

Wykon MONTHLY

OCTOBER 2023

A Spooky Night in Windsor

On October 23, the West Iron County High School Symphony and Middle School Orchestra gathered to perform at Windsor Auditorium. Parents, friends, and fellow community members came to watch them play a classical selection of songs, such as "Rondeau" by Abdelazer Suite, "The Pink Panther" by Henry Mancini, and "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen.

The students were encouraged to wear Halloween costumes while they performed. Some of the most amusing were a viola player who showed up as Spiderman and a baritone player as Puss in Boots! One senior percussionist, **Julia Gray**, was asked about her favorite song of the selection and in what ways she thought the group managed to play it well. She responded, "My favorite song was 'Flowers' by Miley Cyrus. I think that the brass did a really neat job bringing this lively pop song to life, enunciating every string, wind, and percussion instrument in perfect time. My favorite part of the song is right in the middle when all of the instruments build up and up, get louder, and then suddenly stop. A second charged with silence passed, then the whole symphony came back all together, vibrant and loud, like the independence the song was written about."



Big Strings

It would be awesome if we could hear from a teacher's perspective of what the event is really about.

Mrs. Carr: "The Big Strings event is an opportunity for all string players across the U.P. to get together and play in a group combined and to play with all the middle school through high school at the very end as a final piece. It's an opportunity for us to support each other in our string world and to see what other schools have in terms of programs."

Is this something that you can see West Iron continuing?

Mrs. Carr: "Oh, yes. As long as there are four orchestra programs and the four orchestra directors, plus the university is willing to do it, absolutely West Iron will participate in it. It's a fun event, and the kids love it. Every year they are asking, 'Are we going this year?'"

Current EVENTS

Homecoming Week 2023

Homecoming week started on Monday the 2nd with the first spirit day, Zoom Day. As the week continued, students had He's/She's a 10, Wykon Day, Rhyme Without Reason, and Class Color. Sunday through Thursday was filled with float building. Each class chose fairy tales as themes for them. Students all worked amazingly and showed up and finished in time and were very happy with the final results. Toward the end of the week, the interest level rose.

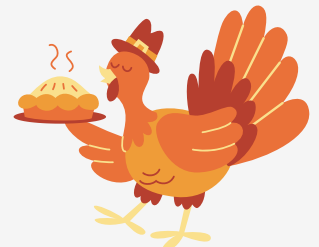
On Friday during school, the student body gathered for a pep rally. They viewed a highlight video of our football boys, who all received a goody bag. Then, cheerleaders performed a few cheers and games were played, choosing one kid or more per grade plus a teacher. Whoever won the game received a treat. As Friday night arrived, the girls competed in the powder puff game. The freshmen vs. sophomores started at 5 PM and after the game finished, the juniors vs. seniors began. These girls did an amazing job with so many contributing to play even though it was freezing.

Saturday morning came along for Homecoming day! To start, the floats were paraded through town up to Nelson field for everyone who showed up to watch. Later that day, the boys played their Homecoming football game. Though they were not victorious, they did the best they could! At half time, Homecoming court walked across the field and the king and queen, **Anthony Sucholl** and **Seanna Stine**, were announced. After the football game, students got ready to attend the dance at 8 PM. It was a full 2 ½ hours of dancing and fun!



Upcoming November Dates

- 7th: Half Day for Students
- 15th: Firearm Hunting Season Begins
- 22nd-24th: Thanksgiving Break



Fall SPORTS

CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS

As our fall sports of 2023 come to an end, so does an era of athletes that West Iron is proud to have had. These student-athletes have worked hard these past few years but are soon moving onto bigger things. Once a Wykon, always a Wykon!

TENNIS

- Aubrey Bice
- Rachel Fanous
- Seanna Stine

FOOTBALL

- Noah DeSousa
- Colton Holm
- Tyler Raatz
- Anthony Sucholl
- Ryan Walker
- Lane Norman

VOLLEYBALL

- Kya Dallavalle
- Danica Shamion
- Haiden Gill

CROSS COUNTRY

- Laycee Parson
- Rosalina Cordova

HOMECOMING GAME

The 2023 Homecoming game against Bark River was a nerve-racking one. As it is every year, this was the game of the season if not for a win, then for the experience and excitement.

This year many JV players had the opportunity to play in their first Homecoming game alongside our seniors, competing in their last. With long, hard practices in the weeks leading up, the boys were determined to play hard.

CROSS COUNTRY COMEBACK

As a long few months of non-stop running came to an end last weekend, our cross country team reflected on their "comeback" season.

Many injuries made for difficult meets for the small team, but the West Iron Cross Country runners decided to look past the problems and achieved numerous personal and team goals alike.

The team's U.P. meet gave seven of their top runners a chance to participate at championships. Rosa Cordova, a senior, ran her last meet on October 21st. "U.P.s was good...I think we had a good season."

Sports Spotlight

Kylee Pollock, a junior here at West Iron, is a prime example of our school's values of hard work and dedication. Over the summer, Kylee received a letter inviting her to play on a U.S. team competing in Germany next summer. "I thought it was a scam.

I'm not even kidding...but I was super excited for the opportunity." She'll be able to play across Germany, including Munich and Berlin, against international teams. Outside of school sports, Kylee pushes herself to be the best version of herself she can be and hopes to continue her volleyball career when she graduates.



Fall SPORTS

COACH TAFF'S TAKE

Last year, West Iron scored a teacher and coach that we are proud to have. Mr. Taff has been a tremendous contributor to our boys' morale and skills these past couple seasons. "The whole week [we] kept reinforcing the idea of getting better week by week and letting that show during the game. Before the game began, we did have some last minute surprises to overcome as a coaching staff, and we addressed these difficulties the best we could. Unfortunately, we fell way short of what we desired during our big Homecoming game. The positive thing here is that we have a varsity football program and we will continue to develop our student-athletes in the future."

With Taff's knowledge and expertise comes experience. "I've been involved with football since I was very young." Taff started his football career in middle school, going on to play at Lakeland University and eventually playing for five more years with a semi-pro team called the U.P. Arctic Blast from 2005-2009. "I've coached at Division 1 Burlington High School for five previous years, so as far as experience goes, I was well prepared for the past two years here at West Iron." Although Mr. Taff shared that these past two years have been challenging, he doesn't hesitate from recognizing some of his favorite moments of the 2023 season.

"**Brad Jochem's** quick cutting ability on the field... **Colton Holm's** long run in which his legs turned to jelly and he got caught short of the endzone... **Abel Lundin's** long TD catches and interceptions made against Gwinn during the last game..." Taff even mentions the countless injuries our boys faced this year. "Although these are not good memories and highlights, they did impact our season quite a bit! Argh."

NEW YEAR, NEW ATHLETES

With every school year comes new athletes eager to prove themselves in the big league that is high school football. Freshman **Ryker Gill**, a JV football player here at West Iron, has continued his middle school football career into high school. "Practices are harder now. In middle school, we didn't really do much." Although just a JV player, Ryker had the opportunity to play in the Homecoming game against the Bark River-Harris Broncos. "I only played kick return, but it was fun and I was pumped. It was definitely an experience."



The Little Red Freshmen vs. Candy Crew



Despite it being their first year, the freshmen played very well. In a game full of suspense, the freshmen and sophomores competed with tight scores.

For a period of time, the freshmen were in the lead. Down to the last seconds on the clock, the sophomores swooped in and won the game!

Giant Juniors vs. Seniors

Back against the class of '24 for the second time, the juniors were prepared to dominate. However, the seniors weren't ready to lose their three-year winning streak. In spite of having fewer players on the teams, these ladies played well and hard.

With two-point conversions being blocked and touchdowns being tossed, the seniors added another notch on their belts with the win.

Student INTERVIEWS

FRESHMEN

What are you looking forward to the most about this upcoming Homecoming season?

WYNTER WEEKS

"I'm looking forward to getting to hang out with my classmates and friends during float building, powder puff, and getting ready for the dance. Our class has gotten closer over the course of the beginning of Homecoming and I love it!"



RYKER GILL

"I am looking forward to the upcoming football game and getting to attend float building with my friends."

SOPHOMORES

What is the best thing about October?

KHLOE THUNANDER

"The best thing in October is all of the spooks and tricks! The corn mazes and haunted houses are a real fun thing to do on a cold night or fuzzy morning. Most of all, how could you not love Halloween?"



LANDON FERRARA

"My favorite part of October is all the colors that appear at this time of year. I love being able to see all the gorgeous color of the leaves."

It's the best thing in October. It is the exact thing the whole month leads up to. The month doesn't just have to be about being scared, it is also a great time to sit with the family and watch movies, regardless if they are scary or not."



Student INTERVIEWS

JUNIORS

What are your favorite parts of the Halloween season?

SIERRA HOOPER

"I am most excited for spending quality time with my dad and watching scary movies, making sweet treats, and scaring the little kids."



DAKOTA DEREPKOWSKI

"The best part of Halloween is getting to dress up and of course the delicious desserts." Dakota works at Delightful Desserts and he loves the pumpkin moon-pies and Nutella cheesecake more than anything else.

SENIORS

How do you feel about all of the sports seasons ending and how comfortable are you in your senior year as a whole so far?

CARLY DUTCHER

"I think it's a little sad the sports season has come to an end because I enjoyed watching the games. I feel pretty comfortable in my senior year. It's been a good last one."



LANDON GHIOTTO

"I'm pretty comfortable going into my senior year but a little nervous for after high school. I'm mostly nervous for things like if I get the job I want or if I become successful in life. But I'm also curious to see what new comes in life after school, like if I change my mind to a different career path."



Student LIFE



TECH CENTER

Here at West Iron County we offer a special program available to our juniors and seniors. Colloquially referred to as the Tech Center, this is a collaboration between our school and Bay de Noc Community College. It allows West Iron students to take college classes in person and earn college credits.

We talked to Mr. Berutti about this great opportunity. He recalled that the program has been around since he was in high school in the 80s.

"I recommend anyone who wants to take a Tech Center course. Here at West Iron we offer welding courses that teach how to weld, but at the Tech Center you can actually get certified."



Building Trades

Since we checked in last month, our West Iron Building Trades program has made great progress. Student **Drew Alexa** said, "Last week I learned how to put on saw fit." **Johnathan Swenski** noted that things were going excellently and that they now had most of the house built. Everybody we talked to had nothing but positive things to say and stressed the importance of teamwork and effective communication in the course.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

October 2023

Kya Dallavalle

Kya Dallavalle exemplifies the definition of a hard worker. She works tirelessly toward her goal of becoming a realtor and property appraiser. In addition to being a devoted player of golf and volleyball, Kya takes a work study at Wild Rivers Realty.

Aubrey Bice

Aubrey is a nice and likable person and excellent student. She takes college classes through West Iron County and participates in the National Honor Society. She loves her extracurriculars, like tennis and Forest Club. Aubrey is a bright student destined to go places.

Eric Casari

Eric is an A+ student. He's uncertain about his future career but likes the idea of computer science or physics. Eric is terrific with animals and likes to play football, basketball, track and tennis. Eric is an excellent athlete and wonderful student.

Haiden Gill

Haiden Gill is one of the most hard working and responsible students in the entire senior class. She is the president of the student council and the student president of our local branch of the National Honor Society. "It's a lot of responsibility," Haiden said. "That's why it's important to keep organized and always have a smile on your face."

Pick-Me-Up PAGE

What do Wykons do on days they feel down?

Jasiah Parker (9): "Days I feel down, my mood changes drastically, which is at random times. No matter how fine I look or seem, it's likely I'm not feeling too well about myself or what's going on in my life. So the way I try to cope with it is to pray, hang out with my friends, and distract myself with things I like to do."

Jared Pietila (10): "On days I feel down, I like to spend time focusing on myself and my mental state. How I work on myself is by working out."

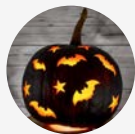
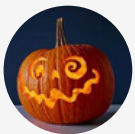
Rowyn Fizzer (11): "When I feel down, I like to spend time with my family and friends. I also like to get coffee and go shopping."

Lauren Shamion (12): "I would go home and do stuff to get the negativity off my mind, doing stuff like going on walks, driving around, and doing self-care stuff."



Boredom Busters

- Pumpkin Carving



- Painting
- Reading
- Picnics



- Apple Picking
- Hiking and Biking
- Corn Mazes and Haunted Houses

Cute Quote

"Magic is really very simple. All you've got to do is want something and then let yourself have it."

- Aggie Cromwell, *Halloween Town*



Pick-Me-Up PAGE

SWEET TREAT



Halloween Hot Cocoa Bombs

Courtesy of
Foodnetwork.com

- 12 OUNCES HIGH-QUALITY BITTERSWEET CHOCOLATE, FINELY CHOPPED
- TWO 1.38-OUNCE PACKAGES HOT COCOA MIX (WITHOUT MARSHMALLOWS)
- 18 TO 24 PUMPKIN SPICE MARSHMALLOWS, SUCH AS JET-PUFFED
- 6 SMALL CANDY GHOSTS
- 6 SMALL CANDY SPIDERS
- 1 TO 2 TABLESPOONS CHOCOLATE SPRINKLES
- 6 REGULAR MARSHMALLOWS
- 12 CANDY EYES OR 6 ADDITIONAL CANDY SPIDERS, FOR DECORATION, IF DESIRED
- MILK, FOR SERVING

Temper 8 oz. of the chocolate at about 100 degrees F. Divide the chocolate into silicone bomb molds, only covering the sides of the mold. Let sit at room temperature for about 20 to 30 minutes. Gently remove the chocolate half-spheres from the molds.

Divide the hot cocoa among the half-spheres, then add 3 or 4 pumpkin marshmallows, 1 ghost, 1 spider and 1/2 to 1 teaspoon sprinkles. To seal the bombs, set an unfilled half-sphere on the skillet open-side down for just a second to warm the chocolate. Then press two halves together.

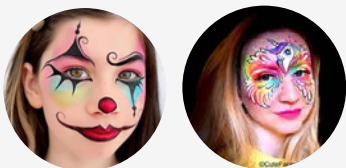
To make the marshmallow webs: Put the regular marshmallows in a small microwave-safe bowl and microwave about 10 to 15 seconds. With gloved hands, pull up a little bit of marshmallow and stretch between your fingers to make thin webbing. Stretch the webbing over and around the bombs.



Halloween Costumes

LAST MINUTE IDEAS!

- Face Paint



- Classy Bombshell
- Ghost



- Salt and Pepper
- Crayon
- Winnie the Pooh



Self-Care Drive

Senior **Seanna Stine**, the founder of the self-care drive, is collecting items for WIC students who are in need of personal hygiene items.

To receive items, you can see Mrs. Bjorkman. There will be a drawing on October 31 for a \$50, \$30, and \$20 giveaway for those who have donated items.

Drop off locations are the high school main office, The Tri Paw Lodge, and First Lutheran Church.

Community SPOTLIGHT

Pink Out

October is the month for breast cancer awareness. On October 17, WIC held their volleyball Pink Out game against Forest Park, who also came dressed in pink.

The gym was completely filled with pink hues with fans supporting each team. For sale were pink painted pumpkins, which the varsity and j.v. teams designed, pink Wykon t-shirts, cookies, and pink tinsel was also provided for a hair accessory.

Fundraising occurred during the night's festivities, with \$9,700 donated to the Iron County Cancer Unit. Of that total, \$2,500 was matched by the Iron Area Health Foundation.

The game turned out even better than everyone imagined thanks to all those who contributed and many varsity volleyball moms.

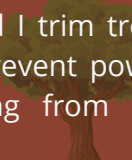


Above: The varsity volleyball team with Sidney Storti leading the way. **Right:** Ashley Burke and Ashley Schmidt, Iron County Dispatch employees, support the cause and the community.



Graduates Give Back

Nolan Anderson (2021)

"I work at Asplundh, and I trim trees by the power lines to prevent power outages from happening from the trees." 

Calling All Graduates!

ATTENTION

We'd love to hear from WIC graduates giving back to the community in any way! Know someone who fits this description?

Please email the Communications Class teacher: ahughes@westiron.org

Small Businesses in the Community



"The Silver Moon opened in November 2009. We carry jewelry, purses, home decor, and speciality foods. In 2013 we opened up a full-service flower and plant shop and currently are the only flower shop in Iron County." - Martha Piwarski

"Pure Radiance is a full service hair and nail salon. We love to make people look and feel great!"
- Missy Dallavalle

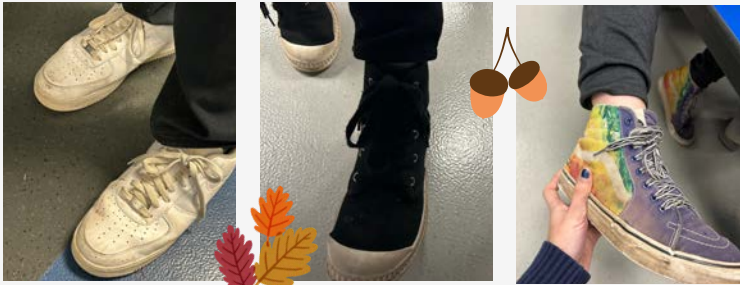


Both businesses are located in Iron River, MI.

Trending MEDIA



WHAT'S WALKING THE HALLS?



FRESH 'FITS!



During fall, winter is on it's way, and with the cold weather approaching, layers are a fun way to spice up your wardrobe!

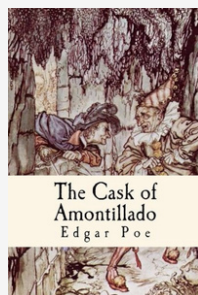


Following the fall theme, we see more sweaters coming into fashion, and muted colors are in style.

BOOK FOR THIS MONTH

The Cask of Amontillado is a short story by Edgar Allan Poe that was published in 1846. It's a Poe classic, a creepy piece of literature about mystery and revenge.

Check it out for an instant thrill this month.



FALL TIME MOVIES

Beetlejuice is a 1988 film that was hilariously creepy and definitely a good watch for any time of the year.



Enjoy this movie with a bowl of popcorn and a friend!



Corpse Bride is a 2005 stop-motion film that did an excellent job of portraying stop-motion art potential.

The movie overall was detailed and is a great watch for the spooky season.

Frankenweenie is a 2012 stop-motion film directed by Tim Burton and written by John August. This movie is very interesting and a great Halloween movie to watch with family.

