



Wilson Cheering Takes on Nationals

By: Madison Powell

The 2023-2024 Wilson competition cheerleaders have had one of their best years yet! They represented our school with honor, working tirelessly for all that they have achieved. Their successful season came to an end in Orlando, Florida on their trip to nationals.

The cheerleaders practiced two to three times each day in Florida to prepare for their performance. Due to the difficulty of their division, the cheerleaders were ecstatic when they were named semifinalists. They then competed in the semifinals two days later for their very last time together, ultimately placing 27th in the nation.

One thing that everyone on the team can commend themselves on is the team's strong bond. Our cheerleaders overcame multiple obstacles, leading them to push themselves even harder in their competitions. Their bond is like no other, which made their trip to Florida an enjoyable one. However, it was difficult for seniors Savannah Alerica and Madi Powel to accept that their time as Wilson cheerleaders was over.

Throughout their season, the cheerleaders received multiple first-place and grand champion titles, broke the record for the game day division in our school with their score, and made it through to the semifinals at nationals while hitting zero with their two amazing performances.

The Wilson cheering team truly proved their talent from the very beginning and continued to do so until the last time they stepped on a competition mat together.

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Pictures courtesy of *The Echo*

Senior Spotlight: Chase Eller

By: Emma Davenport

For this article, I chose to interview Chase Eller in light of his involvement in the school community and his great character.

Davenport: Do you play any sports?

Eller: “No, I do not play any sports currently, but I plan on playing intramural basketball and flag football in college.”

Davenport: What are your plans after high school?

Eller: “I plan to attend a 4-year college and my two top choices are High Point University and Sacred Heart University. I plan to major in broadcasting journalism. In the future, I hope to broadcast for any professional sports team. So far, I have covered high school track and field, wrestling, basketball, and football. I have also covered semi-pro basketball along with D2 college athletics and community colleges. I hope to gain many internships with large companies to help me get my name out there after graduation.”

Davenport: What are you going to miss after graduation?

Eller: “I am going to miss the small school environment and seeing all of my friends daily. The small school environment caused me to have better relationships with my teachers and made it easy to get help and ask questions.”

Davenport: Lastly, what is your best Wilson memory?

Eller: “My favorite memory is when we won leagues for cross country. All year long, we have only lost one race during the cross country season, which won us the regular season championship record-wise, and we shared being co-champions with Notre Dame. Later on, at the colonial league championship race, we ended up beating Notre Dame, head to head, to win the championship race as a team.”



Pictures courtesy of *The Echo*

Basketball Season Comes to an End

By: Karli Breckon

The 2023-2024 basketball season has come to an end, so let us check out how the boys and girls teams did this season!

The girls varsity and JV basketball teams went 11-21-1 combined! The varsity team won a total of six games and lost 15 games. The girls season, unfortunately, ended when they faced Pen Argyl on January 29th, 2024. Great season this year, girls!

The boys season has not come to an end yet as they successfully made it to Districts XI playoffs quarterfinals. Currently, the boys varsity record is 12-10. Come out and support them at their district game where they face Blue Mountain!

Let's take a look at what Carlyna Stackhouse thought about the basketball season.

Breckon: How do you think you and your team played this season?

Stackhouse: "Me and my teammates all said we worked well as a team and we were very successful this season, and we are excited to have another great season next year!"

Our basketball teams are amazing and will continue to shine next season. If you missed any games this year, make sure to come out and support them for the 2024-2025 season!



Pictures courtesy of *The Echo*

Spreading Love at Wilson

By: Leah Everitt

Sweeten up your Valentine's Day with Key Club's annual candy gram sale! Love is in the air, and what better way could there be to celebrate other than with a candy gram?

Since candy gram sales have begun, they have been an absolute hit amongst Wilson students. Sending gifts to friends and favorite teachers has been making people's Valentine's Day an enjoyable one. This year, Key Club is offering various candy gram options. These include sweethearts, Hershey kisses, flowers, and chocolate assortments. Each candy gram comes with a personalized message. With their affordable prices, consider buying one for that special someone. You can purchase flowers for \$3 and a candy of your choice for just \$2.

Whether you are celebrating a romantic relationship, a cherished friendship, or an impactful mentorship, these candy grams are guaranteed to spread joy and warmth on this special day of love! If you are interested, there will be a candy gram table at each lunch. All you have to do is select a gift of choice, write a message, and pay. Key Club will take care of the rest and deliver this gift for you on Valentine's Day.

In addition to spreading love, your purchase will contribute to supporting Key Club's fundraising efforts. So, do not pass up the opportunity to make this day extra special. Let's make these special memories together, one sweet treat at a time!



Pictures courtesy of *Google*

Valentine's Day is Here

By: Karli Breckon

On February 14th every year, since the 14th century, Valentine's Day is a celebration of romance and love! Valentine's Day is also a traditional Christian feast to honor a martyr by the name of Valentine.

Many spend Valentine's Day with their significant other or a close family, sending each of them a small gift of affection. These small gifts of affection may include roses, jewelry, chocolates, a small teddy bear, chocolates, a card, hygiene products, blankets, snacks, and drinks.

If you are looking for something to do on Valentine's Day, a movie is always an option! Below are some PG romance movies you could watch and enjoy;

1. *Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown*
2. *Beauty and the Beast*
3. *Enchanted*
4. *Winnie the Pooh-A Valentine for You*
5. *Tangled*

If you would like more serious and romantic movies, check out some of these movies;

1. *Dear John*
2. *The Vow*
3. *Stardust*
4. *Titanic*
5. *Romeo + Juliet*



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Rare Cars Found at Abandoned Warehouse

By: Devin Agosta

Luxury car fanatics are raging over a recent discovery of 22 rare cars found abandoned in a warehouse in Belgium. Of these 22 cars were 16 Ferraris and 6 Porsches.

The owner of the warehouse in Brussels found the 22-high end vehicles and contacted Oldtimerfam, a car collection organization, to have the cars evaluated. "It was a load of highly rare Ferraris and Porsches," classic car specialist Xavier Molenaar told Jam Press.

All of the cars were wrapped in car covers and appeared to be in fantastic shape. Among the find were a large number of Ferrari Testarossas. Testarossas were produced between 1984 and 1996, with used models selling for around \$180,000.

Some of the Porsche 911 came in different models and colors. Some Turbo and "S" models, which online can sell up to \$250,000.

Most of the vehicles in the warehouse were very rare finds. The most rare being the Ferrari 365 GT4 BB, which were made in the 70s. This same car was sold for \$276,000 back in 2022.

Another one of the more rare finds was the Ferrari 550 Maranello. Inside the warehouse there was also a Ferrari F512 in yellow. It has been rumored that there have only been 10 ever made in that model and color.



Pictures courtesy of *Google*

The Echo

California Floods

By: Mya Marsac

After five long days of rain, the rain in California has finally come to an end. The California floods have been a major event. Due to the heavy rains many rivers have overflowed.

As a result of this a significant amount of towns have been flooded. This has caused many properties to be damaged, and some homes have to be redone due to the water damage.

There have been nine people reported dead due to the floods. Four had been hit by trees, two from car wrecks, and the other few reasons of deaths are unknown.

A great amount of buildings, homes, and companies have been destroyed during these floods. More than 800,000 people were without power these last five days. Sport events, flights, and power outages. These are just some of the things that have been the result of the floods. It's been said almost 200 flights have been canceled and over 150 have been delayed.

The excessive amount of rain has been overwhelming to the drains. A normal amount of rainfall would have easily drained by now, but California has gotten months worth of rain just in five days.

During this event many people had evacuated their homes to make sure their families were safe. All of the rain created mud slides, which damaged homes and buildings. This caused the amount of many they have to pay in damage increase. Even with all the flooding and damages, L.A. has avoided a great amount of deaths .



Pictures courtesy of Google

Marine Helicopter Vanished?

By: Leah Everitt

Recently, a Marine helicopter, tasked with a routine training mission, vanished overnight without a trace, while flying from Nevada to California. The sudden disappearance prompted an immediate search and rescue operation for the five crew members who had been aboard. The last known location had been pinged about three hours before a search had begun, making it more difficult to pinpoint where exactly the aircraft could possibly be. Within the next eight hours, the helicopter was found 45 miles east of their intended destination, crashed in the mountains. Only, the passengers were not found with it.

The search for the crew members continued. Families and communities anxiously awaited an update as search efforts intensified until the next morning. This would be when the discovery of the five would be made. Tragically, they were all found dead. The nation, the military community, and their families have been mourning the loss of these brave individuals, honoring their service and sacrifice. They were all very young, and they passed away doing the job they loved most. Statements have been made by the military general and family members of the fallen.

While the aftermath of this ordeal has been unraveled, the investigation of the *why* continues. Investigators are looking into various possibilities for families to get their ultimate closure. This specific aircraft has been tied to many mechanical failures. While this could be an effective clue as to what took place on this night of devastation, professionals still have their doubts. Considering precipitation levels in their last known location, mother nature could have had a greater impact than we are assuming. We are hoping for an update soon.



tesy of Google

Man Passes Away from Skydiving Incident

By: Emma Davenport

On January 31, a 73 year old man passed away tragically while skydiving. The tragedy happened in Eloy, Arizona at around 12:04PM when Gardner and his friends were planning their third jump of the day. Terry Gardner and his friends planned to do a formation jump at an altitude of approximately 14,000 feet.

As Gardner and his friends prepared to jump, everything was going smoothly. All of Gardner's friends made it down safely, but Gardner's parachute ended up never fully opening. He was then rushed to the hospital, and despite their efforts to save his life, he passed away. Authorities are currently looking into what happened with the parachute and working to review safety regulations. Gardner's death is the second reported deadly incident in the last month involving skydives in Eloy, Arizona. Officials are beginning to notice these incidents and are looking to put a stop to them so that everyone is safe.



Maryland's New Gun Carry Bill

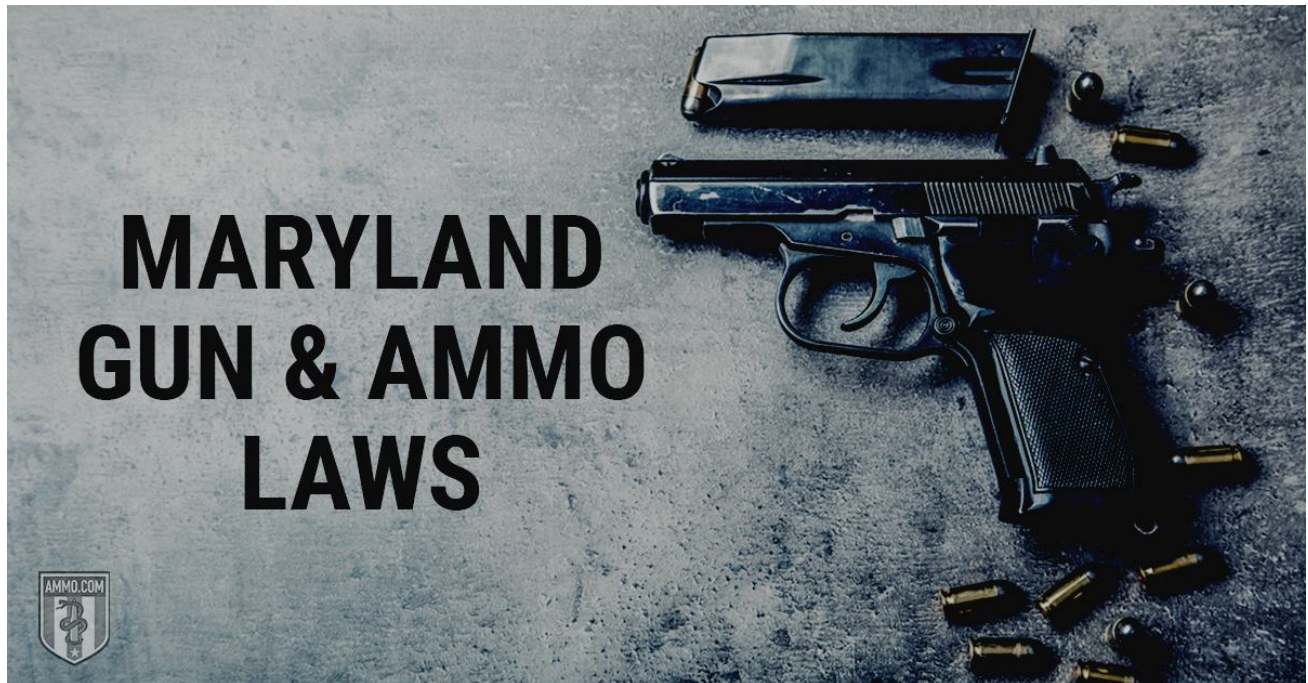
By: Jane Compton

Delegate Terri Hill, D-Howard County, had introduced a bill that states that unless a person had obtained a liability insurance policy of at least \$300,000, they would be prohibited from carrying their firearm anywhere within the state.

The Maryland legislation had stated, "A person may not wear or carry firearm unless the person has obtained it and is covered by liability insurance issued by an insurer authorized to do business in the State under the Insurance Article to cover claims for property damage, bodily injury, or death arising from an accident resulting from the persons use or storage of a firearm or up to \$300,000 for damaging arising from the same incident, in addition to interest and costs." It has also been stated that this liability insurance does not apply to members of the military or federal law enforcement, and there is also an exemption if an individual is carrying an unloaded gun.

Delegate Terri Hill had said that this bill is an attempt to pass "common sense" gun control, which came after talking to a constituent that said gun owners should "bear some liability in cases where there is damage because of guns being used in ways that cause harm," the constituent stated out of concern.

Frank Duffy, a gun advocate, had noted to the outlet, "It's another effort by the state to throw an obstacle in front of people trying to get their concealed carry permits. The Supreme Court made a decision that said Maryland and other states could not require a good or substantial reason to get a permit," he stated, claiming that the legislation is just another effort to hinder people from carrying their firearms while out in the public.



Baby Great White Spotting

By: Kallie Ahart

A shark was spotted off the coast of Carpinteria, California, but it was not just any shark. It is believed that this was a baby great white. Given its size of five feet, it was at most a day old. Not only is it rare to see live baby great white sharks, but especially one in the wild.

Carlos Guana was the man who captured the prized footage. He posted on Instagram stating that he saw what was believed to be the mother only a while before the baby shark had appeared. Scientists have had little knowledge of how and where great white sharks give birth to their offspring, so this find may have shed some light on it.

It's always exciting to hear about rare and intriguing sightings in the wild! The discovery of a baby great white shark off the coast of Carpinteria, California is definitely an event to be celebrated. It's fascinating to think about what we can learn from this sighting and how it may help us better understand these magnificent creatures.



Microsoft's Strategic AI Partnership

By: Ayah Mallah

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) is investigating an antitrust probe into Microsoft's partnership with OpenAI. The collaboration consisted of Microsoft investing \$10 billion for a 49% stake in OpenAI. This has drawn the attention of regulators on the CMA.

According to the CMA, "[We] will collect feedback on the Microsoft-OpenAI collaboration from the two companies and interested third parties. Officials will use the collected information to determine whether to launch a formal antitrust investigation." If the collaboration resulted in an antitrust probe, the CMA will evaluate whether it could negatively impact market competition. An antitrust probe is conducted when a firm, Microsoft, has excessive market power.

This is a significant review as it comes after Microsoft's \$68.7 billion acquisition of Activision Blizzard. Earlier this year, the acquisition underwent significant changes to receive approval in the U.K. A CMA regulator reported that "The CMA will review whether the partnership has resulted in an acquisition of control – that is, where it results in one party having material influence, de facto control or more than 50% of the voting rights over another entity – or change in the nature of control by one entity over another."

If the collaboration is found to violate antitrust rules, it could have negative implications for the future of the AI market.



Climate Crisis in Chile

By: Korey Pluhar

Many developing nations around the world, such as Chile, are suffering the catastrophic consequences of climate through a rapidly degrading environmental status. Chile is used to severe climate-related emergencies, but a new beast has emerged to terrorize the Latin American country: Wildfires.

Chile is a country situated along the western seaboard of South America and for years has worked to adapt to the regular threat of Tsunami's, learning the importance of developing evacuation plans and moving hospitals and other critical buildings away from the coast, with stringent construction codes reflecting the threat of earthquakes.

Flames tore through a Chilean town in 2017, killing 11 people in its path, and was at the time believed to be a "special and unique situation," according to Francisco de la Barrera, a researcher at the University of Concepción. However, in 2023, wildfires burned more than a million acres and killed two dozen people.

Chile now faces one of the globe's deadliest wildfires in more than a century, with casualties still soaring to at least 112 dead and 300 missing. The fires ripped through isolated mountain communities into densely populated areas in the Valparaíso region of central Chile, northwest of the capital, Santiago. Since then, Chile has declared a red-alert state of emergency regarding the raging wildfires. Allied countries have extended their arms to Chile, offering support during this crisis through foreign aid.

President Joseph Biden of the United States has released a statement on the Wildfires in Chile, expressing his feelings on the matter, saying, "Jill and I are deeply saddened by the loss of life and devastation caused by the ongoing wildfires...my administration is in contact with our Chilean partners, and the United States is ready to provide necessary assistance to the Chilean people..." showing his support for the country in their state of emergency.



Democracy in Peril: The Russian '24 Election

By: Antonio João Gomes

Nevermore has the voice of the tired, cold masses mattered more than what is presented before us. Onlookers from across the globe now bear-witness to the fraudulent, tyrannical swindling of the people's choice. Wholly personified by their one-bid candidate to save Russia; "There are no free and fair elections in Russia."

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia - or more formally the Russian Federation - has conducted national elections to decide the next leadership of its vast reaches. From 1991 to 1996, a presidential cycle lasted five years. This was then brought down to four years from 1996 to 2012. From 2012 onward, term limits have remained locked at six years.

The year 2012 marked a change in Russian politics. From 2008 to 2012, Dimitriy Medvedev held the position of president and swore Putin back into his old position of Prime Minister. This would, according to Russian law, permit Putin to run for a third term as it was not consecutive. Medvedev was a puppet of Putin and his political faction. During the March 2012 Elections, Putin was sworn in for his third term - which had now been extended to six years. In 2021, Putin passed a bill nullifying all of his previous terms, officially giving him the ability to legally run (and rule) until 2036.

This would exemplify the autocracy that Putin has successfully raised. All other Russian opposition parties - which, during the 90s, were considered legitimate political adversaries - had become nothing more than puppet-factions loyal to Putin's policies and leadership. As the years dragged on, the All-Russian Political Party "United Russia" - or the political alliance Putin belongs to - began to sink its claws deeper into the Russian heartland. Opposition was met with near instantaneous repression, even on a local level. In 2018, Alexei Navalny - a prominent Russian Nationalist and firm Anti-Putin politician - was barred from participating in that year's election. Shortly thereafter, he'd be arrested, and has been under Russian police custody since 2021.

The latest Russia has seen in terms of genuine political opposition was in October and November of 2023. In October, a rural Russian politician named Yekaterina Dontsova announced her bid for the 2024 Election; however, Dontsova would be barred from participating within days of her announcement. Then, a less-than-new face peered its way into the Russian political scene. Boris Nadezhdin, long-time member of the Russian Duma (*Council*) and career politician announced his bid for the 2024 election with the backing of Dontsova. While Duntsova operated on a firmly Liberal platform, Nadezhdin made his campaign palatable for the average Russian. Nadezhdin foretold of his plan to end the war in Ukraine, however never used language that seemed inherently degrading to the Russian national spirit.

Yet, Nadezhdins run would be cut-short. On Thursday, February 8th, 2024, Nadezhdin would be barred from continuing his campaign. Despite an appeal, the Russian Electoral Commission denied his pleas, officially taking Nadezhdin off the ballot. In response, Nadezhdin reportedly stated, "There are no Free and Fair elections in Russia."

Deadly Drone Hits Syrian Base Housing US Troops

By: Jane Compton

On February 5th, 2024, a drone attack was launched late Sunday evening that struck a military base in Eastern Syria, where U.S. troops were stationed, causing at least six allied Kurdish soldiers dead.

It attacked the training ground at al-Omar base of Deir el-Zour, where the deadly drone hit an area where the forces commando units were being trained. No U.S. troops were killed or injured due to this attack. This was the first attack in Syria or Iraq since the U.S. had launched strikes over the weekend against Iran-backed militias. Militia fighters have been carrying out assaults on U.S. forces and civilian targets in the region since the breakout of the Israel-Hamas war in October.

The Syrian Democratic Forces first thought and blamed “Syrian regime-backed mercenaries” for the attack on Sunday, but after further investigating the attack they now accused “Iran-backed militias.” The Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the attacks on Sunday and even released a video of them launching the drone that had been used in the attack.

Due to this, the U.S. military carried out strikes against Houthi militant targets in Yemen over the weekend, also striking four anti-ship cruise missiles, which they determined “presented an imminent threat to the U.S. Navy ships and merchant vessels,” in the Red Sea. In response, Houthi rebels vowed “escalation” with a spokesman vowing to continue its own attacks, and predicted a wider war would end the U.S. presence in the region. “If the regional war breaks out, it equals the end of US hegemony in the region,” he stated. The Islamic Resistance struck dozens of attacks using drones against U.S. military bases in Iraq and Syria, repeatedly calling for American forces to withdraw from the region.



Kenyan Cult Leader Charged with Over 191 Deaths

By: Aidan Glassmoyer

A Kenyan cult leader, Paul Nthenge Mackenzie, a religious cult leader, has been charged with 191 deaths of children, along with 29 others, according to the Malindi High Court. Mackenzie ordered his followers to starve themselves and their children to death so that they could go to heaven before the world ended.

A total of 429 bodies that were found were starved to death, but most of the children were strangled, beaten, or suffocated to death by this cult. These bodies were found buried in the Shakahola forest in mass graves.

Mackenzie and the 29 others pleaded not guilty to the charges. One suspect was found mentally unfit to stand trial.

Mackenzie was the founder and leader of what he called the Good News International Ministry. He preached to the followers that the world was ending. Followers have told their families and officials that they believed Mackenzie when he preached that starvation was the path to salvation.

He allegedly split members into smaller groups assigned by biblical names. These smaller groups are believed to have died together and been buried together in mass graves.

He was a taxi driver before he started this cult in the early 2000s. He quickly gained followers from his church and from being online.

Surviving members of the group have told family members that what he preached would often come true. One of his predictions was that "a great virus" would come, just before COVID-19 hit the country.

When his cult started to grow, authorities became more and more suspicious. They ultimately arrested him in 2018 for being critical of the government, but they never prosecuted him.

Psychologists say it will take awhile to deprogram the surviving members of this cult, as they still believe what he preached. Mackenzie and his other associates have been held in custody since last April and are pleading not guilty.



King Charles Cancer Diagnosis Puts a Nation on Edge

By: Lianah Thomas

Buckingham Palace announcing King Charles cancer diagnosis on February 6th, 2024 has put a nation on edge. The type of cancer King Charles has has not been diagnosed yet, and he has said he is not stepping down from his throne yet. Although, he has been taking a break from the public and having private meetings with doctors and officials about his diagnosis. No further information about what stage has been shared with the public.

King Charles shared his diagnosis with both of his sons personally, and they are said to be visiting him in coming days. On February 11, King Charles alongside Queen Camilla were spotted by onlookers as they made their way to St. Mary Magdalene's Church. He waved at the passersby and expressed his gratitude for the support he has been receiving throughout his diagnosis. Saying it gave him, "the greatest comfort and encouragement,"

To summarize, the king is not yet stepping down from his throne and will continue to rule until he is seriously ill. He is currently in good condition, and is choosing to remain private on the specifics of his diagnosis.



Shaking the Planet: Are the Himalayas in Danger?

By: Jordyn Pyles

Tibet, the heart of Asia, could be torn in half over time as pieces of the Himalayas' plates peel off underneath despite its growing size.

A team of scientists in China and the U.S. studied the underground seismic waves from earthquakes in and around Tibet. Two massive tectonic plates have formed them. Not only did these plates create the Himalayas, but they may also be slowly destroying them as they violently crash into each other.

The Indian and Eurasian plates, two continental tectonic plates, have collided beneath the colossal mountain range. When this happens, the denser continental plate slides under the lighter plate, which is called subduction. This process, however, makes it challenging to predict what could be happening in Tibet. Others suggested that the bulk of the Indian dish could be sliding under the Eurasian plate, though not fully diving into the mantle in a process called underplating.

Experts suggest that the plates could undergo both processes simultaneously and even found evidence of the Indian dish subducting while warping and tearing deep within the Earth's crust. This process alone could be the source of recent earthquakes and even tear the Indian plate in two.

New research points to an increased risk of earthquakes along the plate boundary, yet it remains a mystery to researchers how what goes beneath the surface affects what we see above it.



Apple's New Vision Product

By: Jordyn Pyles

The announcement of Apple's new technology, the Apple Vision, has sent ripples across the tech world. The product is a pair of advanced smart glasses that can be worn like any other pair but offers features that have never been seen before. They can overlay augmented reality graphics and virtual objects on the world in real-time, making it possible to project information onto any surface.

While the capabilities of the Apple Vision are impressive and undoubtedly innovative, some have begun to question whether this type of technology is crossing a line and moving us closer to a future where technology controls every aspect of our lives.

The ability to overlay visual information onto any surface could have many practical applications, such as helping people with visual impairments or those who work in highly technical fields. But it could also have a more sinister side, such as allowing companies to inundate us with targeted advertising everywhere we look or enabling governments to track our every move.

The Apple Vision raises questions about the potential dangers and benefits of this type of technology and whether we are ready or willing to accept this kind of future. It also highlights the ongoing debate over privacy and the growing role of technology in our lives.

One thing is sure: Apple Vision marks a new era in the development of wearable technology, and only time will tell if it will be seen as a futuristic marvel or a social nightmare.



Major Winners of the 66th Annual Grammy's

By: Lianah Thomas

The Grammys are music awards presented by the Recording Academy of the United States to recognize outstanding achievements in the music industry. They are regarded by many as the most prestigious and significant awards in music history worldwide. The 66th annual Grammy was full of good music from both newer and older artists.

The song winning the title of record of the year was “Flowers” by Miley Cyrus, this was her second grammy throughout her career. And she won over records such as “Worship” by John Batiste, “Anti-Hero” by Taylor Swift, “Vampire” by Olivia Rodrigo, “On My Mama” by Victoria Monét, “Not Strong Enough” by Boygenius, “What Was I Made For” by Billie Elish, and “Kill Bill” by SZA.

The album that won Album of the year was “Midnights” by Taylor Swift, this being her 14th Grammy. She won over albums like; “World Music Radio” by John Batiste, “Guts” by Olivia Rodrigo, “The Record” by Boygenius, “SOS” by SZA, “The Age of Pleasure” by Janelle Monáe, “Did You Know That There’s a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd” by Lana Del Rey, and “Endless Summer Vacation” by Miley Cyrus.

The track winning song of the year was “What Was I Made For” by Billie Elish, and this was her 9th Grammy. Her song won over songs like” “Vampire” by Billie Elish, “Kill Bill” by SZA, “Flowers” by Miley Cyrus, “Dance the Night” by Dua Lipa, “Butterfly” by John Batiste, “Anti-Hero” by Taylor Swift, and “A&W” by Lana Del Rey.



Saying Goodbye to a Cowboy Legend

By: Korey Pluhar

Toby Keith, the renowned rowdy king of country music, collectively selling more than 40 million records, died Feb. 5, at 62 years old, after a long battle with stomach cancer. Toby Keith was a country music singer, songwriter, actor, and record producer known for his patriotic songs, both modern and traditional country.

He had been an active staple in the music industry for decades, with his breakthrough single “Should’ve Been a Cowboy,” a massive hit in the 90’s, and a string of other incredibly successful albums and singles like, “Red Solo Cup,” “Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue (The Angry American),” “How Do You Like Me Now?!,” “I Wanna Talk About Me,” and “American Soldier.”

Keith's music often reflected his personal views and experiences, resonating with fans who appreciated his straightforward style and relatable lyricism. He is also known for his support of the U.S. military, performing for troops on overseas tours and through his patriotic anthems. He has won several awards for his contributions to music, but in addition to his music career, Keith also ventured into acting and entrepreneurship, owning a restaurant chain called “I Love This Bar & Grill,” inspired by one of his hit songs.

Toby Keith had accomplished several amazing things over his lifetime, as he was a former rodeo hand, oil rigger, and semi pro football player who became the king of country music, singing his anthems to millions of fans across the globe. It is safe to say that Toby Keith will be remembered and cherished for lifetimes to come, memorialized through his music and in the hearts of fans everywhere.



New Documentary About “We Are the World”

By: Aidan Glassmoyer

There is a documentary being made called “The Greatest Night in Pop,” which is about the making of “We Are the World.” The film proves such a rich environment. Lionel Richie serves as the de facto tour guide for this trip down memory lane.

For a little backstory, “We Are the World” was made to help the starving people in Africa in 1985. Assembling nearly four dozen reigning musical stars after they appeared at the American Music Awards. Organizers knew they had only one night to get this right, with producer Quincy Jones famously posting a sign outside that read, “Check your ego at the door.”

The egos did remain mostly in check throughout the night. There were some complicating factors, like Michael Jackson’s rivalry with Prince at the time and Al Jarreau getting slightly drunk and having trouble delivering his part in the video.

There are plenty of entertaining details throughout, like when Stevie Wonder leads Ray Charles to the bathroom and when Diana Ross asks Daryl Hall for his autograph. That led to many of the performers asking for autographs from the other performers in the room.

This film had a huge impact as these stars united in a common cause to help the starving in Africa.

The artists that took part in this event include Lionel Richie, Michael Jackson, Cindi Lauper, Huey Lewis, Smokey Robinson, Bruce Springsteen, and Dionne Warwick.

Overall, that night in 1985 was a great success, as it raised over 63 million dollars in aid for the starving in Africa.



Popular Banned Books

By: Kallie Ahart

They say that a good book not only entertains but teaches as well. However, many great books have been banned or labeled challenging because they discussed and brought light to some sensitive subjects. These subjects, while touchy, were written to teach a lesson to those who read them. In the eyes of writers and readers alike, books should not be kept hidden away.

The Bluest Eye, written by Toni Morrison, was published in 1970. The story takes place in Lorain, Ohio. The story focuses on a young girl named Pecola. Pecola Breedlove, a colored eleven-year-old girl, wishes she had pretty blue eyes. She believes if her eyes were blue, she would be admired as much as the blonde, blue-eyed girls.

Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published in 1960. Scout and Jem Finch are close and have been all their lives. The two siblings grow up together, going on adventures, while their father defends a black man who was wrongly accused of a crime.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower was published in 1999. Stephen Chbosky wrote *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* in the format of letters. A high school student named Charlie writes letters to someone unknown to the readers. In these letters, Charlie reveals his world and his experience with going through high school.

The Hate U Give, written by Angie Thomas, and published in 2017, is about a girl named Starr, who lives in a poor neighborhood while attending a fancy private school. While balancing both worlds wasn't easy, Starr did it, until the death of her best friend Khalil at the hands of a cop. Starr then has to decide what to say about what happened that day.

Published in 1937, *Of Mice and Men*, written by John Steinbeck, centers around two friends who are more like family. Lennie and George, two migrant workers, stick together while they work to be in charge of their own lives. They must get a place of their own, which is hard to do during the Great Depression.



Jim Harbaugh is the New Chargers Head Coach

By: Devin Agosta

On January 24, 2024, the Los Angeles Chargers agreed to terms with former Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh as head coach. As a former quarterback for the Chargers, Harbaugh spent nine years as the head coach for the University of Michigan where he led the organization to three consecutive Big Ten Championships.

His most recent accomplishment being his 15-0 season, crowning the Wolverines as the 2023 National Champions.

Harbaugh brings with him a winning culture, posting a 144-52 record as a collegiate head coach and a 49-22-1 record as an NFL head coach. In four years, he led the San Francisco 49ers to three-straight NFC Championship Games, including an appearance in Super Bowl XLVII.

With a keen eye for talent and an ability to develop players, Harbaugh coached nine eventual first-round selections over his nine-season tenure at Michigan (2015-23).

Over the course of his four seasons (2011-14) with San Francisco, Harbaugh coached 17 players to a combined 30 Pro Bowl selections, the second-most Pro Bowlers in the NFL in that time.



Superbowl LVIII

By: Mya Marsac

This year's Super Bowl was a roller coaster. The Super Bowl is one of the many things Americans wait for all year. It's the biggest football game of the year. Many people were upset with the result. There were many changes in the score, players yelling, everything was just going wild. Many people have strong opinions about the Super Bowl, and I was able to interview a few.

Me: "Who did you want to win and why?"

Nick "49ers because I just simply do not like the Chiefs."

Me: "Were you shocked when you found out that the Chiefs won? What was your reaction?"

Nick "No because the Chiefs won the last Super Bowl and it was predicted for them to win."

Rocco: "Well it was just crazy because the Chiefs came back with three seconds left of overtime."

Me: "How do you feel about them winning?"

Nick: "I wish they didn't, but they did so oh well. I just definitely don't like it."

Me: "Out of all the players, who do you think performed the best during the game and why?"

Nick: "Christian McCaffrey, because he had 160 yards, scored a touchdown, and got the 49ers multiple first downs in critical situations."

Me: "What are your opinions about the Super Bowl?"

Rocco "The refs made pretty bad calls or no calls at all."

Taki: "The refs were blind and made so many bad calls."

