

# HSAS COMMON SENSE: CURRENT EVENTS RELEASE

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## American Politics: Donald Trump Found Guilty

*Evangelina Benakis and Zara Rasul, Grade 11, Staff Writers*

- Donald Trump, former president of the United States, was found guilty on all 34 felony charges by a New York City jury, making him the first US President convicted of a felony. He was charged with falsifying business records and covering up a hush-money payment near the end of his 2016 presidential campaign. His sentencing will take place on July 11th.
- Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, paid \$130,000 to an adult film star, Stormy Daniels. Daniels had claimed to have had an affair with Trump years earlier. The money paid was to prevent the story from going public in fear that it would threaten the election.
- Trump has been indicted on 34 counts of falsifying business records in the first degree, in violation of Penal Law §175.10. The charges include 11 counts related to invoices, 12 counts related to ledger entries, and 11 counts related to checks. Trump could face up to four years in prison for this violation. However, probation is also an option.
- While Trump has been convicted, this will not stop him from running for president as there is no legal prohibition. However, depending on his probationary status Trump may be ineligible to vote come election day.

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## Global Events: Wildfires Rage Again in Canada

*Tahsan Latif, Grade 10, and Jackson Parker, Grade 12, Staff Writers*

- Multiple wildfires in Canada forced thousands of people to flee and for the government to issue evacuation orders.
- For the second year in a row, Canada's wildfire season, which stretches from April to September or October, has experienced very active and rapid wildfires. The cause of this sudden intensity is said to be severe droughts and uncharacteristically warm weather due to global warming. These conditions may lead to more intense fires in the future.
- Despite a strand of cooler weather and the efforts of firefighters, the nation is still declaring a high wildfire level alert, and smoke is beginning to affect air quality.
- Should these fires continue, the smoke may travel to the US, as seen last year after Canada experienced the worst wildfire crisis in its history.

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## Miscellaneous News:

*Sebastian Kopp, Grade 9, and Veronica Mollod, Grade 9, Staff Writers*

- Protests in the French territory of New Caledonia have led to four people being killed, a crisis that has been declared a state of emergency
- Star Wars Episode I, The Phantom Menace, celebrated its 25th birthday on May 19th this year with a re-release in theaters earlier this month
- A volcano erupted in southwestern Iceland, the fifth eruption there since December, and it spouted lava over 160 feet in the air
- In the worst box office Memorial Day weekend since 1995, "Furiosa" only made \$32 million over the four-day period
- In an effort to show anger towards South Korea, North Korea has returned to its operation of dumping garbage into the country from balloons
- Azerbaijan's president says that the region of Nagorno-Karabakh will begin resettling after its population fled last year due to Azeri forces taking control

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