

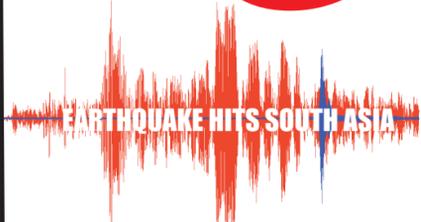
Politics & Pop

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BEN CARSON SURPASSES DONALD TRUMP IN POLLS

Donald Trump has been the Republican frontrunner for quite some time, but the latest national CBS/New York Times poll showed 26 percent of republican support for Ben Carson, with Trump's numbers dropping to 22 percent. According to CNN, these numbers mark the first time that Trump has not been the frontrunner since his great rise in popularity over the summer.



On Monday October 2, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 devastated south Asia. Death tolls in Afghanistan and Pakistan are currently around 340 and are expected to keep rising during the aftermath. The quake mainly affected Afghanistan as well as Pakistan; according to WTNH, the epicenter was in northern Afghanistan, close enough to the Pakistani border to have a large effect on both nations.

McDonald's lengthens breakfast hours

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, the ever-present burger chain McDonald's extended their hours to treat America to an all-day breakfast. Customers' reactions were enthusiastic, as this meant no more rushing to get those early morning hashbrowns and pancakes before the nine-to-five grind. Despite the flood of attention it received, McDonald's was not as creative as one might think. Restaurant chain Denny's took a stab at McDonald's by way of a passive-aggressive tweet reading: "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery".



On Sept. 4, merchandise for the movie *Star Wars: the Force Awakens* hit stores across the country. w The movie will be made by Disney, a first for the film series, which began in 1977 under Lucasfilm. "I don't really know how well it will be made, since it'll be made by Disney. They're not really strong in making action movies and sci-fi," Jeffrey Brill (9) said.



Following the Oregon school shooting, President Obama issued a speech calling for stronger gun laws. During the speech, the president was visibly upset.

"For Virginia Tech, everyone stopped and stared at their TV, but during these past few years, it hasn't been as drastic of a thing, because we're so used to [hearing about these shootings]," Kiersten Walsworth (11) said.



Japan has created a google map with a twist. Almost identical to its predecessor, the catch is that this special map shows Japan through a cat's perspective. Hiroshima tourism officials explain the motive behind creating a map view captured at the height of a cat, stating the purpose was to "introduce a different way to look at our cities and offer a view of the streets that wasn't available before".



On September 25, John Boehner announced his resignation from his position as Speaker of the House of Representatives. Boehner could not handle the division and constant friction with his own party, and made the decision to resign. "If [Boehner] doesn't feel like he wants to lead, he won't be leading at full capacity," Brendan Carpio (12) said. It is not yet decided who will be replacing Boehner.



The Democratic primary debate took place on October 13.

"I think [Sanders] had maybe a stronger showing than people were expecting. I think he came off well-spoken and amiable, strong but not too strong," Danielle Ives (Social Studies) said. Clinton, who has spent a good portion of her life in politics, is being praised by analysts and the media for her conduct. "Clinton is a very seasoned politician, so for her to not show well would have been a surprise," Ives said.

ZENDAYA Barbie DOLL APPEARS ON SHELVES

Nineteen-year-old actress, performer and model Zendaya now has her own Barbie. Created by Mattel and modeled after her iconic 2015 Oscars look, the Zendaya Barbie is receiving a lot of attention throughout the media, particularly Instagram. Not only was it featured in the Barbie company Instagram account, but rapper Nicki Minaj commented on the account, congratulating Zendaya. "I love your doll's hair. I love what it means for other little girls who will identify with it & be empowered." Minaj said, according to ABC News.

Republicans feel that President Obama did not negotiate well enough for the deal to be as it was originally intended to be.

Partisan controversy erupts over recent Iran Deal

Sami Luke
Managing Editor

On Tuesday, July 14 the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Russia and China signed the Iran nuclear deal, according to the Washington Post.

The Iran nuclear deal's purpose is to prevent Iran from producing nuclear weapons, according to CNN. The deal slows down the "breakout time", or the time it would take Iran to produce a nuclear weapon.

To understand the deal, it is first necessary to summarize how a nuclear bomb is made. A nuclear bomb can be made when the radioactive substances uranium or plutonium become unstable, according to Andy Moore (Science); this process is called enrichment. Uranium becomes unstable when the nucleus is too big or the proton to neutron ratio is wrong.

"When you hear the term 'enriched uranium' what

they're talking about is they've taken the already fairly unstable uranium and they've through the process of fusion shoved more neutrons into the nuclei [with centrifuges]," Moore said. In the process of uranium enrichment, centrifuges are used to raise the concentration of U-235, according to The New York Times. U-235 is the isotope in uranium that can make an atomic bomb. Organic uranium is made of less than one percent U-235. Iran has been enriching their uranium to about 20 percent U-235. In order to make an atomic bomb Iran would need to enrich their uranium to over 90 percent. However, according to the New York Times, Iran is required to diminish their uranium reserve by 98 percent, and reduce their U-235 level to be a maximum of 3.67 percent.

However, the deal does not completely eliminate Iran's nuclear productivity.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the deal allows Iran to continue enriching uranium for nuclear energy, which worries Israel. Israel does not support the deal because it lifts sanctions on Iran's frozen accounts making somewhere around 100 billion dollars accessible to them in the next year, according to NPR. Israel fears that Iran will cheat the deal and come after them. "I think it's fair to be concerned because after all there have been some high level officials from Iranian government in the past who have made very bold statements saying they are opposed to the existence of Israel," Kortney Whitmyer (Social

Studies) said. Israel and the U.S. have been allies since 1949. Despite their close relationship, the U.S. has agreed to unfreezing billions of Iran's assets and loosening constraints on the agreement. Israel and Iran have been in conflict since the 1978-1979 Iranian revolution, which is why they are worried about Iran having nuclear power capabilities, according to Brookings.

"I like the Iran nuclear deal as a whole because I feel it provides at least some sort of regulation over Iran's nuclear program, which on a global scale previously didn't exist," Ravi Betzig (12) said.

The deal is opposed by a majority of republicans due to the lack of constraints on Iran, according to The Atlantic magazine. Republicans feel that President Barack Obama did not negotiate well enough for the deal to be as it was originally intended to be. They feel that the deal settled hastily and Iran was given too much leeway. "I think people that have opinions about that have more political motivations to either support him or if you are criticizing I think it's not really because you know the details I think it's because you want to criticize him," Whitmyer said. Under the deal, Iran is obligated to cut down its centrifuges to 6,104 in the next ten years. Currently they have almost 20,000 centrifuges; making a bomb requires tens of thousands of centrifuges. The decreased amount

of centrifuges is the factor that increases the "breakout time" from 2-3 months to about a year, according to The New York Times. "If you don't have this deal they still end up with a nuclear bomb, probably sooner," Whitmyer said. Another component of the deal requires Iran to rebuild their heavy water reactor in Arak, Iran so that it can only be used for peaceful nuclear purposes. They will not be building any new water reactors in the next 15 years. Iran will undergo inspections by the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure that they are keeping up their end of the deal and not developing any nuclear weapons, according to CNN. "The variables are: will they [Iran] comply with their end of the agreement? And if they don't will the inspections and inspectors have enough access and power to do something about it," Whitmyer said.