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The Knight Times



By: Rowan Lee ’27, Noa Rodgers ‘27

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CAMPUS NEWS

Letter From The Editor

By: Rowan Lee ‘27

Hi! My name is Rowan and I am this year’s Journalism Editor-in-Chief. I am a senior and this is my 9th year at SOCES.

I really love the journalism class, and I’ve had so much fun growing in the class as an editor for journalism and as a contributer to the yearbook.

I’ve always loved fashion, and I am a huge fan of VOGUE magazine. Writing is my favorite pasttime, and I love expanding my knowledge in those fields and using the tools I learn for songwriting, my favorite hobby. My goal both in journalism and in life is to increase awareness about events and ideas as well as to make reading news more interesting for everyone. I am driven by a desire to connect people and increase empathy, and I hope you find this in the newspaper, which recaps our school’s events.

In this issue, you will learn how the Lady Knights Volleyball team made it to Las Vegas for their competition. This issue also looks at Ms. Cho’s experience at SOCES and her insights into Deaf culture and the SSC voting results.

You can also learn about the success of Club Daze, the debate over new school policies -such as the detention system, student perspectives on the new hall pass system, and the implementation of screen time tracking following the departure of GoGuardian.

If you are interested in pop culture, head to pages six and seven to read about new movies, movie stars who have passed away, and the controversial stalking of Peter Pan at Disneyland.

To keep up with sports, we have a great fall sports recap at the end of the issue. Learn about 8-man football, flag football, girls volleyball and girls tennis.

Once you have read our articles, feel free to check out the last page to find your horoscope and solve a teacher-themed crossword.

Enjoy this first edition of The Knights Times for the 2026–2027 school year!



Rowan Lee ‘27

Viva LasVegas

Girls Volley Competes in The Vegas Classic

By: Grace Rosa ‘27

This weekend, August 27-29th , the Lady Knights Volleyball team attended the Vegas Classic tournament in Las Vegas. They competed against teams from Hawaii, Utah, and Pennsylvania. This opportunity became available through long hours of hard work. Last season, the Lady Knights went undefeated in league and were promoted to D1 for playoffs. Although they didn’t make it to the end, they were recognized as an up-and-coming team, which led to an invitation to a Las Vegas National Tournament.

The team arrived promptly in Vegas on Thursday, August 27th. On Friday afternoon, they had their first tournament game against Alta High School from Utah. The game was tumultuous during the first set, in which the score was 27-26. At the last second, the Lady Knights pulled through. The next set was similar; however, they caught up through their serves. Vienna W., a senior at SOCES, went on a 10-point serve streak during the second set, where the end score was 26-24. The rest of the day went well for the team, as they only lost one game out of the three they played. The following day was pool play, where the Lady Knights competed to find out which division they would be playing in and how they were going to be ranked throughout the tournament. They could have been ranked in one of three divisions: Bronze, Silver, or Gold. The Lady Knights competed in the Silver division. They fought hard, but unfortunately lost three of the four games they played, walking away with one win. Overall, they placed 26th out of the 50 teams that attended the national tournament.

A highlight from the day was that both Senior Grace Rosa and Freshman Emily Polishchuk. had 10 kills in one game, which led the team to a win. The team had another opportunity to bond, not only on the court, but off as well.

“Aside from the volleyball aspect of the trip, this tournament brought my team and I closer than ever, which I loved,” said Junior Piel Capagcuan. one of the captains of the team. “Being able to create an even stronger bond with the girls on a deeper level, just by being in their presence for days. I am so thankful for Coach May, Coach Chris, and SOCES for making this happen, and I am hoping for more future experiences like these to come.” The Lady Knights had such an amazing opportunity in Las Vegas this past weekend and made the most of it, bringing home wins on and off the court!



Photo of Girls Volleyball team

CAMPUS NEWS

Ms. Cho's Journey

By: Julianne Lourraine U Cobacha '27

What's it like being a Deaf teacher in a predominantly hearing high school? Ms. Cho, SOCES ASL 1-4 teacher, shares her experience as a Deaf educator and how she navigates life and work at SOCES. Ms. Cho began working at SOCES in the fall of 2024. Since then, Ms. Cho has had a great impact on the language community within SOCES.

"My experience in the 4 years I have been here at SOCES has gone fast!" signed Ms. Cho. "I've had a really amazing experience. I learned a lot about the students here, the area is nice and big, and I met a lot of students. The SOCES staff and faculty are really nice."

Ever since Ms. Cho began teaching at SOCES, the number of students using ASL to communicate has increased. From simple greetings to full conversations in sign language, ASL has been an outlet of communication throughout the school. Furthermore, Ms. Cho was asked if there were any ways to make the school more inclusive for the deaf community:

"Making CC's on videos accessible and knowing basic behavioral norms can help," signed Ms. Cho.

In Deaf culture, a way of getting a deaf individual's attention can be done by creating vibration by stomping on the floor, tapping on the table, flashing lights of a room or a phone, or tapping on their shoulder (all of which are to be done gently and not aggressively). These practices are easy to integrate into school life. Lastly, Ms. Cho had a final statement addressing SOCES students and staff:

"Don't be afraid to meet a Deaf person… If you want to talk with a Deaf person, go ahead. Find ways to write, gesture, text. If you want to learn ASL, that's wonderful. It would help me," signed Ms. Cho. We are truly lucky to have such a careful and patient teacher like Ms. Cho.

September is Deaf Awareness Month. As we celebrate Deaf Awareness Month, may it remind us that communication goes far beyond spoken words and sounds. May it inspire not only the Deaf community, but also those of us with the ability to hear and speak, to open our hearts, learn new ways of connecting, and reach out to one another. May we build a world where no one feels unheard, unseen, or left behind. If you ever have the chance to, wave hi to Ms. Cho!



Photo of Ms. Cho

SSC Student Voting Resuslts

By: Noa Rodgers '27

SOCES Sight Committee is formed at the beginning of each year at SOCES and is a decision-making council with the intent of organizing budgetting for the school. This year, numerous students and faculty ran to be a member on the committee. Of the students who ran, three students were chosen to be a part of SSC. These stydents were Sienna Lumlert (senior), Rowan Lee (senior), and Sophia Madrid (junior). Members of this committeee work to make our school a better place.









In A Daze

By: Kaylee Hong '28

As the new school year begins, everyone is excited for the upcoming events on the SOCES campus. One of these exciting events is Club Daze! Club Daze is an event where student-led clubs and organizations set up booths and encourage other students to join. They are a great way to gain valuable experiences, build new friendships, and are great ways to find new passions.

Run by ASB, Club Daze took place on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at Center Circle. 11th grade ASB representative Sharlene Lao shared what Club Daze represents.

"Not only are presidents and cabinets of clubs able to gain leadership/planning and other opportunities, but students who join these clubs cannot only connect with people who share similar hobbies with them and also find new friends and interests within these communities." Club days offer a plethora of different types of organizations for students to join. From Ethnic clubs like KSU to academic clubs like Speech and Debate, as well as creative clubs like guitar club, SOCES offers a wide variety for all students.

This year, Club Daze happened on Thursday, September 10, 2026. As for where the event was held, it took place in Center Circle, just as it has traditionally. There are a multitude of reasons as to why Club Daze is beneficial to the student body. Not only are presidents and cabinets of clubs able to gain leadership/planning experience and other opportunities, but students who join these clubs are able to not only connect with people who share similar hobbies with them, but also find new friends and interests within these communities. Club days offer a plethora of different types of organizations for students to join. From Ethnic clubs like KSU to academic clubs like Speech and Debate, as well as creative clubs like guitar club, SOCES offers a wide variety for all students.

President of Christian Assembly Club, Ruby Mischkot, said, "I created Christian Assembly to provide a safe space for Christians across SOCES." Just like other community-based clubs, she wanted a "safe space" for all the Christian people on campus. In Christian Assembly Club, they often dissect the bible, say prayers, with Ruby also mentioning, "We support fellow members in whatever endeavors they may face throughout the year, religious or not." Ruby is a senior, and she's been in this club since sophomore year, and she wishes to offer the club to anyone looking for a community.

Overall, Club Daze and joining clubs is a good opportunity for finding people you can relate to, meeting new people, as well as gaining important skills and opportunities.

New School Policies

Doin' Time in Detention

By: Owen Beck '28

SOCES recently updated its policy on repercussions for students who are tardy to class. With the introduction of the new dean, Mr. Johnson, and a stricter approach to disciplinary infractions, such as putting phones in Yondr pouches, the tardy policy has been updated from detentions to a new system called lunch reflections. As Dean Johnson puts it, "A tardy is when a teacher marks you as late to class, but it is not a disciplinary issue." When a student receives three tardies, tracked by the counseling office, they must complete a lunch reflection overseen by counseling.

Although lunch reflections caused by tardies are not necessarily a form of "discipline," as stated by Dean Johnson, lunch reflections can be handed out as discipline for a variety of offenses. Dean Johnson explains that lunch reflections can be assigned for "repeated phone or earbud use, misbehavior, or ditching." He continues to share that ditching is defined as "whenever you are out of class without a pass of any kind. In many cases, even if you are out of class with a pass for more than 10 to 15 minutes."

In the morning, Dean Johnson will send summons slips to ten students who must go to Glen Hall at lunchtime; these kids will then have to write 20 sentences on an opinion-based prompt. Additionally, the number of lunch reflections required to be served increases by one for each additional time an offense is committed. Johnson explains this by saying, "For example, if you ditch class once, you get one lunch reflection. The 2nd time you ditch class, you get two lunch reflections." The lunch reflection system has been in place since last week.



Photo taken from The Pel Mel

Do Students Like the Bathroom Passes?

"We Needed A System!"





By: Evelyn Smith '28

As the 2026-2027 school year began, many students noticed a newly introduced bathroom pass: a large, bright red vest that must be carried or worn when leaving the classroom. Many students have responded negatively to this new policy. Still, I think that this will overall have a positive impact on the SOCES campus due to its ability to prevent skipping and create more accessible passes for all students. First, skipping class is a huge issue at SOCES. We can all relate to getting into a class after a long day and needing to use the restroom or just to get some quick fresh air and realizing the pass has been taken by the same person for the past hour. Then the teacher, if they notice, has to call the dean, and it becomes a long process of getting the student back. This completely prevents average students from being able to access the bathroom.

The new system allows the dean to spot students much more easily and can determine if he's seen the same person too many times. The passes stand out and can be spotted from far away, making it very easy to see which students are using the restrooms and which do not even have a pass. Second, small plastic lanyards, the previous system, were often broken or lost. As a student, I can personally relate to having more than one class that had very few passes due to the passes being broken or lost over time.

Although I think that a new system is good overall for the betterment of the campus, there are some very real conflicts with this new system. After talking with Chef Avila, I was able to gather a unique perspective from him as both the union rep and culinary teacher.

"On our campus, we will go through what we call the LSLC, local school leadership committee," said Avila. "This (the bathroom passes) never went through the right channels. So it was almost like it was pushed on us." he shared.

There is also some concern about the sanitary aspect of the vest. The chef expressed his concern.

"As a male person that goes into a restroom with only males, you will notice that not everyone washes their hands as they leave the restroom. It's disgusting."

Chef claims this is a relatively widespread opinion amongst the teachers and can be a very valid point. Although this doesn't erase the current issue that we don't have a functional system. After a long and thoughtful discussion, we reached some common ground and agreed that any pass system will not solve the overall issue if discipline is not applied along with it. I wondered if discipline could be applied and sanitation could be provided. Would the vest be a functional system for his classroom? Chef hopes so.

"Yes, and I'm not saying corporate punishment. I want a follow-through. I think that's what a lot of people on this campus are looking for," which I think is a very agreed-upon sentiment.

"Too Many Downsides!"



By: Brianna Martinez '27

As we settle into the new school year, we experience many new changes and additions to our school. One of the more major changes is our new hall pass: a red vest that students must have with them at all times if they are outside of the classroom. The old pass used to be a lanyard with the room number, and although many teachers still use this method, a majority of teachers have switched to the vest, with some even making their students wear it instead of just having it with them. Although I understand the reasoning for the change, I believe this wasn't the best idea.

As a student who has been going here for many years, I don't think the vest is going to stop students from skipping class. Like with many other things, students are going to find a way to get around it. I can see how it makes it easier for admin to spot students without a pass, as they wouldn't have a bright red vest with them, but even then there are still a good number of teachers who have lanyard passes available. Therefore, just because a student isn't wearing a vest, it doesn't mean they aren't where they are supposed to be, which defeats the purpose of spotting students skipping class.

In addition to the red vest just being another form of hall pass, it just might be the most unsanitary form. Many high schoolers have expressed their displeasure with the vest, the main problem being how disgusting it is. Sienna Lumlert, a senior this year, says how she thinks it's gross: "It goes through many different kids, which can spread many different germs and bacteria." This idea was even echoed by Ms. Heck, our community representative, as she also thinks it's "disgusting for boys and girls to have to share a piece of clothing to go to the bathroom".

Overall, while I understand that the red vest was introduced to help teachers and administration keep track of students, I don't think it is the most effective solution. I think there are better options, like a brighter hall pass, that can keep students accountable without creating another problem.

CAMPUS NEWS

Guardian Goes

By: DiAngelo Silva '30

Returning SOCES students are most likely familiar with GoGuardian. For those who don't know what it is, GoGuardian is a tool teachers use in their classrooms to monitor students' online activity. Besides allowing teachers to see what you are doing on your Chromebooks in real time, it also blocks you from going to websites that aren't school-appropriate, websites your teacher has restricted, and even limits the number of tabs you are allowed to have open at once.

"Yes. It's a good way to keep tabs on what my students are working on," said 5th grade teacher Ms. Smith.

Although GoGuardian is a program that regulates what websites students can access, students still have found a way to bypass the program.

"I think it can be useful, but I also think it's easy for some students to get around it. It doesn't always go far enough." said Mr. Nemchick.

However, recently people have found information online that shows GoGuardian has been creating profiles on every student in its system. It does this by recording what you search on Google, what websites you visit, and how often you search/visit said websites.

Many students already feel as if GoGuardian is an invasion of privacy.

"GoGaurdian is over rated because they shouldn't be watching our every move." said 8th grader Mcenna Moncada.

Others also feel like it is at times unnecessary and is a little excessive.

"Sometimes it's not really needed, but it's good for trouble makers, but they shouldn't be watching our every move." said 8th grader Isabella Mounge.

A lot of students have adapted and have found ways to bypass it and go on other

"I think it's good but I think inefficient because there's always ways around it." said senior Julianne Galvan.

Even though the district has already invested over 20 million dollars in GoGuardian, they have decided to switch to another online platform called Lightspeed Systems. This replacement essentially has the same functions as GoGuardian, but also includes features that can record anything typed on a Chromebook, log how often you enter certain apps, and even see how long you've been on your Chromebook each day. This is no longer an internet safety concern, but also concerns mental health support, LGBTQ+ support, or other personal matters. Many students may no longer feel safe looking for these resources, knowing that this sensitive information may be shared and used against them. This lack of privacy has not only raised concerns for students, but also for staff and families.

LAUSD Limits Freedom With ScreenTime

By: Owen Beck '28

On June 26, 2026, the LAUSD school board greenlit a new policy that limits the use of screen time during school hours for over half a million LAUSD students. Starting in August of the 2026-2027 School year, the district has decided that students under the 2nd-grade level will have all devices removed from the classroom. Starting in November 2026, students in grades 2-3 will be limited to 20 minutes per day of screen time, and students in grades 4-5 will be limited to 30 minutes per day. For students in grades 6-8, starting January of 2027, screen time will be limited to 60 minutes per class per week, and students in grades 9-12 will be limited to 90 minutes per class per week.

LAUSD board member Nick Melovin addressed the changes in an interview, stating, "Our charge now is to recalibrate, evaluate the role of educational technology in the classroom, and balance access to that technology with the kinds of instruction and interaction we know help students thrive." While LAUSD claims that these screen time limits will make students more productive in class, it is important to analyze the data on this topic.

According to a 2022 study conducted by Ladisalo Salmeron et al., at face value, groups of 8th graders and 4th graders who spent more time on devices in the classroom ended up with lower scores on reading comprehension tests. However, upon closer examination, when teachers used screen time productively by doing engaging activities such as research projects, scores on average rose, and when teachers assigned repetitive busywork, scores dropped. These findings suggest that the right direction for the district may be found by reevaluating how students are spending their time online, rather than limiting it altogether. This comes as LAUSD begins to enforce stricter control of Chromebooks across the board.

LAUSD has started to crack down on in-class online distractions. The Chromebook extension Lightspeed has recently been installed on all school-provided LAUSD Chromebooks to block students from accessing online entertainment or resources for "cheating" during class. LAUSD Director of Information Technology David Cooper said, "The web-filtering software Lightspeed prevents students from accessing any website or app categorized as an AI tool on an LAUSD Chromebook." Lightspeed filter agent uses AI to categorize websites and allows LAUSD to block broader website categories such as "social media," or block individual sites like Instagram.

Lightspeed is also used by the district to monitor the screen time of LAUSD students and provide a report to the district on what they are doing. LAUSD Chief Information Officer Douglas Le said, "This allows us to capture their screen time, the app usage to the second." This reveals a slightly concerning amount of oversight in the classroom, putting a magnifying glass on every single student straight from the district.

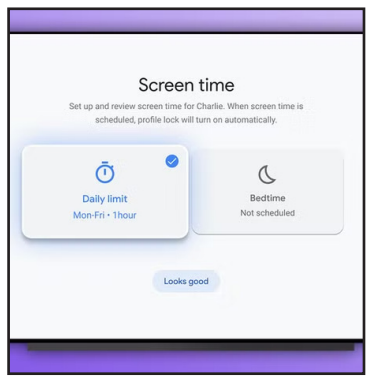


Photo taken from Android Police

Financial Crisis in LAUSD

By: Zaruhi Poghosyan '27

As of July, 2026, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has been facing a serious financial crisis that is already affecting schools, teachers, staff, and students across the district.

Beginning on July 2, the Los Angeles County Office of Education found that LAUSD met the criteria for a "Lack of Going Concern," meaning the district's current financial plan does not demonstrate that it can meet its future cash obligations.

Journalist Mallika Seshadri notes, "county officials project that LAUSD could face a $231 million cash shortfall in 2027."

This finding triggered a 45-day period in which LAUSD must revise its financial plan and demonstrate that it can make the necessary savings. The district has been exploring budget cuts, possible furloughs, and school consolidations.

They also noted that if "LAUSD cannot make adequate changes, the county could appoint an advisor or trustee with the authority to override district spending decisions," said Seshadri.

The crisis itself is being driven by several factors. LAUSD's enrollment has declined dramatically, while employee compensation costs have continued to rise. Between 2013 and 2023, researchers highlight the fact that "enrollment fell by about 227,660 students, while inflation-adjusted spending on district employees increased by approximately $1.7 billion." This creates the issue of high costs and declining enrollment; the district has already seen its reserves decline by roughly $2 billion over three years.

These budget issues are already showing up, for example, here at SOCES, the robotics team is no longer receiving funding from the district, meaning coaches and students are actively looking for funding through sponsorships, fundraisers, and other sources to support the team. The president of the Robotics Club, Pascal Ho, argues that "Robotics is an activity that takes a lot of funding and budget to participate in. When we heard the news, we were very saddened. Especially since it's very hard to come across the money needed for parts, and such that contribute to our success, we are trying to do our own fundraisers and crowdfunding to get more money this season."

This is just one of many examples of budget changes affecting activities that students are involved in outside of classrooms that may be impacted. Looking ahead, it's important to keep in mind that, as LAUSD works to balance its budget, students and schools may continue to see changes in the programs/opportunities they have access to.

Another journalist, Walt Rodriguez, additionally states they are trying to "push for transparency around decisions that will shape the district for years to come." Any action on proposed cuts and protections that may affect students and families will be tracked to help elevate any questions the community could have.

While these changes are already being felt, LAUSD leaders say they remain confident that the district can address the shortfall and stay under local control. Superintendent Andrés Chait has said the district must demonstrate that its proposed savings can actually be implemented while continuing to protect educational opportunities for students.

What happens next is still unclear, but students and families could see changes to staffing, class sizes, and extracurricular programs in the coming years. For now, schools across LAUSD are waiting to see how the district's financial decisions will affect their everyday experiences.

CAMPUS NEWS

Minions Take Over

First Middle School Pep Rally

By Knight Times Staff

Bananas, dancing and a whole lot of noise took over the SOCES Middle School on Thursday, Oct. 8, as students gathered during third period for a Minion-themed pep rally packed with surprises, games and school spirit.

Hosted by Middle School Student Body President Mace Randa and eighth-grade representative Bella Monge, the rally kicked off with an unexpected appearance by Mr. Smiley, who surprised the crowd dressed as Gru, the iconic villain from Despicable Me. The MS Spirit Squad dancers followed, performing a routine taught by dance team pro captain senior Julianna Galvin

Randa and Monge then introduced the MS Homeroom Cup Challenge, a yearlong competition in which middle school homerooms compete in activities and contests for the title of Best Middle School Homeroom of the Year.

The rally quickly turned into a frenzy of friendly competition, featuring games such as "Chop the Wig," "Catch the Minion" and a back-to-back balloon race. The highlight came when two Knights faced off in a dance battle. One Knight literally lost his head, sending the audience into an uproar of laughter.

Throughout the event, students brought an especially loud and rowdy energy to the gym, cheering on their classmates and embracing the Minion madness. With the Homeroom Cup Challenge officially underway, Thursday's rally set an enthusiastic tone for a year of middle school competition and camaraderie.



Photo of Mr. Smiley as Gru









Pop Culture

Peter Pan's #1 Fan

By: Paulina Petrinac '27

Peter Pan is one of the best-known Disney characters that was created almost 70 years ago. Many people dream of living the life of Peter Pan, as he represents the dream of unlimited freedom, youth, and the ability to escape responsibilities. That is something many wish they could do, which is where the start of the Peter Pan obsession begins. "Disney Adults" are adults who are obsessed with Disney, whether it is the movies or the parks. Sometimes, they can go over the top with their obsession.

One Disney Adult in particular became very popular over the summer for her obsession with the Disney character Peter Pan. She is a content creator who goes by the name of Babytoni99. According to Toni's many posts over the years, she has had an obsession with Peter Pan for nearly 10 years. Toni has allegedly visited Disneyland every week for 10 years, interacting with Peter Pan each time. Fans have investigated Toni's obsession, reviewing all of her Disneyland vlogs for the past couple of years. In these videos, it is visible how uncomfortable the Disney actors have been when interacting with her. People have even pointed out how some Disney cast members have resigned from their roles due to her "stalker-like" behavior. The internet has been speculating the reasoning behind her obsession. Some believe her obsession stems from a love for the character itself, while others believe that her obsession is directed towards the actors. Wherever this obsession stems from, it still raises many concerns and questions as to why she is obsessed with Peter Pan. In the movies, Peter Pan is supposedly a 10 - 14 year old boy. This makes the situation even creepier if Toni is obsessed with a character who is a little boy.

The obsession with Peter Pan was not only from Babytoni99. There have been individuals who have spoken up, sharing that they allegedly had stalkers while working as Peter Pan. The question is, why Peter Pan specifically? There are hundreds of different Disney characters that are so lovable, but why him? People refuse to grow up, which leads to turning into a "Disney Adult." These individuals gravitate towards Peter Pan because he is a character who never grows up. They want to avoid accountability and adult responsibilities, so they become obsessed with the one character who has what they most desire. As people get older, the freedom they had as a child slips away. So, people obsess over Peter Pan, who has unlimited freedom. These individuals are jealous of this fictional character who forever has what they will never get back.



Photo taken from yahoo.com

The Summer Box Office

By: Amanda Vuong '28

Summer 2026 was the summer that so many incredible, iconic movies were released. Many rushed to the movie theaters, waiting to watch the new releases. Movies like Obsession, Spider-Man: Brand New Day, and The Odyssey became such a big hit over the summer that they were listed as best movies of 2026 so far.

Obsession, directed by Curry Barker and released on May 15, 2026, became one of the most watched movies and quickly gained media attention. Inde Navarrette and Michael Johnson's incredible acting gained fame quickly, making many people watch Obsession in theaters. 7th grader Bella Davis stated, "I thought it was really good; the actors were playing their part really well…it was well produced and definitely kept my heart rate up". The movie that first started as a low-budget film gained massive popularity and became the most popular psychological horror and supernatural movie released in 2026.

The Odyssey, directed by Christopher Nolan, is a readaptation of Homer's ancient Greek poem. This story begins after the Trojan War and follows Odysseus' 10-year journey back to Ithaca. He faces many challenges and obstacles to come home to his wife Penelope and son Telemachus. Many famous actors starred in this movie, such as Zendaya, Tom Holland, Matt Damon, Anne Hathaway, and many more. Junior Dyami Fermin commented, "It was a fun adventure of a movie with surprising twists and turns around every corner…it was amazing to think how so much was done with just practical effects". The Odyssey gained a lot of attention, ranking as the #1 most popular film and making $1.55 billion in the time of a couple of weeks.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day was released July 31, 2026, directed by Destin Daniel Cretton. After waiting 5 years to watch the sequel to Spider-Man: Finally: No Way Home, many Marvel fans rushed to their closest theaters to watch the new movie. The movie consisted of many plot twists that kept the audience entertained and hooked. 7th grader Nyna Theis remarked, "I thought it was really good and had many plot twists…the acting was really good, especially Sadie Sink". Spider-Man: Brand New Day earned over $2.25 billion worldwide and broke numerous records in the movie industry.

Summer 2026 consisted of many incredible, entertaining movies that will forever be remembered. Obsession made history by becoming such a successful film starring unknown actors with a low budget and transforming it into one of the most watched films of this year. The Odyssey's incredible cinematography relied only on IMAX visuals instead of other technologies, as well as making its own extremely loud and disruptive sound recordings. Spider-Man broke multiple records in the movie industry due to the massive number of fans watching. Overall, these movies became huge hits worldwide and are the highest growing movie watches since 2019.

Sad Times in Hollywood

By: Maribelle Boktor '27

Three entertainment icons gone in the blink of an eye. On Sunday, August 16, 2026, actress Hayden Panettiere passed away due to cardiac arrest at 36 years old. She began as a child star, and her most notable roles were Claire Bennet in the hit show "Heroes" and Juliette Barnes in the musical "Nashville." Panettiere was a resilient child star who not only took her job seriously, but understood how to be professional under the spotlight. Despite being under the public eye, Panettiere was very open and honest about her internal struggles with substances throughout her career and has advocated for mental health. She will be missed in the industry, and her life is not one to be forgotten about.

One of TV's most famous and iconic individuals died on Tuesday, August 25, 2026. At 80 years old, Dolly Parton died of cancer, but her legacy did not die with her. Her music lives on in countless playlists, and her voice rings on. Two of her most successful songs were written on the same day – Jolene and I Will Always Love You. Her talent and songwriting will live on in her audience and fanbase. Parton founded the Dollywood Foundation — which was an organization tailored to accessible education for families internationally. Though Parton's political views were never fully revealed, she was an advocate for human rights and raised money for countless charities and causes. Dolly Parton built a name for herself out of nothing and worked her way to the top; nevertheless, she always remembered to give back to her community. Her work will forever be iconic, and her efforts will not go unnoticed; it truly is a shame to have lost an icon.

Unfortunately, Parton's death was shortly followed by the death of another beloved star, Tim Curry. Curry was also 80 years old when he died of artery disease. He was best known for his role in The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Curry led a private life, not sharing much about his romantic partners or much about his personal life. He is remembered for his work in many notable pieces such as It and Annie. He starred in movies such as "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York," "The Three Musketeers," "Clue," and "Muppet Treasure Island." Curry wasn't just limited to the screen, though. He released three rock albums and even received a Grammy nomination for narrating an audiobook, "A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning."

August 2026 is a month for the books. Two icons taken on the same day, and one icon taken before she had the chance to make a name for herself. Rest in peace, Hayden Panettiere, Dolly Parton, and Tim Curry. Your names will be forever remembered.



Hayden Panettire, photo taken from CNN Entertainment



Dolly Parton, photo taken from The New Yorker



Tim Curry, photo taken from People.com



Silver Linings and Win Streaks:

How SOCES Girls Volleyball Got Their Groove back

By: Knight Times Staff

The SOCES girls volleyball team is finding its stride at just the right time.

After a difficult stretch at the Chatsworth Varsity Tournament, the Knights have bounced back in a big way, winning four consecutive matches and taking home the Silver Division championship at aleague play, putting the Knights in first place.

The turnaround began with back-to-back league sweeps. On Sept. 24, SOCES defeated Northridge Academy 3–0, then followed with another 3–0 victory over Fulton on Sept. 28.

The Knights carried that momentum into their own tournament on Oct. 3. SOCES opened the Silver Division playoffs with a 2–0 victory over Central City Value, earning a spot in the championship match against Verdugo Hills.

The final was anything but easy. SOCES took the opening set 25–19, but Verdugo Hills answered with a 25–20 win in the second. With the championship on the line, the Knights held on in a tense third set, winning 15–13 to capture the Silver Division title.

Senior Captain Grace Rosa and Senior Vienna Weaver have led the Lady Knights this year, providing key leadership. Emily Polishchuk. is already turning heads as a freshman starter. The recent success is especially impressive considering the competition the Knights faced earlier in the season. At the Chatsworth tournament, SOCES battled several tough opponents, including Valencia, El Camino Real, Archer, and Chatsworth, while also earning wins over Community Charter and Granada Hills Charter.

Now the Knights have momentum, confidence, and a league-leading record. With league play continuing, SOCES will look to keep its winning streak alive and stay on top of the standings.

“We are on a really good track to winning our league and playing D1 in the playoffs. We are all really excited!” said Junior Mia Tokutake.



SOCES Volleyball Player Serving

Sports

8-Man Football in Full Rebuild Mode

By: June Pak '30 & Knight Staff

The Knights finished the previous season as undefeated champions, completing a mission that slipped through their fingers in the 2024 City Championship finals. Entering this season hoping for a third straight championship appearance, the Knights faced a new reality with a new head coach and the loss of key seniors. This year has become a journey of rebuilding and discovering what the young team can become.

This past Friday, October 9, SOCES hosted rival Valley Oaks CES but suffered its fourth shutout loss of the season. The Knights showed promise with a strong running game on their opening possession, but Valley Oaks' powerful offense proved too much to handle. The Knights fell 46-0.

The season began with a canceled game due to extreme heat before the Knights traveled to Newport Beach to face Sage Hill, losing 57-8.

"Better teamwork, better coordination...we were very underprepared," said senior



Ryder Hayden.

Team manager Emma Samelron emphasized the need for greater commitment, saying, "The team, I think, should show up to practices more often and show more commitment."

Despite the loss, quarterback William Arias scored a touchdown with six minutes remaining, giving the Knights a bright spot. Arias credited his teammates for helping move the ball downfield and said he was happy to show the team that "it is possible to put up some points on the board."

In their next game, the Knights traveled to Faith Baptist on September 3 and suffered their worst loss in three years, falling 48-0. Quarterback Arias threw for more than 100 yards, while Matthew Mejia recorded 44 receiving yards.

The Knights then lost their home opener to Cornerstone Christian 60-0, setting a new season low.

Looking for redemption, SOCES hosted Sotomayor on September 18. The Knights built a 16-0 halftime lead and held on after a late rally by the Wolves to secure their first win, 28-20. With their starting quarterback injured, the Knights relied on a strong ground attack. John Santos led the runners with 75 yards, while Julio Sandoval added 70 yards and two touchdowns. Matthew Mejia contributed 48 rushing yards and a touchdown. The Knights totaled 290 rushing yards.

However, the momentum did not last. The following week, SOCES traveled to downtown Los Angeles and lost to Amimo Robinson 42-0, suffering its third shutout of the season.

The Knights will play their final home game Friday, October 23, at 7 p.m. against South LA College Prep. The game will also serve as SOCES homecoming and senior night for both football players and cheerleaders.

All or Nothing

Flag Football's Roller-Coaster Season

By: Knight Times Staff

After a rough opening stretch, the Knights have responded with a strong run, winning five of their last six games and showing that they are becoming a much tougher team as the season moves along.

The turnaround began with a narrow 7–6 victory over Chatsworth on Sept. 2. After that close win, SOCES put together a string of impressive performances, including a 50–0 shutout of Valley Oaks CES on Sept. 16 and a 39–0 victory over Valley Academy of Arts & Sciences on Sept. 23.

The Knights continued their momentum at the Los Angeles Rams Jamboree on Sept. 26, defeating USC Hybrid 18–0 and Oakwood 8–0. The two victories gave SOCES four straight wins and provided plenty of confidence heading into the final stretch of the season.

"I feel like we did really well. We had really good energy. Our offense was really good. We had good communication between everyone and didn't let them score," said Captain Itzel Calatayud. "It was really fun playing with everyone and seeing all the teams compete against each other."

The streak came to an end two days later when SOCES faced Castaic and fell 27–0. Rather than allowing the loss to derail them, the Knights bounced right back.

On Sept. 30, SOCES dominated Alliance Marine-Innovation & Technology, shutting out the Griffins 39–0. The victory marked the team's fifth win in its previous six games and improved its record to 7–6.

"We are improving every game, and we are working together as a team to get far," said sophomore player Samhita Pirai.

The recent stretch has featured both close battles and dominant defensive performances. The Knights have shown they can win a tight game when necessary, while also producing multiple shutouts against their opponents.

With the season entering its final stretch, SOCES has plenty of momentum. If the Knights can continue playing with the same energy and defensive intensity, they could make some noise when the biggest games of the season arrive.

The Lady Knights are 7-6 overall and 3-0 in the Valley league play.



SOCES Player looking to score!

Sports

Knights Tennis Serves Up a Heat Wave

Despite postponing multiple matches to extreme heat, the Lady Knights have been dominating on the court this fall semester and are looking stay hot towards a playoff run.

By: Knight Staff

The Sherman Oaks CES Girls Tennis Team is off to a perfect start and has planted itself on top of the East Valley League. The Lady Knights are 4-0 in the East Valley League and 7-0 overall.

SOCES enters the heart of league play undefeated and in first place, building momentum behind a strong singles lineup featuring sophomore Mia Grinberg, freshman Anya Licshitc, and seniors Valeria Ventura and Elizabeth Melikyan. The team has also found success in doubles, with seniors Chloe Nicolescu and Fiona Leitner, senior Ruby Mischkot and freshman Allyhannah Grant, and junior Sharlene Lao and sophomore Sophia Yassinisski.

"I love being on the tennis team," said Grinberg. "It's a good bonding experience, and it's a quick way to make friends. Our team is really strong, and I'm really proud of all of the girls because we're undefeated so far. I am really excited to get to play singles this year. It's a good challenge, and I'm really grateful for the opportunity."



(Senior co-captain Ruby Mischkot serving the point.)

The Knights have already established themselves as the team to beat as the regular season moves into October.

The team's latest league victory came October 1 when SOCES defeated North Hollywood High, 5-2. This victory was an important one against one of the Knights' biggest league rivals and gave them sole possession of first place in the East Valley league.

"In all my 4 years of tennis, this is the longest we have gone undefeated, and I could be more excited for our next win. Beating our biggest rival, NH, is our first stop towards playoff domination," said senior co-captain Ruby Mischkot.

The Knights's league schedule has included matches against Monroe, Grant, Polytechnic, and North Hollywood, and they are scheduled to meet Verdugo Hills, Monroe, Grant, and North Hollywood again before the regular season concludes.

SOCES has also challenged itself against a number of non-league opponents, including Van Nuys, Cleveland, and Taft. Those matches have given the Knights valuable competition before the final stretch of league play.

With the Knights undefeated and sitting atop the East Valley Standings, every remaining league match carries added significance. SOCES will look to maintain its perfect record while strengthening its position heading toward the postseason.

For the Knights, the message is clear and simple: keep winning, keep improving, and finish on top.

UPCOMING TENNIS SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
10.12	2:30	Home vs Monroe
10.15	2:30	Home vs Grant
10.16	2:30	Home vs Chatsworth
10.19	2:30	@ North Hollywood
10.22	2:30	@ Verdugo Hills



Junior Sharlene Lao looking to return the serve.

Entertainment



By: Alison Oliva '27

Horoscopes Of October

By: Noa Rodgers '27

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

You may feel like you want and need a break, but the even-paced vibe of the month may be pushing you to get down with your ideas and commitments. When the world slows down is when you feel ready to take charge.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

You only want a few things in life: time with loved ones and a sense of purpose in whatever you do. This month gives you the opportunity to do both of these things. It may feel fast moving, but you'll find yourself hustling toward your goals. You'll also know just when you need to slow down.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

This month you'll shine. You've put in the hard work and effort to find your zen. You've learned how to set healthy boundaries and now you can assert them without guilt. Good things are arriving, but there is also a lot at stake for you.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

This month, you may be seeking a deeper sense of fulfillment and may be considering the long term impacts of your options. Seek advice from your loved ones who can help you see things objectively. This is a good month to review your finances or repeating patterns or disappointments.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Sometimes, the tighter your hold, the more difficult it gets to keep. Remember this throughout the month with all aspects of your life. Instead of acting out of fear or failure, try relaxing the strings directing your life. If you have been trustworthy and well intentioned, expect good in return.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

This month, work on your capacity to recieve and experience joy, to live and explore life without guilt or shame, and to know your self-worth. You will emerge more well-balanced, self aware and assured.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

This month, you may be where you don't want to be, reminiscing about old times, circling back to old ideas with uncertainty. These ideas might work now with fresh eyes. You already know where your heart is guiding you: follow it.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

This month you get into nuturing mode, you build everything up, and tear everything down. Your intuition is at its peak this month. There is no need for you to remain cautious and withdrawn. Hold your cards close but be mindful of not getting too sneaky. Build relationships, bonds, and live life with joy.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

You see things with depth, and this quality is worth nuturing. This month may feel like a long pause as you may be tired of this circus of life. This withdrawing into your shell does you good, it lets you sit in silence with your thoughts. Ask yourself questions about growth, and allow yourself to emerge healed.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

You may want to rage, but this month, deliberate moves will be more helpful than speedy ones. There is a lot going on in the background. You are likely to need some time of calm through building a consistent routine for yourself. Take slow and steady steps when making your next moves.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

A major cycle is closing. This month feels huge in many ways. A forward momentum you have been craving is finally here. However, this has its own terms and conditions: you may be refusing to accept the truth. You have been taking consistent steps in the right direction. Your task for this month is to notice the patterns and accept them for what they are. If patterns aren't alligning, get rid of them carefully.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Self-love is a huge theme for you this month. Your mind may be moving a thousand miles a minute trying to prove to yourself that you are worthy of the things you've been building. Remind yourself you do not need tokeep doing things to feel productive. Reserve your energy, conserve your resources, and ride the waves of forutne.