THE MAMMOTH TRIBUNE

"MADE BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS"







VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

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THE TRIBUNE STAFF



Front Row: McKayla Binette, Adriana Ordaz, Zeydi Ponce, Kaylie Davis
Middle Row: Kaisara Arambula, Lovina Seelhofer, Melody Cortez, Gabriela Ordaz, Lily Hawkinson, Jayla Moss, Yaretzi Gutierrez, Vivianna Ugarte, Gabriela Sagastume
Back Row: Lucas Land, Maddox McAvaney, Alejandro Pena , Kolton Klug

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Hey Mammoths!

Welcome back for the 2024-2025 school year! As the start of the school year begins, *The Mammoth Tribune* hopes to highlight the bittersweet nostalgia that comes with each back-to-school season. With a recap of the crime fighting vigilante Batman stealing our beloved Max the Mammoth, the Link Crew kick-off, the Senior Sunrise, and a variety of other enticing articles, we are proud to present to you the first issue of *The Mammoth Tribune*. The Journalism staff has worked hard to make this an amazing issue to start off the 2024-2025 school year, and we hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed making it. Our goal is to provide you with thorough school, entertainment, health, and world news throughout the year-and Issue 1 encapsulates this perfectly.

- Editor in Chief, Lily Hawkinson

"Made By Students For Students."

AROUND Campus

Link Crew Kick Off

By **Lily Hawkinson**

The WCA Link Crew kicked off the year with a "Refreshments with the Freshmen" lunch event on Monday, Aug. 26. Link Crew leaders ate lunch with each of their freshmen groups to recap the beginning of the school year, and to debrief the chaos of high school.





He is Vengeance... *The LEGO Batman Movie*

By **Alejandro "AJ" Peña**

Not even a full week into the school year, The Joker, played by **Ella Mahutga (2028)**, snuck her way into WCA to cause chaos. Her terrifying arrival was accompanied by the spontaneous disappearance of our school's beloved mascot, Max the Mammoth. Though we didn't know exactly what enticed The Joker to come to our school, she wanted to send a message: Watch *The LEGO Batman Movie* at WCA's back-to-school movie night.

Shortly after Max had been kidnapped, Batman, played by **Nathan Manriquez Palos (2026)**, arrived at the scene to investigate the crime. Unfortunately, he came back empty-handed, but he used his wit and surroundings to formulate a clever plan instead. He worked with our ASB team and decided to raise the morale of the students by declaring a spirit day in his honor.



MOVIE NIGHT

The “I am Batman” dress-up day allowed all high school students to wear either black and yellow outfits or some sort of Batman-affiliated merch. Everyone’s participation in the spirit day showed support for the caped crusader as he planned how to save our dear Max from The Joker’s wrath.









It wasn’t long before night had come around, and *The LEGO Batman Movie* had begun showing in the piazza. Students were able to watch the movie while snacking on concessions such as nachos, candies, sodas, and ice cream, all for $1 each. It was a relaxing time to hang out with friends and have fun watching a very enjoyable movie. Though we were never able to find Max, Batman’s final monologue after the movie ended showed that this story may not be over yet. Hopefully, we can get our precious mascot back soon.





Senior Sunrise

By **Jayla Moss**

As the class of 2025 enters their last year of high school, the long-awaited senior activities kicked off with Senior Sunrise. Students rolled out of bed at four in the morning to make it to school at 5:45 a.m. It was dark when they first arrived, setting the scene as mystical and taboo with the unfamiliar feeling of being at school so early. **Mrs. Trujillo** and **Mr. Wolny** greeted students in the piazza and checked them in so they could receive their food tickets. Seniors had a ball while awaiting the sunrise making bracelets and taking photos. Morning Glory Coffee, a food truck, served waffles and numerous coffees, teas, and juices. As the event came to a close, seniors and staff offered their opinions on the day and how it feels to be a senior.

Q: How does it feel being a senior?

"Terrible, I don't want to graduate."-**Patrick Glauner**
"It's kind of weird to be here for seven years and now it's my final year so bittersweet."-**Lily Hawkinson**
"It feels the same as the other three years. We're gonna get in get out and do a good job and all that, but this time it's a little different cause we're not gonna do it again."-**Christian Quintana**
"It's pretty cool"-**Isaac Shumaker**
"Aye, you know how I do it, man."-**Alan Trejo**
"It's crazy, it felt so [far] in the moment, and looking back it feels like no time has passed."-**Katie Ray**
"Scary, exciting, scary and exciting.**"-Reem Hassan, Nayeli Laly, and Sereen Hassan**









Q: What was your favorite part of today?

"All the cannons went off at the same time and that rarely ever has happened."-**Mrs. Trujillo**
"Most definitely the pictures and the drink was pretty good too."-**Ian Dodge**
"Right here right now this is my favorite moment"-**Dylan Carlen**
"Probably driving here."-**Matthew Gadsby**
"Probably waking up at 5:45 and being late."-**Aiden Blakeslee**
"Honestly, the matcha from the coffee truck."-**Lily Hawkinson**
"All of the photos because me and all the miffonies, my friends, took so many. I also think the Minecraft backdrop ate and I'm happy that the sunrise was a sunrise this year cause I know that some years it's overcast. So, I think the sunrise itself was the best part." -**Abbey McClymont**
"Probably just hanging out, the sunrise was nice it was nice to look at."-**Isaac Shumaker**
"The coffee. The coffee was so good I got a caramel latte and it was delicious."-**Katie Ray**
"The waffles and the pictures. It was funny to see everyone flinch when the poppers went off."-**Vivi Ugarte**

Q: How does it feel now that your favorite class is leaving this year?

"I can't believe all the sophomores are leaving this year. That makes me incredibly sad. No, the purple class is always the best, that's what we decided year after year. Every class has its own dynamic and this group is really special. They're all in and it's just one of those things that's pretty incredible to see."- **Mr. Bailey**













A Sneak Peek into the MPR

By **Lovina Seelhofer**

The long-awaited Multi-Purpose room, " The West Expansion," is finally making enormous visual progress. COVID-19 was a major factor in the setback of construction, but there were other setbacks too. For example, one setback was trying to fix minor fire regulations in the new office building, another was not having enough construction workers and resources. All of this collectively held back expansion on the west side of campus. Mr. Bailey made it his mission to finally begin construction because it was a necessity to have a communal space for the school. As Mr. Bailey states, "The museum is great to work with" but WCA needed a space we could go in on the extremely hot summer days.



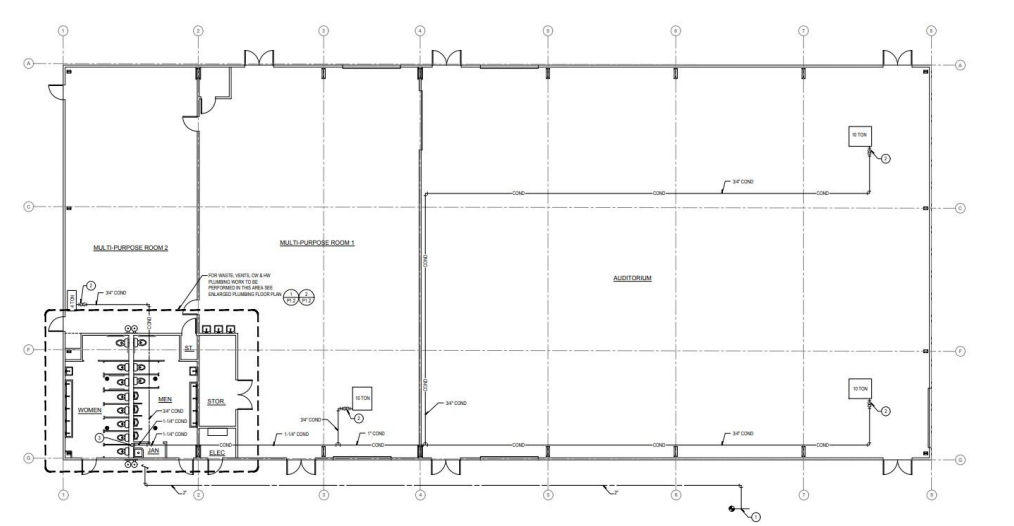


The design process of the building brought about the question: "What all can we do?" Brand new bathrooms that we can paint and make our own, a 1,500 square foot room, filled from top to bottom with 3D printers, soldering stations, and computer labs, and a 4,000 square foot "dirty maker space" for woodshop, art teachers, and everybody to enjoy. The current maker space in room 35 will be stripped out and made available for another teacher's room or for something else. The whopping 9,000 square feet remaining is where all the action will take place, from dances to pep rallies, theater performances, awards, and more. All together the new MPR will be approximately 15,000 square feet. This is just a taste of all the things we could accomplish having the new building hopefully completed in "late November or early December" according to Mr. Bailey.



After speaking to David Dean, also known as Mr. Dean, the head of the Eastland Construction team, we were able to zoom in on some of the details they're planning to put into the building. Eastland Construction decided to build it as a steel structure in order for it to go up as quickly as possible. As Mr. Bailey noted, they have been able to make amazing progress. “What would normally be a year to a year-and-a-half construction process will be down to a six-month process.” This shows just how hard the Eastland Construction team is working to build us our new MPR.

Even though the setback of COVID-19 and the problems with the new office building, this MPR will not only be useful but a perfect representation of our school community's ability to persevere and overcome obstacles, just as we did during online learning.





What to Do About Parking Spot Theft

By **Vivianna Ugarte**

Unlike many other high schools where seniors are allowed to paint their parking spots, Western Center Academy has never been allowed to participate in this tradition due to the school sharing our campus with the museum. However, it seems that the tradition might be making its way to our school.

After a recent conversation with our Executive Director, Mr. Bailey revealed that this has been something he has been pushing towards for quite some time, having had multiple meetings with the museum in order to get this to happen. Because he was able to bring this tradition to his old school, West Valley, he has very high hopes that he will someday be able to bring this tradition to our school as well, but there would definitely need to be some trial and error to figure out the best situation for both parties. Mr. Bailey says we would just need to "change it, adjust it" and see what works. That does not go without saying, though, that there are definitely some hiccups that need to be figured out.



Image Credit: floridanicole407 - Pinterest



During our discussion he managed to list off a number of reasons why it would be difficult to start this tradition such as, "It's beautiful but then you're driving out of it every single day making tire marks, and making sure that it is a public parking space that is open to the general public on non school days might restrict visitors of the museum from parking there on the weekends." This does not mean, however, that there is no chance of it happening. With lots of hopes Mr Bailey feels that "a three foot by three foot square so that it is a defined space that you can paint in" could make the possibility seem very real and also help those who feel they are not creative enough to be able to paint a huge parking space. It is all just about finding a middle ground that would interest both parties and not just benefit one.

The first step is finding out how many students would be interested in something like this and how many students would actually appreciate it. Mr. Bailey would need reassurance that the students of the school had honest integrity and would also respect the rules of the museum. Failing to do so would ruin everything for everybody else.

A Nationwide Crackdown on Phones in Schools

By **Kolton Klug**

Many of us don't know how frequently we use our phones, and how prevalent they are in our lives. According to Common Sense Media, social media is a huge contributor to this, with 72.5% of Americans using social media, and that number jumps to 93% for people under the age of 18. Needless to say, we use our phones a lot--especially teens--more than we are aware of. Take this issue and throw it into a school setting. During school hours students use their phones for a median of 43 minutes, which generally means that close to a tenth of a student's time at school is spent on their phones.

It's easy to see that this can be, and has been, a problem. Students are not concentrating during their classes and are using phones to cheat on tests. Students are also more socially distant due to both the COVID-19 quarantine and the rise of social media, which has caused depression levels to spike in teens. Because of this, multiple schools before the 24-25 school year had already fully banned phones in school, stating that they had reported higher test scores, higher overall grades, and less bullying because of it. So, Governor Gavin Newsom, following in the footsteps of Governor Mike DeWine of Ohio, urged school districts to limit phone use in and out of the classroom, citing that "when children and teens are in school, they should be focused on their studies — not their screens.



Image Credit: WAMU



This policy has trickled down to us at WCA, with the little boxes we put our phones in now. In every class, it is mandated for students to put their phones in the box, so they can't access them until the end of the period. At the moment, we cannot tell immediately if this has positive effects or not because it is too early into the school year to have actual data on it. Just about anyone associated with the WCA has an opinion on it, though. **Oscar Tapia (2026)** notes that so far, he has only had positive experiences with the new policy. "I think it is beneficial. At least to me, it helps me focus a lot more in class on assignments and such." **Asher Rice (2026)** has a different experience, mentioning how it can be annoying towards the end of class or college enrollment periods with nothing else to do for the rest of the period. Some teachers are also noticing positive changes with the implementation of the new phone policy. **Mr. Brady** mentions how kids are less distracted in class when they don't have access to their phones, saying that he has "noticed a lot less people distracted by their phones." So far, it seems like everyone is following the phone policy properly, and there haven't really been any issues related to the policy's implementation.

New Faces at WCA!

By **Mckayla "Sarinya" Binette**









Going to a new school comes with many new challenges such as navigating the halls and learning new class structures. Attending the Western Center also comes with a new set of obstacles like adapting to the uniforms, getting used to how small our school is, and finding a place where everyone has known each other for so many years. This year the Western Center Academy has welcomed in 11 new high school students, including six freshmen, one sophomore, three juniors, and one senior.

Our new students come from a wide variety of places. **Nolan Travers (2028)** comes from Temecula Valley Charter School, and **Malia Lopez (2026)** comes from Banning High School. **Nikola Maldonaldo (2026)** went to Tahquitz High School and **Abigail Malak (2027)** and **Lizeth Gonzalez-Covarrubias (2028)** attended San Jacinto Leadership Academy before attending the Western Center. Some of our new students were also out-of-state students such as **Liliandra Sing (2026)** who attended Kalaheo High School in Kailua, Hawai'i, and **Akio Muraoka (2025)** who came from CETYS University in Mexicali, Mexico.

Juniors Liliandra Sing and Malia Lopez are among those who switched schools and found that WCA has a more "fast-paced" learning environment compared to their previous schools, saying that they were "too easy" and wanted a "challenge." It might be a bit difficult for new Western Center students to adjust to our accelerated programs, but it seems that many of the new students were prepared for the workloads and are adjusting well in the month school has been in session. Freshman **Elysian Sanders (2028)** says that he was anticipating WCA's rigorous academic style and says that it's "pretty hard" but is aiming high to pass his first year with at least an A-minus average. Lizeth Gonzalez-Covarrubias, Elysian Sanders, and fellow Freshman **Valeria Gomez (2028)**, all say they want to end the school year with good grades and keep up with their work.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Juniors Liliandra Sing and Malia Lopez are among those who switched schools and found that WCA has a more “fast-paced” learning environment compared to their previous schools, saying that they were “too easy” and wanted a “challenge.” It might be a bit difficult for new Western Center students to adjust to our accelerated programs, but it seems that many of the new students were prepared for the workloads and are adjusting well in the month school has been in session. Freshman **Elysian Sanders (2028)** says that he was anticipating WCA’s rigorous academic style and says that it’s “pretty hard” but is aiming high to pass his first year with at least an A-minus average. Lizeth Gonzalez-Covarrubias, Elysian Sanders, and fellow Freshman **Valeria Gomez (2028)**, all say they want to end the school year with good grades and keep up with their work.

The WCA has many school-wide events for new students to look forward to, such as Club Rush, BYOB day, Boat Regatta, and the back-to-school dance. Nolan Travers is excited about Club Rush happening on Sept. 13, where WCA’s clubs advertise themselves and encourage students to join. **Justin Jai (2028),** from Amelia Earhart Middle School, is excited for Bring Your Own Banana (BYOB) Day, which is fitting since this new freshman class color is yellow. Lizeth Gonzalez-Covarrubias is excited about the Boat Regatta, and after asking a bit more about the event, she’s even more excited for the races.

Freshman **Jack-Ryan Simpson (2028)** and Senior Akio Muraoka say they both want to make new friends this school year and are looking forward to all the people. Akio even says the students are more friendly and respectful compared to his previous school.

Whether it be their first or last year here, if you see one of our new students, make sure to give them a warm WCA welcome!























New Class Alert!

By **Gabriela Sagastume**

After fourteen years, WCA finally has an art class, and it has gained considerable popularity. Originally, the art class was only supposed to have one period, but after so many students showed interest, there are now two full classes. Mrs. Parsons teaches the class and allows students to express themselves freely through creativity.

Ever since Mrs. Parsons started teaching at WCA, she recognized that students were in need of an art class. She has been advocating for an art class because it is the perfect balance for STEM and serves as a great outlet for our creative students. Through this class, Mrs. Parsons hopes that students will learn that everybody can make art, and that there is no clear definition of what makes art. So far, students have been taught about color and the principles of art that are necessary to create art. She plans on letting students experiment with multiple mediums such as clay, paint, and graphite. She ensures students that there are no set boundaries, and this allows for different outcomes and a boost in creativity.

WCA will soon get to see the creations of these Art students. The art class plans on holding exhibitions for the school. And Mrs. Parsons is going to send out some of the students' Post Secrets to the organization, PostSecret. Post Secrets are creatively crafted anonymous note cards that tell a secret that have never been told before. Some of these may be displayed at the organization's exhibit, which means the world will get to see our students' work as well.

Mrs. Parsons would also like to get Art students to go outside in the world. She has multiple field trips on which she would like to take her Art students. One of them is the PostSecret exhibit at the Museum of Us in San Diego's Balboa Park. She has also taken an interest in PST Art, which is a program held by the Getty, where artists and scientists collaborate to combine STEM and art. With this, Mrs. Parsons would like to team up with the science classes to visit the following exhibits: NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Hammer Museum, and Skirball Cultural Center.

Students in the class have fun regardless of their prior knowledge in art. There are newbies, experienced, and intermediates in both classes, and it is a welcoming environment for all students. This class has already made a great impact and it would be amazing if WCA continues to have this class in the future.





WCA's DAM Players

By **Kaisara Arambula**



WCA's Dramatic Arts Mammoth Players are thrilled to present their upcoming show, "Murder at the Midnight Hour." This thrilling murder mystery is brought to life by the 5th and 6th-period production theater kids, along with dedicated costuming and tech classes. They have put in considerable effort to ensure that the show is entertaining for all audience members, dedicating numerous hours after school to rehearsals and brainstorming ways to make the experience memorable. They have planned various interactive activities, including games for entertainment and to get the audience to feel part of the production.

Led by Mr. Brady students have been preparing for the second show of the school year "Hansel And Gretel." This has been a long-term project for them, with rehearsals starting last school year and continuing through multiple summer sessions. The entire cast has been working diligently to bring both productions to life while also rehearsals starting last school year and continuing through multiple summer sessions. The entire cast has been working diligently to bring both productions to life while also preparing for DTASC and focusing on their scenes. While the actors play a significant role, it's important to acknowledge the hard work of the tech and costuming classes bringing the show to life through stages, props, and costumes. They might not be the ones going on stage, but their wonderful work is. They help bring the show to life as much as the actors and have spent countless hours working on these rigorous projects.



As the murder mystery production approaches, stay tuned for ASB announcements such as spirit days to dress up, participate, and show support. Tickets are now available for purchase and don't forget to participate in pre-show games and activities to fully enjoy the experience. Pasta will be served, offering both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options to those who purchased the murder mystery dinner tickets . WCA's production theater and technical classes aim to ensure that everyone can partake in the fun. Be prepared for a special and interesting evening!







Why We Must Speak

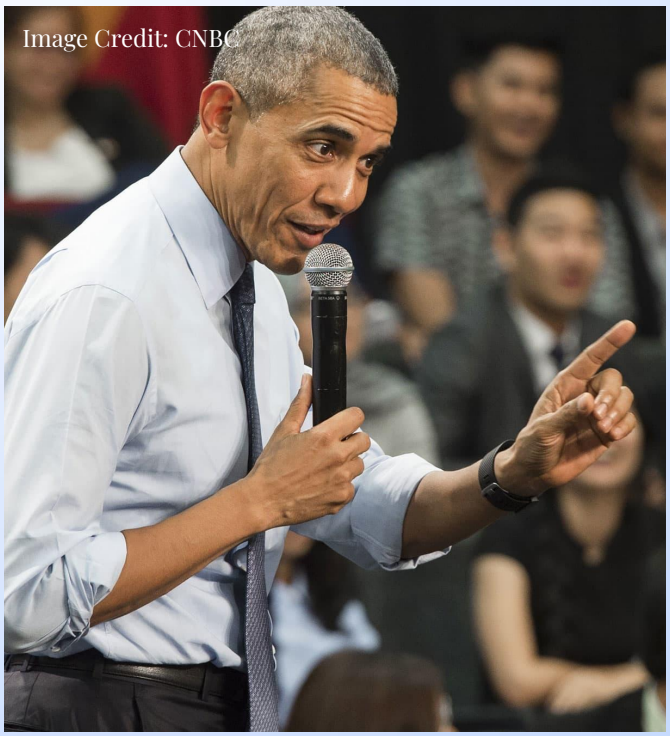
By **Samira Seelhofer**

Presentation and communication are often considered essential for learning, understanding, and teaching a concept. This is why public speaking is integrated into most every aspect of life--it's already a huge part of our school education, from making presentations on the Amazon rainforest in the sixth grade to performing hot seats in the tenth. Public speaking and presentations also play a crucial role in many careers, whether you're in sales, confidently explaining why your product stands out, or a teacher guiding a classroom full of students through new material.

Even though it's such a major part of everyday life, the general consensus is that public speaking is frightening. Standing up at a podium all alone with every eye glaring at us, our knees start to feel weak, our words jumble up, and our message gets lost. Over time, this fear has only gotten worse for the younger generation. We've essentially lost the skill, even taking on the phone and making our own appointments are things many of us dread. The difficult thing about being afraid of public speaking is that it's "in the curriculum," and there is no way to avoid it anymore. During the pandemic, we were bubble wrapped and protected by Zoom calls, not having our camera on, and we very rarely hit that unmute button to have discussions with peers. We didn't have to make eye contact with anyone, let alone present in front of an entire class full of people. Students today need guidance in learning how to have more assurance in our public speaking.



Image Credit: Ted.com


Image Credit: CNBC

One way to find this guidance is through our very own teachers here at WCA. For example, **Mr. Larson** says he considered himself more of an introvert, but he gained confidence in his public speaking and became a teacher. When a teaching opportunity came along, he found an undiscovered passion for sharing knowledge with kids and helping them learn and develop. He says the key to becoming a good public speaker is "going out of your way to practice." Every job requires a level of communication because "in every field there are experts who want to share. You can't share to large audiences unless you gain experience."

According to **Mrs. Brady**, "There are few people in the world who can be successful and happy without having to talk. Individuals who live a life where they have no need to communicate ideas are few and far between." Mrs. Brady adds, " The world is filled with immediate moments where you have to think quickly and say it."

Image Credit: Business Insider





Surprisingly, **Mrs. Hartigan** also considers herself to be an introvert. What worked best for her was making her classroom into a safe space or "bubble" as she describes it. This "bubble" didn't happen overnight, but over the course of her eleven years working as a teacher at WCA, she has mastered speaking in front of an audience. Her best advice is to "take baby steps" starting with group presentations, small solos, and work your way up to big audiences. The most important advice to be taken from Mrs. Hartigan is "you're not going to be good your first time around, and you have to learn to be okay with having to try at something multiple times before you can be confident in your abilities."

Public speaking can be nerve racking for a lot of people, but even some of our best teachers have overcome their stage fright and become confident presenters. With their insightful advice, I believe we all have the capability to communicate ideas better with one another and become confident in speaking in front of large audiences

KEEPING UP WITH THE HERD: CHASE JONES

By **Lily Hawkinson**

Chase Jones, a 2023 WCA graduate is currently an Ambulance Operator/EMT for the Morongo Fire Department. Chase dual enrolled in EMT school during his senior year and earned his EMT certification. After graduating from WCA, he swiftly went off to the Moreno Valley Fire Academy in hopes of soon becoming a firefighter. Chase recognizes all of the support that WCA provided him in his career pursuit, including the studying, social interaction, and good character that comes with his rigorous career as an EMT.

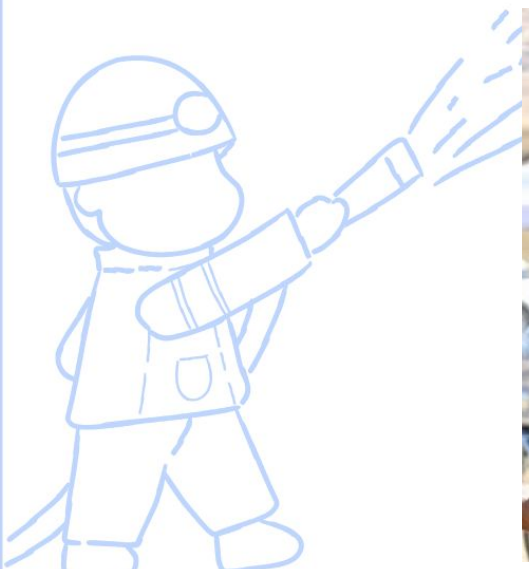


1. **What is the day-to-day experience of your job like?**

The day-to-day experience includes the cleaning and maintenance of the ambulance, as well as taking care of station duties so that it remains a clean and productive place to work. We stay at the station for 48 hours so we also cook our own food. Calls come throughout the day and night. The two primary hospitals that we transport to are San Gorgonio Memorial in Banning and Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs.

2. **What are your plans for the future?**

My plans for the future are to transition to a Firefighter and continue my career pursuing everything that comes with it.





3. What is the best part of your job?

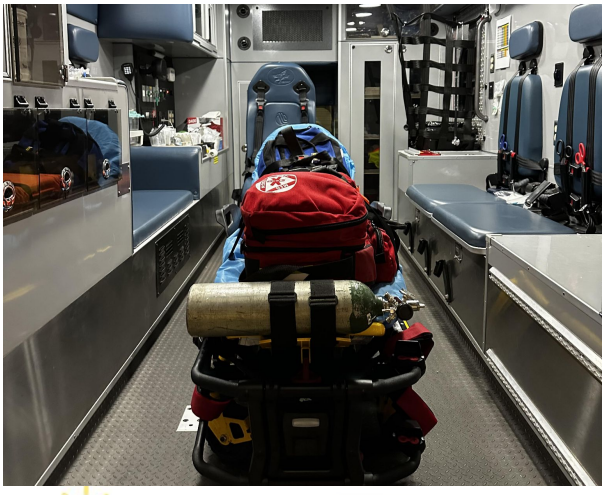
The best part of this job is knowing that you are making a difference in someone's life. You never have to wonder if you are making a difference. Also, every day is different and you never know what you will see. That keeps me excited to go into work.

4. What is your favorite memory from WCA?

I would have to say my favorite memory from WCA was my graduation night. It was a special night and even though there was a large group of people it still felt personal. That's the best part about WCA.







5. How well did WCA prepare you for your career?

WCA prepared me for my career because of the people there. The teachers and staff provided support that many schools don't have. I was ready to start my path outside of high school because I had the people who put me on the right path. In my opinion, WCA isn't special because of the school itself, it is special because of the people.

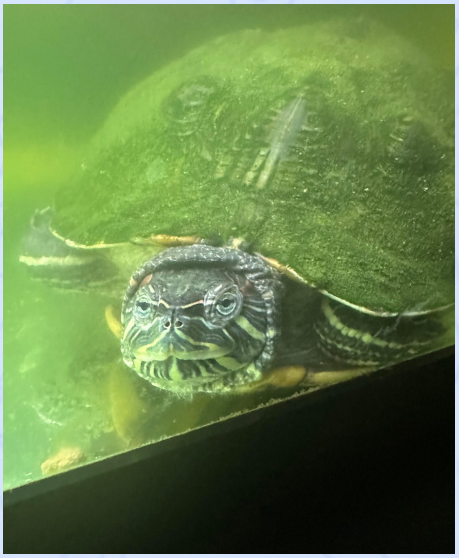
6. What advice can you give current WCA students preparing for "the real world?"

The advice that I would give is that good character and responsibility goes a long way in anything that you do. Learn to smile even when you don't feel like it and always do everything with excellence. It will pay off. When life starts to feel overwhelming, just slow down, remain calm, and let life simply happen. You have total control over your happiness. It is just about perspective.

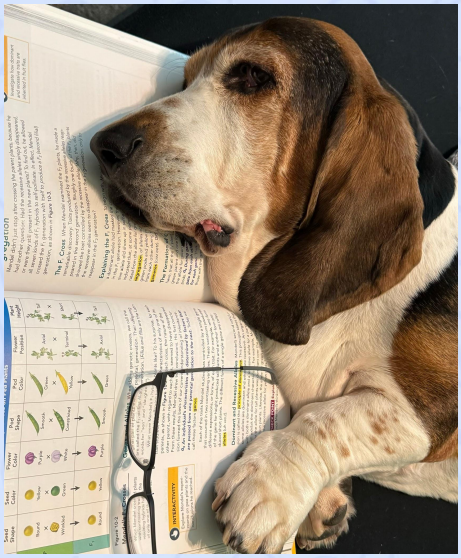
Pet Page

By **Gabriela Ordaz**

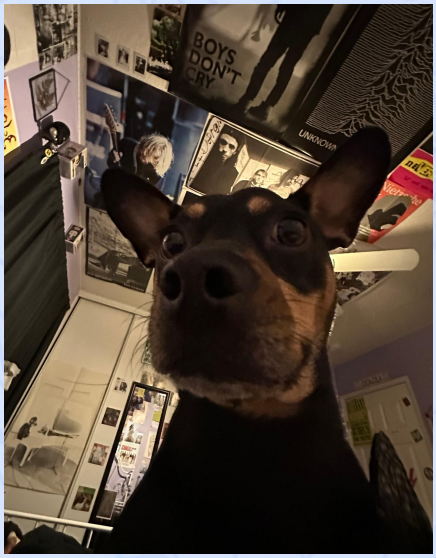
Thank you to everyone who submitted photos of their wonderful pets! These are the pets who were chosen for this issue—but fret not! If your pet didn't make it in this issue, they will be featured in a later issue.



Jazmyne Ramirez's (2028) Red-eared Slider, Oreo



Allison Wieding's (2027) Basset Hound, Maxwell Smart, studying hard



Bailey McAuliffe's (2025) dog, Ringo, checking in



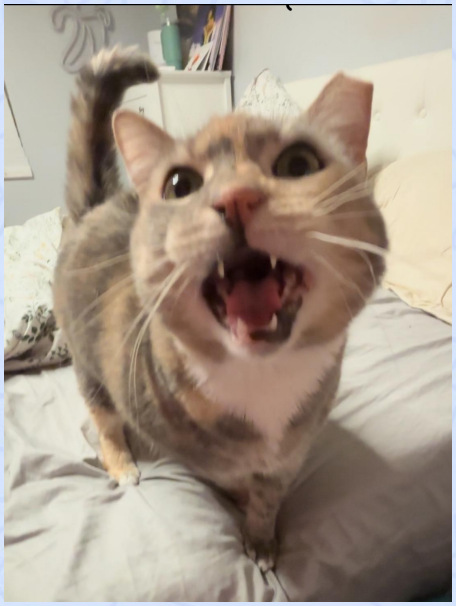
JJ Sadler's (2025) two curious cats, Dol and Chair



Ikaika kalaemakani Keliihoomalu's (2027) Bearded Dragon, Sama

Kendra Johansen's (2025) cockatiel, Tiel

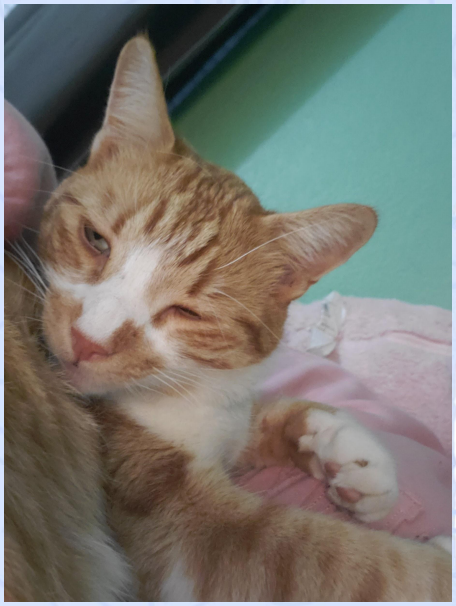




Annabella Anderson's (2028) cat, Cupcake



Katherine Pfeffer's (2026) two dogs, Zoey and Rue



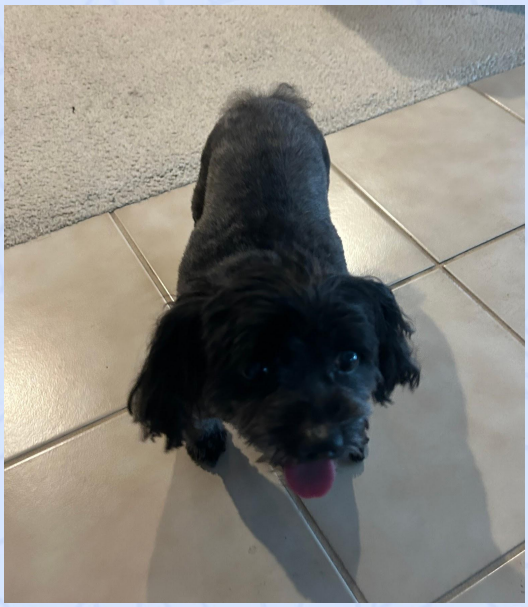
Angelica Sanches's (2027) sleepy cat, Ginger



Anastacia Ybarra's (2026) Chihuahua mix, Betsy



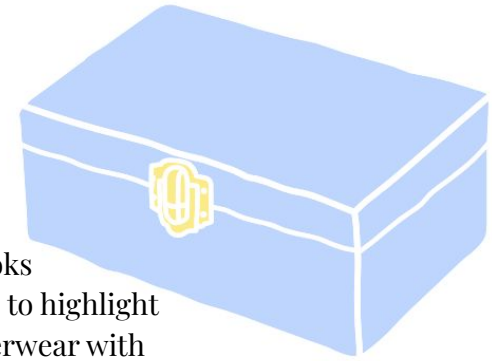
Isaac Shumaker's (2025) dog, Stella, saying hello.



Alonineayh Robinson's (2025)
Yorkie-poodle Coco

Senior Trends

By **Lily Hawkinson**



As the Class of 2025's senior year begins, images of "Senior Trends" in the media comes flooding in with it. From scrapbooks and jeans to boxes and kid backpacks, seniors for this school year love to highlight their final year of high school through unique crafts and nostalgic outerwear with their friends. *The Mammoth Tribune* took this opportunity to feature some of our seniors in their creative endeavors for the 2024-2025 school year.



Jaimee Tayag, **Damian Renteria**, **Alessandra Mejia**, and **Abigail McClymont**



Mckayla (Sarinya) Binette



Kendra Johansen







Samira Seelhofer, **Vivianna Ugarte**, **Jayla Moss**





Jaimee Tayag, **Damian Renteria**, and **Alessandra Mejia**

What's New in K-Pop?

By **Kaylei Davis**

With so many interesting things happening with celebrities in the South Korean music industry in August, what better way to keep up with it than *The Mammoth Tribune*?

Hot Topics

On Aug. 7, Seoul Yongsan Police Station revealed that Suga was booked on charges of drunk driving. The previous day he was riding an electric scooter home while under the influence and fell while he was getting off the scooter to go into his house. A nearby officer came to help and smelled the alcohol and escorted him to the nearest police station. He received a fine, and his license was removed but the investigation is still underway. Suga has released two apologies regarding the situation.

On Aug. 28, Taeil of NCT was effectively removed from the group due to a sexual offense according to the company's statement. The person, being referred to as a legal adult woman according to the article by Soompi, filed the report back in June. Both Taeil and the company learned about his indictment "around the middle of this month," and Taeil was investigated by the police on Aug. 28 according to the company's statement. Both fans and members of the group swiftly expressed their aversion after the news was released. Taeil is still under investigation and is said to be cooperating with authorities at this time by the company.



Image Credit: Soompi

Events and Tours

Stray Kids and IVE blew the crowds away this year at Lollapalooza. This year was IVE's first year at the event and has received praise from fans and locals alike. Stray Kids was one of the headliners again this year and has also received praise for their performance and energy. SEVENTEEN finally released dates and venues for the North American portion of their "RIGHT HERE" world tour that will run in October and November. KISS OF LIFE announced their first world tour that will kick off in Seoul during October.

Comebacks/Releases

Red Velvet released a song called "Sweet Dreams" to commemorate their ten-year anniversary. Jeon Somi released a single called "Ice Cream" which faced some criticism by fans concerning the lyrics as being "soulless" and "repetitive" according to some redditors on the r/kpop subreddit. fromis_9 released their 3rd album called *Supersonic* which has won four awards throughout the month. NMIXX released their third album EP called *Fe3O4: STICK OUT.* NCT DREAM, subunit of NCT, released their first English single titled *Rains in Heaven* which was filmed in Thailand.



Image Credit: NME

Deadpool and Wolverine: Reviving the MCU

By **Alejandro "AJ" Peña**

After a long road of poorly reviewed movies and shows, Marvel is finally "making a name for itself" with its recent release of the third Deadpool film, *Deadpool and Wolverine*. While most recent releases have fallen short and been ignored, this movie has been getting praise and publicity from the media nonstop.

After Twenty-First Century Fox was officially sold to Disney in 2019, it was seen as the end of an era for the Fox division of Marvel movies. Franchises such as X-Men, The Fantastic Four, and Deadpool were suspected to be forgotten about or rebooted by Disney. However, *Deadpool and Wolverine* paid homage to the old Fox movies by giving characters one last time to shine but in a way that still pertains to the plot. Not to mention, thanks to Deadpool's meta sort of humor, the movie also includes anticipated fan-castings that fit right in with the movie's self-aware style.

But all of the hype around this movie wasn't purely for cameos; the marketing strategy for this movie was both clever and widespread. Although it caters to Superhero genre fans, it's still a fun watch for newcomers, too. Ryan Reynolds, the lead actor who plays Deadpool, also did his part by advertising the movie on his personal social media accounts like Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok. His trendiness and internet knowledge helped to broaden his movie's appeal to a larger audience.



Image Credit: Big Picture Film Club



Image Credit: Cosmic Book News

Scenes and quotes from the movie have also been showing up online widening the film's presence. Memes such as "Woo, I'm bouta make a name for myself here" and NSYNC's choreographed "Bye Bye Bye" dance from the opening scene of the movie have been used in several videos and posts on social media. All of these are getting millions of views, all tying back to *Deadpool and Wolverine,* further spreading its appeal to audiences and giving glimpses of what to expect from the movie.

Though there has been the occasional criticism of the movie, the majority of reviews have been very positive. Many fans who were concerned with the state of Marvel's recent route have claimed that this is definitely a step in the right direction for the company. *Deadpool and Wolverine* has been able to provide a lot of fanservice for long-time enthusiasts, while still being entertaining for casual viewers as well. All of the attention and praise that it's garnering wouldn't be possible without the help of the marketing team and the plethora of trends that arose from the movie.

In the Face of Disaster: *Solar Storms*

By **Gabriela Ordaz**

Solar Storms by Linda Hogan tells the story of four generations of Native American women on their journey to find home. The book follows the perspective of a 17 year-old girl named Angel Wing as she returns to her birthplace, Adam's Rib, and tries to find out who she really is. Along her way, she will have to face the ghost of her past, reckon with her mother who she barely remembers, and stop a rumored construction project from destroying the land she has begun to love. Hogan wrote the construction project as a direct and apparent parallel to the James Bay project.

In 1971, the James Bay project began the construction of the largest hydroelectric dam on the La Grande River on the U.S.-Canadian border. The dam was projected to be the same size as the state of New York, and supporters claimed that the dam would generate a mass amount of electricity without having to burn fossil fuels. The beginning of construction came as a surprise to thousands of indigenous Cree and Inuit people who lived there and whose lives would be destroyed by the dam. The construction site was also on land that the indigenous people were promised would not be disturbed.

Linda Hogan is a Chickasaw poet and an author in residence for The Chickasaw Nation. Some of her other works are *Rounding the Human Corners*, which was a Pulitzer prize nominee in 2008, *People of the Whale*, a novel released in 2008, and *Dark. Sweet.:New & Selected Poems*, released in 2014. She was inducted into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame in 2007. Her writings typically focus on the intersectionality of indigenous peoples and environmental advocacy.

Solar Storms is a masterpiece of literary fiction. Hogan's prose poetry is among the best that I've ever read, and her descriptions left me marveling at the images she conjured into my mind. Hogan writes with a palpable kindness in her words, even when she is writing about the worst characters in *Solar Storms*. She describes the soldiers who shoot at Angel and all the other characters the reader has come to love as young boys, scared and too far out of their depths, all while never excusing their actions. She writes about Hannah, Angel's mother, someone that the reader should by all accounts despise, with such empathy and pity that I could not help but come to understand her. I would recommend *Solar Storms* in a heartbeat to just about anyone.

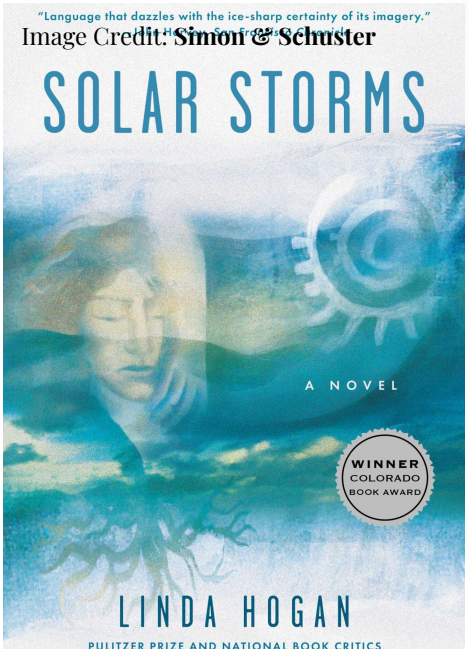


Image Credit: **Simon & Schuster**


Image Credit: **Chickasaw Hall of Fame**

The Life & History Of Roblox

By **Maddox McAvaney**

Roblox, a word that every person at WCA most likely has heard of. As a matter of fact, a recent survey has shown that 96.1% of WCA students have played it. Roblox is a game that appeals to a large audience and has a large following. As of June 13, 2024, the game reached a major milestone, seven billion accounts. Roblox has gone through a lot of development, from having a small player base of 12 players (mostly developers) in 2004 to the roughly 207 million monthly active players. I have been playing since Feb. 12, 2012, one of the 13 million accounts in 2012, and since then the game has gone through a lot of changes.

In 2004, David Baszucki, and Eric Cassell made the simulation game, DynaBlocks, which was formerly named GoBlocks in 2002-2003. There were no characters, and the game was dull. You could interact with the environment by clicking on objects and dragging them to move them. This was not that fun to most players. Of course, it was amazing for 2004, but when you see the gameplay today, it doesn't even look remotely close to their final creation.



Chaos Canyon (2008)





Sword Fights on the Heights IV (2008)

Characters were added in 2005, and although Dynablocks had changed a lot since 2004 looking more polished, the game was still in very early development. It had minimal animation, and the movement was primitive as characters would just glide across the floor rather than moving their limbs. That was when the game was renamed to Roblox.

As of the year of 2006, Roblox was re-released to the public. Over the course of the year, it amassed over 11,000 players, and Roblox issued T-shirts, which were images that were put on the front of your character. The most popular game on Roblox around this time was Chaos Canyon, and animations were added during this period.

In 2007, Roblox introduced TIX, a free in-game currency. Alongside this, the Builders Club was launched, allowing players to subscribe for a monthly allowance of Robux, a currency used to purchase new accessories like hats. During this period, Roblox finally reached a milestone of 100,000 players.

Roblox introduced custom shirts and pants in 2008, and John Shedletsky released a video showcasing these features. The first Eggstravaganza event, a Roblox egg hunt, also took place that year, where eggs would randomly drop in every Roblox game. Although the event sometimes caused games to break, it was generally well-received.

In 2009, Roblox added groups and the ability to add friends—a long-awaited feature that allowed users to message each other on the website and join friends' games. Guest accounts, which allowed users to play without signing in, were also updated. The main development a year later was the introduction and distribution of Roblox stocks.

Roblox expanded beyond computers to other platforms like iOS in 2012 and later Xbox in 2016. The company also released its first advertisement for the game and hosted the inaugural Roblox Rally. Then in 2012, Gamepasses were introduced—purchasable items on the website that allowed players to unlock special features in Roblox games. Before Gamepasses, players often bought T-Shirts to verify their purchases. One of the most popular games during this time was *Sword Fights on the Heights IV*.



Untitled Tag Game (2024)

Nothing particularly notable happened from 2012 to 2016,. The game was mostly at a standstill except for the removal of Tix and Guests. However, 2016 saw the introduction of R15, a feature allowing players to update their Roblox animations or stick with the classic ones. Around this time, *Catalog Heaven* was a very popular game, and 2016 marked what many consider Roblox's peak.

Since then, the platform hasn't changed much in terms of core gameplay, but many new accessories have been added, with UGC (User-Generated Content) becoming especially popular. Builders Club was replaced by Premium, and there's been a noticeable decline in the originality of newer games compared to older ones. Between 2017 and around 2020, *Jailbreak*, a prison breakout game, was the biggest title on Roblox. Since then, many games have become more cash-grabs, with Gamepasses often essential to making the game enjoyable. While there are still hidden gems, most front-page games have large player counts and heavily promote Game-pass purchases, making them less of an optimal choice.

Role-playing games like *Adopt Me* and *Brookhaven* now dominate the platform and are frequently the most popular. Roblox has changed a lot over the years, with many significant shifts along the way. With the creation of new games on the horizon, who knows what might come next?



JailBreak (2020)



Another Day, Another Season of Fortnite

By **Lucas Land**

Fortnite's latest season, Chapter 5 Season 4, kicked off on Aug. 16 and is heavily centered around Marvel. This season, Doctor Doom has taken over the island, claiming several Points of Interest (POIs), including Castle Doom, Doomstadt, and The Raft. Along with these new locations, Doom has introduced two new bosses: Mysterio and Emma Frost.

The season brings new weapons, such as the Sovereign Shotgun, Monarch Pistol, and Dual Micro SMGs. My favorite new weapon is the Monarch Pistol, a long-range weapon that deals high damage with minimal bullet drop and precise accuracy.

The new mythic items include War Machine's gear, which features War Machine's gauntlets, an auto turret, and a jetpack, as well as Captain America's Shield and Doom's Gauntlets, with more mythics expected to be released soon. Captain America's Shield is versatile, functioning both offensively and defensively. It can be used to attack enemies and rebound off them, while also serving as a high-tanking shield that protects you from the front. The Doom Gauntlets are a limited-time mythic, with two attacks: a mid-range projectile that deals area-of-effect (AOE) damage, and a secondary attack that unleashes a giant AOE blast causing significant damage to both structures and players, though it has a 12-second cooldown.

This new season has also added new medallions, including the Doom Medallion, which siphons health and shields upon elimination; the Mysterio Medallion, which lets the user go invisible when crouching; and the Emma Frost Medallion, which marks enemies within a wide range at set intervals.

So far, this season has been a blast, with the new mythics, weapons, and POIs adding to the fun. There are still more mythics expected in the latter half of the season, such as Gwenpool's Dual SMGs and Black Panther's Gauntlets, so stay tuned for more excitement.







Dress to Impress

By **Zeydi Ponce**



Dress to Impress (DTI) is a game on the popular gaming platform, Roblox. Although Roblox has existed since 2006, DTI has only been active on Roblox since November of 2023. The creator of the game, Gigi, is just seventeen years old, and other developers are reported to be as young as fourteen years old. It was one of the fastest growing games to exist as it reached a billion visits in June of 2024. Dress to Impress was even a nominee out of four chosen for the Roblox Innovation Awards in 2024. Because of its popularity, there are now even DTI influencers who make a living off streaming their gameplay or uploading videos of it. Prominent online figures who have played Dress to Impress include Kai Cenat, James Charles, CaseOh, Fanum, Madison Beer, and many more.
Although this game is targeted towards teenage girls, it hasn't stopped people from all age groups and genders from joining the fun. Out of 100 students in WCA who have played Roblox at least once in their lives, around 83% of them have joined the DTI experience before.

Most high school students at Western Center Academy who have seen Dress to Impress outside of being on Roblox have seen it on short media platforms such as Tiktok and Instagram. One student claimed, "Every streaming or gaming channel on YouTube plays it" and "I see it ALL THE TIME on TikTok, I always see memes or even lives of people playing DTI." Along with this, there was a meme circulating of a young boy being interviewed at Target saying, "I play Dress to Impress with my baddies," which many students referenced. These memes ignited even more passion and fame around Dress to Impress to those who use social media.

The rise of Dress to Impress has also come with some negativity. According to *The National High School Journal of Science*, it has enabled fast fashion to become a bigger problem. People wanting to create their own outfits and increase their wardrobes is contributing to fast fashion being normalized on social media. The rise of social media marketing strategies and consumer purchase patterns, particularly through the "Dress to Impress" trend, has permeated numerous apps. Regarding the game itself, many players believe the outfit voting system is unfair or even "rigged," which has discouraged some from participating. Despite this, most players still enjoy the game, though students are calling on everyone to "VOTE FAIRLY!"



BreezySomeone on DTI Fandom



PinkiePassionon
DTI Fandom

A NEW ERA IN BANGLADESH

By **Adriana Ordaz**

In early July, peaceful student-led protests erupted in Bangladesh in opposition to the quota system used for government jobs, which, according to Al Jazeera, allegedly favored those close to then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's, the longest running Prime Minister of Bangladesh, political party. These demonstrations soon became violent as the protestors were attacked by security forces and those loyal to Hasina. What began as a call to end the quota system quickly escalated into demands for Hasina to step down.

The quota system, according to Amnesty International, reserved 40% of government jobs for descendants of independence freedom fighters, which many argue favors Hasina's party. The quota was originally discarded by the government in 2018 in response to mass student protests. It was reinstated at the end of June 2024 when relatives of freedom fighters filed their complaints.



Image Credit: Al Jazeera of Sheikh Hasina

As the protests escalated, Bangladesh was cut off from the world on July 17. The internet blackout was held in place for about eleven days, before the country's 4G network went back online on July 28. According to The Daily Star, after the internet blackout more than 170 people were killed, including police personnel. The BBC reports more than 1,200 people were detained.

On Monday, Aug. 5, after about three weeks of protesting, Hasina escaped to India by helicopter and was transported to a safe paramilitary house after landing at the Hindon airport in Ghaziabad, India.



Image Credit: NBC News

Since then, an Interim government has taken power. Nobel Peace Prize-winning economist Muhammad Yunis was sworn in by the student leaders as the head of Bangladesh's interim government until elections are held. As for the rest of the current government, it's a mix of civil rights activists, professors, lawyers, former government officials, and prominent figures in Bangladesh. Nahid Islam, a student at Dhaka University studying sociology, has been put in charge of the telecommunications portfolio, and former army officer Sakhawast Hossain has been assigned the Ministry of Home Affairs. Farida Akhter, a women's rights activist and advocate for biodiversity-based ecological agriculture, is taking up the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

According to Micheal Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program and Senior Association for South Asia at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in the United States, on paper, the interim government with its "wide array of leaders from all walks of life looks remarkably diverse," but adds how everything "fits together" and whether a consensus is possible is "unclear."

This is where Yunus's leadership will be essential. Though Yunus may seem like a great choice, Al Jazeera notes that he himself was convicted of violating labor laws during the previous administration, though it was denounced as a politically motivated trial.

There have been questions of what will happen to Hasina now that the current interim government has revoked all diplomatic passports—the only passport Hashina owned. According to India's visa policy, Bangladeshis holding diplomatic or official passports may stay for a visa-free trip for up to 45 days. As of Sept. 4, she has been in India for 30 days. Considering her lack of passport, she is able to be extradited under the treaty signed between Bangladesh and India, with 51 cases against her, 42 of which are for murder. The treaty, signed in 2013 and amended in 2016, says that certain offenses "shall not be regarded as offenses of a political character," including murder. One reason for rejection of extradition is if the charges are not "made in good faith, in the interest of justice." This argument could be supported by the fact that the interim government is made up of those who opposed her, and if elections are not held soon, the government's legitimacy may be called into question.

In June 2011, during her first out of four consecutive terms, Hasina introduced the 15th Amendment in order to prevent "unelected governments" from assuming power. According to Al Jazeera, the Amendment was followed by a Supreme Court decision that announced that, "a caretaker government formed by the military from 2006 to 2008 was illegal" as it "remained in office for more than two years without calling elections within the mandated 90 days." Since there is no longer a constitutional provision, some claim that the interim government is not obliged to hold elections within ninety days.

Though Bangladesh's future seems uncertain now, many hope that the bloody path leads to a better and brighter future. Only time will tell, but many expect a more involved and democratic government.


Image Credit: BBC


Image Credit: Al Jazeera

The Unheard Case of The Saola

By **Yaretzi Gutierrez**

Currently, there are numerous endangered species in the world, some of the more notable include pandas, tigers, rhinos, and turtles. One endangered species you probably haven't heard of is the Saola, which is one of the most endangered species out there as per the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF). This endangered animal is only found in Laos and Vietnam, usually in the Annamite Mountains.

The Saola can look similar to a common Antelope but is closely related to cattle and buffaloes. The Saola has two horns parallel to each other that are sharp at the tips and can reach up to 20 inches long, as stated by the WWF. They have white markings on their face, their height at the shoulder is 33 inches, and a weight of 176-220 lbs. according to the Saola Working Group. Looking at this you can collectively see why the Saola can look very similar to an Antelope just based on looks itself.



Image Credit: BRUYU/ SHUTTERSTOCK

Based on the Saola Working Group, we know of this extraordinary species because of a joint 1992 survey by the Ministry of Forestry in Vietnam and the WWF. The teams found unusual-looking horns like no other inside a hunter's home. The team decided to examine the horns as well as the skin they had found. This is when they realized it was a new species that had yet to be discovered. The team finally revealed the discovery of the animal in 1993, which is now known as the Saola, and is one of the greatest zoological finds.

Now to the big question, why is the Saola endangered? The Saola has been endangered ever since it was discovered because of the amount of hunting that the animal faces. Hunters usually hunt this distinctive animal because of its horns, which are known to be like "prized trophies" by WWF and are used for illegal trade. However, hunting isn't the only problem that causes the endangerment of the Saola. Other causes include habitat loss from deforestation, agriculture, and roads. Snares (also known as traps) are another cause. The traps are originally meant for boars and sambar deer, but Saolas occasionally get trapped and killed, as reported by the World Land Trust

There are said to be no more than 750 Saola left in the world. What could significantly help their population size are reforestation, forest reserves in the Annamite mountains, and wildlife corridors. There are a few organizations that are helping Saolas; some of these are The Saola Foundation, WWF, The Saola Working Group, along with support from the USAID Biodiversity Conservation. Not only that but the WWF states that forest guards are removing any snares known in Saola habitat. We can help by donating to wildlife conservation organizations and spreading awareness to others. We should be more considerate of wildlife and the environment around us because without it, we can't ensure a better future.



Image credit: David Hulse

Monkeypox: Rising Alarm

By **Melody Cortez**

Since 1958, a virus popularly known as Monkeypox (Mpox) slowly began appearing worldwide. This global threat has only been a problem recently when reports of the virus began to rapidly show up in Europe, North America, and parts of Africa.

Monkeypox originally started in Africa, where outbreaks were discovered in monkeys. The scientists researching them speculated that it was a zoonotic disease, which means that animals can spread it to humans and to other animals. According to the CDC, the first time monkeypox was found outside of Africa was in 2003 when a few domesticated prairie dogs were infected during shipping to the U.S. with other animals that had the virus. This caused 47 human cases to appear throughout the nation.

The virus does not transmit like normal illnesses do. Based on the World Health Organization, any exposure to an affected person can infect you as well. This issue includes talking, touching, or any physical contact at all. For this reason, it is important to be cautious of others, especially in a school setting. Washing your hands regularly, keeping a normal distance from others, and not doing anything that would normally get you sick should help you to stay away from this virus.



Image Credit: SciTechDaily


Image Credit: Montclair State University

Symptoms of Monkeypox vary depending on the person, but some common ones include rashes, fevers, headaches, and muscle aches. These clear up between two to four weeks or longer if you have a weak immune system. Many of these symptoms have been misdiagnosed for other conditions that have some of the same effects that Monkeypox shows. For this reason, it is important to get treatment to help stop the spread.

One way you can protect yourself is by getting the vaccination. This is especially important to get for high-risk people. If you think you have been in contact with a person(s) who has monkeypox, you can get the vaccine within four days of exposure, or 14 if you are asymptomatic. The CDC states that if you want full protection from the virus you can get two doses, the second one four weeks after the first. With this, you can ensure that even if you have monkeypox, your symptoms will be significantly lower with the vaccine.

We just came out of a global pandemic, and going into another does not seem likely. Monkeypox also is much harder to spread than COVID-19 is, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't be careful. The American Academy of Pediatrics says that there are about 100 thousand confirmed cases of the virus worldwide, and there are likely more to come. We need to stay vigilant and attentive so that we can hopefully bring this virus to a close.

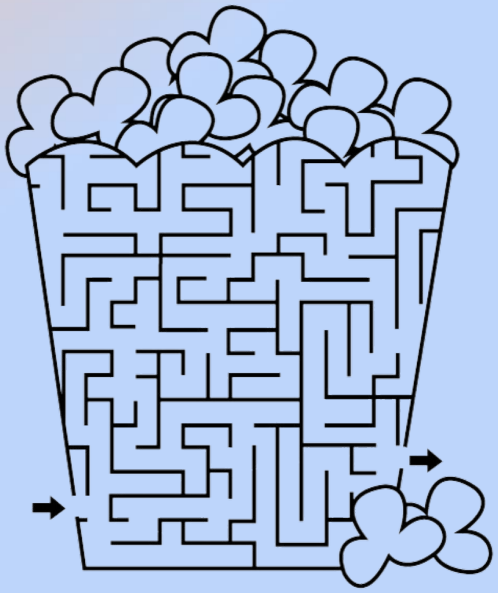
Batman Movie Night Word Search and Maze

By **Lily Hawkinson**

Batman
Crimefighting
Vigilante
Robin
The Joker
LEGO
Popcorn
DC
Candy
Cookies
Ice cream
Soda
Blankets
Barbara Gordon
Batgirl
Batdad
Gotham City
Phantom Zone
Phyllis
Batcave

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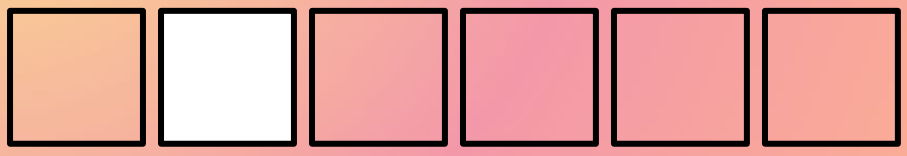




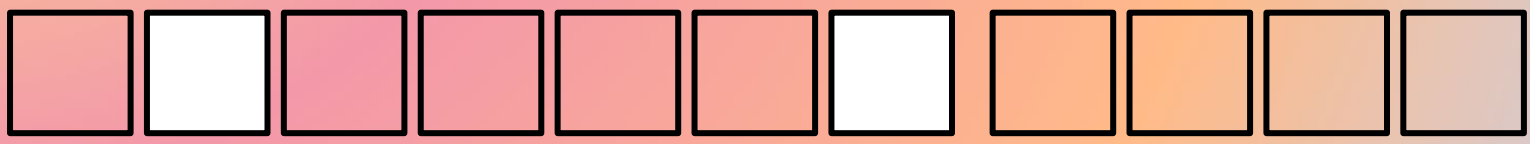
Find the Hidden Phrase!

By **Lily Hawkinson**

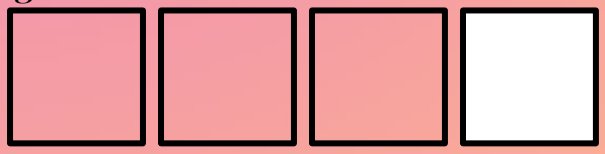
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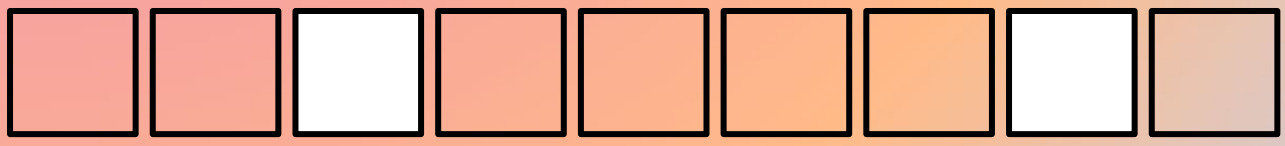
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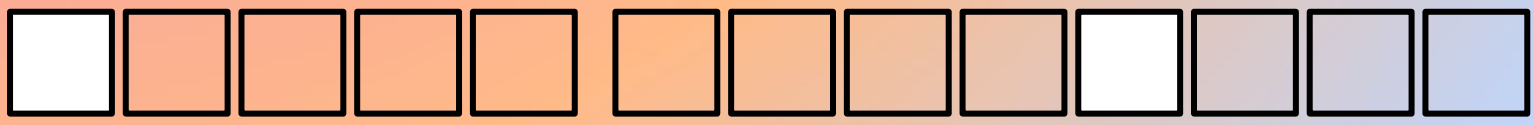
gleo



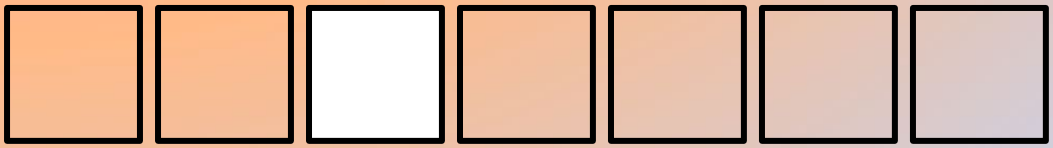
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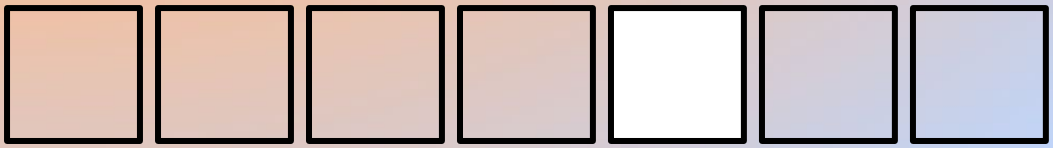
mrice htfigngi



lsilhyp



glbtari



Letter bank:

Unscramble the letters!

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

The Mammoth Tribune



Made by Students for Students

Western Center Academy

Batman

Phantom zone

Lego

Vigilante

Crime Fighting

Phyllis

Batgirl

Phrase: Gotham City