



Wilson's Upcoming School Events!

By: Karli Breckon

The 2023-2024 school winter sports events have officially begun! This year's upcoming events have everyone excited, so let's take a look at them.

The girl's varsity basketball team had a home game on December 8th at 6:45 pm against Moravian Academy. The boy's varsity basketball team played their first home game against Pen Argyl on December 11th at 6:45. On the same day, the girl's varsity basketball team played at Pen Argyl. On December 14th, the boys played at home against Southern Lehigh! The next day, the varsity boy's wrestling team wrestled Catasauqua at 7:00 pm — representing our school community! Make sure to be there to support our amazing winter sports teams!

December 25th through January 1st will be Wilson's winter break! When we get back from winter break, Wilson will be taking their winter Keystones from January 3rd through January 17th. Make sure to relax over break, but keep up the studying! Right after winter break, the boys varsity wrestling team will have a match at home on January 3rd at 7:00 pm. That night will be Teachers Night. So after a long day of testing, come out and support the teachers chosen to be recognized. The month of January is filled with our winter sports, so come out and support your school community! If you would like more information, you can look at our Warrior website and *Warrior News*!

- Ayah Mallah:
Editor-in-Chief
- Angelina Bastien:
Managing Editor
- Assistant Editors:
Mya Marsac
Madison Powell



WAHS' Sounds of the Season

By: Jordyn Piles

On December 7th, Wilson Area High School held its first concert of the year featuring the hard work of our concert choir and band! Thanks to the harmony and energy of our singers and band members, there was never a dull moment for the concert.

The two-and-a-half-hour-long segment was perfectly organized and arranged with the help of Wilson's band director, Mr. Hall, and choral director, Mrs. Wetherell. The show opened with a beautifully performed *O Come All Ye Faithful*. This was followed by a series of solo and ensemble performances by our outstanding concert choir and chorale, who sang *One Candle and Run*, *Rudolph, Run!* Plus, how could we ignore the exotic show stylings of our Wilson Men when they performed *Mele Kalikimaka*? Or the heartwarming moment when choir alumni joined our singers on stage to reminisce about "the good old days" with *Do You Hear What I Hear*? Such a wonderful experience!

Let's not forget about our spectacular concert band! Our band players took us for an emotional ride with musical numbers, including *Shadows Fall and Flourish for Glorious John*. Hans Kuder raised the tense factor for the band's final number, *A Christmas Tale (Beware the Krampus)*. Our band and choir members joined together to serenade the audience one last time with classic Christmas carols from *Deck the Halls* to *Jolly Old Saint Nicholas*.

The concert choir especially appreciates Mrs. Wetherwell for balancing her home life and efficiently pulling off such a phenomenal event with her students. Everyone's hard work giving the audience a spectacular memory will forever be honored.

Ho-Ho-Hope you had a whimsical time listening to your favorite Christmas classics at WAHS' annual Winter Holiday Concert!

Wrestling Has Begun

By: Madison Powell

Winter sports have started, which means wrestling is back! I chose to interview two members of the team, Zeandros Johnson and David M'Balla, in order to get some insight on their predictions for this season.

Powell: What grade are you in?

Zeandros Johnson: 11th grade

David M'Balla: 12th

Powell: How long have you wrestled?

Zeandros Johnson: 2 years

David M'Balla: 4 years

Powell: What is an individual goal of yours for this upcoming season?

Zeandros Johnson: To make regionals

David M'Balla: Win districts

Powell: Are there a lot of new wrestlers or mainly experienced?

Zeandros Johnson: They are mainly experienced.

David M'Balla: A lot of new wrestlers

Powell: Do you think you guys will have a good season as a team ?

Zeandros Johnson: Yes

Lafayette College Professor Awarded \$75k

By: Leah Everitt

Michael Bertucci, a scientist and chemistry professor at Lafayette College, recently became one out of eight people in the country to receive the \$75,000 grant from The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation. Earlier this month, the organization announced that the grant would be awarded to a successful project done on the effects synthetic peptides have on bacterial communication. According to the foundation's website, the award was designed to honor young faculty in the chemical sciences who have created an "outstanding independent body of scholarship" and are deeply committed to education with undergraduates.

Bertucci, along with several of his graduate students, began this study by using a strain of bacteria called *Streptococcus gordonii*. This bacteria is found in the mouth, but when spread into the bloodstream, is responsible for bacterial endocarditis. Bacterial endocarditis is a rare and severe inflammatory disease that may lead to oral infections and issues in the heart. For almost 70 years, doctors have struggled to find preventable measures.

Bertucci's ultimate goal was to create a molecule that could reduce the negative effects of the bacteria. The results Bertucci gathered from his research could have potentially life-saving consequences.

Yftah Tal-Gan, a chemistry professor at the University of Nevada in Reno, assisted Bertucci in the study. Students from Bertucci's lab had the opportunity to travel to Reno, Nevada to study alongside faculty and postdoctoral students. When Bertucci was interviewed, he revealed how proud he was of his students and how he was honored to serve as a mentor to them because he knew they are capable of doing great things. The money awarded to Bertucci will be put towards research opportunities for Bertucci's student research team to travel and take part in higher-level research.



Pictures courtesy of Google

The EPA Presents a Desire to Remove Lead Pipes from the

By: Korey Pluhar

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes its requirements to push forward with the total removal of lead pipes from US water systems. A mandate requiring water systems across the country to replace millions of lead service lines has been discussed through the agency. The rule would boost progress toward the Biden administration's ultimate goal of removing 100% of America's lead pipes.

Lead exposure can cause severe health risks, especially in children, and can be extremely harmful to developmental health. The most common form of exposure to lead poisoning is through lead pipes. Long-term lead exposure can put adults at higher risk for cancer, strokes, kidney disease, and other harmful conditions. It is infamously harmful for children as even low levels of lead can negatively affect a child's growth and development (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

"We cannot survive without water. Yet for millions of homes, for millions of children, their water has been delivered by a poisonous straw," Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, a pediatrician and clean water advocate, said during a briefing hosted by the EPA. The EPA has boosted this project as a priority due to the dangerous and long-lasting effects lead exposure has had on adults and children.

Lead pipes have been banned since the 1980s. However, hundreds of the pipes were never replaced. According to the EPA, there are an estimated 9.2 million lead pipes still in service. The two states with the highest proportions of service lines that require replacement, with more than a quarter of the state's pipes containing lead, are Illinois and Rhode Island. New Jersey (14%) and Michigan (11%) are also considered "states at risk" for potential lead issues.



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Oklahoma Man Executed for ‘Self Defense’

By: Emma Davenport

Phillip Dean Hancock of Oklahoma was executed on November 30, 2023, for two counts of murder in 2001. There is much controversy around this decision due to Hancock’s reasoning. According to Hancock, the murders were an act of self-defense.

In 2001, Hancock entered an Oklahoma City home, unarmed, where Robert Jett Jr. and James Lynch lived. Jett and Lynch were both in outlaw motorcycle gangs and lured Hancock into Jett’s home. Hancock claimed that the two men, Robert Jett Jr. and James Lynch, attacked him. After he was attacked, Hancock grabbed Jett’s pistol and shot and killed both of the men.

The attorneys for the state did not believe Hancock due to his testimony not aligning with physical evidence. Hancock is the fourth incarcerated person in Oklahoma to be executed this year, and he is the 11th person to be executed since they resumed in October 2021. There are no more scheduled executions in Oklahoma for this year.

Hancock’s attorney released a statement saying, “This was a clear case of self-defense and the Governor and the state ignored a wealth of evidence showing that Phil was fighting for his life.” Others are expressing that Hancock deserved to be executed for his actions. Assistant Attorney General Joshua Lockett, who cited a witness, stated, “Chasing someone down, telling them you are about to kill them, and then doing it is not self-defense”.



The Echo

AI Technologies Advancement in Healthcare

By: Jane Compton

AI technology is growing larger each day and is starting to make its way into daily life for society. AI has also been able to make its way into healthcare and may be helpful to doctors in hospitals and pharmacies.

There have been a few cases where AI has shown the ability to properly help a stroke patient and expand health treatment. The AI can scan the patient's brain, detect the presence of a stroke, and classify the type of stroke that the patient is experiencing. With this type of technology, doctors are able to know what actions to take to effectively help the patient. The use of AI in the medical industry has already led to a decline in failed attempts to save a patient's life.

AI has also been able to detect Dementia, Alzheimer's, and other memory disorders in a person through their speech patterns using a system called CongoSpeak. CongoSpeak was created at the University of Sheffield by researchers in the United Kingdom. It has been proven to have a 90% accuracy in identifying Dementia and Alzheimer's, which is just as accurate as pen-and-paper exams.

CongoSpeak requires the patient to talk to a virtual agent. Here, they are asked questions that test memory capacity, fluency when speaking, and their ability to describe presented pictures. After the test is complete, the results are sent to the patient's doctor — allowing the patient to get the proper help they need.

It has also been used to create personalized medicine for patients using RestoreU, created by a uMETHOD company. The AI tool uses the patient's health record and multiple sources to create the most precise personalized medication for the patient.



Pictures courtesy of Google

19 Deaths in Airbnb's Caused by Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

By: Aidan Glassmoyer

There have been 19 deaths in Airbnb over the last ten years directly due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Affected families are claiming that Airbnb has failed to do enough to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning in their locations. Further, they are claiming that there should be mandated carbon monoxide detectors in every rental.

In early 2014, Airbnb said that they would require hosts to confirm that there were carbon monoxide detectors installed in every room. The company had faced its first death months earlier in Taiwan.

Airbnb's first death was nearly ten years ago and they have failed to take proper action.. There have been many more lives lost in Airbnb locations during these ten years. The total number of deaths since 2013 is reported to be 19. With this, Airbnb is currently facing three lawsuits.

Airbnb has stated in seven of the cases, which accounts for 17 of the deaths. None of their statements, however, have given details surrounding the death or the role of carbon monoxide. In the two cases where Airbnb did not issue a statement, they were faced with two lawsuits. One lawsuit was settled and the second lawsuit was dismissed.

Jennifer Winder lost her father and stepmother to this problem in November of 2018. Jennifer Winder said that the company met with her and her brother to give suggestions to solve the problem. She wonders, with all the deaths in 2022, if any steps were actually taken.



Polluted Thoughts: Unmasking How Air Pollution Can Damage the Brain

By: Ayah Mallah

Recent studies suggest a negative correlation between air pollution exposure and intelligence. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, “Air pollution can also have a huge negative effect on cognitive intelligence.”

In August of 2023, a study was conducted to examine this issue. Scientists at Peking University and Yale University gathered 25,000 people across 162 Chinese counties. The study also gathered air pollutant data from each county. *The National Academy of Sciences journal explained, “The study was also based on...sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometers (PM10) where the participants lived.”*

The participants were then given a verbal and math exam. Their scores were compared to those who do not live in areas with significant air pollution. Ultimately, the researchers found lower exam scores among the study’s participants. Professor Xi Chen, a professor at Yale University, revealed that “polluted air can cause everyone to reduce their level of education by one year, which is huge.”

Why did this happen? A study conducted in 2016 suggests that PM2.5 is the key culprit. PM2.5 is a particulate matter that is produced by industrial activities. Alzheimer’s Society explains, “The particles (PM2.5) were seen inside protein deposits called amyloid plaques which are abundant in the Alzheimer’s brain, leading to speculation that magnetite could be involved in the development of [cognitive decline].”

Air pollution can infiltrate the very core of our cognitive functions. With this, society must make an effort towards limiting air pollution exposure.



The Importance of Staying Informed: Embracing the

By: Isabella Dayton

Climate change is a global challenge that affects every aspect of our lives, from the environment to social and economic systems. Almost all students are aware of the negative impacts and challenges associated with climate change. However, it is equally important to focus on the positive aspects. In this article, we will explore why students should stay informed about both the negatives and positives of climate change.

Understanding the Negatives:

Learning about the negatives of climate change fosters a sense of environmental consciousness and allows students inspiration for solutions. It encourages responsible and sustainable behavior, such as reducing carbon footprints, promoting renewable energy sources, and supporting conservation efforts. The downsides of climate change can inspire students to become part of the solution.

By understanding the problems, students are more likely to engage in research, innovation, and activism to find and implement solutions. Keeping up with all of these negative aspects of climate change can help students understand the urgency of the situation. From rising sea levels to extreme weather events, knowing the challenges empowers individuals to advocate for change and demand action from policy-makers.

Embracing the Positives:

The largest positive aspect of climate change includes the emergence of innovative technologies aimed at sustainability. Students can explore and contribute to advancements in renewable energy, green infrastructure, and eco-friendly practices that have the potential to revolutionize our relationship with the environment.

Climate change has spurred the growth of the renewable energy sector. By staying informed about positive developments in this area, students can identify opportunities for education and careers in fields such as solar, wind, and hydropower.

These stories provide evidence that positive change is possible through collective effort and dedication. You can find several of these stories, (updated monthly!!), that will keep you up to date with all the positive climate impacts being made at the link below. These positives in the fight against climate change often involve community engagement and grassroots movements. Students can use this website to connect with local initiatives, participate in environmental projects, and contribute to a global network of individuals working towards a sustainable future.

While students need to understand the negative impacts of climate change, focusing on the positives is equally crucial. By embracing success stories, innovative solutions, and opportunities for positive change, students can be inspired to take an active role in building a sustainable future. Staying informed about both the challenges and the triumphs empowers the next generation to be informed, engaged, and proactive in addressing the complex issue of climate change.

U.N. States 2023 is the Hottest Year on Record

By: Tyler Grohotolsky

The U.N. Weather Agency states that 2023 is the hottest year on record. With this, there are warnings of trends that suggest increasing floods, wildfires, glacier melt, and heat waves in the near future.

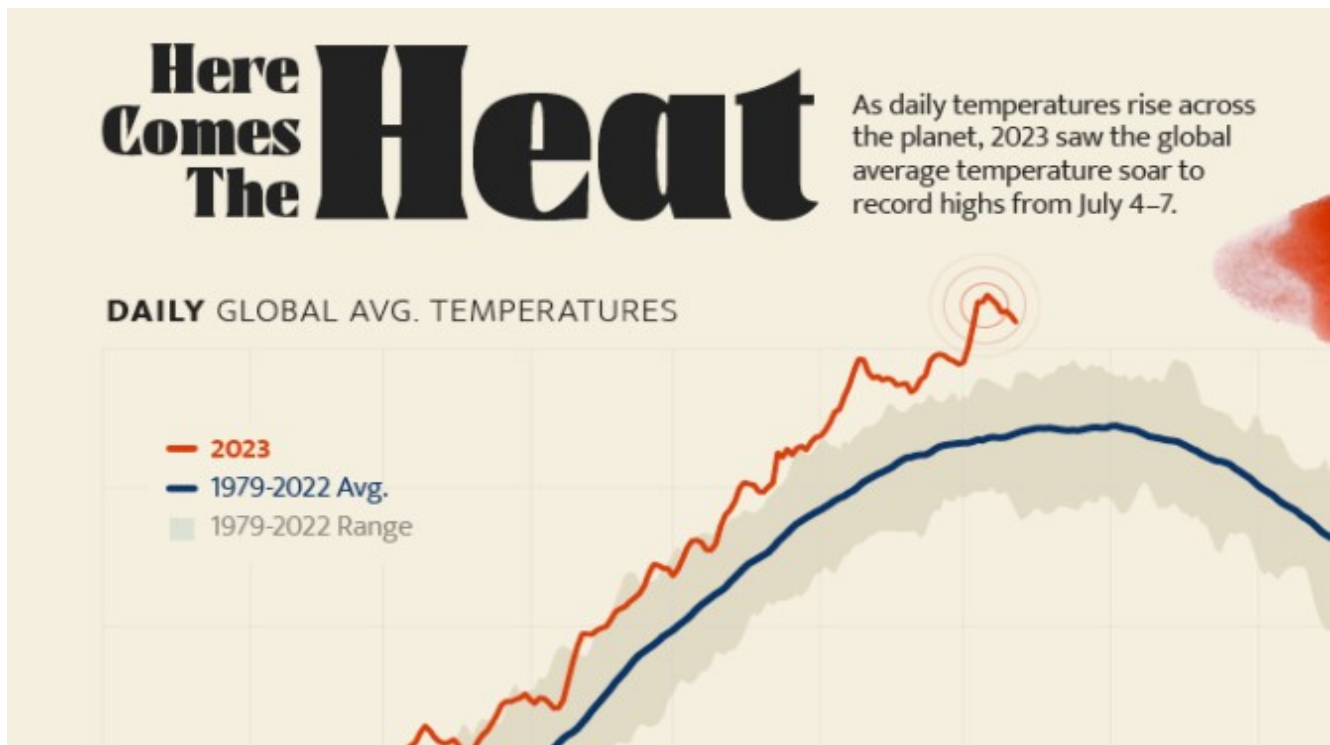
The World Meteorological Organization also cautioned that the average temperature for the year increased by 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit from pre-industrial times. This is only one-tenth of a degree under the target temperature for the end of the century, as suggested by the Paris Climate Record in 2015.

The WMO Secretary-General said the onset earlier this year of El Nino, the phenomenon marked by heating the Pacific Ocean, could tip the average temperature over the 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit target of Paris.

Last month destroyed the previous November heat record, pushing global average temperatures to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the pre-industrial era.

It had been previously assumed that 2023 would break the global heat record.

Due to rising temperatures, the U.N Weather Agency will finalize a global climate agreement on December 12th. However, the most recent draft text is expected on Wednesday, sources stated to the AFP news agency.



Guyana-Venezuela Tensions Sparks Concern

By: Antonio João Gomes

If you take a look at the news, you'll notice one thing; conflicts are ravaging nearly all corners of the world. From Khortoum to Kyiv and from Tel Aviv to Yerevan, it seems as though the Old World has lost all sense and order. Sadly, the plague of war is not exclusive to nations beyond the Atlantic. Since early November, centuries-old tensions have sprouted roots and hooked onto the North Western coast of South America.

South America is home to twelve distinct nations and one overseas European territory. South America, much like the rest of the New World, has a long history of colonialism and interstate conflicts. Most of these conflicts, however, subsided over the course of the early 20th century. Notably, the last major state-on-state conflict was in the 1990s between Ecuador and Peru. As the 20th century gave way to the 21st, the roots of these conflicts changed. In recent times, tensions have now sparked over maritime boundaries and resources. This is exemplified by the recent Guyana-Venezuela tensions.

For context, Guyana and Venezuela have a difficult territorial history. From its independence in 1811, Venezuela held roughly 90% of what today is considered Guyana. Prior to 1890, this region of Guyana, referred to as the Essequibo/Esequiba Region, belonged to Venezuela. The remainder of Guyana was a British colony. Essequibo would be ceded to British Guyana after a near war and negotiations.

From then on, the Venezuelans held a deep resentment towards the loss of this territory. In 1966, Guyana gained independence from the British Crown. With independence came a renewed Venezuelan interest in the reclamation of Essequibo. Negotiations between Georgetown and Caracas, the capitals of Guyana and Venezuela respectively, failed to reaffirm the pre-1890 border.

Contrary to Venezuelan demands, Essequibo would be reaffirmed as Guyanese territory by the International Court of Justice in 1966, initially settling the dilemma. Things would change when Guyanese authorities unearthed oil in the Essequibo region in 2015. Suddenly, Caracas had grown yet another interest within the Essequibo region. Despite this, things would remain mainly peaceful for the next eight years.

In October 2023, a sudden uptick in Venezuelan troop movements was noticed near the Venezuela-Guyana border. Georgetown, fearing a sudden military incursion by Venezuela, called on the International Court of Justice in November yet again to handle the situation. Guyana demanded their natural boundaries established both in 1890 and later cemented in 1966 be respected. Caracas ignored these. Then, on December 3rd, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro launched a nationwide referendum on the annexation of Essequibo. Votes were counted and by December 4th the polls showed that 95% of all Venezuelans supported military action in Essequibo.

Currently, tensions continue to hang over Guyana. Brazil had pledged and deployed thousands of soldiers in Guyana to protect Guyanese territorial integrity. Similarly, the United States pledged to establish military bases and begin an air watch over Guyana. These precautions have seemingly been made to deter Caracas from invasion. The situation is still unfolding and all eyes are on Caracas.

The Passing of Henry Kissinger

By: Lianah Thomas

Former United States Secretary of State Henry Alfred Kissinger passed away on November 29, 2023, at his home in rural Connecticut at age 100. No cause of death was provided for his death, but it is assumed as death due to old age. He was known as an American diplomat, political scientist, geographic consultant, and politician who served as the United States Secretary of State.

Many Americans would consider him the most powerful United States Secretary of State of the post-war era. He served as national security advisor under Richard Nixon and Secretary of State under General Ford between 1969 and 1977. He was a lifelong advisor to many foreign leaders. Kissinger pioneered the policy of detente with the Soviet Union, which eased the tensions between the two countries.

He engaged in “shuttle diplomacy” to separate Israel and Arab forces after their fallout during the Yom Kippur War. Many would object to his foreign policy, and believed Kissinger was neglecting human rights in other countries. No issues complicated Kissinger's legacy more than the Vietnam War. This was when Nixon was in office and devised a “secret plan” while working alongside Kissinger to promise a way to end the war. This initially didn't end the war, and roughly 30,000 Americans died in Vietnam. This would increase citizens' distrust of their government.



Kick Back and Relax

By: Kallie Ahart

If you are in need of a new show to watch, here is an extensive list of shows on a few different streaming platforms!

There are a variety of action shows on Netflix, including *The Umbrella Academy* and *Daybreak*. *The Umbrella Academy* features a malfunctioning family of adopted children who need to come back to their childhood home to uncover the details of their father's mysterious death, all while dealing with an imminent apocalypse. *Daybreak* takes place in a post-apocalyptic world. Teenager Josh Wheeler survives and thrives, but he desperately searches for his girlfriend whom he hasn't seen since the bombs went off.

More amazing action shows are also found on Hulu. It obtains *a Burn Notice* and *White Collar*. *Burn Notice* is about a former spy fired and cut off from the agency he used to work for. *White Collar* follows a criminal who agrees to help the FBI catch other criminals using his expertise as an art and securities thief, counterfeiter, and conman.

A great romance mini-series you can watch on Netflix is *Dash & Lily*. Cynical Dash and hopeful Lily trade dares in a notebook they exchange. The dares allow them to get to know each other without meeting in person!

Some popular romances on Prime Video include *The Summer I Turned Pretty* and *Hart of Dixie*. *The Summer I Turned Pretty* is about a girl named Isabel, better known as Belly. She takes a trip with her mother and her brother Steven to spend the summer with Susannah, an old, dear friend of her mother's, and her two sons Conrad and Jeremiah. *Hart of Dixie* is about a newly taught doctor from New York, Zoe Hart. She accepts an offer from a stranger, Dr. Harley Wilkes, to work for him at his medical practice in Bluebell, Alabama. When she arrives, she finds out that he has died and left half the practice to her in his will.

Two very enjoyable comedies on Hulu are *The League* and *New Girl*. *The League* follows a group of old friends who are in a fantasy football league while using every opportunity possible to come out as the winner. *New Girl* is about a girl named Jess who recently went through a bad breakup. Jess had to move into an apartment loft with three men. While they don't always see eye-to-eye, they grow close and usually support each other.

On Prime Video you can find some great comedies as well. The show *Upload* is set for 2033. Nathan Brown dies in a surprise car crash and is "uploaded" to the costly afterlife option Lakeview. To his dismay, Nathan continues to find himself in the possessive hands of his still-living girlfriend, Ingrid.

Another great show is *Good Omens*. The thought of an angel and demon siding together seems impossible until it comes to the end of the world. In *Good Omens*, Crowley and Aziraphale team up to stop the end of the world so they can sustain staying around Earth, a place they have grown to like.

Are the Rumors True?

By: Madison Powell

Harry Jowsey and Rylee Arnold are two competitors on *Dancing With the Stars*. As they gained popularity throughout the season, speculations arose about their relationship. Many rumors addressed the idea that they were in a relationship, or at least had high hopes that they would soon announce it.

The rumors started coming to life when they were seen holding hands after a concert in Los Angeles, California. Earlier, Jowsey's response to the rumors was, "We just enjoy hanging out and we love each other, so it's been great." Arnold later agreed with his response, leading to Jowsey adding that he wanted to "keep the mystery in it."

After social media posts showed Jowsey spending Thanksgiving with Arnold's family, rumors skyrocketed. Arnold explained, "My family always goes all out for Thanksgiving. All the dinner, all the games. So, I was like, 'Harry's got to join. He's got to have a Thanksgiving this year. So, he came along.'" After stating that, she mentioned how he had a good time while playing with her nieces and nephews.

Rylee Arnold addressed some of the rumors by stating that they built a connection while performing together on *Dancing With the Stars*, but they are not dating. She said, "I hope we stay friends 'cause our relationship is just so fun and we really just like connected a lot." Although that is her desire, she mentioned "It's going to be hard 'cause I live in Utah and he lives in California, so we'll see what ends up happening. But we'll definitely stay in touch."



The Race for the Trophy

By: Devin Agosta

The Heisman Trophy is the ultimate award for any college football athlete. Below are the top four finalists that were up to win the Heisman Trophy.

In the number one spot is Jayden Daniels, a senior quarterback from LSU. He has put up great numbers this year and is expected to win the trophy.

In second place is Bo Nix, a senior quarterback from OG. Bo has also had a fantastic season, but not as successful as Jayden Daniels. Despite this, he may have a slight chance to pull off the upset and win the trophy.

The third runner-up is Michael Penix Jr., a senior quarterback from the Washington Huskies. At the beginning of the season, he was the favorite to win the award. As the season went on, he still stayed in the running. However, Michael Penix Jr. slid down the power rankings as his opponents began to shine.

Last but not least is Marvin Harrison Jr., a junior WR out of Ohio State. As you can tell, he is a bit different from the other candidates. Harrison Jr plays WR instead of QB. The last time a WR won the trophy was Devonte Smith in 2020.

Overall, the race is tight and there are many great contestants. But only one can come out on top. The award ceremony will be hosted on December 9th, 2023.

