

# The Echo



WILSON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Edition 104, Issue 4

December, 2022

## Afghanistan School Bombing

By: Ayah Mallah

On November 30th 2022, over 40 lives were directly harmed by a premeditated school bombing in the Samangan province of Afghanistan. The school bombing has taken the lives of 15 young schoolboys and severely harmed over 20 more school members. Investigators have not yet revealed the individual behind this attack. Emdadullah Muhajir, a Samangan province spokesman, indicated, "There was no immediate claim of responsibility. An investigation had just begun."

During this period of uncertainty, the media has made allegations towards the Taliban for the school bombing. Two months prior to this incident, the lives of over 50 schoolgirls were taken by a suicide bomber under the Taliban. In the past year, numerous forms of attacks were executed by the Taliban — increasing the country's suspicions towards this specific school bombing.

Officials investigating this case reveal, "Unfortunately, it's not the first time that a madrasa [school] or a Taliban post has been attacked in the past 15 months. There were several big attacks on madrasas [schools] like in Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh and Kunduz provinces..."

Taliban rule has evidently placed dozens of Afghani schools under great risk. Professor Zaland, a political science instructor, shares, "Madrasas [schools] are the main centres of recruitment for the Taliban... So the attack on the madrasa is a way to challenge the Taliban's control over security." The dismay caused by the rapid increase of premeditated school bombings has prompted Afghani families to remove their children from educational institutions.

Although officials are aware of the lack of justice that may be served to the individual responsible for this bombing, they are still attempting to bring justice to all lives lost and harmed that day.

- Patricia Santiago:  
Editor-in-Chief

- Angelina Bastien:  
Managing Editor

- Assistant Editors:

Kylee Burwell  
Grace Idehen  
Ayah Mallah



Pictures courtesy of Google

# The Echo

---

## ISIS Leader Killed in 2022

By: Grace Idehen

The Islamic State's leader, Abu al-Hassan al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, was recently killed in combat on November 30, 2022. The ISIS group apparently did not reveal the date, or location of the leader's killing, and the White House has not yet confirmed Abu al-Hassan al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi's death.

IS, also known as ISIS or Daesh, confirmed the passing of Abu al-Hassan al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, stating, "He died battling the enemies of God, killing some of them before being murdered like a man on the battlefield."

Later, the Free Syrian Army (FSA), a rebel organization, confirmed in its own statement that Abu al-Hassan had been killed in the middle of October in Syria's southern Daraa region. U.S. officials were brought in to examine the results. A U.S. defense official, speaking anonymously in order to discuss the intelligence, told Voice of American radio (VOA), "Based on evidence at the scene and DNA testing, the U.S. believed the FSA had in fact killed Abu al-Hassan."

National Security Council coordinator, John Kirby, told journalists, "We certainly welcome the news of the death of another ISIS leader." He also stated, "I don't have any additional operational details to provide at this time. We're still working our way through that." Rumor is, the United States is not surprised that the Islamic State terror group lost its second leader in less than a year.



Pictures courtesy of *Google*

## Chinese Police Tracked Protesters Through Cellphones

By: Holly Eichlin

Due to strict covid policies in Beijing, citizens have been protesting on the streets for the government to ease the regulations. Some protestors wore balaclavas and goggles to avoid facial recognition; however, they were unaware of the government's powerful tools of surveillance.

The Chinese government is known for having the most sophisticated surveillance system in the world. The latest use of technology has been described as, “tiny boxes with antennas.” These devices mock cell phone towers to connect to any phone that passes by, making the data on the phone accessible to the police. China’s government requires all citizens with cell phones to register it under their legal name and identification number, making this process easier for the police to track them. This latest news is making citizens feel uneasy because they believe it will lead to more police attention and possible detention.

The Chinese police plan to use this technology to track, detain, and interrogate protestors for information about the organizers and any future protests that are planned. Many protestors have had their cell phones taken from them and returned with all of their pictures and messages deleted. China has already ordered multiple apps such as telegram, used to spread images and information about the protests.

Although China is known for the power of its communist party, it has tightened its grip on all aspects of life, including freedom of speech. All protests are seen as a step against the government that may lead to complete revolution from the population of China against the nation's leaders.



Pictures courtesy of Google

# The Echo

---

## RSV Flooding Hospitals

By: Zack Stackhouse

RSV or Respiratory syncytial virus, also called human respiratory syncytial virus and human orthopneumovirus, is a common, contagious virus that causes infections of the respiratory tract. It is a negative-sense, single-stranded RNA virus that is overpopulating the hospitals, and the employees have nowhere to turn.

Victims are now being put into hallways because of the overflow. Only the more severe cases are being given 100% attention from the nurses and doctors. The virus is more severe in young children. A 6-month-old baby was seen having trouble breathing, her nostrils were flaring wide and she had bubbles on her lips. The baby had nowhere to go, since the nearest hospital was an hour away and was already full of patients. Dr. Berg said, “I try to separate my doctor brain from my mom brain,” she said. “But watching her breathe, I was terrified.” Having to deal with this at such a young age is definitely not easy. The mom was told to keep the baby hydrated and made sure to keep her fever down.

A vaccine stopped production when it was tested and killed two people and hospitalized 80% of the babies that tried it. A new vaccine is on its way, but in the meantime make sure to wear a mask in heavily populated areas and always wash your hands.



Pictures courtesy of Google

## Mauna Loa Eruption

By: Darrian Cascioli

There is a volcano in Hawaii named Mauna Loa that erupted on November 27, 2022. This volcano hasn't erupted since 1984. For this to happen so many years later is extremely rare. No one has anticipated this eruption.

This volcano is the biggest active volcano on Earth. The total area of the volcano is 2,035 miles squared. If it keeps erupting, it will eventually destroy the entire forest. It already destroyed the entire environment around it. The volcano is sending large amounts of ash and smoke into the atmosphere. It was also shooting 130 foot lava fountains. This can damage the air for animals and even people.

Mauna Loa is causing so much damage that Hawaii is activating the state National Guard. This needs to be done because within the next couple days the lava will reach a highway. It is called the Daniel K. Inouye, which is a very key highway in Hawaii. They are going to shut it down if the lava continues. As of now the lava is within two miles of the highway, and it is predicted to hit it in the next couple days.

More and more things are happening in Mauna Loa. Since all of these problems are happening, everywhere in Mauna Loa is booked. Many tourists are going to the area to see the volcano. It doesn't happen recently so it is probably a once in a lifetime opportunity. People need to realize that it is a big tragedy that needs to be stopped. Hawaii needs all the help it can get to stop this madness.



# Edition 104, Issue 4

## Drugs & Alcohol

By: Mya Marsac

Death rates from the use of drugs and alcohol have tripled over the past two decades. In the past year, almost 100,000 people have died from the use of drugs and alcohol. In fact, 96,779 deaths were recorded from March 2020 to March 2021 due to accidental overdoses. In January of 2021, reports indicate that drug overdose deaths exceeded homicides by 306.7%. Car accidents and suicides put together are 84.5%, as many as ODs.

Over two million(8.33%) of 12 to 17 year olds nationwide have been reported to have used drugs in the last month. Marijuana is one of the most common drugs that are used among teenagers. And, 591,000 teenagers 12 to 17 have tried other drugs besides marijuana. By the time most teenagers get to 12th grade, it is reported that at least 46.6% of them have tried different kinds of drugs at least once in their school life.

Alcohol is also very overused among the youth. Over one million teenagers have been reported binge drinking in the last month. Among the 8th grade, 25.6% have been said to have abused alcohol at least once. In the last year over 407,000 teenagers have met the requirement for alcohol use disorder. 2.7% of 12th grade students drink on a daily basis, and 16.8% of 12th grade students have at least 5 or more drinks in a row when consuming alcohol.

A great number of students get introduced to vaping at a young age. About 2.55 million students in middle and high school use vapes. About 14 percent of those students use a vape during school according to reports in 2021. In the past few years vapes among schools have grown in popularity.



Pictures courtesy of *Google*

# The Echo

## The Execution of Kevin Johnson Jr.

By: Sarah Mallah

On November 29th, 2022, Kevin Johnson Jr. was executed by lethal injection for the murder of Kirkland Police Sergeant, William McEntee.

On the day of the murder, Johnson's younger brother had succumbed to a seizure and died in the presence of authorities while they conducted a search. In a spur of the moment, Johnson, age 20, shot Officer McEntee out of anger. He admitted to authorities that the officer had not done anything to instigate him. According to Johnson, Officer William McEntee just happened to be a police officer who came with the Emergency Medical Technicians.

Subsequently, Kevin Johnson does not deny this act, but he and his attorneys stress that a death sentence is inappropriate. People in this jurisdiction were largely conflicted, as a white inmate perpetrated the same crime and did not face a death sentence.

Johnson conveys great remorse for his crime and even tells reporters, "I think my biggest mistake in life was just even carrying a gun. Because when you carry a gun, you create opportunities to use it, and most of the time you don't need to use it".

Johnson's 19-year-old daughter Courtney Ramey (Khorry) emphasizes that the justice system failed her. During the execution of her father, Khorry wanted to be present there. However, by law, any person under the age of 21 was prohibited from overseeing an execution. The rule infuriated Khorry Ramey, as she said to reporters,

"If my father were dying in the hospital, I would sit by his bed holding his hand and praying for him until his death." Khorry believes that her father did not deserve the death penalty, and prosecutors had just been blinded by the fact that Kevin Johnson was an African American male. Due to this racism, he was executed and unable to further defend himself.



Pictures courtesy of *The Echo*

# The Echo

---

## Idaho College Student Murders

By: Kylee Burwell

On November 13th, 2022, police responded to a report of an unconscious person. During the investigation, the police department of Moscow had found four college students; Kaylee Goncalves, Madison Mogen, Xana Kernodle, and a romantic interest of Kernodle's who did not live with these roommates. Ethan Chapin was also found dead. On Saturday night, Kernodle and Chapin attended a party at the Sigma Chi house on the University of Idaho campus. These two had later returned home around 1:45 a.m., and Mogen and Goncalves were at a bar called the Corner Club downtown in Moscow. They left the bar to go to a food truck, and reportedly returned home around 1:45 a.m. also.

The coroner stated that these victims were most likely asleep at the time of the attack. They had some defensive wounds, and each of them were stabbed multiple times. The timing of multiple calls to the cell phone of Kaylee Goncalves' ex-boyfriend places the murders sometime after 3 a.m. There were also two other victims within the house who had gone out separately that night. These two had slept through the stabbings.

There have been many rumors circulating about what happened to these four victims, and who truly did this. It has been a hard time for their families, and even the police to grasp the horror behind whoever had completed this act of violence. As of right now, the police are finding new evidence everyday, but are still lost on who killed these victims.



## Where Does Same-Sex Marriage Stand?

By: Ahiella Borgan

After Obama made gay marriage legal in 2012, there are still arguments about gay marriage in 2022. Why must we have so many differences in this new generation? People should feel safe and open to live their life however they want.

Less than 30 years ago, Congress passed legislation barring federal recognition of same-sex marriage, and the Supreme Court ruled just seven years ago there was a constitutional right to same-sex marriage. How did opinion change so fast with Congress now enshrining federal protection into law? The bill, which passed the U.S. senate last week, was designed as a backstop to the 2015 Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, known as *Obergefell v. Hodges*. With a vote of 258-169, the landmark legislation cleared Congress, sending it to President Biden to be signed into law and capping an improbable path for a measure that only months ago appeared to have little chance at enactment.

In a statement, President Biden said the vote reaffirmed “a fundamental truth: Love is love, and Americans should have the right to marry the person they love.” Having President Biden giving support and positivity towards same sex marriage is keeping us in high hopes.

We should give everyone a choice to be happy and have legal binding. There are a lot of homosexual partners who cannot have the same benefits of heterosexual couples. Marriage is a right that should be given to anyone, regardless of their gender, and we should do everything we can do to keep protecting it.



# The Echo

---

## Harvey Weinstein Trial : Closing Arguments

By: Tosin Adebayo

On November 30, 2022, Harvey Weinstein's attorney gave his closing arguments in the sexual assault trial of the former movie maker. This trial took place in Los Angeles, California. During the closing argument, the attorney made several controversial statements in regards to the victims' testimonies. He made statements about the victims not having enough evidence and not having consistent stories.

He argues the point of these women coming out with what he claims to be false accusations as a result of the me too movement.

All of the alleged victims are labeled as Jane Doe in court. Jane Doe one testified about Weinstein assaulting her while attending the Los Angeles Film Festival. In his closing statement, the attorney said, "Jane Doe 1 is lying. Period," and he went on to say that none of the witnesses can verify that Weinstein was ever in the hotel room.

The most emotional testimony was made by California Governor Gavin Newsom's Wife, known as Jane Doe four in court. She said that in September of 2005 she was assaulted by Weinstein in a Beverly Hills hotel. She believed that they would be meeting to discuss the career that she was pursuing in acting. Weinstein's attorney claimed that her testimony was "... a theatrical, overly dramatized performance." He also claimed that she engaged in "Transactional sex," and "She knows it, and she hates it."

Weinstein has already been convicted in New York on charges of sexual assault and rape against two women. He is serving a twenty-three-year sentence as a result of these convictions.



## “Brittney Griner Freed in Swap”

By: John Anklam

On December 8, eight time WNBA All-Star Brittney Griner was released from detention in Russia. Her release was the result of a prisoner swap between Russia and the United States. Russia released Griner after the U.S. agreed to release the Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout. President Biden said that the negotiations to get Griner back were, “painstaking and intense.” The swap took place in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and was mediated between the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Griner was arrested in February of this year and held in Moscow for the past ten months. She was arrested at an airport for allegedly having illegal cannabis oil in her luggage. Viktor Bout, or “The Merchant of Death,” was serving a twenty five-year prison sentence in the United States. He is a former Soviet military officer who was charged with conspiring to kill Americans, acquiring and exporting anti-aircraft missiles, and providing material support to a terrorist organization. Bout has maintained his innocence since his arrest in 2008, and Russia has stated many times that they disagree and disapprove of his arrest.

The swap has not come without its share of drama and backlash. This is due to the fact that there is another American still being held in Russia. Paul Whelan was arrested on December 28, 2018 on suspicion of spying. Many people believe that Whelan should have been part of the prisoner swap alongside Brittney Griner. Biden and other officials have stated that they are still attempting to get Whelan released.



# The Echo

---

## Final Lunar Eclipse of 2022

By: Ayah Mallah

On November 3rd, 2022, thousands of people worldwide witnessed the final total lunar eclipse of the year 2022. Regions in North America, Central America, South America, Australia, the Pacific and Asia were key places for viewing this Beaver Blood Moon lunar eclipse. People worldwide were able to view the rare Blue Moon and experience the brief dimming of the Earth.

The Beaver Blood Moon, or more commonly recognized as “the Blood Moon,” consists of one third of all lunar eclipses — making them an uncommon occurrence on Earth. In general, astronomers expect approximately two average lunar eclipses in a single year. This value ranges between one to five eclipses in a year with the Earth’s movement and its general alignment along the Moon.

The next total lunar eclipse will be occurring on March 3rd 2026. Although a typical lunar eclipse occurs for just a mere 30 to 60 minutes, avid astronomy fans claim that traveling to view the lunar eclipse is a trip that is worth the experience. Until this date, astronomy fans are patiently waiting for the next typical lunar eclipse and the final meteor shower of 2022. These events will be occurring on May 5th 2023 and December 14th 2022, respectively.

The final meteor shower of 2022 has famously earned the title of “The 2022 Geminid meteor shower.” Those who reside in the southern hemisphere are able to be exposed to the entire experience as this is where the 2022 Geminid meteor shower will be most visible. Despite location issues, people worldwide have made efforts to travel or gain access to these experiences through social media.



## The History of Black Friday

By: Grace Idehen

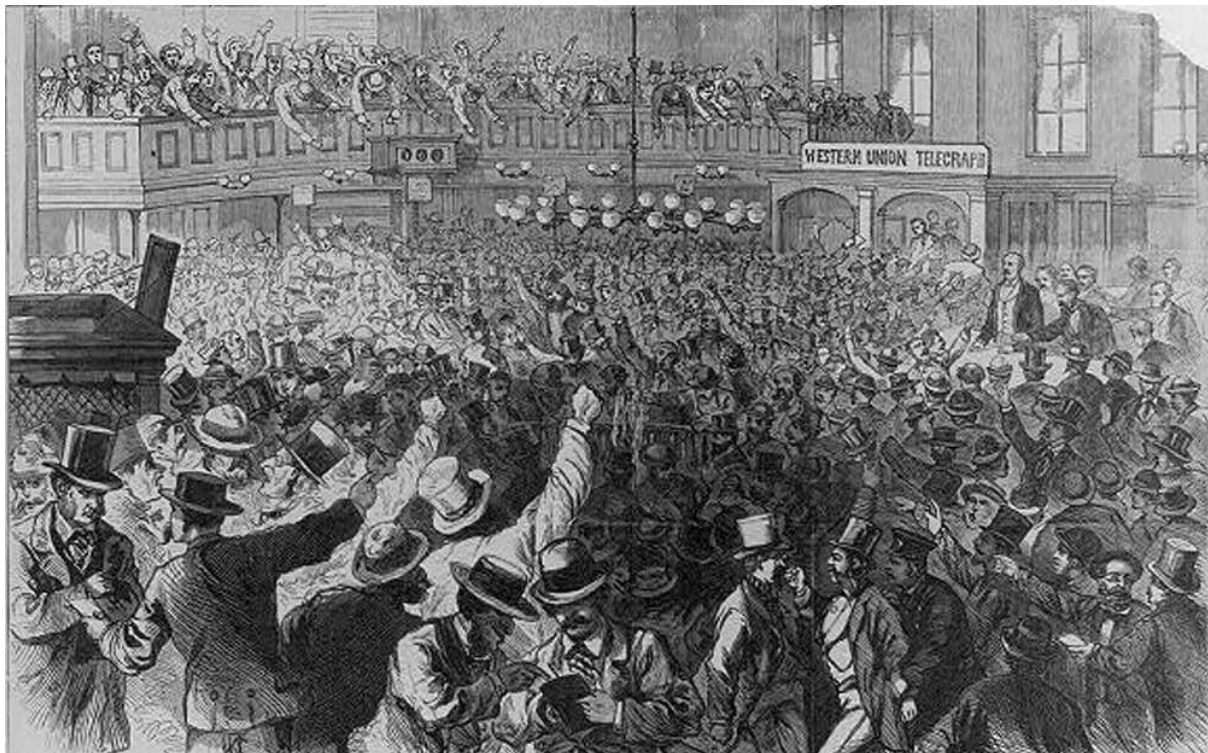
Do you know Black Friday's true origin story? Some people would refer to it as price reductions and once-in-a-lifetime deals. But there's much more to Black Friday's history than just bargains and promotions.

The phrase "Black Friday" was first used to refer to a financial catastrophe, particularly the crash of the U.S. gold market on September 24, 1869. Another story that gives the name a particularly vile twist recently came to light, according to which Southern plantation owners could purchase enslaved workers at a discount on the day following Thanksgiving in the 1800s.

The truth about Black Friday's origins is not as promising as some companies would have you believe. Police in Philadelphia's city in the 1950s invented the phrase to categorize the chaos that broke out the day after Thanksgiving. Crowds of suburban shoppers and visitors flooded the city in anticipation of the big Army-Navy football game held on that Saturday every year. Philadelphia police were forced to work extra-long hours to manage the increased traffic and crowds.

Philadelphia merchants attempted but failed, to change "Black Friday" to "Big Friday" in order to dimmer its negative relations by the time it became popular there in 1961. The phrase wasn't widely used until 1985.

However, businesses discovered a method to rebrand Black Friday in the late 1980s and make it something that reflected positivity. Stores started opening earlier and earlier on that Friday, and now shoppers can head out right after their Thanksgiving meal.



# The Echo

---

## Elon Musk's Next Big Project

By: Nicolas Alvarez

Elon Musk is known to be a very wise man with very high profile companies, but now he's taking it to the next level. One of his new projects is to achieve "symbiosis" between the human brain and artificial intelligence.

The company is called "Neuralink." They are developing a device that is placed into the human brain where it would record brain activity, and potentially simulate it. The best way Elon compared the device to is a "FitBit in your skull."

Neuralink comes in two steps, implanting the chip into the skull, then applying the electrodes fanning out into their brain. The chip is the size of a coin, and the wires are equipped with 1,024 electrodes that are able to monitor brain activity. The chip's job is to transmit data wirelessly to devices like computers, phones, etc. Musk had recently claimed that the electrodes could be transmitted into the skull with something as easy as LASIK eye surgery.

In 2020, there was an experiment performed with a pig named "Gertrude." They embedded a chip into Gertrude's brain, and results were just as expected. The demonstration showed how the chip was able to predict the positioning of Gertrude's limbs as he was walking on the treadmill, and recording of neural activity when he was sniffing for food.

Neuralink was started all the way back in 2016, and in 2017 wolf of wall street reported on its existence. Their first public outing was in 2019 with their first live presentation. This company will continue to grow, and learn with every resource possible. The sky's the limit for Neuralink.



## Elon Musk Twitter

By: Gavin Ehlman

As many people already know, Elon Musk is mainly known for being one of the richest people in the world and creating Tesla. As of late, he has been making headlines by what he has been doing on Twitter ever since he bought it on April 14, 2022.

After buying Twitter, he gave his employees an ultimatum: commit to an “extremely hardcore” work environment or leave. In this case Elon let go 3,700 employees. Musk has already been sued by Twitter’s employees for doing this.

Recently Kanye West’s Twitter account got banned again for violating social media platform rules. He appeared to post an image of a swastika, a symbol synonymous with the Nazis, inside a Star of David, a prominent symbol of Judaism.

Kanye has been in the media for all his praise of being a rapper, but recently he has been in the media for his controversial topics. He is speaking what is on his mind and a lot of people do not agree with what he is doing. Elon has also allowed Donald Trump back on the platform.

All in all Elon Musk is one of the most accomplished people in the world when it comes to the business aspect. He is even working on SpaceX, a space transportation and aerospace manufacturer. Elon has accomplished a lot in his life, and he is ready to accomplish more.



# The Echo

---

## Is 200K Too Much or Too Little for the Kardashian-Wests?

By: Raymond DrePaul

Kanye West officially has to pay 200k a month to Kim Kardashian. After a settlement that was made on November 28th, in the Los Angeles Superior Court, Kanye West has agreed upon paying \$200k in child support to his ex-wife, Kim Kardashian. That will make it so that Kim Kardashian will be getting 2.4 million dollars per year from Kanye West.

Both Kim and Kanye will have joint custody of their four children, whose ages range from three to nine, and none of them will have to pay any spousal support. The settlement also noted that Kanye West would be responsible for 50% of their children's education expenses, including tuition, and 50% of their children's security expenses.

As we all know the Kardashian-West-Jenner family do have many expenses taken care of on a day to day basis. They have hundreds of photoshoots per week, live in luxury houses in California, including the ones they rarely even stay in. Just Kim Kardashian herself spends thousands on each outfit she owns, and the children are well taken care of. Kim and Kanye even hired a personalized pianist to play Christmas classics every morning.

Kanye had recently admitted to having his bank accounts frozen by the IRS, because he still owes 50 million dollars in tax dollars. It'll be interesting to see how Kanye will be able to come up with these payments, his daily payments, and including the monthly child support payments.



## Wednesday Review

By: Lianah Thomas

On November 23rd, 2022, a new Netflix original, “Wednesday” was released by creators Alfred Gough and Miles Millar. This show recently passed Netflix’s most-viewed show “Stranger Things” with 299.84 million hours watched. Wednesday surpassed this record with over 341.2 million hours watched within a week, making it the most-watched English-language show on Netflix.

“Wednesday” is a spinoff series about Wednesday Addams from the Addams family. This show contains many famous and well-known actors. Starring Jenna Ortega as Wednesday Addams; a girl who is described to have psychopathic tendencies and psychic powers, Luis Guzmán as Gomez Addams; Wednesday’s father, and Catherine Zeta-Jones as Morticia Addams.

This show is described as a coming-of-age, supernatural, comedy, horror show. The show follows Wednesday Addams after she was expelled from her previous high school after dumping live piranhas into the pool during the boy's water polo classes in retaliation for the team bullying her brother Pugsley. This would lead to her parents deciding that a normal school wouldn't fit for Wednesday and that she needed a better school. Her parents enrolled her in Nevermore academy where her parents previously went to school.

Nevermore is an academy meant for monsters who had been out casted by their society. Once Wednesday goes into her room, she meets her new roommate Enid, and they instantly do not get along. Wednesday’s cold and emotionless personality makes it hard for her to connect with her classmates, and she often gets into trouble with the school's principal. When she connects more with her psychic powers, she discovers she has the ability to solve the town's murder mystery.



# The Echo

---

## The Eagles Playoff Picture

By: Shamel Gibson

With three quarters of the season done and a lot of games played, the Philadelphia Eagles have been having an outstanding season. They are 11-1 and have the best record in the league while also being the best in their division, with their only upset loss coming at the hand of the Washington Commanders. If they keep up the wins at this pace, then they can win their division.

The skies are looking clear in Philly for the playoff picture. If they win the division, they will get a first week bye. If they get that, then they already have an advantage over everybody in their conference because they will only have to play two games to get the Super Bowl.

The Eagles organization has put together a roster that is stacked from top to bottom. On the defense side, they are a top five defense team in the league. On offense, they are clearly number one in the league. Teams can't figure out what the MVP front runner, Jalen Hurts is going to do next; however, it usually results in points.

There are teams that could possibly shut down this miracle run. The Dallas Cowboys, Minnesota Vikings, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and San Francisco 49ers are all teams that could bring trouble to the birds if they are not on track and focused. They are all capable of knocking them off in the playoffs. There are a lot of great teams in the league this year, and anything can happen. The stakes are higher when it's one game elimination and everybody can't wait to see how this year plays out for the Eagles.

## Wilson Wrestling

By: Kevaughn Simpson

The Wilson Wrestling Team has officially started their 2022 wrestling season. The team has faced some struggles in the past, but are looking forward to a better season. The head coach of the team is Jeremy Hartrum, who was once a state champion for Wilson in 2002.

They currently do not have a full line up and are missing some weight classes, giving up 12 points per match. The Wilson Team is hoping to have a better season than last year. Many members of the team had been working out in the off season, going to clubs and camps for strengthening and conditioning. The team has the motivation to accomplish the goals that they have set.

The team had their first match against Catasauqua on December 2nd. Despite losing the match (Catasauqua 39 and Wilson 29), they only saw it as a small bump in the road to becoming the best in District 11.

Some members of the team think that they might struggle in the first couple of matches; however, as time goes on they will become better. The team has great coaching staff, and everyone is hoping to learn new moves each practice. Last year, they did not have a lot of people in their junior high program, but this year they have over 16 new wrestlers. All in all, the team is looking to improve upon last year's season and possibly add a few more guys to the district podium.

# Edition 104, Issue 4

---

## Interview with Mr. Beitler

By: Patricia Santiago

Social media is prominent in the modern day and age, and is known for numerous conflicts within young people. What happens when these conflicts bleed into educational environments? In an interview with our school's assistant principal, we asked him how he felt about these issues and how we can improve in the future.

### **“How do you feel about students coming to you about issues on social media and why?”**

Mr. Beitler responded that he would appreciate students coming to him for online issues, because he could be more proactive, primarily in cases of cyber-bullying. Unfortunately in online drama cases, there is not much the school can do to discipline students involved, unless it disrupts the education environment.

### **“What do you think is the best way to handle social media issues and why? Would you refer kids to a counselor?”**

Mr. Beitler shared that the best way to handle these online conflicts is by simply not responding. This is because anytime a student responds to drama, their words can be translated to fit the opponent's narrative. Not only that, but witnesses to the issue may join in for their own entertainment, and fueling the fire. Counselors are mainly present when these issues affect the child's education, or interfere with their mental health.

### **“Would you be open to students consulting you about out of school issues? ”**

“I'd be happy to!” Mr. Beitler exclaimed. However, when the issue involves two equally wrong people, the advice is more geared towards social skills, coping strategies, and resolutions and less about discipline. Solving these issues is very difficult for Mr. Beitler or the Counselors.

Mr. Beitler also gave us some advice on what to do to limit these types of issues happening in school. He advised us to avoid believing everything on social media. A lot of thoughts are shared on social media, so listening to every one of them is a bad idea.



Pictures courtesy of The

# The Echo

---

## Drama Club Will Perform Pippin

By: Chris Green

Every year, the WAHS Drama Team puts on a musical and a fall play. Past shows include Peter & Wendy, The Addams Family, Our Place, Big Fish, Little Shop of Horrors, and many more. This year, the team is performing "Pippin." Pippin is about a young boy who takes the throne from the former king, Charlemagne, as he finds a place to belong by experimenting with war, religion, power, and love.

The cast list looks something like this: Pippin will be played by Dylan Penyak, King Charlamagne will be played by Hans Kuder, Lewis will be played by Josiah Hernandez, Theo will be played by Kyle Wash, Leading Player will be played by Ava Houser, Catherine will be played by Amanda Koehler, Fastrada will be played by Gabrielle Bleice, and Berthe will be played by Isabella Dayton.

Musical efforts are underway as rehearsals started earlier this month. The team meets nearly every-day from 2:45 - 5:00 p.m. so the musical can be the best it's ever been. We encourage you to come out and support the musical on March 3rd, 4th, and 5th of this year!

## How to Become a Warrior of the Month

By: Makenna Sandt

Being chosen as the Warrior of the Month is an honor. It recognizes students for their hard work, dedication, and positive attitudes. The word "Warrior" is an acronym for the students. It stands for Welcoming, Aspiring, Reliable, Respectful, Inspiring, Open-minded, and Responsible.

Being welcoming can include taking the initiative to start a conversation, greeting others, lending a helping hand, and inviting others to join your group. Aspiring means you persevere and strive for goals. Being reliable includes being trustworthy, dependable, and being there for others. Respect means kindness is shown, manners are used, and respecting others opinions. To be inspiring is to be encouraging others to achieve goals, setting good examples, and guiding others in the right direction. Open-mindedness means you think out of the box, you accept others ideas, and understand there are multiple points of views. Lastly, being responsible is avoiding procrastination, being on time, and completing all responsibilities.

Mr. Beitler was interviewed and asked what he looks for in the Warrior of the Month. He answered saying the number one quality of a Warrior of the Month is being genuinely nice. It starts with saying hi to Mr. Beitler and Mr. Martuscelli when scanning in in the morning. The second thing is having a positive attitude. Both of those things are contagious and likely to make other students start following. It is special to be chosen as Warrior of the month during the school year. If you work hard, it is possible to achieve.

# Edition 104, Issue 4

---

## Clubs to Join at Wilson Area High School

By: Sarah Mallah

It's important to be involved in the school community and more importantly, to find something that you enjoy. Here are some of the clubs that are offered at Wilson Area High School:

The Newspaper Club: If you did not choose journalism as your elective this year, and are interested in writing articles for the school paper, join the Newspaper Club. The Newspaper Club allows students to share their stories of interest with the entire school. Don't be afraid to send articles to Ms. Guro!

Future Educators of America (FEA): The Future Educators of America Club is a great option for someone who wants to pursue a career in education. This club allows participants to tutor students at the Wilson Borough Elementary School. Students can also obtain community service hours by partaking in this club. If interested, email Mr. Campbell.

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA): The Health Occupations Students of America Club allows students who want to pursue a future in medicine to expand their knowledge of it. The students can choose to join and participate in competitions, internships, career path projects, and hands-on projects. HOSA meets every other Wednesday in room 103 at 7:10 AM. If this sparks your interest, contact Mr. Stewart.

Wilson Area Science Club Outreach: The Science club is a newly formed club that circles around the science field. The club meets every Friday in room 107 with Mr. Gibson. The club is enrolling in the United States of America Biology Olympiad, and fundraising money for science fair projects. Join to teach the school about science and bring more interest to the club.

Make sure to put yourself out there and explore what the school has to offer. If you don't find a club that fits your interests, consider starting your own club with one of the teachers here.



# The Echo

---

## Sickness Circulating Wilson

By: Holly Eichlin

As many of the students and staff of Wilson Area High School have already experienced, the common cold and flu have been spreading like wildfire. After conversing with our Vice Principal, Mr. Beitler, he revealed that absences due to illness have been at a high.

Although the common cold is seasonal, students are being extra cautious since the outbreak of Covid-19 in March of 2019. Mr. Beitler stated that students begin to worry once they see symptoms due to the fear of covid, making it more likely for them to stay home.

After a short interview with our school nurse, Mrs. O'Reilly, she revealed that there surprisingly has not been a spike in the amount of students visiting her on a daily basis. She disclosed that most of the symptoms she has been seeing are cold related, such as a runny nose, cough, sinus pain, and a sore throat, but not many fevers.

After conducting this research, Mrs. O'Reilly highly suggests staying hydrated. With being hydrated, students and staff must also make sure not to skip any meals and to eat healthy. Trying not to eat too much fast food may be difficult, especially if students have busy schedules, but it impacts immune systems very negatively. Another precaution students should be partaking in is washing hands regularly. Lastly, it is important to wear a mask if they are feeling unwell.

## Studying Tips

By: Tosin Adebayo

With exam season being right around the corner, many may be struggling to find good study habits that work for them. Here are a few studying tips and tricks.

The first thing that every person should do before studying is create an organized routine. This means writing down your study goals in a planner or on a calendar.

The second tip is to study in intervals. This means setting a designated time to study with no distractions. The amount of time spent studying varies depending on the person, but at least 20 minutes is recommended. After twenty minutes of studying, take a ten minute break to clear your mind and release stress. Then you repeat the method until you have reached your study goal for the day.

The next tip is to use active recall. With this method, you first write down all of the things that you can remember learning from that class or unit. Then, you go back to the notes for that class or unit and write down the information that you don't remember. This gives you a general idea of what you should study. You should also make sure you ask the teacher questions on any topics that you don't understand in class.

Another tip is to use flashcards for important vocabulary. When using flashcards, it is recommended to use recommended blue ink for the words and definitions, since it is proven to help boost memory. The last piece of advice is to never panic about mistakes, just find ways to improve for the future.

## Tips for Taking Midterms

By: Emily Pezzuto

Midterms are tests that students take in January to recall information they learned the first half of the year. Remembering everything can be hard for most students, especially those who have never taken this test before. Considering this, here are tips I compiled as a senior to help underclassmen prepare for these tests.

1. Make a study plan based on your learning style. Some students work better hands on, and others benefit more from reading a textbook. Not everyone studies the same and that's okay! If you and a group of your classmates want to get together and study, that could also help. Everyone can bounce information off of each other and even make the learning fun!
2. Remember to take breaks. Midterms are a compilation of everything students learned from August to January. It's a lot of information and can become overwhelming to study. Studying for 15 minutes, taking a break, and then returning to studying works well. It allows your brain to process the information and doesn't overwhelm you.
3. Be sure to practice self-care during testing days. These tests can cause a lot of stress and anxiety for students, so make sure to take care of yourself between tests. I know it can be difficult, but try to get a good night's sleep, eat something, and stay hydrated. If you have a half-year class and don't have to take the final, relax outside of school for a little while. You can sit in your car, on the benches, or even go get something to eat. If you also just want to lightly review for the next exam that's perfectly fine too, just pace yourself.



# The Echo

---

## What Are Your Plans for Winter Break?

By: Emma Davenport

Due to winter break coming up soon, I decided to ask students what their plans are this winter break!

**Cooper Miller:** "I'm going to Australia."

**Kylee Burwell:** "I'm going to be sleeping a lot, hanging out with friends and working."

**Gigi Figueroa:** "I will be spending quality time with my family and friends. "

**Shamel Gibson:** "I have basketball practice everyday."

**AJ Rooks:** "I am going to my family Christmas party and spending quality time with the people I love."

**Arianna Heimbach:** "I am going to Atlantic City with my friends for a few days. I am also going snowboarding, and spending quality time with my family and friends."

**Olivia Werkheiser:** "I will be spending lots of time with my friends and family."

**Nick Alvarez:** "I will be enjoying my time off with my friends and family."

**Ray Drepaul:** "I am going to Florida to spend time with my family."

I hope everyone has a fun and eventful Christmas break!

## Senior Spotlight: Kylee Burwell

By: Emma Davenport

This month's senior I have chosen to spotlight is Kylee Burwell. I chose Kylee due to her involvement in the school and for her great character.

Here's what I asked Kylee Burwell about her experience at Wilson.

**Davenport:** "Do you play any sports?"

**Burwell:** "Yes, I play on the varsity softball team"

**Davenport:** "What are your plans after high school?"

**Burwell:** "I plan on going to a four year university to major in nursing."

**Davenport:** "What are you going to miss when you graduate?"

**Burwell:** "I'm going to miss all of my friends, and all of the teachers who helped me through the years I spent at Wilson."

**Davenport:** "Lastly, what is your favorite memory you've made at Wilson?"

**Burwell:** "My favorite memory is when we won the Notre Dame Football game and ran onto the field."

## Downtown Christmas Activities

By: Gigi Figueroa

Getting in the holiday spirit can sometimes be hard, but luckily Downtown Easton makes it easy! The specific name for this is the Easton Winter Village, and it occurs between November 18th and December 18th in the Centre Square. The village is known for their inclusive skating rink where everyone is welcome, their shopping huts around the circle that involve more than 40 small businesses, carriage rides and more. One of the things that makes these activities better is you get to hear live music that puts you in a jolly mood!

Speaking of a jolly mood, they have not forgotten about one of the most important people for Christmas — Santa! On the corner of South Third Street and Pine Street there is a shop called Santa Zone where you can have the chance to take pictures with him. Besides Santa, food is also another important thing. In the huts there are some sweets and different treats from the small businesses, but there are also restaurants around the circle such as The Bayou, Pearly Baker's Alehouse, Mesa Modern Mexican, and more.

If you and your family have not gotten the chance to go visit the Easton Winter Village, I definitely recommend it. Every weekend there is an itinerary posted on 'Easton PA Official' Facebook page which tells you what is happening and the times of the different activities. There is always something fun to do and cool things to see. If you are ever bored and want to get in the Christmas spirit, check out the Winter Village!



## Giving Back for the Holidays

By: Arianna Heimbach

Holidays are all about giving back to the community, and Christmas is the perfect holiday for giving. It does not take much to just bring a smile to someone's face. Here are some ways you can give back to the community this holiday season!

During the holiday season it is most important to be generous with gratitude. This Christmas you can donate to a charity, volunteer for Christmas charity events, and much more. Every year there is always a Toys for Tots drives which is a great opportunity for anyone. This charity allows you to donate gifts to children battling cancer and other terminal illnesses. Toys for Tots and other organizations just like it are set up world-wide. You can find a box for donations almost anywhere such as grocery stores, schools and workplaces.

The next great charity is the Make-a-Wish foundation. This is one of the largest charities around the world. They help terminally ill children live out one dream day of their choice. You can donate to this foundation or fundraise for it by an online donation, schools, or you may round up your total at a grocery store which also helps.

Another charity event is the act of volunteering at a homeless shelter and helping supply them with warm food. Normally, if you want to help, you may call a specific shelter and ask them what would be most helpful to them. Our school's Key club is giving back this year by helping out at the Lincs center food bank.

Giving back by being extra kind is the best way. It is important to give during the holiday season and not expect anything in return. Think about others this year, you never know who needs something to bring a smile to their face and who doesn't.

