

## HOMECOMING ISSUE

### Wheeler Defeats Boone Grove 28-20

Jessica Surufka

Wheeler has once again beat the Boone Grove Wolves, giving the Bearcats a great start to homecoming weekend. The first quarter passed by quickly, resulting in a 0-0 tie. The Bearcats stepped up their game in the second quarter, going into halftime with a 14-point lead after Xavier Haralovich and Bryce Compton each scored a touchdown and Tyne Vettickal completed both Points After Touchdowns (PATs).

During half time, the senior homecoming court was introduced, with Vinnie Metros and Lexi Cutka being crowned as Homecoming King and Queen. The WHS Marching Band gave a stellar half time performance, as well.

After the third quarter, Boone Grove tried to catch up, putting 7 points on the board. The fourth quarter brought tension and excitement after the Wolves scored two more touchdowns and Wheeler Bearcat, Tyne Vettickal, scored one more touchdown and PAT. The Bearcats were winning 21-20 when the Wolves decided to go for the extra point. Bearcat fans were on edge, but just as many began to lose hope, Jackson Smith blocked the PAT, allowing the Bearcats to take a 1-point lead. In the final minutes of the game, Bryce Compton and Tyne Vettickal sealed the deal with another touchdown and completed PAT, winning the game with 28 points for the Bearcats and 20 points for the Wolves.

While each player performed exceptionally well, there are select players who deserve some recognition for their hard work. Xavier Haralovich's name consistently flashed across the screen at the game. He had 14 total tackles, 12 of which were solo. Bryce Compton was also a popular name because he had 250 receiving yards. Caleb Klimczak, star Bearcat QB, had a total of 387 passing yards, completing 4 touchdown passes. Finally, Jayden Ortiz had a total of 65 rushing yards for the game. Despite the tremendous efforts of these individual players, the game was a team effort, and each player worked just as hard to ensure the Wolves' inevitable defeat.



Photo credits: Kaelyn Wallin

### Letter From The Editors

Maya Kaakaji, Kaelyn Wallin

Welcome to the first issue of our newspaper, the World of Wheeler! Realizing the benefits of a written news outlet, your fellow students have decided to write about the world through their own eyes. Our goal is to teach and entertain outside of simply the classroom and develop an increased sense of community between our students. Each issue will be available to teachers and students alike, covering a range of topics — from sports to music to arts to current events — to appease all audiences. The publications, released every other Friday, will each contain various articles and photographs, carefully examined by our editors. Our team is always looking to expand, so if you are interested, please email [nmills@union.k12.in.us](mailto:nmills@union.k12.in.us) We hope you enjoy our first project and stick around for many more to come!

(Left) Photo credits: Brady Rife







## Girls Soccer Team

*Jessica Surufka*

Newly added head coach, Nate Anweiler, and assistant coach, Sonny Otano, have proven to be exactly what this team needs. Each day, these coaches push the Wheeler girls soccer team to give their all, while also keeping their love for the sport alive. Although they have not been a part of the team for very long, they have managed to develop a strong and unique bond with the team.

The girls have been challenged with limited numbers of players, but despite this disadvantage, they have had an excellent season. With only three unfortunate losses to Culver Academies, Highland High School, and Hanover Central High School, as well as two ties with Andean High School and Boone Grove High School, the girls have a promising finish to the season ahead of them.

The girls' soccer team won their conference for the first time in four years, after defeating Illiana Christian High School in overtime with a final score of 3-2. Jessica Surufka played one of her best games yet, scoring all 3 goals. The Bearcats also defeated Griffith with a score of 4-2, Hammond Bishop Noll in penalty kicks (PKs), and River Forest by a score of 8-0, which were all conference games as well.

Justyna Podcerwinski, team captain and former center back, became the new goalie this season after Abby Ordonez, former goalie, injured her finger. Despite this setback, Justyna has done an exceptional job as goalkeeper and her efforts have not gone unnoticed. Fortunately, Abby has returned to the field as a center back and it seems as if she hasn't spent any time away from the game.

With Justyna no longer on the field, Genevieve Mills has stepped up to take over her role as center back. This season she has shown confidence and leadership. By putting 100 percent effort into each game, her success has been key to the success of the team.

Grace Christos, soccer team captain, is a very driven and hardworking individual. Each game she has only one thing on her mind: winning. In the past, her determination has been the driving force behind the team's success.

The team only has three regular season games left before sectionals. In order to make it out of sectionals the girls must outlast Andean High School, Demotte Christian High School, Hebron High School, Illiana Christian High School, and River Forest High School. Considering the amount of skill within the team, the Bearcats definitely have a fighting chance. Be sure to wish them luck in the upcoming weeks as they head into sectionals!





## How Low Can You Go?

*Eric Cannon*

Friday, September 15: Low Ceiling returned to Wheeler High School for their second annual appearance at the Homecoming Tailgate in Circle Drive. The band, comprised of drummer Rocco Fugate (Class of '24), lead singer Atlas Fugate and guitarist Xavier Dabu (Class of '25), and bassist Steven Flanagan of Portage High School, was well received by a full crowd of Wheeler students and faculty, and even visiting fans from Valparaiso High School.

Bearcat or Viking, this was a tailgate to remember as long as you weren't a Wolf. At the end of their set, with guitar and pick in hand, Rocco rallied the crowd for the night's game against the Boone Grove Wolves with an off-the-cuff, call-and-response song, which, in our interview, he referred to simply as "The Boone Grove Song." Based on prior, spontaneous songs of the same sort, it was followed by extemporaneous rap from sophomore Harper Schaberg.

Rocco stated that his favorite songs of the evening included "The Chain," "Boys of Summer," "Hope," and "Pool House." "Those were [my] top four," he said.



Lead singer, Atlas, shared with him as favorites "Pool House" and "The Chain." "Just a Girl" was also a favorite. "I can be authentic and still put on a good show when playing these," said Atlas. For her, the most memorable parts were the crowd's reactions. She said that she "loves seeing people interact with [their] music." In comparison to last year's tailgate, Atlas said, "I think my voice has developed and improved because of our performances since last year, which I'm very proud about." Regarding whether or not Low Ceiling could perform at next year's tailgate, given Rocco's graduating, she explained, "We haven't discussed any plans, but the tailgates have been some of our best shows, and I'd love to keep the tradition going."

Xavier Dabu, guitarist and a crowd favorite, revealed that his favorite songs of the night were "The Chain" and "Kilby Girl." "I like songs that have really big build-ups where I can hype up the crowd," he said—and hype them up he did. With Xavier, the crowd whispered, then shouted; they got low to the ground, then jumped up. Xavier said that he'll remember how so many members of the crowd wore Low Ceiling merchandise, a sign of their love for the band. "I feel amazing about Low Ceiling's relationship with the crowd," he stated. "Every show has a memorable moment of connection...I think [our] connection with the crowd is a lot like ping pong because we just bounce energy back and forth to each other." Bassist Steven's favorite songs included "Just a Girl," "Carousel," and "The Chain." "I love the energy the crowd had during them," Steven said. For him, among the most memorable things was walking into the crowd as he played.



Low Ceiling's good relationship with the crowd proved to be a theme in these interviews. Member of the crowd, Cooper Burton, explained that no other band could have compared. "It's the people," he said—and that's that. That's not a feeling of students alone. One stander-by reports the delighted surprise of superintendent Mr. Hunter when the band played "The Chain" by Fleetwood Mac: "That song was popular when I was your age!"

May we hope for next year.

**Photo credits: Brady Rife**



## It's The Bearcat Theatre Company, Charlie Brown

*Luke Richardson, Isabelle Strom*

Hooray Beethoven hooray! Bearcat Theatre Company is currently rehearsing their fall musical, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, perfecting their three step turns, memorizing lines, and slowly getting to know their characters a little better every day. On this day, the cast choreographed "Beethoven Day," a song sung by Schroeder and the ensemble. They also chose to review "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," an ensemble piece opening the show.



When asked what her favorite part of the show has been so far, cast member Kaelyn Wallin, who plays Sally Brown, said she most enjoyed "learning all of the ensemble numbers, [because] they are all so fun and I can really sense everyone's energy." Zeldjian Stevens, who portrays the role of Linus van Pelt, has enjoyed the dance rehearsals, "because I can see how cute and silly this show is gonna become." The show opens Friday, November 3, and runs the rest of the weekend. You won't want to miss it!



When Bearcat Theatre Company isn't preparing for the fall show, they are holding drama club meetings every Thursday after school. There, members learn about the processes that make up performing arts as a whole, such as the different terms that describe the craft, as well as the different types of theatre, such as theatre of cruelty. Members can also hope to learn about what it means to be a successful performer. Be sure to stop by if you are interested!





# HOMECOMING WEEK 2023



Photo credit: Brady Rife





## Barbie

*Barbie* has been a controversial topic since its release in July. The storyline follows Stereotypical Barbie on her journey to becoming a real person. After a minor self-awareness crisis, Barbie wakes up to a cold shower, burnt breakfast, and flat feet. She is sent to see Weird Barbie, who bridges the gap between Barbieland and the real world, prompting her with a difficult decision to journey to the real world. While in the real world with Ken, she finds the girl that has been playing with the plastic doll version of her, but she is now faced with a new problem. Ken now believes that men should rule over women based on his interpretation of what he finds in the real world. After taking this information back to Barbieland, the Kens takes over and rename it Kendom.

**Director Greta Gerwig became the first woman to solely direct a film that reached the exorbitant profit of \$1 billion at the box office. She is one of only 29 people, 28 of which are men, to solely direct a billion-dollar movie in the history of Hollywood.**

Despite the popular opinion, personally, I do not think that the movie is attacking men, but rather exposing the reality of how some women are treated. Be that as it may, not all men act in ways that correlate to the crude manner displayed in the movie. Although many people have expressed their concerns and criticisms towards the feminism exhibited in the movie, I think that this movie was a very powerful and bold way to empower women. The movie demonstrates to young girls that they can be anything they want to be in life, and proves that obstacles and fear give you another reason to try harder.

In my opinion, the casting of **Ryan Gosling as Ken and Margot Robbie Stereotypical Barbie** was perfect. Each Barbie and Ken, although given the same name, all have individual, unique personalities, and show character development throughout the film. Overall, this movie has its issues, but I appreciate the effort put into the themes of this movie and its loud statements.



## Oppenheimer

*Oppenheimer* is a mind-blowing movie that takes us back to the World War II era. **Directed by the genius Christopher Nolan, the film is like a time machine that transports us to witness history unfold.**

The story revolves around J. Robert Oppenheimer, a brilliant scientist who played a crucial role in the development of the atomic bomb. Cillian Murphy delivers an outstanding performance, capturing the complexities of Oppenheimer's character. His portrayal brings depth to the film, making us empathize with the moral dilemmas he faces.

**The supporting cast, including Emily Blunt and Michael Caine, deliver solid performances, complementing Murphy's portrayal of Oppenheimer.**

Hoyte van Hoytema's camera work is a visual feast, capturing the stark beauty of the New Mexico desert where the top-secret project takes place. The attention to detail is remarkable, immersing us in the period and adding authenticity to the narrative. Hans Zimmer's score is hauntingly beautiful, creating a sense of foreboding that lingers throughout the film.

**One of the standout aspects of "Oppenheimer" is its portrayal of the ethical dilemmas faced by the scientists.** It raises thought-provoking questions about the consequences of scientific advancements and the weight of responsibility on those at the forefront of innovation. This theme adds a layer of depth to the narrative that resonates long after the credits roll.

While the film does require a certain level of attention to grasp the scientific and historical elements, Nolan masterfully balances the technical jargon with emotional moments, making it accessible even to those not well-versed in the subject matter.





## Cleveland Cliffs Field Trip

On Friday, October 13th, we will be taking a field trip to Cleveland Cliffs in Burns Harbor. Cleveland Cliffs is the 2nd largest steelmaking facility in the United States. It operates two blast furnaces and can produce nearly 5 million tons of raw steel annually. There are many careers that are available through the plant. If you are interested in going on this field trip, please see Mr. Kenning, Mrs. Gibson, or Mr. Rosta for a permission slip.



## College Go Week (9/25-29)

Izzy Peters

**Seniors and even juniors!** As the early college application process comes to a close and we are one step closer to college, here are some tips that could help your journey in applying for and choosing potential fits for your exciting future!

**Create a Balanced List:** Compile a list of colleges that includes a mix of reach, match, and safety schools. Don't apply exclusively to highly selective institutions; ensure you have options that align with your academic profile. And although it may be tempting to only apply to schools you will get into, don't be scared to reach for the stars on a college or two!

**Standardized Tests:** Understand each college's testing requirements. Some schools have gone test-optional, but others still consider SAT or ACT scores. Prepare accordingly, but remember, these scores are just one piece of the puzzle. **October 11 will be our in-school SAT day but there are opportunities to take it out of school!** Check your preferred test's website for more information.

**Financial Aid & Scholarships:** Don't overlook financial aid opportunities. Research scholarships, grants, and other aid options early to alleviate the financial burden of college. **FAFSA may be hard to navigate so don't be scared to ask your counselors when the time comes October 1st so don't be scared to ask your counselors when the time comes October 1st.** There are plenty of scholarships available for all different sorts of interests and identities so don't be afraid to apply! I suggest checking with our counselors and using resources like **Fastweb, Scholarship America, Bold.org, Scholly, and GoingMerry** to explore.

**Deadlines Are Sacred:** Missing deadlines can jeopardize your chances. Stay organized with a calendar, and aim to submit your applications ahead of time to avoid last-minute stress. For those of you looking to apply early, most school deadlines will most likely be early November! Check with your potential schools to be sure.

**Seek Guidance:** Don't hesitate to seek advice from school counselors, teachers, or college admissions professionals. Their insights can be incredibly helpful, whether it be for scholarships, academic advice, or even advice from their own application/college experiences!

**Stay True to Yourself:** Remember, college applications are about finding the right fit for you. Be open to change but make decisions that align with your values, goals, and aspirations.

**Embrace Rejections:** Rejections are a natural part of the process. Don't be discouraged. Use them as opportunities for growth and reflection. To the students who need to hear this, you are not your rejections nor are you your grades!

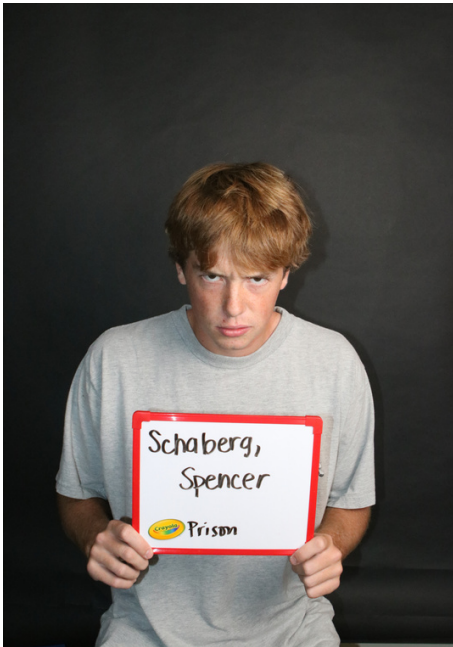
**Visit <https://learnmoreindiana.org/college-discovery/college-go-initiative/> to see what Indiana colleges are waiving application fees next week.**



## UTSC Seeks to Replace Schaberg Amid “Fanaticism” Scandal

*Wheeler Whaler, Satire*

After complaints from the referee about “excessive enthusiasm” and “a clear bias for his own school that he has personally attended his entire life”, it has been decided by leadership at Union Township School Corporation to remove Spencer Schaberg from his role as football announcer and replace him with a more suitable candidate.



Officials at the September 8th football game against Bishop Noll made an official grievance after Schaberg overstepped his announcing duties by showing emotion.

The search by a special committee has officially begun. Comments from committee members made it clear that they were only accepting applications from “business librarians over the age of 93, actors willing to impersonate Bella Swan from Twilight through the entirety of the game, and gerbils.” (*cont’d on next page*)

## Roman Resurrection

*Maya Kaakaji*

September 4, 476 AD - this was the last time the world was graced with the presence of the Roman Empire, over 1500 years ago. Me personally? I haven’t thought of it since. But the newest viral Tik Tok query suggests this may not be the norm.

“How often would you say you think of the Roman Empire in your daily life?” This question has flooded the internet ever since a Tweet telling women to ask the men in their lives this question gained sudden popularity. The wide range of answers on the internet were shocking, to say the least.

Naturally, the students of Wheeler High School, always well-versed in the latest trends, began circulating the question to teachers and students alike.

“Twice this morning, actually,” boasted Mr. Kosal. After receiving some confused looks, he went on to clarify that the equations he teaches in his classes originated from mathematicians and forward thinkers of the Roman and Greek eras. Mrs. Ruoff, who teaches the same equations, did not share the same passion towards the fallen empire.

In the commons area, Kaiden McMahon, lovingly nicknamed “Pockets”, revealed a similar answer of approximately once a day. He explained that the Roman Empire was massively influential in the structure of our current society due to what were, at the time, novel innovations and revelations.

Nearby, Mr. Klimzcak and Mr. Enright, self-proclaimed history nerds, had a similar answer of “about once a month.” Just moments before, Kaydon Kingery responded to the question with a delayed “..Huh?”, seemingly confused and potentially unaware of the Romans’ existence.

Through further investigation, it seems that the male students of Wheeler either think about the Romans once a week or simply never, with very few outliers.

In response to the male version of the question, people have been wondering what the “female version” of the Roman Empire is. Carmina Williams seems to have come up with a potential answer in her physics class. After pulling out a list of answers in her Notes app, a loud hum of approval of the answer “Jim and Pam’s relationship from the office” came from her table to indicate that this has, in fact, been on their minds as well quite consistently.

Although the Barbarians defeated the Romans lifetimes ago, it seems their legacy continues on every day, held in the forefront of the minds of both teenage boys and grown men across the globe.

## WORD SEARCH : HOMECOMING THEMES

*Hailey Cope*



DISCO

GLOW IN THE DARK

RETRO

MASQUERADE

UNDER THE SEA

WONDERLAND



(cont.) Students of WHS had mixed feelings about the change. One freshman remarked, "I think the board made the right choice. Not because of his on-air remarks, but because he's a ginger." A senior and confidant of Schaberg argued, "The accusations are completely unfounded. Anyone who knows Spencer clearly knows he has no capacity for emotion."

Anyone interested in applying for this role can send their resume, cover letter, and a two minute video clip of them humming to John Hunter at [jhunter@union.k12.in.us](mailto:jhunter@union.k12.in.us).



## Change and Knowing the World Around Us: The Roots of Philosophy

*Eric Cannon*

Philosophy is a Greek word meaning "love of truth." It's the drive to know more about the world around us, and in my opinion, the job of the philosopher is to say the most simple, obvious things of life in the most complicated of ways, so that we can better appreciate the fine details of our experience, like a blown-up photograph.

One of the oldest problems in philosophy is the problem of motion, or change. Change divided the Greeks, and rightly so, because everything depends on it. If things only change and have no stable identity, how can we know them? If things stay the same and never change, how can we account for our experience of change?

Heraclitus, among the first to give an answer, resolved that you can never step in the same river twice. The water has flowed; the banks have eroded; it's a new river. For Heraclitus, the only thing to stay the same was change. There is no identity; there is no "being" this or that. The world exists in a state of constant change; it's a world that always "becomes" but never "is."

Parmenides offered an alternative -- by some accounts, an antidote. By a number of supposed mathematical paradoxes, he reasoned that change is illusory. The world, for him, was utterly stable. There is only identity, or "being," and no becoming; the world always "is" but never "becomes."

Neither account was satisfactory to a third thinker, Plato. On the one hand, he found fault with Parmenides' paradoxes. On the other, he believed that what can be known is unchanging: e.g., two and two always make four. Therefore, either Heraclitus was right that things always change, so we can't know anything; or we can know things, so at least, some things stay the same.

Thus, Plato proposed two worlds: a perfect, immaterial, unchanging world of identities, of ideas, seen by reason, that "is"; and its imperfect, material, changing shadow, a world seen by the senses that "becomes." While your eyes have never seen a perfect triangle, your mind can conceive of one.

For Plato, then, while you can't know this particular river because of its state of constant change, you can know the idea of river, of which this river or that one is a reflection. He called this idea a "form." You can know the form of river or river-ness, even though you can't know any one river because it's always changing.

That's not to say that Plato denied that we can have sense data about this or that river, but he didn't consider changing sense data, or "opinion," equal to unchanging "knowledge." In his theory, intellectual data (knowledge) is superior to sense data (opinion), because it's unchanging. E.g., Pythagorean's Theorem, in the mind, is an unchanging, true statement, even if all the triangles in the world disappeared. It's a higher or more noble sort of data.

**Next time, we'll explore how Aristotle critiqued his teacher, Plato, and the theories of modern philosophers, particularly Kant.**

## The Meaning of a Newspaper

*Eric Cannon*

In the realm of innovation, technologies rise and fall. The telegraph, typewriter, and cable TV—kings, once hailed as the second-best things since sliced bread, have been sliced like bread by that revolutionary executioner called Progress. Next on the chopping block, if not long there, must be the newspaper—that word-filled, tree-born relic. This is the age of screens, of audio, of video. Why would we work now to turn back the wheel of fate and pull the newspaper from its demise? This author contends that we do this—and must do this—for the meaning of a newspaper.

The very word breathes a fresh air of familiarity. Look, there sits Grandpa on the porch with coffee in one hand and paper in the other. Sure, he'll tune into the evening news at six but not at the cost of his morning paper. While a broadcast shows itself to you as an observer from afar, the newspaper is brought into you as a world of words that must unfold, develop, and receive their imagery within your mind. It's so much more of a personalized, creative process—and all the more if you can hold it in your hand. Then, you can crease it, cut it, and handle the newspaper as you will.

It's one thing to save a video or to bookmark an article online. It's quite another thing to cut and paste newspaper clippings. If you can't cut up your news, neither can you put it up on your walls, so it can't become the illustrations of the story of your life. Event after event is forgotten in the life of the broadcasted news cycle. In a week, no one will remember the prime-time stories of NBC or CNN, but the clippings of the local newspaper abide for years and for generations.

On the walls of Wheeler, we see those yellowed and clipped pages of glorious days—yellowed because, being something natural, they have aged with us; they have matured with us, the Bearcats. There is something, then, quite human about the newspaper, which we, in this issue and all those succeeding it, hope to recover.





# MEET THE STAFF



Zen Bouzerra



Elise Byers



Eric Cannon



Hailey Cope



Maya Kaakaji



Izzy Peters



Luke Richardson



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Loye Stillabower



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