

the Cougar

WINTER 2024



DEAR READER...

As we leave 2024 behind and usher in a new year, we are excited to bring you the latest edition of *The Cougar*. This installment is our Winter Edition and includes a variety of stories such as localized news, student life, opinions, and a little something special at the end to wrap 2024 with a bow.

While composing this edition, we've reflected on some challenges and triumphs. Our new editorial board has worked tirelessly to ensure that each article meets and exceeds its potential. We want to give a special thanks to our new managing editors and editorial staff. Our content managing editor, Thalia Savage, has done a wonderful job at assigning stories and directing our staff reporters. Our layout and design managing editor, Nasiah Tesch, has made our magazine aesthetically pleasing and our media vibrant. Our logistics managing editor, Sisseline Lovejoy, has made it possible for us to bring this magazine to life by fundraising and submitting grants. Finally, our media editor, Laura Garcia, has helped us shape the different platforms of *The Cougar*.

We would lastly like to thank our new journalism adviser, Jessica Rhode. She has helped us rebuild this program for future generations of *The Cougar* and has filled our newsroom with passion and vitality. She has also supported us not only with her enthusiasm, but with the resources necessary to make the best possible version of *The Cougar*.

As always, we hope this issue of *The Cougar* provides insight into what's going on around us and helps get us settled into a new year.

Until next time, enjoy the read!

Warmly,

Erin Cho and Samuel Destin
The Cougar's Editors-In-Chief

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Crossword Answers:

- Across:**
2. Veronica
6. Winter
7. Chai
8. Cougar
11. Hot Chocolate
12. Snowflake
14. Golden Gate Fields
15. Sammy
- Down:**
1. IIC
3. Erin
4. Albany High School
5. Yom Kippur
9. Rhode
10. The Cougar
12. Smile
13. Fall

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Future of the Fields

BY: MARGARET MONTAG AND SISSELINE LOVEJOY

Sandwiched between I-80 and the Bay, Golden Gate Fields was a prominent presence in Albany until its recent closure on June 9, 2024. And yet, it looms even larger over the community after its closure, calling into question what its future will be and what that means for the people of Albany.

On October 21, the Albany City Council and concerned citizens convened for a special meeting on the future of the fields and what that means for the city. A central topic of discussion was the loss of city tax revenue. Leslie Mendez, the city's planning manager, disclosed that "Golden Gate Fields generated approximately \$1.5 million annually

in revenue for the city, which is not an insubstantial sum." Mendez further explained that if a tax-generating operation isn't put in place, the city will lose income for emergency services and infrastructure maintenance in addition to general funds.

Mendez also noted that in addition to the city funds, the Fields generated over \$700,000 annually for Albany Unified School District. That's a significant amount of money for a small district with few funding sources.

Principal Darren McNally explained Albany's predicament. "We fall into a weird in-between spot where we don't actually have that

much money. It's a weird situation. They think we're a rich district, and we're not" he said, noting Albany's differences from surrounding districts, including Berkeley Unified.

—

The Fields' start was a rocky one. Construction began in 1939, and the track first opened its doors in 1940—only to be denied racing dates by the California Horse Racing Board. Horses finally raced the track a year later. During the Second World War, racing was suspended again when the fields were used as military housing and submarine repair yards.

The Fields' prominence grew through the decades. It was home to Northern California betting records and started several notable jockey careers, including that of the legendary Bill Shoemaker. Golden Gate Fields remained a fixture in the California horse racing community for over 80 years.

Despite the track's longevity, the Fields' closure last June wasn't entirely unexpected. The industry as a whole has seen losses, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. The fields specifically has been plagued by misfortunes in recent years. In the year before the close, 13 horses died due to injuries sustained during racing or training. In addition, in 2019,



a track guest accused an employee of drugging and violating her at a track event.

The official reason for the closure cited by the owners of the track, the Stronach Group, was consolidation. They prioritized the development of other venues like the Santa Anita racing track in Arcadia and other Southern California fields.

The track was home to over 1000 horses that were either sent to Southern California or entered the Northern California fair circuit. But the future of the track's workers is even more unsure. In 2023, Golden Gate Fields was the city's third largest employer, with 240 employees in Albany, and many more employed in Berkeley.

Since the fields' closure, logistical concerns, in addition to the financial impacts have become a large consideration for the property. 1990's Measure C requires any actions on the property (classed as a "Waterfront District") not in line with permitted uses for such a space to be taken to the ballot box. Permitted uses include commercial venues and restaurants and exclude residential buildings—but not housing. Even with a large push for affordable housing from Albany residents would still require a vote in order to move forward.

However, money isn't the only thing the city needs to worry about—they also must consider the well-being of citizens and their environment. To the north and south, the Fields is surrounded by McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, prompting many community members to advocate



for incorporating it into the park.

A representative for the nonprofit Citizens for East Shore Parks raised concerns about the fitness of the site for development, stating, "[Golden Gate Fields] is a prime site to complete the park. ...It's a terrible site to put housing, with two meters in sea rise, the infield and the approach to the infield are all underwater." Other speakers advocated for "nature first," with natural solutions as a priority.

Despite the push from the local environmental community, commercial development remains a viable (and popular) option. Francesco Papalia, member of the Financial Advisory Committee, declared the Fields a "greatly underutilized commercial entity for the city of Albany. ...If this goes, we will have very little left to develop."

In addition to commercial development, proposals for Golden Gate Fields have included a victim sup-

Bottom left : The Albany Council hosts an open meeting to discuss future options for the fields.

Top right: Golden Gate Fields entrance at sunset.

Photo Credit: Sylvie Corteel

port center and low-income housing, although both are unlikely given the site's zoning restrictions. Many others have raised concerns over the site's utilities and infrastructure as well as pedestrian access.

When discussing the district's finances, McNally emphasized the size of the school. Because of the school's financial situation, he said, "things like what is going to happen to Golden Gate Fields become really important decisions." The same is true for the city. What happens to the Fields will impact the Albany's future. And as of now, that future remains uncertain. 🐾

Albany High's Path

BY NIRVAAN JASWAL
DESIGN BY NASIAH TESCH

to Land Acknowledgement and Ohlone Recognition

Making land acknowledgements has become a growing practice throughout the United States. Albany is no different. Since 2020 Albany High School and Albany Unified School District have been discussing how best to acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples in our area.

Land acknowledgments, according to the National Museum of the American Indian “are used by Native Peoples and non-natives to recognize Indigenous Peoples who are the original stewards of the lands on which we now live.”

Gaining steam due to a 2018 movement which pushed for land acknowledgements in institutions of learning—mainly universities—it quickly spread to Albany in 2020, where it became popular, although not without setbacks.

This issue was first acknowledged by the Albany Board of Education. On August 21, 2020, the board passed a resolution during Native American History Month. The resolution acknowledges that “Albany sits on the territory of the Huichin, the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo Ohlone”, which the Lisjan Ohlone people are a part of.

The following year, on September 20, 2021, a similar resolution was passed in the Albany City Council expressing more or less of the same stated goals: to acknowledge Ohlone people as having lived on and exercised sovereignty where Albany is currently situated before the establishment of colonies, the state of California, and Albany itself.

From every meeting since the resolution, the city council has stated a land acknowledgement at the beginning of each meeting.

Finally, in April of this year, AHS Principal Darren McNally held conversations with the director of the Sogorea Te' Land Trust, Corrina Gould. The goal of these conversations were to figure out how to implement land acknowledgement policies and ideas. The proposals that came out of it were installing a mural, raising the flag of the Lisjan Ohlone, and uploading a land acknowledgement statement on the school website.

McNally recalls what made these proposals significant: “The flag felt like it was cohesive with what the city of Albany was doing. ...Land acknowledgements are common now so doing something like that, and the mural [was] a way to possibly engage students in a project—even a little campus beautification and also some public art,” McNally added, “my own goals for this school intersected with acknowledgement of the Lisjan Ohlone.”

These steps have not yet been taken. In particular, McNally stated budget issues regarding the mural. “I was hoping that there was some kind of additional funding for something like [it], and I really couldn't find any funding sources.”

However, he remains hopeful, “I'm still interested in doing it. I just need to have [ongoing] conversations with district leadership.” 🐾



“Populus Alba Tree”
by G. Bernetti
CC BY SA 4.0

School Board Electees, New and Familiar

In the recent 2024 election, four candidates ran for two positions on the Albany Board of Education. Those candidates were Brian Doss, a former school board member; Dayna Inkeles, Albany Music Fund Secretary; Jolene Gazmen, a registered behavior technician; and Veronica Davidson, the current school board president. Of those four, Albany elected Veronica Davidson and Dayna Inkeles.

BY MAYA OSVALD AND ZESANG SHERAB



Photo courtesy of: Veronica Davidson's Election Website

In the recent election, Veronica Davidson was re-elected for her second term as a trustee of the Albany Board of Education. Davidson is a teacher and a small business owner who has lived in Albany for 12 years. When asked about what was most important in education, Davidson said, "Happiness and wellness is the first important thing for me. After that is offering a variety of courses that appeal to all students and supporting diverse learners and that students feel safe and welcome at school." She said, "Originally I ran because I wanted to help make sure that all of our school sites have equitable upgrades happening, and all students had curriculum that really worked best for them. Right now I'm running again because I want to continue some of the projects that I've started, and I want to help us run a smooth transition to having a new superintendent, a new chief business officer, and an almost new board of education."



Photo courtesy of: Dayna Inkeles

Dayna Inkeles was newly elected as a trustee of the Albany Board of Education. Inkeles has been a resident of Albany for nearly 20 years and was recently a director at Clorox. Inkeles has served a variety of positions within the Albany Unified School District. She has been PTA president at Albany Middle School and is the current secretary for the Albany Music Fund. In an online forum with the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Albany Emeryville, Inkeles said, "I feel I bring an extensive amount of experience in budgeting, communication, problem-solving, and change management." She also shared how she would act when elected: "I plan to take an honest approach. I look forward to collaborating with teachers, parents, and staff. I am comfortable making hard decisions, I know that's part of the role and I value accountability, transparency, and inclusion. Those are the values that would guide my service." 🐾

Albany Deletes The Applied Art Requirement

BY SADIE NYSTROM, AMITY MELVILLE,
AND ABIGAIL GAEDJE

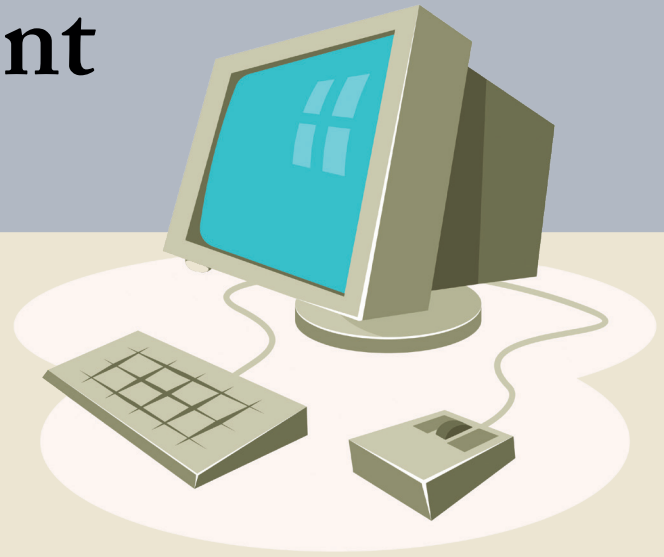
On November 19th, the Albany Board of Education voted to remove the applied arts graduation requirement at the recommendation of the Instructional Improvement Committee (IIC). Earlier that month, the IIC voted to remove the graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2026. The goal is to increase flexibility for students choosing classes, and compensate for the recent increase in graduation requirements due to ethnic studies.

The applied arts requirement covered a variety of classes including: computer science, culinary arts, electronics workshop, engineering and design principles, graphic design, journalism, photography, and yearbook.

Before this change, students needed to complete 220 credits. Out of these 220 credits, 10 needed to come from applied arts courses, and another 10 from fine arts courses. Now the credits students earn in applied arts classes will be treated as general elective credits.

Becca Burns, counselor at Albany High School, compared removing the elective credit to the addition of ethnic studies: "Anybody who is a junior or younger who has not yet met that requirement would be relieved of that responsibility, which is different from how we rolled out ethnic studies."

In the past, AHS has given students the option to waive the applied arts requirement, but only under specific circumstances, require getting a contract signed by AHS Principal Darren McNally. Phoebe Ambrosio, senior, takes advanced dance and chamber singers. When asked if the applied art requirement limited her ability to take classes she is interested in, she said, "Yes, I would say so. I wanted to take more classes this year, but since I had to take an applied art I couldn't. I was doing a contract with choir so I had to take four years of choir to fulfill my applied art."



"Stock Retro PC Vector Clip Art" by VectorPortal CC BY 4.0

Removing the requirement offers students the option to take more classes that they are interested in. This specifically applies to students who take, or want to take, several different fine arts. A student looking to take both of these classes would now be able to do so without balancing an applied art.

Jeff Castle, who teaches graphic design, engineering and design principle, and electronics workshop, explains the history of the graduation requirement. "We wanted to make sure students were well-rounded and had experience with computers," Castle said, "because back in the early 2000s computers were the future, and everyone needed to have experience with computing."

Students who are interested in applied arts classes would be able to take them, while students who want space in their schedules for other classes would be able to fill their elective requirements with classes that are more suited to their interests.

Teachers focused on applied arts may be worried about a drop in enrollment, but Castle says, "Even though I only teach applied arts classes, and you might be thinking, 'well, why doesn't that mean fewer people are going to take your class?' And I guess my answer is no, people take my class because they want to take my classes, not because they're trying to meet the applied arts requirement." 🐾

Relaunching the Lunch Line

BY GOLDEN RANDOLPH, OWEN GORDON, AND PAUL NEACSU

If you were to get lunch last year, you would be thrown headfirst into a mob of students. However, this year there has been a higher effort to keep the students in line.

In previous years, cafeteria and security staff noted the wildness of the lines, prompting essential changes. In an interview, Sabina Feinburg, the executive chef of Albany Unified School District, explained that the decision to implement these changes was made in discussion with the security team rather than directly enacting any adjustments themselves.

“We were concerned that there was a pile-up of kids at the registers.” Feinburg then compared the situation to a rock concert: “there are people just being smashed up against the stage and it’s dangerous.”

Feinberg also stated that both security and the lunchroom staff made small changes that slowly formed the new system. One of the main changes was more supervision during lunch and break. In previous years there was only one campus supervisor or administrator in the lunch room monitoring the line, this year there are at least two and usually three. A change that the team made to make the lunch line more manageable was implementing a single file line, ensuring less cutting and pushing.

Along with this new system, the security team has also increased their supervision of on the situation. One supervisor stands by the exit of the lunch room and another stands by the hallway entrance, ensuring the school policy of no pushing and cutting is upheld, helping to minimize the chaos.

When asked about future changes, Feinburg says, “it would be great if we could have a fourth line, that’s something that we are looking into currently.” This would help speed up the line and give students more time to eat. Feinburg also mentioned this would help eliminate some of the overcrowding and space problems.

Students also shared their opinions. Marcus Yee, sophomore, explained the reason for the rush: “kids don’t want to spend their entire lunch waiting for their food and not having time to eat it, giving us more time [for lunch] would reduce crowding and make things go smoother.”

That being said, the students were not without complaints about the new system. Hugo Despret, junior, spoke on how he thought the added security wasn’t really needed during snack break due to how short the break already is. Feinburg stated, “while the system isn’t perfect, we hope to continue improving the lunchroom experience for students and staff alike.” 🐾



Above: Staff monitors students approaching counter
Bottom Left: Students waiting to enter the lunch room
Photo Credit: Golden Randolph



Feathers vs. Fangs

OPINION BY DARLA LAWSON

For nearly a century, Albany High has been the home of the Cougars: A basic and seemingly natural mascot. But does anyone really know why?

The Cougar mascot was an idea brought up in the 1930s. It was inspired by the Washington State Cougars, which was established in 1890. After asking many adults in the Albany High School community about the history behind the cougar, none of them really knew how to answer the question. To say that this was disappointing was an understatement. I know that we, my school and community, used to be more passionate about being The Cougars. I even heard that about ten years ago a student would dress up as a cougar for sports games. Now, that tradition is gone: tucked behind in the back of a room, gathering dust.

However, I've recently realized that there might be an answer to the question of what we can do about our mascot after all. There is an animal that currently represents where we live. We also see them quite often: the mighty Albany Turkey. Turkeys are everywhere, they cross the streets up Albany Hill and eat our leftovers. These turkeys also do not seem frightened or threatened by all the people and cars they see, they are fearless. To truly represent Albany, our mascot should be the turkey instead of the cougar. At first, you may



Above: Ori Radwin, senior, poses wearing the original Cougar mascot head **Bottom Left:** Local turkeys at the Shell gas station on San Pablo. in Albany
Photo Credit: Darla Lawson

think turkeys are a worse mascot than cougars. After all, they are a little silly looking, whereas cougars are fierce and strong.

Despite this lack of fierceness in turkeys, I still believe that they hold a lot of potential. Turkeys are vicious when provoked; they charge ahead just like our loyal sports teams. They are very large birds, flexing their wings to show off their beautiful reddish feathers. They chase who they don't like and they are comfortable staring down at someone irritating with their scary eyes. Not only are turkeys powerful, they are different. If we want an authentic, local mascot that conveys our spirit and history, the turkey is the right choice. 🐾



Making Space for Faith

GUEST OPINION BY ARI OSHRY, LAYOUT BY MICHAEL FINLEY

Every year, I cross my fingers that spring break lines up with Passover. If it does, I can experience a joyous holiday full of food and tradition with my extended family. If it doesn't align with spring break, I struggle to balance my schoolwork and make the most out of this meaningful holiday.

The challenge of balancing religious observance and academic responsibilities extends far beyond a single holiday. Holidays like Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur often require missing school days. My frustration is shared by students from other faiths. Many Muslim students, for example, spend school days during Ramadan often exhausted from fasting. This creates a recurring dilemma for students of faith: should they honor their religious traditions or maintain their academic momentum?

In trying to find a possible solution to this problem, I first sought to understand our district's approach to giving time off for religious holidays. According to Albany High School Principal Darren McNally, Albany Unified School District is required to have 180 school days. From there, it is largely up to the school board to decide which days are holidays. It's important to keep in mind that including religious holidays is particularly complex because they often follow different calendar systems. However, as McNally explains, the calendar is approved every year by a committee of school board members, so

changing holidays from year to year is possible. According to Veronica Davidson, the president of the school board, while Albany Unified has a committee that has looked into expanding holidays, their focus primarily revolves around major breaks and federal holidays like Christmas and New Year's. McNally also states that the school offers excused absences for religious observances. However, in my own experience, this is not enough.

While giving days off for all religious holidays at AHS may be unrealistic, students and staff can still work toward creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for students of all faiths. Increased communication between faculty and students about religious observances is important to help teachers plan assignments and tests more considerately. In my experience, teachers are often either unaware of religious holidays or unable to pause instruction for students who are absent. However, if they are reminded of religious holidays, teachers might consider adjusting their lesson plans and tests accordingly. Through open dialogue, we can ensure that no student feels forced to choose between their religion and education while continuing to serve our diverse student population. 🐾

"Blue Snowflake" by raseone CC0 1.0

Key Moments of 2024

BY LUCY FORTIER, JULIA WEIBLE, AND IZZY YOUNG

This year, there have been many ups and downs, from the excitement of the Olympics in July to the newest fashion fads in September. To look back on 2024, sophomores Lucy Fortier, Izzy Young, and Julia Weible came up their most memorable moments of the year.

JoJo Siwa

JoJo Siwa had her big break during April. Her song “Karma” was number five on the Billboard Hot Dance/Electronic songs chart. She made waves showing off her new look on red carpets and multiple social media platforms such as Tiktok and Instagram. Not only was her song catchy, but also her dancing, fashion and all the drama that came along with her. This 20-year-old has also come out with new songs since “Karma,” and even though her fame has dwindled, she is still a well known figure in pop culture. “I definitely thought she took advantage of how social media really dislikes when people do out of normal things, because with that comes lots of money, so I think she’s smart,” said sophomore Alex Brizzi, sophomore.



JoJo Siwa by
iHeartRadioCA CC BY 3.0

Brat Summer

A new lifestyle trend appeared from singer Charli XCX’s new album: Brat Summer. It included lime green, partying, and living your best life. It took over clothing, social media, and even video games. A TikTok dance by Kelley Heyer to Charli’s song “Apple” surfaced, and became one of the most popular dances of the year. Amber Nguyen, sophomore, a Charli XCX listener said, “I wasn’t that big of a fan of Charli XCX before



brat summer, but once [it] started, I really liked her music and I think she’s a good artist.” While this trend has faded, Brat Summer was just the thing to kick off summer of 2024. It also supported Kamala Harris in her campaign, as her team really embraced “brat” and used it as a marketing strategy for the presidential election.

Biden Dropping Out

One of the most shocking moments of the election was when President Joe Biden dropped out of the election on July 21st, sparking chaos throughout the country. On that same day, he endorsed Kamala Harris to run in his place. There were many critiques of his choice throughout the country, but also many supporters. “I thought it was good, it didn’t seem like he was really fit to run the country and I think Kamala is a much better candidate,” said Ana Owen, junior. Even though some thought it was bittersweet that our old president wouldn’t be in the running for the new presidency, many agreed that it was the right choice.

The Olympics & Paralympics

The Olympics and Paralympics took place this summer in Paris, France. As it only happens every four years, over 30 billion people came together to watch this incredible sports event. The most popular of the events were gymnastics, soccer, swimming, basketball, volleyball, and water polo. Many students at Albany High School were also immersed in the worldwide broadcast: “I watched basketball because the G.O.A.T Steph Curry played and he carried team USA to a gold medal,” said John Akl, sophomore. Additionally, celebrity and rapper Snoop Dogg added a comic element to the event. Interacting with athletes and appearing in advertisements, he created excitement and helped make the broadcast more personable.

It Ends With Us

The movie *It Ends With Us* came to theaters on the 9th of August. Based on Colleen Hoover’s best selling novel, it stimulated controversy and hate, but also enthusiasm. The sensitive topic of domestic abuse touched many people’s hearts. The audience was able to empathize with the experience of Lily, the main character. Most of the criticism, however, focused on the main actress, Blake Lively. Some believed she was “too old” to play the role of Lily, who was supposed to be in her mid twenties. Lively also promoted her clothing and hair line in the movie, which triggered hate. “I thought her clothing choices were really weird,” Freya Piroth,



Joe Biden by Bloximages, public domain



Paris by barnys CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

sophomore, agreed: “She seemed way older than the character she was playing. I didn’t really like her performance, I thought it was good, but that it could have been better.” This caused a lot of judgment to fall on the actress herself, and was one of the main reasons why the movie got harsh reviews. It is currently rated 6.5/10 stars on IMDb.com.

Cheetah Print

When cheetah prints arose in September, it immediately took over clothing, phone cases, costumes, and more. Olivia Williams, senior, commented, “At first I liked it, but that was when I was seeing it on my Pinterest board in early 2023. And then it got really cheap—once the cheetah print booty shorts came out—I didn’t like those... I think it’s corny and cringy.” While this trend has mostly declined, it gave September fashion a new look.

Honorable Mentions

To wrap it up, there are some things that deserve recognition, but didn’t quite make the cut for our timeline.

MOVIES:

Deadpool vs. Wolverine
Smile 2
Scream 2

ALBUMS:

Sabrina Carpenter “Short n’ Sweet”
Taylor Swift “The Tortured Poets Department”
21 Savage “American Dream”
Billie Eilish “Hit Me Hard and Soft” 🐾



Fall Fuel

BY : RINCHEN WASHUL AND NOA CALLEN



As the weather becomes colder and clothing gets warmer, there is always a sweet drink that fits the fall atmosphere. This year's spiced, comforting, creamy drink is like a warm hug for your tastebuds. Cardamom, cinnamon, tea and milk are the main components of this year's aromatic beverage. Join us as we search for the perfect chai latte from local cafes to warm your day.

TAY TAH CAFE: 1182 Solano Avenue, Albany. \$5.95 for 16 oz.



Tay Tah Cafe has wonderful customer service, and the staff were very kind and talkative. We ordered a chai latte and it came quickly within a three minute window. When we received the chai, it was very hot and we had to wait a few minutes before we could drink it. There wasn't anything notable for the presentation; it was very foamy, creating an interesting airy texture that took up almost half of the drink. The flavor was initially very diluted, but as it cooled down, it grew much stronger. This drink wasn't our favorite, and it is not Tay Tah's specialty, but regardless, Tay Tah cafe offers wonderful services and creamy chai.



ROYAL GROUND COFFEE:

1127 Solano Avenue, Albany. \$4.25 for 16 oz.



When we stepped into Royal Ground Coffee, we were pleased to find a welcoming atmosphere and large selection of food and drinks. We waited a brief three minutes for our drink. We were pleasantly surprised when the barista presented a heart design on top of the chai. The warm, sweet taste of cinnamon and cloves was much more present than the other cafes and thoroughly satisfied our cravings. It was delightfully rich and had a good ratio of cream to chai. Overall, Royal Ground Coffee has a nice atmosphere, decent customer service, and an affordable, flavorful chai, perfect for a cold day.

SEMIFREDDI'S BAKERY:

327 Colusa Avenue, Kensington. \$4.50 for 12 oz.



Semifreddi's Bakery is a charming, rustic spot with delicious baked goods and a wide selection of drinks. We ordered a chai latte and it came in around four minutes. The drink came too hot with an undetectable scent. It was very milky which dimmed the chai flavor. However, the customer service was incredible. They were very nice and understanding.

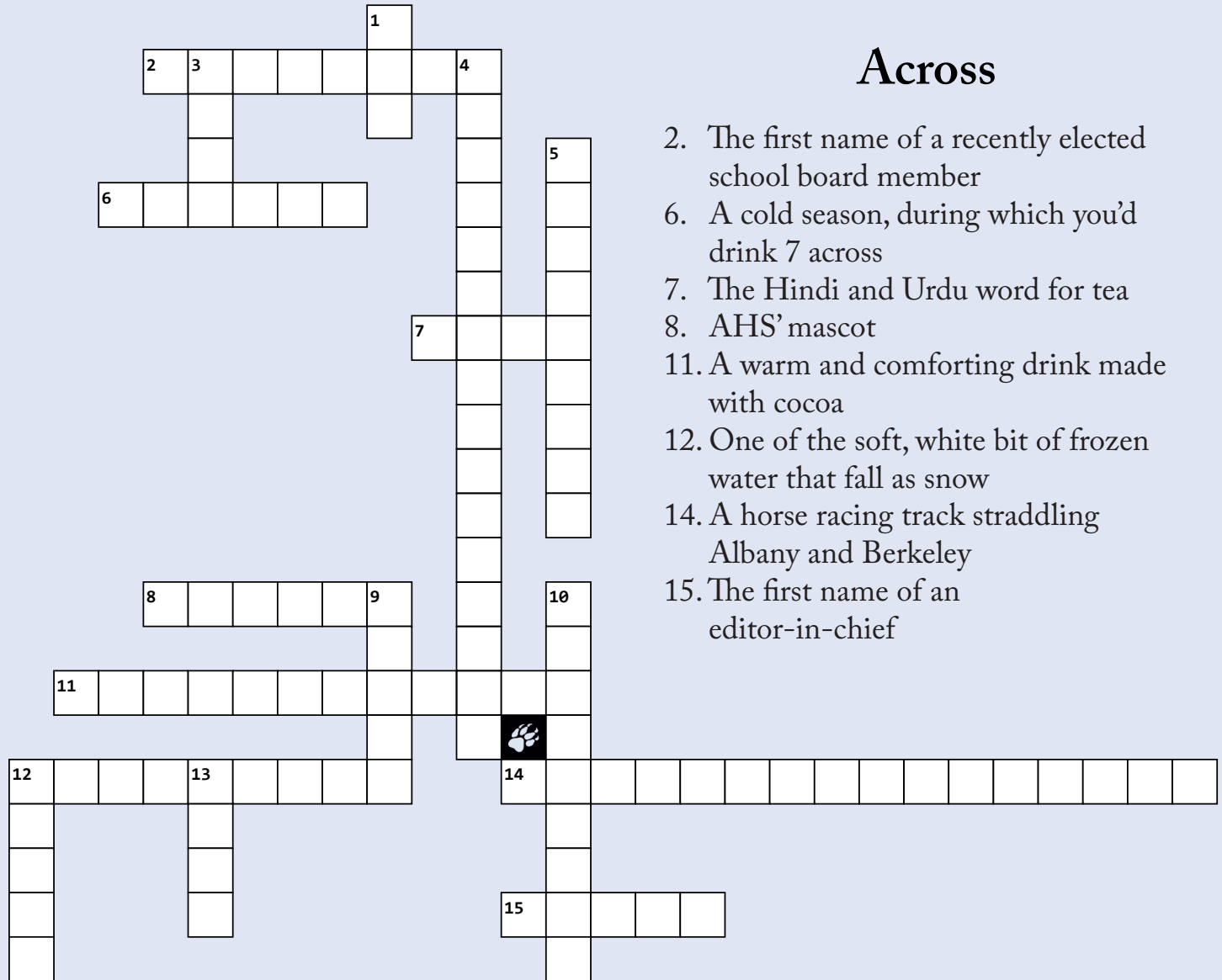
Their hot chai is subtle and milky, but if you prefer cold chai, Semifreddi's offers a delectably rich option. 🐾



If you're feeling like staying home but find yourself craving a warm chai, we suggest an at-home chai mix. Our favorite is the Trader Joe's spicy chai powder. The Trader Joe's in the El Cerrito plaza makes this a quick grab. The powder is easily buildable, so you can make it more or less flavorful depending on your preference.

Winter Magazine Crossword

CREATED BY SAMUEL DESTIN AND ERIN CHO
LAYOUT BY MICHAEL FINLEY



Across

2. The first name of a recently elected school board member
6. A cold season, during which you'd drink 7 across
7. The Hindi and Urdu word for tea
8. AHS' mascot
11. A warm and comforting drink made with cocoa
12. One of the soft, white bit of frozen water that fall as snow
14. A horse racing track straddling Albany and Berkeley
15. The first name of an editor-in-chief

ANSWERS ON **PG.2**

Down

1. A committee of individuals who recently voted to remove the applied art graduation requirement
3. The first name of the other editors-in-chief
4. The Cougar's new Instagram handle (Go check it out!)
5. A Jewish holiday of atonement
9. The name of the current journalism adviser
10. Name of AHS's news source
12. One of the movies included in the honorable mentions list for the "Key Moments of 2024" article
13. Season before 6 across

EDITORIAL BOARD: ERIN CHO, SAMUEL DESTIN, NASIAH TESCH, SISSELINE LOVEJOY, THALIA SAVAGE, LAURA GARCIA **STAFF: ABIGAIL GAEDJE, AMITY MELVILLE, CHRIS ORTIZ, DARLA LAWSON, GOLDEN RANDOLPH, IZZY YOUNG, JUDAH KUPERS, JULIA WEIBLE, LUCY FORTIER, MARGARET MONTAG, MAYA OSVALD, MICHAEL FINLEY, NAMRUD FESSEHAYE, NIRVAAN JASWAL, NOA CALLEN, OWEN GORDON, PAUL NEACSU, RINCHEN WASHUL, SADIE NYSTROM, TOURE HUDSON, ZESANG SHERAB**
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