

STEM Day allows students to gain knowledge on careers

BY MOZZMA CHAUDHRY

On Nov. 8, Burroughs hosted its annual STEM day. It was a time for students to see the different opportunities and jobs that the base has in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The students, teachers, and volunteers had a good time, whether it was learning about different jobs or explaining

the importance of these potential career paths.

Joe Tsang is a chemical department head who came from China Lake to show students that there are many opportunities out there, so it is best to keep options open.

“Because chemistry relates to everything related to life, it is an important field,” said Tsang. He

noted that beyond work on base, chemistry has applications in other fields such as medicine.

Biologist Donna Weeks came to explain the importance of her work. Being an environmental biologist, Weeks helps to provide health and safety tips about the environment. She was excited to talk to students about how they can make a difference and preserve the environment.

She gave an important message to all students considering potential careers: “Look around and keep your options open.”

Kelly Blake is a geothermal geologist on the base. Her job includes both desk work and outdoor work.

One of her recent experiments required Blake and her partner to put a probe six meters in the ground to see what the temperature was. This helped to find some of the spots with elevated tectonic activity.

By the end of the day, the message was clear: STEM is a field with many options and this means students can choose something that best suits them.

“It is important for high school students, especially for girls, to ensure that they realize that sticking around in STEM is important,” said Blake.

Burroughs teachers also enjoyed STEM Day because the class

rotations were set up so that the presentations that the students saw corresponded with their classes.

Biology and Chemistry Teacher Erin Duez said she likes the STEM Day a lot because there were many interesting things that students could see. It opens their eyes and gives them more options to consider for a career.

“So even if you went to STEM Day last year in biology class, you would see something totally different this year attending with your chemistry class,” said Duez. Because of their class schedules, some students attended more than one track, showing them a range of opportunities requiring different levels of education.

Some classes got to see the Bomb Squad, people who worked

with radars, and more.

Chemistry Teacher Derek Zhang enjoyed STEM Day because students can see science applied in the real world.

“It gives them an opportunity to speak to people working in professions so that they can have better insight on what the job is like and the paths they can take in the future,” said Zhang.

Having the opportunity to meet people who work in a specific field and ask them questions also helps spark insight and future inquiry.

Freshman Nathaly Flores learned many new things during her first STEM Day. “I never knew that there are so many cool things that are related to biology and it is interesting how you can be open-minded to choose your career,” said Flores.



Junior Delaena Montes works with a STEM Day volunteer on electromagnetics. photo by Natalie Gilbert

BHS grads respond to fire danger

BY SIDRA JAVAID

After years of practicing fire drills in Sierra Sands schools, many Burros now at college have been facing a real fire threat.

Over the last several weeks, wildfires in California have destroyed buildings and forced thousands to evacuate from their homes and, in some cases, college dormitories. Ranging from Chico State to USC, the fires have forced students to be alert and cautious.

USC freshman Sam Marler explains how the situation was being handled on his campus.

“Overall, USC has committed a large group of staff specifically towards emergency scenarios which includes fires, as it has become a major issue for the Los Angeles area,” said Marler.

While fires in California are common, October’s preemptive “public safety power cutoffs” by PG&E have worsened the situation for colleges in affected areas. Power

outages in the Bay Area have especially impacted Berkeley and other East Bay schools, causing classes to be canceled.

UC Berkeley attendee Victoria Pillers said her classes were not canceled because of fires directly, but she said they had about a week of classes canceled when PG&E turned off power amid dangerous high winds and dry air.

Pillers said the campus attempted to ease the disruption caused by the outage.

“When we had no classes because of campus closure because of lack of power, we were told of two buildings that were still open because they have filtered air, so we could go there to have clean air to breathe.”

Further north, CSU Chico student Brendan Allen said his campus is doing its best to keep students aware of potential danger and need for evacuation.

“Our school is handling the fire

danger by trying to keep everyone informed,” said Allen. “For example, we get campus-wide emails from emergency services if there is an update we need. Also, they told us what to make of the air quality, like the dangerous levels to look out for and what to do when certain levels are reached. They also told us about air filter masks to buy.”

To avoid risking lives and putting even more people in danger, colleges have taken precautions and are educating their students on how to stay safe.

“With the increasing number of fires nearby, USC now requires all of its students to take an online course that includes fire safety to prevent campus incidents,” said Marler.

Such precautions seem to be a smart choice. By informing students about the situation and giving them masks to avoid inhaling smoke, California colleges are doing their best to keep students safe.

her dedication to her father. In the end, she chose UC Merced because all tuition and fees were going to be covered.

“I was able to join a research lab at UC Merced, and it was a cool opportunity because there were only a few Hispanics participating in that,” said Moreno Aguilar. “With my research, I was able to also win an award that was only given to a few people in each major.”

Moreno Aguilar was eager to speak to ELD Coordinator Jennifer Williams’ freshman students, because she was once in their shoes.

She told Williams’ students, “I was also put in the ELD class, the intervention classes with Mrs. Williams. I’m very grateful to her because she’s the one who taught me English. She taught me how to write and read, which was the most challenging thing for me, so she was pretty persistent, so I’m grateful to [her] for that.”

For her part, Williams was grateful for Moreno Aguilar’s words of advice to her current students.

“I want my students to listen to Lorena’s life story, because hopefully they will see that Lorena really isn’t much different from them. I want them to realize that she faced many barriers like many of them do and by hearing her story, I want them to feel inspired to keep going and working hard to create their own future,” said Williams.



Lorena Moreno Aguilar shares her story. photo by Maheen Ahmad

Gobbling Goodness...



Freshmen Natalie Hoffman and Shelby Keehan work on decorating Thanksgiving-themed cookies at Tuesday’s Military Kids Club gathering. photo by Natalie Gilbert

Staff and students support Great Strides

BY LOGAN ALLEN

The Burroughs community is working on a change one step at a time.

As the annual Great Strides Walk approaches, clubs, students, and staff are coming together to raise funds and awareness in support of those battling cystic fibrosis.

Sophomore Taylor Frisbee is a Burroughs student who faces cystic fibrosis. The Great Strides Walk holds a very special place in her heart.

“The walk plays a big role, not only in my life, but my family’s and other CF people,” said Frisbee. “When people in the community come to the walk, I feel supported and motivated to keep going.”

Frisbee’s family is also grateful for support from the community, since they are responsible for bringing the Great Strides Walk to Ridgecrest.

“It’s a way that my family can do our part in helping the CF Foundation,” said Frisbee.

Many people in the Burroughs community feel that it is important to help those who face Cystic Fibrosis, bringing in a variety of support. AVID Club has been one ally throughout the past few years.

“My connection began in 2013, when a fellow English teacher, Mrs. Hawkins’ son, Ben, was born with cystic fibrosis. That year our AVID students and teachers reached out to the Hawkins family and became Ben’s Brigade,” said AVID Teacher Robert Hope. “This was my first time participating in the Great Strides Walk, and we have continued to support the Frisbee family and other local families impacted by CF.”

This year, in addition to coordinating its annual coin drive, AVID plans to work with National Honor Society to host a Mock Olympics team event on Dec. 12.

“The Mock Olympics will be very similar to the Amazing Race in that there will be several events to compete in, like ice-skating, relay, and other fun activities,” said AVID Teacher Ernestina Palerm-Wilson. Students interested in forming a team should listen to the bulletin or see an AVID teacher for details.

“We hope to get students involved in the Mock Olympics and make students more aware of the cause and why it’s a great idea to take part in the Great Strides Walk,” said Wilson.

Great Strides is an important event on the club’s calendar.

“We choose to help with this event every year because CF is

a rare disease that often does not get a lot of coverage and needs as much funding as possible to continue research in order to find a cure for CF.”

As the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation gathers more funding for research, they get more opportunities to make a difference in patients’ lives.

“Raising the money helps find new medicine because the CF Foundation funds the research because it is an orphan disease,” said Frisbee. She noted that this year they came out with a new drug called Trikafta which they hope will help people even more.

Other groups which participate each year include the Burroughs Band, which will perform at the Dec. 7 walk, and CSF, which encourages its members to participate. A major source of funds raised by Burroughs students is the coin collection. Science Teacher Melanie Branson’s classes are frequently the top contributors in this regard, although several classes are already making a strong showing.

Whether raising funds or showing up at the walk, everyone’s contribution is valued, stressed Hope.

“The Great Strides Walk is important for many reasons: first, the Ridgecrest CF Fundraising Committee has raised nearly \$500,000 since 2007; second, the committee’s purpose is to educate our community about this life-threatening disease; third, over the past eight years, BHS students and teachers have raised a total of \$14,502; and finally, the money raised for the Great Strides Walk is used for research to find a cure for cystic fibrosis,” said Hope.

“The walk is important because it allows me to be a part of our community’s effort to raise money and awareness to find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis, and that’s important to me,” he added.

The opportunity for learning the importance of giving back to others is a great learning experience for students and community members.

“I like that it helps my students understand the importance of community service and helping others,” said Wilson.

The 13th Annual Great Strides Walk will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Cerro Coso Community College track. There will be yummy snacks available and all donations are going towards finding a cure for Cystic Fibrosis.

Students are also encouraged to attend the Mock Olympics on Dec. 12.

Should Black Friday still be a national spree event?

BY ASHLYNNE HOLLY

Black Friday is as exciting as any other holiday in the United States. Great deals in almost any store are what Americans crave when it becomes November.

While Black Friday may seem to overshadow Thanksgiving, it actually brings out the spirit of thankfulness. People visit the stores to buy for their loved ones a gift that they normally could not afford.

The deals are worth the crowds. The news only highlights the “scary” part of Black Friday while missing the important part of how it helps people find better deals. It offers more than what it seems to be on television. It’s an experience only available by shopping.

The event is usually held the day after Thanksgiving, but recently it has been slowly pushed a few days earlier to allow shoppers to grab their best deals before the major holidays hit. Once shoppers have bought their gifts for their family, they can relax the next days and weeks stress-free. Thanksgiving is focused on food and family, but Christmas is focused on giving. Shopping does not take away from the spirit of being “thankful” but enhances the holiday after buying for family and friends. Black Friday allows shoppers to feel thankful after they’ve given so much.

While many celebrate Thanksgiving, there is a large number of people who do not and Black Friday helps them prepare for Christmas while still allowing time for the other families to enjoy their turkey dinner. Lengthening Black Friday a few days helps shoppers have more time to find the perfect gift, especially when the prices are low.

The companies lower the prices for the consumers’ benefit. They know that shoppers cannot buy one thing with all the deals, so the companies make sure to have the prices cheaper in order for people to buy more for less. Some of the prices even cause shops to lose money. Electronics such as televisions, laptops, tablets, digital cameras, and video games usually have the best deals during Black Friday. The newest models may not have the best savings, but slightly older



models suddenly go on drastic sales. This way, people can buy what they need themselves and what they are giving as gifts, both for affordable prices.

Christmas shopping is focused after Halloween and Black Friday opens up an opportunity for people to buy for their loved ones without spending all their money. Afterwards, items go back to their previous price and people continue to celebrate their Thanksgiving.

Black Friday is useful in the long run; families get great deals on the usually expensive items for themselves or others and companies make a profit.

Despite the overly objected criticism from people, Black Friday helps. No one plans to spend hours in a store, even for great deals, so it allows for shopping without taking away from Thanksgiving. And with the advancement of technology, people can skip the line and order online.

Shoppers, when it becomes that time of the season, grab those bags and start shopping. Start off the holidays with traditional shopping, rather than online. Family and friends can easily spend Thanksgiving enjoying shopping with the help of a feast. The deals only last for a short amount of time!

Pro Con

BY SEAN KLEINMAN-SISHC

The image of Black Friday is ubiquitous throughout the minds of the American public. The holiday conjures thoughts of long lines, rowdy shoppers, and is an open admission to the power that consumerism holds over American culture. This iconic holiday of greed is celebrated less than twenty-four hours after the one holiday that focuses solely on thankfulness.

In the minds of its critics, Black Friday has degraded Thanksgiving into nothing more than a cleansing ritual before immediately perpetrating the very actions which were, just a few hours prior, condemned.

This view of the Black Friday season may have some merit, but it is highly centralized on an adherence to an almost archaic tradition surrounding both Thanksgiving and Black Friday. With the rise of online retail, images of Black Friday riots no longer plaster the news cycle, and to many, Thanksgiving is not just about being thankful. It is really about family and sharing a meal with life’s important people.

Some even view Black Friday as a logical extension of Thanksgiv-

ing itself, as the rabid consumerism is cloaked in the defense of buying gifts for the shopper’s loved ones.

Even if all of this is true, Black Friday is still a detrimental holiday to the culture and well being of the nation, and it is time that America’s newest holiday is finally trampled.

Black Friday did not come about naturally. It came about in the early twentieth century as an attempt to lengthen the Christmas shopping season. Major department store owners wanted the urgency and uptick in spending associated with December to be extended as far into the year as socially acceptable. For this reason, they began the Black Friday tradition by offering sales as close to Thanksgiving as possible, which signified to the consumer that Christmas would be arriving soon, and that it is best that they begin preparing.

The main issue with Black Friday is that it is, in essence, a psychological trick played on consumers to enrich the wealthiest businesses and corporations.

By their very nature, no business wants to sell products at a loss; however, Black Friday often hinges on major items being sold at far below the threshold of a profitable sale. But this loss of profit is not a charity.

The theory behind the markdown is that no one will buy just one item. While the net profit on the single item may be negative, the auxiliary items that are bought during the same sales period will surely push the net profit of sales into the black. When combined with the limited supply of these los-

ing items, so called “door-busters,” the store is never taking a loss, as only a fraction of the customers can actually obtain the items that are dramatically marked down.

The other major tactic of Black Friday is to simply lie. Sales are measured as a ratio compared to their former price. If the prices are simply always listed as being higher than they should be, a markdown to a reasonable profit margin is indistinguishable from a good deal on the part of the consumer.

Proponents of the sales season may see both of these tactics as benign. Either way, the customer gets more than they would have on any other day. The issue, however, is not one that manifests in the short term.

In the latter strategy, Black Friday and other sales, in essence, raise prices for the rest of the year to recoup on lost profit. This raises prices for everyone across the board and gives people the choice of paying unfairly, or to only buy when things are on sale, which is when it is most strategically important to the businesses, not the consumers.

The prior tactic, a tactic which includes selling products at a loss, is the more nefarious of the two methods, and highlights the terrible economic situation that the world finds itself in.

The issue with selling anything at a loss is the necessity to have the capital to sustain the strategy. Smaller businesses could not employ this tactic without the possibility of going bankrupt, at least not on any scale that matters. But the largest companies, with the worst offender being the beloved Amazon, have the exorbitant wealth to sustain continuous losses for years, undercutting competition and establishing monopolies.

Black Friday is simply a microcosm of the methods being employed every day by the commercial giants. Anti-competitive practices are often in the best interest of the consumer in the short term, like during Black Friday.

But once the dust has settled, and the lines have cleared, another company will be unable to support its own spending, and the companies that can will absorb it. And once there are no more players to compete with, Black Friday will end just as it began: for the strategic purposes of corporate America.

The new trend: Cyber Monday

BY SIMRIN KHARA

Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is one of the most important retail days of the year celebrated in America. Shoppers form lines early, despite the weather conditions, and even go to the extent of aggressive behavior against other shoppers in hopes of scoring huge discounts.

Sound like a nightmare? Then Cyber Monday is a solution.

Shoppers still get a huge discount and prepare their shopping list, but instead of battling others for better prices, shoppers fire up their digital devices and can score the exact same price online.

On Black Friday, time plays a crucial role. Shoppers have to drive there, fight crowds, wait in an endless line, and then finally drive back home. For the amount of time shoppers spend, is the savings even reasonable? Many people during Black Friday might even be giving up on a day for shopping, rather than enjoying other events and gatherings with family and friends.

The ultimate question is: Why is Cyber Monday a great alternative? Cyber Monday provides an easy and sufficient shopping route and gives enough time to enjoy shopping. Cyber Monday also doesn’t have large crowds, lines, or driving. Many large companies also often sell the same inventory

online. Since it is online, many reviews can be written and can inform the customer of the product.

With many people recognizing the advantages Cyber Monday offers over Black Friday, Cyber Monday has surpassed Black Friday as a more useful way to get deals for all age groups.

A study about how much people rely on Cyber Monday rather than Black Friday has shown that 53% of people rely on Cyber Monday for discounts, while only 44% rely on Black Friday for promotions and sales. Within these percentages, Generation Z is to be found the

most reliant on online shopping.

A study conducted by Deloitte found people are expected to spend 59% of their 2019 holiday budgets online, versus 36% in the actual store. Cyber Monday offers better advantages than Black Friday and has surpassed Black Friday in the younger generations. Not only does this cyber event provide sales, but even better, it provides them from your home! It allows for a sufficient way to get deals from within your house and a little help with technology.

This year, try Cyber Monday for an easier time shopping.



Want a real gift? Find time for what really matters this season

BY JC COPPERSMITH

November is a month full of fall colors and giving thanks, as the month’s main holiday is Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving and November were known as joyous times and helped bring people together. Nowadays, however, the Thanksgiving holiday seems to have had its spirit taken away.

Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, seems to consume Americans every year with crazy deals on all Christmas gifts. Cyber Monday, the Monday after Thanksgiving, has enormous sales on all things technology.

With Christmas gifts always being in high demand, Thanksgiving seems to be lost amid a push for sales.

The day after Halloween, every store’s Halloween sections are now filled to the brim with everything Christmas-themed and ready for the holidays. It seems like giving

thanks during Thanksgiving is less important than the wallet of consumers.

According to Business Insider, Target, Kohl’s, and other businesses are opening on Thanksgiving Day for an early Black Friday start and continuing into the actual Black Friday “celebration.” Add in the fact that Amazon is having a Black Friday Week, and Black Friday is turning Thanksgiving into Black Thursday.

The importance of Thanksgiving and being thankful is not only overshadowed by countless sales, but the annual ritual of overeating and while watching football is under attack too.

Great deals are great; but shouldn’t great times matter too? Reflecting upon the year and taking the time to ignore all the advertisements to just think and be grateful will be beneficial.

Originally, Christmas was cel-

ebrated to be the birthday of Jesus and was a large religious celebration.

As time encroached into the modern-day, Christmas transformed into a gift-giving frenzy, as advertisers twisted the joy of the holidays into the nightmare of shopping, manipulating consumers into spending hundreds to thousands of dollars on presents, decorations, and food.

Nowadays, big sales and advertisements contributed to the specialness of November and Thanksgiving being taken away.

Rather than spend your time standing in line for a supposed sale, take the time to appreciate life as it is with close friends and family this Thanksgiving over a great feast. Spending time with friends and family is the main purpose of Thanksgiving.

The Yuletide spirit should only come after the turkey or tofurkey is eaten. Make Santa take his turn.

BY SEAN KLEINMAN-SISHC

The social media landscape has essentially democratized the media we consume. Prior to social media, public outrage had fewer avenues in which it could be expressed, and those who deserved criticism were far less available to scrutiny by the common man. But in our modern world, any individual can bring complaints, legitimate or otherwise, against any public figure they wish, and the public at large can assess the situation themselves.

This sometimes manifests in internet coalitions forming to condemn certain figures, a practice that has been branded as “cancel culture.” Cancel culture is defined broadly as collective action by the public being used to punish an entertainer or personality for past indiscretions.

The term stems from television programming being “canceled” as a result of the action of the mob. There exist other uses of the term, but this appears to be the definition that is used when the stories reach the news.

Cancel culture has become a staple of political satire, contemporary comedy, and public discussion. Many entertainers have publicly expressed their concerns that the world is becoming too politically correct, and that soon, no one will be able to say anything out of fear of retaliation and retribution. They often highlight how sensitive the public has become, and that everything is being censored. They do not mention that they express these ideas to adoring audiences, watching via the services of massive media conglomerates who have total legal authority to silence the critics should it be in the best interest of the company.

This is because cancel culture does not exist. It is a straw man. Its purpose is to act as a defense against criticism, to allow any

public scrutiny to be brushed off as triggered people being too sensitive to take a joke. But this simply is not the case. The content these public figures are being questioned on is, frankly, often questionable. And it is completely within the rights of the general public to levy their concerns against those that create the media we all consume. And it is not as though these mobs hold exorbitant, unchecked power.

Really, they hold the power they always have, the power to boycott certain artists for their speech. All that adding the internet has done is create a place for people to voice these concerns ahead of time. Often, critics of this method of disapproval cite that the source of public outrage events can be several years old, and it is unfair to judge a person for what they did and said many years ago. Not only is it unfair to judge them, but it is egregious to remove their livelihood because of a tweet. This is completely reasonable, and all but a few extremists would agree.

What these people are failing to consider, however, is that there have been only a few instances of a “cancelled” celebrity actually being forced out of show business. Kevin Hart, famously fired from the Oscars for refusing to apologize, received a trophy at the PCAs for best comedy actor. Mel Gibson won an Oscar after being “canceled.” Mel Gibson has returned in force after his career was seemingly canceled for being incredibly racist, anti-semitic, and misogynistic. James Charles had some serious allegations against his behavior, but his makeup palettes business is thriving more than ever. No matter how much people may act shocked and appalled, Twitter, the people, do not have a say in what Hollywood does. We do not have that power. There is no use in pretending we do.

Editors’ Note:

The 10/31/19 article on the Interact Club bake sale to raise funds for the school impacted by Hurricane Dorian neglected to mention that Leo Club provided baked goods to support the cause. Interact Club and the Blockbuster regret the omission.

Righting Wrongs Club continues to pursue change

BY SIMRIN KHARA

Fixing mistakes, big or small, on the Burroughs campus can result in many opportunities. The Righting Wrongs Club is a student-run club that brings students’ attention to bettering the atmosphere of Burroughs. The club meets in C-10 on Mondays during lunch.

The club’s goal is to change the culture of Burroughs and build a supportive structure that allows students to have great experiences every day. The club is open to all students at Burroughs and will begin working on projects that are meant to fix issues that have been brought up by students. Students who have an interest in having their voice be heard should come and be a part of this club that has weekly meetings on Mondays.

“Anyone who wants to make this campus a better place, whether that’s making sure tampons and pads are accessible or ensuring the campus has gender-neutral bathrooms, even working on adding

more greenery to the campus, we are the folks to talk to,” said Advisor Eileen Poole.

Another one of the club’s main initiatives is to give students the opportunity to have their voices heard, which is perhaps the greatest of the opportunities this club offers. Not only does Righting Wrongs Club promote student activism, but it also works to foster progress and positive energy throughout Burroughs. The club encourages others to join and add their ideas.

“I think that people should join because we are trying to make a difference on campus and make school more enjoyable for the students, so we need participation to know what needs to change,” says junior Celina Lavarreda.

Having more students share their interests, ideas, and thoughts can enable other students at Burroughs make a bigger difference occur throughout the campus.

Righting Wrongs Club empowers students to recognize issues at

Burroughs that could be improved or added in order to positively change the culture. Fostering good

intentions throughout the campus will easily improve the daily life of a Burro. The club offers an op-

portunity to reflect on problems around campus and change the overall culture in a beneficial way.



Junior Emma Amster, Junior Celina Lavarreda, Senior Renee Bradford, Junior Delena Montez, and Club Advisor Eileen Poole are working together to make adjustments to the Burroughs campus. *contributed photo*

That’s a clothes call!



Seniors Elajae Lee and Rachel Rosal sort through warm-clothing donations while other Friends of Rachel members assist.

photo by Ashlynn Holly

Honor Society plans service projects

BY KYLIE GRIFFITH

National Honor Society has refound its footing as it prepares to co-host the Great Strides Games.

Two years ago, this club was very active with fundraisers and community projects. Upperclassman who remember those times are working to bring back the spirit the club had during that time.

Senior Maheen Ahmad was elected president this year after voicing that she would like the club’s service projects to go beyond the normal activities that clubs do.

“I have a lot of service ideas for the club this year that could separate from other clubs on campus and really show the uniqueness of the organization,” said Ahmad.

Ahmad would like to specifically address things such as mental health and environmental issues. These topics are touchy to many clubs, but Ahmad believes NHS is the right group of students to tackle these subjects.

Ahmad said she also wants to involve more of the club’s members in the leadership of the club. This will strengthen individual members by enabling them to take initiative and contribute in their own unique

ways, thus strengthening the unity and proactiveness of the whole club.

“NHS’s mission is to uphold the values of scholarship, service, leadership, and character,” said Ahmad. She hopes to concentrate on building service and leadership among group members.

Senior Michael Dillon was elected this year’s social chair, which means that he leads the club in having fun, keeping members involved, and inviting others.

NHS has already grown a lot since elections and is hoping to grow even more.

“NHS is a fantastic club that focuses on serving the community,” said Dillon. “As social chairman I’m hoping to have a year that is not only very active in service, but is fun for everyone involved.”

NHS is currently co-planning the CF Mock Olympics and a January book drive within the next couple of months.

More planning still needs to be done, but members are excited to get involved and make a positive impact on the community.

Meetings are every Friday in J-3, English Teacher Susie Burgess’s room.



Seniors Rachel Rosal and freshman Lance St. Clair sit and make laurels in preparation for the Dec. 12 Great Strides Games mock Olympic competition. *photo by Maheen Ahmad*

Speech and Debate Club attends the last competition of the year

BY ALANA NAGY

The “speech” in the Speech and Debate Club is finally speaking up, as the club had their first competition last weekend, on Nov. 16.

In speech competitions, competitors perform individually rather than against someone else, as they would in a debate. This means that when the presenters are giving their speeches, they are being judged on their ability to eloquently speak alone.

“Instead of debating, it requires memorization, dramatic expression, and a little something special in the way you carry yourself,” Public Relations Rep senior Katie Hall said.

Contestants can talk about anything as long as they can fit the theme of the competition when competing in the original oratory category.

Speech competitions also allow the participants to compete in different events.

Junior Rebecca Mills and Lauren Rindt participated in the humorous interpretations category of the competition. Their task was to choose any published work,

memorize it, and then make it humorous through commentary, acting, and their voices. Humorous interpretation is the perfect event for actors and students interested in drama, because the category is essentially a one-man, 10-minute play.

This speech competition was junior Rebecca Mills’ first competition and she was excited about how it went overall.

“The speech competition was good,” she said. “We did two rounds and then the waits were pretty long in between, but it was super fun and we all gained a lot of experience from it.”

For some, the humorous interpretation event was not their cup of tea, so they chose impromptu speaking. In this event, students are given three topics and are asked to choose one topic immediately. They then have only two minutes to gather their thoughts before giving a five-minute speech with no notes, not even any taken during the two-minute window.

Junior Zara Dhar was the only competitor from Burroughs in this event.

“It was really scary, because you

have to give a well organized, long speech with almost no preparation. You completely rely on your wits, but it is a great way to build public speaking skills,” said Dhar.

Speech and debate competitions can be beneficial for students looking to develop the presence and quick wit they need for success in life. Whether competing in humorous interpretation or in impromptu speaking, students stand to gain a lot of fun and knowledge from the experience.

“Students only stand to gain by joining Speech and Debate because skills like on-the-spot thinking can’t be found in classrooms,” said Dhar. “You have to join clubs like Speech and Debate to make those skills.”

Because they left early, the team was not able to get their results, but they feel confident that it went fairly well.

Students interested in learning more about the club can come to Room I-6 on Mondays at lunch. All newcomers are encouraged to come and learn more about what the club has to offer and how they can prepare themselves for the professional world.

COLLEGE
CORNER

Nathan Ashbaugh
BHS 2019
University of California, San Diego

Major: Human Biology

What is the best thing about your university?

My favorite place at UCSD is Gliderport, which is actually a 5-minute walk off-campus from my dorm. It’s an oceanview cliff with stairs leading down to the beach, and it has a killer sunset if the weather is right.

This can be said about a lot of other colleges, but the best part of UCSD and why I chose to attend here is the opportunity. There is an unbelievable number of programs and organizations on campus that will help you with what you want to do professionally, whether it’s getting involved with large tech companies like Intel or doing volunteer work.

What has been the biggest surprise or adjustment?

The biggest thing I had to learn how to do is to actually take care of myself. My mom has been my crutch throughout high school, and without her there’s a newfound sense of freedom and a lot more responsibility. For example, it’s up to me to make sure that I don’t eat chicken tenders every day (as much as I want to) or that I go to sleep at a decent time. It’s making sure that my body doesn’t fall apart while I’m focusing on studying or doing other things.

Any advice for students still in high school?

I think a common trap Burroughs students fall into is tunnel-vision. Some people are so obsessed with getting out of Ridgecrest that they take time and the people around them for granted. Enjoy the moments that you have. Love each other. College is great and all, but I would give the world to be home with my friends and family.

Band helps with a heartwarming homecoming in Trona

BY MAHEEN AHMAD

With the season of giving in our midst, Burroughs Band members took time to travel to Trona High School earlier this month to be their pep band during football games and march in their annual parade.

Burroughs Music Boosters Vice President Katrina Pearl brought up the idea to BHS Music Director Mark Hatter after reading an L.A. Times article about the impact of the earthquakes on Trona’s school and football team.

Pearl, who works in Trona, asked if the marching band could play for the town, build up team spirit, and boost morale. She then contacted her cousin, Trona Joint Unified School District Board-member Priscilla Benadom, to see what they thought of the idea.

“They were excited for us to come and the community was overwhelmed with excitement to finally hear a band back in the stands,” said Pearl. “[Trona] took up a collection to pay for the bus for us to come back for homecoming. They also raised over \$1000 for our program.”

The Nov. 2 event began early for the Burros, who had performed the night before in Hesperia for the Burroughs football team’s last game of the season. Despite being tired, the Burroughs Band put on their uniforms and marched in the annual Trona Homecoming parade.

Afterwards there was quite a while before the football game started, so the Trona Senior Center fed everyone a pancake breakfast and the band members got the op-

portunity to visit the Guest House and Railroad museum.

Trona Boosters and BHS Music Boosters teamed up to make commemorative Burro-Tornado tee shirts for the event. They were given to the Trona football players and cheerleaders, the BHS band, and anyone in the community who was interested in purchasing one.

The band headed to “the pit” to watch the coronation before the football game. Throughout the game, the band played and got the crowd involved with cheering and clapping during certain songs.

The Trona Cheer Squad also made choreography and cheers to go along with some of the songs they heard the band play during an earlier visit.

Throughout these activities, the Band and Color Guard were led by Drum Major Jordan Walters, who was especially impacted by such a unique opportunity.

“Going to Trona’s homecoming was the most rewarding and important thing I’ve done as not only a band member or drum major, but as a person,” said Walters. “It made me value my music program and want to expand it more, and help the Community Strong initiative after the earthquakes.”

Like many band members, Walters was surprised to learn that the school and community had not had music in their parades in many years.

“We had so many people screaming their gratitude during the parade or crying,” said Walters. “It was truly amazing.”



Senior Drum Major Jordan Walters and fellow band members head out for Trona’s Homecoming festivities. *contributed photo*

Review: “Doctor Sleep” has shining moments

BY ALANA NAGY

I was slightly apprehensive about watching the “Doctor Sleep” movie: was this just a cop-out for the movie industry to gain money, like many sequels are? How could Mike Flanagan’s “Doctor Sleep” really compare to Stanley Kubrick’s cult classic “The Shining”? And most of all: Does “The Shining” even need a sequel?

Well, nothing can compare to “The Shining,” but “Doctor Sleep” did manage to keep me awake.

The story is set in modern time as Danny Terrano (Ewan McGregor) struggles with his past traumas, as he meets a girl, Abra (Kyliegh Curran), as they try to defeat people who want to eat their Shine in order to be immortal.

they went back to the Overlook, the hotel, and Flanagan directed it as the opening of “The Shining,” with music and all, but this time during the night and snow to fit the storyline of “Doctor Sleep.” It was very well directed and gave me old, classic-horror vibes that “The Shining” really portrayed back in the 1980s. The scene when all the old ghosts came back to the Overlook was also a great homage to the original.

However, some of the parallels from “The Shining” were also cheesy. Danny running around with an axe just as Jack did in “The Shining” at the end of the movie just seemed overdone and didn’t fit the overall movie that I feel “Doctor Sleep” was trying to be. It felt as



At the beginning, I really thought my skepticism was justified; the scenes were boring and dull. But throughout the second half of the movie, it was enthralling, entertaining, and made me jump here and there with its jump scenes. The special effects were amazing, and I couldn’t peel my eyes away from the screen. The second half was very well directed and edited.

The acting was also so-so until the second half of the movie. It’s only after Abra is introduced that I feel the movie really begins with its acting and story.

On another good note are the parallels from “The Shining.” I wouldn’t say you would have to see “The Shining” to necessarily understand “Doctor Sleep,” but some of the parallels won’t make sense if you haven’t watched the classic horror movie. One scene in “Doctor Sleep” really caught my eye: when

though they were trying to recreate “The Shining” in that moment, rather than letting the sequel make its own memorable moment.

I wouldn’t classify “Doctor Sleep” as a horror movie. It goes into the character development of Danny, who resents his Shine -- that is, his power -- until he meets Abra and understands that the Shine isn’t a curse, but something powerful and special. Yes, the film had its jumpscare and scenes that were scary, but if you want to watch a classic scary horror movie, this isn’t it. It’s more of a thriller, drama-esque film.

Overall, “Doctor Sleep” went above my expectations, making it a better modern horror-movie than I thought it would be.

If you want to enjoy a movie, then I would definitely recommend “Doctor Sleep” and put it on your watch list this Thanksgiving break.

Art Club aims to encourage artistic ability



Sophomores Isabel Kidner and Hannah Muschinske enjoy pursuing their artistic talents during Art Club. The club meets every Tuesday at lunch and welcomes all students who are looking for a fun way to express themselves. This year Art Club aims to gather students to explore the art world and discover how art can benefit Burroughs. *photo by Annika Houck*

Kanye’s “Jesus is King” cannot practice what he preaches

BY SUNJUM DHILLON

In Kanye West’s new album “Jesus is King” released on Oct. 25, it is obvious that Christianity is the focus of his Gospel-style album. Apparently recorded after West committed to Christianity, the Album was far less chaotic compared to his previous release “ye” in 2018.

With a clear goal in mind to convert people to Christianity, in this album Kanye uses choirs and pianos combined with rising and falling rhythms to give this release a gospel feel compared to his other albums which mash together many different types of music to create one.

As for the contents of his album, Kanye looks back on his career so far and his past “sins,” while obviously involving religion and his goal to convert people to

Christianity.

In my opinion, West’s album has better focus and a solid direction but lacks a major component that will help accomplish Kanye’s goal: the

being placed on his desk while he was asleep, or his talking about IRS conspiracies.

Sporadic tweets and social media interactions, coupled with past music such as “ye” and his single “I love it” present Kanye’s image as the exact opposite of a faithful Christian. Because of this, his album comes off as something not meant to be taken seriously as a product of his past eccentricities.

After a proper amount of time, West may be able to change his image but it still seems to be too early for him to make such drastic changes, as the personality people saw him with still lingers.

All in all, Kanye West’s new album uses a gospel style to display his faith in Christianity, but his past image is still too fresh in people’s eyes, lowering the effectiveness of his work.



image to sell his album’s message.

West in the past years has not been taken very seriously, such as his complaining over a water bottle

What fictional place do you wish actually existed?



Jessie Bell
Freshman
“Camp Halfblood all the way.”



Isabella Zmijewski
Sophomore
“In a way, I wish a school from My Hero Academia was real because it looks so cool.”



James McCormick
Junior
“Skyrim or Narnia.”



Christian Kelly
Senior
“Olympus.”



Jessica Wilson
Anatomy and Forensics Teacher
“Avalon.”

Senior Jaydon Loundagin builds up his 3-D printing business

BY NATALIE GILBERT

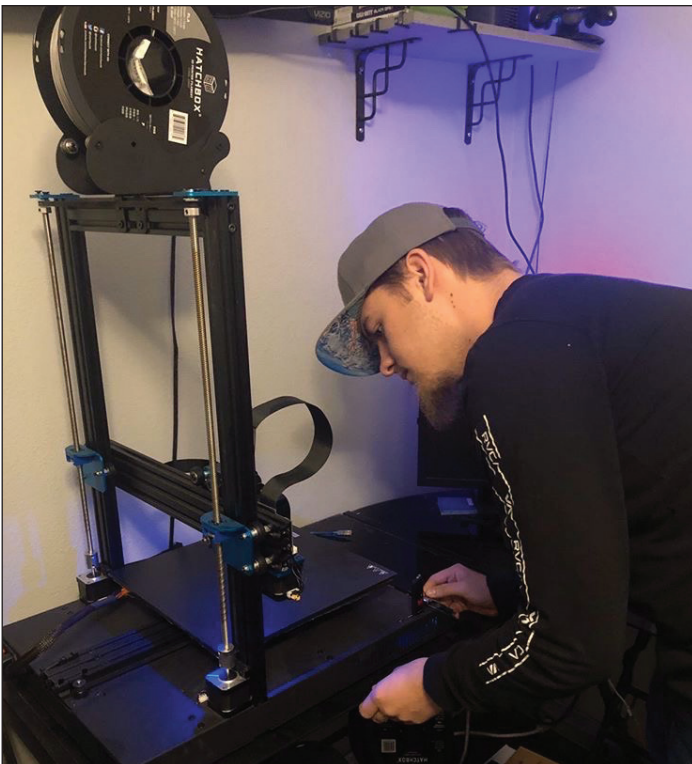
Who would not want to turn their hobby into a money-making enterprise? Senior Jaydon Loundagin is one of those lucky entrepreneurs. He became interested in three-dimensional printing during his sophomore year. Three-dimensional printing allows for designs on a computer to be created and then transferred to the printer where the item is created using filament. Loundagin has been working with three-dimensional printers for several years now. Learning how to create designs on the computer and then transfer them over to the printer takes time, practice, and patience. "Most of my designs I create myself, but sometimes I will also find other people's models online and use those for more complex things

I want to print," said Loundagin. Depending on the size of an object it can take several hours or several minutes to print; the filament is laid down in fine layers and as time passes more layers are created. "The first thing I ever printed was a giant version of a keychain I designed," said Loundagin, "the giant version took about two hours, but at the normal size it only takes about fifteen minutes." After several years he figured that it would be a good investment to get his own printer because of the many different and interesting things it can be used for. With these printers being expensive Loundagin decided to start a small business printing small items. Also, these printers can be used for many different things and there are many cool uses for it. "I do still have a 3D printing

business you can find on Instagram @loundyprints," said Loundagin, "I enjoy it because it helps me save money on filament but still provides people with cool things they want like keychains, toys, and basically anything else they want." Creating these keychains and other items allows people to personalize things. Initially, Loundagin was fascinated by three-dimensional printing because of the way he was able to create something out of nothing. "My favorite part about 3D printing is being able to go from a model on my computer and within hours holding the print in my hands," said Loundagin. The process of creating something from nothing is amazing, especially when it is designed on the computer and then transferred to his physical form via the printer. When Loundagin created his

small business he thought that it would be a good way to continue to print things and come up with new designs without having to pay for the filament.

Not many students at Burroughs create their own business and it is through the creation of that business that Loundagin can pursue something he enjoys.



Senior Jaydon Loundagin makes sure that his 3-D printer is working correctly as it prints a new design
contributed photo

Freshman Kai Quinata plays many musical instruments



Freshman Kai Quinata showing off the saxophone he plays for the Burroughs' Marching Band.

photo by Mahnoor Ahmad

BY MAHNOOR AHMAD

Learning to play an instrument takes a lot of effort and time. A beginner has to learn how to play the music, learn about their specific instrument, and eventually play difficult songs. Freshman Kai Quinata took up the challenge to learn how to play four of them: the saxophone, guitar, bass guitar, and keyboard. Quinata joined the Murray Middle School band in 6th grade

and there he found that music and playing instruments was something that he was interested in. "I learned to play the saxophone for the Murray band and started to learn to play the guitar at the same time," said Quinata, "I then played bass guitar for the Murray band and got a keyboard." He played in the Murray band for all three years of middle school. Most musicians find the task of practicing the instrument the

most tedious and frustrating part, but Quinata has a unique approach once he gets the hang of the new instrument. "After learning to read music and playing, the most challenging part about an instrument is probably being able to find pieces to play," Quinata said. Out of the four instruments Quinata plays, his favorite is the bass guitar. "I just really like the lower end on any instrument and it's the one I always wanted to learn," he said. Last year, Quinata and some of his friends performed an entertaining piece called "Another One Bites the Dust" for the school talent show. "I played the bass guitar, it was something we wanted to do for fun," Quinata said. He finds it exciting when he learns how to play something difficult. "My favorite part about being a musician is when I'm able to play pieces I find difficult. When I play something correctly, I get to enjoy the music," he said. Choosing difficult songs to play encourages him to practice more until he gets better. Practicing allows him to improve upon his skill and work more towards his end goal of playing more advanced songs. Quinata continues his love of music through playing saxophone in the BHS Marching Band, something that freshmen have to audition to get into. "Marching band is really fun and I think everyone in the band is really nice, it's a fun environment. Other than it being my first time marching, I don't think it's really different than middle school band," he said. Although Quinata is busy with homework and other things, he tries to practice at least an hour a day to become a better musician.

Sophomore Wade Cushing's project supports animals in need



Sophomore Wade Cushing shows the amount of donations recieved for his Eagle Scout project.

contributed photo

BY SKY PARK

Christmas came early for the Ridgecrest Animal Shelter this year, thanks to one Burroughs student's Eagle Scout project. Sophomore Wade Cushing worked to organize teams of donation collectors, resulting in quite an impressive haul to help the valley's four-legged friends. The Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America and is widely recognized as a symbol of responsibility and personal achievement. The most challenging of the rank's prerequisites is the service project, during which one must plan, develop, and give leadership to others. "On Oct. 26th, I had multiple groups of volunteers at four different locations: Tractor Supply, Walmart, Stater Bros., and North Albertsons for six hours. They stood at stations and handed out flyers with lists that had what the shelter needed on them, and any donations were collected once customers exited," Cushing said. Thanks to the charity of the citizens of Ridgecrest, Cushing's project was a great success — he was able to accumulate significant donations for the shelter. "We collected thousands of dollars worth of cleaning supplies, dog/cat food (we filled up five vans and trucks), and about \$800 from random donations. I couldn't have been happier with the volunteers and how the overall project went!" Cushing said.

keeping track of everyone's rank and progress, handling religious aspects of the group, or actually serving as a youth leader of the troop (planning activities)," Cushing said. According to Cushing, the Scouts have helped him prosper and integrate valuable principles into everyday life. "The positions helped me be more comfortable with being in leadership, and that's translated very well to the occasional project or assignment that requires that comes up at school," Cushing said. He also described the rigorous review process behind each of the seven ranks, which proved crucial in personal development. "That's helped me to always be true with myself and really get things done instead of taking unrewarding shortcuts that don't have great pay-offs," Cushing said. The Scouts' history of community service is reflected in Eagle Scout projects, fostering a sense of accomplishment in exercising core values. "A big portion of the Scouting program is service in the community. Whether it's planting flags on base for a federal holiday or helping out the animal shelter, it's an awesome thing to be given opportunities that provide service to a great community," Cushing said. Merit badges cover a wide variety of topics, stressing Citizenship, Safety, and Preparedness, as well as more niche subjects, such as physical fitness and communication. "The merit badges I have to earn are a good mix of physical activity and important life skills that will benefit me as an adult. But the swimming badge is all about learning different techniques and was just fun to do," Cushing said. In addition to his achievements in Cub Scouts, Cushing is also a part of several extracurricular activities, including the golf team, marching band, drumline, and CSF. "I'm lucky to have found a lot of places in school where I can be with friends and do things I enjoy," Cushing said.

Senior Cheyenne Fuller helps adopt dogs with Socks & Paws

BY ALEX GERBER

Many people often talk about how they want to change at least one person's life. Senior Cheyenne Fuller is changing the lives of many, both canine and human. Fuller's family runs the Socks & Paws organization, and she is a valued member of the volunteer force there. You can often find her walking dogs around town in search of foster homes, or at various local events introducing dogs to potential families. "My favorite part of the volunteering with Socks & Paws rescue is being able to see the dogs go into a new, better home than they were in," said Fuller. Socks & Paws is a non-profit organization that is geared towards rescuing big dogs and fostering them into their forever homes. Most dogs rescued by Socks and Paws are on the list to be put down in various kill shelters, mainly in California City. For example, the group recently rescued a mother who had 13 puppies, which they will be helping to place with loving families. "My family started working with Socks & Paws when a family friend reached out to us asking if we would be interested in helping a local rescue with a new set of puppies," said Fuller. Currently, Socks & Paws has almost 40 dogs, ranging in both age and breed. Fuller adopted her own dog Diva from Socks & Paws earlier this year. Fuller is not the only person volunteering at Socks & Paws. Fuller has recruited many of her fellow AVID students to help out with



Senior Cheyenne Fuller sits with a dog and tries to help him get adopted.
contributed photo

the animals at local events, such as junior Delaena Montes. Volunteers help at various events by feeding, walking dogs, introducing them to potential adopters and helping foster the dogs into their new homes. "I love playing with the dogs, and seeing them fostered or adopted by different families that will show them love," Montes said. The activity is important, says AVID Advisor Ernestina Palerm Wilson. "It reminds AVID Club members and students of the wide variety

of community service available in Ridgecrest. It allows our students to network with different projects around Ridgecrest and even help animals in need throughout our community," said Palerm Wilson. Volunteering at Socks & Paws is not limited to just AVID members. "Socks & Paws is always looking for people to help volunteer or foster our dogs until they find their forever homes." For more on Socks & Paws and the animals they have available, check out their Facebook page, at SocksandPawsAnimalRescue.

A vegetarian survival guide for a Thanksgiving feast

BY ZARA DHAR

Many people love Thanksgiving and the classic turkey, but many vegetarians are thrown into delectable disarray when trying to find the perfect vegetarian main dish. As the amount of people going vegetarian and vegan is increasing as the years go on, it raises the question: can Thanksgiving exist without turkey? Well, for several vegetarians on our campus, the traditional Thanksgiving staple of turkey can be replaced with many scrumptious courses.

Junior Emma Amster has been a vegetarian for several years now. Her go-to dishes on Thanksgiving are stuffing and mashed potatoes. But, when given the time to cook for herself, Amster loves to prepare her own meal.

“I just throw together what’s at my house, there aren’t specific

recipes, but one of my favorite things to cook are roasted veggies or a bean dip that I make for special occasions,” said Amster.

Vegetarians should remember to plan ahead and line-up the ingredients that they may need to create their Thanksgiving dinner.

Science teacher Kelly-Green Jacotin has been a vegetarian for almost a decade. She advises vegetarians to be on the lookout for sides at the dinner table.

“I have tried every vegetarian turkey loaf on the market currently and they are all disappointing. But the sides can be made to be wonderful!” said Jacotin.

Traditionally, the turkey is not the only non-vegetarian dish at the table, because gravy is usually

made out of chicken or beef stock. However, Jacotin has a great vegan recipe for gravy to pour all over



mashed potatoes.

“My vegan gravy is the preferred gravy on the table, even with the meat eaters at the table,” said Jacotin.

Make your vegetarian dish and share it with friends and family. Chances are that they will enjoy the meal with you and create a new

Thanksgiving tradition!

English teacher Peter Marvin has been a vegetarian since he was in college. He shares similar advice to Jacotin and recommends that vegetarians look to sides to make the most of their meal.

He also suggests that vegetarians come prepared to fend for themselves just in case.

“We had to bring our own dishes to most family gatherings if we wanted to eat more than mashed potatoes!” says Marvin.

Drama teacher Tristan Kratz looks forward to Thanksgiving every year, because she loves an opportunity to use her creative skills to cook a beautiful dinner. She notes that there are an infinite amount of vegetables to get creative with.

“One of the things I love about vegetarian food is that you have to think differently,” said Kratz.

Kratz believes that the holidays are the perfect time of year to try out new dishes and share them with friends and family. She wants all vegetarians to be proud of themselves.

“When I think about what vegetarians are doing, I see us providing an alternative that can be more sustainable for the world. There are options, so be proud of that,” said Kratz.

It is hard to find a specific vegetarian main dish that is traditionally found in the Thanksgiving table, but sides like macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, stuffing, roasted vegetables, and more can easily make up for turkey.

Several vegetarian teachers have given their favorite vegetarian recipes to try out on Thanksgiving. Make sure to check out their recipes and try out a few to share with your friends and family!

Vegan Friendly Thanksgiving Gravy

recipe courtesy of Kelly Green-Jacotin

Over the last ten years, I have served this to my family of meat-eaters, vegetarians, and vegans, making my recipe better every year. Everything on the table is made vegetarian or vegan except for the turkey and ham. Vegetarians have many choices at our table. For the last two years, even the meat-eaters said that this vegan gravy was the best one on the table. The brand names are important in order to have the best possible flavor.

4 cups water
1/2 cup cornstarch
3 Knorr Vegetable Bouillon cubes. The correct brand is important! Vegan.
1/4 cup Wishbone Italian Dressing, Robusto. The brand is important. Robusto gives the best flavor. Vegan.
Garlic Salt, to taste
Fresh cracked pepper

In a large measuring cup or mixing bowl, mix the cornstarch with 1 cup of cold water to form a slurry. Whisk until no lumps remain and set aside. Stir the cornstarch slurry again to bring the cornstarch back into suspension right before you use it.

In a large saucepan or pot, heat 3 cups water to a rolling boil. When the water is boiling, dissolve the bouillon cubes into the water, stirring until they dissolve completely. Add the Italian dressing.

Stirring constantly with a whisk, add a small amount about 2 tbsp at a time of the cornstarch slurry to the boiling liquid. Wait a few seconds for it to return to boiling, mixing constantly with a whisk. Repeat, adding the slurry little by little until the desired consistency is reached. Stop when the gravy is thick enough for your taste and discard the remaining cornstarch slurry. Turn off the heat under the gravy.

With a spoon, carefully taste the gravy. Season with cracked pepper and garlic salt to your taste, whisking thoroughly after each seasoning. Serve in a gravy boat or in a large measuring cup for easy pouring.

Fall Vegetables

recipe courtesy of Peter Martin

4 carrots, 1-2 sweet potatoes (white sweet potatoes, not YAMS!), 1 pound brussels sprouts, 1 butternut squash, 1 head of cauliflower, 1 head of broccoli, 1 red onion, garlic to taste, 1-2 sprigs of rosemary, a little bit of thyme, a little bit of sage (all fresh), olive oil, salt and pepper. You can add freshly grated parmesan if you aren't staying away from dairy.

Pre-heat oven to 425
Cut carrots and squash into 1/4 cubes, slice the sweet potatoes thin (about 1/8 inch or less), quarter the brussels sprouts, and cut the broccoli and cauliflower into manageable bites
In a large bowl, put about a half cup of olive oil (enough to coat the veggies without making them too oily) rosemary, thyme, sage, and garlic (about two cloves - either minced or pressed)
Mix in all the veggies, covering the veggies with the oil and spices (save bowl for later)
Place the veggies on two cookie sheets spreading them evenly and not too thick
Roast the veggies for about 30 minutes, then turn them with a spatula, then bake for another 20-25 minutes
Pull the veggies out, and placed them back into your mixing bowl stirring to coat the veggies
Add salt and pepper to taste
Add parmesan cheese once it is plated (this will add salt - so don't add as much salt to the veggies if you are adding cheese)

Find more vegetarian recipes at burroughs.ssusd.org under the Blockbuster tab!

Thanksgiving: A time for family amid a culture of consumption

BY SKY PARK

What does one think of when they hear “Thanksgiving”? The usual: turkeys, cranberries, Pilgrims — maybe gratitude or appreciation for the daring.

In 1608, Protestant separatists sailed to Holland seeking religious

freedom. But the Dutch were so welcoming, the Pilgrims, fearing assimilation, set sail after twelve years and arrived in America.

The Pilgrims arrived, planning to make good on their fishing contracts before realizing they did not know how to fish, losing half their population during their first winter.

In 1621, the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims broke bread in celebration of the tribe helping the colonists survive the winter.

Nowadays, 397 years after the first Thanksgiving, some people believe Thanksgiving should be abolished, citing the genocide of Native Americans by subsequent settlements. Such misinformed critiques of a necessary holiday stem from a need for intellectual one-upmanship and virtue signaling.

Historical records show no mention of the word “Thanksgiving” but rather refer to it as a celebration of first harvest. Moreover, the holiday’s associated history does not negate the tradition as a whole — using this same line of thinking, does Veteran’s Day support the regime change war in Afghanistan?

Instead of dedicating time to snide remarks, any truly altruistic motivations should be channeled through productive volunteering or even a simple donation.

Even then, are events from nearly three centuries in the past relevant to modern society? More relevant to Thanksgiving is the following day, Black Friday.

Since Abraham Lincoln instated Thanksgiving, it has been on the last Thursday of November. However, on October 31, 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a presidential proclamation changing the holiday to the next-to-last Thursday in November, to encourage spending during the Great Depression. The culture of excess originated not from the needs of the populace, but the wants of the producer at the expense of communal bonds.

Even the gastronomic excesses and subsequent food coma are reflective of consumerist overindulgence — it is ingrained in American culture or rather, is representative of a lack thereof.

Truly, watching sales-crazed consumers attempt to bash each other’s heads in for the last \$2-off Instant Pot is amusing. But we cannot ignore the bread and circuses of the modern era.

In spite of this, a day before humans trample each other for symbiosis with material possessions, there should remain a day focusing on family ties and values.

How to make the most of break

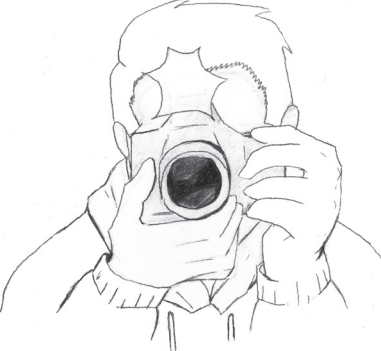
BY KYLIE GRIFFITH

With the busyness of the day-to-day lives of Burroughs students, it can be hard to find free time for hobbies, family, and other parts of life that we just don’t seem to have time for these days. This Thanksgiving Break, rather than spend a week at home sleeping and doing nothing, use this as an opportunity to your advantage.

Maybe during this Thanksgiving break you want to start a new hobby. Pick up a camera and do some photography, learn a new instrument, read a book, or go on a run. You can do that art project you’ve been waiting forever to try, or go on a hike. Try out something that you would not have time for during the school week.

This is also a great opportunity to spend quality time with family and carry on traditions. Helping your family prepare for Thanksgiving day, from grocery shopping to

cleaning to cooking, is a great way to spend time with your loved ones and show them that you care. And spending a day with your younger siblings or cousins could make their day. These people look up to you more than you realize,



and spending time with them to teach them a new skill or simply hanging out with them will make their Thanksgiving break one to remember.

Seniors can use this week to finish their college applications. UC and Cal State applications are due November 30, so this week is the perfectly timed for many Burroughs students who want to apply at these schools. For students who are applying at other places with later application deadlines, this week is still a great opportunity to do college research and start getting applications paperwork in order.

This also might be a great time to clean out your room. Your closet may need to be reorganized- get out your cold weather clothes and put the summer clothes away for the season.

Don’t waste your Thanksgiving break scrolling through your phone or wishing you made plans. Go out and do something! And if you really just need to relax, then don’t feel guilty about taking time off for yourself.

This Thanksgiving, beat bitterness and be grateful

BY JULIA TOMES

As Thanksgiving quickly approaches, many people are thinking about what they are most thankful for. Although the holiday season is supposed to be filled with joy and abundance, there are lots of people who are facing difficult times and trials. In the face of these hardships, students and teachers alike struggle with finding the silver lining in their cloudy days. So, how does one overcome bitterness and be thankful?

As November speeds by, and we swing toward Thanksgiving, some people dread hosting their judgmental, over the top family, or facing that one family member that drives them absolutely crazy. As they remember past slights, many people are struggling to overcome their bitterness toward people that they don’t get along with. One of the first steps toward having a happy and fulfilling holiday season is to forgive people

who have wronged you in the past. Forgiveness can be hard, but it can make your holidays much more calming and enjoyable.

One thing that always brings people down throughout the year are negative thoughts. Whether they are about your living situation, or grades, that can make your life miserable and depressing. Some people cope with their situations by finding the silver lining, or the good in what they are doing. Try thinking about just a few good things that you do each day, or that you can do the next day. Think about the future, and the good things that can help you keep your focus set on

your goals. School breaks such as thanksgiving, and winter break are



something that everyone can look forward to.

Don’t forget to celebrate the small victories in your life, especially when you’re stressed about grades or an important test coming up. Focus on the homework assignment you got a good grade on, or the fact that you studied for thirty minutes a night for a class that you are struggling with. Make sure to reward yourself, even for the moments that may seem insignificant, because they do matter. Take yourself out for ice cream, or allow yourself half an episode of your favorite TV show. Celebrating, and rewarding

yourself for the small things is a good way to make sure that you don’t get burned out halfway through the year and experience senioritis as a junior.

To live a happy and fulfilled life, everyone has to overcome fears. Bitterness can often be a stealthy disguise for the fear of failing, or of change. For example, you might think that you could never never try out for a sport because you have never played before, and other kids will have a clear advantage. The real reason is that deep down you are scared of failing, or being rejected. But, if you never try, you’ll fail one-hundred percent of the time. So, don’t be afraid to take that class, or audition for that play, or ask that person out, because most of the time you’ll be happy that you tried it. So, as winter comes, and we are faced with new, stressful challenges, make sure that you stay focused, overcome bitterness, and become thankful.



SCHOOL SHOUT-OUTS

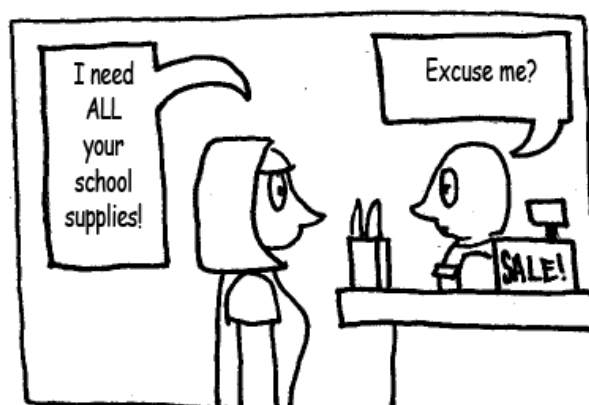
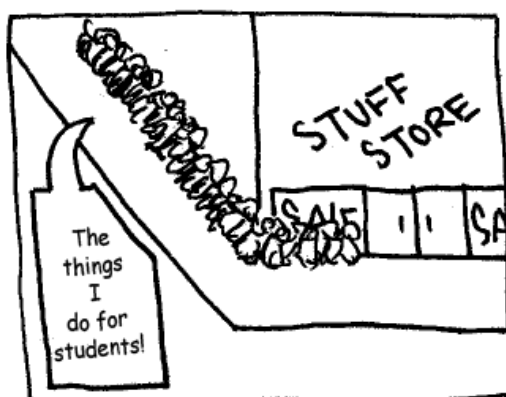
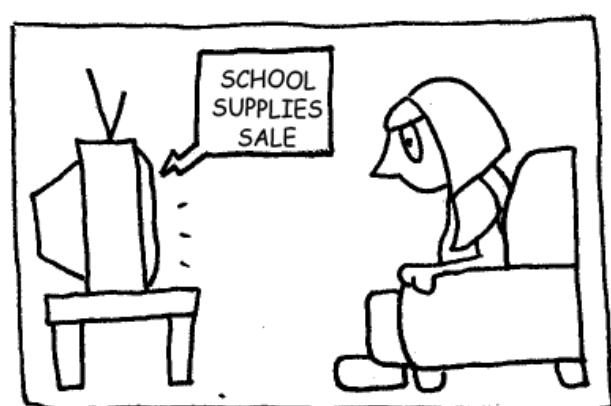
- 1) Use the clues below to fill in the blanks.
- 2) Use the gray-boxed letters to compose a message on the blanks below.
- 3) Answer the question on the line under the question.

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Mackenzie Lara (my best friend):
I appreciate this person because she tries her best to make sure that I am always okay and she is just such an amazing person.

be
thankful

CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST!



Congratulations to Burroughs sophomore Jackson Nutter, who won this issue's cartoon caption contest. Nutter supplied the words to Annika Houck's drawing. To compete in the December contest, listen to the bulletin or check out the blank drawing on the Blockbuster page under Student Life.

Blockbuster Staff Box

The ***Blockbuster*** and ***Blockbuster Bulletin*** are published by the Newswriting class of Burroughs High School. You may write the ***Blockbuster*** at 500 E. French Ave., Ridgecrest, CA. or email Blockbuster@ssusd.org.

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Cross Country begins their journey to CIF and beyond

BY VICTOR JENSEN

As the fall sports season comes to a close, most sports are winding down and athletes are preparing for winter sports. However, the Burroughs varsity cross country team is still going very strong into the CIF postseason and show no signs of slowing down.

On Nov. 6, the team went to Victor Valley College for League Finals, which was the last meet for the regular season. They demonstrated their spirit and determination very clearly throughout the meet.

Despite it being forty degrees hotter than anticipated, all teams placed second, except JV Girls placing third, but this still allowed both varsity teams to have a spot in CIF.

As for individuals, junior Bryce Hill still broke the Burroughs record at 15:38 for the three mile course and won League Runner of the Year. He and the rest of the team have set high goals for this year.

“At State, I want to finish top five, even possibly three this year,” said Hill. “Next year we hope to better coach’s best ever team (from 2003) by coming in second or winning State.”

Cross Country Head Coach Anthony Barnes believes winning or coming in second at State to be

a very attainable goal.

“This season our teams are doing extremely well. They are competing to be the best teams in Burroughs history. Individually, Hill and senior Madeline Acosta are breaking all the school records,” said Barnes.

While the Burros do have a sharp competitive edge, that is not only what makes a team a team. At League Finals, sophomore Wyatt Porsch had a muscle pull out part of his hip bone while running, but he still was able to have strong finish for the race.

“I finished just because the team kept me running,” said Porsch. “The team is a family.”

Regardless of how their goals turn out, it is pure and simple that a team is a family, and the Burroughs cross country team is an excellent example of what a team should aspire to be.

The team began their journey to their goal of CIF State Championships Nov. 16 at Prelims, where both teams qualified with the boys’ team fifth out of 18 teams, and girls’ in seventh out of 23 teams. It was not exactly easy though.

“During the race after the first mile, I got side cramps on both sides and dropped from fourth or third on the team to seventh. I got

back up to fifth but it was tough,” said junior Caden Geoppinger. “This can’t happen Saturday. We

all need to be at our best.”

The Burros will test that resolve this Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Old

Riverside Golfcourse, for CIF Finals. If the team qualifies at that meet, they go straight to State.



Junior Bryce Hill focuses on keeping his pace and easily keeps up with the the head group in the CIF Prelims. contributed photo

Burroughs student-athletes look ahead to successful seasons



Ashley Dumas
Girls Basketball Senior
“I am most excited to bond and grow with my teammates this year.”



Tesla Anderson
Girls Basketball Senior
“I am most excited to work hard with my team and win games.”



Grace Cannon and
Reghann Parker
Girls Soccer/Juniors
“We are both excited for out-of-town games and getting to spend time with our friends.”



Andre Sponseller
Boys Basketball/Senior
“The thing I am most excited for this season is to just make memories with my teammates and enjoy every second of my senior season having fun.”



Evan Hansen
Boys Basketball/Junior
“The thing I am most excited for this season is to play in front of the home crowd and make memories with my teammates.”



Logan Drake
Boys Wrestling/Sophomore
“I think I am most excited for this season is all the out of town trips with my friends.”



Branly Giron
Boys Soccer/Senior
“I want to become developed as a soccer player and have a better season in general where everyone works hard and has fun.”



Jason Irvin
Boys Soccer/Sophomore
“I am excited to be playing with a new team and all around just having fun.”



Isaac Rogers
Boys Wrestling/Junior
“I think I am most excited to see the competitions and how much the team has improved.”

Winter Sports Home Game Schedules

Girls Varsity Basketball
01/10/2020 at 6 p.m. against Sultana
01/15/2020 at 6 p.m. against Hesperia
01/22/2020 at 6 p.m. against Apple Valley
01/24/2020 at 6 p.m. against Serrano
02/05/2020 at 6 p.m. against Oak Hills

Boys Varsity Wrestling
12/19/2019 at 6 p.m. against Serrano
01/23/2020 at 6 p.m. against Oak Hills

Girls Varsity Soccer
01/10/2020 at 3 p.m. against Sultana
01/15/2020 at 3 p.m. against Hesperia
01/22/2020 at 3 p.m. against Apple Valley
01/24/2020 at 3 p.m. against Serrano
02/05/2020 at 3 p.m. against Oak Hills

Boys Varsity Basketball
12/18/2019 at 6 p.m. against Apple Valley
01/08/2020 at 6 p.m. against Serrano
01/17/2020 at 6 p.m. against Oak Hills
01/29/2020 at 6 p.m. against Sultana
01/31/2020 at 6 p.m. against Hesperia

Girls Varsity Wrestling
12/19/2019 at 5 p.m. against Serrano
01/23/2020 at 5 p.m. against Oak Hills

Boys Varsity Soccer
12/18/2019 at 3 p.m. against Apple Valley
01/08/2020 at 3 p.m. against Serrano
01/17/2020 at 3 p.m. against Oak Hills
01/29/2020 at 3 p.m. against Sultana
01/30/2020 at 3 p.m. against Hesperia