



What You Should Know About Homecoming!

By: Jane Compton

Our 2023-2024 homecoming theme is Hollywood. Homecoming will take place on October 21, 2023, in the school gymnasium. Don't forget that the tickets will be sold in the cafeteria during lunches for only \$10. However, if you decide to buy them at the door on the night of homecoming, they will cost \$20.

Homecoming will start at 6:00 p.m. and end at approximately 8:30 pm. If you are not there by 7:00 pm, you will be denied entry into the school, even if you have the tickets. When trying to enter, you must have your school ID with you to scan at the door. So, everyone, plan accordingly!

If you wish to bring a guest who does not attend Wilson Area High School, they must either attend high school or be within the age range of 18 to 21. Any other ages will be denied access. For everyone who is planning on bringing a guest, please have a form sent to Mrs. Maskalis by October 13, 2023. As usual, any late forms will not be accepted. Guests will also be expected to bring a form of ID with them to be allowed entry into the school.

With that information out of the way, homecoming is the time to vote for King and Queen court! Here, you will have the option of voting on who you think should win King and Queen of this year's Hollywood-themed dance.

We hope that everyone has a great time and don't forget to document the night — whether that be on your phone or on the photobooth that will be available for free use!

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How Did Students Like Homecoming 2023?

By: Leah Everitt

In Wilson, homecoming is something many students look forward to. While most of the student body ends up enjoying their homecoming experiences, opinions vary on many things. Some of us decided not to go, and some of us want to see how others felt about their experiences! With that being said, I decided to interview Heaven Callum to get a bigger idea of how she and her peers enjoyed homecoming this year.

How did you feel about the music?

“The music was actually better compared to other years.”

How was the energy of it all compared to other dances you may have attended?

“I noticed a lot of people didn’t go this year, which was a little disappointing. Because of that, it seemed a little more calm and laid back. Those who went clearly had a good time, for sure, but I honestly think there was a huge lack of enthusiasm.”

Who did you go with? Do you think they had a good time?

“I came alone and met up with my friends, Alex and Dayaliz. We had fun.”

What was your favorite part about your experience at homecoming this year?

“Honestly, the food selection. It definitely did not disappoint.”

Overall, how would you say this homecoming went for you?

“I’d say my experience was pretty good, everyone was dressed so pretty and had a good time.”



Edition 105, Issue 2

Spirit Week Preview

By: Claudia Gonzales

Leading up to Halloween and the big football rivalry game against Notre Dame Green Pond, Wilson's Student Council has planned Spirit Week to encourage school spirit. Here's a brief rundown of some of the new and interesting themes this year!

On Monday, wear your pajamas for PAJAMA DAY. On Tuesday, find a partner and think of two random things that rhyme to dress-up as for RHYME WITHOUT A REASON. On Wednesday, we wear pink for PINK OUT. On Thursday, find an item that you are able to carry in your arms or wear to hold your supplies for ANYTHING BUT A BOOKBAG. Lastly, on Friday, we will end the week wearing blue and gold for WARRIOR PRIDE DAY.

Show your school spirit and participate in the fun!



Senior Athletes Saying Goodbye

By: Madison Powell

It is a bittersweet moment for some seniors as they play their last games at the high school level, or, for some, in their life. As for our underclassmen athletes, it is also a sentimental moment as their senior teammates move on to bigger and better things.

Here is some background and words of advice from senior soccer player Brooke Bennet, senior soccer player Benjee Amador, and senior football player Ian Feckette:

Powell: “How long have you played your sport?”

Brooke Bennett: “I have been playing soccer my whole life, but I started playing for the school in 6th grade.”

Ben Gomez: “I’ve been playing for 12 years.”

Ian Feckete: “At the end of this season, [it] will be my 13th consecutive year of playing football.”

Powell: “Do you regret anything from the season as an individual, or are you satisfied with how you performed?”

Brooke Bennett: “As an individual, I am not satisfied with this year because I was out for a few games with an injury. It was tough to sit on the sidelines while watching your team put in hard work.”

Ben Gomez: “I regret the risk I took trying to make a goal and breaking my collarbone. I didn’t have to go for the goal...”

Ian Feckete: “I feel I took this year a little too serious, to the point that I actually limited myself from having fun and playing at my best. Worst part, I didn’t realize that until week 6.”

Powell: “If you had to give one piece of advice to an underclassman about playing your sport, what would it be?”

Brooke Bennett: “One piece of advice I have for the underclassmen is to enjoy playing while you still can and leave everything out on the field.”

Ben Gomez: “A piece of advice I would give is the way you practice is the way you play so if you slack at practice you’re going to slack in the game.”



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Senior Night: Updates On Our Soccer Teams

By: Emma Davenport

On October 2, 2023, our boys' soccer team enjoyed their senior night at Treetop stadium in Williams Township. The team competed against Catasauqua High School, who currently have a record of 5-9. However, with the continuous persistence of the team, Wilson won with a score of 11-1.

Here is a brief breakdown of the goals made:

Cooper Miller and Ricardo Silva each made three goals.

Benjee Amador, Jamal Green, Sean Creegan and Justin Mendez each scored one goal.

Here is a little more about senior Cooper Miller, a striker on the boy's soccer team:

Davenport: How does it feel being a senior and playing your last few highschool games?

Cooper Miller: "Being a senior feels weird, and I am sad that I am almost done playing."

Davenport: "How long have you been playing soccer?"

Cooper Miller: "I have been playing soccer for 14 years."

Davenport: "What was your favorite memory from your highschool soccer career?"

Cooper Miller: "My favorite memory is Kyle Harris missing the goal because the pug net got blown away by the wind."

On October 4, 2023, our girls' soccer team held their senior night at Treetop stadium in Williams Township. The team played Notre Dame Green Pond, who currently have a record of 5(W)-1(T)-9(L). Although the girls played a great game, they ended up losing with a score of 0-3. I

Here is a little more about senior Olivia Wekheiser, a goalie for the team:

Davenport: "How does it feel being a senior and playing your last few highschool games?"

Olivia Werkheiser: "Being a senior and playing my last few games was very bittersweet and emotional. Playing with some of my best friends and stepping off the field for the last time with them was not easy for me to do."

Davenport: "How long have you been playing soccer?"

Olivia Werkheiser: "This year was my first year playing since I was about 12 years old. I'm very glad I decided to come out for the team my senior year because of how much fun I had!"



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Wilson Buddies: A Hidden Gem of Kindness and Respect

By: Karli Breckon

With the school year being in full motion, our beloved Wilson Buddies club has been thriving, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie among its members and bringing our school community together through its events.

Wilson Buddies is a club that was organized by one of our amazing teachers, Mr. Ruhf. Through its emphasis on friendships and leadership, Wilson Buddies has been successful in providing students with a social outlet. Specifically, members of Wilson Buddies participate in fundraising walks and organize the Powder Puff game, Olympics, and Polar Plunge. The underlying purpose of such activities is to build a firmer sense of community amongst students — hence the *buddies portion of Wilson Buddies*.

This club essentially encourages students to put others first. What does this imply? Putting people first implies expressing simple acts of kindness towards those around you. Emphasizing diversity, we all have distinct characteristics and should never be judged solely by them. By being respectful and inclusive to those around us, each student is able to be known as a *person first*.

Wilson Buddies fosters a sense of respect for all its members — encouraging all to be respectful in school and anywhere in life. Through this club, you will recognize and celebrate the diversity of character and abilities of all people.

If you want to make a difference in your school, community, and even around the world, then it starts with kindness. Or, in other words, Wilson Buddies!



The Echo

Mr. Smith: A New Member of Wilson Area High School

By: Mya Marsac

This year, we are welcoming a new teacher into the Wilson Area High School community! Coming in as a new Civics and Government teacher, we are glad to introduce Mr. Smith to our school. I was able to interview him, so let's learn a little more about Mr. Smith!

Mr. Smith revealed that he worked at a Catholic school prior to his job here. To our surprise, he also revealed that our high school is quite larger than the Catholic school.

When I asked him about his thoughts about this year thus far, he explained how excited he was to be a part of our community. He reported, "Everyone has been really helpful and nice." With the help of our wonderful staff, Mr. Smith has been able to properly settle in and get to know everyone! He also looks forward to attending basketball games and other activities hosted by the high school.

I enjoyed interviewing Mr. Smith and hope that he continues to settle into our supportive school community.



An Exclusive Debate Team Interview

By: Ayah Mallah

Wilson Area High School's first debate competition will be taking place on November 8th, 2023. They will be debating whether or not the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should implement a four-day workweek. Competing against Saucon Valley, our debate team has been vigorously preparing for a victory. With this, I have decided to interview one of our debate captains, Jada Makar.

Ayah Mallah: How has it been leading the debate team thus far?

Jada Makar: "Leading the debate team has been great! I'm enjoying seeing new faces, and there is much more structure than in previous years, which I think will set us up for success."

Ayah Mallah: What is one goal you have and how would you like to achieve it?

Jada Makar: "My main goal this year is for our team to beat Pennridge and Catasauqua."

Ayah Mallah: What drove you to join the debate team?

Jada Makar: "My passion for law is what drove me to join the debate team. I plan to go to law school and become a lawyer, so arguing and public speaking is going to be a necessary skill."

Ayah Mallah:: What is one piece of advice you have for anyone who may want to join the team?

Jada Makar: "One piece of advice I have for anyone who'd like to join the team is to not be scared! Between our team and our coach, Mr. Sleiman, we have created an atmosphere that welcomes people who want to learn and strive for growth — regardless of skill set."



Interview: The Pure Impact of the Arts

By: Isabella Dayton

Throughout the years, the arts have impacted humankind tremendously. Music, performing arts, visual arts, literature, film, architecture, and painting have all connected people globally for generations. The arts are something very special and rare in our history. Even some of our own faculty and students connect with music in a special way. I interviewed the main teachers involved with the arts and some honorable arts students here at WAHS about the impact of the arts on each of their lives. Throughout this interview, consider how the arts can or have already impacted your own.

Did the arts change your life? If so, how?

Kalla Barrett (SOPHOMORE)- “I used to struggle with stress and often boredom, but when I started playing instruments, singing, and acting it felt I had found a missing piece of myself.”

Hans Kuder (SENIOR)- “It gives me a source to outlet some of my emotion and express myself. I have had days where the arts were the only thing I had to look forward to, and it can completely turn your day around.”

Kassie Ritter (SENIOR)- “Drawing/painting brings a sense of enjoyment and fulfillment that nothing else is able to. It’s something I can be proud of. It’s hard for me to ever really define what kind of person I am, but the first thing I’ll ever be certain of is my love for art.”

Mr.Costenbader (ART TEACHER)- “I struggled in some of my core classes in school. I wasn't failing, but I did what I needed to do to get “okay” grades. It was my high school art teacher that pointed out to me that if you want to become a successful artist, you need to be well rounded. Art has connections to all disciplines. Art eventually helped become more well rounded, gave me confidence and purpose.”

What is your most sentimental or life changing experience within the arts?

Hans Kuder (SENIOR)- “One of my most life changing experiences with the arts would’ve been my first time making it into a district band for the first time. The thing that amazed me the most was that the emotions in the air were not just shown by one person. Rather, it was everyone sharing the emotion and creativity even if we didn’t know each other, we all knew music.

Mr.Costenbader (ART TEACHER)- “For me it is seeing students realize their true potential and reaching their goals. I have students who have become professional artists and art therapists/teachers. It is also very satisfying to students who will not choose to be professional artists, but discover the pure joy of expressing themselves through art.”

Mrs.Wetherell (MUSIC TEACHER)- “During my senior year of college, the whole music department was preparing for a mosaic concert at Eisenhower Auditorium which seats 2,500 people. There was a soprano solo called “Dulcissime” that the soloists didn’t get their starting note. Everyone in the music department wanted the solo. I was intimidated by all of the performing majors auditioning, but I received the big solo!”

Mr.Hall (MUSIC TEACHER)- “In 2015 I had the privilege to perform chamber and opera music throughout the Mezzano region of Northern Italy. My time in Mezzano culminated in a performance of Beethoven’s 6th Symphony “Pastoral,” which remains a deeply personal piece of music that inspires both joy and serenity.”

If WAHS did not offer creative outlets through our school, do you think you would do as good/be as motivated in your academics?

Kassie Ritter (SENIOR)- “Not at all. Art and piano class are the two classes I look forward to most. Without them, I’d not have the motivation to show up every day.”

Hans Kuder (SENIOR)- “I don’t think I would be as motivated. I don’t think I would do as well without arts since it helps me to be something other than a student.

Kalla Barrett (SOPHOMORE)- “Without these activities I wouldn’t be who I am today, everything would be straightforward to me on a silver platter. The arts give me a challenge, and that challenge makes me who I strive to become.”

How the U.S. Government Almost Shut Down & What's Next

By: Aidan Glassmoyer

On September 30, 2023, the nation feared a government shutdown and its consequences for the nation. Government shutdowns occur when there are budget disagreements between the House, Senate, and White House. If Congress was not able to pass legislation to fund the government by midnight on September 30, 2023, it would have led to a government shutdown. This would imply that government operations would cease; however, the essential ones would continue. Federal agencies deem which government operations are essential and which are not.

President Joe Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy agreed to cap federal spending for the next two years in an attempt to avoid a federal debt default. This agreement was passed on a bipartisan basis. McCarthy had to rely on Democratic votes due to a group of right-wing lawmakers disagreeing with the proposition. According to right-wing lawmakers, they believed that it allowed far too much spending and went back to the funding levels agreed to in it.

The Senate was moving toward a bipartite spending patch. This would keep the government open through November 17, 2023, and provide six billion dollars in aid for Ukraine and six billion dollars in natural disaster relief for the United States. McCarthy, however, did not earn the minimum threshold of votes from the Republican side. He turned to the Democrats to pass the bill without aid for Ukraine. Republicans would ultimately pass three spending bills.

With a 216-210 vote, Kevin McCarthy was removed as speaker of the House — allowing the Republicans to have a new candidate running for Speaker. The current candidate for the Republican Speaker is Steve Scalise. However, he is not guaranteed the position due to the Republicans' thin majority. He will need 217 votes from the Republicans to be elected Speaker of the House.



National Emergency Alert System Testing

By: Lianah Thomas

The federal government reported it will conduct a nationwide emergency alert system broadcast on Wednesday, October 4th at approximately 2:20 PM ET. Don't be alarmed, this is merely a test of a new system that FEMA is testing in coordination with the national government. As reported by the federal government, the alert will contain a series of loud alarms designed to attract attention.

These alarms will go off on phones, televisions, and radio devices. The alarms are still said to go off, even if the devices are set to silent mode. The test will last for about one minute on radios and televisions, and phones will receive the test about a half-hour in.

The emergency alert system was nothing major to worry about, like most people initially speculated. At 2:18 PM ET, the federal government began the alarms. All phones should have received an alert and a text message that reads: "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed." These alarms sounded similar to the regular weather alerts.

The purpose of this testing was to ensure our EAS (Emergency Alert System) and WEA (Wireless Emergency Alerts) systems would work in the scenario of an emergency. The EAS system was sent out to radios and the WEA was sent out to cell phones.



Travis King Released from North Korea

By: Lianah Thomas

Army Pvt., Travis King returns to the United States after being released by North Korea where he was held in custody for two months. King, while he was serving in South Korea and was on tour of the Demilitarized Zone on the inter-Korean border, sprinted into North Korea. On the initial reports of this incident, it was believed that King was open to seeking refuge in North Korea or a third-world country.

But, North Korean Central News Agency would say that Travis King was “disillusioned about the unequal U.S. society.” Military experts speculate that King could be charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice — specifically Article 85 for desertion or Article 86 for going AWOL (absent without leave). But at this moment, it is unclear if the army is going to take that step.

Army secretary Christine Wormuth came forward and stated that any punishment that King would face would come from his own decisions after he completes the reintegration process. Before running into North Korea, King had already been involved in criminal charges and was court martialed by the Army in South Korea.

CNN previously reported that King was expected to be administratively separated from the military after being found guilty in a court martial hearing related to assault and other charges. Now, Travis King is on temporary duty orders to Joint Base San Antonio as he completes the reintegration process, which Army spokesperson Bryce Dubee said includes “medical care, decompression, and debriefing.” King was reunited with his family over the weekend after the long two months of being in custody and his reintegration into society.



NASA Astronaut Breaks World Record

By: Jane Compton

On September 27, 2023, NASA astronaut Frank Rubio came back down to earth after being in space for a total of 371 days, officially breaking the world record of 355 by Mark Vande Hei.

Rubio was initially projected to be in space for 6 months. On September 21, 2022, he went into a Russian-operated Soyuz MS-22 with a crew from Kazakhstan. After their space orbit, the group was going to return to Earth. However, when their shuttle was unexpectedly hit with space junk, it experienced a coolant leak. It was consequently deemed to be highly unsafe for them to come back to earth. Roscosmos, a State Space Corporation, needed time to prepare another Soyuz ship to send out to the crew — extending Rubio's duration in space to a total of 371 days.

Following Rubio's time in space, he landed in a remote area in the country of Kazakhstan. As reported by Rubio, if he had known he had to stay in space for over a year beforehand, he would decline. He explained, "That's only because of family things that were going on the past year. Had I known that I had to miss those very important events, I just would have to say 'thank you, but no thank you.'"

Rubio experienced difficulties with his mental health when reality hit him that he was going to be stuck in space for over a year. He had stated that his family's resilience throughout this unexpected inconvenience and the supportive company of his Russian crewmates, Sergey Prokopyev and Dmitri Peteli, during their time stuck in the orbit of space is what had helped get him through his 371 days in space.



NATO Country Could Soon Be Having a Pro-Russian Leader

By: Aidan Glassmoyer

The country of Slovakia may soon be under the rule of Robert Fico, a pro-Russian leader. Now, this is Slovakia's fourth election in five years. With this, Fico ended up winning the parliamentary elections for Slovakia.

Fico's Direction – Slovak Social Democracy party, SMER, won 22.9% of Slovakia's vote. This was higher than anticipated. The Progressive Slovakia (PS), a liberal and pro-Ukraine group, only won 18% of Slovakia's votes. With these numbers, Progressive Slovakia is Fico's biggest opponent.

There are a total of seven political parties that reached the 5% threshold to enter the parliament coalition negotiations. Fico will have to negotiate with at least two additional parties to gain a majority in parliament. He recently reported that Zuzana Čaputová, a Slovak politician, has given him 14 days to negotiate with the other parties.

In the scenario where Robert Fico is elected leader of Slovakia, he will cause political issues for NATO. NATO, an alliance between 31 countries in North America and Europe, exists to protect its members. In the past two years, the countries of NATO have been looking into adding Ukraine to the alliance. Nonetheless, under Robert Fico's rule, Ukraine's ambitions of joining NATO may be immediately blocked. He will also stop supplying Ukraine with weapons and resources in the war with Russia.

Robert Fico was a two-time prime minister from 2006 to 2010 and 2012 to 2018. This will be his third time running for prime minister in Slovakia. In his second term, he was forced to resign due to mass protests and controversy over the murder of journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kušnírová. Kuciak was reporting corruption by Fico and his group, SMER. Now, Fico has been granted another chance due to the current chaos in the Slovakian government.



From Destruction to Recovery: The Floods in Libya

By: Ayah Mallah

On September 10th, 2023, the collapse of the Derna dam claimed over 6,000 lives in Libya. Approximately 16,000 individuals have been displaced as a result of the collapse.

According to Rick Brennan, a director for the Mediterranean World Health Organization, “[Authorities] are still looking for people in collapsed buildings, but the chance of finding survivors is diminishing by the hour. We expect, unfortunately, that most of the missing will not be found alive.”

The destruction of the country was triggered by Storm Daniel. Storm Daniel, also known as Cyclone Daniel, is currently the deadliest Mediterranean storm in history. The intensity of the storm led to the drastic bursting of the Derna dam. Karsten Haustein, a climate scientist at Leipzig University, suggested, “The warmer water in September does not only fuel those storms in terms of rainfall intensity, it also makes them more ferocious.”

The representatives of Libya noted the unexpectedness of the flood. Aly, the Emergency and Ambulance Authority spokesperson, shared, “Libya was not prepared for a catastrophe like that. It has not witnessed that level of catastrophe before.” Nonetheless, such shortcomings prompted future preventative measures.

Libya’s allies have also offered their support services. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), a humanitarian agency, provided medical supplies, hygiene kits, and clothing for those in need. UNICEF has also implemented child-protection systems. Specifically, they established child protection screenings and psychosocial support throughout the country.



The Deadliest Earthquake Morocco Has Seen

By: Devin Agosta

On September 8th, 2023, at roughly 11:11 pm local time, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck the country of Morocco. Its epicenter was located around the High Atlas mountain range, approximately 44 miles from the well-known tourist city of Marrakech. Due to the shallow depth, this earthquake was more destructive than what the country is used to. Morocco has seen many earthquakes in its days; however, this was the deadliest they have seen since 1960.

In regards to the 1960 earthquake, it had taken around 12,000 lives. Earthquakes of magnitude 5 or higher have struck the region since 1900; however, none have had a magnitude greater than 6.

The 6.8 magnitude earthquake has been recognized as the most devastating earthquake in the province of Al Haouz, killing nearly 1,500 people. Towns were completely destroyed and homes were ravaged. The extent of the damage caused 8% of Morocco's GDP to be used solely for repairing and rebuilding. According to the World Bank, Morocco's GDP for 2022 was only 134.18 billion. The rebuilding process will take an extensive time and money.

Morocco has been a popular tourist destination for decades and will likely continue to remain that way for years to come. With all of these damages, the destination might slow down a bit, but in time, once rebuilding is done, it should continue to flourish.



Ukraine War: Russia Expands Mobilization

By: Antonio João Gomes

February 24th, 2022, has become a date that will forever live in history. Seventy seven years after the last major conflict in Europe, the Russian Federation launched a surprise invasion of Ukraine under the pretext of “Denazification” - or ridding Ukraine of its alleged Nazi influence. Entitled a “Special Military Operation” by Kremlin officials, Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that the so-called operation would come to an end in seventy two hours. Therefore, Russian troops would be parading in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, in no time. Nearly two years later, Russia is showing signs of desperation as Ukraine launches its long-awaited counteroffensive. Warm bodies for Russia are a necessity in order to plug the gaps being made by constant Ukrainian attacks, but they’re finding these bodies in a most unusual place.

It wasn’t too long after the initial invasion that Russia made rapid gains. In just days many regions fell under the control of Russian occupation forces, with the most notable being Ukrainian regions of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. On September 23rd, 2022, Russia held referendums in four of its occupied Ukrainian territories known as the aforementioned Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, with the addition of Donetsk and Luhansk. This referendum, which many in the international community have deemed rigged, was on the annexation of the four regions into the broader Russian Federation. This would essentially make these four regions a part of Russia and subject to Russian law and authority.

One week later, on September 30th, Russian authorities closed the referendum with 93.1% of people saying “Yes” to joining Russia. Obviously this was called out by the international community, as many refused to recognize the annexation as legal or legitimate. Despite this, Russia continued with its war and protracted the implementation of Russian law into its newly acquired territories.

Mobilization is a military term used to describe when a government begins forcing vast swaths of its population to join its armed forces. In Russia, all constituent regions of the Federation are subjected to a call of mobilization if the Ministry of Defense and President enact it. On October 28th, 2022, Russia launched its first mobilization in eighty two years with 300,000 men being conscripted and ready for deployment in Ukraine. Though this failed to achieve anything, sources vary. When it comes to the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, it is claimed that from October to December of 2022, Russia lost between 72,000 and 90,000 men. Even if this number was unconfirmed, it is staggering and the Russian government knew that.

Thus far, Russia has continued to rely on the remaining 300,000 men they’ve deployed to Ukraine. Russia has also been making calls to expand laws in regards to mobilization to Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. This would essentially force Ukrainian civilians to wage war on their countrymen on behalf of the Russian government. All of this has emerged while Ukraine continues to drive its forces southward to liberate its occupied regions. With this move, Russia has shown the world its desperation towards fresh recruits in order to hold off the ever determined

No Worse Neighbor: The Artsakh Conflict

By: Antonio João Gomes

When one imagines the end of a nation's existence, many thoughts are brought to mind: a valiant last battle against a foreign foe or a solemn signing of a treaty after a grueling war. Rarely ever does one imagine an entire country signing away its independence after a mere 24 hours of fighting. However, this was the case for a small Caucasus nation known as Artsakh. Though small, this very event could be the prelude to a much more devastating show.

Artsakh, informally known as the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, was formed as an ethnic break-away region in the nation of Azerbaijan in 1991. Unlike Azerbaijan, which is a Turkic nation, Artsakh is, or, rather was, majority composed of ethnic Armenians. From the previously mentioned independence date of 1991 to 1994, Artsakh, with the aid of Armenia, would wage a successful war against Azerbaijan as they finally ended with Artsakh occupying seven Azerbaijani provinces and uniting with Armenia.

As one could imagine, such a loss greatly angered the Azerbaijani government and a “Frozen Conflict” would soon sprout in the region. A “Frozen Conflict” is defined as a prolonged string of short military engagements around or in a given disputed region. For the next 28 years, Artsakh would live in relative peace besides the occasional disturbance of border clashes or artillery exchanges. However, this would change in September of 2020 when Azerbaijani forces launched a surprise invasion of the occupied regions administered by Artsakh. Quickly, the world's eyes were drawn to the southern Caucasus as footage poured out of Artsakh exposing Israeli and Turkish supplied Azerbaijani drones which annihilated entire columns of Artsakh troops. Within weeks, the conflict ended. Artsakh was reduced to its pre-1991 independence borders.

Despite legally being a part of the Republic of Armenia, Artsakh was offered little in assistance by Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, when it came to deterring the Azerbaijani threat. The Armenian public viewed the inaction of the Armenian government as nothing less than traitorous with protests quickly sweeping Armenia proper. Protests called for the resignation of the then-Prime Minister, Nikol Pashinyan. They hoped he would reignite the conflict with Azerbaijan and cancel-out the Russian orchestrated peace settlement. Unfortunately this failed, leaving the Artsakh isolated from its ancestral motherland.

The victory was praised in Baku - the capital of Azerbaijan - though Azerbaijani leadership must have believed that the mere existence of the now-turned rump state of Artsakh was a very threat to Baku hold on Azerbaijan proper. The next three years were grueling. Artsakh's population steadily dwindled as Azerbaijani forces blocked aid-corridors and harassed idle Russian peacekeepers. One week from the three year anniversary of the humiliating defeat in the 2020 war, Azerbaijani trucks emblazoned with stylized alphabetic symbols reminiscent of the Russian “Z” and “V” from the ongoing Ukraine War as it rolled into Artsakh with artillery smashing into the capital - Stepanakert. Within 24 hours, Artsakh officially announced the disbanding of its armed forces. Days later Artsakh would agree to cede independence by December, 2023 leaving over 100,000 ethnic Armenians to have fled their ancestral homeland.

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

By: Angelina Bastien

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has been a long-standing dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan since 1988. Nagorno-Karabakh is a disputed territory with a majority population of ethnic Armenians in the South Caucasus.

In 1988, tensions began to rise when Armenians living there demanded the transfer of the Nagorno-Karabakh territory, which was owned by the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic at the time, from Soviet Azerbaijan to Armenia. Armed fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan was kept relatively under control by Soviet rule. However, when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, so did peace in the region and tensions turned into an outright war.

By 1994, fighting ceased and Armenia had control over Nagorno-Karabakh. Around 30,000 lives had been lost and 1 million people had been displaced from their homes - 700,000 Azerbaijanis were expelled from Armenia and 300,000 Armenians living in Azerbaijan.

For about 26 years, sporadic incidents between the two republics were just proof that war would eventually rekindle. In September of 2020, substantial fighting broke out along the border of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh leading to the second war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. After forty-four days, seven thousand lives lost, and 40,000 people being displaced, the war ended in a cease-fire and Azerbaijan re-established victory and control over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Over the past three years, hostilities have increased, and in late September of this year, the majority of the small population of Armenians left in Nagorno-Karabakh began to flee to Armenia after the arrival of Azerbaijan's army and seizure of the disputed territory. Over 400 Armenians have been killed, and 100,000 of the 120,000 of them have fled west through the Lachin Corridor, the border between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, to Armenia. The Azerbaijan government has demanded that the ethnic Armenians there either submit to Azerbaijani governance or depart. The use of starvation tactics and army intimidation demonstrate the ethnic cleansing of Armenians by the Azerbaijan powers.

Armenia's prime minister, Nikol Pashinyan, said in a recent government meeting, "There will be no more Armenians left in Nagorno-Karabakh in the coming days." Thousands of people are being kicked out of the only home they've ever known.

Russia, the nation that's played the biggest role in mediating the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, has stayed silent and refused to intervene to open the Lachin Corridor. Armenians across the world are forced to watch the ethnic cleansing of their people, and all they can do is call on leaders of other nations to help them.



Bus Crash Containing Students

By: Tyler Grohotolsky

Unfortunately, as a bus was transporting highschoolers on their way to band camp, it crashed. The bus rolled and slid over Interstate 84 and fell into a fifty feet ravine in Orange County, New York. According to Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakemanwo, two adults were killed, sixteen children and two adults put into hospitalization, and five remaining in critical condition.

More specifically, the two passengers that died were identified as 77 year old Beatrice Ferrari and 43 year old Gina Pelletiere. Pelletiere was listed as the school's director of bands on their website. She was the chairperson of the Nassau All-County Division 5 Symphonic Band for many years, and a guest conductor for both Nassau and Suffolk All-County Festivals. According to a close family friend, she left behind a two year old son. The government states "There's a lot of families that need some love tonight. And we extend that from 20 million New Yorkers."

A faulty front tire was a factor of the crash, governor and investigators mention. The investigation is ongoing as the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash. They will look at seat-belt usage, the mechanics of the bus, and its "general crashworthiness," among other factors, HUMM said.

Dianne Feinstein

By: Kallie Ahart

Hard-working U.S. politician and former mayor of San Francisco, Dianne Feinstein, sadly passed away on Thursday, September 29, aged 90. In recent years, Feinstein dealt with several health issues but remained in office, doing what she loved: helping people. One of her most notable accomplishments is how she led San Francisco as mayor after a tragic event of political violence, which resulted in the death of George Moscone and Harvey Milk.

Dianne Feinstein was born in San Francisco in 1933. Her uncle, Morris Goldman, was a "Democratic Party wheeler-dealer." He took her to a Board of Supervisors meeting when she was 12. Feinstein then went on to study history at Stanford University. After graduating, she was selected as a fellow of the Coro Foundation, a program meant to train her for government service.

In November of 1992, Dianne Feinstein became California's first female senator. A year later, she was made California's senior senator when Alan Cranston retired, getting reelected five more times. During her time in office, she accomplished many things. These accomplishments include being the first woman to chair the Senate Rules Committee in 2007 and to chair the Senate Intelligence Committee in 2009. She was also the first woman to serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Pencils Up

By: Kallie Ahart

The 2023 Hollywood Writers strike ended on the 27th of September after 148 days. A strike like this hasn't happened in sixteen years. However, the Writers Guild of America reached a tentative agreement with major Hollywood studios and is returning to work.

In the agreement, one of the main issues was regarding AI, or, Artificial Intelligence. The studios agreed on some AI protection rules. For example, studios will be required to tell writers if something was written with AI or inspired by it. This is intended to ensure that writers are fairly compensated for their work.

This leads to another concern of the Writers Guild, pay. Writer pay has not increased to compensate for inflation in the past five years, many writers weren't making livable wages. The agreement states that writers' pay may be increased by as much as 5%. Another concern of the WGA is the dishonesty of studios regarding the amount of hours their work was being watched, the agreement requires more transparency with the reported hours.

The WGA had very specific demands for this agreement and received most of what they wanted. Most of the Writers Guild of America members were expected to accept this deal. The voting for this deal started on October 2 and ended on the 9th. Meanwhile, writers have returned to work and are spreading their creativity once again.



Performers Attacked on Stage

By: Korey Pluhar

In recent years, world-famous performers such as Harry Styles, Bebe Rexha, Ava Max, and P!NK have had objects chucked at them from the audience. Items like menstrual products, clothing, beverages, vape pens, cellphones, food, and more have bombarded the stars while they perform. Some performers have lasting injuries from these objects — including singer-songwriter Bebe Rexha who was hit with a cell phone and left her show with a bruised eye.

Artists continue to be injured due to poor behavior from fans. This includes Ava Max who was slapped on stage by a stage crasher, hurting her eye. Even if the instances result in no injury, like P!NK having someone's mother's ashes thrown onto stage during her performance, artists have expressed that interrupting a performance is disrespectful to them and their work. It also makes them hesitant to perform in the future.

Psychologists believe the pandemic has caused a general recession in proper social behavior. Due to the isolation, concert-goers have lost their etiquette. The pandemic has also strengthened parasocial relationships, so many of these people believe they have a relationship with the artists and in turn are entitled to the performer's attention. This psychological phenomenon has turned out to be damaging to artists and has caused many to stop performing live.

Oops...! She's Done It Again!

By: Jordyn Pyles

Britney Spears returned to social media headlines after posting an Instagram video dancing in her Southern California home with movie prop knives. She captioned the video, "These are not real knives. No one needs to worry or call the police." According to Spears, she was merely recreating Shakira's 2023 VMA performance saying, "Cheers to us bad girls who aren't afraid to push boundaries and take risks."

The manager of Hand Prop Room, who wishes to remain unnamed, stated that sales have spiked by 50% after the "If You Seek Amy" singer showed off her dancing skills. The store was going through hardships due to the Writer's strike that began on May 2nd, 2023. This resulted in few to no sales until Spears' outburst.

Her audience was far from impressed by her moves. Several of her fans went on to contact the police hoping for them to perform a wellness check on her after uploading the video. "The officers came to my home and said they would not leave until they spoke to me," the star said on Instagram. Spears berated her fans and the police stating, "I am getting an apology. I've been bullied in my home for so long now... IT'S ENOUGH!"

Spears is still dealing with her divorce from Sam Asghari in early August of this year. The now ex-couple was together for six years and married for 14 months up until their split. Court statements stated that the divorce was due to "irreconcilable differences." However, the two still hold love and respect for each other.

It's A “Love Story”: Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce

By: Emma Davenport

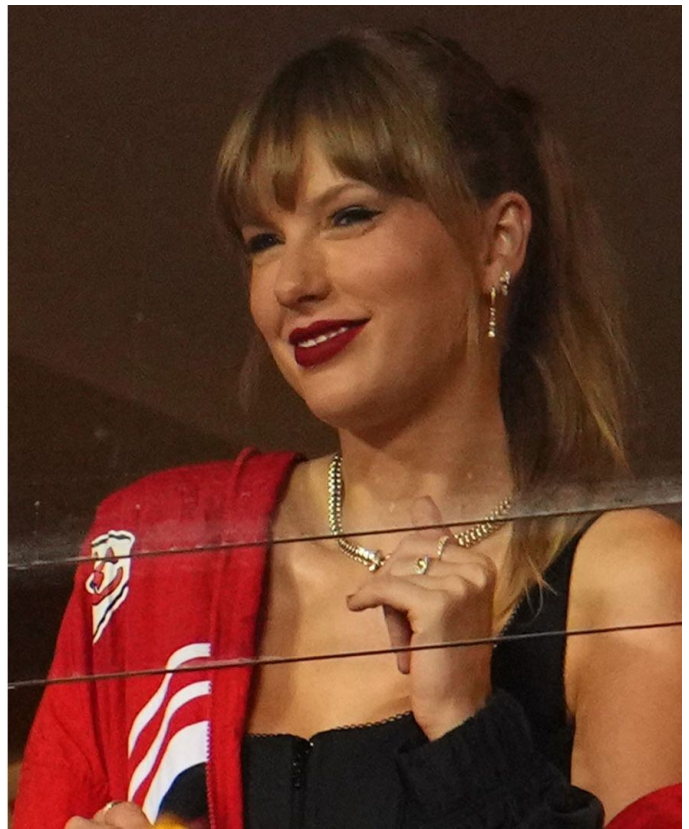
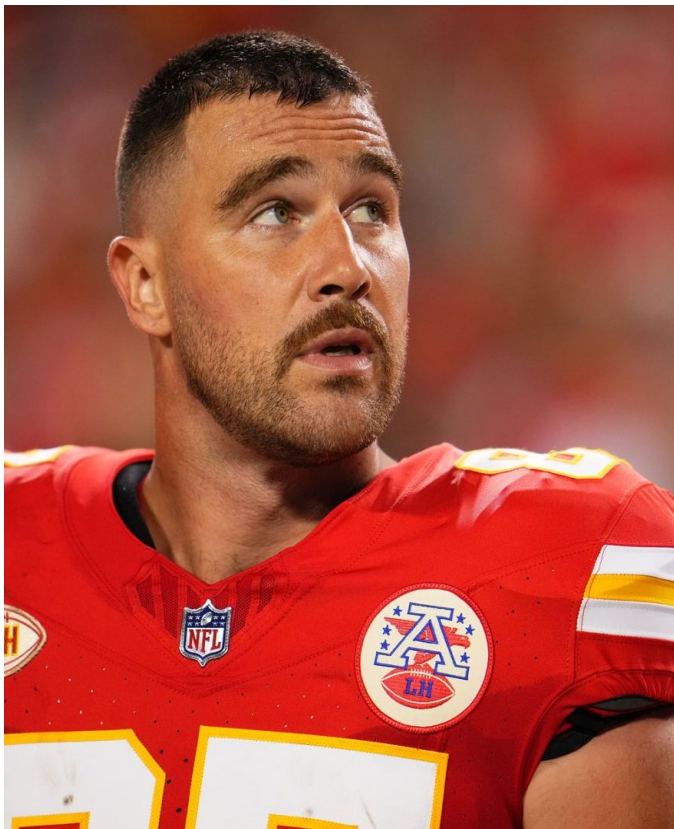
It all started when Taylor Swift performed at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City on July 7, 2023. Travis Kelce attended Taylor Swift's *eras tour concert* with his daughter, *unsuccessfully attempting to give Swift his number through a friendship bracelet*.

Not long after, Swift was seen sitting with Kelce's mom during a Chiefs game at Arrowhead stadium on September 24, 2023. After the game, Kelce and Taylor were not only caught leaving together, but going out to dinner as well. Later on in the week, TMZ released an image from the post game party of Swift's arm wrapped around Kelce.

On September 27, 2023, Taylor was spotted having dinner with Brittany Mahomes. For those that are unaware, she is married to Patrick Mahomes who also plays for the Kansas City Chiefs. Swift was also joined by Blake Lively and Sophie Turner for a girls night dinner. Three days later, Kelce was seen leaving Swift's apartment before he left for his next game.

On the evening of October 1, 2023, Swift was spotted at Kelce's game vs. The New York Jets at Metlife Stadium. She was accompanied by her good friend Blake Lively as they watched from the box with Kelce's mom.

Updates are published daily about this new couple, and the fans are loving it! Everyone is excited for the both of them, and eager to see where it goes from here.



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Getting Into the Fall Feels

By: Jordyn Pyles

The temperature is dropping and the leaves are changing. Fall has made its debut in Easton, and what better way to relish it than by attending local Lehigh Valley events?

The 20th annual Garlic Fest will be held in Downtown Easton at the Center Square from October 7th to October 8th. Be prepared to participate with free admission — whether rain or shine. The festival will take place from 10:00 am to 6:00 p.m., with food and beverages provided. Attendees are encouraged to be amongst the first few hundred people to try garlic dishes and desserts to determine which chef will take home the *Garlic Bulb Winners Plaque, with an entry of only \$12. It's a great way to kick off the fall season in Easton!*

This month, Wilson will also be hosting its 3rd annual Boro Fest. Boro Fest is a fun installment of music, rides, and games at Mueser Park. Enjoy the fall festivities, while supporting our school from October 12th to October 14th. The festival will start at 6:00 pm and end with fireworks around 10:00 pm, making it perfect for your after-school free time!

As the season progresses, more festivities will be held to get everyone in the fall-feel. Even traditional events, such as pumpkin carving and apple picking, will be available to the public later in the season.

Wilson, don't hide away from the cold weather. Bundle up and make some memories with your community!

What Will You Be Doing This Halloween?

By: Leah Everitt

Fall, already? That's right, happy fall everybody! Besides fall implying cooler weather and school, Halloween is just around the corner. Halloween has always been an exciting part of the year for many of us in Wilson, especially as younger children go door to door for candy. As we get older, Halloween is something many of us still like to enjoy in various ways. For this article, I chose to interview one of our students here at Wilson, Ryann Rice, to get a closer look at how some students are choosing to make Halloween fun this year.

What are your current plans for this upcoming Halloween?

"I'm going to take my 1-year-old nephew trick or treating."

Do you have any favorite Halloween traditions?

"I enjoy getting candy and watching scary movies with my family."

Are you going to dress up this year?

"Yes, I am going to dress up as the Bride of Chucky."

What would you say your *best costume has been throughout the years*?

"I was once Draculaura from Monster High. That was a pretty good one."

Do you have a favorite Halloween/horror movie?

"One of my favorites is The Nightmare Before Christmas."

As many of us eventually grow out of trick or treating, it is still good to make your Halloween fun and unique! There are a variety of ways you can spice it up for you and your friends. Hopefully, this interview gave you some good ideas. Whether that be hanging out with friends, enjoying a good horror movie, or even going trick or treating, we hope that everyone has a great Halloween season! Don't forget to be safe and check all your candy!