

MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL

BLUE AND GRAY

WINTER EDITION



ANNUAL IMPROV FOR RON IS A BIG HIT

Winter Sports Continue to Impress



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The Blue & Gray
Manasquan H.S.

2022-2023

Issue Three

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Improv For Ron

An improv comedy show fundraiser to benefit
THE SGT. RONALD A. KUBIK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



The Funniest Show at MHS Returns!

By: Jacquelyn Stewart

What performance is creative, light-hearted and for a good cause? Look no further than Manasquan High School's Improv for Ron and you are guaranteed to have a good time!

On January 21st, approximately 250 people crowded into the MHS auditorium to watch students from Mr. Harvey's Intro to Acting class as well as Manasquan alumni play improv games that are assured to make the crowd burst out with laughter.

Some of the notable games that were played include Yearbook, Teacher's Pet, Relationship Counselor, No Laughs and Flock Dance. Each of these games are unique and mixed both students and alumni to think on the spot and create funny scenarios that make the audience laugh.

In the game Flock Dance, the students formed a triangle and whoever was at the front had to dance to a random song that was played. The rest of the students in the triangle had to mimic it exactly before the music stopped. "From the back it's hard to see the person in the front, so you have to try to interpret it and it's funny to see everyone in the back struggling," says senior Natalie Gallagher who participated in Improv for Ron.

Though Improv for Ron may seem like it is all fun and games, it was created to honor former student Ron A. Kubik. Ron graduated from MHS in 2006 and was an active member in the classroom and in clubs. He was a good student, musician,

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Improv for Ron

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actor, storyteller, wrestler, writer, and an overall good person.

In his senior year, Ron game to school with a green Mohawk and was sent home for it. He then went to the Board of Education and argued that he and other students should be able to have colored hair. This rule was changed and now students are able to come to school with dyed hair!

After Ron graduated, he became a US Army Ranger, fighting in the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. He served in Iraq and Afghanistan and expressed his pride in his unit and their work in making people's lives in Iraq better. Ron was granted the rank of sergeant and commanded a unit in the war.

Unfortunately, on April 23, 2010, during Operation Enduring Freedom in Logar Province, Ron gave his life leading an assault fighting for our country. He is credited for saving the lives of five of his fellow rangers, five Afghan soldiers and nineteen innocent women and children in the process. For his efforts he was awarded the Silver Star, the military's third highest honor designated for heroism in combat.

Every year MHS awards a scholarship to selected MHS seniors in Ron's name. Students who are chosen "embody the spirit on Ron", in other words saying that they are en-

thusiastic, well-rounded, and adventurous. These students think for themselves and speak up for what is right. Last year, former students Gracie Visceglia and Bobby Marks were awarded the scholarship.

Since 2010, over \$29,000 has been donated to MHS in Ron's name. And this year Improv for Ron raised around \$3000. "All the money we raise goes into the scholarship that's given to a MHS senior," says MHS teacher and producer of Improv for Ron, Mr. Mawn.

Improv for Ron honors Ron's life through laughter and fun and is a wonderfully funny show that people should go see and enjoy every year.



*Above: Improv for Ron students and alumni pose for a picture after the show!
Below: Senior Kieran McMenemy and alumni Hannah Doherty playing in the game Teacher's Pet*



Below: Seniors Jake Heilos and Anthony Bisazza lead the Flock Dance game



Manasquan Voters Approve Referendum to Upgrade District Schools



Elementary school will see majority of work; high school band room, locker rooms will be upgraded

By: Jess Mackown

Tuesday January 24th Manasquan voters passed an improvement plan that costs \$13.8 million. Before the voting, many were concerned that this would affect the amount they pay on their taxes, but according to Yahoo news, "School officials also promised it will not increase taxes, and in many cases will lower them for local homeowners."

This is the third time in six years that the residents of Manasquan approved a multimillion dollar school improvement plan.

Over \$10 million of the plan will go to renovations towards Manasquan Elementary School. Specifically, it will go to: fifteen PreK-4 classrooms will be renovated, science lab renovations, gym renovations, replacements of the primary playground with the addition of inclusive play equipment, renewal of the blacktop near the baseball field, renewal of walls with the addition of waterproof sheeting, new flood vents and doors to a



Above: elementary school classrooms such as the one scene above will be renovated and modernized, as seen in the design below. At bottom: new locker room design in the high school



storage area, new gym locker rooms, renovations to the art room, new windows behind the stage in the music suite, and more.

According to Yahoo news, "The elementary school will also receive a building-wide HVAC replacement for air quality improvement, improved door security and a card reader in the Pre-K-4 wing to improve security, and technology upgrades."

While most of the money will go into improving Manasquan Elementary School, roughly \$2.3 million will go to the high school. According to the district renovation plan, Manasquan High School will get an improved band room, better boys and girls locker rooms, new floorings, painted walls, and more.

While many people are worried about the debt put in place because of this plan, it is expected to be paid off by 2050. Supporters of the plan also assured Manasquan residents that their taxes will not increase.

Dance the Night Away!

By: Ainsley Price

In past years there has been karaoke, mechanical bulls, jousting, and face painting. Everyone is excited to see what the executive board does this year.

"I'm looking forward to everyone seeing what the theme is that we choose and the dance they have to learn," said executive board member, junior, Phoebe Armstrong.

She says that the board members along with Mrs. Basaman and Mrs. Griffith have been working hard to get everything ready for the big day. The members have been meeting almost every week to discuss the plans for the night and ways to raise more money.

"We've been doing fundraisers such as "dine-to-donate" and our gala to raise money," she explains. "We have also been contacting local businesses for donations and beginning to think about the games and everything that will be there as well."



Above: A flyer for the Squan-a-thon Gala.

Get your coffee, energy drinks, and dancing shoes ready because on Friday, March 31st Squan-a-thon is back and bigger!

Squan-a-thon is a yearly Manasquan High School tradition to raise money for childhood cancer. Squan students will stay up for 12 hours straight, starting at 8:00pm on the 31st and ending at 8:00am on April 1st.

Often times you will hear people say or write "FTK" or "for the kids". Not only do participants raise money for the kids, but dedicate themselves all night long as well.

There are several games for the 'dancers' to participate in to keep themselves awake along with plenty of food and drinks. There is also a certain amount of time that the public can come and visit the dancers. Many locals look forward to this so they can see their friends and participate in Squan-a-thon even if they are not dancing and staying the whole time.

Another junior, Olivia Warner, is most excited about all of the activities and games that the board has planned for the students. But her favorite part is the feeling of helping those around her in need, "I love being able to support all the families who need our help!"

So many people are excited about this big night. Students have been fundraising all year and help-



Above: A flyer for one of Squan-a-thon's dine to donate fundraisers.

ing countless families. Many times, a family that has gone through the struggle of having a child with cancer will come and talk to the students at some point throughout the night.

Senior and second-year board member, Brigid Cosgrove, shares her thoughts on the night, "I'm most looking forward to making a difference for pediatric cancer patients within our community."

Brigid and everyone else is excited to see what this year's board did to make this great night so special. So, with that, get your bids in, grab your dancing shoes, and have a night to remember!



Above: This was the grand total of money raised at the 2019 Squan-a-thon night.

Mr. Harvey: English Teacher and Movie Star

By: Cristian Jose

Werewolf by Night, released in 2022 and available on Disney Plus, was the first movie directed by Michael Giacchino, an Oscar winner for music who wanted to expand his game and go from making soundtracks to making movies.

Not long after the release of *Werewolf by Night*, Disney Plus released a new documentary called *Director by Night*. Made by Michael's brother Anthony Giacchino, who directed the movie *Colette* in 2020, *Lee Harvey Oswald: 48 hours to live* in 2013 and *The Giant's Dream: the Making of the Iron Giant* in 2016, *Director by Night* tells the story of Michael's dream to become a filmmaker.

So, what's it all about? You see Michael Giacchino work on his first ever project as a director when he was just a kid. You get to see his childhood home where his love of film comes from and you get to see some glimpses of the actual making of *Werewolf by Night*. You get to see set designs, costumes and all the hard work that Michael put into reaching his goals and a career in movies.

All this is documented by Anthony Giacchino.

About halfway through, the documentary takes a shift in focus to the younger days of Michael Giacchino's film making days. When he was in high school, he would make



Above: A Picture of Mr. Harvey in one of Giacchino's films as a teenager.

homemade movies with his friends. Michael's motivation is apparent as he creates little sets and stories and films them.

The best part though is that one of those friends is Manasquan High Schools one and only Mr. Harvey! Mr. Harvey appears in quite a few of these little movies, and as a bonus, Anthony got Michael's old friends together to reminisce on their childhood days and high school. Mr. Harvey was one old friend who got to go.

"It was great, and it seemed like time hadn't passed at all. Everyone slipped right back

into their high school buddy relationships, and everyone was really funny," Mr. Harvey said.

Mr. Harvey also said, "My favorite part was afterwards, hanging out at Anthony's family house, and we got to watch Michael have an interview with the CGI animators online. So, it was fun seeing him being a Hollywood director in the same house where he was our high school neighborhood director."

What does Mr. Harvey remember about filming these movies as a kid? He said, "Showing the movies to the people in the high school and watching people's reactions."

It's amazing how after years some friends can just come together and it feels like they were never gone. You probably are just overwhelmed with nostalgia saying to each other oh remember this and remember that. It's pretty cool to think about.

Director By Night is available to watch on Disney+.



Left: Mr. Harvey and Antony after filming. Right: Mr. Harvey holding Mike's Academy Award.



Star QB Tom Brady Retires

By: Angelina George

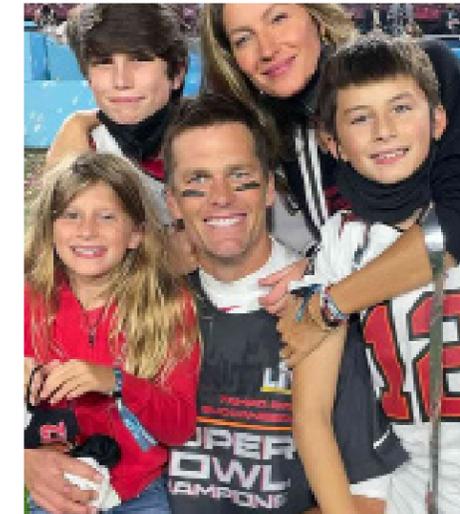
Football scoreboards, touchdowns passes, and Super Bowl trophies have been a big part of legendary football player Tom Brady's life for the past 23 years.

But that changed when Tom Brady, star player, announced his retirement from the NFL once and for all at age 45 on Wednesday, February 1st.

According to CNN Brady posted a Twitter video where he announced his retirement. "I'll get to the point right away, I'm retiring for good. I know the process was a pretty big deal last time, so when I woke up this morning, I figured I'd just press record and let you guys know first."

After retiring in February of 2022 and then returning to play for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, people were skeptical about his retirement. Brady played for the New England Patriots for 20 seasons and led them to 7 Super Bowl championships. Brady's final three years of his career were spent playing for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, where he won one Super Bowl championship. Brady, and star quarterback Peyton Manning are the only two quarterbacks to ever win the Superbowl for more than one team.

Despite Brady's claim that this retirement announcement is for real,



Tom Brady celebrates with his family

many fans are skeptical about this, and believe that he will return for more playing.

In an interview with CNN the day before he announced his retirement, Brady said, "That's what life is about. You've got to wake up every day with a purpose. When you find something, you love to do, it's hard

Brady screams after winning another Super bowl



to stop."

Brady grew up playing football his entire life and made it to the NFL in 2000 when he was drafted by the New England Patriots. This is where his career really began to take off, and he as a player began to flourish. Brady will go down in history as the best quarterback of all time. He will also go down as one of the most successful players for his age. To be 45 and still be the most dominant quarterback in the NFL is quite impressive. In 2022 Brady finished the season with 490 completions and 733 pass attempts, both the most in a single season in NFL history.

This article spoke to me because my family are huge Buccaneers fans and were overjoyed when Tom Brady signed to play with the Buccaneers a few years ago. Tom Brady is a phenomenal player with so much skill, and it is astonishing how much he has been able to accomplish throughout his lifetime. The fact that he was still an insane quarterback succeeding at age 45 is also amazing, that must require another level of dedication and pursuit. Tom Brady will be a name that people will be talking about for decades even after his retirement. Tom Brady will not be a player that will be forgotten, and it will be hard for any quarterback to establish a better resume than he has in his past 23 years of playing.

Controversial Miami Police Car Raises Eyebrows Nationally

By: Percy Yasenchak

The month of February is a time to reflect on the triumphs and tribulations of Black history. In recent years, tension between police officers and people of color has risen exponentially. Unfortunately, mere weeks after the death of Tyre Nichols by the hands of a Memphis Police Officer, controversy was struck yet again, when the Miami Police Department gave their vehicles a new Pan-African makeover. The vehicle, clad in red, green, and yellow paint splatter effects, also had “Be the peace you wish to see in the world,” a famous Martin Luther King Jr. quote.

With over a dozen instances of police brutality since 2019, the Miami Police Department has been closely scrutinized. However, after this new wave of online criticism came, they decided to break their silence and defend themselves. According to Lieutenant Ramon Carr, Vice-President of the Police Association, the gesture wasn't disingenuous, and it certainly wasn't meant to be “disrespectful” or “disgraceful.” He understood that “the timing of things that come out may not always be right,” but he was self-assured in saying that he was proud of the department in making steps to celebrate Black History.

The contextual defense that they've

done this before for Breast Cancer Awareness and other annual memorial events seemingly wasn't sufficient, with some users frustrated that Ramon Carr, a controversial suspended ex-captain, was, of all people, the one making the statement. Many have been asking for the reallocation of funds from police departments to professionals trained in situations the police handle poorly, and the fact that they instead pay for cosmetic performative activism is infuriating for left-wing activists. This wasn't the only piece of police memorabilia; the Police Department also got badges to match the month.

This is very clearly a non-graceful gesture. People of any other profession could've made this gesture, but for a police force to do this while making no meaningful changes to their structure or internal struggles with racial prejudice or brutality is tone-deaf and a pathetic excuse for activism. I don't believe that any individual who participated in the creation of the artwork is at fault, because the art isn't the problem. The problem is the socially dissociated, disconnected higher-ups who approved this as beneficial for PR reasons. The clear disregard for the current political climate puts their lackadaisical attitude on full display, and, because of social media, on full blast.



Above: different views of the Miami Police Cruiser's messages. Above right: Ramon Carr standing in front of the car during a press event.

Not a New Year's Lantern

Chinese balloon stirs anger, raises questions in America

By: Cameron Lonergan and Casey Bennett

Look up! It's a jet! No, it's an invasion! Wait, it's a balloon? Recently, people looking up in the sky and seeing the unthinkable had these thoughts in mind.

On February 1st a Chinese spy balloon entered U.S. airspace through Alaska. The balloon consisted of a large white balloon, with a technology bay 3 bus lengths long. It passed through Alaska to Canada and then into Montana.

This raised eye brows, since Montana is home to one of our largest nuclear silo farms, holding up to 150 ballistic missiles.

It was when it crossed into Montana the pentagon had commented on the balloon as reports of the sightings had come rolling in.

“The balloon was able to maneuver. It had a propelling system and rutter engine,” the government said, which



brought conspiracy theories about the intention of the balloon from the media and public.

The balloon sat 60,000 feet up in the air moving slowly across multiple states in the middle of the US, first being Nebraska, into Missouri, then into Kentucky, and then into South Carolina. What was interesting about the balloon was the maneuverability of the balloon was all put on 2 small propellers. Once the balloon had finished passing over South Carolina it was shot down over the Atlantic Ocean.

After being shot down, the balloon was then searched for and recovered by the US Navy. Officials are saying that they are looking for hazardous materials that could be used for explosives or batteries. Officials also recognize that the balloon had passed over “a number of sensitive sites” including one in Montana that contained nuclear missiles however China still has denied allegations of spying and states that the balloon was purely meteorological.

OPINION CASEY BENNETT

My opinion on this whole sketchy controversy is well, sketchy. I do not really enjoy the fact that China has floating balloon on our soil especially with the crisis going on. By crisis I mean how Ukraine and Russia are on the verge of nuclear warfare and China thinks it ok to tiptoe a floating balloon in our territory. I mean people were beginning to think it was nuclear and that added on to the millions of questions people already had. I am thankful the problem was taken care of, but China still has some explaining to do. I don't believe the story of the balloon being a civilian aircraft. I think made the right call by shooting that puppy down, and I hope Biden continue investigating China's intentions in that balloon.

OPINION CAMERON LONERGAN

My opinion on this topic is that I am disappointed. I am disappointed with the way this handled as this could have been a weapon, one that is barely visible from the ground. The government had multiple chances to shoot the balloon down in areas where there is no civilians. The tons of fields in Kansas, or the MASSIVE empty spaces in Montana. This thing was suspected by a general to carry explosives and still this thing was just flying freely in the air over many towns and residential areas. I find this entire situation to be a huge mess-up on the US government's part.

A Step Forward in the Fight for Equality

BY: TEDDY CAMPI & MJ MURRAY

On December 13, 2022, a monumental step toward equality was made. President Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act into law, which requires states must recognize same sex and interracial marriage.

“Whether you’re cisgender, whether you’re heterosexual, gay, lesbian, however you identify, marriage is marriage. You should be able to be with the person you love regardless of race, regardless of religion” (WPTZ Plattsburg- Burlington), said Kelly Metzger, the executive director of the Adirondack North Country Gender Alliance.

This act, at its core, is a protection for three historical court cases: Loving v. Virginia in 1967, in which the Supreme Court ruled that the banning of interracial marriage was unconstitutional, United States v. Windsor in 2013 which declared that the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional, and Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015, where the Supreme Court ruled that the banning of same sex marriage was unconstitutional.

The bill asserts and protects that same sex marriages in any state must be recognized across the US. It solidifies that any union cannot be dismissed once that union

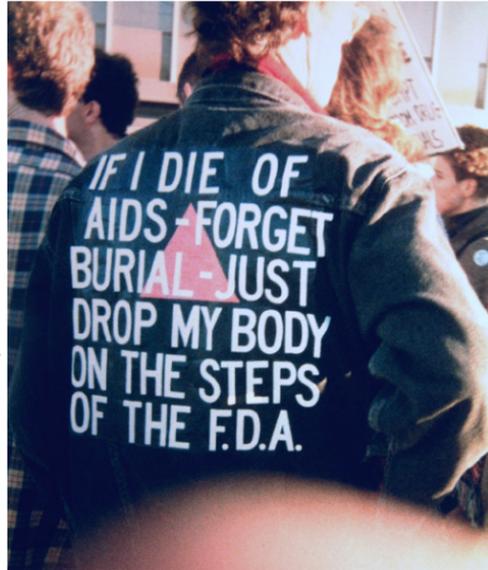
has gained a marriage license. While many gay rights activists such as Metzger are happy that the bill protects the recognition of marriage, they are afraid that the bill, like many others that hold together LGBTQ+ rights, might face the possibility of being revoked or overturned because they are not set in stone.

She represents a lingering fear in the community of what this bill failed to resolve, which is that rights, the rights that the LGBTQ+ community had fought so long to obtain, are still up for political grabs and can be taken away because they have not been federally protected.

Famous Supreme Court decisions such as Obergefell v. Hodges protect the right of same sex couples to obtain a marriage license, but if those decisions rolled back, states could decide not to provide that right to LGBTQ+ people. LGBTQ+ advocates and leaders are angered that the bill did not include a federal requirement that states must issue marriage licenses to same sex couples.

The LGBTQ+ community has fought hard for decades upon decades so that they can live without persecution, and while this bill furthers protection for gay people, the community still has a long way to go to equalize a society that from the beginning, did not want to accept them.

The Stonewall Riots, more commonly known as Stonewall, was one of the most recognized protests in the fight for gay liberation. These riots had begun due to the mounting number of police raids on gay bars. When the Stonewall Inn



Above: Artist David Warjnarowicz in 1988 protesting AIDS

was raided by the New York City Police, the rage against these raids resulted in six days of protest and clashes with the police. It is also considered the catalyst of the gay rights movement worldwide.

Twelve years later, HIV/AIDS was discovered in the US, and in just six years, it became an epidemic. When it was discovered that the disease disproportionately affected gay men, it was nicknamed “The Gay Disease” and this only strengthened rampant homophobia that already existed. Many people used this as an excuse for bigotry and saw it as “God’s Punishment for homosexuality.”

This bigotry surrounding gay people at the time made it hard for people to get treatment and for treatment to even be researched and distributed. This led to the creation of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, better known as ACT UP. ACT UP was purposed to force the neglectful government into taking AIDS seriously. They did this by staging protests, including the Die-In at St. Patrick’s

Below: An ACT UP funeral march carrying the Body of Mark L. Fisher in 1992



Cathedral, a mass protest outside of the FDA, and a protest in the New York Stock Exchange, where 7 members of ACT UP chained themselves to the VIP Balcony to protest the cost of AZT, the only drug that could fight AIDS.

And so, the fight continued. In Ohio, lived James Obergefell and John Author James, a gay couple. When John was diagnosed with ALS, they flew to Maryland to get legally married since same-sex marriage was still illegal in Ohio. When Ohio refused to recognize their marriage on John’s death certificate in 2015, James sued the state of Ohio and their marriage was finally legalized.

As other similar cases began surfacing across the United States, the fight shifted from just getting marriages to appear on death certificates to legalizing gay marriage across the US. From this fight, the landmark court case Obergefell VS. Hodges was born.

576 U.S. 259 (2015): “Same sex couples may exercise the fundamental right to marry” was the

verdict on June 26th, 2015, making it unconstitutional to deny same sex couples the right to marry in any state or territory in the US, therefore giving gay people the right to marry.

This also declared the Defense of Marriage Act, signed into law by President Bill Clinton on September 21, 1996, unconstitutional. This was a monumental decision by Congress that made the possibility of gay marriage nationwide seem possible. The Defense of Marriage Act limited the definition of one man and one woman but, because of the ruling of Obergefell v. Hodges, there was hope for a better future.

New parts of this fight became apparent after this, and although marriage equality had been reached, protecting the validation of those marriages nationwide now came into question. President Biden recently helped secure that right. With the Respect for Marriage Act, same sex marriages in any state must be recog-

nized across the US.

As within all aspects of this fight for equality, the Respect for Marriage Act only really pushes it one step further. Advocates, such as Metzger, acknowledge this but know that this is not a settling point.

This act does not protect marriage equality. It does not protect Obergefell vs. Hodges from being overturned. These rights are not set in stone. The next step in the fight for equality is pushing forth to make gay marriage a federally protected right.

The quest to make same-sex marriage an irreversible federally protected right will make people less afraid to be themselves, love themselves, and express themselves to the fullest extent possible. More needs to be done, and the LGBTQ+ community is unsatisfied because, knowing that there is still unfinished business in the fight for equality.

Below: activists awaiting the Supreme Court ruling



By: Lukas Nordell

When most people think of burglars, many picture someone stealing something of inherent value. However, this was not the case of the Maryland gorilla statue burglar.

In the early hours of the morning on January 4, 2023, a hooded figure in dark clothing pulled up in front of an antique shop in Kensington, Maryland. Arriving in a pickup truck, the figure broke the chains on the shop's doors, lugged out the gorilla statue, loaded it in the truck, and sped away.

As a result of the thief's speedy and successful robbery, not much is known about the criminal's whereabouts or identity. A large cash reward is being offered to anyone with any information at all regarding the crook's identity. Due to the sentimental value that the cast iron statue has, the reward for information is 10,000 dollars, ten times the estimated worth of the gorilla statue.

"My heart goes out to him. Like where is he now? I worry about him. Where's Murphy?" said Kristina

Jamgochian, the owner of Design Emporium & Antiques in an interview with Fox 5. Jamgochian had grown increasingly fond of the statue, which she named Murphy.

In the same interview, it was revealed that Jamgochian had just recently agreed to sell him to a hotel in West Africa for somewhere around 1,000 dollars.

It is extremely saddening that Jamgochian was robbed of Murphy. According to Jamgochian, customers and visitors alike came to see the gorilla, and even took selfies with the statue. It truly is a shame that she was so unlawfully wronged and whoever stole Murphy should be brought to justice. At this point, it is very

possible that the cast iron gorilla statue has already been scrapped for parts, and the limited knowledge that there is on the figure in the video increases the likelihood that Murphy may not ever be found.

To steal something of such value, even sentimental value, is truly upsetting. There have been other reports of animal statues being stolen, especially in cemeteries where they are very common. The animals can be sold for scrap or melted down for creating other metal components. Although decorations pieces, stealing them is immensely disrespectful towards the dead and the families who go to cemeteries to mourn them. Regardless of the role that these animal statues hold, the financial worth and sentimental value that each hold creates for a truly sickening stunt pulled by the burglar.

Even if Murphy is not found, I can only hope that criminals will consider the effects that their actions have before doing something unlawful, as it very well makes for a distressing experience and loss for those being wronged.



Above: Murphy The Gorilla poses for a picture.



Above: Design Emporium & Antiques shop owner Kristina Jamgochian expresses her concern for the statue.



Above: At around 3:18 AM, the burglar loaded the statue into the back of their truck.

By: Isabella Lopez



The Grammy's have been nicknamed music's biggest night for years as stars and celebrities gather in Los Angeles for this event. This year, it was a night of vibrant performances, historic milestones and remembering why we celebrate music.

History was made at the 65th annual Grammy Awards as Beyoncé is officially the most decorated artist in history after receiving her 32nd Grammy. She won for best dance/electronic album.

The singer broke the record set by the late Hungarian-British conductor Georg Solti for the most Grammy wins of all time.

Beyoncé received nominations for categories such as record of the year, song of the year, and album of the year, the latter of which she has never won. Beyoncé has already won the most Grammy Awards of any female artist. Lizzo received the award for record of the year, followed by Harry Styles for album of the year, and Bonnie Raitt for song of the year.

Beyoncé received nine nominations this year, bringing her career total to 88 and tying the record for the most nominations ever. She now shares the



Above: Beyoncé making history

record with her husband, Jay-Z.

With "Renaissance," Beyoncé once again gave the world one of the best albums ever. Unfortunately, the Recording Academy continues to disregard her influence, although she set a Grammys record by earning more lifetime awards than any other singer.

She won four awards on Sunday in the dance and R&B categories, but she was passed over for the top prizes. Yet despite her unmatched career, she has never been named album of the year. When her album "25" defeated Beyoncé's "Lemonade" at the 2017 Grammy Awards, even Adele felt the need to apologize. And given the popularity of her most recent record, it was extremely upsetting for some.

Another memorable moment from the Grammys was iconic Viola Davis winning the Grammy for Best Audio Book Narration and Storytelling for her memoir "Finding Me."

The evening included a variety of performers from all generations to honor hip-hop's 50th anniversary. The work of Iranian artist Shervin Hajipour was also acknowledged by a new award cel-

ebrating social justice.

Some of the biggest awards of the night went to "Harry's House," Harry Styles for Album of the Year, "About Damn Time," and Lizzo for

Record of the Year, "Just Like That." Bonnie Raitt won Song of the Year, and Samara Joy took home Best New Artist.

The event has frequently been criticized for being disconnected from music fans since it has given some of its greatest prizes to winners who have generated controversy and debate on social media. This year the night was a huge success and celebrated not only music but inclusivity and diversity.



Above: Lizzo accepting her Grammy for Record of the year



Below: Bad Bunny accepting his Grammy for Best Musica Urbana Album

I never expected the Grammys to be as diverse as they were, but I am impressed with how far we've all come. People of every color, gender, origin, sex, and religion coming together to enjoy something as important as music has been long-awaited. To guarantee that everyone feels included, I hope the Grammys continue to expand to reach an even larger audience.



Pope Benedict XVI

By: Finley Nielsen

Pope Benedict XVI, a fierce symbol of the Catholic Church who became the first pope in over six centuries to resign, passed away on December 31st. He was 95 years old.

The cause was old age and worsened health, the Vatican announced. Later, bell ringing was heard in St Peter's Square, to announce the death of Pope Benedict XVI subtly but properly.

The current pope, Francis, asked followers to "pray a special prayer for Pope Emeritus Benedict." Two days later was his passing.

Benedict XVI served as pope of the Roman Catholic Church from 2005 to 2013. He was best known for his rigid views on Catholicism and for being the first pope in centuries to step down from the role. He was ordained a priest in 1951. Two years later, he earned his doctorate at the University of Munich. He earned his teaching license in 1957 and became a professor of Freising College in 1958, where he taught dogma and fundamental theology.

Around the year of 1972, Ratzinger helped to find the theological journal *Communio*. Then later in March 1977, he was named Archbishop of Munich and Freising. Three months later, he was named cardinal by Pope Paul VI. He rose to pope in April 2005, due to the death of Pope John Paul II. Millions celebrated his Papal Inauguration Mass five days later.

Joseph Ratzinger was born on April 16, 1927, in Nazi controlled Germany. He was the youngest of three children and was born to Joseph Ratzinger Sr. and Maria Peintner-Ratzinger. His father was a very firm anti-Nazi and became unemployed.

His family moved frequently among villages in rural Bavaria, a deeply Roman Catholic region in Germany, as the Nazis strengthened their hold on Germany in the 1930s.

He was briefly a member of the Hitler Youth in his



early teens after membership became mandatory in 1941. Later, Ratzinger returned to the University of Munich in the fall of 1945.

In 2008, Benedict made his first visit as Pope to the United States. This was when he spoke out against clerical sexual abuse, delivering an address at the United Nations. Later that same year, his goal was to foster relations and understanding between religions. Benedict addressed the first Catholic-Muslim Forum, a three-day conference of Catholic theologians and Islamic scholars.

In early 2013, at the age of eighty-five, Pope Benedict XVI announced that he would be resigning. Doing so was rare; he became the first pope in six centuries to step down from the highest position in the Catholic Church. Benedict's decision was based on his old age and declining physical and mental ability. In a statement, he explained, "I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise."

In a letter he wrote in 2018, Pope Benedict XVI said that he was towards the end of his days. "I can only say that with the slow waning of my physical forces, I'm on a pilgrimage towards home," he wrote.

Pope Benedict XVI is predeceased by parents Joseph Ratzinger Sr and Maria Ratzinger and his siblings Georg and Maria Ratzinger.

Leaders that Left Us in 2022

MIKAIL GORBACHEV

By: MJ Murray



Above: Gorbachev in 1987

and Eastern Europe. His political policies, like Glasnot and Perestroika, gave people of the Soviet Union liberties that were unheard of. He ended the arms race, the Cold War and threat of nuclear war with America by signing the INF treaty. His decision to allow countries in communist Eastern Europe hold elections led to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

"Gorbachev had the intelligence to admit Communism was not working, the courage to battle for change, and, ultimately, the wisdom to introduce the beginnings of democracy, individual freedom, and free enterprise," said U.S. president Ronald Reagan at the time.

Born Victor Sergeyevich Gorbachev, he was later secretly baptized, and his name changed to Mikhail. He was born to an ethnic Russian father and ethnic Ukrainian mother on March 2nd, 1931, in the village of Privolnoye. At this time the Soviet Union was under the rule of Joseph Stalin. He lived through both The Great Famine of 1930 to 1933 and the Great Purge, in which both sets of his grandparents were sent to work in dreaded labor camps known as the Gulag. Along with his grandparents, millions of Russians died working in Stalin's Gulag.

This greatly influenced the young Gorbachev. He was an extremely bright student and became a Communist candidate in June of 1950, before receiving a law degree at Moscow State University. At university, he met his wife, Raisa Tirarenko. He was an outspoken student and gained a reputation of being a mediator when disputes would arise.

After Stalin's death, Gorbachev became an active supporter of the de-Stalinization reforms under Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev. He was appointed the First Party Secretary in 1970 and, in 1978, he became a secretary of the party's Central Committee.

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SHINZO ABE

By: Niky Li



Above: Shinzo Abe attends a party for political fundraising

Shinzo Abe, best known for being Japan's former Prime Minister, died on July 8, 2022, at Kashiwara, Nara, Japan. He was only 67 years old.

He was assassinated while delivering a campaign speech for a colleague on July 8, 2022. He was later pronounced dead by the doctor who was treating him.

Abe was known for being Japan's Prime Minister between 2006 and 2007 and again from 2013 - 2020. Abe became Japan's longest-serving prime minister in November 2019, when his time in office surpassed that of Koshaku Katsura Taro, who served three nonconsecutive terms in the early 20th century.

Abe was first elected to parliament in 1993, and in 2005 he became Chief Cabinet Secretary. Due to his quick rise to power, he was able to become Japan's youngest prime minister in 2006.

However, multiple scandals he was involved in, including the government's loss of pension records that affected about 50 million claims, heavily hurt his reputation. In September of that year, he resigned due to ulcerative colitis.

He led the "Abenomics" policies, a policy aimed reviving Japan's economy. According to BBC News, "The popularity of these policies led to Abe's return to power in 2012. But his efforts faced a major challenge when the country again went into recession in the spring of 2020. That and other slowdowns raised questions about the effectiveness of his rule." In August 2020 Abe announced that he had to resign again because of a recurrence of ulcerative colitis. While waiting for the selection of a successor, he remained in office in a caretaker capacity. On September 14, 2020, Yoshihide Suga, Abe's chief cabinet secretary, became prime minister two days later.

Shinzo Abe was born on September 21, 1954. Abe was one of the sons in an extremely respected political family. His grandfather Nobusuke Kishi was Japan's prime minister from 1957 to 1960, and his great-uncle, Eisaku Sato, was the prime minister from 1964

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Celebrities that Left Us in 2022

Foo Fighter's Drummer, Taylor Hawkins, Dies at 50



Above: Taylor drumming for the Foo Fighters.

By: Julia Fahy

Taylor Hawkins, who was the drummer for the Band Foo Fighters passed away. Taylor was loved by many rock fans and was an extremely talented drummer. He died on March 25th in a hotel in Colombia. He was 50 years old.

The cause of death was not specified but according to toxicology reports there were traces of drugs in his system. His death was announced by Steve Martin, the Foo Fighters publicist.

Hawkins was best known for being the drummer for the band Foo fighters, which started in 1997. He and the band won a Grammy award for best rock song.

According to Legacy.com, "Hawkins was a frenetic drummer which was a great fit for the Foo Fight-

ers powerful rock sound."

Oliver Taylor Hawkins was born on February 17th, 1972. In 1976, his family moved to Laguna Beach, California. He was the youngest of three, with an older brother and sister, Jason and Heather. He graduated from Laguna Beach High School in 1990. He married his Wife Allison in 2005 and has three children Oliver, Annabelle, and Everleigh.

Before joining Foo Fighters in 1997, Hawkins was the touring drummer for Alanis Morissette on her Jagged Little Pill tour, as well as the drummer for a short-lived experimental band called Sylvia. In 2004, Hawkins formed his own side project, Taylor Hawkins & The Coattail Riders, for which he played drums and sang, and, in 2014, The Birds of Satan.

In 1996, there was a conflict between Dave Grohl and the original drummer of the band William Goldsmith causing him to leave. The band had to re-record an entire album with Grohl on drums. Grohl then contacted Alanis Morissette's touring drummer, Taylor asking if he could recommend

anyone and was surprised when Taylor volunteered himself. He joined the band, became close friends with Dave Grohl and remained the bands drummer until death.

In addition to his drumming duties with the Foo Fighters, Hawkins co-wrote and sang on the band's double-album, *In Your Honor*. He also occasionally provided backing vocals during the band's live performances and often play guitar and provided lead vocals for several songs while Dave Grohl took over on drums.

He was voted "Best Rock Drummer" in 2005 by the United Kingdom drumming magazine *Rhythm*, won a Grammy, and was inducted into the

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2021. Hawkins was well respected by many and showed what being drummer really meant. He was incredibly talented and will be forever missed. He is survived by his three children and his wife.



Above: Taylor drumming at a Foo Fighter's concert.

Pele, World's Greatest Soccer Player, Dies at 84

By: Lindsay Fuller

Pelé, one of the greatest soccer players to ever live and who was such an influential figure to sports, died on December 29th, 2022 in São Paulo, Brazil. He was 82.

The death was confirmed by Pelé's manager, Joe Fraga. The cause of his death was said to be organ failure. Which was the result of a progression of his colon cancer which he had been getting treatment for in recent years.

Pelé had gone to the hospital a few weeks before his death to receive treatments for a multitude of health problems and respiratory issues.



Best known for his limitless talent on and off the soccer field, Pelé commended himself to his fans and put his inspirations into the souls of

his peers.

Pelé won three World Cup tournaments playing for Brazil and 10 league titles with his former club team, Santos. He came out of retirement at the age of 34 to play with the New York Cosmos for 3 seasons.

The final game of his career was played in East Rutherford, New Jersey at MetLife Stadium in 1977. This game was the North American Soccer League championship. Before the game, Pelé took the microphone, and stepped to the podium with a view of over 75,000 people. He said, "Say with me three times now, for the kids:

Celebrities that Left Us in 2022

Queen Elizabeth II, England's Longest-Ruling Queen, Dies at 96

By: Lindsay Fuller

Queen Elizabeth, England's longest reigning monarch who ruled for over 70 years, has sadly passed away on September 8th, 2022, at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. Her Majesty was 96.

The death was announced by the royal family on-line saying that the Queen had died peacefully and that there was no specific cause to her death.

The throne was past down to her eldest son, Charles, Prince of Wales who is now King Charles III. "The death of my beloved Mother, Her Majesty the Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family." King Charles said.

Only a few hours before her passing, Buckingham Palace released a statement saying that the Queen had been placed under medical supervision and that her doctors were very concerned for her health.

One of the Queen's hardest years as ruler was the year of 1992. She has deemed this year "annus hor-

ribilis" which means horrible year in Latin.

1992 was the year that things just kept going downhill for the royal family. The marriages of three of her four children ended which is highly

looked down upon if you are in the royal family. These divorces got a bit messy with the most well-known marriage being that of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

On top of all that mess, a fire broke out in Windsor Castle later that year and destroyed millions and millions of dollars' worth of artifacts and art dating back to the 2nd century. It was an



Above: Queen Elizabeth at her Diamond Jubilee.

awful time.

Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, daughter of the Duchess and Duke of York, was born in Mayfair, London, England, on April 21, 1926. When she was born, she was third in line to inherit the throne behind her father and her uncle. Her uncle then abdicated the throne in 1936, making her second in line.

With the outbreak of war in 1939, Elizabeth and her sister Mar-

garet, were moved to Windsor Castle to avoid German bombing raids. The only time Elizabeth is known to have experienced communal education was in early 1945 right before the end of World War II.

While Elizabeth was growing up, she had her eye on Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark. She decided that he was the one she wanted to marry.

The two got married in November of 1947. They had their first son together, Prince Charles, in 1948 and then a daughter, Princess Anne, in 1950. Only 3 short years later, her father King George VI died making her Queen. Queen Elizabeth and Philip had two more children after her coronation. Prince Andrew who was born in 1960 and Prince Edward who was born in 1964.

She is survived by her four children, King Charles III, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew, and Prince Edward. Along with her 8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Queen Elizabeth was one of the greatest rulers England has ever known and she changed the way the world viewed the royal family. She is the sole reason why the British monarchy is thriving today and although she had her fair share of hardships, she truly was such a loveable and kind-hearted queen.

Pele, World's Greatest Soccer Player, Dies at 84

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Love! Love! Love!"

Fortunately, he ended his career on a good note winning the 1977 American Soccer League championship.

Edson Arantes do Nascimento was born on October 23rd, 1940 in Três Corações, Brazil. His parents named him Edson in tribute to Thomas Edison which at the time, electricity had just been brought to Três Corações.

At 14 years old, he signed his first contract with a junior team and transferred to Santos at 15. In his first professional game, he scored 4 goals and Santos won, 7-1. Then, at the age of 16, he made his debut for the Brazilian national team in 1957. Only 7 years after his father.

Only a year later, at 17, Pelé

brought home Brazil's first ever World Cup. He fulfilled his promise to his father and with doing so, he brought home two more World Cups in 1962 and 1970. He was the only player to ever win 3 FIFA World Cups.

Pelé married a woman by the name of Rosemeri Cholbi in 1966, who he had chased after for years. Together, they had three children, Kely Cristina, Edson Cholbi and Jennifer. They later divorced in 1982.

In 1994, Pelé married Assiria Seixas Lemos who was a psychologist and Brazilian gospel singer. They had twins, Joshua and Celeste, who were born in 1996. They divorced in 2008.

In 2016, he married a Brazilian businesswoman, Marcia Aoki.

Pelé also was the father of two children who were born out of wedlock, and he refused to acknowledge their existence.

He is survived by his wife, Marcia Aoki. His sons, Edson Cholbi and Joshua. His daughters, Jennifer, Kelly Cristina, Flávia Christina Kurtz, and Celeste.

Pelé had an amazing and fulfilling career and he inspired so many young fans. His dedication and passion on and off the field was why his fans showed him so much affection. Pelé himself said "In football(soccer), my talent was a gift from God." Pelé will be remembered as one of the best soccer players the world has ever seen.

Celebrities that Left Us in 2022

By: Ronnie Whille

Bob Saget, a stand-up comedian, actor, television host, and director passed away on January 9th, 2022. He was sixty-five. He was most well-known for his starring role in the sitcom "Full House," and later on the reboot "Fuller House."

The cause was blunt head trauma, according to the statement his family made. Authorities have said that there were no drugs or alcohol involved. The statement said, "They have concluded that he accidentally hit the back of his head on something, thought nothing of it and went to sleep."



Above: Bob Saget as host of AFV.

He also became known for being the host of "America's Funniest Home Videos." He was chosen as the host in 1989 and his contract expired in 1997. Some of his other roles were on "The Morning Program," "Dirty Work," "Raising Dad," "How I Met Your Mother," "Farce of the Penguins," "Surviving Suburbia," and many more. Saget also directed a film inspired by his sister who died at 47 from Scleroderma. This film was titled "For Hope," and received high ratings when it debuted.

Robert Lane Saget was born into a Jewish family in Philadelphia on May 17, 1956. His parents were Benjamin and Rosalyn, often called "Dolly". Benjamin was a supermarket executive and Rosalyn was a hospital administrator. His two sisters were Andrea and Gay Saget, who both died at young ages. He was said to a rebellious student. He spent part of high school in LA but spent his senior year in Abington, Philadelphia.



Above: Saget and his "Full House" Costars.

Saget was originally interested in a medical career but his English teacher, Elaine Zimmerman, convinced him to go into acting or filmmaking. After high school he went on to the "Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts," which is a college associated with Temple University in Philadelphia, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. During that time he started to perform comedy at comedy clubs.

Then he went to the University of Southern California to take graduate courses but soon dropped out due to health problems. He spent a lot of time do-

Continued on next page

Olivia Newton-John, famous singer, and actress, best known role was her starring role as Sandy in the 1970s hit movie *Grease*, died on August 8th, 2022. She died in Santa Ynez, California. She was 73.

Her death was caused by breast cancer. Her husband, John Easterling, announced this on Olivia's Instagram page. He said, "She was surrounded by family and friends and passed away peacefully at her Ranch in Southern California."

After her role as Sandy, she became known as "Miss Goody Two-Shoes from Australia." But that soon changed. Newton-John became known for not only the famous movie, *Grease*, but for her music. She started out in a small girl group that performed at her brother-in-law's coffee shop when she was in her teens. Her first hit was in 1971, a song called "If Not for You". It was a Bob Dylan cover that she made mellow. She was named Female Vocalist of the Year at the CMA awards in 1974. Her 1974 release, "I Honestly Love You", won her Record of the year. One of her most famous songs was her 1981 hit, "Physical". This song truly changed her goody two-shoes image. She ended up having 15 top singles and four Grammy Awards for Video of the Year, Best Pop Vocal Performance, and Best Country Vocal Performance.



Above: Olivia performing on BBC in 1974

Dame Olivia Newton-John was born on September 26th, 1948, in Cambridge England. Her parents were Brinley Newton-John, and Irene Born. Brinley, her father, was an agent during World War II, after the war he became a headmaster at an all-boys school in Cambridge. Her siblings are Hugh and Rona Newton-John. Her grandfather was Max Born, a Nobel prize winning physicist. She went to school at Christ Church Grammar School and University High School. She was known for her unique voice, beautiful smile, and blonde hair.

Prior to *Grease*, she was in a 1970 musical film called "Tomorrow". That was her first big break, but *Grease* was even bigger. The Queen named her a dame in 2019 for her work as a world-renowned musician, her charity work, and her cancer research.



Above: Olivia and John Travolta co-starring in "Grease".

Continued on next page

Celebrities that Left Us in 2022

By: Ronnie Whille

Ronnie Spector, famous singer best known for her part in The Ronettes, a singing girl group in the 1960's and 70's, died on January 12th, 2022. She was 78.

The cause was cancer, according to her family's statement. "Ronnie lived her life with a twinkle in her eye, a spunky attitude, a wicked sense of humor, and a smile on her face," they said.

Spector was inducted to the Vocal Group Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She loved performing and making music. "I used to cry myself to sleep every night. I missed singing so much. And performing. Man, I missed it so much," she once said.

Ronnie, her sister Estelle, and cousin Nedra Talley made up the Ronettes, formerly known as The Darling Sisters. "Be My Baby", "Baby I Love You", and "Walking in the Rain" are some of the songs they were most known for, along with their powerful voices.

They were signed to Phillies Records in 1963. She helped the producer, Phil Spector, write and produce their songs. The Ronettes sang background until their hit "Be My Baby". Their Five songs from their 1964 debut album, "Presenting the Fabulous Ronettes (Featuring Veronica)", were on the US Billboard charts. The group broke up in 1967 and Ronnie took on a solo career in the mid-70's. She regained her popularity and made it back onto the top 40 with



Above: The Ronettes performing on NBC in 1965.

Bob Saget *Continued from previous page*

ing comedy before getting his big break and becoming a household name from his role of Danny Tanner in "Full House."

Saget had a successful career doing what he loved. He made sure he said what he wanted, not fearing what people would say or think. Actor and comedian, Jim Carrey, said, "Beautiful Bob Saget passed away today at 65. He had a big, big heart and a wonderfully warped comic mind. He gave the world a lot of joy and lived his life for goodness' sake."

Bob Saget was survived by his wife Kelly Rizzo and his three daughters, Aubrey, Lara, and Jennifer. He was predeceased by his parents, and his two sisters.

Below: Ronnie Spector performing in 2018.



"Take Me Home Tonight" by Eddie Money, featuring Ronnie Spector.

Veronica Yvette Spector was born on August 10th, 1943. She lived in the Washington Heights area of Manhattan. Her parents were Beatrice and Louis Bennett. Her father was a subway worker, and he abandoned their family when Ronnie and her sister, Estelle, were young.

While they were teens, they formed the Ronettes. They performed in clubs in 1961 until they finally got their big break. She married Phil Spector not too much later. They ended up getting a divorce in 1974 and Ronnie sued him for 10 million in royalties and licensing fees in 1988. She sued him because he was emotionally abusive and controlling. Ronnie said he was a brilliant producer but a lousy husband. Her and Phil adopted three kids together. They adopted Donte, Gary, and Louis. She married Jonathan Greenfield in 1982 and had two kids, Austin, and Jason.

Ronnie Spector had a very great career, and her spunky attitude and bright smile will be remembered by many. Brian Wilson, co-founder of the Beach Boys, spoke about her death on twitter, "I just heard the news about Ronnie Spector, and I don't know what to say. I loved her voice so much and she was a very special person and a dear friend. This just breaks my heart. Ronnie's music and spirit will live forever." She was survived by her sons Austin and Jason, and her second husband Jonathan.

Olivia Newton-John *Continued from previous page*

She was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992, and relapsed in 2017. In 2020 she was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer.

Her *Grease* costar, John Travolta said, "My dearest Olivia, you made all of our lives so much better. Your impact was incredible. I love you so much. We will see you down the road and we will all be together again. Yours from the first moment I saw you and forever! Your Danny, your John!"

She was survived by her second husband John Easterling, and Chloe Lattanzi, her daughter from her first marriage to Matt Lattanzi.

Celebrities that Left Us in 2022

Sidney Poitier, renowned African American Actor

By: MJ Murray

Sidney Poitier, actor, film-director, and diplomat, known for his roles like Walter in *A Raisin in the Sun* died on 6 January 2022. He was 94.

His cause of death was a combination of heart failure, Alzheimer's dementia, and prostate cancer, according to NBC News.

He is best known as an actor. He won an Oscar for his performance in "Lilies of the Field", where he would be the only black man to win an Oscar until 2002. His other accolades and awards include the Kennedy Center Honors in 1995, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009, two golden globes. Including a lifetime achievement honor in 1982, and a Grammy. He was also a film director, directing movies like *No Way Out*, *Uptown Saturday Night*, and *A Warm December*. Finally, he was a diplomat, being the ambassador to Japan from 1997 and Ambassador to UNESCO, which both ended in 2007.

Sidney Poitier, born on February 20, 1927, grew up in a turbulent time. He was born in Miami, Florida and was the youngest of seven children. His parents were Afro-Bahamian farmers that traveled to Miami to sell produce to wholesalers. He grew up in the Bahamas while it was still a British Crown colony, but his birth in the United States entitled him to US citizenship. He was sent to Miami when he was fifteen, where racism was still very present in Jim Crow era Florida. Just a year later, he moved to New York City to become an actor. During the Second World War, he lied about his age and enlisted, being set up in a hospital in Northport, New York and trained to treat psychiatric patients. He became upset with the



Above: Sidney admiring his Oscar; at left: Sidney in the role of Walter, in *A Raisin in the Sun* (familiar to many English III students!)

treatment of the patients and feigned a mental illness to obtain a discharge.

He joined the American Negro Theater at 16, but his tone-deafness made it hard for him to land a role. He rid himself of his Bahamian accent and modeled his speech pattern on radio star, Norman Brokenshire. He later said, "I have always been a learner because I knew nothing."

He was given a role in a Broadway production but when that fell through, he was given an invitation to understudy for another production. He was then offered to work in a film, which was the beginning of his movie successes.

Critics claimed that he was typecast as an "over-idealized African-American characters who were not permitted to have any sexuality or personality faults" but he knew that the world as it was could not handle a black villain, especially with the racism still very present in 1960s. He very

famously said "If the fabric of the society were different, I would scream to high heaven to play villains and to deal with different images of Negro life that would be more one dimensional... But I'll be damned if I do that at this stage of the game. Not when there is only one Negro actor working in films with any degree of consistency..." Of course, he was referring to himself.

He is survived by his wife Joanna Shimkus, and his five daughters. He is predeceased by his daughter, Gina, who died in 2018.

Celebrities that Left Us in 2022

Robbie Coltrane, aka Hagrid from Harry Potter

By: Lukas Nordell



Scottish actor Robbie Coltrane, best known for his role as Rubeus Hagrid from Harry Potter, died on October 14, 2022 at Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert, Scotland due to a variety of health complications. He was 72.

Of his numerous health issues, the cause was most notably diabetes and his ongoing struggle with obesity. Along with his weight, Coltrane was, at one point, a heavy drinker, which heavily contributed to his exponential health decline in his later years. It is reported that Coltrane's main cause of death was Sepsis, also known as blood poisoning. Followed by Sepsis, Coltrane experienced a lower respiratory track infection and heart block which made recovery extremely difficult. A representative of Coltrane's confirmed his death to the public, but it was his wife who registered his death.

Coltrane became known as Rubeus Hagrid, from JK Rowling's popular book and movie series, Harry Potter. In addition to his most prominent role in the acting

industry, Coltrane starred as Valentin Dmitrovich Zukovsky in the James Bond movies, *The World is Not Enough* and *Golden Eye*. His most prominent television role was as Dr. Fitzgerald in the show *Cracker*, which aired between the years of 1993 and 2006.

"See, what you're meant to do when you have a mid-life crisis is buy a fast car, aren't you? Well, I've always had fast cars. It's not that. It's the fear that you're past your best. It's the fear that the stuff you've done in the past is your best work," Coltrane once said.

His work was most definitely crucial to the success of the Harry Potter movies, and it shows. Fans mourn the loss of Hagrid, and they thank him for his contribution to the series they love. Murals have been painted in his memory and condolences have been given to his family.

Anthony Robert McMillan was born on March 30th, 1950 in Rutherglen, Lanarkshire, Scotland. Coltrane was the son of Jean Ross Howie, a teacher and pianist, and Ian Baxter McMillan, a general practitioner and forensic police surgeon. Coltrane had two sisters, Annie, the eldest, and Jane, the youngest of the three.

Coltrane began his educa-

tion at Belmont House School in Newton Mearns and then later continued his education at Glenalmond College in Perthshire. Coltrane played rugby, was head of the school's debating society, and was a prize-winning artist. Coltrane furthered his education studying painting at Glasgow School of Art.

Coltrane began his acting career in his early twenties, in which he adopted the stage name Coltrane. He chose Coltrane in tribute to his favorite jazz musician John Coltrane. He participated in many theatrical clubs and activities in his schooling and eventually he found himself productions such as *Flash Gordon* (1980), *Death Watch* (1980), *Balham, Gateway to the South* (1981), and many more.

It was during his years as Dr. Eddie "Fitz" Fitzgerald in the ITV series *Cracker* that he gained national fame. He received the "British Academy Television Award for Best Actor" three years consecutively (1994 – 1996). Down the line, Coltrane would land the role as Rubeus Hagrid in the Harry Potter movie adaption and eventual movie series.

"I'll be the one with the steering wheel through my chest. You can write the obituary," Coltrane said. Although he didn't go out in the way he expected himself too, he will be sorely missed for his contributions to the world. He is survived by his sister Anna Rae, his children Spencer and Alice, and his wife, Rhona Gemmell.



Robbie Coltrane as his most iconic role, Rubeus Hagrid.

Celebrities that Left Us in 2022

Estelle Harris, aka George Costanza's mother on *Seinfeld*

By: Julia Fahy

Estelle Harris, who was a famous actress and comedian best known for her role as George Costanza's mother in *Seinfeld* and the voice of Mrs. Potato Head in *Toy Story*, passed away. She was loved by many people and was recognized not only by her acting but her voice. She died on April 2 in Palm Desert, CA. She was 93.

She died of natural causes in her own home. Her death was announced by her son Glen Harris.

She was in a lot of commercials and was a popular voice actor. For example in *Toy Story* and *Tarzan II*. She was also known for her role in *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody* as Muriel and her most famous role by far, George's mother in *Seinfeld*. "Sadly, another celebrity death has been added to this tragic list by marking the world of comedy with the loss of a dear and beyond hilarious soul, someone who you could never forget once you heard her thrilling one-of-a-kind voice, on Saturday, April 2nd: Estelle Harris." Says Hollywood Insider.

Estelle Nussbaum was born April 22, 1928, in Manhattan, New York. Her parents, Anna Nussbaum and Isaac "Ira" Nussbaum were first-generation Jewish emigrants from Poland. They opened a candy shop in New York city then later moved to Tarentum, Pennsylvania due to a job offer Ira had. She grew up with her sister Minnie mainly in Pennsylvania and graduated from the local high school in Tarentum. She married Sy Harris in 1952 and had three children Taryn, Eric,



and Glen.

She aspired to an acting career but started out in amateur productions. She eventually had roles in dinner theater and found some success when she was casted in various television commercials. Her first "real" role was a small role in a crime film *Once Upon a Time in America*, which depicted the lives of Jewish-American gangsters. After that, she was cast in the recurring role of Easy Mary in the sitcom "Night Court". By the late 1980s and early 90s she was frequently cast in guest-star roles in series such as *Married... with Children* and *Mad about You*. She then got her big break when she was cast as Estelle Costanza in *Seinfeld*, the overbearing mother of George Costanza. She became one of the series' most prominent supporting characters.

She was an amazing actor that is fondly remembered by many. Her son said in a statement, "Her kindness, passion, sensitivity, humor, empathy and love were practically unrivaled, and she will be terribly missed by all those who knew her," according to a npr article. She is survived by her three children.



Below: Estelle Harris on the set of *Seinfeld*.

Leaders that Left Us in 2022

Hannah Pick, Friend of Anne Frank, dead at 93

By: Sydnie Chek

Hannah "Hanneli" Pick-Goslar, Holocaust survivor, died this past year. She passed away on October 28, 2022, in her home in Jerusalem. She was 93.

The cause of her death was not mentioned in the announcement made by her son.

Hannah Pick is best known for her friendship with Anne Frank. She helped us gather a better picture of the young author.

Pick gave many lectures, interviews, and wrote about her time in the concentration camps and her friendship with Anne.

Hannah was incarcerated in Bergen-Belsen and survived with her sister Gabi.

Hannah Elizabeth Goslar was born on November 12, 1928, in Berlin, Germany to her parents Hans Goslar and Ruth Judith Klee. She was the elder sister of Gabi Goslar and a third child who passed away at birth. The family was Jewish.

Her father was a deputy minister for domestic affairs in Germany until 1933. Her mother was a teacher. However, she died giving birth to her third child in 1942.

Hans was forced to resign his government job in 1933, after the election of Adolf Hitler. After the failed attempt to move to England, the family moved to Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Hannah went to the Sixth Public Montessori school in Amsterdam, where she became close friends with Anne Frank. They met while shopping with their mothers at the local grocery store.

Hannah, her sister Gabi, her father, and her grandfather were arrested in 1943 and sent to the Westerbork transit camp. Hannah and Gabi were separated from their

family and sent to the orphanage in the camp. In the orphanage, Hannah's job was to clean the toilets and take care of the younger children.



Pictured above: Hannah and Anne Frank as children

Hannah, Gabi, and their father were transferred to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on February 15, 1944. Her friend Anne was also imprisoned in this camp at the time, and they managed to communicate through the fence that separated them.

On April 11, 1945, the camp inmates were evacuated. Hannah and her sister were taken in the "Lost Train" and returned to Amsterdam in July.

She emigrated to Israel in 1947 and became a pediatric nurse.

Anne Frank wrote in her diary, "Hanneli, you're a reminder of what my fate could have been. I hope that you live to the end of the war and return to us."

Hannah Pick-Goslar is predeceased by her husband Walter Pinchas Pick and survived by her three children, 11 grandchildren, and 33 great-grandchildren who she calls "my answer to Hitler."

Gorbachev

continued from page 15

In 1979 he joined the Politburo, and three years after the death of Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, the Politburo elected Gorbachev in

1985. He would be the last leader of the Soviet Union.

His policies were very different from past leaders of the Soviet Union. Of the most notable were Glasnost and Perestroika reforms that allowed people of Soviet Union many freedoms that they could not enjoy before. People could criticize the government. Exposure to western culture increased. Gorbachev knew that the arms race with the west needed to be ended to save the Soviet economy, and a positive relationship needed to be established. This led to the INF treaty, which eliminated all intermediate-range missiles. He allowed elections in the Eastern Bloc which led to the toppling of the Berlin Wall. This also brought an end to communist authority in the Eastern Bloc and to the Soviet Union as a whole.

Ultimately, Gorbachev lifted the Iron Curtain, and his legacy is one of freedom and prosperity. He is predeceased by his wife, Raisa Tirarenko, who died of Leukemia at 67, and survived by their daughter, Irina Gorbachev, and his brother Aleksandr Gorbachev.

Abe

continued from page 15



Above: Mourner paying respect to Shinzo Abe

to 1972. After graduating from Seikei University in Tokyo (1977), Abe came to America to study politics and English at the University of Southern California. In 1979 he returned to Japan and in 1982 he began working as a secretary for his father, Shintaro Abe, who was Japan's foreign minister.

Mr. Abe is survived by Akie Abe (his wife), Yoko Abe (his mother) and his brothers: Nobuo Kishi, Japan's defense minister, and Hironobu Abe, who was the CEO of Mitsubishi Shoji Packaging.

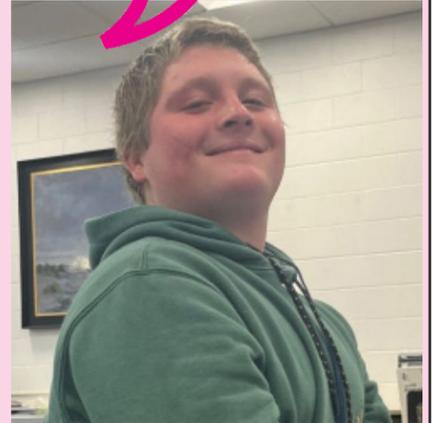
Morgan and Kiki Want to Know!

February Break Edition

Brynn McDonald: "I'm going skiing with Lilly, Liam, and Zack. We are going to Jiminy Peak Mountain in Massachusetts from the 12th to the 15th. I'm also going to Ohio."



Cade Saito: "Over break I'm going to visit my Nana in Arizona. I'm flying there by myself for the first time and I'm staying for four days. I'm really excited to see my Nana."



Reagan Scime: "I'm going to visit the College of Charleston with my dad and two aunts. I'm very excited because I'm interested in looking at that school!"



Jackie Stewart: "I'm going to visit my cousins in Virginia with my family to celebrate my cousins 5th birthday. I'm going Wednesday to Sunday and I'm excited because I don't see my cousins often."

Danny Colon: "I'm staying in South Beach, Miami. My family has been going there for many years and we love it. We are excited to go anywhere that's warmer than here."



Quinn Peters: "I'm staying home for break because I have basketball. Over break we are playing in the Shore Conference tournament."



Terence Marks: "I am going to Vermont with my cousin Doug and Pat. We are going for the whole February break. I'm excited because I want to go snowboarding."



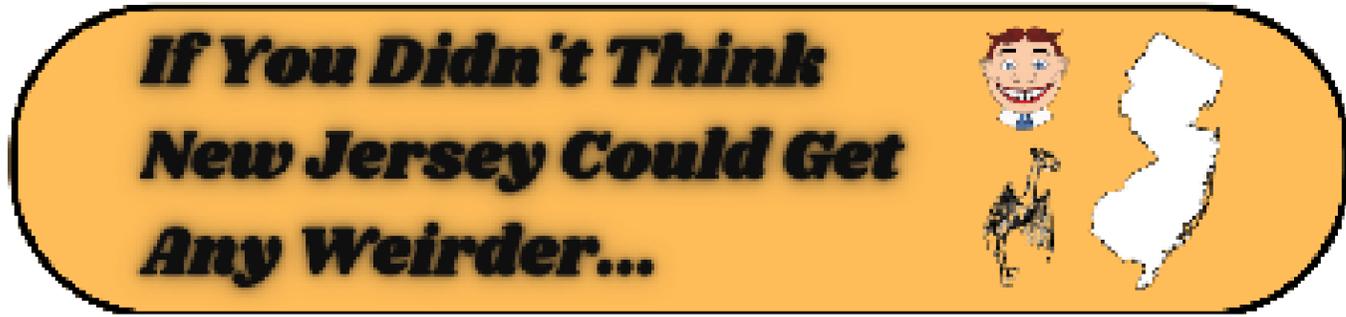
Cael Driscoll: "I'm going to Texas to see my family. I am leaving on Thursday and missing school. I'm going to hangout with my family."

Mia Petri: "We are flying into Monterey and going to Malibu for February Break. We are going horseback riding, so I'm very excited. Also, the weather is always so nice."



Kevin Prime: "I am going to Puerto Rico with my family. We are going for the whole week of break, I'm excited to go swimming."





Luna Parc: N.J.'s Most Whimsical Home

The small rural town of Sandyston Township might seem ordinary to most, but it is home to one of the strangest houses you'll ever see. Luna Parc, a multimedia artist's dream home, is the creation and home of artist Richard "Ricky" Boscarino, featuring faces in the walls, murals galore, and a rainbow of stained glass art.

Starting construction in 1989,



Above: The Mascot of Luna Parc

this 34 year old art project is filled with a plethora of things to look at. A 2019 visitor left an astonishing review on TripAdvisor saying, "when you think you have seen it all, stop turn around and see what you missed. Don't forget to look up!" The add-ons of this house combined with the maximalistic sculptures surrounding the property gives vivacity to the surrounding forests.

Touring this wacky house isn't the only thing that can be done, Luna Parc offers workshops for ages 18 and up. These workshops include creating a head planter out of cement, sculpting a fantasy animal, creating a faux bois ce-

By: Natalie Gallagher

ment planter, and beginner mosaic-101! Be warned however, these workshops don't come cheap – the lowest price being \$150!

The house itself is cluttered with amazing collections, including a "bed pan collection" and "the credit card curtain" witnessed by a TripAdvisor reviewer. The circular windows, also known as portal windows, give a great view of the surrounding woods and nature while recycled blue glass bottles are used like bricks to construct a eco-friendly shed

Visiting this house is only accessible in the summer months during the weekday as the artist still lives here!

Boscarino was "born into an artistic family dating back to the time of the Medici" as said by his website. His art includes various forms of jewelry, ceramic vessels, and "facepots" featuring famous artists such as Amy Winehouse,



Above: A front view of the house



Above: Amy Winehouse portrait

Elvis Presly, and other pop culture stars. Some of these are even for sale for as high as \$700. The artist's passion is truly represented in every piece he makes.

Of his work, Boscarino writes, "the process of luster continues to be one of my passions and the results are illustrated in my vast range of color, texture, and overall surface treatment."

Personally, I would love to live in a house like this, minus the bed pan collection. I'm so interested in the way that the artist transformed this house into something magical. I am definitely going to recommend visiting this house. I would even consider buying one of his pieces of jewelry, although some of it is out of my price range!



Dare to Visit NJ's Bermuda Triangle?



By: Ronnie Whille



Round Valley Reservoir is a historical place for camping, swimming, scuba diving, hiking, fishing, and more. According to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, this 2,350-acre reservoir is 180 feet deep. What most people might know is that this reservoir is sometimes called New Jersey's Bermuda Triangle.

Formed in 1960, since 1871 there have been over 26 cases of people disappearing. In six of those cases, the people were never found.

The first disappearance was in May of 1973, when two men were fishing in a 12-foot aluminum boat. The boat was found capsized and two life jackets, an oar, and a broken fishing rod were found nearby. But the men weren't.

In March of 1977, two young men were paddling a canoe in the reservoir, and simply dis-

appeared. Their gear and canoe were found washed up a few days later, but they were not.

Another case occurred again in 1989, when two men did not return from a fishing trip. They were in a 13-foot aluminum boat and many of their items were found washed up. This time one of the men's bodies was found months later, the other was never found.

Eight people were drowned and missing within the first year of opening. According to Brent Franklin, in the mid 1990's there were two canoeists paddling in the reservoir and one decided to cool off in the water. He jumped in and never came back up.

The bodies that are recovered usually have all clothes, glasses, boots, and hats on when found. Bob Parichuk, a former member of the maintenance crew for the

State Park from 1985-1994, says, "The water's temperature is cold down deep and this preserves the flesh to a certain extent. This body still had flesh on its thighs. The water is murky the deeper one dives; this hampers all rescue attempts."

In 2006, a team of 30 police and FBI officers searched the waters for unrecovered bodies, but found no human remains.

Most recently, in December 2022, according to Penn Live website, two older men, Stanislaw Grezesik, and Tadeusz Florczuk, were fishing and did not get home that night. There were two holes found in the ice about 100 yards from the shore. One body has been recovered, the other has not.

In my opinion, I would steer clear of this place. It seems like a beautiful setting, but all of the disappearances and fatal cases have me thinking otherwise.



Above: Map of the Round Valley Reservoir

Above: Fishermen in the reservoir

Hiking to the Stone Living Room

By: Niky Li



Above: The Stone Living Room, a pile of rocks for hikers to relax and enjoy the view.

Do you want a beautiful 360 view of the landscape far below you, while still sitting in the comfort of your living room? Then the Stone Living Room is what you are looking for!

Take a Hike stated that, "The Stone Living Room is a circular set of stone chairs that surround a fireplace along with a separate recliner." It looks very similar to a living room in a normal house, thus being called the Stone Living Room.

Yet, this "living room" is perched high above the border of West Milford and Bloomingdale in Passaic County. The trail to the Stone Living Room can be found along Glenwild Ave. According to Weird NJ, "Complete with a fireplace and a few cozy couches, the Stone Living Room can accommodate two dozen or more weary travelers after their one mile climb up the mountain". Though the walk can be tiring, the view makes up for it. "I hike this trail every day, and I never knew this was here. This is amazing!" said one hiker.

Not only do you get a beautiful view, but you can also share your thoughts and reflections on the site. One August 26, 2001 a spiral journal was left amongst the



Above: Journal left for reflections or poetry.

rocks in a double bagged plastic pouch complete with a pen. Visitors can write their thoughts and some even offer a bit of poetry.

Despite the location being a great place to relax, people have reported weird things occurring around the area. "I live across the street from the Stone Living Room, and my friends and I have been up there before. We saw a signing book and when we were there, weird stuff started to happen. Trees were cracking, and we thought we saw and heard someone yelling "Come here," and screams of a girl getting beaten or

something. That was just the first time. We go up there often during the summer, and weird stuff always happens. One time we were sitting in the chairs and something pushed us and it got really cold. This was the middle of the summer, and it doesn't go from 95 degrees to 50 degrees that fast," said Krystle and Lauren.

Though the builders of the Stone Living Room have never been clarified, Amy reported that she knew one of the architects of the Stone Living Room. "She told me that when she was a hippie teenager (quite frankly she's still a hippie) growing up in Pompton Lakes in the late '60s or early '70s, she and a bunch of her friends would hike up the mountain most weekends to hang out, because it was remote and had a great view. She says they tired of sitting on the rocky, bumpy ground and decided one day to clear out the small stones and drag the really big ones together. It just happened to be coincidence that the uniquely shaped stones were there to make the "chairs," said Amy.

I think this area is amazing, you get a beautiful view all around you while you can sit and relax from a long hike. I think it is also really wholesome that someone placed a journal for others to share their thoughts with other hikers. I would definitely want to visit this place even though I am not interested in hiking. However, I think I'd choose to visit in the morning because of the weird things that have been reported during the night.

Below: Hiker lounging at Stone Living Room.



New Year's Resolutions



Pictured Left: From left to right, juniors Bryce Deveney, Declan Murphy, and Finn Dougherty all said they hoped to make new friends in the new year.

Pictured Right: Junior Grace Buckley wants to drink more water



Pictured Left: On the left, Bridget Heim sets her New Year's Resolution to go to more swim practices and to be more organized. On the right, junior Sophia Mechler wants to do homework on time and fix her sleep schedule.

Picture Right: Freshman Michael Murphy hopes to bring in better grades in 2023.



Pictured Left: Junior Megan Spears aspires to be more confident in the new year.

Pictured Right: Sophomore MJ Murray wants to be more active in school activities.



2023



Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts sets up for a throw in warm-ups.

Super Bowl LVII: Who will take home the Lombardi Trophy?

By: Austin Griffith

then welcome the 49ers for a meeting at Lincoln Financial Field in the NFC Championship.

Across the bracket, the Chiefs faced off against a scrappy Jaguars team that had to fight every week for their playoff spot. As the usual underdog, Jacksonville had something to prove to the NFL community at Arrowhead Stadium for a huge second round playoff appearance.

The Jags 2021 first overall draft pick, Trevor Lawrence, posed a challenge for the Chiefs defense with 217 yards through the air and a passing touchdown. The Jaguars offense put up a respectable fight in Kansas City with 20 points, but it was not enough to stop the power duo of Patrick Mahomes and his tight end target, Travis Kelce, who had two receiving touchdowns. After a 27-20 win, the Chiefs would move on to the AFC championship where they would host Joe Burrow and the Bengals.

The Eagles opponent, the San Francisco 49ers, had lost their first-year starting quarterback, Trey Lance, due to an ankle fracture against the Seahawks in Week 2. Veteran quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo took over the niners offense and led the team to seven wins before suffering a foot injury in Week 13 against the Dolphins. With Lance and Garoppolo both out for the rest of the season, the 49ers would put all their hopes in 3rd string rookie quarterback, Mr. Irrelevant, Brock Purdy, who was the final pick in last year's draft. Purdy had an outstanding record at the helm with an undefeated

record in the last six games of the season. San Francisco defeated the Seahawks 41-23 in the wild card and the Cowboys 19-12 in the second round.

It's safe to say, the odds were not in the 49ers favor for their matchup with the Eagles. Early on in the first quarter, San Francisco's newest hero, Brock Purdy, injured his elbow on a contested pass attempt. The niners then asked backup quarterback, Josh Johnson, to step up and take San Francisco back to the Superbowl for the first time since 2019. In his two quarters of play, Johnson did not have a great appearance. He had just 74 yards passing and no total touchdowns. After being hit by Eagles defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh in the third quarter, Johnson left the game with a concussion and would not return. Purdy then returned, but could not carry his team to another win as his elbow injury played a factor. On the other hand, the Eagles offense had an outstanding Superbowl warm-up, especially the running backs. Miles Sanders and Boston Scott combined for a total of three rushing touchdowns, while quarterback Jalen Hurts ran for one more. The Eagles defeated the 49ers 31-7 in an extremely one-sided game.

In the AFC Championship, the 12-4 Bengals traveled to Kansas City for a showdown with the Chiefs. America's favorite quarterback, Joe Burrow, had a great track record against the Chiefs including a 72% completion percentage, 982 passing yards, and a 3-0 record. It seemed that Mahomes's kryptonite was Burrow and the Bengals

February 12th, Eagles vs. Chiefs, it's Superbowl LVII in the desert, a battle for the ages. Will Kansas City bring home their 3rd Lombardi Trophy or will the birds from Philly repeat their 2018 Superbowl LII victory over the Patriots?

Entering the postseason, the Eagles and Chiefs both finished the regular season with 14-3 records. Philadelphia controlled the NFC East division the entire season, but they were constantly challenged by the Cowboys. Meanwhile in the American League, Kansas City dominated the AFC West, the next team behind them being the Chargers with only ten wins.

The Giants, one of the Eagles' divisional rivals made their first playoff appearance this season since their 2016 Wild Card loss to the Packers. In New York's return, they defeated the 13-4 Vikings by a score of 31-24 in the first round. With this Wild Card win, the G-men moved on to Philly where the birds were waiting to attack. The Eagles walked all over the hopeful Giants in a crushing 38-7 victory. Philadelphia would

again progressively moved down the field deep into Chiefs territory. Eventually, running back Samaje Perine ran it into the endzone for a 2-yard touchdown run. Neither team could score for the rest of the game until the final offensive drive. With only 10 seconds left in regulation, Mahomes scrambled out of bounds at around midfield but was shoved out of bounds by Bengals defensive end Joseph Ossai. Clearly a late hit, flags flew all over the field. This 15-yard penalty turned a 60-yard field goal into a manageable 45-yarder for Chiefs' kicker, Harrison Butker. Butker drilled the kick to win the game for the Chiefs by a score of 23-20. Kansas City punched their ticket to the Superbowl for a matchup with the Eagles.

Early on, there was not much action from either team. The first two scores were field goals resulting in a 3-3 game late in the second quarter. Then, the dynamic duo struck. Mahomes fired off a quick route to Kelce who ran for a 14-yard touchdown. In the last drive of the half, the Bengals faced more struggles in the redzone and were forced to end the half with another field goal. Down 10-6, Cincinnati headed back to the locker room without a touchdown. With their season on the line, the Bengals came out hot. Back on offense, the Bengals marched into Kansas City territory to set up a big play. Then, Burrow launched a 27-yard deep ball to receiver Tee Higgins for a touchdown.

Mahomes was determined to not get knocked out by Burrow once again. Once the Chiefs got the ball back, the offense went to work. Kansas City worked their way down the field looking to get their lead back. At around the 20-yard line, Mahomes found receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling in the endzone for a 19-yard touchdown pass. The Chiefs now had a 20-13 league over the Bengals heading into the fourth quarter. With possession, Cincinnati once

again progressively moved down the field deep into Chiefs territory. Eventually, running back Samaje Perine ran it into the endzone for a 2-yard touchdown run. Neither team could score for the rest of the game until the final offensive drive. With only 10 seconds left in regulation, Mahomes scrambled out of bounds at around midfield but was shoved out of bounds by Bengals defensive end Joseph Ossai. Clearly a late hit, flags flew all over the field. This 15-yard penalty turned a 60-yard field goal into a manageable 45-yarder for Chiefs' kicker, Harrison Butker. Butker drilled the kick to win the game for the Chiefs by a score of 23-20. Kansas City punched their ticket to the Superbowl for a matchup with the Eagles.



Above: Eagles receivers Devonta Smith and A.J. Brown celebrate a touchdown with a special handshake. Below: Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes celebrates with his hands in the air after a touchdown.



With the Superbowl LVII matchup set, the most important factor is the quarterback comparison. This season will hold the first ever Superbowl matchup between two black quarterbacks. In his sixth season, Mahomes is a dual-threat quarterback with a cannon for an arm. He was the tenth overall pick of the 2017 NFL Draft taken out of Texas Tech University. In the AFC Championship, Mahomes had an outstanding performance with 29 completions out of 43 pass attempts and 326 yards with 2 passing touchdowns. Mahomes suffered a high-ankle sprain against the Jaguars in round two, but it clearly did not play a big factor against the Bengals. Jalen Hurts was at the helm for

the Eagles in his third season. He was the 53rd overall pick in the second round of the 2020 draft from the University of Oklahoma. Hurts was having an amazing season for Philly and had a decent performance against the 49ers in the NFC Championship with 121 yards and 15 completions out of 25 pass attempts. Mahomes is clearly the more decorated, experienced quarterback, but there is no doubt that Hurts is hungry for his first Lombardi trophy.

The Chiefs and the Eagles feature two dynamic offenses between even teams. Mahomes has a strong connection with Kelce, while Hurts has a talented receiver core built around A.J. Brown and Devonta Smith. Superbowl LVII should be an intense matchup between two great teams in an offensive showdown in Arizona.



Manasquan Track Races Towards New Records

By: Reagan Scime

On your mark, get set, GO! The starting pistol fires a shot to get the runners up and running. Each stride is another step towards victory, school records, and personal records. For the Manasquan High School track athletes, beating school records is as easy as pie.

On January 15th, 2023, select Warrior athletes were invited to the Stanner Games at the Armory in New York City to compete with the best of the best. Sophomore Angelina George, seniors Dalil Suluki and Cael Driscoll, as well as juniors Kat Keefe and Violet Nolan were the few who competed in the games.

Angelina came in first place in the 1600m run and set a school record with her time of 5:15. As of now, Angelina is placed at 6th overall in the state of New Jersey.

Below: The Manasquan track team get ready to compete in their meet.



Above: Dalil, Declan, Peter, and Achilles smile after their school record-breaking race.

“It felt great to come in first at the Armory and break a school record, but I definitely have bigger goals,” Angelina said.

Right away, at the Shore Conference Championships, Angelina placed 1st in two races: 800m and 1600m. She completed the 800m in 2:18 and the 1600m in 5:07. Additionally, at the Group 2 State Sectionals, Angelina placed 1st in the 1600m with a time of 5:07. She also placed 2nd in the 800m with a time of 2:18. While accomplishing these big goals as only a sophomore, Angelina is resting in preparation for the Group 2 Championships upcoming within the next two weeks.

Cael competed in the high jump along with the long jump portions of the meet. In high jump, he tied the season best with a height of 6-0 coming in at 5th place. In long jump, Cael set a school record with a leap of 20-0 which landed him in 11th place. He also competed in the 300m dash with a time of 38.19 earning him 6th place.

Kat secured a school record in the

continued on next page



300m dash with a time of 45.33. In long jump, Kat reached a length of 14-05.50 putting her in 26th place out of 65 girls.

“I was so happy, and it felt like all my hard work was paying off. Its super cool holding a school record because it’s nice to know you are one of the fastest in school history.”

Other notable performances came from Violet with a personal record in the 300 meters of 46.9, while Dalil came in 7th place in the 55m hurdles with a school record of 8.18.

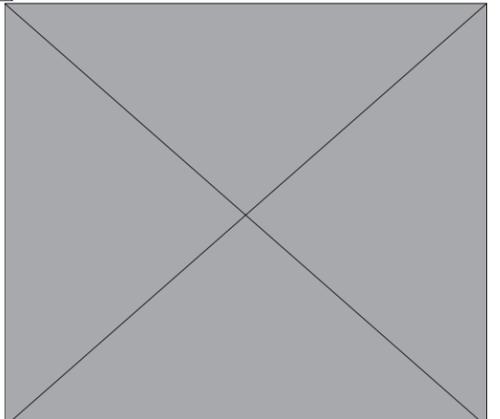
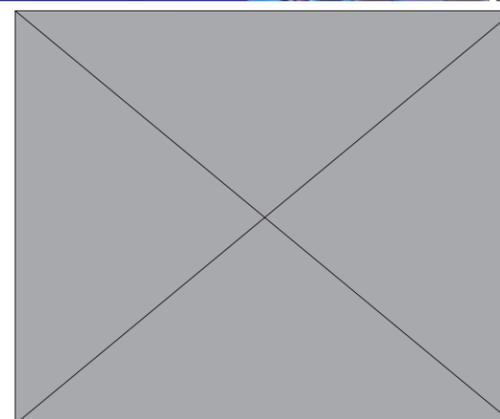
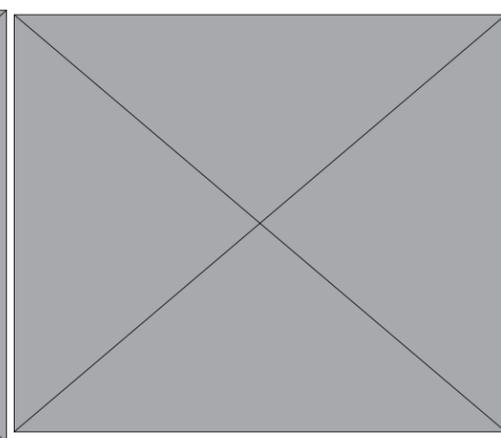
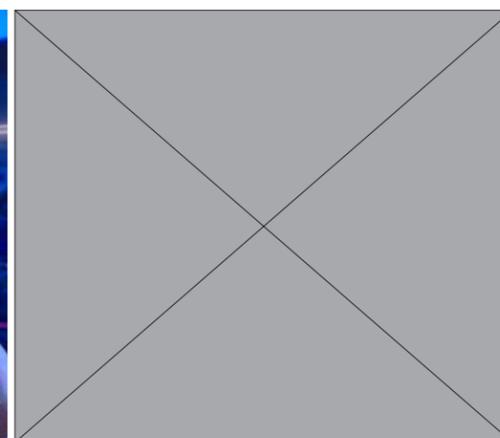
To note other high performances in different meets, the Warrior girls distance medley relay placed fifth with a time of 13:25.7 at the Group II state relays at the Bennett Indoor Complex. Dalil, juniors Declan Murphy and Peter Debenedetto, and freshman Achilles Etienne set a school record in the 4x200m at the Group II relays.

At the Monmouth County championship, the Lady Warriors took home fifth as a team. Sophomore Dylan Clancy was fifth in the 3200 for the Warriors with a time of 11:51.78. Angelina placed 2nd in the 1600 which set a school record running with a time of 11:51.78. Senior Katie Beavis came in fourth in pole vault, clearing a height of 6-0.

These hard-working individuals placed Manasquan track on the map and have brought the heat to every meet. The future is bright for these superstars as they continue to show off their talents.



Below: Just a few of the record-setting performances by MHS track athletes this winter season





MHS Girls Swim Team Makes a Splash at Monmouth County Championships

By: Jacquelyn Stewart



Above: Members of the swim team take a picture after winning against Jackson Liberty

Manasquan High School's Swim Team dives into the season as the girls hold an undefeated record!

The girls' team has been crushing the competition and recently on January 7th, they took home the title of Monmouth County Champs!

For this meet, senior Summer Sakowicz led her team with 36 points and a win in the 200 individual medley at 2:11.79. Right behind Summer was junior Dylann Eldridge at 2:13.22. Third place finishes made by senior Bennett DeVincens and juniors Ryan McLaughlin, Dylann Eldridge, Zoe Petrella and Kylie Spalt in the 100 back, 200 MR and 400 FR.

"The girls came from behind and I knew it would be us and Trin-

ity Hall at the top," says coach, Mr. Murin. "A lot of kids achieved new personal bests and it was really a team effort. All the credit goes to them."

The girls continue to win their meets as they keep their 6-0 undefeated record. "Our team is really strong this year and I'm really excited about Shore Confer-

ence and states especially after winning counties," says junior Kali Saito.

Recently, on January 13th, the girls won their meet against Wall 135-35 and on the 5th, they won against St. Rose 122-48. Some of their victories from these meets include junior Katie Petrella winning the 200 free, Kylie winning the 200 IM and the 400 free led by Kylie, junior Amelia Benol, and freshmen Paulina Maycher, and Kaylee Porter.

The energy is certainly up for the girls team, "winning counties has been my favorite part of the season!" says Ryan.

The girls have high hopes for the rest of their season with upcoming meets against Lacey and Manchester this month and after Shore

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Above: The girl's team poses for a picture after winning counties!



Above: The swim team decorates Mr. Murin's house before a meet



Manasquan Basketball Rallies in the WOBM Classic Tournament over Christmas Break

By: Reagan Scime



Above: Sophomore Darius Adams shoots a free throw.

Below: Junior Hope Masonius drives for the basket.



It isn't unusual for Manasquan boys' basketball to bring home a championship trophy. Over Christmas break, the Warriors put in the work to be WOBM Christmas Classic Champions. While playing in the Jim Ruhnke Bracket, Manasquan won their fourth WOBM championship in the last eight years.

Their first game started the day after Christmas, December 26th, 2022, against Toms River South in the first round. The Warriors put up a 73-36 victory against the Indians in a dominant performance. Sophomore Darius Adams had a high of 24 points, followed by juniors Ryan Frauenheim with 10 points and Alex Konov with 12 points.

Two days later, December 28th, 2022, Manasquan was set to play Brick Memorial which concluded with a win of 76-42 for the Warriors. Yet again, Darius led his team with 29 points, while sophomore Griffin Linstra recorded 12 points.

The stage was set for the Warriors to face the Raiders of Toms River East, who previously beat St. John Vianney and Marlboro earlier in the tournament. Seniors Jake Heilos scored 10 points in the game, Jhamier Howard shot for 6, and Quinn Peters also accounted for 6 points. Alex and Ryan also were key players in the game with double digit points. On top of the already

huge lead, Darius goes for his first in-game dunk that sinks into the basket. This accomplishment gets everyone on their feet and the bench goes wild in support of their teammate. Manasquan records an 84-28 win to secure the championship. Going into the new year with a championship trophy is what the team needed to keep them rolling into 2023.

Alex enjoyed playing in the tournament and expressed his favorite moments: "My favorite part was winning the entire tournament and getting shirts along with awards. Also, it was crazy when Darius dunked on another player, I couldn't hear anything because it got so loud."

On the other end of the court, Lady Warriors basketball dominated as well throughout their first half of the season. While there were some losses, they have continued to work to be better than ever.

Girls' basketball had a great run in the WOBM Classic Tournament, playing in the Cervino bracket, by making it all the way to the championship game. Unfortunately, they lost to a very talented, undefeated Red Bank Catholic team.

Coach Kukoda shared how she felt tournament went for the girls: "I think for an early season tournament the purpose is to

continued on next page

Swimming

continued from page 34

Manchester this month and after Shore Conference and States!

Meanwhile, after eight undefeated seasons the boys team holds a

4-2 record and came in 8th at the Monmouth County Championship meet. "This year is more of a rebuilding season for us," says junior Cade Saito. "A lot of the upperclassmen aren't used to super close meets, so people have really stepped up and have become really fast."

According to Mr. Murin, the boys have really improved since the season started. "Once in the water, the boys are super committed and have really stepped up," he said.

Similar to the girls, the boys also won their meet against Wall 105-65 with victories including senior James Hackett winning the 100 fly as well as senior Zack Martin winning the 500 free.

Other wins the boys have include meets against Jackson Liberty (125-38), Point Boro (96-74) and Barnegat (108-54).

The boys and girls teams continue to bring the competition as the regular season slowly comes to an end. However, their competed in the Shore Conference, and the girls continue their season hoping to win it all!

**UPDATE:
Girls, seeded #3,
return to action
in states Monday,
February 13.
Good luck!**

Basketball

continued from previous page

play against quality teams, and to learn about ourselves, and we were able to learn about ourselves as well as our strengths and weaknesses."

On December 26th the Warriors battled Toms River South, coming out victorious with a 63-

12 win. Junior Hope Masonius led the team with 14 points while sophomore Olivia Shaughnessy followed with 12 points. Early on, Manasquan led 40-6 at halftime while only allowing one point in the first quarter. Their momentum carried into the second half where they outscored their opponent 23-6 while having a shutout in the fourth quarter.

In the semifinals round, 2nd seeded Manasquan faced 3rd seeded Toms River North. Not only were Hope and Olivia the leading scorers in this game as well, but junior McKenna Karlson tallied 9 points to add to the scoreboard.

The way the championship game ended was not the result the Warriors had hoped for, but their run showed how strong a young team can play against veteran opponents. On December 30th, 2022, Manasquan battled RBC with senior Rylyn Orlando shooting for 16 points, McKenna adding 10 points, while junior Katie Collins helped with scoring 6 points.

McKenna spoke on the overall performance of the team during the tournament: "I think we started out strong, we had a tough battle against North but in the end, we pulled through playing as a team. Against RBC, we had a lot of energy, but in the second quarter, we started to slow down. Looking back on it we put up a tough battle and we all played really well together. We need to continue our energy into the rest of our season."

Rylyn and Hope were named to the All-Tournament team, while McKenna was awarded the "hustle" award for being a stand-out player the entire tournament.

**UPDATE:
Boys Enter
Shore Conference
Tournament as
#1 Seed; Girls
seeded #3.
Go Squan!**

