On February 3rd, 2020, the beginning of this year's presidential election took place in Iowa. The state law in Iowa requires that they will always be the first state to vote, and it's been a tradition since 1920.

This year, officials of Iowa decided they wanted to use an app on a device, like a phone or ipad, to make it easier to record all the votes for the candidates. This was their first mistake.

They used this app without testing its durability or how well it worked. So, when they tried to record the votes in the app, something prevented it and nobody knew why. It was described that the results were in, but the accuracy of the votes couldn't be determined.

Officials of the Democratic party knew that the app wasn't hacked, so they turned to the creators of the app called “shadow” and figured out there was a coding error that caused the problem.

The governor of Iowa, Kim Reynold, later pointed out that the results are slowing being acknowledged and would be released to the public once they were accurate.
Qasem Soleimani

By: Austin Hoff

Qasem Soleimani was an Iranian Major General in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Soleimani was assassinated by a U.S. missile strike in Baghdad, Iraq, on January 3rd of this year. There were many emotions to Soleimani’s death ranging from anger to relief.

The Iranian government responded angrily to this assassination. The government launched a dozen missiles at two Iraq military bases. These missiles may have posed a threat to the bases, but they were not. Some people were hurt, but luckily there were no casualties.

Although these missiles did not kill anyone, they still hurt some people. Some of the Iranian citizens were angry at the death of Soleimani. They protested the American Embassy in Tehran, the capital city of Iran. They threw anything they could get at the embassy in any way to hurt the building or somebody.

It was not anger that was the majority emotion, it was the relief of the Major General dying. The Major General killed thousands of people, some of them American. Many people that lived in Iran feared the presence of Soleimani.

About two months before the death of Soleimani, many Iranian citizens protested the regime. They protested Soleimani and their involvement in Syria. Over 1,500 people were killed in these protests, some of them coming from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Many news organizations show people mourning the death of the Major General. Some of that is true and they are mourning, but many of the people that live there are not fearful anymore and are celebrating his death.
The 2020 elections are underway, and there are candidates in the Republican Party that are running against the incumbent president Donald J. Trump. There are two other candidates running for president. These include Bill Weld and Mark Sanford.

The incumbent President, Donald J. Trump is the top candidate for the Republican Party. He received 97.1% of the votes in Iowa and 85.6% in New Hampshire. These numbers are more significant than the other candidates, so he is the candidate that has the highest chance of winning.

Bill Weld is the former Governor of Massachusetts. But oddly enough, he is not committed to one party. He has supported people from both sides of the political parties. He has supported major candidates like Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and Mitt Romney in the past years.

He received 1.3% of the votes in Iowa and 9.1% of the votes in New Hampshire. He supports abortion rights, was an early advocate for the legislation of same-sex marriage, and has promoted the legalization of medical marijuana since 1992.

Mark Sanford, the other candidate, is the former South Carolina Governor and a member of Congress. Sanford’s goal is to focus on the federal deficit ballooning under President Trump.

But there is a downside to this candidate, he was voted the worst Governor in terms of ethical conduct. He did not receive any votes in the Iowa Caucus or the New Hampshire Primary.
State of The Union Address

By: Austin Hoff

On February 4, 2020, President Donald J. Trump gave the State of the Union Address. It is a tradition for the president to give this address every year. He talks about his future plans for the country and all of the accomplishments that he had over his three years already.

President Trump gave his major accomplishments that got a lot of support and a lot of hate. Trump said that jobs are booming, incomes are soaring, poverty is plummeting, crime is falling, confidence is surging, and the country is thriving.

Many people, if not all, supported these claims, but there were many people that disagreed with these claims. One of these people is Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. She did not agree with some of Trump’s claims and shook her head in disapproval. Nancy Pelosi only agreed with certain claims, most of them being agreed on by the left side of the aisle.

President Trump gave examples of all of these achievements. He said that he and his administration slashed a record number of job-killing regulations. This correlates to all of his achievements over his term in office. He created over seven million jobs which is five million more than the previous administration expected. Also to go with the boom in jobs, the unemployment rate in the country has not been this low in half a century.
Democratic Race

By: Alex Almonte

As the race begins to heat up and the pool of candidates is thinning, everyone running is doing what they can to try and gather their supporters. The two candidates that will be featured in this article are Michael Bloomberg and Amy Klobuchar.

Michael Bloomberg is a candidate who was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Bloomberg attended John Hopkins University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He would later attend Harvard and graduate with a Master’s Degree in Business Administration.

Bloomberg served as the Mayor of New York from 2002 to 2013. Bloomberg was a Democrat until he changed his party in 2001 to run for mayor. Bloomberg would remain a Republican until 2007 where he would become an independent running on the Republican ballot line.

Bloomberg is passionate about gun safety and is planning to put many new guidelines and background checks into place. Bloomberg wants to ban assault weapons, use more effective gun laws, and confront all of the major gun lobbyists head on. He also plans to tackle climate change issues by trying to cut carbon emissions in half, creating cleaner sources of energy and demolishing coal plants that pollute the atmosphere.

Amy Klobuchar is a candidate who was born in Plymouth, Minnesota. Klobuchar is a graduate of Yale University and University of Chicago Law School. She was elected Hennepin County Attorney in 1998, and from 2006 to 2018 she was a senator for Minnesota.

The biggest issue that Klobuchar would address is the drug epidemic in America. She proposed a 100 billion dollar plan to combat drug addiction and the mental health care taken place after. Other issues that Klobuchar would address in her first days as president would be voting rights, prescription drugs, and antitrust enforcement.
Donald Trump’s Impeachment: Why Did It Fail?

By: Chris Bream

Donald Trump’s impeachment has been one of the biggest and most commonly discussed political events of recent times. Many people had been expecting Trump to be impeached, but very few actually expected him to get removed from office, which is exactly what happened. Here’s the big question: why did Trump’s impeachment not get him removed from office?

The impeachment trial starts in the House of Representatives, where they come up with the reasons the president should be impeached. They create articles of impeachment, listing the charges the president will be facing. A draft of the articles was created on December 5, 2019. On December 10, after some revision to the draft, the House announced that they would be charging Trump with two charges: “abuse of power” and “obstruction of Congress.” Trump’s articles were passed on December 18, 2019, with the House of Representatives voting in favor of both charges against the president, thus impeaching the president.

Although the House impeached the president, he was still in office. For the president to be removed from office, the Senate must also find him guilty. The articles were submitted to the Senate on January 16, 2020, initiating the Senate trial. For the president to be removed from office, two-thirds of the Senate must vote that the president is guilty. Neither article was able to get even a majority vote to remove the president, mostly due to the fact that the Senate is a Republican controlled house. The Senate voted on February 5, 2020 and Trump was acquitted of the charges.
Every year on the third Monday in February, we celebrate President’s Day. Presidents day was originally created to celebrate the birthday of George Washington. Although we celebrate Washington's birthday in January, his actual birthday is on February 11.

In 1879 Presidents day became an official US holiday to celebrate the birthdays of all the past presidents of the United States. In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill which moved some holidays to Mondays. This idea was put in place to give workers a number of long weekends throughout the year. At first the holiday was mostly just to celebrate Washington's birthday but later changed to celebrate all past presidents’ birthdays.

Washington was, of course, our first president, but some of his practices we still use today. Washington left the office after two terms to let the people experience other forms of leadership. Soon after Presidents day was established people also began to celebrate Lincoln's birthday. The 6ft 4in tall president saved the Union in the Civil War and brought about the emancipation of slaves. Lincoln was our 16th president and in fact hated being called Abe.

Today on the third Monday in February we celebrate the birthday of all our past presidents.
Black History Month is an annual celebration of the achievements and advancements made by black people throughout the years in the United States. We can thank Carter G. Woodson for the celebration Black History Month. In the early 20th century, Carter G. Woodson noticed that black people were being underrepresented in books and teachings. This motivated him to create Negro History Week, a week to truly focus on and celebrate the accomplishments of black people. He chose the second week of February to celebrate the accomplishments made by black people because Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays fall within that time period. Later on, this became Black History Month. There are many black people throughout American history that have made prominent inventions in society that many do not know about. Such as, Lonnie G. Johnson invented the “Super Soaker” water gun; Percy Julian invented steroids and some birth control pills; Granville T. Woods contributed to the development of the telephone and the streetcar. Lewis Latimer made the light bulb more practical, Garrett Morgan created the gas mask, and lastly, James E. West, invented microphone technology. Those are just some of the black people that are focused on during the month of February as we celebrate Black History Month.

Malcolm X vs. Martin Luther King, Jr.

While Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. both are very prominent African American individuals who fought against racial segregation, they both advocated in different ways and had their own ways of taking action. Martin Luther King, Jr. advocated non-violent, direct action and passive resistance to achieve equal civil rights. He is known to be in charge of the civil rights movement the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom that took place on August 28th, 1863. During this event, over 20,000 people marched from Washington to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. to protest against racial discrimination and support the major civil rights law pending in Congress. M.L.K. wanted all races to come together and put all hatred to a halt. However, Malcolm X took the opposite approach of Martin Luther King, Jr. He advocated in a more militant way because his goal was to achieve equality and black liberation by “any means necessary.” He had a different perspective on the march; he felt that integration would destroy the black and white man. He felt that African Americans should be concerned with helping each other and giving themselves self respect.
Throughout the NFL’s long history, there has been a struggle for black quarterbacks. A negative stereotype that has been around for decades is that they do not have the necessary intelligence to play the position. Many critics have said that most black quarterbacks rely solely on their speed and not any football knowledge. These stereotypes and prejudices are being broken today by many of the black quarterbacks dominating the NFL.

This first prolific black quarterback was James “Shack” Harris. Harris played for Grambling State and led them to three conference championships in the 1960s. Despite this, he was told to change his position from quarterback. Harris refused, and as a result he was not selected in the draft until the eighth round. He would go on to create a path for many black quarterbacks in the league today. Some of his accomplishments include becoming the first black quarterback to start a season opener, first to start and win a playoff game, first to play in a Pro Bowl, and first to be selected as Super Bowl MVP.

After Harris paved the path for black quarterbacks, another came along, Doug Williams. Williams came from Grambling State, but he was drafted in the first round, becoming the first black quarterback to do so. Williams would then win Super Bowl XXII and get MVP as well. After this, many of these stereotypes surrounding pocket passing quarterbacks were proven wrong thanks to Williams’ success.

Both of these quarterbacks were essential in creating a league where black quarterbacks could flourish. This year in the NFL some of the most prolific black quarterbacks were Lamar Jackson, Patrick Mahomes, Deshaun Watson, Dak Prescott, and Jameis Winston. All of these quarterbacks broke records this year proving that the quarterback position is not bound by any color or race.
Last month in California a helicopter, containing nine individuals, was flying to a basketball game when tragedy struck. Visibility became poor, and the aircraft crashed into the mountains below killing all that were on board.

Among the deceased was NBA icon Kobe Bryant. In addition to Bryant, others lost were his daughter Gianna, Payton Chester, Sarah Chester, Alyssa Altobelli, Keri Altobelli, John Altobelli, Christina Mauser, and Ara Zobayan.

Kobe and his daughter Gianna Bryant mourned the most because Kobe was a star basketball player, who played 20 years in the NBA, and he is the reason many kids play the game today. Gianna was also mourned greatly because she was a stand out teen basketball player.

The others on board should be mourned in addition to the Bryants, so here is some information about them. John Altobelli was a well known baseball coach, who passed away with his loving family. Sarah Chester and her daughter Payton Chester were lost as well. Payton was a basketball player for Bryant's Mamba basketball team, and Sarah was her loving mother. The last two people were Christina Mauser and Ara Zobayan. Zobayan was the pilot of the helicopter, and Mauser was a coach.

January 26th, 2020 is a tragic day that will never be forgotten, and society should never forget these people that lost their lives. In addition, the people at the Wilson Warrior Echo’s words of advice are to always express love to your family because precious lives can be taken suddenly any day.

Pictures courtesy of Google
Kobe Bean Bryant exuded excellence both on and off the basketball court. His accolades as a member of the Los Angeles Lakers speak for themselves, but off the court, he had a bigger impact than most think. He provided a model for excellence and a human definition for hard work.

Kobe Bryant was born on August 23, 1978 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was soon relocated with his family to Italy where his love for both basketball and soccer originated. His family returned to Philadelphia in time for Kobe to play high school basketball at Lower Merion High School, where he led the team to four state championships. With the 13th overall pick in the 1996 NBA Draft, the Charlotte Hornets selected Kobe Bean Bryant and traded him to the Los Angeles Lakers.

In his first two seasons, he won the Slam Dunk Competition and was named an All-Star starter in his sophomore campaign. The Lakers then added perennial All-Star Shaquille O’Neal, and the dynamic duo won three consecutive NBA championships from 2000 to 2002. His greatest game was when he scored 81 points in a game against the Toronto Raptors in January 2006.

He won the Most Valuable Player award in 2008 and the year after, he carried his team to the championship. To wrap up his historic career, on April 13th, 2016, he dazzled the crowd with one last memory, scoring 60 points and leading the Lakers to the win against the Utah Jazz.

After he retired, he continued to influence pop culture and many people around him. He had a lot more time on his hands to focus on his family. He is married to Vanessa Bryant and they have had four daughters together: Gianna, Bianka, Natalia, and Capri. In 2018, he won an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film with Dear Basketball.
The NBA has announced a new format for the 2020 NBA All-Star Game designed to increase the level of competition throughout the game, provide additional excitement at the finish, and make the outcome of every quarter count for charity. The changes include a new fourth-quarter format that will honor the late Kobe Bryant.

The Final Target Score will be determined by taking the leading team's total cumulative score through three quarters and adding 24 points – the 24 representing Bryant’s jersey number for the final 10 seasons of his NBA career. The teams will then play an untimed fourth quarter, and the first team to reach the Final Target Score will win the NBA All-Star Game. With no minimum or maximum time on the clock in the fourth quarter, the NBA All-Star Game will end with a made basket or a made free throw.

As part of NBA All-Star 2020, more than $1 million will be contributed to Chicago community non-profit organizations through NBA Cares outreach efforts. These efforts will culminate during the NBA All-Star Game when each team will play for a Chicago-based charity beneficiary, as selected by team captains Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks and LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers. The community organization selected by the winner of each of the first three quarters will receive $100,000 – a total of $300,000 donated to charity for those three quarters.

The Super Bowl

Every year, an enormous amount of viewers tune to various sporting channels in early February to watch the Super Bowl, but how much do people actually know about this popular event? The Super Bowl is an event that has been around for over half a decade, but it actually did not begin the first year the NFL was formed. The league was formed in 1920, but the Super Bowl was not played until 1967. During this year, the Super Bowl was played between the Green Bay Packers and Kansas City Chiefs.

This may come as a shock, but the first Super Bowl was actually not sold out. The first Super Bowl was not sold out because of the fact that it was new and not many people knew if going to the game was really worth it. Once the first game was played, people realized that this game is extremely exciting and every game has been sold out since.

The Super Bowl is a very complex game and has changed in many ways over the years. One of the main ways that this game has changed over time is the amount of money the tickets cost. As one may guess, the price of a Super Bowl ticket has risen over the years. The ticket price for the first Super Bowl in 1967 was as low as six dollars. This is extremely different from the present day ticket prices that can exceed $5,000.
Whether you are a varsity athlete or a competitive reader, hydration is of the utmost importance. Many people think that hydration is just having a cup or two of any liquid a day, but there are various factors that play into the proper way to hydrate.

First of all, to determine hydration, the color of urine is an important clue. If the color is light, you are hydrated. The darker the color, however, the more dehydrated you will be. To get to a lighter color, it is essential not to wait until you are thirsty to start drinking.

An alternate way to test your hydration levels is pinching your skin. If the skin takes a long time to return back to normal, it is a clear sign of dehydration. Despite being filled up quickly, liquids flow through the body well.

As far as dieting, there are various different approaches that can be taken. Fruits and vegetables are essential in any diet to stay hydrated. Grapes, watermelons, tomatoes, and lettuce all contain high amounts of water to both conquer any appetite and defeat dehydration.

If you are ever feeling hungry, drinking water also may help. There is a difference between being hungry for food and just being hungry in general. Water also helps fill you up so you are not as hungry later. In terms of exercise, drinking before, during, and after the workout is a crucial part of staying hydrated.

With the 2019-2020 basketball season coming to a close, here is a quick recap of how both our teams performed.

The girls' varsity, captained by seniors Ashley Errico and Almond Goodman, and sophomore Brielle Reidinger, went 13-9 during the regular season. Ashley Errico has a school-record 183 three-pointers in her career, one of which helped her become the 7th girls varsity player to score 1000 career points. Ashley Errico was chosen for Colonial League Second Team while Almond Goodman received an honorable mention.

Thanks to their winning regular season record, they were selected to play in the Colonial League playoffs. This year's team was the first Wilson girl's varsity team to qualify for league playoffs three years in a row. Unfortunately, they suffered a first round loss to Moravian Academy. They will be continuing their season in the District XI playoffs.

The boys' varsity team, captained by seniors Charbel Ghaleb, Derelle McKinney, and Matthew Glovas, went 16-7 during the regular season. Senior Jihad Range was chosen for Colonial League First Team, while Captain Derelle McKinney received an honorable mention.

Thanks to their winning regular season record, they were selected to compete in the Colonial League playoffs. Unfortunately, they suffered a first round loss to Notre Dame-Green Pond. They will be continuing their season in the District XI playoffs. If they win their first district game, they will qualify for State playoffs.
The Echo

History of Valentine’s Day

By: Annabella Alves

There are many different ideas of the origins of Valentine’s Day. The holiday is related to the Roman festival Lupercalia, which was held in mid-February. The festival celebrated the coming of spring and the gambling of women to men. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I replaced the festival with St. Valentine’s Day. It came to be celebrated as a day of romance from roughly the 14th century.

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, it is believed the day is named for a priest who was martyred about 270 A.D. by Emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter “from your Valentine” to his jailer’s daughter, whom he had befriended. In other accounts, the day is named for St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, though it is possible that both saints were, in fact, the same person.

Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor’s orders and married couples secretly to spare the husbands from war. This is the reason his feast day is associated with love.

Valentines came about in the 1500s and commercially printed cards were being used by the late 1700s. The first commercial valentines in the U.S. were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines usually show Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts.

The holiday of Valentine’s Day is popular in many countries and is celebrated by all different kinds of love.

Be Independent You!

By: Fatimah Bouri

With Valentine's Day arriving and infatuation in the air, one can feel like they’re missing out because they don’t have a special someone to spend Valentine’s day with. And sometimes with our romanticizing of getting into a relationship, we tend to forget how great independence can also be.

Being your own independent person gives you the opportunity of being able to focus on yourself. Being in a relationship feels great because you are connecting and spending time with someone you love. With this, however, you don’t have much time for yourself. We humans already don’t have much time for ourselves due to our fast-paced, occupied schedules. A relationship can diminish that time even more. Sometimes, this leads to neglecting our own overall needs.

Independence can give you the time to focus on you. Your main priority should always be you. Having the time to focus on yourself is something to be treasured, and whenever you are most comfortable, then you can go and pursue something more.

Independence can teach you the value of self-love and self-care. It is something all of us need to help us be mentally and emotionally stronger. Maybe you’re reading this and happily in a relationship. That’s great! Just don't forget to take time for yourself and know that you are your own independent person!
The Oscars have always been a special way of highlighting movies to come out each year! The 91st annual Oscars, which premiered on Sunday, February 9th, was met with mixed reception from viewers.

This is not new for award shows like the Oscars as people state that in the past few years, award shows have been less and less thrilling to watch. In fact, 23.6 million people tuned in this year, an all-time low for the award show.

Controversies surrounded nomination snubs and lack of diversity. One user on twitter found it to be “just as disappointing as this year’s Grammys.” However, many iconic moments came out of the Oscars including Parasite, directed by Boon Joon-ho, being the first foreign film to ever win Best Picture. Also, how could anyone forget actress Natalie Portman wearing a cape sewed with names of those snubbed from an award this year? Joaquin Phoenix, who won Best Actor for his role in Joker, gave an emotional speech, thanking everyone for taking a chance on him and giving a nod to his deceased brother.

Other memorable awards go to Toy Story 4 for Best Animated Film and Joker for Best Original Music Score. Overall the night, while it had its moments, could have been much more exciting and brought more diversity to its nominations. But who knows? Maybe next year will be an improvement. But with all that being said, a big congratulations to all those that won!

Scorsese at The Oscars

By: Gio Schaffer

With the upcoming 92nd Ceremony of the Oscar Awards, many nominees will be on the stage to thank their fellow endeavors, reflect on their success in the last year, and vow to strive for achievements in the future.

However, a recent interview seems to have set the stage for Martin Scorsese’s plan for retirement. The 77-year old cinematic icon hinted that The Irishman may be the wrap up for his most well-known mobster flicks. The three and a half hour long movie brings mafia culture to life, this time to show that it’s not as exhilarating as directors, himself included, made it out to be.

The entire movie is told by WWII Veteran Frank Sheeran, played by Robert de Niro, in his final days at a nursing home. Although the scenes only refer back to his narration a few times, the story that he tells refers to how the mafia eventually was tied in a speculation regarding the killing of notorious king-pin Jimmy Hoffa.

“And I never expected it to be received this way. You know, we’re at the end of our lives and we just do the best we can. And if it hits a chord, and if people embrace it – that’s wonderful,” Scorsese says. It was his first time collaborating with Netflix. Similarly to how the gangsters in the movie grew old and tired with their lifestyle, it seems Martin is saying the same about his career.
The Coronavirus

By: Josh Loricchio

We've all heard of the Coronavirus that is making its way around the globe and supposedly getting closer and closer. The Virus has become famous because of its outbreak in Wuhan, China, with about 28,000 infected.

The Virus has symptoms much like that of a common cold; as of now, there isn't much known of the Virus. Above 2,700 people have died, but it is hard to say why since little information about the Virus is available. The United States has become very careful, making sure people coming in from China don't have the symptoms of the Virus. The Virus is said to be able to be transmitted through the air, and it is currently unknown if it can be transmitted by touch.

Some flights are being suspended from mainland China, such as American Airlines suspending flights through April. Planes are a very dangerous place to be when the Coronavirus is going around due to close quarters and lack of air circulation. Cruise ships are in the same boat, with close quarters and lots of places for germs to hide; they are not the best place to be.

Some people are stuck on cruise ships because they are being denied entry to certain places in the world. Ships are also being held for extra cleaning and disinfecting after people were sent to the hospital with symptoms after the cruise. Outside of China, there are about 2,500 other known cases across 37 countries. The death toll increases daily. A source told CNN that a vaccine is being researched and developed but won't be ready until about 18 months.
Since August of last year, Australia has been under a drought where over 95% of the country is in the danger zone. This drought has led to the unfortunate wildfires that have been all over certain parts of the country. At first, the fires were noticeable and there were authorities making attempts to stop the fires, but after just a few weeks, the fires began to create a bigger problem.

The wildfires are now terrorizing the whole country. What started as a minor problem because of the drought has affected the whole world within just months. According to zoologists in the area, over two billion animals have suffered habitat loss and starvation. The fires have also killed over one billion animals in the process.

There have been many attempts to help save the animals by people going into their habitats to save them. The only problem is the animals have a tendency to run away and not realize that the humans on the job are just trying to save them. As a result, they are trapped in their habitat as the fire begins to damage it, and it’s too late for them to make an escape.

The fires have even affected humans. Hundreds of people have been affected and thousands of homes have been burned to the ground. The wildfires in Australia are hurting and killing every species in the area.
The Echo

Australia Wildfires
By: Christopher Bream

The Australian wildfires have been one of the most devastating natural events in recent history. The fires started in October of 2019 as a result of a record-breaking drought, a record-breaking heatwave, lightning strikes, accidents, and even alleged arson. The fires have had appalling consequences, and have yet to cease.

In late October of 2019, a lightning bolt struck dead trees, igniting a forest fire, which was normal for Australia during this season. What was unusual for the Australians was the result of the fire. This fire and many other fires are the cause behind sixteen million acres of burnt land, and more than two thousand houses that were destroyed. To put it into perspective, the fire has destroyed enough land to account for half of all of England. Also, at least thirty deaths, including three Americans who died in a plane crash while fighting the fires, and an estimated one billion animal deaths were an effect of the fire.

The fire has also created terrible air conditions in Australia. The smoke has spread all across the country and created breathing problems for many people, especially those with asthma or other respiratory problems, resulting in two deaths. People have resorted to staying inside of their houses during this summer due to fear of harm from the poor air conditions. Sporting events have had to be canceled and delayed due to these conditions.

The fires have been slowing recently, but it is still hard to predict when they will stop. There are multiple ways you can contribute to fixing the damage caused by the fires. You can donate to the Save the Children group, the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, the Australian Red Cross, and much more!
Amazon is one of the biggest companies in the online industry. While Amazon grew more popular, so did their robotics, creating more advanced technology to make organizing easier. Amazon uses its robotics not only to organize but to carry stock around the huge warehouse floors which have barcodes that guide the robots to their set destination. This is done to reduce the amount of interaction humans have with the products to ensure security. For instance Amazon has Roomba-shaped robots called “drives” mostly to move around heavy loads of products around the warehouse.

In 2012, Amazon spent around $775 million to purchase a young company called Kiva Systems that gave it a new breed of mobile robots that could carry shelves of any product. As of today Amazon has over 100,000 robots in its warehouse and is expanding and creating new robots to make work at Amazon's warehouses easier.

On the other hand, people are afraid of losing their jobs which has a high probability of happening because of this new technology being put into companies like Amazon. On the plus side, online stores always need people to not only monitor these robots but to do the jobs that robots can't.

These robots are the key for new technological advances that people need not only to make life easier but save many as well.
The Echo

Childhood Obesity

By: Mollie Veres

Obesity has become a major health concern for Americans in recent history. A link between obesity and sleep schedule has recently been discovered. Rather than parents forcing their children to go to bed earlier, they should just establish a routine sleep schedule.

In an experiment conducted in Sweden, it was found that children who habitually went to sleep late, defined by the researchers as past 9 p.m., had a wider waist and higher BMI by the end of the study. This obesity may be a result from inadequate amount of exercise and excessive screen time. On the other hand, there is a physical link because some of the brain regions involved in regulating sleep and wake cycles also manage eating and fasting behavior.

The problem of obesity will continue to be a problem within the United States for years to come. Although, we cannot just blame sleep schedules for this issue.

Americans diets alone contribute to the obesity plaguing our country. For example, The U.S. The Department of Agriculture reported that the average American ate almost 20% more calories in the year 2000 than they did in 1983. This is largely contributed to the rise in consumption of meat. The average American eats 194 pounds of meat per year!

Other than what Americans eat, the lack of exercise contributes to being overweight. This is partly due to a change in jobs over time. For example, according to one study, only 20% of today's jobs require at least moderate physical activity, as opposed to 50% of jobs in 1960. No matter the cause, obesity is a significant problem within our country causing many health issues and deaths per year.
An eight-year-old boy named Keoni Ching from Vancouver, Washington raised $4,015 to erase the lunch debt of all students at Benjamin Franklin Elementary. He sold 300 of his handmade keychains for $5 each during ‘Kindness Week’ at his school.

Keoni was inspired by Richard Sherman, a San Francisco 49er, because of his donation of more than $27,000 to cover student lunch debt.

Keoni said that he decided to make keychains because “I love keychains. They look good on my backpack.” Once the word about his keychains and heartwarming cause got out, many people from all different countries sent requests for one custom keychain of their own. Keoni’s mother, April Ching, said, “We have sent keychains to Alaska, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Arizona, all over the country. There was one lady who said she wanted $500 worth of keychains so that she could just hand them out to people. There were several people who bought one keychain and gave Keoni a hundred bucks.”

After raising $4,015, Keoni delivered the check to his school. Of that amount, $1,000 of it covered the $500 lunch debt and any future debt. The rest of the amount was split between six other nearby schools, $500 going to each to clear their lunch debt.

School lunch debt is an accumulating issue in the U.S. Keoni may not know much about the politics of America’s school lunch debt, but he does know this:

“Helping others is important because it just makes the world a better place,” Keoni said.

New Teacher Interview: Mr. Stanley

By: Samantha Mutter

Some students may not be aware, but a new teacher has recently joined the Wilson Area High School staff! Having past experience in multimedia and teaching, Mr. Stanley is the perfect fit for teaching multimedia broadcasting and editing, along with sociology and honors American cultures.

To start out his multiple careers, Mr. Stanley attended Kutztown University. Following the achievement of earning his degree, he worked in the master control at WFMZ, a popular news channel. Here, he spent around five years, then went on to work in radio broadcasting and video production. These were not the only jobs he had before teaching here at Wilson. He also worked multiple driving jobs and assisted with people having mental disabilities.

When he is not working, Mr. Stanley participates in various hobbies. He enjoys hiking, playing guitar, and most importantly, he is a “karaoke nut.”

While working in the media, his views on the world were greatly influenced. To describe the world, he used a quote from Tom Lehrer saying “Life is like a sewer... what you get out of it depends on what you put into it.” To sum this up, when you put in more effort to what you are passionate about, the results will be more favorable and lead to more success. In the world, he has noticed many changes over time and learned valuable lessons.

Teaching is also a great influence on this educator. He says that staying in school has been able to keep him feeling young by being able to learn new things every day and growing more intellectually. Of course, in teaching, it is important that the students listen. When asked what one thing he would change about the world, Mr. Stanley expressed that he would “put a higher premium on listening, encouraging people to communicate.”
Valentine’s Day is a holiday of goodies. Human-sized bears, stuffed hearts, and lots and lots of chocolate. The hard part about giving someone chocolate is knowing which type of chocolate they prefer. I went around the school and asked several students this question to help you on your chocolate search.