

Elephant In The Room

Milton High's Student Newspaper

25 Gile Road, Milton, MA 02186

December 4, 2024

Volume IX, Issue II

MHS Teacher Lives Happily Ever After: Mr. Hale's Marriage at King Richard's Faire

By LEO WALDBAUM

If you and your spouse can agree to tie the knot at a Renaissance faire, it is likely a good sign for your marriage. On Saturday, October 5, Robert Hale, an English teacher at MHS, did exactly that, using King Richard's Faire as the venue for what he described as "a literal Fairy Tale wedding."

Hale and his wife, Haley Mazzarella, have been going to King Richard's Faire for years. After they got engaged, Hale and Mazzarella knew they wanted their wedding to "tell a story."

Hale, eager to indulge his inner English teacher's love for Shakespearean tropes, chose to have their wedding there. This decision ultimately led him to stand on stage, dressed as a knight in shining armor with a large sword.

But while Hale and his wife were on stage, most of the crowd didn't realize it was an actual wedding, believing it to be another one of the various shows across the faire. One man in the back was on a loud phone call during the ceremony. Eventually, I piped up to let him know it was a real wedding and he immediately left.

The only other hiccup oc-



Hale and Mazzarella exchange vows at their wedding.

Photo courtesy of LEO WALDBAUM

curred when Mazzarella arrived late to the grand procession around the faire, which was led by King Richard and the Queen with their royal entourage. Hale was marching alone, prompting people to ask him, "Where is your wife?" to which he jokingly replied, "Honestly, I'm surprised she lasted that long."

Mazzarella joined him after she grabbed her new bow, which seems to be a very fitting reason to be late at a Renaissance faire.

Even though the wedding setting was fantastical—filled with the sound of bagpipes and cheers of "Huzzah!"—the emotions shared by the couple's friends and family were genuine. Hale explained, "The people who were invited were the people I knew who would love it."

While their wedding might not be for everyone, it was exactly what they wanted. And hopefully their fairytale wedding will end with a happily ever after.

Cross Country Crosses the Finish Line

By LAYLA RAYMOND

It's loud—parents yelling to their kids, teams shouting chants, and some runners squeezing in last-minute strides. Then, the announcer's voice pierces through the noise, delivering instructions and rules on how the race will unfold.

With just three words, "On your marks," the atmosphere shifts. The boisterous energy vanishes, replaced by an electrifying silence that grips everyone. Then the gun goes off. In an instant, the commotion returns, and you find yourself running alongside them, not wanting to miss a second of the action.

On Monday November 11,

Milton High's Girls Cross Country team placed seventh with 197 points, earning a spot at the MIAA Meet of Champions Cross Country meet in Devens, Massachusetts. Although the boys' team did not qualify as a group, senior Joshua Toth qualified individually, placing 8th out of 155 runners with an impressive time of 16:46.81 in the 5k.

Riding high on their performances, the varsity runners turned their focus to the final meet the following Saturday, November 16.

For their final week of preparation, the girls and boys trained from Monday through Friday.

When asked about their

preparation, girls' varsity runner Fiona Tobin shared, "We did a lot of hill workouts and speed workouts as well as short runs around town to make sure we were prepared without being burnt out."

Coaches Jason Cakouras and George Daly led the boys' team, while Milton High's own teachers, Ms. Ritten, Mrs. Laughlin, and T Shaw coached the girls.

On race day, the runners packed into the bus at 8:15 am, joined by supportive friends and family. Among those in attendance was Milton High's Athletic Director, Michael Bierwirth, who cheered the team on.

Continued on Page 2

MHS Senior Voter Participation 2024

We surveyed 11.2% of MHS seniors to find out how many of them voted in the Nov. Election, why, and which issues they felt the most strongly about.

9 out of 14

seniors claimed to have voted because they “felt very strongly about the issues that will be covered”

Other reasons to vote at MHS:

- "My parents encouraged me to"
- "I had been waiting to vote since I was in elementary school"
- "First of my brothers to vote"
- "a vote unused is a vote wasted"

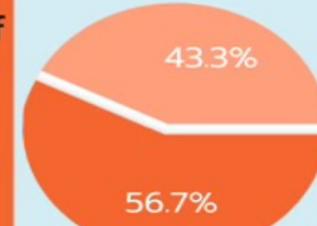
73.4% of the seniors surveyed

claimed to be very familiar with the 2024 Mass. Ballot Questions

According to Unofficial Results of the Nov. Election in Milton, 75% of registered voters participated, while at MHS, 82% of registered MHS seniors voted

The MOST Relevant Questions:

- #2 - Should the MCAS exam be eliminated as a graduation requirement?
- #5 - Should the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker increase to minimum wage?
- #4 - Should people over the age of 21 be able to grow psychedelic substances?



Out of the 30 seniors surveyed, 17 said they are registered to vote

Infographic by MELINA ZULLAS using CANVA

Cross Country*(continued from page 1)*

Even if the runners were nervous, they didn't show it on their faces as they stepped off that bus with confidence. After setting up a tent and putting down their bags, the coaches and runners walked the course, examining its twists and turns.

Unlike other sports, cross country courses change with every meet, offering unpredictable terrain. This particular 5k featured wide-open stretches of field, up and down steep hills, and paths through the woods, where clouds of dirt obscured the runners' vision as they navigated the rugged terrain.

Representing Milton High was freshman Grace Danielson, sophomores Evelyn Toth and Reese Longo,

juniors Lauren Cooper and Fiona Tobin, and seniors Megan Carew and Lydia Turner. Overall, the girls placed 22nd with 538 points. Danielson led the team with a time of 20:30.81.

Reflecting on the race, Coach Daly remarked, "This is the best competition I've seen all year. They ran strong. They ran tough. They weren't all feeling good so it's always impressive to see them out here."

As for Milton High's singular runner for the boys' team, Toth placed 58 out of 186 with a time of 17:00.51.

The end of the race mirrored the start—emotions running high as parents, friends, and coaches cheered their teams through the final meters. No matter how the runners fared mid-race, everything boiled down to those last few seconds. And just like

the silence before the starting gun, the fierce intensity dissipated as runners crossed the finish line. Competitors comforted and congratulated one another. Some left with injuries, others with upset stomachs, and a lucky few headed for the merchandise stand.

Milton High's Cross Country runners left Devens content with their efforts. After a well-earned two-week break, most of these athletes will transition to their winter sports starting December 2nd. With new leadership from Lauren Cooper, Rebecca Domineau, and Fiona Tobin for the girls' team and Gideon Toth for the boys, Milton's runners are already setting their sights on next year, hoping for even faster times and stronger finishes in the seasons to come.

AI Day*(continued from page 1)*

English department while teaching English I and Introduction to Law, takes a different approach. While many educators focus on AI's potential for misuse, Hardie acknowledges that "AI is a reality that's not going to go away," embracing its "beneficial and detrimental uses."

He especially emphasizes the importance of mastering AI as a workplace skill, noting that it's something employers increasingly expect.

This unique passion and perspective emerged from several factors. Hardie attributes his initial fascination towards AI to him simply having an interest in new technologies. Hardie's daughters have also brought the topic to his attention. He claims that their "employers expect them to be using it on a daily basis."

To make artificial intelligence more of an educational tool, Hardie has been participating in creating the high school's first-ever "AI day."

On the fifth of December, each class period will have an artificial intelligence-related lesson. The goal is to increase students' "exposure to aspects of AI they may not have thought of," and the half-day will educate students and teachers alike.

For example, Hardie's English I class will practice using AI for summary and research purposes, and his law class will discuss liability in scenarios of AI use in the medical field.

Many members of the MHS community may have concerns about the plan as a whole. While Hardie acknowledges that this risks allowing more students to cheat with AI, he also notes that a number of the classes will center around the ethics of artificial intelligence. He remains optimistic, predicting that "students will be receptive to hearing that AI has its beneficial uses."

STAFF**Teacher Advisor** Michael Young**Editor-in-Chief** Isabelle Gobbi**Managing Editor** Nicholas Pulgini**Layout Editor** Isabella Murphy**Editors** Griffin Angus, Lawson Beaudoin, and Melina Zullas**Business Manager**

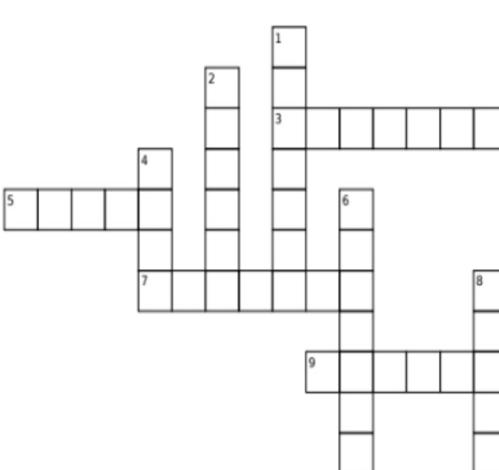
Jacqueline Segall

Secretary

Leo Waldbaum

Social Media Manager

Macy Burns

Writers Madeline Allen, Aidan Leschuk, and Layla Raymond**Comic by** Thomas Hayden**Trump's Cabinet (Last Names)**

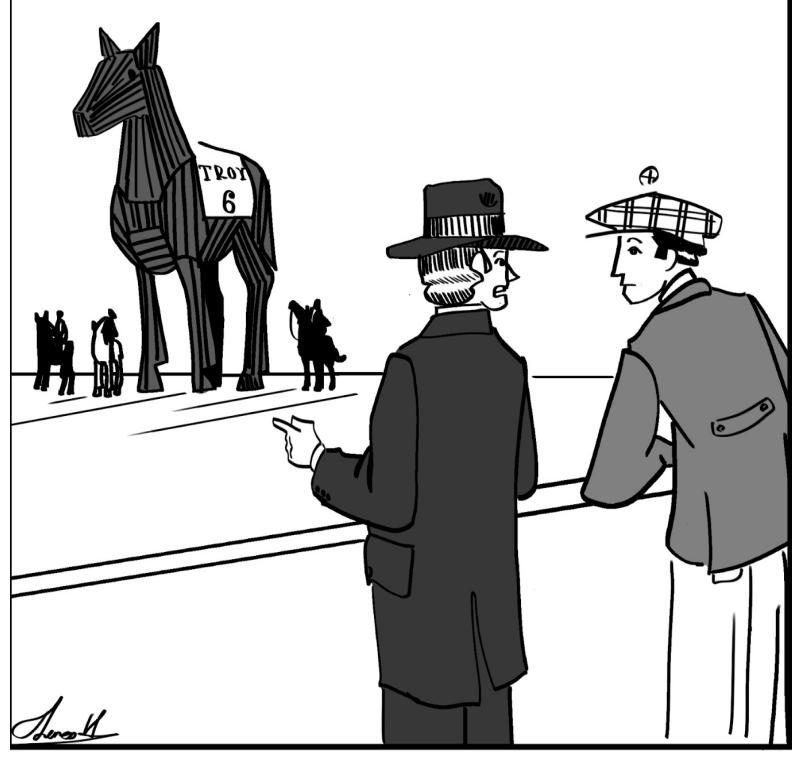
Down:

- Secretary of Defense, Fox News anchor and Army veteran
- Secretary of the Interior, North Dakota Governor and Republican presidential candidate in 2024
- Secretary of Homeland Security, South Dakota Governor
- Secretary of State, US Senator from Florida and Republican presidential candidate in 2016
- Secretary of Education, former Small Business Administrator and CEO of WWE
- Environmental Protection Agency, former US Rep. from New York
- Vice President, US Senator from Ohio

Across:

- Director of National Intelligence, Former US Rep. from Hawaii and Democratic presidential candidate in 2020
- Secretary of State, US Senator from Florida and Republican presidential candidate in 2016
- Secretary of Education, former Small Business Administrator and CEO of WWE
- Environmental Protection Agency, former US Rep. from New York

Game by GRIFFIN ANGUS



"I bet on 6, I gotta feeling something big's comin' outta that one."

Comic by THOMAS HAYDEN

The Elephant in the Room is always looking for feedback! If you have suggestions, feel strongly about an article, or think there's anything The Elephant in the Room should address, feel free to submit a letter to our editors. Email your letter to mhs.eitr@gmail.com

Thanks for reading and see you next issue!

Sincerely,

The Elephant in the Room staff

