



THE WOLFPRINT

ISSUE 1

A NEW CHAPTER FOR WBA

By: Michaela Barney

As Sept. 9, 2021 marked the opening day of the Wilkes-Barre Area High School, the new environment was met with both positive and negative feedback. While both faculty and students seem to have varying thoughts about their new normal, one thing is clear: there is a passion within the new voices of our school.

On a merely physical level, some seem to enjoy the new, modernized building. However, this change also requires some getting used to.

"Just the vast size of the building and the number of students is a huge change and something we're all getting accustomed to," stated Principal Colleen Robatin.

The distance to travel between locations within the building also seems to be commonly mentioned when discussing great physical changes.



However, the foundation of the new school goes deeper than the building. It incorporates the students, too.

Students have been given the chance to form unlikely bonds with people from what were once rival schools or reunite with previous classmates.

Senior, Jenna Vincenti, said "I like that we have the opportunity to meet new people who came from other schools that we otherwise would not have met." (continued pg.2)

THE BUSING CHALLENGE OF WBA

By: Meta Mihalchik

The Wilkes Barre Area Wolfpack students, teachers, and administrators were faced with problematic bussing situations during the first week of school. With students coming from all over Wilkes Barre, Plains, and Bear Creek, getting to the new school on Wolfpack Way was a challenge for many.

Students and parents have expressed their difficulties regarding the late and chaotic bus schedule. Now, nearing the third month of school, the bussing has seemed to find a more organized schedule thanks to hard work by the school administration and bus company. (continued pg.3)

...“NEW CHAP”... (cont. from pg. 1) Joseph Day, another senior, also stated, “It’s nice to see all of my friends from different schools in one building.”

While a new school may solidify new traditions and introduce us to change, there are some things that cannot be replaced.

Whether it’s “being able to open my windows and listen to the birds,” as Tara Kormorek, veteran English teacher stated or “a good family environment,” as Keith Eberts (STEM teacher) mentioned, each student and faculty member holds a piece of their old school in their heart.

It seems that a sense of familiarity will come as people adapt. As Robatin stated, “I think it’s starting already, more quickly than people thought.”

Overall, love it or hate it, the new high school has swiftly become a symbol of what the Wolfpack represents. While there have been – and still will be – bumps in the road, this school will eventually feel like home for all of those involved.

‘PACK PROWLs IN SPIRIT

By: Trinity Hull

The first Wilkes Barre Area High School spirit week commenced the week of Monday October 18th, 2021. Participants showed spirit in many ways from dressing in their favorite Disney characters on Movie Monday to showing up in favorite football team jerseys on Game day Wednesday.

The senior class officers submitted theme ideas, in which student council advisor, Mr. Joshua Wasielewski, had the final say. The week inspired creative minds, provided an engaging learning atmosphere, and most importantly, encouraged students and faculty to show off WBA pride. Students and faculty felt it a necessity to have spirit week.

“It allows kids to come together,” said junior Allison Lussi.



Seniors pose in their decorated jeans for spirit week.

Lussi stated, “People need to be more willing to dress up and be crazy for spirit week because you are only in high school once”.

Teacher Mr. Dave Lapinski said, “We need to do things together”.

Even though the week was controversial regarding the themes, “it was nice to see people get involved”, said Lapinski.

More fun was expressed towards the end of the week from participants throwing it back to the 80s on Throwback Thursday to ‘prowling’ in school pride on Wolfpack Friday. Several seniors designed “senior jeans” in honor of graduating in June this school year to wear on Wolfpack Friday.

Jeans were seen painted with students’ and the school’s names, clubs and organization names, and some jeans had glued on gemstones, glitter, and pom pom balls.

Unfortunately, plenty of seniors were not able to participate because of late notice, and/or busy schedules. The jeans struck the attention of other students and faculty; hopefully keeping the idea in mind for next year’s spirit week. What started as a trend on the popular app Tik Tok, possibly started a tradition at WBA in years to come.

The pandemic may have shut down school spirit for the past almost two years, but it did not shut down school spirit forever. Wilkes Barre Area High School is united as a ‘pack’ and ‘leading’ us into a new beginning.

...“BUSING”... (cont. pg. 1) Jana Ortiz, a student living only 12 minutes from the school, had a hard time getting home the first few days.

“We got dismissed at 3:05, and I waited one day until 4:30 for the bus to even pick us up from the school,” she said.

Another student, Jordyn Snow from Bear Creek, had a very complicated time taking multiple busses every morning and afternoon.

“The bus arrived at a normal time, but we had to stop at Bear Creek Charter to change busses. We waited there for an hour and a half for our next bus, and I didn’t get home until 5PM” said Snow.

Colleen Robatin, the 12th grade principal, expressed her sympathy to the students, but also the staff themselves. “Busses were brand new to us” she said, “we didn’t know what to expect”.

Robatin and the other principals of course have everyone’s best interest in mind saying, “Our main focus was getting everyone home safely and in a timely manner, so glitches had to be worked out.” With collaboration between school staff and the bussing company, these glitches are slowly being resolved.

Many students can agree that it’s getting better as the year goes on.

Ortiz admitted that, “It’s a lot better than it was during the first few days.”

With so many students and new problems to deal with every day, minor setbacks can always be expected.

So far, the principals and administration have worked very hard to make things better

Robatin stressed the importance of positivity in the new school, and praised everyone, students and teachers, for working together and being patient. “Everyone should feel like a part of the pack, that’s the goal,” she said, “and I think we’re on the right path”.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



CAPAA BEGINS 2021 SEASON IN NEW HOME

By: Kiaralynn Castillo

The 2021–2022 school year marks amazing new beginnings for students at Wilkes–Barre Area Highschool.

With the new school built, a wing dedicated to just CAPAA brings many opportunities. The overall program is focused on many different arts and brings about new and improved experiences for the students here at the high school. Drama and theatre, being one of the programs part of CAPAA, is one of the many amazing parts.

“It’s a very competitive program to audition for and get accepted into,” said Aliceia Lyons, teacher and head of the drama program here at CAPAA. The class practices and studies a variety of things like script analysis, acting, playwriting, directing, and many more.

Although the program is only funded for two musicals, there are many different fundraisers that are done to help out. The drama club always pulls through.

“It becomes a second family, and that family gains its own second nature. It feels like a home away from home” said Mickey Durkin, a student in Lyons’ program. (continued pg. 4)

It is apparent all the students absolutely love her class and the environment within. The drama department will open their season on November 18th with "Little Shop of Horrors."

CAPAA chorus, run by Joelle DeLuca, also has their Christmas concert as their upcoming event. The chorus program specializes in music theory, history, performance, and different instruments.

Chorus is just another program allowing students an outlet at Wilkes-Barre Area High School.

"I feel that the best thing our program has brought to the students is the ability to showcase their talents and to have a place where they can be themselves," said DeLuca.

The students definitely agree, and they are loving their class.

CAPAA continues to bring opportunities to the students of Wilkes-Barre Area in the forms of fine and performing arts. It will be interesting to see what the program can deliver in a new school with state of the art resources.



Pictured Above: Jesse Kosierowski

DRAMA CLUB DEVOURS...

By: Shariah Yearwood



For the first time ever, the drama club will be performing their first musical in Wilkes Barre Area's new high school. On Nov. 18th 2021, Wolfpack's drama club will take the stage for the first time in the new auditorium at Wilkes Barre Area High School.

This year's musical "Little Shop of Horrors," will be managed by Alice Lyons (Theatre Director), Joelle DeLuca (Musical Director), Jamie Burns (Choreographer), Lou Lyons (Assistant Director) and Lisa Yvonne Fink.

Little Shop of Horrors is a horror sci-fi musical composed in 1982. The story follows a meek flower shop assistant, Seymour Krelborn who is being played by Jesse Kosierowski.

Seymour who has a crush on his co-worker Audrey, is being played by Trinity Hull (Fri/Sun), Sarah Pugliese (Thurs, Sat). Seymour stumbles across a new breed of plant and names it "Audrey II." During an eclipse Seymour discovers Audrey II who has the desire to feed off of human flesh and blood.

"A deviously delicious Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash musical, "Little Shop of Horrors" has devoured the hearts of theater goers for over thirty year," said Alice Lyons, theatre director

"The cast has been working extremely hard for these past couple of weeks preparing for the upcoming play. The show has been a pleasure since the beginning. These students are such a pleasure to work with. They practice so hard ... They have a phenomenal outlook on life." Joelle DeLuca, Musical Director explained.

The Drama club has also sold calendars for the funding of costumes and set pieces including the puppets of Audrey II.

"Little Shop of Horrors" runs from Thursday, Nov. 18 to Sunday Nov. 21st and from Thursday the 21st to Saturday the 20th. The play will begin at 7 pm but on Sunday the 21st the play will begin at 2 pm. Tickets will be available within the next two weeks for purchase.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

LANA DEL REY BLUE BANISTERS



ALBUM REVIEW

By: Katelynn McMullen



The queen of indie pop has finally released her highly anticipated album titled Blue Banisters. Lana is known for her vintage vocals and sassy yet heart wrenching lyrics. This is her 7th studio album, as well as her second album to be released this year, the first being Chemtrails Over The Country Club which was released near the end of March.

Blue Banisters is an album I find to be really spectacular, and maybe one of her best. Lana's lyricism has never disappointed me, and especially not now. The way she writes about topics such as love and romance on this album is so incredibly powerful. She shows in her music how incredibly in tune with her emotions she is.

This album also brings back some of the sounds and drums that Lana Del Rey fans haven't been hearing the past few years, especially on the 6th track titled 'If You Lie Down With Me', which is definitely one of the stand out songs on this album in my opinion.

Some of my personal favorite tracks off of this album are 'Thunder' (which is my ultimate favorite), 'If You Lie Down With Me', and 'Dealer'.

This album has a duration of 1 hour, so if you are looking to cry a little (or a lot) and be in your feelings, this is definitely the album for you. I encourage you all to check out this album, as well as the rest of her discography if you haven't already.

OVERALL RATING: 8/10

Live Through This is the second and most popular album by American rock band Hole. The band has had many members throughout its years, but controversial frontwoman Courtney Love has always stuck around.

The album was released on April 12th, 1994. It was released only days after the tragic passing of Love's husband, Kurt Cobain, frontman of Nirvana. It was rumoured that Cobain had written most or all of Courtney Love's music during this time, but that has been proven false time and time again.

I absolutely adore everything about this album. Love's vocals are extremely passionate, gritty, and overall jaw dropping. Her singing is pleasant on the ears, and I think that she sounds especially great on track 8, 'Softer, Softest'.

The album discusses violence towards women, the downsides of relationships, and Love's experience with having a child. The lyricism is definitely powerful and edgy in the best way possible. Critics loved this album when it came out and it still receives love and praise today.

Live Through This is featured on the Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Albums Of All Time list, coming in at #106, and has a 10/10 rating on the popular music review site Pitchfork. I believe that this album is timeless. It holds up and sounds great after 27 years. If you're angry, sad but can't cry, or just downright mad at the world, give this a listen. This is one of my favorite albums of all time, and it will absolutely not disappoint.

OVERALL RATING: 10/10

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



BOOK REVIEW:

CEMETERY BOYS: VIBRANT, DIVERSE, AND PARANORMAL



By: Bianca Tlatelpa

What would you do if you accidentally summoned the wrong ghost?

Written by New York Times Best Selling Author, Aiden Thomas, *Cemetery Boys* follows sixteen-year-old Yadriel, a gay, transgender “brujo” who wants to be accepted by his traditional Latinx family. When he finds out that his cousin Miguel has been murdered, he is determined to find his tether and release his spirit to the land of the dead.

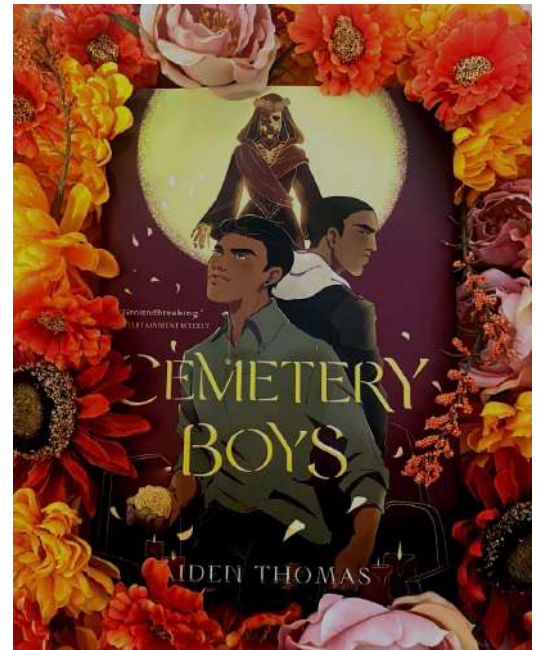
Yadriel sets out to complete his quince— a ritual that must be completed to have the powers of a brujo—with the help of his cousin, Maritza and successfully proves himself a true brujo. However, instead of summoning Miguel, Yadriel accidentally summons the ghost of his classmate, Julian Diaz.

Thomas represents the diversity of Latin/Hispanic identities and integrates one of the most celebrated holidays in these cultures. The book takes place around the days of Dia de Los Muertos, having a great impact on the world and magic building of the story. The ofrendas, the description of the cemetery decorated with marigolds and candles, and aunts cramped up in the kitchen gives it a familiar feeling.

Being gay and transgender themselves, Aiden Thomas includes great LGBTQ+ characters other than the main protagonist. Despite being a fantasy novel, these characters face real-world problems the community often faces such as transphobia, deadnaming, and misgendering.

Cemetery Boys touches on a lot of issues cisgender people don’t think about. As the story keeps progressing we learn how Yadriel has trouble fitting in with his family. You can feel just how much he longs to be accepted.

Thomas brings up the homophobia and misogyny that is often found in some people of the Latinx community who are set on tradition. In the book, Yadriel’s grandmother misgenders him despite being corrected multiple times.



The author addresses how many people don’t understand a person’s queerness, leading to my favorite quote of the book: “Yadriel was tired of it. He was tired of forgiving. He was tired of fighting to just exist and be himself. He was tired of being the odd one out.”

Aiden Thomas is successful in writing a book that feels relatable and genuine. The plot was well crafted and has a big reveal you’ll never see coming.

Whether you’re bilingual or Latin, part of the LGBTQ+, or just someone who’s looking for something to read on Halloween, you’ll find something to relate to in *Cemetery Boys*.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



MOVIE REVIEW: THE PERCY JACKSON TRAGEDY

By: Olivia Connell



The Percy Jackson books were hit sellers for author Rick Riordan, so much that 20th Century Studios decided to turn them into movies. Needless to say, the movies were so far off from the books even Rick Riordan was glad when the series was cancelled after just the second movie.

The Percy Jackson movies are about a demigod named Percy Jackson. The first movie takes place when he finds out he is a demigod, more specifically, the son of Poseidon. He is brought to “Camp Half-Blood” where he is sent on a quest to go to the underworld to save his mother, fighting monsters along the way. Someone had also stolen Zeus’ lightning bolt and it is thought to have been Percy.

In the second movie, the enchanted borders that protect Camp Half-Blood are dissolving, and a horde of mythical beasts threaten the demigods’ sanctuary. In order to save Camp Half-Blood, Percy and his friends embark on a journey to the Sea of Monsters to find the magical Golden Fleece.

These movies had some strengths and many weaknesses. It had a perfectly fitting soundtrack, and the music added well to the anticipation. That’s just about all these movies had going for them.

When casting, instead of having young actors play characters with age ranges from 11–13, they had teenagers that looked a lot older play the main parts. This took away from the young characters’ relatability. Most young neuro-divergent kids looked up to the Percy Jackson books because it was a world where it was okay, and the casting took that away from them.

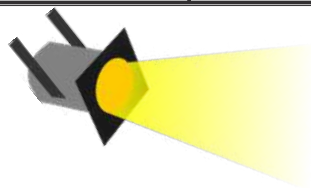
In contrast to the books, the characters’ backstories were extremely rushed, ruining characters’ storylines. Due to the age change, Percy and Annabeth’s relationship was rushed and unenjoyable to watch. Character changes also ruined one of the biggest reveals.

Luke is one of the biggest antagonists in Percy Jackson, due to the character changes – him being the villain was revealed too early in the story, ruining the suspense and undermining Luke as a character.

The sequel to the first movie “Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monsters,” should not really be called that. Due to the character changes, the actors were too old to get through all of the movies, so they mashed together the second and third books and put them into one movie.

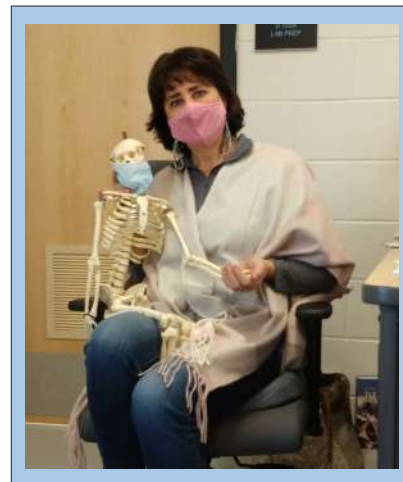
As you can probably tell, the characters and casting can make or break a movie. The plot can be completely terrible... as long as there are well-written characters to hold onto.

The casting issues and character changes really made these movies so much worse. As well as the mashing together of the third and second books, the plot of the first movie did not follow the plot of the books at all. Most movies don’t have to follow the book completely but for the movies to go so far off is honestly disgraceful to anyone who has ever read a word of Percy Jackson. Overall, I’d give the movie adaptations a 1/10.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: A Q&A WITH MRS. ROOD

By: Michaela Barney



Q: When did you start teaching in the district?

A: I started teaching here in 1997, but I substituted in 1995 and 1996.

Q: Where did you attend school before teaching?

A: For college, I attended the University of Scranton.

Q: What classes do you teach in the school?

A: I teach AP Bio, Anatomy & Physiology, and – for the first time ever – Environmental Science, but it has changed over the years.

Q: What sparked your interest in the sciences?

A: I feel like I was always interested in it. I worked at a veterinary clinic in high school, which encouraged it. Teaching is actually my second career. I did microbiological research with Microbiological Associates.

Q: Did you always want to be a teacher, or did you have other plans?

A: I became the leader in the lab so I was teaching everyone in the lab and I realized I really enjoyed it.

Q: What is your favorite thing about teaching young people?

A: I like helping them see their potential and possibly choose a field of study in their career, or getting them excited about science when maybe they were never excited about it before. Plus, they have a lot of energy, and the energy of the students helps keep me energized.

Q: What are your feelings about the new high school?

A: I think the building itself is beautiful. It is the nicest classroom I have had in my entire career. I also like that the students have blended so well with each other. I'm even working with people I haven't worked with in a long time and reworking past friendships.

Q: What do you miss about your old school?

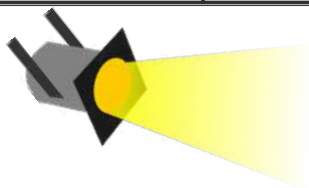
A: I do miss some of the people I used to work with. This school is definitely an upgrade so I can't say I miss the structure, but I miss the people.

Q: What is one moment in particular that you will never forget?

A: I'll never forget my first three months in the classroom because they were not the way you learned them in school. I had to relearn the skills I needed to teach and manage a classroom. I wasn't sure if I was going to sink or swim.

Q: Outside of teaching, what do you like doing in your free time?

A: I enjoy working out with The Rood Bootcamp, watching Criminal Minds and Law & Order SVU, and spending time with my children and family.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: A Q&A WITH FRED WHITE

By: Caleb Williams



Q: Why did you start playing football?

A: I started playing football because my father used to and I've loved playing since I first started.

Q: What is your favorite position to play? Why?

A: My favorite position to play is defensive end because I get the opportunity to get a lot of tackles.

Q: How do you feel about all three schools banding together?

A: I feel like it makes our team a lot better since we most likely have a lot of the best players.

Q: Who is your biggest sports hero and why?

A: My biggest sports hero is Reggie white because he was a very hard working, defensive end/ tackle and was credited with 198 sacks

Q: What is the best part about being on the field?

A: I love being able to tackle someone.

Q: How do you and your teammates make practice enjoyable?

A: My teammates are all quite competitive with me and each other even though we are all on the same team, which makes my time enjoyable.

Q: What is your greatest weakness when it comes to playing the game?

A: My greatest weakness is my asthma, because it makes the game hard to play.

Q: How do you feel you can improve?

A: I can definitely improve by gaining speed and endurance.

Q: What are some goals you have for the rest of the football season?

A: I'd like to win districts and possibly even win states. These are really important to me and my team so it would be great to win for all of our futures.

Q: Some of your funniest moments.

A: The funniest moment was when Ian picked up the ball and scored a touchdown. It was so unexpected.

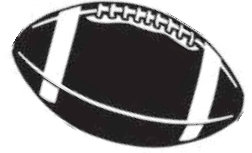
Q: Favorite stadium and why?

A: I really like the Lehman stadium because I like how the blackturf looks.

SPORTS



WOLFPACK FOOTBALL: THE LATE SEASON REVIEW



By: Cade Williams

As the regular season winds down for Wolfpack Football, the team looks to rebound as they approach the District 2 6A Playoffs

No season is without its twists and turns. This was now the exception for the Wolfpack, sporting a 4-6 record at this point. Spirits still remain high as Wolfpack football aims to upset their way through playoffs.

"With the talent we have, we can go play in the district playoffs, hopefully win the district championship and move on to states," stated Senior Linebacker, Defensive End, Tight End, Fullback, and Wide Receiver, Anthony Nguyen.

With a team composed mostly of sophomore and junior players, Coach Cinti had cautious optimism for his young team.

"Some weeks we come out and play like barn burners and other weeks we just fall short." Cinti stated.

Although in his 35th year, Coach Cinti isn't all that concerned about the legacy he hopes to leave. Nonetheless, he still hopes to leave the program with something to build on when all is said and done.

"The majority of us (coaching staff) have been coaching for a very long time and just hope to leave this program in a better state than when we got here."

With such a storied rivalry between schools, chemistry and bonding is an important aspect.

"There is a lot of team bonding and we're just a solid tight knit unit," said Nguyen.

Sophomore standout, Mekhi Nelson when referencing the merger said, "Us coming together was one of the best things we could do."

"It feels really good, because a lot of the seniors and upperclassmen that we play with have a lot of experience," said Nelson.

The senior class hopes to leave a lasting impact on the program as well.

Senior, Nyquan Holmen stated, "It is a good experience, make them work harder and strive everyday to be the best."

"That winning mentality, winning at all costs. Putting everything on the line every day," Senior, Michael Andrzejewski stressed when asked about the legacy he is hoping to be left behind.

SPORTS

GIRLS TENNIS SEASON COMES TO AN END

By: Cade Williams

This season was one to forget for the Lady Wolfpack tennis team as they went 0-12 for the year and finished last in their division. However, all is not lost for next year with a renewed sense to build up the program.

"The season was rough, obviously with COVID never making things easy, especially recruitment," said Coach Joshua Wasielewski

The team only had five players who were mainly seniors on their roster this season with most of the players were inexperienced to start out the season. With the three schools combining into one and the pandemic the team had some obvious growing pains.

"Our team started off with girls not knowing how to hit a ball or hold a racket, now we can hit a ball and keep the ball in play," Coach Wasielewski said.

The development of players has been very good; the number of players is set to jump up next season for the young Lady Wolfpack tennis team.

This was a good sign for any returning players next season. But for the outgoing seniors like Trinity Hull this season was their only year to play tennis for the Wolfpack. She has thought about continuing her tennis career but wants to focus on academics first.

"I have thoughts on continuing my tennis career, but I want to get to college first and get used to everything."

Hull also had some words of encouragement and advice for the incoming Lady Wolfpack players.



"Don't get upset when you are struggling at first. Don't give up and keep going with it. You're not going to be good on the first day of practice."

The season didn't end as most would hope, but as the sun sets on this season and its players, a new dawn is on the horizon for the Lady Wolfpack tennis team. Slowly but surely as the program builds itself up, they will bring pride to the rest of the Wolfpack.

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