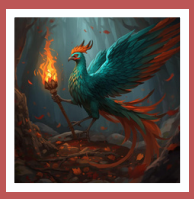
Olympic High School

THE TORCH

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



NOVEMBER 14, 2025
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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Celebrated each year in November. It is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and affiliated Island communities and ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1994.

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DID YOU KNOW?

There are more Indigenous people in elected positions in the U.S. government than ever before.

(Indian Country Today)

Indigenous peoples represent more than 600 tribal nations and 175 languages across the United States. Tribal groups share similar experiences, but they have unique cultures with unique histories.

(Indigenous Language Institute)

Nationally, there are more than 560,000 Native Hawaiians. By 2060, the Native Hawaiian population in Hawai’i is projected to reach 683,000, matching the estimated population in 1778 when Captain James Cook arrived on the islands.

Pew Research Center)

Journalism Student Reporters:

Isabella Hernandez
John Holdren
Adrian Quijano-Brito
Kiki Webb
AJ Candasa
August Abbott

ARTICLE SOURCES

Veterans Day

By: John Holdren

HISTORY AND IMPORTANCE OF VETERANS DAY

Every November 11th, the United States comes to a standstill to honor those who served their country. But how did this come to be, and why is it important? What we call Veterans Day started as Armistice Day. This holiday commemorates November 11th, 1918. The date all hostilities of World War I came to an end. The bill that marked the date a holiday was passed through Congress in 1926; the end of WWI is still celebrated in some way in many countries. Such as Remembrance Day in most Commonwealth countries, after the US participated in WWII and Korea, many Veteran service organizations pressured Congress for a dedicated holiday to honor American veterans of all wars. It was decided that Veterans Day would replace Armistice Day and now represent all veterans of all wars. Veterans Day is often celebrated with major parades, wreath layings, and businesses and non-essential government offices closing, and a day of reflection to respect veterans who have served. Some people also fly a US flag and donate or support veterans. Veterans Day is a somewhat controversial holiday. Some veterans feel that after the holiday, they are completely forgotten about again, and it ignores the poor treatment of them by the Veterans Affairs Department, such as denied service-related injuries, long wait times, and lack of access to its services.

While highly celebrated, it has also become controversial. There have been recent proposals to rename it “Victory Day for World War I,” which has drawn controversy from veterans groups due to it drawing away from veterans and focusing just on WW1. Some also confuse the meaning of Veterans Day, often mistaking it for Memorial Day, which honors veterans who have died serving America, whereas Veterans Day honors all veterans. While it does have a somewhat quiet celebration today and a complex history, it's important to remember its purpose of helping veterans and putting them in the spotlight. If you can't donate to charity, simply thanking a veteran for their service or attending a celebration is a good way to honor those who have served.

SURVEY

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS SERVED?	IS THAT PERSON A FAMILY MEMBER?
16 Y	13 Y
19 N	3 N

TOTAL PEOPLE ASKED:

34

THOUGHTS:

What surprised me is how few people know someone outside of their family who has served in the military. Additionally, 6 staff members know someone who had served in the military, only 1 didn't. This is suprising compared to the varied answers of students.

CELEBRATIONS



CONCORD VFW CELEBRATION 2018

THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) POST 1525 INVITES PEOPLE TO JOIN THE CONCORD AND CLAYTON COMMUNITIES IN HONORING OUR VETERANS AT A CEREMONY ON MONDAY, NOV. 11 AT 11 A.M. AT TODOS SANTOS PLAZA.



CONTRA COSTA VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS COVER

JOIN THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN HONORING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES AT THE ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY: TUESDAY, NOV. 4, 2025 AT BOARD CHAMBERS, 1025 ESCOBAR ST.



GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

By Kiki Webb



When people hear the words "government shutdown," it might sound like a movie plot, like someone hit a giant off switch in Washington. But what really happens is a lot more complicated. A shutdown starts when Congress and the President can't agree on a plan to fund the government before the deadline on September 30. When that funding runs out, many federal offices and programs have to stop or slow down until a deal is reached.

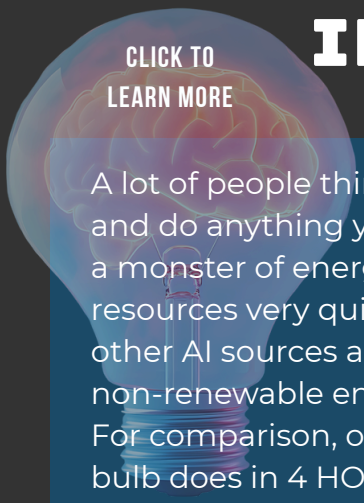
This year's shutdown began just after midnight on October 1, 2025. Lawmakers couldn't agree on how to pass the new budget. Republicans wanted a short-term spending plan without new policy changes, while Democrats pushed for programs like health-care tax credits to stay in the deal. Neither side backed down, and the government ran out of money to keep everything open.

The result? Hundreds of thousands of federal workers were affected. Some were furloughed (sent home without pay) and others, like air-traffic controllers and military personnel, had to keep working but wouldn't get paid until the shutdown ended. According to the Congressional Budget Office, about 750,000 workers were impacted in the first week alone. The Small Business Administration even had to pause new loans, leaving companies waiting for approvals that normally take days. One Texas business owner told reporters he was stuck mid-expansion, watching bills pile up while the loan process froze.

The shutdown has also touched science, health, and the environment. The Food and Drug Administration paused some medical-device reviews, and the National Institutes of Health delayed new research trials. National parks stayed open but with fewer staff, causing safety issues and maintenance delays. Some schools had to cancel planned field trips because of these closures.
Economically, the costs are massive. Analysts estimate the shutdown could drain $7 to $14 billion from the U.S. economy, depending on how long it lasts. Each week it continues, the country loses about $15 billion in productivity and consumer spending. When federal workers miss paychecks, they spend less at local businesses — which hurts everyone from restaurant owners to retail stores.

So why does this matter to us as students? Because even if we're not old enough to vote, these decisions still ripple through our communities. A prolonged shutdown can delay student aid, freeze government grants that fund school programs, and create uncertainty for families who depend on federal jobs. It's a reminder that government isn't just about politics; it's about real people trying to live their lives while decisions stall in Congress.

In the end, the 2025 shutdown shows how connected the system is. When lawmakers can't agree, the effects reach classrooms, paychecks, and homes across the country. For students, it's an important lesson in how government budgets and cooperation shape everyday life and why understanding it now can help us make better choices later.



INNOVATION & ENERGY USE

BY AUGUST ABBOTT

A lot of people think of AI as this magical thing that can answer any question you have and do anything you need it to, but behind the sleek design and impressive results hides a monster of energy consumption. ChatGPT, and many other AI like it, burn through resources very quickly. The issue isn't about someone sending 1 prompt to ChatGPT or other AI sources a day, but rather about each receiving billions of questions and using non-renewable energy to power the plants and to provide fresh water for cooling. For comparison, one response from ChatGPT can use up to as much energy as a light bulb does in 4 HOURS! And when you factor in the sheer number of people using it daily, you have a machine creating more pollution than actual factories. Even while being trained, AI data centers emit nearly enough CO2 to power a plane flying back and forth across the Atlantic 100 times.

For example, just to train GPT-3 the carbon dioxide emissions were estimated to be around 500 metric tons; that's a little over how much a commercial airplane weighs! Keep in mind it isn't just a one-time thing either; even after training the models, there's still so much polishing and fine-tuning to do. Even other AI models, like the Sora video-generating program, use an obscene amount of power. To generate one five-second video with Sora you use the energy equivalent of running a microwave for over an hour. The reason so much energy is consumed is that it's difficult to answer questions in completely different ways. So, when you have a computer trying to comprehend speech and respond without any main reference, it has to generate grammatically correct English in a sentence sounding normal. To make this happen the tech companies use very advanced and high-performance hardware. If you've ever sat with a laptop on your lap you'd know how hot that gets. Imagine entire warehouses full of that heat, that's why they need so much to cool it off and even power it at all.

Making videos with AI is probably the most harmful thing you can do with it environmentally and the rise of Sora AI on social media causes it to feel more ok and normal. As AI continues to grow in a world where we all are so used to instant gratification, ChatGPT, Sora, and others seem to soothe that.

Now what options are left for us, is there anything we can do to alleviate the amount of energy AI uses? The short answer is yes. We can fight to have AI use only renewable energy sources, but it won't be an instant change and the Tech Companies running it won't just switch to a more expensive form of energy when they can use cheap, non-sustainable, pollutant energy. It would take a lot of work but there is and will be hope if we as a people learn to use it less. Another way you can help is by using smaller more specific AI models for your issue. Like if you need to research something, instead of using the most famous AI model (ChatGPT), you can use AI made for research like Consensus and Perplexity AI. These smaller AI companies usually pollute less due to having less traffic on their websites as well as the AI only being used for one specific purpose, and that purpose being what it was made for.

Your paragraph text

THE RISE OF ROBLOX

BY AJ CANDASA

If you have a gamer in your family, then you might have heard of Roblox. Roblox is a free electronic gaming platform that lets people from around the world create, share, and play games. David Baszucki founded Roblox in 2006. He wanted to build an online universe where players could connect socially and creatively.

Since Roblox is a global system, games are available in multiple languages. The games are generally geared for individuals who are younger than 18 years old. Roblox uses several monitoring systems to help ensure that children are safe while using the product.

During the average day, more than 80 million people log on to Roblox. On a monthly basis, Roblox now counts more than 380 million users according to RTrack; two times as many as PC gaming leader Steam, three times that of Sony's PlayStation, three times the number of unique annual users of the Nintendo Switch in a year, and five times as many as have bought an Xbox console in the last decade.

Players can play Roblox games on various platforms, including smartphones, computers, and electronic game consoles such as Xbox One. Games that include buildings, such as a theme park or a dream home, are popular. Other games include murder mysteries, survival scenarios, and competitions, such as race car driving.

Not only is Roblox enormously popular, but its playerbase continues to grow at a steady rate. It is difficult to argue that growth won't continue and that the platform should pass half a billion MAUs (Monthly Active Users) and 100 million DAUs (Daily Active Users). During the pandemic, Roblox experienced a massive surge in popularity and user engagement as people, especially children and teens,mwho stayed home and sought ways to connect and socialize online. The company also hosted virtual charity events and concerts to support relief efforts and provide entertainment.



Roblox has hit some legal trouble regarding safeguards to improve interactions between different age groups, but the program is expected to maintained its accelerated rate of growth for many years to come.



FIFA Men's U-17 World Cup



BY ADRIAN BRITO

It is estimated that there are currently about 4,000 under-17-aged football players in Europe's top five leagues alone. The number of U-17-aged players who are registered to the senior first-team squad is a tiny fraction of this total, likely fewer than 50 across all 98 clubs, as these spots are reserved for the most exceptional, ready-made talents.

The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) U-17 World Cup was founded in 1985, and in 2007, it became the annual World Championship of the association. When it began, hosted in China, there were only 16 teams in the competition. These teams were divided into four groups of four teams that faced each other on the group stage. The top team and runner-up qualified for the knockout stage. The tournament was a major success, with a total of 1,230,976 spectators attending the tournament as a whole.

In 2007 ,the number of teams in the tournament expanded to 24, divided into groups of six with four teams each, with still the top team and runner-up advancing, plus the best third-placed team to the knockout phase. The tournament's expansion encouraged global participation and allowed more opportunities for youth to play at a higher level. In the knockout stage, up until the 2011 tournament in Mexico, if a match was tied at the end of the regular 90 minutes, an extra 30 minutes of play (overtime) was added. If the score remained tied after overtime, the game was decided by a penalty shootout. Starting with the 2011 tournament, the extra time period was removed to prevent player burnout. This means that in the knockout stage, if a match is tied after the full 90 minutes, it goes directly to a penalty shootout. Originally, the tournament was held every two years, but beginning in 2025, it will be held annually and will include 48 teams divided into 12 groups of four.

The U-17 World Cup is currently being hosted in Qatar, where it will remain for the next four years. The 2025 tournament is scheduled to take place from November 3 to November 27, with matches held across eight different fields in the Aspire Zone in Al Rayyan. The final match will be played at Khalifa International Stadium. This marks the first of five consecutive tournaments that Qatar will host. The move to make the tournament annual is one of the main reasons for its expansion to 48 teams.

The nation with the most U-17 World Cup titles is Nigeria, known as the "Golden Eaglets." Their remarkable success in the tournament has made them a dominant force in youth football. Since the competition began in 1985, Nigeria has won five U-17 World Cup titles and has consistently ranked among the strongest teams at this level.

For the 2025 Men's U-17 World Cup, the top contenders are the reigning champions, Germany, and the historically dominant Brazil. Both nations have a long tradition of excellence and achievement in international football, making them strong favorites to compete for the title this year.

Brazil enters the tournament as a top contender, with four U-17 World Cup titles—second only to Nigeria. The U-17 World Cup has been a launchpad for many incredible players over the years and launched the careers of some of the worlds best players. Fans can see who the next rising star is on the U17 stage, by taking a look at the next page!

Click Here for schedule.

QATAR 2025

U-17 Elite

BY ADRIAN BRITO

CLICK AN IMAGE TO LEARN MORE



Inacio is generating significant buzz at the U-17 World Cup due to his exceptional performance leading into and during the tournament. He first gained widespread attention by becoming the first Italian ever to win the top scorer award at the U-17 European Championship. Now playing for Borussia Dortmund Academy, he has carried that form to Qatar, scoring the winning goal in Italy's opening match against the hosts and earning a Player of the Match award.



Ouazane is anticipated to be a major star at the U-17 World Cup. The reigning Player of the Tournament from Morocco's U-17 Africa Cup of Nations victory and a product of Ajax's prestigious academy, the attacking midfielder has already drawn comparisons to top players for his silky dribbling, tactical intelligence, and impressive vision.

Brazil is always anticipated to be a major competitor for the U-17 World Cup title, and this year is no exception. The team entered Qatar 2025 as the reigning South American U-17 champions, having won their continental tournament earlier in the year. A four-time winner of this World Cup, Brazil has a rich history of producing elite talent and success at this age level.



Germany is anticipated to be a major competitor at the U-17 World Cup as they are the reigning defending champions, having won the previous tournament in 2023. The squad entered Qatar with immense confidence, having also won the 2023 U-17 European Championship, establishing a dominant pedigree at this age level.



IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

Holiday FAVORITES

BY BELLA HERNANDEZ

Easy Turkey Stuffing

This traditional savory Thanksgiving stuffing recipe is that one simple, yet heartwarming side dish that everyone loves and only 1 hour to make.





Green Bean Casserole

Simple but unforgettable! ender green beans in a creamy mushroom sauce are topped with crispy fried onions for a savory classic everyone loves.

Melting Potatoes

Potato lovers, meet your new favorite side dish! Melting potatoes are crispy and caramelized on the outside, silky and tender on the inside, and perfect for any holiday table. Best of all, they only take about 15 minutes of hands-on time!





Candied Yams

Candied yams are a sweet, cozy classic—tender yams baked in a buttery brown sugar glaze with warm spices and a hint of vanilla. They're rich, comforting, and the perfect addition to any holiday feast.

Let's COOK

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

Click an Image try a recipe

FALL BAKING

BY AUGUST ABBOTT



Pumpkin Bread

Pumpkin bread is a moist, sweet, and quick to make bread that is a classic of autumn baking.



Pumpkin Apple Pie

Pumpkin pie is a hybrid dessert that combines the creamy, warm spiced custard of a traditional pumpkin pie with a layer of tender, sweet-tart apples in a single flaky crust.



Baked Apple Cider Donuts

These donuts, very popular in autumn, have a distinct, muffin-like texture.



Pumpkin Cheesecake

Pumpkin Cheesecake is a creamy, spiced dessert that combines the rich, tangy flavor of cream cheese with the sweet, autumn taste of pumpkin.

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

Happy Birthday November

By Bella Hernandez

Evan G	11/2
Yencys T.Q.	11/2
Emely B.H.	11/4
August A.	11/9
Alexis S.	11/10
Maylani S.	11/10
Jose B.O.	11/11
Kaitlyn F.	11/13
Isaac G.E.	11/20
Carlos S.C.	11/20
Christian A.Z.	11/20
Mr. Schwartz	11/22
Marco T.	11/27
Zuleima V.	11/27
Ms. Nourmanesh	11/28
Benjamin F.	11/29
Priscilla R.	11/29

Credit Crushers

Term 2

By Bella Hernandez

Adrian Q.B
Adrian D
Analeigh Z.
Andres N.M
Aniah E.
Anthony C.M
Ashley I.R
Ashlie C.
Aston H.
Camila B.O
Christian A.Z
Cinthya H.
Citlali V.R
D'marion S.
Emily S.M.
Hana G.
Ja'lisa Y.
Jacklyne M.R.
Jairo R.M
Jalessa P.
James J.
Jaylene A.
Jesse N.N
Jesus O.T.
John H.
Jose T.M
Juan H.L.
Julie C.
Kaitlyn F.
Katherine G.E
Kelly M.
Kelly J R.E
Kevin M.
Layla C.
Leilani R.M
Lilyanna P.R
Mareli S.S
Miguel P.B
Nolan R.
Salma M.R
Sarahi R.
Stephanie B.Z
Erica P.
Teresita P.
Valeria O.G
Vanessa L.R
Yisel Z.H
Zada L.
Zamara B.
Zaria W.
Zayuri L.V
Ziyeer L.

OLY NEWS

NOVEMBER

Important Dates

November 11 Veterans Day (No School)
November 14 End Term 3
November 17 Begin Term 4
November 21 Minimum Day Schedule
November 24-November 28 Fall Recess

Save the Date

Oly
FALL FEAST



Friday, 11/21
Cafeteria
3rd Period

Throughout its history, Olympic High School Student Leadership has organized a fall celebration featuring a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. This long-standing event takes place during the week before fall break and brings together our community. See you there!

Stay Tuned!

WHAT WILL STUDENTS CHOOSE?

What's our mascot's name?



Voting takes place in your 2nd Period class!

Wellness Center

November 18
Bob Ross Paint Day





November 20
November 21
Friendship Bracelet Making

Student Art Spotlight





Artist's name: Ella Michaud
Grade: 11
Medium: Oil pastel on paper