The Trump impeachment may well be one of the defining moments in this decade. The U.S. government is an interesting piece of machinery: it allows for the override of a bill, the override of an override, and, among other things, the ousting of the head of state through impeachment. The Trump impeachment has been a long foreseen one. The presidency has been under investigation by so many different groups for so many reasons, it is impossible to name them all. However, this is the most important and potent of them, so let’s take a closer look at the impeachment.

Impeachment is the process in which Congress removes a president from office. First, the House of Representatives launch an inquiry to determine if there is an impeachable offense. Next, if the House finds an impeachable offense, they vote to impeach and it moves to the Senate. The Senate is where testimonies will be heard and essentially, it will be one big court to vote if the president should be removed. As of right now, two presidents have been impeached, Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton. Richard Nixon resigned before impeachment, but neither Johnson nor Clinton was not voted out of office by the Senate.

President Trump’s impeachment has already been mired in controversy. The House put out a list of the impeachable offenses that they have found. On December 5th, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi instructed the House Chairmen in charge of the investigation to proceed with Articles of Impeachment.

This is a major development, especially considering that even as of this year, Speaker Pelosi had been against impeachment and believed that it would not be beneficial. Now it seems that impeachment is the only option for the Democrats. However, it is unlikely to do much, as even if it does pass the House, it will likely fail in the Republican majority Senate.
OPINION: IMPEACHMENT IS A CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY
By Ramoncito Arrieta
Editor-in-Chief

On September 24, 2019, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi announced that the House of Representatives would begin a formal impeachment inquiry into President Trump, after a whistle blower within the intelligence community reported that the President held a call with the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and asked him to investigate the former Vice President and current Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden in exchange for military aid that Ukraine depends on to defend itself from Russian aggression. Pelosi, in her announcement, stated that the President “must be held accountable” and that “no one is above the law.”

In the weeks that followed, the House Intelligence Committee, led by Representative Adam Schiff of Burbank, held public, televised hearings, bringing in witnesses that were key to figure out the whole picture of the situation: former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, U.S. ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland, former National Security Council official Fiona Hill, and Army Lt. Colonel Alexander Vindman, among others. Then, the Committee produced a report that concluded that President Trump abused his power “by pressuring Ukraine to help him in the 2020 presidential election and then impeded attempts by Congress to investigate,” according to the New York Times.

After marathon hearings in the House Judiciary, House Democrats finally drafted two articles of impeachment: one on abuse of power and the other on obstruction of Congress. The House of Representatives passed the two articles on December 18, 2019, albeit on a party-line vote. Speaker Pelosi sent the articles, along with the impeachment managers — those who would argue for conviction of the President — to the Senate early this year.

At the time of this article’s writing, House Democrats are currently arguing in the Senate for the conviction of the President, as Committee, House Democrats finally drafted two articles of impeachment: one on abuse of power and the other on obstruction of Congress. The House of Representatives passed the two articles on December 18, 2019, albeit on a party-line vote. Speaker Pelosi sent the articles, along with the impeachment managers — those who would argue for conviction of the President — to the Senate early this year.

OPINION: PRESIDENT TRUMP’S PEACE PLAN
By Lila Núñez

On January 27th, President Trump revealed what he called “the deal of the century”: a plan for “a realistic two-state solution” in Israel-Palestine that would leave 257,000 Palestinian citizens of Israel outside of the borders of their own country, and would prevent all 7.2 Palestinian refugees and their descendants from ever returning to their homeland.

Let’s dissect the plan in more detail. The new borders would place 97% of Israelis living in illegal settlements in the west bank firmly in Israeli territory, formally annexing the Jordan Valley (from Palestine), the occupied Golan Heights (from Syria), and the West Bank (Palestine). This peace plan also makes Jerusalem the “undivided capital” of Israel, taking East Jerusalem away from Palestine and placing Abu dis, a tiny Palestinian village with a population of 12,604, as the new capital. To the President’s Middle East Plan, the entirety of Palestine would become a series of ever more disconnected territories, entirely surrounded by Israel (Apart from where Gaza meets Egypt-- 7.5 miles of land with a sole, heavily monitored border crossing).

With countless UN resolutions forbidding Israeli expansion — Security Council Resolution 2334 states it has no “legal validity” — not only is the “deal of the century” a blatant land grab, but it illegally violates international law.

But as this two-state solution becomes ever more similar to the Bantustan system, international powers have failed to provide Palestinians with any real platform to negotiate.

When Palestinian leaders denounced the plan as biased in favor of Israel, Arab countries showed their support for Pres. Trump’s actions by attending the plan’s unveiling (the UAE, Bahrain, and Oman all sent ambassadors). Saudi Arabia and Egypt have also expressed their appreciation. Europe hasn’t been much better: while the EU has continually expressed its “deep concerns” of Israeli settlements and targeted killings, it has become ever more restricting for Palestinian activists. Within the last year, Germany has passed a resolution declaring the BDS movement anti-Semitic, and France has voted that anti-Zionism is a form of anti-Semitism.

All this considered, this insufficient international response is as good as an endorsement of Pres. Trump’s plan. Unless international powers maintain real consequences for the annexation of territory, for use of illegal weapons, for the continued denial of human rights, the destruction of the Palestinian people will continue — starting with this “peace plan.”

THE IN-N-OUT TRUCK COMES TO DOWNTOWN MAGNETS
By Emma Cruz
Staff Writer

In-N-Out, the fundraiser we all looked forward to came sooner than we expected. In the last week of the fall semester, DMHS students, teachers, and staff got to enjoy freshly-made In-N-Out burgers on campus, as the In-N-Out Burger truck came to Downtown Magnets to help raise funds for the Class of 2020. With their burgers, chips, and drinks, the In-N-Out truck parked in the lower parking lot of DMHS and awaited for the arrival of DMHS students to obtain their delicious food.
OPINION: CALIFORNIA UNDERESTIMATES ITS HOMELESS POPULATION AGAIN.
By Lila Núñez
Associate Editor

California just finished its annual homeless count, meant to give the state an accurate idea of the number of homeless residents so they can address the crisis. However, this year’s homeless count was rife with flaws — and it’s unlikely that the results will help the homeless population in any significant way.

Firstly, the federal definition of ‘homeless’ only encompasses those who actually live on the streets: those living in a motel room or on a family member’s couch are not counted. Secondly, while the last annual count totaled more than 150,000 people living on the streets or in shelters, most volunteers involved in the process admit that even this number severely estimates the population size. The process does not count the homeless who may have been present at homeless encampments that are now empty, and city encampment cleanups make it even more difficult to count the homeless; not to mention that some cities only send volunteers to known locations where homeless gather, and not to scour the entire city.

Given the flaws of the process, a more accurate way to think about the number of homeless in California is to look at the data from the Department of Education. Nearly 246,000 kindergarten students were homeless statewide in 2018. That’s nearly 100,000 more homeless than were said to be in the state last year, and it doesn’t even count adults or children under five.

If California is to be able to accurately address the homeless crisis, it cannot continue to underestimate the population. Given the rising homeless population observable all through the state, accurate figures are crucial for the state to address the crisis effectively and efficiently.

HOMELESSNESS AND UNEMPLOYMENT
By Marissa Guadarrama
Staff Writer

Homelessness in Los Angeles is a major issue. We can see it everywhere we go, no matter where in the city we are.

According to the most recent count of homeless in Los Angeles, there are 58,936 homeless people in the county and 36,300 homeless in the city of Los Angeles. The number of homeless people have increased 12% over the last year in the county and 16% over the last year in the city.

So why do people continue to become homeless? Why can’t they just “get a job”? To understand this issue as a whole, it is important to understand that the primary cause of homelessness is job loss. Job loss at first may seem normal, as if it’s something minor that can be solved easily by just getting another job. But job loss for an extended period of time leads to lack of money and that’s when people who have lost their job can no longer afford to pay rent or mortgage anymore and become homeless.

The truth is that even though getting a job or getting a home might sound easy to people who have not experienced homelessness, people that have on the streets face a whole new set of obstacles that housed people would never have to worry about.

Homelessness is a lose-lose situation. In order to get a home you need money and the only place that you can get money is at a job. So what happens if you can’t get a job? Sadly the answer is that people continue in homelessness and continue living in the streets of their own city.

It’s nearly impossible to get out of homelessness due to the societal norms, common misconceptions and employment barriers. Only those who are homeless face these challenges every day.

At a job interview an employer expects the interviewee to come in and be well groomed, clean, and dressed up, but challenges like these impact those who live without a home. It is difficult for a homeless person to be clean and well groomed if they have just spent a night on the streets.

The societal norm is to show up at an interview in a presentable manner, but homeless people fail to meet that expectation if they don’t have a home to get groomed in.

Not only do they face the societal norms, but they also face misconceptions and negative stereotypes everyday.

The barriers of employment are what make it so hard for homeless people to get back up on their feet and get back to a regular life. It is not their lack of motivation to do something with their lives and become active members of society once more.

Obstacles such as the lack of internet at this time is a big set back. This strips them from the ability to reply to open job opportunities.

Others like the lack of transportation such as a car takes their ability to go to jobs in further places and in some occasions employers require reliable transportation such as a car.

The sad truth is that homeless people are also too often charged with crimes that they had no other choice but to “commit.” Homeless people are often charged with crimes like loitering, trespassing, or unauthorized camping. But these people had no place to sleep but the streets.

There will always be those people that perpetuate these stereotypes about homeless people, but it is unfair to judge all homeless people while ignoring the barriers of employment and the societal norms they face that keep them from “doing something productive” with their lives.

But in the midst of all these issues there is still hope for those without a home. In January 2019 proposal HHH passed with a unanimous vote. This proposal has been given $1.2 billion dollars to invest in more than 10,000 units of housing for homeless. Proposition HHH has been passed twice now and yet, homeless rates are still on the rise, why is that?

Stereotypes.

Homeless don’t need more housing. What they do need is affordable housing. There are in fact many myths about homeless that are incorrect.

For More Information Go To: https://infohomelesshelp.weebly.com/
THE SISTERHOOD PROJECT

By Emma Cruz
Staff Writer

Over the years, women’s personal hygiene has been considered taboo: something people ignore and avoid talking about. However, with the progression of time, this taboo has been slowly dismantled, as according to The Tennessean, women in Middle Tennessee are missing school because they cannot monthly afford feminine hygiene products. Lack of access to personal hygiene products is not something that only women from developing countries experience but women in developed countries as well.

According to the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development in the 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, women accounted for a slightly higher share of sheltered individuals (31%) than of unsheltered individuals (27%). These women suffer from the lack of feminine products as well, according to an investigation named Menstrual hygiene plight of homeless women, a public health disgrace by Allegra Parrillo and Edward Feller, which concluded that “women spoke of limited daytime shelter bathroom access and no access to feminine products; they resolved this problem inadequately, by using toilet paper as makeshift cloth pads.” The lack of access to feminine sanitary products is a real issue that even women in the United States, a developed modernized country, fails to adequately provide access to feminine sanitary products to all women.

The lack of access to feminine sanitary products like pads, tampons, and other menstrual products is not caused by a lack of supply but by the overpricing of these products. Today, a 20 pack Always Radiant, Size 4, Overnight Sanitary Pads With Wings costs $7 in a major-chain pharmacy, not including tax. In these situations, homeless women are often faced with the challenge of having to choose between sanitary pads or a meal for the day. Moreover, across various states, sales tax is exempt from products like water, food, and medicine as they are considered to be necessities. However, sanitary pads and sanitary feminine products are charged taxes as they are considered luxury products. Products that women need in order to maintain hygiene during their natural menstrual cycle are being charged as luxury commodities instead of necessities.

According to an article released by NPR named More States Move To End ‘Tampon Tax’ That’s Seen As Discriminating Against Women in 2018, 32 states in the United States including California have feminine hygiene products included in regular sales tax.

In schools, female students often find themselves with the lack of feminine products and often times get their periods without warning. When women find themselves in this position especially young girls in high school they struggle to find someone and somewhere to get a pad from. This is an experience that is not uncommon among women and is why schools should be more effective in providing feminine sanitary pads for women.

Thankfully, one of our students here at DMHS has been inspired to not only recognize this issue but to take action. Seventeen-year-old Kate Barrios took the initiative to start a project to support her fellow classmates and female students at DMHS. Kate began a project in which she bought baskets and pads putting them in each of the girls’ restrooms where girls can take a pad whenever they need one or put pads into the basket for other girls to use. With this project, Kate hoped to help girls who can’t afford pads on a regular basis, forget to bring sanitary pads to school, and get their period unexpectedly or for the first time.

Can you give a brief description of what your project is about?

“My project is about raising awareness about issues that I see at school which is basically the lack of resources for females, women, or girls my age. So I just really wanted to bring it up to their attention that we need materials and were not getting them. In the restroom, they have a box and it’s supposed to be filled with tampons and pads but it’s not. That’s kinda what sparked it all.”

What inspired you to create this project?

“There was one time I went to Occidental College and I saw that they had baskets with tampons and feminine napkins and I thought that was a really clever idea. That is what inspired this whole project.”

What is your goal with this project?

“My goal to raise awareness and help my sisters, because sometimes they are in need of something but they are just embarrassed to ask. So I usually just have it there for them. It’s not an obligation but it just feels like the right thing to do to help a sister out.”

What results have you seen from this project and how did people react to it?

“People reacted positively about it and I was really happy to see that. Whenever I would go into the restroom and people would snatch one from the box, I was so happy. I felt like I did my job right and I was happy that they were actually using it and putting stuff back which is the whole purpose of it. I was happy to see that they were actually liking it which I appreciate.”

Photo Credit: Kate Barrios

WILDFIRES OF THE WORLD

By Tyler Tran
Staff Writer

In October 2019, large fires in California triggered a statewide emergency and caused the evacuation of over 200,000 people. Among these wildfires was the Kincade fire, which took place in Sonoma County on October 23. As of now, the fire is extinguished, but in the span of only 13 days, this fire was able to burn through roughly 76,000 acres of land. To put that in perspective, that is more than twice the size of San Francisco. Although large, the Kincade fire seems minuscule in comparison to the Mendocino Complex Fire, which burned over 459,000 acres of land in 2018, making it the biggest fire in state history.

Over the past 3 years, California has seen significant damage due to wildfires like the Kincade and Mendocino Complex Fire, but what is actually causing all these wildfires? When most people think of wildfires, they think of naturally occurring fires, which are caused by dry vegetation and strong winds, but some would be surprised to learn that only 10 to 15 percent of wildfires are naturally occurring, while the other 85 to 90% are man-made. These man-made fires are caused by a number of things including unattended campfires, littered cigarettes, and sometimes even arson. In the case of the recent bushfires in Australia, people are partly to blame. This fire season, Australia faces one of its worst droughts, a heatwave that reached temperatures above 113°, and strong winds. Already, police have charged 24 people of intentionally starting bushfires, and with one of the worst fire seasons in Australia’s history, it is no surprise that these are some of the most severe bushfires ever to hit the country.

Photo Credit: Kate Barrios
Events and Pictures

FIESTA 2019
Photo Credit: April Alexander
WINTER FORMAL 2020

Photo Credit: Jada Thomas
What Does Black History Month Mean To You?

“It’s something to celebrate the culture and appreciate black people all over.” - April Alexander

“Black History to me is a celebration of a culture that I have experienced all my life and during the rest of the year I don’t see any representation of people that look like me. So while we are celebrating I’m going to celebrate.” - Sam Young

“I think it’s for African Americans to acknowledge all the things we overcome after these past couple of years and also for others to know that we are here to stay. That we are more than our skin color.” - Ashlee Hodge

“Black History Month is a time where we can honour and celebrate black excellence.” - Pierre Pettigrew

“ What I have learned is that it is a month to commemorate the actions and ways black people transform our history and basically the way we live for the better.” - Luis Lorenzana

“Black History month means to me, at the minimum, acknowledging both the struggles and successes of black Americans. To add on Black lives matter started a week of action where they took on Black history month as more than just learning about black history, but also about taking action on the struggles that black American still face today. So for me, black history month is more than just learning and discussing history, even though we should be doing that all the time. It is also about thinking about how we see history today and what we can do about it.” - Ms. Wang
Damp floor. I slowly found my strength and got on all fours, staring at the ocean remained. The darkness also had retreated, leaving me alone on the stone, submerging me into darkness once again. But then, chains came from the ground and dragged me deep within the void present within me. I reached out to them, my hand nearly touching one of their faceless cheeks, but soon I was swept up by a sea of sadness, its waves crushing me under its immense pressure. I clawed at the puddle hoping to find the former image of myself once again. Suddenly, my sense of disarray and streaks of tears stained my face. I felt like an empty husk, no thoughts or feelings were present. I was then interrupted by a hand placed on my shoulder. I turned to see my partner, worry written across her face. “Are you alright?” she asked, concern laced within her words. “Never better!” I replied with a forced smile, trying to convince her and myself that everything is and will be okay.

As I had hit the ground, I felt no pain. Soon after strange shapes of people who were familiar to me began to appear in my blurred vision, expanding the void present within me. I reached out to them, my hand nearly touching one of their faceless cheeks, but soon I was swept up by a sea of sadness, its waves crushing me under its immense pressure. I struggled to try and raise my head above the water, but to no avail.

I began to give in, sinking into the depths of the unknown. I was motionless, only able to watch as the light from above became dull. I was in complete darkness again. As time passed, I finally hit the bottom, but I still stayed prone. All the strength and hope I had disappeared, making me feel nothing again, just as it always had before.

The water level began to drop, and soon only puddles of the once vast ocean remained. The darkness also had retreated, leaving me alone on the damp floor. I slowly found my strength and got on all fours, staring at myself in one of the puddles. I saw myself, my dulled eyes and the bags under them showing my many restless nights. “What happened to you?” Came the voice of a child. I looked around, only seeing a thick mist that surrounded me. I was alone.

My gaze returned to the puddle, only to find a younger version of myself staring back. I saw how different I was. The younger me seemed hopeful and innocent, he even resonated a feeling I had forgotten long ago. I tried to speak but the ground underneath me began to shake violently. The younger me vanished within the ripples. I clawed at the puddle hoping to find the former image of myself once again. Suddenly, my sense of balance disappeared and I realized I had fallen through it. Looking around, I found myself on a rock formation piercing the heavens. My face was covered in a warm tint from the sun. It was breathtaking. Looking around, I realized I was surrounded by fluffy white clouds in a sky reminiscent of Himalayan Blue poppies. It was peaceful, putting me at ease and allowing me to rest for the first time in my miserable life.

But then, chains came from the ground and dragged me deep within the stone, submerging me into darkness once again.

I had finally returned back to the real world, my mind in complete disarray and streaks of tears stained my face. I felt like an empty husk, no thoughts or feelings were present. I was then interrupted by a hand placed on my shoulder. I turned to see my partner, worry written across her face. “Are you alright?” she asked, concern laced within her words.

“Never better!” I replied with a forced smile, trying to convince her and myself that everything is and will be okay.
What achievements you have made in the team?

“Everyone has a different personal goal in the team. For me, every race, I had a different personal goal to achieve. When the days are hot, over 90 degrees and air quality is bad, my goal in the race was to live and not die of heat stroke. I accomplished that. When the days were cool and I was feeling fine physically, my goal (like many others on the team) was to PR or beat my personal recorded time, which I have also achieved. If you are talking about team goals, we wanted to get plaques for the team and make it into city prelims, which we have recently accomplished.” - Susan Zhang

“The biggest achievement would be meeting new people as I have expanded my circle of friends and got to know new people. I am not very good at XC. The biggest challenge would be endurance. Although speed is a very important part of Cross Country, you still have to run 3 miles which takes a lot of endurance. As a big boy, I had a little more struggle with that as I had to choose between running fast, but suffering more or running slowly, but getting a bad time.” - Andranik Yenokian

THE DOWNTOWN MAGNETS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

By Marija Jovic
Staff Writer

Downtown Magnets has had a volleyball team since 2015. This year they have gone exceptionally far, reaching semi-finals and becoming second place in their division. This was the first year that the Lady Suns have reached the playoffs, so every game won was history made. The team got a new coach, Ms. Audrey Soho, who is a graduate of Roybal and has helped the team improve vastly. The team played their last match on 11/8/19 against Rancho Dominguez and lost the last set 15-13: a very close match. Despite this disappointing last match, the team made it very far and they have created a name for themselves. They forged a strong bond and have created a lasting connection together. We hope to see great things from them next season. Congratulations on getting this far, Lady Suns!
Running is underrated. I say this as a fellow runner, sitting down in advisory hearing the announcements congratulate the volleyball, basketball, and tennis team on their big W, I think what about the runners? Track and Field? Cross Country? Or even SRLA? The success of running teams in my experience go widely unnoticed unless you are the coach or part of the team yourself. Which is why we should take this moment of silence to commemorate the runners who have trained hard throughout the entire season to PR (personal record) to make their best time.

This year our own Cross Country team here at DMHS made it to city prelims and had many other accomplishments we are proud of. Our Cross Country team has worked hard with perseverance in order to achieve their goals and get to prelims despite facing challenges such as harsh weather, endurance, and balancing an academic, athletic, and personal life. Our DMHS Cross Country team worked hard to accomplish the goals they have set for themselves and they represent our school with poise and dignity. Although the season is over and many of our runners are graduating this school year, they will always be remembered fondly. Congratulations DMHS Cross Country team; you did it!

**Cross Team Members Interview**

**What do you do as part of the cross country team (responsibilities/training)?**

"Joining the cross country team, the few skills that you would have to learn is dedication and perseverance. The cross country team practices every day after school for around 2 hours except Tuesdays and Thursdays in order to ensure that the team is ready for race days (meets) every Thursday. Some training you would expect coming into the team is running uphill to build stamina and especially leg muscles and speed, and also running down hills (which could be argued equally as difficult) engaging on your lower abs and working on your quads. First coming to cross, practice would be simple so the coaches wouldn’t burn you out. Because our races on Thursdays are 3 miles, the coaches, Mr. Blank and Ms. Rojas, helps each individual tackle those 3 miles as quickly but also as steady to maintain a good pace." - Susan Zhang

"Cross country is one of the more underground sports in our school, which means that few people know about it and fewer join. This allows for building a small, but strong community. One of the primary responsibilities that each member carries is curiosity. Despite the fact that we are one team, some people are faster or more enduring than others and their objective is to make their peers just as good and not shame them for their lack of speed. In other words, a team cannot stand if people are not helping one another. Hence, cross country helped me build a stronger sense of leadership and community." - Andranik Yenokian

**Why did you join the team?**

"A lot of people ask why I do things, things that would seem like I am killing and torturing myself. I don’t have an exact answer, but I guess I joined because I liked it. I liked doing all these extra curriculars that “kills” myself because I am always up for a challenge. If people were to ask me “why should I join”, the most realistic answers would be like “because you can train your body, lose weight and maintain a healthy lifestyle” or “it looks good on college apps”. But in reality, I would say why not. Although these are no real award or incentives (such as cash) in joining and at times you would ask yourself why you joined, in the end the best award is not given to you on a silver spoon, but what you think you deserve from all the hardship and the skills you gained is the best award that can be achieved." - Susan Zhang

"I joined the team because I liked running." - Andranik Yenokian

**How has it affected your life personally?**

"As I said before, I did impact my life drastically as I was forced to learn time management skills… etc. But I guess one thing that I didn’t talk about is the mentality I gained while running cross country. If people thought that cross country only required you to be physically healthy, they are absolutely wrong. Not only does doing a sport requires a lot of physical endurance, but also mental. It is pretty obvious that if you aren’t mentally stable then your body wouldn’t respond to the best of its abilities. But when you are actually on that race course running for your life and after, you will start to question your own abilities. Mr. Blank loves to say that a sport requires 80% physical and 20% mental, and I do agree that this is true. At times you would doubt that you will improve or if you really even matter in the team. If you give into that mental state of failure, at that moment, you already set yourself for failure. So how to overcome this? What I learned from life is that very important in the future is that hard work does pay off, and if it doesn’t, at least you know you tried your hardest. The harder you train, the more miles you run, it will show in your running. During race days people would think of just faking an injury so they don’t have to finish. But they never do because the best feeling in the world for me is finishing. When the race is over you feel powerful and strong, relieved, but also happy that all the hard work has paid off and if not, knowing that you tried your best is equally as grateful." - Susan Zhang

"I have learned to motivate myself for 20 minutes straight because in cross country 80% is mental and the rest is in your head." - Andranik Yenokian