

The Westword

2025-2026 Staff

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Note from the editors December 2025

Dear Readers,

Thank you for your continued interest in the Westword. We are honored to be the prominent voice of the Westhill community. We are thrilled to share this edition with you.

As everyone settles into the new year, so is the Westword. We have an all-new staff, who have been working diligently these past few months to give you the paper you deserve. Our staff also has a different format, with 3 Associate Editor-in-Chiefs, and 4 Managing Editors.

Though we have new staff, we still have the same advisors. Mr. Laber returns for his second year as an advisor, while Mr. von Wahlde returns for his 22nd year! (2's seem to be a special number).

We are very excited to finally publish the first issue of the year, hoping to produce 3 more by the end of the year. Unfortunately, our paper starts off with a sad note.

Last year's Scatterbrain editor, Scion Estrela tragically passed away from cancer over this past summer. Westword, and the Westhill community mourns the loss of a bright and shining star, who impacted us in a delightful way. Thus, our first article is a memorial to him, with messages from his family and close friends.

This issue, we decided to discuss issues having to do with classic "start of the year" topics.

Our Special Report section talks about whether or not higher education is worth it, as many students start to explore different options rather than a traditional 4-year college.

Following Special Report, our News section covers many back-to-school topics, including ones for seniors applying to college, including UConn ECE and FAFSA navigation.

For our Spanish speakers, we have two great articles discussing Hispanic Heritage Month and Noche Latina, a night

that celebrates all Latin aspects prevalent in our community.

This issue's supplement section focuses on Artificial Intelligence, discussing benefits and consequences of using Generative AI like ChatGPT and Gemini.

Following our Supplement, our Limelight section discusses a wide range of topics. Many topics, such as the season of autumn, Bad Bunny set to perform in the Superbowl, Taylor Swift's new album release, and a movie review of *Conjuring: Last Rites*. Additionally, our Viewpoint section covers the importance of bringing back mandatory service hours.

Lastly, our Sports section discusses our Girl's volleyball season and the newly founded Athletic Leadership Academy.

We hope you enjoy the first issue of the year!

Sincerely,

Tamara Hill,
Editor-in-Chief

What's inside

- 3** Special Report Is Higher Education Worth It?
- 5** News FAFSA: Navigation
- 7** Las Noticias Hispanic Heritage Month
- 10** Supplement The Benefits of AI
- 14** Limelight Bad Bunny Superbowl
- 16** Viewpoint Bringing Back Mandatory Service Hours
- 17** Sports Girl's Volleyball Recap

Editorial Policy

The Westword will be guided in the publication of material by a concern for truth, human decency, and human benefit. It is published during the school year by The Westword staff, along with the Communications and Journalism classes. Letters to the Editor, advertising requests, comments, criticism, or suggestions are always welcome. The views expressed in Viewpoint do not necessarily represent the opinions of *The Westword*.

Announcements

The Westword has no announcements.

The Westword

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Visit ourschoolnewspaper.com/Westword to view our print archives.

If you have an announcement or an advertisement you would like published in the next issue, please DM on Instagram at [@thewestword](https://www.instagram.com/thewestword)

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