

NEWS

Medieval Times Unites Class of 2025 From All Across the District

By **Rehansa Kulatilleke**, Photo Editor/Opinion Editor



The queen and the knight that represented the blue “house” made their way after the show to crown two people in the audience. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

Anaheim Union High School District seniors from across the district gathered at Medieval Times on March 3rd to celebrate the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. The event included a three-course meal and a live show.

The night began when students arrived at 6:45 PM to get checked in for the show, where they were given their own coordinated “house” colors. Once students were inside, they were met with the various souvenirs that could be pur-

chased throughout the night. Around 7:00 PM, medieval guards escorted guests into the arena based on their house colors. Before the show began, the servers made their way through the aisles with tomato soup with a side of garlic bread,

which would soon be followed by the main dish of a chicken leg, buttered corn, and baked potato. The vegetarian options included hummus paired with celery and carrot sticks.

As the show began, the audience was introduced to their knights; Cypress represented both red and yellow stripes and blue. The show included stunts from the knights, galloping horses, and even a hawk that soared across the stage. Guests cheered for their respective knights as the battle ultimately resulted in victory for the blue knight.

While the event itself was successful for most students, it took planning. Senior Class President **Alicia Villegas** said, “We’ve had a contract with them, we’ve gone with them for many, many years. So, the main process is kind of just to calculate how many people—because we only get a certain amount of seats that we have available to us.”

After many years of entertainment brought through Medieval Times, the tradition continues to spread smiles throughout AUHSD students every year.



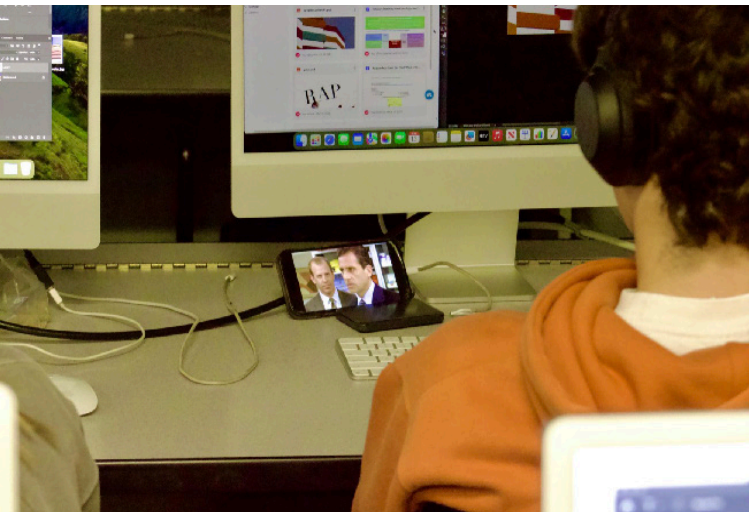
The cheers from all colors cheered as the knights battled against the others. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)



Students district-wide gathered for the show at 7 PM. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

CHS Required To Enforce New California Phone Legislation

By **Yazeed Albadarin**, Sports Editor/Business Manager



Teachers can no longer “look the other way” when they see cell phones in class. (Photo by Yazeed Albadarin)

Governor Newsom recently signed groundbreaking legislation to limit smartphone use during school hours, a measure aimed at reducing distractions and protecting student well-being. Local schools are now following this lead by instituting a transition period before a full, no-exceptions ban takes effect next fall.

Principal **Jennifer Brown** explained that this semester serves as a trial phase “We decided to roll out the phone ban this semester....

to prepare for when it will be fully enforced in the fall,” she said. During this period, teachers have limited power to determine when personal devices are used for instruction, ensuring that students without smartphones are not disadvantaged.

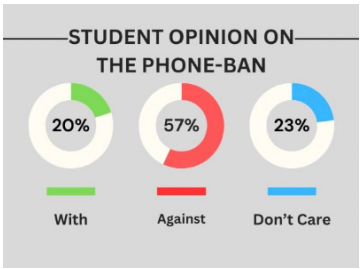
Some educators have voiced concerns about the policy’s consistency and the challenges of enforcing it. Science teacher **Mike Franks** commented, “Here in the United States, in many school districts, we’ve kind of hit a crit-

ical point where just a certain percentage of students just can’t handle their cell phones..... and unfortunately, the kids that need to be off their cell phones are the ones that are most inclined to be on them and addicted.”

Franks noted that while interactive lessons using phones have been a staple in his classroom for a decade, managing distractions remains an ongoing battle.

To bridge the gap, the school is adopting alternative technologies, ordering iPads for science lab recordings, testing walkie-talkies with earpieces for event coordination, and issuing lanyards for designated recorders. Some students and parents have expressed concerns about safety, especially in the event of an emergency like a school shooting. “I understand why people worry about that,” Brown says. “If God forbid, there’s a serious situation like a lockdown, we follow strict safety proto-

cols—turning off lights, covering windows to stay hidden. Taking out your phone at that moment could make you a target, so students need to be very cautious.” However, she clarifies that the policy does allow for emergency use. “The law makes an exception for imminent danger. If you’re in immediate risk, you can use your phone in an emergency; no one will stop you. But using it to text a parent for something minor doesn’t count as an emergency.”



Survey conducted by Cypress High School Student shows student opinion on the phone-ban. (Photo by Yazeed Albadarin)

Local optometrist **John Ikeda** stressed the health risks associated with excessive screen time: “The average screen time for high school

students is about nine hours and has increased dramatically since COVID. Just because it’s normal doesn’t mean it’s harmless. Ninety percent of people are experiencing digital eye strain, which includes dry eyes, blurred vision, tired eyes, and headaches. Studies have proven that blue light emitted by screens disturbs sleep patterns and people’s sleep isn’t as restful as it should be. Screen time leads to dry eyes that will be irreversible. Screen time is not just affecting our eyes, it is altering kid’s brain development and not in a good way.”

As the school moves toward full implementation of the phone ban, Brown hopes students, teachers, and parents will recognize the benefits. “Ultimately, this is about helping students focus, engage, and learn without the constant distraction of their phones,” she says. “We know change can be difficult, but we believe this will have a positive impact in the long run.”

Cypress High School Swim Starts News Season

Smaller Team Size Means Focus Will Be On Individuals

By **Betty Langrine** *Distribution Chief* & **Bryana Bennett**, *Staff Writer*



The Villa Park meet, pictured here, was the first meet of the season. (Photo by Bryana Bennett)

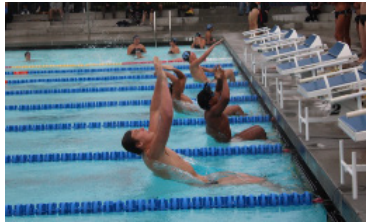
Cypress High School’s boys’ and girls’ swim teams are diving into a new season facing new unique challenges. With a smaller roster than in previous years, the team anticipates a tougher road to victory in meets. However, the team’s spirit remains high, focusing on individual growth and team camaraderie.

The reduced team size, a result of many graduating seniors last year, means fewer entries in team competitions. This puts the team at

a disadvantage compared to previous years. Since swim meets run on a point system, if there are not enough swimmers there is no way to get enough points to win. Despite this hurdle, both the boys and girls teams are optimistic about their chances in CIF. They acknowledge the need to work harder in order to achieve their goals this season.

“We won’t do well in meets this year because we don’t have enough swimmers,” said Coach **Garrett Pot-**

ter, “but I have high hopes for CIF.” This sentiment reflects a realistic assessment of the challenges ahead while maintaining confidence in his swimmers and the team’s ability to perform well in these important competitions.



The Villa Park meet, pictured here, was the first meet of the season. (Photo by Bryana Bennett)

This year, the training regimen emphasizes technique refinement before focusing on endurance. This strategic approach aims to build a strong foundation for every swimmer, maximizing their individual potential. This focus on individual improvement is expected to pay off in the long run, regardless of overall team performance in meets.

Despite the smaller team size, the athletes are committed to supporting each other and fostering a strong team dynamic. “All of us are trying to work our hardest, especially encouraging each other to be the best that we can be,” shared sophomore, **Sophia Novak**, varsity girls prospect. Teamwork as a way to help each other improve. This emphasis on team unity is vital for navigating the challenges of the season.

The team’s first meet against Villa Park on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 served as an early test. Senior, varsity

girls captain **Julien Templanza** acknowledged the challenges, stating, “We’re basically starting from scratch,” but expressed hope for good results. Freshman, **Joshua Park**, varsity boys prospect, voiced more optimistic sentiments, saying, “I think we’ll do well.” Junior, varsity boys captain, **Jake Governo** provided a realistic outlook on the season. “Swim is a really independent sport, so I know we won’t win a lot of meets, but we’ll mostly focus on our individual events,” he explained.



Villa Park v. Cypress Swim meet boys event. (Photo by Bryana Bennett)

The swim team may face challenges with their lack of people in a hard league, but still have hope for CIF, and are focused on improving as individuals and as a team.

Cypress Varsity Soccer Team Makes CIF Quarterfinals

By **Deboarh Son**, *Editor-in-Chief*

The Cypress High School boys varsity soccer team secured themselves a spot in the CIF quarterfinals for the first time since 1994. Although the season ended with a 3-5 loss to Hillcrest High School, the boys achieved a significant milestone.

Varsity player, **Matthew Baldonado** expressed his exhilaration after winning the first round of CIF against Downey High School, as it has been so long since the team went this far in the playoffs. “It was mainly exciting, nerve-racking, and thrilling throughout the whole season. But we were more focused on the game after winning the first round of CIF,” he said. Although his team experienced struggles including poor weather conditions, they pushed through regardless with a clear mindset of winning.

Varsity player, **Peter Batsaras** said, “Though it felt good

redeeming ourselves this year, mostly everyone on the team felt we could have gone further. But overall, with this strong team, it was a good journey.” Batsaras chose to play soccer because it was something he loved and enjoyed. Soccer was not just a hobby for him; it was a part of his identity and what people recognized him for.

Varsity player, **Raul Mora** said, “I’m glad we were able to make a huge accomplishment in my last year, making it all the way to the quarter-finals. We tried to not get overconfident after winning a big game and remained humble as we prepared for the next game.” Mora enjoyed strengthening team bonding before games, when the team ate together, watched films together, and practiced together.

With an overall record of 7-11-3, the boys finished 3rd in the league and went all the way to the quar-

ter-finals for Division 6 CIF. Coach **Anton Jamir**, a CHS alum, said, “As a former alumnus of Cypress and someone who played soccer myself, this achievement means a lot...it was a moment of realization that we had accomplished more than we originally expected at the start of the season.” Although there were challenges along the way the team managed to improve their playing style and develop a sense of strong trust in one another as a team. Through each match, they learned to rely on one another on and off the field. “You made history. That’s something special, and it wouldn’t have been possible without your hard work, dedication, and the sacrifices each of you made. **Coach Milton** and I are incredibly proud of you, both individually and as a team,” he said.

JV player, **Owen Treadway** feels pretty good to be a part of this milestone, because

he says, “Last year when I was in middle school, we won boys soccer there too. He never thought he’d be able to do it again, knowing Cypress had not won in a while. “And now we came here and it feels pretty nice.”

Freshman player, **Brayden Piestrzeniewicz**, found it satisfying and inspirational upon recognizing that they had advanced this far. “It set the standard for myself and for my other teammates too.

They didn’t have the best year last season, but this season marks a significant change for everyone,” he said.

Although Cypress High School boys varsity soccer lost to Hillcrest High School on Feb. 18, 2025, they dedicated themselves to hours of practice and efforts to make this achievement possible. They will return next season, ready to dominate the field, and hopefully advance to the CIF once more.



The Cypress High School boys varsity soccer team secured a spot in the CIF quarterfinals for the first time since 1994. (Photo by Henry Do-Cypress Yearbook)

Cypress's Badminton Team Set to Dominate the Court 3

By Amy Park, Social Media Manager



Cypress's Badminton finishes their season on May 1, 2025 (Photo by Amy Park)

The Cypress High School badminton team has been gearing up for the upcoming season, putting hard work into practices and matches. The varsity badminton team had their first match against Fountain Valley on March 4, 2025, acquiring their first win at 12-9. But unfortun-

nately, the varsity badminton team lost against Cerritos High School with a score of 6-15 on March 6, 2025.

The badminton teams have been hard at work, preparing themselves for this season since January. To prepare, they have been

laboriously conditioning their legs by doing squats and lunges. They also complete foot drills and dynamic stretches to make sure they are warmed up before a big game. A senior player, **Mikey Kadowaki**, said "Our warm up routines are kind of like military style, where we

chant for one another and do mountain climbers and jumping jacks." Although these warm ups might not seem significant to badminton, it's important that the players do them. After playing for a few hours, badminton can be very tiresome on your legs so these warm ups help strengthen their legs and the standard drills help the players stay quick on their feet so they can be successful in their matches.

Players have mentioned that something that is important to have through the season and even before the season starts, is good team chemistry. In every sport it is incredibly important that all your teammates are there for you to support you when you feel unmotivated. A senior in the badminton team, **Linda Taing** said, "I have never been really committed to a sport before but what made badminton so special

to me was my teammates, because they supported me when things became hard in badminton." Before every game, badminton does a team chant and has a pep talk to help motivate one another. Badminton clearly has a good bond with one another, and this bond is so strong and genuine that it gets the team through the season.

Badminton has many games that are coming up soon, the games that readers should look forward to the most are the matches against Cerritos High School and Marina High School. So as the season continues, there is no uncertainty that Cypress badminton will continue to strive for a successful year!



Team work is crucial for a good season. (Photo by Amy Park)

Boys Tennis Smashes Into The New 2025 Season

By Minnel Vega, Student Activities/Features Editor

In this season it's been a slow start for Boys Tennis. They have won 1 out of 6 matches so far. But as the season goes on, the Cypress Boys Tennis team will have more opportunities to play against other schools.

Each year the captain and coach have a goal they have for the team. AP Language teacher and Tennis coach **Mr. Joseph Paul** says, "We are just rebuilding our varsity team, so that's what we're working on the most."

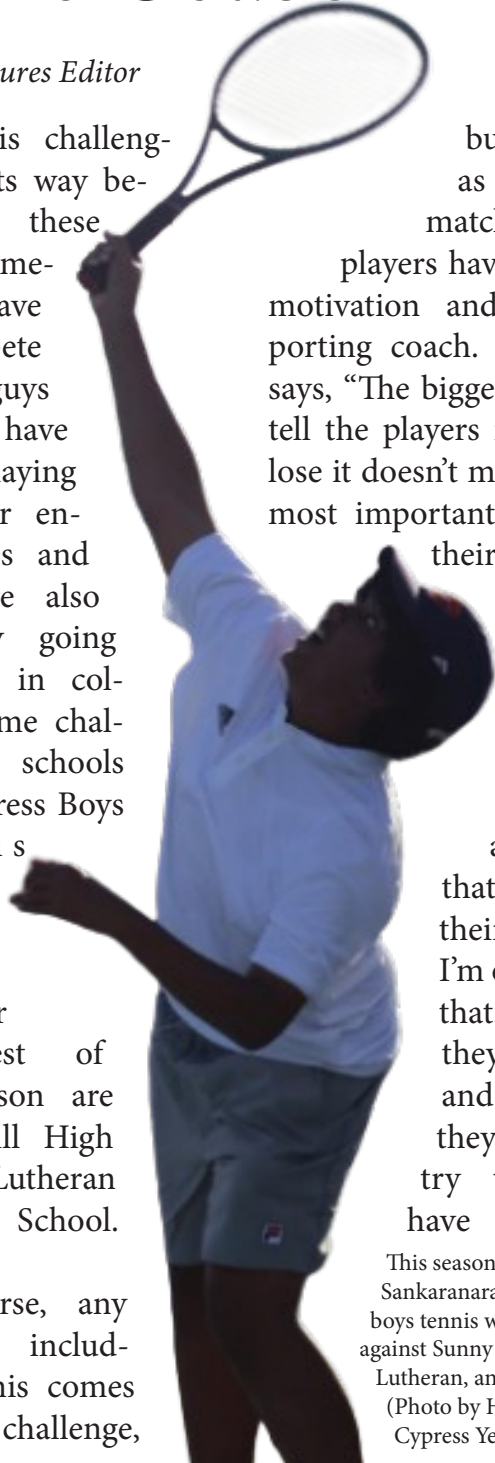
Tennis captain, Senior **Thomas Lee**, says, "I'm the only senior so I'm setting a foundation for the next year to come. Because tennis is rough because you're out there by yourself or with a partner. It's not like basketball where you have five guys on a court and you guys talk to each other."

Tennis is challenging in its way because these boys sometimes have to compete against guys who have been playing for their entire lives and who are also probably going to play in college. Some challenging schools the Cypress Boys Tennis team is going to play for the rest of the season are Sage Hill High and Lutheran High School.

Of course, any sport including tennis comes with a challenge,

but to win as many matches, the players have to have motivation and a supporting coach. Mr. Paul says, "The biggest thing I tell the players is win or lose it doesn't matter. The most important thing is their effort and if they can look me in the eye and say that they did their best, I'm okay with that. But if they lose and I know they didn't try then we have to talk."

This season, Aadhitya Sankaranarayanan and boys tennis will compete against Sunny Hills, Crean Lutheran, and Western. (Photo by Henry Do - Cypress Yearbook)



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ASB Executives and Class Presidents Have Been Officially Elected

By **Jayden Kay Linayao**, Video Editor/Photo Assistant

Next year’s ASB president and class officers have been elected. As the quarter comes to a close, new Cypress High leaders will step into training, preparing for their new responsibilities as Associated Student Body (ASB) Executive Board Members and Class Presidents. Who are these new leaders, and what does each position do to help run our school?

Rising seniors **Logan Henderson** and **Maile Guzman** are excited to fulfill the roles of ASB President and ASB Vice President during their final year of high school. They will soon take on the many responsibilities that come along with their new titles. Both students have the goal to make their last year at Cypress something that they can “remember forever.”

“Ever since I was a freshman, I have always looked up to the ASB president,” said Henderson, “I just want to be that person for my school.” An ASB president’s job is to run meetings, make graphics and manage the student body to make sure that everything is working smoothly.

But there isn’t a president without their partner in crime. “I will be assisting our president in leading ASB and the school as a whole, and making sure that we get the jobs done,” Guzman explained, “my job is to make sure that we’re not just checking boxes, but making a difference.”



Maile Guzman, ASB Vice President Elect (Photo by Jayden Kay Linayao)

These leaders depend on an executive team to provide crucial support. Junior **Enkhjin Batlkhagva**, current ASB Publicist, was selected to be next year’s ASB Secretary. Like anyone with a big role, this upcoming leader will take on many responsibilities, such

as making sure that information gets out to the school on time, taking meeting minutes and notes, and being a role model for the rest of ASB. Batlkhagva hopes to “have a larger hand in being a guide to the freshman and new people that are coming.”



Enkhjin Batlkhagva, Upcoming ASB Secretary (Photo by Jayden Kay Linayao)

Current ASB Technology Commissioner **Kade Shigekawa** will step into the role of ASB treasurer next year. “I wanted to get more involved, being a senior now,” Shigekawa said, “I think it’s a good opportunity for me to expand my role in ASB and have a bigger impact on the school.” The job of the ASB Treasurer is to keep tabs on the class funds, approve fundraisers, and make sure that the budgets are in line and that we have enough money moving through the year.”



Kade Shigekawa, Upcoming ASB Treasurer (Photo by Jayden Kay Linayao)

Junior **Nikesh Patel**, Sophomore **Risha Rajkumar**, and Freshman **Kaydence Campbell** are preparing to take on the big roles of Class Presidents for the 2025-2026 school year. “I would like to bring excitement for senior events, and make sure that everyone has a great time at these events,” said Patel.



Nikesh Patel, Senior Class President Elect (Photo by Henry Do)

Blood Drive Takes Over Media Center

By **Jayson Kai Linayao**, Staff Writer



Cypress sponsored an American Red Cross Blood Drive in March. (Photo by Cypress Journalism)

The Cypress High School Red Cross Club partnered with the American Red Cross to bring the annual blood drive to Cypress High School on March 6, 2025, for students 16 years old or older, or to outside people like parents to donate blood to people in need.

Cypress High School’s Percussion Presents Their 2025 Production

By **Reina Takagi**, Social Media Manager

Competition season for Cypress High School’s Percussion has arrived, and they take the floor with their 2025 production entitled, SOW. In their division, the team has received high placements.

“[SOW] follows the journey of a farmer as he works to nurture a seed and helps it grow into a big, beautiful tree,” Arts Assistant and Percussion Instructor **Lorenzo Everett** said. “During my journey as a musician, I’ve had many influential mentors and I love that I get the opportunity to pay that forward with the future generations of percussionists here at Cypress...ever since I started I just haven’t wanted to stop, and I’m so grateful that I still get to perform music pretty regularly and that I get to share the joy of performing music with so many young musicians,” Everett reflected.

Being involved in percussion takes time and dedication, and students

Cypress High School’s Drum-line kickoffs Back to School Night (8/20/2024).



Senior **Aarnav Ghosh** said, “I decided to give blood because I knew other people doing it, and I decided that I was also interested in doing it.” The Cypress High and American Red Cross set up the blood drive in the media center at Cypress High School with food and snacks for donors. Red Cross workers set up all of the medical equipment, while taking vitals and then a pint of the donor’s blood. The process takes around 15 minutes and the donors get gift cards, donuts, t-shirts, pizza, extra credit, and volunteer hours as a reward.

Another option people could choose is a Power Red donation. It is a longer process that takes over an hour because it separates your red blood cells from your plasma and platelets, then returns the

leftover plasma and platelets back to you. It is beneficial to do this because it allows you to give almost twice the amount of red blood cells than the normal donation.

The American Red Cross has over 200 locations across America where they give you the chance to volunteer in their shelters, Disaster Action Team (DAT), and disaster health services. You can also participate in services including child care training and water safety training.

The blood drive happened from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM on March 6, 2025 and if you didn’t get to participate, you can sign up to donate on the American Red Cross website. The information to volunteer and donate blood is on [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org).

skills, time management, and being disciplined. “I just love therush,”Thompsonexpressed, “I just love it...everything about it. It’s just so fun to do.”

According to Junior **Ezra Jarvis**, SOW is about “putting in the work...and reaping the benefits of your labor.” Jarvis values the skills and friendships he’s made in percussion. “I learned to work as a team. I learned how to lead as well. That’s really something I use every day,” he said. In the moments leading up to performing, Jarvis “breathes, and talks [himself] through it.” He enjoys the adrenaline and the feeling of walking off the floor, knowing that his work paid off. He emphasized, “practice, practice practice. Nonstop.” Jarvis is passionate about percussion, and practicing makes him better as a performer. “I find fun in what I do,” he reflected, “fun with friends as well.”

Retiring Teachers Make An Impact On Students’ Lives

By **Minnel Vega**, Student Activities/Features Editor



Mr. Markle and Ms. Hamilton have both dedicated over 20 years of teaching to AUHSD. (Photo by Minnel Vega)

With the 2024-2025 school year coming to an end, some teachers are preparing to retire. These teachers have made countless impacts on students throughout the years. English teacher **Mr. Fred Markle** and English teacher **Ms. Valerie Hamilton** have spent many years teaching students preparing them for their future careers.

Truly, these teachers have many memories to take with them. Markle, who has been at Cypress since 1997, said

he has a lot of memories, including the boat races and “[his] classes’ end of the year projects.” Teachers work with many students during their time teaching. Every student is different but these teachers make sure each student feels supported in the classroom.

Hamilton, who has been in AUHSD for 25 years, said, “I have so many great students...I have students I just thought were the most creative and I knew were going to go far in life. Every year I teach kids,

but I also learn from them.” Retiring comes with many exciting new things to look forward to. Markle is looking forward to “hobbies, travel, and relaxation.” Hamilton will spend “more time with [her] granddaughter, son, and my daughter.”

As both teachers’ teaching journey ends, they both know what it takes for students to succeed in a class. Markle advises, “Don’t give up. Seek plenty of assistance from others, get good study groups, and just consider that you are a good person and you can do it. Just got to put your mind to it, have a plan, and you have to have lots of support.” Hamilton added, “Your teachers want to help you. We want you to pass, we want you to do well, but we can’t read your minds. And if you need help, you just ask for it. You’re going to get it. But we can’t give it if we don’t know what to give you.”

As these teachers enter their retirement, many students and staff will miss them, and their contributions to students’ lives will not be forgotten.

What is Everyone Doing for Spring Break?

By **Adam Hawari**, Staff Writer

This year’s spring break is the last break for seniors of 2025. What will you do this spring break? For senior student **Emma Hannifin**, she plans to “spend a lot of time with my family, we might be going on a little camping trip.”

During the break, seniors are figuring out what’s important to pursue after high school. With college coming up, spring break gives seniors time to think out what colleges to visit. For example, senior **Josephine Baker** said she’s “looking at college campuses because I need to pick which college to go to, probably Fullerton or Long Beach.” Additionally, students can use the break to focus on their assignments and grades. Baker believes that seniors should mostly focus on, “Their missing assignments. I know they have Senioritis with hundreds of missing assignments, they should lock in.”

Although this school year’s capstone project is soon due, Hannifin emphasizes the balance of fun and productive activities to do during your break. Cypress High’s film festival also can be an activity to focus on. Hannifin said she’s “getting ready for the film festival entries, because they’re due after break.”

The significance of this year’s spring break symbolizes the end of high school. “It’s the last break I’ll ever have for my entire life,” Baker commented. Hannifin finds it crazy that this break became her last one, “It’s my last short break,” before college, she said.

In addition, the calmness of the spring weather allows students to relax before the end of the school year. When asked what’s the best about spring, Baker loved how the flowers bloom in spring, the liveliness, “wakes you up.” Now after winter, the weather is perfect for beaching. “Definitely Crystal Cove in Newport Beach,” Baker said.

The last break for seniors can be productive, or relaxing. What matters is taking the measures to ease any stress during the school year, and also having a great time.



Emma Hannifin plans to “spend a lot of time with my family, we might be going on a little camping trip.” (Photo by Adam Hawari)

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6- ENTERTAINMENT

Daredevil Returns to Screens After Six Year Cancellation

By **Rehansa Kulatilleke**, *Photo Editor/Opinion Editor*



Daredevil premiered to Disney+ on March 4th. (Photo by Google Images)

For almost a decade, Marvel fans concluded the story of Hell’s Kitchen’s most beloved vigilante and accepted the fact that Daredevil would never return to screens after Netflix announced the cancellation of the show. That was until Marvel announced the show’s revival–Daredevil: Born Again back in July of 2022 at Comic-Con. On March 4th, the first two episodes of the show were released on Disney+, which gained a total of over 7.5

million viewers within the first five days, The show continues its success as episodes are set to be released every week until April 15th. The last time Daredevil made an appearance on screen was back in October 2018 when Daredevil was still on Netflix. The series left off with Daredevil defeating one of the most powerful crime lords in New York, Wilson Fisk. The two agreed to keep Fisk’s partner, Vanessa’s involvement

in crime a secret in return for keeping Matt Murdock’s identity as Daredevil unknown. Last season also left off with Benjamin Poindexter, also known as Bullseye–who impersonated Daredevil intending to turn the public against the vigilante–getting Cognium steel put into his spine after his last encounter with Daredevil. The first episode of Daredevil: Born Again begins by setting up the audience with a warm atmosphere

in the show’s cherished bar, before Poindexter returns to the show. The scene quickly escalates when Poindexter begins to cause havoc ultimately resulting in Foggy Nelson being shot in the chest. As an act of anger, Daredevil assaults Poindexter, nearly killing him in the process, going completely against his morals. A year passes after Foggy dies and Matt retires from his position as Daredevil and chooses to find justice through law. At the same time, Fisk is planning to run for the mayor of New York City. Besides his own series, Daredevil has made a few guest appearances in other MCU projects, growing anticipation for his return. One of the most notable appearances was in Spiderman: No Way Home where Matt Murdock represented Peter Parker after his identity of Spiderman was revealed to the public. Murdock has

also appeared in other Marvel shows such as Echo, She-Hulk, and Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man. As the show continues, both Marvel and non-Marvel fans eagerly wait for the remaining episodes for the next month. The filming for the next season of the show started at the end of February, so fans can expect another season as early as the summer of 2026. With the media convinced that Foggy’s death was just another ploy for Marvel to incite emotions in viewers, the theories continue to grow as the show progresses.



Charlie Cox, Deborah Ann Woll, and Elden Henson return to the show after six years of the show’s cancellation. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

The 2025 Oscars: A Night of Wins and Surprises

By **Mifrah Bawany**, *Front Page Editor/Features Editor*

The movie Anora, directed by Sean Baker, was the big winner of the 97th Academy Awards, taking home five Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Director. The Oscars were held on March 2, 2025, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. This grand event celebrated the best movies and performances of the past year. Conan O’Brien, known for his humor and playful personality, hosted the ceremony. The night started with a funny and unexpected entrance from O’Brien. In a pre-recorded skit, he appeared to emerge from Demi Moore’s body, referencing a scene from her movie The Substance. Walking onto the stage, he greeted Moore and joked, “That was weird... I’m missing some car keys,” making the audience laugh.

The ceremony opened with a performance by Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande singing “Defying Gravity” from Wicked. This performance helped bring in the biggest TV audience in five years, with about 19.7 million people watching. The ceremony was packed with emotional speeches and special tributes. There was a special James Bond tribute featuring performances by Doja Cat, LISA, and Raye. Doja Cat sang “Diamonds Are Forever”, LISA sang “Live and Let Die,” and Raye covered Adel’s “Skyfall” all from the James Bond movie. The tribute, which included a dance performance by Margaret Qualley, was considered a bit bizarre or “pointless” by some since there is no Bond movie coming out and they didn’t even an-

nounce the next actor who will portray James Bond. Many talented actors, actresses, and filmmakers won the award, but here are the night’s biggest winners:

Best Picture: Anora
Best Director: Sean Baker (Anora)
Best Actor: Adrien Brody

(The Brutalist)
Best Actress: Mikey Madison (Anora)
Best Supporting Actor: Kieran Culkin (A Real Pain)
Best Supporting Actress: Zoe Saldana (Emilia Pérez)
The 2025 Oscars was a night full of laughter,

surprises, and big wins. Conan O’Brien’s jokes made the ceremony entertaining. Movies like Anora took home all the major awards, and performances by Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande made the night even more special. Overall, it was a fun and memorable night celebrating the best in movies.



Oscars 2025 was a night of big wins, historic moments and amazing stars. (Photo by Mifrah Bawany)

DRIZZY VS KUNG FU KENNY: The Ongoing Rivalry With Drake and Kendrick Lamar

By **Tony Rodriguez**, Staff Writer



Each rapper brings something to the hip hop scene. (Photo by Tony Rodriguez)

The relationship between Drake and Kendrick Lamar began in 2011 when Lamar appeared on Drake’s “Buried Alive Interlude” from his album Take Care. This collaboration showcased mutual respect, with Lamar even referencing “Mr. OVOXO” in his verse. The partnership continued when Drake invited Kendrick to open for his Club Paradise Tour in February 2012, alongside A\$AP Rocky. The two rappers collaborated again on A\$AP Rocky’s “F***** Problems” and Kendrick’s “Poetic Justice” in October 2012.

The relationship began deteriorating in August 2013 when Kendrick released his verse on Big Sean’s “Control,” calling out Drake and several other rappers lyrically. Drake responded in a Billboard

interview, dismissing Kendrick’s verse as “an ambitious thought.”

The feud reignited in October 2023 when Drake and J. Cole released “First Person Shooter,” where Cole referred to himself, Drake, and Kendrick as “the big three.” Kendrick then attacked both Drake and J. Cole on Future and Metro Boomin’s “Like That,” directly attacking both Drake and J. Cole.

The ongoing feud between Kendrick Lamar and Drake has sparked debates in the music industry, with some arguing it’s about rap dominance and others revealing real-life issues. Junior **Matthew Ramirez** noted a TikTok clip where Kendrick rapped, “F*** the big three, it’s just big me,” suggesting a shift in

dynamic power. Junior **Jayden Gonzalez** argued that the feud is personal, as their callouts are nothing that can be forgotten about. The feud has also influenced how fans listen to their music, with some feeling more authority or disgust. Despite mixed feelings about their latest tracks, Kendrick’s impact has only grown, with people seeing him as a villain or genius, while Drake faces backlash over allegations.

Junior **Joaquin Dera’s** and Junior **Victor Gomez**, two listeners who have closely followed the feud, agree that the battle is not just about music but also personal. They believe the beef initially started as a musical rivalry and went from musical to personal, with Kendrick’s quick response showing deep tension and frustration. Junior **Hector Barbera**,

who first heard about the Kendrick and Drake beef through social media, believes that Drake’s reputation has taken a major hit, and that Kendrick is his “king.” The beef has changed Barbera’s listening habits, with him now listening to Kendrick and dismissing Drake’s latest music.

The feud grew substantially in April 2024 when Drake released “Push Ups,” mocking Kendrick’s height and his deal with Top Dawg Entertainment. Drake followed with “Taylor Made Freestyle,” controversially using AI-generated voices of Tupac and Snoop Dogg, leading to legal threats from Tupac’s estate. Kendrick then released “Euphoria,” questioning Drake’s authenticity and use of the N-word as he a mixed race (white and black). Drake responded with “Family Matters,” targeting Kendrick’s relationship with his fiancée Whitney Alford and alleging infidelity. Kendrick countered with “Meet the Grahams,” accusing Drake of being a “deadbeat” father and hiding another child besides Adonis. Less than 24 hours later, Kendrick released “Not Like Us,” accusing Drake and his team of inappropriate behavior with minors.

Kendrick’s “Not Like Us” topped the Billboard Hot 100 on May 13,

giving him his fourth No. 1 hit and first solo chart-topper since 2017’s “HUMBLE.” On June 19, Kendrick performed “Not Like Us” five times at his Los Angeles concert, symbolically uniting West Coast gang members and celebrating his victory. He later released the video for “Not Like Us” on July 4, featuring subliminal shots at Drake with owl imagery.

Kendrick was named the 2025 Super Bowl halftime performer on September 8, a decision that drew criticism from Drake’s Young Money teammate Nicki Minaj, who suggested Jay-Z had chosen Kendrick over Lil Wayne for personal reasons. In November 2024, Kendrick released his album GNX, including the track “Waccad Out Murals,” where he rejects any future reconciliation with Drake. Two days later, Drake appeared on streamer xQc’s live stream, seemingly referencing the feud by saying, “I’m here, as you can see, fully intact. In case you are wondering, right? You need facts to take me out. Fairytales won’t do it,” adding more tension to the feud. The media is going semi-crazy about it because Drake’s comment is seen as a direct response to those trying to spread rumors about him, and it only adds more fuel to the ongoing tension surrounding the feud.

OPINION

Statute of Limitations of Sexual Assault in State of California

By **Tyler Hernandez**, Comic Artist



The statute of limitations remains for sexual assault on adults and minors (Photo by Tyler Hernandez)

As of January 2025, the statute of limitations for the crime of sexual assault against minors in California was eliminated. Previously victims had to file charges before the minor turned 40. Even earlier, the limit was two years after the assault.

However, the statute of limitations remains for sexual assault on adults. Furthermore, many other states still have the statute of limitations for minors.

California should work towards eliminating that statute of limitations for sexual assault cases for adults as well.

According to data from RAINN there are over 433,000 cases of sexual assault or rape annually in the U.S. among people ages 12 and older. Many who experience SA or rape are unable to speak up about it. There are many reasons for this, including not being able to afford lawyers, being too scared, or even

convincing themselves that it wasn’t sexual assault.

If we get rid of the statute, then more people will be able to come forward with what happened to them and get the proper justice.



Protest in Hollywood during the #metoo movement (Photo by Tyler Hernandez)

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Free Speech and the Press: What the First Amendment Really Means

By **Grace Kim**, *Editor-in-Chief*



Recognizing the First Amendment’s protection affects the media and journalism today. (Photo by Grace Kim)

The First Amendment of the Constitution guarantees fundamental freedoms to its citizens, protecting the freedom of speech, press, and expression. However, in recent months, the temporary Tik Tok ban and the ongoing conflict between the White House and the Associated Press over-naming the Gulf of Mexico have highlighted the interference with the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Understanding the First Amendment’s protection is crucial, as it not only affects the media and journalism that is consumed today, but also our daily lives and interaction with the world.

The First Amendment officially states that “Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the

Government for a redress of grievances.” This protection ensures that individuals have the right to express their thoughts, ideas, and opinions without government interference.

The freedom of expression allows students to access information and ideas without restrictions, being able to learn about various viewpoints on different issues in our world today. The First Amendment allows students to freely express themselves in media outlets such as Tik Tok, Instagram, and other social media platforms, giving us access to information from a variety of sources. The access that is given builds critical thinkers, eloquent debaters and creative innovators, challenging ideas, sharing opinions, and learning from one another in an open and safe environment.

In February 2025, the U.S. government announced an initiative to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America sparking debates. The administration cited historical and geopolitical reasons for the decision, arguing that such changes reinforce national identity. The Associated Press (AP) argued, “As a global news agency that disseminates news around the world, the AP must ensure that place names and geography are easily recognizable to all audiences.” Ongoing clashes with news outlets occurred with the government’s changes in geographical regions, and journalists were soon blocked from entering the office. Calling the administration’s move unreasonable, AP’s senior vice president Julie Pace argued, “Limiting our access to the Oval Office based on the content of AP’s speech not only severely impedes the public’s access to independent news, it plainly violates the First Amendment.”

As these situations raise concerns regarding the limits of the government within public information, some may argue that corrections are necessary for national unity or security. As the First Amendment strictly protects the public’s rights to access information, any attempts made to restrict this freedom can have significant consequences on the development of one’s beliefs, knowledge, or opinions. By understanding and protecting our rights, the public can become informed, active members of our community, recognizing how speech, media, and government interact in a democratic society.

Class Of 2025 Prepares For Their Final Destination: Graduation Ceremony

By **Deborah Son**, *Editor-in-Chief*



Cypress High School Class of 2025 will be graduating on May 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Handel Stadium. (Photo by Deborah Son)

Cypress High School Class of 2025 will be graduating on May 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Handel Stadium. Graduation marks a key moment in a student’s academic journey, often accompanied by stress due to demanding tasks and planning before the event. Along with the weight of these responsibilities, it is important to recognize that it is one of the most crucial milestones, requiring extensive preparation.

The first and most essential item required for graduation is a cap and gown, which can be purchased online through SoCal-

Grad.com. With these items being a mandatory part of the graduation ceremony, it serves as a symbol of academic achievement and the journey students have successfully persevered through. Additionally, completing the high school journey involves addressing all school fines and outstanding matters during the year. Failure to settle these school fees before graduation may result in a delay in receiving a high school diploma. While strategizing is key, it is equally important to coordinate graduation tickets and attendance with family. Sharing this significant occasion with loved ones is essential as there is a limited number of tickets per student for family members. Academically, there are graduation pins and distinctions available to students before the graduation ceremony. These pins represent participation in clubs and academic recognition. Finally, the most important requirement for the graduation cere-

mony is the successful completion of all A-G courses. Meeting these academic requirements demonstrates the passing of coursework to ensure eligibility to graduate and participate in the ceremony. As the date of the graduation ceremony approaches, it is important to know when to reach out for help with personal needs and responsibilities. By seeking guidance, students can cope with their stress and foster a sense of collaboration to help students navigate this important time in their lives.

Ms. Carrie Vaughn, the Class of 2025 counselor said, “It has been a pleasure, and much fun to be the school counselor for the Class of 2025! I want to encourage all of the seniors to stay focused on their goals at these exciting times, as they inch closer to graduation. A motivational quote that I have shared with my students is by the late Arthur Ashe: “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

Five Flavors, One Cone: Rainbow Cone Opens Its First Doors in California, Cypress

By **Carly Pedroza**, *Business Manager*

A brand-new shop has opened in the Cypress plaza! The Original Rainbow Cone, established in 1926 in Chicago, Illinois by Joe and Katherine Sapp, has finally made its appearance here in California. The shop’s grand opening was on Friday February 14.

Sapp was never satisfied with just one flavor of ice cream, so he came up with the idea of “sliced” ice cream to have more flavors within a smaller serving of ice cream. They only had one location until the third-generation owner, Lynn Sapp, decided to expand and grow the company in 2019. The company franchised and started to open locations in Florida, Texas and now California.

avorite childhood memories. Her dream was to bring the nostalgic Rainbow Cone not only share with her family, but bring it to Southern California to share with the surrounding communities. The Hsiungs chose Cypress as the first location because they wanted to be able to hire from the high school and college providing students within an easy commute, and giving students invaluable work experience. With the shop being open seven days a week from 11AM-10PM, this makes it convenient for their employees to start work right after school.

Hsiung says that she “is excited to learn more about the com



Rainbow Cone welcomes new customers in California! (Photo by Carly Pedroza)

Their Original Rainbow Cone consists of five different flavors, making it a unique combination. The cone consists of slices of chocolate, strawberry, Palmer House, pistachio, and orange sherbet. Palmer House, is Sapp’s own creation, New York vanilla with walnuts and cherries. There is actually a scientific reason for the order of these flavors! The outer layer of orange sherbet cleanses your palate, preparing you for the next flavors, with the chocolate being the last flavor to hit your tongue with its strong, rich taste. Although this is their signature item, they also have 13 other flavors to choose from, as well as doughnuts, shakes, sundaes, root beer floats, ice cream sandwiches and even ice cream cakes. The standard items tend to range from about \$5-\$10 with additional cakes being roughly \$50. The shop also offers party packs ranging from \$70-\$110.

Robbin and Anne Hsiung are the owners of the California location here in Cypress. Anne Hsiung grew up in Chicago enjoying Rainbow Cone, which became one of her fa-

munity of Cypress” and that she “could not have chosen a better place to open her ice cream shop.” One of the company’s biggest challenges while opening this location, however, is the logistics of being able to get product to the shop in California since they are so far away from their suppliers in the Midwest. The Buonas (the owners of the brand) have been excellent mentors and have assisted Hsiung with “their experience in the restaurant business and helping [her] to be able to bring [the franchise] to California.” Although the company is known for the Rainbow Cone, the owners say the second most popular cone at this location is the Chocolate Obsession. Some of the Hsiung hopes that she can establish this location in Cypress as a place for the community to gather and for families to celebrate special occasions, creating wonderful memories for their children, similar to how the Sapp family did within Chicago neighborhoods.

Rainbow Cone is a great addition to the Cypress community, especially for ice cream lovers of all ages.