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Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

2025-2026 Issue

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Drama Fest at MHS

Anna Baughman, Social Media Manager, Junior

Every year, high school theater students from across Massachusetts come together for Drama Fest, a statewide theater competition run by the Massachusetts Educational High School Theater Guild. Held during the first week-end of March, Drama Fest brings together dozens of schools, each performing a 40 minute play at a designated host site. Schools arrive with their full cast and crew, along with sets, costumes, and technical elements, turning the event into a full day dedicated entirely to student theater.

Drama Fest is judged by adjudicators from a wide range of backgrounds, including theater educators, college professors, professional actors, and directors. Schools are grouped with seven to eight others during the preliminary round, and only three advance. There are three rounds total. Performances are evaluated on overall quality, but judges also look closely at elements that are driven by students, such as acting, set design, lighting, and costuming. Individual actors can also earn recognition for their performances.

This year, Marblehead High is competing with an original production titled *The Mender*, written by English teacher and director Ms. Skeffington. The Drama Club originally planned to perform *John Proctor Is the Villain*, which is about the Salem Witch Trials. Unfortunately, though, they lost the rights unexpectedly when the show was sold for a movie adaptation. With limited time, Ms. Skeffington expanded a short play she had written years ago into a full-length piece. “She has made truly unbelievable progress developing the play,” says

actor Max Kane, who plays Teddy. He shares, “It’s really come together.”

Ms. Skeffington adds that this process was a collaborative effort between her and students. For example, actors have improvised scenes that were put into the final script. Ms. Skeffington goes on to say, “There have been so many things they [the students] have suggested in the rehearsal room that have worked so beautifully.”

Set during both the Vietnam War and the early 2000s, *The Mender* tells a story of family and generational trauma. Though the play is set in the past, the themes reflect issues that are still relevant today, particularly the idea of division in American society. “I think in many ways, it's something that people can still relate to,” Ms. Skeffington shares.

Though ownership issues forced the club to make an unexpected pivot, everyone involved in the production came together to overcome the challenge. Additionally, many actors expressed their enthusiasm at being a part of the development of their character. Others are excited to learn about the historical setting of the play and explore sound and set design. Actor Charlie Seliger, who plays June, tells us that she’s “super excited to see this come together with all its moving parts. I think it’s a really cool show and I’m so proud of us already.”

The coming together of this play is going to be a memorable experience for production members, regardless of the outcome of the competition.

and more. The due date for these forms is February 15th, so please submit as soon as possible! In the last few weeks of February, we will contact you about picking up the item. This will be in any way that is most convenient for you. The auction will be live from March 1st to March 13th. Keep an eye on social media, emails, *Headlight*, and around town for the website when it is released!

Businesses and individuals who donate will be recognized for their generosity. We will proudly acknowledge all supporters in our online auction materials, which will be shared widely with the Marblehead community when the auction goes live. This is a great opportunity to showcase your business while making a positive impact on our class!



In addition to the auction, our monetary donation/sponsorship site will open up in February. Families are encouraged to donate at any level. If your child is a junior, please donate. Our goal is to have 100% class participation, and to raise \$40,000. Every bit helps, and we are so grateful for your support in any way you can contribute!

If you're having trouble with the Google Form, or have any questions whatsoever, email us at juniorclassauction@gmail.com. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards every event the Class of 2027 hosts for the rest of our high school career, including Junior Prom, Senior Prom, graduation, and the class gift. It even goes towards our high school reunion! If you choose to donate or sponsor, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you so much!

Scan the QR code to access the Google Form!

Crime is down... So why are our nerves up?

Evan Eisen, Assistant Editor, Senior

If you have been watching the news or looking online recently, you’d probably think that crime is high and that things will continue to get worse. As it turns out, that is far from the case. Recent data from the Council of Criminal Justice found that the U.S. homicide rate has fallen 21% from last year in 35 large U.S. cities, which makes it one of the biggest one year drops ever and the lowest rate since 1900. In addition, criminal offenses like aggravated assaults have fallen by 9%, gun assaults have fallen by 22%, and robberies have fallen by 23%. The only category that saw an increase were drug-related crimes which rose by 7% from last year. Now, many people will try to place blame on one politician and praise another for this dramatic drop in crime, however, the greater issue we should be focusing on is why do so many people feel unsafe when crime is going down?

The answer to this can be linked back to the relationship numbers and emotions. Data tells us what is happening, but they do not tell us how people are feeling about what is happening. Currently, people's feelings are much louder.

It’s evident in a lot of conversations with people talking about how cautious they are at night or in a certain area. People carry guns, knives, and pepper spray, and they are also very superstitious about checking their locks. If you were to tell some of these people that crime is

is dropping, you would probably be met with skepticism, which isn’t because they don’t believe the data, but due to their feelings of being unsafe and allowing emotion to rule over the facts.

It’s actually very common to have these feelings, as many psychologists have long known that humans tend to be more wired to bad news and threats rather than good news, which is seen as not as interesting. Our brains are wired to overreact to small things like the wind making a bush rustle than just ignore a threat. Social media and the news certainly heighten these feelings of tension by constantly sharing videos of terrifying events that make people think a rare occurrence will happen to them. When crime goes down, media coverage of it continues to go up. There is also the issue of proximity. Despite the fall in national crime, it only takes for one crime to happen close to home to overshadow this trend. People act and believe in the stories they hear going on around them and not in the distant numbers they see in graphs and statistics.

Therefore, it is vital to understand the mismatch between perception and reality and what is really going on in our world. The real issue isn’t stopping crime, but rather to navigate the information that travels faster than we could process. The next time you see a headline about some sort of crime occurring, make sure to ask yourself if the world is truly scary, or if it just appears that way.

The Class of 2027's Junior Auction

Maximilian Kane, Junior

Every year, the junior class at MHS hosts an online auction. Over the past few years, each class has made from \$30,000 to over \$50,000. Now, it's the class of 2027’s turn!

My name is Max Kane, and I have been the Class of 2027 president for three years now. The other class officers and I have been hard at work on this year's auction. Now, we need the entire Marblehead community's help.

A Google Form has been created and sent out to the community via email, social media, and flyers spread around the school and around town. If you are interested in donating, scanning the QR code

included here will take you to the form. Donation items can be almost anything, things like tickets to sporting events, concerts, theater shows; experiences, like a round of golf, a fishing trip, a cooking class; getaways, like a weekend stay at a secondary home, a night at a local hotel; items like a new household item, a signed sports jersey, arts and crafts; and services like dog walking, personal training, spa and salon treatments, and home improvement. If you're not sure if your donation is eligible, submit anyway! In the Google Form, a few questions will be presented, including contact information, the item being donated, the approximate value of the item,

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