BLOCKBUSTER

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C-Hall marks a significant step in BHS construction

BY GRANT VIGNEAULT

Significant progress seems to be taking shape around the Burroughs campus. From spring 2017 until now, dirt walkways have given way to concrete sidewalks, new pathways, covered shade areas, new traffic patterns, parking lots, and much more.

One question still seems to loom: When will C-Hall bustle again with students and the welcome aroma of Restaurant Careers' cooking?

According to Assistant Principal Carrie Cope, the C-Hall project should be wrapping up in October.

"Teachers in temporary space will once again have a permanent home," Cope promised.

She also added that students who have been assigned C-Hall lockers will finally be able to use them.

Students too are excited for the new classrooms that will be a central hub on campus, not only because of the hall's location, but also because of the variety of subjects and constant flow of students transitioning in and out of the new masterpiece.

Senior Sierra Hudson, editor-in-chief of the BHS Yearbook and varsity tennis captain, is looking forward to the unveiling.

"I started my high school career as a freshman in C-Hall, and I made lots of incredible memories in those classrooms," said Hudson. "I'm excited to see the much-needed renovation take place so students can have a better environment to make similar memories during their time at Burroughs."

As such, much excitement surrounds C-Hall completion, thus advancing Burroughs' renovation one step closer to completion and life getting back to normal.

In just a few weeks, the demolition of a few months ago will replaced with newly remodeled classrooms featuring new technology, lockers, and a renewed sense of Burroughs pride. What seemed like a natural disaster just two months ago is now a new campus.

In addition to C-Hall, Burroughs has much more to marvel over since the start of the school year: the football field has an incredible new snack bar and stadium lights; D-Hall, L-Hall, and M-Hall have taken on a new modern look; and the Auto Shop has had its first facelift in decades.

Upon completion of C-Hall in the coming weeks, construction efforts will next concentrate on a new administration building between the Engineering building and G-Hall, with a new school front welcoming students, parents, and visitors alike.

The modular structure is currently being assembled offsite and is expected to make its debut after winter break.

BHS starts up social media accounts

BY LAYNE MATSUNAGA

Communication is something that many people and organizations struggle with. To improve its outreach in this area, Burroughs is increasing its social media presence.

"All of our avenues of communication are meant to increase the students', parents', and community's knowledge of what is happening on campus," said Assistant Principal Cody Pearce. "It is important for students, parents, and the community to know what is happening at Burroughs High School, whether it is important information that needs to reach everyone or it is more like a 'Hey, look at what we are doing at school.'"

Although the school had an unsuccessful launch of its Twitter account last year, now it is focusing on using Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and ParentSquare.

"We created an Instagram account this year hoping it would have better results," said Pearce.

Facebook is one tool that the school relies on heavily. It and the Instagram account are linked and overseen by the school's administration.

"We try to post one 'exciting' picture every day of the week," said Pearce, who works with Principal Bryan Auld in updating communication. "We also post important information as often as needed."

Parents seem to appreciate the opportunities to check up on the events happening at school.

"Any form of social media is good, I especially like that the school is using it to get in touch with parents," says Parent Ike Matsunaga "It's not like our kids are telling us what's going on. It's important for the parents to know and keep up with current events."

In addition to its administrator-run school accounts, the ASB class also has class-oriented social media accounts that are used to keep students aware of spirit days, deadlines, and other events, such as float-building opportunities.

Junior Emily Aralar thinks that using the social media is a good idea.

"It's not for everyone, but it's good for people to know when things are gonna happen," said Aralar. "Overall it's just a great way to communicate!"

Seniors grab up prime parking spots

Senior Austin Griffin shows off his number one parking spot.
photo by Grant Vigneault

BY TIANA COPE

In this year's senior lot parking spot auction, only two spots needed to be auctioned off. The rest were sold for the base rate.

The two spots that were auctioned went to Brock Mather for $105 and Austin Griffin for $345.

"I wanted the number one spot just to have the number one spot next to my friends," said Griffin.

Of course, he did not expect to spend that much, but for that spot he was willing to put up much more than the original $50. Many other students share this feeling about their desired spot.

Senior Sydney Jones did not have to bid for her spot, but she said she would be willing if she needed to in order to get it.

Each year students open their wallets for these choice spots for a variety of reasons.

Some want a parking spot close to classrooms for convenience throughout the day, while others want spots farther out where there are fewer people or cars.

Social Science teacher Laura Larson observed that overall, the spots closest to the classrooms always seem to be the most popular, but this year's revampted parking lot had organizers worried about potential sales.

"This year we didn't really know what was going to sell because with the new parking spots, they may not see the need to buy one," said Larson.

However, almost $2000 has been made through these sales. More students are expected to buy in the following week and throughout the year.

Last week, the leftover spots were on sale for $40. There is no guarantee that a desired spot is still available but some students took the risk for the cheaper price.

This week the spots returned to the $53 rate and will stay this price for the rest of the year.

"They normally go on sale again in the spring, for those who get their license later in the year," said Assistant Principal Carrie Cope.

Students can park free of charge in any parking spot that does not have a painted number, as long as they have a parking permit.

All money raised from parking lot sales and auctions are put towards the end-of-year senior trip to help offset the costs and make the trip a little more affordable.

Parking permits and spots can be bought for $3 and $53, respectively, in the Finance Office.

Burros support community RFL

Burroughs cheerleaders celebrate a message of hope during the opening ceremony at Relay for Life.
photo by Dahlia Stucky

BY DANIEL KIM

To the survivors and patients of a disease, their community's support can mean a huge difference to them in their recovery.

The annual Relay for Life brings people together to raise money and awareness for the American Cancer Society's efforts.

This year the 24-hour walk was held from Saturday, September 30, 9 a.m. to Sunday, October 1, 9 a.m., with several BHS groups participating.

The walkathon progressed through a series of events that represented the trials that cancer patients face daily and also taught participants how to provide their utmost support to those undergoing cancer treatment. Walking and running laps for 24 hours also gave participants plenty of time to enjoy each others' company while celebrating the Relay's message of "hope."

The opening ceremony included performances from Burroughs music groups and cheerleaders.

"It was a very humbling and emotional experience," said Junior Cabrini Bowen, who performed with her choir class. "When we sang our first song, I saw a cancer survivor crying."

While many students attended for community service hours, others had a more personal reason.

"I walked this year in support of my aunt who passed from glioblastoma last summer, and also to honor those who are fighting for their lives, those whose lives we lost, and the people walking through it all beside them and their families," said Junior Mai'Auni-Rae Benavente. "The stories I've heard from several people and why they decided to relay was heart touching and emotional to hear. Overall, they also gave us their relieving advice why it is so wonderful to live. I recommend to those who haven't attended a Relay for Life to attend it next year because it really is an inspiring, fun, and wonderful event."

"This year the Relay was super exciting," said Key Club Secretary Malia Camacho, who also represented Friends of Rachel.

"The community came together and raised over $87,000. The various booths sold food and the Relay for Life merchandise, while one even had board games you could rent. For the first time, ladies were allowed to enter in the Ms. and Mr. Relay contest. This addition let even more people get further involved with Relay."

Key Club's booth theme was "Kill Cancer with Color." They offered manicures and sold tie-dye t-shirts and breakfast burritos, with proceeds going to the Relay for Life. Kiwanis Club members assisted in the running of their booth.

Friends of Rachel continued its tradition of face painting as a fund-raiser.

"As one of the largest teams at the Relay, you could always spot a few Friends of Rachel t-shirts walking the track at any hour," said Camacho. She highlighted the participation of Ryan McKinney as the beautiful Raquel and Tawny Matlock as the handsome Chad in the Mr. and Ms. Relay contest.

"It was heartwarming to have so many of our club members attend the Relay and help support our cause," said Camacho.

Once night fell, relay-goers witnessed the moving luminaria ceremony.

To break through the symbolic darkness, relayers lit up decorated, candle-filled bags decorated to remember or honor loved ones in the cancer fight.

One of the groups that helped set up the luminaries and other activities were BHS AVID students.

As in past years, AVID worked with Relay organizers to set up the luminaries, assist with informational booths, and walk with the rest of the community to celebrate and honor cancer patients and survivors.

"My favorite part of Relay for Life is seeing BHS students and the Ridgecrest community coming together to support and celebrate cancer patients and survivors," said AVID Teacher Ernestina Palerm Wilson. "I also love seeing my students realize that giving back to the community is rewarding and fun."

Burroughs seeks to get honors distinctions for more classes

BY MAHEEN AHMAD

Students seeking to improve their competitiveness on college applications and push themselves academically now have additional opportunities as Burroughs has increased its number of honors-level course offerings.

The school obtained approval to create honors-level foreign language classes and to add the honors-level distinction to its existing Pre-Calculus course.

Honors German was created to provide students that are dedicated to learning the language a chance to study it at a deeper level and to possibly advance more quickly through the curriculum.

"The Honors German program was designed to provide the opportunity for students to develop their German in order to either take the AP test early, or to be able to use the language outside of the classroom," said German Teacher Nadine Steichen.

Spanish also has an honors-level program now. College-preparatory (CP) Spanish and Honors Spanish are very similar, but the honors students have had independent assignments that expand their learning of the language and culture.

"Regular Spanish is called CP or college prep and basically we follow the book, go through all the chapters, learning grammar, vocabulary, doing all kinds of activities in the book," said Spanish Teacher Stephanie Loutas Kapeles. "The honors program is meant to provide students who are interested in a more profound study and deeper study of Spanish."

Loutas Kapeles anticipates other advantages as well.

"I think it may also hopefully inspire them," said Loutas Kapeles. "Our goal is to make everyone continue studying Spanish. It will also let you tap into interests you may have related to Spanish and the Spanish-speaking world."

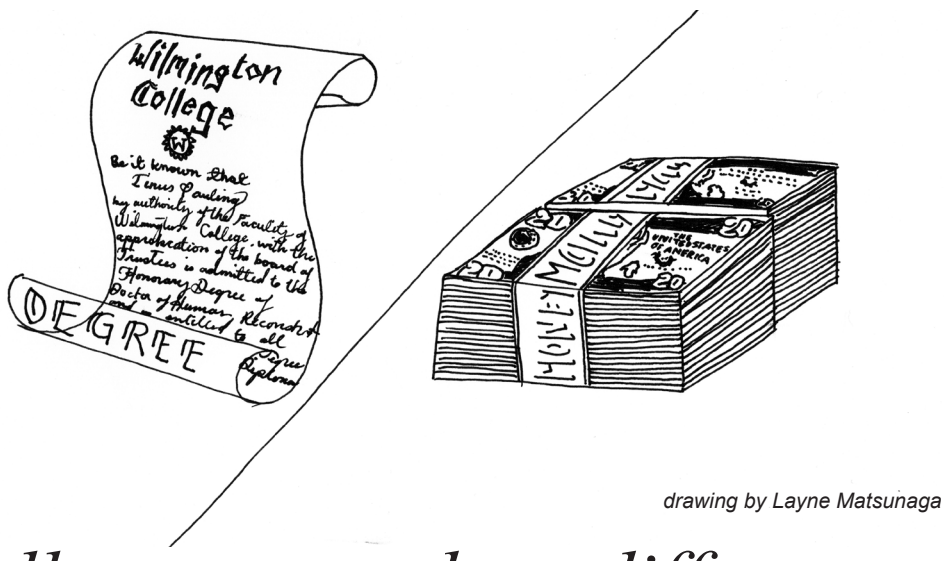
Alongside the new honors foreign languages, Burroughs sought and obtained an honors-level rating for its existing Pre-Calculus class

"Honors Pre-Cal is basically the Pre-Calculus that we've done before, but we submitted our course to the Cal State/ UC [course approval process]. They're the ones who have to approve whether or not we can call it honors," said Pre-Calculus Teacher Judy Dwyer.

Now, the Pre-Calculus students will be be able to get an extra point towards their school GPA to reflect the course's rigor and the extra effort they put into the course.

Sophomores Tesla Anderson and Rachel Rosal study for their upcoming Honors Pre-Calculas Test. *photo by Maheen Ahmad*

Examining the costs and benefits of college: Is it worth



drawing by Layne Matsunaga

College can make a difference for students in the future

BY DANIEL KIM

College can mean a lot of things to the students who work towards it. For some it is an academic exhibition where they can show off their performance in school: playing sports, studying to get A's, and taking AP exams to help them stand out from the myriad of other applicants. But for many, it is seen as a financial and educational burden that will haunt them in the form of financial debt throughout much of their adulthood.

The giant cost of financial tuition causes many non-upper class families to hesitate from trying for a higher education. Most believe their children will find a successful financial future by starting up a business or working jobs that may not require a higher education. Of course, these options do prove viable in some cases with successful entrepreneurs like Bill Gates and Steve Jobbs founding multimillion dollar companies after dropping out of college, or even sufficient practical job workers that live happy lives without having to pay off a college debt. However, even though these futures appear much more stable and adequate than a costly college education in the minds of apprehensive parents, in reality a college degree is a much larger aid to their children than they may see it to be.

In an advancing, modern society where more and more adults have impressive college degrees and résumés, going to college becomes increasingly essential for emerging young adults. The Lumina Foundation, an organization that works to encourage student access to higher education, gives statistics on many of the ignored benefits of college attendance.

"Annual earnings are about $32,000 (134 percent) higher… Lifetime earnings are, conservatively, about $625,000 (114 percent) greater in present discounted value," stated the Lumina Foundation. "Job safety is greater… The probability of being employed is 24 percent higher...The evidence is overwhelming that investment in college education pays in a big way both for individuals and for society... There are more benefits to college education beneath the surface than above it."

Even with all the statistical evidence of college benefits, it is still difficult for many parents to wholly put their faith in a college education. Still there are several other career choices that do not require college, such as the military. And with military service comes many appealing benefits as well, including but not limited to, health benefits, vacation time, family services, special pay for special duties, and compensation for any losses suffered due to service.

Why suffer a debt from college when you can receive a guaranteed, stable position working under the government? What possible benefits can you get from spending your time in college if you would rather serve in the military? Well, although devoting time and money into more academic effort to get a degree may seem bland and pointless to an aspiring soldier, it turns out that benefits extend to their field as well.

Villanova University, a private institution in Pennsylvania, encourages students planning to enlist in the military to pursue a higher education, listing the possible benefits they may receive. "You could qualify for certain career fields that require a degree. You get the chance to join the service as an officer, after Officer Candidate School and basic training… You may achieve a higher pay grade. Individuals with degrees often see greater potential for promotions."

The financial benefits received from a college education are versatile and many, but the values that college offers lies outside of the monetary as well.Although it cannot be explicitly represented with statistics and thus goes unnoticed, the greatest value of college may be seen as the experience itself.

The passion in developing knowledge in a subject one loves and the formation of enduring relationships and experiences with others who have the same fervor for learning and understanding as you are only a few of the many immeasurably precious values that can be attained through a college experience, whether it be from a comfortable local college or from a prestigious four-year university.

Overall, the real financial benefits of a higher education lie in the learning experience and potential long-term gains of a college degree, rather than the possibly large, but short-term debt that results from it. The foreboding debt that most people see is, as the Lumina Foundation puts it, only the tip of the iceberg; the greater benefits lie under the facade of financial debt that college represents to many of those entering adulthood.

Of course, the marginal benefit of higher education will always vary based on what kind of institution you choose to pursue and your selection of vocation. College debt still affects many adults for decades after they graduate, and getting a degree doesn't necessarily guarantee you a stable, adequate job. But if you are still unsure about what you will do in the future or plan on pursuing an occupation where further knowledge in a field will serve an advantage, then choosing to seek a higher education will always be worth it.

College is not the best choice for everyone

BY EMILY ARALAR

As American students owe a total of 1.45 trillion dollars in student loans, the question of college worth arises. College undergraduate students are on average $37,173 in loan debt. And also, loans are difficult to pay off, leading many to carry over debt well into their 50s. Many students are forced to live with their parents and depend on them because of their financial instability.

In 2017, 64 percent of jobs do not require a college degree, yet 33 percent of Americans that are 25 and older have a bachelor's degree. This is because trade professions such as mechanics, electricians and cosmetology do not require degrees and are overlooked.

Trade school tuition is also cheaper than college, and with the apprentice program, young adults can work their profession and get paid while they get certification.

College also delays important adult milestones for young adults, such as marriage, buying their first car and being financially independent from their parents. Less than 50% of women and 30% of men do not complete these milestones by the age 30 compared to the 1960s, where 77% of women and 65% of men transitioned into adulthood already.

English teacher Eileen Poole strongly agrees that college is not the only option. "I think that everyone doesn't have to go to college. There are programs to be electricians, mechanics and other good paying jobs. You can work up from lower pay to higher paying job."

Poole also considers college debt. "It is wrong that people don't have a bachelor's degree just because they don't have enough money to pay for it."

Counselor Shari Rosenberg agrees that "vocations are undervalued" and "lots of people have the talent to have jobs without degrees. These honorable professions have a great contribution to society, such as plumbing and welding."

Military is also a career option for high school graduates. "It gives training while also allowing them to go to school. People that score really high on the ASVAB can be accepted into higher paying programs" Rosenberg says.

"Really consider loans since they are very difficult to pay for, and most people acquire debt until middle age," Rosenberg advises. "But for some, it's the only way. Also, consider community college" for a more affordable alternative.

Don't stop after high school since you're limiting yourself to lower pay and jobs. Find what's right for you."

Playing sports should count for PE credits

BY JACK SHERRITT

Have you ever thought about why PE credits are not counted in sports? Well, while BHS sports do not count sports for PE credits, many other schools count team and individual sports as PE credits as well as offering normal PE classes.

The amount of PE needed to graduate is 2 years for Burroughs. This is not including summer classes or any extra sport activity

If Burroughs were to count sports for PE credits, students would be more inclined to get involved in BHS athletics.

So one may ask, why doesn't BHS offer this?

One reason BHS might not offer this is because they do not want any underclassmen to have a free period.

In addition, some schools say individual sports offer up to one credit of PE for participating. So, if you play multiple sports you do not need to take another year of PE. You will technically have enough credits after that to graduate.

Another reason BHS may not offer this is that they want students to participate in physical activities for at least two years. They would prefer students to keep a healthy lifestyle, rather than get all of their PE credits out of the way freshman year.

A reason Burroughs should consider this change, is that it is proven that counting sports for PE credits can help raise the amount of students in the Health Fitness Zone, the test needed to pass physical education. High schools aim to have a high amount of students in the HFZ. An experiment with this system of PE credits has shown an improvement in the overall fitness level of students in the school.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of having sports as PE credits? Students can, instead of having a PE class, get ahead on elective credits as well as take any extra classes. It could give student athletes more opportunities to study and focus more on classes. It also might push non-student athletes to become student athletes. It gives students a reason to stay in shape and join BHS sports. This system could also give students an extra hour to focus on school work with not having a PE class. The disadvantage is that students may want to get all of their credits out of the way freshman year and then disregard physical activity for the rest of high school.

BHS should look into using this system. Sports counting as PE credits could provide a variety of benefits for students and could make life easier for student athletes.

Share your thoughts: Should school start later?

drawing by Layne Matsunaga

Recent studies suggest that if we really want students to succeed, we need to start school later. Yet for an isolated school like Burroughs, a later start could significantly impact after-school programs and athletes, who would finish practice even later and miss even more class on travel days. What is the solution? Share your thoughts in the online Blockbuster poll for inclusion in our upcoming examination of the issue.

Do something nice for others — and yourself!

BY EMILY HAUGEN

Each year on October 5, people across the nation observe National Do Something Nice Day.

Since it is all too easy to be busy with hectice schedules, the observance is a welcome reminder to everyone to stop for a moment and do something nice, even though it would be perfect if everyone would do something nice daily without ever having to think about it.

If you missed it yesterday, it's never too late to begin. There is no need to worry too much about celebrating this special day. The act of kindness can be anything from saying something nice to a friend or stranger who looks like they aren't having the best day, to holding the door open for a stranger with their hands full, which will still play a huge role and have a significant impact on somebody.

Doing something nice for others has the added benefit of making yourself feel good as well.

Doing something nice for someone gives the feeling of satisfaction and well-being. Setting out to make someone smile will also boost others' happiness, which leads people to do good things. The happier people are, the more purposeful their lives feel.

Senior Sheila Carrillo supports the idea of National Do Something Nice Day. She believes being able to be compassionate or give pleasure and joy is a value everyone should have.

"We all learn morals and values as we grow up to become nicer people," said Carrillo. "Whether it is having proper manners or showing compassion, we all have goodness lying inside us, so we should all use it."

She wass excited about participating in this special day. Carillo believes making someone smile not only boosts their happiness, but also hers as well.

"Every time I help someone I get a very good sensation and gain feelings of satisfaction and gratitude," said Carrillo.

Although good deeds and kind words should always be practiced, Do Something Nice Day serves as a special time for everybody to brighten up each other's day

So, whether the calendar tells you or not, take part in acts of kindness. Being nice towards others makes a positive impact.

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Yearbook starts new year by welcoming new advisor

by Tiana Cope

With the retirement of English teacher Barbara Walls, the yearbook advisor position was left vacant. Science teacher Trisha Allen has stepped up to fill her shoes.

Allen has always thought that Yearbook looked like a fun class, and is excited to be with kids who all want to be there instead of being forced to take the course.

I'm enjoying interacting with students in something less academic and a more fun class," said Allen. "It's fun to learn how the yearbook process works."

All the returning students have been helping her adjust to the new class style.

"[Allen's] willing to absorb how we are used to doing things while incorporating her own ways as well," explained Yearbook Editor in-Chief Senior Sierra Hudson.

Allen has many similarities in her teaching style as Walls; however, the class has a lot of opportunities to try new things while the students find their footing.

Senior technical editor MacKenzie Brannon said, "Ms. Allen is a lot more open about receiving input from the executive staff which leads to us trying new things."

This year they have tried a raffle to get students more involved and at the rally they released the cover early.

Though the students miss Walls, they are excited for a fresh start and outlook on the Yearbook class, process, and book as a whole.

Junior Lee Cox, a new yearbook staff member, said, "Mrs. Allen is awesome. She's very laid back, but she makes sure you get your job done."

With everyone working together under Allen's leadership, there is no doubt that this year's yearbook will be great.

The class is confident that Allen will run the class spectacularly and the students are positive that their editors will lead them through another successful yearbook.

Even though memories can be saved instantaneously with all the digital media around now, yearbooks are still valuable and important. Yearbooks last longer than phones do, and they can't accidentally be deleted or erased as they can on phones or media sites.

Yearbooks are currently $87, not including personalization. Students can pre-order their yearbook through the Burroughs' webpage or by coming in to K3.

New Yearbook advisor Trisha Allen, Editor in-Chief Sierra Hudson and Hunter Boske are already working hard on capturing this year's memories.
photo credit Tiana Cope

Balancing school and exerise

by Grace Williams

Adolescent obesity has been a serious issue in the United States. Recently recorded the obesity rates among twelve to nineteen year olds has been increasing. Since the 1970s the percentage of adolescent obesity has more than tripled. In today's time one in every five teennagers is obese. If these trends of obesity keep on increasing, then the adolescents of today could be the first generation to live a shorter life compared to their parents.

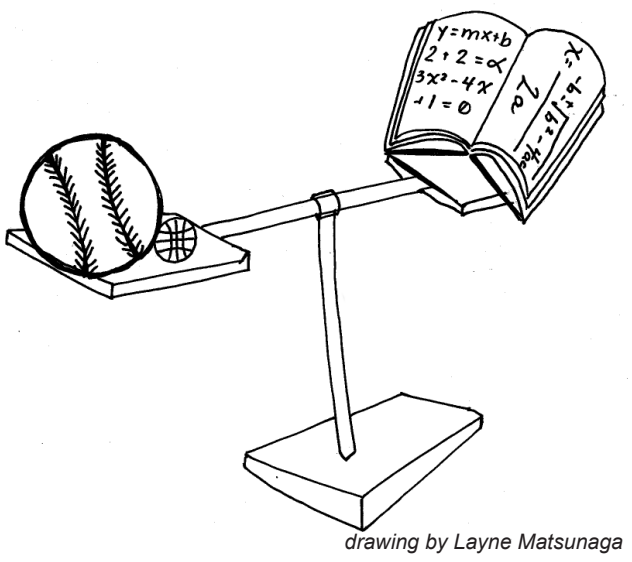
Some believe that the decline in adolescents' fitness level is linked to having too much homework

According a recent survey, 33.7% of the Burroughs students who responded have, on average, three to five hours of homework each night. With an eight-hour school day including lunch, how will they be able to have time for exercise? There are not enough hours in the day.

Schools are teaching teens to live an unbalanced lifestyle while they should be promoting the development of a balanced, healthy lifestyle. On that same survey 37.9% of Burroughs students believe that they do not have a good balance of studying and physical activity. So potentially, 37.9% of our students are forming bad lifestyle habits.

Faced with too many demands on their time, Burroughs students are having to make tough choices. In the survey, 71% of students acknowledged that getting their homework done is a bigger priority than hitting the gym.

It is safe to say that Burroughs is producing students who put their academics first and foremost -- but at what cost? It's an important lesson to consider.



drawing by Layne Matsunaga

Students get a look at Cerro Coso College

by Hope Lorenz

This year, the Cerro Coso Community College preview day was tons of fun! The only complaint that I heard was that they were cold while on the tour and eating lunch, but there is nothing that the school could have done about the weather.

It took a little bit for them to start their introduction speech and get going but everything else seemed to run smoothly. Students from different schools got their name tag, and were sorted into one of twelve different groups. The first six went on a informational tour of the campus, while the rest stayed in the gym and did the career fair.

The tour went all around the campus, which allowed several people to learn some new aspects about the campus. I heard that many people discovered that Cerro Coso has a Child Development Center. Overall if you were able to hear the guide over the wind and other students, the tour was very helpful and entertaining.

All of the groups also had the chance to go in the Learning Resource Center but my group decided to move on. Although, Junior LaNeyha Gleason did get the chance to go inside. "The building was two stories tall. The bottom half had the library and art gallery, and the top was a study area," said Gleason.

Once we got back in the gym, the fun really started. The career fair was truly the best part of the whole experience. All students were able to walk around, ask questions, and as a bonus were also able to get souvenirs and informational packets.

BHS alumnus speaks to juniors about overcoming obstacles

by Grace Williams

Donny O'Grady, a BHS alumnus, offered his inspiration message to Burroughs students on Friday, September 15.

O'Grade, speaking to a junior-level English class, explained his path to becoming the maintenance manager for the Honda Proving Center in Cantil near California City.

O'Grady came to an English class to share his story following high school graduation, including how he landed a job with Honda.

O'Grady said that both of his parents struggled with substance abuse, which made life hard for him as a kid.

"I suffered in school, and I suffered in my social life," he said. "I kind of felt all alone for a long time. I finally got to a point where I figured I needed to find an outlet. I needed something to do to stay away from the path my parents went down or getting into drugs and partying."

He went on to tell the students that he started racing BMX bikes and then he got into Freestyle BMX. He shared a BMX freestyle video featuring himself called "Shred the Gnar."

After opening up to the students and sharing various challenges, he told them that it wasn't easy, but he made it happen with support from others.

"There were some supportive people at BHS who helped me get through high school and I am very grateful for them," he said.

He said that in order to be successful, "You often have work on what you hate the most in order to make it."

After high school, O'Grady enlisted in the Navy, which he said was one of the best decisions he has ever made. He said he learned skills that carried over into his careers after the Navy. He told the students that employers like to hire veterans because it shows you have discipline.

Following the Navy he worked in Trona at the plant. He started at an entry-level position and worked his way up to shift supervisor.

Finally, he landed a job at the Honda Proving Center, a test track used for testing Honda and Acura cars. Motorcycles are also tested there.

O'Grady ended his presentation by telling the students to think about the kind of life they want and focus on building it.

PSAT offers a chance to preview the SATs

by Manasi Panchal

Every October about 3.5 million high school students take the PSAT. This year the PSAT is going to be on October 11 for those students who want to take the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test or prepare for the SAT.

The PSAT/NMSQT is the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test which is cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. About 50,000 students qualify for recognition out of 1.6 million students who take it. 34,000 students receive Letters of Commendation; the top 99 percentile in their state become National Merit Semifinalists.

Whether they have been working towards a scholarship or are simply looking to improve their skills, those taking the test have been practicing and working hard for the PSAT.

Junior Morgan Hastings stated, "I want to gauge my performance for the SAT and then know what I need to work on."

He has been practicing with the PSAT workbook, which he said helps a lot.

The best advice are given from a counselor and they have told us why taking the SAT is important and what students can do to prepare for it.

Counselor Shari Rosenberg told us the best way to practice is having a College Board account which is free and can help students. Rosenberg said the site features study skills for the SAT, questions of the day, vocabulary which they can do."

There are many reasons to take the PSAT. For top students, scoring high on the NMSQT is a prime motivator.

"The scholarship pays for your undergraduate degree and [the recognition] looks good on your application when colleges see it," said Counselor Dave Vigneault.

College Corner

With seniors submitting college applications and big decisions looming on the horizon, we are catching up with Burroughs alumni to see how they are enjoying their college experiences. Here is a former Burro who is attending Cal Poly SLO, and what she has to say about college and the surprises that come with it.

Student: Sophie Hoffmann (BHS 2017)
University: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Major: Biology

What is the best thing about your college or university?

The best thing about Cal Poly SLO is how they focus on academics, and most of the people are very nice and friendly. Even though I have had one class so far, it seems like the professors are very excited to teach. I also like how many opportunities there are to join clubs and get involved. There are a total of 250 clubs and I joined the Triathlon Club.

What has been the biggest surprise or adjustment?

The biggest surprise is that everything seems huge because I lived in Ridgecrest for most of my lifetime; I got used to the small town. The biggest adjustment for me is having to interact with so many new people. I'm not used to that. Most of the new people are very friendly, but there are a few that aren't which is a new adjustment for me because most of the people in Ridgecrest are pretty friendly.

Any advice for students still in high school?

I would say to develop your study habits now so you'll know how to study in college.
I would also tell students in high school to keep an open mind.

Other comments?

There was a great week-long orientation. We were put into a group of students and did lots of fun activities and games. But the food here is not good at all. There isn't even a dining hall; there is just a bunch of different restaurants that aren't very good. The living situation is good, but another adjustment to have is to share a dorm room with two new people ,but it isn't as bad as I thought it would be.

If you know any BHS grads who are now at college, invite them to submit their picture and answers to the above questions to blockbuster@ssusd.org.

Discovering science's secrets...

Honors Chemistry students Rachel Rosal, Ashlynne Holly and Miranda Anderson separate mixtures as they prepare for the upcoming progress report.
photo by Hope Lorenz

Express yourself!

The BHS Creative Writing Club

Spotlight shines on performers at Night of a 1000 Stars

BY EMILY ARALAR

Last weekend's Night of a Thousand Stars lit the way for a variety of talented Burroughs students.

Drama Teacher Tristan Kratz promised a grand night. "Since this is the first show of the year, we're kicking it off with Burroughs' talented community!"

Kratz believes the production sets an inclusive tone for the year.

"The show allows students to have a moment to shine, because some don't have the opportunity to be in bigger productions," she said.

To increase involvement, this year the event included a pre-show dinner and pictures with Disney princesses. The effort was a fundraiser for Drama's New York trip.

Stage manager Senior Annessa Lacey was excited to help with the event.

"Night of a Thousand Stars is where people can show what they got and their talents to Burroughs, as it's a big variety show that anyone can do!" said Lacey.

Senior Jenny Weik performed a solo contemporary dance to Harry Styles' "Sign of the Times."

"Even though I've been performing for so long, I still get nervous. It's one of my favorite things to do!" said Weik.

Students who attended the event had positive comments about the performances.

Senior Janelle Robins, refusing to single out just one favorite act, expressed enthusiasm for the night as a whole.

Junior Cabrini Bowen offered more targeted praise for Tim Duck and his original song, and for Rhiannon O'Connor and her "amazing and powerful voice."

Disney princesses Trinity Benitez, Mary Copeland, Alexis McGarry, Arianna Killian, Jasmine Pennala, Lilly Johnson, and Dixie Risden are joined by Lilly Johnson's grandmother who made a cameo as the Fairy Godmother at the pre-show photo opportunity in support of drama's trip to New York, which is scheduled for Spring Break.

photo by Michael Skipworth

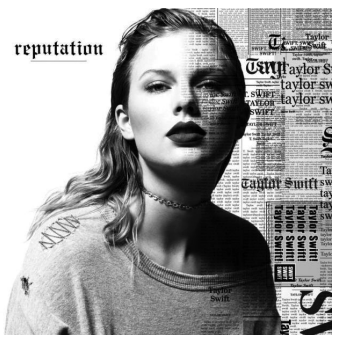
Taylor Swift's secret to success: her progression from "Our Song" to "Look What You Made Me Do"

BY GRACE WILLIAMS

Taylor Swift has come out with a new hit song, "Look What You Made Me Do." It has been playing on the charts everywhere. Some people like it and some people do not. Regardless, her new song is a hit because whether you like it or not, you know the song and you have heard it. But why? Why is it an immediate hit? I would argue it is because her music has transformed from sweet and innocent to vengeful. As listeners we are secretly captivated by her development from an innocent young teen to a bold self assertive woman.

Swift's songs' titles over the years: "Our Song," "Tim McGraw" (2006); "Fifteen," "Love Story," "You Belong With Me," "Fearless" (2008);"Today Was a Fairytale," "Story of Us," "Mean" (2010); "We Are Never Getting Back Together," "I Knew You Were Trouble" (2012);"Shake it Off," "Bad Blood," "Blank Space" (2014); "Look What You Made Me Do" (2017).

Just looking at Swift's major hits, it is evident she has transformed and it is her transformation that captivates her listeners. With not even a month of the music video for "What You Made Me Do" being released, she already had 400 million views. Compared to one of Swift's originals, "Our Song," which has 157 million views, the new release's popularity stands out, especially considering that the previous has been out for over eight years. Her listeners have dramatically increased over the course of her career as her music has matured from pre-teen to a sophisticated, powerful women. As she continues to produce music, we can have high hopes for how far she will go as a celebrity.



"It" may just be the creepiest thing you will ever see this year

BY GRANT VIGNEAULT

"It" is about a group of kids in a town overcoming their fears. This is displayed in a multitude of ways such as the group's imagination and how their actions affect them in real life.

Yet the film is still horrifying for the audience; fear is presented and made into existence from a clown named Pennywise that terrorizes the town of Derry, Maine, for years. He is now being confronted and challenged by a group of teenage kids.

Senior Haley Savage commented on her experience with Pennywise, stating it was almost too intense to handle.

"I had to cover my eyes for most of the movie; I couldn't stop jumping!"

The genius of Stephen King's Novel allows for incredible screenplay with adapted film technology compared to the previous adaptation of the novel. "It" has the perfect blend of horror, storyline and cinematography.

This film has a great balance across all categories making IT one of the most incredible horror movies made.

Blockbuster is getting ready for Halloween!
Help us find the scariest movies of all time...

N	T	S	F	R	O	M	D	U	S	K	T	O	D	A	W	N	E	D	I	R	B	E	S	P	R	O	C	T
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FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH
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SAW
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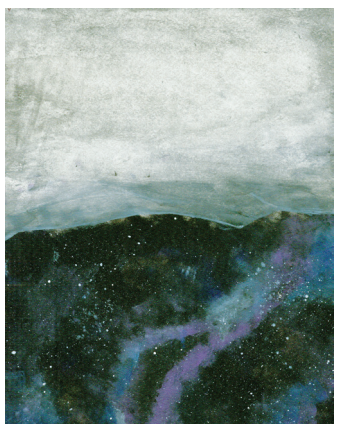
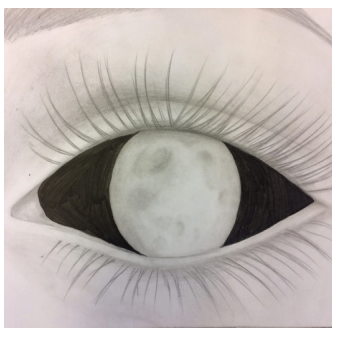
SPLIT
SCREAM
PSYCHO
THE CONJURING
THE RING
ALIEN
THE HOST
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY
NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD
FROM DUSK TO DAWN
A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
LIGHTS OUT
THE THING
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
FRANKENWEENIE
MONSTER HOUSE
CORALINE
ITS THE GREAT PUMPKIN CHARLIE BROWN
CASPER
THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA
CORPSE BRIDE
HOCUS POCUS

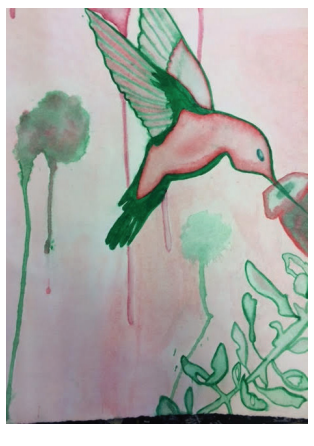
Creativity Corner: Contributions from Burroughs students





BHS Art students show their talents. Top left, Marissa Bowen.Top center, Dixie Risden. Top right, Katelyn Lager.Center row, Allia Rickets. Bottom center, Autumn Peach. Bottom right, Christina Neipp.

Feeling creative? Submit artwork and creative writing to Ms. Burgess's box or J3 to have it featured in the next issue!



The Cage

S.K.

I am trapped in a cage which cannot be broken without punishment. I get moments outside where I can be free to roam but those moments are small compared to my time in the cage. The cage always gets smaller and restrains me in an attempt to kill me.

I didn't put myself in here. They put me in here and guard me with their lives at the expense of my own.

I'm tired of the cage life.

I just wanna be set free.

I'm a puppet under control by the builders of my cage.

I'm done with the cage life.

I'm ready to snap...

I'm planning my escape.

The time is getting closer.

But for now I remain in my cage.

Where they say that something is wrong with me.

That I'm mentally ill.

IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE A WOMAN CRAZY! AND I'M SICK OF IT!!

My time to break out is slowly approaching — till then I just rot in their cage.

drawing by Layne Matsunaga

Poems by Courtney Nicole

i knew i was an angel by
the stares others stole of me.

i knew i was a dream by
the choices made for me.

i knew i was a danger by
the hands that embraced me.

i knew i was a monster by
the love you left me.

i want to be soft and lovely.
i want to quietly stroll through the earth without disturbing it.
i want to ease worries and anxieties.

i want to be gruesome and menacing.
I want to scorch the very earth
I stomp on and tear apart worlds.
I want to start pandemonium

Burroughs is proud to welcome a new anti-bullying club

BY KARINA KELLY

Burroughs is welcoming a new club on campus, and that is Anti-Bullying club also known as "TAB". This new club will focus on how to prevent bullying in school whether it be online or in real life. Burroughs offers many clubs on campus and The Anti-Bullying Club is a great addition to the roster, offering students even more ways to help the school community and get involved.

Special Education Paraprofessional Sandi Jasso, the club advisor, said she got the idea for the club last year.

"Last year Mrs. Marsh and I were prompted to start this club and after a unit of ERWC [a senior English class] on bullying, I decided that I will continue on with our plan."

The Anti- Bullying club wants to spread a positive message at Burroughs, hoping to further raise awareness of the issue.

Jasso stated the main thing they want to be known about the club is that "BULLYING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED." The Anti-Bullying club holds a strong and powerful slogan. The Anti-Bullying club also acts as a place for people who may be struggling with bullying or have seen it and don't quite know what do about it. Jasso explained that what she wants students to gain from this club is knowledge that there is a safe place to gain comfort, tools, and understanding." The club is focused on decreasing the amount of bullying. Whether it be physical or verbal around campus, Jasso states, "The official goals is to bring a start to the end of bullying on campus."

Senior Jasmine Pennala has high hopes for The Anti Bullying Club.

"I think it's great, even if it's a small way like encouraging others to help or just to be an outlet for students who are being bullied because this club will allow students to speak up to the people who are willing to listen. The Anti Bullying club is great step to help reduce and prevent bullying on campus. Bullying is an important issue within many schools so the fact that Burroughs us taking a stand against it is really awesome."

The Anti-Bullying Club has not elected any student officers, so if you are interested or simply want to become involved, then make sure to come by every other Friday at lunch in M22.

Community service is a great way to get involved at school

BY NATALIE GILBERT

Community Service is important not only to the community, but it helps to better each person who helps as a whole. Many clubs around our campus and organizations around town help out the community in some way or another.

Sophomore Nevaeh Gomez has her own opinion on the importance of community service.

"I think that it is important to give back because if no one puts in effort to make our community nice, it will degrade over time."

Each year as a part of CSF, Gomez takes part in community service projects that the organization puts on. Last year she helped out with the Cystic Fibrosis Walk and the Relay for Life.

"Without community service, people who come to Ridgecrest would miss out on all the things that it has to offer."

Science Teacher and Key Club Advisor Derek Zhang thinks that community service brings more joy and happiness to the world. "Community service helps others who are in lesser situations."

As Key Club advisor, he helps put together food baskets around Thanksgiving and Christmas. "Everyone has ups and downs through life, and we can support others when they need it. it makes the world a better place," concludes Zhang. He feels if you have the chance to help other people, you should.

Another person who would know the benefits of community service is counselor Pauline Starnes. She believes that participating in community service gives students the opportunity to give back to their community. One project that does this is the Ridge Project.

"Community service gives students an opportunity to gain experiences and knowledge that they might not otherwise have."

By volunteering at the hospital or animal shelter, a student could gain insight on a certain fields. "Generally people who volunteer are happier people. Because they get the benefit of doing something worthwhile for others and making a difference, which in turn makes them happy."

The amount of community service opportunities that Burroughs takes part in truly is remarkable. From helping at Relay for Life to participating in one of the club-sponsored campus clean-ups, the list contains almost anything that suits a multitude of personalities.

CSF President and senior Grant Vigneault weighed in on the importance of community service.

"Public service plays a key role in shaping the community as well as the image our community upholds. When students want to get involved, the community becomes a better place."

Community service has many benefits from helping others to giving useful experiences to you. If there is ever a chance for you to help, take it and see what happens.

Key Club has fun!!

Key Club members Jenny Weik, Hayley Green, Malia Camacho, and Eviny Zayas pose on the quad while trying to entice BHS students to join the organization.

photo by Sidra Javaid

Friends of Rachel raises money for Harvey and Irma victims

BY MAHEEN AHMAD

Many people have seen the devastating aftermath of recent natural disasters in Texas and Florida, and the effect it has had on families. Many organizations provided shelter to the victims and afterwards helped them find pets, get back home, and assisted them with recovering.

To support this effort, the Friends of Rachel Club at Burroughs ran a coin drive competition to help earn money for people who went through these disasters.

Although the final amount was not yet tabulated as of press time, Club Advisor and School Counselor Shari Rosenberg said she thinks more than $500 was raised.

Rosenberg said she was impressed by the number of classes who participated and the amount donated.

The fifth-period competition ended Friday, September 21; the winning class will be receiving delicious, homemade treats from Restaurant Careers Teacher Lisa Cosner. once the results are finalized.

The drive as part of the club's ongoing efforts to help others.

"The Friends of Rachel club has always been looking for ways to help and improve their community," Rosenberg said. "We've raised money in the past for issues, earthquakes, and floods, so we felt that this was the appropriate thing to do."

One of the co-presidents of the club, Senior MacKenzie Brannon added, "The devastation was massive, and since one of our club's core values is to help fellow humans, it made sense to try and rally the school to help these people."

Half of the proceeds will benefit Hurricane Harvey victims, and the other half will be donated to support the victims of Hurricane Irma.

"Texas' half of the funds will be donated to the Greater Houston Community Foundation's Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund so that it can be used amongst the community," Brannon explained. "Florida's half is being sent to United Way in Miami, another organization centered in the state that will be able to directly help the people affected."

BHS Counselor Shari Rosenberg and her FoR students tabulate the generous contributions from the class competition for hurricane relief.

photo by Maheen Ahmad

Photography Club is looking for new and excited members

BY HOPE LORENZ

Photography club is a small club good for both beginners and professional photographers looking to get involved at Burroughs

President Allison Dastrup and Vice President Isaac Jones are in charge of the organization. The advisors are Biology Teacher Jessica Wilson and Records Administrator Lindsay Johnson. They meet at lunch every Wednesday in L38.

Currently in Photography Club, Dastrup is explaining the basics of photo taking. Their September 20 meeting was all about different controls that are important to know when taking photos.

The club's previous meeting was about nine principles of photography. It was quite interesting to sit in the meeting and learn about different camera basics and principles.

Dastrup wanted her fellow leaders to be recognized because she said without them, she would not be able to run the club: Johnson created the club and now with the help of Wilson, Dastrup leads the meetings and explains the lesson that is being taught that week.

Also, they are trying to take photos around town for the learning experience. Right now they are currently working on a plan to go and take photos of the Indian Wells Valley Fair in October. In the past, the group has also gone on photo field trips out of town.

If you do not have a camera and are looking for one, Dastrup recommends the Nikon D5200 because it is great for both beginners and pros. Dastrup shares that she can change the lenses and other controls easily.

Dastrup was never a big fan of the Canon brand; she has used Nikon and has loved it since.

If you ever need help with camera selection, go to her; but if you are a Canon fan, then Johnson is the person to go to.

Cross Club
Tuesdays
5 to 7 P.M.
at Pizza
Factory!!

STRATEGY CLUB: FRIDAYS
AFTER SCHOOL
ROOM L37

Foreign exchange students have arrived to Burroughs

by Jack Sherritt

Every year Burroughs High School gets foreign exchange students from around the world. We get students here from just about anywhere you can think of. Burroughs is more than fortunate this year to have five foreign exchange students. Their names are Helena Servanin, Monica Beghini, Cia Breiner, Zhicheng Fu, and Jantanipa Kammool. They come from all over the world and are going to allow our students to experience a variety of culture.

Servanin comes from France. Servanin likes football and how people are nicer here than in Europe. She says "It feels like a dream and I can't believe it." She also really like the linguistic opportunity presented here. It feels unrealistic to her and she is very excited to be here.

Beghini comes from Italy. Beghini thinks America is different in many ways but she "enjoys refills on drinks and ice cubes in water the most". She also likes the sports presented at the school compared to Europe. Beghini really likes the facilities available to her. She is very excited to be in America.

Breiner is from Denmark. Breiner likes the people and the culture. "The people are really nice and I just really like that they are so different," said Breiner. The biggest difference is the school and school spirit. They don't have sports teams in Denmark so she thinks it is really great to support teams. Breiner said it is really difficult to start but everyone is so nice that she is just happy to be here.

Fu, who goes by Frank, is from China. Fu chose California because he heard it was a very popular place to go. "It is a very cool to place to come to," said Fu. He is very excited to be in California, and cannot wait to make memories at Burroughs.

Kammool, who goes by Lunar, is from Thailand. Kammool came to California and decided to play American football! She is on the JV football team. Kammool plays running back and is excited to be participating in Burroughs athletics. She says "football is something I have always wanted to play, so it is very exciting that I get to."

Government teacher Laura Larson has had Beghini, Servanin and Breiner in class. She calls Beghini Italy, Breiner Denmark, and Servanin France. When they are all together she calls them Europe. "They are all a delight to have in class, they all behave perfectly and pay attention all the time," exclaimed Larson.

JV Football Coach Bernard Unhassobiscay, who coaches Kammool, loves having a foreign exchange student on the team. "She is a hard worker and is always willing to try new things. I think it's great that she is out here experiencing all America has to offer," said Unhassobiscay.

So if you see any of our lovely foreign exchange students walking around, make sure to stop and talk to them! Say hi and see if maybe they can teach you a thing or two about their country, or maybe you can help them learn about America.

From left to right are foreign exchange students Cia Breiner, Helena Servanin, Monica Beghini, Lunar Kanmool, and Frank Fu. *photo by Jack Sherritt*

Homecoming Week nears

by Jada Ashley

Homecoming week is on the way, and with this comes all the fun and exciting activities that the cheer team has planned for Burroughs. These activities include rallies, powderpuff, the homecoming football game, and, of course, the homecoming dance.

The week starts off with the powderpuff rally at lunch on Wednesday, and the games are right after school. Powderpuff is one of Burroughs' biggest traditions where the girls will be on the field playing football and the guys will be on the sidelines cheering them on.

Each class will have a cheer and football team, and each class will play at least one game. The winners of the first two games will play a third game in the finals to see which class is the winner. Make sure to check out the rally at lunch to see the football teams perform their hit drills and to see the cheer teams compete with their dances.

Following the powderpuff games and rally is the homecoming rally on Friday. This rally put on by the Burroughs cheer team will showcase the football players to get them hyped up for their game. They will also honor the winning powderpuff and cheer team at the rally.

Later this day will be the homecoming game at 6 P.M. where the homecoming court coronation will take place and the homecoming floats will be displayed and the homecoming queen will be announced right before the game begins. The game will start at the usual time at 7 P.M. and our Burroughs team will be taking on one of our biggest opponents, Oak Hills. Make sure to come out and support your Burroughs football team and show your school spirit!

Last but certainly not least is the homecoming dance on Saturday at 8 PM, the theme of this years dance will be "Hollywood Nights". Don't forget to purchase your tickets before the dance and remember that tickets won't be sold at the door this year. Make sure to get them at a cheaper price beforehand and and get your permission slips in if you plan to take someone that does not attend Burroughs because today is the last day to do so.

Show your spirit, participate in the spirit days this week, and show all your school pride at the powderpuff games, football game, and at the rallies!

Sophomore Class President Saralynn McEntee and Sophomore Vice President Aileen Ponce working hard to make their class float happen. *Photo by Jada Ashley*

Powderpuff is back on the fields

by Lillyan Becker

When looking into upcoming school events, Homecoming week is approaching very quickly. This week includes many activities and one of the most anticipated events is powderpuff. This is a yearly tradition where the girls get to play football and the boys cheerlead.

There is a football team and a cheerleading squad for every grade. The football teams will compete on Wednesday, October 18. The freshmen first play against the juniors, and sophomores play the seniors.

The winners of these two games will then face each other in the championship game. Not only do the girls get to play football, but they also perform a hit drill that will take place during lunch also on the that Wednesday.

As for the guys, not only do they get to cheer on their class during the games, but they also get to perform a dance routine during halftime of the games along with the girls' hit drill.

Junior Bryce Amster explained how much he loved "watching the games and seeing everyone have fun." Amster was very excited when talking about cheering on his class and "getting out of [his] comfort zone and really having a good time."

After last year's juniors upset over the class of 2017, the class of 2018 is looking to keep their championship title.

Senior Lesly Tejeda is confident in winning both of their games this year and. "I feel pretty excited this year and I think we'll do really well! The other classes don't stand a chance."

Besides the tough competition, powderpuff is a great way to come together with your class and have school spirit.

ASB secretary Macy Jackson stated, "I love homecoming activities like powderpuff because it's a great way for people to get involved in the school and have a ton of fun while doing it. "

So get ready for homecoming week! There will be tons of exciting football and cheerleading, it's a great time to show your Burros pride.

What's in a Name?

Burroughs Blockbuster reached out to students with the same name to discover what they had in common and what made each student unique. We started the series with responses from our first set of students who share the name "Taylor."

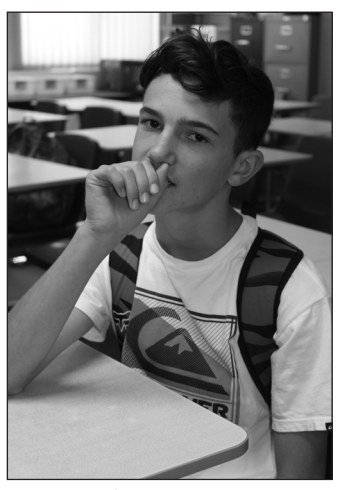
Taylor Moore

What is your favorite class and why?

My favorite class has to be Yearbook. In the elective, we are responsible and independent to get assignments done, while being in control of our applicability which allows us to have a taste of "adulting."

What is your favorite thing to do outside of school and why?

I enjoy traveling, writing, reading, surfing, and gymnastics. I love traveling most because I love seeing the world and learning about different societies and cultures. As much as I love gymnastics, I enjoy other things too, sometimes even more!



Taylor Patton

What is your favorite class and why?

Math because it is fun and easy.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of school and why?

Basketball because it is my favorite sport.

Taylor Auld

What is your favorite class and why?

My favorite class this year is Spanish 2, because I like learning about different cultures and languages.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of school and why?

My favorite thing to do outside of school is hanging out with friends and family because we always have a good time.

Taylor Smith

What is your favorite class and why?

Orchestra because I love music. I love both listening to and making music.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of school and why?

I don't really have a favorite thing but I really enjoy spending time with my family. My family means more to me than almost anything else in the world.

The first rally comes to a close

by Jasmine Pennala

Burroughs kicked off the year with an exciting bang during the very first rally. The freshmen got a taste of Burroughs school spirit while the remaining classes continue to make memories thanks to ASB. ASB made sure everything went to plan and that the rally went smoothly. Senior Class President Hayley Green knows the group can fix any problems they face.

"We're pretty flexible about any minor errors that may occur."

The rally's theme was Reality TV. ASB started off the rally with an introduction video of everyone from ASB with the "Full House" theme song, which perfectly highlighted the rally's theme.

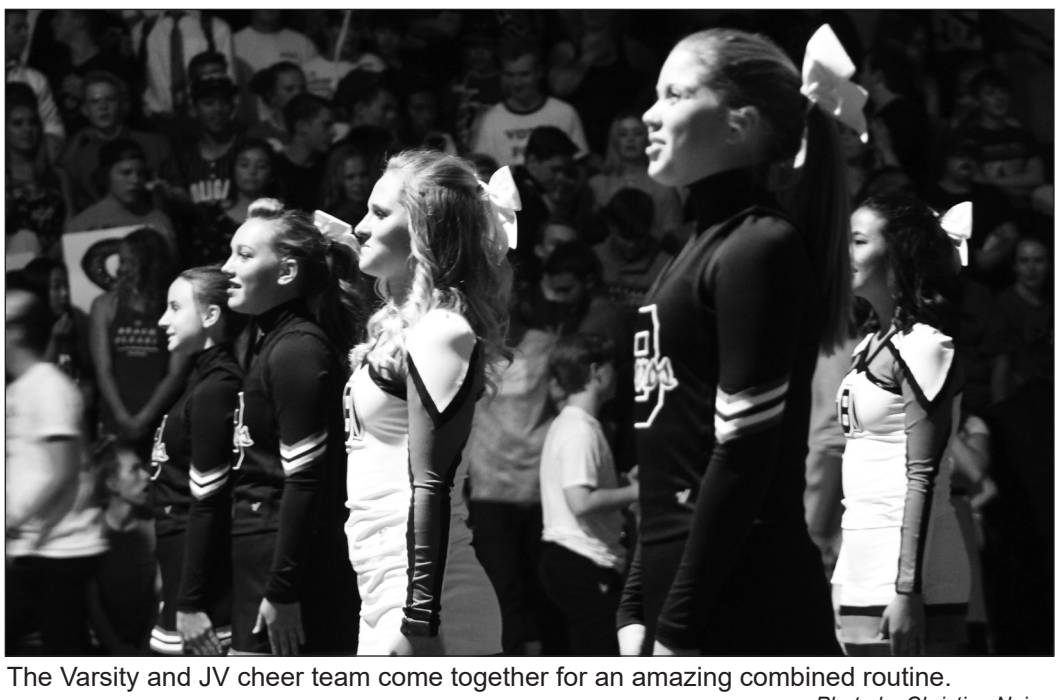
The rally captured the different activities students are partaking. Fall sports do a fun class competition. The cast of the upcoming school play "Hamlet" performed a rap battle to promote their show.

Senior ASB President Jenny Weik exclaimed, "This was definitely one of the most successful rallies since I've been in ASB." Weik plans to involve more students in competitions and special performances for future rallies.

Although the first rally has come to a close, ASB is going to continue to make rallies better for the students.

"I am crossing my fingers for a new sound system. This would fix so many things for the rally, especially the crowd," Green says.

With the high expectations being met and satisfaction from students, the next rallies are sure to be great or even better.



The Varsity and JV cheer team come together for an amazing combined routine. *Photo by Christina Neipp*

New restaurant opens

by Lillyan Becker and Haley Savage

Pita Fresh, a Mediterranean style grill, has recently been opened next to Xin Bowl on the north end of China Lake Blvd., and it has been the talk of the town. So of course, we had to try it ourselves.

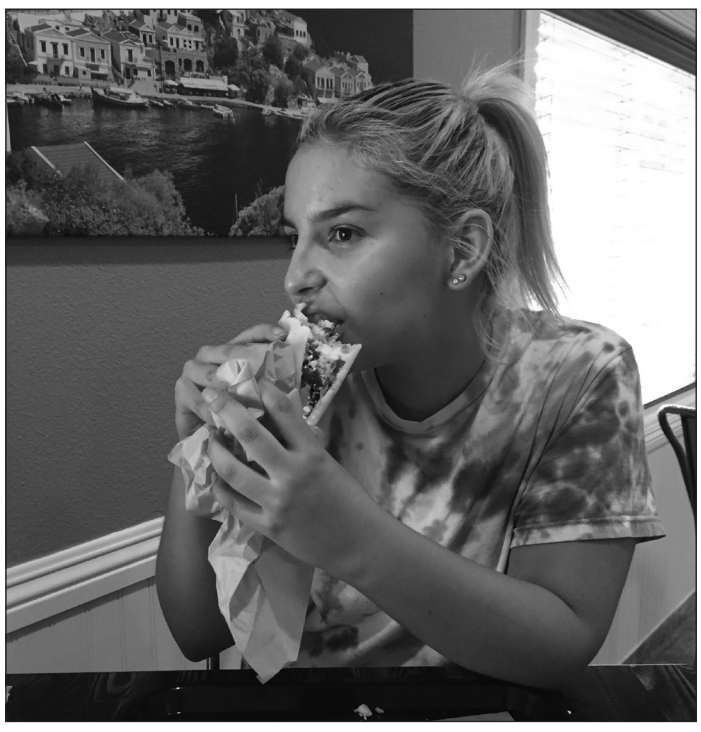
When you walk in, the restaurant has a very welcoming atmosphere with friendly workers that greet you right away. The Mediterranean grill is modernly decorated, but also has ethnic music playing along with pictures of the Mediterranean that positively add into the theme of the restaurant.

We tried a variety of different foods that were very good. Starting off with a pocket pita and rice bowl, both with chicken shawarma. We felt our meals were very filling, but not quite what we anticipated. With the chicken being under-seasoned and dry, we thought it was essential to add a lot of toppings such as pepperoncini and hummus to bring bold, delicious flavors that pleased the palate.

With our main courses, we also got the garlic fries and falafel. The garlic fries were definitely a favorite and left a strong impression. The fries tasted very similar and had the same crunch as the loved In-N-Out's fries. On top was fresh garlic, parsley, and feta cheese which complemented each other very well. The falafel, a deep-fried ball of chickpeas, also lacked some flavor, but made a good snack when paired with either the tahini, tzatziki, or garlic sauce.

We finished our meal off with a dessert, baklava. This traditional middle-eastern dessert is a mixture of nuts and honey in between a buttery filo dough. The baklava was baked to a golden brown, which gave it the perfect texture to bite into while the sweet honey tasted delicious with the cashews and other nuts.

While the menu veers on the safe side of the taste palate (being conventional and not taking any flavor risk, it is recognized that Pita Fresh is still fairly new). Due to being newly launched, it may take a while to dial into their menu that best serves their customers, but overall we are willing to give a second chance down the road in hopes of improvement.



Liillyan Becker enjoys eating a stuffed Pta Mediterranean cuisine.
photo by Haley Savage

International Day brings the community together

On September 15, the Ridgecrest City Hall held an international community day at the Kerr McGee Center. The event brought together the diverse and vibrant groups of Ridgecrest, allowing them to share their culture with the community. Many groups set up stands to serve their native food to the attendants of the event and offer information on the culture of their nations. The event ended with a display of all of the cultures' attires, dances, and traditions, showing that although many people there came from different backgrounds, they were united in their passion for their culture.
photo by Daniel Kim

Parkour gets people climbing walls

by Sarah Ostermann

A brand new business has opened on Balsam: Infinite Movement Academy. Parkour ("Par-Kour") is an activity for ages 1 and up. Parkour is the sport of moving through an area. Participants negotiate obstacles by jumping, running, and climbing. Owner and manager, Derek Fitchett, and his wife show passion and dedication to their business.

The Fitchetts plan on upsizing their gym in the future: "Parkour and free-running is something I got into a couple years ago and it is something I've been pretty passionate about...we do plan on upsizing though later on." Fichett said that after coaching parkour when he was younger, he later became certified and decided to open up his own parkour gym. His wife does the heavy lifting and manages the scheduling.

He holds events every flex Friday called "Parkour and Pizza" where pizza is provided with games and three hours of open gym. This event has been booked solid every Friday. Also the gym held a nerf gun battle last Saturday, is holding a Halloween party, and will most likely do special events on holidays.

Later on as they progress, Derek hopes to host community Parkour and fun activities, "In the future, we hope to host some stuff in the community… bring some Parkour equipment to the park and have fun and maybe do a fundraiser."

His gym is not just for little kids, but for all ages and has classes for ages: 1-3, 3-5, 5-8, 8-13, and 14 and up.

During the classes, participants do drills and conditioning to strengthen their core and increase skills/strength overall. At the end, Derek said that the first class is free. If you end up joining, all they need is your parent's permission. It would be awesome if more high school kids became more involved!

Children enjoy playing at the new Parkour place, trying out new tricks.
photo by Sarah Ostermann

YAC gets ready for a new year

by Dahlia Stucky

Kicking off the new school year, the Youth Advisory Committee threw a Welcoming Back Party on September 9th.

Many contributed in preparing for this event and pitched in a good amount of hours. Youth Advisory Committee sophomore leader, Aileen Ponce helped plan and arrange the whole event.

"We have a leadership board which consists of Bryce Amster, Emily Aralar, and Nicholas Baca, we all pitched in and started planning the Welcoming Back Party back in May," said Ponce.

The leadership board has put a lot of time and effort in preparing for this event.

Ponce said, "the purpose of the Welcoming Back Party is to bring high schoolers and middle schoolers closer together to basically welcome them back to the new school year with a stress free zone."

Many excited freshman attended the party including freshman Lauren Venhaus.

Venhaus said, "the Welcoming Back Party was totally worth going to and I would definitely go again. I got to socialize and have fun and meet new people."

Venhaus attended the YAC party with her best friend freshman Jazmin Goldstone.

"I loved the music and loved hanging out with my best friend and getting to socialize with new people. I was sad I didn't get to stay for long but I'm definitely going next year," said Goldstone

The YAC provided many activities and food at the party including, karaoke, photo booth, shaved ice, and a taco truck.

"This was my first year of planning a YAC Welcoming Back Party and I think the photo booth and karaoke were definitely a hit and we're going to bring them back for next year," Ponce said.

The Youth Advisory Committee is putting in a lot of work to make everyone's year memorable, stay tuned for more.

Frappe day gets coffee lovers excited

By Lillyan Becker and Haley Savage

With fall comes cool weather, football games, colorful leaves, and everyone's favorite: frappuccinos. In honor of National Frappuccino Day coming up on October 7, you must know the perfect frappuccino to get to celebrate. The best place to look is, of course, Starbucks. Starbucks offers a variety of frappuccinos.

The company's six most popular are the vanilla bean, caramel, caramel with mocha, pumpkin spice, and their mocha frappuccinos. They are all different, but delightful in their own way.

If you are looking for a frappuccino that is simple, sweet, and tastes like vanilla ice cream, you should order a vanilla bean frappuccino.

If you're looking for a frappuccino with a strong coffee taste and a hint of caramel, you should go for the caramel frappuccino. The caramel frappuccino with mocha offers a chocolate-caramel taste that is sure to remind you of Halloween candy, but it will still give you a pick-me-up with the coffee flavor.

The mocha frappuccino tastes just like a chocolate shake and is very smooth. This drink is definitely for people with a sweet tooth.

The pumpkin spice frappuccino, arguably their best-selling flavor, is delicious. It tastes like pumpkin pie with cinnamon and everything that tastes like fall.

National Frappuccino Day is rapidly approaching, so make sure to stop by Starbucks. Give some of these flavors a try; you definitely will not regret it!

Community remembers 9/11

by Christina Neipp

This year marks the sixteenth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy.

Like many towns, Ridgecrest remembers the day with a series of events to bring the community together.

The Parade of 1000 Flags is a patriotic display in which organizations and families march down China Lake Blvd. to Freedom Park to plant row after row of the Stars and Stripes. This year all the flags were claimed and many other people wanted to carry one.

The marching band once again lead the parade with their music. Other groups also took part, such as AVID, Friends of Rachel, and BHS Cheer.

When all the flags were placed out onto the field, everyone sat in front of the podium while officials gave speeches and comments.

A candlelight vigil followed on September 11. It was very stormy and many were afraid that it was going to rain during the vigil, but as the vigil began, the clouds started to spread and went around the assembled group Everyone seemed to relax after that, and were able to watch a lightning show in the process.

Many speakers came up and told about their stories and experiences when the towers started to fall.

A firefighter who was a rookie at the time told his experience.

He was very excited that he was able to get into something huge since he was a rookie, but also very sad because of all the lives were being loss.

As always, the vigil ended with the candles being lit, and the Farris Family Singers offering songs in remembrance of the day, 9/11.

Participants come together and show their patriotism at the Parade of 1000 Flags remembering 9/11.
photo by Christina Neipp

Burroughs goes to lunch

by Sidra Javaid

Burroughs students have many different opinions when it comes to lunch choices! The latest Burros Blockbuster poll asked the students where they like to go for lunch.

The results show that the school campus is the most popular lunch spot with 20% of the votes. Following in second place is Subway with 14.7% and in third place students' homes with 11.6%. Tied in fourth place are Pizza Factory and McDonald's with 9.6%, while Taco bell is in fifth place with 8.4%. After that, follows Stater Bros with 5.3% of the votes.

Drive Thru Dairy, Little Caesars, Pita Fresh, Sunset Poke, Wienerschnitzel, Del Taco, Jack in the Box, Carl's Jr, and Starbucks are in the least popular lunch spots, each with less than 5% of the total votes.

The students were also asked what drove their decision. Taste drove the majority of the student's decisions with 38.9% of the votes. 33.7% of the students stated that convenience drove their decision.

While price influenced 20% of the students' choices. Speed of service did not affect students too much, only influencing 7.4% of the students Overall the lunch preferences of Buroughs students are different and many, each having their own reasons for choosing where to eat.

Burroughs Cross Country is running full speed ahead

The Lady Burros XC team runs the show in the Mojave River League

BY EMILY HAUGEN

As the fall sport season begins, the girls' Cross Country team has come out strong. The team has already competed in their first league race at Hesperia High School.

At the Hesperia meet, Sophomores Alana Nagy, placing 10th, and Kylie Griffith, who received 11th, were at the head of the team, both having performed proficiently so far this season. The varsity team finished strong and took fourth overall.

After putting on a very successful and efficient summer training regime put on by Lauren Olsen, she has been fixing her sights towards training the girls to perform in the league meets.

"We have begun doing speed work," explained Olsen. "The effects of a speed workout really do not show themselves until eighteen days later, so we have started implementing them around this time so the speed workouts can have a huge impact on our league meets."

This season she wants the girls to perform consistently with strength and confidence.

"A runner's greatest competitor is herself, so I would like to encourage my ladies to summon their mental strength and rely on their legs to do what we have been training them to do," said Olsen.

New to the girls' team, this year is Senior Marissa Bowen. She decided to join Cross Country in hopes to be part of a team and learn how to push herself to her limits. She is very happy with her decision on joining the team.

"I enjoy the bonds that I've formed with the team," said Bowen. "It's a lot of hard work but it's worth it in the end."

Senior Captain Esha Sardar has her eyes set on the team finishing top three in league in order to qualify for CIF.

"I know the girls are capable, but we will have to work extra hard if we want to be third or above," said Sardar. "The toughest competition is ourselves, I hear the girls always telling me or the team how they could have done better or tried harder it really goes to show that no one is harder to beat than ourselves."

She has noticed much improvement already from the girls.

"From putting in some effort the girls have really been testing their limits and putting their best foot forward," expressed Sardar. "This past race had a few of the girls' best times so far!"

So far the girls' Cross Country team has demonstrated its preparation to place top this year. The team is full of energy and potential for a great season.

The girls XC team poses for a group picture after one of their competitions earlier this month.
photo by Emily Haugen

The Men's XC team focuses on future challenges in the MRL

BY EMILY HAUGEN

This year the Burroughs Boys' Cross Country team, led by their coach Anthony Barnes, is training hard to achieve personal goals and develop for future success. Through practice and effort, the athletes are coming together to become a strong force this year.

Having several races under their belts early on in the season, the Burros are getting back into their racing zone as well as preparing new strategies to the team for upcoming challenges.

Barnes and his young, mostly freshmen team have high quality goals set for this fall.

"League wise and team wise our goal is to at least rank top four in the league and make personal improvement," said Barnes. "I want them to be competitive and race according to our training."

In order to make improvements Barnes has implemented changes.

"We are working on our finishes and passing more runners than those that pass us in the last mile and having an attitude to beat anyone near us at the finish," said Barnes. "I also want them to stay together and make their last mile the fastest."

Riley Jackson, one of the team captains, portrayed his satisfaction with the team. He also showed a lot of pride for the younger athletes.

"There has been such improvement already this season coming from a young team," said Jackson.

Jackson also has his eyes set on the team qualifying for CIF.

"Our goal is to make it to CIF," said Jackson. "Apple Valley and Oak Hills are probably our toughest competition, but if anything I expect our team to do well and have lots of fun."

The whole team is positive and confident and they are training hard to have a successful season. While the team may be full of new and younger athletes, their hard work and determination will help Burroughs perform to their full potential.

BHS Women's Tennis starts MRL off strong

BY EMILY ARALAR

As Girl's Tennis starts their league season with a 4-0 record, the team now faces a tough league season, starting off with the Oak Hills Bulldogs.

Head coach Kenold Prince provides his input. "They need to work hard at conditioning, to build stamina and endurance to last longer during a game; as some matches are long and some aren't able to keep up. Tennis is more than just hitting a ball; you got to be fit!" Prince says that the team is ready, they'll just have to find out how well they'll do when season starts."

The varsity team also placed second overall at the Quartz Hill tournament, competing against five other teams. The tournament help sharpen their skills as it was practice for the actual league play.

Junior Callie Corzine expressed concerns about the team, since "We lost 7 seniors last year, which was really devastating. So our team needs to work extra hard and step it up! Overall, the team really needs to work on consistency and not letting our opponents get in our head."

Team captain Senior Sierra Hudson goes into the season optimistic about the hard working team. "We're really good at working as a team and also building each other up! It makes the team better as a whole. I want to be able to see myself improve over the season" as it is Hudson's last year on the team. Stepping up to the challenge, she expresses excitement. "I want to be someone the team can count on!"

"The team needs to work on communication," Junior Gina Della Santina says. "Communication is really important because without it, we won't be able to know how good our opponents are. We switch opponents every round, and we ask each other how they did against the other player. Without communication, we can't work as a team to see the opponent's strengths and their weaknesses."

"As a team, I hope we make it to CIF," Della Santina says hopefully, "and as an individual, I want to win as many games as possible."

Being her first year on varsity, Della Santina expressed excitement. "I'm nervous because I'm a big part of the team now and I don't want to let the team down by making a mistake. I like being on varsity, because it gives me a sense of accomplishment for all my hard work!"

Burros football continues to put in work in preparation for league play

BY GRANT VIGNEAULT

For multiple generations in the Indian Wells Valley, Burroughs football fans have enjoyed nothing more than beating Barstow. The BHS vs. BHS rivalry spans multiple generations dating back to the inception of the high school itself.

Every year the Burros and Aztecs never fail to put on a show for their passionate fans; this year, the boys, again, put on a spectacle that will never be forgotten.

Two minutes left in the first half; the Burros are up 6-0, and neither team seems to be able to move the ball more than a yard or two per carry. However, the whole tone of the game flipped in an instant when Brock Mather makes one of the hardest hits of the season on Barstow's running back.

The Burros get the ball back on the next possession, and quarterback Austin Griffin hits wide receiver Antonio Ramirez for a 50+ yard touchdown reception to close out the half. The Burros were in it to win it.

The attitude in the locker room at halftime was one that would give Grandma a migraine; our boys were excited. They were prepared to take the field in the second half and absolutely destroy every facet of the Barstow game plan.

Senior and varsity football captain Jack Sherritt weighed in on the Burro's attitude at the midpoint of the game, for he plays a key role in the defensive scheme.

"The boys and I understood that the score could have been a lot worse at halftime. But we had just scored a touchdown to close out the half, and were ready to carry the momentum from that score throughout the rest of the game."

Here's a brief recap of the second half of the game: Brock Mather, Jack Sherritt, Wyatt Soto, and a band of brothers on the defensive front shut down every Barstow possession giving up zero points; Bryson Pippin runs back a punt return for a touchdown widening the Burro lead; Michael Hardwick intercepts the Barstow offense and returns the ball for a pick-six; quarterback Austin Griffin passes for more than 200 yards for the third time this season on top of a five touchdown pass performance.

It's pretty safe to say that all Burros football fans can and will be proud of the way our boys defeated the Barstow stronghold on Friday night. The final score for the evening: Burros 46, Barstow 0.

Sophomore Brett Stephey runs through the defensive line into the endzone during last month's game against Rancho Verde.
photo by Chase Cracraft

Sophomore Brittany Jacobs serves the ball during Tuesday's match against Sultana.
photo by Chase Cracraft

Support your Burroughs Burros at these upcoming home events

Football:
Oct. 20 at 7:00 vs. Oak Hills (HOMECOMING)

Nov. 3 at 7:00 vs. Sultana

Volleyball:
Oct. 11 at 5:30 vs. Apple Valley

Oct. 18 at 5:30 vs. Sultana

Oct. 23 at 5:30 vs. Hesperia

Girls' Tennis:
Oct. 10 at 3:15 vs. Oak Hills

Oct. 17 at 3:15 vs. Serrano

Volleyball faces off competitors

With the second round of league games coming up, the Lady Burros look to put a slash in the win column. The first round of league play has been rough, but the team is working hard for that first league win.
photo by Dahlia Stucky