News bites

Hey, friends. This week I wanted to cover a few exciting news bites for you all:

- This month, “Halo 5 Guardians,” “Assassin’s Creed Syndicate,” “Rock Band” and “Guitar Hero Live” were all released. I’m excited and you should be, too.
- Nintendo is partnering with DeNA on their first smartphone game, Miitomo, set to launch next year.
- Activision is releasing “Call of Duty: Black Ops III” in November. There is so much exciting news with the release of this game. First off, for those of you who pre-order, you can get the Nuke Town bonus map. Now, let’s talk story/campaign mode. Mark Lamia, studio head at Treyarch, said “the storytellers pushed the envelope” with a richer narrative and more content. Also, we can expect to see a four-player co-op in the campaign with customizable characters and new, unlockable weapons. There are also nine new specialist characters to choose from, with a custom look, weapon and ability. Finally, let’s talk about the zombie mode! Yes, zombie mode is returning! It will have two separate environments and sets of characters.
- Renegade Gaming is having a Halloween League of Legends World Championship Viewing Party this Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Ohlone Newark Campus, second floor. They will be featuring the LOL World Championship Viewing, an ARAM (All Random All Mid, a PvP game mode in LOL) tournament, raffles, a Halloween costume/cosplay contest, and food.
- Last but not least: how should you spend Halloween week? Look out for Halloween updates on your favorite games. Destiny introduced their special update for Halloween, “Festival of the Lost,” featuring new emotes and the chance to get the mystery bag.
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- With the Year of the Rooster, there are also nine new specialist characters to choose from, with a custom look, weapon and ability.
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Pianist Tao Lin to perform at Smith Center

AGNES MADRIAGA
Features editor

Classical pianist Tao Lin will perform at the Jackson Theatre at the Smith Center in Fremont on Nov. 7. Lin will perform works by Johannes Brahms, Frédéric Chopin and Franz Liszt at the concert, which begins at 8 p.m.

Born in Shanghai, Lin began piano lessons at age 4 and gave his first public performance the following year. He has performed as a soloist with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony, the Miami Chamber Orchestra, the Knoxville Civic Orchestra and others.

As a recitalist, Lin has performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the National Gallery of Art, Rockefeller University, Izumi Hall in Osaka, Japan, and the Edward Grieg Museum in Norway. Tickets cost $20 for the general public and $15 for seniors, students and staff. They are available from the box office or online at www.ohlone.edu/org/smithcen. Parking costs $4.

The First Church ’O Rock ’n’ Roll members pose for a photo during the group’s reunion on Friday at the Macau Cultural Center in Niles

SAM CAMPBELL
Opinions editor

In the ’80s, historic Niles was home to one amazing hotspot of music. The First Church ’O Rock ’n’ Roll was home to many young musicians in the Fremont area. On Friday, the group held their first reunion show as a fundraiser with the group Protect Niles.

Four bands played and rocked the stage at the Macau Cultural Center, the same place the original church held its shows. The bands were made up of original members, Niles residents, and those who just hold Niles close to their hearts.

Currently, there is a development project in the works that would put about 15 homes on one acre in the district. The Protect Niles group is pushing for the developers to produce an environmental impact study before going any further in their plans. They are fighting against what they are calling the “urbanization of Niles.”

The highlight of the night was when the last band, The Bungholes, took the stage. Comprised of all original members of the church, they played songs about growing up in the area, and growing up in a different time. What made this so magical was the look on everyone’s faces as they remembered the good times, the bad times and everything in between.

Seeing old friends come together again and catch up in conversation, talking about life and their kids, just put everything into perspective for me. Meeting everyone and hearing their stories reminded me that when all this was going on, they were no older than I am now. I only hope that one day I will have a magical experience like this with my friends.

I will now leave you with the words of Reverend Joel Agnew: “Rhythm and blues, reggae and soul, love live rock and roll.”