

CLIMATE IMPACTS

Hurricane Hillary, a category 4 storm hit the Pacific Coast on Aug. 16 leaving devastation in its wake as well as 3 fatalities. High heats recorded world wide and powerful hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones impacting the globe. Many floods impacted Libya in Sept. 2023.

SAME GAME, NEW TEAM

After finishing the previous season with his new team, Al Nassr, Cristiano Ronaldo played his first full season in the Saudi Pro League with a salary of about \$200 million per year. Lionel Messi left team Barcelona to sign with MLS' Inter Miami for \$150 million. Shohei Ohtani moved from the Los Angeles Angels to the Dodgers for \$700 million.



PLATFORM INCREASE

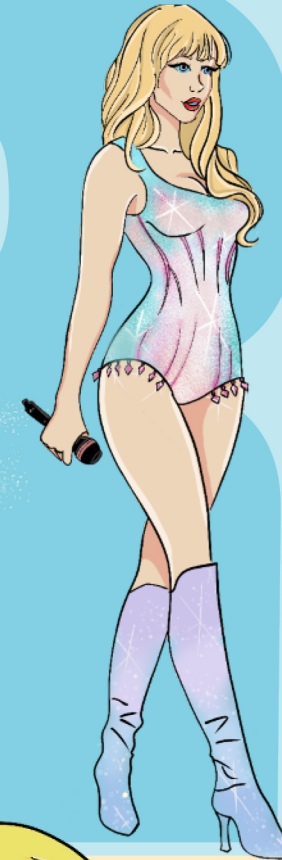
With families trying to cut costs by sharing passwords to streaming platforms, companies like Netflix and Disney+ cracked down by requiring you to set a primary location that is identified by your IP address. Platforms like Hulu, ESPN+, Netflix, and Disney+ all also raised their prices.

PREPARE FOR LANDING

Alaska Airlines had a faulty plug in an emergency door resulting in the door flying off mid flight on Jan. 5. All Boeing 737 Max 9s with door plugs have since been grounded awaiting FAA approval of safety requirements.

TAYLOR'S VERSION

After releasing her album *Midnights*, Taylor Swift skyrocketed to the top of the pop music charts. On top of that, she also held her Eras Tour with tickets that sold out in under 20 minutes. Swift's relationship with Kansas City Chiefs tight end, Travis Kelce, blew up on the internet and brought much attention to the football scene. During 2023, Swift re-released two albums, *Speak Now (Taylor's Version)* and *1989 (Taylor's Version)* which also boosted her popularity.



JUSTICE FOR PRESTON

The Oct. 28 murder of Combs High School student Preston Lord led to the investigation into a series of alleged attacks by a group of teens known as the Gilbert Goons. By March, seven people had been arrested on charges related to Lord's murder.

These were some of the biggest events that happened this school year. (Reporting by R. Stoltz and illustrations by T. Hutcheson)

AND

RECORD BREAKING

The University of Nebraska's women's volleyball team broke records with an attendance of 92,000 people. This set the record for largest crowd at a women's sporting event. Kaitlin Clark surpassed Pete Marovich for the all-time NCAA scoring record in men and women's basketball.

WE WANT CHANGE

Actors and writers participated in the SAG-AFTRA and WAG strike that protested the use of AI-created content as well as rallied for better pay and protections. Union auto workers also went on strike at the three major automakers, Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis. Workers protested for a pay increase and to close the wage gap.

THE FIGHT FOR PEACE

The Russia-Ukraine war will have been active for two years as of February 2024. The U.S. had sent about \$75 billion to aid in the crisis which led to congress members disagreeing about more funding. On Oct. 7, Hamas attacked a music festival in Israel, leaving 1,100 people dead. In response, Israel invaded the Gaza strip on Oct. 27 causing about 2.3 million people to be displaced.



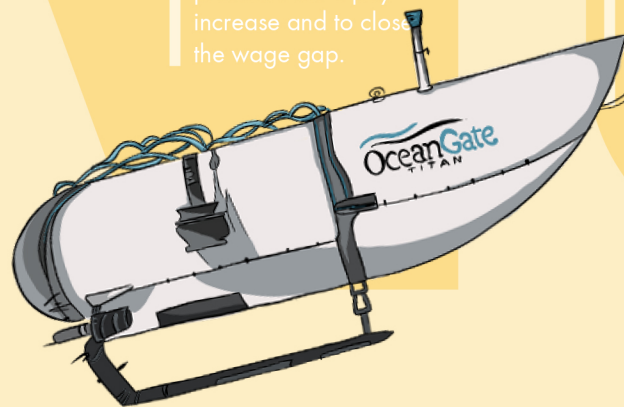
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Setting up a rematch of the 2020 presidential election, Joe Biden and Donald Trump won their party nominations. Trump defeated Nikki Haley, Ron DeSantis, and others. No major competitors challenged Biden, who won the Democratic nomination.



LOST AT SEA

Five people aboard the *Oceangate Titan* were lost in June when the submarine imploded on its way to explore the wreck of the *Titanic*.



PEOPLE IN NEED

The wars have led to widespread starvation and overall humanitarian crises. Many of the people involved do not have access to food, clean water, or medical attention.

TOUGH DECISIONS

Biden faced a low popularity rating and questions about his age. Trump faced criminal charges including those related to his actions on Jan. 6, 2021, and trying to overturn election results in Georgia in 2020.