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Has Been
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Majesty**

MHS Juniors Danced The Night Away At Junior Prom



College Decisions are in...





The Blue & Gray Manasquan H.S. 2022-2023 Issue Six

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Congratulations to Our Academy of Finance Graduates!

By: Niky Li

Congratulations to our Academy of Finance seniors for completing this program! The Academy of Finance Graduation is the academy's official graduation for seniors who have been in AOF throughout their high school years.

The AOF Graduation took place on May 11, 2023 at 7:30pm, with 46 seniors graduating this year. Out of the 46, 18 students were able to get scholarships, totaling to about \$15,500.

"They are all a very good group of kids and one of the strongest academy groups that we've ever had," said Mr. Driscoll.

One scholarship awarded at graduation was called the Friends of the Academy Leadership. It was won by Jackson

Gardner. He couldn't have been more excited. "It's crazy; it flew by so fast; I still remember sitting in Mrs. Hoeler's Microsoft Suite class and Mr. Waldeyer's accounting class," said Jackson.

AOF introduces students to the vast career opportunities and prepares our peers for successful careers in financial services or other fields.

The AOF program offers a special plan of study in finance at the high school level, and they are required to fulfill elective credits by taking classes like accounting, entrepreneurship, and economics. These classes are rigorous and provide extensive preparation for future college classes.

Not only does the graduation celebrate the completion of all the work that they have done for the past four years but also awards them with the Certificate of Financial Studies.

Sofia Wall and Taylor Hamarich, also graduates of the program, were honored as Students of the Year.



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Who Will Be Crowned Manasquan Royalty? Jake Heilos Comes Out on Top!

By: Jacquelyn Stewart

After more than five long years, Manasquan High School brought back its iconic Manasquan Majesty event, where MHS seniors are chosen to face off and prove which one of them is real Manasquan royalty.

On Thursday May 4th, students and teachers piled into the gym and watched six boys, chosen by the student body, show off their talents and compete in front of judges for the title of Manasquan Majesty.

The seniors chosen were Jake Heilos, Kieran McMenamen, Thomas Watson, Luca Bertinelli, Jack O'Shea, and Mikey Flanagan.

Hosted by juniors Kyle Capodanno and Nick Bounassi, each senior boy performed an ode to Manasquan and showed off a talent.

"It was a super fun experience to be a part of," says Kyle.

Mikey gave the crowd quite the show with an extravagant dance, Luca did an improv skit, and Thomas performed mag-

ic tricks. Then Kieran came on stage and burst into song, singing a mashup of "Do You Want to Build a Snowman" from *Frozen* and "That Boy's A Liar." He was followed by Jake, who did an impressive song and dance routine, and finally Jack sang "Baby" by Justin Bieber (to Mikey).

This year, Spanish teachers and student council leaders Mrs. Eldridge and Mrs. Anderson ran the event and gave it a medieval theme. Names were picked out of a hat to determine who went first. There was blow up jousting, juggling, singing, poetry and so much more!

However, this is not MHS' first year hosting Manasquan Majesty. The event faded out due to disinterest around 2016. It used to be called Mr. Manasquan and only boys were allowed to participate. "This year we wanted to open it up to everyone, so we sent an email to the students to pick who they wanted to participate," says Mrs. Anderson. "It just happened to end up being all boys."



Above: Juniors Kyle Capodanno and Nick Bounassi host Manasquan Majesty

The placing for third was tied between Jack and Kieran and Mikey took second place. And the winner of Manasquan Majesty was Jake Heilos!

This year's Manasquan Majesty was great success and will return next year for the class of 2024 (girls included!) to compete for the crown!

Below: Manasquan Majesty contestants perform for the crown. From right to left: Jake rocks a royal cape; Jack juggles to impress; Kieran croons to the crowd



Promallama Ding-Dong!



Above: a group of junior girls pose for a picture together before the prom.

By: Morgan Mechler

The most looked forward to night of the year is finally here!

The night when all juniors get the chance to wear their fanciest dress or their snazziest suit. The night after everyone comes to school orange, with skin

painted from their spray tans. The night when everyone gets dolled up before dancing the night away. The night when everyone scrambles to find the courage to ask their crush to be their date. The night when everyone gathers beforehand to take quite literally thousands of pictures.

It's prom night!
The Manasquan High

School Junior Prom was last Friday, May 12, at the Shore Club in Spring Lake Heights. All of the juniors, myself included, were beyond excited to hit the dance floor and spend a night all dressed up with their best friends, and their potential lovers too, of course. High heels and jackets were thrown off to dance hearts out all night long in the very sweaty mosh pit as the DJ blasted catchy, feel-good tunes.

Terence Marks and Will Minervini, both fellow juniors from MHS, exclaimed "Boy's a Liar Pt. 2" was their favorite song played at the prom. The crowd was jumping and singing to the hit song, bringing a wave of energy to the night. Junior Isabella Juska said that her favorite song was "Party in the U.S.A" and that she sang the most to the classic Miley Cyrus tune. Another fan favorite was "Hotel Room Service" by Pitbull when a dance circle



Above (left): senior Marin McCarthy and junior Delcan Murphy pose with Mr. Chiang; (center): Jack Mead, Hope Masonius, McKenna Karlson and David Seeley; (right): Above: junior girls gather together before the prom with flowers.



was formed and a date from another school even did a backflip! However, the tune that reigned supreme was definitely the romantic, slow dance song that brought couples and dates together out on the dance floor, "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran.

While the music and the venue were spectacular, the food was not loved by many. A popular opinion was that the mac and cheese was too "milky" and just did not live up to everyone's high junior prom expectations. Although the food was not the best, there was a bottomless Shirley temple bar and an ice cream bar in service all night long for guests to order from. Everyone loves a good Shirley temple and junior Declan Murphy admitted he ended up having five of them at the prom!

Royalty was also crowned on the amazing prom night! This year, the Junior Prom King was Luke Roy and the Junior Prom Queen was Madeline Johnson. Luke and Madeline looked terrific standing up in front of everyone, wearing their crowns. Luke said "I was honored to win Prom King, but I really wanted Ryan Mulvaney to win" and Madeline said, "I was shocked when they called my name!". The two accepted their crowns with smiles, as they stood in front of the rest of the prom court.



Above: Bathed in blue light, Luke Roy and Madeline Johnson pose as Prom King and Queen.



Above: Senior Kiki D'Apolito pins a boutonniere on Terence Marks; below: Isabella Juska and Colin Tracy look dapper

How could I not mention that the MVP of the prom was not even a student? Manasquan's beloved physics teacher, Mr. Chiang, chaperoned the prom and outdanced students on the dance floor! Mr. Chiang danced in the middle of a circle and brought laughter and happiness to all of the guests at the prom. He even posed for pictures too! Students were elated to see Mr. Chiang smiling when they walked into the Shore Club doors because they knew his funny and pleasant personality would spice up the night.

Junior Elizabeth McGarry mentioned that her favorite part of prom was "dancing all night with all of my friends!" Elizabeth counted down the days to the prom and was so excited it was finally here. Personally, my favorite part of the prom was the process of getting ready before, priming, trying out new makeup, and getting to wear a dress I thought was stylish. Additionally, before the prom, friends gathered together to take pictures, and some even took their very own trolley to the prom for extra pizzazz! Everyone was beyond psyched to attend our own junior prom after looking up to the grades before us and seeing how fun their proms looked.

The Class of 2024 class supervisors, Maestra and Mr. Savacool, did an amazing job organizing the prom making sure everything was picture perfect. I don't know one guest who wasn't happy to put on their sharpest outfit and spend a night with their friend they will remember forever. Overall, I can confidently say that between the fun before pictures and the actual entertaining prom, the night was a total success! We are already so excited to do it all again at next year's prom!

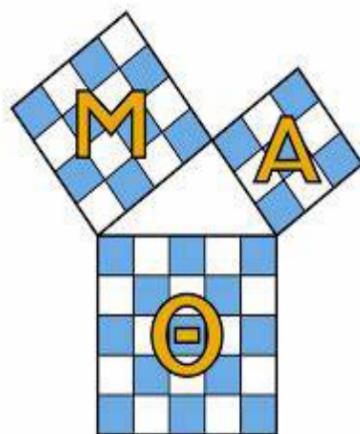


MATH HONORS SOCIETY MAKES ITS DEBUT AT MHS

By: Hudson Gorham, Jacquelyn Stewart and Lukas Nordell

Most have heard of the National Honors Society, a program that only selects students that are eligible to join. However, the National Honors Society isn't the only way to celebrate a student's academic achievements. Manasquan High School's new Math Honors Society, also known as "Mu Alpha Theta," recognizes students with prodigious math skills.

On Wednesday April 26th, 29 students were inducted to the Math Honors Society's first ever



induction ceremony. The ceremony included speeches given by Mrs. Martucci, Mr. Goodall, Dr. Kaysan and seniors Mollie Bodnar and Katie Beavis about the brief history of the Math Honors Society, as well as the induction requirements, and the significance of the "Mu Alpha Theta" logo.

"Mu Alpha Theta is a really cool name because it actually is an acronym for math," says junior

and inductee Morgan Mechler. In order to be inducted, students must be a junior or senior, have completed pre-calculus, have a 90% or higher in their current and previous math classes and have a math teacher sponsor them. They also are required to have volunteer hours in math lab, assisting students with the subject.

Part of the requirements to be inducted into the Math Honors Society is to help with this year's Math Extravaganza, a student-run event where a few middle school students from each of the sending districts are chosen to compete in math related activities. On May 23rd, the kids will have the opportunity to show off their skills and play games to earn prizes.

Even though this is the Math Honors Society's first active year at MHS, it was originally approved in 2015. "Two years ago, we decided to reach out to administration, and they told us that we are able start up Mu Alpha Theta again, and they reinstated the charter for us," says Co-Advisor Mrs. Martucci. So, after seven long years, Manasquan High School's students are finally able to flaunt their status as the school's most advanced math students.

"It was a great night and Mrs. Zdanowicz and Mrs. Martucci did an amazing job organizing the event and launching the new Math Honors Society," said English teacher Mr. Mawn.



Above: Math teachers Mrs. Martucci and Ms. Zdanowicz, the driving forces behind the new Math honors society.

Induction List:

- Ashley Altirmirano
- Katie Beavis
- Kiera Berlin
- Talia Blum
- Margaret Bodnar
- Katharine Collins
- Tyler Collinson
- Elle Duffy
- Harrison Stuart Dunson
- Ellie Feuster
- Eddie Gunnell
- Chase Hearon
- Lindsay Hickman
- Madeline Johnson
- Lauren Jordan
- Delia Kline
- Campbell Krapp
- Chloe LaForge
- Charles Mawn
- Morgan Mechler
- Ethan Miller
- Molly Morris
- Ryan Mulvaney
- Violet Nolan
- Griffin O'Hear
- Luke Roy
- Hannah Snyder
- Gabrielle Tienken
- Sofia Wall

Manasquan High School Choir Presents "The Promise of Living"

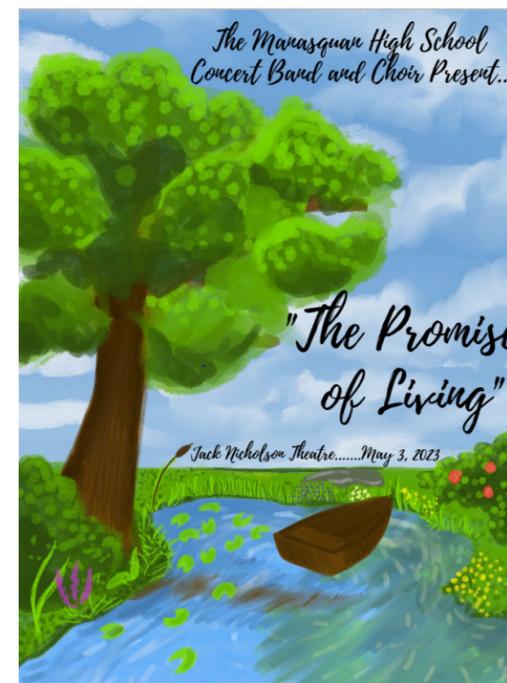
By: Isabella Lopez

On Wednesday, May 3 in the Jack Nicholson Theatre, Miss Schille's third annual Spring Choir Concert took place, gracing our ears and our stage. The choir class has been working tirelessly since the beginning of the school year led by music director Miss. Schille, who has been involved in the choir at Manasquan for three years.

The choir is a well-oiled machine, and when it comes together, it is wonderful, in my opinion as someone who has previously observed and participated in the choir. The motivation for choir director Schille's persistence in urging everyone to "join choir" stems from her genuine enthusiasm for both teaching it and the results of working with such gifted high school pupils. Some of her pupils are even performing professionally to gain recognition from groups like the Biases and even performing in outside choruses.

In addition to the chorus, MHS band performed and was absolutely amazing as well. They beautifully showcased Manasquan's musical program. They performed a variety of tunes, from the well-known song "Somebody to Love" to lesser-known songs like "Melodious Thunk," mostly

alone and only once jointly. The band opened the concert with "Second Suite in F for



Above: The Playbill cover for the nights performance; Below: Manasquan's Choir singing and gracing the audience's ears, directed by Miss. Schille.



Military Band" Mr. Wiemken was in charge of the band. The last tune they performed was Thomas C. Duffy's transcription of "The Promise of Living" which the choir and the band both performed.

One of the songs the choir sang was "Sing My Child" with senior year soloists Logan Ridge and Percy Yasenachak. Both of whom sang beautifully showing off the skills they have cultivated through their time working in the choir. To be soloists they had to audition for the five songs that solos, duos, and even trios performed and were eventually chosen by Miss. Schille.

The concert was a true testament to the professionalism that comes with the school's choir. At the end of the concert, the band and choir came together to perform "The Promise of Living" from "The Tender Land" It was a perfect end to the concert and left the audience wanting more.

If you enjoy fantastic live music, you should certainly check out the performance, which is typically free. Next year, you should support them because they continue to get better and it's a fantastic night for all.

National Honor Society Service Project

By: Reagan Scime and Ainsley Price

People popped out and popped up to Manasquan's NHS Pop Up Shop Service Project.

This year's NHS service project was their very own pop-up clothing shop in the MHS gym. The members worked for two weeks to get everything ready for the big day, April 29th.

In the weeks leading up to it, every day from April 17th-28th, lunch periods were full of sorting and organizing hundreds of individual clothing. Every member had to come into Mrs. McHugh's room to separate, fold, and bag the clothes. This was all to make the day of the event that much easier.

Clothes were separated into outerwear, formalwear, baby clothes, and accessories, and then child and adult clothing were separated into XS-XL. Everyday there were dozens of members working hard to get all the bags correctly sorted and folded before Saturday. Everything was \$1 but formalwear was \$5.

If for any reason one of the NHS members could not make it to the day of the shop, they were required to come in during lunch and sort clothes for the same amount of time they would have been at the pop-up shop.

By the end of the two weeks, all the clothes were sorted, and they were ready for the big day. April 29th rolled around, and all the work put into preparing for this day was about to pay off. The Pop-Up Shop was open to the public from 9am-12pm. There were two shifts for volunteers throughout the whole event. The morning shift arrived by 7am and left at 10am. Then, the afternoon shift took over from 10am to 1pm.



Top: The clothes hanging from the volleyball nets. Middle: Juniors Jacquelyn Stewart and Reagan Scime working. Bottom: An over view of the shop.

The successful pop-up shop raised over \$700 and over 900 items (clothing, shoes, and accessories) were sold to students and members of the community.

Mrs. McHugh voiced the plans of what NHS is going to do with the leftover clothes: "We will be hosting an open store in the upcoming weeks during school hours for the high school to attend and take any clothes they want, free of charge. We will then hold on to the rest of the clothes for the fall. We are hoping to have at least two community wide pop-up shops next year (fall and spring), and at least three days in school for students (fall, before dances, and spring)."

The morning shift was in charge of lugging the bags of clothes to the gym from Mrs. McHugh's room. Following, the clothes were labeled according to size and occasion. Tables were set up in rows in the gym. Each table was labeled according to size or type of clothing: XS-XL, Outerwear, Formal Wear, Shoes, Accessories. The clothes were folded nicely laid out onto the tables, and the formal wear was hung up on hangers on string strung across the volleyball nets.

The second shift of volunteers arrived at 10am and the morning shift was dismissed. The volunteers in the afternoon oversaw cleanup and put the remaining clothes back into the bags according to size. They were dismissed from their duties at 1pm.

Junior Maya Poljak, an NHS member, had a great experience volunteering during the morning shift: "The best part of my shift in the morning was setting out the clothes and watching all the customers come in, all while doing it with my friends. The turnout for the event was great."

The AP Experience at MHS

By: Teddy Campi

The month of May, although it is the beginning of the end of each school year, has always had one catch: AP exams which last the first two weeks. These exams range anywhere from the Sciences, to Math, to History, to English, and the Arts.

Manasquan students of all grades have embarked on the AP journey to not only potentially test for college credit (and the sweet GPA boost), but also to prove to themselves and the collages they hope to attend that they are academically capable students.

As this year's AP season wraps up, Mr. Goodall, Manasquan High School principle, emphasized that "You are developing a transcript that will make you competitive for admission to competitive colleges by taking AP's" when providing insight on the importance of taking them.

Additionally, he mentioned that he thinks "following the teachers lead, our students responded well to being challenged in the AP classroom" and he is confident that kids "will be rewarded" in July when exam scores are released.

Many Manasquan students were fond of sharing their thoughts on their AP experience, and here are some of them:



Mattie Petrone said her AP experience was "overall good" and cited that her advice for future students is "make sure you manage your time well"



Lily Carhart claimed that her experience was great, emphasizing "Crit made me feel ready". Her advice to future AP students is to "Do all of your homework!"



Bennett DeVincens also claimed her experience was positive and gave her advice, which is to "pay attention all year and don't psych yourself out"



Kiera Dunlevy said her experience was "full of fun classes" and her advice to future AP students is to just believe you can do it. "5 is alive"



Ethan Miller claimed his experience was good, but it entailed a lot of work. His advice to future AP students is to "Focus on doing well on tests"



Ellie Feuster said AP was stressful at times but rewarding. Her advice to future students is to "keep on top of your work and study, then you will do great!"

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Penelope Cruz at Met Gala

Met Gala 2023: Hit or Miss?

By: Lily Hendricks

Every year the Met Gala is full of mixed reviews. The Met Gala is a fundraising event held for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute in New York City. Designers team up with celebrities to showcase their designs and is known

for its over-the-top attire and themes, but for the last couple of years it has almost become a joke.

Despite this year's questionable theme, I would say that the show was a success. Most celebrities stayed on theme, dressing in styles of Karl Lagerfeld.

More specifically, the theme was Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty. Karl Lagerfeld was a German fashion designer who died in 2019 and was a major influence in the fashion industry. He was best known for his work as creative director of Chanel. Lagerfeld was known for his black and white clothing, dark glasses, fingerless gloves, ponytail, and high starched collars.

Lagerfeld's cat was also very well known. Lagerfeld's cat Choupette became a social media legend for traveling the world by his side.

My biggest problem with this year's Met Gala is the theme. At first when I heard the theme was going to be after a designer, I thought that it was going to be pretty lame, but Lagerfeld's designs and influence made the outfits really interesting. It's not the designs I have a problem with, it's Karl Lagerfeld.

We all know that the fashion industry could be toxic, and Lagerfeld definitely proved that is true. He has sparked many controversies over the years, ranging from his fatphobic and misogynistic attitudes to his 2010 choice to send models in blackface and yellowface for a photoshoot. He also said some offensive things about the #MeToo movement,

"If you don't want your pants pulled about, don't

become a model! Join a nunnery, there'll always be a place for you in the convent. They are recruiting even," he once said.

Along with this, he has said that fashion was the greatest inspiration for losing weight and criticized Adele and Heidi Klum saying that "Nobody wants to see curvy women." Another offensive thing he has said was that Muslim migrants in Germany were an "affront to the Holocaust". Is this really who we want to be honoring?

Now, onto the fashion review. I felt that this year was a success. The majority of celebs stayed on theme with white collars, black ties, pearls, ponytails and pale colors. Let's look at some of the hits and misses of the met gala.

Penelope Cruz, one of the hosts for this years Met Gala, looked absolutely stunning in her sheer mint green hooded gown. The dress was from Chanel Couture's spring/summer 1988 collection.

After Jared Leto showed up to Gala in 2019 with a mannequin of his own head, I thought it could not get worse, but I was wrong. Leto decided to take this opportunity to dress up like Lagerfeld's cat and show up in a big bulky costume that looked like it was ordered from Amazon.

Doja Cat, on the other hand, came in with a stunning silver gown with cream-colored feathers at the bottom and cat ears and used facial prosthetics to make her have feline like features.

Kylie Jenner showed up incredibly off theme. Instead of pale blush and black and white she showed up in a bold bright red dress with baby blue. It had a weird



Jenna Ortega at Met Gala



Above: All the Academy of Finance seniors graduating this year.

Academy of Finance Graduation

continued from page 2

"It was really fun and I am really excited to graduate! I feel well prepared for college and can't wait to learn new things," said Taylor.

Although it is a rigorous program, it's worth the effort. "It feels great to graduate," said Sofia.

"The best part of the program is the class trips. It gives an outside perspective and you can apply what you learn on what you want to do when you're older," Taylor added.

By completing such a rigorous program, the graduation is very rewarding to the students and also evokes a sense of pride from teachers since they were able to complete such a program.

"I'm excited because the Academy of Finance has given me the best opportunities over the four years of my high school career and I'm proud of my work in the academy," said Marin McCarthy, a senior graduate of the academy.

As the students leave high school, they will continue to college or join the work force and the academy helps them succeed in whatever the future holds.

Met Gala

continued from page 2

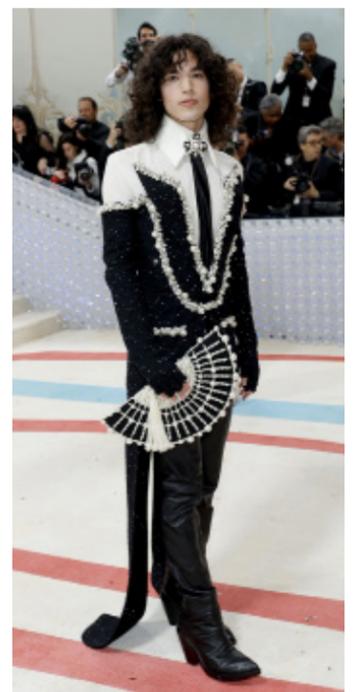
neckline followed by awkward sleeves.

I had not seen a lot of people talk about this, but I really liked Conan Gray's look. He wore a black and white suit that was covered in beautiful designs made from pearls accompanied by a black and white fan. Something I really like about the met gala is that we get to see a lot more of men's fashion instead of a boring suit. Pedro Pascal, Bad Bunny and Simu Liu all had very good and unique looks.

Other amazing outfits were worn by Jenna Ortega, Anne Hathaway, Dua Lipa, Michelle Yeoh, Halle Bailey, Bella Ramsey, Cardi B and of course Rihanna. The carpet also had an unexpected guest, a cockroach.

Overall, the fashion aspect of it was great but there was just one other problem. The Oscars this year made a big mistake of not telling anyone that they were making the "red" carpet a champagne color. Similar thing happened this year at the Met Gala. The carpet this year was primarily white with red and blue designs on it. Since the theme has mainly black and white clothing, it was harder for things to stand out and most outfits looked washed out from the carpet.

I definitely think that this year was a big improvement. The Met Gala is held every year on the 1st Monday in May and is livestreamed online from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Right: Conan Gray at Met Gala

20 In The News 23

The Great New Jersey Pasta Fiasco

By Jess Mackown

You would not believe this unless there were photos. Something even more strange than a UFO sighting. On May 4, over 300

pounds of uncooked pasta was found in the woods in New Jersey. Residents in Old Bridge were completely baffled by this pasta fiasco. No meatballs, no sauce, no parmesan cheese—just 300 pounds of pasta dumped at the side of a creek.

The pot started to boil when resident Ali Allocco posted a screenshot on Twitter, which went viral with more than 5 million views and over 5,000 retweets within a few days.

The authorities were contacted because the pasta was dumped along a stream in Old Bridge and people have some theories to why this amount of pasta was dumped. One is that near Old Bridge they do not have a facility to get rid of junk.

According to CNN's Nina Jochowitz, "When you don't have a

ment. According to CNN it took about 2 hours to clean up with the help of a machine.

Trying to catch the penne perpetrator, everyone is confused as to why someone would dump over 300 pounds of pasta in the woods. Residents around the woods have a theory that the linguini leaver came from a nearby home they were selling. The military veteran was moving out of his mother's home after she died and possibly found an insane amount of old food in her home.

The investigation for this macaroni mover is still up, but thanks to NBC, CNN, and other news outlets we have a very funny story to look at. At the end of the day if you do have around 300 pounds of pasta taking up space in your home have a huge pasta party or maybe donate it to a food shelter, rather than dumping it in the woods, or you may have many articles written about you and a very large fine for throwing garbage not in a dump.



A picture of the pasta fiasco: provided by NBC news

facility to get rid of the crap, people do it the best way possible for themselves."

Police were dispatched to the area on April 28th and after that two public works employees arrived to clean up the area. This pasta party is under investigation by the township police depart-



Editor's Note: we reviewed plenty of products, services, shops, movies and more this month... read on to see what students think of many Shore favorites!

Stroll on Over to Strollos!

By: Ronnie Whille

There is a lot to like about Strollos Italian Ice, from the swift service to the delightfully tasty flavors. As soon as you get there, you are met with the joyous atmosphere of the bright yellow building.

Keep in mind Strollos is cash only, there is only outside seating, and the prices can be considered high for the proportions you get. But it's worth it.

Thankfully, when I went, it was a Sunday afternoon, so it wasn't terribly busy. There is not much parking, so many people walk or ride bikes.

Usually during the summertime, there are extremely long lines. You'd think you were standing in line for a ride at Disney World during spring break. Yes, they really seem *that* long. The lines might look daunting, but they go super quick. There are only four tables to sit down at, which is an issue during the summer, but there are other spots to sit around the shops.

All of these things make the Strollos experience. The beautiful view of the sweet sunset over the



water also adds to the great time you will have.

When I went to scan the menu (because I wanted to try something other than my usual cherry and lemon ice) I noticed how limited the flavor and size options are. There are basic flavors like mango, cherry, orange, lemon, and more. But they got rid of some of their fan favorites like root beer, blue raspberry, and rainbow. There are also only three sizes: the squeeze cup, a small cup, and a large cup. They do have a considerable variety of toppings, and while the flavors are limited, they are still mouthwatering.

I ended up ordering cherry Italian ice and vanilla soft-serve in a small cup. The two different consistencies fuse together, creating an enchanting combination.

When you go to Strollos, you will see all kinds of people of all different ages. You might even see some pets! Whenever I choose to go to Strollos I am never disappointed. The fantastic fruity flavors always leave me with a smile on my face.



New Location, Same Wonderful Food

By: Jacquelyn Stewart

After almost three years of waiting, my friends and I excitedly got together to go to the opening of the Committed Pig. The restaurant moved locations in 2020 and finally reopened in middle of April.

Walking in, I was surprised by the new interior of the restaurant. The old location had brick walls and gave a very comfy vibe while the location now is bright and modern. Although it is different than what it used to be, the new Committed Pig creates a welcoming and open space for customers to enjoy the restaurant.

Other new additions include an upstairs bar where you must be twenty-one years or older to enter, another bar downstairs and two big, clear garage doors/windows that opens up the restaurant to the outside.

As for the food, it was just as delicious as it was before it was relocated. For appetizers, my friends and I shared fried pickles and just like the old location, they were served hot with a sauce that I'm still not sure what is in it (but it tastes good regardless). The fried pickles are the perfect mix between fried and pickle.

Although the Committed Pig is best known for their burgers, I'm not a meat fan, so I got the mac and cheese and a side of waffle fries. As expected, the classic waffle fries were just as crispy and flavorful as they used to be. They were the same exact fries that I would hype up to my friends and crave when I got bad fries at another restaurant.

The mac and cheese was my favorite thing to get when I would go with my family before the Committed Pig was relocated so when it was put on my table I was completely put off. Even though it hadn't moved from being on the appetizer menu, it used to be a normal sized serving but the one I was given was tiny enough to be eaten in 5 big bites. It was still the same cheesy, and tasty mac and cheese topped with breadcrumbs that it had been before, but it had insanely shrunk in size.

Other than the minuscule amount of my favorite mac and cheese, my friends got the same burgers they used to get, and they all agreed they were just as tasty as before!

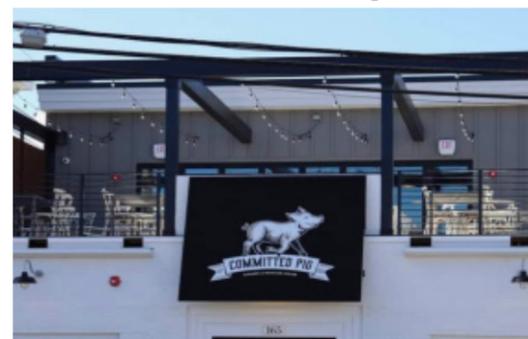
The Committed Pig is the place to go if you're craving the ultimate greasy and savory "comfort" meal.



Above: Burger and waffle fries from the Committed Pig



Above: Inside view of the bar at the Committed Pig



Above: The new Committed Pig in Manasquan



Lovejoy's EP "Pebble Brain" Raises Critics' Eyebrows

By: Percy Yasenachak

about the jealousy, the self-indulgence, and the helpless rage that the rest of the EP tried (and sometimes failed) to convey.

After their newest single "Call Me What You Like" released to fanatical praise, it's finally time to take a look back at a not-so-adored EP; Lovejoy's "Pebble Brain". Following their beloved debut album "Are You Alright?" this EP had some big shoes to fill, and for many listeners, it fell short. However, after judging it in a vacuum, I've discovered hidden positive aspects that many listeners may have overlooked.



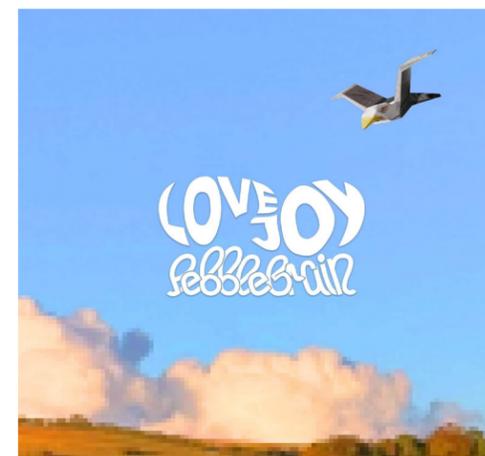
Judging by the release of their newest single, it seems that they've learned from their mistakes as a band. Wilbur is singing in his lower register, which allows for better breath control, which is his biggest problem as a vocalist. The drums are tuned down and the bass is written just as beautifully as it

First, the issues with the song still stand, and listening through it, they become even more prominent. The opening song, "Oh Yeah, You Gonna Cry?" is punchy, exciting, and puts you right into the mood to love the album. But then the vocals kick in. Wilbur Soot's wispy, raspy, breathy voice is nothing like the strong, vibrant voice we heard in their debut album. This trend continues throughout the whole album, and is especially bittering for songs like "Model Buses" and "Concrete" which end up completely ruined, and not because of the breathy stylistic choice, but just entirely out of tune singing, leaving listeners cringing.

But this album isn't all imperfections, as all of these issues are only really identifiable by people who care very deeply about music production. The next few songs on the album are all winners.

"Perfume" isn't very notable, but you begin to hear the problems in the first songs start to disappear. The breathy voice strengthens, the writing is much more clever, and the instrumentals mask any note mistakes. With "You'll Understand When You're Older" this is fully realized, and the sound for the EP is discovered by the band. Afterwards, it's perfected in "The Fall" a masterclass in lyricism. The EP is about helpless frustrations, domestic abuse and COVID. This makes me believe that this EP was written entirely chronologically, essentially putting a timeline on Wilbur's improvements as a singer and writer. The weaker pop songs are put at the forefront, which is a shame, as it leaves a bad taste in your mouth, leaving most listeners to not be interested in staying. But if you stick through to the end, one of their greatest songs (with the same vibe as their debut album) is "It's All Futile! It's All Pointless!" which is all

always has been. The guitarist has opted for a cleaner, less grungy and energetic style, and the strange introduction of brass instruments has been nixed. Overall, it seems as though Pebble Brain was the perfect learning experience for Lovejoy in discovering what's fresh, unique, and good about their sound.





BEST OF THE JERSEY SHORE . . .

Best Polished Pedicure on the Jersey Shore

By: Lindsay Fuller



If you want to have the best polished feet on the Jersey Shore, boy do I have the place for you! I have tried other salons in the area but there is none quite like BeOn Nails in Wall Township. BeOn has a variety of nail colors and services.

When you walk in, it is like you are walking into a ballroom. The entire salon looks very elegant, and it is coated with white marbled floors and counters. Right away you are greeted by two very nice receptionists who check you in and let you pick out the colors you want. There are about a million different colors to choose from so it is super-duper easy to find just the right color for you. Personally, I prefer the purply lilac color, so that is what I



Above: The entrance to BeOn Nails.

chose.

The wait time is extremely short because just 2 minutes after checking in, you are taken to the back where all the massage/salon

chairs are. These chairs are heaven-sent. They are so comfortable, and you are in control of them the whole entire time you are getting your pedicure.

Once you sit down in the chair, they start going to work on your feet. They are very good at communicating with you if the temperature of the water is ok and if what they are doing is good with you or not so you have the best experience you could possibly have.

With their classic pedicure, the service includes a 5-minute foot massage. Their hands are like little miracle



workers. The massage feels amazing, and it revives your feet. After they are done with the massage, they put this orange, gooey exfoliator on your heels to get rid of any dead skin. They also use hot rocks and warm towels on your legs. I am not entirely sure what the purpose of them are but they feel amazing!

Once the spa treatment is finished, they start to paint your toes. They do a fantastic job and make sure your toes look amazing. Compared to other nail salons in the area, BeOn really gives you the best experience for a great price of \$37 and you really get what you pay for. I recommend BeOn if you want a quick and easy, yet relaxing experience.



BEST OF THE JERSEY SHORE . . .

Raving Over Rook

By: Morgan Mechler

That first sip feeling: Cold. Refreshing. Life-changing. It is only Rook Coffee's cold brew that can unleash such an exuberant sensation after just one sip. If you are coffee fanatic (like me) then the mere sight of Rook's big black crow logo will have both your eyes and your mouth watering tears of utter joy.

Rook Coffee, located off Route 35 in Wall, is sure to wake you right up on a slow-moving morning or even revive your tired mental state after a dreaded day



Above: a cup of Mocha Cold Brew.

Upon walking into the store, your nostrils are immediately greeted by the strong aroma of freshly brewed coffee. The clean and modern coffee bar set up creates an exciting and inviting sipping experience. Rook gives you the options of creating an account online for easy pick up or ordering your drink from the counter located on your left.

The coffee house offers a variety of different delicious flavors that can be served as cold brew or hot, including mocha, New Orleans, traditional, and latte style. But wait. It gets even better. Every month Rook releases new limited seasonal flavors that are sure to have you quite literally sprinting back for another cup.

Special edition brews include cinnamon vanilla, smores, pumpkin spice, strawberry mocha, coconut mocha, toffee, and even apple pie flavor. Each flavor brings you back to a joy-

ful time whether it's sitting around the campfire or enjoying Thanksgiving dinner, leaving you feeling nostalgic, content, and of course, full of caffeine.

The limited release flavors are just one of the thousand things to love about the New Jersey made treasure. You can't go wrong with any of their brews, but personally, I prefer the mocha cold brew with whole milk and sugar. It is *always* the *perfect* mixture of creamy and crisp to satisfy your taste buds and then leave them begging for just one more sip. Whenever I take my last sip of long desired cold brew, I almost shed a tear, upset that the best part of my day has just ended.

Until I remember that with Rook's affordable prices, I can just order it again the next day!

As the coffee masters prepare your cup, you are welcome to look at their diverse selection of merchandise. Varying from the softest sweatshirts, the comfiest tees, modern mugs and gleaming glass coffee cups, there are many ways to represent your love for Rook. A real fan favorite is the silicone reusable straws, coming in exotic colors like hot pink and electric blue.

The baristas work very hard to make sure your time is not wasted waiting for your drink. The staff is always on top of every order, every day. Even when the line is longer than the Great Wall of China because everyone (and I mean everyone in the county) is eager to get their Rook, orders are getting called out each second to keep everyone satisfied.

If I haven't made it clear enough already, the coffee at Rook is to die for. And let me be clear, I don't joke around about my coffee. Once they call my name it takes everything out of me not to dash to the counter and snatch my drink as fast as possible. I already know that my day is about to become a whole lot brighter when that brisk, smooth cup is placed in my hands. The whole experience is simple, easy, and guarantees happiness.

After just one sip, I am immediately full of the energy their cold brew-based drinks ensure. Not to be dramatic, but Rook is the only reason I can survive the day. You can trust me when I say, you have not truly lived until you have tried Rook. So, go give it a try for yourself!

Pictured Below: Route 35 Rook Coffee Location





BEST OF THE JERSEY SHORE...

A Good Meal is Right Around the "Corner"

Sydney Chek

Corner Bagelry Belmar's bagels are delicious, and their breakfast sandwiches are even better.

The first thing I have to say is

There are so many bagels to choose from. Plain egg is my go-to. I either get it toasted with butter or not toasted with cream cheese. They have many unique flavors of cream cheese including strawberry and cinnamon. You can also add other things to your bagel like peanut butter, jelly, or even tomato.

The breakfast sandwiches are the reason I love Corner Bagelry. My favorite is the "Jersey Boy" which is a pork roll, egg, and cheese, with a hash brown and I like to get in on an egg bagel (of course). They practically hand you the sandwiches right off the grill and you can see the steam as you open the tin-foil-wrapped delicacy.

They also have wraps, subs, and sandwiches for lunch but I have yet to try any. However, if I had it would probably have been the "California Cheesesteak" which is topped with lettuce, tomato, onions, and mayo.

But before the cheesesteak, I will be trying the Mac & Cheese Bites.

Corner Bagelry can get super crowded in the summer with our lovely friends from the city, but even then, they are usually quick with your order.

They only have two tables inside and one bench outside so there is not much room

to sit and enjoy your meal when it's busy. But when it is not, it is nice and calming to sit and eat while watching the news that they have on the small TV in the corner. It reminds me of eating breakfast at my



grandpa's house watching the small TV in the corner and smelling the pungent coffee.

Overall, Corner Bagelry has great people, great food, and a great environment. Although the environment is soon to change...

Corner Bagelry Belmar will soon be moving a few doors down from 1104 to 1014 Main Street and will truly be on the corner this time. This new location looks like it is going to be much bigger and hopefully will have more seats to enjoy the delicious food.



that the name is misleading. Corner Bagelry is not actually on the corner. When I first learned that I was extremely disappointed. But you'll get over it when you walk in and the delightful aromas of breakfast and coffee fill your nose.

The workers are incredibly welcoming and friendly as they greet you when you walk in (if it's not too busy). The menu has so many options. For breakfast, they have many different bagels, breakfast sandwiches, avocado toasts, omelets, and breakfast platters.



BEST OF THE JERSEY SHORE...

Belmar's Best Burritos: Surf Taco

By: Julia Fahy



Above (Left): Surf Taco interior; Above (right): a sampling of delicious food

Belmar's Surf Taco is back and better than ever! After a few renovations, Surf Taco has re-opened and continues to be one of the best places to get a good burrito in the area.

Immediately after walking in I noticed the interior design. It has a cool surf vibe that launches you into a tropical island state of mind.

The walls are covered with murals of waves, and they have pictures of the beach as well as art of people surfing. Surf Taco always plays reggae music, to tie together the whole experience.

It's the kind of place with no waitresses, instead you walk to the counter once you are ready, and order. The workers are all nice and always wear a smile.

After ordering, they give you a number and you pick your own table. They have a lot of tables includ-

ing booths and regular chairs.

The menu offers a wide variety of foods involving the basics like quesadillas and fries as well as more exotic foods for people who want to try new things. Everything on the menu is reasonably priced.

If you're feeling thirsty, they have fountain drinks, and multiple kinds of salsa are on display, depending on how much spice you like.

I ordered the Buffalo Soldier burrito, which has breaded chicken tossed in buffalo sauce, rice, lettuce, pico de gallo & blue cheese dressing.

Very shortly after sitting at my table, my burrito was ready. I asked for no pico de gallo and no dressing and was happy to see that message made it

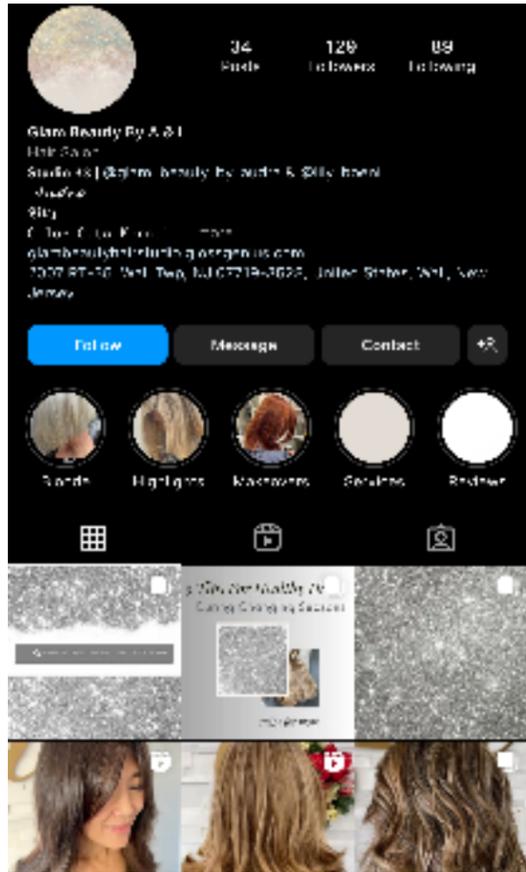
back to the kitchen. The burrito was a perfect size and came with a side of chips.

If I'm being honest, the chips were not the best. They could have had a lot more salt on them but luckily, I had salsa to help add flavor.

Even though the chips weren't my favorite, the burrito was the real attraction. The spice from the Buffalo sauce and the cool crunch from the shredded lettuce went hand in hand to create a perfect flavor. The chicken was perfectly cooked, and it had just the right amount of rice.

I am so happy that I was able to finally come back and enjoy this great food. You can too at 1003 Main St, Belmar, NJ 07719





Above: A screenshot of their instagram page where you can book appointments.

Now I've never been one to obsess over hair or more specifically the color of it. But I decided to go nuts and throw caution to the wind... and decided I want to be blonder than I already am.

Off the bat, I had no idea what was going to happen because I didn't make the appointment, my lovely mother did but she decided to throw a curve ball at me and take me somewhere new, a salon called, "Glam Beauty By A & L".

Walking in was nerve-wracking because I don't like change, and

A New Do Review!

By: Ainsley Price

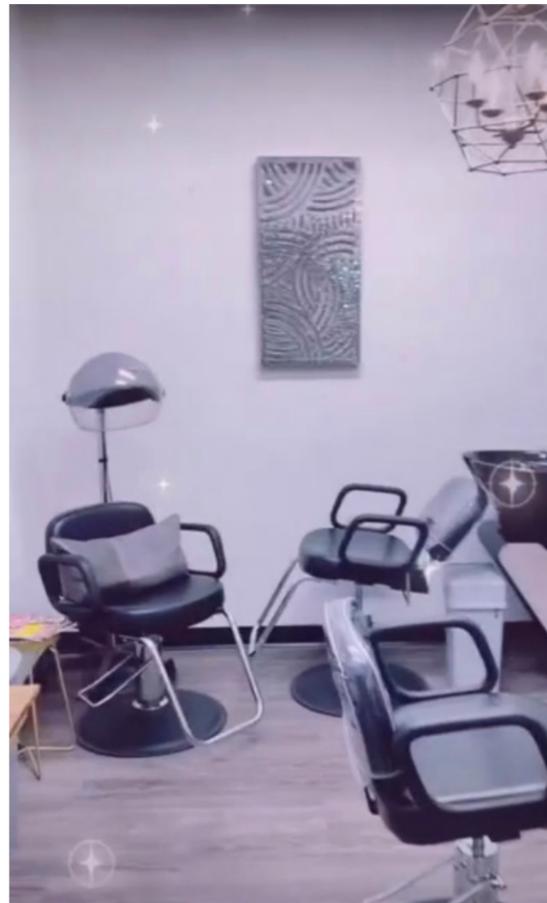
this was someone I have never met. We walked in and she was working on someone else; I did not mind because I like showing up at least fifteen minutes early, so I waited in the hall.

At least thirty or thirty-five minutes later she finally came out, her hair looked beautiful, and I went in. The studio was small but there was a vanity with a chair, a sink, and an over-the-head blow dryer. I was a little frustrated because we were waiting for a long time, but she seemed nice, so my mom left, and we got started.

She immediately started making small talk with me, "How old are you?", "Where do you go to school?", and things like that. For someone who does not like change, I was surprisingly open, and we talked almost the whole time. It felt like a safe space, and it wouldn't matter what I said.

I did have a dance class at 7 pm and my appointment was at 4 so I thought I had enough time, but I ended up staying there until almost 8 pm. She was very apologetic about keeping me from going to my class, but I didn't mind much.

My overall experience was great and positive. There were things like the time that bothered me a little, but she explained to me why everything took longer than we thought, and the end product was worth waiting for. My hair looks great, and I am considering going back there so I can get my hair styled for junior prom.



Above: A small picture of the studio.



First Time at Tacoholics



By: Lily Hendricks

Do not get me wrong, the food at Tacoholics is great but is not all it's said to be. It is true that not everything that is overrated is bad but when I walked into the Tacoholics in Point Pleasant I was expecting the best food I have ever had, based on the raving I had heard from so many people.

I had heard about the local chain taco place, Tacoholics, from most of my friends and family. I heard it was one of the best taco places and that it was great because it was by the beach. I was quite excited to get it this time because I had never had it before and because everyone else was eager to get it.

I thought that it was great that they gave the customers a variety of options and that we were allowed to pick multiple sauces and create our own food.

Tacoholics at the Beach Front in Manasquan



I went for a bowl which is the standard thing I go for at these types of restaurants.

I was pleased with all my options, but I thought that something short and simple would be the best for me. I went with white rice, honey chipotle grilled chicken, lettuce, pico de gallo, cheese and sour cream.

As we were paying, I was not exactly too shocked that the meals for me and my two brothers was over \$40, considering how pricey food is now. But since we were the only people there, it seemed like they were taking their time with making our food, which took too long. In the meantime, they gave us a cup for our fountain drink when we were greeted with a machine with 3 out of 6 drinks out of order.

After waiting about 20 minutes for our food I was not able to spot which box was mine- strange seeing how everyone got tacos and I got a bowl. The bowl was in a regular takeout box, which was not a problem for me, but I wished that they had marked which box had which foods, so we did not have to deconstruct the tacos to find out which was which.

I was starving so I started to devour the bowl but then came to realize that I should probably take my time. Then I was greet-



ed with the flavor. The honey chipotle chicken had a nice kick of spice and had a little bit of sweetness in it. They had done a great job with the amount of each ingredient that they put it there, which is something Chipotle, the competition, struggles with. The white rice was not actually white rice, it tasted different but complemented the ingredients perfectly, so I had no complaint about that.

After finishing my food, I thought that it was good, but not up to the standard that was set by all the chatter. Perhaps my simple meal was the problem, but I did not think that it had any special qualities that separated itself from any other taco place.

If it were just any taco place that I had stopped at I would have been completely satisfied, but because of my already high expectation I thought it was good. Just plain good. You can find Tacoholics at 191 Beach Front in Manasquan, 2401 Bridge Ave Point Pleasant, 1820 Lanes Mill RD Brick and many other locations in New Jersey.



BEST OF THE JERSEY SHORE

RESERVOIR DOGS Vinyl Soundtrack Review

By: Cristian Jose



Above: Reservoir Dogs on Vinyl

Quentin Tarantino's 1992 film *Reservoir Dogs* is a great film, and my favorite part is the fun soundtrack. I already loved to listen to it on my phone digitally, but I was able to get the original vinyl released in 1992 and was very surprised by how good it sounds... so good, I ended up listening twice in a row.

The album contains songs strictly from the 70s but not the most popular ones. It's a mix of underrated tracks so you will definitely end up adding a few to your library. Any Tarantino fan knows he likes to blend music into his films, and for this soundtrack the songs appear in the film when characters listen to their favorite radio station, K. Billy Super Sounds, voiced by Steven Wright. So as a bonus you get the actual DJ intros before each song starts, which adds a unique layer onto the soundtrack that makes you feel like you are listening to a radio station.

Now these aren't just random songs Tarantino thought were catchy and put them on just to have a soundtrack. Each song fits into the movie and their scene almost acting like a character itself, so if you take away the song you take away part of the scene, unlike other movies where the song is just there because it's popular. That's what I love about this soundtrack.

Another thing I think is amazing is some tracks are actual dialogue that the characters speak in the movie since Tarantino is praised for his fresh, snappy dialogue. It's spread throughout the album and it doesn't take you out of it because

the dialogue flows nicely in between songs. Maybe that might throw you off since this isn't really a popular thing to do, but somehow it works here and shows how much thought went into this.

I definitely recommend getting the vinyl if you can. The songs sound better because they are from the 70s, a time when songs were made for vinyl, so when you convert them to digital, you don't get to hear the way it was intended. Not everyone cares about that, but I am very picky when it comes to the way I enjoy entertainment.

If I were you, I would not only watch the movie but listen to the soundtrack from start to finish. NO SHUFFEL. These songs go in a specific way, and you have to listen in that order. It's worth the \$10 on iTunes and the \$30 for vinyl off Amazon you will have a fun time listening to this 100% and even wish K. Billy was a real radio station.

Below: Reservoir Dogs album cover



BEST OF THE JERSEY SHORE

Florence and the Machine: "Mermaids"

By: Teddy Campi

A catalyst of Indie Rock, Florence Welch has "fed her children" again with her new single "Mermaids".

Picture yourself walking into the halls of an enchanting English castle, a dazzling chandelier hanging above, lace curtains draping from the windows only exposing the bare moon, and a smell of patchouli and incense being emitted throughout the room.

This sensual and darkly romantic song opens with a haunting symphony of layers upon layers of her voice and a snippet into her fantasy of the mermaid lore that makes you feel like your living in an alternative euphoric dimension.

Anticipation builds as her voice continues to symphonize with itself. Trumpets sound, but not in the commencement of a royal wedding type of way, but in a dark almost game of thrones cut into Daenerys Targaryen on a dragon type of way.

Once the trumpets have



Pictured above is Florence's cover photo for her new song "Mermaids".

ceased, drums establish the arrival of her voice once more, this time with a different vibe than she brought before. Pairing into the euphoric feeling the song opened into, Florence sings poetically with lyrics that suggest modern meanings (drug use, partying, young romance).

Reminiscing on her time as part of the scene her lyrics suggest, she describes it as a 'cheerful oblivion', one she misses, and a life that she feels shouldn't be taken for granted (I mean who wouldn't miss partying and clubbing all night long...)

Florence then goes onto fantasize mermaids and returns you to a euphoric and satiating

fantasy I think reminiscing the chaos and excitement she was enchanted with in the life she used to live.

One of her best lyrics is: "You only get one night upon the shore... So, dance like you've never danced before." It translates to take the

risk, take the chance to enjoy life while your young and the world is still open to you.

In the chaotic sensuality that embodies this song, Florence enables you to connect with her lyrics while reminding you to not regret living to the fullest while you are able to.

In conclusion, I loved this song for its quirkiness, mysteriousness, and etherealness. Florence's vocals once again went unmatched in range and in drama. I felt impacted by the message that you can not wait to enjoy the 'cheerful oblivion' you have because one day, like the mermaids, this time will be a fantasy.



Shade Out All Other Salons!

By: Natalie Gallagher



Above: Lock & Shade sitting area

It's no secret that I have a lot of hair... And because of this, I am no stranger to a haircut. Recently, I went to Lock & Shade to get a regular trim and my experience there was great.

Located in downtown Asbury on Lake Avenue is Lock & Shade. Immediately on entry, you'll feel like you walked into a speakeasy. The waiting area is adorned with vintage seating selections, large urban windows, and a grand piano hosting a selection of teas and coffees. The selection of music also helps the funky ambiance Lock & Shade has as well. The wait time is next to none, but even if you find yourself waiting,

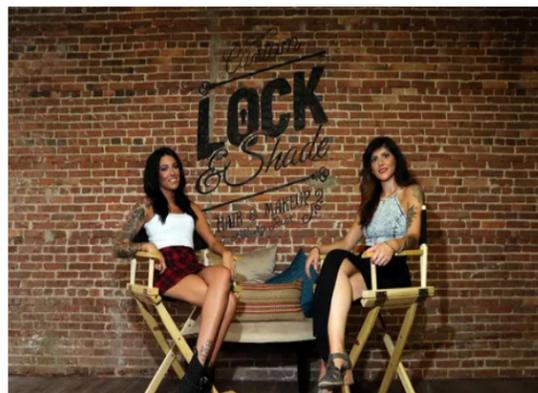
don't worry! There is a variety of magazines to keep you occupied.

This is the second time that I've been to Lock & Shade. My first experience with the salon was so fantastic, so I stuck with the same stylist named Taylor. Taylor is genuinely so sweet, the first time we met, I had found out that she graduated from MHS so we talked a lot about that. I never really had a stylist remember our conversations, especially after only one appointment together, so I was shocked when I went back last Friday to her asking me how school was! If you're not the type of person who likes talking much, that's okay too. There were times when Taylor and my conversation would stop, and I didn't feel the overwhelming need to fill the silence.

Moving on to cost, I will acknowledge that prices are a bit on the steep side, but I've noticed that you really are paying for quality. In the past, I've had 75 dollar haircuts from places that did the opposite of what I asked, I left the salon bummed, down 75 dollars, and having to get another haircut two months later to rectify the sloppiness. With Lock & Shade, I pay around 97 dollars for a haircut that I know

will look good when my hair grows out some more. Additionally, it is so hard to find a place that knows how to correctly cut curly hair without making it look botched, and I am so glad to report that Lock & Shade knows exactly how to do that. Since starting to go to Lock & Shade, I've only had to cut my hair once every 6 months apposed to having to get it cut once every 3 months. I don't know about you, but I'd prefer to pay (roughly) 240 a year including tip than 360.

All in all, Lock & Shade has shown me quality experience not once, but twice. I would even go so far as to say that Lock & Shade is the best salon that I've been to in my whole 18 years of life. Truly, I cannot recommend this place enough, so if you ever find yourself needing a haircut, know that Lock & Shade has your back.



Above: Founders of Lock & Shade

Attach, Lock in, Lift, Repeat

By: Casey Benenett

The gym is filled with amazing opportunities that the human body can take advantage of, but for starters, a rule of thumb in the gym is safety. That is why in my opinion every lifter should be equipped with a Gymreaper Latch Lifting belt, one of or the most needed tools in the lifting lifestyle. If the lifter is squatting, deadlifting or doing mostly anything that involves stimulation in the lower back, there is always a risk involved. With risk comes the side effect of being more prone to injury, which results in a tragic loss in gains, something that anyone who works out obviously wants to avoid.

So for starters, the most valid purchase to make if you are planning to get into any sort of lifting that involves compound movements, is the belt. Now let's get into why this product is so great. To begin, we should start with sizing and fit. All the sizing options come with wide ranges of different waist fit, including Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large. All have adjustable levels included as well, helping give a tight squeeze and allowing perfect lock in.

Along with great fit, functionality is always welcomed wtoo. The lever on the belt allows a great squeeze that is comfortable



for the lifter and keeps them safe. Gymreaper also gave different color options including white, navy, green and black for a cool and personalized style that lifters can bring into the gym.

When I use my Gymreaper Belt I feel secured and ready to lift off. One essential detail I love about my belt is during my extreme weight fluxes that I go through to lean out or bulk up, I am able to change my waist adjustments to fit me perfectly.

If I was to give a minor critique I would say the belt takes its time when trying to kick it in, meaning the belt stays in a rolled position and not an extended one. Another critique would be the lever attachment should be checked regularly, since the lever is something, the user has to screw in there can be times when the belts screws loosen. So when this happens giving it a little tune up is always smart. Besides minor problems that have easy solutions this belt is perfect and for the price range of \$96 to \$126 you are purchasing a one of a kind belt with amazing quality.

A Super Review For A Super Movie

By: Lukas Nordell

After gathering some friends to go watch *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*, I can with certainty say that it was so much more than I expected. Watching with friends made the experience so much more memorable, and all the negative preconceptions we had going into the theater were completely gone from our minds on our way out of the movie.

In recent years, video game movie adaptations have caused for many mixed opinions, although more have been negative than positive. Video games such as *DOOM*, *Sonic The Hedgehog*, and *Pokémon*—just to name a few—have all had movie adaptations. Of which, very few have been successful. However, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* has since destroyed the image that video game movies are economically unsmart decisions by filmmakers.

Since its release in theaters on April 5, 2023, it has become one of the most successful animated movies ever, competing with other animated movies like *Despicable Me (2010)* and *Frozen (2013)*. Because of all the positive things I had heard about the movie, my friends and I decided to watch it and we were not disappointed.

Although I may be biased as I have played many Mario games in the past, I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of this movie. The characters, casting, settings, dialogue, and especially music brought me back to when I was younger and playing the Mario games on my Nintendo Wii.

All the beloved Mario characters were impressively animated and stayed true to their original adaptations—something that many video game movies tend to stray from which often accounts for their downfall. In addition, the actors that were chosen to play each character was a topic of debate at



Above: The official movie poster for *The Super Mario Bros. Movie (2023)*

first as a lot of people, including myself, were a little nervous. Especially the casting for Mario: Chris Pratt. Even though I was among one of the many who were not so optimistic about the casting of the instantly-recognizable plumber, Chris Pratt nailed the part. Charlie Day, Jack Black, Keegan-Michael Key, Anya Taylor-Joy, Seth Rogan, and many other notable actors played each respective part perfectly. I have no complaints about the casting. However, I feel slightly differently about the general flow of the movie.

I almost felt like everything fell into place for Mario. Anytime he was faced with a challenge, it seemed as if the stars aligned and all the sudden a solution presented itself. It all kind of felt a little too coincidental for the flow of

the movie. Regardless of the odds not seemingly being in his favor, something would miraculously solve Mario's problem for him—and because of that, it also made the movie feel shorter than it actually was. The movie is feature-length, but the sequence of events that play out make it feel like I was out of the movie theater in 5 minutes.

Regardless, the Mario movie is one that I will remember for its surprisingly entertaining humor and unexpectedly amusing moments. This movie is meant for everyone—kids, teenagers, adults, parents, grandparents, and so on all have something to gain from watching this movie. The humor is performed in a way that all audiences can enjoy, and I know that because literally everyone in the theater I was in was laughing, which almost never happens anymore.

The Super Mario Bros. Movie will likely go down in history as the most successful video game movie adaptations of all time, and millions of fans and casual movie-goers will only continue to pour in by the thousands to enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime movie experience about everyone's favorite Italian plumber.



Above: Mario (Chris Pratt) & Luigi (Charlie Day) pose for their plumbing business.



Eyelash Perming Set Review



By: Sydnie Chek

Twenty-five dollars for an at home lash lift is not a bad price at all compared to the \$50-250 you can spend getting it done professionally.

Insign Lash Lift Eyelash Perming Set from Amazon is the perfect thing if you do not have the money or simply do not want to go to the salon. It is easy and affordable.

The kit comes with all the supplies you need to do a proper lash lift. It contains perming solution, fixation solution, nutrition oil, cleanser, eye pads, lash glue, applicators and more to the proper lift. You can also do this multiple times, so it really is much less than \$25 for each lift.

I was so excited to try this kit out. When the pretty pink box came

in the mail, I was so eager to try it that I tore the box open. The box was very neatly organized with everything clearly labeled and in their place.

Here's how it works. First you apply the lash glue to the eye pads and place them on your eyelids. This step was easy and quick.

Then you apply more glue onto the fronts of the pads and brush your eyelashes up to stick to it flat. This took me some time, but overall it's not that complicated to do. Then you wait. After what felt like an eternity, I was ready for the next step.

Next you apply the perming solution. This is where it can get difficult. Speaking from personal mistakes, make sure you don't get this in your eye! After 15 quick minutes you

can apply the fixation and wait another 15.

After you are done you can remove it with the cleanser and apply the oil to keep your eyelashes moisturized and healthy.

This left my eyelashes perfectly lifted. Although it was a little bit difficult to do to myself, it was worth it for only 25 dollars and skipping the troublesome trip to the salon.

I also tried this kit on my mom. She loved how her eyelashes became perfectly perky. It was easier to do the process on someone else, but it is 100% possible to do to yourself if you have no one to help you.

If you are interested in cosmetics and think you are up for the challenge, buy it and try it!

Below: My Mom's Lashes After the Kit





Editor's note: The following list comprises members of the class of 2023 and the college they have chosen to attend. We made the list based on interviews and surveys sent to seniors. It reflects those students who have responded to the survey or cooperated with our interview. Thanks to all who responded!

CAMRYN APRILANTE Marist College	ETHAN BUNT University of Hawaii	ADILENE CRUZ Brookdale	HARRISON DUNSON William and Mary
RYANN BANNERMAN Brookdale	CAYLEY CACCAMISE University of Alabama	BECCA CURRAN Louisiana State University	CHARLEE DWYER Stockton University
ALLIE BARBERA Rutgers University	JOHN CAPONE UNC Wilmington	KIKI D'APOLITO University of South Carolina	COLE ELDRIDGE Brookdale
KATIE BEAVIS Air Force Academy	LILY CARHART Jacksonville University	SARAH DAVIS Elon University	ALI EVANS Duquesne University
CASEY BENNETT Coastal Carolina University	REGAN CARTON University of Wisconsin	JACK DAWSON Lafayette College	JAMES FARINACCI Middlebury College
LUCA BERTINELLI Rowan University	SAM CERTO Brookdale	JACK DETTLINGER University of Miami	LILLY FARINACCI Fairfield University
ANTHONY BISAZZA Montclair State University	JANIYAH CHANEY Cosmetology School	BENNETT DEVINCENS Clemson University	CAMERON FAULHABER Drexel University
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LILLIAN BRYANT Virginia Tech	ABBY COOK University of Tampa	LILY DUCHARME Clemson University	SHAYNE FLAHERTY High Point University
LUCA BUONATO Nova Southeastern U	BRIGID COSGROVE George Washington University	KIERA DUNLEVY Boston University	MIKEY FLANAGAN University of South Carolina



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SOPHIA FLORES CARPIO Brookdale	ETHAN HARVEY Rowan University	VINCENT HYLAND West Chester University	MALLORY LASKO University of Florida
MICHAEL FLYNN College of Charleston	MADISON HEALD Brookdale	AUDREY IGLAY San Diego State University	BELLA LEPORE University of Rhode Island
NATALIE GALLAGHER Loyola University Maryland	DALIE HEALY Florida Atlantic University	MARY CATE IMMEN University of Delaware	BELLA LOPEZ Emerson College
COURTNEY GALOS Penn State University	CHASE HEARON Boston College	GAVIN JACKEY Brookdale	COLE MAC Duquesne University
IZZY GIORDANO Fordham University	REESE HEARON Ohio State University	MADDIE JACKSON Fairfield University	CONNOR MALYSA Wells College
CAROLINE GIUNCO College of Charleston	CAROLINE HEIGHT University of Tampa	EMMA KADEN Mount St. Mary's University	MAGGIE MARTIN New Jersey City University
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BLAKE GORSKI Monmouth University	SEAMUS HEINE University of Alabama	LOA KATZ Brookdale	ZACK MARTIN University of Tampa
EDDIE GUNNELL University of Notre Dame	ELLA HERBERT FIT	MATTHEW KLANGASKY Rutgers University	LIAM MASSELLI Florida Institute of Technology
SABA GUVEN Rider University	LINDSAY HICKMAN Gettysburg College	DELIA KLINE Villanova University	CHARLIE MAWN Olin College of Engineering
JAMES HACKETT Washington College	ALYCIA HOLMES Brookdale	LIZA KRASOWSKI West Virginia University	KATIE MCCAFFERTY College of Charleston
TAYLOR HAMARICH Rutgers University	LIAM HOVERTER University of Maryland	SOPHIE KREBS UC Boulder	MARIN MCCARTHY University of South Carolina
MAX HARTELIUS Virginia Tech	JHAMIER HOWARD Pace University	ASHLEY LARA ALTAMIRANO Brookdale	ELLE MCCORMICK Indiana University



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|---|--|---|---|
| BRYNN MCDONALD
Virginia Tech | JACK O'SHEA
The College of New Jersey | KEVIN PRIME
University of Tampa | IAN STARK
Jefferson University |
| RIVER MCGUIRE
Brookdale | AMY OLMEDO
Brookdale | JACK QUINN
Florida Atlantic University | MEGHAN STEHLE
Marist College |
| CAT MCKIEVER
University of Southern Cal | RYLYN ORLANDO
University of South Carolina | LOGAN RIDGE
Catholic University of America | DALIL SULUKI
Wagner College |
| KIERAN MCMENAMAN
Brookdale | KATIE PARADISE
Fordham University | LINDSAY SANCHEZ
West Chester University | CORY SUTTON
Stockton University |
| NUTSA MERABISHVILI
Rutgers University | BRETT PATTEN
St John's University | DAEMION SANTOS
University of South Carolina | GRACEY TOLOMANOSI
Coastal Carolina University |
| DYLAN MILLER
Eckerd College | QUINN PETERS
Monmouth University | SAM SARZEN
University of Cal Santa Barbara | AVA VUKOVICH
Loyola University Maryland |
| ETHAN MILLER
Florida State University | MIA PETRI
LIM University | THOMAS SCHNURR
University of South Carolina | NATALIE VUKOVICH
University of Delaware |
| CAROLE MORAN
University of South Carolina | MATTIE PETRONE
Coastal Carolina University | MEI SCRABIS
College of Charleston | SOFIA WALL
University of Southern Cal |
| MOLLY MORRIS
Haverford College | EMILIE PIERCIEY
University of Delaware | MICHAEL SHEERIN
University of Alabama | THOMAS WATSON
University of Tennessee |
| ALEXANDRA NISSIM
University of South Carolina | HOBIE PILLING
High Point University | EMMA SHROPSHIRE
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Brookdale |
| MARY ROSE O'CONNELL
UNC Wilmington | DARIAN POLING
College of Charleston | AMY SMITH
James Madison University | LILA WITKIN
University of Delaware |
| ANNABELLE O'DONNELL
College of Charleston | KAT POLING
Coastal Carolina University | CJ SROUR
University of Connecticut | PERCY YASENCHAK
Rowan University |
| MATT O'DONNELL
Pace University | MATT PORAZZO
Monmouth University | PEYTON ST. CLAIR
College of Charleston | COSTANZA ZAMBRANO
Monmouth University |
| GRIFFIN O'HEAR
Virginia Tech | | | |



Softballers: Swinging to Success

Big winning streak highlights season; first round win over Pt Boro in States Keeps Season alive



By: Angelina George

The sun was beating down, and the turf was looking extra game-day ready. As sophomore Lindsay Fuller took in her surroundings, she thought to herself, "Today is going to be a good day for us!"

And so it was, as the Warriors continued their dominant season in a breakthrough game against long time rivals Wall. "To beat them for the first time since 2017 was surreal for us," stated Fuller. Although, they were not expecting to win, they did expect a good game. The first inning the Warriors had 3 outs, and then took the lead in the bottom of the first inning as sophomore Danni Forrester hit a tripple which caused for further success for the Warriors throughout the game. During



The girls celebrate after a big win against Wall

the 2nd inning Wall scored one run, but that was nothing on the Warrior's big lead of 4.

Several key players for the girls success have been: juniors Amanda Dingler, Emma Zazzarino, Carley Tagliareni, Mae Stoll, and Elena Weinseimer; sophomores Lindsay Fuller, Danni Forrester, and Brooke Loughlin; and of course, senior captain Maggie Martin. The team is currently 13-4 and they hope to rack up more wins as the season progresses.

With the softball team having one of their best seasons in years it leaves the players and coaches left with lots of gratitude. "Its nice to see the girls' and coaches' hard work pay off," explained the sophomore Brooke Loughlin.





Baseball Finishes Regular Season... Now Onto the Postseason!



Above: Shortstop (Cullen Condon) and second baseman (Austin Griffith) in action.

States begin with first-round win over Governor Livingston

By: Lindsay Fuller

The Manasquan Baseball team's season is slowly rolling to an end. They completed their regular season with a record of 10 wins and 9 losses which is a big accomplishment. They have now moved on to post-season play.

All throughout the season, the boys have maintained a record of .500. They have also played some exciting games this season as well. Including their games against Wall, Ranney, and Holmdel.

The famous rival game against Wall unfortunately did not end in Manasquan's favor this year. It was a high

scoring game with a score of 10-6. Wall is always a tough opponent and within the last 3 years, Manasquan has only won one game against them.

With the team's record of .500, they qualified for this year's Shore Conference Tournament. In the play-in round on May 11th, they beat Holmdel, ending the game with a score of 5-0. This brought great energy to the team as they moved onto round 1 of Shore Conference.

While bringing that great energy into the next round on May 13th, the team sadly lost against Donovan Catholic 5-4. They put up a good battle against a very good team.

The baseball team is not done yet. They still have states coming up starting on May 22nd. They play Gov. Liv-



Above: The baseball team in their win against Freehold Borough.



Boys Lacrosse Nearing the End

By: Reagan Scime

An impressive season is wrapping up with the NJSIAA State Tournament and an away game against Mountain lakes that is to come. The Warriors filled their season with tough rivalries, comeback and revenge games, and other challenges along the way. Coach Cunningham led the Warriors to a 14-4 season, that including the Shore Conference Tournament.

The last couple games have been nothing but a test to the team's abilities. The first of the heated series of final games started with the rivalry of Christian Brothers Academy. The Warriors faced the Colts on May 9th, and everything was in their favor with a 13-9 victory. This high-scoring back and forth game had everyone on the edge of their seats, especially the fuming student sections. Junior Brody Muly, senior Matt Porazzo, and sophomore Brandon Kunz all had hat tricks. Senior James Farinacci tallied 2 goals with senior Blake Gorski and sophomore



Baseball

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ingston who they lost to last year, but sophomore Caden Eastmond said, "We are prepared for them this year and we have been working hard."

This year the team has 8 seniors. Connor Malysa, Tommy Martin, Jack Dawson, Brett Patten, Cullen Condon, Jack O'Shea, Kevin Prime, and CT Runge. Tommy says that they are leaving the team in good hands with all the young talent on the team.

Hopefully, the boys do well in the state tournament and bring home a trophy!



Below: Senior Brett Patten hits a single.



Lacrosse

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Ryan Aldi adding one a piece.

Their momentum led into the Shore Conference Tournament with a 18-1 win in the first round over Jackson Memorial on May 13th. All of the usual goal-scorers added to

the board, but other players had the chance to step up. Freshmen Jack O'Reilly had 2 goals and Lucas Longo had 1. Juniors Nick and Joe Carabetta put balls into the back of the net as well.

In the second round, Manasquan outscored Holmdel 11-8 to move on to the semifinals. Several goal scorers added numbers to the stats sheet, including junior goaltender Nick Bounassi with 14 saves on the day.

The semifinal round was a thriller, as Manasquan was thirsty for revenge against cross-town rival Wall. On May 18th, the Warriors travelled to Long Branch to come out on top with a win 8-4. Earlier in the season, the Warriors had fell short 7-6 to the Knights. This time around, the offensive was on fire and shut down Wall's defense quickly. 2 goals were secured each quarter, with efforts from Matt, Brandon, Ryan, Brody, Blake, and the rest of the team.

Coming into it, the Warriors knew they had a lot of weight on their shoulders. Facing #1 Rumson Fair-Haven was going to test everything they had worked for during the regular season. Last year when they faced the Bulldogs in the final round of the NJSIAA Tournament, they didn't get the results the hoped for. Unfortunately, this year in the final round of the Shore Conference Tournament held at Monmouth University, Manasquan fell short 5-10 against Rumson Fair-Haven. However, the game was filled with uncertainty as throughout, the score kept favoring a different team. Matt had 4 goals and Nick Bounassi had incredible saves to keep them in the game.

The next hurdle to face will be playing in the South Jersey Group 2 NJSIAA Tournament. In the first round, the Warriors will have home field advantage against Ocean Township. They are keeping their heads held high as they are determined to not have their season end earlier than wanted.



Softball

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the second game of the doubleheader 12-0, which ended short due to the mercy rule. This successful game was credited to the strong defense and the flawless pitching of Lindsay Fuller.

Next up is Delran in the second round of the state tournament, to be played Friday morning. Go Squan!

Coming off of their dominant win against Wall the girls were feeling good and ready to tackle another challenge, Ocean. After winning a battle with Ocean by a score of 9-7, the Warriors were ready to win by even more the second time around. They blasted Ocean in

WARRIOR SPORTS

