

# The NewsBreaker

## FAREWELL, SPRING SPORTS!

Volume 5 No. 8

26 April 2024

### Powder Puff/Buff: Junior Sweep



By Tony Gabrik, Class of 2026

Over the past month, each class' powderpuff teams have been hard at work preparing for the big game. Following last year's sweep from the class of '25, student coaches from across all grades were hoping to take the title for this year's powderpuff games.

Tuesday, April 2nd marked the first day of the boy's volleyball series, which pitted the two underclassmen grades against each other. After winning the first of two sets uncontested, the Sophomore class then secured the victory against the Freshmen and moved on to the finals.

The following day, the Juniors bested the Senior class in a 2-0 shutout, guaranteeing their spot in the finals against the Sophomores, and putting them on track for back-to-back titles.

The highly anticipated Sophomores vs. Juniors finals took place on Thursday, April 4th. Despite high levels of play from both teams, the Juniors easily won the first set, indicating that a repeat of last year was likely. However, the second set was much more competitive, as the Sophomores found their footing and forced the set into deuce. After many points at match point for both teams, the Juniors finally managed to pull away. The final score being 17-15 Juniors.

Though a close game and an unfortunate loss for the Sophomores, several spectators report misconduct by the scorekeepers, who many seem to think would often "miscount" a point in favor of the Juniors. One spectator pointed out that the scorekeepers themselves were Juniors.

Of course, any method of manual scorekeeping is subject to mistakes, and the game itself being purely for fun highlights no need for any speculation or blame.

However, the \$25 entrance fee (for the shirt) raises some student concern of what they are actually paying for. Should students not be guaranteed fair play for that amount? Many students hope that powderbuff events can move forward without any future stigma.

Poor weather conditions that Friday led to the postponement of the girl's powderpuff games to Wednesday, April 17th. Fortunately, better weather permitted for a pleasant evening for spectators and participants alike.

The first two of four games once again featured the underclassmen game alongside the upperclassman game. Both sported fantastic touchdowns, interceptions, and trick plays crafted by the coaches. The outcomes leading to yet another Sophomore vs. Junior championship game.

After another close back-and-forth final, the Juniors once again took the crown, the final score being 14-7.

Meanwhile, the consolation game between the Freshman and Seniors ultimately led to a Freshman victory in the final minutes, placing them in 3rd.

Congratulations to the Juniors for yet another powderpuff/buff sweep, as students look forward to the results of next year's competition. Additionally, congratulations to all the coaches and athletes that participated in the 2024 powderpuff/buff games.

### Boys' Tennis Finishes Season with Solid Results



By Conor O'Brien, Class of 2026

Spring sports seasons are coming to a close, and with that, our Breaker boys tennis team has had their last matches. Under the leadership of a new coach, Sybille Thawley, the boys overcame a late start and went on to have a successful season.

The team plays in a league with York, Monte Vista Christian, Monterey, Salinas, Carmel, and Stevenson. The team won all their matches against Monterey, Salinas, and York, going 7-0 in all six. The team won one and lost one meet against MVC, with all the matches being close. The four meets against Stevenson and Carmel ended in losses for the Breakers, so the team ended with a 7-5 record. The team did not qualify for team PCALs, but 6 individual players are playing in the tournament and hopefully progressing to CCS.

While the team did not end with perfect results, they made great progress and are hoping to come back stronger and ready to play next year.



The junior powderpuff team celebrate their victory.

# Steel Will (and a Little Carbon Fiber): The Breaker Bots 2024 Saga



By Daniel Ostovar, Class of 2025

On January 6th this year, our school's robotics team, the BreakerBots, returned early from their Winter Break to kick off the 2024 season. The 30 students rose early on that Saturday morning and headed to the robotics workshop, affectionately dubbed "The Lair," huddling around the TV screen as they waited in anticipation for this year's game—titled "Crescendo"—to be released. These students knew that this would be the first of many long days that they would spend here, working tirelessly to produce a robot for their tournaments in March.

The BreakerBots' most recent season had been a rocky one. After losing a strong senior class, nearly all of the team's leadership positions were transferred to sophomores. As the underclassmen struggled in their new roles, the team fell well behind schedule, leading to the hasty creation of Scylla, an unwieldy and unstable robot with an enormous arm, which ended up being replaced by a literal bucket of bolts by the end of the first competition. They were able to perform significantly better in their second competition with Kraken, a robot designed, fabricated, and programmed in only two weeks. With another season under their belts, the sophomore leads, now juniors, excitedly awaited the 2024 season to prove themselves.

With this goal in mind, the BreakerBots planned big for this year's game, completely overhauling their schedule with stricter deadlines, adding several new machines to their workshop, and learning how to build complex mechanisms with their off-season robot, Plop. Initially, all seemed to be going well, deadlines were being hit, and most everything was going to plan. However, as they began to put the finishing touches on the first robot of the season, Hurricane, it was apparent that things weren't right. Some of the main mechanisms interfered with each other, rendering them unusable, and the robot was huge, over 25 pounds over the 125-pound weight limit. When it drove, it staggered around, drunkenly. Although they had planned to build another robot before the competition, they would be going into it without the valuable data they would have had if Hurricane had gone to plan.

With only 3 weeks left, the BreakerBots planned major changes for their next robot, dubbed Typhoon, including flipping major subsystems and completely changing out some mechanisms. This time, sacrificing some of the expediency that they had focused on during the fabrication of Hurricane, the BreakerBots worked carefully to avoid errors that led to Hurricane's failure.

On February 24th, only 6 days before their first competition, they showcased their new robot at a scrimmage held at the Student Union with a multitude of local teams from across the Bay Area. At their first competition in Silicon Valley, the BreakerBots struggled with a combination of a poor schedule and weak points in the robot that got exacerbated by collisions in each match. Ending up in 35th place, the BreakerBots feared that they were destined to end up as they had the previous year, with a driving bucket of bolts.

Afterward, the team had a 2.5-week turnaround before their second and final competition, the Monterey Bay Regional. They carefully assessed the problems they had identified at Silicon Valley and decided which subsystems to completely change, tweak, or keep the same. The base of the robot had warped over the course of the competition, forcing most of the subsystems to have to be removed so it could be reinforced. After some testing, they discovered that a lightweight carbon fiber tube could be used to hit the game pieces into one of the goals, which greatly improved the accuracy of the mechanism while also freeing up significant space and weight on the robot.

Leading into their second competition, the BreakerBots were cautiously optimistic. Their schedule was still not in their favor, and they were forecasted to lose most of their matches, but their robot was in the best shape it had ever been. As the competition dragged on, the robot's performance only improved as last-minute additions were implemented and the team got more experience controlling it. However, their performance was limited by the worn batteries they relied on, causing the robot to brown out during matches. In the playoffs, their potential was noticed by the third-ranked alliance, and they were selected to join some of the best teams in the competition. To add to their luck, one of the teams on their alliance lent them their batteries, allowing the BreakerBots to compete at the highest level yet. With their alliance partners, the BreakerBots blazed their way through the playoffs, even beating the second-ranked alliance in an upset. Though they eventually lost to the first-ranked alliance, the BreakerBots were proud of their performance and have come a long way since 2023.

## Boys' Golf Season Near its End!



By Andrew Atanous, Class of 2026

Our Pacific Grove High School Varsity Golf Team has been on a roll! On Tuesday, April 16, 2024, we had a match at Pajaro Valley Golf Club in Watsonville, where our team took 3rd place. Sophomore James Lowen shot his personal best of 37 strokes for 9 holes during the match, becoming the second lowest scoring individual there! On April 18, we had another match at Del Monte Golf Course. The weather was very windy, making for a tough day of golf.

We look forward to finishing up our season strong in our two remaining league matches. We play on Tuesday, April 23, at Pajaro Valley Golf Club. We wrap up the season with our Breaker Senior Night at our home course Pacific Grove Golf Links on Thursday, April 25! Please come support us after school and cheer on our school's golf team! Go Breakers!

## Season of Growth: PG Baseball



By Sofie Lewis, Class of 2025

The Varsity Baseball Team has faced some struggles after losing four seniors and entering the Gabilan division. Although their record might not reflect it, their hard work and dedication shows in their stats, with a batting average of 0.238, which is only 0.035 away from the national average, 198 plate appearances, and 172 at-bats. A few standout players include: Sam Knox, who is leading the team in stolen bases, batting average, and slugging percentage; and Brody Edmonds, with the most hits, RBIs, and highest on-base percentage. The Breakers have 8 games left in the season to continue to battle in Gabilan.

Some upcoming games to come support are on April 26 against Monterey, May 3rd against St. Francis, and May 6 against Salinas. Students enjoy watching on a nice day, and have noted that the crowd has grown since last season in support.



## DJ Giorgio's Western Debut



By Emily Keller, Class of 2024

On Friday, March 29, students filed into the Student Union to see DJ Giorgio's debut at PGHS' 2024 Sadie Hawkins Dance. The room was decorated with hay bales in honor of the dance's Western theme, complete with neon stage lights. People came decked out in everything from cowboy boots to flannel shirts. DJ Giorgio played songs from a variety of musical genres—including country, of course—that were well-received. Students enjoyed dancing to such iconic hits as "Cotton Eye Joe" and "Cupid Shuffle." The night even featured some student-led line dancing! DJ Giorgio also included some slow songs for those who invited someone to the dance.

The tradition of the Sadie Hawkins Dance is for girls to ask guys out, instead of vice versa, as is historically more common. To add something extra to this tradition, PGHS held a competition to see who had the best proposal (similar to a "Prom-posal," but less formal). Students who asked someone to the dance and were interested in entering the competition would send in a picture to show whom and how they asked. The winners of this year's competition were sophomores Sydney Amaditz and Dean Ehret.

## The World in April



By Daren Light, Class of 2027

In Ukraine, a Russian missile strike killed 18 people and injured at least 78 people. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky says that this attack could have been avoided if Ukraine was provided with better defense systems.

Recent Russian airstrikes have also destroyed a crucial power plant for Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. Also here, Zelensky says Ukraine has "run out of missiles" for air defense.

In Peru, a new way to end one's life peacefully has been questioned by the court, until now. After many years, health authorities still would not appeal the court's decision to allow one to die by euthanasia. In 2022, the decision was ratified. Last Sunday, a woman with an incurable disease became the first to choose to peacefully end her life this way.

On a lighter, more local note, Maram Haddad, a student at PGHS, has been announced Monterey County Youth Poet Laureate! She feels very inspired by poetry, and feels honored to have this.

Next month, see what the last month of school will bring forth in the world!

And now, a tale of danger, drama, espionage,  
and thrills, brought to you by...



## THE EGGPLANT

### Revolution Brewing in the Theater



By Mayday Follen, Class of 2026

Last Friday was the opening night for PGHS's 2024 spring musical: Mean Girls. The first act went on, I dare say, absolutely gloriously perfect. But, right as the show entered its second act, disaster struck: the fire alarms went off immediately after intermission.

Luckily, action from the Pagrovia fire department came swiftly and the show was permitted to continue. However, unease set in for the actors and stage crew. There was no danger posed that night, but their show was still interrupted? No smoke, but the alarms still blared? Luckily, the crew has PGHS's own Mayday Follen at their side.

Now, I feel it necessary to note that I am not a specialist here at The PGHS Eggplant. My duty is to gather and report stories, not to be a participant in them. So please, dear readers, forgive me for my past choices as I retell the fateful night.

At the start of the second act, I saw a figure slip out of the bathroom. I wasn't all too worried, I had thought the poor stranger had been caught off-guard by the end of intermission. However, what struck me was how they didn't head towards the seats in the audience. Instead, they approached the door of the Student Union, slowly opening it.

If they weren't such a vile fiend, I would have been impressed by the speed and silence of the act. But I had a lingering feeling in my gut; I knew something was off about the mysterious person as they left. So, as any good reporter would, I carefully exited my seat and followed after them.

I had just left the building when the alarm sounded. The strange figure's annoyingly proud stroll broke down into a clumsy sprint away from the scene of the crime. That was my final cue that this was a coordinated attack, so I gave chase. They had me following across the entire campus—which felt rather massive in the darkness—but I stayed close behind.

It was only when we reached the ledge between the JV field and senior parking lot that they stopped running. I'm certain their intent was to mock me before leaping off the ledge into the night, but it was at that moment they made their fatal mistake. I could never forget what they said to me that night:

"Long live the rhythmless!"

Their shout echoed into the emptiness, burning itself into my head. With a heavy heart and lacking evidence, I returned to the Student Union. But as that second act began again, I knew I had the beginnings of a case.

Dear readers, we must protect the sanctity of the musical theater here at PGHS. Keep your eyes and ears open for mentions of the 'Rhythmless.' We, at the very least, cannot allow the theater to fall to such a mediocrelly named organization.

Stay safe out there. Stay vigilant.

# 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.

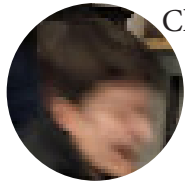
## Thomas Coen



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.

## 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.

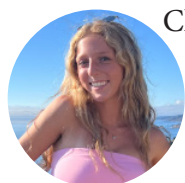
## Brooke Domalaog



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!

## 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.

## Sofie Lewis



Class of 2025

Sofie is a Junior at PGHS, and it is her first year on *The NewsBreaker*. She joined *The NewsBreaker* to become a better writer and learn more about school events. She enjoys playing volleyball, baking, and hanging out with

## 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.

## Andrew Atanous



Class of 2026

Andrew is a sophomore at PGHS and it is his first year on *The NewsBreaker*. He is a multi-instrumentalist who plays in numerous bands in and out of school. He plays on the school water polo and varsity golf teams, and is also a member of the BreakerBots. During the summer, you are sure to find him volunteering at the aquarium.

## 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.

## 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.

## Matthew An



Class of 2027

Matthew is a freshman at PGHS. This is his first year writing for *The NewsBreaker*. He hopes that *The NewsBreaker* will improve his writing skills and at the same time share information with his fellow classmates. Matthew enjoys robotics, Mock Trial, football, and directing his own movies in his free time.