



An Interview With Mr. Smith

By: Mya Marsac

Earlier this year, Wilson Area High School had a new addition to its staff. Mr. Smith teaches our Civics and Government classes, as well as Economics. With the 2023-2024 school year coming to an end, let's see how his year went!

Marsac: How was your first year here at Wilson?

Mr. Smith: "It was really fun! I got to meet many wonderful kids and teachers. I had a great time getting familiar with the Wilson community."

Marsac: How has your mindset changed from the beginning of the year to now?

Mr. Smith: "I am definitely more relaxed now than I was at the beginning of the year, and I've tried to incorporate more projects into my classes. Overall, things got less hectic as time went on."

Marsac: What are you going to change for next year?

Mr. Smith: "I am definitely going to decorate my room more next year. I am going to try and be more organized. I'm excited for a new year."

Marsac: What about this year was the hardest?

Mr. Smith: "I would say the hardest part was getting used to the block schedule at the beginning of the year. I was only teaching forty minute periods at my last school, but I'll get used to it eventually."

Marsac: What was your favorite memory this year?

Mr. Smith: "I definitely enjoyed Superstars! It was a great opportunity to have fun before spring break."

Marsac: How have the students changed the way you teach?

Mr. Smith: "I definitely have a better idea of what students at Wilson respond with now. That's why I have tried to have more open discussions in my classes."

Marsac: Anything else you feel like sharing?

Mr. Smith: "I am excited to start a new year!"

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Spring Ball Has Arrived

By: Karli Breckon

Baseball and softball season has officially started for the Wilson Warriors! The boys have gone 4-5 this season and the girls' record is currently 4-3. Let's take a look at what the players think about their season so far.

Briar Breckon and Gavin Partridge (baseball players): “The season started out rough, but [for] the past few games we have been on a roll. We have been scoring more and working as a team together more, and our pitching has been great.”

Larson Goodchild (softball player): “Our communication as a team is really good and we all have a bond with each other, help each other out, and bring each other energy up in games. We are having a really good season and the girls always pull through with plays.”

We have many dedicated, caring players on both our softball and baseball teams. Come support the seniors on Senior Night on May 1st, 2024 at 115 Gaffney Hill Rd, Easton, PA. Let's keep cheering on our players throughout the rest of the season!



Pictures courtesy of *The Echo*

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Superstars: The Tradition Everyone Loves

By: Madison Powell

For the past few years, Superstars has been one of the most popular traditions here at Wilson. Superstars consist of a multitude of challenges. Earlier this month, we saw students competing in the obstacle course, the gladiator challenge, the plank challenge, the 3-point shootout, tug-of-war, knockout, the tangram challenge, a three-legged race, weight lifting, ping pong, rock-paper-scissors, and last but not least...dodgeball! I decided to interview senior Aliyah Mustafa, freshman Moony Reph, and junior Eliza Pauser on their afterthoughts.

Powell: How do you feel about your grade's performance?

Mustafa: "I think we had a strong performance this year due to the fact that we came second to the faculty."

Reph: "I think the freshman could have done better and had more participation."

Pauser: "I feel like we tried our best, but we are never good at Superstars."

Powell: What was your favorite event?

Mustafa: "My favorite event had to be the obstacle course that I participated in with Madi Powell."

Reph: "My favorite event was dodgeball."

Pauser: "My favorite event is the gladiator joust."

Powell: Do you like this tradition that Wilson holds every year?

Mustafa: "Yes, I think this is a fun and interactive way to get the students involved."

Reph: "Yes, I think it's very entertaining."

Pauser: "Yes, I hope we continue this tradition forever."

Powell: Did you participate? If so, what events did you participate in?

Mustafa: "Yes, I participated in the obstacle course and knockout!"

Reph: "I did not participate."

Pauser: "Yes, I participated in the tangram game."



Pictures courtesy of *The Echo*

How to Lock In This Quarter

By: Leah Everitt

As you enter the fourth quarter, you may find that you have quite a bit on your plate. Spring sports are starting up, coupled with finals, AP exams, SAT prep, and grades to maintain. A bit of guidance and support never hurts, so let us take a look at the different ways we can have a successful fourth marking period.

The first and one of the most important ways to start your spring quarter is to make sure you are organized.

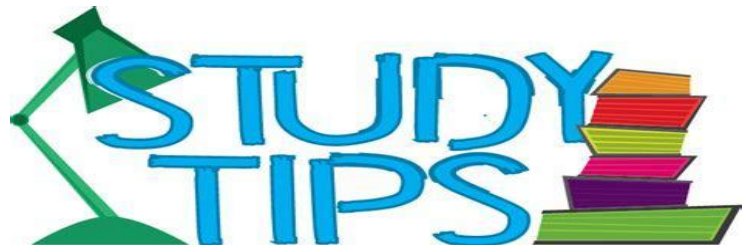
This is personalized to *you*. If this implies keeping your study space or bedroom clean, do that! To keep track of necessary items for the rest of the school year, consider cleaning out your backpack and folders. Many tend to underestimate the power of organization and cleanliness. In a put-together space, it becomes easier for us to breathe and think.

Another way to be successful this quarter is to stay focused. Often, students get a little *too comfortable* in the middle of the school year. This typically leads to slacking off. If you can relate, you are NOT alone!

However, now is the time to make changes. One of the best ways to start is to stop taking mindless notes in class. Come to school hungry for knowledge. When you sit in your seat, pay attention to what you are writing. Make sure that your notes make sense to you. Focus on your teacher during lectures without allowing their voice to become background noise. If you get the most out of your in-class time, the rest becomes quite simple.

How do you keep track of the “rest”? Make a to-do list!

Making a to-do list does not need to be a complicated task. Many easily do this on paper, in a journal, or using an app on their phone. Not only will this assist in reminding you of your responsibilities, but it can also be motivating! Checking a daunting task off a to-do list feels rewarding. It may also help you feel productive, even when completing the smallest of tasks. An empty to-do list at the end of the day can give us a feeling of accomplishment and relaxation. Try it out!



Pictures courtesy of Google

Fun Spring Activities in the Lehigh Valley

By: Kallie Ahart

Looking for something fun to do right here in the Lehigh Valley?

As the weather gradually warms up, we all crave to spend more time outside. However, it may be time-consuming to think up ideas about what you should do. To inspire you, here are some fun and local spring activities.

Located just in downtown Easton, Crayola Experience is a community favorite for families. From creating your crayon labels to making drip art, you can participate in a wide range of fun and creative activities. The Crayola Experience is certainly an exciting place to spend a lovely spring day and get creative!

Who doesn't love a good game of mini-golf on a sunny day? For many families, mini-golf is a beloved pastime activity. Whether you are a competitive player or a beginner, there are several local courses you can visit. These include Two T's Family Entertainment Center, Lucky Strokes Golf & Grill, and Mountain Family View Drive-In. These courses also offer snacks and other collaborative activities.

If you have a love for animals, consider taking a trip to Lake Tobias Wildlife Park. There is no shortage of activities at Lake Tobias. It is the perfect place for people of all ages with a common interest in both nature and animals. With over 1,000 animals to see, Lake Tobias Wildlife Park has something to offer everyone.

Take a moment to explore all that the Lehigh Valley has to offer [this spring](#).



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A Farewell to Wilson's Local Arby's

By: Jordyn Pyles

On March 19th, 2024, a local resident reported a picture of a sign posted on the front door of an Arby's location in the Wilson Borough. The sign read: "We want to thank all our valued customers, but unfortunately, this location is closed." Other nearby Arby's locations were listed on the sign for customers to visit.

Such news came as a shock to many in the Easton community. The fast-food chain was a notable mainstay in the region for years, serving its beloved roast beef sandwiches and crispy curly fries to fans and customers alike.

As the reasons for the closure remain shrouded in mystery, some speculate that the pandemic's financial toll may have played a role. A company representative has yet to respond to inquiries and an onsite worker was unable to shed light on the sudden closure.

Regardless of the potential reasons for closure, the news of Arby's sudden closure has come as a sad surprise to many. The memories of the beloved chain will likely live on for years to come.



Pictures courtesy of *The Echo*

The Echo

Dorney Park's New Coaster

By: Bella Dayton

Forge your own fate on Iron Menace, the northeast's first dive coaster. This new ride at Dorney Park suspends riders 160 feet in the air before plummeting at a beyond-vertical, 95-degree drop. Four mind-twisting inversions and speeds up to 64 miles per hour, leaving riders on this drop coaster spellbound!

In the early 1900s, Scottish businessman Hiram S. McTavish opened McTavish Steel Mill, a direct competitor to Bethlehem Steel Company. Greed dictated McTavish's every move, and he was well known to prioritize profits above people. With an eye on maximizing output, McTavish created a massive hauler he dubbed "Iron Menace," a device the steel industry had never seen. The rail transporter moved workers and ore at record volumes and dizzying speeds. Suddenly the greedy steel baron mysteriously disappeared—no one knows how or where. Shortly after, McTavish Steel Mill closed. All that remains today are the mill's rusty relics and wild tales.

Iron Menace will be opening in summer of 2024, and it's the first new roller coaster to be built at Dorney Park since Hydra in 2005! The park is offering a discount on its Gold Season passes for 2024 to celebrate the new coaster! If you buy one now for \$99, you'll get unlimited access not just next year, but for the rest of this season, too. Plus, people who pick up a Gold pass by September 4th will get access to an exclusive Iron Menace event!



Pictures courtesy of Google

Nursing Student Fakes Her Own Kidnapping

By: Lianah Thomas

Carlee Russel is an Alabama woman who faked her kidnapping last year. She has recently pleaded guilty to avoid jail time. Russel, who was a 25-year-old nursing student at the time, reported to Hoover police that she was abducted on July 13th, 2023.

She told police she had been forced over a nearby fence and into a car. For the next 49 hours, hundreds of police and volunteers searched for the missing Russel. She returned home two days later, claiming to have been abducted by a red-headed man and a woman in a trailer truck.

Police grew suspicious of the timeline of her abduction. With these growing suspicions, Russel ultimately admitted to fabricating her abduction. Because she came clean about her lies, she will not receive jail time. Rather, Russel will serve a year of probation, 100 hours of community service, and a fine of \$18,000 in restitution.

Despite this, Russel still plans to pursue her dreams of becoming a nurse.



Baltimore Bridge Collapse

By: Leah Everitt

On March 26th, 2024, at approximately 1:30 AM, the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore collapsed following an accident with a cargo ship. In a matter of seconds, one of America's largest bridges was swallowed by the Patapsco River.

The ship, known as the Dali, allegedly lost engine power. The cause of the power outage is currently still undetermined. It was reported that the crew onboard was in a panic. Reporters stated that they attempted to do all in their power to prevent the Dali ship from drifting.

Pilots were ultimately left with no choice but to issue a mayday call to warn authorities about the collision. Fortunately, authorities were able to minimize vehicle traffic on the bridge prior to the collapse.

Despite such efforts, there was said to be a construction crew of six men on the bridge at the time of the collapse. The six were presumed dead due to the temperature of the water and the time that had passed until searches were executed.

The impact this tragedy may have on this busy port is raising concerns. President Joe Biden added that "15,000 U.S. jobs depend on that port."

As the city mourns the losses of life and the Francis Scott Key Bridge, the Baltimore community is continuing to honor the ones impacted by the collapse.



Princess Kate's Cancer Diagnosis

By: Chloe Shotko

Kate Middleton, Princess of Wales, has recently announced her cancer diagnosis. The palace released her announcement through [a video](#).

At the beginning of her diagnosis, Middleton's condition was said to be benign or non-cancerous. She underwent abdominal surgery in January, which was successful. However, post-operative exams revealed that she had cancer. Middleton is in the early stages of her cancer and is currently receiving preventive chemotherapy. According to Princess Kate, she has a dependable medical team taking care of her health.

Kensington Palace and the Royal Family have kept all specific information private. This includes the type of cancer Princess Kate has been diagnosed with. She revealed that it took time for her to tell her children and for them to understand exactly what was happening, but she continued to reassure them that she would be okay.

King Charles and Queen Camilla released a statement regarding Princess Kate's cancer diagnosis, commending her for her strength. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex have also come forward with a statement, wishing for Kate's healing and health.

Princess Kate has no specific time set to return to her royal duties. She and the royal family are primarily focusing on her health.



Moscow Terror Attack Leaves 145 Dead, ISIS Claims Responsibility

By: Antonio João Gomes

It came as a shock to many and left the media in a fog of confusion. A recent shooting in a Moscow city hall left hundreds dead and millions seeking revenge. Who were the suspects? What were their motives? Was Ukraine behind it?

Nearly a month after the devastating attack, many questions were left unanswered as investigation releases are still pending. Despite this, some questions can be answered by what is readily available and released.

Russia has an extensive history of Islamic extremism. Throughout the 1990s and 2010s, Russia was locked in a prolonged war, later insurgency, in the Caucasus region. These attacks were often done to scare the Russian public and force policy changes. Since 2017, attacks from abroad have become more prevalent within Russia. Such attacks have often been tied to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, formerly known as ISIS.

Prior to the March 22nd attack, the United States Embassy in Moscow sent out a general safety advisory. The Embassy claimed that they had received alarming reports of suspected terrorist activities within the city and urged all U.S. citizens in Moscow to avoid large public gatherings.

According to Embassy officials, U.S. intelligence agencies informed Kremlin authorities of the incoming attack. However, the tip-off seems to have been ignored. Shockingly, Putin would later be seen on a televised conference with internal security officials claiming that the Embassy warning was nothing more than “provocation.”

Around 8 P.M. that day, four tactically dressed gunmen entered the Crocus City Hall in Moscow and began firing at civilians. Amaq News, an ISIS-affiliated propaganda agency, reported on the attack live and showed the ensuing massacre.

In videos published both by civilians and official news outlets, petrol bombs were used to maximize casualties. The attack lasted approximately 13 minutes. Fires engulfed the Crocus City Hall through the next morning.

Later on the 23rd, all four suspects were arrested after a brief bid for escape. The individuals arrested included Dalerdzhon Mirzoyev, Shamsidin Fariduni, Murodali Rachabalizoda, and Muhammadso-bir Fayzov. All four suspects came from Tajikistan, with discrete ties to the Islamic State Khorasan Province (I.S-K). Dozens more in Tajikistan were arrested in the coming days.

The four terrorists later appeared at a televised court hearing on the 25th. They all showed clear signs of bruising and swelling. Additional footage was later released by Russian security forces. These videos showed authorities torturing the four suspects, with one notably having his ear severed by one of his captors.

Cholera Crisis: Millions at Risk Due to Water, Sanitation, and

By: Ayah Mallah

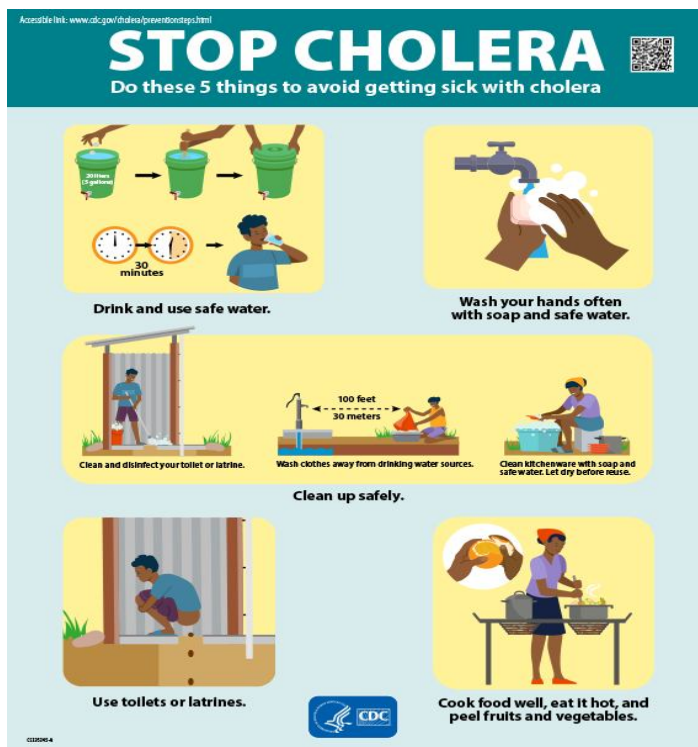
The International Coordinating Group (ICG) revealed that the world is facing a sudden surge in cholera cases. With over 700,000 reported cases in 2023, immediate action has been taken.

According to the ICG, “Actions include investing in access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, testing and detecting outbreaks quickly and improving quality of and access to healthcare, and fast-tracking additional production of affordable oral cholera vaccine (OCV) doses to better prevent cases”.

Cholera thrives in locations lacking access to safe water and sanitation. Climate-related factors, economic insecurity, conflict, and population displacement play a significant role in the spread of the disease. The severely impacted countries include the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Although cholera vaccinations have been produced, the production capacity is insufficient to meet the needs of millions directly affected by cholera. With only one manufacturer producing the vaccine, efforts to fast-track manufacturers are imperative. According to the ICG, “Between 2021 and 2023, more doses were requested for outbreak response than the entire previous decade.”

As we witnessed with COVID-19, urgent action and innovation can save lives. Together, the control of cholera may safeguard the health of communities worldwide.



Empowering Health: Global Health Achievements of 2023

By: Ayah Mallah

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reached a new milestone. On April 7th, 2023, WHO celebrated its 75th anniversary. According to WHO, “This milestone anniversary served as a powerful reminder of how working together in global solidarity has enabled us to rise to complex challenges in the past, and will continue to do so in the future.”

Ranging from natural disasters to disease outbreaks, WHO’s protection of global health was evident. The World Health Organization commended its ability to respond to emergencies.

WHO responded to a staggering 65 emergencies in 2023. These emergencies were situated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Myanmar, Sudan, and Ukraine. WHO sent resources to detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.

The organization’s efforts extended beyond disease control. Ranging from Afghanistan and Turkey to Syria and Libya, WHO also responded to earthquakes and floods. WHO deployed emergency medical teams and provided aid to assist these countries.

In the past year, WHO also faced the resurgence of infectious diseases. These diseases include anthrax, cholera, dengue, and Ebola. WHO facilitated laboratory testing, contact tracing, and established field hospitals to contain outbreaks. Amidst these efforts, healthcare itself came under attack. Over 1200 documented assaults on healthcare facilities occurred in field hospitals.

Despite such challenges, there were moments of positive progress. In May, WHO declared that COVID-19 and Monkeypox were no longer a public health emergency.

In a world where global health is emphasized, WHO’s commitment to global health serves as a beacon of hope for a healthier future.



Megan Moroney: An Unforgettable American Country Singer

By: Madison Powell

Megan Moroney is a Georgia-bred singer, songwriter, and guitarist who has recently gained popularity. Moroney's songs reflect her sentimental, tough, loving, and outspoken personality. They also reflect her past-learned lessons to prove that she is not the type of girl to pretend to be someone she is not. Moroney certainly knows how to transform her emotions into lyrics and create addictive songs!

Moroney established her presence after releasing a love song, *Tennessee Orange*. This song single-handedly reached the Top 20 on country radio, as well as led her to receive an RIAA platinum certification. After landing on a variety of artist-to-watch lists and joining the CMT Next Women of Country Class of 2023, her music has been widely enjoyed.

Some of her most recent songs also include *the 28th of June*, *No Caller ID*, *I'm Not Pretty*, *Sleep on My Side*, *Girl In the Mirror*, and much more!

If you need songs to sing along with, cry to, or just listen to, or if you are happy with where you are in life or not, Megan Moroney is the artist for you!



From Friends to Thievery: Shohei Ohtani's Theft Scandal

By: Aidan Glassmoyer

One of the biggest stars in baseball today, Shohei Ohtani, has fallen victim to theft worth four and a half million dollars. The current primary suspect is Ohtani's interpreter, Ippei Mizuhara.

Ippei allegedly wire-transferred nearly four and a half million dollars from Ohtani's bank account to a Californian bookmaker. Following these allegations, Ippei spoke with the media. He claimed that Ohtani was helping him pay off his gambling debts. Just a day later, Ippei changed his story and claimed that Ohtani was unaware of the money transfer.

The Dodgers were told Ohtani covered Ippei's debts. According to Ohtani's camp, the first time he learned about four and a half million dollars being missing from his account was in a clubhouse meeting.

Just a few hours later, the Dodgers fired Ippei for theft.

This money was allegedly used for gambling purposes. It was later revealed that Ippei bet on international soccer, the NBA, the NFL, and college football. Although Ippei never bet on baseball, betting on any sport violates the Major League Baseball policy.

Ippei and Ohtani have worked together since he joined the league in 2018. According to many, their friendship was like a brotherhood. Ippei would pick up groceries for Ohtani and even served as his trusted catcher in the 2021 Home Run Derby.

When Ippei confessed, he stated that Ohtani played no role in the betting and that it was "all in his own doing".



Breadman's Redemption

By: Korey Pluhar

Artemi Panarin, a member of the New York Rangers, has shown unrelenting ambition and perseverance this season.

The New York Rangers have gone 29 years since their last Cup in 1994. With this, there are lingering fears that the team will fall short this season. However, hopes are high as an up-and-coming talent has taken to the ice to redeem himself from previous seasons.

In all of franchise history, no team has won as many games as this club. They have annexed their 54th victory with a whopping 3-2 shootout victory over the Islanders at the Garden.

Last year was a major let-down for Rangers fans. However, Artemi Panarin has become a breath of fresh air for viewers and continues to tackle this season like never before. He has dedicated himself to a playoff-style by attacking the inside, shooting the puck from high-danger areas, and raising his shooting percentage to a career-high of 16.2.

He struggled during last year's playoff series against the Devils. Nonetheless, he has improved his game and has found incredible success in playing off linemates Trocheck and Alexis Lafreniere.

Panarin's recent hat trick during a game against the Boston Bruins led the way to his 48 goals for the season, leaving him three points short from his first 100-point season and the Rangers' first since 2006.

Panarin is known to be an aggressive, yet dependable awesome teammate to have on your roster. "Breadman" was a nickname given to Panarin by his former coach, Joel Quenneville, during his time playing for the Chicago Blackhawks.

He has become a rallying cry for fans and has helped to set him apart uniquely and playfully. Breadman has embraced the nickname, showing the excitement and comedic persona he carries onto the ice.



Scientists Question the Extinction of the Javan Tiger

By: Devin Agosta

For decades, scientists have seen neither hide nor hair of the Javan tiger. In 2008, after more than a century of unrelenting hunting and habitat loss, the Javan tiger was declared extinct.

On August 18th, a resident by the name of Ripi Yanur Fajar claimed to have spotted a tiger outside a village in West Java. After reporting the sighting to researcher Kalih Raksasewu and government employee Bambang Adryanto, the two traveled to visit the site.

The two spotted footprints and claw marks that they believed could belong to a tiger. Sitting on a fence that separates the village road from a plantation was one strand of hair.

In March of 2022, the hair was submitted for genetic analysis to Indonesia's Biology Research Centre for National Research and Innovation (BRIN).

The results were compared to that of Sumatran Tigers, as well as a 1930 museum specimen of a Javan tiger.

The mysterious strand matched the genetics of the Sumatran tiger with 97 percent similarity. The genetic distance between it and the museum Javan tiger was 0.3 percent.

Centuries ago, the Javan tiger was widespread in forests and thickets. The island of Java is the most populous major island in the world, housing more than half of Indonesia's population. To sustain the island's population, much of the tiger's habitat has been destroyed.



Is TikTok Actually Going to Be Banned This Time?

By: Leah Everitt

Over the past several weeks, tensions surrounding America's access to TikTok have gotten intense. The U.S. government has raised concerns about how China handles user data.

Earlier last month, President Biden made a national promise to address such security concerns. He threatened to sign a bill banning the app unless the Chinese company, Bytedance, takes ownership. Based on the company's previous integrity, President Biden trusts that user data will not be shared under their leadership.

As you may have seen on social media platforms, Tiktok's CEO gathered with lawmakers before Congress to discuss the app.

This has sparked varying reactions from TikTok users. Some content creators reported concerns about their income. Others expressed that banning TikTok will negatively impact their source of entertainment, self-expression, and community.

Select groups of people are actively advocating to ban the platform. Some agree with policymakers. TikTok is a threat to national security and negatively impacts the younger generations.

There have been various other countries that have banned the app already. Along with this, TikTok has been banned on all government devices. Due to this, China lashed out at the U.S.. The country claimed that the ban was an abuse of power and suppression of foreign businesses.

People are preparing their goodbyes to Tiktok due to these tensions. Regardless of the outcome, one thing remains clear. There is an evident passion people have for this app amidst this uncertainty.



The Ultimate Croissant Race

By: Tyler Grohotolsky

Have you ever heard of racing, but with coffee and croissants?

Well, there was a 12-mile Olympic run held on March 24, 2024 around Paris. Here, contestants were required to run with a plate of coffee and a croissant.

This tradition has been in practice for over a century. The race is approximately 1.25 miles long (2km) to celebrate the agile waiters who help “make France’s restaurants.”

Each year, about 200 waiters participate in the event. The competition is scored based on how much coffee is spilled, how steady the tray is, and the time in which the race is completed. According to Nicolas Bonnet-Oulaldj, the deputy mayor, “When foreigners come to Paris, they don’t just come for the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower, they also come to eat in our cafes, at the Bouillon Chartier, the Brasserie Lipp or the Procope.”

This is the very fuel that creates a lively, “sit-down-and-take-in-the-scene” culture in the city.

