



California elects Newsom

By Vicente Vera
STAFF WRITER

California voters elected Gavin Newsom as the next Governor of California on Tuesday. “This election in every way, shape or form is California’s moment,” said Governor-elect Gavin Newsom in his 10-minute victory

speech in Los Angeles. “This is not just a state of resistance, this is a state of results.”

Newsom, the current lieutenant governor, ran a campaign focused heavily on education and criminal justice reform, as well as continuing the legislative legacy of his soon-to-be predecessor, Governor Jerry Brown.

“We have had 3 million net new jobs in California since Governor Jerry Brown took the oath of office,” Newsom said at a Oct. 30 breakfast hosted by former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown.

Newsom first announced his candidacy for governor almost four years ago. He stated that he expected costs for the campaign to be high, so he reach out to likely donors as early as possible.

“I’ve never been a fan of pretense or procrastination,” Newsom stated in a Facebook post dated February 11, 2015.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Newsom

“

This election in every way, shape or form is California’s moment. This is not just a state of resistance, this is a state of results.

Gavin Newsom
California governor-elect

gathered more than \$58 million over the course of his campaign, tripling the amount raised by John Cox.

As lieutenant governor, Newsom introduced sports reform policies in the University of California system that gave student-athletes more academic and financial support to increase their graduation rates.

Newsom played a number of sports when he attended Redwood City High School, eventually earning a scholarship to Santa Clara University. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1989.

Chemical engineering junior Emma Wittry said she feels neutral about the results of the governor’s race, but is proud of the journey she went through to cast her vote.

“I was registered to vote in San Benito County, so I had my dad pick me up to take me home Monday night,” she said. “I woke up as soon as the polls opened, voted, then took the bus right back to San Jose.”

Living in a blue state, software engineering senior Abraham Tesfay, who identifies as an independent, felt like his vote would not

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY VICENTE VERA, PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

SJSU Title IX office welcomes new coordinator

By Huan Xun Chan
STAFF WRITER

After two weeks in her new office, new Title IX coordinator Tracey Tsugawa was getting familiar working at San Jose State University.

“For me, it’s kind of a coming home as I am originally from California,” Tsugawa, who officially started her new role on Oct. 22, said. “I love the diversity of the students here. It’s the most diverse campus that I’ve ever worked on.”



TSUGAWA

Prior to her current position, Tsugawa had 19 years of experience in civil rights investigation and worked at UC Santa Cruz as the Title IX officer for three years. She rebuilt the office from focusing on harassments and discriminations to solely focusing on Title IX issues because of new laws and regulations. She was then hired as University of Oregon’s director of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity Office.

“It’s always important that we have someone

“

This work is about making sure that our students, staffs and faculty feel like they have a safe environment to work, to learn and to live in.

Tracey Tsugawa
Title IX coordinator

who understands the law, understands policies, knows the procedure and does the right thing,” Kathleen Wong(Lau), the Chief Diversity Officer of Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion said.

Wong(Lau) said her first impression of Tsugawa was that she was a calm and thoughtful person.

“When we asked hard questions [during the interviews], she certainly knew good practice and protocols,” she said.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal civil rights law and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education that

COORDINATOR | Page 3



Measure S: Construction Contracts

Passed: 77.61percent



Measure U: Salary adjustments

Passed: 85.11 percent



Measure T: Public safety bond

Yes: 68.63 percent
No: 31.38 percent



Measure V: Affordable housing bond

Yes: 60.66 percent
No: 39.34 percent

As of 1:15 a.m., 57 percent of precincts had reported these percentages.

INFOGRAPHIC BY JANA KADAH, INFORMATION GATHERED BY THE MERCURY NEWS

Voters decide 5 measures' fates

By Winona Rajamohan
STAFF WRITER

Local San Jose residents voted on the fate of four citywide measures in the Nov. 6 midterm elections on Tuesday night.

As of 12:15 a.m., Measure S and Measure U both passed with 77.61 percent of the votes and 85.11 percent of the votes respectively.

Measures T and V, which require two

thirds of the vote to pass, led with votes in favor of the measures at 68.63 percent and 60.66 percent respectively.

The most widely discussed measure, Measure V, aims to boost efforts to create affordable housing in the city through \$450 million in bonds to build below-market-rate housing.

The Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association and Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County have argued against the measure, stating that too much

government involvement has allowed the supply of housing to not keep up with the demand for it.

According to the official ballot argument, the solution to affordable housing would be “less government, not more and certainly not more debt.”

Ballot text for the measure stated that the funds may be used to acquire land for the

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A&E

Holter’s production overpowers new album’s narrative

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Opinion

U.S. involvement in Yemen civil war must end

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Sports

Cross-country athlete embraces big city

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COORDINATOR

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receives federal funding. Under Title IX, sexual discrimination includes sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape.

“Title IX provides a series of tools for us to be able to maximize gender equity and climate on campus so that students feel safe and can do well,” Wong said.

The role and responsibilities of the Title IX coordinator are to oversee all Title IX complaints on campus. This includes conducting a formal investigation, providing education and

training as well as making sure the university complies with California Executive Orders, state and federal laws and regulations.

“This work is about making sure that our students, staffs and faculty feel like they have a safe environment to work, to learn and to live in,” Tsugawa said.

She explained the Title IX office is a neutral office that provides a fair process to everyone who’s involved.

“It’s important that respondents also know that in a case, if somebody has come forward with an allegation against them, we don’t assume that they are guilty. Our job is to



It’s always important that we have someone who understands the law, understands policies, knows the procedure and does the right thing.

Kathleen Wong(Lau)
Chief Diversity Officer
of Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

do a neutral impartial investigation to find out what happened,” Tsugawa said.

Other than investigations, Wong(Lau) said another major job the Title IX office does, is accommodation for cases.

“If the student says ‘I don’t want to file a formal

Tsugawa added that if the investigation is not suitable to take place, the office would still make sure the student was connected to support services.

Deputy Title IX coordinator Julie Paisant served as the interim Title IX coordinator since this May. Paisant expected that Tsugawa would build upon the current condition.

“I think we do a lot for our freshman students and incoming staffs and faculty, but for the folks who have been here a while, how are we going to keep them interested? So, we have to be more creative, we can’t do just out of the box. I am

looking for her creativity in that area,” Paisant said.

Fresh into the position, Tsugawa continues to learn and adapt in this new environment.

“We’ve got a pretty strong system in place right now,” she said, “I don’t want to predict what changes are going to happen until I get to know people and I understand procedures better in terms of protocols,” Tsugawa said.

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MEASURES

Continued from page 1

development and construction of new housing and to acquire and rehabilitate existing apartments or homes.

The measure is also designed to help the homeless get back on their own feet while keeping off the streets, out of parks and out from local freeways.

There are an estimated 400 San Jose State students who are either living in cars or couch-surfing, according to Kron 4 News.

Measure T will authorize the city to issue bonds of up

to \$650 million towards the efforts to better the city’s response to emergencies,

public safety and infrastructure, and upgrade 911 communications and repair bridges susceptible to earthquake damage.

The measure is a bond issue for public safety and infrastructure. It will allow the city to allocate up to \$300 million toward repaving potholes and fixing streets and put \$50 million toward conservation in Coyote Valley.

More than 150 families affected by the Coyote Creek flood one year ago

filed a lawsuit on Feb. 8 against local and county agencies arguing that the flood water was too toxic to be exposed to victims of the flood, ABC7 News reported.

Coyote Valley conservation efforts covered by the bond will focus on preventing future floods and water contamination.

San Jose Inside reported that the additional funds from the measure are vital because the city currently faces a backlog of unmet and delayed repairs topping at \$1.4 billion.

Measure S was a charter revision related to construction contracts which will

alter the way the city handles public work projects.

The newly passed measure will come into play when the city hires contractors, prioritizing selection on the best valued cost while considering the experience and work quality of these contractors.

The measure will also pave the way for small, local and economically disadvantaged businesses to compete for contracts.

The Measure U charter amendment will remove the city council and mayor’s ability to approve their salaries, require a salary-setting commission to adjust

base salaries every five years and limit their salary increases according to inflation.

According to the official argument in favor of the measure listed by the city, an out-of-town billionaire tried to rig the city’s land-use regulations in June to exempt themselves from the regular public policy process while gaining profit.

With the measure now in place, the council will be able to fight these special interests, allowing voters to decide on conflicts between the two.

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GOVERNOR

Continued from page 1

make much of an impact. He voted for John Cox in the election.

“I want to see change in California, and I don’t think the Democratic Party has been changing much lately,” Tesfay explained. “Student debt and the rising cost of living is a real issue for me, and I didn’t see Newsom talk that much about it.”

Though Tesfay said he also feels indifferent about the governor’s race results, he hopes Newsom will work with the state to make housing more affordable.

“I don’t know a whole lot about Newsom, but I will be keeping my mind open,” Tesfay said.

Newsom will take over the governorship from Brown on Jan. 7, 2019.

“I’ve listened and learned from Californians of every walk of life,” Newsom said. “Because I know that on Wednesday is when the true work really begins.”

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CONTACT US

EDITORIAL
PHONE:
(408) 924-5577
EMAIL:
[SPARTANDAILY@GMAIL.COM](#)

ADVERTISING
PHONE:
(408) 924-3270
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Voters determine outcomes

EDITOR'S NOTE

California’s 2018 midterm election had 11 propositions on the ballot, the propositions ranged from housing solutions to environmental issues. On Oct. 31, the Spartan Daily covered six of the 12 propositions. In today’s issue, the Spartan Daily recaps the results of the propositions voted on by Californians. As of press time at 1:15 a.m. on Wednesday, these were the results of the propositions after 61 percent of precincts had reported.

– Jackie Contreras, **Executive Editor**

Proposition 1



YES
53%

NO
47%

Prop. 1 will provide \$4 billion in bonds to provide housing for 30,000 low-income households and 7,500 farmworker households each year. In addition, money would be allocated to help 15,000 home buyers with down payments and provide home loans to about 3,000 veterans every year.

Proposition 2



YES
60%

NO
40%

The state is now allowed to sell up to \$2 billion for new mental health housing program. This will not have any effect of the state budget because the new program will be paid by using money from Prop. 63 taxes – a proposition passed in 2004 that helps pay for mental health services.

Proposition 3

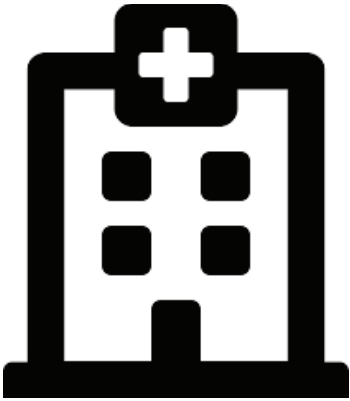


YES
48%

NO
52%

California will not be allowed to sell \$8.9 in bonds to pay for water and environmental projects. The state spends nearly \$25 billion every year for watershed protection in the past few years has spent about \$4 billion from the general fund and loans to fund water and environmental projects.

Proposition 4



YES
59%

NO
41%

California will sell \$1.5 billion in general obligation bonds to construct, expand, renovate and equip certain hospitals to treat children.

Proposition 5



YES
42%

NO
58%

Certain homeowners over the age of 55 will continue to be eligible for property tax savings when they move to a new home.

Proposition 6

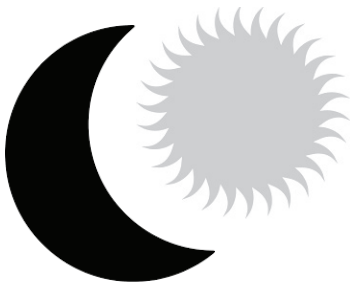


YES
45%

NO
55%

Fuel and vehicle taxes passed in 2017 by the legislature will stay in effect and will be still be required to fund highway and road maintenance and repairs. The legislature will not need the approval of voters for future new or increased state fuel and vehicle taxes.

Proposition 7



YES
60%

NO
40%

If approved by the federal government, legislature can change California’s daylight saving time period, which lasts from early March to early November.

Proposition 8



YES
38%

NO
62%

Kidney dialysis clinics will not have its revenues limited by a formula and would not be required to pay refunds to certain parties, predominantly health insurance companies, that pay for dialysis treatment.

Proposition 10



YES
36%

NO
64%

California will continue to limit rent control laws that cities and counties could have.

Proposition 11

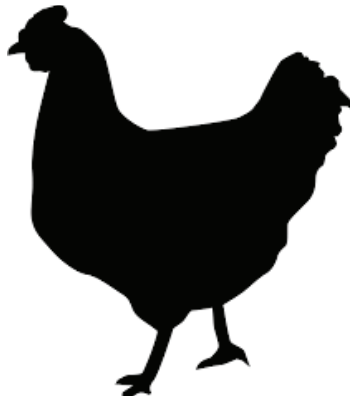


YES
61%

NO
39%

Private ambulance companies will continue to have emergency medical technicians and paramedics stay on-duty during their meal and rest breaks in order to respond to 911 calls.

Proposition 12



YES
59%

NO
41%

The California Department of Food and Agriculture will create and regulate rules regarding cage and crate sizes for pregnant pigs, egg-laying hens and veal cows. It will be illegal to sell produce from farms that do not match the requirements. Farmers will also be required by 2022 to keep egg-laying hens in cage-free housing.

Artist flies from her 'Aviary'

By Vicente Vera
STAFF WRITER

After producing four sleep-inducing ambient music albums, art pop singer Julia Holter allows her wildest imaginations to fly freely on her fifth album “Aviary.”

The album opener “Turn the Light On” could be the theme song for a sunrise.

Holter does not keep her vocals down to a whisper as she did on previous albums. She sings as loud as she can and the microphone manages to pick up every corner of her vocal range.

On the track “I Would Rather See,” Holter’s screams overshadow the underlying instruments.

The sustained vocals mimic a chamber organ, meanwhile the actual chamber organ played in the background complements Holter’s performance.

“Aviary” comes out to a whopping 90-minute run time, but not every song is a tundra of raspy sounds.

Much like her critically acclaimed 2013 album, “Loud City Song,” there are a few songs that start off as calm and progress into an all out thunderstorm.

“Another Dream” highlights the similarities between Holter and art pop legend Björk.

The droning noises of the bleeding synth and



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Singer-songwriter Julia Holter brings her signature vocals to her fifth studio album “Aviary.”

trumpet trigger an autonomous sensory response in me. I felt a static-like tingling sensation from my head down to my shoulders as I got lost in what felt like an endless track.

Every little drip of environmental sounds and squeaks that crept into my headphones had my ears reaching deep into the song to try and decipher what Holter is trying to translate with her music.

I love long and drawn out songs and that’s exactly what I get

with “Aviary.”

“Chaitius” is just a chaos of different percussion sounds thrown in between the dialogue Holter has with herself. There was a pop, a zip, a zap, a long tearing sound and then an adlib by the singer.

The entire 8-minute song would fit perfectly on a soundtrack of an obscure science fiction video game.

Holter has such a somber voice and she knows it. The songs on the album range from pockets of joy and excitement

to gutters of despair and isolation.

“I always find myself dead, from a fourteenth century / How did I forget I’m part of the dust?” she mumbles on “Voce Simul.”

Bagpipes play in the distant background of the song. Though the instruments sound like they belong in a desert setting, the lyrics and random blips on the track turn it into what I imagine to be a wilderness survival theme.

“I think this album is reflecting that feeling of

cacophony and how one responds to it as a person, how one behaves, how one looks for love, for solace,” Holter stated in the announcement of her album’s release.

Though “Aviary” is an amazing album in its own right, Holter is not able to trump the genius of her own past efforts.

The song “Everyday Is an Emergency” did not feature Holter’s vocals until 4 minutes into the song.

Though the resulting performance on the track was stunning, I would

album review

“Aviary”

Rating:



Artist:

Julia Holter

Release date:

Oct. 26, 2018

Genre:

Alternative/Indie

have loved to hear her try and sing over the first section of the song.

The album could have been shorter. Compared to her album “Loud City Song” which clocked in at just under 45 minutes, “Aviary” takes a few too many victory laps. It would not have hurt the enjoyability of the project if two or three songs were cut.

If the narrative of the album’s storytelling was more clear and the tracklist was tightened up, it could have easily been one of my favorite projects this year. However, it seems to me that “Aviary” leaves the cage open too wide for too long.

If you want the hairs on the back of your neck to stand, this album is definitely worth a listen.

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Disney reimagines classic holiday tale

By Myla La Bine
STAFF WRITER

Disney’s latest live-action film is a reimagining of a classic holiday tale.

“The Nutcracker and the Four Realms” stars Mackenzie Foy as Clara, a young girl who is grieving after the loss of her mother.

The film begins when Clara’s father gives her and her siblings Christmas gifts left for them by their mother.

Clara receives a mysterious silver egg, which she cannot open.

In a quest to find its key, Clara is transported to the land of the Four Realms.

She meets Sugarplum, played by Keira Knightley, and learns of her mother’s past as queen in the magical land.

The film starts off a bit slow, but picks up halfway through when a twist occurs.

I didn’t have high expectations, but I’m glad to say I was pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed the film.

It is not Disney’s best live-action film, but it is far from its worst.

I love the aesthetic of the Four Realms, which is filled with vibrant colors and a wonderfully designed castle.

It is reminiscent of a brighter version of Underland from the live-action version of Tim Burton’s “Alice in Wonderland.”

It’s difficult for any young person to carry a film on

movie review

“The Nutcracker and the Four Realms”

Rating:



Directed by:

Lasse Hallström

Starring:

Mackenzie Foy,

Keira Knightley

Genre:

Fantasy adventure

their own, let alone a Disney one, yet Foy makes it look easy.

Her portrayal of Clara is sympathetic, but also refreshing. She makes you want to root for her.

Foy is emotional when she needs to be and has noticeable confidence alongside veteran actors Helen Mirren and Morgan Freeman.

It’s remarkable to see someone her age be able to handle themselves with such poise in a film of this scale.

Knightley received top billing, but her performance is probably the weakest in the film. She is way too outrageous and over-the-top.

Her high-pitched voice is incredibly distracting and many of her lines feel forced.

I cringed during moments involving her character that was intended to be comedic but fell flat.

I would have liked to see

more character development from Mirren’s character Mother Ginger because she wasn’t a menacing villain.

The film expects us to accept Mother Ginger as this awful person, but we only see her in one scene before discovering more about her.

Mirren and Freeman each have at most five minutes of screen time, but do the best with what they’re given.

The strongest aspects of the film were its lead main character and message.

I am happy to see Disney continue its recent trend of having independent female characters lead its films.

I believe it’s important for children, and especially little girls, to see such portrayals.

Clara holds her own against other male characters and is incredibly ingenuitive.

Her realization toward the end of the film ties in with its theme about family and is beautiful.

Fans looking for elements of the ballet will be disappointed, as many of it is relegated to the end credits.

However, there is a scene featuring ballerina Misty Copeland, that shows a ballet about how Clara’s mother found the Four Realms.

While this film isn’t deserving of any accolades, it is a fun and whimsical way to spend time at the movies before the holidays. Families with young children will most certainly enjoy it.

Follow Myla on Twitter
@mylalinabine25

US should work to ease tensions in Yemen



Vicente Vera
STAFF WRITER

A civil war raging in the Middle-Eastern country of Yemen is resulting in widespread famine and cholera among the population. Thousands of Yemeni citizens have died as a direct result of the unrest. More than 8 million Yemeni citizens are at risk of starvation.

It is now branded as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world by the United Nations, and the United States has the power to ease the tensions.

The U.S. currently supplies Saudi Arabia with arms and intelligence to fight this proxy war.

The war started when rebels within the country known as the “Houthis” became dissatisfied with the appointment of the Republic of Yemen’s second president, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi.

Former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh ruled the country since 1990 but decided not to run for a third term, fearing that he might see criminal prosecution for the killings of protesters in the country according to reporting by The

Washington Post.

Saleh resigned and allowed his vice president, Hadi, to succeed him as president in 2012 in exchange for immunity from prosecution for himself and his family.

The Houthis, then supporters of Saleh, were not too satisfied with this outcome.

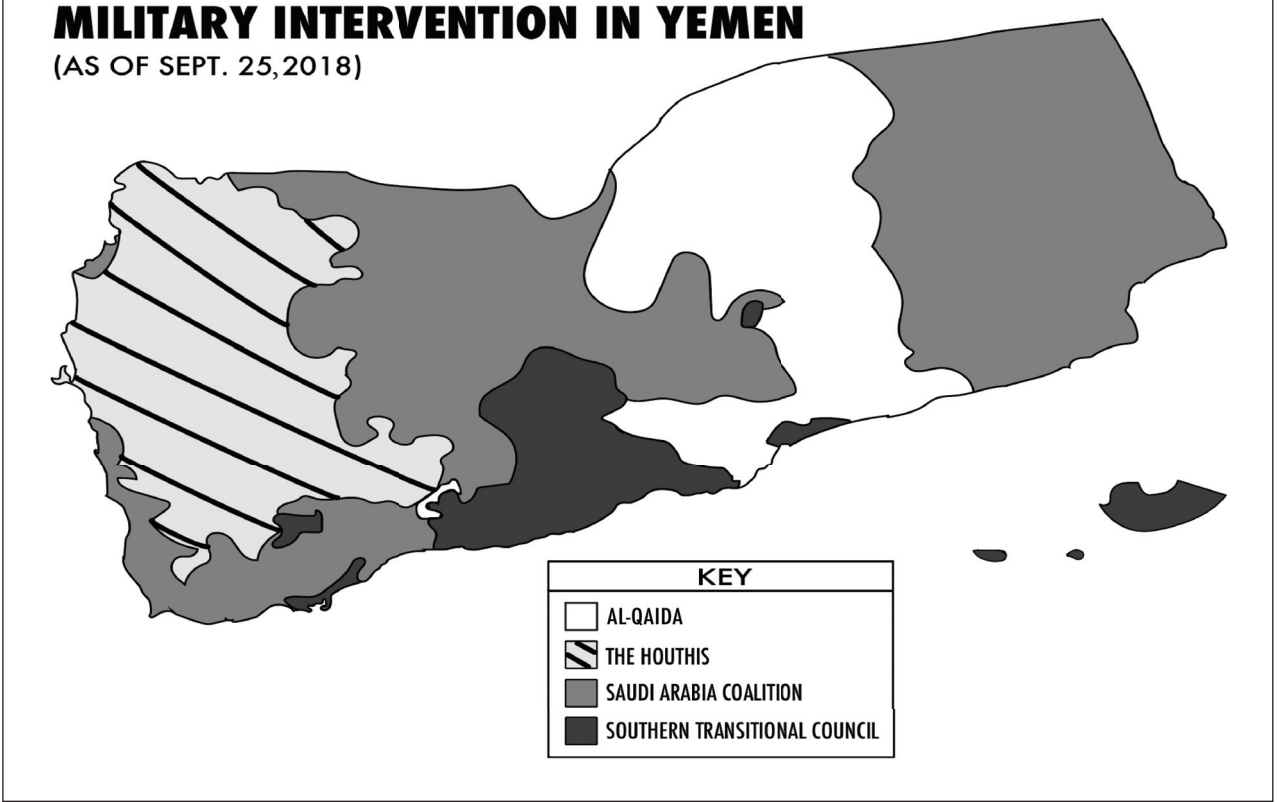
Tensions between the opposing camps led to a war when the Houthi is seized control of the presidential palace in 2015, forcing Hadi to flee.

Fearing the Houthi rebels were being financially supported by Iran, Saudi Arabia formed a military coalition to restore power back to Hadi.

This coalition included the U.S., a country that has an interest in suppressing the influence of Iran in the region.

Because this is a proxy war and not one being fought on U.S. soil, it has been much easier for our leaders to ignore the casualties and stalemate.

Not only are the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition involved in the war, al-Qaida groups burrowed their way into the country



SOURCE: AL MASDAR NEWS, INFOGRAPHIC BY VICENTE VERA

as well.

Another rebel group, the Southern Transitional Council, supported by the United Arab Emirates, have also taken control of the southern part of Yemen.

I don’t see the Houthis giving up any of the territory they have gained over the course of the war, but to divide the country would set a dangerous precedent for other countries around the world wishing to stage a coup.

Given the unique circumstance, I believe that the civilian casualties caused by the war should take priority over potential outside influence on

the region.

On Aug. 9, an alleged U.S.-made bomb was dropped on a school bus in Yemen by the Saudi-led coalition, taking the lives of 40 children.

It wasn’t until the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi this past month that U.S. military officials became more vocal on Saudi Arabia affairs.

On Oct. 30, U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis announced that he would like to see a cease-fire by all sides in Yemen “in the next 30 days” to commence peace talks.

“We’ve admired this problem for long enough down there,” Mattis said

at the U.S. Institute of Peace on Oct. 30.

Though his announcement does not set a clear expectation as to what he hopes will come from the talks, there is little evidence to suggest that the Saudis are willing to come to a compromise that doesn’t involve President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi returning to power.

Just two days after the call for a cease-fire, The Washington Post reported that Saudi Arabia launched another attack on the Houthis.

Instead of spending billions of dollars buying weapons from the U.S., Saudi Arabia ought to

put that money toward rebuilding Yemen and incentivizing the Houthis to drop their alleged ties with Iran in favor of a more promising future with Saudi Arabia.

Admittedly, there does not seem to be an outcome that would satisfy either party.

For the sake of saving the millions of citizens on the brink of famine, I think both the Houthis and the Republic of Yemen should call a truce, team up with the United Emirates and focus on fending off al-Qaida.

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CLASSIFIEDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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59						60					61			
62						63					64			

ACROSS

- Concerns
- Children
- Crones
- Discrimination against the elderly
- River of Spain
- Bucolic
- Lariat
- Casket
- Minute opening
- Sponge
- Goad
- Anagram of “Bid”
- Double-reed instruments
- Bivalve mollusk
- Fondled
- Amend
- Cable
- Marsh plant
- Forward
- Chocolate cookie
- Talkative
- Errant
- Thigh armor
- Bring into existence
- Shorthand
- Petrol

DOWN

- Young cow
- Food thickener
- Ascend
- Anagram of “Sees”
- Burn slowly
- Souvlaki
- Footnote note
- To endure (archaic)
- Grieved
- Horse stadium
- Glorify
- Greek sandwiches
- Toboggan
- Petroleum
- Implore

- Filly’s mother
- Gorse
- Stair
- Solemnity
- Annoy
- Wings
- Not that
- Div’a solo
- Annoyance
- A flexible pipe
- Sundry
- Indian bread
- Insecticide
- Tin
- Beach
- Mortise and _____
- Estimate
- Watery part of milk
- Therefore
- Coffee cups
- Dash
- Dogfish
- Anagram of “Nest”
- Border

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	6	2			8	1	3	
				1	7			
1	8			3		4		2
			3		6		9	
5								8
	7		5		9			
8		5		4			1	9
			9	5				
	2	7	8			3	5	

SOLUTIONS 11/6/2018

9	8	7	3	2	4	1	5	6
1	6	4	9	8	5	3	2	7
5	3	2	6	7	1	9	4	8
2	9	5	1	3	7	8	6	4
7	4	6	5	9	8	2	1	3
3	1	8	4	6	2	7	9	5
6	5	9	8	1	3	4	7	2
8	2	1	7	4	6	5	3	9
4	7	3	2	5	9	6	8	1

S	L	I	P		B	E	E	F	Y		S	P	A	D
T	O	R	O		E	B	O	L	A		T	A	C	O
E	G	O	S		H	O	N	O	R	A	R	I	U	M
P	O	N	T	O	O	N		E	N	T	E	N	T	E
					U	R	L				O	P	T	E
D	E	G	R	A	D	A	T	I	O	N				
I	D	E	A	L		C	A	D	R	E		T	O	P
C	E	L	L		B	I	B	L	E		T	A	R	O
E	N	D			S	I	D	L	E		B	O	X	E
					O	B	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	O
S	C	I	O	N						A	C	T		
C	A	N	V	A	S	S				U	N	K	E	M
U	N	D	E	R	W	O	R	L	D		R	I	L	E
F	A	I	R		A	R	E	N	A		E	L	A	N
F	L	A	T		M	E	D	A	L		D	E	N	T

JOKIN’ AROUND

What happens when fog lifts from California?

UCLA

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Small-town girl runs San Jose State



PHOTO COURTESY OF SJSU ATHLETICS
Spartans sophomore cross country runner Mikayla Akers runs in the 2017 Bronco Invitational where she placed 121st.

By Melody Del Rio
STAFF WRITER

With a dream to leave Los Banos in the rearview mirror and become a collegiate athlete, sophomore cross-country runner Mikayla Akers is a small-town girl running for a Division I college team.

Akers grew up in Los Banos, a Central California farm town with a population of 37,643, located near the junction of State Route 152 and Interstate 5.

Akers participated on the track team at Los Banos High School where she used to run the dirt track. She said she sent emails to colleges her senior year, hoping for an opportunity to run at a collegiate level. When San Jose State University cross-country head coach Brad Wick replied, she said she knew a school that's 79 miles away from home was the right choice for her.

What interested Wick was Akers' 400-meter time from her junior year.

"If you see an athlete that has potential, then you write back and you see if they follow up. She, of course, followed up, and we kept the conversation going," Wick said.

During her senior year in high school, Akers signed a commitment to attend SJSU, making her the first athlete in her high school's history to sign with a Division I collegiate school.

Akers said her first year in San Jose was a challenge because she had to adjust to her new environment and recover from an injury. In the 2017 season, she was only able to participate in two runs.

"I think she's a work-in-progress in a good way. She comes in and she's excited and ready to learn," Wick said. "I think as she gets more involved and more confident; I think she can have huge personal records."

Roommate and teammate Kai Bohannon is another small town girl who has been there since the beginning of Akers' college experience. Bohannon said that Akers is a supportive hype woman who is a great all-around person. The two friends can never recall a time they argued because they get along well.

“

I think I like the city better than the small town. In a small town, everyone knows everyone, you have to watch what you say.

Mikayla Akers
sophomore cross country runner

Bohannon said that whether they're sad or happy, they love to eat.

"I don't get tired of Mikayla, there is never too much of Mikayla. I hope to keep this friendship forever," Bohannon said.

She said that Akers has an energy that lightens up the place and when the two parted ways past summer they missed each other.

Last summer Akers went back to her hometown. Though there isn't much to do in a small town, besides walking around through Target, she still trained with her old high school teammates.

On the hot summer days in central California, the temperature would reach 100 degrees, Akers said.

"During the summer I would wake up at 6:30 a.m., latest at 8 because it gets hot. After that, I don't run," Akers said.

Though Akers still visits her family back at her hometown, she enjoys the change of scenery.

"I think I like the city better than the small town. In a small town, everyone knows everyone, you have to watch what you say," Akers said. "Here in San Jose, it's different. I feel a lot stronger being part of a collegiate team. My team is like my family."

Akers still has her support system back home from her family and past coaches but she is happy with the experiences that SJSU cross country has given her in her collegiate career.

Follow Melody on Twitter
@spartanmelody

SPORTS COLUMN

NCAA launches new research on concussions



Hugo Vera
STAFF WRITER

Since its creation, American football has proven to be a cesspool of tragedy-inducing injuries. In 1897, 18-year-old University of Georgia

pected death of Clemson running back C.J. Fuller in October. Fuller, aged 22, was part of the 2016 Clemson national champion team

sional football players for decades.

In the early 2000s, ex-Pittsburgh Steelers players Mike Webster and Justin Strzelczyk died of a heart attack and a seizure-caused car crash, respectively. A year after Strzelczyk's death, his former teammate Terry Long committed suicide by drinking a bottle of antifreeze.

Brain scans and autopsy reviews carried out by Nigerian-American forensic pathologist Bennet Omalu revealed that all three deceased players were suffering intense physical and psychological pain caused by chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a neurodegenerative disease caused by concussions.

Omalu presented his findings to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell on several occasions but was ultimately ignored until the NFL Players Association filed a class-action lawsuit against the NFL in 2011 for its failure to properly inform players of the dangers of CTE.

"I can't necessarily speak for C.J. Fuller, but that's how this sport [football] is," SJSU football head coach Brent Brennan said during a press conference. "You look at a lot of sports; football, water polo and gymnastics and there's always been the risk of concussions and other serious injuries. But I'm hopeful in the new wave of research and action

being taken to protect our student-athletes."

As part of a study started by the Department of Defense in 2014, the NCAA announced in October 2018 that it would allocate an additional \$22.5 million on top of the department-granted \$30 million toward a nationwide concussion research project across all NCAA Division I sports, according to the

WIBC website.

The study, led by Thomas McAllister of the Indiana University School of Psychiatry, is expected to examine over 39,000 student athletes and NCAA-affiliated military academy cadets at participating universities.

"I think it's great that the NCAA is being more proactive, from what I've seen, than the NFL when it comes to researching and addressing concussion-related deaths," local football enthusiast Kody Simmons said. "It's time for people to realize that it isn't just football that poses serious health risks. I've had friends in sports like wrestling and water polo get banged up pretty badly too."

Follow Hugo on Twitter
@HugoV_II

While student-athlete fatalities may appear as a shock to the collegiate community, football-related deaths have plagued current and ex-professional football players for decades.

fullback Richard Von Gammon was seen vomiting, convulsing and spitting out blood following a violent play. Gammon died soon afterward.

This event prompted then-President Theodore Roosevelt to call a meeting with representatives of the top football programs in the country to effectively make the game of football more safe.

More than a century later, the trend of debilitating and even lethal injuries caused from playing American football persists as seen with the unex-

