Phoenix

Spring 2025 Vol 14 No. 2 Garden City Middle School Newspaper Garden City, New York News In A Nutshell

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Congratulations Class of 2029

Let the Good Times Roll








Thank you and good luck, Mr. Samuelson!










L.I. Music Festival

On Friday, May 16, the Eighth Grade Band and Late Night Jazz ensembles embarked on a new adventure this spring! Both ensembles performed for two adjudicators at the Long Island Music Festival earning Superior Ratings. After performing two pieces each, one of the judges worked with each group for about 15 minutes providing numerous compliments as well as feedback for improvement. The Eighth Grade Band earned scores of 97 and 99, and the Late Night Jazz earned scores of 99 and 100! In addition, seventh grade trumpet player, Emmett Owens, won an award for Best Jazz Soloist.

The day culminated with a celebration of all their hard work at Long Island Adventure Park in Wheatley Heights where students worked their way through various rope and zipline courses.

Ms. Iovino and Ms. DeMarco are very proud of the students' musical accomplishments and how they represented our community and our school.

G.C. Cares








Garden City Cares!

By: Clarabel Connolly

Doesn’t helping people make you feel so great? Well, on January 31 at the Garden City Middle School, a countless number of people got to feel superb by helping the GC Cares-a-Thon take place from 6:30 until 8:00 PM. GC Cares-A-Thon is a huge event that helps and supports all kinds of causes, organizations, and people. How the event works is a group, team, class, or person chooses an organization or cause to represent. Then, they set up a booth with a tri-fold and make/get decorations for the booth. Most of them usually have a theme that can be associated with the cause they chose to use for their booth, like if you are doing a booth to help save the ocean, then you can make your booth ocean themed.I believe GC Cares-a-Thon is a great way to get community service and help your community. It is really amazing to see so many people come together to help our world, whether it’s by donating clothes to a booth for people in need, or just showing up to the event. I worked at my own booth with some of my friends called Swimming In Awareness for Down Syndrome, and I had a really amazing time! It was so cool to see people coming to our booth and learning about this condition and seeing all of our hard work. I also noticed how amazing and smartly created all of the other booths were. If you worked at the GC Cares-a-thon, then you deserve a pat on the back for all of your amazing hard work. If you came to GC Cares-a-Thon, then I hope you had a phenomenal time. If you didn't, we would love to see you next year! Just remember to stay kind and keep caring!






No Place for Hate





Middle School Happenings/News

6th Grade Maker Space Land Lot Project









Final Bows!

By: Clarabel Connolly

You listen as the overture soars above your head and throughout the auditorium. You're with your friends, feeling absolutely giddy as you jump up and down and try to conceal your happy squeals. You take a deep breath and listen to the silencing chatter as the song finishes. It's time to go on. You know it is! You remember everything; each move, each box step, each facial expression, but you're still scared. You shrug the nerves off and feel light as a feather as you watch the curtains open. This is it. A few months ago, our Music Box Players took their final bow performing Disney's, *Beauty and the Beast* for the last time. The cast and crew put on a phenomenal performance, and they certainly worked hard from December to March. However, a lot of magic is going on behind the scenes. Here's a sneak-peak backstage.

Firstly, our cast worked very hard learning all the choreography and spacing! It took a countless amount of time and rehearsals for the ensemble and the rest of the cast to learn the moves, especially to the big dance number, "Be Our Guest", where there is many different groups of people and a lot of different things going on at once. The spacing was difficult as well, especially with the soloists in Belle, the opening song. Next, we worked with Mrs. Menges to practice the songs, rehearse the lyrics, and learn our harmonies. I felt like the harmonies were most difficult to learn, because so many people were singing in different ways and they were usually harder to remember! Finally, the best part was hearing the first few notes of the first song. It feels like flying and falling at the same time, and the nerves combine with excitement to form an unexplainable feeling. There is nothing better than that!



https://abcnews.go.com/US/dire-wolf-revived-biotech-companys-de-extinction-process/story?id=120558562

De-Extinction of Dire Wolves

By:Annika Pandey

Ancient DNA and gene editing techniques were used by colossal scientists to create three dire wolves, a species of wolf that died out around 12,500 years ago. To achieve their goal, the company used CRISPR, a way to rewrite the genetic code in any organism, to cut away certain gray wolf genes and replace them. Currently, the dire wolves are living on a 2,000 acre site at an undisclosed location. Gray wolves and dire wolves share 99.5% of their DNA. The dire wolf was a top predator that lived in North America. They are larger than grey wolves, have thick light fur, and a stronger jaw.

Bingo Bash 2025







Retrospection: A Farewell and A Welcome

By: Winston Dong

A couple days ago I went to the *Phoenix* Newspaper club here at our Middle School, as I've always done every Tuesday morning. Sure, all mornings are tough and the cloud cover could be described as nothing short of ominous, but to be fair, I didn't care. At the time, I was entirely focused on the vast and colorful ideas I had for my journalism articles.

Well, when I arrived at the Rockaway Avenue parking lot in the family car, I noticed something…off...something dreary. And something—above all else—lonely. The lot was empty. This emptiness had a different aura than the usual mundane occurrences I had grown used to. At least for the eighth graders who were going to extra help not for a regular exam, but for their finals, and their Regents (advanced pupils, anyone?) in algebra and earth science, their gateway to upper secondary.

So, it's the end of an era, I thought, and that was how it hit me. All these years, I had remained loyal to my duties as a disciple, as one who looked up to the giants of academic life, with *Phoenix* as one of them. I distinctly remember the moment I first entered that sacred room 123. At the beginning of my first school year here in 2022 (I had just moved from New York City), I was stubborn, but Mrs. Ramos was persistent and gave me a list of extra- curricular activities, so I could get involved in school. When I went home, I looked it over. Despite the colorful nature of the activities listed (and as I would later find out in practice), my eye drifted to *Phoenix*,and my life changed forever.

Around that time, I had started reading a free newspaper from the City that my mother snatched from a subway station whenever she could. I had a fair assortment of novels that I partook in (and still do), but I figured that it wouldn't hurt to stay in the know with some amNewYork, right? I realized something. What if I were the one disseminating the facts? It was fun to picture myself in the writer's seat, and it was even more exciting to believe that I might be able to live up to the ideals that Sherlock Holmes (and later Hercule Poirot) would teach me (of course I know they're fictional detectives).

I've seen a lot of change, not just here, but in the world. I have witnessed a pandemic, two presidential administrations, two major wars that are still raging to this day, and all the crisis and fiasco in between. And figures that have been important to me in my academic endeavors have faded away. I celebrated when the new library and learning commons went up. I've powered up like in a video game, completing advanced classwork like how a fire burns and earning a spot in a student honor committee. However, the few solitary moments I had with Mrs. Feerick, the advisor, the times when she and I were rambling about the wild mess the world is as well as some local crazes, really pushed me forward to pursue journalism as a medium for free speech and change. There is a saying that I have heard, "The two hardest things to do are saying hello the first time and saying goodbye the last." Never has that insight been so pertinent as now. I figure that I can do both tasks, then - that is what a man has to do. To all the señors and señoritas who are moving on to GCHS or other high school option, farewell and the best of luck. You weathered the storm, and this is your award. Enjoy it to the fullest. To the young ones coming here for the first time, bienvenidos. I hope you have a good time here

Yours truly,

Winston Dong

Additions To Disney

By Grace Pollio

On May, 7, 2025, CNN posted an article that Disney recently announced they are creating a new theme park and resort in the middle east. For many fans all over the world, this news is beyond exciting. It will be located in Abu Dhabi, United Emirates on Yas Island. This resort will become Disney's seventh global resort destination. This project includes one theme park and an unknown number of hotels. The expected finish date will be in the early 2030s. This new park is expected to be different from the others, Disney says it will be the most technologically advanced park, and similar to Disney's Tomorrow Land. Many fans all over the world are very excited about this new getaway location!

Adventureland

























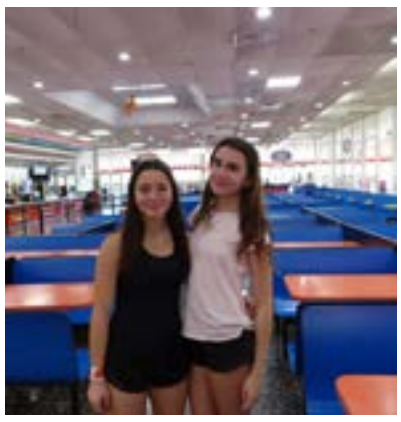



Adventureland

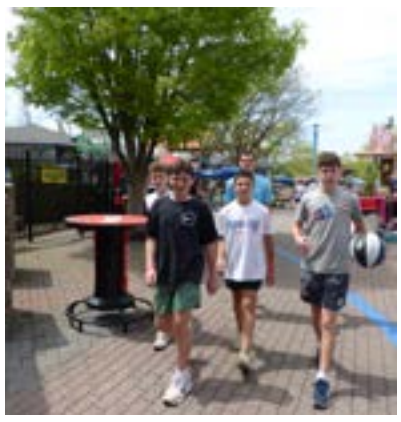


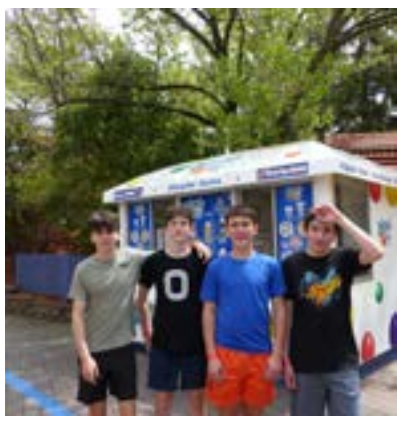








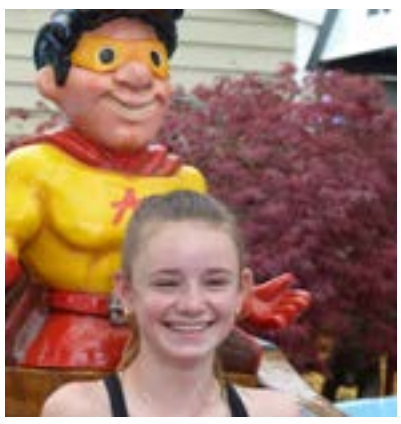











News/Reviews

Pope Francis Passes Away

By: Nina Kelly

Sadly, Pope Francis has passed away on the night of April 21, 2025. This is devastating news due to the amount of people that have respected and loved him since 2013, when he became the Pope. The Pope was first appointed a Priest in 1973 and it became his passion. He has inspired millions with his compassion to people, and he especially impressed people with his compassion to the homeless. He practically honored millions with his work as the Pope. The Pope's funeral was held on April 26 where people from all over the world came to pay their respects to him.

Florida Working Law

By: Jasnoor Singh

There is a bill going through the Florida State Senate which would remove restrictions limiting teenagers' abilities to work longer hours. Currently Florida state law says people between the ages of 14-17 years old cannot work overnight on school nights and cannot work longer than 5 hours a day. If this bill passes all these restrictions will be removed. Critics of the law say that students would start skipping school to go to their jobs. They also say that students who would start overnight work would make up their sleep in school. The main point of critique in the State Senate is that Florida school grades and averages would drop and would get families more reliant on their children's income, placing ever greater pressure on students who already have large amounts of stress.

European Blackout

By: Menaal Noor

There was a blackout in Europe which stopped all trains and airports and others. Most people assume that it was because of an unexplained power transmission issue. The European outage lasted for more than 10 hours. However, some people think that the blackout happened and attributed the outage to a disconnection of the grid in the south-west of Spain. Luckily, not a lot of people got hurt or worse during the blackout. Still, it is not known if this blackout will happen again.

Rihanna Releases New Music

By: Kate Sullivan

Rihanna is a very well known famous singer and is releasing a full song track on Friday for the *Smurfs* movie. The song track is titled “Friend of Mine” and was presented on Wednesday for the first time in the new trailer for the movie. Rihanna is the voice for Smurfette. “Friend of Mine” is the first new song Rihanna has released since 2022. The *Smurfs* movie will be released in theaters on July 18. Rihanna enjoyed making this new song and getting back in the recording studio. Rihanna is seen smiling and laughing while adjusting her headphones.

Phoenix Staff

Staff Members- Ismail Alizai, Jayden Armstrong-Patrick, Olivia Bankewitz, Bianca Borrelli, Donovan Carroll, Madeline Carroll, Sophia Diaz, Spencer Ellis, Omar Kaissi, Nina Kelly, Matthew Lehmann, Menaal Noor, Trip PaisleyIII, Annika Pandey, Hailey Pappas, Thomas Perry, Grace Pollio, Ethan Rorer, Maya Setaidi, Jasnoor Singh, Landon Stoller, Ian Straus, Kate Sullivan, Claire Wiechmann, Owen Winter
Reporters: Winston Dong , Alexandra Aw, Olivia Bankewitz, Ricky Lin, Erin Na, Evangeline Barbari, Clarabel Connolly
Faculty Advisor- Ms. Feerick
Special thanks to all who were instrumental in the production of this paper, including but not limited to: Mr. Samuelson, Dr.Fasano, Mr. Marr, and Ms. Brillantino.
Opinions expressed are the writers and do not represent the opinions of the school board, the advisor, or the administration

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What Is Fruity Loops ?

By: Jayden Armstrong Patrick

“Fl Studio” also known as, ”Fruity Loops” is the desktop DAW that music makers such as "musicians across the world" use to turn ideas into reality. Whether you’re just starting or are an experienced producer, FL Studio includes everything you need to create music. You can also make beats here and songs all in one. I've use Fl Studio for about three years and the performance and sound quality is great.

When Was FL Made

Fl Studio was invented on December 18, 1997. The original name for Fl Studio was called “Fruity Loops” which later had to be changed due to copyright restrictions. They had the original name for about four years then decided to change their name instead of fighting cases in court. The “F” stands for fruit and the “L” stands for loops which producers do with beats.

Who Uses FL?

Many artists in the industry uses Fruity loops. On their website, you can view artists who use the platform such as Murda Beatz, Afrojack, Dyro and others. One of the most streamed songs, “Butterfly” by Travis Scott was produced on Fruity Loops by Murda Beatz.

Why Should I Use It?

You should use this program because many professionals love to use it and the company has been working on that program for over 25+ years. I also use this program and it has helped me a lot with recording and it's very easy to learn. It may be hard for some new people but as you use it more you will understand the program better. The company knows what they're doing and has been trained for many years to improve their program.

Harvard vs. Trump

By: Olivia Bankewitz

“The University will not surrender its independence or relinquish its constitutional rights,” attorneys representing Harvard wrote in a letter to federal officials. “Neither Harvard nor any other private university can allow itself to be taken over by the federal government.” These are the words of attorneys representing Harvard, which were written in a letter to federal officials. On April 11, 2025, the Trump administration asked Harvard to “immediately reform its student discipline rules—including the adoption of a mask ban—and investigate all student violations regarding the sit-ins and protests that have occurred on-campus.” Harvard responded on April 14th that they were overstepping legal bounds, and that they were ‘rejecting the demands.’ Kristi Noem, Department of Homeland Security Secretary, retorted on April 16, that the Administration would be cancelling more than 2.7 million dollars worth of grants to Harvard. She also threatened that they would lose their ability to enroll international students. Harvard then filed a lawsuit against government intrusion. We are not sure what will happen, but in the end, is the government overstepping legal bounds, or is Harvard just going to lose the battle?

New Jersey Fires

By: Bianca Borelli

On April 22, a fast moving fire was burning in New Jersey's Pine Barrens. Unfortunately, more than 1,300 structures were threatened and about 3,000 residents had to be evacuated. Fortunately there were no deaths or severe injuries. The police arrested a 19 year old man that tried to start a bonfire and then lost control of it. But some just suspect it's just from climate change.

Newark Airport

By: Maddy Carroll

In Newark, New Jersey at Newark International Airport, there have been many flight delays due to FAA staffing issues in recent days during the month of May. All departures out of Newark will be delayed an average of 19 minutes on average for the next few days. There have been 59 delays at the airport and over 80 cancellations. These flight delays and cancellations inconvenienced many people who had planned flights out of Newark Airport.

News



https://jointcenter.org/joint-center-mourns-the-passing-of-president-jimmy-carter/

Jimmy Carter: A LIFE

By: Winston Dong

Former 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, died at his home in Plains, Georgia, his birthplace, on Sunday, December 29th, 2024, surrounded by family. He was 100 at the time of his passing—the longest-living U.S. president, in fact, and the first to become a centenarian.

Born on October 1st, 1924 in Plains, to a Georgia State Senate member and a registered nurse, Carter attended the Georgia Southwestern College and Georgia Institute of Technology before graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland in 1946. After marrying Rosalynn Carter (née Smith), he served seven years in the Navy before resigning after his father's death to manage the Carters' peanut business.

Beginning his political career in the local board of education, Carter was elected to the Georgia State Senate as a Democrat in 1962 and was reelected in 1964. Albeit losing a bid to become Governor in 1966, he was successfully elected in 1970 and was state executive until his term ended in 1974, when he announced his candidacy for the presidency. Winning the Democratic nomination in July 1976, he selected Senator Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota as his running mate and ultimately narrowly defeated the unelected and incumbent President Gerald Ford and his running mate Robert J. Dole on an anti-racial segregation platform.

Two days after inauguration, Carter pardoned all Vietnam War draft evaders. He advocated for policies regarding sustainable energy and environmental preservation. In 1978, he successfully negotiated the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel, leading to Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula (the country had seized the region during the 1967 Six-Day War) and the normalization of relations between the two nations. However, despite these successes, the later half of his presidency was marred by controversy, especially surrounding his seemingly helpless attitude about the Iranian hostage crisis, in which 53 American diplomats and citizens were held hostage by Iranian students for almost 2 years, in the wake of the Iranian Revolution of 1979. Also in this era, he was influential in ending détente between the U.S. and the Soviet Union after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan that same year, and boycotting the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics. Despite this stand in the Cold War, Carter lost in the 1980 presidential election to Ronald Reagan due to heavy inflation, an energy shortage, and public discontent on the hostage crisis on the home front.

Carter remained active in U.S. politics and affairs during his post-presidency. He founded the Carter Center, a nongovernmental organization that aims to improve lives by ending conflicts, advocating for democracy and human rights, eradicating transmittable diseases and improving mental health care. He also established Habitat for Humanity International, also known as just Habitat for Humanity or simply Habitat, a 501(c)(3) Christian nonprofit organization that aims to build affordable housing. Indeed, while scholars and historians generally view Carter's presidency as among one of the more controversial ones, his post-presidency is widely considered as one of the best among any of the chief executives of this country.

Grand Reopening of Alcatraz?

By: Ian Struas

Beginning as a naval defense fort, Alcatraz was rebuilt as a military prison in the early 20th century. Eventually, criminals involved in the federal prison system were relocated there in the 1930s. Alcatraz harbored some of the most notorious convicts such as Al Capone, Mickey Cohen, and George "Machine Gun" Kelly. Hollywood films increased the popularity of the prison in the 1960s until it was finally closed due to high operating costs and inefficiency. Despite this, Alcatraz remained well-known as one the most famous prisons in history.

Recently, President Donald J. Trump has made the decision to focus government powers to reopening Alcatraz as a functioning prison just like how it used to be. His argument is that Alcatraz, being one of the country's most brutal prisons, is a powerful symbol of law, justice, and order. The BBC also states that Trump wanted to put an end to the repetition of severe criminal offenders. It is unclear whether his plan will come to fruition, but the possibility always remains.



https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/13/science/boeing-starliner-astronauts-stuck-space

Astronauts Stuck in Space

By Claire Wiechmann

SpaceX launched in June and was only supposed to last 8 days but lasted more than 9 months. Due to malfunctions in the machines they were not able to fly anyone else to get them or go down. This Friday they launched another rocket to go and receive them from the space station. They are supposed to land on 3/18/25 at 6:00 PM. They might have mental health issues from being up there for so long so serious precautions will be taken to make sure they can remain healthy. They have been keeping busy in Space doing more than 100 experiments and research projects. On March 18, 2025, astronauts Nick Hague, Suni Williams, Butch Wilmore, and Roscosmos cosmonaut, Aleksandr Gorbunov safely returned to earth!



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Ballerina's Pose so Beautiful Fans Suspect AI

By: Maya Setiadi

Victoria Dauberville, a ballerina, danced on a cruise bilge (the lowest part of a ship where the hull meets the keel. Victoria was inches away from Antarcticas below freezing waters. This dance was filmed and posted on social media. This stunning dance went viral. Fans who saw the video didn't believe that it was real because of how dangerous yet stunning the video was. It was later told that the dance was not created by AI and was all real.



Los Angeles Wildfires 2025

By: Ethan Rorer

For more than a week, wildfires have been burning across Los Angeles beginning on January 7. Scientists believe the cause of the fires began from California's dry climate and high temperatures. More than 12,000 structures were destroyed as the fire spread by the powerful winds. It is estimated that 25 people have died while thousands have been injured because of the fires. Two major wildfires still continue to burn, destroying towns in their paths. The LA Fire Department is struggling to put out the fires and they have issued multiple evacuation orders and warnings.

Sports/News

The Masters 2025

Donovan Carroll

The Masters is the pinnacle of the golf season, and is played at Augusta national, in Georgia. The tournament lasts from Thursday all the way to the same Sunday. If you win the Masters, there is a list of things that you get. First, you get 500 Fedex cup points. Most years, the winner will get somewhere between 2 or 3 million dollars, which you are supposed to pay your caddy at least 10 percent of their winnings. Next, you are alowed to pick the champion's dinner menu. All of the former champions of the Masters attend. The winner also gets to use the champion's driving range. This gives the previous winner some privacy. The most infamous thing that that the winner gets is the green jacket. However, there are rules with such as the winner only get one, and it can only be worn on the course. If the winner was to wear it off the course, it has to be within one year of the last winning, and the cours has to be notified. The winner is also not allowed to be seen with any alcohol while wearing the green jacket. Lastly, the winner gets a full membership and is invited back every year for the tournament . The membership comes with the winner's locker room. The first two days of the tournament are deciding who will make the cut for the following two days; the cut is usually +3 or +4.

G, C. 8th Grade Baseball Undefeated in 2025 Season

By:Spencer Ellis

After the huge win Monday, June 2. against Roslyn GCMS 8th grade baseball finished undefeated in 2025. Eighth grade baseball led by their skipper Coach Joseph Gangi and assistant coach Ryan Gangi were a consistently great offensive team all season. The players had high expectations for the season after losing 1 game last season against Roslyn. They were out for revenge. Pitcher Evan Glace (ace) was asked after his stellar performance vs Roslyn about what his plan was and how it felt to go undefeated. He responded “You know, I felt pretty good today. Great support from my teammates and friends, and it was a way I was proud to go out”. Evan will be taking his pitching talents to the next level at Garden City High School JV baseball. Garden City players after the game said they were honored to have a chance to play for Coach Joseph Gangi.

Belmont Stakes

By:Trip Paisley

On Saturday June 7, Sovereignty won the Belmont Stakes. The Belmont is a horse race that is in Long Island, but due to renovations, the horse race took place in Saratoga. The top three horses were: Baeza (third), Journalism (second) , and the winner was Sovereignty. Sovereignty's sponsor was Hildebrands of Long Island. Sovereignty's jockey, Junior Alverado, lives in Garden City, New York. His sone is in the eighth grade at Garden City Middle School. Sovereignty also won the Kentucky Derby. In both races, Sovereignty was behind and then caught up in both races to come in first!! The Kentucky Derby and the Belmont Stakes were very fun races to watch!

Flag Football, New Olympic Sport

By: Omar Kaissi

The sport Flag Football will be in the Olympics in 2028, there are going to be a mens and womens side. For the mens there is going to be only 1 NFL player on each team and they are going to use the same format as the NFL does. Many people are looking forward to watching it.

Knicks Win Game

By: Matthew Lehmann

The New York Knicks faced off against the Boston Celtics in game one of the divisional series for the east. The winner of this series will play in the eastern conference finals for a chance to go to the NBA finals. The first quarter was very even with the teams trading points and an occasional three pointer. However, quarter 2 was a little different. The Celtics were pulling away with the game. It was still close but the Knicks were falling behind. Heading into halftime, the Celtics were leading by a slight amount. In quarter 3, things would change a lot. Shot after shot, steal after steal, rebound after rebound the Celtics were winning by 20 points. Heading into quarter 4, hope was down; however, Jaylen Brunson, Mikal Bridges, and O.G Aunonoby went on a run. O.G shot three and the Knicks and Celtics were tied 100-100 as they went into overtime. O.G slammed a dunk, which put the Knicks up by 2, and then a 3 point shot by Brunson and another mid range shot. The Knicks were up 116-113. The Celtics got the ball with 5 seconds left. Mikal Bridges yanked the ball out and chucks it down court as the Knicks took a 1-0 series lead before their disappointing loss.

Duke Rolling, but Plagued With Another Injury

By: Landon Stoller

Duke won in blowout fashion yet again this year, but has been struck with another injury. A few games earlier their best defender, Maliq Brown, dislocated his shoulder and is expected back at the end of the regular season. On Tuesday, February 25, Duke’s most experienced player, Tyrese Proctor, went up for a rebound and his knee buckled. He went for some imaging when they got back to North Carolina and they found that he has deep bone bruising and no structural damage. On Jon Scheyer’s radio show (who is alos Duke's coach) he said "Basically, it's about his pain tolerance, and it's about his movement and strengthening. We'll be very cautious with that and smart. I don't want to give an exact timetable because it depends on how we can get him moving over the next few days or weeks or however long it takes. But we're going to get him back, which is the most important thing." This sounds promising and is great news for the Duke Blue Devils and their fanbase. Due to the injuries, the great three point shooting freshman Isaiah Evans, and the struggling sophomore Caleb Foster will most likely get more playing time. All in all, it sounds like Maliq Brown and Tyrese Proctor should be back around the same time, but there is no telling if they will be at their best basketball after missing a couple games.

Lebron James Game Winner

By Ismail Alizai

The Los Angeles Laker, Lebron James, played the Indiana Pacers which was an absolute game thriller. The Lakers won 120-119 by a put back when star, Luka Donchih, missed a 3 pointer. The stars combined talents to get a total of 47 points including 15 rebounds and 13 assists. Lebron almost lost his 10 point streak. Lebron had only 2 points going into the second half. In the quarter four, he went on a 11-0 run by himself. It looks like the Lakers will play the Grizzlies in the playoffs. Two years ago they beat the Grizzlies 4-2, but will the Grizzlies get their revenge this year?

Swift Buy Back

By: Sophia Diaz

After many years, on May 31, Taylor Swift finally bought back her own songs. After the success of her Eras Tour, she was able to “buy back” all of her albums. She now also owns all her music videos, concert films, album art and photography, and her unreleased songs. She bought the music from Shamrock Capital, an equity that got her master recordings. Taylor Swift said that Shamrock Capital are the first people to try and give her the opportunity to get all her music back. She said her business with them was honest, respectful, and fair.



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J. LO Injury During Rehearsals for AMA awards

By Hailey Pappas

J.LO was preparing for the American Music Awards when she injured herself before she even performed for a crowd. The injury was on her face. This information was revealed on May 13. She was seen in an Instagram post from her account that there was a bag of ice on her head after her rehearsal that day. She was supposed to host the awards on CBS. This award show was supposed to help spark her musical career after she cancelled her tour.. She hosted and performed a mashup of her hits at the award shows on May 26th, 2025.

New Jersey Transit Engineers Strike

By: Owen Winter

Members of the Railroad Enginers Union for New Jersey Transit went on strike at 12:00 am Friday, May 16, crippling a system that around 350,000 people rely on. Officials said. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen said that its around 450 members in New Jersey Transit were walking off the job right after midnight in a dispute over pay. This brings the nation’s third largest transit system to a standstill.