

# Totan Echo

THE STUDENT PUBLICATION OF GRAND TERRACE HIGH SCHOOL

## Florida Tragedy Sparks Walk-out and Preparation

*Opinion by Angie Sanchez, Pg.2*  
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# WALKOUT WAS NOT A GET-OUT-OF-CLASS FREE CARD

By **Angie Sanchez (2018)**, Editor-in-Chief

**TITANTOWN-** 2018 kicked off with a bunch of riled-up teenagers nationwide due to the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February. Since then there have been unabated rallies and protests to call forth blame. The shooting of 17 victims was traced back to a former high school student, Nikolas Cruz, who committed the murders with a rifle. This, like so many other school shootings, rightfully brought forth the attention of such a young person being able to possess a firearm. Cruz was 18.

According to officials, Cruz legally purchased the rifle, meaning he passed a brief background check. However, according to his public defender, Cruz suffers from brain developmental problems and depression. This cannot go unnoticed and proves that there is a chronic problem in

*“This national walkout served to remember the lives lost and the right of peaceful protest.”*

the current U.S. background checks system.

These so called background checks are the most insignificant factor to sellers. Without laws, these sellers only care about one thing- selling. The root of the problem is, of course, the feasibility of obtaining firearms. This has not been the first case, nor will it be the last. As the news of the details spread nationwide, so did blame and a walk-



out was planned for students everywhere. On March 14, Grand Terrace High School participated in the National Walkout in commemoration of the MSDG High School shooting. This national walkout served to remember the lives lost and the right of peaceful protest. At GT, it was led by Gay Straight Alliance,

with **Michala Broadway (2018)** publicly speaking out against current gun laws and commemorating the lives lost. Michala’s poignant speech turned a quad of hundreds silent, and with all eyes on her, she made sure to deliver a speech worth remembering. Over 300 bright or orange ribbons gleamed against students and painted a formidable sight — a unanimous student body.



In a public school, it is not rare to find cliques and clubs whose unintentional result is exclusivity, but on March 14, every grade united and the student body rallied in unison. And as Michala’s fervor grew, so did the waterworks.

She emphasized that what we were taking part in was a peaceful protest. This goal was met and not overlooked by administration. Principal **James Western** commented, “I thought they did a tremendous job of giving their opinion in a nonviolent and appropriate manner, showing respect for some of the issues out there.”

This is important to take note of, since some students and parents were hesitant of the protest. Uncertainty was the talk. Will we get in trouble? Will we be suspended? Who is actually going to take responsibility? These are all questions that will persist. Seeing how well the national walkout went, it is safe to say that we are allowed a voice- and we should use it. Even if we weren’t allowed a voice, we should still use it. As Michala said, “This is unity, and unity is power.”

*Photos by Angie Sanchez*

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## Junior's Perspective: Preparation for 12th Grade Started Yesterday

By Jocelyn Baca (2019), Campus Writer

**TITANTOWN-** Whether or not you are a junior, getting ready for your senior year starts early and you want to make sure you choose the right classes for you.

First, there are three English classes to choose: British Literature, Expository Reading and Writing, or AP English Literature. **Mrs. Slusarski, Ms. Creel, and Mrs. McLeskey** taught British Literature this year and you can expect them to teach it next year. **Mr. Morales** and **Mr. Bunce** are expected to teach ERWC next year. **Mr. Finks** is expected to teach AP English Literature. However, those teacher assignments could change, according to the AP Office.

In addition, to one of the English classes above, senior schedules should include: your choice of an English class, POD/ ECON for your first semester, and four electives, according to counselor, **Mrs. Simona Welzel**.

Based on interviews of current seniors, a senior who stayed on track with required A-G courses and credits could have a pretty easy senior year.

For the first three years of high school, you really want to try and keep up with all your classes, because if you don't, your junior year will most likely consist of trying to balance grades by retaking classes you might have failed to get the mandatory credits.

There are credit recovery classes in your senior year, summer school after your junior year, and many other options to make up those credits.

Also, if you have 170-180 credits by the end of your junior year, then you may qualify for a home period. Senior year is an activity-filled year, full of dances, senior-only festivities, and more.

Senior **Ernesto Martinez** stays home first period (home period) because he has more than enough credits.

"I get to sleep in longer and have a lot more time to get ready," he said.

On top of this, the fall semester is stressful due to college applications, and trying to make up credits only piles up the workload. It is imperative that all incoming seniors (and even juniors) talk to their counselors to capitalize on their senior year experience, seniors say.

## First Lip-sync Put on Sold Out Show

By Sakinah Storks (2020), Staff Writer

**TITANTOWN -** Families filled the auditorium March 8 to see teachers and students lip-sync as if their lives depended on it. It was a full house that Thursday night.

MC, **Aaron Zavalza**, explained to the audience that they would be able to vote for their favorite group on a survey website. Group by group, teachers and students took the stage to put on their best act.

One group that really seemed to keep the audience engaged was **Mr. Robert Ransdell** (Band), **Mrs. Tania Ramirez** (Foreign Language), and students, syncing to "It's Raining Men," by The Weather Girls. Once Mr. Ransdell came out in an afro wig, applause could be heard from the crowd. The performers had umbrellas, spray bottles, toy men, and attention-getting dance moves.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was when the winners were to be decided. Zavalza announced that all of the performers had performed, and that it was time to vote.

According to the survey on surveymonkey.com, the winning performance was "Schuyler Sisters," performed by **Anthony Hernandez, Mariaelena Flores, Alejandra Salamanca, Kelsey Pablo, and Mr. John Chovan** (Social Science). The crowd went wild over the sight of Mr. Chovan in a dress and a long, curly wig.

GTHS Glee's first annual lip sync battle was a complete success. The club really made everyone excited for the next battle and more upcoming events from GTHS Glee, so make sure to grab tickets next time.



Ms. Brittany McClellan (Physical Education) leads students at the first Lip-sync Battle March 8. **Photo by Sakinah Storks**



# GTHS Celebrates Black History Month with Long List of Events

By Sakinah Storks (2020), Campus Writer

**TITATN TOWN**—Black History Month is a time to celebrate not only Black history, but also diversity, community, and Black excellence. GTHS had a full list of events during the last week of February.

First on the list was Spirit Week, with the theme “Remember the Time” by Michael Jackson. Some of students’ favorite African American artists were being played at the festival and the Black Student Union (BSU) sold snacks all throughout lunch.

That Tuesday students dressed up for Reggae Day, wearing colors associated with the Reggae and Rastafarian culture (red, yellow, and green). These colors also happen to be the colors of the traffic lights, which were invented by an African American man, Garrett Morgan.

On Wednesday students wore purple to recognize the late artist Prince and his song “Purple Rain.”

Thursday was the day to remember Martin Luther King Jr. by dressing just as sharply as he did (formal wear). The week closed with a true throwback as Friday’s theme was the 1990’s.

Later that night the highly anticipated BSU Showcase was put on. Students presented their talents, speeches were heard, and slideshows were seen about Black historical figures.

“The BSU showcase is one of the most motivating things that any student could attend,” said **Dezhane Churchill** (2020). Black History Month at GTHS is meant to be enjoyed by all. With such a diverse campus, it’s no wonder we have such a great time to look forward to.



# A Titan's Guide to Jobs and Driving

By Jillian Deuel (2019), Campus Editor

New opportunities, increasing freedom, and accountability and responsibility are key aspects of maturity that teens experience in high school. It is not always absolutely necessary for students to attain their driver's license or get a job, but for some it is a way for them to expand their horizons and get a head start on adulthood. Understanding the requirements and regula-

tions enforced by the government can seem daunting and confusing. Here is a short guide. But always double check with the sources listed for clarifications and updates.

## Employment

Source: CA Dep. of Industrial Relations: [dir.ca.gov](http://dir.ca.gov)

- All minors under 18 employed in California must have a permit to work, which is usually issued by the school.
- Permits issued during the school year expire five days after the next school year starts.
- Minors must be paid at least minimum wage and overtime wages when applicable.
- Minors 16 and 17 are permitted to work 4 hours per school day, 8 hours on a non school day, and up to 48 hours per week between the hours of 5am and 10pm (with the exception of 12 am on a non school night)
- Minors 14 and 15 are permitted to work 3 hours per school day, 8 hours on a non school day, and up to 18 hours per week between the hours of 7 am 7 pm (except during summer vacation where it is extended until 9 pm)
- Young adults under 21 are not permitted to work in establishments whose sole purpose is serving alcohol (i.e. bars), however, there is no law preventing minors from working in an establishment where alcohol is served.
- Minors are not permitted to be employed for occupations that include driving a vehicle, working with machinery, or working with or in a facility storing hazardous objects/substances.

## Driver's License

Source: CA DMV: [dmv.ca.ov](http://dmv.ca.ov)

- Minors can begin the process of working to earn their license at 15 ½ years old
- Before a minor is able to attain their driver's license, they must get their learner's permit.
- In order to get the permit they must: fill out necessary forms and get them signed by a parent, complete a driver's education course, (most commonly done online), and pass the written exam. Note: The driver's Ed course must be equivalent to 25-30 hours of instruction
- After passing the exam and receiving their permit, teens are obligated to take six hours of behind the wheel training with a certified driving instructor. Their permit is not valid until it is signed by the instructor!
- With a permit supervised driving with a licensed driver over 25 is allowed
- 50 hours of supervised driving (10 hours being at night) should be completed before taking the behind the wheel test
- Finally, the behind the wheel test can be taken to earn a provisional license if the teen is under 18
- The provisional (temporary and conditional) license comes with some restrictions for the first year or until the minor turns 18, which include being unable to transport passengers under 20 years old unless accompanied by a licensed adult over the age of 25, and a window of time between 11am and 5am where driving is prohibited.



Two of five holes in the A Building stairwell are covered by plywood.

Photos by Cedric Robinson

## Holes in the Wall Take Away From Student Activities

By Cedric Robinson (2018), Staff Writer

**TITANTOWN**– Holes being punched into the walls in the A building is a disturbing pattern. A student, or perhaps several, have been kicking holes in the walls and it is causing a big issue because now the school has to pay to get the holes covered and making our 6-year old campus look unkempt and rundown. “It is disappointing to know that there are students on this campus that feel they have to deface our campus. I think they don’t understand what they fully have. There are many young adults that go to schools with poor facilities and would love to go to a new beautiful campus. It just seems that these students don’t care about their campus being nice,” said Assistant Principal Mr. **Mitch Hovey**.

“It affects students more than they think,” Mr. Hovey said. He said the money that can be used for student –related activities will instead have to be used for something that should not have to be continuously fixed.

The holes have been covered up with boards and the incidences seem to have come to a halt. With a school less than a decade old, we need to work on keeping it in good condition.

## Titan Connect, a Way to Represent

By Cedric Robinson (2018), Campus Writer

**TITANTOWN**- Titan Connect is an interclub group that is hosted by the ASB Council. The ASB Council meets once a month, usually on the 1st Wednesday of each month during both lunches in Room E503.

Clubs and teams are invited to send a representative to receive information on any upcoming activities and events. Representatives also get the opportunity to promote their own team and club activities with others.

Clubs get the information regarding the nominations for homecoming, winter formal, and prom courts.

Titan Connect is a good source to have at our disposal because it’s a way to stay involved and let others, such as new students, know what is going on in and outside of school.

It is facilitated by student leader, **Fey Oriola** (2019). Fey said, “Titan connect helps the school because it brings all the clubs together to know future events that go on and it informs us how the other clubs on campus are doing.”

# Florida High School Shooting Prompts Campus-Wide Measures

By Jillian Deuel (2019), Campus Editor

**TITAN TOWN**—In wake of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, students, teachers, and parents throughout America are anxiously buzzing about gun safety. Once again, the gun safety debate is front and center as more and more pressure is put on the government to make a change.

Though the tragedy took place more than 2,000 miles away, Titans and school staff here have felt the impact. A sense of uneasiness has made its way into the atmosphere at school, resulting in an accumulation of questions and concerns regarding the safety of GTHS. The Titan Echo spoke to teachers and students to get some insight on their feelings.

The shooting has prompted precautionary measures to prepare for an armed intruder presence. On March 13 there was an active shooter drill during first period. The drill began about 15 minutes after the final bell rang .

A few moments later, Principal **James Western** made an opening statement. In all classrooms across campus, a video provided by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office was played simultaneously. One point in the video consisted of a screen that read "Drill" at which simulated sounds of explosions echoed from various parts of campus. After the video and sound demonstration was over, emergency responders answered student questions. The drill concluded when Mr. Western made a closing statement over the intercom, joined by a member of the sheriff's department.

Some residents of Titan Town have ideas on ways to make campus more secure.

**Ava Peterson**, (2021) said, "It can be scary... teachers should always make sure doors are locked because some don't. Also, they should find a way to cover windows." Classroom doors are required to be locked during school hours.

Sharing a similar concern was math teacher, Mr. **Joe Garcia**. "I think the school should be working with staff to be better prepared and form a plan. The possibility [of an emergency] is always in the back of my mind, but I try not to get overwhelmed. I think about how I can keep my students and myself safe," he said.

Others are less certain about what can be done to make our school a safer place.

"After the school shooting I felt unsafe, but I don't think that there's anything they can do because the school already has good security. If there was an emergency, I'd listen to school staff," said sophomore, **Phoenix Amparan**.

"You don't know how it feels until it happens. The school can only do so much and I don't know if our school should feel like a military base. I don't think there is one solution at all," said Mr. **Adrian Merendon** (English) .

# New Starbucks to Open 1 mile from GTHS

By Sakinah Storks (2020), Campus Writer

**COLTON**- Word has reached students of Grand Terrace High School that a new Starbucks will be built in place of a restaurant called Yum Yums on Iowa Street.

Presently, the nearest Starbucks is 3.4 miles away on Washington Blvd. in Colton, a 10-minute drive and an unrealistic walk.

This is a big deal because the current Starbucks that is nearest to GTHS is 3.4 miles away. Once the new one is built, it will be exactly one mile away from the campus gates and within walking distance. It is unknown when the Starbucks will officially open. Telephone calls to the owner were not returned. But as of May 3, it appeared that construction was 50 percent completed.

Whether it is a good or a bad thing, it has yet to be decided, as many are having mixed feelings about it.

According to an informal survey on Snapchat, most feel as though a new Starbucks near campus is a positive thing. This is not only for the Starbucks products which would be easier to obtain, but also for the possibility of students getting jobs and using the new Starbucks as a place to study, or even just hang out before or after school.

Others, however, are not particularly looking forward to the new Starbucks. **Emma Glaze** (2020) believes that the new Starbucks could be something negative. She said that the new Starbucks probably won't hire any GTHS students because they are less qualified than an adult with experience.

She also believes that the new Starbucks will bring more traffic, especially on Tuesday mornings, and that more students will ditch class to go.

"I think it's a great idea but traffic is going to be horrible and students are going to overrun it afterschool, said Ms. **Elizabeth Sosa** (English).

# NET NEUTRALITY: WHAT IS IT, WHAT'S AT STAKE, AND HOW YOU COULD HAVE AN IMPACT

By Jack Garrison (2018), A&E Writer

For the past decade, the internet has been mostly a free domain where people can use any app or site without charge, so long as they can afford their own data usage. This is because of the idea of Net Neutrality, where internet providers will not prevent any information on the internet to be accessed by consumers, and no site will have more or less preference to load onto a computer.

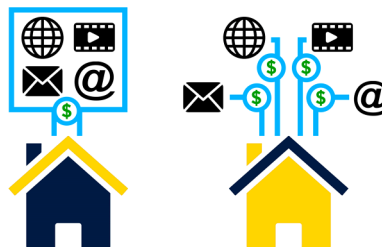
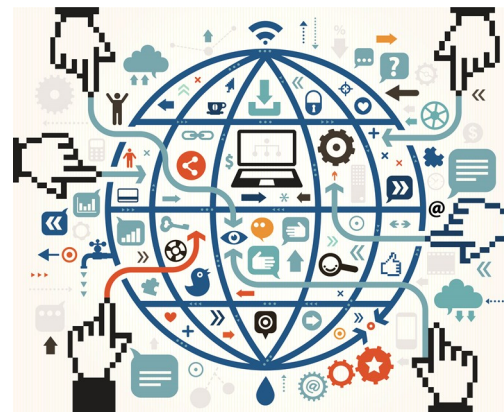
However, in May of last year, the Federal Communications Commission voted to



FCC Chairman Ajit Pai

pass a plan by the FCC chairman, Ajit Pai, which would essentially erase Net Neutrality and allow internet providers to increase charges and discriminate sites and apps on the web.

On Dec. 14, the FCC voted in favor of Pai's plan by a 3-2 vote. Now, the plan must get approved by Congress before it becomes law, which will



Credit of all photos: Google Images

take months before it goes through.

Net Neutrality is a practice put in place in 2015 in America that internet providers must allow all users access to all content on the internet regardless of the source.

With Pai's new plan, it would allow internet providers like Verizon and Comcast to create paywalls and block certain websites to its users. Some experts say this will not only limit the freedom the internet is supposed to create, but also charge more money to use the internet itself, and limit those who can use it.

"There is no free expression when you have to pay extra," said Ximena Aguirre-Torres (2018).

This is because more private internet companies will have the power to limit what you can see for their own financial gain, and some companies such as Comcast have been in major favor of the bill.

While the vote by the FCC has passed, there is still a while until the plan becomes law, which gives citizens plenty of time to call their state representatives and Congressmen to voice their opinions. You can find out who represents your state here: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/CA>





## The Growing Popularity of Fortnite

By Jack Garrison (2018), A&E Writer

On March 15, pop star Drake and professional video game streamer Ninja played a game called Fortnite on the streaming app Twitch, which broke the record for a single stream's view count at 628,000 concurrent viewers.

In a generation of trends and fads, Fortnite has gained a large amount of popularity, showing up in memes, pop culture, and official merchandise. What was it about this game that made it rise to such fame?

The game itself had humble beginnings. In July 25 of last year, Fortnite released as an early-access title on PC and consoles, with its main mode being "Save the World," where players built forts to protect an area from waves of zombies. While the mode was critically acclaimed by journalists, Fortnite didn't gain much popularity until it added its biggest mode, with over 20 million players across all platforms: Battle Royale.



Popularized by games like H1Z1 and PlayerUnknown's BattleGrounds, the mode has 100 players drop in on one large map, grabbing whatever weapons they find and being the last ones to survive.

Fortnite added its own version in September of last year for free, which gained a high player count within only a few months.

So what is it about the Battle Royale phenomenon that has made a relatively unheard of game become one of the biggest games of the year?

While the idea of a battle royale has been in movies such as Hunger Games and the aptly-named Battle Royale for a while, the idea wasn't implemented into

video games until a gamemode was added to Minecraft, titled Hunger Games. The gamemode was added to other games over time, such as ARMA 2 and DayZ.

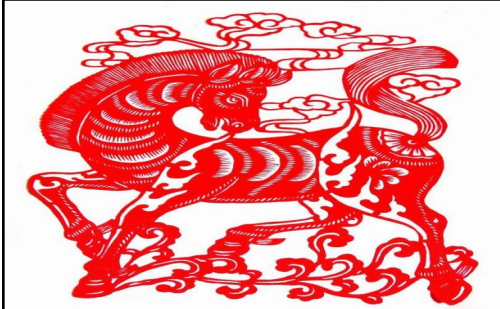
The gamemodes for these games were created by Brendan Greene, who in 2017 created an entire game based off battle royale titled PlayerUnknown's BattleGrounds. PUBG, as it is commonly abbreviated as, had reached the highest concurrent player count ever, with over 1.2 million players at its peak. This rising popularity of PUBG was noticed by other companies intent on copying the formula, and most famously by Fortnite itself.



**Rabbit 1999**  
 Luck Rating for 2018: 7/10  
 Overall, the outlook for 2018 is positive for you. Focus on maintaining balance as this year may bring tense situations. Students should concentrate on studies and keep the advice of elders in mind.

**Dragon 2000**  
 Luck Rating for 2018: 5/10  
 2018 will bring self assurance and proper recognition of your originality and other positive traits from your peers and superiors. However, be cautious about taking radical positions, instead focus on trying to maintain a moderate stance on things.

**Snake 2001**  
 Luck Rating for 2018: 6/10  
 The new year will be one of discovery. You'll find new interests and better understanding of the direction you want to take in the future. You may find yourself expressing more generosity towards others.



**Horse 2002**  
 Luck Rating for 2018: 6/10  
 This year expect some important changes. Adapt to them quickly, and they'll likely play out in your favor. Don't doubt yourself or your abilities and you'll find you have everything necessary to make the most out of the situations life throws at you.

**Goat 2003**  
 Luck Rating For 2018: 6/10  
 Expect some pleasant surprises in your social life and student career. 2018 is anticipated to be a very good year for you but there may also be some bumps in the road. Focus maintaining a stable and balanced lifestyle and making your health a priority.

**Monkey 2004**  
 Luck for 2018: 7/10  
 Efforts to get what you want will be required of you in this new year. Remain confident and prepare for some changes. By keeping calm and positive, you will find smart solutions and remain triumphant over difficulties.

# WILL YOU HAVE LUCK IN 2018?

2018 is the year of the Earth Dog, also known as the Brown Dog. The dog is the 11th animal of the 12 Chinese Zodiac. The zodiac signs are based on the Chinese Lunar Calendar. Your year of birth determines which of the animals represents you. Animals include the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. Each animal can exemplify your personality traits, strengths, weaknesses, and even your luck throughout the year.

*Compiled by Jillian Deuel*

*Source: [www.chinahighlights.com](http://www.chinahighlights.com)*

# ARE LOOT BOXES A FORM OF GAMBLING ?

## *Why Some Say They Are*



**By Jack Garrison (2018), A&E Editor**

The key to a good video game is to reward the player for their playing time and skill. Most games have no problems doing this, such as giving out items with every time you level up or achieve certain objectives online.

In recent years, however, games have allowed players to buy "loot boxes," which you can either earn or buy with real money. While some games have the loot boxes contain purely cosmetic items, EA's Star Wars: Battlefront 2 has infamously had items that unlock objectively better weapons and heroes, without allowing you to buy the items separately.

Because of this recent trend, some countries have considered buying loot boxes as gambling, and some gambling regulators in other countries such as Belgium have investigated games that have loot boxes, which could potentially outlaw loot boxes entirely. The question to ask, of course, is if loot boxes truly are a variety of gambling.

The most notable example of a game with loot boxes is Overwatch. Boxes are earned with each time you level up, and only contain cosmetic items. While in-game currency can be used to purchase cosmetics individually, the currency is only earned through the loot boxes. And while there is no way to not earn anything from the loot boxes, it is possible to earn copies of items, which automatically becomes currency.

**John Bahood (2018)** says loot boxes are dangerous.

"Kids who are already addicted to playing video games they may want to be better when really they are just cash grabs from companies." "You never know what you're going to get in a box and it could be a duplicate and a waste of money," he added.

However, the definition of gambling is "the activity or practice of playing at a game of chance for money or other stakes." By this definition, the loot box system would count as gambling. Additionally, multiple subtle things about the boxes, such as rising music, the box rumbling and exploding to show your items, and different rarities and varieties of items is all in place to entice the player to buy more boxes.

"The player is basically working for reward by making a series of responses, but the rewards are delivered unpredictably," says Dr. Luke Clark, director at the Center for Gambling Research in British Columbia. "We know that the dopamine system, which is targeted by drugs of abuse, is also very interested in unpredictable rewards."

Dopamine cells are most active when there is maximum uncertainty, and the dopamine system responds more to an uncertain reward than the same reward delivered on a predictable basis."

Even if loot boxes don't always offer game-changing rewards, they are designed to get people to want to get them more and more, eventually leading to a subtle addiction that few people can realize. The practice of including loot boxes in games has become normalized, and if not properly managed, could lead to dangerous consequences.



*From left to right: Head Coach Donn Kalogonis, Vanessa Gomez, Orla Gonzalez, Kelly Eller, Adrienne Ramirez, Dara O'Donnell, and Assistant Coach Melissa Arechiga Photo Courtesy of Donn Kalogonis*

## Girls Tennis Takes 1st in League

By Mujahid Ahmad (2018), Sports Writer

**TITAN TOWN**-The Grand Terrace girls tennis team took first in league with a win/loss ratio of 7/2 this year.

They've successfully won league two years in a row. **Dara O'donnell** (2018) and **Adrienne Ramirez** (2018) took league champs in doubles, first girls to win a CIF match.

**Orla Gonzalez** and **Vanessa Gomez** took second in league for doubles. **Kelly Eller** took second in league for singles.

Girls tennis coach, **Donn Kalogonis**, believes that next year's girls tennis seniors will achieve another league title and have their first CIF team win.

The team goes by the motto "Winning never goes on sale. You always have to pay full price."



## “Chovan Man” is a Track Star

By Rodri Smith (2019), Sports Editor

**TITAN TOWN** - Mr. John Chovan (Social Science) is one of many athletic teachers on campus. Many students know him as the “runner on campus” or by the “track star teacher.”

He got into running at an early age, he said. As a child, he was involved in many running activities, including track. His father would run and he wanted to follow in his footsteps.

Mr. Chovan said he enjoys doing small races like 5ks (3 miles).

Not only is running his stress reliever, but it's also his way to escape from the real world and just focus on himself. He also enjoys it because it keeps him fit, he said.

“Mr. Chovan is super fit. He beats me at tennis all the time,” said Mr. **Victor Morales** (English). “He let's you think you're going to score on him and then he speeds up the game and he's got you.”

Mr. Chovan wants to continue teaching, being happy, and being alive for a long time for his family. He enjoys seeing the students getting fit and having fun. Some students have said that when they see him run, it inspires them to do a sport or run as well.

A few times a week, he will go to the GT track and run a few miles. He enjoys seeing students wave hi and waving back.

Mr. Chovan said, “It's good when students see that adults are still active. We always try to tell you guys ‘be active, be fit, don't be lazy’ and then some of us just sit there.”

“This way students can see that even some people in their forties can go and continue being athletic,” he added.

He would like to coach a running sport in the near future and continue to motivate kids to do good and get involved.

## Missed it? 2017 World Series Dodgers Vs. Astros Highlights

By Rodri Smith (2019), Sports Editor

**TITAN TOWN**– The Los Angeles Dodgers and Houston Astros played in the 2017 World Series. The series took all seven games to decide the world champion. But, at the end, the Astros denied the Dodgers and took the last game to win four out of seven games.

“I think they overplayed (Clayton) Kershaw and made small



errors that threw the last game,” said **Anthony Corrella** (2018). He also said pitcher Kenta Maeda was a factor. “He was kind of a new pitcher and he wasn't as experienced with the Big Leagues in one of the games. Management threw him in too many times when they should have had a veteran pitcher.” he said.

The deciding game seemed like a cycle with the Dodgers scoring and then the Astros coming back every time.

Tickets for the games were very expensive. Some of the teachers on campus went to the games. Ms. **Anna De Leon** (Performing Arts) attended game six. Mrs. **Darlene Ochoa** (English), an avid fan, traveled to Houston to attend game five, and Ms. **Ramona Martinez** (Math) went to game seven.

They all said that the tickets were well worth it. They were happy to see history in the making. Ms. De Leon and Mrs. Martinez went to Dodger Stadium to watch the games but Mrs. Ochoa traveled to Houston for game five.

Mrs. Ochoa said that Houston fans were warm and welcoming despite having to be in one of the most impacted cities by Hurricane Harvey. .

Ultimately, Mrs. Ochoa said she was glad that the city of Houston turned the season around and take the trophy home. She is confident the Dodgers will take the trophy home this season.

We'll see.

## Competition Cheer Places 5th at Nationals

By Cedric Robinson (2018), Campus Writer

**TITAN TOWN**– The Grand Terrace competition cheerleading squad placed 5th in the U.S.A. Nationals in February.

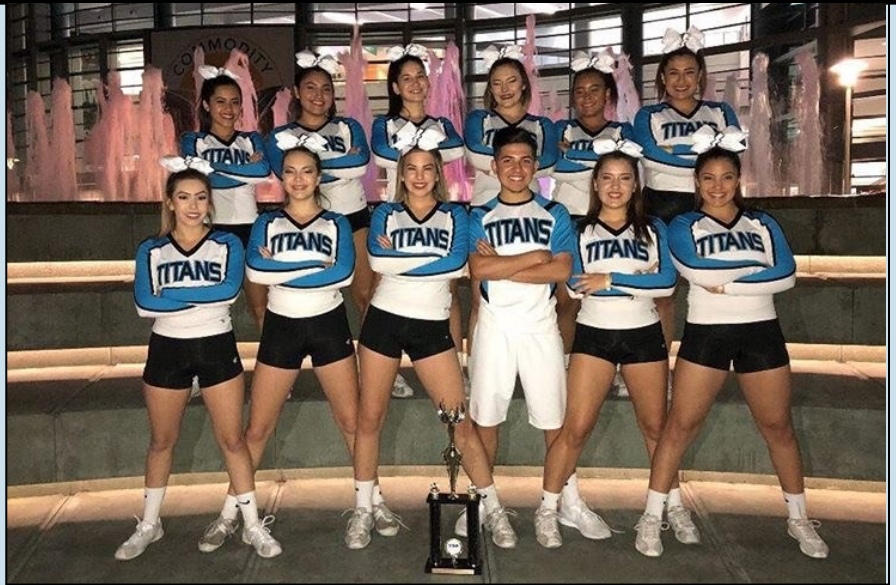
There were a total of 216 teams, so to be in the top five was a great achievement.

The Echo interviewed two members of the squad, **Daytona Gardiner** (2018) and **Brianna Meza** (2021).

**TE:** How has cheer made an impact on your life?

**Daytona:** It put me on the right path and it is getting me places in life.

**Brianna:** It made me more outgoing and I got the chance to meet new people.



*Top Row: Brianna Meza, Joanna Guerrero, Alexis Battistone, Daytona Gardiner, Ashley Bandy, Bottom Row: Haley Castillo, Jessica Ungard, Bailee Revetta, Nicholas Morales, Julianna Duran, Tatyana Torres. Coaches Jakob Parra and Gevina Parra are not shown.*

## SWIM BEATS COLTON, MAKES CIF, AND PRODUCES LEAGUE MVP

By Rodri Smith (2019), Sports Editor

**TITAN TOWN**- Everyone knows that Colton is GT's rival. On April 27, swim went against Colton at home.

A big crowd showed up to the meet and cheered for their respective teams. There were more Titan fans than there were Yellow Jacket fans. Throughout the meet, the crowds and swimmers were hyping each other up. This may have helped the Titans swim with confidence and motivation as they won the meet.

"This was my first year doing swim. I love all my teammates and it feels like we are all family," said **Hannah Hanson** (2018).

Coach **Elissa Kirkland** said the team wins and loses as a family.

"The saying there is no 'I' in team is very true for our swim team. We are more than just a team- we are a family," she said.

Coach Kirkland also said, "I am proud of all my swimmers." With the win, Titan swimmers emerge as a threat to all the other teams in and out of the Sunkist League.

As of May 3, **Emma Arroyo** (2019) and **Destany Lewis** (2021) were league champions in their respective categories, according to Coach Kirkland. Lewis, just a freshman, broke league records in two categories and was named Female League MVP, Coach Kirkland said. CIF competition began May 9.



*Freshman Destany Lewis takes the Sunkist League MVP tile as rivals from Fontana and Bloomington look on.*

*Photo Courtesy of Elissa Kirkland*

The first Senior Engineering Showcase took place April 19. Twenty-seven senior engineering pathway students displayed their project that they have been developing for the year.

"I have been very lucky to have had the opportunity to guide these students through their engineering design process..." said Mr. **Matt Johnson** (Math). *Photos by Jillian Deuel*



*Left: Protective Mailbox by Abel Mesfin, Julia Aceves, and Nicholas Garcia.*

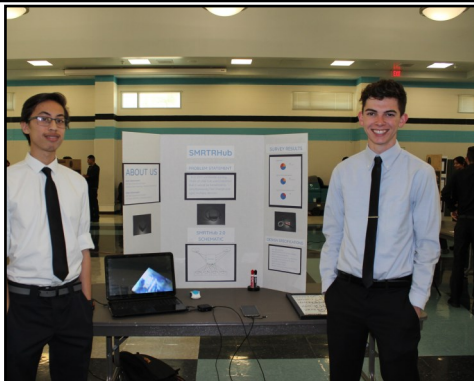
*Right: Improved Law Enforcement Protection by Jose Escarcega, Brian Alvarez, and Joshua*



*Left: "The Green Division" by Brianna Rios, Audrey Sepulveda, and Anthony McDaniel.*

*Bottom Left: "SMRTHub" high-speed phone charger by Albert Simorangkir and Noah Asher-branner.*

*Bottom Right: PS4 Controller Accessory by Bryan Robles, Juan Medina, and David Hernandez Campos.*





Senior **Marlena Muro**, an aspiring film major, played the lead role in the Titan Thespians presentation of Ramona Quimby on April 19, 20 and 21. It was Muro's (sixth from the top) first time as a lead role. The Echo asked her about her experience.

**TE:** How did it feel to be the lead role?

**Muro:** It was a really fun show to perform it was my first lead role in a full length play and the cast was really fun.

**TE:** How was it like to work with the cast?

**Muro:** They're very talented people and probably one of the best casts I've worked with. I've been onstage a lot and I wasn't that nervous.

**TE:** How do you prepare for a show?

**Muro:** Before I go on stage I will pump up everyone. If I'm nervous I will start jogging in place.

**TE:** How does that help you?

**Muro:** It helps me move my energy from my hands and to throughout my body.

**TE:** Where did you learn to do that?

**Muro:** I taught myself. It seemed to help me.

*Photos by Angie Sanchez*