THE MAMMOTH TRIBUNE

"Made By Students For Students."



Volume 6 / Issue 7

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Back Row: Kolton Klug, Lucas Land, Kayla Simpson, Damian Renteria, Rylee Looper, Aelan Diaz, Juliet Armendariz, Lily Hawkinson, Janett Vazquez, Jakob Dieges, Isaac Shumaker

Front Row: Elona Bekit, Gabriela Ordaz, Nameera Hassan, Janessa Alfaro, Samira Seelhofer, Jayla Moss, Mystik Hamby, Izabella Torres

From the Editors

Heyo Mammoths,

Get ready to rock and roll because we are so amped to present to you the seventh edition of *The Mammoth Tribune.* In this Rad and Radical edition, we have the much anticipated MORP recap, an insight on the birds found on the WCA campus, and highlights of theatre's performance of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Spring break is upon us, so enjoy the spring weather while reading *The Mammoth Tribune.* Thank you for your support.

-Rylee Looper, Aelan Diaz, and Juliet Jolie Armendariz



"Made By Students For Students."

Around Campus

By **Lily Hawkinson**

The month of March was filled with kindness from students and staff members as ASB planned a month full of spirit days, advisory activities, and lunch activities in celebration of Kindness Month.

On March 8, International Women's Day, UNICEF organized a spirit day to celebrate Women's History Month. Students could either wear purple or green to show their support. If students dressed up, they were able to get a lollipop attached to a slip of paper with a quote from a famous woman in history.







Each Friday in March included a spirit day to go along with Kindness Month. March 3 was the “Show You Care” spirit day where students could either dress in pastels or as a Care Bear. The following Friday, March 10, “Peace Love and Kindness” students were allowed to dress in different, tie-dye clothes. Instead of another kindness dress-up day on March 17, ASB put together a spirit day for St. Patrick's Day where students wore green. On Friday, March 24, students dressed in country attire for the “Round Up Kindness” spirit day.

Theatre also planned a spirit day for March 23 in celebration of their production of *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night* where students could dress in any decade.







To go along with these spirit days, ASB held lunch and advisory activities to engage students. During the first week of March, the Compliment Contest was held during lunch and won by **Tytan Campbell (2024),** where students went against each other to see who could give each other compliments the longest.

The next week on March 16, students participated in "Honey I Love You," where they all stood in a circle, and one could start by saying, "Honey I love you" to another student in a funny way. If the student laughed or smiled, they were the next person to say, "Honey I love you."

On March 23, students participated in "Chalk up Kindness" by drawing something kind in chalk on the driveway during lunch.







For advisory activities on March 7, ASB passed out heart-shaped cutouts where students wrote a compliment or nice message anonymously to be passed out at the end of the month randomly. On March 13, all advisory classes participated in a *Kahoot* on kindness trivia with some history on what actual kindness is and the history of Kindness Month. Mr. Brady's college enrollment class won.

During advisory on March 21, students were given the opportunity to guess the amount of Andes chocolates in a blender, the total count ended up being 228, with Mrs. Shefchik's second period being the closest, guessing 215. For the final advisory activity for Kindness Month on March 28, ASB passed out surprise candy grams to all students.

Through the month of March, the Gentlemen's Contest took place where **Jake Ressler (2023), Isaiah Suso (2024), Tytan Campbell (2024), Michael Kusto (2024),** and **Caleb Mahutga (2025)** competed against each other to see who was the most "gentlemanly." They convinced people to vote for them by showing even more care for their peers, participating in interviews, and giving a speech on March 31. They were nominated to the competition by their peers, and the winner was announced on March 31.

March 24 brought BYO mug day, where students brought in their own mug and were treated to hot chocolate at lunch with a variety of toppings.







Rock Band's Rocking With Kindness Performance

By **Lily Hawkinson**



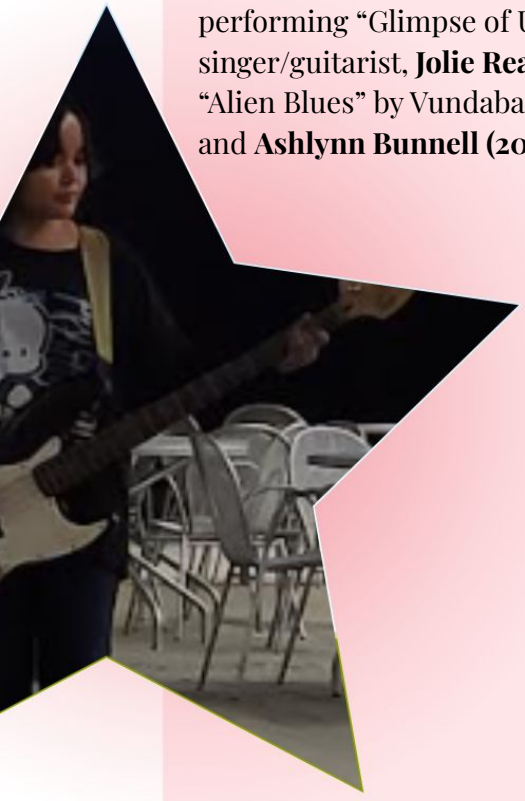
On March 3, WCA's Rock Band Club hosted a "Rocking With Kindness" performance in the piazza where five bands performed a variety of songs. The performance started at 5:00 p.m. and ended at 6:30 p.m.

Ommetaphobia performed first with "Fight or Flight" by Conan Gray, including singer, **Ashlynn Bunnell (2026)**, bassist **Emma Wright (2026)**, drummer **Aanya Garg (2026)**, and guitarists, **Amiley Kakogui (2026)**, and **Kimberly Angel (2026)**.





The second group(s) included pianist **Kelly Tapia (2023)** and singer **Oscar Tapia (2026)**, performing "Glimpse of Us" by Joji. Followed again by **Kelly Tapia (2023)** but with an additional singer/guitarist, **Jolie Reams (2023)** in their band called The Flakes, where they performed "Alien Blues" by Vundabar. The fourth show of Kelly and Friends included **Kelly Tapia (2023)** and **Ashlynn Bunnell (2026)** who performed "If I ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys.

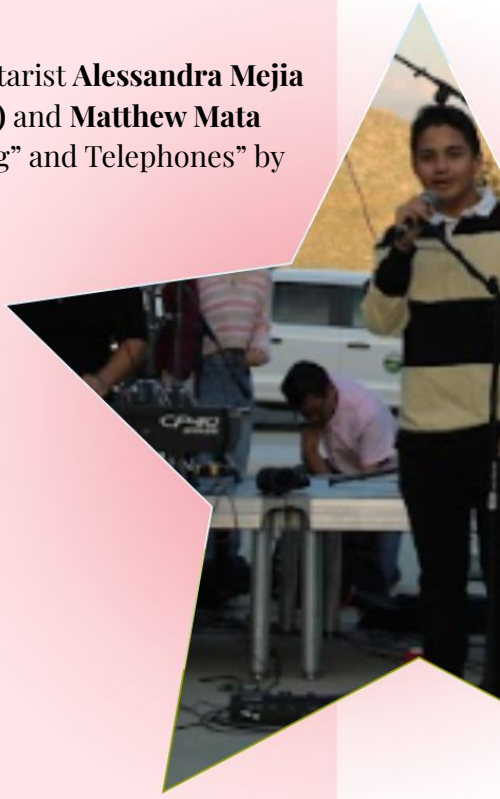




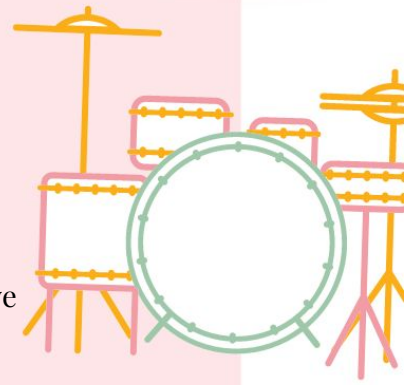


Next brought Dark Feather with drummer **Alan Trejo (2025)**, guitarist **Alessandra Mejia (2025)**, and two additional guitarists/singers, **Gabriel Diaz (WVHS 2024)** and **Matthew Mata (WVHS 2024)**, who performed "Dream Girl" by No Vacation, both "Young" and Telephones" by Vacations, and finally, "Boys Don't Cry" by The Cure.





The fourth band, Bad Omen, which is currently looking for a bassist, has drummer **Seth McGinnis (HHS 2025)** and guitarists **Diego Meza (2025)** and **Hayden Rodriguez (2026)**, who played "For Whom The Bell Tolls" and "Loves Eternal" by Metallica, "Paranoid" by Black Sabbath, and "Chamber of Reflection" by Maccy D'marks.



The final performance of the night was Fools Gold with drummer and guitarist **JJ Sadler (2025)**, bassist **Sabrina Pareja (2025)**, guitarist **Gabby Ordaz (2025)**, and singer, **Sarinya Binette (2025)**. They started with "Dark Red" by Steve Lacy, followed by "Bags" by Clairo, "Crying Lightning" by Arctic Monkeys, and ended with their most commonly performed song, "Crybaby" by Destroy Boys.

Rock Band put on a fantastic show, and they are expecting to have another show before the end of the year. If you're interested in playing the bass for Bad Omen, email **Diego Meza (2025)** at dm167021@stu.hemetusd.org.





MORP

By **Jayla Moss**

On March 17, MORP was held at the Motte Historical Museum. In the weeks leading up to MORP, the annual MORPosal contest was held where students submitted their proposals to the WCA ASB Instagram account. The competition was close, but **Vivianna Ugarte (2025)** and **Julian Avila (2024)** were the winners. They received an adorable beach-themed gift basket with tons of goodies from ASB.

A costume contest was also held with two categories: Single and Couple. **Cody Moore (2025)** won the single contest dressed as a spunky lifeguard. Straight out of the 1950s came **Fallon Arave** and **Douglass Priest (2023).** Their costumes were the obvious choice for the winner of the couple's costume. Both contest winners received a basket from ASB as their prize similar to the one that the MORPosal winners were awarded.

The venue perfectly fit the theme of California Dreamin' with old cars and retro signs. For food, there was a taco bar and a table filled with a variety of sweets from cookies to brownies. On the dance floor, students started a conga line while others were dancing in the center. A photo booth with various props was also provided, which many students enjoyed. If students weren't dancing or taking pictures, they could be seen strolling around the museum, taking a peek at the historical cars, playing a board game upstairs, or just enjoying each other's company. Overall MORP was very lively and the students had a great time.
















CINEMA









WCA Players Rock Twelfth Night

By **Mystik Hamby**



WCA's "Players Theatre" put on one last play to conclude the school year, *Twelfth Night*, a retelling of the romantic Shakespearean comedy from the 1600s. The play centers on the twins Sebastian and Viola, who are separated after a shipwreck. Viola dresses as a boy to work for Orsino, the Duke of Illyria. She eventually falls in love with him, though Orsino loves the Countess Olivia. Viola is sent by Orsino to win the affection of Olivia, but the countess falls for Viola instead. Later, Viola's twin, Sebastian, arrives, confusing the others, and marries Olivia. In the final scenes, Viola confesses her identity and marries Duke Orsino, resulting in a win-win for everyone.

Because this show was set to a more modern 1980's theme, the stage was constructed to resemble that of a concert, complete with a lighted sign with the play's title hand-crafted from wood and foam by **Heather Farlow (2023)** and **Nova Hortman (2023)**.













The theme carried over to the actors' costumes, which consisted of band tees and wild mohawks. The language for the script was also altered to better suit the creative genius of the director -**Mr. Brady**- and the audience as well.

Many hands and minds were needed to bring the show to life, which was carried out gracefully and meticulously by everyone in the Players' community. Each moment leading up to the opening night was dedicated to helping actors get into character, creating immersive sets, and adapting to the unexpected weather. Also involved was WCA's Theatre Tech class, led by **Mr. Wolny**. Theatre Tech managed the backstage operations, from concessions and stage design, to sound tech and lighting features.

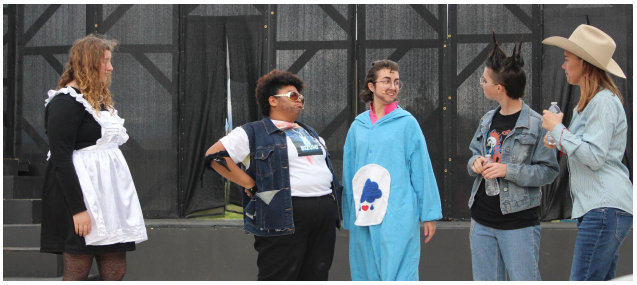
The show itself was a success. There were few errors backstage, the actors stayed in character throughout every scene, and the progression went as planned all three nights the show took place. Stage manager, **Isabella Eskin, (2023)**, says that to improve next year, those involved should "start making decisions early when it comes to sound and lights, and plan on them being done way earlier so if things go wrong there's time to fix them."

The actors and crew all did an astounding job putting the show together, working well as a team, going with the flow, and persevering through trials. Because some of these actors are graduating seniors, it's only fair to honor them specifically for their time, dedication, and attitude throughout the production process. This year's seniors all agreed that their last show was very bittersweet. "I've made so many amazing memories with everyone and so many new friends. I hate that I won't be able to act with them again because they are all so wonderful. But I am grateful that I've had the opportunity to form those connections and I'm excited to move onto the next chapter of my life." **Fallon Arave (2023).** These seniors will will always have a family here at Western Center Academy.

A big round of applause to all the rockstars who made *Twelfth Night* possible. I rate this show a ten-out-of-ten and am glad I was given the opportunity to see it.









Staying With the Herd: Christopher Huerta

By **Aelan Diaz**

The Mammoth Tribune was able to catch up with Christopher Huerta, or as you might recognize him as, "The Mammoth Time Guy." Christopher now attends UCSD where he spends his time at the beach and studying Neurobiology.

Q: What college are you now attending?
A: I'm attending UC San Diego!!

Q: What is your major?
A: I'm majoring in Neurobiology.

Q: What are your career goals? What do you intend to do after college?
A: As of now, I'm very confident that I want to become a doctor! However, I'm on the fence as to whether I want to be a medical doctor or a Ph.D. doctor. I came into college with the goal of getting into medical school, but in my time here, I've been introduced to the possibility of graduate school. I've been taking the steps to explore both career options and to fully immerse myself in the responsibilities that come with both grad and med school. Regardless, I'm very passionate about my sub-focus on neurobiology. Whether I end up pursuing research through grad school or stressing over my rounds in med school, I'm set on specializing in neuroscience!



Q: What clubs and activities are you involved in at your college?
A: I'm involved in the PATHS program here at UCSD, which works to elevate the involvement of underrepresented students in STEM! They help in providing students with the support they need to open the door to opportunities that would otherwise not be available to them because of their diverse backgrounds. I'm also a lab intern at the Scripps Research Neuroscience center where I help conduct experiments on mice to study the involvement

of physical stimuli in our nervous system! I have more opportunities in store next quarter, such as Orientation Leader training and becoming a Mentor through UCSD's first-year students program so I can help incoming students with their transition from high school! I'm also set to get involved with UCSD's Triton TV to continue my passion for filmmaking and editing.



Q: What is your favorite memory while attending WCA?
A: My favorite memory while attending WCA would have to be my involvement in ASB. I'll forever cherish all the people I've worked with while producing Mammoth Time and all the memories created through the collaboration of projects with others. I also miss bothering all those teachers and staff members to include them in pointless, barely-laughable skits for Mammoth Time. Don't worry, I'll visit soon! Can't get rid of me that easily :)

Q: What is something you wish someone had told you about going off to college?
A: I wish someone would've emphasized just how significant the transition between high school to college was going to be. Don't get me wrong, I knew it was going to be a big step. But I didn't know that it was going to be *that* big of a step. You will be thrown into an environment with newfound independence, new opportunities, new experiences, new friends, new memories, and new hardships. Everything, both good and bad, gets thrown at you all at once! It's vital to take a step back, breathe, remember how far you've come, and take each day, assignment, and experience a step at a time. Be open to new lifestyle changes and take advantage of each opportunity! OOH, and don't forget to check in with friends! No matter how tall you grow, it's important to recognize your roots.



Image Credit: CNN

Q: How did you know that UCSD was the right college for you?
A: To be completely honest, I didn't know that my college was right for me until I immersed myself in its community. When I was committing, it *seemed* right. UC San Diego has a great reputation, an impressive medical school, and is not too far away from home. However, it wasn't until I got here that it *felt* right. Cheesy, I know. By involving myself in the school's spirit through extracurriculars and activities, I was able to find my place in its community rather than observing it from afar. I'm lucky to say that everything fell into place and that I'm very grateful and happy to be where I'm at: surrounded by great opportunities, great friends, and right next to the sunny shores of La Jolla!

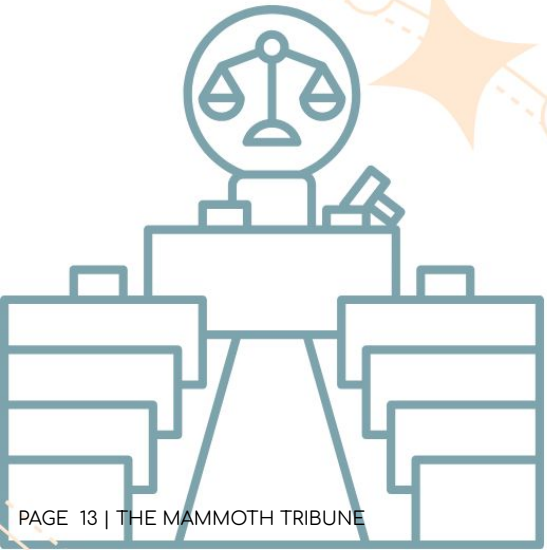
WCA's Mock Trial Students

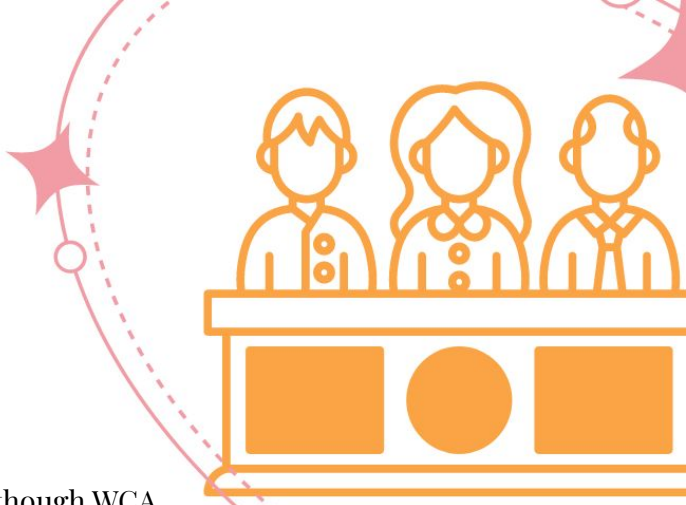
By **Aelan Diaz**

Mock Trial is a competition in which students simulate a real court trial. Teams from different high schools compete against one another to qualify for county and state. Student teams study a hypothetical criminal case, argue pre-trial motions, create questions for direct and cross-examination, develop objections, and receive guidance from volunteer attorneys in courtroom procedures and trial preparation.

A mock trial is a highly structured activity, including certain parts of the trial that all teams must go through, such as opening statements, direct examinations, cross-examinations, closing arguments, and more. Teams compete against each other in a county competition in January and February at the County Courthouse in front of real judges. Winners of the county competition move on to the state competition where 36 county winners compete annually.







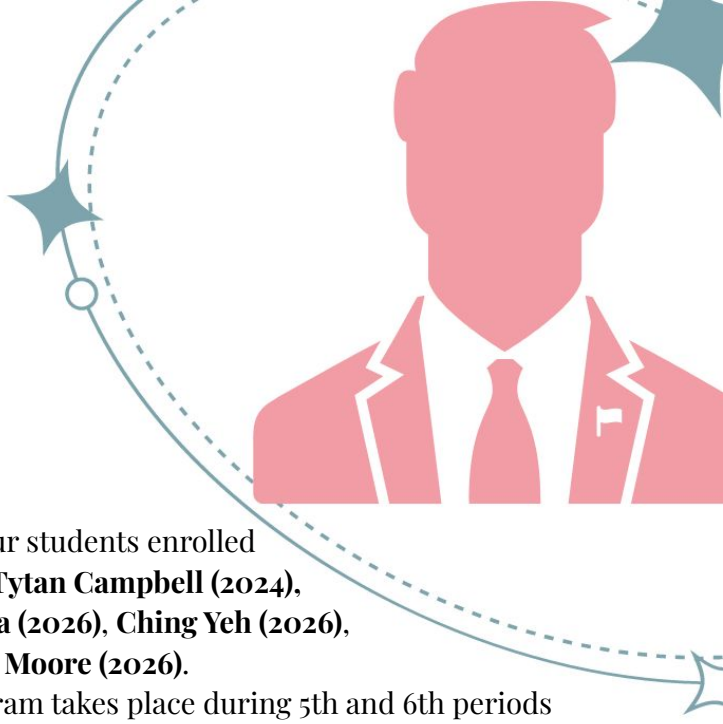
Even though WCA does not have a mock trial team, WCA students can compete with their home high schools' mock trial teams. In this case, **Siena Buri (2023)**, **Aaron Ma (2024)**, **Tytan Campbell (2024)**, and **Tristan Tan (2025)** represented WCA while competing for Hemet High's rigorous mock trial team. Balancing WCA's workload while also being in a winning mock trial team is difficult. "If you balance your schedule and make time for mock trial practice, and memorize the case packet, it's not too difficult. It takes a lot of work but if you're passionate about mock trial then it is easier to handle," says Siena Buri.

With much commitment and dedication, the four WCA mock trial students contributed to making it into the final four in Riverside County Mock Trial Competition. Then they proceeded to place third place in the county. According to Aaron Ma, "Join mock trial. Do not get discouraged by the amount of commitment it takes. The first few weeks are kind of slow but once you get to know the team and bond, the scrimmage becomes fun. You make unforgettable memories with your team especially when you celebrate all your hard work."



The Mayor Mentee Program

By **Lucas Land**



Currently, the city of Hemet has been trying to get more Hemet Unified high school students involved with the city by running the Mayor Mentees Program, but what exactly is it? It is a program in which current high school students can learn municipal government through slideshows, private research and debates between the attendees.

To get into the program, students need a 2.70 GPA, with two recommendation letters and must wear business attire, but the benefits can definitely help if students are interested in learning how government works. The Mayor Mentees Program can help in building connections with the Mayor and other mentees. Students will also receive a letter of recommendation from the Mayor of Hemet and a check for college.



Image credit: CR&R Environmental Services

WCA has four students enrolled in the program: **Tytan Campbell (2024)**, **Tommy Mandella (2026)**, **Ching Yeh (2026)**, and **Christopher Moore (2026)**.

The program takes place during 5th and 6th periods every Tuesday and has minimal homework. Tytan and Tommy both felt that the program was very welcoming, and while the first day feels intimidating, they both warmed up to the students there quickly. The Vice Mayor does most of the talking during the meetings, mainly because of how busy the mayor tends to be, and snacks are generally provided during meetings. Tommy also reported that mentees get to go on trips to see different offices and to City Hall.

While the Mayor Mentees Program seems like a great program for anyone, Both Tytan and Tommy agreed that there's almost no reason to apply if you're not passionate about the political process or thinking about pursuing a career in government. For those that are, however, it is a fantastic opportunity.

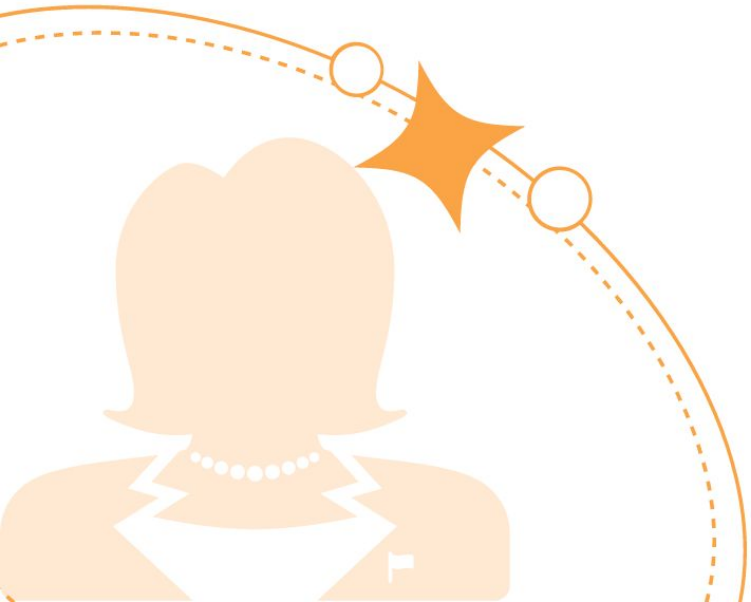




Image Credit: City of Hemet

WCA Birds Galore!

By **Gabriela Ordaz**

If someone were to look out the window during class, there's a chance that they might spot one of the many birds that make their home on our campus. Here's six species of birds that can be found around WCA's campus.



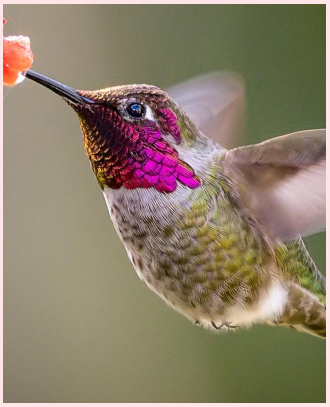
White-Crowned Sparrow

White-crowned sparrows (***Zonotrichia leucophrys***) are a species of passerine and a sub-species of New World sparrow native to North America. They are known to be migratory birds but are known to stay all year round in the West, particularly the coast. These sparrows are a relatively common find on the campus and can sometimes be found before school, scavenging on the ground for food. White-crowned sparrows are known to be ground foragers and largely eat insects and seeds found on the ground. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, white-crowned sparrows learn their song from the environment around them, not from their parents like other bird species. As a result, "dialects" of their songs have been observed across different populations.

Northern Mockingbird

Mockingbirds (***Mimus polyglottos***) are most famously known for their ability to mimic other sounds, commonly other birds but they have also been recorded mimicking cats, dogs, car alarms, and chainsaws. Although mockingbirds are more elusive than other birds, they can sometimes be found hopping along the driveway behind Mr. Huizar's classroom. Northern mockingbirds live year-round in the southern half of America and in all parts of Mexico and the Caribbean islands. Male mockingbirds are typically louder than females and have been said to learn around 200 songs throughout their lifespan. Mockingbirds will sing throughout both the day and night. Unmated male mockingbirds will, in general, sing more often than both mated males and females.

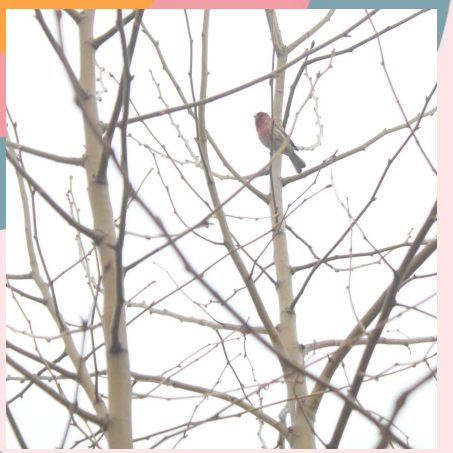




Anna's Hummingbird

Anna's Hummingbirds (***Calypte anna***) are among the most common hummingbirds that can be found year-round on the Pacific coast, feasting on the nectar of flowers and insects. They might be found hovering around the trees on campus during the blooming season. Groups of hummingbirds have been called numerous names, such as a hover, bouquet, shimmer, or a tune of hummingbirds. Hummingbirds are one of the few bird species that are incapable of walking due to their tiny legs.

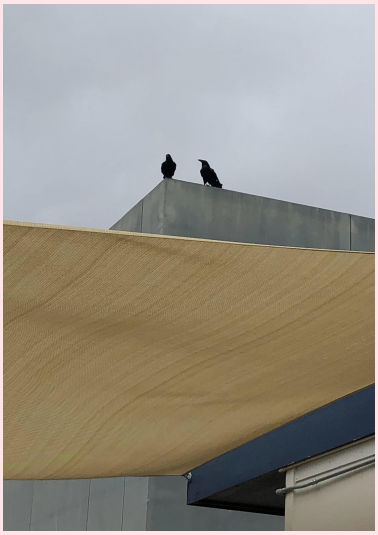
Common House Finch



The common house finch (***Haemorhous mexicanus***) can be seen practically everywhere on campus, from perching on the trees by the lunch lines to nesting inside the roof overhang outside of Mrs. Shefchik's classroom. Male house finches are identifiable by the red markings on their head and chest, making them some of the easiest birds to spot. Their red coloring comes from the food they eat while they are molting, which means whenever they shed old feathers. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, house finches were originally native to West America and most of Mexico, but were introduced to the East

Raven

The common raven (***Corvus corax***) is another species of bird that is abundant on campus and is also one of the most widely distributed birds of any corvid species. They have lived alongside humans for centuries, garnering many myths and symbolism across the world. The raven's success is in part due to being an omnivore and their opportunistic feeding. They eat off of dead animal corpses and have also been recorded to wait in trees to attack newly born lambs. Ravens can sometimes be seen perching on the buildings outside of Mr. McDonald's room, scouring for any food they can get. Ravens are also known for their unusual intelligence, famously known to show an understanding of water displacement. It has also been shown that Ravens understand cause and effect, having been recorded during a study in Wyoming during hunting season following the sounds of gunshots to lead them to dead carcasses.



American Crows

American crows (***Corvus brachyrhynchos***), much like the raven, populate a majority of North America. They can be spotted along rooftops, atop trees, and meandering in open fields. Crows tend to congregate in large groups called "murders" and, during the winter, sleep together. They are omnivores and despite the stereotype, rarely eat carrion. Their diet consists of grains, nuts, fruits, insects, mice, and sometimes fish. Crows have also been documented to create and use tools, such as when crows break off parts of a pine cone in order to drop them on tree climbers threatening their nests.



MOVIE

Movie Review: *Creed III*

5 out of 5 stars

By **Damian Renteria**

Creed III, directed by Michael B. Jordan, was released on March 3, 2023, receiving fantastic reviews and critiques. The boxing-focused film used $75 million dollars as its budget and in return grossed $224 million dollars worldwide in the span of two weeks. The emotional and physical attributes throughout the film contribute to its amazing storyline and backstory.

The plotline of the story includes Michael B. Jordan playing the main character, Adonis Creed, who's dominating the boxing world and is the current World Heavyweight Champion. His life is thriving with his wife and daughter until he meets up with a childhood friend, Damian Anderson, wonderfully played by Jonathan Majors. Adonis used to sneak out and watch Damian box in Los Angeles as "Diamond Dame," but as Damian grew up, he couldn't box anymore due to being sent to jail. When they meet up as adults, Damian states that he wants to be back in the ring, but what Creed doesn't know are Damian's intentions.

Unlike the previous films, *Creed III* does not include the famous Rocky Balboa because the actor, Sylvester Stallone, said the story was too dark for him, sparking many questions and controversies among fans. Not only does this impact the plot of the story, but it affects the background detail of Creed and Rocky. Since Rocky isn't there to train and guide him, the movie focuses on Creed's past and present. His family, his childhood, his friends, and his mental health are more important to him than boxing and living up to his name.

Creed III includes realistic boxing and workout scenes, but what truly makes it a good film are the emotional scenes in between. Creed sees his family as the number one priority over everything. Not only is he a boxing legend, but he's also a caring dad. Creed's wife, Bianca, played by Tessa Thompson, and Amara, played by Mila Davis-Kent, are also the subplots of the movie. Bianca is pursuing her singing career and gaining more traction. Amara was born deaf and was heavily influenced by Creed's career and personality. Their presence is enough to keep Creed focused and grateful. This film touches the audience's heart with its emphasis on being humble and prioritizing the most important things in life.



Image Credit: The Playlist



Image Credit: Cleveland.com

Hi-Fi Rush Game Review

By **Kolton Klug**



Hi-Fi Rush is a rhythm-based action game that was released in January. It was made by a small company called Tango Gameworks and published by Bethesda. The game currently has had fairly positive feedback from consumers, earning a 10-out-of-10 rating on Steam, and a 97% rating on Google. Before playing the game and looking at the trailers, you can see its well-designed comic art style.

When starting the game, the main character, Chai, is thrown into a hectic dilemma. He signs up for a 'hero project' called "Project Armstrong," where he is a test subject for some sort of power. The project doesn't turn out as planned and malfunctions. This results in Chai possessing a defect power, which leads to him being chased by the executives at Project Armstrong trying to take away his given defect power. His power is being able to feel the 'beat' of the world. In the game, this is shown with the world being synced to the game's soundtrack.

The learning phase of the game was very fun to play around in. With your attacks syncing to the game's soundtrack, it feels like the world of the game is revolving around you at every second. The combat is very satisfying, with the beat of the scrap guitar weapon melding with the soundtrack and the attacks with every swing. The game's mechanics are well polished for being a fairly new game with few bugs and glitches.

Overall, I believe that this game is very different from other games that have come out, with no rhythm games of this variety being recently released. For being unique as it is, *Hi-Fi Rush* performs exceptionally in its intentions of gameplay and will keep you entertained all the way through the game. This game deserves 5/5 stars for its uniqueness, quality, and phenomenal performance.



Image Credit: Bethesda.net



Image Credit: TheNewsHo



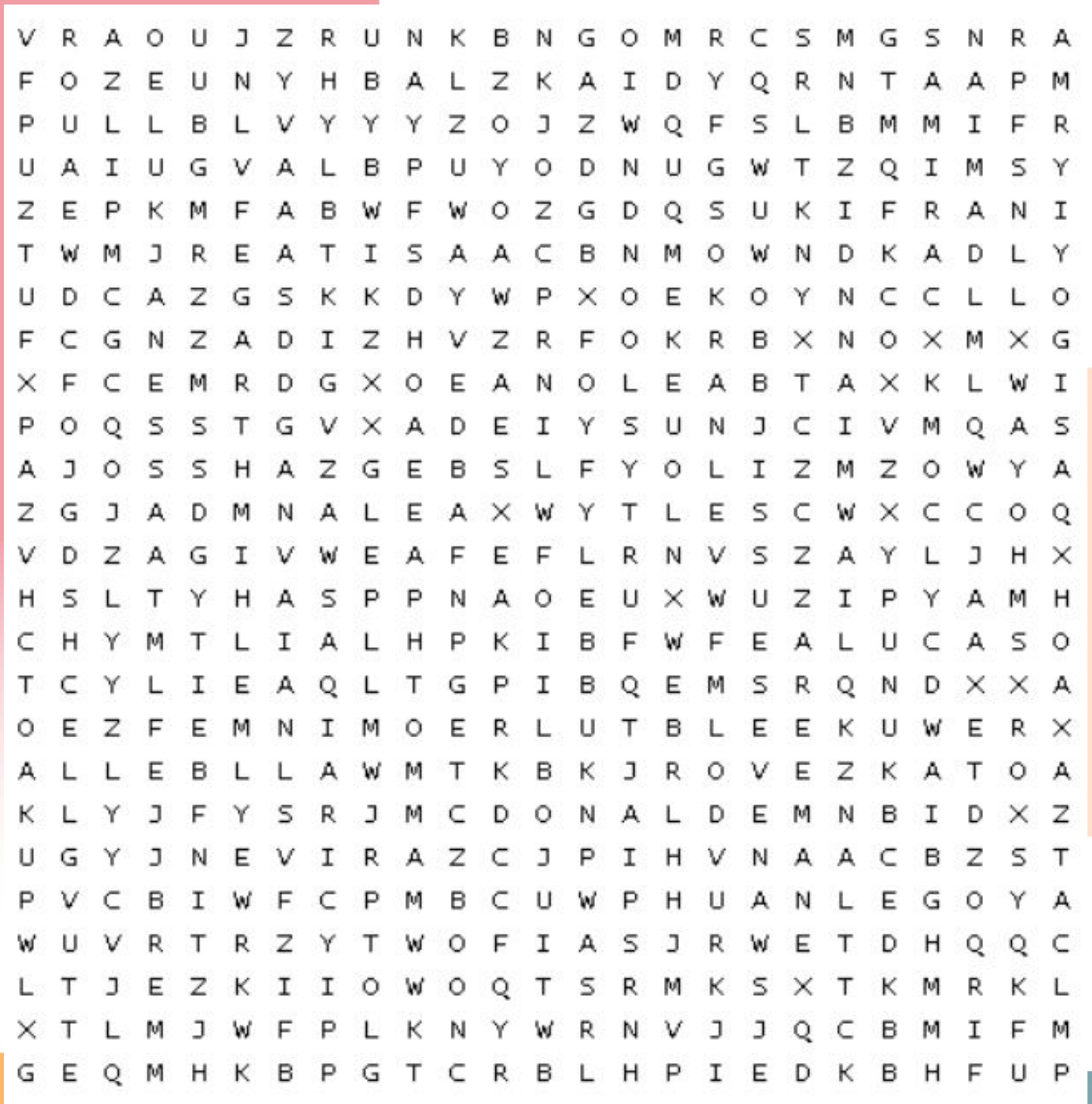
5 out of 5 stars

California Dreamin' Maze

By **Lily Hawkinson**

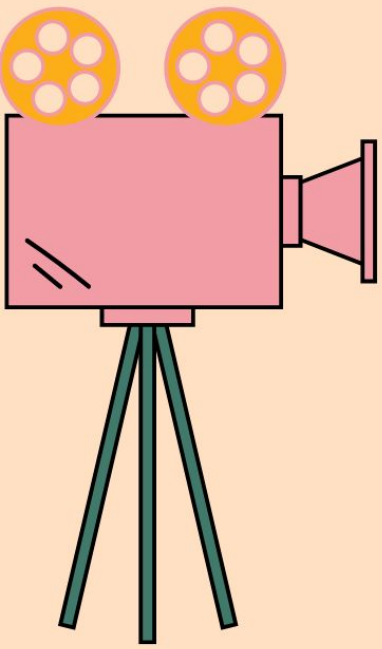


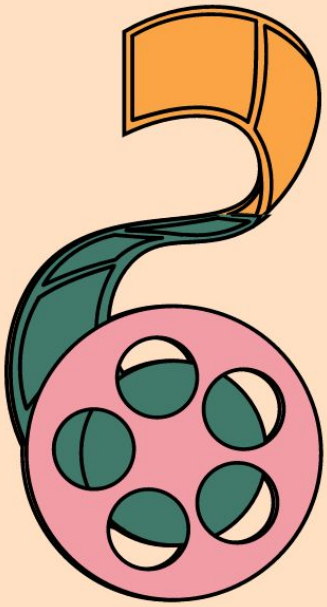
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Tribune Staff Word Search

By **Lily Hawkinson**







Director Spotlight: Martin Scorsese

By **Isaac Shumaker**

Martin Scorsese is an American film director, producer, and actor, who is often considered one of the greatest filmmakers in history. Throughout his career, Scorsese has demonstrated his unparalleled ability to tell compelling stories by utilizing a unique blend of technical skill, visual style, and artistic vision. Scorsese's use of such key qualities is what gives him his well deserved appreciation and recognition.



One of Scorsese's greatest strengths as a director is his technical expertise. His films are often marked by complex camera movements, intricate editing, and innovative use of sound and music. In on scene of his film *Goodfellas*, Scorsese uses a long tracking shot to follow the main character through the back of a restaurant as it showcases the inner workings of the mob world. The shot is not only technically impressive, but serves to advance the story in a meaningful way.

Another key aspect of his filmmaking style is his unique visual aesthetic. His films often feature richly detailed and highly stylized visuals that fabricate an immersive and vivid world for the audience. For example, in *Gangs of New York*, Scorsese shot a scene of a stylized, 1860's New York City. The shot is complete with an incredibly accurate set and costume design. Everything works together perfectly, and the synergy resonates with the audience to take them back in time.

Beyond his technical and visual prowess, Scorsese is also known for his artistic vision and ability to elicit powerful performances from his actors. He has a talent for casting the right actors for the right roles, and for coaxing nuanced and authentic performances out of his actors. In the film *Raging Bull*, Scorsese worked closely with Robert De Niro to develop the troubled and complex character of Jake LaMotta, resulting in a performance that is both raw and emotionally powerful. These performances aren't limited to just one film, other impressive performances are Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Wolf of Wall Street* and Al Pacino in *The Irishman.*

Scorsese's films are marked by a deep passion for storytelling. He has a talent for taking on complex themes and subjects and presenting them in a way that is both thought-provoking and entertaining. His films often explore themes such as identity, power, redemption, guilt, conflict and crime, and gangs. He approaches these topics with a keen eye for detail and a deep understanding of the human mind to fabricate classic films that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Films Directed by Martin Scorsese:

Goodfellas (1990)	*Cape Fear* (1991)	*The Age of Innocence* (1993)	*Casino* (1995)	*Kundun* (1997)
Bringing Out the Dead (1999)	*Gangs of New York* (2002)	*The Aviator* (2004)	*The Departed* (2006)	*Shutter Island* (2010)
Hugo (2011)	*The Wolf of Wall Street* (2013)	*Silence* (2016)	*Silence* (2016)	*The Irishman* (2019)

Marcel Duchamp: The Father of Conceptual Art

By **Aelan Diaz**

Marcel Duchamp was a French artist who broke down the boundaries between works of art and everyday objects. Duchamp is credited with changing the future of art in a way that very few artists can claim to have influenced. In his early artist days, Duchamp created paintings with Cubism, Futurism, and Constructivism art movements. He did not find passion behind creating paintings, using the philosophies of the previous art movements, Duchamp combined the rejection of mass production, colonialism, and materialism to create a new art movement named "readymades."

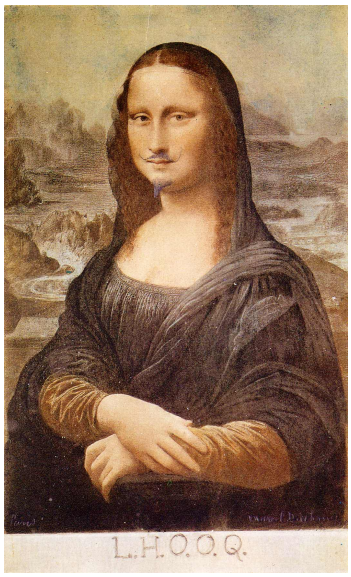


Image Credit: Singulart

Duchamp challenged the notion of what is art through the creation of readymades. These 'readymades' were his alternative to representing objects in paint and was his idea of presenting various objects as art themselves. These selections were often mass produced items which were available to all consumers by which he designated them as art and gave them a title.

This notion sent shock waves through the art world which can still be felt in the contemporary art world. Duchamp both distorted and disrupted centuries of ideological discursive thinking about art and the artist's role as a maker of unique handmade objects. For this reason, as well as the notion of "art for art's sake," Duchamp is often considered as the father of conceptual art as he steadfastly refused to follow any conventional artistic movement.


Image Credit: Manhattan Arts

As an artist, Marcel Duchamp is considered one of the leading spirits of 20th-century painting. His works were ignored by the public for the greater part of his life. Until 1960 only avant-garde groups such as the Surrealists claimed that he was important, while to "official" art circles and sophisticated critics, he appeared to be merely an eccentric and something of a failure. He was more than 70 years old when he emerged and influenced American art and society which laid the way for Pop art, Op art, and many of the other movements embraced by younger artists everywhere. Not only did he change the visual arts, but he also changed the mind of the artist.



How To Grow a Flower Garden

By **Samira Seelhofer**

The first step to growing a garden is to find the perfect spot to plant flowers and other vegetation. It is recommended that each plant has six inches to a foot of open area. After choosing the ideal location, the soil type also needs to be assessed. The soil type will determine whether or not a flower will take shape, as some may not thrive in drier areas, and others won't take shape in wet soil. The main types of soil are sand, silt, and clay. The best type to grow flowers in would be silt because it holds moisture well and has a lot of nutrients.



Image Credit: Garden Tutor

Soil can be identified by wetting it and feeling the texture, the more grainy it feels the higher percentage of sand it is. The clay soil will feel sticky and the silt soil will feel like flour with little moisture, and it can easily be formed into a ball and broken. Planting a flower that requires nutritious soil in a dry area will limit its ability to grow, even if it gets enough sunlight. Depending on personal preference, dry soil can always be replaced with garden compost if necessary.

However, to avoid soil replacement, "drought tolerant" vegetation can be planted in substitution. These are the flowers that can thrive even in soil that doesn't hold a lot of water, they really just need plenty of sunlight and not much else. Flowers better suited for dry soil include the California Poppy, Catmint, Lantana, Moss Rose, and Portulaca.



Image Credit: Garden Crossing

On the other side of the soil spectrum are plants that need a well-fertilized soil. These include Japanese primrose, Marsh marigold, and Siberian Iris.



Image Credit: Adobe Stock

Another factor that needs to be taken into consideration before choosing the flowers is how high maintenance they are, and whether or not they will be properly cared for. Easy-to-grow flowers tend to be used when just starting a garden; this can consist of Daylilies, Allium Millenium, and Shasta Daisy Becky. Anyone considered to have a “brown thumb” could easily grow these without much experience.



Image Credit: Blooming Secrets

For every flower, the hole to plant it in will vary based on the size of the seed. The hole should be twice as deep as the seed is wide. If the seed is ½ in. wide, the hole should be an inch deep when you first plant it. After planting, the vegetation should be watered practically every day. If a day is missed, drowning the plant in water would only do damage, so ideally just enough water every single day.



Image Credit: Oil City News

After seeds have been planted, the soil needs to be fertilized. Even if the plants are in drier soil, fertilizing will help them grow. There are numerous everyday items that can be used as fertilizer to promote plant growth. An excellent fertilizer is actually banana peels since they have potassium, which is a main component in fertilizers. After the flowers have been grown and are ready for picking, they should be cut an inch from the main stem at a 45-degree angle. This is to give a larger surface area for water to come in contact. California is an ideal place to grow
these flowers because of its abundance of natural light.





Image Credit: Garden Tech

Nature Trails

By **Kayla Simpson**

Are you looking for a fun and healthy way to spend your free time? Do you want a calming activity to do with family and friends this spring? If so, then check out these nature trails. All of them are close to WCA and not more than an hour's drive away. The following trails are a great way to spend time exploring nature with family and friends. We have featured a few local trails, both easy and moderate depending on your hiking experience. The easy trails are great to go on with family and friends, as they don't require much practice and are easy for young children. The moderate trails are more for experienced hikers, as they take more time to hike and have more difficult terrain to cover. So depending on what type of trail you want to take, here are some suggestions for you.

Diamond Valley Lake Wildflower Trail:

This is a super easy trail, especially if you're a beginner. It is a 2.1 mile loop near Hemet and takes around 53 minutes to complete. This trail will have you follow a scenic path on the northern hills area of Diamond Valley Lake. This part of the lake is well known for its wildflowers. The best time to visit this trail is from February through May when all the flowers are in full bloom. This is a perfect, family-friendly trail, and is great for mountain biking, hiking, or running. Dogs aren't allowed on this trail, so be sure to leave any pets at home. In order to enter, you have to pay $11 for parking and $4 per person over three years of age.



Image Credit: AllTrails



Image Credit: AllTrails

Simpson Park Trail:

This is a moderate trail, which means that it will be a bit more difficult than the easy trails. It is a 5.2 mile loop, and takes around two hours and 27 minutes to complete. This trail is open year round, and is great to visit anytime. This trail is a popular area for mountain biking, hiking, and bird watching. As a result, you will most likely encounter more people while hiking. This trail does not require a fee to enter, and dogs are allowed on or off a leash in certain areas. The parking lot for this trail doesn't open until 7 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. If you will be using a map during your time hiking this trail, it is recommended that you download an offline map as there is no internet or service access.

Devil's Slide Trail:

This is also a moderate trail located near Idyllwild-Pine Cove. This trail is not a loop but rather 3.3 miles up and 3.3 miles down. It will take an average of 3 hours and 41 minutes to complete. This area is very popular with hikers, so you will run into other people. Dogs are allowed on this trail, on or off a leash in certain areas. It gets snowy and icy, so proper gear for that weather is recommended. The best time to visit this trail is April through November. A free permit is required for day hiking.



Image Credit: AllTrails

Other trails:

- **Diamond Valley Lakeside Loop**: Located in Hemet. Moderate 21.9 mile loop, takes around 8 hours and 49 minutes to complete.
- **Three Peaks Loop**: Located in Menifee. Moderate 3.3 mile loop, takes around 1 hour and 55 minutes to complete.
- **Antelope Ridge Cave Trail**: Located in Menifee. Moderate 1.2 miles out and back, takes around 58 minutes to complete.
- **Menifee Cross**: Located in Menifee. Moderate 2.4 miles out and back, takes around 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete.
- **Mt. Rubidoux Trail**: Located in Riverside. Easy 3.2 mile loop, takes around 1 hour and 26 minutes to complete.

Ernie Maxwell Scenic Trail:

This is a moderate trail located in San Jacinto, located near Idyllwild-Pine Cove. It is 2.3 miles out and 2.3 back, and takes around 2 hours and 12 minutes to complete. This trail is very popular, especially for hiking and horseback riding. Due to this, you will most likely run into quite a few people. The best time to visit this trail is from May through October when the weather is more mild. Dogs are welcome on this trail and are allowed to be off leash in certain areas. A free permit is required for day hiking and overnight trips within the federal wilderness area.



Image Credit: AllTrails

History of Easter

By **Janett Vazquez**

This year Easter took place on April 9th. Easter is mostly celebrated by Christians, an event commemorating the resurrection of Jesus three day after the day he was crucified. For many Christian churches, this holiday brings joy because Easter is the end of the Lenten season of fasting and penitence. The earliest that Christians started to celebrate Easter was in the second century. Though according to *Encyclopedia Britannica.com*, Christians could have started to celebrate this holiday earlier, but there is no record of that actually being true. The traditions that are known today come from a blend of Christian themes and ancient pagan celebrations.

The first of these traditions is the Easter egg, an ancient pagan symbol of a new life, but from a Christian perspective, Easter eggs represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection. Also during the Lenten season, eggs are a forbidden food, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penitence and fasting. According to *History.com,* decorating eggs is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century.

Another tradition is the Easter basket and the Easter egg hunt. During Easter, children decorate a basket so that they can go around looking for eggs. Yet in the 1700s, children would build a nest and leave it out so the Easter bunny could lay its eggs. Easter egg hunts originated from spring festivals celebrating fertility. And according to *Sophisticated Woman Magazine* and *English Heritage,* it is believed that egg hunts date back to the 1700s and began in Germany.

The Easter bunny first arrived in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania. According to *History.com,* the bunny was called "Oschter Haws," or "Osterhase." This bunny was believed to lay a nest of colorful eggs for well-behaved children in the morning. Eventually, this idea of a bunny going around giving eggs filled with candy came to the United States after the Civil War. And morning deliveries started to include chocolate, other types of candy, and small gifts. Some of the children would leave the bunny carrots just in case it got hungry from all of its hopping.



Image Credit: Seeker.com



Image Credit: abc.net.au

Flower Fields of Carlsbad

By **Izabella Torres**

For over 60 years, the rolling hills of north San Diego were turned into the most spectacular displays of natural color and beauty. Fifty acres of the Carlsbad Ranch make up the flower fields. For about six to eight weeks, these flowers are at their prettiest and the blooming season takes over. The annual burst of color has become a part of the locals' heritage and is a way of introducing spring.

The Carlsbad flower fields is open to visitors starting from early March to early May. The cost to go see these flowers varies depending on age. For adults, $14, $13 for seniors, and $7 for children above the age of ten. Parking is free.

The garden has many types of flowers. It also provides several events to keep guests entertained, including a tractor wagon ride, which is a relaxing way to travel throughout the flower fields. The tickets for this attraction are sold after you arrive, $8 for adults and $4 for children ages three to ten. If you don't want to go on the wagon ride, you can go to more attractions throughout the garden. Notably, the American flag of flowers, which are red white and blue petunias planted on a one-hundred-seventy-foot hillside to commemorate the United States. The artist garden and bird aviaries, which are famous paintings portrayed into a colorful garden as an art museum of flowers and singing birds as you walk through this beautiful art gallery.

The Carlsbad Ranch has many flowers but most importantly they have the poppy flower, which is a very popular attraction as it is our state's flower. This flower is very important because it was the enduring symbol of our remembrance of World War I. These flowers grew from the rubble of the battlefield on the Western Front and brought light to people in a very dark era.



Image Credit: The Flower Fields



Image Credit: Travellers Worldwide

Stress Awareness Month

By **Janessa Alfaro**

Since 1992, National Stress Awareness Month has taken place throughout April to raise awareness about the negative impact of stress. There is no single cause of stress, but it is critical to know the harmful effects and what it can do to our bodies both physically and mentally. Learning coping strategies and getting proper support can help decrease feelings of stress and its symptoms.

There are many healthy ways to cope with stress. One includes self-care. Eat healthy foods, exercise regularly, surround yourself with good people, get quality sleep, and make sure to give yourself breaks when needed. Another strategy is always having someone to talk to, whether it be a family member, a close friend, a therapist, or even a journal.

Some WCA students use a variety of these methods to cope with stress. **Hayden Rodriguez (2026)** plays music. **Tagan Brown (2025)** says, "I pray and read my Bible because my faith and relationship with God really helps to calm me down." **Alessandra Mejia (2025)** suggests, "If it's anything immediate, like hot seats, let yourself know that it's not healthy and it'll be over with soon. A good thing that also always helps me is having a little self-care moment." **Franco Doval (2023)** advises doing one thing at a time. "If you think of everything at once, it's going to kill you. Do one thing first and don't even think about what comes after that until it's done."

During National Stress Awareness month, we can promote stress awareness by speaking out and sharing "stress stories," organizing a resource fair, reminding others of the healthy ways to cope, and posting on social media with the following hashtag: #**StressAwarenessMonth**.



Image Credit: Country Living Magazine



Image Credit: Vecteezy

To Put a Smile on Your Face

By **Rylee Looper**

Do you want the good news or the good news first? The media constantly plagues us with burdening and depressing information, which can become exhausting after a while. Therefore, here is some happy news to brighten up your day and make you feel a little bit more optimistic.

In the past couple of months, California has been drenched in an abundance of rain. There have been eleven atmospheric river storms since December, creating new record amounts of rain and snow. According to the Central Sierra Snow Lab, a normal full-season total is around 360 inches of rain. This year we have already exceeded that total with an astounding 650 inches of rain and with more to come. Therefore asof March 16, only 36% of California is still in a drought, as reported by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Photographs have shown restored aquifers, full lakes, and beautiful green fields all around the state. We hope to continue to see great results after upcoming rains, but overall this is very exciting news.

On March 12th, history was made by Michelle Yeoh when she won the Academy Award for best actress. Starring in the comedic drama “Everything Everywhere All at Once,” we follow her character, Evelyn Wang, as she navigates the multiverse cluelessly in order to stop an overwhelming power that threatens to destroy everything. Its hidden meaning revolves around generational trauma in which someone living with trauma will often inflict trauma upon others, typically their children. She did a stunning job at conveying such passionate feelings while also conforming to the outrageous settings of the film. She is definitely deserving of the Oscar, but what makes it more influential than the rest is that she is the first Asian actress to win in this category. In her acceptance speech, she stated, “For all the little boys and girls who look like me watching tonight, this is a beacon of hope and possibilities. This is proof that dreams dream big and dreams do come true”.

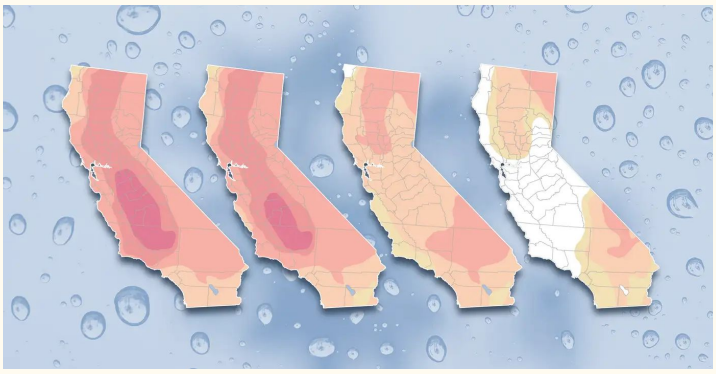


Image Credit: USA Today



Image Credit: Entertainment Weekly



Earth Day

By **Elona Bekit**

For 50 years, many countries across the globe have celebrated Earth Day on April 22. The story of Earth Day begins in 1960. During the 1960s, the environment was not a priority, and until now, our oceans and air have been neglected. However, a few people still cared for the environment during the '60s. A man named Gaylord Nelson wanted to bring awareness to what was happening to our earth.

Gaylord Nelson was the governor of Wisconsin, and as governor, he promoted environmental issues. Later, according to the Adirondack Council, he became a U.S. Senator. It was during the 1960s that many college students were holding protests. Gaylord Nelson had the idea to bring their energy into raising awareness about the environment. In September of 1969, he called for people in the United States to gather in Spring and dedicate a day to learning about the environment. This idea was loved by many, so Nelson created an organization called Environmental Teach-In. This helped people prepare for the event dedicated to Earth.

On April 22, 1970, about 20 million people across the United States marched for a healthy Earth. There were 10,000 elementary, middle, and high schools, 2,000 colleges, and 1,000 communities. This would be the first Earth Day. The first Earth Day united people from all demographics and people from all different majors to fight for Earth. After Earth Day, twelve acts of legislation were made to keep our Earth healthy, with some of the acts being the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, and the Endangered Species Act. In 1990, Earth Day became global. According to *earthday.org*, 193 countries celebrate Earth Day, and the year 2020 marked the 50-year anniversary.

According to National Geographic, you can do very simple things to help save our environment. Around 15 billion trees are cut down every year, so you can plant trees to make up for the losses. Fossil fuels are a big factor in air pollution, so simply turning off the house lights helps because electricity is generated using fossil fuels. Another way that you can help is by limiting the amount of water you use. This helps save clean water, which is limited due to water pollution. You can even help our environment by simply spreading awareness of what is happening on Earth and offering a bit of your time to Earth.



Image Credit: Pinterest



Image Credit: Dribble





Strawberry Season 2023

By **Aelan Diaz**

Strawberry season is a magical time to visit California, as it marks the period when one of the state's most prominent fruits comes into its prime. In-season strawberries are easy to identify. They have a bright ruby-red color and have a much sweeter flavor than the fruits you scarf down throughout the rest of the year. Beyond flavor, there are also other key giveaways to a divine strawberry. Healthy, green leaves suggest that the flesh of the fruit is fresh and ready to be enjoyed.



Image Credit: The Packer



Image Credit: Sacramento Magazine



The winter of 2022-23 has been devastating for the California strawberry industry. After the state's drought period, the California storms are bringing desperately needed water but at great economic and human cost. More than 20 people have died due to the heavy rain and flooding, and extensive crop losses in the biggest U.S. food producing state will contribute to supply shortfalls and grocery-store inflation. The California Strawberry Commission reports that after storms in December and January caused over $200 million in crop damage from wind, rain and floods, damage from recent flooding from the Pajaro and Salinas rivers in Monterey County has caused hundreds of millions of dollars more in losses. The latest disaster came as farmers had borrowed money to prepare the fields and were weeks away from beginning to harvest. As soon as the cleanup is complete, farmers will begin the process of preparing the fields and starting over. The storms have threatened the $3 billion strawberry industry in the U.S.

The History of Ramadan

By **Nameera Hassan**

Ramadan is one of the holiest religious traditions of the year for all Muslims. According to *National Geographic.com,* Ramadan began in A.D. 610 when an angel named Jibril went to the Prophet Muhammad and revealed the Islamic holy book, also known as the Quran.

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims are supposed to fast from dawn to sunset. After the Sunset prayer, Muslims gather at their homes or mosques to break their fast with a meal. Fasting is one of the five pillars, or five core beliefs, of Islam. The act of fasting reminds Muslims of the less fortunate and reinforces the mindset of being thankful.

Ramadan typically begins when the new crescent moon is first spotted, and it usually lasts for 29 to 30 days. The second time a new crescent moon is spotted is when Ramadan comes to an end, and all Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, which is one of the two major holidays on the Muslim Calendar. The other is Eid-al-Adha which marks the end of pilgrimage at Mecca. During Eid al-Fitr, Muslim family and friends gather together to celebrate the completion of Ramadan. Presents are shared, new clothes are worn, and it is a tradition to visit the graves of relatives. All Muslims are rewarded on this day for their practices of self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice, and empathy. It is also a day to show gratitude to Allah, the one and only God in Islam.



Image Credit: Islamic Networks Group



Image Credit: AS USA

There are many Muslim WCA students who celebrate Ramadan and are familiar with the joys and challenges. **Ayman Al Jarjis (2024)** responds to what the best part of Ramadan is by saying, “The bond that you have with a lot of other people and even people here at school.” When it comes to facing the most challenging part of Ramadan, **Wael Hassan (2026)** says, “The most challenging part for me is being at school and watching everyone else eat.” It is also very common for families to take part in traditions during this time. **Khadijah Haider (2023)** mentions, “For every Eid, my family and I go buy a big box of donuts.” Finally, it is important for Muslims to remember what Ramadan means to them. **Yasmeen Abdelrahman (2023)** says, “Ramadan to me means becoming better and being more united.” **Zain Shahzad (2023)** responds with, “Ramadan means to increase your iman in a community aspect,” conveying that the month of Ramadan is all about recognizing the faith and deeds of Islam as a whole.

Strange History Mad Sam, too Crazy for the Mafia

By **Jakob Dieges**

Sam DeStefano was born on September 13, 1909, in Streator, Illinois. He grew up to be one of the most infamous mobsters in the Outfit, the Chicago division of the Mob. He was called "Mad Sam" by the police and the Mob, and he was one of the most brutal out of anyone in the mob.

When Sam was young, he was arrested on multiple accounts. The first time being in 1926, the second being in 1927, and the third time in 1933. The first time he broke out of prison, the second time he served three years, and the third time he was sentenced to 40 years, but, according to Gary Jenkins from the *GangLand Wire*, his sentence was commuted to 11 years later in 1942.



Image Credit: Wikipedia

In the 1950s, Sam was a loan shark for the Mob, and he was known for making risky loans, even to the point of knowing some of his clients wouldn't be able to pay. Sam would do it, just so he could catch them and torture them in his sound-proof basement. Later, he would start to fix trials and government elections. Jenkins adds that Sam's largest case that he worked was for $20,000. Eventually, corrupt police officers would escort criminals to Sam's house instead of the police station to see if they would take out a loan to pay the officers off.

By the time the 1960s rolled around, Sam was one of The Outfit's top loan sharks, charging around 20-25 percent on each loan. With consistent borrowers, Sam would give them gifts. He often engraved their names onto these gifts. That way if they flaked out and Sam killed them, he could claim they were close friends in court. According to John W. Tuohy from *AmercanMafia*, one of Sam's collectors fled Illinois with over $25,000, and Sam sent out subordinates to catch him. Sam tortured him for three days straight and then brought the collector and his family to Sam's restaurant. Sam tortured him in the back of the restaurant for five hours. As time went by Sam continued his work, still trying to become a full time member of the Outfit, even as his mental state decreased. In 1973, Sam was indicted for a murder him and his associates committed ten years earlier. For the trial, Sam insisted on representing himself. According to a reporter from *The New York Times* who was present at the trial, Sam did so using a Bullhorn to plead his case. Sam had already posed a large weak point for the Outfit, so instead of risking him, the Outfit hired his brother and two close friends to assassinate him in his home. Sam died in his garage from gunshot wounds on April 14, 1973.



Image Credit: Pinterest

The Mammoth Tribune



Made by Students for Students

Western Center Academy