

Increase in suicides

SHATTERING LIVES



CUSD takes proactive measure to prevent suicides

By Callie Nagel
the precedent

More and more teens are facing mental disorders such as anxiety and depression, which far too often results in an individual attempting or committing suicide.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of overall suicides has increased from 29,199 in 1999, to 42,773 in 2014. But as this issue becomes more prevalent in the Valley,

the Chandler Unified School District has taken proactive strides to make this life-shattering epidemic less of a stigma.

Aligned with national suicide prevention week (Sept. 10-16), school counselors across CUSD reached out to its students on Sept. 14 in an attempt to help teens who feel they are in jeopardy of harming themselves or even killing themselves.

Councilor Kirstin Gregg said that all secondary schools showed a teen suicide
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U.S. Statistics
From Center for Disease Control and Prevention

29,199
Total U.S. suicides in 1999

42,773
Total U.S. suicides in 2014

1-in-18
PHS students said they felt at risk

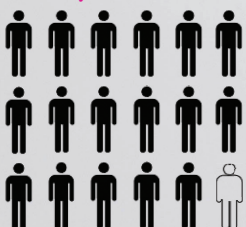


photo by Kennedy Wagner and AP/Commercial Photography

A broken glass symbolizes the ripple-effect each suicide has on a community. On Sept. 14, all CUSD secondary schools participated in a suicide prevention project which included a video message from assistant superintendent Craig Gilbert, a public service video from the Mayo Clinic, and a survey to identify at-risk students.

On-campus graduation moved to ASU for 2018

By Sawyer Del Fosse
the precedent

After eight years of holding graduation in its own backyard, administration announced earlier this month that for the first time in school history, spring commencement will be an off-campus event.

The 2018 senior class will graduate at Wells Fargo Arena on the campus of Arizona State University on Tues. May 29.

Besides the obvious location change, holding graduation on the last Tues. of the school year is also a big adjustment.

In the past, graduation

has always been held on the last Wed. of the year as it marks the last day of school for underclassmen. However, this year, ASU reached its two-graduations-a-day limit on that Wed. forcing the ceremony back to the day before.

Principal Dan Serrano stated, "Well I've always liked it on campus but over the years, it's not fair to people who come to see somebody graduate and they don't have a good seat or a good place to park."

At its height of its growth, this senior class reached 967 students, making it the largest in Perry's 10 year history. With

such an enormous number of students, the stadium at Perry would not have been sufficient to house the imminent number parents and family members who would like to attend graduation.

StuGo president Hannah Bashford said, "I have always been told our class is the biggest in Perry history.

We had to build extra parking lot to accommodate for our size so it was not a surprise when we found out that our stadium would not be able to hold our graduation."

Over the past four years,

See GRADUATION, Page 3



photo by Madi Kimball

Class of 2017 walks across the PHS field before getting handed their diplomas.



Football undefeated
Perry football remains 6-0 as the season advances
Page 12



Youthful cast in fall production
Perry Theatre Company debuts "13 The Musical"
Page 8



Character Matters
Program to develop athlete's character makes debut in CUSD
Page 6-7

Voters to decide CUSD Override

By Morgan Chung
the precedent

This year, the voters of Chandler, Arizona are going to vote to either approve or not approve the additional maintenance and operations (M&O) funding for the Chandler Unified School District (CUSD). The Chandler Unified School District provides a well-written Frequently Asked form that describes what M&O is and how it operates. The funding from the M&O is dependent on student enrollment.

The M&O Override is the funding bill, but it is being overridden so the schools can be funded with more money to use for specific purposes. These funds are used to pay the teachers, reduce class size, provide good academic programs, etc.

Chandler has mostly always approved the M&O bill, except for once in 2012 and another time in 2013. On Oct. 10, the early ballots will be mailed to voters, allowing them to say yes or no on the new M&O Override bill. There are three phases in this process and with each phase, the bill will be amended according to the approval ratings they receive from the mailed ballots.

If approved, the bill will give more money fund-wise to schools in CUSD. In Chandler, it will be used to create an appropriate class size, bringing in and keeping good-quality teachers, and providing and extending good programs for athletics, academics, and extracurriculars.

SkoolLive boards implemented on campus



photo by Shelby Hubbard

Juniors Thomas Smith (left) and Marshall Conley (right) interact with the newly installed SkoolLive boards that have been put into the C- and F- buildings as

By Sawyer Del Fosse
the precedent

At the start of the school year, many heads were turned toward the seven feet tall, black billboards that now decorate the hallways. These billboards- known as kiosks- have been erected on the bottom floor of both the F- and C-buildings, as well as the cafeteria. Each kiosk is both student interactive and touch compatible.

Student body president Hannah Bashford said, "The boards are put on by a company called SkoolLive. They are the ones responsible for installing them on campus."

According to the SkoolLive website, "SkoolLive exists to

improve school-to-student communication through our on-campus digital kiosks, utilizing the full power of our hyper-connected interactive network."

As far as money goes, Perry did not have to invest a quarter. Last year, Chandler was the first school in the district to test out the new technology. After last years test run, CUSD agreed to collaborate with SkoolLive and assimilate the kiosks into every campus in the district. SkoolLive payed for and installed all of the kiosks during summer, in hopes they would be ready to use for this upcoming school year.

Principal Dan Serrano explained, "No money came out of our pocket. It was just a way for the

school to advertise what is going on around campus."

These new devices serve to accomplish two main purposes for the school: improve the interactive communication and provide responsible advertising. SkoolLive improves communication by designing the kiosks to be touch-friendly in order to provide students with the capability to interact with any news that is displayed. In this way, students will be able to give feedback, take polls, and vote in school elections on any of the kiosks on campus.

Stugo advisor Lerina Johnson said, "The boards will be used a lot for advertising. In order for an ad to show, Mr. Serrano has to

approve it and then we submit it to SkoolLive."

On their website, SkoolLive claims to promote responsible marketing. This responsible marketing includes lifting burdens on fundraising and improving student opportunities. By installing kiosks, students are better able to support existing school programs and take fundraising off of the teachers shoulders.

Being the first year, there will be bugs and complications that arise with the program. However, the intent is for SkoolLive to become a part of student life. In the near future, it may be more common than not to see kiosks such as these on every campus in the nation.

Unified sports begins fifth year involving disabled students

By Macie Miller
the precedent

The Unified Sports program aims to include the students on campus that have disabilities and has been a big part of Perry since the program started. This year they are celebrating their fifth anniversary at Perry. The Unified program aims to involve the students on campus that have special needs and cannot participate

in the regular sports. It also helps those students work on their social abilities as well as practicing being a part of a team.

Senior Megan Colborn, who has been a part of Unified Sports for the past two years, said that "this year we have a lot of new athletes and the unity of the unified sports team is closer together and it is more of a family."

They gained a lot of new members this year with the

incoming class, but they also have quite a few seniors that will be graduating. The program will be focusing on making it more connected among the students this year, "by letting the kids take the lead and assist in running practices and games." Unified Sports participates in soccer, flag football, track, and basketball.

"[We] hope to get the message across that unified is just like any other sport and it needs to be

supported more across the school community," Colborn said.

Flag football is currently in season and prospects for future wins seem high.

The team, same as any other, is extremely competitive and are focused on making big wins this season.

The sports they are involved in are just like all the other average high school sports. For the unified students, this program gives them

confidence in being outgoing in their everyday lives.

Coach Rose Escalante said, "we are trying to get more involved in the activities that occur around school and make it special for the seniors so they can remember what it was like."

The program is making a difference in so many students' lives and they hope to continue to make a difference for many years to come.

CUSD schools aim to help suicide prevention in classrooms

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prevention video produced by the Mayo Clinic and handed out resource cards to students that included hotline phone numbers.

"We just want students to know that we care and that we're here to help and we have the resources to help if they need it," Gregg said. She noted that councilors are ready to provide resources including faculty members, support groups, and community agencies on campus.

In addition to the video shown in all first hour classes, teachers had their students complete a survey which asked if they felt they needed to talk to someone about themselves or a friend who may be at risk.

Of the more than 3,500 students at Perry, 200 answered "yes," the equivalent to one in every 18 students -- roughly six percent of the school's population.

While that number may seem small, PHS is not immune to teen suicide.

Since the school opened in 2007, two students have passed as a result of suicide; it is impossible to

know how many others may have attempted or seriously considered it.

Many suicide attempts have occurred in the East Valley, most recently at Queen Creek High School where three students have taken their lives within the past year.

"We know it's hard sometimes being an adolescent, it is adolescence is the time of change and figuring out who you are sometimes you need help along the way," Gregg said. "I think we can just continue to do a better job of letting kids know that that's what we're here for and we care and that we want to help if they need help."

Senior Ellie Poplawski said the presentation had its pros and cons.

"I thought [the video] could have been done better and it seemed to normalize the issue," she explained. "It isn't normal for people. I feel that the presentation was more helpful to the people who aren't dealing with it personally, but know someone who is. It showed how it

can be effectively dealt with."

Psychology teacher Jocelyn Dolan said it is hard to have that weight on your shoulders in a situation so heavy as this.

"Suicide is something that makes most people very uncomfortable to talk about," she said. "Just keep open dialogue."

Suicide is such a taboo topic,

it is not something that comes up at the dinner table. But bringing attention to it is necessary to possibly save lives, ignoring an issue does not solve it.



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Football teammates come to help after house fire

By Kayla Gee
the precedent

Everyone has woken up to a bad morning start: a car alarm from the street, barking dogs, thunder from a storm.

For sophomore Alex Edjorian, he woke up to smoke and fire at 3 a.m. on Sept. 3. Unknown causes started the fire in the family garage, quickly penetrating the walls. The flames eating way through the walls created a layer of black smoke pushing against the roof.

“A burst of flames comes straight out and the fire starts eating the top of the door,” Edjorian said, recalling when he first saw the fire.

Evacuating onto the street, the family stood outside realizing one person was cornered by the flames. Not knowing his father was still inside, first responders quickly retrieved him from trying to hose the fire down himself.

With all family members out of the house, multiple fire departments continued working on dousing the fire.

“From 3 a.m. to roughly 7 a.m., the fire department was at work and we were top priority so we had four different districts of fire trucks at our house,” Edjorian said after the chaos.

Looking at his childhood home the roof of the garage gave way, collapsing on itself from the damage of fire, it reignited three times from hot spots in the walls.

“Then, it started to eat the top of the garage and those collapsed down into the garage,” Edjorian said. “Next, it took the roof, sucked it in



photos used with permission by Alex Edjorian

The Edjorian's house (above) caught fire early morning of Sept. 3. First responders come to put out the fire. The family car (below) was burnt by the flames.

and made a big crater in the roof.”

A Facebook post and a few emails later, the PHS faculty and students immediately went to aid the family.

Along with loving neighbors and other supporters, donations of gift cards, food and other items initiate the beginning of the family's rebuild. Edjorian has also found comfort in his own teammates.

“They said ‘mind over matter’ all the time and they drilled that in my head, so I never really thought much of it, of my house burning down,” stated Edjorian.

His team and coaches are some of his biggest supporters in his difficult situation.

Varsity football coach Preston Jones is amazed and proud by the spirit of not only the teammates, but also the parents and staff.

Jones sets a standard to ultimately build them stronger.

“This is how communities are ran as well; several different groups working together for the good of the groups,” Jones said.

Players of all teams came to help, despite not knowing the family or Edjorian directly.

Senior varsity teammate Cannon Stinchfield shared in helping his teammate's family. “We get informed and it's just like a community,” Stinchfield explained, “it's a support system.”

The school spirit and sports rankings are not what set the campus apart. Campus relationships between students and staff show how exceptional Pumas are to other schools.

“It was heartwarming for everyone to come together as a community to come and help out one player out of the entire school of 3,500 students.”



Buddies club get involved at local elementary schools

By Victoria Vredevoogd
the precedent

Buddies club is brand new to Perry and a wonderful addition to the campus. Buddies club is a great opportunity for students to get involved in their community by volunteering at local elementary schools. Members will help improve kids' reading skills as well as play and interact with them; giving the kids someone to look up to as a rolemodel.

Senior club co-president

Esteban Garcia, was inspired to create the club because when he was in the sixth grade he would have “buddy days” with the kindergarteners and would be able to have fun and interact with them.

The club plans on having their first school meeting with Weinberg elementary school. Buddies club is very thankful to be able to visit Weinberg students and are hoping for more elementary schools to have them come and be possible rolemodels

in their kids' lives. Being able to relate to the children and help them learn in a fun way is extremely rewarding for them and the club members as well.

“We will be participating in interactive games and experiments such as making slime,” Senior club co-president Ally Buckner said, “but overall our goal is to incorporate some kind of life lesson in each activity.”

Garcia and Buckner have set aside the first quarter as planning time for the rest of

the year, so it is not too late to join.

The club will figure out which schools they will be able to visit and on what days. Members will also be planning on what activities they will be doing with the kids such as games, drawing, arts and craft, reading, and more.

Garcia said the benefits of being in the club are “You get the opportunity to hang out with a little version of yourself” and “maybe have an impact on their

life socially and how they interact with people.”

Perry is always open to starting up new clubs and were very excited to make this new addition to the clubs on campus.

“What makes buddies club unique and special is that we get the opportunity to visit other schools,” said Buckner, “and I do not think we [Perry] has ever had that.”

Buddies club is also a great opportunity for any student wanting to become more involved in

their community and earn volunteer hours. The club meets every Tues. in the auditoriums south pod during conference.

Buckner encourages students to join by saying, “If anyone would want to join, we are really nice and are open to anyone that wants to be involved.”

Buddies club would love to see as many new faces as possible at their next meeting, so stop on by and have an impact on a child's life.



photo by Madi Kimball

Graduation took place on May 31 at John Wrenn Stadium. It was the eighth PHS graduating class.

2018 graduation taking place on ASU campus

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the senior class has increased from 629, 706, 791, and this year's senior class of 900.

The numbers show an obvious steep ascent in population size.

“The senior class is very big,” registrar Julie Logue said. Even throughout the course of the first quarter “we have gained a couple more students.”

However, this might not

always be the case.

The large influx of students may be leveling out. This year, there are 876 juniors, 935 sophomores, and 845 freshman.

This relationship shows a decline in future classes as opposed to the strong incline that has been present the past four years.

Furthermore, the current senior class lost 45 students overall from freshman to senior year.

It could be that this year

was an anomaly in a forever ascending population growth or it could be that the school has reached its peak. Whatever the situation, it seems Serrano has a clear view for future graduations, and much to his dismay, he does not foresee the event coming back to PHS.

“If we got down to a class of 500 then [bringing it back to PHS] would be perfect,” he said, “but I don't think we will ever see a class that small again.”

Staff Editorial

Nostalgia not enough for on-campus graduation

Although months away, graduation is ever-present in the back of the minds of the class of 2018. It is no surprise that graduations has been taxing on the school's resources, not to mention the surrounding area in which the school lies.

Despite Principal Dan Serrano's best attempts to keep the event on campus, the size of the student body and the crowds have made an on-campus ceremony impossible.

When administration announced that this year's graduation will be at Wells Fargo Arena in Tempe, you could almost hear the collective sigh of relief from parents, police, neighboring residents, businesses, and churches, especially since this year's senior class is well over 900.

Administration and the Gilbert Police Department no longer have to manage grandparents parking in the surrounding neighborhood or aunts trying to jaywalk across Val Vista Road.

Surely, the benefits of a graduation at ASU outweigh the strain holding such an event at Perry, but are we losing the sentimentality of it all?

Nobody is trying to say we should force a broken system to continue running, but we would be lying to ourselves if we said that walking across the stage in Wells Fargo, surrounded by maroon and gold rather than navy and cardinal, will have the same feeling as sitting in our own John Wrenn Stadium.

How will it feel to stray from the stadium where we endured freshman P.E., attended previous graduations, MORP assemblies, and historic sporting events?

It cannot possibly carry the same sentiment as the halls of ASU.

Let's not understate, however, the ability for all PHS families who previously struggled to find parking and seating for their extended family to now sit comfortably in the air-conditioned arena.

"It's not fair to the people who come to watch somebody graduate and they don't have a good seat," Serrano said.

He's right.

Nobody should have to fight for parking and a seat, or have to watch their child graduate on a screen in the auditorium or even worse, not attend the ceremony at all.

At ASU there is no pressure to limit guests. More people can share this once-in-a-lifetime moment with their student, all without the hassle of finding seats and fighting over parking spots.

Let us all breathe a sigh of relief that the solution to the overcrowding of the ceremony was not to limit tickets per graduate or restrict underclassmen from the event.

ASU is a solution to a problem and while it will lack the sentimentality of having one last event on our home soil, it is far better than many alternatives. Although the seniors will not spend their final moments as Pumas on campus, they will be surrounded by what truly matters on graduation night — each other.

A Graduation Conundrum



by Ashton Bell

Passing period traffic caused by overcrowding

MORGAN CHUNG
the precedent



There are way too many kids here at Perry and because of this, the hallways are very crowded.

In order to see how the overcrowding of schools is affecting Perry, pretend the hallways of Perry are general freeways. Imagine it being rush hour traffic. People are driving on both sides of the street.

Suddenly, a car stops in the middle of the freeway. Then another car stops too and the drivers start chatting. Those drivers have caused many collisions and other drivers have to swerve to avoid hitting them. The whole freeway is now a mess.

Another example includes the stairs, which are on-ramps and off-ramps.

Why do people find it appropriate to stop

right at the bottom of the stairs and have a complete conversation with someone? Right. Where. People. Are. Walking.

If a driver entering the freeway via the on-ramp, they do not stop at the gore-zone where they are supposed to merge with the oncoming traffic of the freeway, so students should not stop at the bottom or top of the stairs to chat.

Drivers do not stop driving in the middle of the road to have a conversation with other motorists. So students should not stop in the middle of the hallways to chat with people. These actions cause an obstruction to "traffic" and create a mile-long backup, delaying dozens of others from reaching their destinations before the bell rings.

Injuries occur on the road because a driver is texting while driving; the same phenomenon applies for walking. Students' eyes are not focused on the road or walkway in front of them, so they are not aware of what is going on around them. Not to mention, when they are not focused on walking (or driving) they are going slower than the rest of the "traffic."

This is all because they could not wait to talk to their friend, who is complaining about

how long it takes to get to class, or another friend, who is about to explode over how awesome it is that Perry football is doing amazing this year.

However, if our school was not as crowded as it is now, we would not have this problem on such a large scale. The hallways would be less crowded and would be easier to navigate. By having a less crowded school, people may actually be able to get to class on time and in one piece. Our school is overcrowded. We have met our physical capacity. The least we can do to relieve the problem would be to walk appropriately in the halls.

The hallways would be less crowded and would be easier to navigate. By having a less crowded school, people may actually be able to get to class on time and in one piece.

By going slow, they are holding up the people behind them who are trying to get to class on-time.

The rules of the road need to be applied to the Perry halls. Stay to the right, whether it be on the stairs or in the halls. Do not text and walk. Just keep walking and no one gets hurt.

It should not matter if you drive or not. The concept is still the same. Just walk.

Ditch Starbucks for a change in caffination

IAN GRAHAM
the precedent



If asked to metaphorize my freshman self, I would classify him as a singular grain of sand on the expansive Nauset Beach. He was the blue jellybean in that glass jar on the reception desk, sometimes overlooked by the children that gathered to estimate how many candies were held within. He laid low, going to football games, listening to music between classes, joining a rap band. Your average first-year student. However, one trait forced him deeper into the crowds of anonymity: he drank Starbucks.

It's impossible to criticize little Ian

Graham, just as it would be unfair to blister any other Starbucks fan. I didn't know any better. I had been raised on frappuccinos (oh, what a wicked portmanteau) and grew accustomed to that unique Starbucks coffee flavor.

At 15, a coffee shop I could reach with a 10-minute walk was undisputed bliss. I strolled along Chandler Heights twice a week just to spend hours reading some Dickens novel, all the while "enjoying" a caramel macchiato and an accompanying blueberry muffin. Yet with my 16th birthday came a license, a key to a Mini Cooper, and a youthful burn for that intangible dream of discovery. And what I discovered was actually good coffee.

The reason there are so many Starbucks heads is that their popular drinks don't taste like coffee. Even the frappuccino, accounting for 20% of the corporation's overall sales, contains very little "real" coffee. These drinks are instead flooded with flavors that act as

sweet masks, disguising the bitterness that is Starbucks espresso. For a corporation whose coffee tastes like burnt soil, this approach is diabolically genius.

So why does their coffee lack the quality flavor that can be found at Peixoto, Press, or Lux Central? The biggest issue is not their mediocre beans or their young staff, but their distasteful machinery.

When making a shot of espresso, a barista must grind beans into a portafilter, then pack the shot using a tamper, next fitting the portafilter into the espresso machine and building up pressure, all to produce a shot of espresso within the next 15 seconds. Meanwhile, all a Starbucks barista has to do is press a button on a machine to make the shot, which explains why a plain Starbucks latte will taste burnt.

The solution? Add sugar, pumpkin spice, or any other natural and artificial flavors — at an upcharge.

the Precedent

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On Campus: What do you think about the senior 3/4 photos in this year's yearbook?




"I don't like it because it changes the tradition of the classic headshot and it's going to be too small of a picture."

Haley Nemmers
senior




"I like the senior headshot. They look more professional and everybody else likes the headshots."

John Prothro
senior



"We had just the face and now it's the three-quarters, so now you can't even see my face. My legacy is being taken away."

Joanna Gunaraj
senior



"I think they're alright. I mean I just prefer just the face or the chest up."

Ronan McCann
senior

point | counterpoint:

Are three-quarter pictures unique or unnecessary?

New shots allow students to express themselves through fashion choices

Three-quarter shots break tradition of professional headshots

MORGAN CLEARY
the precedent



The yearbook is a place to memorialize one's school year; from sports pages to student life, every page changes. This change includes the senior portraits, which have gone from a traditional headshot to a three-quarter photo. It gets boring looking at simple headshots every year, so getting the choice between three different shots makes the senior section creative. The three-quarter picture is a change and change is not a bad thing. One thing that is concerning with the three-quarter pictures is that people claim that they look awkward with the poses that they have for us. If they gave us a bigger option of poses to pick from, maybe people would like them better. Change is always uncomfortable at first but people will get used to this after a while. One thing that I like is how we can see everyone's different outfits. This is just another way to show off our fun unique personalities. With all the different poses that we get to pick from, this provides a cluster of different personalities to spice up the

senior section. Even on our campus, if the senior three-quarter portraits continue on throughout the years, then no senior section will match from the year before, there will be a different amount of the same poses and a different order to them. Kids will get to show off their personalities in different ways for the years to come. Another thing that is enjoyable about the new pictures is how different we are than the rest of the classes. All throughout high school, we are blended in with different grade levels and this is a chance to be different, as we are the seniors and we are moving out of high school. When we look back at our yearbooks in 10, 20, or 30 years from now, we can see how much we have changed, from our hairstyle to how we dressed. As a whole, this is new change and even though some students do not like it or find it weird, it is different and unique. We are always getting told to be different or to be unique, so why not change our yearbook pictures to be as different as we can? Being different is not a bad thing, showing that we as seniors are moving onto a new level in our lives can start with something as simple as moving on from the classic head shot, to a more mature portrait. The new portraits give us a mature presence. As a whole the new senior portraits bring a unique and fun vibe to the senior section while keeping that mature level of confidence that the senior class holds, so why not change our yearbook pictures to be as different as we can?

CALLIE NAGEL
the precedent



The school yearbook, everyone's favorite thing to drop a hot seventy-five dollars on at the end of the year. It's a lasting memory for the previous year, and for seniors, high school entirely. The senior yearbook photos have been up for debate in terms of their new design ideas, a three-quarter length shot will replace the previous shoulders-and-up photos. Don't get me wrong, it's always nice to try something new, but sometimes it honestly isn't. The senior yearbook page has always looked sharp, including a perfectly-manicured design and a picture directly of the student. Unfortunately for the 2017-18 year, Perry has decided to do away with our classic design. This year's seniors will no longer have a professional portrait, but rather will be replaced with a student's knee caps. In addition to this change, I'm assuming the page layout will be changed as well. Either more pages will be necessary or the pictures will be minimized. Either way, the aesthetic of the three-quarter shot is atrocious

to begin with. Pictures from the knees up look awkward. It will be like a bunch of Gumby's but striking slightly different poses. That's also a point, everyone will be doing something different. One boy could have his arms crossed, another girl could have her hands on her hips. It's just strange and unorganized. Before with the head shots, the only thing you had to worry about was if your face looks contorted, but now you've got to worry about your whole body looking contorted — from the knees up anyway. And that could lead to another issue too, some people are just not comfortable with making their body the main statement as well. Obviously everyone is insecure with something about themselves, whether it be their voice or weight. It switches the focus from their face to their body or clothes. Now turning to the clothes aspect, what the heck was the dress code? Obviously nothing promiscuous, not that that hasn't stopped anyone before, but why do I find myself waiting in a dress to have my picture taken and see girls wearing jeans and a cute top. Now I feel like an overdressed idiot. If they expected this to work, which it clearly did not, they dress code should have been a lot more specific. If we had just stuck to the headshot no one would have to worry about this. But now the yearbook will have an array of students going to the Met Gala while the rest to the movies. Change can be good, but not in this instance. Lets just go back to what we know works and cover those 'caps.

Changing DACA does more harm than good for Dreamers

DAISY RAMIREZ
the precedent



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has been especially prominent in the media's eye as of late. In June 2012, the Obama administration founded this immigration policy, which prevents immigrants brought to the country as minors from being deported. With nearly 800 thousand unauthorized

immigrants — over 27 thousand of whom are in Arizona — of course there would be backlash when the program all together is in jeopardy. Recently, President Donald Trump put DACA in Congress's hands to offer changes. Yes, on paper that sounds potentially beneficial for DACA recipients, however, the ignorance he carries himself with, and the way he publicizes his actions in a hard-to-comprehend manner (it is hard to know where Trump is going with anything lately), is why diverse groups are riled up about the DACA dilemma. Trump may have been getting Congress to do their job, but by him threatening to wind down DACA and affect countless lives, is surely not the right way to handle this situation. As far as scholastics are concerned, if DACA is taken down altogether, the unauthorized students' education would be

taken out of Principal Serano's hands and into the hands of the school district. Senior Demian Guillen is a DACA recipient and receives the privilege of staying in the U.S as a resident. He is able to have benefits such as working and studying in this country, for two years at a time, after which he must renew his permit, which is not free. "It's a pretty penny, it's around maybe \$300 dollars just to apply, and then the wait." DACA affects students at our own school and it is a shame to hear that students, and even staff members, have never heard of the program — especially in a state so affected by the legislation. Generally speaking, Perry is quite accepting, yet it does lack diversity. No matter how accepting the environment, fighting against the system is still a battle ground. "I would love to think that kids should, you know, investigate into this whole ordeal,

but the reality is that they're not," Guillen said. "It's a lot of money and that's a lot of people that [Donald Trump] is just letting go and that's not a very smart move for an apparent businessman per say." Specifically employers will lose roughly \$6.3 billion dollars if they are forced to fire all DACA members. Despite stereotypes, DACA recipients are not only Mexican-Americans, about 78% of DACA participants arrive from all Latin American regions. These are the people that are shaping our society and making the path to this country's greatness, and the protection of DACA recipients human rights should be recognized. The act to support a new and improved program instead of repealing the act all together will be a crucial statement on our political leaders humanity.

Character Counts

Program to develop character and chemistry between athletes makes debut across Chandler District

'Character Matters' implemented across all CUSD athletic programs

By India Buckner
the precedent

A person's character can say a lot about them. It can shed light on how they were raised, if they are a team player, and can even foreshadow who they might be in the future.

Sound character is extremely important on any team, and in the wake of the Hamilton High School football hazing incident, character has become a more prominent issue in the Chandler Unified School District.

For the 2017-18 school year, district officials introduced a company whose mission is to help build character in its athletes and coaches -- Character Matters -- and will use their curriculum in order to improve athletes on-and-off the field.

Athletic Director Jennifer Burks has been waiting for a program like this for a couple years now because in her words, "We don't do sports at the high school level just for the athletic endeavor itself."

Sports at the high school level are called educational athletics, stated by Burks, so along with advancing a player's talent a coach is supposed to advance their character. Taylor Jobe, varsity girls basketball player says,

"There's a huge correlation between character and success."

Sam Duane
Head Boys' Basketball Coach

"Sports shaped me into the person I am, it shaped my character". Coaches have a job where they have the rare chance to help mold students into genuinely good people and teaching traits is a smart way to do it.

Last year, Burks had the varsity boys and girls basketball team "pilot" the program. Head Varsity Basketball coach Sam Duane states, "character is extremely important in anything you do," he added, "there's a huge correlation between character and success." He is all for the material being taught. This year is different, however, because of the fact that the district is implementing the program for all athletic programs in all of the Chandler schools, grades 7-12.

Burks goes into detail about how the program was accepted: "All the athletic directors and at least one coach from each school got together to vote on two different presentations." The two choices were Character Matters and Positive Coach Alliance.

Principal Dan Serrano is big on pride and representing the school as best as the students can. Though Serrano has

not been through training for Character Matters, he is "not opposed to it and [likes] the results of it so far."

Varsity football quarterback Brock Purdy understands the importance of the program: "a lot of people look up to athletes as role models." An athlete always needs to be on their best behavior.

Character Matters uses the acronym "Go The Distance" to teach 13 different character traits to athletes.

For example, varsity football assistant coach Chance Clatterbuck has already taught "tenacious" in their mandatory 30 minute, weekly sessions. Clatterbuck, along with most of the coaches know how important it is to intertwine character and skill on the field.

"Character comes into play on the field with teammates trusting each other, playing for one another, and being a unit," he said. As a former U.S. Marine, Clatterbuck has a lot of experience with character and teamwork, and those experiences help pay dividends on the field and in the community.

Character is the mental and moral qualities an individual possesses. People's character affects their whole life. Learning traits like humility and discipline will be very useful in these athletes future lives, personal and professional.

Character matters both on and off the field and mat

DARREN JOHNSON
special to the precedent



I teach Sports Medicine and Health at Perry HS. I am the Head Wrestling Coach, a Frosh Football Coach, and I coach shot put for PHS Track. I have been teaching for 21 years.

My personal experience with character training is that it works. Athletes are students, and coaches are teachers. We will emulate what we practice, and what is taught. Character issues are important, and the exposure is similar to what a student does in a classroom. Teams benefit, because in a close contest, character often determines the winner.

My point of view is that we are ahead of the game at Perry HS. (Head football

coach Preston) Jones and myself in wrestling have always taught character, leadership, and believe in discipline. Most coaches will tell you that games are 50 percent physical and 50 percent mental; (character, toughness, leadership.) but do nothing to teach the 50 percent outside of the physical. I know myself and Coach Jones do this regularly. We have days during wrestling season where we go into my classroom and focus on these issues. We will continue to do this with the Character Matters training.

There are many challenges for the youth of today. Technology has increased many of the negative exposures to children and students. Kids are forced to grow up much faster than when I was a teen in the 1980s. We need to model and teach character as often as we can. We need to instill discipline in young people.

"Teams benefit, because in a close contest, character often determines the winner."

Darren Johnson
Head Wrestling Coach

An analogy I have used when mentoring student teachers and young coaches is this: you cannot be the "fun uncle," you must be the "strict parent." Doing the right thing is hard. Teaching the right things is hard. Being a disciplinarian is not easy. Adhering to character training transcends athletics and benefits society. Our athletes will be better college students, employees, soldiers, spouses, parents, and community members, by using this training.



GO THE DISTANCE

Gratitude • Optimistic • Truthful • Humility • Energy • Discipline • Improve
Selfless • Tenacious • Attitude • No I In Team • Confident • Endure

A PHS student athlete's perspective

TANNER VAN BRIESEN
special to the precedent



Recently, the CUSD has implemented a new curriculum for all sports teams to follow in an attempt better the character of our athletes. Most, if not all of us are aware that this is just now being put into place due to the

recent events at Hamilton High School. As a Varsity Swimmer, my team and I have been participating in the "Character Matters" curriculum.

The curriculum involves the team focusing on a certain word each week in order to better themselves as athletes, teammates, and as students. For swim and dive, we focus on the word we are studying throughout that week. We write down ways that this certain word can help us as a team, as individuals, and as student athletes. At the end of that week, two swimmers and one diver are acknowledged by the coaches for their

proficiency which that certain category or word.

In the beginning, I did not understand nor agree with the whole idea of the "Character Matters", it seemed like an attempt to try to make up for what was done wrong rather than trying to prevent another "incident". After a few weeks of going through the curriculum, I can see how beneficial it can be to certain teams or individuals.

For me, I have found the Character Matters program to be beneficial. Is it the most exciting thing to do? No. Do I think that it could have prevented the incidents at Hamilton High School? To be

honest, no, I don't think it would have prevented anything. But I do believe it can help a lot of student athletes improve themselves in and out of their sport.

For me personally, it helps me to focus on certain aspects of not only my life in the pool but also in my everyday life.



photo by Kennedy Wagner

Senior offensive lineman Reilly Gauman (56) helps a Highland Hawk player off of the ground in a display of sportsmanship on Sept. 22. This year CUSD has implemented a character development program in its athletics.



photo by Emily Woodward-Shaw

The cast of "13 the Musical" performing a scene in which the characters watch a scary movie. The play ran from Sept. 21-23 and was the first production of the 2017-2018 school

By Morgan Cleary
the precedent

13 Reasons Why, Friday the 13th, 13 the unlucky number, what about "13 the Musical"? Perry Theatre Company presented the story of young Evan Goldman's move from New York to small-town Appleton, Indiana.

In this story he struggles with his parent's divorce, preparing for his impending bar mitzvah, and navigating the complicated social circles of a new school.

Sophomore, Matthew Pitman dares to take on the lead role of Evan Goldman. Pitman is not new to the stage; in last year's production of *Blues*, Pitman was among the cast, but this is his first production at this school.

Pitman said he is "really honored to be able to receive

Newest theatre production capitalizes on youthful cast

"13 the Musical" features many debut performances, highlights veterans

such a high role at my class because [he knows] it's harder to get a role and [he is] just grateful and [hopes] to continue." Pitman added that he is excited about opening day and having his debut performance. However, with every great performer comes a great deal of nerves.

"I think I'll be a little nervous because this is the most lines I've ever had in a show, but the people I get to work with make it easier and I am just excited to become a bigger part in Perry theater,"

Pitman shared.

Director Shawna Marquis got the inspiration for 13 when "[she] saw this musical for the first time about five years ago at national competition and the energy of it, and [they] have a lot of younger looking actors in the program right now. So, it's the perfect time to bring in and use that youth and the talent that [they] have."

With having young talented people there comes new faces to the stage. Marquis shares that "the cast from this show is [the]

company theater class, so it is going to be a different setting then one of our other musicals, because this show is taken on the road for competition so it has its own challenges, but they are enjoying themselves, but there is a lot more pressure because of the timing and the limited rehearsal times."

Even the director can get the butterflies.

One of the big nerves that comes with such a short time period is "getting the pieces to come together, but with our process I think we

will make it," Marquis said. Senior, Nicholas Magel is portraying the high school jock, Brett. Magel does not let his nerves get to him, saying "this is a very interesting production because we have out state festival, the haunted house and then this is getting put together, but it has been worth it."

After some hard work by the cast they completed the production and performed on Sept. 21-23. One can say, "that's a wrap, Pumas" to "13 The Musical".

From the cast of 13 the Musical

LIZZY JENSEN

I've been a part of Perry theatre all four years of high school. I have been really grateful to be a part of 13 the Musical as one of my last shows here. It ends with this song "A Little More Homework to Do".

The premise of the song is basically that as day turns to day, we all get a little bit older, a little bit braver, a little bit brighter, and a little bit broader; but in the end, we all still have a little more homework to do (i.e. learning, growth).

I cannot expect myself to be able to achieve all that I want to do at just 17.

I have a whole life of learning and growth ahead of me.

Kyle Davidson works to impact community through video

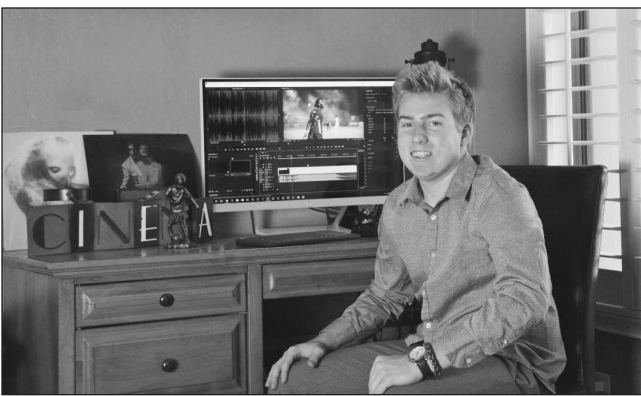


photo courtesy of Kyle Davidson

By Mallory Melanson
the precedent

Lights - camera - action! Senior Kyle Davidson produces his own videos and is making his way up the line of becoming a video producer by taking part of multiple types of shoots.

"It all started out by making highlight reels for some of my soccer teammates who wanted videos of them playing that they could send off to colleges and get recruited."

Ever since Davidson was little, he has been fascinated of creating films and all of his relatives knew. Having been aware of his dream, Davidson's uncle asked him to make his wedding video and Davidson had his first

chance to make a "legit" project.

"When I showed them the finished product, they started tearing up, and they told me it was like they could relive the happiest day of their lives again."

Davidson went on to say, "Seeing how happy it made them and the impact that something I made could have on people - that was when I knew I wanted to do this professionally."

Davidson has made more than just an impact on people, he has made serious connections with multiple types of video productions. For one side of his filmmaking, Davidson shoots sports, mainly soccer. He is an intern working for

the freshman soccer team, Phoenix Rising, where he produces videos of gameday that they post on social media to attract more attention.

Davidson also creates concert videos, and one big film he shot was for the Chandler Symphony Orchestra. But currently, Davidson will be working to producing his very first music video for a band called the Ricky Fitts in their track "Back to the Basics."

As Davidson was talking about all of the different films he shoots, his face lit up as he showed the animation he made for the company Zerorez.

"It was a seven second little animation of their logo flying in and they put it in their youtube ads and stuff for their commercials," he said excitedly.

He threw in a couple laughs and said his animation was "pretty cool" as well as his new take with the Ricky Fitts.

It can be difficult sometimes to work towards a dream and pursue a career that requires guts and skills, but Davidson is making his way up the chain to becoming a true filmmaker.

Chilling films to accompany decreasing temperatures

By Mia Irvin
the precedent

Football season, a slight decrease in Ariz.'s balmy temperatures, and pumpkin spice can only mean one thing: spooky season has arrived once again. To truly get in the spirit, (Yes, pun fully intended) for this coveted season, horror movies can be the most useful tool to spread Halloween cheer.

Horror movies have been around since the early days of film dating back to 1896 with George Melies silent film *Le Manoir du Diable* which is credited as the first in the horror genre. Needless to say, film has come a long way since then. The horror genre included.

With special effects, makeup, and more engaging plot, horror movies continue to captivate and creep out audiences worldwide.

The first must-see of the season comes from the demented mind of Wes Craven: *Nightmare on Elm Street*. The film centers on some midwestern teens who fall prey to Freddy Krueger in their dreams which slowly become convoluted with reality. *Nightmare on Elm Street* has been keeping kids from sleeping since



1984. The horror of Freddy Krueger is his knife-fingers and severely burned face. And the fact that he comes for you while you are sleeping which breaks every rule. Aren't you supposed to be safe when you are tucked in your bed?

For those unafraid of a commitment, I recommend the *Insidious* trilogy. Each movie has its own villains that will 11/10 keep you up at night, but in each movie a single evil entity makes scream-worthy appearances.

With its 4th movie coming this fall, fans of the series will find fresh new frights to keep you sleeping with your lights on for a couple of days. (Or months.)

Another staple is the 1996 classic, *Scream*. *Scream*

manages to inspire fear in its audience without the use of intense makeup or the paranormal side of the genre. The killer's identity remains unknown until the last five minutes when all is revealed and the viewer is left to wonder how on earth they missed the clues.

The most recent movie re-adaptation of the best seller by Stephen King, *It*, will round off our list.

The reason *It* horrified audiences was because of all the rules it broke. *It* derived its scare-factor from the antagonist, the clown. Directors gave Pennywise the clown an ample amount of screen time with eerie lines and terrifying features that juxtaposed the circus clown stereotype. On top of the clown, the children faced an onslaught of their own fears which took real-life form and shocked audiences. With an involved plot and constant suspense, it is safe to say *It* will likely join the ranks of great horror movies.

Whether you are cuddled up with fuzzy socks and pumpkin spiced candles or in the theater with a bag of popcorn, the season for spooky movies is here, and let me tell you, it's a scream, baby.

Rostam's masterpiece debut album *Half-Light* impresses

Ex-Vampire Weekend member tears down genre walls, creating music that is entirely his own

IAN GRAHAM
the precedent

Rostam Batmanglij has become an important hidden force in the music industry, collaborating on projects like Frank Ocean's *Blonde* and co-producing HAIM's latest album *Something To Tell You*. Batmanglij was vital to creating the world-influenced sound of his former band Vampire Weekend, producing all three of their records and winning a Grammy for the 2013 album *Modern Vampires of the City*.

With so many collaborations under his belt, a solo album felt long overdue. However, Rostam's debut *Half-Light* comes at the perfect time. It is a collection of mature songs performed with the confidence of a well-seasoned veteran, executed in such a way that convinces the listener this is a record to pay attention to.

The opening song

"Sumer" begins with an ethereal choir backed by minimalistic percussion and Rostam's voice narrating a summer storm that collects outside his window. As the song progresses, Rostam invites snare drums and harpsichords into the mix to build a piece of music that becomes deeply mystical and fantastic. Before concluding, he allows the song to withdraw into fading sonic moments that underlie his arpeggiating voice. It is a powerful opening that hints at the diversity of the remaining 14 tracks.

Rostam allows his infatuation with classical music show in songs like "Thatch Snow" and "Gwan" which feature string arrangements that support his bright melodies and bounce in a similar fashion to "M79" off of Vampire Weekend's self-titled album. The tasteful hand percussion and ascending string tones of "Wood" make it a highlight, as it adds to the Middle-

Eastern feel of the record and displays some of Rostam's dreamlike lyricism.

While much of the album is a progression from styles he has experimented with in the past, the song "When" closes with a layered, pitch-shifted, and distorted spoken word section of politically-charged dialogue and intricate rhythm. Rostam sounds almost extraterrestrial here, which beautifully corresponds with the themes presented in the track "EOS," where he sings, "along the coast we could see time and space, all across the water it was all emptiness... and I could feel the hereafter out in front of us both."

Track 11 "Rudy" is one of the album's finest, opening with a reggae-driven groove reminiscent of Beyoncé's *Lemonade*. Rostam then adds in laid-back harmonies and narrates a story about a boy named Rudy who was born on the night of a "great thunderstorm" and was "not like other boys." The song



quickly spirals into a chorus of unpredictable saxophone licks, simultaneously played together to create an organized element of woodwind chaos that

occasionally breaks into relieving harmonies. It is one of the most tense moments on the record, but its balance of both spontaneity and intricate orchestration work

to transition into the second half of the song, which is just as beautiful as the first.

Half-Light is unique from any project Rostam has ever worked on.

Haygen Cates combats disability, contributes to marching band

VICTORIA VREDEVOOGD
the precedent

Haygen Cates is a 16 year old sophomore and a part of the Perry marching band. He was born with Cerebral Palsy, a neurological disorder caused by a non-progressive brain injury or malformation that occurs while a child's brain is under development.

Cates has Cerebral Palsy on his left side affecting his left leg, left arm, and the logical side of his brain.

However, that does not stop Haygen from doing what he loves most.

Cates recently had a surgery to help recover his left leg and get him out of his wheelchair and walking again.

"I used to walk with my toes all the time," Cates said, "so in marching band that caused a lot of problems

for me." Marching in the band is very intricate and unfortunately Cates is not able to march correctly because of his Cerebral Palsy, but that does not stop him from still being involved.

Cates usually plays the trumpet, but since he could not march he had to learn how to play instruments in the front ensemble such as, the bass drum, the suspended cymbal, ratchet, sleigh bells, and wind chimes.

Cates said his favorite part of being involved in the marching band is "the comradery and how we are all a big family."

The marching band has always been very supportive of Cates. At a recent sporting event Cates started walking without his walker and the band was with him every step of the way.

"[One of my hardest struggles was] understanding how to march correctly as much as I could when I did march." Cates said, "It's so intricate because you have to curl your toes at a certain point and keep your knees straight while still having all the uniform together."

Even through the many hard times Cates finds motivation and encouragement through his parents and his family.

His parents are his biggest supporters and Cates says that they are always "watching me like a hawk", but of course in the best way possible.

Cates is an inspiration to all high school students because he is not afraid to chase what he loves even though there may be obstacles in the way.

Ukulele Club revival welcomes both beginners, advanced players

VICTORIA VREDEVOOGD
the precedent

Ukulele Club is the ideal club on campus for anyone who has ever wanted to learn how to play the ukulele or gain extra practice time.

Sponsor Alesandra Barth explains "The club has a completely open door to everybody." Whether a student is a beginner or an expert, the Ukulele Club will welcome everyone with open arms.

The club will either break off into groups based on how well they can play or they will pair up a more advanced student to help a beginner.

Ukulele Club is just starting back up again this year and they now have about 20 members, but are always hoping for more to join.

"Right now the club is

learning new chords and how to strum," Barth said "so it is not too late to join."

The club is also welcoming singers for anyone who does not want to learn how to play the uke but still wants to participate in their performances.

Other than practicing for fun the ukulele club also prepares for upcoming performances throughout the year.

The club members will be performing at the chandler PHS library at their hawaiian themed "Caroling in the Library." The event takes place this Dec. and the Ukulele Club is very excited to be making their debut.

The club is also aiming to play a Christmas mashup for this year's winter assembly.

During performances the more advanced members

will have solos while the beginners will learn to play as a group. The students will play a variety of songs that they learned during their time in the club.

Performances will also include singing which can be made into solos or sung by the whole group.

Ukulele club meets every Tuesday during conference in a nice shady spot to hang out, play the ukulele and meet new friends.

President Matthew McGrath has been playing the instrument for three years and encourages students to join, saying, "it's a great environment and a great place to have a fun time."

This revived club allows students to make music and interact with other interested students. All this takes place through the door of C101.

From a Creative Writing Desk...

Hwlyn is a senior at Perry and has been writing poems for almost two years, using life experiences as her inspiration. She fell in love with writing after creating two speeches for the Girl Scout Annual Meeting in 2016. Hwlyn plans to take writing classes in both high school and college. She also looks forward to eventually compiling her works into a self-published book with the help of her family, peers, and teachers.

"Effigy"

I mold it, carve and sculpt it,
Into stone and potter's clay,
With dry and cracked fingers
Made for work, not for play,

A statue erected from stone,
A face set in the clay,
With my bright and focused eyes,
In both inlaid,

A softened soul,
With a cemented shield,
Neither warm nor threatening,
But like the face we all yield,

Inevitable are those sleepless nights,
The monotony of the coming day,
And we need not forge a perfect life,
With fractured stone and clay.

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Four years strong, girls strive for state

By India Buckner
the precedent

The athletes at Perry all have an intensesness about them, especially the passionate girl volleyball players. They are an intimidating group ranking number fourth in the state and number fifty-nine in the country.

Why is it these girls make their opponents feel so overwhelmed? Is it the genius coaching style of Coach Fred Mann, or the senior leadership, or is it both of these components working together like a well oiled machine?

Kennedy Kaminsky a four year varsity player says, “we are stronger this year because of the strong leadership.”

This solid management she is talking about is the seven seniors, which is the most they have ever had on varsity.

Seniors like Ryann Davis, Katie Koski, Halle Razo, and even Kaminsky herself all have huge reputations to live up to; considering they have been on varsity since freshman year.

For instance Davis, an outside hitter “has great coordination” which Mann commented on, “she already has eighty-six kills this season.”

Another fierce senior: Alexis Keith. She stands at six feet tall,



photo by Skye Renyolds

Middleback senior Kennedy Kaminsky spikes the ball against Mesa high on Sept. 14. The Pumas are sixth in state.

making her perfect for the outside hitter position.

She rules over the court, as seen through her stats. As of now she has 105 kills this season alone.

These seniors are leaving an inspiring legacy, but where did they get their aggressive talent and energy? From the one and only; Coach Mann who has been playing the game since high school and has been working as a head coach for

25 years.

Coach Mann sees these girls “as people not just payers” Katie Koski said. She also commented on his coaching technique as, “more personal,” she made sure to emphasize that “he doesn’t run you into the ground.”

When Mann was offered the position of head coach he met with the [former] coach at the time and she told him not to take

the job. “She said the ‘parents are a nightmare, the kids are drama, you can’t win with those kids’ he chuckled, “fortunately I didn’t listen to her.”

The Pumas were a team that “could not win” and now they are the number four high school team in the state. It took them some time but they grew as players and people and now have an extremely dedicated and talented team.

New coach new season, swim hopes to improve

By Hannah Knight
the precedent

Last fall the swim team left the Arizona State Championship with the boy’s placing 9th and the girl’s team, 11th. This year, swim is aiming even higher.

The team remains undefeated in the 2017-18 season. On Sept. 21, the Pumas beat the Corona del Sol Aztecs, 221-150.

Sophomore Kalli Fama, a former competitor in state and returning varsity swimmer, is familiar with competition among her fellow peers.

Her freshman year, she finished second in state in her preferred stroke, the 100-yard back.

“I want to win the 100 back,” she revealed, “my goal is to win state champion this year.”

The team has been training hard with the assistance of a second coach, Barkley Perry, an Olympic trial semi-finalist from Arizona State University.

“I feel like we’re closer this year”, Fama admitted, “We’ve really benefiting from [Barkley’s help].”

Senior Tai Combs acknowledged the intensity of the season,

“[Barkley] is an amazing swimmer and an amazing coach”, he expressed, “he’s been really tough on us, but in a good way.”

In his last season of high school swim, Combs is striving to beat his sixth-place record from state last year.

The dive team shares similar prospects with that of swim.

“As a whole, my girls have been dominating their opponents!” Coach Keddi Murrish beamed, “they have swept the top three spots in every dual meet this season.”

This season, senior Celeste Llona has been a powerhouse for the dive team; she recently took third place at the Brophy and Xavier invitational and is undefeated in dual meets.

Furthermore, Murrish claimed that there are a handful of divers that could make it to state this season.

The swim and dive team have been pushing their limits by mastering difficult dives, strokes, and improving form.

“[This] comes with big rewards in their scores.” Murrish noted.

Cross country makes personal bests in Calif.

By Callahan Nagel
the precedent

The average person probably starts their day with a cup of coffee or a nice warm shower. But imagine waking up at the crack of dawn every morning to start your day with a 10 mile run.

For the cross country team, that happens to be a reality.

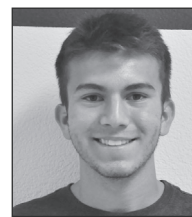
While many spent the homecoming weekend getting ready for the dance, the cross country runners were hard at work. Coach Jeff Gurecki had great things to say about the meet, “Phenomenal, just about every kid on the team ran a personal best...”

Off to a quick start the Pumas have already had three meets, most recently making the 370 mile trek to Norco, Calif.

“We’re just continuing our training... but being that Woodbridge is only our third competition it’s not really our focus, our focus is going to be on section and state,” Gurecki adds.

Newcomer Erin Gustafson, also ran a personal best at 24 minutes 20 seconds in the novice race.

Gustafson stated, “Cross country



Harren

has really taught me to be self-motivated and actually push and work for something that I want rather than using my natural abilities...”

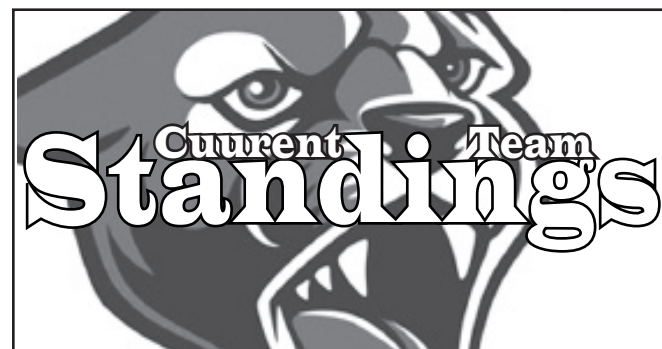
She continued, “the skills learned in training help all around, not just on the course.”

Senior runner Anthony Haren has also been setting some “PR’s” (personal records) at the sweepstakes race; a select invitational of some of the fastest racers from around the country.

Harren ran a 14 minute and 47 second three mile run, setting the new school record.

Haron said, “It’s all just mental basically, usually after two miles is when you really start to feel the fatigue, it’s kind of reminding yourself, ‘yeah I’m almost done, let’s not give up now, we’ve already put this much work in’.”

With their countless hours of dedication, it’s no doubt cross country is on the road to state.



Football

Perry	5-0-0
Hamilton	4-1-0
Chandler	3-2-0
Basha	1-4-0
Brophy	1-4-0

Volleyball

Perry	14-1-0
Chandler	11-5-0
Basha	7-1-0
Hamilton	5-2-0
Xavier	8-1-0

Badminton

Perry	12-0-0
Xavier	8-1-0
Hamilton	6-4-0
Basha	5-5-0
Chandler	6-4-0

State Dates

Football:	11/3 @ High Seed
Volleyball:	10/31 @ 6:30 p.m.
Golf:	10/30-31 @ Tucson Nat'l
Badminton:	10/23 @ High Seed

Our Take

With the shocking events at Hamilton still unfolding months after the first allegations of unreported hazing by members of the football team, the district as a whole is working towards changing — or perhaps starting — a long overdue conversation regarding hazing.

Lauren Fountain
the precedent



With the implementation of Character Counts, an educational program each team takes part in, the question of why it took a scandal to implement basic character education has arisen.

Surely there is no athletic director or coach who wishes to foresee such an unfortunate example of hazing by their athletes, but there is a certain responsibility by the school to prepare and protect each member of every sport against assault and bullying. The only way such events can be avoided, if at all, is to take the precautionary steps to educate students.

We would be lying to ourselves by saying that Character Counts is a mere coincidence, and not reactionary to the now-lawsuit against the district for the failure to protect its own student-athletes. It is not as if hazing is something new, or something we are immune to no matter the rating our district is given by the state. The district’s lack of such a program puts the responsibility of events such as at Hamilton on our school officials, who should admit to Character Counts for what it is — a solution given too little, too late.

FOLLOW YOUR PUMAS



Add PHS sports on Twitter

Athletics: @perry_pumas

Football: @perrypumas

Swim & Dive: @perryswimNdiv

Badminton: @pumabad_minton

Volleyball: @pumagirlsvball

SPORTS NOTEBOOK

The energy of the fans at the football games has been electric. Previously, the spirits were lacking, but as of recent the student section has been filled to the brim with screaming, cheering, and push-upping fans.

The home game against Highland was a perfect example of the energy that has been building amongst parents and students alike.

“The energy has changed a lot since my freshman year...it’s cool to see all of Perry get together to hype up our football team” said senior hype squad leader Tommy Howard

Hopefully, this positive change is here to stay in the Puma Nation.



photo by Kennedy Wagner

Seniors Brock Purdy and Erik Rivera at the Sept. 22 game against Highland. Perry is currently ranked fourth in state, first in division.

Pumas open Power Rankings as top team; so far perfect 6-0

By Macie Miller
the precedent

For the first time in school history, the football program is ranked in Arizona's top spot in Power Rankings, which determine playoff seeding.

The Pumas are now 6-0, after their win Friday night over Highland. The team is heading into the bye-week before playing the top-ranked Chandler Wolves on Oct. 6.

This is the second year in the row that the Pumas will face the Wolves carrying an undefeated title. Last season the Pumas fell short of a success in the game, but this year they insist it will be different.

"I think we need to keep a humble attitude and just really focus, hustle, and prepare well this week and next week to get ready for the game," stated junior Linebacker, Ryan Flores.

The team is hoping that their hard work both on and off the

field will make itself known when they are put to the test.

"They are taking the 6A division by storm, and are not letting anything get in the way.

"It means a lot that they are staying on the course and working hard," head coach Preston Jones said. He said his team is "living up to their potential as of right now."

They are working very hard to maintain their title as the number one team left in the conference, and they hope the confidence that they have gained this season will carry them all the way to state.

HIGHLAND GAME

Last Friday night, the undefeated Perry Pumas went head to head with the undefeated Highland Hawks. Going into the game, Perry hoped to come out on top against Highland. With some very hard work and dedication on the field, Perry came out with the win over Highland, 56-6.

Perry's starting quarterback, Brock Purdy, had a great game, along

BY THE NUMBERS

39 touchdowns
251 receiving yds
202.5 rushing yds

statistics courtesy of MaxPreps

with running back, Kenny Fultz, scoring four touchdowns just in the second half of the game. They also recorded 11 sacks by getting in to Highland's backfield, continually.

Coach Jones said, "I think they are really really solid, they're underrated but defense did a heck of a job" Jones went on to say, "Offense took a while to get going but we have good athletes on offense and they [Highland] have a good defense, so they're the reason it took us a while."

Perry has been working a lot on their defense this year in hopes that they will be able to put an end to Chandler's hold of the state

title.

OBERT LOVE

Richard Obert, AZCentral high school sports and recruiting reporter, has been focusing on the Pumas this season, as it has been one of their best seasons yet.

He has taken to Twitter multiple times to show his love for the team, saying "Perry is far better this year than last year when [it] got to final four" Obert has also made statements about Purdy, commending him on his success this season.

Obert wrote, "QB Brock Purdy, arguably the state's Player of the Year in the season's first half, was magnificent..." Obert has his eye on Perry and is following the team's success this season.

Obert came out and showed his love for the Pumas on Friday for their game against Highland. He kept rigorous tallies on the game, tweeting updates out several times throughout the game.

Familiar faces guarantee boys golf to succeed

By Asher Laufenburger
the precedent

High school golf is the only time that players get to work together and have their scores combined to create a team score.

The 2017 boys team have been working exceptionally hard to be a "better team".

This means forming a strong connection between all players.

"We need [our boys] to be more competitive...it's a team sport, so [you] want them to work together as a team..." said coach John Lowery.

The boys are going to have to work harder than ever because of this diverse group of students.

Junior Caden Christopherson said the boys will have a chance at state as long as "[we] have full team cooperation."

Christopherson and junior Ryan Macpherson have played in

the top three positions since their freshman year.

Caden and Ryan grew up together and they have always had a competitive relationship when it comes to sports.

This year, sophomore Tyler Macpherson, Ryan's cousin, is playing in the number three spot. They have an extremely close connection and even live together half the time.

"A lot of what I do probably helps him [Tyler], I like teaching him...but of course I always want to beat him, he's probably my biggest competition" Ryan said.

For the second year in a row, Scott Uyeshiro and Eric Christopherson are assistant coaches.

Three coaches for nine players forms a personal connection between the team, allowing for optimal success.



photo by Jonathan Yu

Junior Caden Christopherson at the Antigua Invite Sept. 1

The Pumas are currently sixth in state but plan on being in the top five and winning at least

two of the competitions they're competing in. Even with a strong start, the boys are working on their "short game...chipping, putting, the best way to shave some strokes off" Christopherson said.

Golf is a mental game, as Christopherson said, "[you] can't let one bad shot ruin the whole match."

Lowery added onto this when he said "you hit shots for probably 20 seconds, most of the time it's just executing.. they have to be able to focus and execute the shot."

This strong team unity is what Lowery said will lead them to state; "we want them to enjoy golf but it's also about being a good person...a good teammate."

For girls golf coverage, go to
phsprecedent.com

BADMINTON

Pumas aim to perfect game, team chemistry priority

By Mallory Melanson
the precedent

Having a strong connection with teammates is a vital element for high school sports and the badminton team has just that.

The Pumas have been training to take home another state title.

They want to become a whole team unit. The girls have completed outside of school activities together to increase their chemistry that will inevitably increase their power on the court.

"We've already done Escape the Room together and we plan on doing Feed My Starving Children later," senior Jillian Lagasca said.

She went on to explain that in Escape the Room, the team would find different pieces of the puzzle and then they would come together to complete each piece.

Participating in this activity helped the badminton team practice working together as a whole to accomplish a larger goal; just like state.

"In doubles you kind of have to rely on your partner to know what to do...and you trust them," Lagasca explained.

Coach Lerina Johnson said, "we are really trying to show gratitude and appreciation for each other."

Appreciation towards one another is a big deal for the badminton team as they complete challenges to improve their skills on the court.

"We make sure we stay competitive against each other

in order to stay ready to play against the best," said Junior Julia Mumme.

They compete in challenges where the players are put head to head in a match and placed in rankings.

They are able to move up in rankings and the higher ranked players take charge as the leaders.

Playing in these challenges make the players appreciate each other more because of their constructive criticism. Lagasca went on to say, "I'm working on shots a lot more instead of just concentrating on smashing."

Taking notes from the challenges, Lagasca knows that she cannot reach perfection practicing skills she has already perfected.

She focus on her weaknesses and building those up to achieve her full potential.

With building more powerful shots, she will be able to wear down other players on the court and vary her techniques during matches.

Making this year stand out, the badminton team is concentrating more on team bonding and other small weaknesses each individual player might have.

By working together and being grateful for each other's help and encouragement, the badminton team is setting themselves up for a successful season.



Lagasca