Olympic High School

THE TORCH

Student-Led Digital Newspaper: Where Tomorrow's Leaders Speak Today

OCTOBER 03, 2025
VOLUME 08 ISSUE 02

Indigenous Peoples' Day

Celebrated on the second Monday in October, Indigenous Peoples' Day began when South Dakota became the first state to officially recognize the holiday in 1990, and Berkeley, California, followed in 1992. It wasn't until 2021 that the day received national recognition, when President Joe Biden issued the first presidential proclamation for Indigenous Peoples' Day. This day celebrates Indigenous cultures and traditions of Native Hawaiians, Alaska Natives, and North American communities. In Concord, the land we live on was originally home to the Chupcan tribelet of the Bay Miwok people, who lived in the Diablo Valley long before European settlers. By learning about Indigenous history, we can better understand their cultures, the struggles they've faced, and the lasting impact of their contributions to our world today. Click the map to learn more about the indigenous land you are on.



CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

Filipino-American History Month

Filipino American History Month (FAHM) is celebrated every October to recognize and honor the history, culture, and contributions of Filipino Americans in the United States. It started in 1991, when the Filipino American National Historical Society worked to bring more awareness to the role Filipino Americans have played in shaping our cultures. Places that celebrate FAHM include the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Francisco, Daly City, Seattle, and parts of Louisiana. This month is a time to reflect on the community's resilience and achievements. It's a chance to celebrate Filipino pride and inspire future generations.

Veteran's Day

On November 11th, we celebrate Veterans' Day in the U.S. It started back in 1919 as Armistice Day to mark the end of World War I. Then, in 1938, it became a federal holiday to honor all the people who have served in the military. This day is important because it's a chance for us to say thanks and show respect for the sacrifices veterans have made to keep us safe.

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JOURNALISM STUDENT REPORTERS:

Chris Chavez
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Isabella Hernandez
John Holdren
Ashley Massa
Erica Pita
Adrian Quijano-Brito
Kiyomi Webb

Notable *Indigenous People*

BY ASHLEY MASSA

CLICK ANY IMAGE TO LEARN MORE



Lauren Good Day

Lauren Good Day is a Native American artist and fashion designer who uses her work to celebrate and share Indigenous culture. She creates colorful, modern designs that honor traditional Native clothing and stories. Her art helps keep Native traditions alive and inspires young Native people to be proud of who they are.



Creed Humphrey

Creed Humphrey is a professional football player in the NFL, playing as a center for the Kansas City Chiefs. He is of Native American heritage and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Creed proudly represents his Indigenous roots both on and off the field.



Jason Momoa

Jason Momoa is a Native Hawaiian actor best known for playing Aquaman in the DC movies and Khal Drogo in Game of Thrones. He is proud of his Indigenous heritage and uses his fame to speak out for environmental and Indigenous rights, especially protecting oceans and native lands.



Harold Cardinal

Harold Cardinal was a Cree leader and writer who spoke up for Indigenous rights in Canada. He made a big impact by writing books and working to make sure Indigenous voices were heard and respected.

NOTABLE FILIPINO AMERICANS

Click images to learn more

BY ERICA PITA



Bruno Mars

- Grammy-winning singer, songwriter, and performer, Bruno Mars is of Filipino and Puerto Rican descent. With hits like “Just the Way You Are” and “Uptown Funk,” he became one of the world’s best-selling artists, bringing global recognition to his Filipino heritage.



Olivia Rodrigo

- Olivia Rodrigo, a pop sensation and actress, skyrocketed to fame with her record-breaking debut “SOUR.” With Filipino roots from her father’s side, she proudly acknowledges her heritage and has become one of the youngest influential Filipino Americans shaping today’s music.



Sophia Laforteza

- A rising Filipino American entertainment professional, Sophia Laforteza has made her mark in music and media, amplifying Filipino representation in the U.S. industry. She belongs the girl group “KATSEYE,” which she celebrates her roots by uplifting diverse voices and highlighting Filipino talent on global stage.



Hailee Steinfeld

- An actress and singer of Filipino, African American, and European descent, Hailee Steinfeld earned an Academy Award nomination at just 14 for “True Gift.” She has since started in films like “Pitch Perfect 3” and “Bumblebee,” while pursuing music, making her a versatile Filipino-American star.

Día de los Muertos

By Ashley Massa

Día de los Muertos is a Mexican holiday that started with ancient Aztec traditions. It's celebrated mainly in Mexico and parts of Central America but also in the U.S. It's important because it helps families remember and celebrate those who have passed away. Keeping this tradition alive is a big part of keeping the culture strong. The first day of Día de los Muertos is on November 1st. It's a day to remember kids and babies who have passed away. People put up altars with photos, toys, and food to honor them. Marigolds are used to guide the spirits with their color and smell. The candles and sugar skulls are also symbols to welcome the dead back home.The first day of Día de los Muertos is a is a special time to honor and remember the children who are no longer with us. The altars, flowers, and candles all have meaning and help guide the spirits home. It's a peaceful way to stay connected.





The second day of Día de los Muertos is on November 2nd and is called All Souls' Day. It's a day to remember adults who have died. Families go to the cemetery to clean the graves and decorate them with flowers, candles, and pictures. They also bring food, drinks, and things the person liked when they were alive. These are called ofrendas, and they help guide the spirits back to visit. It's not a sad day t's a way to celebrate and remember loved ones. The second day of Día de los Muertos is all about honoring adults who've passed away. Families go to cemeteries to clean and decorate graves with marigolds, candles, and food. They also make ofrendas at home with things that their loved ones enjoyed. It's a way to celebrate their lives and keep their memory alive. Día de los Muertos is a meaningful holiday where people come together to remember and celebrate their family and friends who have passed away. It's important because it helps keep their memories alive.



CLICK ANY IMAGE TO LEARN MORE

OCTOBER IN THE BAY

BY KIKI WEBB



Smith's Farm Pumpkin Patch (Brentwood)

Get into the fall spirit at Smith Family Farm's Pumpkin Harvest in Brentwood! From late September through October, the farm transforms into a seasonal wonderland full of pumpkins, live music, corn mazes, hayrides, petting animals, and food trucks. Your admission includes a pumpkin and access to all the farm's fall fun — making it the perfect autumn day trip for families and friends.



Garden of Golden Gate (SF)

Looking for a fun and relaxing way to spend Fall Break? Golden Gate Park in San Francisco is the place to be. With colorful autumn leaves, open gree spaces, and attractions like the California Academy of Sciences and the Japanese Tea Garden, it's perfect for families and friends. Whether you're biking, picnicking, or just enjoying the scenery, the park offers a little something for everyone this season.



Markham Park (Concord)

Step into fall at Markham Nature Park & Arboretum, where vibrant leaves paint the trees in fiery reds, oranges, and golds. It's the perfect spot to soak up crisp autumn air, wander peaceful trails, and capture stunning fall photos with your friends. If you live for pumpkin spice, cozy sweaters, and all things autumn, Markham is your ultimate Fall Break destination!



Filoli Historic House & Garden (SF)

Experience the magic of fall at Filoli Historic House & Garden in Woodside, CA, where golden leaves and crisp air create the perfect autumn backdrop. Wander through stunning gardens bursting with fall colors, snap epic photos for your socials, and soak in cozy, peaceful vibes with friends. If you're all about that pumpkin spice and sweater weather energy, Filoli is the place to make your Fall Break unforgettable!

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

CLICK ANY IMAGE TO LEARN MORE

BAY AREA SCARY ESCAPES

BY VA'LAIJAH HARRIS

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES





FEAR OVERLOAD SCREAM PARK

NEWARK, CA. The Bay Area's scariest haunted house experience—two radically different nightmares, one all-access ticket. From blood-soaked hospital wards to pitch-dark industrial tunnels, each Halloween attraction is rebuilt for 2025 with new sets and scares

OPERATES SEPT 20–NOV 2 2025.
$25 GENERAL ADMISSION

WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE

SAN JOSE, CA. Festival Fright Nights begins September 26, celebrate the season with terrifying haunted mazes, thrilling live entertainment, and so much more.

TICKETS BEGIN @ $74.99





TERROR VAULT

SAN FRANCISCO , CA. A theatrical, immersive haunted experience—not just a traditional walkthrough. It features a full storyline, live actors, 4D effects, and haunted maze elements. It's part horror show, part haunt. Expect the unexpected!

OPERATES OCTOBER 2 –NOV 1 2025.
TICKETS BEGIN @ $59.42

DEAD TIMES DREAMS HAUNTED ATTRACTIONS

SAN JOSE, CA. Immersive haunted attractions, with the Midway of Terror to entertain before and after the main attractions.

TICKETS BEGIN @ $20

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

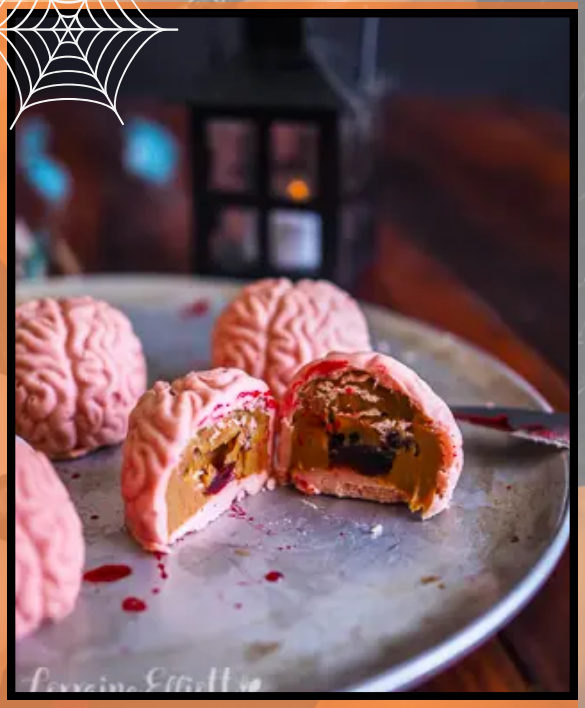
HALLOWEEN TREATS

BY BELLA HERNANDEZ



OREO SPIDERS

Combine Oreo Cookies with cream cheese to make these decadently sweet Oreo Spiders for your Halloween party.



BRAIN TRUFFLES

Creep out your Halloween party guest by serving these Candy Brains. Each bleeding PB&J Brain is filled with peanut butter fudge and jelly “blood”.



ZOMBIE DIRT CUPS

These are the yummiest and most festive treat recipe! With layers of Mint Oreo cookies, instant pudding, Cool Whip, and candy eyeballs – these pudding dirt cups are always a hit!



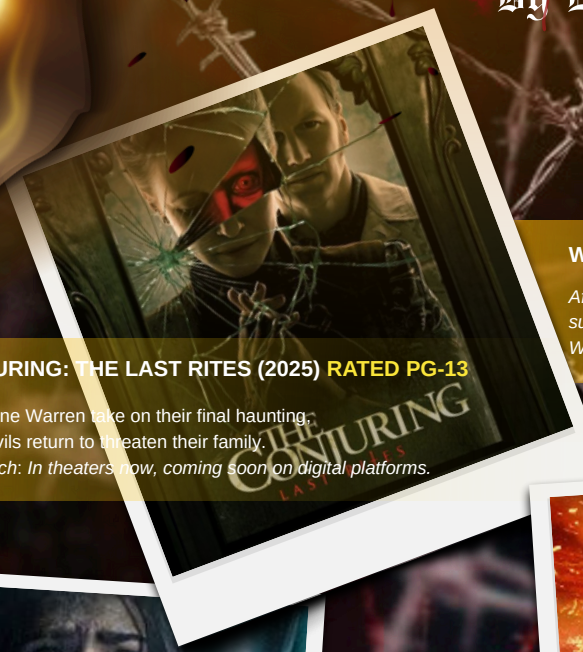
HALLOWEEN EYEBALLS

Serve this eye-catching treat at your next party! Your guests will get a kick out of these spooky zombie eyes on the dessert table.

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

BEST 2025 SCARY MOVIES

By Erica Vita



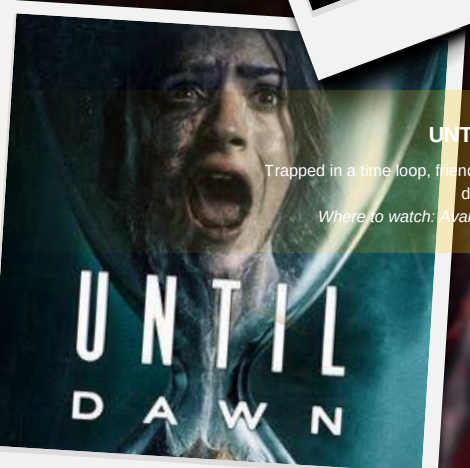
THE CONJURING: THE LAST RITES (2025) RATED PG-13

Ed and Lorraine Warren take on their final haunting, where past evils return to threaten their family.
Where to watch: In theaters now, coming soon on digital platforms.



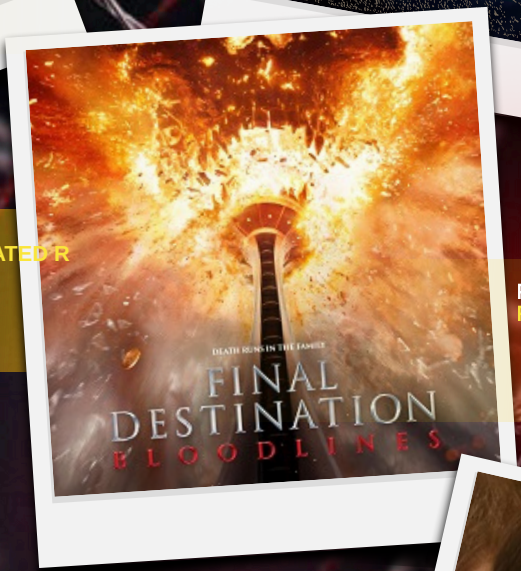
WEAPONS (2025) RATED R

After a class vanishes overnight, a teacher and lone survivor uncover a chilling mystery.
Where to watch: Available on digital platforms.



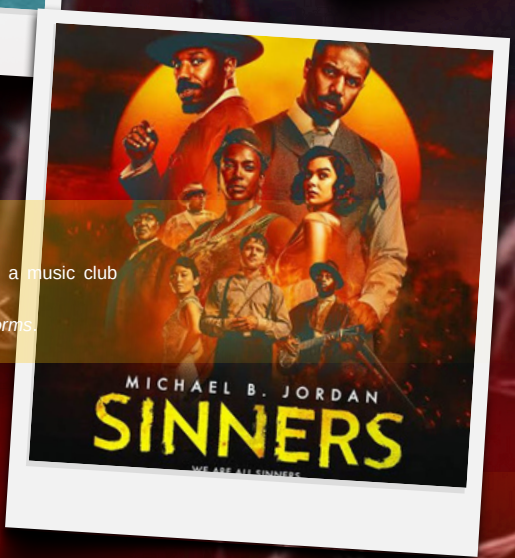
UNTIL DAWN (2025) RATED R

Trapped in a time loop, friends must survive the same deadly night until morning.
Where to watch: Available on digital platforms.



FINAL DESTINATION:BLOODLINES (2025) RATED R

A young woman battles visions of her cursed family as Death closes in.
Where to watch: Available on digital platforms.



SINNERS (2025)

In 1930s Mississippi, two brothers open a music club but face a lurking supernatural evil.
Where to watch: Available on digital platforms.



COMPANION (2025) RATED R

A woman discovers she's an AI companion and fights to break free from control.
Where to watch: Available on digital platforms.

Click images for a Preview!

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

CUBAN TRADE EMBARGO

By: John Holdren

An embargo is a set of government-imposed restrictions and sanctions. Did you know Cuba has been embargoed by the United States (U.S.) continuously for over 60 years? A span of 13 presidents!

So, what is the Cuban Trade Embargo? The Cuban trade embargo is a set of restrictions and sanctions imposed by the U.S. on Cuban commerce, first implemented on October 19, 1960. The first draft of the embargo, under President Eisenhower, banned the export of all goods to Cuba (except medicine). The embargo was in response to Cuban President Fidel Castro's nationalization of all American property on the island, meaning that the Cuban government took over American property. This caused Americans to lose money and hurt the U.S.–Cuba relations.

Even though it's called an Embargo, it's actually a complex set of acts, executive orders, and regulations, all with the intent to weaken Cuba's Communist government; often called a “blockade” by Cuba. John F. Kennedy ramped up the early forms of the embargo in response to events like the Cuban Missile Crisis, where Cuba set up long-range Soviet missiles, putting the entire continental U.S. under threat of nuclear weapons. The end goal of the acts was regime change in Cuba due to economic strain from the embargo, possibly causing a violent overthrow of the government by citizens.

An embargo can only be ended by Congress, but U.S. presidents have tried to repeal and change the Embargo. During Obama's Presidency, he tried to remove some of the policies, calling them “an outdated burden on the Cuban people” in what's known as the “Cuban thaw.” Still, due to the differences between the two countries, it mostly failed. Many of those removed policies were reintroduced after Obama's presidency by President Trump, saying Obama's deals were only benefiting one part of Cuba. Near the end of Biden's presidency, he sent a letter to Congress asking them to remove the designation of Cuba as a “State Sponsor of Terrorism”. The label of State sponsor of terrorism is another reason the U.S. is so hesitant to remove the embargo. This title goes back to when they provided aid to African and South American communist rebel groups under Reagan's presidency. This was blocked when Trump regained office.

Why and how is it still hurting economic and political relations today? U.S. citizens are unable to receive important Cuban exports, including tobacco, sugar, liquor, and poultry. U.S.-based manufacturers are also affected due to the ban on Cuban-made machinery, nickel, zinc, and refined fuels. Furthermore, U.S. citizens cannot travel to Cuba unless they get accepted through a highly strict process. This is also the case for Cuban citizens, who are still able to receive food, medicine, and aid through a lengthy process and with a special license. The main reason for this is that Cuba is still a communist country, which means it has a centrally planned economy and most enterprises are state-owned; this conflicts with the United States' policy of capitalism.

There is also disagreement by the Cuban government with the embargo, with the current President of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel, maintaining a stance of mistrust between the U.S., believing the U.S. is still trying to destabilize Cuba and strong-arm the Cuban government's cooperation with them, to install a pro U.S. government to expand the U.S. sphere of influence. These acts have been internationally condemned by the United Nations (U.N.)

This Month IN HISTORY

BY: JOHN HOLDREN



UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY ENLIGHTENING THE WORLD (1886) BY EDWARD MORAN. OIL ON CANVAS. THE J. CLARENCE DAVIES COLLECTION, MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Almost 140 years ago, the dedication of the Statue of Liberty was held. It was a massive parade unveiling all of the statue to the general public and promising a future of liberty. The statue originated from France as a commemoration of the US-French alliance during the American Revolution and the United States' dedication to the Enlightenment ideals of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” The Ceremony was held on **October 28, 1886**, primarily in the city itself, featuring a parade with over 20,000 marchers, Speeches given by many elected officials, including President Grover Cleveland, and concluding with a massive fireworks display. The celebration was not only dedicated to upholding liberty for future generations but also to remembering those who fought to make this freedom possible.

After World War II, many countries realized they had been foolish to believe that a world war would never happen again. So they chose to found the United Nations. An organization made to give countries a say in others' policies, and if another war broke out, would intervene and bring peace. The UN was first seriously considered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II, which led to the creation of the Atlantic Charter. Where many allied world leaders decided what their goal was in fighting the Axis. It also outlined numerous goals for the post-war period, including self-determination and a focus on security. After the war, the UN charter was drafted and signed by the US, UK, USSR, China, and many others on **October 24, 1945**. Now the UN has 193 countries, all cooperating and ensuring security



PRESIDENT TRUMAN (SECOND FROM LEFT) LOOKS ON PROUDLY AS SECRETARY OF STATE EDWARD STETTINUS SIGNS THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, JUNE 26, 1945. (PHOTO BY UNDERWOOD ARCHIVES)

SOURCES

Ten Years of a Global Domino Effect

By Erica Pita



Suppose that a row of dominoes has been set, and one is struck down; the rest will fall. The Great Depression remains the most devastating economic crisis of the twentieth century, defined by a sequence of failures that intensified one another, resembling the collapse of falling dominoes. What began as a financial shock in October 1929 expanded into a global economic breakdown that transformed banking, trade, and governance, exposing the dangers of speculative excess, inadequate monetary intervention, and economic nationalism.

The collapse of equity markets in late October 1929 revealed the fragility of U.S. finance. Widespread reliance on margin accounts allowed investors to acquire stocks with only ten percent capital, financing the remainder with credit. By September 1929, margin debt reached $8.5 billion, nearly double the volume of currency in circulation. As stock prices fell, margin calls forced sales in a self-reinforcing cycle. On Black Tuesday, trading volume surpassed 16 million shares. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which had peaked at 381, fell to 41 by 1932, erasing nearly 89% of its value. The crash destroyed household wealth and undermined public confidence, setting the first domino into motion.

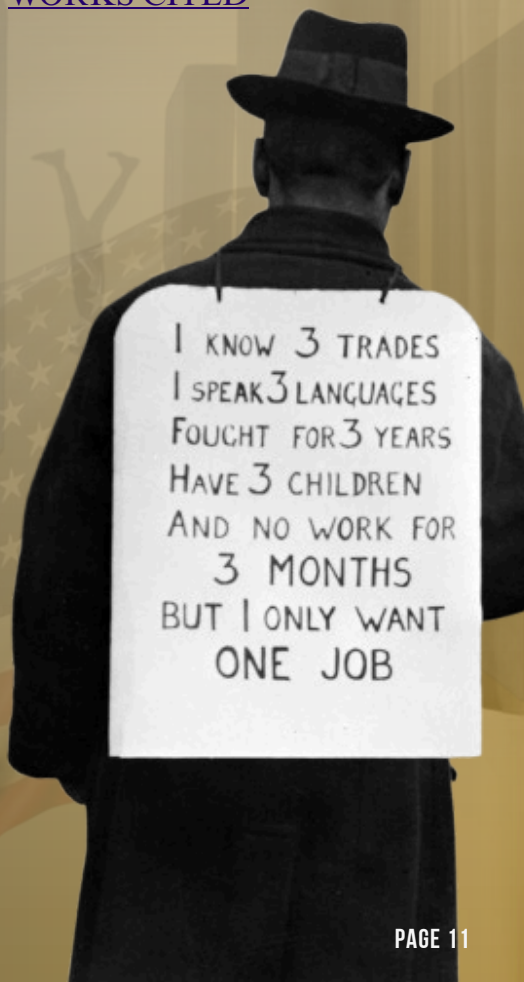


Furthermore,

the banking sector magnified the crisis. Between 1930 and 1933, approximately 9,000 banks failed, eliminating $7 billion in deposits. With no deposit insurance, households incurred direct losses, while the money supply contracted by 31%. Deflation raised the real burden of debt, leaving farmers and businesses unable to cover obligations as prices and revenues collapsed. Milton Friedman, an American economist, later characterized the Federal Reserve's inaction as catastrophic policy failure.

The crisis quickly transcended national borders—the rigidity of the gold standard restricted governments from adopting countercyclical monetary policies. Britain abandoned the gold standard in 1831, permitting currency devaluation, interest rate reductions, and a gradual economic recovery. In contrast, nations that remained tied to the gold standard raised rates to defend their reserves, eventually worsening the contraction. **The Great Depression** revealed how fragile prosperity becomes when safeguards are absent. The stock market crash was the first domino in a sequence that toppled entire economies, showing how speculation can turn a financial stock into a global crisis. Nearly a century later, the global economy remains as interconnected and vulnerable to sudden shocks as it was then. Policymakers and regulators must remain vigilant, for the fall of a single domino can set off a chain reaction far beyond the sphere they can manage.

WORKS CITED



WORLD CUP 2026

By Adrian Quijano Brito

The FIFA World Cup is the peak of international football, hosted every four years since it was implemented in 1930. Organized by FIFA, the purpose of the tournament is to bring together national teams from around the world to compete for the title of World Champion. The tournament starts with a multi-year qualification process, where countries play regional matches to earn a spot in the final tournament. Since 1998, 32 teams qualify for the final tournament, but recently it was changed and increased to 48 teams starting in the 2026 World Cup.

The final tournament lasts about a month and includes a group stage followed by knockout rounds, ending in a grand final match where the champion is crowned. The countries are placed into 12 separate groups of four teams, and each team plays a total of three matches with the top two teams advancing. The World Cup is not only known for the high level of competition, but also for its global reach, uniting billions of fans across different cultures and languages. It is watched by billions of people around the world; the 2022 World Cup final had over 1.5 billion viewers.

The last time the U.S. hosted a World Cup was back in 1994, with games taking place around the country including two cities in California. That year, the U.S. set a record with the largest total attendance of 3,587,538 spectators over the tournament's 52 matches.

June 12 - July 10 2026, the World Cup is coming back to the U.S., holding a total of eight matches in L.A.'s SoFi Stadium and is expected to attract nearly 180,000 people from out of town. The city is currently preparing a transportation plan to be able to manage the large number of visitors, focused on expanding public transit, managing traffic, and enhancing the airport accessibility.

The expected economic impact is about $594 Million in revenue which includes $343 Million in direct spending by the World Cup visitors. The event is expected to give a significant boost to jobs and wages due to new jobs created and longer working hours for existing employees across industries like, hospitality, retail, entertainment, transportation, health care, advertising, and government. While some locals are excited about the economic benefits, some are concerned about the financial burden it will have on the city; for example, who will bear the costs for infrastructure, security and events for the fans?

While people weigh the pros and cons of having the World Cup in their city, there is one thing for sure, This is a unique opportunity for L.A., giving them a place on the global stage, showcasing its diverse culture and strong football community.

CLICK ANY IMAGE TO LEARN MORE

World Cup

ATHLETES

BY CHRIS CHAVEZ



Lionel Messi- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqphejRKaU0

AN ARGENTINIAN PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER WHO PLAYS AS FORWARD FOR AND CAPTAINS BOTH MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER CLUB INTER MIAMI AND THE ARGENTINA NATIONAL TEAM. LIONEL IS KNOWN FOR HIS GOAL-SCORING, DRIBBLING, AND PLAYMAKING SKILLS. HE LED ARGENTINA TO THE 2022 FIFA WORLD CUP TITLE AGAINST FRANCE & ENDED UP WINNING IN A PEN SHOOTOUT.



Kylian Mbappe-https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYiylacyTUc

MBAPPE , A 26 YEAR-OLD PRO SOCCER PLAYER WHO STARTED HIS PRO CAREER IN 2015 WHEN HE MADE HIS DEBUT FOR AS MONACO'S FIRST TEAM AT THE AGE OF 16. HE PLAYS AS A STRIKER FOR LA LIGA CLUB REAL MADRID, AND CAPTAINS THE FRANCE NATIONAL TEAM WHICH FINISHED AS THE RUNNER-UPS IN THE 2022 WORLD CUP FINAL AGAINST ARGENTINA.



Cristiano Ronaldo-https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrPCZvEixIA

A PORTUGUESE FOOTBALL PLAYER KNOWN FOR HIS AMAZING DRIBBLING AND PLAY-MAKING SKILL. RONALDO STARTED PLAYING PRO SOCCER ON AUGUST 14, 2002 FOR SPORTING CP AGAINST INTER MILAN AND PLAYED AS A STRIKER FOR AND CAPTAINS BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AL NASSR INTERNATIONAL TEAM, AND THE PORTUGAL NATIONAL TEAM. WHICH ENDED UP IN THE QUARTER FINALS LOOSING TO MOROCCO.



Lamine Yamal-

A PRO 18 YEAR-OLD WHO PLAYS AS A WINGER FOR LA LIGA CLUB BARCELONA, AND THE SPAIN NATIONAL TEAM. HE WENT PROFESSIONAL WHEN HE MADE HIS SENIOR DEBUT FOR FC BARCELONA ON APRIL 29, 2023, AT THE AGE OF 15 YEARS OLD. THIS DEBUT GAME, AGAINST REAL BETIS MADE HIM THE YOUNGEST PLAYER TO EVER PLAY FOR BARCELONA IN LA LIGA AT THAT TIME.

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

TEAM EFFORT

By Adrian Quijano Brito

OLY STUDENTS SHARE THEIR OPINIONS

WILL THE REIGNING CHAMPS, ARGENTINA, DEFEND THEIR WORLD TITLE?

"I strongly believe Argentina will defend their World Cup title. With or without Messi they will defend it with their history of success in the World Cup. I think they will win once again in 2026."

Paulo, C, Grade 12

"I don't think Argentina will win again, they were barely able to beat France, so I don't believe they will even get to the Final, with various National Teams with a lot of young prospects that will mostly have the chance to prove themselves during the group stage."

Jade S., Grade 12

"I don't think Argentina have what it takes to win again. The teams I believe have the best chance of winning the World Cup are Portugal, France or The Netherlands. They have strong and well rounded teams with good team-work. So no, Argentina won't win again."

Gonzalo V., Grade 12



WHICH PLAYER WILL EMERGE AS THE NEW BREAKOUT STAR?

"Mac Allister, he will shine bright at the tournament, with his late injuries he hasn't been able to display his talent. He will be a big time player for Argentina and one of the best at the World Cup. His amazing skills and play-making will take Argentina to the top once again."

Sergio, L, Grade 12

"The breakout star at the World Cup will definitely be Désiré Doué for France. He's shown incredible display of his skills and amazing team work. He has been proving himself with PSG and has shown he can be an amazing goal scorer and team player."

Edwin M., Grade 12

"I have a strong feeling that the breakout star at the World Cup will be Lamine Yamal. What he has been showing with Barcelona and Spain he will definitely be one of the best players at the World Cup and is going to become one of the best players to ever play the game."

Brandly T., Grade 11



America's Ballot Box Trap

BY ERICA PITA

OPINION:

The elections in America created a gap of worlds where each celebrity, party, and every supporter collide and contrast to know who the right pick is. As the Americans look at the 2024 presidential ballot, the names may feel worlds apart; Donald Trump and Kamala Harris are on par with the voting. The debates rose between them, discussing Project 2025, tariffs, the U.S. health systems, immigration, border security, and the economy in general. During this political clash, supporters argue in the streets and across every part of the United States of America about who will progress in each ability to lead. In reality, the U.S. elections do not present voters with two fundamentally opposing visions; instead, they offer two distinct policy approaches confined within an authoritarian-capitalist framework, creating the illusion of choice while narrowing the space for genuine alternatives.

Trump's brand is recognized as a strong man posture, top-down decision-making, and tax-and-deregulate economics, reflecting a status quo capitalist with reformist leanings. On the other hand, Harris operates more within democratic norms, yet still upholds policies that expand state security and corporate power. Their approaches differ in style and emphasis, but both ultimately remain within the same authoritarian-capitalist quadrant.

Does that mean we are locked into authoritarian capitalism forever? Not necessarily. The compass itself shows the open space beyond the top-right quadrant. Figures like Jill Stein or Cornel West occupy the libertarian-left, pressing for cooperative economics, grassroots democracy, and policies that redistribute power downward. Stein even proposed an Economic Bill of Rights for guaranteed jobs, housing, and healthcare. Even the libertarian-right quadrant, where Chase Oliver sits, offers another version of freedom that trims centralized authority, with Oliver's campaign calling for reduced government spending and stronger individual liberties. These alternatives are smaller in electoral reach, proving the compass is larger than the narrow corridor defined by the two major parties. However, access to those alternatives is often suppressed; an article by Nathan J. Robinson even mentions that ballot restrictions, lawsuits, and costly requirements make it nearly impossible for third-party or independent voices to compete, ensuring the two-party system dominates.

However, the danger is resignation; if voters continue to grasp Trump and Harris as complete opposites, then politics becomes a closed loop that deepens the illusion of choice. Trump may present himself with overt strongman tendencies. At the same time, Harris operates through democratic norms and reformist tones, yet both reinforce the same underlying system of corporate dominance and expanded state power. Trump's overt strongman politics and Harris's reformist adherence to democratic norms may differ in style, but both actively entrench the same system of corporate dominance and expanded state power. Because of this, voters are left navigating a closed political field where meaningful alternatives are sidelined, making more profound structural changes the only way forward.

Breaking that loop requires more than minor reforms; it demands bold experiments that test cooperative businesses, expand strong social protections, and decentralize decision-making so that power is no longer hoarded at the top. History makes one point clear: we are not prisoners of authoritarian capitalism. We remain in it only so long as we accept the narrow framework the two major parties impose. To defend democracy, citizens must insist on opening space for real alternatives, because failing to do so is not neutrality; it is complicity in the system that claims there is no other way.

WORKS CITED

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER

BY ERICA PITA

Iyanna A. 10/02

Noaln R. 10/02

Ms. Amanda L. 10/04

Andreq B. 10/04

Jose R. 10/04

Juan B. 10/05

Ms. Amanda W. 10/07

Officer Cherry 10/09

Mx. Monica 10/14

Azusena B. 10/15

Katherine G. E. 10/15

Sebastian A. 10/17

Ms. Prater 10/22

Nayeli M. B. 10/23

Aiden H. 10/27

Jesus O. T. 10/29

Credit Crushers

Term 2

By Evelyn Rivera

Emilio A.
Brandon A.P
Stephanie B.Z
Zamara B.
Anthony C.
Felix C.Q
Jayden F.
Kaitlyn F.
Aaliyah G.
Hana G.
Damien G.G
Isaiah G.
Katherine G. E.
Juan H. L.
Cinthya H.
Cayden K.
Savannah K.
Diego L.
Zayuri L.
Zada L.
Andrea L.L
Alan M.
Rogelio M.
Kevin M.
Keylyn M.G
Ashley M.
Edwin M.P
Jesus O.T
Jaleesa P.
Sarahi R.
Nolan R.
Areli R. L
Kelly Jaquelyne R. E.
Jose R. C
Emely S. M.
Viktor S.
Jeremiah T. E
Brandly T. U
Jorge Z.I
Jacob Z.

A Daily Dose of Observances

By Erica Pita

October is filled with national and global observances, with each day dedicated to celebrating someone or something special! From recognizing everyday objects to appreciating life's little joys, these observances offer the perfect excuse to smile, step away from routine and enjoy some fun activities. Whether you want to add a touch of humor to your day or learn about meaningful celebrations happening across the country, this calendar will bring you a daily dose of amusement and joy throughout the month!

OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 International Coffee Day	2 National Poetry Day	3 Mean Girls Day	4 National Taco Day
5 National Get Funky Day	6 Child Health Day	7 World Cotton Day	8 National Stop Bullying Day	9 Fire Prevention Day	10 World Mental Health Day	11 National Cheese Day
12 Farmers Day	13 Breast Cancer Awareness Day	14 National Desserts Day	15 National Love Your Lips Day	16 World Food Day	17 National Pasta Day	18 National Mashed Potato Day
19 National New Friends Day	20 International Sloth Day	21 National Apples Day	22 National Nut Day	23 National Paralegal Day	24 United Nations Day	25 National Art Day
26 National Pumpkin Day	27 Black Cat Day	28 National Chocolate Day	29 Internet Day	30 National Candy Corn Day	31 Halloween	