

TOM TOM

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Mahwah High School

January 2026

Talent Show Recap

By Keira Sarkissian

This year's talent show was one for the history books, showcasing just how talented our Thunderbird students can be! It was marked by great songs, dances, and one absolutely unforgettable lip-sync performance to finish off the night.

The night began with a performance of Evanescence's song "Bring Me to Life" performed by Mahwah's very own Death by Shame, a band by Amaya Gigante, Chip Franco, John Hughes, Grace Jeong, Luis Garchitorena, & Nikita Ruwali. This classic gothic rock song was an energetic start to the talent show, completed with impressive vocals, instrumentation, and stage presence. The trend of outstanding musicianship continued with sophomore Audrey Wright's rendition of "From the Start" by Laufey, a jazzy bossa-nova piece that wowed the audience. This love song was the perfect juxtaposition to Death by Shame, and continued the tradition of Audrey's

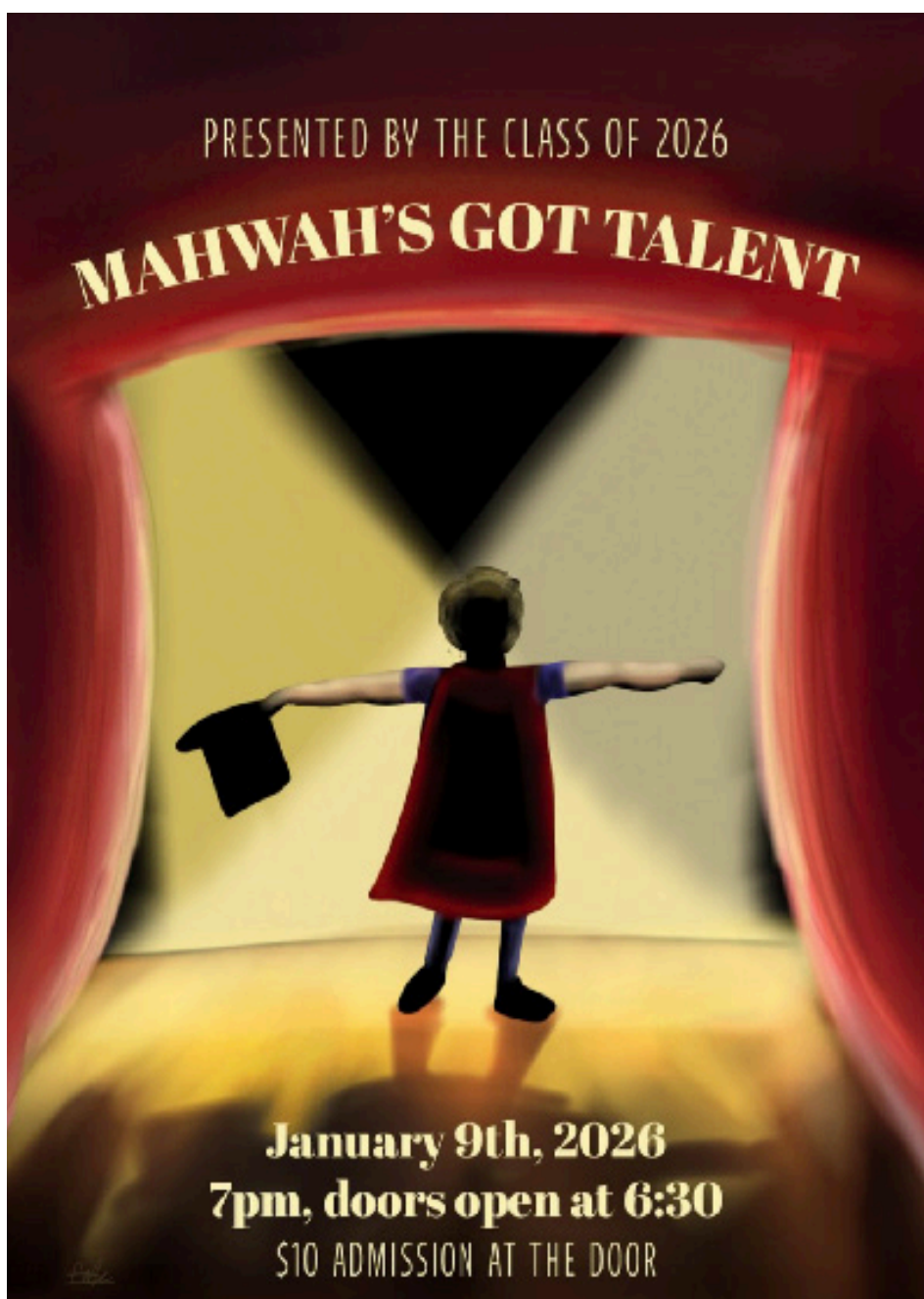
impressive performances at the talent show after her memorable performance last year. She was followed by freshman Jannellys Rodriguez singing Bradley Marshall's "Perfect for Me," another love song, and then by

sophomore Alex Shafir performing various guitar riffs from popular classic rock songs to really get the energy going. Sophomore Elina Gaynulina, a member of New Jersey's All-State Choir, demonstrated her vocal talent in a beautiful song in her native language of Tatar. The first half was finished off by senior Elena Hart's rendition of Napoleon Dynamite's iconic dance, completed with a perfectly hilarious costume.

After a short break, the talent returned with the English department's very own Mr. Dalessio, singing "Words" by indie band Big Thief while playing his guitar. He

has consistently shared his passion for music at Mahwah talent shows, and this year wouldn't have been the same without his musicianship. He was followed

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The Talent Show

Something Rotten: Preview

By Julianne Harbus

With the month of March quickly approaching, so is Mahwah's spring musical: *Something Rotten!* *Something Rotten!* is a comedic musical set in the 1590s about 2 brothers, Nick and Nigel Bottom, who are struggling playwrights that feel overshadowed by the top bard of the time William Shakespeare. The musical takes many twists and turns, incorporating music and themes from 21st century shows.



Something Rotten

Throughout the musical, the audience should look forward to the fun music as well as funny jokes. The cast has been working very hard the past few months, with leads featuring Juniors Danny Fernandez and Zack Pierson, as well as seniors Saad Parvez and Keira Sarkissian to make this show entertaining and

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2025 In Memoriam

The *Tom-Tom* remembers prominent and impactful figures who passed last year.

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Super Bowl Recap

In this issue, the *Tom-Tom* provides a detailed analysis and recap of the past Super Bowl.

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The 2026 Winter Olympics

This year, there's a lot to look forward too in the winter olympic events!

Page #9

Marty Supreme Review

Marty Supreme was a huge success, charming audiences with its anti-hero appeal.

Page #11

Awards Season: The Grammys and The Golden Globes

By Grace Jeong



Sabrina Carpenter

February 1st marks the 68th Annual Grammy Awards, which were held with exciting new artists, unexpected wins, and amazing performances. During his last time hosting the Grammys, Trevor Noah did a great job. He uplifted all the artists and made sure everyone had an enjoyable time. Thank you, Trevor, for hosting the Grammys for years! Major artists such as Lady Gaga, Bruno Mars, ROSÉ, Sabrina Carpenter, Justin Bieber, and Tyler, the Creator, all performed and swept the audience with their newest and most popular songs. With upcoming artists such as The Marías, Addison Rae, sensational global pop group Katseye, Leon Thomas, Lola Young, Olivia Dean, Alex Warren, and Sombr, their performances were truly phenomenal. Many celebrities were seen protesting the United States of America’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement by wearing pins that said “ICE OUT.” During Bad Bunny’s acceptance speech for winning the Best Música Urbana Album, he said, “Before I say thanks to God, I’m gonna say: ICE out!” and later added, “We’re not savages. We’re not ani-

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Teachers’ New Years Resolutions

By Abby O’Malley and Luna Taghlobi

Happy New Year, Thunderbirds! With a new year comes new personal goals. This week, *Tom-Tom* went around asking our Mahwah High School teachers their New Year’s resolutions! Our first teacher is Mr. Catizone, who is a woodshop teacher. His first New Year’s resolution is to floss his teeth more. Simple resolutions

out before work. Working out, especially in the morning, can be difficult, but if you push through, it’s always worth it. His second New Year’s resolution is to read more. Reading books can increase one’s intelligence and strengthen vocabulary. If you have similar resolutions to Mr. Segall, we recommend going to the library or shopping online for books that interest you, and working on time management to better your



Flossing Your Teeth Is A Pratical New Years Resolution

like this may seem small, but they’re important and can help you a lot. Mr. Catizone’s second resolution is to go to the gym more often. Both of these resolutions are very nutritious and important to maintain a healthy routine. Our second teacher is Mr. Seagall, a mathematics and computer science teacher. Mr. Seagall’s first New Year’s resolution is to work

schedule and be more productive. Our third teacher is Mrs. Lazar, who teaches in the visual arts department. Her New Year’s resolution is to read more. If you’re looking to read more, like Mrs. Lazar, she recommends the novel *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir. This

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Something Rotten: Preview *cont.*

exciting. Mr. Nahum, Mahwah High Schools director of the spring musical, believes that *Something Rotten* is special because of the way that the writers have taken the story about William Shakespeare’s life and looked at it through other narratives. At the time, there were other artists that weren’t nearly as successful as he was, and



Tickets Are On Sale Soon!

this musical is their story. I asked Danny Fernandez and Zack Pierson why they believed that this show was special. Zack Pierson, who plays Nigel Bottom and is currently in his 3rd production at Mahwah High School, stated that “the people in it make the experience because the cast is always having a good time at rehearsal, and throughout the musi-



Come See The Musical!

cal there are many different story lines to follow so it keeps everyone engaged”. Danny Fernandez, who plays Nick Bottom and is currently in his 6th production at Mahwah High School, stated that “everyone is passionate and working hard to make the musical possible and it’s so awesome when all of this comes to fruition on stage. The sense of community is indescribable and performing even once changes your life. Everyone’s incredible support, commitment, and passion keeps me coming back every year.”

Best and Worst Superbowl Commercials

By Valentina Moreno and Megan Sokolov

As the Super Bowl gets closer, fans are eager to watch football’s biggest night of the year. It isn’t only a big night for football, though, because some of the biggest commercials of all time are played during the ad breaks of the big game. Super Bowl commercials are extremely pricey, and for just a 30- second spot, the price can generally range from 7 to 8 million dollars. Brands pay so much money just for a chance in the spotlight, and some definitely shine more than others. Over a hundred million people watch the game every year, and some ads are remembered just as much as the game itself. A fan favorite commercial was aired in 2018 titled Alexa Loses Her Voice where Alaxe sadly lost her voice on all amazon products throughout the world, and celebrities such

as Gordan Ramsey, Cardi B, and Rebel Wilson filled in for Alexa. Another big one was aired back in 1980, titled “Hey Kid, Catch” made by Coca Cola. This com-

mercial featured the Steelers star Joe Greene walking into the locker room when a young kid stopped him while drinking a bottle of coke. They had a conversation and the

kid offered him a bottle of Coke, because Greene was not in the best of moods. After the Coke lifts his spirits, the kid begins to walk away, and Green stops him to say “Hey kid, catch” and throws him his jersey. While that commercial is considered the number one of all times, The commercial by Apple in 1984 titled “1984 takes the spot for number one. This heartfelt commercial wanted to let the world know that 1984 wouldn’t be like George Orwell’s famous book as it promoted the upcoming release of the Macintosh computer. Athlete Anya Major played the hero that would save everyone from “Big Brother”. Superbowl commercials have such a big impact on viewers, that even while some of the best were aired quite some time ago, fans still remember them as if it was yesterday.

Now that we’ve covered some



Dunkin’s Spoof On The World’s Best Movie Of All Time

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By Sora Yun

Mahwah has been dominating the Future Problem Solving (FPS) landscape so far this year, and the results are nothing short of impressive. From individual competitors to full teams across divisions, our Future Problem Solvers have consistently ranked at the top. Before jumping into

what problems could arise. Competitors write challenges found in the future scene, develop innovative solutions, and create an action plan explaining how their ideas could work in that future world. Each submission, called a booklet, focuses on meaningful topics like science, technology, the environment, and society. FPS pushes students to think ahead, work as a team, and



The FPS Team

all the exciting updates, let’s take a quick look at what FPS is all about. Future Problem Solving is a competitive elective or independent study class where students are given a future-based scenario and challenged to think critically and creatively about

use imagination to solve problems before they even happen. Mahwah High School’s success kicked off with the first booklet, which focused on invasive species. Three of theIndividual FPS com-
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Talent Show Recap *cont.*

up by sophomore Lyn-Tharissa Etienne singing “Derniere Dance” by Indaila, a French pop song, an impressive performance that amazed the crowd. Next, junior Danny Fernandez, another member of New Jersey’s All-State Choir, sang Frank Sinatra’s rendition of “Bewitched,” one of the classic standards from the great American songbook. He demonstrated his musicality to the crowd with his notable performance and stage presence, captivating the audience. The final performance was by our SGA Executive Board



The Mahwah Thunderbird

& the Class of 2026’s SGA, finishing the night off with a fun, lively lip-syncing and dance routine with popular songs. This officially marked the end of yet another successful talent show for Mahwah High School, and we can’t wait to see what talent will be showcased next year!

Mahwah High School's Talent Show



Teachers’ New Years Resolutions *cont.*

book is packed with science fiction and mystery. Thank you, Mrs. Lazar, for your recommendation!

Our fourth teacher is Mr. Pasek. He is a history teacher and coaches the school’s cross-country team. His new year’s resolution is to be kinder to the cross-country girls’ team. This is great because being kind and cooperative towards athletes is important and will greatly build coach-player bonds.

Our fifth teacher is Mr. Normoyle, who is a history teacher. His New Year’s resolution is to spend more time with his family. This is a wholesome and significant resolution. During this cold and snowy season, it’s always nice to be close with family. Mr. Normoyle’s second resolution is to read more books. Reading more books seems to be a common resolution this year!

Our sixth teacher is Mr. Dalessio, who teaches in the English department. Mr. Dalessio recently read how his favorite actor

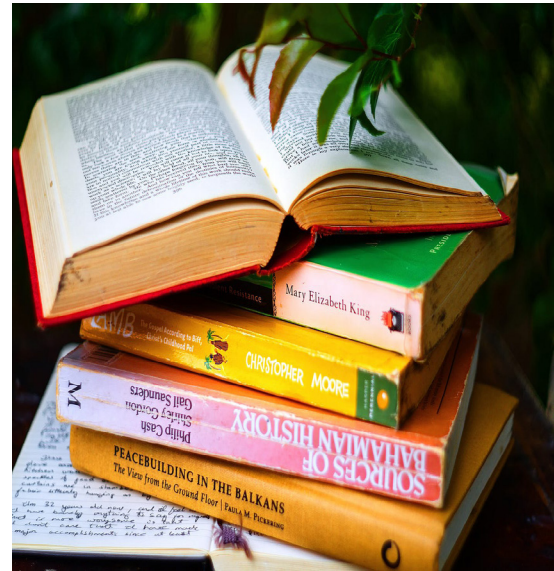


Healthy Foods

starts his New Year’s resolution during the spring, and Mr. Dalessio plans to do the same! He plans to wait until spring to start focusing on jogging and getting healthier. Given that it has been freezing these past few weeks, this sounds like a reasonable plan!

Our next teacher is Mr. Wagman, who is a history teacher, and the school’s wrestling coach. Mr. Wagman’s New Year’s resolution is to eat healthier. Eating healthy foods can better your health, and boost your immune system. During this winter season, it is good to have a strong immune system to help fight off common illnesses.

Our last teacher is Señora King, who teaches Spanish at the high school. Señora’s New Year’s resolution is to be healthy and happy and to spend more time with family. Spending quality time with family is crucial to maintaining a healthy relationship, and being able to see family is a blessing and should be a main priority.



A Pile Of Books

A Gift Guide To Valentine’s Day

By Sophia De Alto

With Valentine’s Day on the horizon, it might be a good idea to have a couple places to buy gifts for your loved ones. Everyone knows that any good gift comes with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, and the perfect place to find them is Flor Bella Designs! Currently, they are offering special Valentine’s Day combinations. Flowers are also known to pair well with chocolates-so Chocolate Central is the place to go! I mean, who doesn’t like chocolate? (In the case that they do not, though, a cute fruit arrangement would also work) However, things can get pricey-especially for high school students. The Paper Store is always my personal favorite as it offers a variety of affordable gifts. The store has a display of adorable pieces of jewelry that can be perfect for a girlfriend, mother, aunt, etc. Something else that the Paper Store carries are Jellycats! (For those unfamiliar-they are cute stuffed animals) A Jellycat can be perfect for a gift exchange at the Galentine’s party. If you are more on the creative side, Michael’s would be a great place to pick out materials to make a homemade card! Ideas for such can be found on Pinterest, TikTok, Google, etc. A gift card to a local nail salon is something that a mother/sister/girlfriend would also greatly appreciate! Some local nail salons include: Stella Nails and Spa, Mahwah Nails, and Sarah’s Nails Mahwah. On a similar note, a Sephora gift card would be a great gift to give someone. Even better though, if you know what type of makeup the person is interested in, it would be such a thoughtful gift! A perfect place to accumulate all the gifts in can be a nice looking basket that would tie the entire aesthetic together. Anyway, may everyone have a fun Valentine’s Day weekend whether it be a date, a Galentine’s Day get together, or just hanging out with family!



Project H.E.R.O.

By Jaehyeon Kim

This year, a group of students launched Project H.E.R.O. (Helping Emergency Response Organizations) to help address growing challenges facing local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) departments across North Jersey.

The project began last summer after the team noticed repeated news coverage about EMS staffing shortages. Interest deepened when Davan, one of the project leaders, began the process of joining EMS and interviewed the chief of Mahwah EMS.

“That conversation confirmed that these issues were happening not just in Mahwah, but all over the North Jersey region,” Davan said.

To recruit volunteers, the team has focused on community outreach by attending local events and collecting contact information from interested residents. They also hosted a meet-

ing with Future Medical Professionals, inviting EMS leadership to explain what joining looks like for students. So far, about 25 names have been shared with Mahwah EMS.

“That may not sound like a lot, but it’s actually significant considering the size of the department,” Davan explained.

Fundraising is another major part of the project. Donations collected at community events are given directly to local EMS organizations, and nearby businesses are encouraged to set up recurring donations in exchange for certificates recognizing their support.

One of Project H.E.R.O.’s most impactful efforts has been the creation of Comfort Cases, which are bags placed in ambulances to help patients feel calmer during emergencies. These include stuffed animals, fidget toys, coloring supplies, earplugs, and communication charts for non-verbal or non-English-speaking patients.

“We’ve already distributed about 20 bags and have around 90 more ready,” Davan said.

While different EMS departments have different needs, the Comfort Cases have been especially successful because they’re easy to integrate into ambulances.

Looking ahead, Project H.E.R.O. hopes to partner with schools to create ongoing donation drives and internship opportunities, providing steady support for EMS while encouraging student involvement in emergency medicine.

Davan emphasized that anyone can help even without joining EMS.

“You don’t have to become an EMT to make a difference,” Davan said. “Whether you spread awareness, donate, support local businesses that give back, or advocate for better funding, you’re helping your community.”

The Tom-Tom 2025 In Memoriam

Malcom-Jamal Warner

By Emilia Cole

The late Malcolm-Jamal Warner was a multitalented actor, director, and musician who rose to prominence with his role in *The Cosby Show*, which made him an icon in 1980s and 1990s television. Apart from acting, Malcolm-Jamal Warner has had a successful career in spoken word, jazz, and directing, which has seen him receive accolades for his talent and down-to-earth personality. Malcolm-Jamal Warner has played a significant role in shaping modern black representation in media.



Val Kilmer

By Emilia Cole

Val Kilmer, who passed away in 2025, was lauded for his range and passion in both film and theater. Whether in *Top Gun*, *The Doors*, or *Heat*, Kilmer’s performances were marked by dedication and depth. His candor in his later years about illness and resilience only added to the public’s affection for him. Kilmer’s work balanced blockbuster appeal with artistic experimentation, leaving a legacy that continues to be important, memorable, and human.



Rob Reiner

By Samantha Sonders

Rob Reiner was an iconic, incredibly influential figure in Hollywood-- and his passing in 2025 will be felt for years to come. He directed numerous beloved classics, including *Stand By Me*, and *The Princess Bride*. Moreover, he was a staunch political activist, and he co-founded the American Foundation for Civil Rights-- which was a group that was an advocate for same sex marriage. As one of the warmest and most respected voices in Hollywood, Reiner’s loss will be deeply mourned.



David Lynch

By Samantha Sonders

A creative visionary who constantly pushed the boundaries of western film making-- David Lynch was a director obsessed with dreams and the inexplicable. His passing in 2025 was a great loss to the film industry. Lynch directed contemplative and visually gripping movies such as the applauded movies *Mulholland Drive* and *Blue Velvet*-- as well as the culturally defining TV show *Twin Peaks*. There will never be anyone else like Lynch--



Michelle Trachtenberg

By Emilia Cole

The death of Michelle Trachtenberg in 2025 was mourned by the television and film industries. Her entry into the industry was marked by her roles in the movie *Harriet the Spy* and later her critically acclaimed performances in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Gossip Girl*. All her roles were characterized by her ability to bring relatability to her characters. Michelle Trachtenberg’s career is a reflection of her ability to make the transition from a child star to an adult actress.



Diane Keaton

By Emilia Cole

The death of Diane Keaton in 2025 was the loss of one of the most unique voices in Hollywood. Keaton is known for her Oscar-winning performance in *Annie Hall* and for her ability to perform in a wide variety of genres. Keaton has been able to bring authenticity, humor, and emotion to every project she has been involved in. Keaton’s impact has not only been felt in film but also in fashion.



The Tom-Tom sends its condolences to the friends and family of those who have passed.

The Tom-Tom 2025 In Memoriam

Ozzy Osbourne

By Samantha Sonders

The talented, charismatic front man of Black Sabbath, Ozzy Osbourne, passed away in 2025. His legacy was varied and extremely impactful in the world of heavy metal. He was a trailblazer of the genre, becoming one of its most commercially successful and well known artists. Osbourne led a wild life-- truly living up to his image as rock's 'prince of darkness'-- and his music has served as inspiration for generations of aspiring rock stars.



Robert Redford

By Emilia Cole

The legacy of Robert Redford, who passed away in 2025, is that of a towering figure in Hollywood cinema as an actor and director, as well as the founder of the Sundance Institute. He played an important role in American cinema through his performances, socially responsible cinema, and his efforts to promote independent filmmakers. Redford was not only associated with Hollywood cinema but was also an environment-conscious person who inspired many through his activism.



Pope Francis

By Samantha Sonders

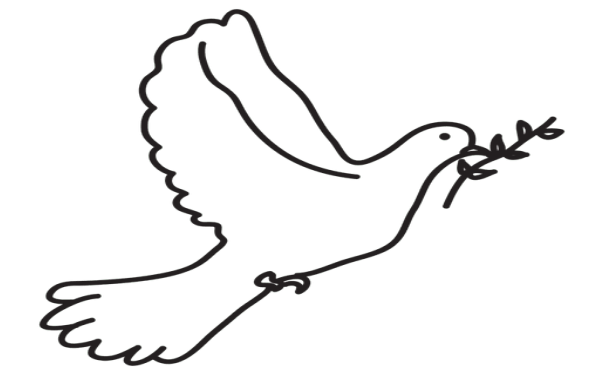
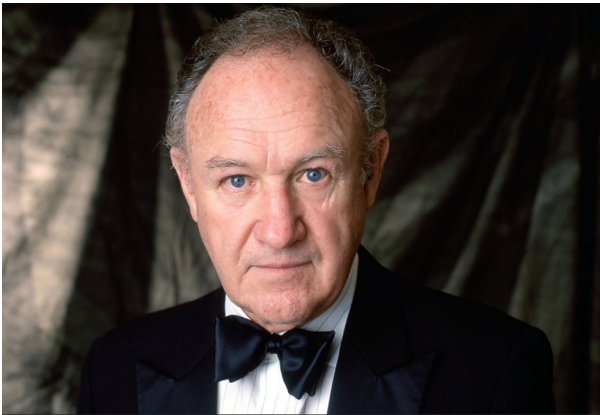
One of the most culturally significant figures of the 21st century, Pope Francis' passing in 2025 has been deeply mourned. Elected to the papacy in 2013, under his leadership Francis ushered in great reform to the Catholic Church. As pope, he addressed the climate crisis, promoted unity between people of all religious backgrounds, and was a fierce advocate for marginalized peoples. His humility and meaningful leadership will be dearly missed.



Gene Hackman

By Samantha Sonders

Gene Hackman, who passed in 2025, was considered one of the greatest actors of his time-- with a diverse and successful career in cinema spanning across four decades. He was a two time Oscar winner, earning awards for his roles in *The French Connection* and *Unforgiven*. Moreover, he played an iconic role as Lex Luthor in the original *Superman* films. Hackman was a versatile, tremendously talented actor, and his legacy as one of Hollywood's best and brightest will be remembered as a staple in cinema history.



In Memoriam

Awards Season: The Grammys and The Golden Globes *cont.*

imals. We’re not aliens. We are humans, and we are Americans.” Not only did Bad Bunny speak out, but artists such as Billie Eilish, Shaboozey, and Olivia Dean spoke out during their acceptance speeches about the current situation with ICE.

The 83rd Golden Globe Awards took place on January 11, 2026, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in California and were hosted by comedian Nikki Glaser. The Golden Globes focus on movies and television from 2025. One of the biggest winners of the night was *Hamnet*, which won Best Motion Picture – Drama. Another major winner was *One Battle After Another*, which won Best Motion Picture – Musi-



The Golden Globes

cal or Comedy. On the TV side, *The Pitt* won Best Drama Series, *The Studio* won Best Musical or Comedy Series, and *Adolescence* won Best Limited Series. The Golden Globes helped kick off the awards season and showed which movies and shows had the biggest impact on audiences.

Overall, both the Golden Globes and the Grammys were a night to celebrate the creativity, talent, and culture that people bring. Together, they helped set the tone for the entertainment industry in 2026 and showed how award shows still play a huge role in shaping pop culture and highlighting how important it is to use your voice in the industry.

More Plastics Have Been Found in the Air Than Previously Expected

By Gloria Zhan

Scientists have always known there were microplastics in the air. Yet, recently researchers have discovered that city air contains much more microplastics and nanoplastics than they had previously thought. This augments the issue and dangers of plastic pollution in our world.

Microplastics and nanoplastics have been detected in all major areas of the Earth, including the “atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere”. Yet, current methods of detection fall short of reliably detecting the particles that range from “microscopic to nanoscale sizes”. Hence, scientists still lack precise measurements of how much plastic actually exists, and how it actually accumulates in the environment.

Why are micro/nano-plastics bad?

A paper published under the National Library of Medicine explains how these plastics have the potential to “move through the gut, lungs and skin epithelia”. Nanoplastics are small enough to permeate through biological membranes. Microplastics can float since they are very light, hence can travel far across the globe.

Where can micro/nano-plastics

be found? How do they get into Medicine, “the majority of plastics



Plastics in the Atlantic

the body? According to the paper published under the National Library of that pollute the marine environment originate from terrestrial sources, fishing and other aquaculture activi-

ties”. The plastics can be introduced to the fresh water supply system. They can be found in meat products, food/drinks in plastic packaging, tap, bottled, and spring waters. The paper states that, “an individual who only ingest bottled water is potentially consuming an extra 90,000 particles in comparison to people who only drink tap water”. These plastics can enter the body through “inhalation, ingestion and skin contact”. For skin contact, “nanoplastics may penetrate through wound and weakened skin barrier, directly or indirectly”.

How to prevent absorbing these plastics and reduce plastic accumulation?

Studies have shown that the highest probability of consuming these plastics is through ingestion. Tracey Woodruff, a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at UC San Francisco, is a microplastics researcher. She suggests not microwaving plastic, using a glass or steel water bottle over plastic water bottles, buying organic, reducing consumption of red meat, eating lower on the food chain (grains, fruits, vegetables, etc), and cleaning with non-toxic chemicals, like “baking soda and water or vinegar and water”.

The 2026 Winter Olympics

By Gloria Zhan

Have you ever looked out the window during the recent cold weather and thought to yourself, “I wish I could be warm on my couch and watch someone on the TV freeze while doing sports”? If so, watching the Winter Olympics is most definitely for you!

This year’s Winter Olympics stretch from February 6th through February 22nd. Taking place in both Milan and Cortina d’Ampezzo (Italy), this is the first time two cities have jointly hosted the games.

This year’s Winter Olympics surely is something worthy to watch, as it contains the first new sport introduced in the past 24 years, contains highly entertaining events, and contains staggering performances from some athletes.

Interesting New Addition

This is the first time in 24 years that the Winter Olympics have introduced a new sport. Ski Mountaineering (commonly called Skimo) is a sport that contains both sprint and mixed relay events. Skimo combines elements of cross-country skiing with competitive racing. At the start, athletes

ski uphill while wearing adhesive skins on the bottoms of their skis. Then, they perform a quick ski removal and speed hike by foot. Upon

tics show that figure skating and snowboarding have received much attention. Each sport contains well-known athletes and their astonish-

petitor in women’s singles, performed her program using a rendition of Laufey’s “Promise”. Marcus Thompson II, a journalist for the New York Times, exclaims her performance as “self-deprecating and humble while exuding a self-assuredness unbecoming of her youth”. As of February 12th, the US has the most medals won, followed by France and Japan.

This year, Gaon Choi (South Korea) made history as being the youngest snowboarding gold medalist, competing at age 17. As of February 12th, the top three ranked countries are Norway, Italy, and the United States. Chloe Kim, from Team USA, won the gold medal in the 2022 Beijing Olympics. As she currently competes after suffering from a shoulder injury just weeks before the games, she won the silver medal in the women’s halfpipe.

Where can I watch?

The Olympics can be viewed through NBC Olympics and Peacock. Many Youtube channels contain live streams and playbacks as well.

Interested to find out more? Check out the Olympics website at



Alysia Liu in Women’s Singles Figure Skating

reaching the top, the athletes return to their skis and race downhill to the finish line. Essentially, this is cross-country on skis.

What to watch?

This year’s viewer statis-

ing performances.

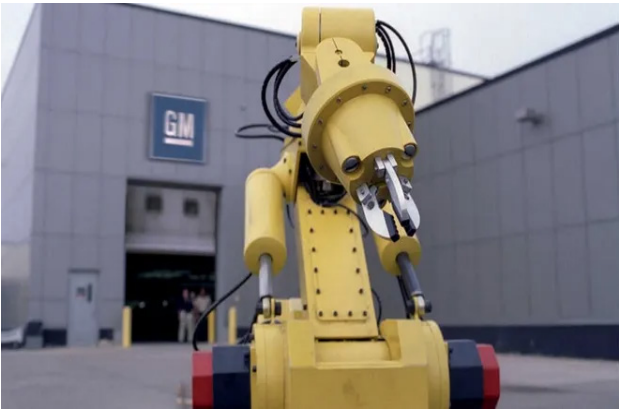
Figure skating competes in three events: men’s singles, women’s singles, and pairs. The USA team has brought some staggering performances. Alysia Liu, a com-

Best and Worst Superbowl Commercials *cont.*

of the biggest and most memorable Super Bowl commercials of all time, it’s clear that not every ad is a touchdown. While some brands manage to score big with creativity, humor, and great timing, others completely miss the mark. From awkward performances to poorly executed ideas, the Super Bowl has also produced many commercial fumbles. After breaking down the best and most classic commercials, it’s only fair to look at some of the commercials that left fans completely unimpressed. Every year, fans anticipate not just the big game, but also the commercials that go with it. As known, commercials don’t come



Nationwide’s “Make Safe Happen”



General Motors’ Shocking Ad

cheap. Super Bowl commercials are some of the most expensive airtime in the world, and companies pay millions of dollars just for a chance to grab the attention of the fans. While some use their money to create unforgettable experiences, others end up wasting millions of dollars and leaving fans confused, embarrassed, and fully cringed out. Take Nationwide’s “Make Safe Happen” (2015), for example, which showed a young boy listing all the things he would never do, like ride a bike or get married, only to find out that young boy passed away in an accident. This commercial was criticized for being ex-

tremely depressing and dark, which didn’t fit the lively and party atmosphere of the Super Bowl. Another infamous fail, General Motors: “Robot Suicide” (2007), which featured a robot being fired from a factory job for dropping a screw, leading it to suffer a breakdown, and ultimately drive itself off a cliff. Fans called this commercial shocking, no real point, and also ruining the party vibes of the Super Bowl. These brands really tried their hardest, but some just didn’t succeed. These commercials serve as a reminder that attention alone, isn’t enough to guarantee a win!



An NFL Football

Fly Birds, Fly!: A 2026 Super Bowl Recap

By Kieran Hetzel

It was a defensive battle in Santa Clara for Super Bowl LX as the Seattle Seahawks defeated the AFC champion Patriots 29-13. A touchdown-less game through the first three quarters of the game, as Seattle’s ‘Dark Side’ defense proved why defense wins championships. The defense only held New England to 52 yards in the first half, collected 3 turnovers, 1 defensive touchdown, and 6 sacks throughout the game. Seattle took the lead in the first quarter with a Jason Myers 33 yard field goal on their first drive and never looked back. Myers, ended up breaking a Super Bowl record for most field goals in a Super Bowl with 5. But Myers didn’t take the MVP honors as that would go to Seattle RB Kenneth Walker III, who had 135 rushing yards on 27 carries, as he became only the fifth offensive MVP of the Super Bowl to not score a touchdown in the game. The first touchdown in the game came from Seattle, and former New York Jets first round pick QB Sam Darnold, as he threw a 16 yard touchdown pass to Tight End AJ Barner to make the score 19-0 near the beginning of the 4th quarter. However New England did show some light near the end of the game, as QB Drake Maye drove down the field and followed Darnold’s touchdown with one of his own to WR Mack Hollins. However Maye would end up throwing two interceptions in his next two drives, the first to former New York Giants safety Julian Love, and a second to Uchenna Nwosu that was returned back for a touchdown, that sealed the deal for Seattle. Seattle fans almost had an injury scare as WR and NFL Offensive Player of the year Jaxon Smith-Njigba had gone into the blue medical tent in the 3rd quarter, and ended up going to the locker room on his own accord. However, Smith-Njigba cleared concussion protocol and later went back in the game in the 4th quarter. Several of the Seattle players ended up celebrating in style, as the next morning, Darnold, and Walker III paid a visit to Disneyland, an annual tradition where several of the Super Bowl champs visit, in which the resort threw a parade to celebrate the newest Super Bowl Champs.



The 2026 Super Bowl

Future Problem Solving *cont.*



Future Problem Solving

petitors placed in the top three overall. All three of the Middle Division teams ranked in the top five, earning 1st, 3rd, and 5th place. The Senior Division teams also dominated, with five teams placing in the top ten, including 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 10th place.

The momentum continued with the second booklet on space exploration. Five Individual FPS competitors ranked in the top six, taking 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th place. The Middle Division teams once again placed in the top ten with 1st, 4th, and 10th place finishes, while the Senior Division teams swept the top five spots, earning 1st through 5th place.

A huge shoutout goes to the Middle Division team that earned 1st place in both booklets: ninth graders Utkarsh Nama, Robert Powley, Sharlene Wong, and Sora Yun. Their consistency, creativity, and teamwork have been a stand-out.

In December, Mahwah High School hosted an FPS Day, where students completed a practice booklet in the library. More experienced competitors judged the younger problem solvers’ work and offered helpful advice, creating a supportive space to grow and improve.

Future Problem Solvers are now waiting for the results from the final qualifying booklet, which focused on the future of video games and esports. These scores will determine who advances to the State Bowl. Let’s go, Thunderbirds!

Kyle Teel

By The One and Only Mr. Jankowski

Mahwah Alumni Class of 2020 and current major leaguer, Kyle Teel, had his home Chicago

reer progresses this year. Kyle is all set to start his second season as the White Sox catcher and has already reported to Spring Training at Camelback Ranch in Glendale, Ariz. There, he’ll



Teel’s Legendary Jersey Hangs Proudly In Our School

White Sox jersey hung up in glory in the lobby of the MHS gymnasium earlier this year, just above another one of Mahwah’s alumni MLB stars, Curt Blefary. Kyle was on hand to autograph the jersey before it was framed and officially displayed. Mr. Pelletier mentioned how happy and proud he was of Kyle’s success, as is everyone else in the Mahwah community, and added that he is excited to see how Kyle’s ca-

ease into throwing routines and conditioning ahead of full-squad workouts later this month with his first Cactus League game scheduled on February 20th against the Chicago Cubs. Last year Kyle hit .273 with 8 home runs and 69 hits in 78 games. Positioned to play much more this season, keep on eye on the Mahwah kid to post impressive numbers again this season.

How A24 Made Everyone Love ‘The Bad Guy’: A Review of Marty Supreme

By Aarush Borker

With Hollywood’s most trending actor Timothée Chalamet teaming up with creative studio A24 to pursue their largest budget movie yet, Marty Supreme did not disappoint. Contrasting the scrappy personal life of Marty Mauser with his similarly tumultuous table tennis career, the audience is constantly on their feet, worrying about whether Marty will find a way to win his next game or get beat up on his way there. The viewer follows this charismatic man as he navigates a table tennis (TT) industry full



Marty Supreme

of corruption, clashing with the wealthy of the Upper East Side and TT bureaucrats alike. However, as the story progresses, the ugly sides of Marty begin to seep through more and more, making the viewer question whether to be on his side or not. From self-righteousness to infidelity, he is far from the ideal person—but the charm he has constantly keeps the viewer from taking one side or another. If you plan on watching the movie, be ready for any curveballs (or topspins to go with the TT theme) that the movie will most definitely throw your way!



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