

Fathers and daughters bond at the western-themed dance

by **Kate Hinsche**

Opinion Editor

On Sat., Feb. 7, the cheer team hosted another successful Father-Daughter Dance. The dance's Barn Dance theme inspired countless father-daughter couples to don flannels, boots, and cowboy hats, while some more ambitious attendees, such as senior **Isabel Queiroz**, dressed up as cows. When guests walked through the double doors of the Big Gym, they were greeted by a hay bale and wheelbarrow set up for fun, ranch-style pictures.

Once inside, attendees were greeted by a long line for the photo booth, a fake bonfire accompanied by hay bales for sitting on, and an elaborate chocolate fountain set up surrounded by marshmallows, strawberries, cookies, and more. Junior **Nicole Calise** said, "Since school, sports, and other activities can take up time to spend with family, it's a fun night to just hang out and reconnect with our dads."

The lights stayed dim while fathers and daughters gathered on the dance floor to boogie down to the Cha-Cha Slide. Among the other hits played were Hannah Montana's Hoedown Throwdown



DAUGHTERS DANCE: LGHS girls kick up some dust in a western-themed father-daughter dance.



photos K. Hinsche

SNACK BREAK: The dance also provided delicious refreshments including a milk chocolate fountain.

and Journey's Don't Stop Believin'. Junior **Zoe Lam** really enjoyed the music, saying, "The music was pretty groovy. It was a solid mix of country, classics, and current songs. My dad and I tore up the dance floor." The dancing energy of the attendees peaked when the entire room was consumed by a giant conga line that wove in a figure eight from the bleachers all the way to the DJ.

Once the dancing died down, a group of senior girls and their dads performed a dance-off for the all of the guests. While the girls were intense and aggressive in their dancing, the dads responded with a simple but hilarious set of moves set to "Cotton Eye Joe." Junior **Sara Cullinane** said, "The senior skit was so funny, I can't wait to be in it next year!" Immediately following the dance-off was the Cheer Team's raffle for two gift baskets intended for the moms discluded from the night's partying.

As the raffle ended and the dancing resumed, father-daughter couples began to trickle out of the gym's glass doors. A few dedicated party pairs continued their dancing by the bonfire, eating at the chocolate fountain, and posing for at the photo booth until the doors closed at 11PM.

Drought worsens day by day

by **Lark Breen**

World Editor

For the past three years, winter has been dismally dry in California. Little to no rain in the Bay Area and small amounts of snowfall in Tahoe has taken its toll on the environment. While there have been rare and outlying downpours every so often, the overall pattern of winter in California has drastically changed since the winter of 2010-11.

Last December, the Bay Area experienced a major storm which was featured on news channels across the nation. This storm, dubbed "stormpocalypse" or "stormageddon" by many, seemed a positive omen for the rest of the winter season. Its short-lived, but heavy rains did a great deal to alleviate the pressure of the drought. The rain flooded many streets and drainage systems in San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area, and fire hazards decreased exponentially.

The effects of the massive storm seemed to disappear quickly, however. In Tahoe, the little amount of snow melted due to rain and unusually high temperatures. What may have been the largest storm in at least six years was followed by the driest January in recorded history. No measurable rainfall landed on the Bay Area, and the overall pattern of weather seems to be replicating the dry 2013-14 winter. In the past, January has generally been the height of the wet season in Northern California.



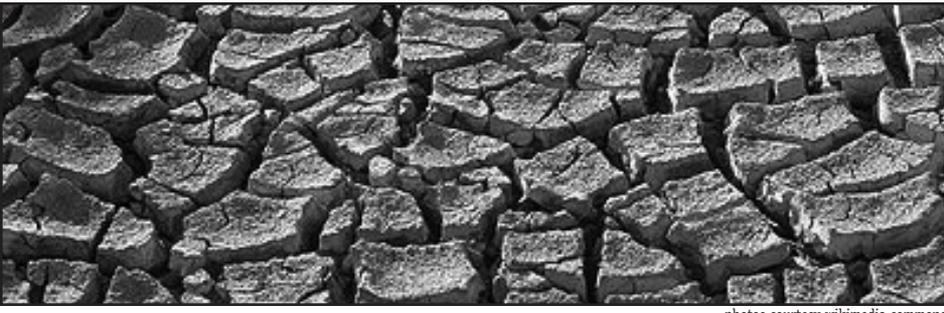
DRY AS A BONE: Water sources are continually evaporating as California's drought worsens. Reservoirs like this one are nearly empty.

Luckily, the rainstorm during the first week of February is breaking that pattern. Weather has proven itself to be quite unpredictable in the long run, and although the nearly four-year drought will not be fixed by just one more rainstorm, if these storms continue to show up every once in a while, California may be on the mend.

However, Tahoe's inordinately high temperatures are forcing locals and tourists alike to consider the possibility of a new definition of winter. If winters continue to produce these levels of snow for the coming years, ski areas and other winter attractions in Tahoe may have to change their ways. Tourism, the main source of economic wealth in the Tahoe area, is greatly threatened by low snowfall.

One thing is for sure: with only sporadic storms to break up a four-year long, bleak dry spell, California has to reevaluate its definition of what is "normal."

(Sources: weatherwest.com, NBC News, CBS San Francisco, Huffington Post)



photos courtesy wikimedia commons

DRY AND GOLDEN STATE: Land all over California has been drying resulting in sections of cracked soil; this can only be resolved with rain.

Olesek teaches Enneagram

by **Rachel Salisbury and Liat Rubin**

Editors-in-Chief

According to the Enneagram, a psychological theory that claims everyone can be sorted into nine different personality types, a type one personality is giving, charitable, and outward-looking. For example, Gandhi was a type one. Los Gatos mother Susan Olesek, founder of the Enneagram Prison Project (EPP), classifies herself in the type one category, and her life's work is a testament to the qualities this personality type exhibits. El Gato News had the opportunity to hear Olesek speak on Jan. 28 at the Los Gatos Theater, where Olesek delivered a presentation on her work with the Enneagram in prison systems.

The Enneagram system has helped people discover themselves and deal with the aspects of their personality that they do not understand. By introducing these concepts to prisoners, Olesek believes that prisoners will be able to understand the nature of and motivation behind their crimes. On the Enneagram Prison Project website, Olesek attests, "I have personally witnessed the effect of self-awareness training on the incarcerated. I know in my heart this is the only path for all of us, as a collective society that wants a better future for all involved."

While many other personality-sorting methods exist, and there is considerable doubt surrounding all systems, the work that Olesek has been doing in prisons supersedes any misgivings regarding the Enneagram theory.

The EPP Facebook page posted a quote from Fyodor Dostoyevsky, "The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons," that reflects their mission: to rehabilitate prisoners so that they can be productive members of society upon release, hopefully decreasing recidivism. In an effort to help prisoners rehabilitate and come to terms with their crimes, the EPP teaches classes on the Enneagram within prisons.

While working in prisons, Olesek "became downright convinced that the benefit of self-understanding through the lens of the Enneagram is a critical missing piece for real criminal reform."

The Enneagram also helped Olesek through personal difficulties. One of Olesek's motivations for teaching the Enneagram, especially to younger audiences, is her desire to have had the Enneagram at her disposal when she was younger.

Olesek elaborated in an interview with El Gato News, "My mother committed suicide when I was young, and I think that's so formative for me... I believed that it was because of me." Once she discovered the Enneagram, she felt as if she had been given a map to understanding her personality and has since been able to understand her emotional responses.

To help out with the EPP through donation or volunteering, or to learn about the EPP and the Enneagram theory behind it, check out the QR code above. Olesek will be leading Enneagram workshops on Sat., Mar. 1 at the Adisson-Penzak JCC and on Sat., Mar. 15 at the History Club of Los Gatos. Buy tickets by scanning the QR code and to see an exclusive El Gato video.



Scan the QR code to donate and hear more about Susan Olesek and the EPP.



R. Salisbury

ENNEAGRAM TRAINING: Olesek presented her program to Los Gatos on Jan. 28.

Language Outreach Club fundraises for women's internet

by **Violet Wallerstein**

Center Editor

Language Outreach Club is one of many unique clubs at LGHS, but their work extends worldwide. Their mission is to help teach women in Bangladesh English using Skype. They work with the Sajida Foundation, which provides the women transportation to the Ajinpoor Women's Center where they have an internet connection. This year is the fourth year the club will be active on the LGHS campus, and they have helped four different groups of women improve on English vocabulary and pronunciation.

Five or six members of the club have a Skype session in the evening with the girls in Bangladesh once a month. The club members create a lesson plan for the night and send it to the Sajida Foundation beforehand for the girls to prepare it. The main focus is to start a conversation with the girls about their lives and interests in order to help them with conversational English, but the group also practices reading paragraphs from different novels or learning new vocab words. Their goal this year is to raise 2,500 dollars in order to



L. Talukder

BAKE SALE: Sophomore **Rachel Keady** and junior **Leilah Talukder** raised funds for the club at Lunardis.

better the internet connection in Bangladesh because the connection is very poor. Six or seven women are transported to one location to share the internet, which often fails, on a single computer. The club has made great strides toward this goal, with a bake sale that raised \$575 dollars. They are currently selling bracelets made of freshwater pearls from Bangladesh, which are available for purchase from any member of the Language Outreach Club for six to twelve dollars. This success is largely due to the enthusiastic leadership of club president junior **Leilah Talukder**, who has spear-headed this program and fundraisers.

The Sajida Foundation is a large organization in Bangladesh and their biggest program is giving micro-loans to homeless families. They give them knowledge and information on how to run a business so they can provide for themselves while also giving their children either day-care services or sending them to school.

If you want more information or want to join this impactful club on the LGHS campus, the club meets in room 203 every Monday at lunch.