anonymously-sourced report and had never been independently verified. Even tabloids such as Daily Mail and Breitbart tried to distance themselves from the story using words such as "alleged" and "reportedly."

Sinclair's commentators

also contribute to furthering fake news by spouting wild conspiracy theories with no evidence. Boris Epshteyn and Mark Hyman, two right-wing Sinclair commentators, have made up false accusations such as saying President Obama had increased the mortality rates and received campaign money from Hamas.

When we mix fake and polarizing news with legitimate reporting we end up desensitizing viewers to outrageous and unsubstantiated conspiracy theories. Sinclair is crippling America's ability to determine truth from falsehood.

We may feel as though there is little we can do to stop Sinclair from consolidating news stations to push political agendas. However, it is up to us to reject the schemes of media giants and push to end the control that these companies have over news outlets. Though the dream of always having 100 percent accurate news may never be reached, journalists must maintain continued diligence of making sure to always fact check and verify sources. Only through creating and continuing a trust within our communities can we keep the plague of biased corporate-controlled news from influencing and manipulating we, the people.

The Verdict



Legacy Garden: We are happy to see Pine View teachers take initiative to reintegrate staff memorials.

Missing memorials: We are sad to see Pine View removing memorials for the sake of construction on campus.



The Sinclair script

Watch the Sinclair video compilation by scanning the QR code provided at the right.



American media turns off LGBT visi(bi)lity

by Gwyn Petersen
Focus Editor

"Pick one or the other" is a phrase often used to degrade people who identify as bisexual. Every day, bisexuals are subjected to the incorrect portrayal of bisexuality, particularly on television. Shows often oversex-

ualize and misrepresent just so they can claim diversity by having an LGBT character, even if they do not fully understand the consequences of this. This inherent biphobia has caused a ripple effect of toxicity in the LGBT community, leading to widespread sexuality crisis amongst its members, particularly those in their adolescent years.

One of the most common mistakes made by writers and producers in the broadcasting world is consistently linking bisexuality to infidelity. "Gotham's" Barbara Kean is a perfect example of how the media misrepresents bisexuality. Viewers first find out about Kean's bisexuality during her affair with an ex-girlfriend. After this inherently di-

tasteful introduction, Kean insists that she is straight, even though she goes on to have relations with other women on the show. Through all of this, Kean is a villain, thereby constituting a negative image of bisexuality.

How about Willow Rosenberg, an icon from a different era? "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" was a staple of the mid-nineties and championed a strong female lead instead of the typical male protagonist. It also included character diversity branching out from the heteronormative default. Despite Rosenberg's revolutionary on-screen LGBT representation, her character fell into the sad trope of bi-erasure. Though Rosenberg was shown to be sexually attracted to both men and women throughout the course of the show, she is referred to as a lesbian once she starts dating another woman, Tara Maclay. The common cliché of bi-erasure is therefore continued. It is widely assumed that if you are attracted to a member of another sex, you are straight; but, if you are attracted to a member of the same sex, you are gay.

Aiden Walker from "How to Get Away with Murder" is another recurring character who perpetuates the stereotype of bisexuals being greedy cheaters. Instead of having his own complex arc, his only purpose is to make Michaela Pratt, his fiancée, paranoid that he is going to leave her for a man. This character exemplifies another problem, a greater lack of representation for bi men than bi women. According to a study conducted by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, of nearly 900 main

characters on primetime television, 14 are bisexual, with 12 of them being bi women and only two being bi men.

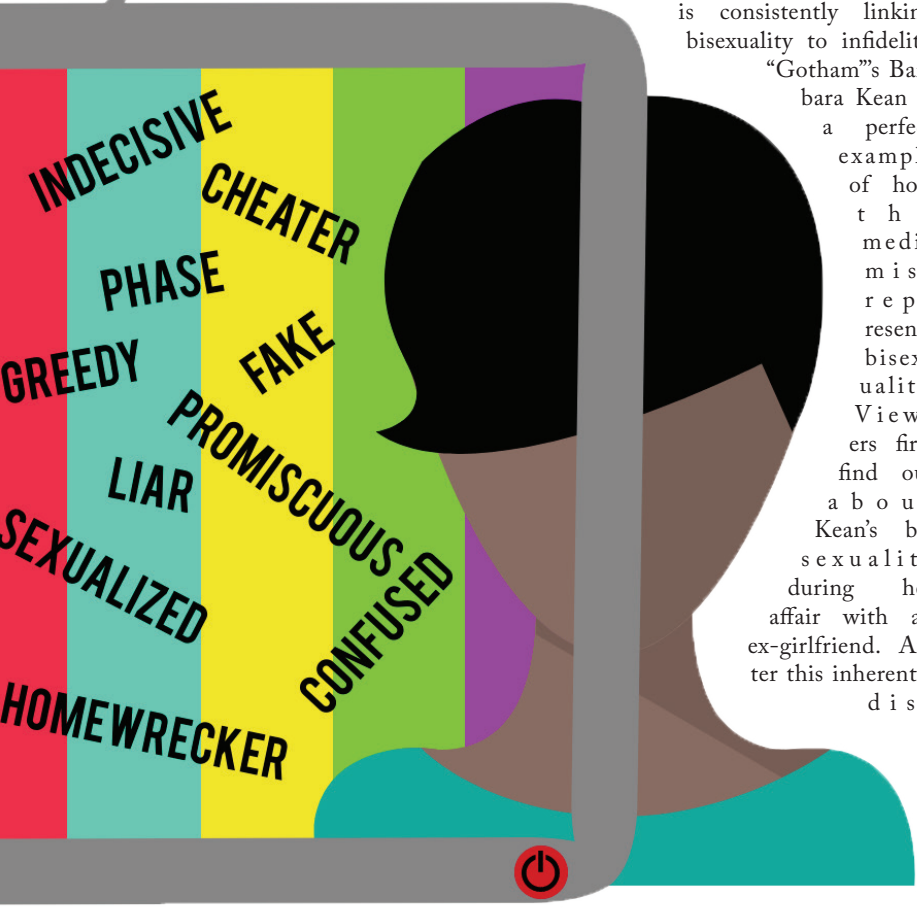
Incorrect representation may lead to a lot of questions from young, confused teenagers in the early stages of figuring out who they are; and, this could lead to anxiety and self-hatred. One character who gets it right is

Misrepresenting these characters when there is a very small number of them to begin with produces dysphoria in the bisexual community.

Rosa Diaz from "Brooklyn 99." Not only is she a huge step forward when it comes to diversity in queer representation by being a Latina bisexual character, but the arc does not use her orientation as a plot point, instead focusing on

it as part of her identity. Diaz explicitly states that she is, in fact, bisexual, and the show does not use this as something to break up a relationship or make her more attractive. Instead, Diaz is simply bisexual. The character even shuts down common misconceptions about her sexuality in a poignant episode with her parents, in which they display ignorance towards her orientation.

The benefits of having a character along the lines of Diaz, rather than the previously mentioned examples, are incalculable. Mislabeling can cause identity confusion and anxiety in adolescent bisexuals. Misrepresenting these characters when there is a very small number of them to begin with produces dysphoria among the bisexual community, specifically relating to younger generations watching the shows. Having a character they can identify with provides security and a sense of comfort in a world where discrimination against LGBT individuals is still a major issue.



GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON

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[guest editorial]

Analyzing the overlooked aspect of child abuse

by **Moriya White**
Grade 9

Not all bruises are black and blue, and not all scars show. When we picture abuse it is usually in the realm of physical abuse rather than emotional. Overall, as a society we tend to take physical abuse and its effects much more seriously than emotional abuse. Why is that? Well, we as people simply aren't educated on what emotional abuse is. And this has dire consequences. When we leave emotionally abused children alone and unsupported, they end up with untreated mental illness, trauma and emotional stress.

In a study referenced by the New York Times, 75 percent of men abused as children deny they were ever abused despite clear-cut signs of mistreatment. Emotionally abused adolescents also tend to develop loyalty to the perpetrator, going as far as to deny emotional abuse out of fear of being punished.

This abuse also severely affects a child's mental health. In fact, preventchildabuse.org states that victims often develop anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder and PTSD. They limit how these children perceive their world as adults and can cause them to seek other ways to control their life, often using self destructive methods.

When victims cannot control what is in their head they often

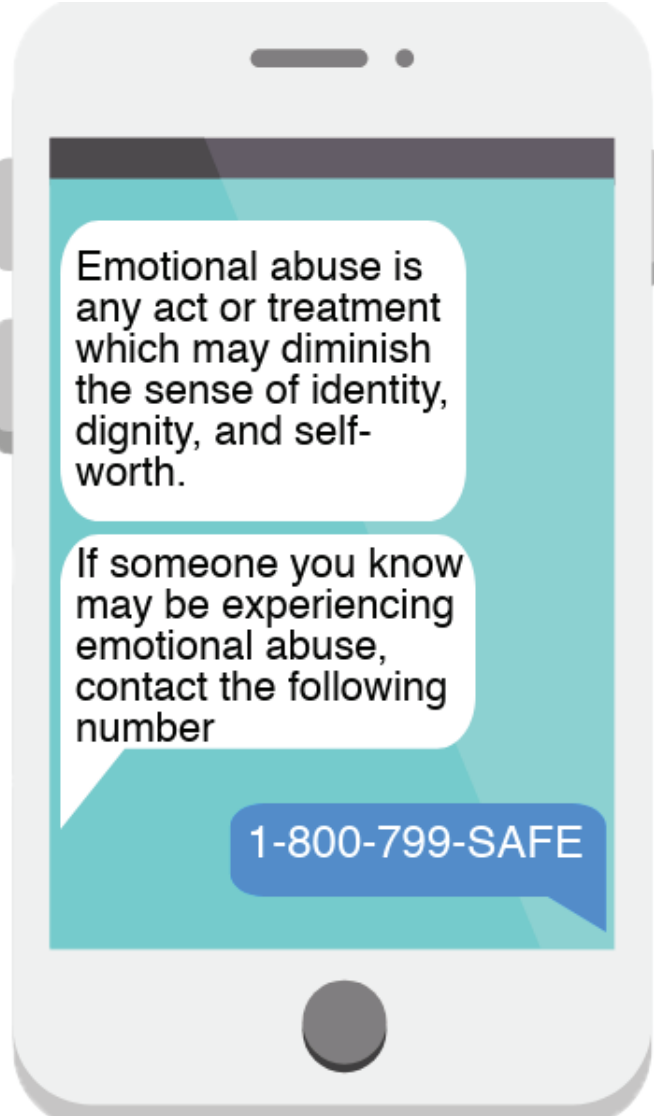
look for control in external ways. According to the American Society for the Positive Care of Children (SPCC), one out of every three victims develops an eating disorder, a tendency to self-harm and an incli-

In fact, according to the American SPCC, children who experience child abuse and neglect are about nine times more likely to become involved in criminal activity. This supports the statement that abuse isn't being properly treated or confronted by our society.

The New York Times mentioned that physical and sexual abuse are the most studied cases of abuse. Emotional abuse usually takes a back seat in research, providing another reason as to why documented cases of it are not taken as seriously. Emotional abuse causes lifelong ailments, and is usually harder to overcome because of its tendency to be ingrained within the victim. Despite these facts those who are emotionally abused often go undetected and untreated.

Children affected by abuse tend to be social outcasts and are bullied for their strange behaviors, but the presence of a nurturing, supporting figure in their life can half

the chance of abuse affecting them for their whole lives and help them overcome any negative natures instilled in them from their childhood experience. It's time that we as a society understand the deep ramifications of emotional abuse and work to help those affected.



GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON

nation to abuse substances. Victims often resort to these methods as a way to control while experiencing abuse and during the aftermath.

Both physical and emotional abuse can cause psychological issues and violent behaviour in otherwise caring, loving children.

[a column]

America is a record player stuck on repeat

For Americans that grew up in the political upheaval of the 1960s, the phrase "Second Cold War" must seem exasperating. But as of late, the state of American affairs is eerily reminiscent to that of the Cold War and Civil Rights Movement; inevitably, we as a nation are dooming ourselves to a repeated history.

I first saw this phrase used in a New York Times editorial and several articles later I realized one critical detail: America as a global superpower is indeed falling into old habits. In the 60s, there were a slew of presidents with agendas firmly stationed in foreign affairs, usually to our detriment. Following the isolationism of World War II, America turned a new page and hasn't abandoned that narrative since

Our country faces a plethora of persisting issues because of the way the Cold War ended - it never really did. Both the war with Vietnam and the Cuban missile crisis accomplished nothing to deter communism, while Russia continues spying on us.

Former director of U.S counterintelligence, Joel Brenner, stated in an NPR interview, "U.S. officials say hundreds of Russian spies operate today inside America's borders - perhaps even more than when the Soviet Union collapsed 25 years ago... more than two decades after the end of the Cold War, Russian spies still seek to operate in our midst under the cover of secrecy." The only thing that's really changed is their methods: a modern revival of the Red Scare is being spearheaded by



Melissa Santoyo,
Opinion Editor

Facebook.

Dissidence to the POTUS can be perceived as communist subterfuge by extremist groups,

as it was in the 60s. Recent circulation of Republican memes on Facebook have criticized Marjory Stoneman Douglas survivor Emma Gonzalez for her Cuban heritage - painting her as a communist lackey. Media coverage has been extremely warped, for soon after, a photoshopped image of Gonzalez ripping the Constitution swarmed the internet.

If the 60s taught us anything, it's that a polarized political climate inters certain issues while creating others. It's necessary to realize that the repetition of our errors will be printed in neat textbooks for future generations to contemplate; as Americans, we simply cannot lay the foundation for a country stuck on repeat.

Our country faces a plethora of issues because of the way the Cold War ended - it never really did.

I'm guilty: dealing with the divided discourse of American politics post 2016

by **Suzanne Brown**

Asst. Editor-in-Chief

I'm guilty. In the midst of the 2016 presidential election, I refused to acknowledge political beliefs other than my own. Watching the debates became a way to cheer on my own side, rather than empathize with the other. In my world view, anyone who claimed to be Republican or a Trump supporter was the enemy.

During the months leading up to the election, a country divided

turned against itself, and this polarized culture has lingered ever since. But this division is weakening us. As Special Counsel Robert Mueller's

Russia investigation continues, we've found more and more evidence that this polarization is exactly what Russia's Internet Research Agency intended.

Through social media, the Russian firm not only created pages and events in support of Donald Trump's campaign, but also did exactly the opposite. Among the digital propaganda were anti-Trump rallies, an "LGBT United" Facebook page and even Bernie Sanders support posts, as identified by the House Intelligence Committee. The Internet Research Agency's goal wasn't to just tip the scale in favor of Trump, but to manipulate American discourse in a manner that divided us and promoted polarization.

So why haven't we learned? Without the help of Russian mingling, we've continued to pit

ourselves against one another. In debates both in person and within the comments sections, on the internet we've utilized aggression rather than understanding when dealing with those we disagree with. This behavior isn't attributed to a single party; the left is just as guilty as the right.

I still hold political biases. Yet just like when dealing with implicit bias, the first step toward eliminating it is acknowledging its existence. Calling President Trump a "Cheeto" is never going to get

us anywhere, and neither is labelling anyone a "liberal snowflake." By attacking a person rather than

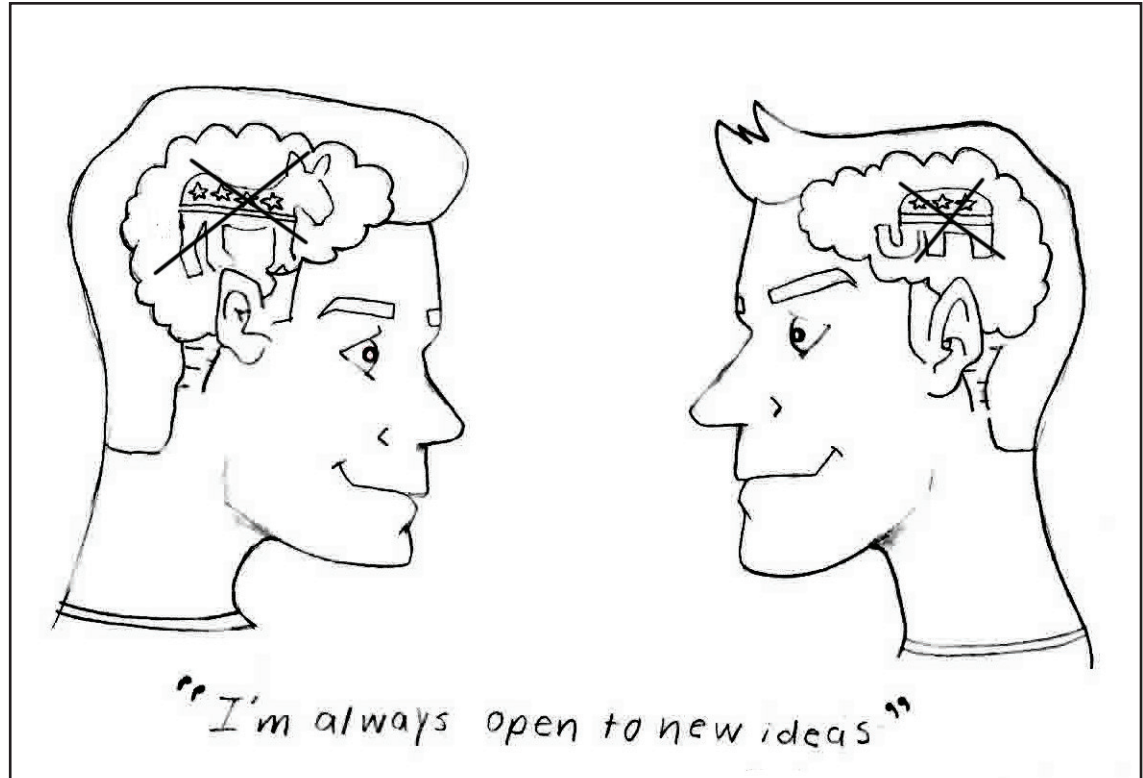
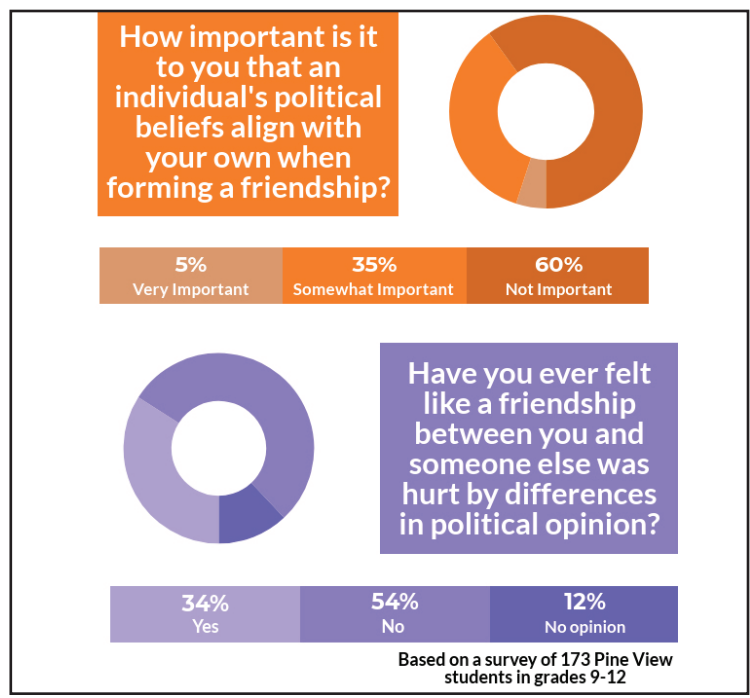
opening up a discussion about an individual's beliefs, we build walls between each other. We create more reasons for the other side to dismiss our ideas, and our generalizations inhibit progress.

Changing someone's opinion should not be the end-goal of every conversation. Disagreement is so vital because it helps us understand the roots of our very own opinions, leading us to either strengthen our beliefs or change them. And changing one's stance isn't a weakness nor inherently negative. Instead, it's a sign of progress.

One of the best conversations I ever had was with a stranger I had nearly nothing in common with. Crowded onto an hour-long plane ride to Providence, I was about to spend my summer at one of the country's most liberal universities while he was a father in

the armed forces headed to boot camp. Our political and philosophical ideologies could not have been more dissimilar, yet as we shuffled through topics ranging from the presidential election to the role of religion, never once did we raise our voices or attack the other. Instead, we shared airline pretzels and tried our best to understand the other's reasoning. While I don't believe either of us changed our core opinions, we left impacted and with a sense of empathy.

Dissent challenges us to reconsider our beliefs as we defend them. By understanding the individual behind the party label, we open ourselves up to discourse that strengthens America's democracy. Even if we are guilty of having been a part of the problem, we can aim to be a part of the solution.



POLITICAL CARTOON BY ANNA LABINER, GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON

A creator's odyssey now turns 'Epic'

Eleventh-grader finds her calling as an award-winning artist

by Gwyn Petersen
Focus Editor

As an aspiring artist, eleventh-grader Izabella Smith has her own unique art style which she incorporates into each and every one of her pieces. Recently, she was recognized by the judges at the North County Spring Art Show for her piece titled "La Sirena" and was awarded the Imaginative and Epic Award.

Every year, Pine View submits artwork into the Student Spring Art Show at Art Center Sarasota. This year, Smith's "La Sirena" not only won one of the special award categories — the Imaginative and Epic Award — but also a \$100 cash prize which she will receive at an award ceremony May 3. "La Sirena" depicts her interpretation of a siren, like those she hears in video games or "The Odyssey." "The piece is centered around beauty with a specific focus on vanity," she said.

Smith spent over six months working on the piece, adding details like the various adornments shown on the siren. "There's a lot of work that went into her eyes in particular, a lot of detail. That's kind of my shtick," Smith said.

Smith's inspiration for drawing originally came from her mother who taught her various artistic skills. "My mom taught me how to draw eyes when I was younger. She was really my earliest influence," Smith said.

Subsequently, she began to doodle during lectures but then discovered a love of art that she wanted to further develop. "My brothers got me into video games, and I started drawing characters from them," she said. From there, Smith began to design and sketch out her own characters.



Pictured above is eleventh-grader Izabella Smith's piece, "La Sirena." Smith will be receiving the Imaginative and Epic Award for the piece at the North County Spring Art Show on May 3.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY IZABELLA SMITH

Her dedication does not go unnoticed by the people in her life.

"She's very meticulous, very much a perfectionist, but her work is beautiful," Smith's art teacher, Shannon Fidler, said. "It's different than anybody else's, and that's what makes it so special."

Eleventh-grader Catherine Sutherland also commented on Smith's growth

throughout the years. "I've known her for six years, and it's been an incredible experience to watch her grow. It's really wonderful to see your friend be so passionate about something like this."

Currently, Smith runs her own online art store on Etsy called OscuraBella which features art prints of her work. In the future, she hopes to sell stickers as well as art books on her site. She also does live streams of her creative process on Twitch for those interested in learning what goes into one of her pieces. "I'm definitely working toward a career in art," Smith said. "It's something I really love."

"I'm definitely working towards a career in art. It's something I really love."
Izabella Smith, grade 11

[a column] Passing down The Torch

For the past year, my readers have seen me write columns about various topics, ranging from urging myself and others to have fun every once in a while, to talking about how the most advertised option doesn't necessarily make something the best option for you. But I'd be lying if I said coming up with all these column ideas or The Torch has been smooth sailing; more often than not, it has actually been the exact opposite.

So, with school coming to an end, I want to give my readers one last piece of advice — take risks and explore. Walking into The Torch, I was never the one with the most creativity. I was not comfortable writing more detailed and descriptive Entertainment or Features stories, nor was I the best at graphic design. So, you can imagine, the idea of having a column every issue was daunting. I would have to be open, write about topics that affect me and most importantly make sure that what I am writing is impactful to my readers.

Although I was uncomfortable at first, I am forever grateful for The Torch pushing me out of my comfort zone. It's the crazy story assignments, last minute layout changes and hectic press nights that made me who I am today. I encourage each one of you to also do something out of your comfort zone — make a new friend, try a different subject area or join a new club — you'll never expect what you will enjoy the most.

I could not finish my last column without saying thank you to all the people who allowed me to explore my interest in journalism and helped push me to be who I am today. So, thank you to the entire staff. Without your endless dedication, passion and drive, we would not have been able to have such a great year.

Thank you to all the J4s: Suzanne, Riley, Sarah, Alexa, Zach, Mackenzie, Allie and Annie. You all have been the best group of friends. It's crazy to think all nine of us have stuck through Torch for the last 4 years (vinegar noodles forever). You guys have pushed both me and this paper to new heights; and, without all of you, our paper would not be where it is today.

Thank you to Mr. Lernerz for always guiding our staff and supporting our decisions along the way.

Also, I wouldn't be where I am



Sana Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

today without the endless love and support from my parents — you guys are amazing. Thank you to my sister, whom I am forever grateful to have in my life. You continuously inspire me.

To my readers, I would like to give you an immense thank you from all of The Torch. It is your readership that inspires us to be more innovative, take risks and produce a high-quality publication each cycle.

My final thank you is to Pine View. For the last eight years, this community has been my home. From the students, teachers, club sponsors and many more, you all have helped me grow so much. I am going to miss walking onto this campus at 7:21 a.m. every day, but I am excited to see how the school grows.

With that, I want to introduce you to next year's Editor-in-Chief, Melissa Santoyo. I have full faith she will continue to grow this paper into an even better publication.



Next year's Editor-in-Chief, Melissa Santoyo. Melissa likes writing poetry and binge-watching Vox videos.

MICHAEL SHI THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE LEGEND

FALL 2007

Michael Shi joins Pine View from Phillipi Shores Elementary school as a second-grader in Melissa Drown's class.

SUMMER 2011

Michael graduates elementary school and goes to middle school!

FALL 2011

Sixth-grade marks a new year as Michael begins to grow out of his shell and befriend all he meets.

SUMMER 2014

Michael graduates middle school, and prepares to enter the dreaded freshman year.

FALL 2014

Michael, now a freshman, begins to befriend a majority of his class mates and upperclassmen.

2008

SUMMER 2018

Michael graduates with his Pine View diploma, moving onto college at USF Tampa and a bright future!

SPRING 2018

In his honor, the senior class has Michael Shi Day as a senior Friday.

FALL 2017

Michael participates in Mr. Pine View and wins the hearts of both the judges and the audience!

FALL 2016

Michael approaches English teacher Blake Wiley to start Pine View Soccer Club, becoming a campus favorite.

SPRING 2016

Michael attends Cobalt and becomes an instant hit due to his outgoing personality and constant smile.

THE FUTURE

THE SHI EFFECT

Dr. Paul Dean, English teacher

"His attitude has always been so friendly toward everyone on campus. I remember seeing this little second-grader running around saying 'Hi!' to everyone and wondering who he was, and of course, it was Michael Shi."

"I like how he's always nice, he's always smiling, he's always funny and there is never a mean word out of his mouth."

Maximillian Carey, Grade 8

"I love him because he comes in almost everyday to give me a hug since elementary school. He is just so genuine and kind."

Deana Sandefur, Health Room Aide

"He was the inspiration for my class closer 'keep your smiles on!'"

Tara Spielman, High School Assistant Principal

MICHAEL: THROUGH THE AGES

