

The NewsBreaker



Happy Halloween!



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Changing Climates, Declining Monarchs: The Butterfly Parade's Uncertain Fate



By Daniel Ostovar, Class of 2025

On October 7th, our town came together to host the annual Butterfly Parade. A tradition dating back to 1939, the Butterfly Parade stands as a monument of Pagrovia culture, representing the return of the Monarch butterflies to our town after their annual migration. Each year, clubs, organizations, and students from across PG come together to march in the parade, before heading up to Robert Down Elementary School to buy refreshments and take part in games at the Butterfly Bazaar. For many Pagrovians who have been here for the majority of their lives, or possibly generations, the parade is a revered symbol of our town's culture. However, as the local climate is affected, is it possible that the parade will become untenable?

In many ways, this year's parade was unremarkable. The same groups participating in the event year after year showed up, and expressed the same pride in our town as always. However, as the paraders began to finish around noon, and head to Robert Down, many had a common realization: unlike our normal, foggy autumn days, the sun was shining in downtown PG and it was not only warm, but hot. In fact, high temperatures that week had reached greater than 90 degrees, and were well into the 80s on the day of the parade. These temperatures are rarely seen in Pacific Grove, and according to students selling drinks at the event, many visitors were seen leaving prematurely due to the weather. Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) puts these temperatures into perspective. Between 1991 and 2020, average maximum temperature seen in Pacific Grove during the month of October was 68.3 degrees, a full 20 degrees below this month's temperatures. Over the last 20 years, Pacific Grove has only reached a temperature of 90 degrees in October four times, none of which being more than 10 years ago, and three of which being within the last 5 years. Although the parade has historically always been held on the first Saturday of October, with rising temperatures, people may become less enthusiastic about the parade and the following bazaar.

A second factor also threatens the relevancy of the Butterfly Parade. Every year, Monarch butterfly populations

are recorded in Pacific Grove's very own sanctuary, earning the town the nickname "Butterfly Town, USA". However, these counts have been steadily declining over the years, raising the question: if there are no more Monarch butterflies visiting our town, can we really boast the stately insects as our mascot? From 2011 to 2017, the Pacific Grove Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary averaged about 14 thousand butterflies visiting each year, which was already a third of what had been counted annually before 2000. In stark contrast to these figures, under one thousand butterflies were counted in 2018 and 2019, without a single butterfly being seen in 2020. After a brief rebound in the following two years, the numbers are down once again, with the Natural History Museum releasing a current count of around 700. Our sanctuary is not the only one hit, however, and studies from this year show that California's Monarch population has collapsed by over 99% over the past few years. If these trends continue, our town's Monarch population may be reduced to a myth, perpetuated through events like the Butterfly Parade.

Football Team Takes Home Huge Win at the Homecoming Game



By Meredith Evans, Class of 2025

As many attended Pacific Grove's homecoming football game the night of October 6th, we got to watch an incredible game take place by our Breaker football team as they defeated Soledad 28-8. The game showed the true talent of both offensive and defensive sides played by the boys, explicitly showcasing Gideon Llantero's great night with all scoring touchdowns. I was able to ask a couple of questions to these star players about their night. "My favorite part of the night was celebrating with my team after the game," Llantero says as he talks about the highlights of the night. Gideon worked with his team to create incredible plays that led them to victory. Alongside Gideon, I got a couple of words from Ben Garry, the defensive back on the team. Ben tells me about his team and what he thinks separates it from the others in the league. "The connection with all the players; it's a small team, but we all play well." The homecoming game indeed displayed the talent, teamwork, and true dedication our Breakers Football team is putting on the field. I speak for many of the spectators of these games, when I say I'm genuinely proud of the team, and I'm excited to see them give it their all at the annual Shoe Game!

Homecoming Spirit Week: Barbies, Frat Boys, and More



By Tony Gabrik, Class of 2026

Starting the week of October 2nd, PGHS students came to school decked out in a variety of spiritwear for the Homecoming Spirit week.

Monday, students flooded the halls with pink in representation of Barbie Day. Ranging from simple pink T-Shirts to full-blown jumpsuits and dyed hair, Barbie day was certainly a spirit day to remember. However, the festivities didn't stop there.

The next day, hundreds of backwards hats, baggy shirts, and sunglasses could be seen by students repping their favorite Fraternities and Sororities, or just bringing out their inner college student. Either way, this has been a popular spirit day for some years and it was great to see it return!

On Wednesday, students brought their best generational wear. Freshman dressed as babies (not unusual for them), Sophomores as Middle Schoolers, Juniors as parents, and Seniors as senior citizens. Once again, students went all-out, showing up in everything from pajamas to elderly attire.

Thursday brought about jersey day, where students could represent their favorite or personal sports teams. Students were seen wearing soccer, football, and baseball jerseys, along with many other kinds of jerseys before the week ended with Class Colors day on Friday.

Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors were tasked with wearing Yellow, Red, White, and Black respectively, which had an impressive turnout that could be seen at the Homecoming Rally.

There, students across the classes battled it out in a variety of minigames accompanied by performances from the Breaker Band, Cheer Team, and a special performance from the Breaker Girls with surprise guests from the students. Ultimately, the Seniors walked away from the rally with a win and students prepared to attend the Homecoming football game later that night.

The Unbridled Awesomeness of the Homecoming Dance



By William Powley, Class of 2025

The Homecoming week came to a close with an awesome dance on Saturday, the 7th. The dance was very well attended with many people from PG and other schools there. At the dance there were decorations from each of the floats on display for people to see as they walked towards the dance floor. There was also an awesome photo booth where lots of people went to take pictures with their friends. Closer to the DJ there was a dance floor and risers set up for people to break out some moves. The music was awesome with people enjoying it and singing along all night. Overall, the Homecoming dance was a great end to a great week full of activities and moments.

Breaker Band Competes Alongside Breaker Girls In The Santa Cruz Band Review



By Conor O'Brien, Class of 2026

The PGHS Breaker Band has been hard at work since the start of school, practicing music for parades, competitions, and halftime shows at the few home football games. Under the leadership of Marshall Pearman, the drum major, Christopher Platt, the drum captain, and Dr. Warren, the band has progressed and improved greatly. The band is currently practicing marching during the first semester and will transition into a concert band following the start of second semester.

Following the first home game of the year, the band worked on adding Beach Boys and surf rock arrangements to their repertoire in preparation for the Homecoming Game. The band played 'Good Vibrations', 'I Get Around', 'Fun Fun Fun', and 'Wipe Out.' Along with the Beach Boys set, the band worked on a march titled 'Emblem of Unity' to perform at a band review and parade. The day after the homecoming game, the band participated in the Butterfly Parade. The band performed the march during the parade as well as the Beach Boys and Rock sets at the bazaar afterwards. The parade was good preparation for the next event they would partake in, the Santa Cruz Band Review. On October 21, the band traveled to Santa Cruz and marched 'Emblem of Unity' for adjudicators. Following experience from the band reviews last year, the band decided to pair with the Breaker Girls dance team in order to receive a better score in a color guard grading. The bands are not just graded on musicianship but appearance and a color guard/flag team. The Breaker Girls developed and rehearsed a performance to accompany the band and traveled to Santa Cruz with them. Following the performance the band and dance team attended the awards ceremony where the band received second place in their division and the Breaker Girls achieved third place, both out of eight schools.

The band is very proud of its achievements this year and are excited for the final home game as well as additional band reviews and concert season. They have been super successful thus far and will keep working hard as the year goes on.

'Round the World and Down Under



By Daren Light, Class of 2027

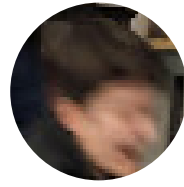
Another month, another issue; here is what's been going on this month: On October 7th, Hamas launched a large-scale attack on Israeli civilians, provoking a war in the Middle East. [Details will not be covered, but do follow what is going on.]

A different type of conflict can be found in Kenya, where the tensions between humans and the kings of the jungle are on the rise. Lions are noticing the lack of prey in the wild, and they now go for livestock. This has led to livestock owners killing over 10 lions.

Very recently, Mexico has made abortion legal, the government saying the former veto was "unconstitutional." On the 14th, there was an annular "ring of fire" eclipse seen in over 8 US states, and even Central & South America. In the Amazon River, the water temperatures have reached 102 degrees Fahrenheit, unfortunately taking the lives of over 100 dolphins.

Moving down to Australia, many prepare for the worst as bushfires are likely, based off the predictions for a hot and dry summer. In addition, the very well-known Sydney Opera House celebrated its 50th birthday last week.

Girls' Tennis Team Wraps Up Successful Season

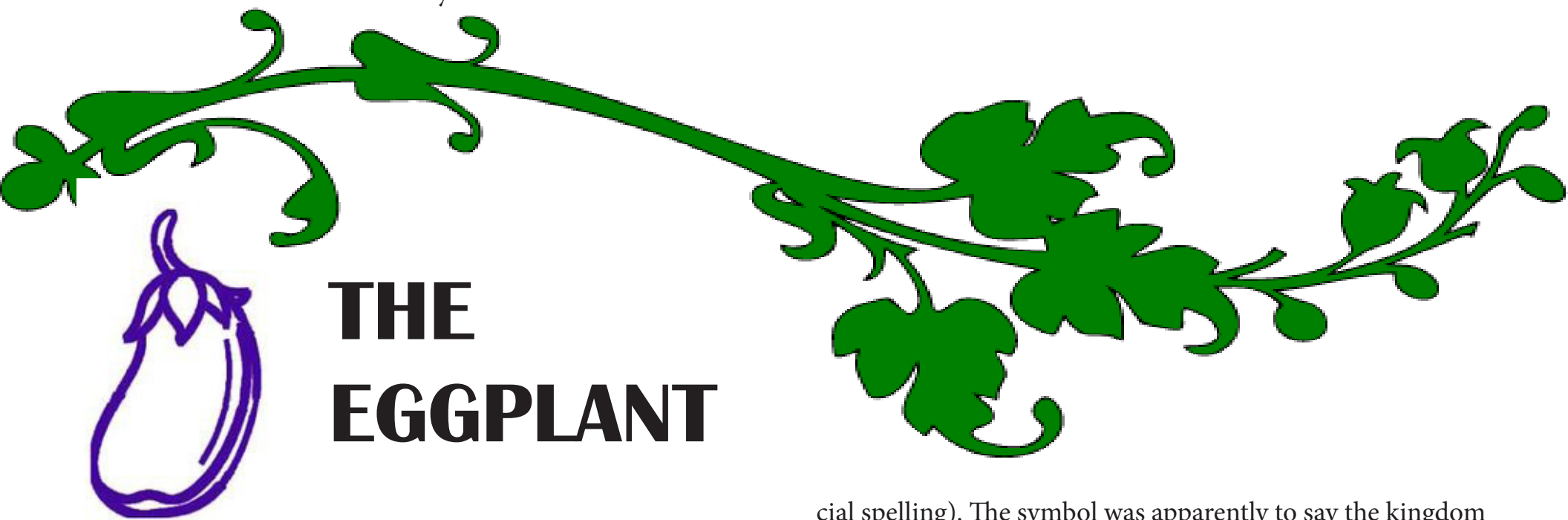


By Warren Frasenyak, Class of 2025

The PGHS girls' tennis team has made the most of their 2023 season. They have competed in a total of 13 matches, many of which were away matches, and ended the year with Senior Night. The team played in the highest possible league, making the season both challenging and rewarding.

The girls have shown their dedication by practicing Monday through Thursday since the start of the season, and wrapped up practice on Monday, October 23. On her opinion of the season, senior team captain Serra Arkan commented "Our team kept good spirits, had a ton of fun, and overall created a great bond and environment."

The tennis team has selected Jasmine Samuels, Mauna Mohammadi, Yeva Yevdash, Sophia Spivey, Kennedy Biondi., and Ella Smith to play in a PCAL tournament on Monday, October 30, at which point they will play selected players from other schools in Monterey County in 2 singles and 2 double team matches. It's safe to say that the whole school is rooting for them.



THE EGGPLANT

The Royal Tale of the Rubin X



By Mayday Follen, Class of 2026

So we've all heard of the Rubin X, but did you know it was once a royal crest? And, a stolen one at that!

Back in the 1600s, there was a major kingdom known as D'iamondia, sitting on an island near the Bermuda Triangle! One of our historians here at The Eggplant was kind enough to research the land, discovering it was the prosperous home of D'iamondians. Our researcher was able to get into contact with a local scholar, who, with enough prodding, mailed us a few artifacts from before D'iamondia's disappearance in the mid-1700s.

The first artifact was a shield, depicting the Rubin X, alongside many dents and scorch marks—presumably from a great battle. The shield was wrapped in a worn flag, which the scholar claimed was the official D'iamondian flag until its disappearance. According to them, the symbol was known as a 'my-tow-kon-dree-a' (We unfortunately could not get an offi-

cial spelling). The symbol was apparently to say the kingdom was extremely powerful, powering many other kingdoms.

But, we're getting off topic! You, dear reader, came here for the Rubin X drama!

The true name of the crest was discovered on the third artifact, a longsword with a shallow engraving, reading 'D'Amico Diamond.' That's right, D'Amico! Further research indicates that the D'Amico Diamond was renamed to the Rubin X long after the D'iamondian Kingdom's collapse. We're uncertain who renamed the crest, but we discovered a lengthy history of conflict between clan D'Amico and clan Rubin.

Luckily, us students of PGHS have the privilege to learn under the heir of D'iamondia! Through much entirely and perfectly ethical DNA testing using genetic material left on the artifacts, we were able to confirm PGHS's very own Mr. D'Amico to be the rightful successor to the kingdom. He has already started the reclaiming of D'iamondia through properly referring to the crest, and he seems to be gaining enough support to rebuild through his students.

May we all hope for the rebuilding of D'iamondia even bigger and better! Tune in next issue to solve more Pagrovia mysteries!

Our Staff

The NewsBreaker is made possible by the dedication of journalists and editors from the Pacific Grove High School student body.



Emily Keller



Class of 2024

Emily is a senior at PGHS. This is her first year writing and co-editing for *The NewsBreaker*. She enjoys creatively delivering news to and about the student body, and aspires to be a professional writer one day. She is on the Breaker Girls dance team, and she enjoys reading, writing, and being with friends in her free time.

Graham Smith



Class of 2025

Graham is a junior at PGHS. He is currently in his first year as co-editor of *The NewsBreaker*, and hopes to be able to make the paper the best it has ever been. His hobbies outside of school include writing short stories, playing video games, playing tennis, and spending time with friends whenever possible.

William Powley



Class of 2025

William is a junior at PGHS. He is writing for *The NewsBreaker* for his second year now. He enjoys playing for the Varsity boys' basketball and tennis teams. His favorite subjects in school are History and English and he also enjoys leading the Video Bulletin committee. He enjoys serving and getting done what needs to be done.

Thomas Coen



Class of 2025

Thomas Coen is a Junior at PGHS, and he is in his third year of writing for *The NewsBreaker*. Thomas hopes to spread knowledge about interesting and important school news with his fellow students via *The NewsBreaker*. In his free time Thomas enjoys running, robotics, skiing, and tennis.

Daniel Ostovar



Class of 2025

Danny is a junior at PGHS, and an avid member of the Robotics team, the BreakerBots. He enjoys drawing and playing music in his free time. His goal with writing for *The NewsBreaker* is to become a stronger writer and be more involved with the school.

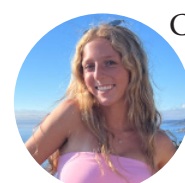
Brooke Domalaog



Class of 2025

Local BreakerBots co-captain and PGHS junior, Brooke joined *The NewsBreaker* crew this year. Between knowing most of the staff and the ins-and-outs of PGHS, she knew it was about time to join in. She's been a writer for a while, also having joined the Young Writers' Club to help hone her skills. In her spare time, she draws, plays video games, and spends time with friends.

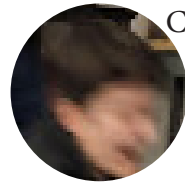
Meredith Evans



Class of 2025

Meredith Evans is a junior at Pacific Grove High School. She loves being a part of the PGHS community and joined *The NewsBreaker* in hope of growing her writing skills and creating more connections through the school. She hopes to continue to keep writing in her future as she wants to be a sports journalist. She is thrilled and lucky to have this great opportunity to be a part of something special at PGHS and is very excited to see what she will write about this year!

Warren Frasenyak



Class of 2025

Warren Frasenyak is a junior at PGHS and a first year member of *The NewsBreaker* who joined to try something new. He plays in the marching and jazz bands, is on the Mock Trial team, and has participated in C-Wing Theater shows. During his free time, he enjoys hiking, listening to music, and spending time with people.

Kai Bishop



Class of 2026

Kai is a sophomore at PGHS and in his second year on *The NewsBreaker*. He plays for the PGHS track team as well as the Breaker Band. Outside of school he enjoys jazz, chemistry, and chess.

Tony Gabrik



Class of 2026

Tony, a sophomore at PGHS, is a first year *NewsBreaker* writer. He hopes that his time on *The NewsBreaker* will allow him to get more involved with school activities. When not writing, Tony is most likely running, or sleeping. He is a second year cross country and track athlete, and volunteers at the aquarium in the off-season.

Conor O'Brien



Class of 2026

Conor is a sophomore this year at PGHS and wrote for *The NewsBreaker* last year. He enjoys playing tennis, singing, and playing saxophone in and out of school.

Lachlan Whitson



Class of 2027

Lachlan is a freshman at PGHS, and this is his first year writing for *The NewsBreaker*. He likes to journal and write about interesting things. He wishes to learn more about writing for *The NewsBreaker*. He is also going to join track and field in the spring. He likes to swim, bike, spend time with friends, and play Pokemon Go in his free time.

Daren Light



Class of 2027

Daren is a freshman at PGHS. This is his first year being part of *The NewsBreaker*. Daren likes surfing, biking, tennis, skiing, photography, playing music, and hanging out with friends. He enjoys keeping up with what's going on in the world.

Lilah Del Castillo



Class of 2027

Lilah is a freshman at PGHS, and this is her first year working on *The NewsBreaker*. She enjoys running on the cross country and track teams and hanging out with her friends in her free time. She is excited to use *The NewsBreaker* to develop her skills and become a better writer.

Mayday Follen



Class of 2026

May is the local gossip center of PGHS - no secret stays hidden from her. New recruit to *The NewsBreaker*, nobody knows how she gets her information. Outside of the school day, she researches the staff and students of PGHS. She also likes to play golf with her parents and ski with her uncle.