

THE ADVOCATE

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Jonathan Law High School

Milford, CT

Free

Simmons Victorious At Mr. JLHS Show

Anisha Manglani
News Editor

Though nine brave young men fought valiantly for the title of Mr. Jonathan Law, the crown could only belong to one.

The audience exploded into cheers during the seventh annual Mr. Jonathan Law pageant when senior **Matt Simmons** was crowned the winner and juniors **Jake Miller** and **Ryan Siddall** were crowned runners-up.

To spice up the show this year, the Keyettes reeled in special entertainment.

Not only did last year's Mr. Jonathan Law, senior **Stephen Gonza**, return to perform an original song, but Law science teacher and avid fisherman **Mr. Morazzini** also debuted a rap song.

"The boys seemed to pick up the dance really quickly," said advisor **Mrs. Jackle**, regarding the improvement of this year's show in comparison to last year's.

"Also, any of the audio glitches we have had in some years were not present."

This year, the Keyettes raised \$900 and will donate the proceeds towards scholarships



Senior Matt Simmons was crowned this year's Mr. JLHS. (photo by Anisha Manglani)

for Jonathan Law.

"I think each individual had a really unique talent, and some were really well thought out," said senior co-president **Isamar Mejia**. "I had no idea the guys were so creative!"

For his talent, Simmons performed the award-winning dance to a medley of songs including "Can't Touch This" by MC Hammer and "Baby Got

Back" by Sir Mix A Lot.

"My advice for next year's contestants would be to think of a talent that no one at Jonathan Law has ever [performed]," said Simmons. "Don't be afraid to make a fool of yourself, because it's what most people do anyway."

To win second place, Miller presented a stand-up comedy act as his talent.

"My favorite part of rehearsals was having a laugh and a great time with all the guys," said Miller.

Miller will continue his stand-up comedy career at the Key Club Convention and at the junior class' annual fashion show.

Siddall impersonated **Mr. Thompson's** famous Sunday night phone calls and was

awarded third place.

"I would encourage everyone to participate because, win or lose, it's the experience that counts," said Siddall.

Seniors **Raymond Cruz**, **Sean Davis**, and **Zack Toto** exhibited their musical inclinations during their individual performances.

Cruz sang "Over the Rainbow" while seniors **Najee Smith**, **Jocelyn Gryzwacz**, and **Carissa Benoit** acted as hula dancers behind him.

Semifinalist Davis sang with junior **Kira Topalian**, and Toto compiled a song of nursery rhymes.

Senior **Ryan Bannon** displayed his knack for motivational speaking.

Senior **Ryan Dennis** demonstrated his "best impression of Ryan Dennis."

Senior **Tristan Walker** showed off his skills on the guitar.

All of the students in attendance had a blast watching this year's group of entrants compete.

"I really enjoyed it and I can't wait for next year's Mr. Jonathan Law show," said freshman **Saniya Mumtaz**.

Morazzini Finds Success In 'Fish Rap' Career

Julia Maurer
Staff Reporter

It's making a splash on YouTube and iTunes.

The fishing world is hooked on **Mr. Morazzini's** rap and hip hop music.

"He's a serious angler, serious environmental advocate, serious school teacher and serious hip hop artist," said professional bass fisherman and Bassmaster Classic Champion **Michael Iaconelli**.

In an attempt to spread the sport of fishing, Iaconelli supports Morazzini's side career as a fishing hip hop artist. Since the general hip hop community does not usually know much about fishing, Morazzini's music will expose them to the sport in hopes of increasing the num-

ber of fishermen in the country.

Aside from the Jonathan Law stage, Morazzini is experiencing success elsewhere for his rapping talents.

Since having produced the album "Angler Talk," he made four new singles sold on iTunes: "I Can't Stop," "Going Ike," "The Fight," and "Never Give Up."

"I sell a decent amount of songs a week on iTunes," said Morazzini. "I sell anywhere from 50 to 90 songs a week, which is awesome."

Bassmaster, a professional fishing sponsor, works with Morazzini to create songs like "Pro Shop," a parody of "Thrift Shop," by Macklemore. This new song was performed by Morazzini himself at Mr. JLHS

on March 28.

Bassmaster is trying to get legal permission to make "Pro Shop" downloadable on iTunes in order to donate the profits to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Morazzini also produced the song "Going Ike" for the theme song of Iaconelli's future show "Going Ike."

The show is still looking for a network to air on.

"My goal is to have my music on a popular fishing show," said Morazzini. "I think my music is fun and high energy music that would go well on a lot of the fishing shows I see."

With the probable future success of the show "Going Ike," Morazzini's goal can be achieved.

Morazzini first started lis-



Mr. Morazzini and Bassmaster Champion Mike Iaconelli have teamed up on several rap songs. (photo courtesy iTunes.com)

tening to rap in high school when the rhymes and poetry aspect of the art started appealing to him.

"I didn't want to just listen to it, I wanted to do it," said Morazzini.

The song that started his rapping career was about his new aluminum boat and all the fish he would catch in it. Obsessed with fishing as a child, the love is still reflected in every song he raps.

His newer song "Never

Give Up," which is inspired by Iaconelli's success as a professional angler, stands to show that early interests can turn into something real. Morazzini demonstrates that mere hobbies in high school can produce the level of accomplishment he has already achieved and more.

"I'm really proud of what Mike's doing, and I'm proud that I could contribute in some small way," said Iaconelli.

(Some information courtesy bassmaster.com)

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE

APRIL 2013

Opinion Section - Page 2

News Section - Pages 3-6

Entertainment Section - Pages 7-12

Columns Section - Pages 13-15

Sports Section - Pages 16-20



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Jonathan Law High School Mission Statement

Jonathan Law High School is a community that exists to maximize the intellectual, the social, and the emotional growth of each student in a safe, stable, supportive environment. We believe that a positive, collaborative atmosphere fosters high expectations and recognizes individual differences. In partnership with students, parents, and the community, we are committed to developing the skills necessary for educational, career, and life choices.

THE ADVOCATE

ONLINE EDITION



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AP Classes Bring Unnecessary Stress

Bhavani Jaladanki
Editorial Editor

It is that time of year again. AP tests are just around the corner and students are already freaking out.

Those two weeks of AP testing are torture for many of Law's students. Some students may have to take up to two tests a day, which can lead to a total of about six hours of testing.

Also, it is spring time, meaning there are tons of spring sports going on. This means that some students may have games and practices on days of AP testing that they must attend.

This is all nothing but extreme stress and pressure on students.

Some students, for example, may have six hours of AP testing with absolutely no break for lunch except for a quick snack break.

This is the situation facing tons of students around the country early next month. AP tests are ridiculously long and they cause nothing but stress. Students spend the whole school year studying for one test.

If they don't do well for approximately three hours, many feel as if they have wasted their whole school year.

At Choate, a private school in Connecticut, the testing coordinator commented on how "approximately 765 AP" were given in 2011, which is "slightly lower than the 816" given the year before.

The pressure of AP tests is so much that kids, even hardworking and intelligent

kids from Choate, are dropping out of AP tests.

Much has been written about the past few years about the course load of AP classes and whether or not these classes, in the long run, are hurting students more than they are helping them.

"The AP pile-on is helping turn the teenage years into a rat race where learning becomes a calculated means to an end rather than a chance for in-depth investigation," wrote the New York Time education reporter, Joe Berger in his article "Demoting Advanced Placement."

Berger's argument is a good one. Stress from trying to get a four or five on the AP tests deteriorates students in the long run. AP classes have gotten so intense that Choate's competitor, Philips Exeter Academy, stated on its website that it does not offer AP courses at all anymore.

If schools like Choate, that are known for their academic rigor, are getting rid of AP testing, why can't all schools in the United States do the same? Why wouldn't they?

The odds that educators and the College Board will get rid of AP's are next to impossible, because these academic tests have built up prestige and have become a barometer to compare high school students and a way for high school students to earn college credit.

The truth is, though, that AP tests should not weighted as heavily as they are. The stresses that come with these tests far outweigh their academic merit.

(Some information courtesy thenews.choate.edu)

Law Schools Right In Helping Students Reduce Loans

Bhavani Jaladanki
Editorial Editor

The field of law is a very important and beneficial field, considering that law is what teaches us right from wrong. Therefore, one would think that there would be a lot of people who would want to major in this crucial field, but that is not exactly true today.

The high cost of tuition and the large number of years required to go to law school in order to get a degree, is the reason many students are backing out of going to law school.

Tuition costs more than \$40,000 a year even though 47% of schools have increased the amount of financial aid they offer during the year of 2012-2013.

Most law schools require students to attend for three years in order to obtain a degree, which amounts to more than \$120,000 for those three years.

Considering that the job market is dwindling and leaving no jobs at law firms, it is not even worth it to spend so much money for a job position that may never open up.

Fortunately, in order to help law students cut down on loans and debts, states such as New York are working to cut out a year of law school.

States are proposing an amendment to allow students to take the state bar exam a year earlier if they want.

This way, students won't have to pay another \$40,000 for the third year, which most

consider to be useless and boring anyway.

The third year is so unnecessary in many cases that class attendance drops rapidly.

With the new proposal, students can opt to study a third year, which will consist of internships and job experiences so that students can train for real world work situations instead of wasting time and money in a classroom for a third year.

Those that don't have money can just go to school for two years and head straight out to the work field to find a job, if there are any.

Even if they don't find a job, at least they don't have another \$40,000 to pay in student debts.

Money does not grow on

trees, and all of those who are in college or about to go to college know exactly what it is like to pay thousands and thousands of dollars every year.

Learning should never be costing so much money, but there is nothing we can do but accept it.

At least with these new amendments, the cost of learning will reduce, and students won't have to spend years after college spending time paying all debts.

An ideal situation would be if college tuition would reduce for all majors, easing the lives of many students around the country.

(Some information courtesy ABA Journal, Law News Now)

The high cost of tuition and the large number of years required to go to law school in order to get a degree are the reasons many students are backing out of going to law school. Tuition costs more than \$40,000 a year even though 47% of schools have increased the aid that they offer.

Students Defeat Faculty In Basketball Game

Meaghan Sollitto

Staff Reporter

The Jonathan Law Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game was a huge success.

The game was held on Tuesday April 2, at 7:00 pm. The game was organized as a fundraiser for Law's junior prom/post prom.

All of the door proceeds went to offset the cost of Law's post-prom. In all, the event made approximately \$1,000.

All of the bake sale and raffle ticket money went to the prom itself. That amount totaled over \$200.

The game was originally supposed to be held in March, with the Law faculty playing the Foran faculty.

Unfortunately the game had to be cancelled, but it was rescheduled to make sure post-prom's still had a fundraiser.

"When Foran cancelled, we really wanted to make sure that post prom could still receive all of the ticket money," junior class advisor **Miss Burns** said. "So we decided to just make the game Law faculty against Law students like they've done in the past."

The student team consisted of: seniors **Ivan Montanez, Daron Britt, Zack Toto, Eli**



The students beat the faculty in the game that was held April 2. (photo courtesy Maren Sanchez)

Woodbury, Trevor Curry and Chris Burnham, and juniors **Ryan Siddall, Kira Topalian, Danielle Nantel, Brandon Williams, Kevin Wall, Louis Birks, Marquise Reid and Trace Malone**.

The team was coached by seniors **Liam Rice, Ray Cruz and Mr. Cavanna**.

The faculty team consisted of **Mr. Young, Mr. Dooley, Matt Bindner, Joe Landini, Mr. Hoggatt, Ms. Loch, Miss Paolini, Miss Burns, Mr.**

DiGoia, Mr. Zuraw and Mr. Rhode.

After a closely contested four quarters, Rice and Cruz led the students' team to 52-44 victory against the teachers.

"It was a lot of fun coaching with Ray and Mr. Cavanna," Rice said. "It was a different experience and perspective than playing."

So many people were excited to play in this game.

"I'm playing to help out post prom," Zuraw said. "Plus

it's always fun to battle the kids outside of the classroom."

Zuraw prepared for the big game by watching March Madness.

And as always, the students were just as excited to play the teachers.

"I planned on helping the team by providing height and strength to match up with some of the taller teachers," senior Toto said.

Most of the team did a lot to prepare for this game. Malone

All of the door proceeds of the Student-Faculty Basketball Game went to offset the cost of Law's post-prom. The event made approximately \$1,000.

practiced in his driveway before the big game.

"It was a really good game because all of the players on the faculty team are good players," Malone said.

The top scorers for the student team were Williams with 14 points and Montanez with five.

The top scorers for the faculty team were Landini with 14 points and Bindner with 12.

Mr. JLHS winner **Matt Simmons** performed at the halftime show, and was joined at the very last minute by backup dancers **Ryan Siddall and Jake Miller**.

This basketball game was a great success and will continue to be an annual event at Jonathan Law High School.

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Winter Guard Hosts Annual Home Show

Adam Weber
Staff Reporter
@awebr

The Jonathan Law Winter Guard is in its eighth season and has proven to be a very successful program thus far.

The Winter Guard is a visual arts group that spurs from the Color Guard during the fall marching band season, but the band is not included in the winter season.

The performers articulate their show with a music track in the background using flags, rifles, and other various props that relate to the show's theme. All the shows take place in gyms instead of the football field, unlike the fall season.

"Our show is called Through Stormy Seas and we're dressed as pirates," sophomore **Jewel Okwuosa** said.

Okwuosa joined the winter guard program this year.

This year, the show is pirate-themed and uses ship props like siding and masts, as well as buckets used in the performance.

The guard is directed by **Pam Rossman** and assistant



Law's Winter Guard recently hosted their annual home show. (photo courtesy Adam Weber)

Amanda Sanders, who design the show and train the girls to perform their best at every venue.

Practices begin not long after the marching band season ends, and competitions start in February and continue through April, providing a decent length of season to improve.

The Winter Guard placed

fourth at their first competition in Brookfield, but has advanced dramatically since then through hard work at practices.

"My teammates have improved a lot this season," senior **Becca Tobin** said.

At the Guard's home show on March 23, they placed second for their class. Their

score improved from a 55 at the beginning of the season to an impressive 84.

The home show is always a big event for the guard as well as the school.

Many important figures attended the show such as Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal, Mayor Ben Blake, Superintendent Dr. Feser, and

other elected officials from the city.

"It was fun" senior **Brittany Muldowney** said. "There were a lot of people that came out to support us, and we did pretty well."

The home show allows students and families to see what the guard has been working on all season and to cheer them on in the competition.

Also, since other guards from around the New England area attend as well, the audience can experience the immense talent that every school exhibits.

The guard is very open to anyone who wants to join.

Not only are all high school grade levels represented in the guard, middle school students are part of the program as well.

Many of the current members joined when they were in middle school, and the extra years of practice have shown in their performance.

This hard work paid off again in the Scholastic A competition on April 6 in Trumbull, where they took second place.

Freshmen Enjoy First Year At Law

Pierce Holveck
Staff Reporter

Time flies when you're having fun.

It's hard to believe that the school year is almost finished, and the freshmen at Jonathan Law are happy to know they've almost made it through their first year.

It has been an exciting and challenging year for the Class of 2016.

They took the step from being Grade 8 students, to being Grade 9 students, in a school that is much larger and much more challenging, and in so many ways, they succeeded.

"Freshman year has been a blast," freshman **Kenny Markus** said. "It's hard to believe it's already almost over, but I'm kind of relieved."

High school was a big reality check and learning experience for the freshmen. They were introduced to an earlier starting time, more challenging, in-depth classes, tight schedules, and a whole new world of peers.

It's been an especially interesting year to be a student at Jonathan Law. The school was introduced to programs such as Common Time, and the school year was filled with a multitude of outside events that affected students.

Hurricane Sandy, and then Winter storm Nemo, kept the

freshmen out of school for almost two weeks, burying them in more than three feet of snow. Overall, the year has been odd, but the freshmen were able to keep themselves organized.

"The snowstorm was really wild, and it was hard not knowing when we would be back to school, but in the end, it all worked out," freshman **Vanessa Cuevas** said.

From sports to clubs, Jonathan Law has countless opportunities, and the freshman class has taken advantage.

Football, baseball, softball, track and field, and wrestling, as well as various clubs like Key Club and Natural Helpers were open to the freshmen, and many were quick to join.

"The amount of work definitely is a lot more than in middle school, and it's a lot harder," freshman **Eileen Craig** said.

High school is a big step before students head out into the real world, and the work becomes more challenging. Law's freshmen were introduced to more demanding courses that they did not hesitate to take.

"Overall, the year has been really good. I met a lot of new people, and I'm really looking forward to sophomore year," freshman **Sebastian Pellegrino-Carr** said.

Rita's Celebrity Scoop Day Raises Money For Prom

Megan Fitzsimons
Staff Reporter
@meganfitzsimons

The junior class officers at Jonathan Law High School held a fundraiser at Rita's on March 27 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. to raise money for the junior post-prom.

The fundraiser was called "Celebrity Scoop." The celebrity scoopers were assistant principal **Mr. Cavanna**, his secretary **Mrs. Kizavul**, junior class advisor **Miss Burns**, and juniors **Ciara Hayden**, **Joshua Paton**, **Gabriel Salles**, and **Jacqueline Pelella**.

The celebrity scoopers worked with the Rita's employees behind the counter. They are the ones that scooped the Italian ice.

"The event went really well overall, we had a lot of fun," said Hayden.

The junior class received 15 percent of all purchases that were made between 6 and 8:30 p.m.

For the money to go to the Law post-prom the customer had to have a flyer.

Just in case, there were some flyers at Rita's because some people forgot to bring them.

"It was a lot more fun than we expected," said Burns. "A lot more people came and they



(phoro courtesy ritasice.com)

weren't all from just the junior class."

Overall, the junior class made about \$250 from the fundraiser. The junior class officers are planning to do another event in April to continue to raise money for the post-prom.

"I enjoyed the Rita's fundraiser because it was hilarious having my fellow classmates serve me," said junior **Stephanie Cameron**.

"I am excited for our other fundraisers because we really need the money for prom."

Earlier in the year, there was a fundraiser at Chili's and that was also very successful.

Many students went to support post-prom.

On May 2, Law is going to host its annual Fashion Show, featuring the junior class.

It is going to be a fashion show remix; the models aren't only going to be wearing dresses and fancy clothes.

They plan to make it fun and attract more people to attend and help out the post-prom.

The junior class officers also plan to hold another Rita's "Celebrity Scoop" sometime in June.

They also are going to try to have a fundraiser at Joey C's and 15 percent of the bill will be going towards the post-prom.

The junior class officers are doing a lot to help make prom special for everyone that is going. They hope to make it a fun and exciting night and having all these fundraisers will give them more money to make everything go as planned.

Another way they are looking to get money to go towards prom and post-prom is by accepting donations from parents or anyone else that would like to help out.

Their goal is to make prom an awesome way for everyone to remember their junior year forever.



Senior Hayley Soulier donates blood at the blood drive.
(photo by Tarah Kelly)

Law Key Club Hosts Annual Blood Drive

Bhavani Jaladanki
Editorial Editor

Every year, Jonathan Law has two blood drives: one is hosted by the Keyettes and one is hosted by the Key Club.

This March, the Key Club once again hosted its annual blood drive.

The blood drive was held on Tuesday, March 19, from 8 a.m. until 1:15 p.m.

"The blood drive was a success for our club, and despite the blood drive being earlier in the year than in years past, we had a good turnout," said Key Club president and senior **Drew DeRubeis**. "The Key Club and the Red Cross are very thankful for the students and faculty that donated."

Key Club members met at the old gym doors at 6:15 a.m. and they helped unload the truck and set up the gym as a makeshift blood headquarters.

The weather did not cooperate very much. The Key Clubbers were not even sure if there was going to be school, but luckily, the blood drive started on time with no snow hindering the event.

"The blood drive went great," said junior **Krishnan Suresh Kumar**. "We had a lot of people and we were able to help donate a lot of blood."

The blood drive was held a little earlier in the year than usual, so the turnout of the drive was not as big as it usually is.

Still, the Key Club successfully collected 36 good

"The blood drive went great. We had a lot of people and we were able to help donate a lot of blood."
- Key Club member **Krishnan Suresh Kumar**

pints of blood.

"I am always so extremely proud of the Key Club," said Key Club advisor **Mr. Boynton**. "They set the drive up all on their own by putting up the stations, and they broke it down on their own as well."

The staff from the Red Cross always makes it a point to tell Boynton how well behaved and how professional the club handles itself.

"Most of the seniors and juniors, as well as many faculty members, who signed up for the flood drive over the previous week did donate blood during the day," said Lieutenant Governor of Division 29B on the New England District Board and junior **Soumya Kundu**. "The Key Club thanks everyone for their support of the event."

This year's club was led by seniors DeRubeis and **Lorenzo Maltes**. They have gone above and beyond with Key Club and they will surely be missed next year.

Board Makes Changes To Milford School Calendar

Kyle Kandetzki
Editor-in-Chief

Drastic changes might be coming to the Milford School district schedule in 2013-2014.

Milford has proposed a new school schedule that will remove certain holidays and vacations in order to save school days. These proposed changes aren't official, but would tentatively end the 2013-2014 school year on June 5.

"The best part of the new schedule idea is the new end date," said junior **Ben Buczek**. "A longer summer is better than the other days we used to have off."

The district set out a goal this year to capture days for several reasons, but was quite obviously motivated by the massive amount of days that have been cancelled for weather this past year. The district also cited that it would provide fewer interruptions for students to improve the flow of a school year.

In order to gain the pulse of students and staff alike, a survey was sent out that over 3,500 people responded to. Most polls offered close contests in favor and against using days that were previously unused. Another noticeable trend was the difference and response between parents and the staff.

The first question directed to the parents and staff was whether or not the school year should start two days earlier, which would mean students report on August 28th. Parents responded with a majority of 52.6% saying 'Yes' and 32.9%

Milford has proposed a new school schedule that will remove certain holidays and vacations in order to save school days. The 2013-2014 school year would tentatively end on June 5.

saying 'No'.

Though on the staff side of this proposal, teachers would be required to report on August 26th, and this showed in the response. Staff voted with a 56% 'No' to coming in earlier over 35% 'Yes'. The mixed response has kept the idea possible, but it will most likely remain how it was in 2012-2013.

Staff and parents were more in agreement on their response for whether to keep the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah. Parents voted 80% 'Yes' for remaining open and staff followed with 68%. Milford has proposed to eliminate the day off, but will allowed those of the Jewish faith to take an excused day off if necessary.

The district has also proposed that schools will be open on Columbus Day, though the results were less of a huge majority. Parents voted 'Yes' to staying open in a 66% majority, while staff only voted with a 50% majority. Milford has also committed to opening

on Veteran's Day after another small majority between respondents.

The district would commit those days to lessons on Columbus and on America's veterans should this schedule be accepted.

"I have no issue with school's being open on days like Columbus and Veteran's Day," said junior **Trace Malone**. "It is only a few missed days so it isn't a big difference anyway."

The most split opinion came from the decision on what to do with February vacation. Ideas on the survey included keeping it how it is, getting rid of it completely, and various four-day weekends.

The decision that gained the most support was a 4-day weekend that gets rid of a Friday and the following Monday. This would gain three days that would usually be in June. This vacation would take place starting the weekend before President's Day.

"Having a four day February vacation is better than a full nine days off," said **Mr. Kulenych**. "The vacation we had wasn't really necessary in the first place. It's right after midterms and it interrupts the start of a new semester."

This new schedule would leave a cushion for many more snow days to fall back on. It would allow the last possible day before vacation days would be taken away to be June 20.

This new schedule is not yet officially in place, but it will be debated and most likely voted on this month.

Kelly Wins Superintendents Award

Hayley Soulier
Sports Editor

Senior **Tarah Kelly** was recently honored with this year's Superintendents Award.

Kelly was honored for her community service, academic prowess and leadership in the school community. She attended the annual Superintendent Students Award Luncheon on March 15 at the Laurel View Country Club in Hamden.

"I was honored to receive the Superintendent's Award," Kelly said.

"It made me feel great that the administrators chose me and people recognize what I do."

In the classroom, Kelly is a hardworking student and maintains a strong GPA. Outside of the classroom, Kelly is a four-year member of the Jonathan Law volleyball



(photo courtesy Tarah Kelly)

team, a two-year member of the hockey team and a member of Law's Interact Club.

Kelly has earned many hours of community service through the Interact Club and by volunteering at a local hockey rink.

"She is a great person

to follow in the footsteps of former Superintendents Award winner (and current Jonathan Law math teacher) **Mr. Ruzbarsky**," said **Mr. Beler**.

Kelly is the lead anchor on Law's morning news show, Eagle Eye News, and the columns editor for *The Advocate*, Law's school newspaper.

"Tarah is everything you could ask for in a student," said **Mr. Kulenych**.

"She is dedicated, outgoing, a strong leader, and always full of school spirit. She's very deserving of the Superintendents Award."

Kelly is also the manager of Law's girls tennis team.

She plans to attend Western New England University, Pace University or the University of Rhode Island in the fall. She plans on majoring in communications.

What Will UBeCome?

We Have a Few Suggestions.

With more than 125 innovative programs, the University of Bridgeport makes it easier for you to become the person you want to be.

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Tyler, The Creator Shows Skills On ‘Wolf’

Kyle Kandetzki
Editor-in-Chief

Tyler, the Creator has been known more for controversial lyrics than his actual music as a whole in the past. But with his newest album’s release, his full set of skills might be taken more seriously by the general public.

Odd Future co-founder Tyler Okonma released his third album “Wolf” on April 2 with a completely new set of subject matter from his 2011 release “Goblin”. Though a successful album, “Goblin” was a very loud, brash album that gained attention from many for alleged homophobia and misogyny on popular songs like “Yonkers” and “Radicals”. Though Tyler doesn’t back away from being honest on “Wolf”, the theme is a bit toned down.

“Wolf” was first and foremost for Tyler, not a ‘rap’ album. Since production began in 2011 he had always insisted that the beats and sound would be the biggest focus of the album, and would reject the title of a ‘rapper’ by media outlets.

Though the focus on the beats is apparent, Tyler is still most definitely leaning towards scolding rhymes and impressive wordplay on several tracks. The prime example of this is “Wolf’s” lead single “Domo 23” where the primary focus is playful, comedic lines about the money he has made and his critics. The album also has the song “Trashwang”, a parody



(photo courtesy 505intheartctic.blogspot.com)

of a rap song you might find coming from Maybach Music Group. The track is hilarious with a bunch of features from non-rappers Jasper Dolphin, Taco, and Na-kel.

Several topics are prevalent on the album, including his lack of having a father in his life that is covered in the heartfelt track “Answer”. A rare slow song, it centers on a false phone call to his absent dad, and the anger and sadness it had given him. Though not as lyrically sharp, it replaces metaphors and imagery with emotion along with fellow OF member Syd Tha Kid’s soft vocals to make it one of the best

songs on the album.

Another theme is the loss of his grandmother that is the focus of “Lone”. Tyler raps at a laid back pace, but mixing in more raw emotion from his loss and his struggles with fame, and closes out the album well.

The theme Tyler succeeds and, coincidentally, uses most are struggles and involvements with romance. “IFHY” features Tyler’s idol Pharrell Williams and the song’s character’s lack of ability to “keep his emotions bubbled” while talking about someone he loves and hates at the same time. “Awkward” also uses a beat pitched Tyler to de-

scribe a former romance, where he, as usual, isn’t afraid to be detailed about his interactions.

Every song on “Wolf” is worth a listen due to the unique prospects that they bring, though not as rough and loud as “Goblin” was. He brings childhood nostalgia to the listener with jazzy track “Treehome95” and “Slater” which is about Tyler’s childhood bike. Grammy winning Frank Ocean makes an appearance on “Slater” and “48” and only improves them with his hypnotic voice.

Tyler and fellow OF members remain lyrically scolding on the louder tracks on “Wolf”

including great efforts by Domo Genesis and earl Sweatshirt on “Rusty” and easily the best feature verse by Hodgy Beats on “Jamba”. One of the lesser tracks “Parking Lot” features an OK verse from Mike G, and subjects former OF member Casey Veggies to only being a part of the hook instead of a verse.

Finally, two of the most intriguing tracks on the album are “Tamale” and “PartyIsntOver/Campfire/Bim-mer”. Tyler familiarly uses a song like “Tamale” to mock pop culture and his critics in hilarious ways, but the fast flow and beat deliver a sound new for him that provides an exciting listen. “PartyIsntOver/Campfire/Bimmer” splits three small segments into one song, and each is unique. “PartyIsntOver” is a bit repetitive but TK, while “Campfire” provides a scene from a camp site with a soft chorus of children to top it off. But the final part “Bimmer” offers the catchiest lines of the album with more assistance from Frank Ocean once again. This section of the song only clocks in at just barely two minutes, and definitely calls for more, or even better, its own song.

“Wolf” might not please some of Tyler’s old fans with the new range of sound he taps into at some times, but for those who can accept it, it is an enjoyable listen.

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars

Wavves Looks To Add Fans With Latest Album

Ben Buczek
Staff Reporter

Started as a recording project in 2008 by San Diego surfer Nathan Williams, Wavves is receiving more notice by the music industry and beach junkies as each day goes by.

As the members of the band seem to change by each album, Williams is the face and the brains behind the surf rock group. The band’s popularity escalated when they released their third studio album in 2010, “King of the Beach.” Ever since then, people have gained interest in them and their summer mood songs. Released just last month, their brand new album “Afraid of Heights” has a completely new sound, but at the same time still has the classic lo-fi sound Wavves fans know so well.

This album sounds like the band went back in time when bands like Nirvana, Green Day, and Weezer were the new and popular thing to listen to. Out of all these bands, Nirvana seems to have the most influence on this album because it’s the old grunge sound that people haven’t heard since the ‘90’s on songs like “Dog.”

The topics of these songs aren’t like the old “let’s go to the beach and surf” songs Wavves are known for, but rather darker and filled with teenage angst. Songs like “Sail to the Sun” and “Afraid of Heights” have lyrics that are great for frustrated or stressed teens. In “Sail to the Sun” Williams sings “Oh, but we’ll all die alone, just the way we live”, with a powerful punk feel and such a catchy beat, this song is great for teens and easily one of the album’s best.

Wavves hit the nail on the head on this album. They changed their sound just enough so their fans are satisfied with a new and old feel of Wavves at the same time. Much of the album consists of catchy choruses and heavy distorted guitars, while throwing their own style of music with their signature backup harmonies that they’ve been doing since day one on songs like “Lunge Forward” and “Gimme a Knife.”

By listening to these songs, fans can tell what kind of person Nathan Williams is and was. It wouldn’t be a surprise to anyone if he was that kid who sat in the back of the classroom listening to his iPod



(photo courtesy citypages.com)

and not paying attention to the teacher. Either way, every single teenager can relate to Williams and his feelings shown in these songs because every teenager has those days where “I don’t care about anything and no one understands me,” which is the album’s main message.

“Hippies Is Punks” is the last song listed on the album, but is arguably the best song on the album and even the best song Wavves has ever written. It’s a song about having feelings for someone else, but doesn’t end up the way they want it

to go. It’s a typical song topic in today’s music, but Wavves twists it completely around and does it like no other band has really done before. Williams’ vocals are loud and emotional while the drums and guitar gives a punk feel that people just want to bob their heads to. What makes this song so amazing, though, are the lyrics. Williams sings, “Do you ever think about me? No you don’t have the time/ You always leave me with that feeling, I’m wasting my whole life/ So get me out of your head, and I’ll get you

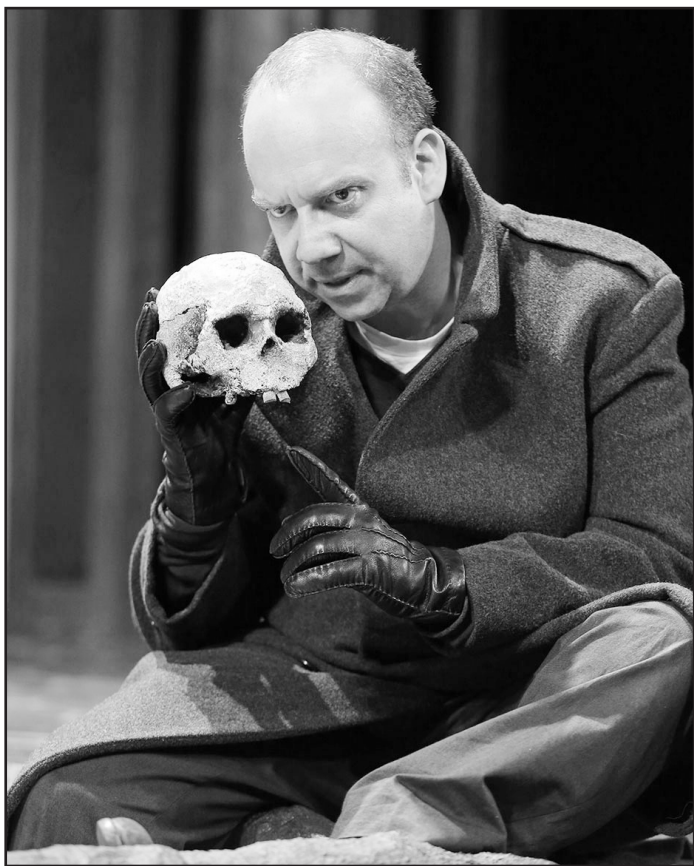
out of mine/ It’s just a waste of time/ I know you’ll never end up with me, so I won’t even try/ And you say its cause of me that we’re not friends at all.”

Even though this album is very satisfying and promising for future albums to be as good, it has aspects that should have not been included and are even quite annoying. Some songs contain random noises and music that were just thrown on to songs out of nowhere, such as songs like “Everything is My Fault” and “I Can’t Dream”, most likely to make the album long enough. It’s also heard on the good songs on the album like “Demon to Lean On.”

Wavves’ new album is very impressive and brings music that not a lot of people hear too often anymore. “Afraid of Heights” shows how much they’ve matured since recording songs on cassettes and they seem to be going in a great direction.

The album may not be their best and it isn’t perfect, but this album is very satisfying for all Wavves fans and all music lovers. Wavves is destined to become a well-known band.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars



(photo courtesy yalerep.org)

Giamatti Shines In Yale Rep's 'Hamlet'

Jesiree Carrera
Staff Reporter

Yale Repertory Theatre's presentation of "Hamlet" delighted audiences of all ages with an inspired revival of the Bard's renowned tragedy.

Yale's 2013 rendition of the well-known play by William Shakespeare premiered on March 15 and continues through April 13. It has become one of the rare Yale Repertory Theatre productions that will travel to Manhattan after April 13. The performances have sold out due to the talented cast and crew of the show. The production of "Hamlet" is also a part of Shakespeare for a New Generation, which is a national program for the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Additionally, "Hamlet" is Yale Rep's WILL POWER! 2012-2013 production. The program is also booked by different middle schools and high schools to facilitate the learning of the Bard and discuss the show with the company.

Yale College and Yale Drama School graduate, Paul Giamatti, took on the role of Hamlet, a troubled prince. His appearance could be seen as Yale's way to pay homage to parents who passed away at an early age since his very own father, Yale President from 1978 to 1986, A. Bartlett Giamatti, passed away in 1989.

Other than interpreting the emotionally conflicted Prince of Denmark, Giamatti faces pressure due to his first appearance. He looked as though he was a balding middle-aged businessman who worried about Denmark in the EU crisis instead of a young and troubled prince.

As soon as Giamatti spoke

the Bard's poetry, he became Hamlet himself and displays the grief that genuinely reflected a man who was at conflict with his own person. Every action and utterance by Giamatti portrayed the emotional tumult that Hamlet experienced with a bravura notion.

Giamatti engrossed himself within his role and propelled through the five tragic acts. He even added his comedic flair to the performance while remaining true to his character's turmoil. Giamatti is not the only well-known actor in the cast. "Hamlet" features many other talented performers that have much experience in the arts.

Gertrude, played by Lisa Embry, portrays her role as the Queen of Denmark with a courtly manner that can strike fear and respect to her character. Ophelia, the delicate yet insane love interest for Hamlet, is played by Brooke Parks, who amazingly displays the transformation from an obedient girl to a demented and mourning daughter. Austin Durant as Horatio, Tommy Schrider as Laertes, Gerry Bamman as Polonius, and Jarlath Conroy as the gravedigger, also added to the court and made the entire cast unforgettable.

All of the components, including the running time of three hours and 30 minutes, with a 15-minute intermission, added to the greatness of the play. It was a feast for the eyes with the fantastic set design by Meredith Ries and the lighting plan of Stephen Strawbridge.

"Hamlet" as directed by James Bundy, truly was a magnificent rendition of the respected and challenging play by William Shakespeare.

Rating: 4.5 stars out of 5

'21 & Over' Lacks Laughs

Luke Mazzeo
Staff Reporter

"21 and Over" is a new movie that came out in late March. It is a comedy written by, and serves as the directorial debut of, Jon Lucas and Scott Moore.

The film stars Justin Chon, Miles Teller, Skylar Astin, and Sarah Wright. The writers that wrote "The Hangover" helped in the making of this movie. It is about a straight A college student Jeff Chang (Justin Chon), who has always done what he was supposed to do. It's Jeff Chang's 21st birthday. He's a pre-med student who has a big interview the next morning. His best friends, Miller (Miles Teller) and Casey (Skylar Astin), have come to his apartment to surprise him and take him out for a party. Upon learning that the biggest interview of his life is the next day, Casey does the responsible thing and says that those plans can be postponed. Miller threatens to keep Jeff Chang up all night if he doesn't come out.

This movie is about that night that everybody dreams about where that can do and say whatever they want with very few strings attached. It's about



(photo courtesy imdb.com)

one of those nights where only God knows what has happened. Throughout the movie, the viewer will experience many hilarious sections of the events that take place. This movie is a mix of "The Hangover" and "American Pie." Most of the humor in the movie comes from the crazy situations that the three best friends encounter throughout the night.

Unfortunately, the movie had a ton of flaws to it. First off, the comedic elements of the movie came from stupid people doing stupid things. Some laughter comes from that but it can get old really quick – and that's what happens in this movie. Also, the dialogue

leaves a lot to be desired. The movie mainly focuses on what is happening on the screen and to the characters rather than what is said from one character to another. It's as if the filmmakers didn't bother coming up with a single funny joke. They just used unoriginal innuendoes that were scattered throughout the entire movie. This film also exhibits foolish and childish behavior that it tries to pass off as comedy. They aren't very successful in the long run.

Although it might be funny and humorous while watching it the first time, it will get old and boring if watched more than once.

Rating: 2 out of 5 stars

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‘Bioshock Infinite’ Up For Game Of The Year

Bryan Creevy
Entertainment Editor
 @bryancreevy

When a gamer thinks of the title “Bioshock,” that person would probably think of the underwater utopia of Rapture or the Big Daddys and Little Sisters who roamed the city. Three years ago, thinking that 2K and Irrational Games could make a Bioshock without Rapture and its two most iconic characters was unthinkable, but the unthinkable was made into reality with the release of “Bioshock Infinite,” the third installment in the “Bioshock” series, on March 26th this year.

When the Irrational team first decided to make a third Bioshock they did explore other possibilities for games down in Rapture because they saw it as the iconic setting for the series. However, once things started seeming like repeats of the previous two games, they started to explore other possible setting and the floating sky-city of Columbia was born.

Not only is the game in an entirely different setting, but it also takes place during a completely different time period. Infinite occurs in the year 1912 during the period of American Exceptionalism.

Gamers assume the role of ex-Pinkerton agent Booker DeWitt who has fallen into a great deal of debt with some bad people. In order to pay off this debt, Booker must rescue a girl named Elizabeth and take her to New York City. The journey starts with two odd people rowing Booker out to a lighthouse. After climbing the tower, he is strapped down in a chair in a canister like a miniature rocket. Once Booker experiences Ascension, he is exposed for the first time to Columbia. It all seems like a paradise at first with carnival games, friendly citizens, and drinks that give you special abilities called Vigors; however, this dream world changes into living hell once Booker is classified as the “False Prophet,” by the “AD” branded on his right hand. After that, the whole city is after his head for fear he’ll take away the “Seed of the Prophet,” Elizabeth. Booker eventually makes his way to Monument Island, the island where Elizabeth is trapped on. After he breaks in and narrowly escapes with Elizabeth, the game shows what separates Bioshock Infinite from the rest.

Elizabeth is an AI character who follows Booker around Columbia, but she is much different than the AIs from other games; Elizabeth is probably the most helpful to date. Her abilities and skills are never a nuisance and often can give gamers a tactical advantage. Her most unique ability is her



The infamous Songbird attacks an enemy’s floating battleship (photo courtesy ign.com)

ability to open “tears.” These “tears” are rips in space and time that can bring in objects or items from other dimensions or other times. She can make Med Packs, walls, turrets, decoys, ammo, and much more into the world in order to help Booker. Tears are essential and gamers will find it hard to get by without using this ability.

Another ability that Elizabeth has is lock-picking. In the main storyline, there are a handful of times when Elizabeth must pick a lock to get to the next area, but there are also locks that branch off into rooms that always have useful items for gamers to collect. The locks that tie in with the story are free to use, but all the branching off ones require a certain amount of lock-picks which gamers will find scattered all over the city.

The last reason Elizabeth is essential to your survival is how she scavenges the city. Since she doesn’t fight off enemies, she is constantly looking for weapons, health, Salts (the replacement for Eve that powers your Vigors), and Silver Eagles (the currency). Whenever you are in combat, Elizabeth may shout to you saying she found something. By holding the X Button (for Xbox users), Booker will turn to Elizabeth and she’ll throw whatever she found over to him. Elizabeth will always throw exactly what gamers need too; she will never throw money to gamers in the middle of a fight. If Booker is running low on ammo for his pistol, she’ll throw a pistol to him; if he’s low on health, she’ll throw a Med Pack over; if his Salts have run dry, she would have found salts to replenish them. This ability is the most useful because it will allow gamers to stay in the fight when things start looking bleak.

Elizabeth is a smart AI, too. When exploring the city, she will never just stand there and wait for gamers to move on; she walks over to displays and she’ll interact with them or say something about them. Also, gamers will never have

to defend Elizabeth in combat because she can take care of herself by hiding behind cover and avoiding enemies. She will never feel like a burden; instead, she is a crucial companion.

Another element of the game that adds to its uniqueness is the Skylines. Early on, Booker acquires a Sky Hook which serves as the melee weapon of the game, but it also is a tool that can be used to ride the Skylines, the roller-coaster like rails in the sky. Booker and Elizabeth can both ride them to escape out of tight situations and get to higher grounds or to a different location. Booker isn’t invincible on the rails, though. Enemies can ride the rails too, which creates the most creative fighting environment. Using the Skylines will be required later on, so it is a skill Booker needs.

The weapons and Vigor system has also changed from the weapon and Plasmid system. In the originals, gamers would hit the bumpers on the controller to cycle through Plasmids and weapons. Gamers would hold down the bumpers which pauses the game in order for gamers to switch directly to a weapon. In Infinite, gamers have two weapons set to the cycle and two Vigors. Booker doesn’t grab a weapon and hold on to it for the remainder of the game like Jack and Subject Delta did. Instead, he can only hold on to two weapons at a time and can switch them for a weapon on the ground. He can pick up the ammo for weapons he doesn’t have, so if he ever switches weapons, he won’t be limited to the ammo left in that weapon. For Vigors, the system is still alike to the previous. Though gamers can only cycle through two Vigors, if they hold down the bumper, the game will pause to manually choose a Vigor to replace the Vigor in one of the two Vigor slots. It may sound like the weapon system and Vigor system was setback by limiting the cycle to two of each, but it serves as a more realistic system for weapons and flows well with

gameplay.

Though not as tough or frightening as a Big Daddy, Infinite has what are called “Heavy Hitters.” The two Heavy Hitters that appear frequently throughout the game are the HandyMan and the Motorized Patriot. The Handy Man is a man who was put into a body made out of prosthetics and metal. His hands are big enough for him to hold a man around his waist and his legs allow for high jumps and fast dashes forward. He only has two parts remaining from his previous body: his messed up face and his heart. His heart serves as his weak point and is where Booker can score extra damage for a quicker kill.

The Motorized Patriot is a robot with one of the Founding Father’s faces. It carries around a chain gun that can only be related to as an earlier model of the “Death Machine” featured in “Black Ops.” His weak point is his gears in his back, but getting to his back-side can be difficult.

Another Heavy Hitter is the “Siren.” She is the spirit of a dead character who has the ability to bring dead enemies back to life. She doesn’t attack you directly, but the enemies she spawns will. The only way to quickly end the fight is to focus on the Siren herself, because once she is defeated, the enemies she revived will fall.

The last Heavy Hitter also does not attack Booker directly. In fact, Booker doesn’t even kill him. The “Boys of Silence” is a man with giant iron heads who is surrounded by demented, pale-white men who stand completely still. The iron headed man scans the room, and if he spots Booker, he screams to alert those surrounding him. He then disappears and leaves the rest of them. The best way to deal with them is to avoid the Boy’s gaze. Just like the predecessors, there are machines that act as in-game stores. “Dollar Bill” allows gamers to buy back a certain percent of health, Salts, and ammunition. The Vigor Vending Machine sells

up to two upgrades for each Vigor. These upgrades are very expensive, but greatly improve their effectiveness. The Armory Vending Machine sells up to four upgrades for each weapon. Upgrades include more damage, more ammo in a clip, and several more improvements.

Aside from the traditional “Easy, Medium, Hard” modes of Infinite, gamers will unlock a mode called “1999 Mode,” after completion of the game on any difficulty. It’s on the same level of difficulty as Hard, but it comes with one added twist. The decisions gamers make in combat or throughout the story can affect what happens next. Of course, the storyline won’t vary from its path, but gamers may be put in unwinnable situations where they will die and have to respawn.

The setting and combat of the game isn’t the only thing that has changed. Bioshock’s iconic character, the “Big Daddy,” has been replaced by a bigger and more menacing foe called the “Songbird.” Songbird is a mechanical bird that served as Elizabeth’s friend and warden when she was trapped inside Monument Island. Naturally, he isn’t too happy about Booker breaking her out.

Infinite has a lot to do with space and time due to Elizabeth’s ability to open tears and because of this, there are a lot of “easter eggs” where gamers can see or hear things from a different time. One example is that Booker passes by an area where he hears the song “Girls Just Want to Have Fun,” a 1979 song playing for a short period of time before abruptly leaving. Keep in mind that this game takes place in 1912, so that song is completely foreign to the characters of this game.

What saddened gamers in the year prior to its release was the announcement that there would be no Multiplayer Mode. The Multiplayer in “Bioshock 2” was unique and exciting to play with friends. Though it was drowned out by multiplayer games like “Call of Duty” and “Battlefield,” it was an amazing experience. Gamers were hoping for a Multiplayer with the Skylines and Heavy Hitters involved, but none were made.

All in all, “Bioshock Infinite” is a spectacular game with an ending that will leave all staring in awe with their jaws to the floor and their minds trying to wrap around what exactly happened. Booker and Elizabeth’s adventure is one to remember. Though no multiplayer mode was implemented in the game, its campaign is deeper and more mind-blowing than any before it. Sixty dollars is a small price to pay for this rewarding experience.

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars



(photo courtesy filmofilia.com)

Berry's 'The Call' Gets Mixed Reviews

Olivia Imre
Staff Reporter

"The Call" is a newly-released thriller starring Halle Berry and Abigail Breslin and directed by Brad Anderson. The film was released in theaters on March 15.

At the start of the film, Jordan Turner (Halle Berry) is a 911 operator who receives a call from Leah Templeton (Evie Thompson), a teenage girl whose house is being attacked by a serial killer (Michael Eklund).

Jordan's clever instructions allow Leah to evade the killer, but when the call disconnects, Jordan redials the number, alerting the killer. The mistake results in Leah's capture and she is found dead several days later. Six months later, she is now a trainer for 911 operators.

At this time, the same killer kidnaps another teenager Casey Welson Abigail Breslin from a mall parking lot and drives away with her in the trunk of his car.

The call is going to leave a lasting impression. Although the film is not completely realistic, so much of the terror in the film could actually happen and will leave many people on the edge of their seats.

However, the movie also has several downfalls. There is poor cinematography in what police would look for in a case like this. The ending is downright stupid, but the reason this movie is definitely worth a watch is because of the sheer panic the film was able to induce.

From the very beginning

Regardless of the mediocre reviews, many will enjoy this chilling movie.

the calls are chilling; there are many voices overlapped when other emergency operators received many different cases from kidnapping, to suicide, to robberies, stabbings, animal control, etc.

Most of the credit should go to the writers for creating a creepily accurate depiction of how home invasions actually happen.

However, there is one annoying flaw in the police and dispatcher work in the film, the LAPD completely overlooks an imperative piece of background information on the person they are chasing.

After finishing the film, it's obvious that they just wanted to hold off for a dramatic reveal later.

The movie has received mixed reviews from critics, as it currently holds a 40 percent rating on some of the major movie review websites.

It was expected to earn about \$11-12 million on its opening weekend (according to boxoffice.com) in the U.S., but, opening in 2,507 theaters, the movie surpassed this by a significant margin and grossed \$17 million in its first three days.

Regardless of the mediocre reviews, there is no doubt that many will enjoy this movie.

Rating: 3 out of 5 stars

'Bates Motel' Picks Up Where 'Psycho' Left Off

Christina Macaluso
Staff Reporter

"Bates Motel" is a new TV series on the A&E network, produced by Anthony Cipriano.

"Bates Motel" debuted on March 18. Before this release date, commercials previewing the series played, catching the attention of many A&E viewers. The previews were vague, and left viewers confused and with questions. These questions lead the viewers to tune into episode one of "Bates Motel."

In episode one, the viewer sees the mysterious and disturbing relationship of mother Norma Bates and son Norman Bates. Viewers couldn't help but become intrigued by the creepiness of it.

Viewers of "Bates Motel" will follow the sketchy events in the lives of Norma and Norman while they live in the motel. The two decided to move to the motel once the father of Norman mysteriously died in a garage accident.

The TV series was inspired by the book and film "Psycho," and in fact is a prequel to the film "Psycho," directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

Although "Bates Motel" is a prequel, it tells new stories not spoken of in "Psycho," causing it to be one of its own.

From the first episode, it is obvious right away that the town in which the Bates are now living in, is no ordinary,



(photo courtesy imdb.com)

calm town. Events such as two burnings are enough to give the audience chills.

This series got off to a great start by hooking the audience members on the creepy storyline, making them want to wait for next week's episode to see what happens next.

"Bates Motel" airs every Monday at 10/9c. If viewers didn't have time to watch it that night, the full episode can also be found on the A&E's website for anyone to watch and catch up on. The series will surely be a hit with drama and thriller lovers, or anyone looking for a new show to get hooked on, but the downfall to the show is that it is not relatable.

Yes, the series is fictional, but viewers like to be able to

relate to something and most people will not find themselves compatible or relatable to murderers, or members of a town with dark secrets.

Viewers may also find it hard to like the mother, Norma Bates, because of her behavior throughout the series. This may cause some viewers to shy away from becoming fans of the show.

Aside from being un-relatable because it is fictional, and not liking a main characters behavior, "Bates Motel," so far, is a great show.

The series is predicted to be very successful and once done with season one; another season will most likely be produced and released next year.

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars

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‘Silver Linings Playbook’ One Of Year’s Best

Gabe Salles
Staff Reporter

The movie “Silver Linings Playbook” hit the big screens late in 2012. It is directed by David O. Russell, not the most well-known director but a good director nonetheless. The movie stars Bradley Cooper as Patrick “Pat Jr.” Solitano along with his Robert De Niro as Patrizio “Pat Sr.” Solitano and Jennifer Lawrence as Tiffany Maxwell. Silver Linings Playbook takes place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It received multiple nominations for the Academy Awards, Golden Globe Awards and Independent Spirit Awards.

The movie begins with Patrick Solitano being released from a mental institution after being treated for a bipolar disorder. After coming home his world turns upside down. His wife, Nikki, moved and filed a restraining order. Also his father, Patrizio Solitano, is unemployed and resorts to writing books to be able to start his own restaurant. Once Pat settles down, he receives an invite to eat at Ronnie’s, a dear friend, house. There he insults



(photo courtesy moviefone.com)

Ronnie’s wife by not restraining himself and gets the attention of the recently widowed and unemployed Tiffany Maxwell, Ronnie’s sister-in-law. Eventually they develop a relationship with one another and Pat sees her as an opportunity to talk to

Nikki. He plans to communicate to his ex-wife by writing a letter. Tiffany agrees to deliver the letter to Nikki if Pat competes in a dance competition with her.

In the meantime, Patrizio Solitano needs to conjure up enough money to open his

restaurant, so he bets all his money that the Eagles would win against the Cowboys and that Pat and Tiffany would receive a decent score in the dance competition. Pat and Tiffany work very hard to receive a good score and Patrizio does his

classical superstitious activities thinking in hopes of an Eagle victory. Then the day of the competition and of the game finally arrived.

The starring cast of “Silver Linings Playbook” makes this movie very enjoyable. Bradley Cooper does an excellent job playing the role of a bipolar adult trying to reconstruct his life. Jennifer Lawrence is satirically, sensitive and moving in different parts of the movie which is appropriate since she’s portraying Tiffany Maxwell, a woman with neuroses.

One downfall of this movie would how cliché it is. Halfway through the movie the audience begins to notice certain patterns. Towards the end of the movie, the ending is fairly predictable.

Overall, “Silver Linings Playbook” was a classical love story. Despite how predictable it is, the cast is outstanding and they never get out of character. This movie should be seen by anyone who doesn’t mind cliché endings, wants a few laughs but at the same time will sit through a few sad parts.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

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Anticipated ‘Olympus Has Fallen’ Lives Up To Hype

Trace Malone
Staff Reporter
@TraceMalonee

The highly anticipated movie “Olympus Has Fallen” finally came out late last month and was, as expected, a big hit.

“Olympus Has Fallen” is a 2013 American action-thriller film directed by Antoine Fuqua, and has major stars such as Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman. This movie was released on March 22. This movie was so highly anticipated because of its high action preview and its all-star lineup of actors.

The plot of “Olympus Has Fallen” is centered on the White House getting taken over by a terrorist supremacy group the president getting kidnapped. A former presidential guard, Mike Banning, finds himself trapped inside the White House while it is being taken over.

As the U.S. National Security Team scrambles to respond to the events that are taking place in the White House, they are forced to have the inside man, Banning, help fight off the terrorist takeover, save the president and take back the White House.

This film had moviegoers talking about it well before it was even released. From the previews alone, people knew it was going to be the first blockbuster of the New Year.



(photo courtesy filmofila.com)

The official trailer previewed high-action fight scenes, intense explosions, and, of course, the legendary Morgan Freeman.

Critics agree that “Olympus Has Fallen” lived up to the hype and many have called the film one of the greatest action thrillers of the last 10 years. This movie makes the viewer sick with suspense. Along with the nail bighting suspense, this movie had impressive special effects and action scenes, including a scene where the top of the Washington Monument is knocked off and one of the wings of the White House is blown off.

At the end of the first weekend, Olympus Has Fallen had earned \$30.5 million at the box office and exceeded Hollywood’s prediction of only \$7

million. This movie stunned critics all over. Hollywood’s experts viewed the preview to this movie as a “bad remake of the original Die Hard,” but quickly ate their words shortly after the film was released. One online critic said that “this movie definitely raised a few eyebrows.”

“Olympus Has Fallen” will go down as an all-time great; it had everything a good action movie needs to be a major blockbuster title. It had a good plot, intense suspense, impressive special effects, destruction and a great line of actors, leaving the viewer wanting to comeback for more.

As this movie stays in theatres, it will only make more and more money.

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars

New Album Shows Off Timberlake's Talents

Kendra Walker
Staff Reporter

Coming a long way from 1995 to 2002 boy band 'N Sync, Justin Timberlake is back and ready for everyone to see him with 20/20 vision.

The thirty-two year old has been keeping himself busy since the early nineties with his music career but went on a music hiatus in 2007, where he delve deeper in his acting talents. Timberlake has been in about 20 movies.

Though obviously a good actor, especially in "Friends with Benefits" with co-star Mila Kunis, Timberlake was missed for his musical attributions to the world. Timberlake announced in January of this year that he would be returning and followed through with this statement a month later by releasing his hit single "Suit & Tie" featuring the equally as talented Jay-Z. Shortly after, on March 19th, Timberlake's latest album "The 20/20 Experience" went worldwide.

The album starts off with a fantasy-feel, using the song



(photo courtesy agbeat.com)

"Pusher Love Girl" as Timberlake's introduction. The six-minute song is smooth and light, creating a soulful vibe that turns into a more modern dance track by the end. Another song

from the album that gives off the same feeling is "Strawberry Bubblegum," where Timberlake begs a beautiful woman to get close with him somewhere far away. The song also talks

about how intoxicating a certain woman is to him.

Timberlake switches up the overall tune of "The 20/20 Experience" with his "Don't Hold the Wall" track that carries an

Arabian undertone accompanied by a subtle yet effective bass. The song stresses the fact that Timberlake wants to everyone to let go and dance. "Suit & Tie" also talks about dancing the night away and looking elegant while doing it by Jay-Z saying "All black at the white shows / White shoes at the black shows." Many people weren't sure how such a mash-up would come out since both artists are so diverse with their sound, but the outcome came out better than expected. The two will be touring together this coming spring into the summer.

As a whole, "The 20/20 Experience" can easily be considered one of the best comebacks a musician has ever made. The album puts Timberlake's vocal talents on display and shows raw emotion. Timberlake said himself that he took as long as he did to come back to make sure everything was perfect, which it certainly is. Timberlake will be releasing a second half to "The 20/20 Experience" this November.

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars

New Website Helps Seniors With College

Hayley Sanchez
Staff Reporter

When deciding to go to college, there are many questions that need to be answered.

At collegeconfidential.com, students can look at different colleges that are in their price range or even the major that they want to pursue. It has 4,187 schools available for students to look at to find the college that is perfect for them.

Searching for the perfect college or just finding the college that fits the major that students want to go to is hard.

On collegeconfidential.com students can search different aspects that they want in the college and will be given many schools to search for.

If a student has a budget and does not/cannot spend a lot on college, they can find colleges in their price range. If they need a school that's under \$30,000, many schools will show up and the student can look at all the schools that are \$30,000 and less.

To some students, sports are a big part of their life and they would want to play in college. At the website there is an option where the student can choose the sport that they play and schools that offer that sport.

Writing college admission letters can also be stressful on high school students. At the top of the site, there is a tab to click on that says "College Admis-

sions." On that part of the site there are articles that can help with the process of writing the college essay.

If students are deciding whether or not to go to an Ivy League or very competitive school, there are many articles in writing the college admissions essays for the college and on how to prepare for class excellence.

One big problem, before students can go to the college they want to, is that they have to think about how they are going to pay for college. At the top of the page there is another page that is called "Paying For College." On the page there are other pages that can be clicked on that can give parents and students information on how they can pay for college through grants, loans, and scholarships.

This website is helpful when planning to go to college, but there are a few drawbacks. When students need to write their admissions letter there is no helpful format to look at when writing the letter. This website also shows many different colleges that students can pick from, but it does not have extensive information on all of the colleges and universities in the country. In the end, though, This website can and does help students make the right decisions when planning to go to college.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

Lil Wayne Better Than Ever On 'I Am Not A Human Being II'

Jack Merva
Staff Reporter
@jmervaa

Dwayne Carter, better known as Lil Wayne, recently released his latest album called "I Am Not A Human Being II."

After selling almost 1 million of his last album "Tha Carter IV" in just the first week of it being released in 2011, this new album was sure to be a hit. Released on March 26, it was featured on many 'Most Anticipated Albums of 2013' lists.

Lil Wayne is very consistent in steadily releasing hits and producing new songs. With more Billboard Hot 100 hits than Elvis, Lil Wayne has the most appearances on the chart for any male. Starting in a rap group when he was only fifteen he hasn't left the game since.

As a sequel to his 2009 album "I am Not a Human Being," this album starts off slow as if it was the calm before the storm. Then right after the intro song, he goes into a song with a fast beat and an appearance from 2 Chainz. The second song on the album, "Days and Days" is sure to be a hit because of the upbeat rhythm and catchy lyrics.

Producers on this album include Detail, Cool & Dre, Diplo, David Banner and more. These producers have done many songs with Lil Wayne in the past and didn't stop for this album. Although some are



(photo courtesy audiocastle.net)

newer than others, most have done work with Wayne before.

This album features three singles that were released before the album. All of them made it to the Billboard Hot 100. The most popular one, "Love Me," featured Drake and Future and was the third released single off the album and sold over 500,000 copies.

Many other rappers are featured on the album such as Drake, Future, Soulja Boy, 2 Chainz, and more. These cameo appearances give each song the different sounds that are necessary for a spectacular album.

Wayne will be touring over

the summer to promote this album on his "America's Most Wanted" tour along with T.I. Other rappers will go along with him on tour, such as Future, who performed on his early released single "Love Me." This tour comes right after his European tour that he recently went on with Mac Miller and 2 Chainz.

Overall, this album was one of Lil Wayne's best works from his career.

The features on the album and the beats of the songs make the album very easy to listen to and very enjoyable.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

What's In Your iPod?



(photo courtesy Tarah Kelly)

Freshman: Tim Caldwell

1. I Knew You Were Trouble - Taylor Swift
2. I Like - Sir Mix Alot
3. Yo Gabba Gabba - Theme Song
4. Suit & Tie - Justin Timberlake
5. Freaks - French Montana

Sophomore: Justine Bannon

1. R.I.P - Young Jeezy
2. Suit & Tie - Justin Timberlake
3. Sweet Nothing - Calvin Harris
4. How Country Feels - Randy Houser
5. Diamonds - Rhianna



(photo courtesy Tarah Kelly)



(photo courtesy Tarah Kelly)

Junior: Jesiree Carrera

1. On My Own - Les Miserables 2012
2. Defying Gravity - Wicked
3. Hallelujah - Rufus Wainwright
4. Hey There Delilah - Plain White T's
5. Powerless - Linkin Park

Senior: Hayley Soulier

1. Cruise - Florida Georgia Line
2. Last Name - Carrie Underwood
3. Mama's Broken Heart - Miranda Lambert
4. Get Low - Lil' John and The East Side Boyz
5. Springsteen - Eric Church



(photo courtesy Tarah Kelly)



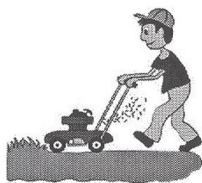
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Stop & Smell The Roses: April Showers Bring May Flowers

Anisha Manglani
News Editor

April showers bring May flowers. We may not be able to stop the clouds from pouring rain, but we can push through the rough floods with a boat and an umbrella. Soon enough, the sun will shine, the waters will drain, and the first flowers will bloom.

Without the accustomed spring break before the end of the school year, it may feel even more difficult to continue strongly down our paths. However, it is still very important to remain focused.

Seniors, the complicated and long-drawn college process is coming to an end. All that remains is the decision. Do your research, and make a list of pros and cons to make an informed choice. On May 1, we will know where we are attending school in the fall. On May 1, the gray clouds of stress will part to make way for the sunrises of our futures.

Now that AP exams are

Despite the overly cliché metaphor, we should all try our best to stay motivated and end the school year on a good note. While remaining conscientious students, we must also remember to enjoy the time we have left. There are a mere two months left before we enter the next stages of our lives.

approaching quickly, teachers are increasing the workload on our shoulders. The burdening weight is as heavy as the clouds in April. Once the tests are over in May, the sun will rise and the flowers will pop up everywhere you turn.

Despite the overly cliché metaphor, we should all try our best to stay motivated and end the school year on a good note. While remaining conscientious students, we must also remember to enjoy the time we have left. Seniors, there are a mere two months left before we enter the next stages of our lives. With exciting end-of-the-year activities awaiting us at the end of the road, we must not forget to behave ourselves and earn the right to participate in the traditional festivities.

Something to remember is to start looking for a summer job if you are in need or want of one. With college students returning home in a month, the competition to score a job will be fierce. The earlier you apply, the greater chance you will have of being accepted!

April is a tough month for school, but if we can stick together and fight out the rains, we can admire the flowers in May. Once they bloom, don't forget to stop and smell the roses.

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What’s APPening?: 5 Apps To Download Now



Bryan Creevy
Entertainment Editor
“What’s hAPPening?” is a monthly column that reviews the hottest, most popular, and newest apps that are out there for the iPod touch, iPhone, and iPad. Each month, it will have five different apps that have the highest ratings or have just recently come out.

I Dig It:
Paying your mortgage has never been so much fun. You are helping out a man named Farmer Lewis as he tries to find the money to pay the mortgage on his farm. In order to help you help him, he converts a bulldozer into a high-tech drill to get you under the ground and find all the rare earth metals for him to sell. Use the money you find to pay the mortgage and upgrade and repair your drill. There are 60+



digging sites and eight mini games of digging challenges. All in all, it’s a load of fun. Yeah, I know what you’re thinking: “If he can’t pay his mortgage, how does he have the money to turn a bulldozer into a high-tech drill?” I don’t know guys, just dig it.

Letterpress:
We all know how captivated the world is by word games. Here, I’ll get you addicted on another if you already aren’t. Letterpress is a word game between you and friend. You two share a 5 x 5 board of letters and you try to make the longest word possible out of the words shown on the board. When both of you form a word, you’ll advance to the next round. The game will end when all letters on the board have been used or both players skip their turn.



Not much deviation from previous word games on iPods or facebook, but with a new twist: this time you press letters instead of placing them.

Ridiculous Fishing:
I found the perfect game for the Call of Duty playing fisherman! In the 8-bit style that we all still love, you play as a fisherman in his boat. Your first job is to get your fishing line as far down as you can, so dodge any fish you see. Once you do hit a fish, though, your line will come up. Grab as many fish as you can on the way up, and when you reach the surface, the fish are flung into the air. For some odd reason, you then have to shoot them all. Shooting the fish gets you cash to upgrade your fishing reel and gun. Honestly, I cannot think



of a better name for this 8-bit fisherman shooter. Fishing and shooting? It is so entertaining that it’s ridiculous.

Nimble Quest:
A conga line of warriors creating mass destruction? All of my yes. Create a line of heroes that march in a line through an endless number of stages. Cut down any enemy in your path and advance to the next stage. Upgrade and unlock characters to add to your unstoppable force and move your force from the forest all the way to the fiery depths of the earth. Your party can not stop moving, so make sure you stay nimble and at the ready to attack. This game has what every teenage gamer wants: senseless violence and an endless amount of levels. Gather your nimble little heroes and complete your



epic quest.

Sonic Dash:
Do you love Sonic? How about Temple Run? If you enjoy both, download this free app! Sonic stars in his first endless running game ever in the same style as Temple Run. Slide back and forth to dodge enemies and collect rings. Use Sonic’s abilities such as the homing attack to destroy enemies. Tails, Knuckles, and Amy are offered as additional characters. Some of the powerups featured in Temple Run even make an appearance in this Sonic adventure. If you thought Temple Run was addicting, why don’t you try running with the Sega Superstar himself? Afterall, running at high speeds on narrow paths is Sonic’s specialty.

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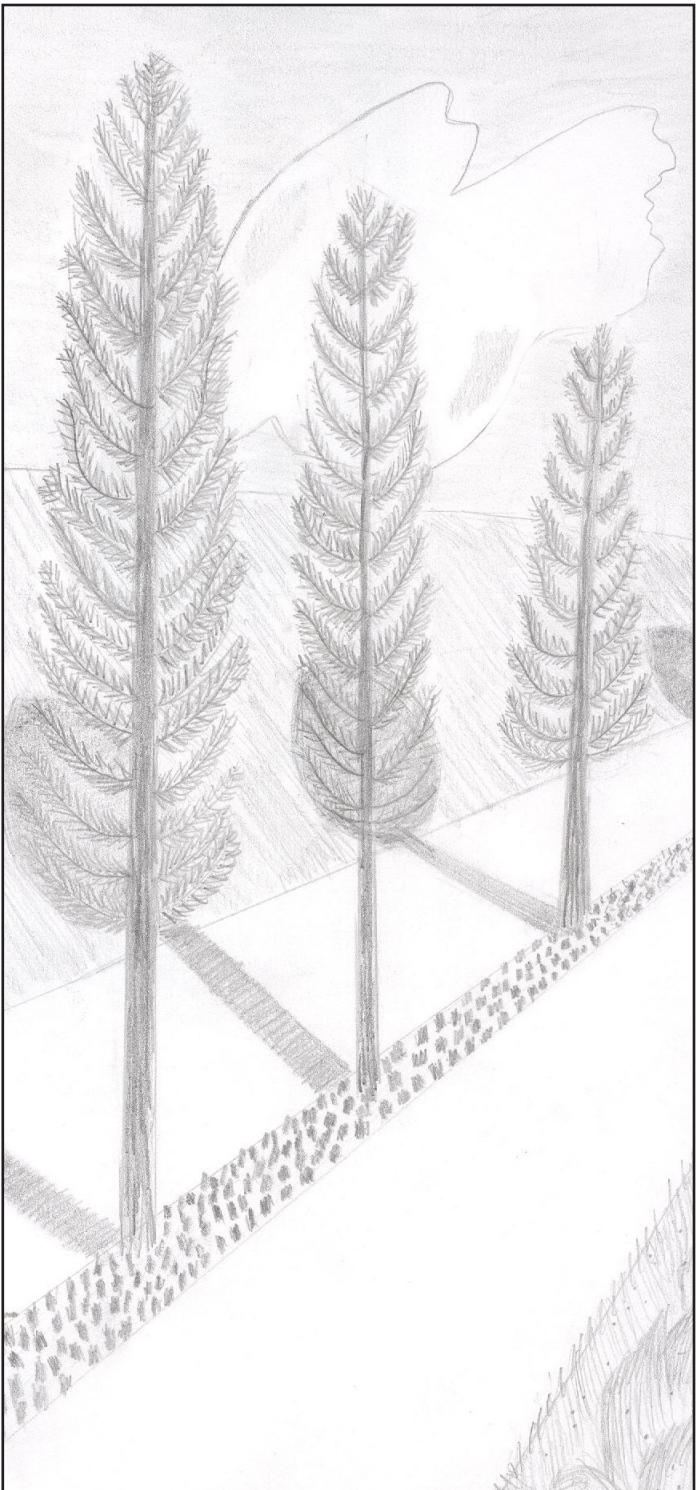
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Law Draws!

The Advocate's Monthly Focus on Art Section

This Month's
Artwork:

Morgan
Johnson



Senior Class Leads Law Girls Track Team

Stephanie Cameron
Staff Reporter

The 2013 Jonathan Law girls track team is led by senior captains **Catie Miller**, **Valerie Hiller**, and **Julia Maurer**.

Key runners and throwers for this season are **Caitlin Prete**, **Cori Kalafus**, **Kelly Kruysman**, **Brianna Grazynski**, and **Tiffany Coleman**.

After training for the past few weeks, the girls track team is excited for their upcoming season.

"My senior track season is important to me," Miller said. "I want to end my track career feeling I did my best and left it all out there each meet."

The runners prepare for the season by conditioning with the coaches and team two weeks before the season starts. Throwers do drills set by the coaches and work out in the weight room until they can go outside to throw. Teammates have said their captains are their biggest motivators when training for track.

"I motivate my teammates by encouraging them to get through their workouts," Hiller said. "The faster you run, the



Junior Sarah Gambardella jumps over a hurdle (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

faster you're done."

Even though the girls track team is the largest team at Law, they still manage to keep a close team bond.

"I'm excited to see everyone come together as a family this season," senior **Carissa Benoit** said. "I see all the girls as more than teammates, without their

support I don't think I would be where I am today."

The team participates in warm ups and stretches together before they go off and do their individual events.

"We widen our bond when we are all working together," Miller said. The track team is fortunate enough to have captains with a lot of

experience working together.

"Catie, Val, and I have been through so many seasons together," Maurer said. "It will be hard not to see each other every day after school next year."

The three senior captains are not only track captains together, but cross country captains as well.

"The track captains are all talented leaders," junior **Meaghan Sollitto** said.

This season Law will face new schools such as St. Joes and Brookfield in dual meets.

"I'm excited to run against new schools this year," Said Hiller.

Runners and throwers also look forward to the Katzmartsic meet every year. For this meet the boys and girls come together and awards are given out through the entire meet.

"Katzmartsic always ends up being a highlight of the season," Maurer said.

After four years together, all the senior are determined to make this their best season yet.

"It is bittersweet because this will be my last season running track ever," Hiller said. "I will definitely miss it."

Maurer and Hiller have set personal goals this season, while Miller plans to re-break the 4x100 school record.

"I want to make the record that much harder to break for people coming in," Miller said.

All the track girls plan to make this a memorable season for their captains and seniors.

Boys Lacrosse Makes Debut As Varsity Team

Janessa Soucy
Staff Reporter

The varsity lacrosse team at Jonathan Law High School is ready.

Led by senior captains **Erik Knudsen** and **Anthony Volturro**, the team hopes to win six games and is enthusiastic about possibly making an appearance in the State Tournament.

Last year, the team's record in the regular season was 3-12; they plan to essentially double their wins this year.

"We will definitely be better than last year, mostly because we have almost twice as many players," senior **Rob Gritz** said. "We are more experienced and we know how to work together as a team to excel in the sport."

The team will rely on sophomore **Brady Dennigan** to score most of their goals and Volturro to keep the team composed on the defensive end.

Knudsen and **Jason Mullinex** are expected to lead the team's offensive front. Freshmen **Tyler Cavallaro** and **David Patrick** are anticipated to make an impact on the team. The team's key defensive players will be **Ben Longobardi** and **Dan Bosler**.

"We have a lot of really strong underclassmen who are helping the program grow," junior **Rachel Gomes** said.

"We are hoping to have an even larger group next year so we can have a varsity team and a junior varsity team."

Since the team has virtually doubled in size, they are extremely optimistic for the upcoming season. They should be; Opening Day proved that the team is prepared for the season as they posted an 11-3 victory over Amistad Academy.

Another one of the team's foremost goals this season is to beat Foran High School.

The team also hopes to find themselves victorious over Wilbur Cross, West Haven, and Stratford.

The seniors expect their team to be dedicated to improving their skills, trying their best, and having fun.

"Our senior captains encourage everyone to work hard and make the most of every practice," Gomes said.

Gritz intends to pump everyone up and personally try 110%.

"I think we're really going to have a good year," Volturro said. "We've improved so much."

Junior **Dylan Hallet** is aiming to make an impact on the team by spending extra time working on his skills off the field.

"I am looking forward to lots of wins and to have fun this season," Hallet said.

Golf Team Tees Off 2013 Season

Richie Dow
Staff Reporter
@richieedow

The Jonathan Law golf team is ready to tee off a fresh season.

"We have a relatively young team this year with a few experienced players and my expectation is to have the upperclassmen players get as much match time as possible," head coach **Mr. Koorejian** said.

"We lost a few good seniors last year in Nick Depascale and Andrew Herrick who provided very good consistent low scores."

The team consists of eight coed members and plays 16 regular season matches.

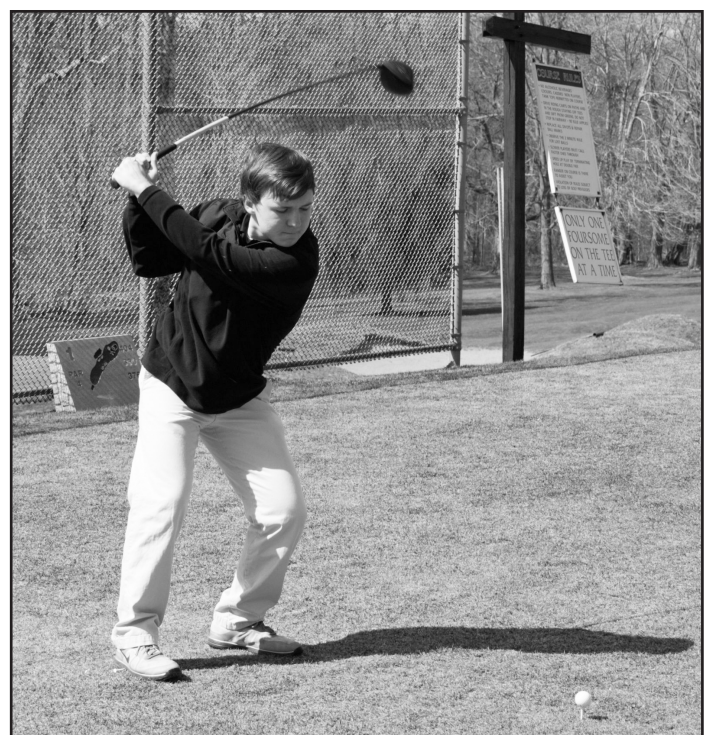
The team had a record of 9-7 last year and plays their home matches at Orange Hills Country Club.

"We are hoping to have a better season than last year and open people's eyes," junior captain **Luke Mazzeo** said. "Our team shouldn't be overlooked even though we have a small team."

The format for the matches is six players from each team compete. Only four of these scores count at the end.

"This year our goal as a team is to all get better as individuals because most of us will be back for another year," junior **Dean Bibens** said. "My personal goal is to do well in the Mayors Cup at the end of the season."

The team is led by junior captains Mazzeo and **Ryan Axtell**, and has one lone se-



Junior Ryan Axtell tees off. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

nior, **Tom Bolcer**. Other key members of the team are **Jack Merva**, **Bibens**, and **Hayley Lapadula**.

"Even though I am new to the team this year, I contribute as much as possible," Merva said.

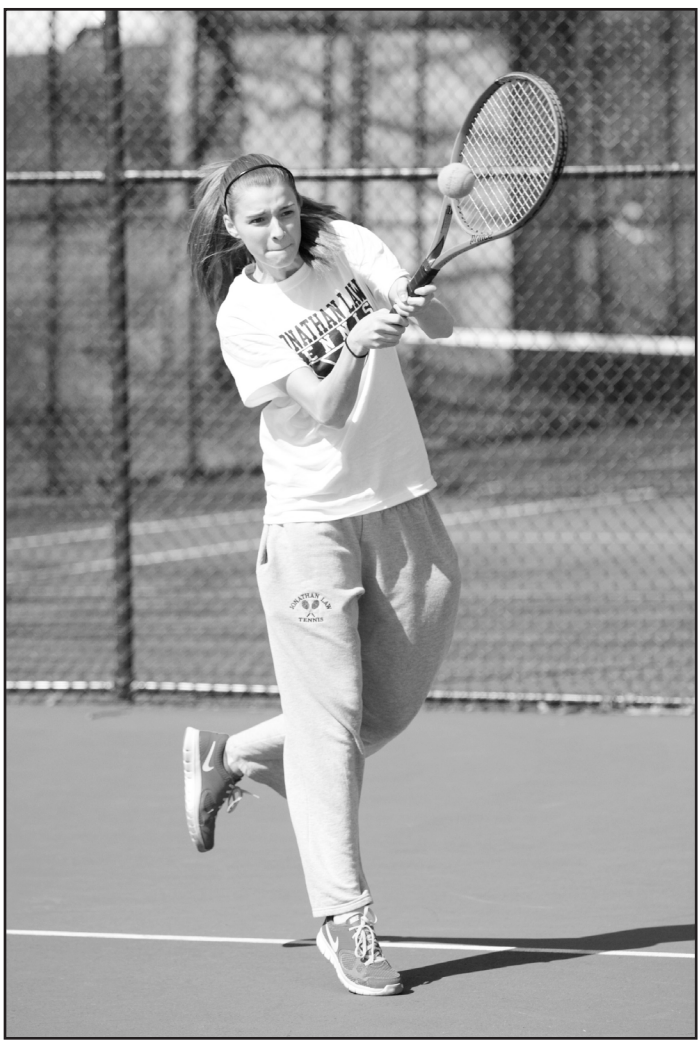
After the 16 regular season matches the SCC tournament will begin. The top two golfers from each team compete, but their average must be lower than 50 strokes.

"We had such a low turnout at tryouts this year," Koorejian said. "Only two freshmen and one sophomore came out and that concerns me for the future of the team."

Another event that the golfers will have an opportunity to compete in is the Chiappa Invitational at Longshore Country Club in Westport. In this event the top two golfers from each team will compete, however, their average must be 50 strokes or below.

"The Chiappa Invitational is an event that I am really looking forward to this year," Axtell said. "It's the best of the best and you can see how you match up to the best golfers in the state."

The final event that the golf team will compete in is the Mayor's Cup, which is held at the Orchards.



Junior Lianne Maynard is Law's No. 1 singles player.
(photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

Young Girls Tennis Team Takes Court

Hayley Soulier
Sports Editor

Practice like you're the worst, play like you're the best. That's the motto of the 2013 Jonathan Law girls tennis team.

The Eagles finished their 2012 season with a record of 7-11, coming up just two games short of qualifying for the state tournament. This was the programs best record in seven years and the team hopes to continue to improve this year.

"Our record has improved each of the last four years and we're looking to keep it going this year," head coach **Mr. Kulenych** said.

After losing three singles players, Marissa Perce, Olivia Noyes and Danielle Novak, the team will need will need help from their underclassmen. The Eagles are working hard to reach their goal of qualifying for the SCC and state tournaments.

"We have a young team this year and we have a lot of girls who don't have much varsity experience, but our goals are the same," Kulenych said. "We have enough talent to be a very competitive team."

Junior captain **Lianne Maynard** is the number one singles player for the team and has high hopes for the season.

"I hope we make it to states and do well," said Maynard. "We are getting better every day and showing great improvements."

Senior captain **Bhavani Jaladanki** is the number two singles player and leads the team on and off the court.

"We're super-excited for the season and the team is working hard to get into shape," said Jaladanki.

Other key members of the team are senior captain **Olivia Herman** and junior **Hebani Duggal**, and the doubles teams of **Kate Brady/Sravya Jaladanki**, **Sofya Calvin/Rachel Hannan**, and **Tatiana Eng/Raeven Grant**.

Kulenych added that freshman **Emma Shea** shows a lot of promise.

Hannan is a new addition to the team this year.

She believes the team will be successful and is really excited to see what the season has to bring.

"This is my first year and I'm really excited about it and to see what this season brings," said Hannan.

Herman has a great love for tennis and for her team and shows it on the court.

"Tennis is my passion and without it I would be lost," Herman said.

"I always took forward to playing tennis and towards tennis practice."

The captains do a great job of leading the team and the underclassmen look up to them.

"Our captains are really supportive and they push us every day during practice to work harder," Duggal said.

Boys Tennis Team Begins Season With New Coach

Michael Vaccaro
Staff Reporter
@mikevaccar0

The Jonathan Law boys tennis team is back on the court.

This year the team will be led by the new coach, **Britany Price**. Price played tennis for Sacred Heart University and is also an English teacher at Platt Tech. Price is very excited to coach the boys tennis team.

Senior captains **Adam Weber** and **Jack Campbell** and all of the challenges that go along with it. They and their team are adapting to the changes Price has brought to the team.

"She has been teaching us techniques for playing strategy," Weber said. "I think our team has some very good potential for this season."

Campbell also feels that the new coach is a good addition to the tennis team this year.

"She's really nice," Campbell said. "She is very knowledgeable about tennis and she has a lot of patience for some of the players who need some help. A lot of patience that I know I would not have."

Sophomore **Amar**



Junior Krishnan Suresh-Kumar returns a serve.
(photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

Almidani also has some high hopes for Price and the tennis team this year.

"We're pretty confident this year and we're hoping to win some matches" Almidani said "The new coach is nice. She has given us some hope for the season and the practices are pretty good."

This is Almidani's second year of tennis and he played doubles with Weber in the first match of the season.

Although the team lost their first match, they bounced back and beat Wilbur Cross in their

second match.

Last year, the team went 4-15. Campbell and junior **Soumya Kundu** made the SCC tournament as a doubles team last year. They made it by beating North Haven in their last match of the year.

Last year, the team was led by coach **Paul Coorssen**.

The boys tennis team is working extremely hard to improve their record from last year.

With the addition of Price, they feel like they are well on their way.

DeRubeis Twins Lead Lawmen

Kyle Kandetzki
Editor-in-Chief

For the past few years, when the topic of Law baseball has been brought up, the name DeRubeis was one of the first to come to mind. This season, the DeRubeis era will reach its completion at Law.

Drew and **David DeRubeis** are the lone captains of the 2013 Law baseball squad, and are looking to carry the torch in recent success for the program. Both seniors will be finishing over a decade of baseball in Milford and are looking to go out on a high note.

"I have very large aspirations for the team this year," said Drew DeRubeis. "But before I get to that, we need to ensure we get our wins and qualify for the state tournament."

The DeRubeis brothers got their start playing on various little league teams and the league's all-star teams virtually every year. They also played for the Milford Raiders and in the Connecticut Nutmeg State Games. Both also joined Law's fall ball team for further practice prior to joining the freshman team the next spring.

The impact was immediate for Dave, who was influenced by seniors with experience from 2008's Class L state title. Dave notes former Law player Jeff St. Pierre as someone who

had an early impact on him.

"Jeff was one of my idols, and he took me in as a freshman," said Dave. "The whole 2009 senior class was a great team that really helped me out."

The twins then in turn used this leadership to help lead their freshman team that year, and ultimately become huge vocal leaders on the varsity team even as underclassmen.

The twins have followed success in their sophomore and junior years to earn them their captain spots this season. Both earned varsity letters in 2010 and 2011, and are the longest tenured seniors on the squad.

Both have gathered season's worth of memories that have prepared them for their senior season. Many are on the field, including Law's 16 inning win vs. Foran in 2011, or their upsets against powerhouse Notre Dame in 2012. But some come off the field, like team cookouts, bus rides, or celebrations in the Pit that have made their baseball experience come full circle.

"Our motto is 'we are family', and because of that we are certainly a close-knit team," said Drew. "This, in turn, has led to great results on the field."

Today, Dave platoons between right field and pitching, while Drew plays

catcher. They turn to their final season as a Lawman to prove not only themselves, but their full team.

Drew says besides the obvious team goal of making states, he wants to give his greatest effort while making little improvements every day. Dave wants to make the All-SCC team while going for the highest seed possible in the state tourney.

Dave and Drew both tab head baseball coach **Mr. Simler** as the person with the biggest influence on their baseball careers. But Dave and drew have left an impression on Simler too.

"Dave and Drew have grown just as much physically as emotionally," said Simler. "The two of them have only wanted to get better and make the team better since their freshman years."

Both brothers are planning to play baseball in college, with Dave committed to play for the Fitchburg State Falcons and Drew going to play for Worcester Polytechnic Institute. But first both of them are poised to lead a successful baseball season, and they certainly are ready.

"Drew is a great leader for this team and is always on top of things," said Dave. "I'm excited to see where things go and hope for a great season."

Boys Track Looks To Build Off Indoor Success

Hayley Soulier
Sports Editor

The Jonathan Law boys track and field team is looking to have a successful 2013 season.

Track coach **Mr. Beler** is confident the team will have a great season, and many athletes will be competitive in the SCC and the Class MM state tournament.

"My goal this season is to win an SCC championship, along with a Class MM state championship," Beler said. "I would also like to see all my athletes show improvement throughout the season."

The team is led by senior captains **Ryan Dennis, Najee Smith, and Zack Toto**.

"We are led by a strong senior class," Beler said. "We have a chance at multiple state championships this year and an outside chance of being Class MM state champions depending on how we improve throughout the year."

Dennis runs the 400m, 200m, 4x400m, and does pole vault.

"We have very good members on the team this year and opportunities to go very far," Dennis said. "My personal goal is to be a state champion in the 4x400m and



Junior Mark Thibault competes in the pole vault. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

place in both the 200m and 400m at state."

Dennis plans to be a major threat in the SCC and at state championships.

"Ryan is probably one the most versatile and complete track athletes in the SCC,"

Belersaid.

Senior **Terrence Lewis** is coming of an All-State indoor track performance in the long jump and is looking to continue his success.

"We have big plans to be very successful as a team and

not just individually," Lewis said. "We want to be Class MM state champions as a team this year because we have a very good chance."

Lewis competes in the long jump, 4x100m, 200m and the 100m.

"My personal goal is to be Class MM state champion in the 4x1 and long jump," Lewis said.

Smith is a returning member of the 4x100 team that won the Class MM state championship last year.

"I won the 4x100 state championship last year with my team and would like to do it again this year with new additions to our team," said Smith.

In addition to being a part of the 4x100m team, Smith runs the 100m and the 200m and does high jump and triple jump.

"Najee is one of the premier triple jumpers in the SCC," Beler said.

Toto runs the 400m, 200m, 4x4m and is the new anchor on returning state champion 4x100m team.

"After being the runner up at the state championship last year, I want to win it this year," Toto said.

Toto has high hopes for the entire team as well and believes they will be very successful.

"The team looks really good this year, we have a lot of depth and there's a good chance we can bring home divisional and conference titles."

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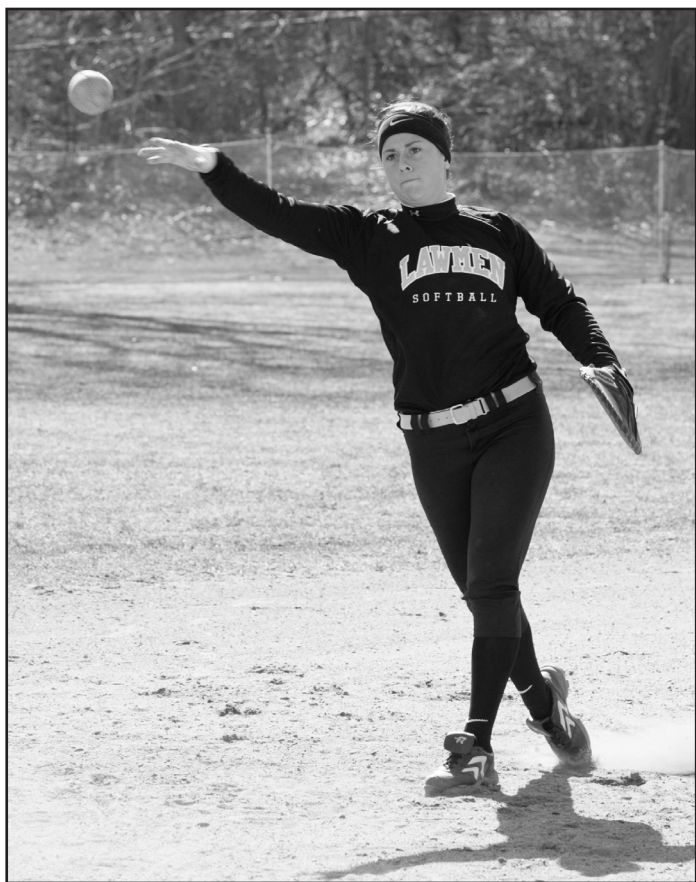
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Senior Sam Murphy takes infield practice.
(photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

Murphy Steps Up As Leader For Lawmen

Tim Speer
Staff Reporter
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The Jonathan Law softball team is poised for another successful season in 2013.

The team will be led by their outstanding senior captain, **Sam Murphy**. Behind her they hope to achieve the high goals they have set for themselves.

"We hope to play our best every day, and win as many games as we can," said Murphy. "Hopefully that will translate into a state championship."

These are bold statements, but Murphy believes her team can back them up.

Last season ended in heartbreak for the Lady Lawmen, despite an impressive 18-2 regular season record.

They reached the state playoffs but suffered a tragic loss to Rocky Hill in the semifinals.

Even though the season didn't end like they wanted, no one could scoff at their accomplishments.

The returning players have not forgotten how it felt to come so close to their goal and lose.

"This year we are motivated to make it further than last year," said Murphy.

Already, in the beginning of the season, the Eagles have seen this motivation be very useful for the team.

Following Murphy's example, the team won their first game in dramatic fashion.

As the innings began to dwindle away defeat seemed like a sure thing for Law.

They trailed Branford 4 to 1 heading into the last inning

*"We hope to play our best every day and win as many games as we can. Hopefully that will translate into a state championship."
- Law senior softball captain Sam Murphy*

and hadn't been playing their best game. But everything soon started to change.

They narrowed the deficit to 4-2 and Murphy came up to bat with the bases loaded. She converted on this opportunity with a clutch RBI to bring the team within one run.

Junior Amanda Leone finished off the rally as she belted the ball into the gap for a double, scoring the tying and winning runs.

"It is an awesome feeling," Murphy said. "It was the first game of the year and we wanted to make it count. This is a great start to our season and will definitely motivate us to work even harder."

A hard-fought victory like this one is the kind that can propel a team to even more success.

"That was huge for us," head coach **Ms. Paolini** said. "We were put in the backseat for the first seven innings of the season. The last thing we wanted to do was lose the first game. To come back in this game should give us the confidence."

Law Softball Team Looks To Continue Success

Tarah Kelly
Columns Editor
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The Lady Lawmen softball team is ready to once again make an impact in the state tournament.

After ending their last season in the quarterfinals of the state tournament, they're back and ready to make it even further than they did last year.

The team is coming back this year stronger than ever as they only lost three seniors from last year's team.

Senior captains **Shea Lagonigro**, **Sam Murphy**, **Jill Theil** and **Steph Peloso** have prepared in the offseason to become ready for their final season.

"Our goal this year is to make it in states," said Lagonigro. "Last year we came so far and this year I know we can do it again."

With Lagonigro, junior **Steph Cameron** and sophomore **Justine Bannon** in the outfield, nothing can get through them.

"We can't even narrow down the key players we have," said head coach **Ms. Paolini**.

"It starts with (junior pitcher) **Jenna Bernard** and (sophomore catcher) **Amanda Leone**. The more kids they keep off base, the easier it is for everything else."

Leone made a name for herself in the first game of the season this year as she hit



Junior Jenna Bernard is Law's starting pitcher.
(photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

a two-run single to give Law a come-from-behind 5-4 win against Branford.

"Not only did the win feel great because it was our first game, but the girls trailed the whole game and never gave up," said Paolini. "So we were able to make a comeback in the last inning."

Along with Leone and Bernard, Murphy and Peloso are the leaders of the infield.

The team had to fill the spot of all-state short stop **Melissa Nelson**, but they are working with freshman **Gege Romero** and she is already doing a great job.

This year the girls are

looking forward to the very anticipated Foran vs. Law game as they split their season last year.

"The Foran game is always my favorite one to play," said Murphy. "Now that I am a senior and this will be the last time I will ever play them, we have to leave everything we have out on the field."

Murphy believes the team has enough talent to make it deep into the SCC and state tournaments.

"This year we have to hit 1-9 the entire game," said Paolini. "We cannot afford strikeouts or having poor pitch selection."

Lagonigro Has High Hopes For Year

Nolan Rourke
Staff Reporter
@ncrourke

Senior softball captain **Shea Lagonigro** is ready to get her senior season off to a strong start.

Lagonigro has received a varsity letter on the softball team in each of her first three years at Law, and she has high expectations for herself and the team in the upcoming season.

"Our goal for the season is to make it to the class M state tournament and be an even stronger team than last year," said Lagonigro. "As a captain I want to help push the girls to get better as players and serve as a good role model."

The Eagles softball team would not be the same without Lagonigro's enthusiasm and respect for the team.

"Shea always cheers everyone on, and she is the first person to congratulate you or pick you up," said junior **Stephanie Cameron**. "She is very positive toward her teammates, and she is always willing to help you; she is very

fun to be around."

Lagonigro began playing softball in elementary school, and she has since fell in love with the game. She has made miraculous improvements in her years in high school, and emerged as one of Jonathan Law's top players.

Head coach **Ms. Paolini** notices Lagonigro's improvements and has high expectations for the upcoming season.

"I am expecting Shea to have a break-out year," said Paolini. "She has become a solid leftfielder for us; she came in as an infielder, and she was worked hard to learn a new position and perform well at it."

Aside from just performing well on the field, Lagonigro serves as a phenomenal role model. Her leadership skills are evident in the eyes of underclassmen.

"Shea is a great captain friend, and leader; I really enjoy playing with her," said sophomore **Justine Bannon**. "She always picks me up when

I'm down, and she gets along very well with everyone else on the team."

Off the field, Lagonigro inspires her teammates through communication. On the field, Lagonigro leads by example.

"Shea is a great outfielder and always has her head in the game," said sophomore **Phoebe Herbert**. "She is a very solid player, and she gives it her all every time she steps on the field."

These underclassmen will learn a lot from Lagonigro in their years at Law, and Paolini is well aware of that.

"Shea has the persona that makes her easily approachable," said Paolini. "Players like Shea help younger players succeed."

The Eagles finished the 2012 regular season with a record of 18-2, but came up short in the quarterfinals of the state tournament against Rocky Hill.

This year, Lagonigro looks to pick up where she left off and lead Law to another strong season.

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Law Baseball Team Eyes Return To States

Tarah Kelly
Columns Editor
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As the spring sports season begins, the Lawmen baseball team is looking to be as successful on the field as they were last year.

The Lawmen qualified for the state tournament last season and advanced all the way to the quarterfinals.

“This year is a big season for us,” said senior **Nolan Rourke**, “We went so far last year in states and I know we can go further this year.”

With returning seniors and co-captains **Drew DeRubeis** and **David DeRubeis**, the team hopes to match or surpass their record from last season.

“Drew and David are great leaders,” said junior **Timmy Maher**. “They always pick us up and are very motivational.”

Along with the DeRubeis brothers, Rourke, **Dave Pingarron**, **Jake Markham**, **Todd Manning** and **Ryan Bucko** will play key roles for



Junior Richie Dow is Law's top starting pitcher this season. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

the Lawmen.

“We have many goals that we are trying to reach this year,” said Dave DeRubeis, “We mainly want to get our eight wins and make it to the state tournament. Then we’ll worry about the SCC tournament and seeding.”

The seniors are looking forward to playing their cross town rivals Foran this year, but it’s at a different location.

“This year we are playing Foran at Harbor Yard,” said Rourke, “It’s a great opportunity for all of us, but first we need to worry about

our preceding goals before we become too excited about that one.”

Law’s seniors won’t be the only ones who play key roles for the team this season. Several juniors who stepped up last year are ready to be even better than last year. Juniors **Richie**

Dow and **Kevin Johnson** will be the team’s top starting pitchers and will play a great role in their success. Juniors **Jimmy Palmer**, **Dillon Rocha** and **Jake Rouse** will also help out at the plate.

During the off season, the team conditioned and lifted twice a week together.

“We wanted to work out as a team this year,” said Drew DeRubeis, “We wanted to build chemistry with the new kids before the season had even started.”

The Lawmen opened up their season with wins over East Haven and Cheshire. This season is the first year under the guidance of head coach **Mr. Simler** that the team has opened up 2-0.

“The coaching staff is continually evaluating and helping the team adjusts,” said Simler. “Baseball is all about making adjustments, so the improvements will be determined by how we do that.”

Rourke Excited For Senior Season

Jack Campbell
Staff Reporter

The Jonathan Law High School baseball team is coming off an impressive season that came to an unfortunate close in the Class L Quarterfinals.

The team lost crucial players that helped the team succeed, and this year’s program needed players returning to step it up. Senior **Nolan Rourke** did just that.

“Nolan is one of those kids who do not get discouraged,” said senior baseball captain **Drew DeRubeis**. “He is a gamer and it will be great to see his hard work pay off this season.”

Rourke picked up baseball at the age of 4 and has loved it ever since. During his freshmen through junior seasons, he saw very little varsity time, however as a completely transformed athlete, Rourke looks to play an integral part in Law’s success this season.

Rourke’s transformation began fall of his freshmen season when he went out for the cross country team. At first, it was an activity to meet people his first year of high school, yet he began to enjoy the team and remained on the team all four years, and was named captain his senior season.

With endurance in the

works, strength was the next challenge for Rourke. He began going to the gym regularly and joining a local baseball organization that granted him access to batting cages and other facilities to improve his swing, arm strength, and closing speed.

His grueling offseason workouts began to be noticed by teammates during preseason team-run practices.

“I hit with Nolan a few times in the offseason,” said junior teammate **Kurt Holden**. “It wasn’t hard to notice he had put in long hours towards improvement.”

In these workouts it was not only his physical transformations that stood out, but also Rourke was more vocal and assumed to position of a leader on a team returning just three starters.

“Although he wasn’t named a captain, Nolan has stepped up in a major way to improve the overall morale of the team,” said Holden.

Rourke’s determination and discipline on his rise to the varsity level are respected by all who bear witness to his workouts.

Rourke is in the top 10% of the senior class. He will be enrolling in Marist College in the fall.

Palmer Key Player For Lawmen

Tim Maher
Staff Reporter

Jonathan Law refers to him as the Derek Jeter of the school.

Jimmy Palmer is looking to start off his junior year leading the baseball team to a successful season.

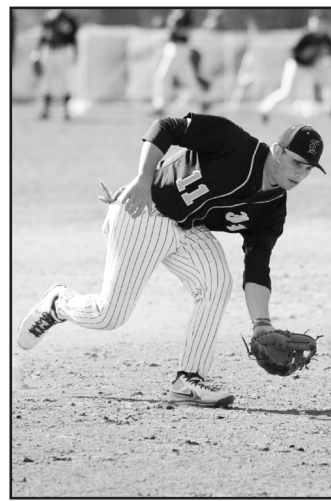
“I expect to get our team goal, eight wins, and make a run in the state playoffs,” Palmer said. “I want to finish what we couldn’t last year and show the state what Law baseball is about.”

The Law baseball team came up short of last year’s expectations by losing to Fitch High School in the second round of the state playoffs.

Palmer started varsity as a freshman and as a sophomore for the team last year, in which they ended the season not the way they wanted to. The baseball team came up short of last year’s expectations by losing to Fitch High School in the second round of the state playoffs.

Palmer spent his offseason wisely by working out hard lifting weights and doing extensive amounts of conditioning. Along with his weight-lifting, Palmer spent plenty of time on the baseball diamond and in the batting cages.

“I prepared by training in the gym and batting cages as much as I could,” Palmer said.



Jimmy Palmer fields a ground ball. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

“I tried to get as many swings and field as many ground balls as I could every day.”

Although Palmer isn’t a captain, he has stepped up this year and shows leadership on and off the diamond.

“Jimmy serves as a great role model for the underclassmen,” senior **Nolan Rourke** said. “He has stepped up this year to be captain of the infield and his teammates can learn a lot from him.”

Along with Palmer’s great attitude and strength of character, Palmer has many other key abilities that make him stand-out. Palmer’s strong arm and smooth fielding allows him to throw out base-runners with ease. Palmer’s powerful swing also allows him to be

a major offensive producer in the lineup.

“Jimmy has an uncanny ability to get a quick first step on the ball,” head coach **Mr. Simler** said. “This makes him have great range from left to right.”

Everyone on the team relates very well with Palmer. His personality is one of his greatest assets and he is able to interact with everyone in a positive and productive way.

“Jimmy is a great teammate, he is funny and friendly,” senior captain **Drew Derubeis** said. “But he’s also respectable and down to business when he needs to be.”

Many teammates look up to Palmer as a role model and try to follow the same work ethic.

“Jimmy has taken me under his wing and given me many valuable tips,” freshman **Rob Griswold** said. “He’s always doing what he’s supposed to and encouraging others to do the same.”

Palmer looks to continue his success to the next level as he already has verbally committed to play baseball at the University of Rhode Island.

“I’m beyond excited to be committed to URI and get a chance to play in such a great program,” Palmer said. “But I know what matters now is Law baseball and helping lead our team to a successful season.”