October 30, 2026

THE BUCCANEER

The Girls Volleyball Team: Division Champs

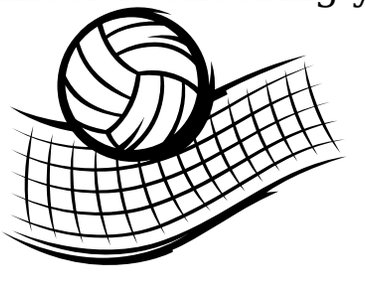
Written by Sophia Kurdes, edited by Sarah Pair

For the first time in Red Bank Regional's history, the Girls Volleyball team won the division championship in a near-undefeated run (9-1). On October 5, the Lady Bucs came out victorious after their close match against Red Bank Catholic (2-1).

"It felt really energetic," Senior Patience Jones remarked, "Everyone was jumping and screaming. I feel like there were people in the past who were better overall, but we were the ones that made school history."

It is clear that the players have a strong bond with each other. Their connection is visible on the court, and it allows them to fight against the opposing team like a well-oiled machine. When I spoke to a few of the volleyball players, Senior Madison Cocuzza's name came up in conversation. Always laughing, Cocuzza's positivity uplifts players both off and on the court. She works to improve herself when she makes a mistake, and her determined, constructive attitude inspires the team to do better as well.

Now, the team will move on to the Shore Conference to compete outside of their division. Feel free to follow the team's Instagram, @rbr_girlsvolleyball. Congratulations to the Girls Volleyball team, the Buccaneer is cheering you on every step of the way!



PHONE BAN: A NEW INSIGHT



PAGES 6-8

SPOOKY SEASON FOLKLORE!



PAGE 11-12

RBR CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE!



PAGE 2 & 16



Together, We Are More: HHA 2026

Written by Sophia Kurdes, edited by Arely Carrillo-Reyes

On October 28, Red Bank Regional celebrated its annual Hispanic Heritage Assembly. This year's theme is Pioneers of Change: The Future Together, Together We Are More. RBR has encouraged its cultural appreciation events because of the school's diverse student body. Last year's Black History and Pride Month Assemblies were very well-received, and Mrs. Tracey Ashe went all out for HHA 2026. Mrs. Ashe compiled an impressive line-up of musicians, dancers, and speakers for the assembly. Additionally, the decorations were done by the students themselves, some of which were created by BUCS 4 Life students. This collaborative effort that has been encouraged by Mrs. Ashe demonstrates the importance of unity within a community.

"I believe all assemblies to me are community based," Mrs. Ashe said, "meaning not having just one particular group run the assemblies. I believe in the theme of Together We Are More. I believe in having different classes join in too. Everybody from maintenance to administrators should be involved."

Chef Joe Zazzarino created appetizers before the assembly began with the Buc Band's performance of "Nunca Es Suficiente," by Natalia Lafourcade, and "Let's Get Loud," by Jennifer Lopez. Junior Emily Corona-Cuellar recited a speech about not feeling Hispanic enough due to the judgments of others. Corona-Cuellar emphasizes the importance of taking pride in one's heritage, regardless of color, gender, or roots. Then Senior Sherlyn Jimenez-Luna performed a dance for the audience. Afterwards, the Buccaneer's staff writer, Senior Fabiana Ancheta sang "La Rosa y El Sauce," composed by Carlos Guastavino. The Strings Academy presented "Libertango" composed by Astor Piazzola. RBR welcomed guest speaker RBR alumni 1997 Dolly Hernandez Medina. Medina is the executive director of the Casa Freehold, a non-profit immigrant rights advocacy group. Her words moved students to act in their communities. After Seniors Julian Schwarz and Sophia Kurdes introduced the IB Spanish classes, the students recited Gabriel García Lorca's poem, "Romance de la Luna Luna," which surrounds the death of a little boy whose soul is taken by the kind moon. The music continued with Junior Nico Meza, who performed Vicente Fernández's song, "El Rey," for the audience. Junior Frida Ramirez-Andrade spoke about the legacy of her grandparents in her speech. Next, students took to the stage and showed off their extravagant Cachiporra dance. A cultural marching dance from El Salvador, Cachiporra dancing features baton twirling to high-tempo music, uplifting the spirits of spectators as they watch a lively event unfold before them.

One of the Buccaneer's very own staff writers, Senior Arely Carrillo-Reyes, presented a beautiful speech for the audience. For three years, Carrillo has delivered inspirational messages regarding her roots as a Mexican-American, motivating students and faculty to embrace their heritage while advocating for themselves and others. Her speech, which recognizes the importance of having a safe community for first generation students like the RBR Dreamers, is featured in this issue.

Finally, the Multilingual Learner class concluded the assembly with a group dance to a compilation of modern Latin music, including artists like Bad Bunny. Students jived in their seats as the performers had a blast on stage.

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month, RBR! Here's to another year of celebrating Spanish culture.

Field Hockey

Written by Ella Trieste, edited by Sophia Kurdes

This past Wednesday, the Lady Buccaneers put up a fight against Donovan Catholic for the final goal. The game started with the Buccaneer defense showing up for our school, but as the end of the fourth quarter neared, it seemed that both teams were willing to fight tooth and nail for this goal. Going into the first overtime, the Lady Bucs were determined to be done and go home, but fighting against a good offense proved to the girls that their fight was not over yet.

The first overtime, a ten minute period where both teams have an opportunity to win after a tied game, landed neither team a point, so it was to the second overtime for both teams. The crowd moved to their feet as corners came and went, but it seemed like a goal was nowhere to be seen. Exhaustion swept the players, but they were still determined to fight. After two overtimes, it moved into a shootout with five players from each team each versus the goalie on their own. The Buccaneers got four out of five goals in the first round, and when Donovan missed one out of five goals, it was tied again.

Finally, in the second shootout, the Donovan girls were able to get one more in than the Lady Bucs were, finishing the game with Donovan Catholic taking home the win.

Although it ended in a loss, it was a great game nonetheless. This game was truly a nail-biter for everyone there, and I had the privilege of being able to record the entire game.

As a bonus, I was able to get an interview with Coach McGuire about her team and the great job that they have done throughout the season.

The interview is attached below! Feel free to give it a look!

Q. Which players would you like to shout out this season? Who has gone above and beyond to uplift their team?

1. Shout-outs: Kiersten Cygal (#15) has definitely gone above and beyond. She works so hard on the field.

Q. What game would you say was the best this season?

1. Our best game this season was against either Long Branch or Raritan–both were overtime wins.

Q. Could you name a challenge that the team has faced and overcame together?

1. Replacing our graduated senior with Daniella, who had never played field hockey before. A softball player by background, she stepped up to the plate and has made over 125 saves this year–especially impressive after our move up to the B division!

Q. For your senior athletes, what advice do you have for them in their future endeavors?

1. Work hard, have fun, and enjoy your senior year of high school!

Q. Is there anything that you would like included in the article that has not already been asked in our questions?

1. Next year, we will be gaining several freshmen with prior field hockey experience. Markham Place in Little Silver and Union Beach have both started middle school programs, and having players enter high school with foundational knowledge will be a huge boost for our program’s success.

Thank you so much for reading and good luck to all the seniors, and all the players and the rest of their year. Until next season! To find them on Instagram: **@rbrfieldhockey**

RBR Hosts Eighth Graders: Open House

Written by Maggie Ngo, edited by Avery Pugnetti

On October 15th, RBR staff and students collaborated to host its annual 8th grade open house, welcoming seventh and eighth graders from middle schools across the county. Open house serves as a time for students to explore the school, sports and extracurriculars, and the various academy programs they might be interested in.

One of the main selling points of RBR is its breadth of activities and extracurriculars. In the field house, all of the sports, clubs, and activities have a table used to advertise to potential members. In between or during one of the periods, incoming freshmen are encouraged to peruse the tables, talk to current students, and take inventory of all the opportunities at RBR. In total, 29 sports and 39 clubs and activities were present. When speaking to Mr. Stoia, the director of Athletics and Activities, about what he was proud to show off, he remarked “It’s just really all we have to offer. It doesn’t matter who you are, we have something for everyone. Even now, I go on these run-outs and listen to everyone talk, and I’m even thinking about things for [my own son.]”

What sets RBR apart from other high schools, however, are its array of vigorous academy programs, built to prepare students for future careers. During Open House, students were allowed four fifteen minute periods to attend an “info session” with the advisor of a course to discover what makes the academies appealing. When speaking to Instrumental advisor Mrs. Sarlo, she expressed, “[Open House] gives the students an opportunity to meet the teacher, which is a big selling point for the academies, especially for music.” Especially in a time when the VPA is struggling for applicants, this event is crucial to maintaining this wonderful program that has become one of the staples of RBR.

The opportunities provided by RBR are never-ending, which can be overwhelming for a student, but Open house gives them the opportunity to really understand the various programs and activities offered, preparing them for when application due-dates begin to approach. Good luck to all planning to attend, and we hope to see you next year!

Comic: *“Hey! No Phones!”*

by Ray Pair



All perspectives on NJ cell phone Ban

Written by Luke Sena, edited by Sophia Kurdes



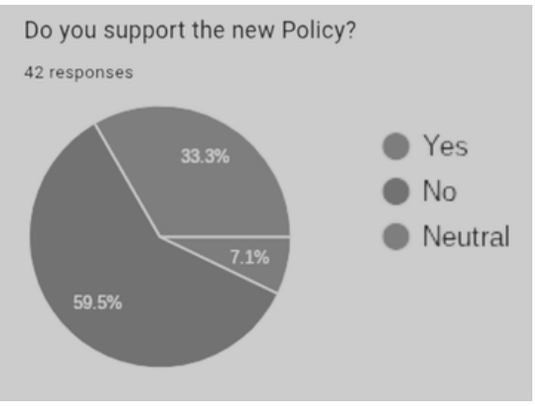
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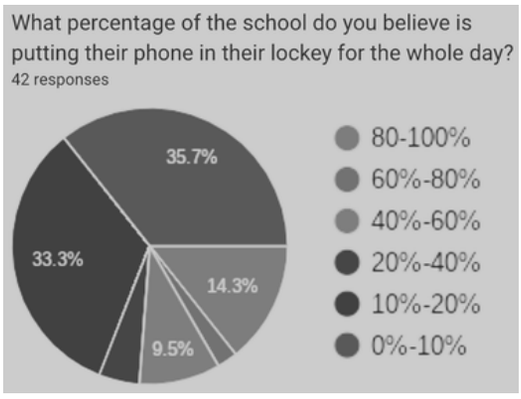
New Jersey's new school cell phone ban promises less distraction, and better learning. But for RBR, questions on safety, how it is enforced, and student sentiment, reveal the gap in legislation and enforcement.

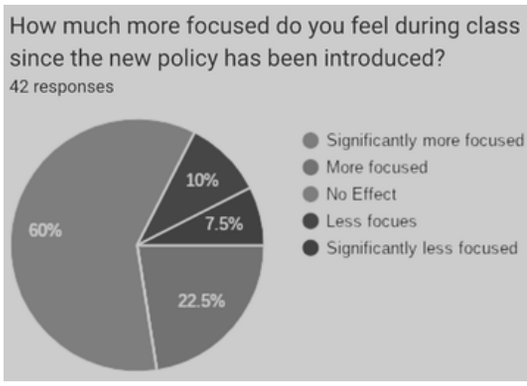
This past January, former Governor Phil Murphy signed into law a cell phone ban in schools. For the 2026-2027 academic year, schools are requiring a bell-to-bell restriction of cellular devices during the school day, affecting all students K-12. This bill is a result of ongoing research into the impact of social media usage on the mental health of children. However, it should be noted that it does not govern how schools enforce the ban and provides exceptions in some cases. In the case of RBR, administrators are cracking down on cell phone usage, mandating that students put their phones in lockers or face consequences. The Buccaneer interviewed teachers, students, lawmakers and supporters behind the bill to get all perspectives.

STUDENTS

Students were surveyed for their opinions on multiple topics on the law and the ways RBR has implemented it. Forty two students responded.







In the final part of the survey, students were asked for open-ended comments and questions. While most students wrote simply about their personal displeasures, about 20% of students aired concerns regarding safety.

“I don't think schools are safe enough to completely ban phones, and I think that while the RBR rule of putting [your phone] in your locker has been effective, I think it's a little overkill,” said one respondent. “I feel students not being able to have their phone can definitely affect their safety in a case of an emergency." Another student mentioned that in the past some classes utilized cell phones for learning, so the ban affects teachers, too.

One Senior described how he was caught with their phone. The student was walking in the hallway with their phone in their pocket when they were stopped by Principal Timpone. His phone was taken until the end of the day and the student had to sign a paper saying he would not do it again. However, the student explained that his locker did not open even after informing a staff member. Although he could’ve left it in his car, he expressed that he didn’t drive that day to school. The student reiterated these issues to faculty, but he was penalized nonetheless. As of this writing their locker remains broken. He is still unable to open it.

Seniors have had an especially drastic change. They have become or are becoming adults, yet they are also having their phones taken away despite nearly four years in school. This has sparked much outrage amongst upperclassmen.

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B.S

SENATORS

SENATOR GOPAL

Senator Gopal serves as the chair of the NJ Senate Education Committee. When asked about his motivation for the bill, Gopal remarked that he's a big believer in the research that demonstrates harmful effects of cell phones in educational settings. In fact, the senator also conducted his own research, which included talking with teachers and school administrators and visiting social media conventions in Washington, D.C. He also referenced the book "The Anxious Generation." He explained the big role social media took into account and how using it in school all day was distracting to students and affected their mental health.

"I think the most dangerous aspect of phones in schools is the social media aspect," said Gopal. He explained that people find themselves like zombies looking at reels on TikTok and other platforms, as well as social media, giving a negative perception of themselves.

I asked Senator Gopal why shift from school to state regulation. He noted that on his visits to other schools, he noticed many students on their cell phones, as well as teachers being the biggest supporters of phone restriction, and thought it necessary to regulate phone usage using state powers. "There is an addiction to screen time not just by kids but also adults" and that this bill could help. The senator noted some post-COVID problems, like young adults not being able to do a job interview, and negative effects on critical thinking. "While there are some real positives of this technology, it does not belong in the classroom."

SENATOR TESTA

"I've seen how electronic devices can distract from learning," Senator Testa stated in an interview with the *Buccaneer*, and how they fuel problems that follow kids into their classrooms. "I'm very pro liberty and certainly pro parent but school needs to be a place where students can focus, learn, and interact face-to-face with each other and their educators."

Senator Testa believes the bill will reduce interruptions and online drama, though he emphasized the need for common sense exceptions to the law. He referenced two-stage authentication as an example where students may need their phones in the classroom for certain learning apps, such as the College Board. When asked for his position on state-wide laws overriding local-level restrictions, he stated that although schools should have a level of flexibility in enforcing the law, students ultimately deserve a classroom where learning is the focus.

"As a parent and (a person) married to an educator, I focused on one question: does this help children learn while keeping them safe? And I believe the bill does," said Testa.

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According to Principal Timpone, about 3 to 4 phones are taken a day. He notes that personal computers have been taken more than phones as the bill bans all non school internet enabled devices. Timpone says that students have done “phenomenal” at staying disconnected, though he acknowledges the ineffectiveness of the locker policy, believing that less than 10% of students use their lockers. Going forward,Timpone says that both him and his staff will reflect on their enforcement of the ban.

A prominent concern amongst students and parents is the possibility of an emergency occurring during the school day. To this, Timpone expressed that it is actually safer if students do not have their phones in the case of an in school emergency, which was recommended by the state. When it comes to emergencies outside of schools, Timpone encourages parents to call the front office as has been done in the past. School staff will work with the parent and their child as they respond to the emergency.

Biology teacher Mrs. Fink is a strong supporter of the bill describing it as a “great thing.” With 22 years of experience at RBR, Mrs. Fink has seen the rise of cell phones over time. She noted that the biggest problem when she started teaching was students sneaking iPods into class to listen to music. Since the bill took effect in RBR, Mrs. Fink has noted an immediate change in student behavior and observes an increase in focus. However, on a school level she believes that the number of students leaving their phones in their locker is close to zero,

“I have not heard one locker slam,” she expressed, but she said students not using the lockers was an okay thing because, “I haven’t noticed any of my students on their phones in class, and it’s more likely that they’re leaving it in their backpacks.”

Mrs. Fink limits her screentime during the day to embrace the spirit of the new law. She challenges more adults to take after the kids and get off their phones.

Fall Recipe

Chosen by Sophia Kurdes

Last issue, we covered Fantastic Mr. Fox for our movie of the month article. Wes Anderson’s fall themed movie features a ton of food in its storytelling techniques, one the most notable being Mrs. Bean’s Nutmeg Ginger Apple Snap cookies. Ever since I first watched the movie ten years ago on Thanksgiving at my grandmother’s house, I’ve always wanted to eat them. While Halloween is around the corner, I implore you to try out this recipe and immerse yourself in the warm atmosphere that autumn creates.

Ingredients:



3 apples (gala preferred, though up to your preference)
2 ⅓ cups of flour
1 ½ tablespoons of ground ginger
2 teaspoons of cinnamon
1 teaspoon of nutmeg
1 teaspoon of baking soda
½ teaspoon of baking powder
⅛ teaspoon of salt
⅛ teaspoon of ground cloves
1 cup of butter
¾ cup of sugar
3 tablespoons of brown sugar
1 egg
1 egg yolk

Steps:

Sift together the floor, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and ground cloves in a bowl.
In a separate bowl, beat the butter on medium speed with a hand mixer until it’s a lighter yellow, then add the sugar and brown sugar. If you don’t own a hand mixer, use a wooden spoon and mash the hell out of it.
After beating the butter for a few minutes, add the egg and egg yolk and mix until fully blended.
Add the flour a little at a time. Don’t add it all in at once!
Chop your apples horizontally, not vertically, in half. Slice them thinly.
Prepare a baking sheet by lining it with parchment paper.
Roll 2 tablespoons worth of dough into a ball and space them 2-3 inches apart.
Push the apple slices into the cookie.
While preheating the oven to 350ºF, chill the cookies in the freezer for 5 minutes.
Bake for 12-14 minutes.
Enjoy!

Porchfest Continues to Rock Red Bank After 5 Years!

Written by Sophia Kurdes and Edison Wedewer

Every year, Red Bank celebrates local music with Porchfest. Musicians from Red Bank and surrounding towns come together to do what they love: perform. On October 3, the fifth annual Porchfest in Red Bank welcomed multiple different bands and musicians. Local musician of over thirty years, Justin Normandy, from the band Trans Charger Metropolis, has been performing at Porchfest for three years. In an interview with Normandy, he stated that his overall experience at the festival has been memorable:

“The hosts have always been very kind and supportive to any musician playing and enjoy having local music in their town. I’ve enjoyed every year playing solo at Porchfest, but continuing in the future, I would love to play with a full band.”

We also spoke to Officially Tardy’s frontman, Peter Rogers, who is also a Senior at Red Bank Regional. OT has performed in several venues over the past five years—Asbury Lanes and The Stone Pony being a few—but Porch Fest holds a special place in Rogers’ heart:

“It was one of my best performances because I could let loose and entertain the audience. After my set, I met with so many different artists and I watched as people enjoyed the event. My band went there for music, but we ended up connecting to others on a whole different level.”

Since the beginning of Porchfest five years ago, it has continued to grow year after year, with 2026 hosting over 150 artists around town with new performers and old ones. In the last three years that I, Edison Wedewer, have been attending Porchfest, I’ve deeply enjoyed every act I’ve seen. Witnessing musicians in their element is a beautiful thing. Seeing their faces light up with excitement and nervousness will always make a performance memorable.

And for me, Sophia Kurdes, I had an awesome time meeting people of all gender, races, and beliefs. Everyone was united under the goal of celebrating music and Red Bank’s community. Although this year was my first time attending, I’ll be sure to return from whichever college I go to and see what Porch Fest 2027 will have to offer.

Porchfest brings a community together; it brings Red Bank together, and every year we, as a town, continue to expand on a wonderful idea that allows music to reach anyone. Whether you're walking around downtown or just driving around, stop by the next Porchfest and see amazing musicians play.

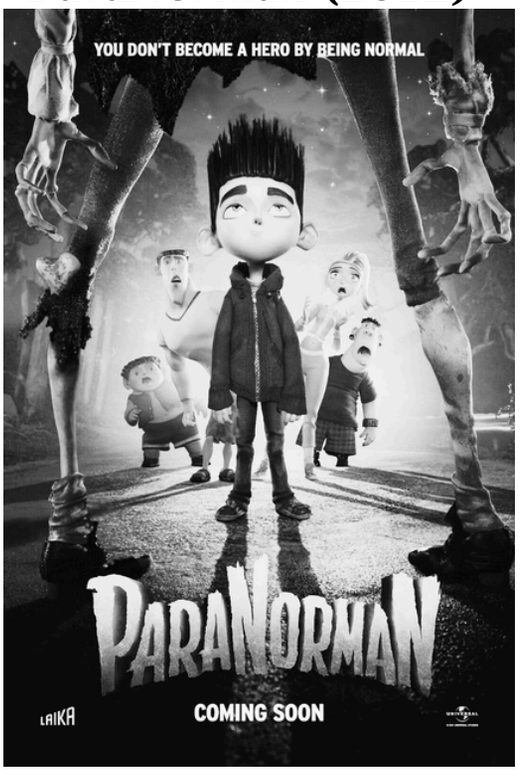
Movie of The Month (Fall Edition)

Written by Phoebe Rubinstein

I thought long and hard about what movie perfectly encapsulates both the lighthearted and creepy spirit of Halloween. This film needed to include some of the essential elements of the season like witches, ghosts, and zombies. But, I also wanted it to have a nostalgic charm that would draw in both new and returning audiences. That being said, I took a trip down memory lane and found the perfect mix of fun and frightening. A bonus to this movie is the impressive stop-motion animation, an artform that I absolutely love.

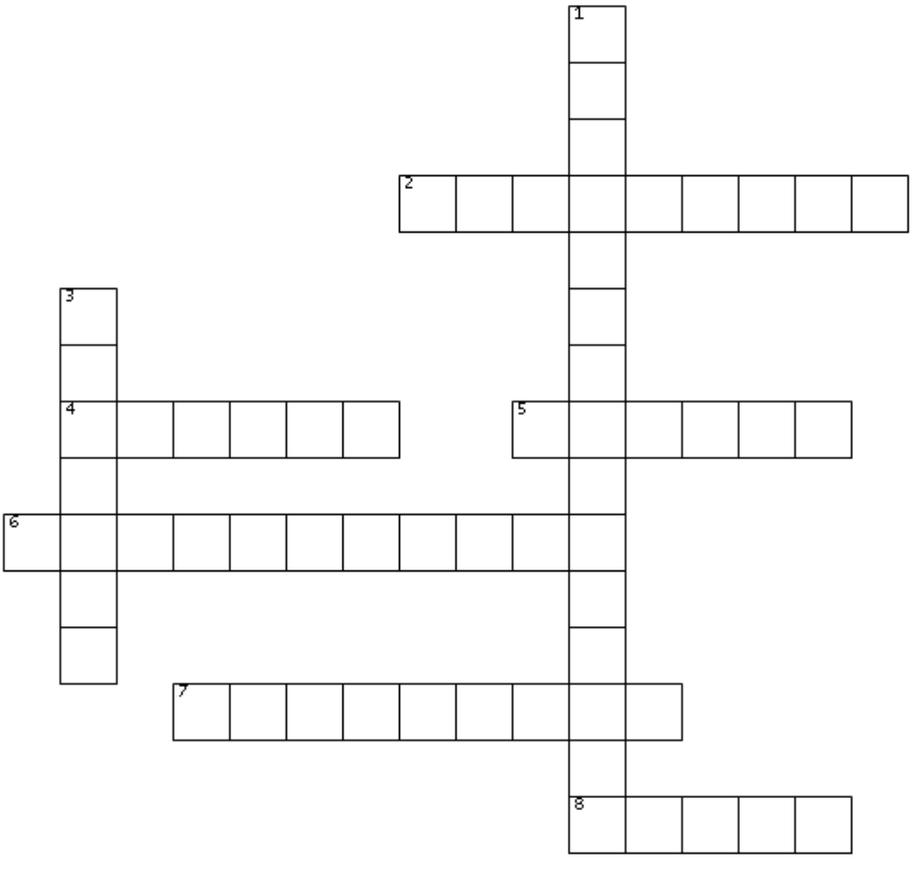
Without further ado, our choice for this month is:

ParaNorman (2012)



Crossword: 2026 Popular Halloween Costumes!

by Phoebe Rubinstein



ACROSS

2. Friendly neighborhood wall-crawler

4. Stress-relief squishy shaped like a cube

5. "Hey, it's me! It's _____! Ask me anything!"

6. Legendary country music star who passed away recently

7. Name of the Mystery Gang's dog

8. Recent scream-queen from successful indie-horror movie

DOWN

1. New horror movie mascot, based on a beloved magical creature

3. The little banana-loving henchman from Despicable Me

Boys Soccer Make Fairy Tale Comeback to Win 7-2

Written by Oliver Tiro-Linares

On October 10, 2026, Red Bank Regional took on Ewing High School at Buccaneer Stadium. Coming into the match, the Bucs were determined to get a result after losing 2 consecutive games. The team's consensus in the locker room was clear, bouncing back and proving what they were capable of.

Despite their determination, things did not seem to go as planned in the first half. Ewing's Nick Tackacs scored in the first two minutes of the game. The Bucs responded with a goal from freshman Tyler Salvo in the sixteenth minute but were silenced with a late goal in the first half from Nick Tackacs yet again.

Although the Bucs were down on the scoreboard, they picked their heads up and looked to make a change in the second half. The team knew what the game meant for their season, and they came out with more energy and better communication while also fixing tactical mistakes.



These adjustments, combined with the passion from all of the players, made a huge difference in the second half. After only scoring one goal in the first half, the Bucs went on to score six goals in the second half in dominating fashion. The goals came from Alex Perez (two), Tyler Salvo (one), Connor Roseland (one), Erick Lopez-Ramos (one), and Eliel Tlapa (one).

The Bucs knew it wouldn’t be an easy task, but that only added to the pride they felt after not giving up and coming on top. Players described the feeling after the win as “unmatched” and were ecstatic with the way the game turned around. The significance of the victory came from the resilience, passion, and excellence that the Bucs displayed on the field. This game cemented what it truly means to be a Buccaneer. Its place in the hearts of the boys soccer team can be summed up by the words of junior center back Jason Ramirez, "The moments we live for.”

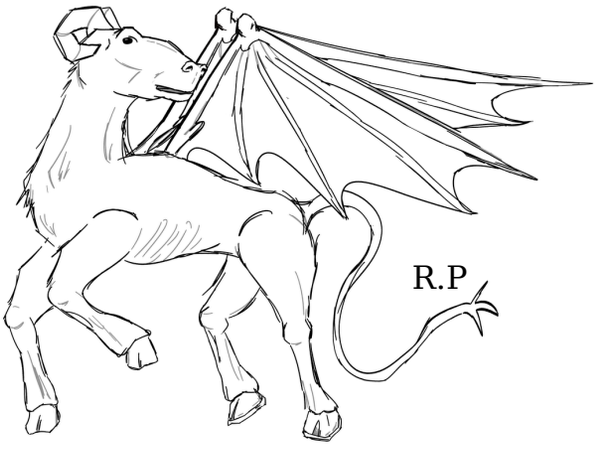
Make sure to support your boys soccer team at their next game against Shore Regional!

Folkloric Legends: New Jersey & Hispanic Legends

Written by Fabiana Ancheta and Charlie Soden

New Jersey is a place full of whimsy and stories. As you may know, Halloween is around the corner, so we've decided to bring you some stories to keep you in this spooky mood… Beware, you may get really scared.

The Jersey Devil: The legend of the Jersey Devil is based in the 18th century. A woman known as Mother Leeds already had twelve children, and exhausted from childbearing she cursed her thirteenth child and cried out. “Let it be the Devil.” That day, the child was born normally, but after a couple minutes it started mutating into a grotesque sinister monster: the head of a horse, the body of a kangaroo, large leathery bat-like wings, and a long thick tail. It is said that the figure flew out of a window and was never seen again. Until some sightings were reported between January 16-23, 1909. It started with mysterious unidentifiable hoofprints and ended with bounties and rewards for the capture of the monster. Still, nothing was done, and the Devil still roams around the Pine Barrens forest.



The Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital: Opened in 1931 in Marlboro, New Jersey, the buildings of the psychiatric facility were connected by tunnels, which many patients used to commit suicide. Once closed, the structure remained abandoned until demolished in 2015. During that time, the hospital was labeled as haunted, which led to many stories related to the place. The real horrors were the decades of understaffing, patient abuse, suicides, and systemic corruption. However, according to one of the most famous legends, the place where the facility was built was previously a slaughterhouse and a cattle farm, supposedly the farmer went insane after losing his land and was later admitted in the facility. Eventually escaping, patients often reported hearing sounds of pigs squeaking and cows mooing. The location is now being used to build a recreational park, and who knows, maybe it's still haunted to this day.

Captain Kidd: Captain William Kidd, a Scottish privateer gruesomely hanged in East London, 1701, is the center of an old northeastern U.S. tale. Kidd, convicted of one count of premeditated murder and five counts of piracy, was called before Parliament twice. He showed up drunk to his execution and during his execution he was hung several times as the rope broke with each attempt. Afterwards, he was covered in tar and chained from a gibbet. Captain Kidd also was originally hired to hunt pirates, accidentally killed his gunner during an argument, and targeted a vessel unknowing that it was protected by British allies and the East India Company.

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For these reasons Captain Kidd is often thought of as the unluckiest pirate in history. Captain Kidd is also believed by some to have buried treasure in the northeastern U.S. Some speculate he might've cursed and buried his treasure around Toms River and Cape May. His legend not only includes treasure but headless ghosts and guardian specters spotted across the Jersey Shore and Pine Barrens. Stories suggest Kidd sailed into the dunes of Brigantine, buried a cursed chest of plundered gold, and murdered his crewmate right on top of it so his crewmate's spirit would guard the treasure forever.



Movie Review: Buddy

Written by Brynn Failla



Do you have a friend named Buddy? Recently, I watched the new horror movie Buddy which is a horror-comedy film directed by Casper Kelly. It premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on January 22, 2026 and came into theaters August 28. 2026. After about 2 months, it came onto streaming platforms as of October 13, 2026. The main cast includes: Keegan-Michael Key as Buddy the Unicorn, Cristin Milioti as Grace, Delaney Quinn as Freddy, along with other key supporting characters. Overall, I did like this movie as it was a horror-comedy but I felt as though it was very campy which is technically how it’s supposed to be due to how similar it is to Barney the Dinosaur.

Buddy is about a group of kids a part of a 1990’s styled Children Show called It’s Buddy! which is hosted by Buddy, a bright orange unicorn. The main children are Freddy, Wade, Josh, Hannah who have no memory of their life before meeting Buddy and as each ‘episode’ ends weirder things continue to happen involving Buddy. Freddy notices that one of the kids, Nurse Nancy, the mailbox, and the mailman all disappeared and died, which is when all the children try escaping out of the playground and to diamond city. Throughout the movie, Buddy is basically going on a killing spree trying to get the kids back to the play area so that they can sing him a song and the episode would end resetting everything.

Furthermore, towards the middle of the movie it cuts to the actual real world instead of looking through a television esc boxed-out screen and it shows a family of 4 where the mom starts having lingering thoughts that she had three kids and not 2 yet, there was no evidence of a third. As she is having this intuition she sees the It’s Buddy show on her television and Buddy ends up luring her towards the show and he grabs her into the dimension where she ends up becoming Nurse Grace. Nurse Grace ended up realizing that Freddy was her missing child and, the rest of the movie is the kids along with Nurse Grace trying to find a way out of the tv dimension to escape Buddy.

Overall, the acting in this movie was really good and so was the cinematography. It was really cool the way the movie was playing in the form of a square versus full screen like how most shows and movies are. This was only for certain parts of the movie where they were actually in the playground show set and whenever they were outside of that it was regular full screen. At one point the movie shows a bunch of glitches that show hints of the actual world to the dimension which I thought was a very cool feature. Overall, I really enjoyed watching Buddy and I really recommend it if you're not into horror movies with a lot of jumpscares or actual gore: yes there was blood but it wasn’t a lot compared to Terrifier for example. I wouldn’t recommend it to little kids obviously but I feel like if a kid was scrolling through Netflix or something they might think that it’s just a regular childrens movie without looking at the details due to what the cover and the title of the movie looks like. There were fresh actors because as of lately it’s honestly just the same rotation over and over, the acting was good, and it is definitely different from other slasher films however, I definitely like other horror movies I’ve seen over this one.

Coyote vs. Acme Review!

Written by Ella Trieste

When I went to see *Coyote Vs Acme,* I'm not sure what I was expecting. But when I left the theater, I felt absolutely enlightened and that I had watched something I felt was actually deeply loved by its creators and the people behind it longed for its success.

Coyote Vs Acme is a movie about the Looney Tunes character, Wile E. Coyote, taking the corporation, Acme, to court after being failed too many times by their products, using a billboard lawyer specializing in cartoon character accidents. In the real world, big companies have always tried to stamp out every negative claim of their products and make sure they remain on the top of the food chain, but this movie brings a sense of hope to an ever-turning and ever-changing world. Foghorn Leghorn, the corrupt, brutal, and ruthless CEO of Acme, serves as quite the example. His arrogance and pride for his company drives him to being apathetic to the deep-rooted problems within the ACME corporation that drive the entire lawsuit.

This movie sat on the Warner Brothers shelves for a long time, originally for a 30 million dollar tax write off, but when controversies arose on social media, they realized it was time to give this movie a shot. This idea was originally introduced in The New Yorker way back in 1990 by Ian Frazier, centering around the possibility of a story about Wile E. Coyote suing Acme. Skip ahead to 2015, James Gunn had just produced Guardians of the Galaxy and now had the power to pitch any idea he saw fit, and the "Coyote Vs Acme" article seemed to be his next big hit. Development didn't start for another three years, starting in August of 2018, but once production began, it seemed that all hell broke loose.

Warner Brothers brought on Dave Green as director and soon after found their writer, Samy Burch. Filming of the movie started in March of 2022, wrapping up in May of that same year. Warner Bros. originally was set to release the film in July of 2023, but with the release of Barbie, it seemed that Coyote Vs Acme wasn't exactly the main focus anymore.

Then, the devastating news broke out that Warner Bros decided against releasing the film to use as a $30 million tax write-off. Disappointment was a common theme among the filmmakers. After the immense heartbreak about the potential loss, Warner Bros. announced that the film was going to be shopped to other distributors, instead of throwing the idea away forever. In March of 2025, Ketchup Entertainment bought the rights to the film for a whopping $50 million and announced the film's debut in July 2026, with the actual release being the 28th of August, 2026. The film released and now stands at 96% on Rotten Tomatoes.

While the movie had an overwhelming amount of strengths and aspects I enjoyed a lot, I did have a few gripes with the film that seem to be unanimous among watchers. One of these criticisms is the change of the Roadrunner's classic "meep meep" to "beep beep". In the older cartoons, the Roadrunner was unable to make a "beep beep" sound, so it would always come out as "meep meep" which is extremely iconic. When the filmmakers changed this about his character, it took some part of the nostalgia of the cartoons away from viewers which can be a real strength in movies like this, if done correctly. But unfortunately in this movie, that change did not land with a lot of viewers, myself included.

The small details in this movie really stand out. For example, there is a running gag in the film that Wile E. Coyote only has a certain amount of signs that he uses to express his emotions or what he would've said in a certain situation, which brings a certain amount of charm and attitude that further adds to his character. Another example, that might not be a small detail, is the fact that the lawyer and Wile E. Coyote knew there was a chance that they might not succeed in the face of a massive corporation, like ACME.

This really makes the audience feel like these characters truly know what they're getting into and are okay with knowing that they might lose, but they know that they tried.

If there is one thing that we as a society should take away from this movie is one thing: you may fail, you may be laughed at, you might lose things, but at least you can say you tried. This movie was truly one of my favorites I have ever seen and I strongly encourage anyone to watch.

October Book Recommendation

Written by Edison Wedewer, edited by Phoebe Rubinstein

If you're looking for a horror read this Halloween season, Stephen King has it. As we get closer to the end of October, we all need a good scare and an immersive world that can frighten us. Stephen King's Carrie delivers that scare factor.

His debut novel, set in Maine–as most of King's books are–follows Carrie White, a sixteen-year-old high school outcast. Carrie endures bullying, her mother Margaret's abusive and religious household, and an unknown power she has discovered. However, through supernatural powers and isolation, the themes of Stephen King's novel dig deeper than just horror. He explains the hardships of teenage life combined with the feelings of embarrassment and self-hatred that can all come with growing up in harmful environments. Throughout the book, we follow Carrie and these traumatizing events as Stephen King writes in detail conveyed by mixed media with scientific reports, documents, newspaper articles, and narrators about Carrie's life to encourage the reader to empathize with her. Imagine if you had a mother who blocked you from the entire world and only subjected you to her religious views. Because of that blockage, Carrie knows very little about the real world, which plays a major role in the book.

I know most of you will read this book recommendation and say, "Oh well, I can watch the TV show or movie". But, I strongly encourage you to read the book first. I urge you to immerse yourself in Carrie's world: understand her struggles and livelihood, compare yourself to her, see the similarities and differences between our world and hers. And, after you read the book, ask yourself this: "What would happen if I gained a supernatural power?" Would you act like Carrie? Or, could you handle the situation more easily? All of Stephen King's horror books are amazing reads, but Carrie stands out. If you are a fan of anything supernatural, I highly recommend reading Carrie this spooky season.

Connections

by Phoebe Rubinstein

ELM	SCALLIONS	VOWEL	JOKER
BROTH	SCARECROW	SPORTSWEAR	COMPROMISE
KING TUT	EGG	WALL	SESAME
LOATHE	BANE	BROAD	NOODLES



Halloween Playlist!

by Arely Carrillo-Reyes and Fabiana Ancheta

Tomorrow's Taken — Mojave 3
Show Me How — Men I trust
Venus As a Boy — Björk
Bored - Laufey
All I Need — Air & Beth Hirsch
I Wear Your Rings — Cocteau Twins
Diagonals — Stereolab
Honeydew blue — 800 Cherries
Better Things — Massive Attack
Mad World — Tears For Fears
Moving — Kate Bush
Season of the witch — Lana del Rey
Transylvanian Concubine — Rasputina
Mysterons — Portishead
Witches — Alice Phoebe Lou



Scan for easy listening at home!

Hispanic Heritage Speech

Written and Performed by Arely Carrillo-Reyes

For the third year in a row, Arely Carrillo-Reyes took the stage at the Hispanic Heritage Assembly to reflect on her Hispanic heritage and community. We've printed her inspiring speech below for you to read and experience it again.

Two weeks ago I was staring at my three shirts to wear at the open house, one with an honor society that I love, the other with a generic buc logo and the third? The RBR dreamers shirt that has hardly made an appearance in my school wardrobe.
I don't really know why I hesitated, if anything it really wasn't a competition. Maybe, somewhere in the back of my mind, I was thinking about what it meant to wear it openly. Because wearing that shirt wasn't just wearing a club logo. It meant wearing a part of myself and representing a community that I care deeply about, a community that has become increasingly difficult to separate from the conversations happening around us.
We can't talk about Hispanic Heritage Month without acknowledging the headlines. ICE raids and family separations have left many families, including some sitting in these seats, afraid of what an ordinary day might bring. No student should have to worry about a parent not coming home, hide their language, or feel ashamed of their family's story. And no one should have to face those fears alone.

That's why having a space like the RBR Dreamers is important. It's not just a club that meets after school, but it's become a place where people can show up as themselves. Where we can celebrate our culture without having to explain why it's worth celebrating and where we can talk about difficult things, support one another, and remind each other that there is so much more to our stories than what people assume about us.

I think sometimes we get so caught up in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month that we forget what it means to carry our heritage with us for the other eleven months of the year. Our culture doesn't disappear when October ends or the challenges our communities face. And neither should our willingness to stand beside one another.
Because my culture, my heritage, and my language have never been something to fear. They have always been the source of my strength.
Our strength.

And if there's one thing I want people to take away from this, it's that we shouldn't have to wait for Hispanic Heritage Month to celebrate who we are. We shouldn't have to wait for something terrible like last Friday to happen to stand beside our neighbors. And we shouldn't have to wait until someone feels alone to remind them that they belong.
We have the power to make people feel welcome now. To listen now. To show up for one another now.

Because our stories deserve to be heard, our families deserve to be treated with dignity, and our culture deserves to be celebrated.

Not just today. Not just this month. Always.

And I think that's what I want to remember the next time I reach for that Dreamers shirt in my closet. That being proud of who I am shouldn't be something I hesitate over.

Viva la raza.
Long live the people.

Mini Jack-o-lantern Craft for Squirrels!

Written by Jazmin Whitmyer

This year celebrates Halloween with the small creatures in our ecosystem with this simple 5 minute craft! A super easy way to be festive is to make a mini jack-o-lantern using an orange and fill it with treats for squirrels. Squirrels are not only adorable but also very important to the environment since they are basically little gardeners. They literally plant trees and flowers! Since squirrels eat their seeds then hide their food by burying it in soil! They also keep the soil healthy enough to grow plants at all because they spread fungi from the mushrooms they eat which simultaneously spreads the micro-organisms that the soil needs to survive. And this craft doesn't just help squirrels out, many creatures we need also share parts of their diet with squirrels.

Here are the steps!

1. Cut the top of an orange off with a kitchen knife
2. Remove the fruit with a spoon
3. Carve a face into the peel (be careful not to make any holes too big so nothing falls out)
4. *(Optional)* Poke a hole on opposite sides of the orange, thread a thin rope through the hole, and tie off both sides. This lets the squirrels pick it up!
5. Fill the mini jack-o-lantern with bird feed or pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, roasted peanuts, pecans, and chopped apple. Make sure whatever you give them has no salt or seasonings. Squirrels are scavengers and eat many things so there are many other options but make sure to avoid almonds, cashews, and corn because they can prevent proper nutrition and even grow invisible mold that harms them.







WonderStories: RBR's VPA is Promoting Literacy

Written by Phoebe Rubinstein and Brody Barry

For the past six years, the Creative Writing and Studio Art majors at Red Bank Regional High School have been creating short stories for children across the world. For many of the children, it is their first book. Both Creative Writers and Studio Art students work together effectively with the goal of spreading literacy and the power of imagination.

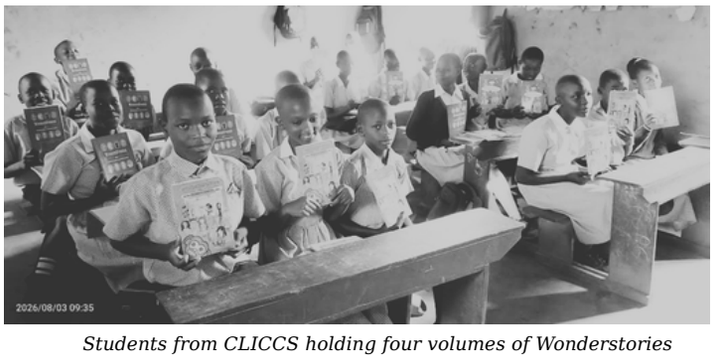
WonderStories volumes 1-5 were sent to the *Purewish Foundation* and the *Curtin Child Learning Center* (*CLICCs*). Both organizations prioritize spreading educational resources to youth in Uganda. Many of the children are faced with challenges that prohibit them from accessing education. Overcrowded classes, insufficient infrastructure, and a lack of supplies are all problems *Purewish* and *CLICCs* want to combat.

Heather Mistretta, founder of WAGE (Women & Girls' Education International), connected the majors with the foundations to help make this collaboration possible.

The goal of both foundations is to provide safe, fun environments for children to learn and grow. Purewish spreads its outreach to support women and families, while CLICCs focuses on injustice committed against children in order to better their educational experience.



Students from Purewish Foundation holding four volumes of Wonderstories



Students from CLICCS holding four volumes of Wonderstories

Both groups shared kind words about the impact WonderStories have on the children that receive them.

"For many of our pupils, these are the very first reading books they have ever held in their hands. Until now, our school had never received a donation of storybooks or reading materials. Watching the children eagerly turn the pages, read aloud to one another, and discover new stories has been an emotional and inspiring experience for all of us. Your gift has brought more than books—it has opened a door to imagination, literacy, confidence, and hope." - Purewish Foundation

"Our School Community & I are forever Indebted to such support. These books will give us a mileage towards eradicating illiteracy & improve on reading skills set amongst our Pupils" - CLICCs

Each year, the freshmen Creative Writers collaborate with Studio Art majors by making children's books in small groups. Each writer creates a short story aimed at younger audiences, designed to teach morals and vital life lessons. Writers are then paired with one or more of the art majors to bring their words to life. There are currently five volumes of these anthologies, titled WonderStories, and the sixth volume is currently in production.

Donate to Purewish Foundation

Donate to CLICCS

HALLOWEEN COLORING







MEET THE BUCCANEER STUDENT NEWSPAPER STAFF

Faculty Advisor
Meaghan McDavitt

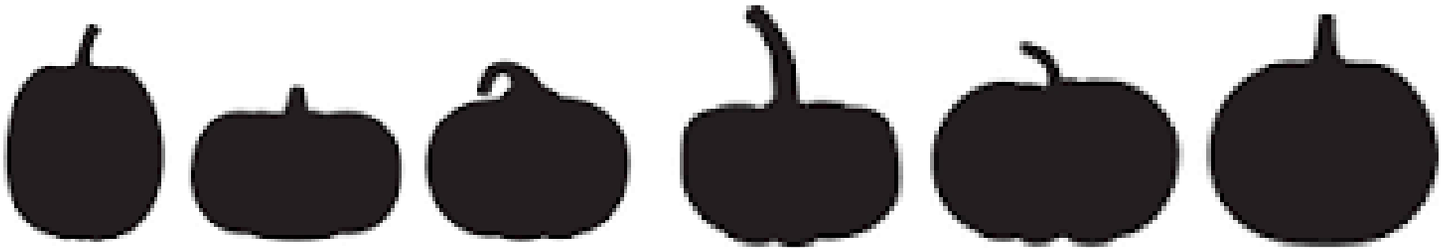
Editor in Chief
Sophia Kurdes

Editor of Pop Culture & Puzzlemaster
Phoebe Rubinstein

Director of In-School Affairs
Maggie Ngo

Art Director and Layout Advisor
Ray Pair

Staff Writers
Peyton Afanador, Fabiana Ancheta, Arely Carrillo-Reyes, Rosie Conway, Brynn Failla, Marie Fazio, Molly Flynn, Ryan Garcia-Clara, Sarah Pair, Katelynn Parker, Avery Pugnetti, Bren Schlupp, Luke Sena, Charlie Soden, Oliver Tiro-Linares, Ella Trieste, Jazmin Whitmyer



Flip to reveal puzzle answers!

CROSSWORD ANSWERS:
ACROSS
2. Spider-Man
4.NeeDoh
5. Verity
6. Dolly Parton
7. Scooby-Doo
8. Nikki (From Obsession)
DOWN
1. Buddy The Unicorn
3. Minions

CONNECTIONS ANSWERS
Noodles, Broth, Egg, Scallions →
INGREDIENTS FOR RAMEN
Joker, Scarecrow, Bane, King Tut →
BATMAN VILLAINS
Elm, Sesame, Wall, Broad → _____
STREET
Loathe, Compromise, Vowel,
Sportswear → **WORDS**
CONTAINING A SYNONYM FOR
COMMITMENT

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