

HSAS COMMON SENSE: CURRENT EVENTS RELEASE

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American Politics: Nationwide Protests against Trump and Musk

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- On April 5, 2025, more than 1,300 demonstrations took place across the U.S. and abroad, united under a single message to the Trump administration: “Hands off.”
 - While various rallies have occurred in Trump’s second term, these mass-action protests might be the most widespread.
 - Millions gathered in dissent of numerous policies and plans initiated since Trump’s inauguration in January.
 - In Sylva, North Carolina, people protested cuts to national parks, education, and veteran services.
 - In Boston, Massachusetts, protestors challenged federal cuts on research and the arrest of a Tufts University doctoral student, Rümeyza Oztürk.
 - In Portland, Oregon, several thousand people called an end to the “illegal, billionaire power grab” by Trump and Musk.
 - On the grass near the Washington Monument in D.C., thousands joined together, compelled to stand up for American guarantees regarding human rights and the democratic system, even if it meant crossing state lines.
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Global Events: Democracy Wins in South Korea

Kaela Glaser, Grade 11, Staff Writer, and Mollie Kuritsky, Grade 12, News Editor

- On April 4th, 2025, South Korea’s Constitutional Court upheld the impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol, ending his presidency.
 - Yoon, a conservative, was narrowly elected in 2022 in one of the tightest presidential elections in South Korea’s history.
 - On December 3rd, 2024, Yoon implemented martial law. While the takeover only lasted six hours, it evoked memories of the country’s violent military past, frightening South Koreans.
 - Because of Yoon’s actions, there have been increased calls for revisions to the country’s constitution to safeguard democracy.
 - However, trust in South Korea’s democracy has declined recently, with fewer people trusting the branches of government. With the election to replace Yoon on the horizon, many are worried that divisiveness and conspiracy theories will play a major role in the race.
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Miscellaneous Events:

Tahsan Latif, Grade 11, and David Caswell, Grade 9, Staff Writers

- After 286 days spent at the International Space Station, NASA astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore returned to earth on March 18, 2025. After travelling to the ISS on the Starliner spacecraft in 2024, the pair were forced to stay after the craft began leaking helium was deemed unsafe to re-enter Earth. On March 16, the two, along with US astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, returned to Earth aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon.
- A new study found what is likely to be the fossil of the oldest bird ever discovered, changing the timeline of bird evolution. Initially discovered in 2023 in China, *Baminornis zhenghensis* lived during the Jurassic period and is the second bird known to have lived at that time, the first being *Archaeopteryx*. Led by Min Wang, researchers noted that *B. zhenghensis* possessed a small tail, despite being 20 million years older than current bird fossils. The fossils also indicate that it was more adapted to flight when compared to *Archaeopteryx*.

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