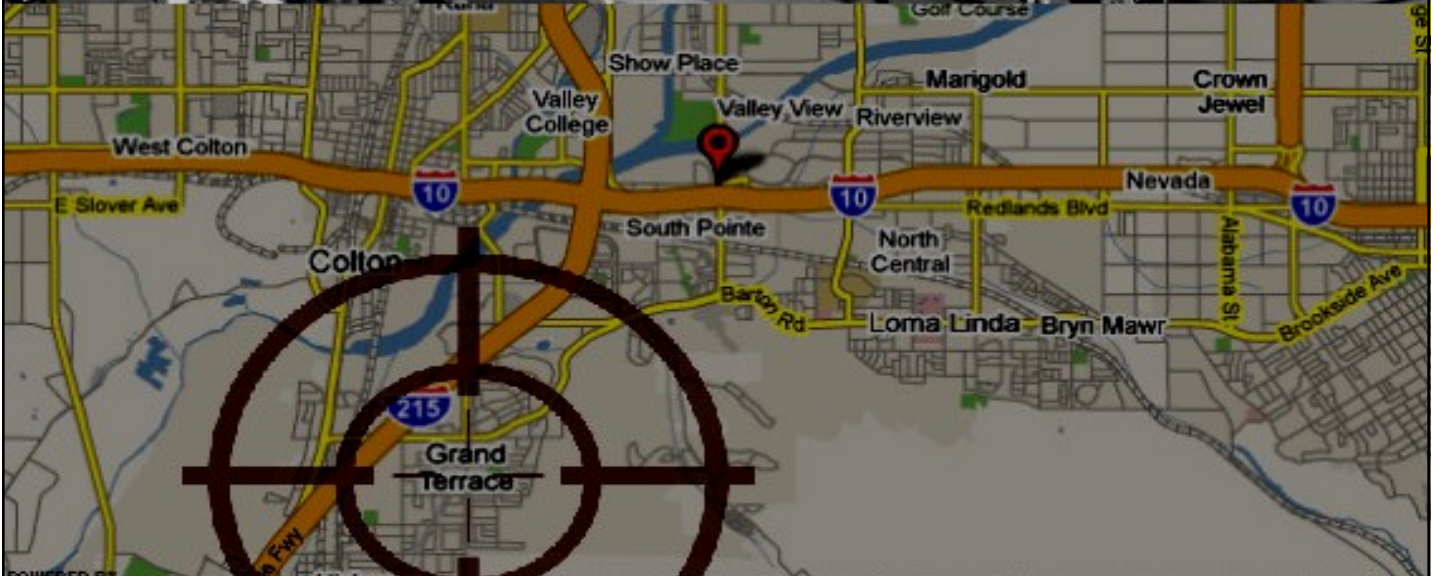


THE TITAN ΣCHO

THE STUDENT PUBLICATION OF GRAND TERRACE HIGH SCHOOL

GTHS and San Bernardino in National Spotlight



*Comprehensive Stories on Pages 6-7
by Chase Preciado and Jillian Deuel
Cover Design by Milana Hernandez*

Bomb Threat at Grand Terrace High School
GRAND TERRACE

12:00 82°



Autism: Why Vaccinations are Falsely Accused

By Elisabeth Martin (2016), Editor-in-Chief

In the beginning of this year, there was a measles outbreak. Once an almost extinct disease, measles came back with a powerful punch at Disneyland. This violent disease came back from the grave when an outburst of people refused to vaccinate their children. One would assume that this issue would be long gone, over and done with, but there are still people out there who want to live in the past.

In 1998, former doctor Andrew Wakefield published a paper stating that there was a link between the MMR (mumps, measles, and rubella) vaccine, bowel disease, and Autism. However, in 2010, this man was stripped of his medical license because his papers were proven to be dishonest and irresponsible, according to Time Magazine. The General Medical Council saw that his paper lacked support in his works so they ruled in favor of having his license revoked. The BBC has also stated that in his act of making a bogus study, he conducted his research without approval at the hospital that he worked. They also made claims that he paid off children at his son's birthday party to supply him with blood samples.

In February of that year, editors of the Lancet retracted Wakefield's controversial paper, telling the Guardian "It was utterly clear, without any ambiguity at all, that the statements in the paper were utterly false."

So if the man behind the myth has not only been discredited, but stripped of his medical rights, why would people still believe it? It all comes down to media hype, really. People choose to believe whatever they read instead of taking the time to fact-check the information. **TE**

New Leaps in Medical Technology Helps Improves Lives

By Elisabeth Martin (2016), Editor-in-Chief

The future is within reach for the people of the world; It's no longer science fiction. It's a reality. There's a Terminator in everyone who has battled an illness that has claimed a piece of them. Robotics and 3D printing has given all these people the ability to function to the fullest extent.

Living the life of a disabled person is significantly more difficult than one with full bodily capabilities. Thankfully, with the power of robotics, these otherwise—able persons are given the chance to be whole again.

Consider Hailey Dawson, a 5-year-old born with a disease that caused her to be born without fingers on her right hand. She was given the opportunity to participate in pitching the first ball at the Baltimore Orioles game because of the robotic components that made her prosthetic fingers. According to CNN, the hand "was based on designs from Robohand with specifications created from molds of Hailey's hand. "The mechanics are simple: When Hailey moves her wrist, cables strung through the 3D-printed prosthesis create tension, causing the fingers to curl."

Hailey is one of the many people who are lucky enough to be able to be the product of the medical advances. However, this technological grace doesn't only extend to humans.

Tieta is a Toucan who had her beak mutilated in a bad poacher's trap. The bird was granted the ability to continue her life as a semi-normal bird. Animals, too, are given the gift of life. Nature won't lay claim to this bionic bird. **TE**



(Left) Hailey Dawson at the Baltimore Orioles home opener in 2015. Photo from www.smh.com.au

(Bottom) Tieta the Toucan without the prosthetic beak. Photo from www.bbc.com



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Personal Narrative: My First GTHS Dance

After Bailing out her Freshman Year, Titan Echo Staffer Leaps into Homecoming Dance

By Angie Sanchez (2018), Campus Writer

TITAN TOWN -

Homecoming has been a tradition for decades. Attendance was high this year, according to sales figures. But, not every student attended. I was one of those my freshman year. So, I decided to go this year. For a first-time attendee to a high school dance, I definitely enjoyed the dance. It was good getting out of

the school routine and doing something different that only occurs annually on your campus. This year's homecoming was a Disney-themed homecoming with a DJ, massive dance group, and carriage ride. It was held Oct. 24 from 7:00-11:00 PM.

After I was checked in, I waited for a familiar face. I didn't want to be alone. It was like your first day of school at lunch, but the stakes were higher.

With one familiar face in sight, I was content on observing the setting and saw that most students were heading straight to the food table. They enjoyed tacos while the music started playing.

Soon enough, a few friends arrived and we strayed from the soon-to-be massive dance group, and instead, waited in line for the horse-driven fairy tale carriage ride across campus. Students took pictures near the carriage and at a photo booth, which remained full during the entire event and it was not only until the last ten minutes before the dance ended that I got a few pictures in.

Since I didn't attend the homecoming football game, I waited for the crowning of the king and queen with eager attention.

Patrick McKernan (2016) and **Ana Xajil (2016)** were crowned homecoming king and queen. As both smiled, I snapped a picture and the lights flashed brighter as the homecoming court waltzed while everyone captured the moment and admired the setting.

The energy grew as the night progressed and the dance group expanded and rattled with excitement.



A fairy tale carriage ferried students across a moon-lit campus.

Other students, such as myself, preferred to sit at a table and talk or walk around and dance outside the group. There was no pressure, yet.

The dessert table was full of brownies, cookies, and candy apples. It was more of a temporary stop in between other activities. The night was dark, but illuminated by the moon and the lights of the DJ's stage.

Soon, many girls were walking barefoot while their tuxedo-

clothed escorts carried their heels.

The music ranged from hip-hop, Mexican "Banda" and early 2000s classics such as the Cha Cha slide and Cupid Shuffle. I tried to get into the dance group, but it was far too crowded for my liking. And then I found a little space of concrete on the outskirts of the group and I went for it.

The energy never died down, and I heard some complain that the dance ended too early. As everyone was exiting through the gates, there was talk of heading to restaurants and I had to agree because it had been hours since anyone visited the food table, which was now empty. I would be headed to Wendy's shortly after.

Students played their own music while waiting to be picked up by parents.

There is little doubt that the dance proved to be a success, not only for ASB and Leadership, but for everyone who attended, including myself. The dance was free of any conflict and had an engaging and safe ambience. I think that it's already a good bet that next year's Homecoming will be a success. I will definitely be attending in the years to come. **TE**



The author

Photos by Milana Hernandez (2016), Photo Editor

Titan Town is Top Consumer of Energy and Water in District

By Jillian Deuel (2019), Campus Writer

TITANTOWN- GTHS consumes the most energy and water out of all the schools in the district, and it's costing big bucks.

The whopping 2,700,101 kilowatts used from May 2014 to June 2015, one year's worth, resulted in a bill that totaled \$569,384, according to data from a district "Renewable Resources" report. In addition, another district document reported that last year 13 million gallons of water were used.

This surprising information comes at a time where the importance of energy, and especially water conservation, is being strongly emphasized. Eco-friendly staff and students may have questions and concerns as to why GTHS is using so much of our precious resources.

Factors of Energy Consumption

"There are a number of reasons why GTHS uses so much energy," explained Ernest Guillen, Manager of Energy Education at the district. Factors such as the campus size, amount of lighting and the fact that GTHS is a new campus lead to high energy consumption. The biggest use of energy is the air conditioning system, Mr. Guillen said. GTHS is unique because doors lead to indoor hallways and windows that cannot be opened to allow fresh air inside. This means the only source of cool

air is the AC, which is on from about one hour before school until dismissal, said Mr. Guillen. The exceptions are the portable buildings and gym which have an AC that can be controlled manually. Another reason for the large consumption of energy is due to the tremendous amount of lighting on campus. Lights are located everywhere, including above doors and in hallways. In fact, by law, the lights with red buttons in hallways must be on during the school day, said Mr. Guillen. Lights are even left on after school hours. According to Mr. Guillen, there are 200 or so lights that remain on at night.

Factors of Water Consumption

The reasons for the enormous water usage are simple. Grass and other foliage need water to be maintained to keep our campus in good shape for the district events that GTHS hosts, explained Mr. Guillen. Also, undetected leaks can waste large amounts of water.

What's Being Done

Since 2011, a district wide energy conservation program has saved about 4-million dollars and reduced energy consumption, said Mr. Guillen. Changes have been implemented to make GTHS and other schools more efficient. One such change is that light emitting diodes, (better known as LEDs) have replaced ordinary light bulbs on campus.

"LEDs are more cost efficient," stated Mr. Guillen. In addition, a solar proposal on campus is being seriously considered by the district.

What Can Be Done

Mr. Seth Wallace, a geology and earth science teacher at GTHS, has some ideas on how GTHS can be more efficient. He noted that a potential waste of energy could be the many computers that are left on all over school. Even when they are not in use, they drain energy, he said. He suggests Xeriscaping to reduce water usage. Xeriscaping is landscaping that includes plants that require very little water.

Pursuing LEED Certification would be beneficial to help GTHS be more efficient, according to Mr. Wallace. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental design) Certification is a program that recognizes eco-friendly building designs and practices.

"When they designed the school, it wasn't designed with LEED Certification. Now we have to catch up and there may not be enough money," he said.

Decreasing the amount of resources GTHS uses would benefit the environment and the district. Money that the district saves on utilities can be used toward things that schools really need.

Mr. Guillen also pointed out that it's important to contribute less to the Greenhouse Effect (Global Warming).

"I think energy conservation helps people notice wasteful behavior. Try to do your part to conserve energy," he said. **TE**



High School Energy Consumption at CJUSD 2014-15		
Source: CJUSD "Renewable Resources" Report		
Site	Annual Usage (kWh)	Annual Bill \$
1. Grand Terrace HS	2,700,101	\$569,384
2. Colton HS	1,754,818	\$413,202
3. Bloomington HS	1,745,934	\$397,475

New Hip Hop Artist Performs at Grand Terrace High School; Brought by 104.7 Radio Station

By Dominique Balcombe (2016), A&E Writer



Hip hop artist Luke Christopher [Google Images](#)

TITAN TOWN - Last year, 104.7 Radio invited a popular artist, **Mike Posner** to Titan Town.

This year, KQIE Radio brought hip hop emerging artist **Luke Christopher** to our school as well as plenty of advice and insight on how students can achieve their dreams and how to do it with their own experience. Christopher performed one of his hit singles “They Know,” from his debut album YSTRDY, in the auditorium during College Week.

Radio station personality **Chris Loos** spoke to students and made it clear that hard work will guarantee them the success they strive for. Loos, a host on the IE Old School, opened up about how miserable it was for him starting his career as a radio host. Beginning at Pasadena City College and later interning at 102.7 KISS FM, Loos pointed out that radio hosting was not exactly what he planned to do. However, Loos stated that music is what he loved, so he decided to make a career out of it. Being young and inexperienced, he felt pressured, but never gave up, he said.



IE Old School's Chris Loos
Photo courtesy of 104.7 Radio

Now, Loos is interacting with celebrities and moving on to bigger and better things. That being said, Loos' story left an important message about staying focused and motivated as a young adult when working to achieve one's dreams. TE

Long Term Substitute Teachers Impact Achievement Study Says

By Jillian Deuel (2019), Campus Writer

TITAN TOWN - Students generally enjoy the presence of a substitute teacher in the classroom for a day, maybe even two. However, what about when teachers are gone for several days or even weeks at a time? Numerous studies have shown that teacher absenteeism negatively affects student success.

Here at GTHS, some classes have no permanent teacher at all. They have long term substitutes. If several days or weeks without a permanent teacher can have a negative effect on students, it seems likely that not having one to begin with can cause a problem as well.

One research paper titled “Investigating Substitute Teachers on Student Achievement: Review on Literature Impact” by the RDA (Research Development and Accountability) reviewed data from numerous studies to draw conclusions about the topic. A study the paper discussed, compared data from 62 Florida school districts. It found that students who spent at least four weeks with a substitute teacher scored 11 points lower on the reading portion of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test than peers who had their teachers present.

According to Principal James Western, there are currently three open teaching positions that need to be filled at the time of his interview. At least one of those is a science class. He explained that that few or no applicants have applied for the jobs.

However, progress has been made since last semester when there were five positions that were unfilled, he said. He stressed that the employment of two more teachers is a step in the right direction to fulfill the needs of students.

Besides trying his best to hire the needed staff, Principal Western also rearranged some staff schedules so that students have more support classes.

“I am attempting to answer students' needs based on the data from semester one,” he said. TE

Want to get involved next school year?

ASB, Legacy leadership, Peer Leadership, and leadership/video productions? Applications are available now to all students. If interested see Mrs. Leilani in E501. Don't miss out on a GREAT experience!

San Bernardino Massacre and School Bomb Threat Will Not Deter Us

By Chase Preciado (2016), Executive Editor

On Dec. 2, 28-year-old Syed Farook and his wife, 27-year-old Tashfeen Malik, shot and killed 14 people and wounded 23 others in a mass shooting at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, six miles away from our campus.

The killing targeted guests at a holiday party for the Department of Public Health, which Farook had attended as an employee.

After leaving the building and then returning armed with assault rifles, the husband and wife pair opened fire. Once they committed the murders, the couple drove to their townhome in Redlands, twelve miles away from campus, where they were confronted by police. They took off in their black SUV and were eventually killed in a shootout with police on San Bernardino Avenue. It was later determined that the couple had ties to ISIS and the attack was an act of terrorism.

The attack occurred about 12 minutes away from campus at around lunch time. By 5th period, students and teachers picked up the event on the Internet and the news started circulating. It shook San Bernardino and the surrounding communities to their core.

For days, the national and international media – CNN, Fox, BBC-- were all fixated on our little California corner. The IE was now famous, or infamous.

Six days later, on Dec. 8, GTHS was evacuated to the front parking lot and football field after a bomb threat was called in. Students and staff stood outside in the blazing heat for nearly two hours while the local Bomb Squad conducted a thorough investigation of classrooms. And again, the IE, this time Grand Terrace High School, was on the news.

After the investigation concluded, students and staff were allowed back onto campus and the school day resumed on a modified schedule. The caller of the bomb threat was identified through caller ID as John Davis, 19, of Phelan. He was arrested and charged with three counts of allegedly making false bomb threats, one towards GTHS, one at Loma Linda University Hospital and a third at an apartment complex in San Bernardino.

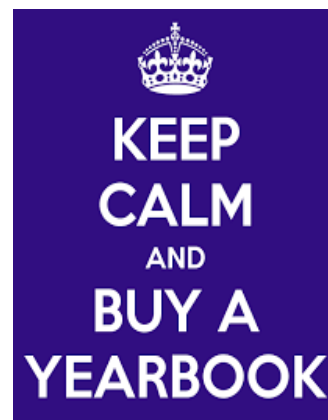
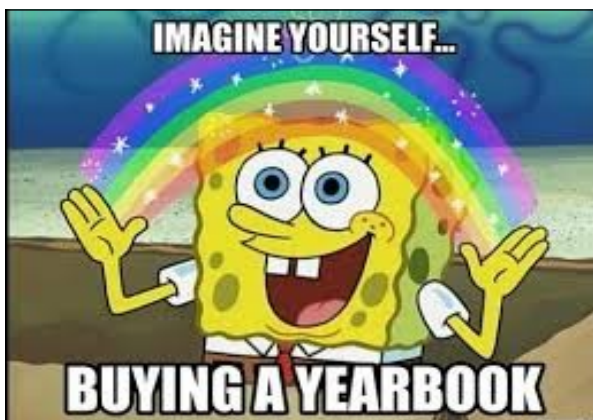
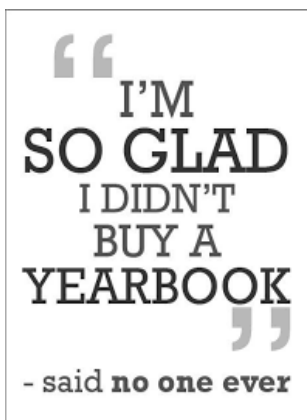
According to the NBC4 Los Angeles website, the phone used to send the bomb threats was in Davis' possession at the time of his arrest and he is being held on \$25,000 bail.

Though the bomb threat was determined to be a hoax, it had a significant impact on the student body of GTHS, due to the timeframe. Our neighborhoods were constantly being shown on the news. Many people were still shaken from the attack in San Bernardino and as a result, were, and are, feeling more cautious about violent threats. Some of us unconsciously, resolved that this was our generation's 9/11.

Students and residents are most shaken by the fact that the attack occurred in our own backyard. We experienced the process that a town goes through when a national tragedy is centered upon them through media attention and national investigations that impact their daily life.

However, despite being shaken by these events, the Inland Empire is a resilient, strong community, and we will not be intimidated by terror.

Life went on. We took our first semester finals, signed sports scholarships, danced at the Winter Formal and returned to campus on Jan. 12 with second semester vigor. And, for those of us in the "Pure Class" of 2016, we will walk on June 6. **TE**



Bomb Threat Breakdown: What Happened and Why

By Jillian Deuel (2019), Campus Writer

TITAN TOWN - On Dec. 8 second period was interrupted with an announcement that declared an evacuation was being issued. It was later determined to be a bomb threat.

But, moments later, campus was bustling with Titans headed to the parking lots and football field. Many strayed from teachers and confusion ensued. Uneasy students were seen calling parents to inform them of what was happening.

Many parents arrived on scene to pick up their children. Large groups of students walked off school grounds to their parent's vehicles located on surrounding streets, while others left to unknown locations. After about an hour and a half, an all-clear was given and everyone who remained was permitted back on campus where classes resumed.

Many Titans were dismayed and felt that the procedures for emergencies could be more orderly.

"I wasn't necessarily worried, but if there is a threat, they shouldn't have us out in the open. They should have a better evacuation point," said Gage Churchill (2018).

Principal James Western sent a message to families that evening. The message gave a brief breakdown of what really happened that day and assured



(Top) TV helicopters captured the evacuation. (Bottom) Parents assembled near the school. Google Images

"We will take this opportunity to debrief with the Sheriff's Department, our security team and staff to review our policies and procedures. As always the safety of your children and our staff is a priority for us," the message concluded.

In fact, safety is such a big priority that all campus security officials and site administrators (security, principals etc.) are required to complete Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Courses, according to the CJUSD website. These six courses teach the appropriate procedures to respond to school-based emergencies and ensure that staff is well prepared to address disasters. In addition, each classroom also receives an emergency

folder that equipped with signs to display if there are missing or injured students, forms to fill out in the event of an injury or missing person, and maps of evacuation areas. These efforts are meant to establish secure procedures and keep Titans safe in an emergency situation.

As for the perpetrator allegedly responsible for the threat, 19 year-old John Davis of Phelan, was arrested later that day, according to news reports. Two other hoax calls were made to Loma Linda University Medical Center, and a nearby apartment building from a cell phone in Davis' possession, according to NBC. **TE**

What Happened? *Compiled by Jillian Deuel*

The Titan Echo constructed an approximate timeline using Mr. Western's message and news reports as a reference. All times are approximate.

10:00 AM : The front office receives a phone call threat of a pipe bomb in the D Building. Sheriff's Department and district office are immediately contacted. The D Building is evacuated.

10:00-10: 15 AM: For precautionary reasons the rest of the campus evacuates.

10:15-11:55 AM: Sheriff deputies, with the help of bomb-sniffing dogs, clear the building and surrounding areas. Nothing suspicious is found.

11:55 AM: When the Sheriff deputies give the all-clear and classes resume a modified schedule.

Later that day: Nineteen year old John Davis of Phelan is under arrest for suspicion of calling in the bomb threats.

Senior Wrestlers Leave with Pride

By Rodri Smith (2019), Sports Writer

TITAN TOWN - It's time to say good-bye to all of Titan Town's senior wrestlers. Seniors are sad to leave the high school journey of wrestling that they love. Many fellow wrestlers are sad to see them go, including the coaches.

As the first "pure class" is set to graduate so are athletes that have played sports all four years. Everyone is so thankful to have worked with them and being able to know them. They have made this team special and this season was great for everyone.

Coach John Odenbaugh, who started the wrestling program, said, "I am sad to see my seniors leave. Some have been here all four years and they are family to me."

Mr. Odenbaugh said he is proud of how they have grown into great wrestlers and mature young adults. He hopes that the sport of wrestling has taught them things that they can carry on in life.



Senior Emilio Loera builds up momentum for slam at Senior Night Jan. 28.

Photo By Miliana Hernandez

The team is eager to see what next year brings for them. Mr. Odenbaugh is also excited for next year and said, "Next year should be our best year..."

We just need to work hard and remain focused. Our soon-to-be seniors are going to practice hard so that we can dominate next season." **TE**

The New SAT: Shorter with Common Core

By Angie Sanchez (2018), Campus Writer

TITAN TOWN - The SAT has been around since the 1926. Short for Scholastic Aptitude Test, its an exam that colleges and universities use as a factor in admissions and it is considered the most difficult high school test.

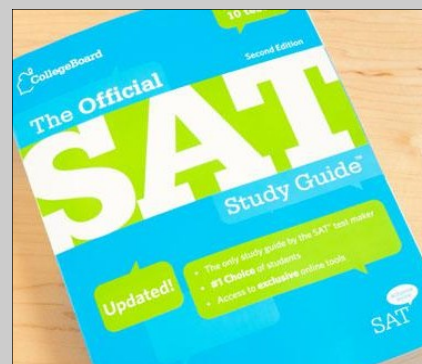
Students start preparing for the exam as early as sophomore year, but it has recently been announced that the rigorous test is going to change. The original test will be issued for the final time for the class of 2016, according to the College Board.

The most important changes include two sections, as opposed to the original three (the long essay is now optional), and there are four choices rather than the standard five.

The mission of the changes is for Common Core skills to be applied, meaning that the passages will be longer and will have to be analyzed in greater depth, alongside the higher level math questions, some of which are rumored to include trigonometry, according to the New York Times.

These changes might make some students panic, but Common Core standards have been taught for a few years now. Moreover, the grading scale will change significantly. The math and reading sections will be scored on a 200-800 scale, according to the Princeton Review.

Ms. Lynn Park, a GTHS counselor, said, "The new SAT seems like it



will be testing and measuring students on skills and knowledge acquired in the classroom. The scoring is more flexible, since there is no penalty for guessing."

Although the test may seem challenging, it does have many benefits. The test will be shorter. There will be fewer answer choices, and there will be no penalty for incorrect answers, reports the New York Times. **TE**

NBA 2015-16 Season Preview

By Tim Rodriguez (2016), Sports Writer

There are a lot of questions going into the 2015-16 NBA season after an exciting season in 2014-15. Will MVP **Stephen Curry** and the Golden State Warriors successfully defend their NBA championship? It will be tough as they have a huge target on their backs after that championship run last season.

Will **LeBron James** finally bring a championship to Cleveland after he returned following four years with the Miami Heat?

Will the Oklahoma City Thunder come back to playoff form and make a title run with the return of **Kevin Durant**?

Last but not least, will **Kobe Bryant's** last season in year twenty of a Hall of Fame career have any impact on a struggling Laker team? How will his health treat him after nineteen long and amazing seasons?

There have been other headlines this NBA offseason with key free agent signings and trades. Big men received the fattest contracts highlighted by former Trail Blazers Power Forward **LaMarcus Aldridge** signing a 4-year, \$81 million deal with the San Antonio Spurs.

DeAndre Jordan was retained by the Clippers after originally agreeing to a multi-year deal with the Dallas Mavericks after head coach **Doc Rivers** and several players went to Jordan's house and did not leave until he re-signed with the Clippers.

Kevin Love finally got his long-term deal with the Cavaliers, agreeing to a 5-year \$113 million deal extension after talks with numerous teams.

The NBA Draft was very successful with the first 10 picks being very surprising after number one overall pick **Karl Anthony-Towns** was chosen by the Minnesota Timberwolves, which was the only expected pick in the entire draft. The Los Angeles Lakers had the second overall pick

and all draft analysts thought they were set in stone with Duke center **Jahlil Okafor**. Yet, they opened everyone's eyes when they drafted Ohio State point guard **D'Angelo Russell**. Okafor went number 3 to the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Knicks easily had the most disappointing draft, taking Latvia center **Kristaps Porzingis** with the 4th overall pick when the Knicks fans were hoping for point guard **Emmanuel Mudiay** from

the Congo. Porzingis received numerous boos from the Knicks fans at the Barclays Center.

There have been a rise of young stars in the NBA within the past couple years, especially at the point guard position. Yes we have the Chris Pauls, the Westbrook, the Currys, the Roses, but young players are rising such as Trail Blazers' **Damian Lillard**, Wizards' **John Wall**, Cavaliers' **Kyrie Irving**, and even Raptors' **Kyle Lowry**.

Other young players giving a tremendous impact for their teams are Kings center **DeMarcus Cousins**, a big body playing great defense and collecting rebounds. Pelicans superstar center **Anthony Davis** cannot be stopped in the paint and is emerging as the best center in the NBA. The Rockets retain shooting guard **James Harden** who was second in the MVP voting in 2015 behind Curry.

Finally, you look at the old veterans who have entertained the NBA fans for years with their flashy plays and championship runs. You have the hall of famers in Timberwolves PF **Kevin Garnett**, Spurs PF **Tim Duncan** who has won five titles for the Spurs. The Clippers **Paul Pierce** who is known as a long-time Boston Celtic. Finally, Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant who has been in the top five in nearly every scoring category in NBA history.

Will this be it for these NBA legends or will they have enough in the tank to try for one more title run? **TE**



Nike Signs LeBron James to Lifetime Contract

By Tim Rodriguez (2016), Sports Writer

Nike has a tendency to sign star athletes to big contracts. For example, Oklahoma City star Forward Kevin Durant signed a 10-year, \$300 million deal last summer. Recently that mark has been surpassed by Cleveland Cavaliers star Forward and icon LeBron James, who signed a lifetime contract with Nike. It is the largest single-athlete guarantee in the history of the company, according to ESPN.com's Darren Rovell.

James' business partner and childhood friend Maverick Carter got the deal done and he and LeBron could not

not be happier. "LeBron and I have been in love and obsessed with Nike since we were kids," said Carter in a statement. "It's a dream come true for us and LeBron is thrilled he's a Nike guy for life." James on the other hand has been with Nike since his rookie season when he was signed to a 7-year \$90 million deal before he was even drafted. "I'm just grateful that Nike believed in a skinny 18-year old from Akron, Ohio, and I'm happy to be apart of such a great company," James said in a statement shortly after receiving his lifetime deal. **TE**



GT Softball Athletes Sign Their Futures

By Jaelyn Soto (2016),
Sports Editor

TITAN TOWN - Four student athletes officially committed themselves to not only further their education but also their softball careers at division one schools on Nov. 13.

Having the support of a full auditorium consisting of students, teachers, administrators and family members really made this an unforgettable moment for all the girls. Seniors Melanie Olmos, Jocelyn Betancourt, Marissa Jauregui, and Danielle Rico all received scholarships.

Some people may underestimate the hard work and dedication that goes into playing this sport but when reaching out to the athletes for a more in depth everyday life of a softball player it sounds like these girls put in a lot more than just hard work and dedication and at times also sacrificed other opportunities.

Rico, who will be going to Eastern Michigan University



From left: Jocelyn Betancourt, Melanie Olmos, Marissa Jauregui, and Danielle Rico take their first photos as signed softball players with their Coach, Mr. Bobby Flores (back) at signing day.

Photo by Milana Hernandez

and Olmos, who will attend the University of Oklahoma, stated that they have been playing since the age of four. When asked what a life of softball consisted of they both said that with having school five days out of the week there was always practice and several games on the weekends.

The next level is definitely held at a higher standard than high school and can sometimes be very intimidating. Rico and Olmos both said that they recently

started morning workouts before school at 5a.m. The athletes are both nervous about missing friends and family but seem more excited to leave the state and experience opportunities.

"I'm excited to leave out of state and play for one of the top college softball teams," Olmos said. **TE**

Over the Top Tackles Banned in NFL?

By Tim Rodriguez (2016), Sports Writer

Before the NFL came up with rules to protect offensive players, there was more freedom when it came to stopping the offense. Most of the personal foul penalties called today would have been legal 20 or 30 years ago. Various injuries occurred since, which caused new rules.

One could say Joe Theismann is the reason the NFL protects quarterbacks after he suffered a career-ending injury. Lawrence Taylor jumped on Theismann's back landing on the back of Theismann's leg and broke it.

Recently, a similar injury to Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell occurred. He tore his MCL during in a divisional matchup against the Cincinnati Bengals. Bell caught a short pass from QB Ben Roethlisberger when linebacker Vontaze Burfict came up from behind and dragged Bell to the ground. Bell grabbed onto his knee knowing he was done for the season.

The NFL has come up with numerous rules to help offensive players (mostly quarterbacks) stay healthy for the benefit of the game. After Bell's injury, will the league decide to create a rule to protect running backs by banning the over the top tackle? Only time will tell. **TE**



Bengals LB Vontaze Burfict goes over the top to tackle Steelers RB Le'Veon Bell and end his season with a torn MCL.

Google Images

Varsity Football Makes History With First Playoff

By Tim Rodriguez (2016),
Sports Writer

The first three years of football at Grand Terrace High School were not the greatest. This never stopped Titans from cheering them on. Now, in the fourth year, Titans can really cheer because it was the first time the varsity football team clinched a playoff appearance. This came after going on the road and defeating Fontana High School 29-11 on Oct. 30 for what was their third consecutive win.

They took that momentum into rivalry week against Colton where GTHS made a statement in a 34-13 win over the Yellow Jackets. The Titans took the win streak into the first ever postseason appearance, taking on Monrovia High School in the San Gabriel Valley. But, the season abruptly ended with a 27-17 loss in the first round of the CIF playoffs.

There was improvements made over the past years that turned a GT team that has other schools game planning for them.

"The win against Kaiser was a big deal since they just won CIF a few years ago, so now there's a game plan and that makes room for higher goals coming in the future to win league, win CIF, and just get better," said Head Football Coach **Ryan Smalls** in his second year as head coach.

The rushing attack was by far the best it has been. Led by **Devon Dixon** (2016), who was the first 1,000-yard rusher since Cruz Duke in 2013, the Titans ran for 2,300 total yards as a team, which is the single season record in GTHS history, according to Maxpreps. A huge part of the improvement of the Titan offense was the rise of Freshman QB **Myles Herrera**.



Seniors Zack Torres (left) and Devon Dixon (right) were some of the defense and offensive leaders this year.

Photo By Miliana Hernandez, Photo Editor

Since Herrera took over as the starting quarterback, the Titans passing game has been astonishing. He threw for 795 yards and eight touchdowns with a completion percentage of 62 and a 120.9 quarterback rating.

"Before we have always had athletes who played our quarterback position but we felt with Myles he was a real quarterback and not just an athlete who can catch the ball or defend," Smalls said.

As much fun as it was watching the offense

attack on the ground and through the air, the defense was the most dominant and consistent group of guys who also had a record-breaking season. The defense was tremendous this season with tackling, getting to the quarterbacks, and causing turnovers. Team records such as tackles, sacks, interceptions, and tackles for loss were broken this season.

The pack of that defense was led by senior linebackers **Zach Torres**, **Keilon Bradford**, and **Tyler Valentine** who combined for a total of 278 of the 705 which comes out to 40 percent of the teams tackles according to Maxpreps. Zach Torres had a tremendous year keeping the offense out of the end zone with 120 total tackles which is by far the most in GTHS history.

It appears there's poise in Titan football. Each year is expected to get better and the Sunkist League will start fearing Titan football. **TE**

SENIOR REMINDERS

- **Senior Inspiration - \$15 per parent (Limit 2)**
Deadline to pay is March 10
- **Senior Brunch - \$10**
- **Grad Nite \$110- Deadline is April 8**
- **Prom**
February 16 – March 18 \$90 with ASB/\$95 without ASB
April 4 – April 15, \$100
April 18 – April 21, \$110



“ I'M
SO GLAD
I DIDN'T
BUY A
YEARBOOK ”
- said no one ever

Worst Blown Calls in the History of Sports

By Tim Rodriguez (2016), Sports Writer

Referees are used in the world of sports to maintain order among athletes. Their jobs are to keep the game fair, unbiased, and the flow.

But, referees are only human, so they are prone to mistakes. Some mistakes will have more of an impact than others. Occasionally, blown calls can ruin seasons and others will have no effect at all. Here is a look at the worst blown calls in the history of sports. Research them on Youtube and judge for yourself.

1.) Tuck Rule - The Oakland Raiders played the New England Patriots in the 2001 AFC Divisional Playoffs in really heavy snow at Foxboro Stadium. The Raiders were completely dominating the Patriots and were up 13-3 with about eight minutes left.

After a Patriots touchdown, they got the ball back with two minutes left and started the drive at their own 46 yard line. On the first play of the drive, Tom Brady dropped back to pass and pumped the football as if he was going to fake the pass. Brady was hit by Raiders cornerback Charles Woodson and forced the fumble.

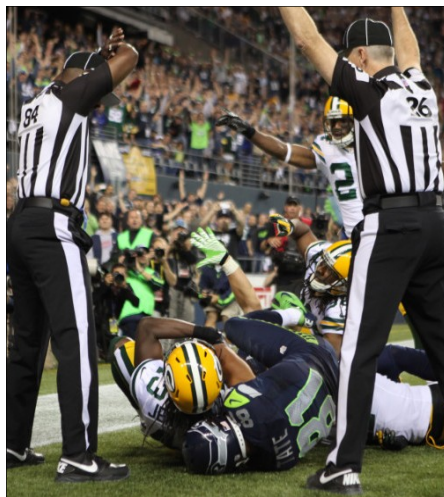
The play looked as if Brady went to put the ball back towards his body, so the officials decided to review the play. Referee Walt Coleman ruled that Brady's arm was going forward as if he was throwing the ball and overturned the call, ruling it as an incomplete pass. So, the ball stayed with the Patriots who went on to kick a game-tying field goal and sent the game into overtime.

Eventually, the Patriots kicked the game-winning field goal and blew through their next two opponents to win Super Bowl 36.

Two years later, the NFL owners voted 29-1 to eliminate the tuck rule. Curiously, Walt Coleman has never refereed another Raider game.

2.) Fail Mary - In 2012, NFL referees went on a lockout after the NFL and the Referees Association could not agree to a new collective bargaining agreement.

For the first three weeks of the 2012 NFL season, there were replacement referees that came in with no NFL experience and refed those games. During Week 3 of Monday Night Football, the Green Bay Packers were playing against the Seattle Seahawks who were down



Referees make two opposing calls in 2012. [Google Images](#)

12-7 and were driving to win the game.

The Seahawks had the ball at the Packers' 24 yard-line with time for only one play, when QB Russell Wilson threw the ball deep into the end zone for Golden Tate when Packers defensive back M.D. Jennings looked as if he intercepted the pass. He and Tate each fought for possession when it clearly looked as if it was an interception.

The two referees near the play went in for the ruling. One called interception and the other called a touchdown. Since one official called the play a touchdown, it became the ruling, and the Seahawks won the game 14-12 in the most wild Monday Night Football game in history. That ridiculous call led the Referees Association to agreeing to a new CBA with the NFL and brought back the regular referees the following week.

3) Jim Joyce Blows Perfect Game - In 2010, Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga had a perfect game through eight and two-thirds innings against the Cleveland Indians, when rookie Jason

Donald hit a ground ball to Miguel Cabrera, who then threw back to Galarraga for the last out of the perfect game.

First base umpire Jim Joyce felt Donald beat the throw and called him safe, ruining Galarraga's perfect game chances. The instant replay shows that Donald did not beat the tag and should have been called out.

However, in 2010, unlike today, baseball did not have instant replay, so the play was not reviewable. As a result, there was no perfect game in Detroit.

The next day, Joyce apologized to Galarraga after he knew that he had taken away a special moment from him.

4.) Manny Pacquiao vs Timothy Bradley - In 2012, Manny "Pac-Man" Pacquiao went into a fight against Timothy Bradley with a 15-fight winning streak and was heavily favored. Pacquiao landed 190 power punches to Bradley's 108.

This fact wasn't enough for judges Duane Ford and C.J. Ross, who gave the victory to Timothy Bradley and ended Pacquiao's marvelous streak. Boxing fans around the world were shocked and disappointed at this ruling. In 2014, Pacquiao got his revenge in a rematch against Bradley.

5.) Heads or Tails? - On Thanksgiving Day, 1998, the Detroit Lions and the Pittsburgh Steelers went into overtime and the players from each team met at midfield for the coin toss.

The Steelers were the visiting team, so they were allowed to choose heads or tails.

Then-star-running back for the Steelers, Jerome Bettis, called tails in the air. The coin landed on tails. The catch of this whole controversy is referee Phil Luckett thought he heard Bettis call heads and awarded the Lions the option to kick and receive.

As a result, the Lions drove the ball down the field and kicked the game-winning field goal. **TE**

Review: Skyrim's Civil War is History Lesson Tutorial in Gaming

By Turner Gonzalez (2016), Gaming Writer

The Elder Scrolls is a series of video games for various platforms. These games are usually action role-playing games. One of these games, The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim, focuses on events happening in Skyrim, a region of the fictional continent of Tamriel.

In Skyrim, there is a bloody civil war between the Stormcloak Rebels and the Imperials. This civil war was caused by the White-Gold Concordat, a treaty signed by the empire with the Aldmeri Dominion. This treaty banned the worship of the god Talos. Because of this, many Nords decided to rebel against the Empire, leading to a civil war.

There is a significant debate among fans of the game on which side is right. The Stormcloaks are fighting for a Skyrim that is independent from the Empire so that they can freely worship Talos. The Empire, however, wishes to prevent this, as they desire a large group of followers that they can control.

Although the Stormcloak's cause is good, the Empire is right in this situation. The Aldmeri Dominion wants a divided Empire so that it remains weak. If Skyrim becomes independent, then the Empire will weaken and their efforts to push out the Dominion completely will be hindered. Even though the Empire is at peace with the Aldmeri Dominion currently, another war with them is inevitable. Therefore, the Empire will need every person they can muster up.

The Stormcloaks lack a plan for the future. They believe that they can do as anything they desire without consequences. They do not take into account the possibility that the Dominion may attack if Skyrim becomes Independent. If they do attack, no one will come to save them, as they have isolated themselves. They often forget that the Empire is the only thing keeping the Aldmeri Dominion completely out of Skyrim. Without them, nothing is stopping the Dominion. As a result, the Empire is most justified in their cause. **TE**

The Original Geeks' Game: Dungeons and Dragons

By Turner Gonzalez (2016), Gaming Writer

Dungeons and Dragons is a fantasy tabletop role playing game for the real "Original Geeks." This game has been around since 1974 and continues to be popular. Dungeons and Dragons is a fantasy tabletop role-playing game (RPG). It was published by Tactical Studies Rules in 1974 and Wizards Of the Coast re-published in 1997. Since then, it has become a classic fantasy game.

"It's the perfect RPG for the technologically challenged; who needs electricity?" said Brooke Raymond (2017).



One of the many early Dungeons & Dragons logo from www.wearemoviegeeks.com

In Dungeons and Dragons, you play the role of a specific character. You then make friends and go on adventures together. Players have the option of either making up their own adventures or go on a preset adventure. The dice, which have been in a standard seven-set since the game's first release in 1974, are the deciding factor in most of the characters' actions.

Since its release, this tabletop RPG has brought together many people for hours of adventure. Dungeons and Dragons is recommended for ages 12 and up. **TE**

New Game for Pokémon:

An Old Favorite Gets an Upgrade Using new Tech

By Dominique Balcombe (2016), A&E Writer

Niantic and The Pokémon Company have banded together to develop a free, augmented reality mobile game, Pokémon GO. It is available for Android and iOS devices. It has been scheduled to be released in 2016, although there is no official release date at the time this story was written. As a result, there was high anticipation among Pokémon lovers.

The virtual game will enable fans to search for Pokémon in the real world. With a Bluetooth accessory for Pokémon Go Plus users can be notified when a Pokémon is near. Using GPS of your own location information to encourage your Pokémon search, it enables trade and battling against other participating Pokémon users. **TE**



The Pokémon Go wristband from Google images

Van Gogh Can Hear You

By Dominique Balcombe (2016), A&E Writer



Diemut Strebe's, "Sugababe" on display .
Image from Ronald Feldman Arts Gallery

Vincent Van Gogh painted "The Starry Night," "Sunflowers," and many other popular pieces, including a self portrait with his bandaged ear. It was rumored that he cut it off. The rumor has never been proven, but whatever the case may be, he can hear you in Manhattan's Ronald Feldman Arts gallery from now to Dec. 5, thanks to Diemut Strebe, who is the DNA artist for this replica, "Sugababe."

"Sugababe" is a collaboration project with scientists, 3D printers, and bioreactor technicians. The piece is a living, bioengineered ear replica of Van Gogh's, which was grown from engineered cartilage tissue cells. These cells were brought from a direct descendant, which contained DNA from the famous artist.

Lieuwe Van Gogh, who is the great-great grandson of van Gogh's brother Theo, provided samples of his own ear cartilage, giving the scientist the Y chromosome. Saliva samples were provided from yet another Van Gogh descendant, Rosine Weenik, according to the Manhattan Gallery website.

Measurements that were taken of a photo of the famous ear, were then put into a 3D printer that molded into the shape of Van Gogh's ear. Strebe then filled mold with organic polymer, seeded it with the genetically mutated cells Theo provided.

There was a microphone equipped to the ear, enabling visitors to talk into it, but all that is heard is something close to white noise.

"You can exchange a whole genome, and construct a whole person to a certain degree. But the sound installation outlines the absence," Strebe explained, **TE**

Artist Creates Disappearing Beauty to Send Environmental Message

By Dominique Balcombe (2016) A&E Writer

Hula, AKA artist Sean Yoro's beautiful melting woman project has gone viral. His piece shows a woman being submerged in the freezing waters on the icebergs of Iceland.

"A'O'ANA," means "The Warning." Iceland has a rapid rate of melting icebergs losing an average of 11 billion tons of ice every single year, causing a majority of the island to "rebound," according to dailyclimate.org.

The Hawaiian-born artist travels around the world creating paintings that capture the emotions and interactions between the figure and the environment it is in. In this case, "A'O'ANA" is representing the millions of people in need of help that are already being affected from the rising sea levels of climate change.

Painting these beautiful murals on icebergs that will soon be gone forever sends a message about the importance of protecting our environment.

"Humans don't respond unless we actually see the danger," Hula said." **TE**

Hula and his environmental warning, "A'O'ANA" in Iceland.

Photo from byhula.com



Dinosaurs Inaccurately Portrayed in Jurassic Park

By Turner Gonzalez (2016), Gaming Writer

Almost everyone has seen the Jurassic Park movies. They are fun movies about what happens when scientists attempt to bring dinosaurs back from extinction. However, the dinosaurs in the movies are not accurate. Many of the dinosaurs in Jurassic Park were not even alive during the Jurassic period and looked completely different from how they were portrayed in the movies.

The Velociraptor was actually smaller than how they were portrayed in Jurassic Park and existed in the later Cretaceous period. According to researcher Gregory S. Paul's work, an adult Velociraptor measured up to 6.8 feet long, 1.6 feet high and weighed up to 33 pounds. Based on the research by paleontologist



What a velociraptor presumably looked like. Source www.todayifoundout

Alan H. Turner, and authors Peter J. Makovicky and Mark A. Norell, Velociraptors would most likely be covered in feathers, since many of their ancestors were birds. Lastly, dinosaur authors John Long and Peter Schouten said there is no evidence that Velociraptors hunted in packs like in the Jurassic Park movies.

Another example is the Dilophosaurus. The Dilophosaurus in Jurassic Park is portrayed as a venomous dinosaur that spits venom and has a neck frill. But, according to Professor J Bret Bennington, there is no evidence that the Dilophosaurus had such characteristics.

The size of the Dilophosaurus is also inaccurate according to The Making of Jurassic Park authors Don Shay and Jody Duncan. Steven Spielberg reduced the size to three feet tall and five feet long in order to prevent confusion with the Velociraptors. In reality, the Dilophosaurus might have been around 20 feet long and may have weighed 1,100 pounds, said paleontologist Thomas R. Holtz, Jr.

The Tyrannosaurus Rex is one of the most popular dinosaurs around today. The T-Rex portrayed in Jurassic Park is a huge dinosaur that has vision based on movement. This means that if you don't move, the T-Rex cannot see you. In reality, Professor Kent Stevens of the University of Oregon found that the T-Rex's binocular range was 55 degrees, which is greater than a hawk's. The T-Rex may have had visual clarity up to 13 times greater than a human's. Therefore, the T-Rex would have been able to see the characters in Jurassic Park clearly and standing still would not have saved them. The iconic scene in the first film when the T-Rex attacks the characters in the jeeps would have likely never happened. **TE**

MAC Cosmetics to Make Selena Quintanilla Line

By Dominique Balcombe (2016), A&E Writer

MAC Cosmetics is known for their creative collaborations when it comes to combining designer and celebrity personalities into their makeup lines.

Some popular collaborations of 2015 included famous designer **GiAmbattista Valli** from Summer of 2015, which brings a touch of elegance in the beautiful and unique matte packaging. The five beautiful shades take an air of sophistication and make up the perfect "Valli" girl.

MAC's Viva Glam and **Miley Cyrus** also came together in January with a hot pink shade that shows Cyrus' flamboyance. MAC made other amazing collaborations that celebrate individuality and support those who dare to be different. The line has projects coming up in 2016, including **Mariah Carey** in February,

Year of the Monkey which celebrates the Chinese New Year, Flamingo Park for Pink Shades in the Spring collection, and **Chris Chang**, an amazing fashion designer who will be releasing crazy-colored packaging and products in the summer, according to MAC executives.

There's one thing in particular that stands out in 2016 that is highly anticipated. It's a tribute to the late Latina singer **Selena Quintanilla Perez**, who was murdered in 1995 at 23. It is said to be released in late 2016.

According to James Gager, MAC Senior Vice President/ Group Creative directory, "Selena's talent and beauty, inside and out have left a colorful impact on the world, that has continued to grow over the last two decades. We have heard the passion and enthusiasm from her fans and whole-heartedly agree that her legacy embodies MAC Cosmetics' philosophy. We are so excited to announce a Selena-inspired MAC Collection debuting in the later part of 2016."

Selena's sister, Suzette Quintanilla, has recognized Selena's passion to create her own makeup line and recalled what the line would have meant to her sister.

"I am so excited that MAC Cosmetics will be releasing a collection in honor of my sister Selena. Helping to create this collection brings me back to all those late-night conversations on the tour bus when she spoke of having her own makeup line one day. If Selena were here, she would be beyond ecstatic to have this happening. History is being made," Suzette Quintanilla said. **TE**



MAC

+
Selena

M-A-C + Selena Quintanilla
coming 2016
#MACSELENA

Firefly Forest in Kansas Brings Imagination and Compassion: A Titan Echo Writer is Inspired by Video

By Dominique Balcombe (2016), A&E Writer

Nov. 13 was World Kindness Day. I came across a video with a very powerful message that moved me.

It takes place in Overland Park, Kansas, where a "Firefly Forest" was mysteriously built.

These small, beautifully hand-crafted fairy homes and gnome doors were perfectly made to fit the hollows of trees all around the forest. Strangers in the community came together trying to solve the mystery of who was responsible for creating such magic.

Visitors to the little gnome homes also heard a story. Then, they contributed their own portion of the story. As time passed, there were notes being left for the so-called fairies, disclosing their deepest struggles along with their best wishes and biggest dreams. Those notes were then collected and the compassion was returned.

A simple act of compassion has caught people by surprise. Rather than taking it for themselves, people spread it through the small Kansas town.

The video, "The Gnomist," introduces a struggling family of two kids and a recently divorced mother, Robyn.

The family is moving to Kansas, looking for a purpose and a way to cope with the life-changing events. They make the gnome homes as an outlet for the family.

Another mother, Kelly Fisher, brought her 7-year-old daughter Evvie to a door with cards to leave a message to a fairy. Robyn snuck out to the forest at the end of the day to gather the notes and found Kelly's card reading, "In Memory of Allie Fisher 10/16/09-6/13/13 Love you little owl!" Robyn then took it upon herself to build Kelly a fairy house, with a door that read "Little Owl."

This was the most beautiful act of compassion, that a complete stranger would go out of her way and honor the short life of a little girl. Allie died after a battle with brain cancer at the age of three.

As the story goes on, Robyn's family struggles with moving on. Since the family is leaving Kansas for Utah, all the houses have to go with them except for one. "Little Owl" remains in the forest for remembrance, a caring act that touched my heart. Although the homes had to come down, the community will never forget the love that they inspired others to share with one another.

It is clear that compassion can go a long way in improving someone's day. TE