

The Student Union

A compilation of news by and about young people in the Ojai Valley

In cooperation with: Besant Hill School, Nordhoff High School, Ojai Valley School and Villanova Preparatory School

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Locals a part of the march

By Emma Gustafson
Ojai Valley School

I've lived in Ojai my whole life, and, to be honest, I have lived in a bubble. Being a white female with a steady home life and living in a small, progressive California town, I've never truly witnessed the hate and the struggle that too often occurs in this country.

I knew that sexism, racism, homophobia, religious intolerance, and other unprogressive views still ran rampant throughout the nation. But, under the presidency of Barack Obama, I was sure that as a country we were making progress.

Now, with a new political administration, I don't believe that's the case anymore.

When Donald Trump was elected as our 45th president, I was bewildered and disappointed. How could a man who I believe to be so unprogressive, ignorant, inexperienced and disrespectful possibly be elected to run the "Land of the Free?"

After the election, the bubble that surrounded my life popped, and I'm grateful for that. I was finally exposed to the

harsh fact that while our country has come a long way towards equality and the dissolution of hate, we still have much more progress to make.

So, last Saturday, I drove to Los Angeles to do my part.

I was one of the millions to take part in the Women's March, one of more than 600 protests across the globe held the day after Donald Trump's inauguration.

By some estimates, those marches drew more than 4 million people worldwide, people who gathered together to fight not only for women's rights and reproductive rights, but to call for an end to racism, Islamophobia, xenophobia and homophobia. They also were a call to action on climate change, environmental activism and a multitude of other causes important in the world right now.

As I drove down the streets of L.A., heading towards Pershing Square, I was surrounded by a sea of signs, t-shirts, hats and banners, all moving in the same direction. The square could not contain the sheer, unstoppable size of the Women's March, which by some estimates drew as many as 750,000 people to

the streets of Los Angeles.

People were scaling billboards while waving their posters. Protesters shouted chants through megaphones, helicopters flew overhead trying to get footage of the event, and newscasters and cameras were abundant.

There was cheering, yelling, singing, clapping and dancing, and that was before the march even started. This was a congregation of people with the same goal, and the same hopes, all gathering together to send a message to our current political leaders and the world.

I was one voice among so many, but we were all saying the same thing. I was one voice from Ojai, but it turns out even there I was not alone.

I came to find out that even at my small high school I was among several Ojai Valley School students, teachers and parents moved to participate in this event, some going all the way across the country to take part in the main Women's March in Washington, D.C.

Though we did not attend together, we all stood in solidarity, no matter where we marched.

OVS Upper Campus librarian Ashlee Nishiya attended the

Ventura Women's March with her two children, Zooley, who is a first grader at the Lower Campus and Kai, who is in pre-kindergarten.

Joining an estimated 2,500 others, Nishiya said it was important for her to be counted in the numbers of people who stood for women's rights, human rights, immigrants, LGBT and other groups who have been marginalized, and who are at risk due to the new administration's stated mission and potential policies.

"It was important to me to take action, to do something to show my support for equality and human rights, as well as show that I will not stand by and be apathetic when I see things around me that I do not agree with," Nishiya said. "It was important to teach my children the same values, and to show them how people can come together to make change in the world."

With so much at stake, Nishiya said it was especially critical that she do more than just complain and voice her concerns on social media, and then go back to her busy life.

"The minimum that will be accomplished is awareness that



Ojai residents Kirsten Stoltmann (right) and her daughter, Violet (left), at the Women's March in Washington, D.C.

Photo by Kirsten Stoltmann

there are millions of people who will resist, protest and stand up to make change in the world when they see things happening they do not agree with," she

said. "I wanted to make a statement to the new administration that we will not stand by, we will

See March, Page 4

Nordhoff production steels the shows

By Mikel Elizalde
Nordhoff High School

The Nordhoff High School (NHS) drama department's production of "Steel Magnolias" has been invited to participate in a drama event in Lincoln, Neb.

The International Thespian Festival will take place June 19 through June 24 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The event is organized by the Educational Theatre Association and gives high school drama departments a chance to showcase their talents through singing, dancing, acting, set designing, directing, creating, writing and memory-

making on a big stage.

This event also gives students opportunities to audition for a college opportunity and drama scholarships. Each year, 10 schools from all over the world are invited to showcase their talents.

"This event is like the world cup of high school drama," said NHS drama teacher John Hoj. "Really big schools go. We were able to pull it off because of our skill and talent."

The students going to Omaha are Erin Snett, Jovanna Nava, Sophia Ehrlich, Kelsie Hoj, Kirsten Hoj, Aubrey Schumacher and a small crew.

"I am really excited for the

trip, a little nervous but really excited," said Kelsie Hoj. "Every show is different. You never know what is going to happen on Broadway. There are multiple challenges that we will face, but two of the most important ones are being able to move the set to Nebraska and getting back into our characters. We have to drive the set to Nebraska."

"I am super excited," Ehrlich added. "To get back into our characters we need to remember who our character is and read through the script. A big challenge is moving the set there. Also we are performing on a huge stage so we can't freak out."

Snett, a junior, has been performing in musicals since the third grade, including "Guys and Dolls," "Once Upon a Mattress," "You Can't Take it With You," "West Side Story" and "Pygmalion." She plays the role of Truvy Jones in "Steel Magnolias."

Nara is a sophomore. This is her first year in drama and although she has been in other productions, she said "Steel Magnolias" has become one of her favorites. She plays Annelle Dupuy-Desoto in "Steel Magnolias."

Ehrlich is a junior. She began acting in fourth grade and said she has loved the theatre

since then. Her production credits include "The Lion King, Jr.," "Flowers for Algernon," "Once Upon a Mattress," "Guys and Dolls" and "You Can't Take It With You." Her role in "Steel Magnolias" is Clairee Belcher.

Kelsie Hoj is a freshman and although this is her first year in drama, she has been in productions throughout Ventura County including "It's a Wonderful Life," "Ramona Quimby" and "In the Heights." She loves playing Shelby in "Steel Magnolias" because of what the character goes through.

Senior Kirsten Hoj — Kelsie's older sister — has been performing since she attended

Monica Ros School. She has been in more than 20 productions including "Once Upon a Mattress," "The Diary of Anne Frank," and "Twelfth Night." She loves acting, singing, and dancing. In "Steel Magnolias" she plays the role of M'Lynn Eatenton.

Schumacher, who plays the role of Ouiser Boudreaux is in her third year in drama. Her production credits include "Flowers for Algernon," "Pygmalion" and "You Can't Take it With You."

The student actors said they would like to thank the director, John Hoj, for an outstanding production.

Alum reunites with furry friend

By Emma Gustafson
Ojai Valley School

This is a love story. Maybe not a traditional one. Or maybe it's more traditional than you think.

It's a story about Ojai Valley School (OVS) alum Carolita Landers and Kronos, the horse she rode during her time at the Upper Campus.

They were not a typical duo. Landers, a 2014 graduate of OVS, forged a bond with Kronos that went beyond her love for horseback riding. For her, Kronos was not just a horse to be ridden during sports, he was a special part of her high school life.

So when it came time this fall for Kronos to retire from OVS, it was only natural for him to find a home with his best friend.

In November, Kronos was trailered from OVS to Colorado, where he now lives on a ranch with an indoor arena, and plenty of space for Landers to take him on long, leisurely trail rides.

Now a junior at Colorado State University, Landers did not forget about Kronos after she graduated from OVS, and the strong bond they maintain is proof of the connection that so often occurs between horse and rider as part of the OVS equestrian program.

"I visited OVS for a day the year after I graduated and he was the first thing I went to go see. I also got to see him when I was at OVS for Caitlin's wedding this summer," Landers recalls. "And I think that was one of the main reasons why it really sparked my interest in having him."

Typically, when OVS horses grow older, the equestrian department does not fully retire them, unless they are completely unable to be ridden. Rather, they start reducing the amount and duration a horse is ridden. The horses that are in too much pain due to old age or health reasons, are euthanized.

As for students, usually, they graduate, leave high school, and maybe think back on fond memories of horseback riding, but their horse and high school



Carolita Landers and Kronos have carved a happy life in Colorado, where Landers is a junior at Colorado State University.

Photo submitted

memories are just that.

But that is not the path Landers chose to take. And that's something equestrian director

Stephanie Gustafson has not seen in her 11 years at OVS.

See Furry, Page 4

Environment can help us pull the plug naturally

Han Sung (Nahyun)
Besant Hill School

When you are going to class and going to eat lunch or dinner, do you look around the place? Most people don't look, but if we do look around we can see many of nature's creatures living together.

At Besant Hill School, if you look around, you can see many animals living together and helping each other in their lives.

Most of the trees that grow in this area are oak trees, pepper trees, orange trees and olive trees. Also there are pomegranate trees, strawberry trees (arbutus unedo), rosemary and lavender. These are the plants that you can see around the school.

In the morning you can see birds preparing for their day. Group of quails walking and drinking water, scrub jays talking and various finches singing. During the day squirrels are looking for food in the trees and the ground. When the sun is going down, there are groups of

birds sitting on the soccer field and enjoying the sunset and if you are lucky you can see one pair of red-tailed hawks sitting in a tree. At night, there are many barn owls flying through the air.

The rainy days have started and many mushrooms are coming up, and near the parking lot there are fairy rings — a ring of mushrooms under a tree. Also on the dead oak trees there are mushrooms, such as black witches butter, turkey tail and witches butter mushrooms.

Because of lots of rain, a vernal pond has appeared. In this pond there are many kind of toads and frogs. Lizards and birds are hiding from the rain, but many other animals have emerged and enjoy these rainy days.

If we look around this area and walk around the campus we can see many creatures living here. We are all looking at our phones and enjoy this new technology, but it is important to enjoy nature and live together with nature.

Student trio encourages the art of laying around outdoors

Emma Gustafson

Ojai Valley School

It's 7 p.m., the sun has set, and an overhead light gives hammock headquarters a golden glow.

Ojai Valley School seniors Gavin Floyd and Jeffrey Lin are sitting in the craft room in Floyd's house. Lin is crouched over a sewing machine with a sheet of neon orange lightweight Hy-perD Ripstop nylon laying out in front of him. Floyd is administering advice as Lin folds the fabric and sews the fold.

The two are working on a new, super-lightweight demo camping hammock, which they are considering adding to their line of products for their company, Streme Outdoors.

Streme Outdoors, started last summer, is Floyd and Lin's brain child. For now, the company just sells camping hammocks — an idea that stemmed from the boys' love for hammocking, and the outdoors in general.

"Hammocking is a lifestyle, and it's a lifestyle that Floyd and I have adopted," Lin said on their reason for focusing on hammocks. "And rather than just buying other people's hammocks, we've decided to make our own so that we can define our own lifestyle."

Hammocking is a new, fast-growing trend in the outdoor world.

Kids, teenagers and adults are venturing into the outdoors to hang nylon hammocks between trees in lieu of tents. Hammocks are lightweight and portable — just a few of the factors that have transformed them into a necessity for many outdoorsmen.

And Floyd and Lin made sure to tap into this trend.

It all started in August, when the two traveled to Montana to

stay with Floyd's grandparents.

One day, they went on a hike and both brought their hammocks. Floyd and Lin have always joked that they come up with their best ideas while hiking, and on this day they definitely did.

While laying out in their hammocks, Lin mused about how cool it would be to have their own outdoors company.

Little did he know, this idea would soon come to fruition.

Later in the hike, Floyd and Lin decided they wanted to create an Instagram account featuring pictures of nature, specifically the various places they have explored.

As soon as they got home, they launched their Instagram (@StremeOutdoors), Snapchat, Facebook and YouTube accounts. That was when they knew they wanted to turn Streme Outdoors into an actual company.

Immediately, Floyd and Lin got to work.

With a great deal of research ahead, they began by tackling the art of making the hammocks. Floyd already knew how to sew, taught at a young age by his mom, Michele Floyd, but Lin still had to learn. So Gavin and Michele showed him the sewing techniques and terms he needed to know.

Gavin and Lin also had to learn about the aspects of fabric, such as the weight capacity and the quality of the fabric itself.

"Throughout the process of making a company we've learned a lot of stuff," Gavin said.

Eventually, the pair added fellow classmate, Vlad Voronov, to the company.

Two weeks into the school year, the pair realized they were

unable to financially support the company alone.

Vlad is a close friend of the two, as well as a fellow hammock enthusiast, so Floyd and Lin made a proposal. They asked him to invest in the company, promising that they would soon pay him back fully.

But Vlad had another idea. He wanted to become part of the company, instead of just handing over his money.

"I wanted to get more involved in the outdoors life that [Floyd and Lin] are living and advertising," Vlad explained.

Now, the company is divided three ways: Gavin and Lin each own 40 percent and Vlad 20 percent.

Before they could start making and selling hammocks, the boys had to garner more attention for the brand.

In the first few weeks of school, the three passed out countless stickers, branded with their company logo, to teachers and students.

Within a few days, the campus was deluged with little white stickers, and it seemed as though every binder, water bottle, phone case, and more, was advertising Streme Outdoors.

Come October, it was time for the group to attempt their first hammock. To make just one, the boys needed 3 to 4 yards of fabric, heavy duty rope and 2 carabiners.

First, they purchased fabric sample squares from Ripstop by the Roll, a nylon and fabric distributor. From there, they decided which fabric to use for their prototype hammock.

After that, they were ready to go.

They made one white, single-person hammock, and one green, two-person hammock, both of which often serve as the centerpieces of their scenic



Jeffrey Lin (left) and Gavin Floyd work with some of their hammock fabric.

Photo by Josh Han

Instagram pictures.

In late October, senior Dahee Roh placed an order for a hammock. The hammocks are custom made, so in early November she received her order.

Roh has expressed her love for the product, posting a photo to Instagram of her red hammock hung between two trees.

"I can trust them because they're my peers," Roh said on why she chose to purchase from her classmates. "If there's something wrong with the hammock I can just go talk to them directly."

Since then, more people have expressed interest in the hammocks, even those from as far away as Colorado. And as Streme Outdoors grows, more people learn about it.

History teacher and outdoor education coordinator Zach Byars weighed in on the company.

"I think it's awesome,"

he said. "It shows that they're interested in being in the outdoors, and trying to make it better. I slept in one of the Streme Outdoors hammocks. I like their innovation."

As the school year has progressed, the boys' attention has been diverted.

Lin is currently consumed by the seemingly never-ending college application process, and therefore some of his focus on the company has shifted to academics.

For Gavin, however, the college application process is over. He chose to apply to multiple colleges over the summer, and has since been accepted to his No. 1 choice, allowing him to spend more time on Streme Outdoors.

Lately, Floyd has been researching a backpack that can compress into the size of a softball, hoping to add this to the

company's product line.

But for now, Floyd and Lin's main focus is garnering attention for the company.

Beyond that, the boys are also looking to the future.

Though it may seem like an eternity, summer will be here soon, and with that they will lose the ability to see each other every day and work on the company.

They, however, are determined to keep their company running through the summer, and hopefully throughout college as well. They both plan to bring sewing machines with them to college, and to continue growing the company even while apart.

"This is something that we both love, and even if we didn't create the company we would be doing something really similar," Lin said. "This is our passion and I want to help share it with people."

OVS instructor has taken her teaching to a new level

Caroline Morrow

Ojai Valley School

Walk into Kirste Macintyre's classroom at the Upper Campus Learning Center at Ojai Valley School and you immediately get a good idea of the kind of teacher she is.

Bright colors abound, from the neatly organized collections of markers and pens to the inspirational posters and mottos that adorn the walls reminding students that failure can be a path to success and that no whining is allowed.

There is the outline of a graceful tree on one wall, with photos on the end of each branch of students and classes she has taught in her 14 years at Ojai Valley School. On most days, Jack the Cat sits curled in a box on her desk, immune to the hustle and bustle of the classroom.

And every day, there are students hard at work, reading or typing or discussing homework or preparing for upcoming exams. And every day, Macintyre is there for them.

Now in her fourth year at the Upper Campus, Macintyre is known for her work with her students and her advocacy on their behalf. But what few people know is that she has taught in all

three divisions — elementary, middle school and high school — and is one of the few teachers to do so.

"She's amazing at what she does," said Tracy Wilson, the school's director of advancement and admission. "She's just so knowledgeable, organized and compassionate — and an amazing advocate for our students."

Macintyre began working at the lower campus in 1995, subbing for the fourth-grade teacher for four months and then teaching second grade for three years. She was also a dorm parent, working with the eighth graders. After a break, she came back and took over the third grade for four years and then taught middle school English.

After one more break, she was hired at the Upper Campus in 2013 to head the Learning Center, where she provides one-on-one learning support for a handful of students.

While she has seen waves of students come and go, the one thing that has remained unchanged is her love of teaching and of the OVS community, which she said is special because of the way it accommodates everyone.

"Every student can be themselves and are accepted for who they are," Macintyre said.

"It doesn't matter where their strengths are, if they want to be here, they are allowed to be here."

Even though her time at the Upper Campus has been relatively short, compared to her time at Lower, she has made a lasting impact. Assistant Head of School Laurel Colborn, who attends to academic affairs, said Macintyre brings an impressive diligence to her work.

"She's in the utmost professional. She is organized, makes deadlines, she's enthusiastic, she cares about her students, she communicates with parents," Colborn said. "Basically, she is the epitome of a professional teacher."

It's not only the staff that recognizes her hard work.

Sophomore Conway Gilbreth said he benefits from her one-on-one attention and how relaxed she is, even when he's under pressure.

"She always makes class a second home, a place where you can be relaxed," Conway said. "She's a really nice person to be around."

"She is not only patient, but also caring in a sense that she gives me a feeling that she really does care about how I do in school and how I could be better in the future," added senior Josh Han, who has benefitted from

Macintyre's tutelage the past three years.

Looking at the tree in her classroom that holds photos of students she has taught, she recalls each with tremendous fondness, although one is particularly special. Longtime OVS student Cole Zellner was one of Macintyre's students in third grade, and then again in middle school at the Lower Campus, and then finally during his years at the high school campus.

Zellner, who now attends the University of Utah, credits Macintyre for much of the progress he made as a student inside and outside of the classroom.

"Ms. Macintyre is an amazing teacher who goes beyond helping students with papers," Zellner said. "She gives her students the tools they need to achieve academic success."



Learning Center teacher Kirste Macintyre works with freshman Nicky Pellegri on school work.

Photo by Josh Han

So now in her third tour of duty at OVS, what keeps her coming back?

"I keep coming back because of the people — the staff

and the students," Macintyre said. "Over the years, I have taught so many students and I still keep in touch with them. It's like a big family."

The Student Union

Produced by the Ojai Valley News in cooperation with: Besant Hill School, Nordhoff High School, Oak Grove School, Ojai Valley School and Villnova Preparatory School

Student Union Staff

Natasha Freudmann.....Ojai Valley School
Emma Gustafson.....Ojai Valley School
Georgia Schreiner.....Villanova Prep School

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NHS dancers stand up for one they love

Katie Koester

Nordhoff High School

The Nordhoff High School (NHS) dance program held a benefit “Dance for Life” concert Jan. 13 for Nordhoff alumna Tori Taylor who was recently diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

The performance was held to help Taylor raise money for a treatment program and chemotherapy that has to be done in Chicago.

The performance took place on the NHS cafeteria stage and included student choreographed ensembles, duets and solos. The performance was accompanied

by guest artists from the community including Georgia Cotsis, Jeannie Carlson’s dancers, Sierra Turk, Vivi Baltazar, Whitney Di Acri and the local dance group NAMBA.

Taylor spoke to the audience

“Although our earnings from the show only make up a small fraction of the necessary cost for Tori’s treatment, I also think the concert was a healthy reminder of how much her community loves and supports her.”

— NHS dance student Stella Moore

plained performer Stella Moore. “Although our earnings from the show only make up a small fraction of the necessary cost for Tori’s treatment, I also think the concert was a healthy reminder of how much her community loves and supports her.”

Nordhoff students are not the only ones lending a helping hand; the Ojai community is doing its part to help the Taylor family.

Jeannie Carlson will hold a master class Jan. 28 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Ojai Art Center. The class will be \$40 and all proceeds will go toward Taylor’s



Tori Taylor (center) and students from the Nordhoff Dance Program take a bow after the recent benefit performance.

Photo by Dean Zatkowsky

combinations that challenge a dancer,” said Moore. “This is yet another way to support Tori, and I think people should take the opportunity to give her that

support while taking a topnotch class.”

Taylor’s donation page is at www.helplovelove.org and her goal is to raise \$175,000.

Nordhoff staff had to work extra hard during recent storms to keep their heads above water

Aidan Pasco

Nordhoff High School

Nordhoff’s custodian, Rick Carreon, who most probably know simply as “Rick,” has been hard at work during the recent storms.

In addition to his regular

duties, Carreon had to help with floods and water problems in and around the classrooms — pooling and seeping under doors and coming into facilities through leaks in the roofs.

“Most of the dangers and flooding were in D-8 and D-12,” Carreon explained.

The biggest chore, he added,

was putting the sandbags around the classrooms.

Carreon and head of maintenance Craig Robbins had to make sure sandbags were set in place and he had to monitor the drains.

“There was about 4.5 inches of rain,” he noted. “I was the finger in the dike. I’ve been

here for 20 years, and it always drains. There were a lot of leaks, and most of the classes have flat roofs, and flat roofs are always a problem.”

There are always people fixing the roofs, he noted, and some of the bond money is supposed to address the district’s problematic roofs.



Sand bags are placed around some doors at Nordhoff High School to prevent water from entering classrooms.

Photo submitted

Student Opinion

To go from Obama to Trump is heartbreaking, upsetting

Andrea Hernandez

Nordhoff High School

The United States officially welcomed its 45th president Jan. 20.

We’ve had the same president for two terms, and everyone keeps talking about the “peaceful transfer of power,” but I don’t think the transition will be as smooth as everyone says it will be — especially since it’s Donald Trump replacing Barack Obama, who to me is truly an amazing man and has been an amazing leader.

Obama has done several things that benefited the country since 2008.

He allowed the country to grow and he and his wife encouraged every person in the country to do what they wanted and believed they could do.

During the eight years we had him as president, he did things again and again that surprised everyone.

From the moment he won the election to the moment he delivered his farewell speech Jan. 10, he helped the country and made me proud to have him as my president.

His legacy will live on years after Trump.

In 2009, he received the Nobel Peace Prize, and his achievements continued after.

During his acceptance speech of the Nobel Peace Prize, he thanked the people who awarded him and thanked the people who had supported him throughout his first year.

He spoke of the Iraq war and said he was going to end it, which he did later in 2011.

In 2011 he also tracked down Osama bin Laden who claimed responsibility for the 9/11 attacks.

Osama bin Laden died that day during the raid.

In 2012, he started the DACA policy.

DACA stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

This policy was meant to be in place when immigrants would cross the border illegally with their kids.

In order to apply for this new policy, people would have to have been younger than 16 when they arrived, have graduated high school, have a clean record, could not be older than 31 when submitting the paperwork and many more requirements.

The children would then be able to be a resident of the United States without facing the risk of deportation. They would be able to get most of the same things citizens get except for privileges such as voting rights.

Apart from helping the kids, he also helped parents in 2014.

He created another policy like DACA and called it DAPA.

DAPA stands for Deferred Action for Parental Accountability.

Most of the requirements were the same except for some such as they would have to be the parent of a citizen or the parent of a resident.

It was released by the White House that an estimated 3 million people would be able to apply for of these programs.

I know people and am close to people who had crossed illegally with their parents and applied for DACA.

I also know people who applied for DAPA.

It allowed them to get a social security number and get a job they wouldn’t be able to get without a nine digit number.

They were able to start their career and get recognized for their talent.

The “alien children” as they’ve been referred to, have been able to trav-

el and go to places they only dreamed of doing.

Granted, they are only able to travel the United States and its territory such as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Most importantly, the children and the parents aren’t scared of getting deported since they have evidence they aren’t a threat and deserve to be a resident of the U.S.

That fear started to resurface when they found out who the new president was going to be.

Obama’s presidency was coming to a close in 2016 when a new presidential race started and election day came closer.

His terms were over and now he had to step down and allow for a new president to work on improving the imperfections that were still present within the country.

Then on Nov. 8, several people knew this presidency would not be like the rest.

In his farewell speech, he thanked the country and the people who have supported him. He thanked his wife, his daughters, the white house staff, former Vice President Joe Biden and thanked the people of the country several times. He spoke of topics he thought

needed attention before he left such as climate change, racial equality, eliminating stereotypes and encouraged the people to change what they didn’t like.

He spoke of the new president and joked and told people to “grab a clipboard, get some signatures, and run for office yourself.”

Obama did several things to help the country and the people, as a president should do.

He wasn’t involved in scandals like presidents in the past and his family didn’t think what he did was just a luxurious job.

His wife handled the pressure of being the first lady with grace and class. She, several times, encouraged children around the country and traveled to the poorest parts of the country to help as best she could and looked for things to improve.

The legacy of the Obama family will go on and continue to be compared to what the new presidential family will do.

Barack Obama was one of the best presidents this country has ever had.

Going from Obama to Trump as my president is still one of the most heartbreaking and upsetting things to happen during my life.



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The morning air was frigid, and cut the sides of our throats with every breath. We waited by the bus, as our bulging luggage was tossed into the spacious compartments below. We waited as the vibrations came up through the tires and the humming engine and finally into our feet and hands and ears and eyes and nose and mouth, slowly coaxing us into a trance as we vacantly stared out the foggy bus windows while we watched the sun slowly creep up. Suffice to say that 5 a.m. was not our best hour.

We waited by the docks for the boat. We waited on the boat as it slowly rocked its way toward the faint island in the distance, although at this point some were less concerned with waiting and more with keeping their lunch in their stom-

ach. Then, just as waiting had become a way of life, the boat bounced to a halt. Before us stood the reward, the splendid island of Catalina, scintillating with beauty and wildlife. As the tide carried off the million grains of sand, so to were our million mainland maladies.

The hostile water shocked its way up our arms. The darkness of the night encased our minds, while the water had our bodies. Our night snorkel had begun. We were on a hunt, a hunt for light in a world of darkness — the galaxy beneath the surface, also known as bioluminescence. Our lights went off and our hands became the hands of gods in the universe, casting sparkling lights into abyss. It was magical. No matter where we looked, whether it be in the sky or beneath the water, all we could see were stars and darkness, as though the sky reflected

the ocean as the ocean did the sky. Up and down could only be discerned by the feeling of the blankety water in which we swam. It was over within a moment, and in just a few blinks of our eyes we were back staring up at the ceiling of our cozy dorm rooms, as our bodies eased their way back into warmth.

No one could have imagined how much we did in that short weekend. We hiked up onto a hill and studied the stars at night. We learned about the creatures of the sea, and the key they hold to the health of our earth. Slimy sea creatures slipped between our fingers and sea urchins hugged our hands. We snorkeled in the day, and some snorkeled at night, while others delved into a different sort of depths, the depths of a squid. A ferocious game on kayaks was played, as we attempted to maneuver around each other,

each desperately trying to obtain the ball first and score a goal. Some faced their deathly fear of heights, while others proved their membership in the primate family as they ascended up the climbing wall. It was a short weekend full of long lasting memories.

As we stumbled back into the boat from which we had come, we watched the tide deposit the sand back onto the shore, just as all our troubles and our duties came flooding back to us. But, just as the water did to the sand, the island hand softened and smoothed our troubles. Our minds were just a little clearer now, and our souls, just a little happier.



As it did during a good portion of the trip, the group waits on Catalina Island.

Photo submitted

March:

Continued from Page 1

actively resist.”

Caitlin Cooper, barn manager at the Upper Campus, also attended the Ventura Women's March with her mother and friends, who went to show their support for civil rights, reproductive rights, affordable healthcare and religious freedom among others.

“The main takeaway for me was that it became very clear that thousands of people, men and women, share my feelings and beliefs,” Cooper said. “The most amazing thing to me was how positive and uplifting everyone was. I read a statistic that there were no arrests at any of the Women's Marches in the U.S. I think that says it all. It wasn't about anger, it was about resisting an administration that seems to be pushing us backward.”

Wearing matching pink hats and carrying protest signs, OVS parent Kirsten Stoltmann and her daughter, Violet, a seventh grader at the Lower Campus, joined the hundreds of thousands who packed the streets of Washington, D.C. for this past weekend's Women's March.

Stoltmann said she decided she was going to take Violet to Washington the night Donald Trump was elected president, knowing there would be organized backlash against the new president and his views on such issues as equal pay, reproductive

rights and climate change.

“I just knew there would be some response, that it would be historic and that we needed to be part of it,” said Stoltmann, who in particular was offended by what she called sexist and demeaning language that came from Trump during the campaign.

“I cannot let her grow up in an environment where this language gets normalized,” Stoltmann said. “I need her to know that it is absolutely not ok to talk like this. I also wanted to inspire her to stand up for her rights and to be progressive in politics.”

The pair left Thursday for the nation's capital and drove into Washington from Philadelphia early Saturday morning, passing hundreds of buses packed with marchers along the way. They parked in Maryland to take train into the capital, and squeezed on board with hundreds of other protesters destined for the same location.

“We were packed in,” Stoltmann said. “If we had been three stops up, we wouldn't have been able to get on the train.”

Once they arrived, it was more of the same.

Trying to make their way as close as they could to the main stage, they quickly learned that they were unable to move at all, stuck in a sea of humanity that was both suffocating and stimulating, generating an energy

unlike anything Stoltmann had ever seen.

Mother and daughter had made signs the night before the march, and proudly carried them to the event, where in the end they joined a pile of other protest placards. One sign said “Environment Does Not Equal Business.” Violet's sign read: “A Leader Not A Tweeter.”

Violet said the Women's March was an incredible event, and that it was amazing to be part of a movement that attracted hundreds of thousands of people to the nation's capital.

“It was cool because so many people showed up for the same reason,” said Violet, who has attended OVS since fifth grade. “I think it's important to have showed up because it shows that you support this cause.”

Violet may have missed a few school days, but her mom believes that her experience outside of the classroom provided one of her most valuable learning experiences thus far.

“I want her to realize how proactive we need to be when we see things that are not right and when we see people who are not being treated right,” Stoltmann said. “We need to write letters, we need to march. I want her to be able to stand up for herself and to realize that's what you do when things are not right.”

Nordhoff junior offered opportunity to bone up on medical experience

Landon Beaty

Nordhoff High School
Aubrey Schumacher, a 16-year-old junior at Nordhoff High School, was recently offered an amazing opportunity.

Schumacher's Anatomy and Physiology teacher nominated her to be a part of the National Youth Leadership Forum of Medicine at UC Berkeley July 22 through July 30.

She said she is thrilled to be given such an opportunity because she will learn so much on the trip by doing presentations lectures, dissections and watching live surgeries. Going

on this trip, she added, will give her a tremendous head start in the career of her dreams.

Once out of high school, Schumacher plans to go into premed to become an endocrinologist — a doctor who specializes in hormones.

Schumacher wants to be involved in medicine, she said, because of her family's history in the field.

“My family has a long history in the medical field working as nurses, but I want to take it one step further by becoming a doctor,” Schumacher noted.

But Schumacher needs out-

side financial support in order to get there.

The tuition for the forum is \$3,453, which doesn't include airfare, meals, or other travel costs.

Schumacher estimates the cost of the trip will be around \$5,000, which she said is out of the question given her family's financial state.

“Even if you donate as little as one dollar, I'd be so grateful that I'm that much closer to my goal,” she stated.

Visit goo.gl/a94E3a to access Schumacher's Go Fund Me page.



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