

the Torch

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Immigration Fears Rise

National conversation on immigration and deportations comes to Sarasota

by Robyn Schoenberg and Allie Chung

Asst. Editors-in-Chief

In America, immigration policy redraws the boundaries of who belongs, who waits, and who must leave. Under the Trump administration, these boundaries have become more rigid through a series of executive orders.

The national conversation on immigration often feels distant, yet its effects have reached Sarasota and the lives of Pine View students.

A student, who we'll call Jesse, shared their story under the condition of anonymity for fear of impacting their green card application.

For most high schoolers, driving a car means freedom and a step into adulthood. For Jesse, it means something else entirely.

Before pulling out of the driveway each morning, they make sure two papers are tucked into the glovebox: a photocopy of their visa and an I-94 form verifying their legal status.

"I've been pulled over once before and the first question he asked [was] if I was a U.S. citizen. I thought it was a really strange question to ask someone at a routine traffic stop," Jesse said. "He was scaring me because I was alone, it was dark out... Luckily, I showed him my I-94 and he let me go with a warning."

Those papers mark a decision made by Jesse's family when Jesse was two years old, when their family fled a homeland where violence and chaos was the norm.

"My parents had to carry a gun in the car while driving because if you pulled up to a red light, people would smash your windows and steal your children," Jesse said.

They arrived in the United States legally on an E-1 work visa, renewing it as required until finally being approved to apply for a green card — a process that has kept them waiting ever since.

"We were told it would

take four months. That was five years ago. Now they're saying anywhere from three months to ten years," Jesse said.

This state of waiting legally grants the family permission to stay — but not to leave. Not even when their grandmother waits for them across the sea, ill with cancer.

"...She's going to die by December...Either we can never enter the U.S. again, or we stay and miss my grandmother's everything completely," Jesse said.

The same uncertainty shapes Jesse's future as a student. Because of their visa, they can't work, they can't qualify for Bright Futures, and they are often forced to check a box that



Former Pine View student Ian Sanchez poses for a photo. Sanchez was detained by ICE May 24, 2025 and was still in custody at the time of publication. PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIKA ALARCON

"This action is arbitrarily delaying his release and prolonging his detention, which we believe is a clear violation of his fundamental rights," Alarcon wrote through a GoFundMe update.

According to The Daily Sun, the family believes that his documentation status was ignored by a judge.

Sanchez has lived in the U.S. under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program for 23 years, which provides people who came to the U.S. as children protection against removal action for renewable periods of two years.

"The thing is that a lot of people who are called illegal immigrants today aren't illegal immigrants," Schweig said. "They were led into the country with temporary rights to stay until a judge heard their asylum requests, or they, like Ian, lived here legally under the DACA program or the DREAM Act."

Since his arrest over 100 days ago, Sanchez has not seen his family in person and is only able to communicate with them through short phone calls.

"As parents, our hearts are broken. And even more so when the system now requires us to come up with an amount of money that is completely beyond our means..." Alarcon wrote in the GoFundMe description.

His family initially started a GoFundMe aimed at raising \$16,000; however, to continue taking legal steps to defend their son, the family must hire a specialized legal team at a cost of \$25,000.

"Our son, Ian Daniel, was detained by ICE — despite having legal status in this country, despite studying, working, and living responsibly. He is a noble young man, full of dreams, who has never committed a crime," Alarcon wrote. "Since that moment, it has all been uncertainty, heartbreak...and a constant race against time."

The narrative surrounding immigrants in the U.S. is shifting, these stories display the impact felt by millions across the country.

“ Either we can never enter the U.S. again, or we stay and miss my grandmother's everything completely.”
Jesse
Anonymous Pine View Student

determines whether a college sees them as "domestic" or "international."

"Every time I email [admissions officers], I get a different answer," Jesse said. "If I check the wrong box, my application could be rescinded."

While classmates fill out applications and plan campus tours, Jesse waits on paperwork that determines more than college acceptances.

For Jesse, the future sits folded inside a glove box, though one day they hope it will not have to be.

Former Pine View student, Ian Sanchez has experienced deportation concerns firsthand.

"Help Ian from an Ice Detention Facility" reads the title of a GoFundMe started by Erika Alarcon, the mother of Pine View alumnus, Ian Sanchez.

On May 24, Sanchez was arrested and charged with al-

legedly driving under the influence. Although, according to The Daily Sun, Sanchez shared with his mother that he was not asked to take a breathalyzer test, nor did he deny one, and was arrested after telling authorities that he was from Mexico.

According to The Daily Sun, his case was terminated by a Colorado judge on August 25, but he was not released. The U.S. Government opened a new case against Sanchez, and he has since been moved to multiple ICE detention centers across the country.

Social studies teacher John Schweig had Sanchez as a student and worries for his safety.

"Ian Sanchez is a sweet, gentle, lovely student and it pains me greatly to think of him spending weeks inside of detention centers that have



GRAPHIC BY MADELYN BAILEY

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The First Generation of Pine View Varsity Sports Pine View introduces golf and tennis for the first time in 56 years



Pine View Performative Male Honor Society Pine View Juniors and Seniors perform to the max.



Torch Tries Pumpkin Carving See the Torch staff as they get into the fall mood.

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X equals a hole-in-one

Reintroducing Algebra 2 Teacher and High School Athletic Director: Wayne Robertson

by Minhkhue Tran
Match Layout Artist

Wayne Robertson is working from his desk when sixth period ends. He gathers his stuff and hustles from his room in Building 17 to the weight room in the gym. He switches from teacher to coach.

After 30 years of experience, new Algebra 2 teacher and High School Athletic Director, Wayne Robertson hopes that Pine View will be his final destination in his career. Returning after five years, he is thrilled to coach the new golf and tennis teams.

Robertson began teaching in Sarasota County in 1986. He was at Pine View from 2016 to 2020.

Aside from that, he spent the rest of his time teaching and coaching at Venice High School. He coached the Venice High golf team for four years, the girls' tennis team for 10, and the boys team since 1996.

He first chose to come to Pine View in 2016 because his daughter was a student here. Robertson also wanted to take the convenient opportunity to teach Algebra 2 that had come up at the time.

"It just seemed like a nice, fresh start. Sometimes you get stuck in a rut where you are and just need a change of

scenery," he said.

After his daughter graduated and his son entered his senior year, Robertson returned to Venice High and worked as the testing coordinator for five years.

In February of 2025, he heard that Pine View was starting varsity golf and tennis teams. Robertson was interested in this position because of his past experience.

"It just made sense that if I was able to do that, it would help get the program started," he said.

He has worked with Pine View athletes before at Venice High and is thrilled to continue helping them here. He finds it fun to work with students who are talented in multiple aspects.

"Everything that Pine View kids do, they do well and with passion..." he said.

One of these students, freshman Allie Ivanov, engages with Robertson both in and outside of the classroom with Algebra 2 and the golf team. Through their connections, Ivanov feels supported by his guidance.

"He really cares. Whenever you don't understand something, he will explain things more in depth... He's patient with us and takes everything one step at a time," Ivanov said.

During golf, she notes that he's very positive. He calmly helps his students without getting mad at them. Even though this is her first year playing golf, he took the time to teach her how to properly do everything such as her swing and grip.

While competing at matches, he encourages his students to do their best. When they encounter setbacks, he tries his best to lift their moods.

"He tells us to be confident, don't stress about anything, don't think about anything," Ivanov said.

Outside of school and sports, Robertson enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He enjoys outdoor activities



Algebra 2 Teacher and High School Athletic Director Wayne Robertson coaches sophomore Alesya Redko through a golf swing. Through his guidance, the girls golf team has been led through a successful first season. Along with golf, Robertson will also be the coach of Pine View's inaugural girls high school tennis team. PHOTO BY MINH KHUE TRAN

such as traveling, hiking, and biking with his wife. Whenever he gets the chance, he tries to go to different sporting events and cheer on his students.

In the future, he hopes to get the sports program here off to a good start for a few years before beginning the process of handing off the responsibilities to another qualified coach.

Until someone else takes over his responsibilities, he is happy to be teaching math and building the foundation for the varsity sports teams.

"I feel like this is a fantastic job that's a great mix of the different things that I like to do ... Being back at Pine View is an amazing thing," Robertson said.

ments of music intertwined together to create the masterpieces of music..." Yanovskiy said over a phone interview.

"She was always looking for the most beautiful tone that is good for the particular phrase and particular tone in every music composition."

Her unique view of music and natural talent have always guided her musical journey, paving the way for her to complete her doctorate and to assume her new role of setting the stage for Pine View's orchestra.

"[Music] heals people. It brings fractured nations together, fractured people. It can mend conflict if you really let it," Naffe said. "...So with that, it kind of ignited this extreme passion for expression. That's how I express myself now and then. From there, it became, really, my life's ambition."

Upon hearing that the two sisters did not have any formal training or private lessons for their respective instruments, he suggested that they take private lessons with him, preparing them for their transition to the UWF. Since then, Naffe, alongside her sister, became a tremendous musician.

"[Naffe] pretty early understood the importance of basic elements and how basic ele-

ments of music intertwined together to create the masterpieces of music..." Yanovskiy said over a phone interview.

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Cutting out the costs

The effects of statewide budget cuts to education on our schools

by Isabel Georgieva and Jakob Roche
Asst. Sci Tech Editor and Managing Editor

Florida is around \$15.3 billion in debt. The DeSantis administration has said it wants to decrease that number, while also expanding school voucher programs, and the costs of doing so are becoming apparent, especially in public education.

The Big Picture

Over the last fiscal year, the Division of Bond Finance reported that the state debt was decreased by around \$1 billion. The budget Governor Ron DeSantis signed for the current year allocates \$830 million toward repaying the debt.

This accelerated debt repayment program means that there's less money available for every other state government program. As a result of all this, the current year's funding for the in the public education budget was uncharacteristically low.

According to the Florida Policy Institute, the 2025 base student allocation (BSA), that is, the amount of money allocated in the budget for each student, has increased the smallest amount since 2018 — that year, the BSA stayed the same as it was in 2017. Adjusted for inflation, there's actually been around a .01 percent decrease in the BSA.

Sarasota County Schools' Supervisor of Government Affairs Chris Parenteau said that although there has been a nominal budget increase, the district's costs have far outstripped that.

"Salaries and benefits, health insurance, transportation, utilities, ener-

gy, all of those things are up about 40 percent in the last three or four years," Parenteau said.

This means that there's been an ever-increasing budget shortfall

for Sarasota public schools. There's no signs of that changing in the immediate future; Parenteau said that, based on his overall interactions with legislators, he hasn't yet been able to judge any sort of consensus or trend when it comes to the education budget. That will take time, and likely become more apparent once the legislature comes into session in March.

Until then, Sarasota County Schools will continue to implement its largest budget adjustment in recent history.

At the Local Level

While the 2024 to 2025 school year rolled to an end last May, Pine View Association sprung into action in an effort to prepare for the budget cuts.

PVA president Silke Cuff saw firsthand how these cuts influenced schools on a district level and was a prominent

force in the attempt to preserve programs of Pine View.

"We had a funding request from Roy Sprinkle ... for two programs that were cut across the district," Cuff said, mentioning the recovery of Accelerated Reading (AR) and BrainPop, which were both not covered by the district this year.

While those two were saved, there were losses. According to Superintendent Terry Connor's financial report as well as Cuff, summer staffing adjustments prompted the elimination of an Exceptional Student Education liaison, literacy specialist coach, and a technology support positions. While these positions were eliminated, the people staffing them were offered other jobs that were vacant at

the time. Thankfully, no teaching positions were cut from Pine View.

"They increased the number of computers available but decreased the technology support at every school. So that is a big problem," Cuff said.

The money allocated from PVA consists of \$68,000 this year, which Cuff said is a historical high, despite it being less than the \$78,000 amount last year.

"So, [last year] we rolled two years of funding together and gave the school

agreements can take place," Parenteau said.

At the end of the summer, students filled Pine View's halls once more. Backstage, an entire board of advocates for student resources had worked tirelessly to restore and maintain the details that make Pine View, Pine View.

In Cuff's words: "[We] had to do what we could to protect our little slice of heaven here."

...It shows that when you have good relationships and good conversations... thing can get done and that agreements can take place."

Chris Parenteau
Sarasota County Schools
Supervisor of Government Affairs

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Getting into the rhythm

Introducing Orchestra Director: Audrey Naffe



Orchestra Director Audrey Naffe demonstrates proper violin technique to her sixth-grade students. Everyday, a harmonious cacophony of string, woodwind, and percussion instruments emanates through the door to Room 810 and onto campus. When asked about her favorite part of teaching Pine View students, Naffe said, "it's the enthusiasm to learn ... for the most part just seeing them, or hearing their excitement in the class." PHOTO BY NATHAN DESOUZA

by Nathan DeSouza
Director of Digital Media

As Room 810 resonates with the song of violin strings and strums of cellos, Audrey Naffe stands amongst it all, helping students tune their instruments or conducting a new piece and filling the room with winds of harmony.

After recently moving from North Florida, Naffe starts a new chapter of her life as Pine View's Orchestra Director.

Born into a military family, Naffe moved frequently along the coastlines of Florida and Alabama, but always found herself back in Pensacola, which

she considers her home.

Growing up, Naffe was always surrounded by music and embraced that identity early on by recognizing music everywhere, regardless of whether it was in a musical environment or not.

"I was always so interested in anything music, just anything, everywhere I go, I would notice the instruments in the room..." Naffe said, "So I was able to recognize timbre and color changes in instruments. I was able to identify those immediately, I just was naturally attuned to hearing differences."

Going into middle school, Naffe desired to invest her musical calling into

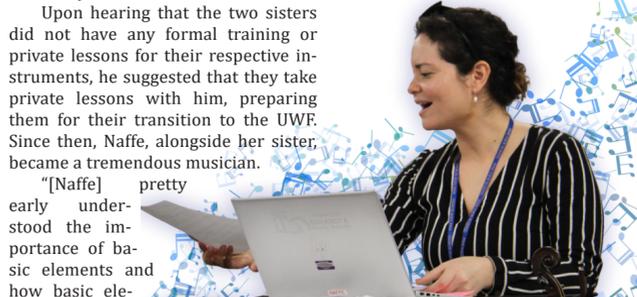


PHOTO ART BY TIMOTHY NESANELIS

PER PUPIL SPENDING BY STATE AS OF 2025

- FLORIDA CURRENTLY SPENDS \$12,415 PER STUDENT ON K-12 EDUCATION, RANKING 44TH IN THE UNITED STATES.
- THIS FALLS BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE, WHICH IS \$12,612 PER STUDENT
- FLORIDA USES THE LEAST AMOUNT OF TAX DOLLARS ON EDUCATION BY PERCENTAGE

SOURCE: WORLDPOPULATIONREVIEW VIA EDUCATIONDATA.ORG

GRAPHIC BY TIMOTHY NESANELIS

Anti-vax concerns go viral

Recent Florida law sparks debate about vaccine mandates.

by Alex Lieberman
Opinion Editor

Florida's Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo announced September 3 that Florida will move to eliminate vaccine mandates for adults and children. This would make Florida the first state to do so.

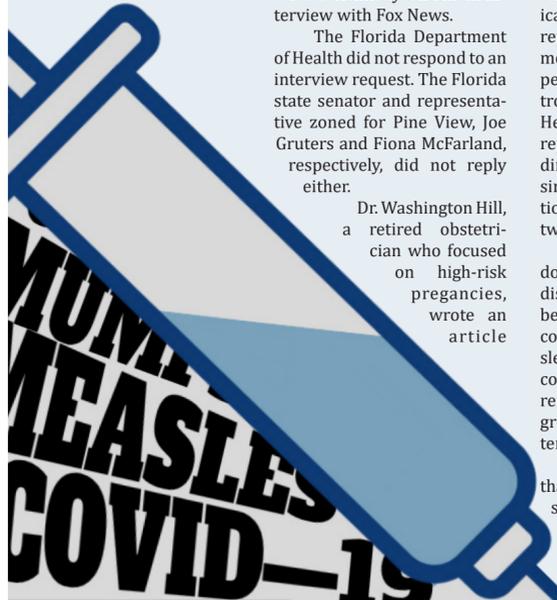
Governor Ron DeSantis, who appointed Ladapo in 2021, also announced that the state plans to create a Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) commission as recommended by U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services established on its website that the goal of the MAHA initiative is to "reform America's food, health, and scientific systems to identify the root causes of the chronic disease epidemic and Make America Healthy Again."

"It [the measles vaccine] causes all the illnesses that measles itself causes, encephalitis and blindness, et cetera. And so people ought to be able to make that choice for themselves," Kennedy said in an interview with Fox News.

The Florida Department of Health did not respond to an interview request. The Florida state senator and representative zoned for Pine View, Joe Gruters and Fiona McFarland, respectively, did not reply either.

Dr. Washington Hill, a retired obstetrician who focused on high-risk pregnancies, wrote an article



Pythons in Taiwan

by Liam Dingman and Sophia Haakman
Guest Contributors



Traveling Team. While in Taiwan, senior Liam Dingman (second from the left) and other members of his NSLI-Y cohort pose for a photo. Dingman spent a month and half in China as a part of his chinese language immersion program. PHOTO COURTESY OF LIAM DINGMAN

Liam's Story

Lifelong friends. Language ability. Living independently. Two dollar bobas. These are the things I most associate with my time in Taiwan.

But first, my cohort's journey began in Washington D.C. where we had our Pre-Departure Orientation, which in essence briefed us on how to behave and what to expect in Taiwan. More importantly, we saw the people who we would be spending our entire life with for the next month and a

half. Over the first week, we were introduced to our host city, Hsinchu; teachers; language partners; host family; and our host school.

The next few weeks were full of memories and growth. On weekdays, my cohort friends and I would go to the cafeteria to eat scallion pancakes together before heading to class for four hours (with a two hour lunch splitting class time), then we were free after about 3:00 p.m.

With our ample free time, we'd go to cafes, explore the city, and do all our homework (a light packet, plus previewing tomorrow's lesson for the morning quiz). We also had time to stay active, like going to the gym, going on runs, or

playing basketball games. After, we'd return to our dorms and mess around in our rooms.

The key part of the program though, of course, is language. Over the program, we racked up 120 hours of instruction in Chinese. English was forbidden in the classroom, and we gained plenty of immersion in our daily lives. We also stayed with our host families for three weekends, where we bonded in Chinese, going to places like concerts, other cities, and parks (the others were spent on trips to places like Taipei).

I came back to America with an intermediate-high Chinese level, a lifelong network of friends I still call (and even plan on visiting), and more confidence in my independence in day-to-day life. NSLI-Y was truly a one-of-a-kind experience, and completely expanded my worldview.



Sophia's Story

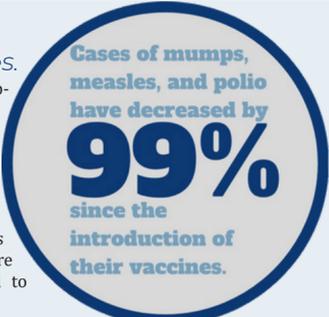
This summer, I went to Taiwan on a state-sponsored scholarship to study the Chinese language in an immersive environment. It was my first time traveling without my family, so it was very intimidating for me, but the experiences I had as a student and as a tourist are experiences that will stay with me for a long time.

As of now, this is my thirteenth year learning Chinese in school, but I found that being in such an immersive environment, taking classes entirely in Chinese, and going home to a Chinese-speaking host family every night really allowed me to improve my Chinese language ability, especially my speaking in just six weeks more than I ever had before.

While in Taiwan, I formed close connections with my fellow NSLI-Y students, teachers from Tamkang University, and my host family, all of whom allowed my experience studying abroad to be an unforgettable one.



Guandu Nature Park, which is found in Taipei, Taiwan, is one of the many places junior Sophia Haakman visited during her trip. Haakman saw over 45 new bird species while there. PHOTO COURTESY OF SOPHIA HAAKMAN



of Florida. The Surgeon General of Florida believes that healthy people do not need vaccinations," he said.

Sixteen-year-old Chelsea Smyth, who recently moved back to her home country of Sweden after living in Florida for five years, has lived her whole life with no vaccines due to her parents' stances on them. She has contracted some of the diseases vaccines protect from.

"I think the biggest one is mumps, which is supposed to be dead, and could kill me," Smyth said.

She rarely visits the hospital, although her parents made an exception when she contracted mumps. Smyth has been sick with COVID multiple times as well as other diseases that she does not know the identity of.

"I think a lot of people get pushed into rhetoric about vaccines being incorrect, and a lot of times they don't want to do the actual research, so they just watch people talk about it and a lot of times those [talks] aren't researched or have malignant intent in the first place," Smyth said.

She hopes to receive vaccinations upon turning 18.

Hill and Smyth are both supporters of vaccine mandates, with Hill saying he would be sad to see them go.

"I truly believe that vaccinations save lives," Hill said, "whether they're pregnant or not."

GRAPHICS BY MADELYN BAILEY

The First Generation of Pine View Varsity Athletes

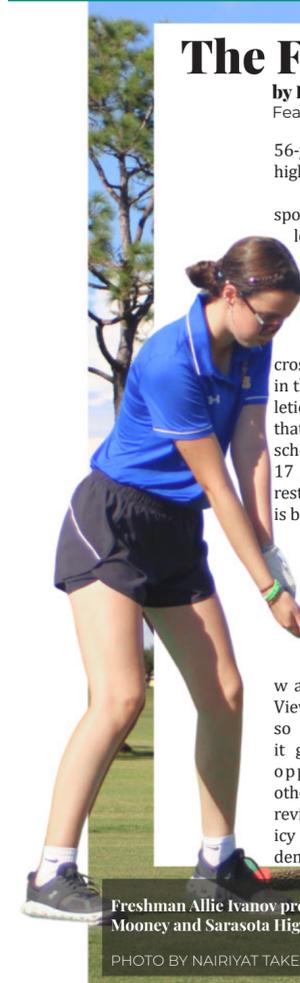
by Daria Shabunina
Features Editor

For the first time in its 56-year history, Pine View has high school sports.

While middle school sports such as basketball, volleyball, and track have been offered, throughout its history, the closest Pine View ever got to having high school students play was an unofficial lacrosse team — not registered in the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) — that played in the 2010-2011 school year, winning 14 out of 17 games. The record for the rest of the years on MaxPreps is blank.

This is for a reason.

Adopted in 2001, District Policy 5.20 originally prohibited students to play sports at a school they did not attend if their offered any. It was unrealistic for Pine View to offer every sport, so by offering none, it gave its students the opportunity to play at other schools. In 2016, a revision of District Policy 5.80 allowed students to play whatever



Freshman Allie Ivanov prepares to swing her driver during a match against Cardinal Mooney and Sarasota High School at Sara Bay Country Club.

PHOTO BY NAIRIVAT TAKENOVA

sport their school did not offer at other schools, creating more flexibility. This set the stage for the current events.

While the students that previously played golf at other schools were forced to leave their teams, they do not regret it despite initial feelings.

Due to the last-minute organization this year, matches are not as frequent as some would have liked, the boys team, which has eight players that all have experience, is seeing high success.

"Our goal for the end of the season was to hit 150 strokes or less for nine holes, and we did that the other day," said senior Grant Miller, who played golf at Lakewood Ranch for two years, then at Riverview for one.

The ultimate goal is to get to the State Championship, or even win it.

"... We would get close to winning states if we shot that number at states," junior Charles Williams, who formerly played at Riverview, said, "So, we've been building up to it. We've got close a couple times, and we finally got it last match."

The girls team, meanwhile, is still finding its footing. With

only five players — three of them beginners — the season has been more about growth than wins.

"I feel like I have to be the role model because I'm the only one that has [experience]," Rebeka Filko said. "Reese [Dieterly] has played before, but she's in sixth grade ... I've been trying to be really supportive, especially after matches, even though I'm really upset with how I've played ... it's really hard because golf is emotional."

Nevertheless, the team is hopeful for the future.

"... They're definitely growing into it and learning and having fun," Wayne Robertson, High School Athletic Director and Head Coach for girls golf and boys and girls tennis, said. "This last tournament that we were in on Monday, we beat our first two teams ... I think they're just going to continue to get better as the season goes on."

The timing may have impacted the number of people that tried out. With more talk of high school sports this year, more students are showing interest in trying out for tennis, which starts in January. The girls golf team is also hoping to gain members next year.

"If we lock in during off season and we still stay committed, I feel like definitely in

my junior [or senior] year, we'll be able to make it to states," Filko said, "... I just hope next year more people realize it's a thing and join."

Adding more sports may seem like a solid next step, but many are opposed to it. Athletes that play for other schools fear being pulled from their current team to play at Pine View so late in their high school careers.

Miller proposed a solution to this based off of the new Skye Ranch School's policy for middle school students.

"They don't want to tear you away if you're districted to Skye Ranch," Miller said. "I think that would have been a great idea to implement that for sports. Like, if you're a freshman, you got to play for Pine View. But if you're anything above that, then you don't have to."

At the end of the day, anything is possible, and predictions of the future are just that. The hope is that the teams Pine View has now continue growing and improving, and that any other sports that may be added will see a smooth beginning.

The Struggles of Switching Teams

by Allie Chung and Skylar Bredlun
Sports Editor and Asst. Sports Editor

For the first time in school history, Pine View is making its mark on varsity athletics. With tennis and golf starting this new journey, students are preparing to represent their school with pride and passion. The launch of these new sports programs signals an exciting chapter — one filled with both new challenges and the chance to build lasting legacies that will live on at Pine View.

Junior Caroline Cannon, who played for Venice's tennis team last season, shares her views on the change.

"I feel like there's things that are good and bad. Having a team for the first time, I guess there's not as much experience, you don't really know your teammates as well.

But I'm happy to be on the first team," Cannon said.

In the past, many student-athletes to joined teams at differing schools in order to compete. With the introduction of Pine View's own varsity programs, that option is no longer available.

"... We're not allowed to play for another school unless we transfer here, but because we didn't have a team last year, that's why we could go," Cannon said.

The program will benefit from having an experienced coach in place. Wayne Robertson, who previously coached at Venice High School has come to Pine View to coach and teach Algebra 2. He will bring experience along with familiarity to some of the teammates who have already had him as a coach in the past.

"So that is one thing, [having Robertson], at least for me, maybe not for every-

one else, but it will be an easier transition for me... because if we do win, which is definitely a possibility, it will be a nice moment for me after the transition," Cannon said.

The advantages don't end there: Pine View will compete in Class 1A, Florida's smallest classification, a bracket Cannon believes plays to the team's strengths.

"Honestly, I think it might be easier because we're a 1A. The majority of the schools in our district are newer and kind of in the same position as Pine View," she said.

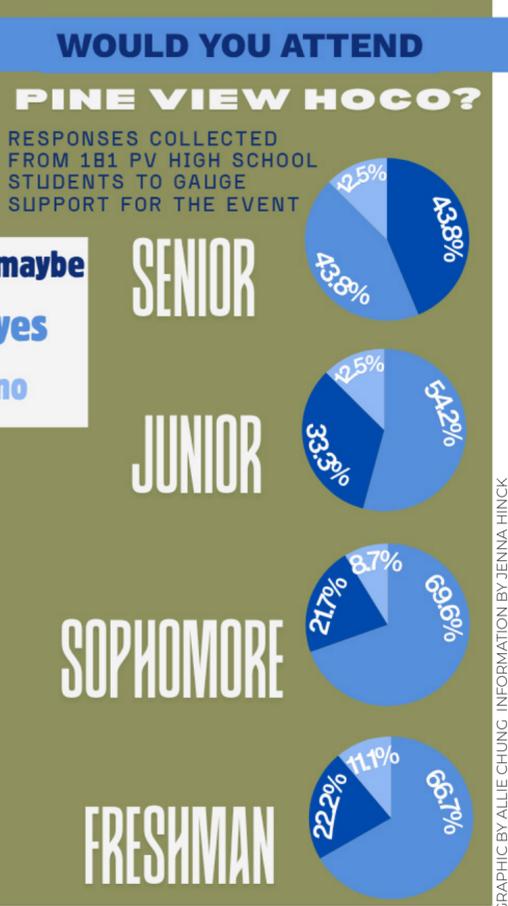
For seniors like Isabella Zmiyivsky, the experience is bittersweet but meaningful.

"I'm really excited to be one of Pine View's first varsity athletes... I just wish they started the team earlier so I could've been part of it longer," she said.



Caroline Cannon prepares to serve during a home match at Venice High School. She went on to defeat ODA in straight sets, 6-0, 6-1.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAROLINE CANNON



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PBS FACES BUDGET CUTS

by Ana Easter

Match Editor-in-Chief

For decades, characters like Curious George, Daniel Tiger, Elmo, and Arthur have lit up television screens across America, offering free of charge, commercial-free learning to children of every background. Behind these characters stands PBS Kids, the children's programming channel of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). Established in 1994, PBS Kids was built on the promise to provide all children, especially those in underprivileged areas, with access to high quality educational content.

PBS Kids has provided [skills] in a safe, accessible, and non-commercial way for years.

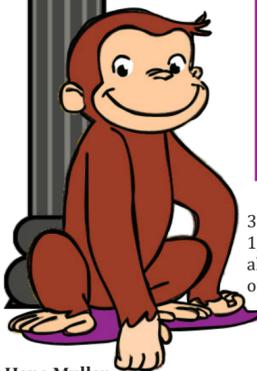
This promise, after nearly 30 years, was disrupted May 1, 2025, when President Donald Trump signed an executive order instructing the Corpo-

ration for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the agency that provides federal funding to PBS and all other federal agencies to stop funding PBS and the National Public Radio (NPR) network. The Trump administration justified this move, claiming that "neither entity presents a fair, accurate, or unbiased portrayal of current events to taxpaying citizens."

Weeks later, Congress passed the Rescissions Act of 2025, revoking more than \$1 billion in federal support for the CPB. After these cuts, on August 1, 2025, the CPB announced it would be shutting down entirely due to this loss of federal investment.

"Despite the extraordinary efforts of millions of Americans who called, wrote, and petitioned Congress to preserve federal funding for CPB, we now face the difficult reality of closing our operations," CPB CEO and President Patricia Harrison said in a statement.

With more than 350 local stations across the country, many relying heavily on federal funds to cover operating costs, salaries, and educational programming, this shutdown puts



by Hana Mullen
Graphics Editor

Surrounded by optical illusions, dazzling flora, and Sarasota's iconography, locals and tourists alike stroll along Orange and Pineapple Avenues, now dubbed the Avenue of Art. Starting in 2021, the Sarasota Chalk Art Festival branched into permanent murals that lined the sidewalks down the Avenue of Art.

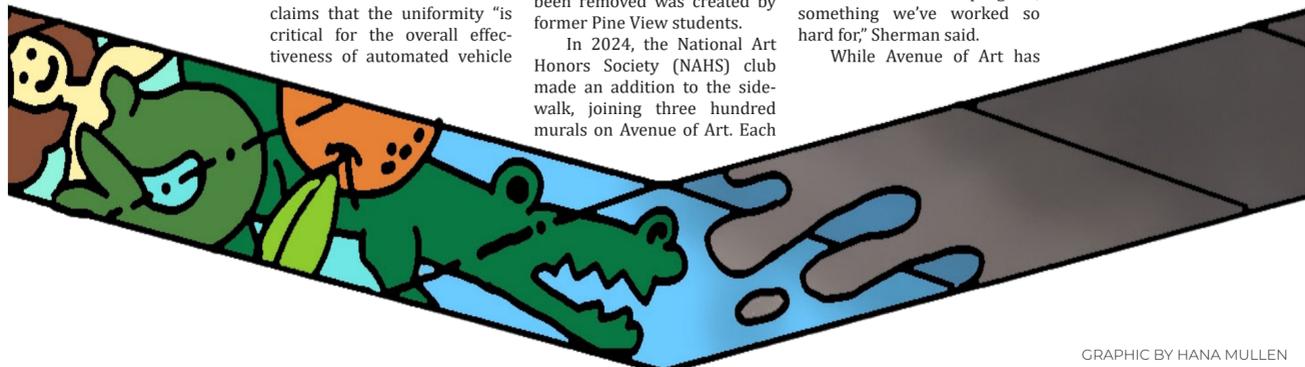
Today, however, the once lively sidewalks have returned to a dull gray.

This past June, Senate Bill 1662 was passed stating that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) enforce that all public roads must fol-

low uniform traffic patterns and designs. Included in the FDOT's "uniform" mandates the removal of "Non-standard surface markings, signage, and signals that do not directly contribute to traffic safety," according to FDOT's engineering and operations memorandum.

This means all street art, including the sidewalk murals downtown, must be removed by local governments. In fact, if local governments do not comply with the new law, FDOT will withhold funding for essential traffic needs.

FDOT's memorandum claims that the uniformity "is critical for the overall effectiveness of automated vehicle



GRAPHIC BY HANA MULLEN

Painting Her Path

Taylor Teague's Art

by Maya Ruffin
Asst. Features Editor

PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYLOR TEAGUE



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the future of PBS and their children's programs in jeopardy.

With an average of 15 million viewers a month, PBS Kids has been one of the leading figures in educational broadcasting for decades. The programs provided by PBS Kids teach literacy, numeracy, social-emotional skills, and empathy through entertaining shows with a variety of characters.

"I remember growing up watching Sesame Street," junior Ingrid Cushman said, "It taught me a bunch of basic skills and foundational knowledge."

These skills are essential in the development of all children, and PBS Kids has provided them in a safe, accessible, and non-commercial way for

years.

While the future of PBS Kids and its beloved programs is uncertain, PBS continues to adapt, seeking ways to keep its programming available to children's programs in jeopardy.

While the future of PBS Kids and its beloved programs is uncertain, PBS continues to adapt, seeking ways to keep its programming available to children's programs in jeopardy.

only been around for four years, the artistic, vibrant atmosphere of Sarasota remains a century old tradition. Through visits to the Ringling, tours through the sand sculptures at Siesta, and recognizing McIntosh, Bee Ridge, and Fruitville by their murals, the visual art scene helps define Sarasota's personality. The art supports the community's collaboration, tourism, and iconography. It gives artists a platform of expression and audiences a subject to interpret.

Many opponents of Senate Bill 1662 say that legislature shouldn't change who Sarasota is — that's for the community to decide.

While Avenue of Art has

group of artists was given a \$150 reward on top of provided supplies and merchandise, according to past president of NAHS, EllaRose Sherman. The funds and hours of effort put into Avenue of Art cannot be overlooked. Imagine the millions spent on murals across the entire state, now painted gray.

According to Sherman, not only was Avenue of Art a platform for expression, but it also memorialized the community.

"Even if the club disappears one day ... this will be a spot that memorializes our program, something we've worked so hard for," Sherman said.

While Avenue of Art has

100th Anniversary Celebrating Art Center Sarasota

By Athena Erbe

Humor Editor

A century ago, in vibrant and developing Sarasota, Art Center Sarasota was born. The art center was founded in 1926 by Marsha Raider, the supervisor for art in Sarasota County Schools at the time. It became the first art association in Sarasota.

Since then, it has developed as a non-profit with the goal "to promote the educational and cultural advantages of Sarasota in the field of contemporary art," according to the Art Center Sarasota website.

Katherine Ceaser, the current Executive Director of the art center, said via Zoom interview, "The founding was to create a space for artists who are new to the area, who were maybe attending some of the art schools here, to create a community of artists to connect with each other, and then also to share their work out more broadly."

Ceaser, who has been working with the center for the past two years and previously taught with Sarasota County Schools, explained the organization's continued focus on art availability to the community.

"I would say our mission is to be accessible, but not just to artists, but to ev-

eryone to make art as well," Ceaser said.

Now, this center helps many students explore their interests in art, no matter their background. It hosts a myriad of events each year to contribute to the expansive Sarasota arts community. Among the many students who have worked with the art center is senior Ginger Kreithen.

Kreithen first walked into the center as a five-year-old camper to attend the non-profit's free summer program. Years later, she was able to become an assistant instructor at the camp, passing down the skills she learned to the younger generation.

"They are really focused on making the experience memorable ... it was definitely a really awesome point in my life to be a camper there," Kreithen said, "and it just felt like we had so much community of artists around you as well, and people you could talk to and people you looked up to."

Additionally, Kreithen has submitted her own work to the Art Center and has had the opportunity to display her artwork at multiple events, one of which she sold her artwork at.

The art community in Sarasota has had a great impact on students around Sarasota, and sixth-grade English teach-

er Freda Kmak has seen its specific impact on the students of Pine View. With a passion for art, Kmak studied locally at Ringling College of Art and Design and was able to connect with many art centers in the area, such as the Van Wezel and Ringling Museum.

"What I think is so great for the gifted population, is arts integration is a natural vehicle for creative and critical thinking, and analytical thinking, and also thinking outside the box," Kmak said.

As Art Center Sarasota celebrates its centennial and enters its second century, its goal remains unchanged as it continues to provide quality art education to members of the Sarasota community. At the same time, the center is looking forward to exciting new plans, including



This piece made by senior Ginger Kreithen is named Synthesia. It was displayed at an Art Center Sarasota event themed around euphoria, conveying the adrenaline as she plays the drums. PHOTO COURTESY OF GINGER KREITHEN

evening programs, a guest speaker series, and a future location on the Sarasota Bay-front.

Whether it be igniting the spark of passion in younger students or supporting the development of dedicated long-time students, the art center remains a place for anyone interested in expressing their creativity.

Torch Tries Pumpkin Carving

By Madelyn Bailey

Co News Editor

Nine ambitious journalists met on a Sunday afternoon to carve the best jack-o-lantern ever crafted.

We were armed with four pumpkins total, meaning we had to split into teams in order to win the coveted Walmart bears.

The groups were as follows: the Pumpkings (freshman Isabel Georgieva and junior Alex Lieberman), The Good Ghouls (freshman Shriya Ashok and junior Madelyn Bailey), the Torch-urers (freshman Maya Ruffin and senior Ava Lenerz), and the Jack-o-masters (freshman Skylar Bredlau, junior Ana Easter, and freshman Minhkhue Tran).

Even Lenerz found confidence in her team's ability.

"We are going to win those bears," Lenerz said.

With that, we began. In the early minutes of our competition, each team came up with a perfect pumpkin plan. The Good Ghouls designed a Snoopy pumpkin, the Torch-urers designed a sugar skull face, the Jack-o-masters designed a Halloween bat, and the Pumpkings wanted to create a cat.

The Pumpkings, however, changed their minds early on.

"I thought you were doing the Chill Guy?" Georgieva said in reference to the sharpie designed Snoopy found on The Good Ghouls' pumpkin.

After that mistaken observation, the Pumpkings decided they had no

choice but to abandon their original plan and craft their own Chill Guy (a 2023 internet meme which features a smirking dog in a cool outfit).

Once all the teams' plans were set we began to carve.

Carving is a simple activity: as long as you're prepared with the right equipment and the hand-eye coordination possessed by the average person, not much should go wrong.

As we found out, as easy as it is for the average person to carve a pumpkin, we are not average people.

"Oh my God, what are you doing to that pumpkin?" Lenerz said after witnessing the pumpkin carving method employed by the Pumpkings.

The Torch-urers and the Jack-o-masters turned out to be the most dexterous carvers, neither team faced any significant obstacles.

The Good Ghouls, however, faced a small misstep: while carving out the bat-bearing moon, Bailey accidentally dislodged the bat. Luckily, the bat was easily put back into its spot, and no further complications arose.

When all the teams finished carving their masterpieces, it was time to reveal the finished product.

The Torch-urers revealed a beautiful product, although that viewpoint was not held by all—Lenerz originally

wanted to name her pumpkin Ugly Susan. Eventually, Ruffin and Lenerz settled on the name "Pumpkinita."

The Jack-o-masters revealed a bat which they called "Freddiestein."

The Good Ghouls came up with a Snoopy-themed pumpkin which they decided to name "Spooky Snoopy."

The Pumpkings decided to name their Chill Guy "Justbob"

Only one team can win, however. Since all of the pumpkins are so amazingly spooky, voting is up to you, the readers. From the time of this story's publication until October 30, you can vote for your favorite pumpkin on the Pine View Torch Instagram: @pvtorch.

Further instructions can be found on Instagram and the winner will be revealed on Halloween.

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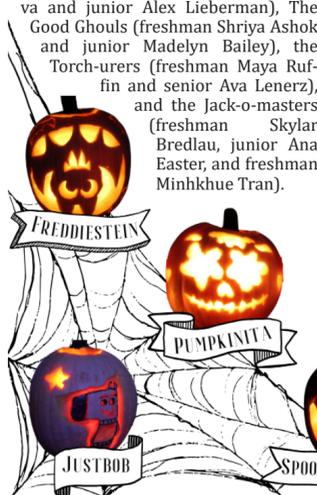
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PHOTOS BY MADELYN BAILEY

A TASTE OF Fall

- Pumpkin Spice Latte**: Starbucks' signature espresso and steamed milk, with flavors from pumpkin, cinnamon, nutmeg and clove, is topped with whipped cream and real pumpkin pie spices.
- Pumpkin Sugar Cookie Iced Coffee**: Dunkin's original iced coffee is combined with the flavor of pumpkin and vanilla and topped with Sweet Cold Foam and a dusting of cinnamon sugar.
- Salted Caramel Macho Frappe**: Captain Curt's coffee house offers a blended, icy coffee drink that combines rich mocha chocolate, buttery caramel with a hint of salt, topped off with whipped cream and extra caramel drizzle.
- Pumpkin Brûlée**: The Pumpkin Brûlée drink from Wawa is a sweet, creamy pumpkin drink with a caramelized, sugary flavor that tastes like fall in a cup.

GRAPHIC BY ALAKH BHATT



Ransom Riggs

Profession: Writer, photographer, and filmmaker

Accomplishments: Author of New York Times #1 bestseller "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children."



Nathan J. Robinson

Profession: Writer and editor

Accomplishments: Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Current Affairs magazine.



Adele Romanski

Profession: Film producer

Accomplishments: Produced "Moonlight," an Academy Award winner for Best Picture.

Classrooms to Careers

by Skylar Bredlau
Asst. Sports Editor

At Pine View School, the lessons go far beyond the classroom. For many alumni, from the founding of the school until now, Pine View has offered more than textbooks and tests — it has offered a world of possibility. Within its rigorous classrooms and creative corners, each person has found the spark that ignites future careers across industries as diverse as business, technology, and the arts.

Brad Baker, a 1978 Pine View graduate, was the first student from the school accepted as an intern at Sarasota Memorial Hospital — a path that many would follow after him.

Baker started his internship at 17 years old, where he tried a variety of things.

"I spent a month in every department: computers, administration, food service, and surgery," Baker said. "And after I graduated years later, I became an elected official, all because of that time, so yeah, it comes around."

Baker also introduced Key Club at Pine view, a club that is still popular on campus today, and he became the Florida District of Key Club Governor. At the time the club was all-boys.

"[Key Club] felt very strongly that if you brought women into Key Club, that it would become a social organization," Baker said. "I disagreed. I let women into Key Club, and I was the first guy to do that."

Like Baker, Fabian Manzano, class of 2002, also found early inspiration at Pine View. He and his two brothers, also Pine View graduates, later formed the band "Boyce Avenue." What started their career was the Variety Show.

"It has a really special place in our hearts ... because it's such a wholesome show and everybody in the crowd is so sweet and respectful and supportive," Manzano said. "So, we can always say that the Pine View talent show was our first performance."

For many Pine View students, creative outlets like the Variety Show aren't just extracurriculars — they're the beginning of something bigger. Whether in music, visual arts, or theater, the school has long supported its artistic students.

Lauren Teyke recently graduated from Pine View with class of 2019. She has had a strong love for the arts throughout her life, and attending Pine View gave her the opportunity to continue to learn things that helped her pursue a career in the performing arts, which has included shows on Broadway.

During her senior year, her schedule included three consecutive hours of art classes, allowing her to fully immerse herself in the visual arts. Among these classes, there was one in particular that left a lasting impression — AP Art History. Taught by Shannon Fiddler at the time, the course sparked a deeper appreciation for the arts and helped solidify Teyke's passion.

"As my time spent at Pine View went on, I guess it was clear to me that, while I was successful in other classes, I was so much more drawn to the creative ones," Teyke said.

Lisa Molinaro, who graduated class of 1993, followed a similar path.

Molinaro, Pine View teacher Jenna Molinaro's younger sister, started orchestra in seventh grade, which helped her find her love for music and set her up for her career in later years. "Our conductor at the time needed violinists ... so I was like, 'Okay, I'll volunteer,'" Molinaro said. "And that started my love affair. So, I played strings all the way through high school."

While for some, the school opened doors in personal and creative ways like discovering lifelong passions, for others, it created incentive for change.

Success at and after Pine View does not always have to follow a straight line. For some, the path can take time to reveal itself.

"Don't worry about it," Teyke said. "You'll figure it out at some point."

From One Stage to Another

by Jenna Hinck
Asst. Match Editor

Bright lights shine down the purple walls of the Van Zezel and family members' proud smiles stretch from ear to ear as seniors walk across the stage. Graduation day is something all high schoolers look forward to. Receiving a diploma after years of hard work, finally paying off. But what comes next? Pine View graduates often have a multitude of paths to take in college whether that's in the STEM field, arts or music, the lessons learned at Pine View carry on throughout a graduate's life.

Pine View alumna Lisa Molinaro found her path to a musical career.

She attended Stetson University, a school well known for its musically inclined students.

While majoring in French Language, Molinaro mi-

nored in Music Education.

"My dad was a rock musician growing up ... so music has always been happening in our house," Molinaro said. "Even through adulthood, the first people I talk to to show my music to is my family."

Her parents and grandpa made sure to attend every show and event Molinaro took part in from her childhood following into her adult years. Family has been a big part of Molinaro's life, and she always makes sure to keep them updated on her life since she lives far away.

"Having that kind of support, you know, family is everything," Molinaro said.

With Pine View as a foundation, Molinaro was able to accomplish her dreams of writing, creating and producing music. She wrote songs, took part in multiple bands including Modest Mouse and The Decembrists, and founded Talkdemonic. In college she did small gigs, then progressed onto bigger band tours around the world.

"I was doing it all in my 20s, starting in a small band that ended up getting good support and good concerts around the country," Molinaro said, "...I've been working on music for 30 years, and looking

back now on everything I've done so far, I see that I just kept persevering because I loved what I did."

Another Pine View Graduate, from the class of 1978, built a career via a different path.

Brad Baker has come a long way since starting Pine View in seventh grade. Born in Michigan, he returned to study at the University of Michigan, which led to a wide range of experiences.

At just 28 years old, Baker was invited to an appointment with President Ronald Reagan.

"A local senator here in Florida recommended that I apply for this 'White House Fellowship,' and I ended up becoming the operational head of the U.S. treasury Department," Baker said.

The FBI gave him daily updates on people and their actions, both good and bad.

"Every morning, I'd find out who was doing bad things and [had] Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) reported to me," Baker said.

Baker also worked in Texas and Florida to create affordable housing for residents.

With his internship experience at Sarasota Memorial Hospital starting at a young age, Baker is now First Seat of the Hospital Board District.

Along with other graduates in the arts, Lauren Teyke has had a love for performance and theater. From a young age, she has danced, sung, and performed.

Teyke was a part of two touring Broadway shows — 'Anastasia' and 'Chicago.' Residing in New York City, she continues to participate in the performing arts, performing in smaller shows.

"I feel blessed to have spent much of the last few years touring North America with the national tours of both 'Anastasia' and 'Chicago,'" Teyke wrote on her website, laurenteyke.

com.

Like Teyke, Fabian Manzano performs, singing and playing the guitar.

After the Variety Show, slowly but surely, brothers Fabian, Daniel, and Alejandro, the "Manzano Brothers," got more opportunities to display their talent. With this newfound attention, the brothers decided to create a YouTube channel called "Boyce Avenue." As their channel grew, they gained immense success. They consistently post new videos every Sunday.

"It's been growing since 2007, and then we started going on tour," Manzano said, "It's cool that we can do it all here from Sarasota, Florida."

The Manzano Brothers' YouTube channel currently has almost 17 million subscribers, growing more as they tour worldwide. Boyce Avenue has a few tours coming up in Brazil, Canada, and the East Coast of the U.S.

Manzano still admires Pine View's academics and creativity. His own children are enrolled in the school.

"I was excited about the idea of me having kids that could also go there because I think it's like the best school ever," he said.

Manzano helped foster his own children's love for music. Although he can't make his kids like music, they enjoy it so far and have already learned a lot about video production and the recording process.

"It seems like maybe some of them will follow in our footsteps," he said.

He plans on continuing his current career in music, and hopes that his children will decide to do the same.

Even so many years later, Pine View still has an effect on people's lives.

"Believe in what you do and don't let anyone else tell you otherwise," Molinaro said. "You just [have] to do what you love."



Noelia Voigt

Profession: Interior designer and model

Accomplishments: First Venezuelan-American to win Miss USA in 2023.



John Chidsey

Profession: Retired businessman and attorney

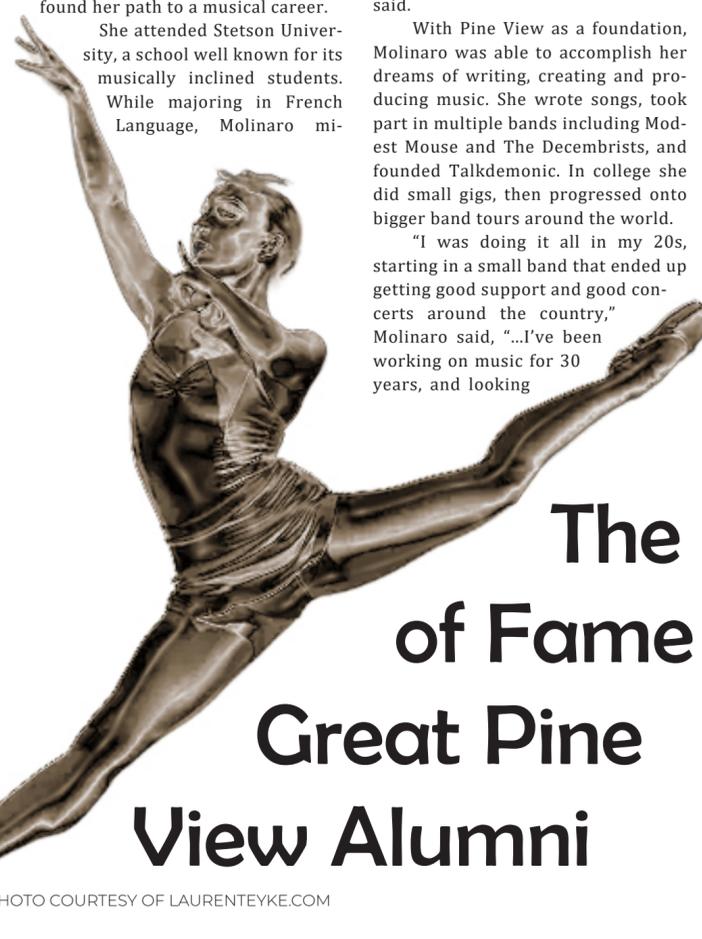
Accomplishments: Former CFO of PepsiCo, CEO of Burger King, and CEO of Subway in addition to other high-ranking positions.



Clark Dean

Profession: Rower

Accomplishments: Two-time world champion at the World Rowing Junior Championships and two-time senior Olympian.



The Hall of Fame of Great Pine View Alumni

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURENTEYKE.COM

PHOTOS TAKEN FROM THE INTERNET IN RESPECTIVE WEBSITES



Teachers On Student Use

AI's implementation for some classes has begun at Pine View according to AP Seminar teacher Chris Pauling.

"For [AP] Seminar it's used to help start brainstorming some topics or some potential lens and perspectives, potential stakeholders and things like that," Pauling said. "But once we get some things established, we have to put things in our own language, we have to do research on our own."

As with all things AI, though its use is encouraged in some classes, many teachers, such as AP Literature and Composition teacher Blake Wiley, express their opinions on how AI should not be used by students in the academic process at all.

"A teacher's job is to motivate students to want to do their own work and to learn. AI is quite often used by students who don't have that teacher," Wiley said. "So it's on me if somebody uses AI in my class; that means I'm not doing my job well."

Even teachers more open to the use of AI in the planning process have their apprehensions.

"I think that it's important that we understand how to use AI as a tool to help make us better, but not to necessarily really replace us. Like there are plenty of human elements that AI doesn't get right. It can't detect emotion," Pauling said.

AI Concerns

by Melissa White
Asst. Entertainment Editor

Introduction

The topic of artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly inescapable with each passing day, slowly sinking its unpredictable claws into daily life. With the rapid advancement of technology, both students and teachers harbor concerns about the ethics of AI usage in academics.

According to College Board's 2025-2026 AP exam policies, several AP classes are adapting to allow the use of AI, including the Capstone classes AP Seminar and AP Research.

College Board said in regards to AP Capstone, "Students can use generative AI tools as optional aids for exploration of potential topics of inquiry, initial searches for sources of information, confirming their understanding of a complex text, or checking their writing for grammar and tone."

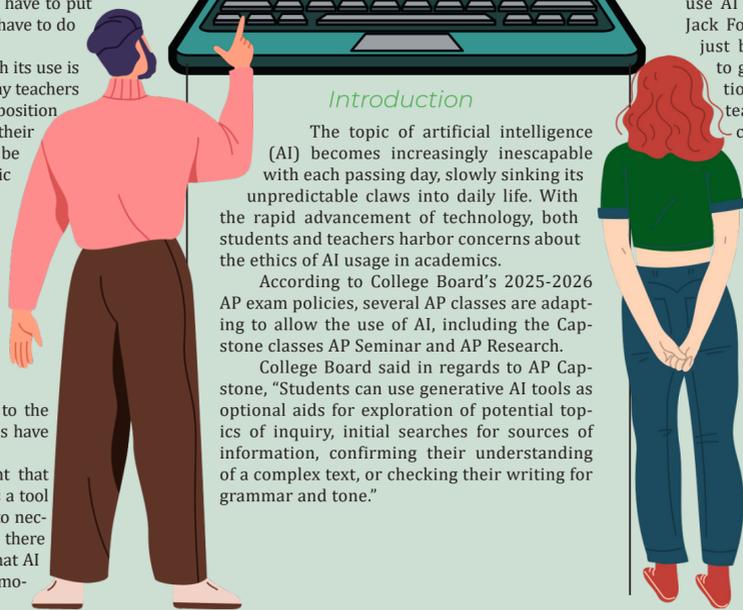
Students On Teacher use

Though student's use of AI is a frequently brought-up topic, students share similar concerns about teachers using AI to grade their work.

"I think it is a little ironic that teachers are able to use AI for a task that's very tedious while students are not allowed to use AI for a task that's tedious..." junior Jack Fogarty said, "But I feel like overall, just because teachers have 100 papers to grade while students have 20 questions to answer... I think it is fair that teachers can use AI while students cannot..."

Some students hold concerns about the role of AI in teacher-student relationships.

"I think [AI grading] is insulting to my effort that I put into actually writing stuff... It's the death of ingenuity and creativity," junior Clark Walkup said. "I think there are some positions in areas where teachers can use AI, but I think they are very few and far between."



GRAPHICS BY AVA LENERZ

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT VACCINES?

"Getting vaccinated is covered by commercial insurance, and Medicaid patients have Vaccines for Children (VCF) where the state will send us free vaccinations," pediatrician Bindu Nair, M.D., said.

MEASLES VACCINATION RATES IN FLORIDA KINDERGARTNERS

The proportion of religious exemptions from vaccinations for children 4-18 years old is 6.4% statewide, with Sarasota county from 10-15%.

WHY ARE VACCINES IMPORTANT?

"The more people that are vaccinated, the more protection the community as a whole has," Nair said. Nair is concerned about the removal of the mandate for school vaccines for hepatitis B, chickenpox, Hib influenza and pneumococcal diseases.

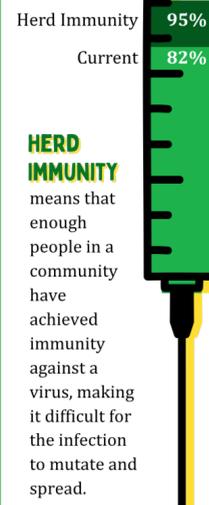
Vaccines are necessary "to protect our children and other vulnerable people in our population, such as the immuno-compromised, the elderly, and infants that are less than two months," as Nair said.

Nair and most other private practitioners generally don't accept patients that are not vaccinated. This puts patients at risk of not being treated otherwise.

A study by The Lancet estimates that global immunization efforts have saved 154 million lives over the past 50 years. Of these, the measles vaccine saved 60%.

According to AP News, Florida's rate of immunization in kindergartners for measles, mumps, and rubella is 88.7% as of 2025, compared to 92% nationwide. Sarasota's is only 79.9%.

Prior to 18 years of age, the CDC recommends vaccines against: Flu, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, chicken pox, and others. Visit CDC.gov for a full vaccine timeline.



GRAPHIC BY SHRIYA ASHOK

Reaching New Heights

HAM Radio Club's journey to build a radio tower

by Diya Panthulu

Guest Contributor and Vice President of HAM Radio Club

At Pine View, students in the HAM Radio club are learning about communication beyond cellphones, getting licensed to operate radios to communicate with people across the world — no internet needed.

With the help of radios, Pine View partnered with Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC) to establish contact with astronaut Suni Williams on the International Space Station in January. Continued student interest led to the idea of a permanent radio being built on campus.

Paul Nienaber, member of TARC, described how the radio works.

"The radio that we use generates an electromagnetic wave, and it goes out over a wire to the antenna. The antenna then lets that electromagnetic wave radiate out into the atmosphere," Nienbar said, "And at the other end, another antenna does the same thing. It captures that electromagnetic wave, turns it back into an electrical signal that goes down the wire to

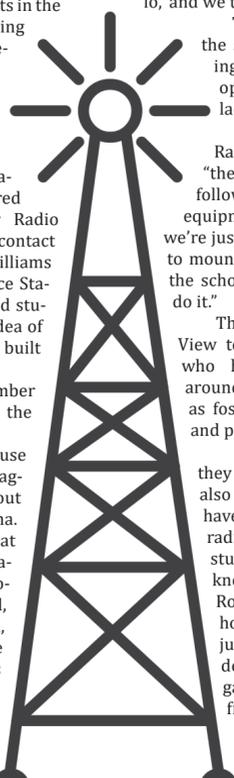
another radio... [then] I push the button on the microphone, I say 'Hello,' and somebody answers and says 'Hello,' and we talk."

This radio will be built on the side of the yellow building — chosen by TARC as an optimal location due to its lack of obstruction.

Marie Rosander, HAM Radio Club sponsor, said "there [are] guidelines being followed. We have had all this equipment since March... Now we're just waiting for the facilities to mount it because, since this is the school's property, we cannot do it."

The radio will allow Pine View to connect with anybody who has a radio anywhere around the world — as well as fostering student creativity and problem solving.

"I see the students when they work together. They also problem solve, when we have any problems with the radio, and its completely student-led... and we don't know where it will go," Rosander said, "I just love how fun [it is] ... I think it's just a cool thing that students can experience and gain a lot of knowledge from."



GRAPHIC BY AVA LENERZ

Behind the Screens

by Madelyn Bailey
Co News Editor

Dashing from class to class, Information Technology (IT) support Hugo Guardado-Henriquez spends his days maintaining the functionality of Pine View School's technology.

Guardado-Henriquez has been working in the IT field for 28 years, this year marks his ninth at Pine View.

He first found interest in the tech field as a teenager. He helped out his school's tech staff when they ran into issues.

"I started as a high school student, volunteering, helping, and from that point I felt like it was what I really wanted to do" Guardado-Henriquez said.

After he earned his degree in Computer Information Systems from Farmingdale State College in New York, he returned to work in IT at the Long Island school he graduated from, Huntington High School.

"My responsibilities were similar to what I do here: maintain all the networks, fix computers, maintain the wireless devices, fix the switches, routers, servers," Guardado-Henriquez said.

Once Guardado-Henriquez moved

to Florida, he decided to start at Pine View because of the academic excellence demonstrated by the students and staff here.

"You want to be part of that system; you've got the best teachers, the best students, the best administration," he said.

Guardado-Henriquez is also appreciative of the school district for providing schools with high quality technology equipment, specifically the new HP computers.

"The district has really focused on providing great tools for our staff and our students" he said.

Melissa Abela, Middle School Assistant Principal and the administrator who oversees Pine

View's technology, also appreciates the advanced technology provided by the school district.

"The district is moving away from using computer labs, and devices are now allocated to classrooms," Abela said over an email.

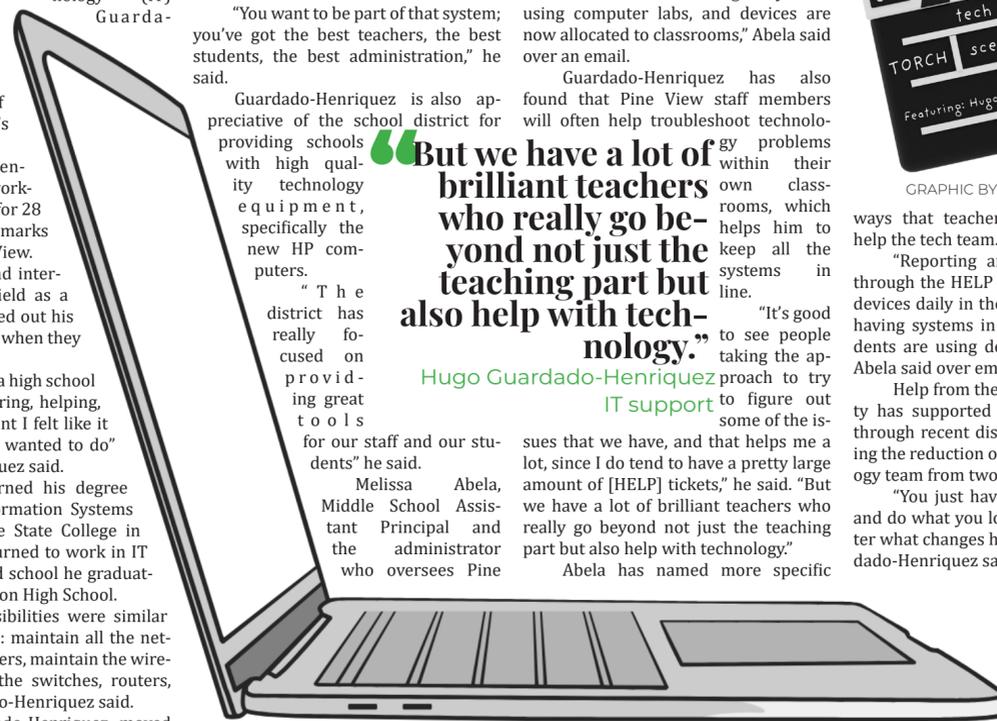
Guardado-Henriquez has also found that Pine View staff members will often help troubleshoot technology problems within their own classrooms, which helps him to keep all the systems in line.

"It's good to see people taking the approach to try to figure out some of the issues that we have, and that helps me a lot, since I do tend to have a pretty large amount of [HELP] tickets," he said. "But we have a lot of brilliant teachers who really go beyond not just the teaching part but also help with technology."

Abela has named more specific

"But we have a lot of brilliant teachers who really go beyond not just the teaching part but also help with technology."

Hugo Guardado-Henriquez
IT support



GRAPHIC BY ISABEL GEORGIEVA



GRAPHIC BY ISABEL GEORGIEVA

ways that teachers and students can help the tech team.

"Reporting any damaged laptops through the HELP ticket system, charge devices daily in their charging cart, and having systems in place to ensure students are using devices appropriately," Abela said over email.

Help from the Pine View community has supported Guardado-Henriquez through recent district changes, including the reduction of Pine View's technology team from two people to just one.

"You just have to do best you can and do what you love the most, no matter what changes have happened," Guardado-Henriquez said.

What do students think about the new computers?

GRAPHIC BY MAGGIE WANG



Kiaan Patel
Sophomore

"I just believe that Windows 11 is better than Windows 10, and I think just the software itself is a bit more upgraded."



Dominic Myers
Sophomore

"I think they're pretty silly, except for a lot of times they get locked in like the wrong direction."



Elena Kerrick
Sophomore

"They just feel weird to me, and also I've run into lots of technical problems with them, and I just don't think they are practical."

The Blood Drive Process



PLANNING

- First, the dates of the blood drives are set up with the office and approved.
- Permission forms are made and students are able to sign up beforehand or on the day of the drive.



PROMOTING

- Efforts are then lead to promote the blood drives.
- Posters are sometimes hung up and awareness is spread in several different ways.



EXECUTION

- Students show up on blood drive day.
- Vitals are taken first and then blood is drawn.
- Then, students rest for 10 minutes and can get snacks and food after such as the Chick-Fil-A breakfast biscuit and Gatorade.



DELIVERY

- The blood is taken back to the lab and processed.
- Hospitals then reach out to the blood bank and the blood is delivered to hospitals that need it or it is directly delivered to the hospitals.



READ MORE

Read more about Pine View's blood drives here!



GRAPHIC BY ANNA ZHANG

Moleasstic Park

A re-write of Jurassic Park in commemoration of Mole Day

by Ana Easter

Match Editor-in-Chief

The sun beamed down through the windows of the purple building. The clock above the whiteboard glowed 6:02 p.m. Chemistry teacher Jay Skipper leaned back in his chair and surveyed the wreckage of another Mole Day celebration. Cake crumbs, smears of frosting, and dirty paper plates filled the chemistry classroom. But his eyes kept drifting to the winning Mole Day cake displayed on the far counter.

As the sun disappeared beyond the horizon, Skipper admired the cake. Intricate details carefully sculpted with frosting, a flawless design that matched with the theme Moleasstic Park — It was perfect. Skipper grabbed the cake along with the runner-up entries and carefully carried them out the door. Tiptoeing, Skipper made his way to the orange building. As he grew closer, it seemed as if the ground was trembling. Then the realization hit, Mole Day had been celebrated three days late because of the PSAT, and “they” were probably starving.

Frantically, Skipper entered the building and opened a trapdoor, revealing an elaborate system of underground burrows. Cakes in hand, he turned the corner and was met with a mass of twitch-

ing noses and beady eyes.

The moles chattered angrily, their fur gleaming under the faint light of the burrow. Skipper stepped back. For years, he had been conducting a special experiment, using methods similar to those used in Jurassic Park to clone an entire colony of moles.

Skipper placed the cakes on the dirt floor and the moles swarmed, their tiny paws shoving frosting into their mouths. As the moles feasted, Skipper was met with a terrible feeling. A faint vibration ran through the burrows and Skipper's eyes widened. The moles weren't just hungry for cake, they wanted an escape.

Before he could react, the moles trampled him, climbing through the trapdoor. The moles poured out of the burrows and flooded the Pine View campus.

Skipper collected himself and started to chase after them, but the genetic mutations that occurred due to the cloning had made them incredibly fast, and they raced in all different directions. Some crowded the Media Center, chewing through wires and cables until the lights flickered and the Wi-Fi went out. Others stormed the Student Union, raiding the kitchen and eating the food supply. A few headed to the gym, crawling through the equipment-

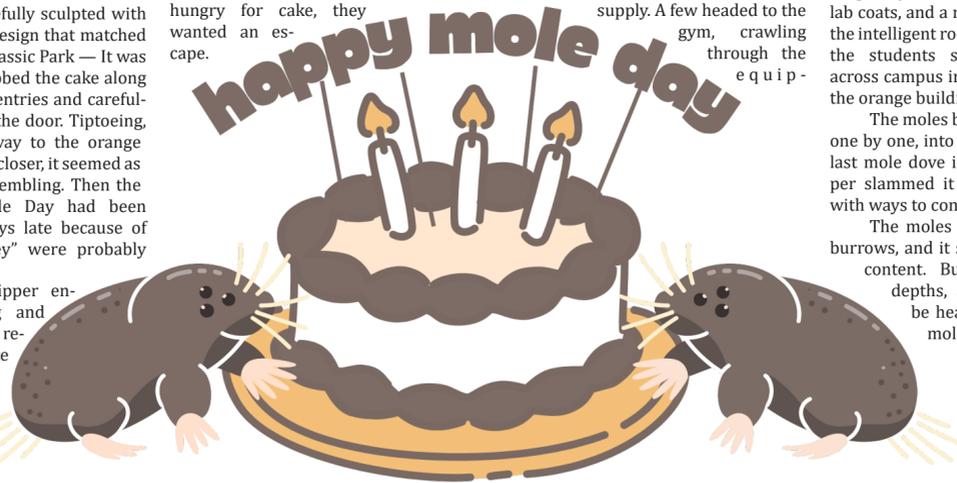
ment, and tearing up dodge balls.

The purple building was their main target. The moles swarmed Skipper's classroom, eating any leftover cake and laughing at the mole jokes displayed on the whiteboard (their genetic mutations had given them back their eyesight).

Skipper watched from afar as the tiny rodents took over the campus, both amazed and distraught at the chaos brought about by his creations. He decided he needed to rectify the situation. Skipper called a team of AP Chemistry students to the scene. By late evening, they arrived armed with goggles, lab coats, and a mix of chemicals to lure the intelligent rodents. Working in pairs, the students scattered the mixture across campus in a trail leading back to the orange building.

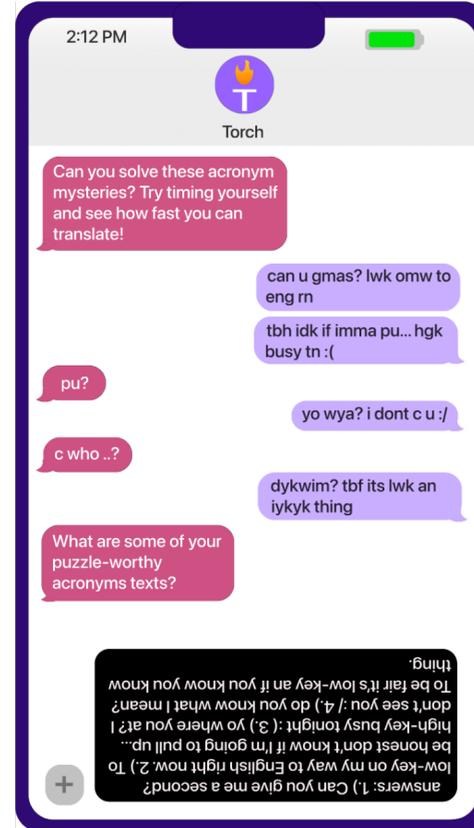
The moles began to follow the trail, one by one, into the building. When the last mole dove into the trapdoor, Skipper slammed it shut, his mind racing with ways to contain them.

The moles settled back into their burrows, and it seemed as if they were content. But somewhere in the depths, a single squeak could be heard, a promise that the moles weren't finished.



GRAPHIC BY ATHENA ERBE

Acronym CHALLENGE



GRAPHIC BY HANA MULLEN

He dropped the ball

Schweig officially retires from Fantasy Football Team

by Robyn Schoenberg

Asst. Editor-in-Chief

As the school year began, the news spread fast — John Schweig, the beloved Pine View social studies teacher, has retired from the famed fantasy football league.

The league has a fan following among students and faculty since its assembly almost 20 years ago, so rumors quickly began to circulate among followers as to what might have happened. As the school's top investigator, I, Robyn Schoenberg, took on the case promptly and proudly. It is my duty to set the story straight.

From the get-go, students were eager to give me any information they had. Some of the gossip was surprising to say the least.

"I heard that he's joining the Hungarian American Football League [MAFL]," a freshman in Schweig's AP World History class said. "He's always going on and on about Hungary and I think he won a fantasy football season once."

As a professional, I think these kids have let their imagination get the best of them. One season win in fantasy football does not mean someone is fit to be a player, it's called fantasy for a reason. Nevertheless, after reaching out to the MAFL, there has been no talk of an American transfer.

The long-standing league commissioner, history teacher Scott Wolfinger, has his own theories for Schweig's retirement.

"I think he was afraid of me. I think there was a real fear that I would humiliate and humiliate him," Wolfinger said. "Who wants to go through that?"

Honestly, that's a horrible thing to go through."

While this may sound extreme, the stain of losing to Wolfinger is a rough one.

"Take, for example, the only time Melton got to the championships, she lost to me. I like to remind her of that," Wolfinger said.

It's a possibility that Schweig feared he could no longer compete. The members of the fantasy football league have begun to improve. P.E. coach Mark Thorpe has broken his 10 season last place streak and won first the past two years, and social studies teacher Liz Ballard has joined an additional 15 fantasy football leagues.

Not only this, but there is a bet in the league that the loser of each matchup has to wear a jersey of the other person's choosing. Considering Wolfinger is a Cleveland Browns fan and Schweig a Miami Dolphins fan, the risk of embarrassment is high.

Although, those that know Schweig know that he is not afraid of embarrassment, leading me to continue my search for answers.

Who better to go to than the man himself?

When I initially questioned Schweig, I was standing on his right side and he did not get back to me. Just kid-

ding, here's what he said.

"Honestly, my heart wasn't in it anymore, and if I'm going to do something I want to do it right," Schweig said, "I also want more time to work on my screenplay and talk to my boy."

The answer behind Schweig's retirement from the league may not be the scandal anticipated, but it's a valuable lesson in following your own path.

Although, one credible anonymous tip does suggest that there are greater reasons for Schweig's alleged "retirement."

There has been quiet talk of an administrative fantasy football league that has been around since before the teachers. The two leagues have largely remained separate, but in recent years, the teachers have become aware of the talent that the administrators hold.

The elementary school assistant principal, Roy Sprinkle, is Schweig's replacement, making him the first and only administrator on the teacher's league. A choice that many believe is not just a coincidence, as rumors circulate that Schweig's "retirement" was actually a strategic tradeoff between leagues.

Will we ever know the truth? Only time will tell.



PHOTOS BY ROBYN SCHOENBERG

BOO-GUISE



GRAPHIC BY DARIA SHABUNINA



Senior Dylan Vu (pictured below) displays his collection of Labubus hanging from his backpack. Despite not being a member of the society, PVPMHS has found Vu to be an inspiration for their work. "Senior performative men just do it better," senior Liam Dingman said. "When Dylan walks by our meetings with those Labubus, we can't help but just compliment the guy. He's sort of an idol to us."



Junior Jack Lu (pictured above) sits at a table outside the Media Center reading the critically acclaimed novel "It Ends with Us" by woman writer Colleen Hoover. He decided to join Pine View Performative Male Honor Society (PVPMHS) because of his devotion to literary classics such as this one. "Literature is the future, so I believe in the benefits of reading such incredible works of fiction," Lu said as he continued to stare at the back cover upside-down. "That's why I'm always so excited to hear from the new freshmen and read their writing; it's a new generation."



Juniors Brady Bartram (left), Jack Fogarty (middle), and senior Liam Dingman (right) completely mog the camera while displaying the songs they're currently listening to. From Radiohead to Alex G, and finally Clairo, the boys were overjoyed to show off their impeccable taste in music. "For a long time, I was such a nervous little boy," Fogarty said about how the honor society had affected him personally. "But now I've blossomed into a beautiful butterfly."



Junior Brady Bartram searches for Beebadoobee concert tickets on his laptop while sipping on a Starbucks Venti Iced Matcha Latte. Unfortunately, Bartram left heartbroken as he found no upcoming events on the website despite being completely willing to buy a plane ticket. Junior Jack Fogarty declined to comment on why he was doing a "pose 28" for the entire duration of Bartram's search.

GRAPHIC BY TIMOTHY NESANELIS

This is a purely a work of humorous fiction. The Pine View Performative Male Honor Society is NOT a real club*

Beauty Contest of the Education System

Challenges faced during the college application process

by Ava Lenerz
Editor-in-Chief

The judges reveal their scores, “10! 10! 10! Accepted!” You stare down at the envelope as the theoretical host places the tiara on your head. You won the beauty pageant of the education system: the college application process.

Every year millions of high school seniors in the U.S. are pushed to compete against equally deserving applicants for a coveted prize—a chance to further their education.

This “pageant” is mandatory for the majority of high school students as 62 percent of high school graduates go on to postsecondary education, according to the Education Data Initiative.

This is increasingly true for Pine View students that are highly encouraged to attend college.

According to Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, by 2031, it is expected that 72 percent of jobs will require a postsecondary education. So, considering it is essential to our future, why does it feel so impossible to ac-

complish?

Before junior year ends, we must make ourselves stand out in an endless sea of kids all with the same objective — the reasonable goal of wanting a better future.

One round that must be completed is the personal essay: a 650-word essay to characterize who we are as a person.

don’t have the means to accept everyone, there is something fundamentally wrong with the system.

I believe the current holistic approach, judging character along with academics, is better than solely deciding based on academic achievement, but there is always room for improvement.

It may seem impossible to change a system that has been in

ent deadlines, platforms, and requirements, it’s already setting them up for failure.

Common App has helped smooth out the process since its creation in 1975, but even then, many factors of college applications still aren’t standardized to one system.

Even if you beat out the other students and get accepted, many tackle debt for decades. The Education Data

of dollars in tuition, housing, transportation, food, and other necessities simply to get an education.

It is viable to cut these costs. Many European colleges use government funding to offer free undergraduate tuition or reduced fees of about €170 to €650 (approximately \$200 to \$760) per year according to Hello Study Global. This pales in comparison to the U.S.’s \$20,000 to \$46,000 cost annually.

Thus, another reason why the American college application process needs to be improved. In the meantime, people can petition to get more government funding allocated to education.

So, yay, you won the pageant—an imperative step Pine View students must achieve to be accepted into our society.

Now what?



Initiative found that the average student takes 20 years to pay off their loans, while it can take more than 45 for some professional graduates.

It’s unacceptable that students must find the means to pay hundreds of thousands

place for decades, but it’s feasible. Everyone deserves the right to knowledge, not just students who get sent the “big envelope” or those who can afford it. People need to realize the issues and voice solutions.

Currently, students have to jump through hoop after hoop just to apply. With differ-

Six hundred and fifty.

Only 650 words to encapsulate why our 17 years of life make us more deserving of an education than another person’s.

While I understand colleges need a way to narrow down the candidates, and they



GRAPHIC BY HANA MULLEN

Pine View’s Academic Rivalry, From a New Perspective

by Marina Wissa
Match Layout Artist

I began my stride toward the stage as my name was announced, footsteps echoing through Pine View’s gymnasium. Hundreds of eyes were on me, waiting for my speech to commence. For a moment, I felt the weight of their attention pressing down on me. My hands shook as I gripped the podium and began my speech—and before I knew it, my voice had carried through the room, bigger than I had ever heard it before.

The next twenty-four hours were a blur of congratulations and kind words that made my heart swell. But once the ceremony was truly over, the joy drained as quickly as it had come. My speech was only ten minutes of a ninety-minute ceremony, and

when the rest of the awards were called, I sat quietly in a crowd that never stopped standing.

I knew my speech made an im-

into a classroom, I have been branded with three words that follow me everywhere, my excuse for when I cannot keep up with the competition—because I am “not an academic.”

even when you have given your all. Competition is not just something we do anymore — it has become a part of us.

For me, it means sitting in class and wondering if I belong.

we are all students held to the same impossible standard of comparison.

I should not have to remind myself that failing is not shameful and that trying again does not make me stupid. But when the bottom line is going to the extra degree, perfection becomes the unattainably safe answer.

Still, I have learned in the moments I may have fallen short: showing up and trying is enough. I may never be a student who racks up countless awards, but that does not

make me less of one. My worth is not measured by how many times my name is called to be recognized, but by how many times I show up and try my best—even if the competition is racing ahead.

It means explaining that “studying is not my thing” when people ask about my grades, even though learning is supposed to be exactly what we are here for. It means feeling small when I hear about other people’s accomplishments, even though I know

I knew I had done my best all year, and the results proved it. Still, a voice whispered that I should have done more. I should have heard my name called again.

But I did not, because ever since I first stepped

Eight years at Pine View has shaped me in ways I cannot deny. The constant assignments, class rigor, and relentless questions from peers — “What did you get?” and “How did you feel about that test?” — push you to keep climbing, to keep comparing,

GRAPHIC BY MARINA WISSA

NOT AN ACADEMIC.

Test-Optional: Yes or No?

Yes: More Than a Number

by Katerina Mazzo
Web Editor-in-Chief

This year’s seniors are facing a big change in the college application process. As of this year, several Ivy League schools and other top colleges are requiring SAT or ACT scores for the class of 2026.

For the students who are skilled test takers or have access to test-prepping courses to get the scores these schools are looking for, this seems like good news. However, it is a huge step backward for most high schoolers looking to apply to college.

The test-optional policies first applied during the pandemic gave students more control over how they presented themselves to colleges.

Test requirements will only put more pressure on applicants to put more of their focus into their standardized tests and neglect other, arguably more important, aspects that go into their college resume.

Anyone who’s taken the SAT or ACT knows the stress. Students spend months studying for these standardized tests and take them multiple times, with the possibility of disappointment every time.

Even for the students who do score well, a high score does not reflect nearly all of the hard work they’ve put in throughout

high school, or what their real strengths are.

For example, Bill Clinton scored about 1030 on his SAT—a score just above the national average and not usually accepted by selective schools — yet, he went on to attend Georgetown, earn a Rhodes Scholarship, become class president, and most notably, serve two terms as U.S. President. He is a great example of why people are so much more than their test scores.

Test-optional policies let students use their grades, essays, extracurricular activities,

cle titled “Selective colleges reinstate Testing, See drop in Applications” reported that when Dartmouth and Yale reinstated their testing requirements, application numbers dropped by about 10-12 percent.

In a Fox News article, Halima Moore, the head counselor at College Achieve Central High School in New Jersey, agreed with the test-optional policies as she has seen that it benefits her students and the schools they apply to.

“Maintaining SAT test-optional policies is imperative for advancing equity and diversity in college admissions. It ensures that all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have a fair chance to showcase their talents and potential,” Moore said. “Let us continue to prioritize fairness and inclusivity in the pursuit of a more just educational system.”

Colleges should keep test-optional admissions so students can show who they are aside from their SAT and ACT scores.

For seniors at Pine View and across the country, this isn’t just about the policy, it’s about opportunity. They want the best shot at getting into their dream school and achieving their goals. Likewise, if colleges want classrooms filled with determined, creative, and diverse students, they need to look at the whole person, not just a number from a Saturday morning exam.

...if colleges want classrooms filled with determined, creative, and diverse students, they need to look at the whole person.

A Minor Representation Issue

Should the right to vote be expanded?

by Andrew Ashby
Asst. Web Editor-in-Chief

Every single time America has expanded the right to vote, skeptics warned that the change would prove too radical. And every single time, those warnings proved wrong — like when women won suffrage in 1920, when the Voting Rights Act of 1965 toppled Jim Crow barriers, and when

18-year-olds were enfranchised in 1971 by the 26th Amendment.

Even though history shows us that broadening democracy has always strengthened our nation, the same doubts are still being cast on 16 and 17-year-olds. Cutting the voting age down to 16 isn’t a radical experiment, but rather the logical next step in the

American tradition of expanding democratic rights.

Just as past generations overcame their fears to entrust the ballot to those once excluded, we now face the question of whether young people who drive, work, pay taxes, and follow the laws of this land should continue to be denied a voice in shaping them. Evidence from American history and other democ-

No: Facts over Feelings

by Timothy Nesanelis
Co News Editor

The state of college applications in 2025 is absolute chaos, but when has it not been? In a review of the 2024-2025 application cycle, Common App researchers noted

nearly 1.5 million students submitted applications in the hopes of proving themselves worthy to their dream schools through any means necessary. But when the process isn’t equal for everyone, several glaring issues arise, issues that hopefully prove once and for all that standardized testing should return to its former required status.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, most universities switched to test-optional applications to reflect the difficulty of test-taking which resulted in a 30 percent decrease of SAT testing and 22 percent decrease of ACT testing, as reported by the College Board and ACT, respectively, in 2021.

This year, however, more than 100 of the most selective universities have returned to test-required policies, which is a good sign for Pine View’s students.

A study by the ACT found that although test scores remained mostly stagnant between 2010 and 2022, grades had risen in every single subject area. Grade inflation, according to a 2023 study by the Institute of Labor Economics in Bonn, Germany, is a global issue affecting university-bound students every

year, and it’s continuing to get worse. Even ACT CEO Janet Godwin has gone on record to say that these less reliable grades “will make it even more challenging for students to determine their next steps beyond high school.”

Expensive extracurriculars that require traveling and competition fees aren’t always an option for lower-income students, and those who may have personal issues that caused them to do poorly in various classes can prove their knowledge of the subjects through standardized testing.

Test-required policies bring fairness and standardization to a process that is so heavily reliant on the opinions of college admissions officers.

It’s no coincidence that studies by top colleges like Harvard University and Dartmouth College find a common denominator in their independent research studies: students who do well on standardized tests achieve better grades throughout post-secondary education.

This unequivocal fact should reflect on college admissions, not just at the highest level of secondary education, but universally.



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the Torch

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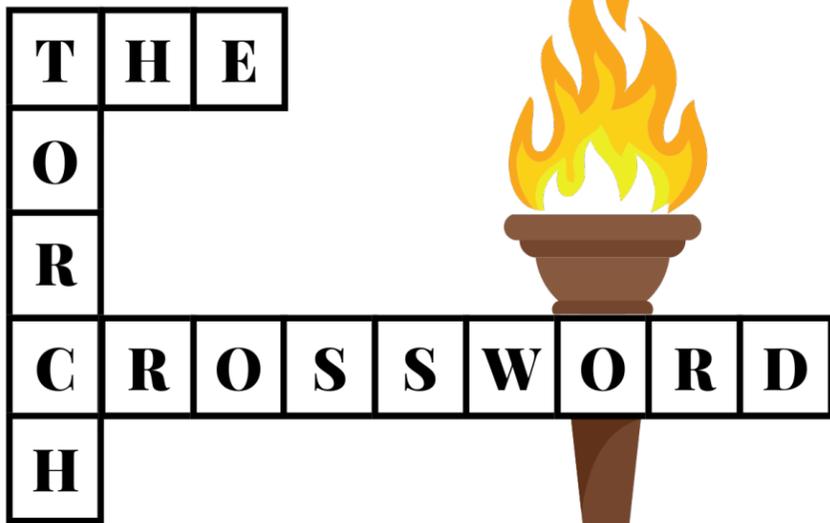
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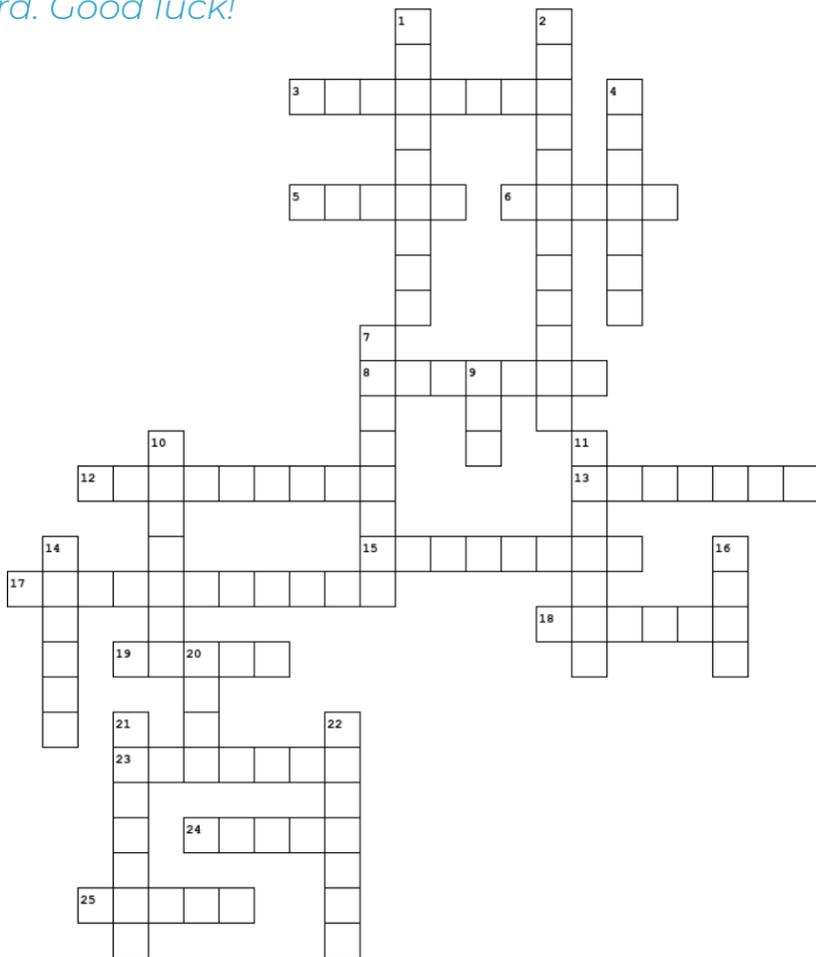
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Hints correspond to information shared in the stories throughout this issue, including through QR codes. The first person to bring their completed version in Room 117 in Building 17 will win a \$5 gift card. Good luck!



Across

- 3. Besides a Chick-Fil-A breakfast biscuit, what other snack do blood drive volunteers receive?
- 5. Lisa Molinaro minored in ___ Education.
- 6. Who describes a teacher's job as "to motivate students to want to do their own work and to learn."?
- 8. What country enfranchised 16 and 17-year-olds in 2007?
- 12. what percent did ACT testing decrease during covid?
- 13. Who got a 1030 on the SAT?
- 15. What percent of high school graduates go on to postsecondary education? (Hint: check Opinion)
- 17. Hugo Guardado-Hernandez earned his degree in Computer Science from ___ State College in New York.
- 18. The first thing Audrey Naffe was able to identify in instruments immediately?
- 19. Which student does Wayne Robertson coach through a golf swing in the photo? (Hint: last name)
- 23. TARC stands for Tamiami ___ Radio Club
- 24. Which sophomore said that the new computers frequently lock in the wrong direction?
- 25. The introduction of the ___ vaccine in

1967 caused disease cases to drop by 99 percent?

Down

- 1. What film was produced by Adele Romanski?
- 2. What did the Jack-O-Masters name their pumpkin?
- 4. Along with being a sports coach, what class does Wayne Robertson teach at Pine View? (Hint: don't include the number)
- 7. What unofficial sport did Pine View have in 2010-2011?
- 9. How many minutes did Marina Wissa's speech take?
- 10. PBS stands for Public Broadcasting ___.
- 11. Who retired from the teacher fantasy football league?
- 14. Which country did Liam Dingman and Sophia Haakman visit?
- 16. ___ immunity means enough people in a community have achieved immunity against a virus, making it difficult for the infection to mutate and spread.
- 20. What program has Ian Sanchez been living in the U.S. under?
- 21. What does senior Dylan Vu have on his backpack? (Hint: plural)
- 22. A study from 2022 measured the effects of street art on ____.

Hear me out...

Time flies, blink and you might miss it

As Senior year breezes by, there are things that we'll never get to do again:

Back to School Shopping: For college you don't take a day to go with your siblings and refresh your pencil pouch. Those flickering lights at department stores while we stroll through the aisles with so much hope for the upcoming year are a thing of our past.

Picture Day Photos: Everyone tries to look nice only for the humidity and heat to ruin any semblance of a sane person. You may think it's better to forget this experience, and maybe you're right, but it's those small moments that will be missed. The 30 seconds you had to try and fix your hair in the bathroom mirror with the other kids, the mutual complaining, or even just remembering how you got to miss 15 minutes of your English class.

Class Schedules: The week before school when you and your friends would stress over whether you have classes together, and then the "oy" or joy that ensued after they were released. You'll never get one of those student portal screenshots again. Those screenshots that at the time seemed so important.

There are so many things that we'll never do again once we leave Pine View, a bubble that protected us for so long. Yes, it has its issues but



Ava Lenerz
Editor-in-Chief

think of all the people in your life because of Pine View, all the opportunities it provided... all the laughs... all the cries.

For seniors, make the most out of these last six months, stop trying to rush everywhere in life — I guarantee you will regret wasting this time in the future.

For the other grades, you still have time. Things may seem redundant or annoying now, but in the scheme of things it'll be your turn soon and you will miss these people you have spent so much of your life with.

Take your time, live in the moment; I don't care if it's cringey, it's true.

Make the most out of being a kid while you still can.

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