

THE VOICE OF HERITAGE STUDENTS SINCE 1972

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## PROTESTS HEAT UP, PAGE 6



Photo by Camden O'Haire

## SKIERS TAKE ON BOARDERS, PAGE 5



Photo by Camden O'Haire

## HERITAGE HOLDS MOCK ELECTION, PAGE 2



Photo by Nyx Smith



Emry Schwalm '26 and Scout DeStefano '28 cross the State finish line together, placing 12th and 13th respectively. The competition was held at Norris Penrose Event Center in Colorado Springs on November 1st. The team made it to nationals this year after their victory at State. They will be competing with the top 22 teams across the country.

## Girls cross country reaches state podium

*By: Gina Ridgeway, Editor-in-chief*

On Saturday November 1 the Heritage Girls Cross Country team made history by placing second in 5A State Championships. This is the highest the Heritage Cross Country team has ever placed. Mr. Justin Riffle, Assistant Coach, says, the "Girls team did phenomenally as they have been all year." He adds, "They ran with heart and they ran collectively as a team. Everybody did their part in their own way."

Caroline Fender '26, Emry Schwalm '26, Scout DeStefano '28, McKenna Alackness '28, and Lily Brooks '26 were scored with a combined team score of 107 points. Fender, Schwalm, and DeStefano all placed in the top 15, scoring 8th, 12th and 13th respectively.

The race took place at the Norris Penrose Event Center in Colorado Springs. Both the girls and boys teams ran on the same 3.1 mile route that is used every year. The finish line is in the main arena where onlookers can cheer their runners on.

Fender says, "It wasn't entirely what we wanted as a team but it was still way better than what we could have ever imagined a year ago. It was really great to see all the progress we've made." She adds, "It was really special especially because we've never been on the podium."

This year has been incredible for the team. They won the Liberty Bell Race for the first time in Heritage history and placed first in the region. DeStefano says, "This year has been amazing. It has been so much fun to run at such a high level and have the opportunity run at such a high level with my teammates who continuously push me."

Riffle attributes this year's success to the team dynamic. He says, "This team: the talent, the work ethic, the way that they work together and build each other up, the strength that they have in their relationships with each other and how they're running

for themselves and also for their friends and their teammates has been an incredible thing to watch." The team trains together Monday through Friday. On Saturdays they either compete or have morning practices. DeStefano says, "It's been so much fun having the opportunity to get so much closer to [my teammates]."

After their state performance, the girls' team qualified for Nike Cross Regionals. On November 22 they traveled to Phoenix, Arizona. This race included top athletes from the 5 state region: Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada. Riffle says, "The girls team did phenomenally at Nike Cross Regional. They went down there ready to go, fully excited about how they could run as a team and they put it together."

He adds, "They came out and ran fully as a team. Our top three ran spectacularly, our next four for chunks of the race ran with each other and continued to push themselves up. I could tell by basically mile 1 that they had a really good chance of finishing really well and they ended up finishing second as a team. They beat Niwot by one point, which was the team they lost to by four points at state."

Individually, the girls also did well. Schwalm placed fifth overall, Fender placed thirty-third, and DeStefano took forty-six. Their race consisted of the top 266 runners from the five state region.

By placing in the top two, the team has guaranteed their spot in Nike Cross Nationals in Portland Oregon. This race is comprised of the top 22 teams nationwide. This is the first time in Heritage history that cross country has made Nationals

Seniors Schwalm and Fender are continuing their cross country careers in college. Fender has committed to run at Montana State University. Schwalm has committed to Wake Forest College in North Carolina.

# Government classes vote for mock presidential candidates

By Nyx Smith, Copy Editor

Every November, upperclassmen enrolled in Government hold a mock election, but this year was the first time it had been held between every single government class at Heritage in the theater.

As an assignment, each student had to sort themselves into a group of four and decide on a person to be their presidential candidate. “The other roles include campaign managers, who generally decide on policy decisions and manage the campaign website, design lead, who design the campaign’s posters and buttons, and communications, who film campaign videos and write speeches for their candidate,” says Kathryn Shipman ‘27.

This is meant to be an educational experience for students about how presidential campaigns function in American politics, from their creation to the primaries and finally to victory. Not every candidate was in the final election, which is reflective of how elections actually function.

There are eight class sections of Government at Heritage, which meant there were eight final candidates. The run-up to who these final eight would be had been carefully crafted for weeks. Each group was allocated a specific

amount of fake money that they could choose to donate to another group in order to further their campaign. “They basically hold a mock primary election among each class, where each group’s candidate speaks to the class and whoever gets the most money donated wins,” Shipman explained.

The final election went in stages. It started with a stump speech, where all eight candidates spoke on their key policies and what their campaign was based around. This included a variety of stricter immigration policies, taxing the wealthy, and universal healthcare based on which candidate was speaking. Clodagh Snyder ‘27 was focused on women’s healthcare in particular. As she took the stage, she made compelling points such as “Did you know there are more studies on male pattern baldness than endometriosis? This just goes to show how little America values women’s health.”

Afterward, there was the “teacher questions” section, where each candidate answered a question their government teacher had prepared for them based on their campaign. Based on how well the candidate answered these inquiries would be a deciding factor in if they survived the first round of voting. After the students in



All of the candidates and winner Clodagh Snyder pose on stage after the mock election. The election took place in the theater on November 4. Photo by Nyx Smith

the audience voted, half the candidates were out of the race.

Then, there was the debates section, and finally the last round of voting to decide who would win the title president. The debates section was an opportunity for the candidates to talk directly to their opponents, asking questions about their campaigns in an effort to expose some of their faults in a select amount of time. This included memorable moments such as Thomas Peragine

‘27, asking his opponent “I noticed on your Instagram that you had policies on abortion. Why didn’t you mention that in your stump speech?”

After taking notes for the whole 90-minute period, the audience had decided on their winner: Clodagh Snyder. There are still congratulations to be given to all candidates, however, as they all worked very hard to make it to the final round both in and out of class.

# Post Grad to the rescue: Joni Lieb helps students prepare for college

By Bryce Goldinger, Marketing Editor



Ms. Joni Lieb poses in the Post Grad office in front of college pennants. You can come visit to discuss your future plans after you time at Heritage. Photo by Bryce Goldinger

College is an important part of your academic career, and applying can be stressful. Luckily, Heritage offers Post Grad to help you with anything you need. Although their help may not be required, Grace Gaeke ‘26 said “I think I would have had a harder time without Post Grad, although Google provided some help.” They can answer any questions you may have. “I go talk to Ms. Leib at least once a month to talk about different colleges.”

Figuring out college level classes is important to getting a higher GPA with classes that work for your major. “The advice I have gotten from Post Grad and my counselor about which EPIC or AP classes to take” says Avery Swope ‘26. They have also helped students learn about what possibilities they have after high school, either before or instead of college. “I learned about the wide variety of possibilities I have,” says Gaeke. From taking a gap year to taking

your classes at EPIC into a real-world job, they can and want to, help you with whatever is best for you.

One of the other programs they offer is the college visits. They have a variety of schools from across the country almost every day and some days with multiple schools. “I found the college visits super helpful; meeting the college counselors and asking them questions directly was amazing,” says Swope. Some students even regretted not going, Gaeke says “I didn’t want to miss class for them but I wish I could have gone to some.”

Post Grad offers a variety of opportunities to help students find their way and what they want for the future.

As students make decisions about their future they will create a bulletin board next to the theater call board displaying what path lays ahead for them.

# Botany Club changes meeting day and sprouts new members

By Lana Comple, Online Editor

Botany Club has been a part of Heritage for many years, though due to clashing times with Art Club and lack of knowledge/interest, most students haven’t been able to attend. This year, however, Botany Club changed their times from Thursday after school to Tuesday, allowing for more accessibility for students.

Mrs. Jessica Ferris and Mrs. Stephanie Bianchi are the club’s sponsors, and both have noticed the drastic change in attendance. “This year, I definitely have a lot more students, which is amazing,” says Ferris. “In previous years, we didn’t have a lot of students due to conflicts with the art club, so what we did is we talked to the art sponsors and moved it to a new day so kids could participate in both clubs.”

At the start of Ferris’ sponsorship, she recalls how she’d learned of the greenhouse through Mr. Michael Rudolph, who was the sponsor for Botany Club before her. “I really enjoy growing plants,” she explains, “and I wanted to encourage kids to love it as much as I did.” So of course she ended up joining Botany Club and went on to eventually become the club’s sponsor.

Bianchi joined later, when Ferris invited her to join. Originally, though, she didn’t even know Heritage had a greenhouse. “I started working here in the fall of 2020, during the hybrid year of COVID,” Bianchi explains, “so there was no way we were going to work in the greenhouse. I think I found out about it [the greenhouse] after we went through the COVID protocols, when

Mrs. Ferris was talking about the Botany Club.” After that, they’ve been co-sponsoring since.

Nyx Smith ‘27 has been Botany Club’s head for about two years now. “Last year was when I stepped into the role, because I had the most experience,” she states. “My brother took plant biology as a class, and they worked a lot in the greenhouse, so he told me about it, and we joined Botany Club together.” This year, she notices, “We’re propagating”—which means to create new plants from an existing parent plant—“more plants, which is not something we usually do, so that’s cool.”

About the new attendance, Smith says, “I think it’s really awesome. Botany is definitely an all-hands-on-deck situation, since there are a lot of plants everywhere, and I think adding more people to that would lead to more success.”

Two new students to Botany Club, Seosamh Lynch ‘28 and Morgan Baccera ‘28, shared their thoughts after their first meeting. “I wanted to hang out with my friends more, and I find gardening in general very relaxing,” says Lynch. Baccera states, “I wanted to learn about plants, and I’m taking plant biology, so this helps with it.” Neither of them knew about the Botany Club until now, thanks to the Botany Club having more exposure and accessibility. Baccera mentions, “I would have joined earlier if I had known.”



The Botany Club sits in the stairwell leading to the greenhouse. They are displaying a few of the many plants they have grown over the past years. Photo by Lana Comple

# Major road construction constricts students' school routes

*By Oliver Cauthron, Editor-in-Chief*

Santa Fe, Mineral, Broadway, and other roads have been under construction since the beginning of the school year, and this construction has become a disruption to the Heritage community. Students and staff alike have been forced to both reconfigure their commutes to the school and leave far earlier in order to make it to class on time.

Mrs. Yasoda Nauth, an English teacher at Heritage, has been struggling with the construction since the end of the last school year. Nauth's commute is harder as a result. "[The construction] has made predicting how long it takes to get from home to work... more difficult... it's a bit more unpredictable."

Nauth's sentiments are echoed by Grant Hagan '28, who's been affected by the construction since the start of the school year, and has just had another construction project start up near his house. "[The construction] makes [the commute]... longer. It's been varied every single time, and now I have to take a whole other detour."

While Hagan says that he hasn't been late to school as a result of the construction, Nauth has had to alter her schedule in order to accommodate the shifting traffic. "I have had to... leave with enough of a buffer that if I do get stuck, say on Santa Fe when they had a bunch of construction towards the beginning

of the school year... I'll be okay." This buffer is usually around ten minutes.

One of the most frustrating parts of the construction for students and staff isn't even the worsening of commute times, it's the fact there seems to have no end in sight. "[I want to know] how long it's gonna take, when it's going to be over, and do I have to keep bothering with [the longer commute]?", says Hagan.

Nauth agrees, adding that the timing of the construction seems poorly planned. "Jackass Hill and Mineral... that area was kind of empty over the summer, and then when the school year got back in, the construction started. It just doesn't make sense to me how the city decided to do that when there are several schools in this neighborhood, and that's a major road to get into this neighborhood."

Hagan is not optimistic about how worthwhile the construction will have been, although that could change depending on the project. "[Will the construction be worth it?] Probably not. I mean, it depends on what they're even doing."

This is seconded by Nauth, who says that she's no longer sure. "It's not just one or two construction projects. There are many of them, and it seems like they're increasing by the month... it's making me think that I don't know if all of this is worth it, because it's all happening at once."



During rush hour traffic these cars are stuck on mineral due to the construction. Mineral serves as an eastbound entrance for many Heritage students causing delays in arrival to school. Photo by Oliver Cauthron.

# Alexandra Hammond joins Australian exchange program

*By Oliver Roush, Designer*

Photo courtesy of Hannah Lynn James



This year, there was a selection process for one student from the Littleton Public Schools district to go to the city of Bega, Australia, through the Sister Cities program in order to facilitate connections and international relationships. Many students signed up, made presentations, and did interviews, but only one actually won the opportunity.

The winner of this opportunity was Alexandra Hammond '26, a student government member who has a passion for international business. She worked very hard for this opportunity, having said that she "prepared a 12-minute presentation about 'Littleton, My Hometown', detailing my experience growing up in Littleton, and presented that as well as completed an interview with the selection committee."

As stated before, Hammond isn't the only person who applied to go. Grant Simmons '27 has stated that "I tried my hardest with my presentation, but I'm disappointed that I didn't win." Even though he was not granted the opportunity to go to Australia, he still worked very hard on his presentation. He stated that he spent "nearly eight hours on both creating and

practicing my presentation. It was only around 10 minutes, so that was a lot of practicing."

This opportunity is not a new one. The origin of the relationship between Littleton, Colorado, and Bega, Australia goes way back to the 50s with a film produced by the U.S government to explain how small-town newspapers can help with democracy. Houston Warring, who was the editor of the town of Littleton's newspaper, was featured in the film. The editor of the Bega District News saw the film and realized how similar his town was to the small agricultural town of Littleton. The two editors started communicating with each other and soon became friends, visiting each other's communities multiple times. Then, in the 60s, when President Eisenhower began encouraging sister-cities in order to increase international relations, Littleton and Bega listened and quickly became sister cities.

In all, Hammond is ready to embark on her journey from Littleton to Bega in February for her presentation of "Littleton, My Hometown" to keep a 60-year-long tradition going.

# LINK changes Cramfest schedule for easy access and wider school inclusion

*By Haley Prange, Designer*

For over 12 years Cramfest has been an event held by LINK and a group of advisors where freshmen come to the Student Center to study and become prepared for their finals. The LINK crue helped them create a study schedule, study for difficult subjects as well as offer support and free food, but this year they decided to completely change Cramfest.

This year, Cramfest won't be a singular night but instead it will be two classes taken during Enrichment. According to LINK advisor Mrs. Stephanie Bianchi, "The last two years, we've seen a decline in our freshman attendance, so we're really working on being responsive to our freshman's needs and meeting them where they are."

This year's Cramfest is during Enrichment so all Freshman can participate in it, overall reaching more students than previous years.

"I think it will also be more beneficial because we have specific structures and activities to help guide them through their preparation for finals. Whereas Cramfest, open house style as it's been, was a little more.. open and they could bring whatever they wanted, whereas now we're bringing to them some specific

strategies," Bianchi continues. Making this event more structured is what they are going for this year to try and increase the confidence of freshmen going into finals.

There are many things that are changing with Cramfest this year, but the inclusion of LINK leaders providing help is staying the same. LINK leaders will be visiting freshmen enrichments and helping them with their needs. According to LINK leader Evelyn Welling '27 "I think that Cramfest is really useful because a lot of freshmen don't really know what's coming at them and it can be really hard for them to get to their first actual finals. So, it's definitely very helpful that you can actually just get help from people who know what they're talking about and have done those classes to help you."

The LINK leaders are currently being prepared by the coordinators to facilitate activities, study strategies, and games for this year's freshmen.

Teachers and LINK leaders are hoping that this new Cramfest set up will be more beneficial than past years events, and they are hoping to increase the success of Freshmen for this year's finals.



Students prepare for cramfest by creating decorations. Cramfest happens every year and serves to help Freshmen prepare for their first ever finals week. Photo By Haley Prange

## A dog's breakfast



By Oliver Cauthron,  
Editor-in-Chief

Grading is supposed to be an incentive for students to actually learn, rather than just sit through lectures and forget everything immediately. It does this by providing consequences for failure. Didn't take the time to study before the test? Now it's immediately obvious to anyone who looks at your transcript. But the way that grading is actually put into practice can often create consequences for failures that shouldn't have been punished.

One of the worst examples of this is grading homework for correctness. Homework is meant to be a way for students to practice the things they learned in class enough that those things become easy to do. The entire system is designed to help students who didn't understand the material the first time to figure it out and be able to understand it later. Grading this homework for completion is a great way to encourage students to actually practice and learn.

However, when homework is graded for correctness, that purpose goes out the window. Instead of rewarding effort, it instead rewards quick learners who understood the material the first time and didn't need any additional help. This is because there's often very little time between when a homework assignment is given and when it's due, which means that a student who got lost in class doesn't have the time to review the lesson and figure out what they were missing.

Short tests are also counterproductive for encouraging learning. These tests are usually mid unit quizzes, whose whole point is to show the student how much they actually know and what they need to practice before their big, important end of unit exam. Each question on a five-question test accounts for 20% of your grade on that test, whereas each question on a fifty-question test only accounts for 2% of your grade. Because of the harsh delineation of scores in the American grading system, where anything above 90% is always an A, anything between 80 and 89% is always a B, and so on, that means that missing one question on the five-question test and ten questions on the fifty question test will always net you a B.

This might seem fair; more questions means more opportunities to get something wrong, so each question should be less important on a test with more chances to get something wrong, and vice versa. The problem with this comes when students get a question wrong that was testing something that they knew. In other words, what happens when you misread a question? On the five-question test, you are automatically bumped down to a B, whereas the fifty-question test doesn't even drop half of a letter grade. It's far easier to misinterpret one single question than ten, which means that the fifty-question test will always be a more accurate measure of someone's understanding of a subject.

These practices, and others like them, make it difficult for grades to accurately reflect someone's understanding of a subject. And considering the impact that grades have on one's future, that's a problem.



## PRO/CON: CHRISTMAS

Christmas is celebrated by millions of Americans as an opportunity to spend time with family and take a break from the hustle of everyday life. It is also one of the most profitable times of the year for companies because of the tradition of giving gifts on Christmas Day. Because of this focus on spending, some argue that the holiday promotes harmful consumerism. Photo by Mady Rose.

## Christmas magic is more important than the consumerism

By Mady Rose, Designer

Every year, when the lights go up and the first Christmas songs start playing, something inside us changes. No matter how old we get or how busy life feels, Christmas finds a way to reach us. It's more than a holiday; it's the key to our hearts, unlocking something warm, cozy and joyful.

That feeling comes from the nostalgia of Christmas that reminds us of childhood, of staying up late hoping to hear reindeer on the roof, of the smell of cookies baking from our loved ones, and of family and friends gathered

around the tree giving presents to one another. Even if our lives aren't the same anymore, those memories pull us back to a simpler, happier time. But it's not just about the past. Christmas also brings out the best in people right now. It encourages togetherness; it's a time where families who live far apart come together to celebrate the holiday spirit. It also encourages generosity by the gift-giving of presents along with bringing the excitement of receiving presents. Sure, people argue that Christmas is too commercial or overhyped, but honestly? That doesn't take away its symbolism to people. Even through all the ads and shopping, the heart

of Christmas still is strong because of how it brings people closer together, not because of the presents.

That's why, year after year, no matter how the world and our lives change, Christmas will always make people happy. It speaks to our hearts, bringing out the childhood nostalgia and joy that we sometimes lose in the rush of our busy lives. Christmas reminds us of who we truly love and are grateful for. It gives us a reason to pause, to be appreciative of what we have and to spend time with our loved ones every December.

## Company profits overshadow the true meaning of Christmas

By Alana Comple, Designer

Picture this: It's Friday evening, you just finished your classes, you're home in bed, and ready to relax after a grueling week of memorizing equations and grammar rules. You lie down in bed, pulling up Youtube on your phone to watch whatever your feed recommends you, and the first thing you see? Old Navy's Christmas ad, for the thirteenth time this week. December has *barely* started.

Christmas is a holiday that originates from the religion of Christianity, along with some Pagan elements, where people celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Many traditions come with it, including decorating a tree, hanging up stockings, and giving out gifts. As of recent times, however, people have lost the plot, and Christmas has become a time to celebrate consumerism and capitalism.

Capitalism and consumerism are words you hear thrown around frequently, but what do they really mean? In simple terms, capitalism is an economic system where private individuals or corporations own and control the "means of production" (like factories and resources) and use them to make a profit. Consumerism is the idea that buying and owning more goods and services leads to happiness and success.

But how does this apply to Christmas? As of the last century, Christmas has been advertised months in advance, and stores are already making sales with holiday-themed items flooding shelves. This means Christmas shopping is encouraged to be done as early as October. According to Adobe Analytics, during this year's Prime Big Deals Day on Amazon, \$24.1 billion was spent in America, a 30.3% increase from last year.

Not to mention, there's also Black Friday and Cyber Monday, two days made solely for shopping for Christmas gifts. While these days have significant discounts, the amounts spent have significant increases compared to any other time of the year. Last year, online shopping reached about \$10.8 billion in the US, making it reach over 10% of previous years. Globally, \$74.4 billion was spent, increasing by 4% in recent years.

This promotion of gift shopping and companies like Amazon doing all these sales are ways of promoting consumerism and capitalism, but it's not limited to just these. The message of spending time with family and friends has become overwritten by buying gifts from factories and giving away your money to companies with dollar bills in their eyes.

## AI music is not real art and we shouldn't pretend that it is

By Jonathan DeLauter, Designer

Artificial intelligence has undeniably become a larger part of our lives in recent years in every aspect, including music. Recently, 'Xania Monet', an AI artist, was signed to a \$3 million record deal.

Xania's image and voice are created by AI, while the lyrics are based on poetry by its creator Telisha Jones. The AI has 1.4 million listeners on Spotify and one of its songs debuted at number 30 on the Billboard R&B chart.

Now, Xania is not the first in the AI music world; it wasn't two years ago when an AI Drake and The Weeknd song went viral and sparked a debate about Grammy

consideration. It created a legal discussion as well about whether or not this can be considered copyright infringement. Can someone copyright their voice?

Since 2024, Kanye West has been caught using an AI of his voice to make songs. In pure laziness, someone else writes and performs a song before Ye's voice is added with AI.

I believe that AI music is quite literally the worst possible thing for music. Forever, music has been purely human expression and artistry; the addition of AI is leading to a decrease in artistry in an already tragic music industry.

As seen with the example of Kanye, artists

have an easy way to laziness now. Artists no longer have to write or perform their songs when they could have an AI do it faster and easier.

AI music could also lead to the downfall of monetary value for artists. Streaming platforms like Spotify already don't pay artists what they deserve, and AI could lead to a complete end of this pay. After all, why would Spotify pay artists if they could just have an AI create its music?

As a society, I believe that we should boycott AI music and support true artistry through means that actually support artists, like buying music and going to concerts..

# Skiing or snowboarding: which rules the mountain?

## Skiing

By Camden O'Haire, Designer

Skiing is better than snowboarding. That's why they're called ski resorts, not snowboarding resorts. No matter where you decide to take your turns and carve your edges in the mountain, skiing is allowed on every single mountain around the world. But if you want to snowboard, it's banned at half the resorts around the world. Resorts in Utah, such as Deer Valley and Alta ski resorts, are all ski resorts that have banned snowboarding.

But it's not just the resorts; it's the techniques. Right as you start carving your turns, all of a sudden, you see a snowboarder fall. You see them fall right on their butt. Snowboarders have a higher chance of falling due to a lack of balance. They constantly have to change their center of mass to stay standing, but the second they don't, they fall. Those falls can cause broken bones, fractured bones, sprains, and lots of pain. According to the National Institute of Health, snowboarders have a higher chance of being injured than skiers. Everyone is still at risk, but imagine skiing with less risk.

After you see a snowboarder get up after a fall, they hit the next hurdle. They hit a cat track. All of a sudden, they're having to walk. Meanwhile, you look over and you see a skier planting their poles and getting speed over the flat part. Snowboarders often face disadvantages in the landscape and terrain. When a flat spot comes on the mountain, snowboarders are



Addi O'Haire'26 hits a jump at a local skin/ tubing hill. She has been skiing for sixteen years. Photo by Camden O'Haire .

screwed and have to maintain speed really fast. Meanwhile, skiers can create speed and do whatever they want.

At 4:00, when the lifts close, everyone heads to the base and relaxes. Snowboarders have the advantage of enjoying a comfortable life with lightweight boots. They get to relax and not be put under pressure by their equipment, but the skiers have the advantage on the mountain. Skiers don't have to worry about the terrain, unlike snowboarders. Skiers get to live a stress-free day and get to have fun on the hill, while snowboarders are left to wonder, whay they didnt

## Boarding

By Bryce Goldinger, Marketing Editor

Snowboarding is better than skiing. Skiing was invented first, but people got bored and wanted something more exciting. Snowboarding is also thought to have better style; it's often seen as more youthful and expressive. Snowboarding offers greater flexibility for performing tricks and maneuvers. Twin-tip skis

were then invented over a decade later. Clearly, skiers felt left out by the cool new activity and tried to keep up with the trend.

It's also usually cheaper, with less gear needed to get started with more budget options. Neither sport is cheap, but the average cost of gear for skiing is around \$1,500 (ski racing camps). Snowboarding costs \$900 as an estimate for the average cost of gear (Buckman's). The lesser amount of gear is not only cheaper but easier to manage and carry to the base of the hill. The gear is also a lot more comfortable and movable.

Commonly, skiing is known to be harder to learn and easier to master, turning people away before they get to enjoy the mountain.

You may say that "snowboarders take too long at the top of the hill to clip in their bindings" t", "Oh, the catwalks are always an issue for them", "they always fall." The solution is simple; it's not hard to learn how to strap in while moving as you're getting off the lift, or purchase step-in bindings. My best solution for catwalks is skiers. The best way to get across is to make a skier tow you across, or just quickly unbuckle and buckle back in, no big issue. Lastly, as my grandma would always say is "you can't learn without fail," and when a snowboarder falls, they don't launch multiple pieces of equipment at other mountain users. Snowboarding is the newer, better, modern snow sport. It allows people to stay more comfortable while being creative on the mountain. Snowboarders are out creating what's new, while skiers are stuck far behind. Allowing newer, & cheaper fun to get outside in the fresh

# Hollywood must stop making pointless sequels and prequels

By, Javion Moore, Online Editor

Movie studios like Marvel and Lions Gate need to stop making the worst and most unnecessary sequels and prequels of all time.

My favorite example of this is *Thor: Dark World*, which Marvel released for some reason. The original *Thor* movie was fine; it had a good plot, good character development, and a great antagonist in Loki. In May of 2012, the first *Avengers* movie was released and received critical acclaim. This made Marvel realize that they could capitalize on their big success. Then that's when they released *Thor: Dark World*. In my opinion, they only did this for the cash grab. The plot of the movie doesn't really help with how connected the universe of the MCU is.

Another example of this phenomena is *American Psycho*, a cult classic for anyone who has had the privilege of watching it. *American Psycho*



Marvel need to stop making Sequels, and prequels. It features movies from American Psycho, showing character Patrick Bateman from the movie franchise. Phtos by Javion Moore

takes place in New York and follows the exotic life of Patrick Bateman. Patrick Bateman lives a second life as a serial killer. In the second movie, the plot falls short by killing off the main character within the opening scene and deterring the original plot of the movie. In fact, the original name for the movie was "The Girl Who Couldn't Die." The reason why it was changed was to draw fans in to see a movie that doesn't have any correlation to the original characters or plot. All of this would be fine if the movie had been good, but the issue is that it is so embarrassingly bad and has no connection to the original that there was no point in being made.

While some sequels do actually turn out to be good, the large majority of them are horrible. The reason why so many others (Including myself) have a problem with these types of movies is because they're cash grabs that attempt to draw fans of the original movie in. With no correlation to the original meaning of the movie, all movies following suit don't need to

## Sentiments

By Gina Ridgeway  
Editor-In-Chief

When I to engage in disscussions of controversial topics, such as the rise of plastic surgery among women, I often get shut down by the same argument. "It's a woman's choice so we don't have a right to judge." This argument is part of a wider ideology known as choice feminism.

I have two qualms with this argument. First, there is a difference between judgement and analysis. Judgment comes from a place of scorn. I totally agree people have a right to do what they want within reason. However, I think it's important to understand why they made those choices and the possible negative consequences.

Secondly, every single day people make hundreds of choices. What to eat, what to wear, what to buy. It's nice to imagine that those choices are truly their own. People want to have complete free will in their lives and decisions. However, each choice someone makes is influenced by tons of factors—many of which aren't consciously considered. The media they consume, the people they choose to spend their time with, and the advertisements they see—the society they live in - influence those choices.

According to FEM, UCLA's feminist magazine, "Choice feminism takes an individualistic approach, stating the individual choices of a woman are inherently feminist because she made them herself."

On the surface this seems simple. Feminism seeks to empower women and their choices, right? Well, not exactly. According to Merriam-Webster, feminism is "belief in and advocacy of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes expressed especially through organized activity on behalf of women's rights and interests."

Throughout history many women have acted in deeply unfeminist ways. Women organized across the country to fight against the suffragettes. Some women believe that their place in society is subservient to men. The opinions of women, and everyone, are very dependent on the society they exist in.

Returning to plastic surgery, I question what led someone to become so dissatisfied with their own body that they decided to undergo a very expensive and sometimes very dangerous procedure. What messaging did they receive, sometimes from family and friends. Sometimes from major companies hoping to profit off insecurity. Where is the line between "empowerment" and being taken advantage of?

This can apply to many issues. Why do women wear makeup? Is sex work an exploitative industry? All of these issues are influenced by thousands of external factors. I'm not saying any choice is inherently wrong but they deserve to be questioned even if they are a woman's choice. People's motivations should be analyzed no matter who they are because no one lives in a vacuum.

Do you have any opinion you're dying to share?

Send us a letter to the editor! Reach out here:

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Littleton homeowners Peggy Block and Jennifer Carlton promote 3A and their chosen candidates on Geddes the day before the election. 3A passed with nearly 55% of voters voting in favor. Photo by Gina Ridgeway

## Littleton community passes ballot measure 3A

By Gina Ridgeway, Editor-in-Chief

On November 4 of this year, 55% of Littleton voters chose to ratify ballot question 3A. Social Studies teacher Ms. Megan Gallegos says, “From my understanding, what 3A is trying to do is preserve single-family homes in Littleton.” She adds the bill aims to add “Zoning requirements almost like an approval board that make it more difficult to build multi-family homes in Littleton.”

Littleton homeowner Peggy Block supports the bill. She says, “Earlier in the year, the city council attempted to rezone all of Littleton to allow duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes throughout the entire city.” She and other residents were upset about the lack of notification they received from the city.

Other Littleton residents are concerned about the effects of this bill. They fear it will contribute to the already high price of houses in Littleton. Derek Atherton ‘26 voted for the first time this year. He voted against 3A. He says, “I think it’s not a good idea because I feel like it’s just adding so many layers of bureaucracy to something that doesn’t need to be there.”

He and many other young people in Littleton are seriously concerned about housing prices. Atherton says, “I am not sure I will ever be able to own a house in my lifetime. That really scares and annoys and concerns me.”

Gallegos says this is a concern for many voters. “Littleton’s a very expensive place to live, and adding more housing, especially denser housing or multi-family housing will make it more affordable for people to come and live here.”

Gallegos explains another argument in favor of 3A is, “They want ‘preserve small town charm’ or preserve the aesthetics of Littleton.” She adds. “I would say they also want to preserve their property values.”

Jarek Talbert ‘27 disagrees with this argument. He says, “I think we are a suburb, and I wouldn’t consider a suburb a small town. We are a suburb of Denver.”

Now that 3A has passed, there is some concern that it may not hold up. The Colorado legislature recently passed a law that protects affordable housing, and a lawsuit may ensue.

## Voters approve free school meals

Camden O’Haire, Designer

At 7:00 p.m. on November 4, Colorado voters voted Yes on Propositions LL and MM. Both propositions address the issue of free lunches in schools across the state. So, what does this mean that the voters voted yes on them?

Proposition LL allows for correcting a mistake in Prop FF that passed in 2022. The error, if prop FF is permitted to use \$107 million in taxes to pay for free school lunches, except that they went over by \$12 million. Proportion LL would allow the state to retain the extra \$12 million, rather than returning it to the voters.

Voter voted yes on Proposition MM. This allows the state to tax individuals with incomes over \$300,000. This tax of \$1,000-\$ 2,000 from their income will go to fund free school lunches in Colorado public schools. This will continue Prop FF.

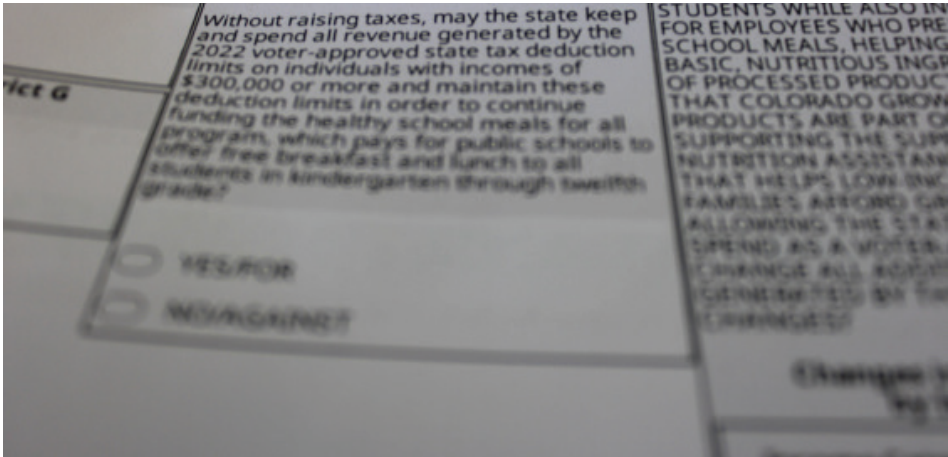
While some students at Heritage were eligible to vote in this year’s election, some chose not to. One student, who wishes to remain anonymous,

says, “this Election didn’t matter. There were no big-ticket items. We weren’t voting on the president or the governor, just something small that didn’t require my time or energy.”

Meanwhile, another Heritage student who wishes to remain anonymous says that they “didn’t vote in this past election because I felt that I wasn’t educated enough to make a responsible vote.”

Colorado attempts to mitigate voter confusion by mailing out a Blue Book to every eligible voter in the weeks leading up to an election. However, the language used in bills and propositions sometimes makes it difficult for voters to understand what they are voting on without further research.

Propositions LL and MM impact high school students across the state by providing free school lunches. Because both propositions passed, students will have access to meals at school for the foreseeable future.



Proposition LL was listed on the 2025 ballot following each county’s respective electoral races, such as for the local school board or mayor. 81.57% of Colorado voters voted in favor of LL. Photo by Camden O’Haire

## Students rally at No Kings protest

By Camden O’Haire, Designer

On October 18, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., protesters gathered on the steps of the Colorado State Capitol Building for No protest. There, the state senators and organizers of the No Kings protest gave speeches and motivated the crowd. The protesters marched all the way down 16th Street to the Capitol. So, what does the No Kings protest stand for?

The No Kings protests are demonstrations worldwide that challenge dictators and their regimes. Recently, these protests came to the United States in the summer of 2025. Citizens of the United States have used these protests to challenge policies and issues with which they disagree, particularly those related to President Donald J. Trump.

“Trump is doing too much. He’s going into these communities and terrorizing people, and I just really think it is valuable to have a voice and to protest peacefully is a really good thing

to do,” says Gray Gillies, 26.

Gillies was among those who marched in the No Kings protest. He was in downtown Denver, walking the streets. His eyes were captivated by all the signs going against Trump; he noted that the crowd was peaceful, and people kept the peace. Not all protests occurred in capital cities; some took place in small towns, such as downtown Littleton.

“I was interested in the No Kings protest since I haven’t been able to go to the previous protests in Denver, and I want to feel a part of the movement that is happening right now regarding current political and social events. So I decided to join protesters in Littleton,” says Ethan Urba ‘27.

The protests weren’t just in Colorado; they broke out across the United States coast to coast. Over 8 million people marched.



Protesters gather at the No Kings protest on the lawn of the Colorado State Capitol building on October 18. The event is estimated to have had between 25,000 and 30,000 attendees, with over 8 million globally. Photo by Camden O’Haire



Esteban Ocon collides with Lance Stroll in the US Grand Prix Sprint race, causing both to DNF. This led to a safety car coming out and neutralizing the race, resulting in Max Verstappen winning. Photo by Jakob Jensen

## Formula 1 grows in global popularity

Bryce Goldinger, Marketing Editor

Formula 1 is known as one of the fastest-growing sports. In 2024, the fan base reached about 826.5 million people, growing about 12% viewers per year, while the NFL grew about 7-8% viewers per year.

Heritage students are contributing to this growth. Bryce Alakness ‘26 says, “I first got into Formula 1 when I found the race highlights on YouTube.”

Different types of media have also grown the sport, as motor sports as a whole have also started to grow. RedBull Driver Max Verstappe’s decision to start racing endurance contributed to this growth. “It takes a specific type of person to like the sport, but with the F1 movie that was released recently, it opened and expanded the sport to lots of new people,” says Ben Swieringa ‘26.

However, attending a race in person is not feasible for many fans. Formula 1 is one of the more expensive sports to watch, with the cheapest weekend still over \$2,000 and varying

by weekend.

Because of this, Formula 1 on TV has also gained a lot more viewers. In 2023, ESPN reported that for each race, they had an average of 1.11 million viewers compared to the 554,000 they had in 2018. They also reported that in 2024, they had around 30 million unique viewers.

This viewership also continues to grow after an event is over. Alakness says, “If I’m unable to watch the race live, due to time zones or being busy, I like to watch the highlight reels afterwards.”

As the media coverage keeps growing, the sport will continue to see this upward trend in viewership and new fans. “I would love to go to a race one day, but it is a little expensive and hard to plan. I hope I can go someday,” mentioned Swieringa. As more people find the sport and start watching the FIA, the group that runs Formula 1, will have to keep changing the sport to keep viewers invested. There are also rumors of a second F1 movie.



Designed by Swann Prodhomme

Elf on the Shelf is a very popular holiday tradition, mainly with little kids. This is a tradition that consists of getting an elf and a book. These elves are said to have special abilities, such as being able to fly. It is necessary for them to fly because they come and watch you during the day to make sure you are good, then at night fly back to the North Pole to report to Santa. Then, they fly back to your house and change spots. Once you wake up in the morning it is the kid's job to go find the elf as it's usually a race to be the first in your house to do so.

For over two centuries, Americans have been cutting decorative cookies as a Christmas tradition. The tradition started in the 19th century, when Dutch and German settlers brought decorative cutting molds. These molds were made of tin, and allowed people to cut cookies into fun, decorative shapes.

Kids across the world still cut cookies for Christmas, including some students at Heritage. Grant Simmons '27 says "My family likes to decorate them with frosting, and hold a competition to see who makes the most festive cookie."

Many families have different ways of participating in the tradition. Some families use it as a bonding act, while some use it to get into the holiday mood. Ryan Brereton '27 says "My family uses the tradition as a stress reliever, from chaotic and stressful finals."

The origin of the Christmas cookie, leads way back to medieval times. Cookies were included in winter feasts, as well as a nice treat to give to travelers on their way. Another European tradition that used cookies was leaving cookies out for St Nicholas, a bishop known for generosity. This practice was later moved to Christmas as the feast day shifted from December 6th to Christmas, and the treats were associated with Santa Claus.

Cookie cutting is a timeless tradition, which many families practice in a variety of ways. For some families, it is more than just cutting cookies, and for most, it is a fun way to get into the festive spirit of Christmas.

Hadrian Hoyt '28 says "I have been doing this tradition since I was little and now my favorite part is getting to move it for my little brother." As you grow up and know that these things aren't real you might start losing interest in getting up early each day to go look for it, but you can still be involved in this tradition, such as how Hadrian likes to hide it for his little brother, keeping the tradition alive by doing so.

Connor Huston '26 says "I remember when my grandma got the elf for us. My favorite part was getting up every morning and racing with my brothers to find him. Now that I'm older, though it's not as much fun because the magic of Christmas is ruined now that I know it's fake so it makes the Elf less fun." As you get older some of these holiday traditions feel less magical and start to fade away, but when it comes to this tradition Huston and Hoyt say "I wanna continue this tradition for my little brother as well as hopefully my kids some day."

With the holiday season approaching, many people have traditions they take part in. But for many, the one that feels like the most festive and silly tradition is wearing ugly sweaters. Ugly sweaters originated in the 1950s with jingle bell sweaters, but their popularity stems from The Cosby Show, where the characters would wear peculiar-looking sweaters. The trend went away for a while and then made a resurgence in the early 2000s with the first-ever Ugly Christmas Sweater party, which was hosted in Vancouver. This marks it as one of the later holiday traditions.

Many people love ugly sweaters since they are a fun way to embrace the holiday spirit, connect with others who also wear ugly sweaters, and accept the silly and fun nature of wearing the sweater.

Dylan Blanton '26 says, "I love Christmas sweaters because I like being goofy. Sweaters bring a high level of jolliness, especially during the winter season. Additionally, I like the sweaters that bands sell on their websites since they usually relate to songs and the lyrics. They're basically festive and jolly album covers."

While many love ugly sweaters and see them as a way to commemorate the holiday season, a lot of people have their gripes with the tradition. Some believe that ugly sweaters are pointless, overly embellished, tacky, and something that people will only wear once. Evan McAdams '26 agrees with this sentiment and says, "Ugly sweaters are tacky and pointless because you wear them only one time, and the amount of money that people usually spend on them is wild, and they don't look swagacious."

Even though many may agree/disagree with the previous statements, it's crucial to remember that traditions are meant to be fun, since this one does not inherently cause harm to the world. Dylan Blanton '26 says, "[to] enjoy the holiday season."

As Christmas is starting to roll around the corner, many people are getting excited about this worldwide holiday. Many have decorated and are starting to get ready as this favored time of year is upon us. As people are decorating their houses, there is one thing that many people think of when they think of Christmas: the tree. The Christmas tree is where the presents are opened, memories are made, and cookies are eaten. Most people think there is one way to decorate a Christmas tree, but there are actually many unique ways to decorate. Even though many agree that the tree is very important, there is a split on whether it is better to have a fake or real tree.

"The biggest pro to a real tree is the smell; it smells like Christmas. They also look better than a plastic tree. A con is the upkeep, it's more difficult to take care of than a plastic tree," Tyler Brown '28. So there are both pros and cons to a real tree versus a fake tree. You can store, customize, change, and pick the color of a fake tree compared to a real tree, but a real tree has smell and life. With the real smell and authenticity of a real tree, it is a top choice for many. One of the biggest problems with real trees is the fact that they are cut down and more trees need to be mass farmed in order for a couple weeks of use. A fake tree doesn't involve cutting down real trees, but it does involve plastic manufacturing which can have a bigger footprint on the environment.

"It depends on the situation. If you're allergic or have problems with real trees then a fake one is better. But overall, a real tree is more Christmas-y," says Quinn Paradis '28.

So, real trees are preferred because of the smell and vibe, but a fake tree is easier to take care of and handle and store. It truly depends on the person and their preferences on how they want to decorate, but Christmas is still the same with a real tree or not.

With the holidays coming up, Heritage students might wonder how people celebrate in other parts of the world. From Mexico to the Philippines to Spain, families have their own ways to enjoy the season and spend time together.

Starting with Ms. Guadalupe Bonema, who grew up in Mexico, the Christmas season begins early. "In Mexico, Christmas is not just December 24 or 25 it starts on December 16," she said. "We have a lot of parties from December 16 until the 24. They're called posadas." Each night includes food, music, and a walk called peregrination, where people go from house to house reenacting Mary and Joseph's search for shelter. "You drink punch, and you have a piñata, and you do the peregrination, pretending that you're Jesus," she says. Meals include tacos, fish called bacalao, turkey, and pozole soup made with corn and meat. Her favorite part? "Las posadas cause you have a party, and you know, you think about the parties every day."

Albert Compe, a Heritage parent from Laguna in the Philippines, also talked about how his family celebrates Christmas. "We celebrate from September all the way to January," he said. "My favorite part was the food like the desserts, the sweet food. Puto bumbong, bico, all those delicacies." Families also make parols, star-shaped lanterns that decorate homes and streets. "We learned from making it, building it, designing it, all the way to displaying it," he said. Religion is a big part of the season too. "You go [to Church] every morning at four o'clock, and on Christmas Eve, you have to go there at midnight. So the mass starts at maybe ten or eleven and ends at midnight," he said, describing Simbang Gabi, a dawn mass before Christmas.

Our third interview came from Ms. Maria Teresa Gutierrez, who grew up in Spain. Her favorite tradition is the celebration of the Three Wise Men. "We call it Los Reyes Magos or Los Reyes," she said. Instead of looking forward to a Santa figure coming on Christmas, most families look forward to January 6. "We don't look so much for Christmas Eve with Santa, the main celebration in Spain is the Three Wise Men." On January 5, towns host a parade where, "The Three Wise Men are on a float and they have helpers, they're called Pajes."

Kids leave out shoes, cookies, and drinks for the Wise Men before going to bed. At home, her family had their own version. "We used to put out little silver trays and we would do a procession from the youngest to the oldest and we would sing a song in Catalan," she said. The next morning, they repeated the same procession before opening presents. "The noise level and the joy and all that is the opening of presents," she said.

While many students and staff at Heritage celebrate the winter holidays at home, so it's rare for teachers to have traditions that they celebrate in the classroom. Mrs. Emily Libbey, a Spanish teacher at Heritage, is one of the exceptions.

Libbey uses holidays throughout the year to teach students about cultural practices throughout the Spanish speaking world, like Day of the Dead and Valentine's Day.

Students in her CE Spanish 1 class read the story of La Virgen de Guadalupe. "As the story goes, she is the Virgin Mary who appeared as an indigenous Mexican woman, and is a symbol that a lot of people are familiar with, but they don't really know who she is."

Libbey also has her students research New Year's Traditions around the Spanish speaking world when they return from winter break. She says that learning about other cultural practices is an essential part of learning and of growth as students. "I do really believe in global citizenry, and so it's really important to me, as much as I can, to inspire students to look at all these cool cultural practices... and realize that we're all connected globally."

Cookie Cutting Traditions: Stress Relief with Sugar and Frosting.  
By Mason Pechan, Designer

Is it really that bad to wear ugly Christmas sweaters?  
By Javion Moore, Online Editor

Designed by Nyx Smith and Lana Compe

Which is better? A real tree or a fake one?  
By Fischer Austin, Designer

How do different cultures at Heritage celebrate the holiday season?  
By Jakob Jensen, Designer

Mrs. Libbey brings holiday cheer to students  
By Oliver Cauthron, Editor in Chief

# Heritage students help local community over the holidays

By Mady Rose, Social Media Editor

As the holidays approach, the Littleton community is once again trying to prove that generosity is the real spirit of the season. From food drives to coat collections, local organizations and volunteers are stepping up to make sure everyone feels cared for this winter. Heritage High School students also step up by finding places to give back during the holidays.

Some students volunteer with the Backpack Society. This organization partners with schools in Douglas County, Littleton & Englewood and provides weekend bags and weekly groceries to families facing food insecurity.

Heritage also runs a canned food drive. The Student Government puts together this campaign in the winter seasons, and this year they raised over 2500 cans. There are so many easy accessible ways to volunteer in community service during the holidays.

Kyla Case, a senior at Heritage, participates in volunteer work for her church during the holiday season. She serves classrooms with kids and does children's worship. "Specifically around the holiday season I do Thanksgiving meal packing, where a bunch of middle and high schoolers' get together around the holiday season and pack meals that can be used on Thanksgiving for those who can't afford it," says Case.

Another great way to give back to the community during the holidays is a food pantry. Estefani Canseco '26 says, "I enjoy volunteering during the holidays because you get to see the difference you make in people who are in need. You get to meet and help so many people and make them feel loved and seen during the special season when they might not get that every day." Our community does a good job at attempting to help those in need during the holiday season. Getting involved is as easy as asking your coach, teacher, or any other influence or club what you can do to help during the holidays.



Designed by Bryce Goldinger and Mason Pechan

# Diamond-Martin teaches French through current events

By Swann Prodhomme, Designer



We see Ms. Diamon-Marton sitting in her classroom. She teaches all levels of French here at Heritage.

Heritage there are multiple language classes, including French. Ms. Jane Diamond-Martin is the only French teacher in this building, but from beginner to advanced levels, she can teach everything. Addison Nielsen ‘28 said “ I think we teach French pretty well and I really like the teacher.”

Students develop a lot of french skills while diving into the culture of the Francophone world. Jane Diamond-Martin, the teacher shared “I’m trying to teach the four skills, which are speaking, understanding, writing and reading. But next to that, I’m also trying to share the culture by showing pictures, but also talking about French news like the Louvre robbery. We watched some videos about journalists explaining the situation in France right now.”

Diamond-Martin was interested in teaching French after her time as an au pair. “I went to France as an au pair for a semester after my study. I was 22, and that really helped me be fluent but also learned more about the country and all their traditions. The father of the family encouraged me to be a french teacher when I come back to America, and it is largely thanks to him that I am here today. ”

Learning French also allows students to explore the French-speaking world in a meaningful way, including its music, cuisine, fashion, and famous landmarks, which makes studying the language more exciting and interactive. Diamond-Martin said “ I try to share and talk about French events like the Olympic games last summer, but also my own experience and what I learned while I was there.” French is one of the most commonly studied languages in U.S. universities. For many, studying French opens doors to future opportunities. Knowing another language can help with college applications, study abroad programs, and careers in international business, diplomacy, or tourism.

Many students choose this language because it’s a global language spoken on five continents. It’s also an official language in 29 countries and the 6th most spoken language in the world. Experts predict that by 2050, there could be more than 700 million French speakers. This growth means that French will remain an important language for business, travel, and international communication in the future.

# Diversity of Spanish teachers offers students cultural experiences

By Nyx Smith, Copy Editor

Spanish is the most commonly taken language taught at Heritage, but what exactly does that entail? Due to the fact that there are so many students enrolled in Spanish, there are multiple teachers, all hailing from different backgrounds. “I think it’s actually a positive thing because you learn, with me for example, about Spain, while with Ms. Bonnema you will probably learn more about authentic Mexican culture,” Says Mrs. Teresa Gutierrez. That means that as you progress through the different levels, you are offered a different perspective about the Spanish language each time.

“I think that the fact I’ve had a different teacher each year I’ve been here has actually helped me a lot, because Spanish can have a lot of variability depending on where you go,”

Najla Memic ‘27 says in reference to how Spanish dialects often change depending on the Spanish-speaking country you travel to. For example, Spanish from Spain uses both different pronunciation and grammar structure than Spanish from Mexico, with Spain using a pronoun unique to itself, vosotros.

Spanish being the most taken language at Heritage can also be attributed to the fact that for native English speakers, it is easiest to pick up and learn. “French has similarities with Spanish because it’s also a Latin language, but it has more difficult things like the pronunciation,” Gutierrez explains. Not only is the language easier to pick up than French and German, but it is also the most applicable in the United States. “I admire the other languages, but when I was

thinking about what I would take in high school, I thought Spanish would be the most useful because it’s the second most spoken language in our country,” Memic says.

But, the common-held thought that Spanish is “easy” can cause problems. World Languages are considered electives, and because electives are different from core classes, students often find themselves in Spanish without realizing just how much work is required to learn a language. “That influences students’ behavior and ethics in what they do and what they’re going to try, because they just see it as a graduation requirement,” Gutierrez explains.

This same pattern of misbehavior often falls away in the higher levels of Spanish, however,

because students taking more than two years of Spanish are genuinely interested in learning the language and aren’t just doing it to graduate or because colleges like seeing it on an application. Expanding on this point, Memic says, “The vibes in CE Spanish versus Spanish II are a lot different, not only because the people tend to be upperclassmen and therefore more mature, but also because we have furthered our Spanish knowledge enough to the point where our speech doesn’t sound childish anymore.”

Even though Spanish may not seem as “unique” as French or German, there are still benefits in taking it, because it gives you the opportunity to not only learn from multiple teachers, but multiple cultures.

# Heritage stands apart from the rest of the district by teaching German

By Lana Comple, Online Editor



We see Mrs. Starks-Yoble hard at work grading homework and classwork. She is the only German teacher in the district. Photo by Lana Comple.

German is a language that stems from Proto-Germanic roots, an ancestral language from the Indo-European language around the 1st millennium BC. By no surprise of its namesake, Germany has it as its official language. However, this language is not solely located there. Other countries that have German as an official language include Austria and Belgium.

Heritage is the only LPS school that offers this language as a world language course. Mrs. Ginger Starks-Yoble, therefore, is the only German teacher in all of Littleton Public Schools. In her words, she says, “I am a black sheep among no sheep.”

Starks-Yoble comes from Omaha, Nebraska, and states that she started learning German in her 7th grade school. She recalls, “I wanted to be different, and I wanted to try something new. I always knew I wanted to explore the world, and I knew that I needed a language, so instead of doing what everybody else was doing, like learning Spanish, I went my own way.” She also really liked her German teacher back in middle school and was inspired by them.

She then explains how she continued learning through high school and all the way through college, where she lived in Germany for a year. Compared to English, she thinks, “English is more closely related to German than it is to Spanish and other Romance languages. Because they’re both Germanic languages, they have a lot of parallels.” She quickly adds, “Of course, with the right growth mindset, any language could be managed in terms of learning.”

Three different students explored said “right growth mindset” in their classes, just in different ways and different backgrounds.

Scout Destefano ‘28 is one of Starks-Yoble’s students in CE German (also known as German 4). She states, “I think German offers

an opportunity that isn’t always available to people, and I think it’s also a really interesting language to learn compared to Spanish or French, which is very similar to English.”

Experience-wise, Destefano lived in Germany for 2 years and has been learning German for 3-4 years now, and enjoys Starks-Yoble’s class. “I do think the class is interesting. I like the words that we learn. It’s completely different from English, especially in the way you pronounce them.”

Julia Pennington 26 is another student in CE German, and is one of the class highest by grade. “It’s a really good environment,” she explains. “There aren’t a lot of German students, so the people who have taken it for four years are a lot closer than, say, a CE Spanish course would be.”

When asked about her choice for picking German out of all the languages, Pennington says, “I started learning it on Duolingo in 8th grade, and then I saw Heritage had a German class, so I thought, ‘What the heck, why not?’” She finds learning languages in general to be enjoyable, as she’s also learning Spanish and Mandarin.

Max Gallimore ‘28 was a student in German 1 during his freshman year. He states, “I thought it was a pretty fun class to take. I don’t really take World Language classes, but I liked this one. The teacher was cool, and the class was interesting.” About his reasoning, he says, “I’ve been to a lot of Oktoberfests before, and I really appreciate the German culture.”

This year, however, he didn’t sign up for German 2 to “look at more options.” He did not say, though, that he would swear off the language. He mentions he might take it back up in future years.

## Artists display their work at the Heritage art show and hope to win it all

By Jonathan DeLauter, Designer

The art show is one of the best displays of creativity at Heritage, featuring a massive variety of student-created art. This semester's show began the first day after Thanksgiving break, December 1.

The art show happens once per semester, with submissions open to anyone who has created an art piece they'd like to showcase, inside or out of school. Pieces were submitted and chosen before Thanksgiving break, and the show is open for viewing through Friday, December 5. "We use the art show as a celebration of all students' artwork throughout the semester, as a chance to showcase all that they have learned," says art teacher Mr. Casey Deutsch.

Past art shows have featured a wide variety of art, from paintings to photography to sculptures. Oliver Roberts '26 says, "my favorite piece was this really incredible skeleton statue that [my friend] Deagan made out of metal and stuff he welded together." This variety created in the

art show highlights individual creativity in the pieces students create and leads to each show to be greatly different than the one before.

The show also brings critiques and awards for pieces entered. "Best in show" awards are given for each category of art, voted on by teachers. There is also an Eagle's Choice Award voted on by students. Awards are given out during a celebration on the last day of the show after school.

Future shows could come to include an expansion to the space where the art show is displayed. Evan McAdams '26 says, "there's a chance that we'll be able to move to either the top or bottom floor of the student center." Previous years had the art show taking place in the second floor study center. This move would give more space and more opportunities for students to display their hard

Overall, the art show remains a great celebration of artistry at Heritage and has the ability to continue for years to come.



Student artwork at the Heritage Art Show. The Art Show ran from December 1 to December 5 and showcases the creativity of students at the school. Photo by Jonathan DeLauter.

## Jazz band performs at showcase night for incoming freshman

By Nyx Smith, Copy Editor



Last year's jazz band performs at Dazzle jazz club. This was their first time performing at the Dazzle venue. Photo courtesy of Macie Willson

Trumpets, drums, and smooth sounds were heard the night of November 4, where the jazz band performed for prospective students during Heritage's annual Showcase Night.

"Showcase Night is cool because kids get to explore the school outside of a classroom perspective," says Charlotte Jones '27, a LINK leader who led the eighth graders on a tour of the Heritage building throughout the night. One of the stations on the tour was the second-floor study center, where an area usually used for students stressing over homework during their off periods or eating lunch with their friends was transformed into a stage as members of Heritage's Jazz Band got into position.

Jazz Band was chosen to perform in particular because it's something that eighth graders don't typically see. Middle schoolers usually only get the option of joining concert band as a class, with jazz being offered as an extracurricular, so most students have never seen a true jazz performance. "Ultimately, I think choosing

[jazz band] was a good decision, not only because the jazz bands are a smaller unit, but also because the students already know what a concert band sounds like, and they don't need to hear 60 students on stage performing a piece to understand what that sounds like, Mr. Evan Allenson, director of the music classes at Heritage explains.

Jazz Band also performed in the hopes that they could recruit incoming freshmen for the next school year. "Sometimes [jazz band] doesn't get a lot of visibility because the focus is put into the marching band. So I have students that are like, 'Well, I don't want to do marching, but I do want to do band so this gives them another option,'" says Allenson.

All in all, their performance was a success as it recruited potential students who appreciate music, and showed students and their families one of the many avenues their child can take to further their education at Heritage.

## Heritage poets express personal creativity at the fifteenth annual Poetry Slam!

By Jakob Jensen, Designer

This year, the 15th annual Littleton Public Schools Poetry Slam brought students from across the district together for an evening of student written performances. This event has become a 15 year long tradition for LPS and gives students a place to talk about their emotions and experiences through poetry. The gym at Options High School was full of parents, teachers, and fellow students there for the event.

One of the poets, Addison Nielsen-Nedeau '28, shares how she came up with her ideas. "I think they come to me when I'm the most emotional and I feel like I need to express it in a way that's not like screaming at someone." Nielsen-Nedeau showed that writing usually happens in two steps first in the moment, then later when she edits. "You write it when you're passionate, and then you come back and you find lines and stuff," she said, adding, "You make it a poem, and then you go back and you make it better."

Her poem focused on anger and feeling unseen. Nielsen-Nedeau said, "I was hoping that they'd heal my anger and my inability to escape invisibility." Performing was stressful and she was scared how nervous

she felt. She says, "I didn't eat because I thought I was going to throw up on stage." To prepare she said, "I just go through my poem up until the last minute, take some deep breaths, and then get out of the situation."

Nielsen-Nedeau also talks about how performing changes the writing process. She says, "It's always nerve racking to go in front of an audience and to get to workshop your piece with other artists," . Her advice for new poets is simple. "The first few pieces are going to be absolutely trash... just keep writing and you'll slowly get better."

There were also many audience members at the slam, including student Vivian Morales. She came because her friend invited her. "My friend Sophia... inspired me to come and experience it." She says the poem that stood out most was the one "talking about Car Crash." She described the room as "very emotional and intense."

Morales said events like the poetry slam matter because "it makes people feel more aware of what other people are going through and their thoughts." The Slam was a strong reminder of how creative LPS students can be.



Addison Nielsen-Nedeau recites her own poetry at the annual Poetry Slam! that was hosted at Options High School. This event is held every November. Photo by Jakob Jensen.

## Winter Guard spins a new tale for their 2025-26 season

By Fischer Austin, Designer

As winter is arriving, many winter sports are coming along with it at HHS. One of these sports is the winter guard. The winter guard is like the color guard but with some minor and major differences.

"Basically, It's a color guard without the marching band and you do it indoors or in high school gyms, we have a tarp that you put down and we have a recorded song that we dance

and spin flags and weapons to" Says Gabriella Hammond '26.

Winter Guard does dance, flag spinning, and weapon spinning in relation to the music. Even though winter guard is not color guard, the two are very similar in many ways, leading people from color guard to want to try out or perform in the winter guard too.

"My favorite part is that it allows the color guard culture to really come through because

when we're in marching band, we kind of get relegated to a smaller importance and when it's winter guard, it's just us." Hammond '26

Winter guard allows for more flexibility and involvement compared to marching band and color guard. Since there are many more moving parts in marching band, there is less individual action compared to winter guard. The dance, weapon, and flag spinning are all main parts of winter guard that make up the performance,

allowing for many people to join and enjoy, but not be overwhelmed by too many moving parts.

Finally, winter guard is just one of many winter sports at HHS. There are so many options for indoor and outdoor winter sports and activities. As the winter season is upon us, many of these sports are in action or are going to be soon. Since most of the most popular sports are out during winter, there are many slots and positions for whoever wants to try these out.

## Rage music and artists become the future for music across all genres

By Jonathan DeLauter, Designer

While rap is the largest music genre in the United States and a contender for most popular globally, a smaller offshoot of the genre has become extraordinarily popular in recent years: rage. Acts such as Playboi Carti, Yeat, and Ken Carson remain at the top of popularity while influencing the close-knit underground community.

Kanye West famously said, “Rap is the new rock and roll, We [are] the real rockstars” and I think that has become undeniably true in recent years with the birth of rage. Both genres entered the music world facing great controversy.

Rock and roll was feared by older generations due to its noisy sound, mixing of races, and sexual content, while younger generations loved it as a way to rebel and feel free. The same themes are seen in rage, while older generations also dislike the shift to a lack of lyricism.

Both genres also have a unique style of fashion, with artists not being afraid to express themselves how they want. The Rick Owens Ramones, one of the most desired pieces in the rage community, got their name from the band The Ramones.

The shows are the most similar. Both are loud, rowdy, and passionate. The show is about the experience rather than the artist, allowing the music to be properly enjoyed.

Now the question remains, what does the music sound like? Some influences can be drawn from Yeezus by Kanye, while the real shift came on Christmas Day in 2020 with Playboi Carti’s Whole Lotta Red. Fans were initially disappointed with the release after

expecting Carti’s famous baby voice in a more melodic album, while what we actually received was completely different.

The first sound we hear is a chirp, followed by “wake up filthy,” creating the first major theme for the genre in production. The album features repetitive lyrics and ad-libs, yelling and screaming, over beats with loud drums, synthesizers, and 808s. I would credit this release as one of the best projects of the 2020s and a top 3 rage music project.

Where Whole Lotta Red truly shines is when played in concert. Carti’s shows are loud, with lots of flashing lights, pyrotechnics, and electric guitar-infused instrumentals. Performances like Lollapalooza and shows from the ‘King Vamp’ tour in 2021 only proved the strength of Carti’s cult fanbase.

Whole Lotta Red’s influence has lasted nearly half a decade, leading to the rise of popular underground artists and albums. His own label ‘Opium’ has been a powerhouse, releasing beloved projects like: No Stylist and If Looks Could Kill by Destroy Lonely, A Great Chaos and More Chaos by Ken Carson, and Carti’s own highly anticipated album I am Music. Underground projects like Osamason’s psykotik and Che’s Rest In Bass, and more alternative albums like 2Hollis’s star and Jane Remover’s Revengeseekerz, have exploded in popularity after putting their own twist on the genre. These projects have brought rage to a new level of popularity in gen z. Rage music allows artists of all kinds a new way to express themselves, and fans form a tight-knit community to enjoy this art.



Playboi Carti takes the stage during the Atognists tour show in Colorado. Playboi Carti is known for his huge contributions to rage music and it’s popularity today. Photo by Jonathan DeLauter.

## Festive activities during winter season allow students to enjoy the holidays

By Fischer Austin and Jakob Jensen, Designers



The art depicted in the air is an illuminated elf made by drones. This photo depicts the candlewalk that took place in Littleton. Photo by Jakob Jensen

## ‘The Nightmare Before Christmas’ is without a doubt a holiday movie

By Eva Hager, Online Editor

Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas has baffled many over the years, prompting the same question: “Is the movie Christmas or Halloween?” The film’s plot follows the protagonist, Jack Skellington, as he leaves Halloween Town to discover the bright, blissful world of Christmas. Elated by the holiday’s cheerful spirit, Jack tries to acquire Christmas, triggering a series of chaotic and entertaining events that mix spooky with festive. At Heritage, students and staff continue to debate whether the film belongs to Halloween or Christmas. “I would pick Halloween. It’s more Halloween-ish. Like spooky and weird with witches and skeletons, etc.” says Stephenie Anderson Dyben. Dyben adds her point of interest on such a controversy. “It is about Halloweentown but also has Christmas and Santa in it.” But other HHS students have their own thoughts on the matter. Kendall Hager ‘28 offers her

thoughts. “The movie belongs in the Christmas category, because Jack spends more time in Christmas and why would it be a Halloween movie if he is more into Christmas.” Hager also adds her initial first impressions on the movie and how it eventually shifts, “The Nightmare before Christmas starts in Halloween town, There are pumpkins everywhere and Jack is a skeleton. The movie also eventually leads to Jack traveling to Christmas town and the discovery of a joyous holiday.” Personally, I think The Nightmare before Christmas should be categorized as both Christmas and Halloween. The movie begins in a spooky setting but also highlights the joyous holiday of Christmas. All in all, after reviewing such a highly debated topic, the answer remains undecided. Many agree that The Nightmare Before Christmas belongs to Halloween, while others insist it captures the true spirit of Christmas. In the end, the choice is yours—what holiday does it truly belong to?



The song “What’s This?” from A Nightmare Before Christmas depicts Jack Skellington discovering Christmastown for the first time. Adding on to people’s beliefs that A Nightmare Before Christmas is a Christmas movie. Photo by Javion Moore.

# Toby begins cheer career, bringing spirit and energy to the team

By Mady Rose, Social Media Editor

Everyone knows the Heritage Cheerleaders from our school football games, but not many know that there is much more that they do outside of cheering for our football, basketball, and volleyball teams. They also compete in competitions against other high school teams. These competitions give the team an opportunity to perform in front of people before state and nationals and give the team time to work and improve.

They compete for two different categories, Traditional and Gameday. Gameday is where they do their football game routine, the whole tradition is the original Heritage cheer goes through cheering. After each high school goes through their routine for the judges, they have award ceremonies for each one. These scores help the team know what they did well on and what they need to improve on to succeed in nationals.

This year, the team welcomes a new member that performs with the team during their gameday routine for the competition season: Toby the Eagle, who is our school mascot. "It's super fun to compete with Toby. I think

he brings a lot of extra school spirit and hype to our routine on the mat," says Ellesse Perry '26. I noticed that lots of other schools competing had a mascot as well, and it was fun to see our school have something extra and fun to represent our school spirit.

The team goes through these challenging competitions hoping they can do as well as they did in last year's competition season. Last year they placed second in the Continental League Varsity Coed and third in State Varsity Coed, which is the best they had done since 2015. The team's collaborative spirit keeps them connected and energetic. "I love the community of our team, we all work as one big team that supports each other and wants to see each other succeed and do well," says Chloe Krensle '27. "I think our team is on a very good road to doing well at nationals; we still have some things to work on to improve but I know we can do it!" says Courtney Carlson '27. Carlson also shares that at their third competition they earned first place in the traditional category, which is a huge accomplishment for the team and something to reflect on as they continue onto their next



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# Unified Bowling creates new oportunities for athletes

By Eva Hager, Online Editor



The Heritage High School Unified Bowling team poses for a group photo at regionals. Photo courtesy of Unified team.

The LPS school district has officially welcomed Unified Bowling to Colorado. The fall sport follows the modified Baker format, where teams of three co-ed participants compete across five games. In this structure, teammates alternate each roll—one bowler starts the frame and the next continues, regardless of a strike or spare. This system promotes consistent involvement from all team members and emphasizes collaborative play, two core principles of the Unified Sports model.

At Heritage High School, Unified Sports programs aim to create opportunities for students of all abilities to participate in athletics together. By pairing athletes with and without disabilities, the program establishes an environment centered on communication, teamwork, and skill development. Kieron Zammit '26 explains, "Unified bowling is less competitive; it's more like if you're having fun. I feel like that's better than anything else because if it's too competitive, then all the

fun of it would just go away." Hayley Prange '27 highlights the atmosphere on the lanes as well, sharing, "I think the environment is super positive; whenever a unified athlete goes out to bowl, everyone else just gets super excited, and everyone is super supportive of one another." She adds that team communication plays a key role throughout each match: "If somebody is having a problem, the others will come and help figure it out and make everyone a better bowler."

As the bowling season begins to wind down, Heritage students can look ahead to additional Unified opportunities later in the year. Unified Basketball will begin in the winter, offering another chance for students to participate in a cooperative team setting, while Unified Track will return in the spring and continue to expand athletic access across the student body. Each season provides new ways for students to engage with peers, contribute to a shared team experience, and take part in inclusive extracurricular activities on campus.

# Basketball rivalry heats up with Crosstown Throw Down

By Javion Moore, Online Editor

The 3rd annual Crosstown Throw Down took place on Wednesday, November 20th. For those unaware of what the event is all about, the Crosstown Showdown is the LPS equivalent of the All-Star event in the NBA.

Like the All-Star weekend in the NBA, events this year will include the 3-point contest, which is an event where the players put their skills to the try to shoot 15 3-pointers in a certain amount of time, typically being 70 seconds. The skills contest is a test of shooting, dribbling, and passing. Finally, there is the dunk contest, which consists of people trying to score 50 points from all the judges by performing their best dunks. Where the two differ is that the Crosstown Showdown has one more event. That being the unified and the feeder teams' game. For those unaware, a feeder team is a youth team, usually for middle schoolers, organized to prepare players for a high school's basketball program

This year, the crosstown showdown isn't going to be hosted at Heritage like it was last year. Mr. Ron McClurg, the varsity basketball coach, says this about his experience: "The no

home court [advantage] hurt, but with having the fans there, we were fine."

Even though the event wasn't held at Heritage, it was still a huge success, with the Heritage section being pretty full and lively. The events also went well for the heritage, with Heritage winning the most difficult and impressive event, which was the dunk contest. Charlie Gilloth scored a 50 with his final dunk of the night. Magnus Miller '26 says his favorite part was the dunk contents, specifically Charlie's dunk. Miller '26 regards his experience, "It was great to be a part of an event with so much energy. I had a blast in my event [the dunk contents], and it was cool to hear the noise [cheering] when we won. "

This event inspires players to take what they love about basketball and connect it with themselves and the community. Miller '26 says, " What I love about basketball is having something to work towards and try to get better at every day, and to have that brotherhood with my teammates.



Heritage student dunks basketball in front of the student body during Crosstown Throw down. Photo by Javion Moore.

# Girls enter previously male-dominated wrestling scene

By Hayley Prange, Designer



Lilly Loar '28 wrestling Rayna Ellis '26 in tournament against Littleton High School. Girls wrestling has become more popular over the last few years. Photo by Hayley Prange.

Girls Wrestling is a quickly developing sport. This is only the second year that Heritage has had their own girls wrestling team. Two years ago Littleton, Heritage, and Arapahoe had a combined girls wrestling team. Wrestling being a male dominant sport can lead to some unique challenges for girls wrestlers.

According to Rayna Ellis '26 "The biggest challenge to do with girl wrestlers is that it's a recent development that so many girls decided to join wrestling, and it can be very intimidating being a girl coming to do this sport that's very male dominated. The system doesn't really benefit us quite as well, including the dress code and the feeling of insecurity when you're in a room full of just boys and you're the only girl. However, I do think because of how big it's grown, it's going to be a lot easier for women to want to join if there are other girls that are in the sport, and there's a very big community with us, and the more girls that join, the stronger it's gonna get."

The development of the number of people this year is going to both push this community and also create a larger representation for women's wrestling. As this sport grows, the wrestlers are trying to grow with it. According to Lilly Loar '28 "We've grown in size, but I also think, from what I've seen, the new girls especially are getting better. I know I've not been here for a minute, but they are improving their style and how they're wrestling." Wrestling is a sport that to get better you need to be consistent in working harder and harder because there are so many different moves—meaning there can be different outcomes in the game, so wrestlers have to continue to push themselves mentally on and off of the mat.

Since this is only the second year that Heritage has had a women's wrestling program, there are still things for wrestlers to learn and improve on during the year. Women's wrestling and men's wrestling are very different, and these girls are trying to show just that.



The Heritage pool, where the swim and dive team practices and hosts meets. The school will be hosting a meet on December 9 against ThunderRidge. Photo by Swann Prodhomme.

# Swim and dive team kicks off the block into new season

By Swann Prodhomme, Designer

Excitement is already building as the Heritage High School Swim and Dive team launched a new season. Returning swimmers and divers have jumped back into the water, ready to continue where they left off, while new team members are making their debut. The energy around the pool has been growing each day as athletes settle into their routines and reconnect, or meet, with their teammates. The dive coach, David Zamkov said "I feel great about this season, I have a bunch of kids that are eager,

willing and are trying hard" Held in the school's natatorium, the tryouts for all the new swimmers tested athletes on endurance, technique, and speed in various strokes such as freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly to see which team the coach was going to place them on. The athletes seem confident for this season. Lorelei Fisher '27, a varsity swimmer who has swam for HHS for three years, says, "I'm so excited for this season; I love my team!"

Meanwhile, the diving team just started to jump into the water, with a goal to achieve between six and eleven different dives. The team consists of only five girls, but they are full of energy, spirit, and determination. Kendall Hager '28, one of the dive captains, shares, "I'm so excited to compete again and I feel really good about this season." Heritage swim and dive squad has always been a really close team; some people might describe it as a family. Every girl cheers for

their teammates and encourages each other during every meet. Zamov stated "The girls are tight; they love each other dearly and they wanna see each other succeed because they care about each other." With strong leadership, new talent, and plenty of determination, the Heritage Swim and Dive team is ready to make big waves this season. Their first home meet was on December 3 at HHS. Their next one will also be at Heritage on December 9.

# Heritage Hockey hits the ice

By Mason Pechan, Designer

Heritage hockey season is kicking off, and this year it is particularly exciting. The hockey team's CPHL fall season finished off on Friday, November 7. CHPL is a non-sponsored fall club season. After CPHL, CHSAA is up next, which starts on the week of Monday November 17. Tryouts took place from Monday November 10 through 12. During those three days, there were three on ice sessions, where players practiced drills and games, to earn a spot on the team. Starting this year, the team includes three teams, varsity, and two JV teams, JV red, and JV silver. This year's team is fairly young compared to previous years. This is because of the amount of seniors who graduated last year. This raises the expectations of growth on this team throughout the season, and seasons to come. Evan Escudero '29, says "I think we got a very strong chance of doing well this season, we have great team chemistry, and I think we could have a pretty good season",

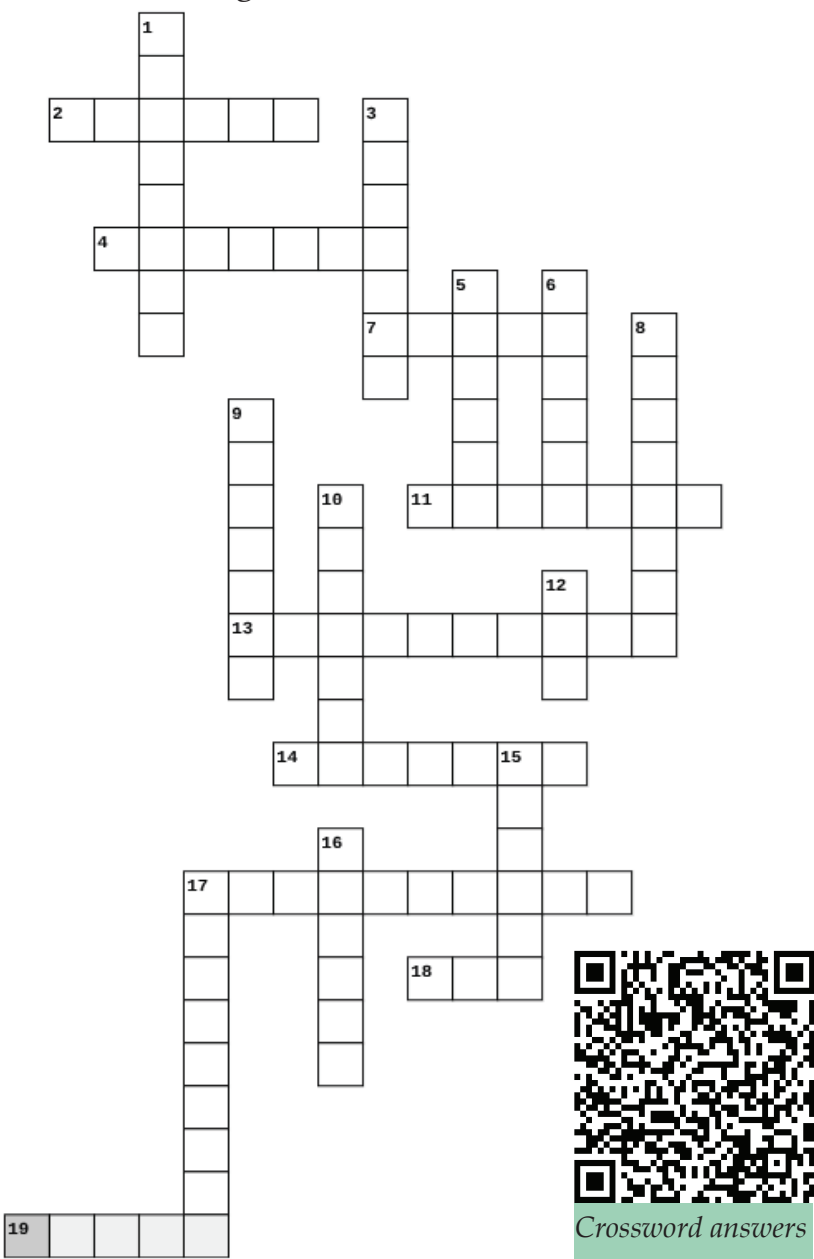
Coach Chris Tritz, head coach of the JV team says "I'm very excited about the JV team this year. We have some returning players that have developed a tremendous amount in the past 12 months, and a strong group of freshmen that are looking very promising. The team works hard, they are very physical. They respond well under pressure and I think they are set for a season of great success!" Hockey is a very competitive, and physically demanding sport. CHSAA rules allow players to hit each other, and it can get violent at times. During the CPHL fall season, four players got major injuries, including concussions, and broken bones. As of the start of CHSAA, two players are still out from injuries. The Hockey team's schedule, pictures, and more can be found on their website, and the team would love to see people there supporting, and reminding spectators to bring a coat.



Heritage's Hockey Team celebrating after a goal against Mountain Vista at Ice Ranch. They will be playing Dakota Ridge on December 13 at Foothills Ice Arena. Photo by Zachary Goldenberg.

# Epic crossword

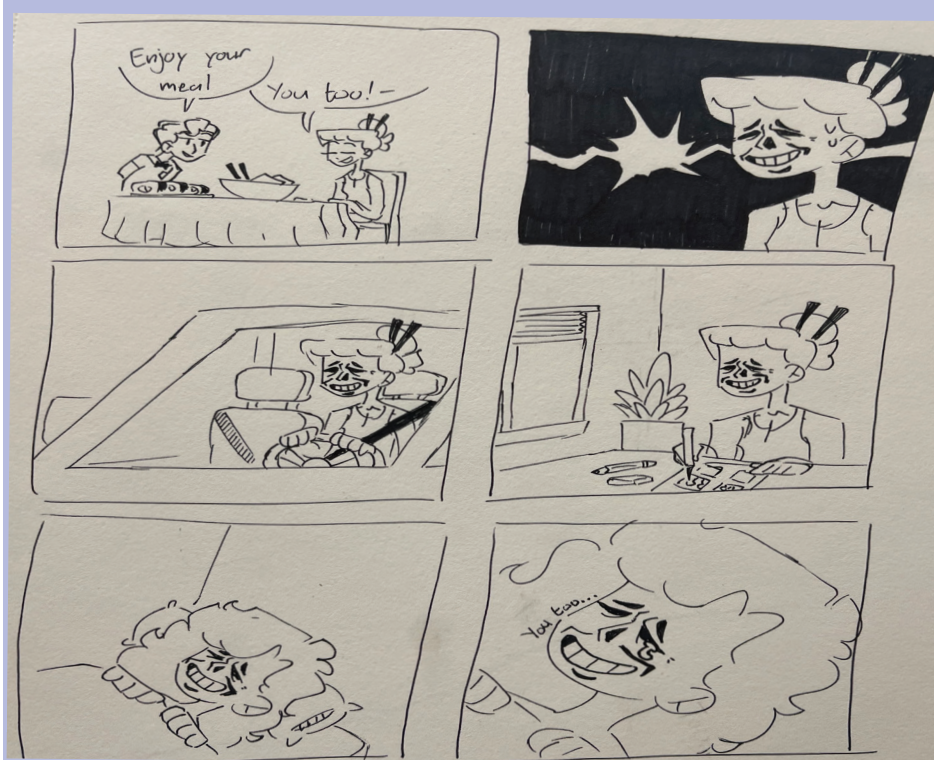
By Oliver Roush, Designer



- Across:**  
2. Common creature in Chinese mythology  
4. Device used to produce air to stoke a flame  
7. Disgraced former governor of New York  
11. Famous Mongolian ruler and warlord  
13. Execution device used for beheading  
14. Prominent African American revolutionary in the '60s  
17. Warm, long-sleeve shirt; Earl  
18. Unidentified Flying Object  
19. Scientist; part of the Nation of Islam's mythology
- Down:**  
1. How taxes are grouped  
3. Study of motion  
5. French art museum with a recent heist  
6. Food often sold by street vendors  
8. Advisor of the HHS Newspaper  
9. Winner of the HHS presidential race  
10. The standard ice cream flavor  
12. Fat, pink farm animal  
15. Country south of the United States  
16. Most listened to artist of 2024  
17. Lives in a pineapple under the sea

# “You too!”

By Tisho Ferrigno, Renowned artist



# Hope in the darkness

By Oliver Cauthron, Editor in chief

*A tree stands alone  
All its friends long dead and gone  
Still, it carries on.*

*Where do we all go  
After it's finished? Alone  
Or with those we love?*

*He cries what's the point  
And the crow caws back to him  
Why do you need one?*

*Standing in the stream  
Ripples disrupting the calm  
I'm the exact same*

*We've been told to leave  
A mark on the world. Why not  
Just live here instead?*

*Running on the wheel  
Grinding away day and night  
But what's it all for?*

# Match newspaper staff quotes!

By Swann Prodhomme, Designer

|                     |                                                              |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Mrs Linville</u> | <u>“Just Doordash for me everyday”</u>                       |
| <u>Camden</u>       | <u>“I’m trying to do my work it’s a very rare occurance”</u> |
| <u>Bryce</u>        | <u>“Don’t even get me started on the dolphins!”</u>          |
| <u>Jakob</u>        | <u>“Can we write an article about 67?”</u>                   |
| <u>Jonathan</u>     | <u>“Do I really have ethics?”</u>                            |
| <u>Nyx</u>          | <u>“Yeah, I think everyone should be able to eat.”</u>       |
| <u>Eva</u>          | <u>“Bryce stop it!” (loud crash)</u>                         |

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